

November 15, 2020

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

2143 S. Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519

Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie – Rector, mobile: 810-247-4265 & Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020 23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Abibus, of Edessa (299-306). Martyrs Elpidius, Marcellus, and Eustochius, who suffered under Julian the Apostate (4th c.). Martyr Demetrius of Thrace (ca. 307). Ven. Paisii (Paisius) Velichkovsky (1794).

TROPARIA

(Tone 7) By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death. To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise. For the myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy. And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

(Tone 4) In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, O Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

KONTAKION

(Tone 4) The Most Pure Temple of the Savior; the precious Chamber and Virgin; the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, is presented today to the House of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, which the angels of God do praise. Truly this woman is the abode of heaven!

The Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone: O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!

v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

THE READING IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS (2:4-10) *Brethren:* God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God -- not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Alleluia, Tone 6

v: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

v: He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust!"

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (10:25-37) At that time, a certain lawyer tested Jesus asking, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

COMMUNION HYMN Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20 (1st Matins Gospel)

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

The Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas and Habibus (November 15), during the persecution against Christians under the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). The two friends Gurias and Samonas, preachers of the Word of God, were arrested in the city of Edessa.

The saints refused to offer sacrifice to the gods, and boldly confessed their faith in Christ. For this they were subjected to cruel tortures: they were beaten, hung up by their hands, heavy weights were tied to their feet, and they were cast into a stifling prison.

The martyrs endured everything with firmness and Samonas uttered a prayer to the Lord, which one of the witnesses to their death wrote down: "O Lord my God, against Whose will not a single sparrow falls into the snare. It was You Who made room for David in his sorrow (Ps. 4:1), Who proved the Prophet David stronger than lions (Dan. ch. 6), and granted a child of Abraham to be victor over torture and flames (Dan. ch. 3, ch. 14). You know also, Lord, the infirmity of our nature, You see the struggle set before us. Our foe strives to snatch us, the work of Your right hand, away from You and to deprive us of the glory which is in You. With Your compassionate eye watching over us, preserve in us the inextinguishable light of Your Commandments. Guide our steps by Your light, and make us worthy of Your Kingdom, for You are blessed unto ages of ages." By night, they took the martyrs out beyond the city and beheaded them (+ 299-306). Christians buried their holy bodies with reverence.

After some years, the last pagan emperor, Licinius (311-324), began a persecution against Christians. Habibus, a deacon of the Church of Edessa whom the emperor ordered to be arrested for his zealous spreading of the true Faith, presented himself before the executioners when he learned they were searching for him. The saint confessed his faith in Christ and was sentenced to be burned alive. The martyr went willingly into the fire and with a prayer surrendered his soul to the Lord. When the fire went out, the mother and relatives of the saint found his body unharmed. They buried the martyr next to Saints Gurias and Samonas.

After the death of the saints, numerous miracles were wrought by them for those who entreated their help with faith and love. Once, a certain Gothic soldier, sent to serve at Edessa, took the pious virgin Euphemia as his wife. Before this the barbarian vowed to her mother Sophia at the graves of the Martyrs Gurias, Samonas and Habibus that he would do his spouse no harm, and would never insult her, but would always love and cherish her.

At the completion of his service in Edessa, he took Euphemia with him back to his native land. It turned out that he had deceived her, for he already had a wife at home, and Euphemia became her slave. Her evil husband threatened to kill her if she revealed to anyone that they were married. Euphemia suffered much abuse and humiliation. When she gave birth to a son, the jealous Gothic woman poisoned him. Euphemia turned with prayer to the holy Martyrs Gurias, Samonas and Habibus, the witnesses to the perjurer's oath, and the Lord delivered Euphemia from her suffering and miraculously returned her to Edessa, where she was welcomed by her mother.

After a certain while the Goth was again sent to serve in Edessa. The whole city learned of his misdeeds after he was denounced by Sophia. The Goth was executed by order of the prefect of the city.

In an Akathist, the Holy Church addresses the martyrs: "Rejoice, Gurias, Samonas and Habibus, Heavenly Patrons of honorable marriage." We pray to them for deliverance from family turmoil, and from marital difficulties, especially where one spouse hates the other without cause. *from* oca.org

November 15, 2020



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Fr. Tom, Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Aaron, Milica, Calvin, Larry, Angelo, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Kosta, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, Taras Joseph, Ted, Marlene, Gladys, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family & friends.

Special Intention
Health of the Peck family
God's blessings for good health to all our kids & grandkids

Joe Tome
Joe Tome
the Peck family
Baba & Dedo

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Alex & Peter Popoff
Blessed Repose to our sweet grandsons Andrew & Matthew

the Popoff family
Baba & Dedo



Welcome to everyone joining us via our YouTube channel: [St Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton](#). If at the time of the divine services you cannot access the livestream, please check out [St. Mary Magdalene Church](#) or [St George Church](#) or [Assumption Church](#) for their livestreams.

