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 2026

HYMNS FROM THE MATINS FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

Magnify, O my soul, the most glorious birth of the Mother of God! From your virgin womb you ineffably gave a body to the Light that was before the sun, even God Who has shone forth upon us, and in the body came to dwell among us. Blessed and all-pure Theotokos, we magnify you!

Be renewed, O Adam, and be magnified, O Eve, you prophets dance with the apostles and the righteous; let there be common joy in the world among angels and mankind. For the Theotokos is born today of righteous Joachim and Anna.

Oh, the marvelous wonder! The source of Life is born of a barren woman, and grace gloriously begins to bear its fruit. Rejoice, Joachim, who have become the father of the Theotokos! There is no other like you among earthborn fathers, O man inspired by God; for the Maiden in whom God would come to dwell, the Tabernacle of God, the all-holy Mountain, has been given to us through you.

Oh, the marvelous wonder! The fruit of a barren woman has shone forth at the behest of the Almighty Maker of all and mightily destroyed the barrenness of this world, which was fruitless in good things. You mothers, dance with the mother of the Theotokos and cry: "Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you, He Who grants the world through you His great mercy!"

A living pillar of chastity and bright vessel shining with grace, glorious Anna has given birth to the true stronghold of virginity, the divine flower, who manifestly bestows the beauty of virginity on all virgins and women who desire that grace, and grants to all the faithful great mercy.

This is the day of the Lord! Rejoice, O peoples, for, behold, the bridal chamber of the Light, the book of the Word of Life, has come forth from the womb! The gate that faces the East is born and awaits the entry of the Great Priest. She alone admits Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls.

FROM THE SAINTS

St. Dorotheos of Gaza

Because we don't deal with our wickednesses, since we don't weep over our dead selves, we can do absolutely nothing to put ourselves to rights and so we're constantly concerned with our neighbours. And nothing angers God more, nothing strips us bare so completely and makes us feel abandoned as do gossip, criticism and condemnation of our neighbour.

Abbess Theosemni

We have to respect other people, whether they make mistakes or not. We shouldn't destroy them, shouldn't wound them and berate them. Because what love requires is this: to exculpate them, to love them and to take all the blame ourselves.

St. Mark the Ascetic

Only God and the conscience know the hidden things of the heart. This is why each of us should correct ourselves by listening to these two voices: those of God and the conscience.

An anonymous elder

An Elder recounted the following: "When I was once living in the remotest part of the desert, I was visited by a brother from a monastery. I asked him: 'How are the Fathers faring?' He replied, 'Well, by your prayers.' I then asked about a certain brother who had a bad reputation, and he answered: 'Believe me, Father, he has not freed himself from that reputation.' When I heard this, I said, 'Ugh!' As soon as I said this, I was overcome by sleep and fell into ecstasy. I saw myself standing before Golgotha and our Lord Jesus Christ crucified between the two thieves. I started forward to worship Him, but when I came close, He turned to the Holy Angels who were standing by and said in a loud voice: 'Cast him out, since, as far as I am concerned, he is an antichrist; for before I could pass judgment, he himself has condemned his brother.' As I was being chased out of that place, my rason (outer wide-sleeved garment worn over the cassock) suddenly got caught in the door; leaving it there, I departed and awoke from sleep. Pondering on the things that I had seen, I told the visiting brother: 'This has been a bad day for me.' He asked, 'Why so, Father?' I then related to him what I had seen, and I said: 'I was deprived of my rason, which represents God's protection.' "From that time hence I spent seven years in the desert regions, in the sight of the Lord of Glory, neither tasting bread, nor living under a roof, nor encountering any man, until I once more saw my Lord on Golgotha giving permission for my rason to be returned to me."

St Joseph of Panephysis, the anchorite

A brother asked Avva Joseph: "What am I to do, since I can neither endure hardship nor can I work and give alms?" The Elder replied to him: "If you cannot do even one of these things, at least guard your conscience from thinking any evil of your neighbor, or denigrating him, and you will be saved."

St. Peter of Damaskos

"If we are not willing to sacrifice this temporal life, or perhaps even the life to come, for the sake of our neighbor, as were Moses and St Paul, how can we say that we love him? For Moses said to God concerning his people, 'If You will forgive their sins, forgive; but if not, blot me as well out of the book of life which You have written' (Exodus 32:32. LXX); while St Paul said, 'For I could wish that I myself were severed from Christ for the sake of my brethren' (Rom 9:3). He prayed, that is to say, that he should perish in order that others might be saved – and these others were the Israelites who were seeking to kill him. Such are the souls of the saints: they love their enemies more than themselves, and in this age and in the age to come they put their neighbor first in all things, even though because of his ill-will he may be their enemy. They do not seek recompense from those whom they love, but because they have themselves received they rejoice in giving to others all that they have, so that they may conform to their Benefactor and imitate His compassion to the best of their ability; 'for He is bountiful to the thankless and to sinners' (cf. Luke 6:35)."

