St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Newsletter

Diocese of Toledo-Orthodox Church in America
2143 S. Center Road – Burton, Michigan 48519
Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie – Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser
Email: stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/stnicholasburton
Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org Church Office: 810-744-0070

Services: Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Hours 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Wednesday- adult education 11:15 am
Saturday – 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions
Holydays: Vespers & Liturgy as announced

"May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you." St. Jude 1:1

SEPTEMBER 2023

SAINT ISAAC THE SYRIAN, Bishop of Nineveh

O Christ, who are covered with light as with a garment, who for my sake stood naked in front of Pilate, clothe me with that might which you caused to overshadow the saints, whereby they conquered this world of struggle. May your divinity, Lord, take pleasure in me and lead me above the world to be with you.

O Christ, upon whom the many-eyed cherubim are unable to look because of the glory of your countenance yet, out of your love, you received spit upon your face: remove the shame from my face, and grant me an open face before you at the time of prayer.

O Christ, because of our nature's sin you went out into the wilderness and vanquished the ruler of darkness, taking from him the victory; force to fell from me him who at all times forces the human race to sin.

May the cross of shame which you mounted for my sake become a bridge to that peaceful abode; may the crown of thorns with which your head weas crowned become for me the helmet of salvation on the heated day of battle; may the spit which your face received prepare me to have an open face before the tribunal at your advent; may your holy body which was exposed on the cross crucify me to this world and its lusts by means of love for you; may your clothing, for which lots were cast, tear asunder before my eyes the garment of darkness with which I am inwardly clothed; may the water and blood which came forth from you become for me a document granting liberty from the ancient state of servitude; may your body and blood which have been mingled with my body remain within me as a pledge that I will not be deprived of the constant sight of you in that realm which has no end; may the mysteries of the faith which I have preserved uncorrupted in myself preserve for me something to glory about on that day when the world is made ready to receive your advent, and may they replace there the inadequacy of my ascetic practice.

~From *The Prayers of Saint Isaac the Syrian* (Prayers 21, 22, 23 and 24).
Translated by Sebastian Brock. Adapted by the Brotherhood of the Monastery of St. John.

FROM FATHER'S DESK

Beloved,

As we begin the new church year on September 1, what came to mind was something from the All-American Council in St Louis in 2018. Each diocese of our Orthodox Church in America presented a video about its life and work. Among them stood out the one from the Diocese of the South, featuring some fine reflections on the life in Christ, especially as experienced in parish life, from our Archbishop Alexander. I've been wanting to share at least some part of them with you, and have finally transcribed them for your edification. I have also edited them in matters of detail (including rearranging one sentence) for easier reading, and added a couple of explanatory brackets.

His Eminence begins by speaking of his visit to Father Marcus Burch's parish in Greenville, South Carolina. Now this is a parish, he says, that is flourishing by every measure: splendid services, full of people and crawling with children, and all the rest. But as they were driving to church, Father Marcus made a comment about how fragile it all seemed to him. Fragile! But, His Eminence said, he was right—and this fragility of is many different kinds.

For instance, there is plain old death. No one knows when their time is up: not clergy, not parish leaders, not regular attenders or benefactors or visitors. That necessarily makes all of our work here fragile. Then there also exhaustion, burnout, and attrition. Sometimes people reach a breaking point: as His Eminence said, it's a slog to keep doing good, and people (clergy and laity!) sometimes just walk away. That, too, makes our work fragile. Archbishop Alexander continues:

"Then there's a fragility of our own lives as humans,
where this or that little piece of death [*i.e.*, sin]
lurking in us, in all of us,
goes into full-bore operation.
In our lives in prayer, and in parishes:
at one moment a lively and a happy parish
can be turned upside down with a cross word,
a little flame of jealousy or envy, given free rein.
Our own lives of prayer [can be] thrown off kilter.
We can do nothing about how long we live,
but about this other kind of fragility, we can.
We can exercise what the spiritual fathers called *nipsis*, watchfulness,
and perhaps this is backstopped most importantly
by the cultivation of humility.