ANGEL TREE Our parish received 38 children. Lucy Hogg has mailed out the children's names to those sponsoring them. **Please call Lucy at (810)-695-3110 if you have questions. Gifts need to be placed in a gift bag or wrapped but you must include the child's names and code number on the gifts.** Gift range is between \$30 and \$40 - no more than \$40 per child; if you have more than one child please spend the same amount for each one. Gift cards are ok for children 15-17 years old. Several items may be requested but you only need to pick one or more of these items. Please return the gifts by the first week in December.

Even though all of the children's name's St. Nicholas was given have been sponsored, Catholic Charities has other things needed to bless families at Christmas. You can contact Lucy Hogg for more information. The Lord bless you for your looking after those who are in need.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS If you would like to have your name(s) included on the annual Christmas greetings list please call or email the office no later than December 1st. Donations are appreciated.

MAKE YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING EASY AND CONVENIENT WITH GIVELIFY



You can donate to St. Nicholas with an app on your phone & as always on our website by <https://saintnicholasburton.org/> Go to the website and on the home page click on the box **Give now with Givelify** which will walk you through the donation process; this is a secure site. (2.9% + \$0.30 of your donation goes to Givelify as a fee). **If you do not wish to donate online, you may write a check to St. Nicholas Orthodox Church and send it to the parish address: 2143 S Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519.**

CHARITY ASSISTANCE PLATE will be set out in the narthex. This money is used for gift cards for those in need and are distributed once a month. The funds for this ministry needs replenishing.

STEWARDS OF THE OCA today Support the work of the Orthodox Church in America by becoming a Steward of the OCA. Your support will enhance the work of the ministries and departments of the OCA that serve the entire church by providing important resources such as liturgical texts, liturgical music, religious educational material, and educational events. Other new and exciting projects are also under development. Go to oca.org/stewards to learn more and to view the schedule of upcoming live online events that will highlight the work and plans of the departments."

POCKET CALENDARS We will order some from St. Tikhoh's Monastery if there is enough interest. Contact the office by November 23rd if you would like to purchase one.

2021 PLEDGE CARDS will be mailed out November 16th. If you do not receive yours by the end of November contact the parish office by phone 744-0070 or email stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com so that we may get a pledge card to you. Please fill out and sign your pledge card so the parish council can budget accordingly. Remember in order to be considered a member here at St. Nicholas you must return a signed pledge card. **We would like for them to be returned by December 13th. DO NOT** send your 2021 pledge back with the card or it will be credited to 2020.

MEMORY ETERNAL - CHRIST IS RISEN!

Robert Oginsky of St Mary Magdalene parish, fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, November 6 with funeral at our church on Saturday, November 14 followed by burial at Sunset Hills Cemetery, Fr. Gabriel Bilas serving. Robert is the brother of parishioner Joseph Oginsky.

JoAnn Economou of Boca Raton, FL fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, November 10 and was buried from St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church in Boca Raton on Friday, November 13. JoAnn is the sister of parishioner Bill Economou.

May Robert and JoAnn find rest in the light of Christ's face and enjoy blessed repose among the saints. The Lord bring His comfort to their families. Bog da prosti! Memory eternal! Christ is risen!

ELECTION RESULTS OF PARISH COUNCIL, AUDITORS & LAY DELEGATES

Parish Council Shari Nicoloff, Stephanie Price, Jonathon Shann (There was a tie between Jonathon Shann and Michael Serra. Michael opted to withdraw his name so that Jonathon could serve).

Auditor Calvin Conrad

Lay Delegate - Oct. 2021 Diocesan Conference & July 2021 OCA All-American Council Susie Ford

Swearing in will take place on Sunday, December 20 after Liturgy. Those being sworn in – please receive Confession before that Sunday and prepare to receive Communion that Sunday.

PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES

November 21st – the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple– 9 am Orthros and 10 am Divine Liturgy at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Grand Blanc. [Liturgy livestreamed on Facebook.](#)

Weekly schedule: CHRISTMAS FAST BEGINS today, November 15
 Today 1:30 pm Baptism of Lazaros Stavridis

Tuesday, Nov 17 Father Matthew in Toledo
7 pm [OCA online church school](#)

Wednesday, Nov 18
9:30 am [Divine Liturgy– streaming on our YouTube channel](#)
 11:15 am adult education class – The First Apology of St. Justin

Saturday, Nov 21 ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE
 9 am Orthros at Assumption Church
 10 am Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy at Assumption Church [Liturgy livestreamed on Facebook.](#)
5 pm [Great Vespers – streaming on our YouTube channel](#) Confessions after Vespers

Sunday, Nov 22
 9:30 am Third and Sixth Hours
10 am [Divine Liturgy – streaming on our YouTube channel](#)

Offerings for the week November 8, 2020

45 persons in attendance on November 8th

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 4,929.97
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,104.00
	\$+1,825.97