A Treasury of Divine Knowledge 1, Philokalia, 3:175-176

Hours Schedule

August		September		October	
6	Staci	4	Staci	1	Staci
13	Barry	11	Barry	8	Barry
20	Lucy	18	Angelo	15	Mike D
27	Mike D	25	Lucy	22	Lucy
				29	Madison

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

Reader Schedule

August		September		October	
6	Barry	4	Katherine	1	Phil
13	Staci	11	Staci	8	Katherine
20	Mike D	18	Mike D	15	Staci
27	Phil	25	Barry	22	Mike D
				29	Barry

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

Candle Stand Attendant Schedule

August		September		October	
6	Dennis Goodman	4	Dennis Goodman	1	Dennis Goodman
13	Susie Ford	11	Susie Ford	8	Susie Ford
20	Christine Panoff	18	Christine Panoff	15	Christine Panoff
27	Ian & Stephanie P.	25	Ian & Stephanie P.	22	Ian & Stephanie P.
				29	Susie Ford

If you are unable to make your assigned date please find a replacement. Let Susie know of any changes or if you cannot find a replacement (810-407-3016).

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

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.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters on September 3 from 9 am-12:30 pm. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." St. John Chrysostom.

PAYPAL **You can use PayPal for your financial stewardship! Go** to our website **www.saintnicholasburton.org** and click on the box **Give now with PayPal**; this is a secure site. (1.99% + $0.49 of your donation goes to PayPal as a fee). ***Please consider clicking the box to cover the fee we are charged.** 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
PayPal will send an email to the church to let us know a donation was received for St. Nicholas Church, the amount, and the giver.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING is September 8 at 6:30 pm.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE - AUGUST Opened with prayer at 6:38 pm by Fr Matthew. Secretary's report accepted as presented. Financial statement: please continue your tithes and offerings which have kept us on budget and in the black for the better part of 2026. Endowment fund: June 30 balance $574,198.88. July 31 balance: $577,199.74. Christopher Taylor will look into the ability to sign in on the

account to get up-to-date amounts rather than waiting for the Stifel statement to arrive by mail. The church will sponsor the coffee and donuts for the McDermott family's reception on Sunday, September 6. Church school will begin on Sunday, September 20. Father Matthew & Stephanie Price will set up the calendar for the year. Oil based stain for wooden playground equipment, paint traps moisture and rots the wood. Community outreach: bonfire - September 25. Fundraising: Picnic on Sunday, August 16. Lena relayed that there may be 160 dinners sold. Put photos of the Macedonian Open on the television in the hall. Could use fire extinguishers in pavilion per recommendation of inspection company. Charity ministries: Soup kitchen is Thursday, September 3. Building and grounds: a tree came down on the west border of the cemetery, no damage to any graves. Bill Economou - we have to get fencing around AC units on north side of the church. He checked on the bells for the church with the company in Cincinnati. Someone will e-mail Bill and make arrangements to look at the system. Alternating current system is what we have - not used any longer. Low voltage direct current is what is done. It may cost $10,000 to $15,000 to upgrade the system. He will also look at an alternate system. Lights in our entry u-shaped driveway need to be updated to lower energy use bulbs. Parking lot sealing - Macedonian Open is covering the cost - approximately $19,000. Old business: Anniversary ideas: cake, pictures, videos on the television. Invite people to tell some stories about the parish at the meal (have sound system set-up). Catered dinner for the anniversary on Sunday, October 4 - Lena will look into caterers. Playscape: will be installed Wednesday, August 12 - installers arrive between 8 am and 9 am. Anthony Branoff's memorial funds will be used toward the playscape and a plaque will be placed on benches which give a place for adults to sit while children are playing. Oiled every 2 or 3 years for the cedar wood on the playscape. There is a way to anchor down the benches. Parish development forum: Christopher Taylor attended the forum at St Luke Church, Palos Hills, IL and mentioned there were 3 main topics: St Tikhon's vision for America, parish council efficiency focus on ministry, autocephaly in 1970. Professional development-type, best-practices, evidence-based in parishes. One thing was to change around the agenda to focus more on ministries and stewardship. Financial reports are quarterly rather than monthly. The things we do are ministries not merely a chore or task to be done. Forum suggestion - suggest a catechumen enrolls in a ministry as part of being a catechumen and soon to be member. Do it for a year, give it a try. Can change ministries. Adjourned at 8:37 pm

MINISTRIES FOR YOU TO JOIN:

- Assistant choir director trainee.
- Maintenance ministry - persons to assist.
- **Livestream – persons to assist beginning and ending livestreaming of services**
- Media Ministry person(s)
- An additional church school teacher and substitute because of the increase in number of students in church school - please see Stephanie Price.

