

December 31, 2017

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

Deacon Kerry Luke Gonser

Web Page: www.saintnicholasburton.org Office: 810-744-0070

The Gospel according to Saint John

20:11-18 (8th Matins Gospel)

But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017 30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5. Leavetaking of the Nativity. Sunday after Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord. Ven. Melania the Younger of Rome (439). Ven. Chiriacos (Kyriakis) of Bisericani (Romanian—160). Ven. Chiriacos (Kyriakis) of Tazlau (Romanian—1660).

FIRST ANTIPHON

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Thy wonders known!
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

They are studied by all who have pleasure in them! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

His work is glory and beauty, and His righteousness endures forever! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

SECOND ANTIPHON

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord! Who greatly delights in His commandments! **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!**

His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed! **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!**

Glory and wealth are in His house, and His righteousness endures forever! **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!**

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate and righteous! **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, save us!

THIRD ANTIPHON

The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand!” Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

Until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool! Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

The Lord sends forth from Zion Thy mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of Thy foes. Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

Authority shall be with Thee on the day of Thy power, among the splendor of Thy holy ones! Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright!

Deacon/Priest: Out of the womb, before the morning star, have I begotten Thee; the Lord has sworn and will not change His mind. Thou art a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek. O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

TROPARIA

(Tone 5) Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

(Tone 4) Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

(Tone 2) Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, / to David, the ancestor of God; / you saw a Virgin great with child; / you gave glory with the shepherds; / you worshipped with the Magi; / you received the news from the Angel. // Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

(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 3) Today the Virgin gives birth, the Virgin gives birth to the transcendent One, the transcendent One! And the earth offers, offers a cave to the unapproachable One, unapproachable One! Angels, angels with shepherds glorify Him, glorify Him! The wise men journey, journey with a star, journey with a star! Since for our sake, for our sake the Eternal God, the Eternal God was born as a little child!

The Prokeimenon in the Fifth Tone: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever. v.: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

THE READING IS FROM THE SECOND EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO TIMOTHY (4:5-8) Timothy, my son: as for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Alleluia, Tone 5

v: I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.

v: For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK (1:1-8) The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare the way’ the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight-“John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the county of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

INSTEAD OF “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the King who was born in a cave! I contemplate a marvelous and all-glorious mystery: heaven has become a cave, the cherubic throne – a virgin; and the manger has become an honorable place in which lies Christ, the uncontainable God. As we praise Him with song, let us extol Him!

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

INSTEAD OF “WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT...” Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST 2017

Beloved in the Lord,

Echoing the words of the holy prophet Isaiah, the Resurrectional Canon in the Second Tone states: “You came from the Virgin neither as an ambassador, nor an angel, but the Lord himself incarnate. (Hirmos, Ode Four)” Here we discover a singular truth of the Christian Faith. We believe that God has intervened in human history in a direct and personal way.

In the days of the Old Covenant, the Lord God “spoke to us by the mouth of his servants, the prophets (Anaphora of St. Basil).” Then, “when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (Galatians 4:4-5).”

This is the essence of our Nativity celebration. We rejoice in the coming of a God who was not satisfied to relate to us remotely, high in the heavens, while we struggled here on earth. We celebrate the birth of a God who loved us so much that he came to earth, becoming one with us, so that we could be one with him in his kingdom.

Our Lord’s incarnation presents us, his disciples, with a standard by which we should live our lives. The only-begotten Son and Word of God was not indifferent to humanity’s suffering. He could not bear to see us under the sway of temptations, and thus he came and saved us himself.

In the same way, Christians cannot be indifferent to the suffering of others. All of our Christian life should be incarnational, bringing the love of Christ into the world. A popular internet post reads: “Want to keep Christ in Christmas? Feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, love the outcast, forgive the wrongdoer, inspire the hopeless.”