" . . . [W]hat is not fragile is the work of God, the action of grace,
and it's our fundamental work as Christians
to keep ourselves ever open to that,
to the One Thing Needful, which is Christ:
to the love of him,
and cultivation of him,
and memory of him,
the continual recollection of him,
held up before us always.
So I will close by asking us, beloved,
if we might avoid some of these other fragilities
by keeping that image [of Christ] before us.
The image that will stop the harsh word,
that will cool the flame of sudden envy or anger,
that we may be like that desert father who said:
for 20 years I have not let anger
get further than my throat—
meaning, not to his tongue.
And if we do that, if at least we struggle toward it,
then I think whatever else may befall us,
we will weather it and go on with [Christ our] God's help:
to Whom be glory with the Father and the Spirit forever. Amen."

Love, Father Matthew

Hours Schedule

September		October		November	
3	Calvin	1	Lucy	5	Lucy
10	Phil	8	Calvin	12	Calvin
17	Alexander	15	Phil	19	Phil
24	Angelo	22	Alexander	26	Alexander
		29	Angelo		

If you are unable to make your assigned reading date, please find a replacement.

Reader Schedule

September		October		November	
3	Angelo	1	Alexander	5	Kathy
10	Alexander	8	Kathy	12	Angelo
17	Kathy	15	Angelo	19	Alexander
24	Phil	22	Phil	26	Phil
		29	Alexander		

If you are unable to make your assigned reading date, please find a replacement.

Candle Stand Attendant Schedule

September		October		November	
3	Christine Panoff	1	Dennis Goodman	5	Dennis Goodman
10	Dennis Jernigan	8	Dennis Jernigan	12	Dennis Jernigan
17	Dave Houser	15	Christine Panoff	19	Dave Houser
24	Susie Ford	22	Dave Houser	26	Susie Ford
		29	Susie Ford		

If you are unable to make your assigned date, please find a replacement.

HOURS, READERS & CANDLE STAND. Please look at each month's newsletter as the schedule may have changed since the previous publication.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters on September 7 from 9 am-12:30 pm. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." St. John Chrysostom.

INQUIRERS'/CATECHUMENS' CLASS led by our parish catechist, Reader Alexander Gonser, takes place on Sundays after the Divine Liturgy. Feel free to join in and let other inquirers know about these classes introducing the Orthodox faith.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

❖ Church School will begin with a kick-off rib dinner on Sunday, September 10. Children's meals age under 12 are free. Students and parents will be able to meet our teachers and see the classrooms. Classes begin on Sunday, September 17th. On that date there will be prayers during the Liturgy for the teachers and students and a blessing after Communion for them as they go to class. See you then!

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS resumes September 6 continuing with the book by Father Silviu Bunta.

RIB/CHICKEN DINNER Sunday, September 10th - kick-off for Church School. Tickets are $18 adults, children under 12 are free.

ETHNIC DANCE Saturday, September 23 at 6 pm at St. Nicholas. Come and enjoy an evening of dancing & fellowship. Everyone is welcome. The cost is $10 per person; children under 12 are free. Pizza & pop will be provided.

MEMORY ETERNAL! CHRIST IS RISEN VLADIMIR "WALTER" PYATENKO, fell asleep in the Lord on August 15, the feast of our Lady's falling asleep. The funeral was August 21 and the burial was at St. Nicholas cemetery. Vladimir's obituary is here https://www.cederbergfh.com/obituary/vladimir-pyatenko Remember Vladimir in your prayers that he rest in the light of Christ's face, and also remember his family - son Eugene and his wife Lois, son Mike and his wife Carol, and his grandchildren and their families. Bog da prosti! Memory eternal! Christ is risen!

PRAYER SERVICE for the sick & suffering at St. Mary Magdalene on September 5th at 6 pm.

CONFESSIONS the sacrament of Confession is offered on Saturdays after Vespers and by appointment. Call the parish office 810-744-0070 or e-mail stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com to make an appointment.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE will meet on Saturday, September 9 at 3 pm in the fellowship hall.

MIDDLE EASTERN LUNCH & BAKE SALE at St. George is September 21 from 11am-2pm. Free delivery with 8 or more lunches! The deadline to order is September 7. For more information see the flier in this newsletter or in the fellowship hall. You can order at 810-732-0720.