God bless those who have given of their time for these ministries:

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN we serve on Thursday, Sept 3 from 9 to 12:30 pm.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting Bar and Hand Soap for the month of September. Place the items in a bag and then put in the Blue Box in the hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

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

HOPE IN A BOX

Sept	Bar & Hand Soap
Oct	Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
Nov	Dish Soap

September Coffee Social Sponsors	
6	Honoring the McDermott Family
13	
20	
27	

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). ***Please consider adding the extra fee we are charged to your donation.*** 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.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER To be transparent in our 5-year vision to a financially secure parish:

2026	June	July
Monthly Offering Income	$ 14,768	$ 21,910
Monthly General Operating Expenses	$ 19,187	$ 18,577
	$ -4,419	$ 3,333

Sep 7 **6 pm pan-Orthodox Vespers with Lity at St Mary Magdalene Church for the Nativity of the Theotokos**

Sep 8 **10 am pan-Orthodox Liturgy at St Nicholas Church for the Nativity of the Theotokos**

Sep 13 **6 pm pan-Orthodox Vespers with Lity at St Mary Magdalene Church for the elevation of the Cross of the Lord**

Sep 14 **10 am pan-Orthodox Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Church for the elevation of the Cross of the Lord**

4TH ANNUAL RETREAT FOR ORTHODOX MEN Abba Anthony: A Desert Father for Our Times September 18–20, 2026, Holy Dormition Orthodox Monastery, Rives Junction, MI by Father Michael Butler. Anthony fled to the desert to fight the real war, the one inside. This retreat is an invitation into that same arena: three talks, the rhythm of monastic prayer and Liturgy, and real silence, held in the company of other men who are done with performing and ready to be formed. Limited to 60 men. Early bird pricing through August 31 (use code SAR50 at checkout). Full details and registration: https://avg2alpha.com/st-anthony-retreat

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING on Saturday, September 19 at 3:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Members of the nominating committee are: Cathy Edwards, Sharon Jernigan, Christine Panoff, Ian Price, J. Joseph Tome. Father Matthew is the chair of the committee.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Sandra Spankie
3 Cindy Branoff
4 Tiffany Oliver
6 Roseanne Bagale
9 Lazaros Stavridis
Menka Nedanis
10 Cathy Steiner
12 Adeleine Prusac
Joseph Neely
14 Amani Helal
18 Peggy Russell
19 Mark Choate, Jr
20 Nick Sfetkidis
Noah Gonser
Taras-Michael Butrie
22 Sonnie Louise Bailey
27 James Shann
28 Kathy Swanigan
30 Luke Shann

ANNIVERSARIES

3 George & Sherry Brown
11 Thomas & Nancy Krigner
19 Dennis & Sharon Jernigan
21 Jerry & Christine Brucksch
25 Bruce & Rebecca Watson
27 Jeremy & Jami Fisher

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

NAMESDAYS

1 Joshua Vuckovich
Penelope Bailey
5 Quinn Elizabeth Gerzevske
7 Madison Kassiani Miller
9 Annie Bailey
Nancy Ann Krigner
Nancy Borkovich
Peggy Ann Russell
16 Lucy (Ludmilla) Hogg
17 Luba Todorovsky
Luba Yosheff

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!

Deacon John Bocek	Bill Haw	Macy Lemmen	Bill Tadrick
Paul Ellis	Mary Karayanis	Helen Popoff	Wendy Tadrick
Joan Gajewski	Nick Karayanis	Ron Salhany	Dave Vuckovich

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

Jeanette Brayan @ Serene Gardens	1481 E Hill Rd room MC-6	Grand Blanc, MI 48439	
Paul Ellis @ Flat Rock Manor of Goodrich N	7280 S. State Rd.	Goodrich, MI 48438 *New address	
Mary & Nick Karayanis	2238 Old Hickory	Davison, MI 48423	810-653-1169
Helen Popoff	2221 Bellemeade Dr.	Davison, MI 48423	810-653-3867
Dave Vuckovich	9352 Morrish Rd	Swartz Creek, MI 48473	810-348-4733 (Barb)
Diane Todorovsky	14182 Moffett Dr	Fenton, MI 48430	810-750-7860