FLOWERS for the icon of our Lady of Iveron were donated by Ralph & Debbie Neely in memory of Joseph & Dorothy Goodman.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE *Financials* **- Please continue to make your stewardship offerings, especially in the summer when many are travelling. God bless everyone who is making the stewardship offerings of time, talent, and treasure.** *Endowment fund* **- no report.** *Rector's report* **- Metropolitan Tikhon will attend the Diocesan Conference October 7 & 8 at St Nicholas Cathedral, Fort Wayne, IN. Church will cover costs for inquirers' class books. Alexander Gonser has graduated the diaconal vocational program with Father Silviu Bunta and Father Bogdan Bucur.** *Youth Ministry/Church School* **- backpacks will be ordered for needy children in Atherton Schools. Vacation Church School was Saturday, August 12 at St George Church beginning at 10 am concluding with Vespers at 5 pm. Teachers' meeting on Sunday, August 27. Curriculum is set for 2023-2024 school year, classes begin September 17.** *Fundraising* **-** ***Picnic*** **101 dinner tickets purchased as of August 10. Five lambs have been ordered. Liturgy will be broadcast on Facebook live.** ***Car show*** **August 27 at 3 pm in the parking lot, sloppy joes, no admission, free-will offering.** ***Rib dinner*** **Sunday, September 10 - kick-off for Church School. Children's dinners are free.** ***Dance*** **Saturday, September 23 - music, pizza, dessert, and pop, $10 per person, children 12 and under - free, 6 to 11 pm.** *Charity ministries* **Thursday, September 7 at 9:30 am North End Soup Kitchen.** *Building and grounds* **The cry room needs a new air conditioner (it was not replaced with the ones in church) and a speaker to link in the sound system. The light bulbs in church - the same bulbs are not available so a suitable replacement will be found. Repair on the women's bathroom. The filters on the air conditioning units in church need to be cleaned.** ***Seminarian envelopes*** **we cannot add them for 2024 as they have already been ordered. In 2024 once a month pass the plate for the seminarian fund. Parish meeting for elections - Sunday, November 5.**

PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES

NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
Friday, September 8 at 10 am – pan-Orthodox Liturgy at Assumption Church in Grand Blanc.

ELEVATION OF THE CROSS
Wednesday, September 13 at 6 pm – pan-Orthodox Vespers & Liturgy at St. George Church in Flint.

PARISH COUNCIL The next parish council meeting is Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 pm.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN we serve on Thursday, September 7 from 9 to 12:30 pm.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting Soap for the month of September. Place the items in the Blue Box in the hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items. They are also in need of Socks, School Uniforms, Toilet Paper, Shampoo, Laundry Soap, Deodorant, Prayer and volunteers.

FOOD DRIVE Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall.

MAKE YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING EASY AND CONVENIENT WITH *GIVELIFY*
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.

SEMINARIAN OFFERING On the stewardship envelopes in the envelope box there is a category marked "Seminarian." Through the years these funds have been used to support our seminarians, most recently Father Esteban Vázquez. Reader Alexander Gonser is currently enrolled in classes to be ordained a deacon, God-willing. Your offering to the seminarian fund will help with his class expenses.

MAUI HAWAII DONATIONS will be sent to IOCC to help those who were devastated by the island fire. There is a basket at the candle stand or you can give directly on their website https://iocc.org/.

HOPE IN A BOX

Sept	Soap
Oct	Toothpaste, Toothbrushes and Socks
Nov	Dish & Laundry Soap

September Coffee Social Volunteers & Sponsors	
3	
10	Rib/Chicken Dinner
17	
24	

THE MACEDONIAN OPEN COMMITTEE would like to thank everyone who golfed, donated money & gift items, sponsored signs, joined us for dinner and donated their time to help before & during the golf outing to make sure everything went smoothly. We could not do it without everyone's help! We are happy to announce that this was again one of our best ever! This year our profit for the church Capital Improvement Fund is a little more than $22,000. There are several projects that need to be done: painting the belltower from top to bottom, painting the church dome, installing wires to zone the heating from pneumatic to electric. Thanks again to everyone!

YOUTUBE CHANNEL subscribe to our YouTube channel Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton to receive notifications of upcoming livestreams for services. Livestreams will begin at 9:30 with Hours.

FACEBOOK PAGE Please visit, like, and follow our parish page: www.facebook.com/stnicholasburton
Please share posts to your page. This increases the number of people who know about our church. Those who have been at coffee fellowship have seen the number of inquirers who have been coming to Sunday Divine Liturgy. 2,000 people have liked our Facebook page and 2,100 people have followed it.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Sandra Spankie
3 Gregory Oginsky
4 Tiffany Oliver
6 Anastasia Butrie
Roseanne Bagale
9 Lazaros Stavridis
10 Cathy Steiner
12 Brandon Conover
Ciera Conover
Joseph Neely
14 Amani Helal
Matthew Batzos
18 Peggy Russell
20 Nick Sfetkidis
Noah Gonser
Peter Economou
Taras-Michael Butrie
27 James Shann
28 Kathy Swanigan
30 Luke Shann

ANNIVERSARIES

3 George & Sherry Brown (1978)
11 Thomas & Nancy Krigner (1988)
19 Dennis & Sharon Jernigan (1964)
20 Jerry & Christine Brucksch (1986)
27 Jeremy & Jami Fisher (2008)

NAMESDAYS

1 Joshua Brucksch
Joshua Vuckovich
5 Betty Nicevski
Caitlyn Elizabeth Nicole Rittman
Lisa Pray
Ressa Ann Borkovich
Quin Elizabeth Gerzevske
9 Cortney Anne Batzos
Kelly Anne Panoff
Megan Ann Krigner
Nancy Ann Krigner
Nancy Borkovich
Peggy Ann Russell
16 Lucy (Ludmilla) Hogg
17 Luba Todorovsky
Luba Yosheff
Madi Lu Fisher
Sophia Batzos
18 Ariana Loomis
Arinn Alexandra Pray
Ashley Goodman
20 Oleg Dashevsky
Oleg Zubovich

If your name is missing or has the incorrect information in the birthday, anniversary or namesday list please call the office: (810) 744-0070

DAILY INTERCESSION FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND

VISITATION TO THE SICK If you would like Fr. Matthew to make a visit to home, hospital, or nursing home, please contact the office 810-744-0070.

DAILY INTERCESSION FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND

The following are our brothers and sisters of St. Nicholas who are currently homebound, suffering from chronic illness, in recovery or in need of special prayers. Please remember them in your prayers and reach out to them with a card, a phone call or a visit! Please call the office to schedule a visit for Holy Communion.

Deacon John Bocek	Paul Ellis	Nick Karayanis	Bill Tadrick
Linda Branoff	Bill Haw	Macy Lemmen	Wendy Tadrick
Mary Abu-Aita	Mary Karayanis	Ron Salhany	Dave Vuckovich

To aid in your outreach, here is a listing of the addresses and phone numbers of our Homebound:

Mary Abui-Aita	6407 Sanctuary Pointe Ct.	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Linda Branoff	5238 Sandalwood Circle	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Paul Ellis	2360 Stonebridge Dr	Flint, MI 48532
Mary & Nick Karayanis	2238 Old Hickory	Davison, MI 48423
Mira Prusac	4148 W Court St	F;lint, MI 48532
Dave Vuckovich	9352 Morrish Rd	Swartz Creek, MI 48473

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH
2023-2024 CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Pat's Orthodox Church School

The Gospels – Parents' Guide Overview and Schedule

- **All classes will use the curriculum for 6-9 year olds**

Sept 10	**kick-off rib dinner, teachers, students, parents meet & greet**	
Sept 17	**begin school year with prayers and blessing in church** **Elevation of the Cross**	
Sept 24	**Baptism**	
Oct 1	**Chrismation**	
Oct 8	**Divine Liturgy**	
Oct 15	**Marriage**	
Oct 22	**Ordination**	
Oct 29	**Holy Unction**	
Nov 5	**Requiem**	
Nov 12	**Confession**	
Nov 19	**Romans – Members of One Body**	
Nov 26	**1 Thessalonians – Giving Thanks**	**Sunday after Thanksgiving**
Dec 3	**St Nicholas visits**	
Sat, Dec 9	**Cookie Walk**	
Dec 10	**1 Corinthians – Christ Crucified**	
Dec 17	**1 Corinthians – Run the Race**	
Dec 24	**1 Corinthians – Sharing & Caring**	**Eve of the Nativity of our Lord**
Dec 31	**1 John – God is Love**	
Jan 7	**2 Corinthians – Light of the World**	
Jan 14	**Blessing of Water & lamb dinner – no class**	
Jan 21	**Galatians – Fruit of the Spirit**	