Abba Anthony: A Desert Father For Our Times

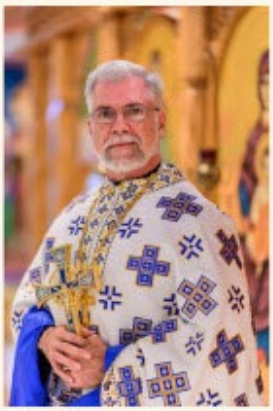
4th Annual Retreat for Orthodox Men

September 18–20, 2026

This retreat will be based on the first ten chapters of the Life of Anthony, showing how the young man came to follow Christ, begin his journey, and confront the temptations that face all of us in the early steps of our spiritual journey. Combining lessons from Abba Anthony's life with the full cycle of monastic services offered by Holy Dormition Monastery, this retreat will be an immersive experience of Orthodox Christian spirituality.

What to Expect:

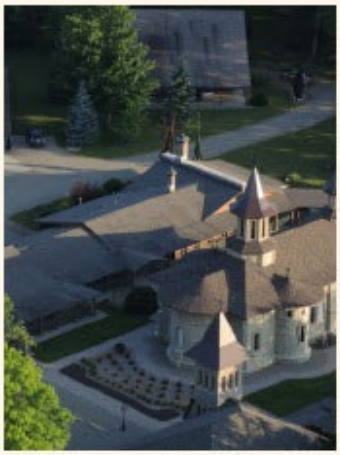
- Insights from the Life of Abba Anthony on turning from the world, spiritual formation, and warfare against the passions.
- Structured silence in the tradition of the Desert Fathers.
- The full cycle of Orthodox liturgical prayer (Vespers, Akathist, Hours, Vigil, and two Liturgies).
- Fellowship with like-minded brothers.



Fr Michael Butler
Retreat Facilitator

Holy Dormition Monastery

3389 Rives Eaton Rd,
Rives Junction, MI 49277



Information and Registration

$250 to attend

NOTE: Early bird pricing: $225 thru Aug 31 (use code **SAR50**).

Attendance limited to 60 men.

BONUS: 19th Annual Male Bonding Party to follow on Sunday evening.

Scan the QR code for more information & registration. Or visit

avg2alpha.com/st-anthony-retreat

"Blessed are they
who hear the
Word of God
and keep it."
(Luke 11:28)

Bearing the Word: Lessons from the Mother of God for Our Times

October 23-25, 2026

Fellowship of St. Moses the Black
33rd Annual Conference

Saints Peter & Paul Romanian Orthodox Church
750 N Beech Daly Rd,
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127

Attention Michigan Attendees: Use Coupon Code LOCAL2026 for a great discount on the whole weekend

Register!

To register, use the QR code or go this website:
https://pci.jotform.com/form/261234441193148

JOIN THE

Jubilee Choir

During the 33rd Annual Conference

October 23 - 25, 2026

Sts. Peter & Paul Romanian Orthodox Church
Dearborn Heights, MI

Contact:
Dr. Zhanna Lehmann
music@mosestheblack.org

SEPTEMBER 2026

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stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 **Church New Year** *Fr with Archbishop Alexander*	**2** ‡ 9:30 am Liturgy 11 am adult ed.	**3** 9 am - 1 pm North End Soup Kitchen Office Closed	**4** ‡	**5** 11 am 40 days for Kosta Tasevski at Evergreen Cemetery 5 pm Vespers Confessions
6 9 am reception of the McDermott Family 10 am Liturgy	**7** **Labor Day** **6 pm Vespers at St Mary Magdalene for the feast** Office Closed	**8** **Nativity of the Theotokos** **10 am Liturgy at St Nicholas** 6:30 pm parish council	**9** ‡ No Liturgy No adult ed.	**10** Office Closed	**11** ‡	**12** 5 pm Vespers *No Confessions*
13 9:30 Hours 10 am Liturgy **6 pm Vespers at St Mary Magdalene for the feast**	14 **Elevation of the Cross** **10 am Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene**	**15**	**16** ‡ No Liturgy No adult ed.	**17** Office Closed	**18** ‡	**19** 3:30 pm nominating committee meeting 5 pm Vespers Confessions
20 9:30 Hours 10 am Liturgy Church School begins	**21** *Fr with Archbishop Alexander*	**22**	**23** ‡ 9:30 am Liturgy 11 am adult ed.	**24** Office Closed	**25** ‡	**26** 5 pm Vespers Confessions
27 9:30 Hours 10 am Liturgy	**28** *Fr with Archbishop Alexander*	**29**	**30** ‡ **6 pm Vesperal Liturgy for the Protection of the Theotokos**	**October 1** **Protection of the Theotokos** 9 am - 1 pm North End Soup Kitchen	‡ *Fast* *Wine & Oil Permitted*	