Jan 28	**Ephesians – Armor of God**
Feb 4	**Philippians - Prayer**
Feb 11	**Colossians - Forgiveness**
Feb 18	**Romans – Obey civil authorities**
Feb 25	**Timothy – God is our Shepherd**
Mar 3	**Philemon – Slave or Brother?**
Mar 10	**Hebrews - Angels**
Mar 17	**Hebrews – Faith and Hope**
Mar 24	**1st Sunday of Lent – procession with icons (shortened class – start tomb project)**
Mar 31	**James – the Mighty Tongue**
April 7	**3rd Sunday of Lent – Cross – stay for veneration of the Cross, shortened class** **Revelation – Jesus Knocks at the Door**
April 14	**1 Peter – the Cornerstone**
April 27	**Lazarus Saturday – location to be determined**
April 28	**Palm Sunday – stand in aisle for Great Entrance, procession** **(shortened class – continue tomb project)**
May 3	**Holy Friday – Vespers – come to remove icon from cross** **Matins – come to sprinkle tomb with rose water**

May 5 PASCHA – no class

May 12	**2 Peter – Second Coming – shortened class and then egg hunt**
May 19	**end of year with recognition in church**

OCTOBER 21st Trunk or Treat

NOVEMBER 19th Angel Tree Tags available

DECEMBER 3rd St. Nicholas visit

DECEMBER 9th Cookie Walk

Rib Dinner

September 10th

Menu also includes
Chicken
Baked Beans
Coleslaw
Bring a dessert to pass

Tickets are $18 adults · children under 12-free
See Sharon Jernigan for tickets

Ethnic Dance

September 23 at 6 pm

Come and enjoy an evening of dancing and fellowship

Everyone is welcome

Where: St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Cost: $10 per person–children under 12 are free
includes pizza & pop

Call or text Stephanie @ 248-396-3899 to R.S.V.P.
(It would be helpful but not required)

St. George Orthodox Church
5191 Lennon Road • Flint, MI
(Behind Kohl's) Between Linden and Dye Roads

MIDDLE EASTERN LUNCH & BAKE SALE

DINE IN our NEWLY Renovated Banquet Center!

Thursday, September 21, 2023
11am-2pm

Cost is $17 per meal and Lunch includes:

Cooked Kibbee, Green Bean Stew (*Yahnee*), Rice, Hummus, Salad, Pita Bread, Dessert, and a Bottled Water

Vegetarian Plates available

Free Delivery with eight (8) or more lunches!

~~~ for more information and/or free deliveries ~~~

call: St. George at 810-732-0720

DEADLINE for orders is September 7th!

Item	Number of Dozens	Price ($20 per dozen)
Kibbee		
Meat Pies		
Spinach Pies		
Date Cookies *(Kaak)*		
Baklava		
Gharabeh		
		Price ($17 per Lunch)
Lunch (as above)		
Lunch (Vegetarian)		
TOTAL		

~~~ Lunch and items above ~~~ Pickups Available ~~~

Name_____

Phone Number_____ Pick-up Time_____

September 2023

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
2143 S. Center Rd. Burton, MI 48519
810-744-0070
stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
‡ *Fast* *Dairy Permitted (no meat)* *Wine & Oil Permitted (no meat)* *Fish Permitted (no other meat)*					1 ***Church New Year***	2 5 pm Vespers confessions
3 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy	4 Office Closed	5 6:30 pm Prayer Service @ St. Mary for the sick & suffering	6 ‡ 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed.	7 ***9 am to 12:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen*** Office Closed	8 ***Nativity of the Theotokos*** ***10 am Pan-Orthodox Liturgy at Assumption***	9 3 pm Nominating Committee Meeting 5 pm Vespers confessions
10 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School kick-off Rib Dinner	11	12 6:30 pm Parish Council	13 ‡ 11:15 am adult ed. ***6 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers & Liturgy at St. George***	14 ***Elevation of the Cross*** Father in Toledo Office Closed	15 ‡	16 5 pm Vespers confessions
17 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School: Elevation of the Cross	18 Father in Toledo	19 Father in Toledo	20 ‡ Father in Toledo No Divine Liturgy no adult education	21 Office Closed	**22** ‡	23 ***Conception of St. John the Baptist*** 5 pm Vespers Confessions 6 pm Ethnic Dance
24 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School: Baptism	25	26 Father in Toledo	27 ‡ 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed.	28 Office Closed	29 ‡	30 5 pm Vespers with Lity confessions