May the new-born Christ fill our hearts with peace, love, and joy. And following his example, may we all be agents of God’s abundant blessings in the lives of those around us.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

With love in the newborn King,
+Alexander
*Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese –
Orthodox Church in America*

December 31, 2017



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

God’s blessings to our granddaughter Olivia Panoff on her 11 th birthday Dec. 24 th	Baba & Dedo
Fr. Tom, Fr. Dimitri, Fr. Gabriel, Deacon Anthony, Reggie, Allen, Deborah, Joann, Gloria, Luba, Kosta, Jimmy, Laurie, David, Helen, Anna, Walt, Zina, Vladimir, Nicolai, Dorothy, Michael, Nicolai, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Nicholas, Margaret, Joseph, Gladys, Ted, Marlene, my family and friends	Joe Tome
Special Intention	Joe Tome
Health~Hailey Paul	Gabriel Paul

Chris, Heather & Raegan Hogg, Nadja, Sean & Auden Bernecke, Teri, Jeremy,
Hayden Hogg
God's Blessings for good health at Christmas & in the New Year for all the
Panoffs, Aleksoffs, Gonsers, Tsotsos families & members of our parish
Bakousidis family, Yosheff family & Batcos family
Feodosiy, Adelaida, Oleg, Irina & Nikolay

Lucy Hogg

Angelo & Christine
Lena Bakousidis
Irina Sivergina

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Brother-in-law Dwight "Fitz" Fitzgerald
Dwight Fitzgerald newly fallen asleep, Blessed Repose~Memory Eternal
Theodora & Kosta Papalazarou, Evangelia Bakousidis, Tronda Nicevski
Vasilij, Andrey, Galina, Nikolay & Vitaliy

Ralph, Debbie, Joe, Sarah
Dorothy Goodman
Lena Bakousidis
Irina Sivergina



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors. Please join us for our luncheon in our fellowship hall.



COFFEE HOUR Coffee & donuts are being provided by the Panoff family today. Volunteers are needed to help serve coffee and donuts for the month of January. Please see the sign-up sheet outside of the kitchen. Call or email the parish office as well as signing up, if you'd like to sponsor the donuts and/or coffee.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting **TOILET PAPER** for the month of January. Place the items 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

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Come and minister to Christ on January 4th at 9 am – 1 pm.

PRAYER LISTING On the table in the hall is a booklet with the names of all the living and fallen asleep members of Saint Nicholas parish. This is the booklet Fr. Matthew uses to remember our parishioner at the preparation of the bread and wine for Liturgy. Please use the red pencil on the table to make any corrections or additions. The hope is to print out a copy of this booklet to each parish family so that you may remember in prayer all of our fellow parishioners.

2018 CALENDARS are located in the narthex. One calendar per family, please.

2018 PLEDGE CARDS Please fill out and sign your pledge card even if you don't know the amount of your pledge yet. Remember in order to be considered a member here at St. Nicholas you must return a signed pledge card. **DO NOT** send your 2018 pledge back with the card or it will be credited to 2017.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES are ready to be picked up in the parish hall. If you give regularly (whether or not you filled out a pledge card) it's a tremendous help if you use the numbered envelopes. Please check to see if you have a box with your name on it, even if you marked No on your pledge card for them. If you do not see envelopes with your name on them and did request them, let Marcia know so that she can get envelopes for you

ANNUAL MEETING The Annual Meeting of Saint Nicholas Parish will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2018 beginning with a short prayer service after the Divine Liturgy. The Meeting will then reconvene in the Parish Hall. **All parish organizations must prepare a report, oral or written, to be given at this meeting.**

6th ANNUAL PAN ORTHODOX WINTER DINNER to support the Dormition of the Mother of God Orthodox Monastery will be held on Thursday, January 18 at Assumption. The event will start at 5:30 with Vespers sung by the Mothers of Dormition Monastery, social time, dinner at 7:00 & the benediction at 8:30. Donations are requested at \$35 per adult and \$25 per student. Reservations need to be made by Sunday, January 14th. You may contact Deborah Gonser-Adams at (810) 695-2464 for more information and to make your reservation(s).

BOOK CLUB will start meeting again January 2nd. Our plans are to read "The Jesus Prayer: The Ancient Desert Prayer that Tunes the Heart to God by Frederica Mathewes-Green and we will be ordering soon! Please let Father Deacon Michael know if you plan on coming or would like a book (frdnmike@gmail.com).

THEOPHANY BANQUET AND OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER will be held on Sunday, January 7th following the Divine Liturgy. Bring your empty bottles to fill with Holy Water. Dress for the weather. The menu will consist of Lamb, Rice, Vegetables, Bread & Butter, Salad, Dessert and Drinks. There will be sign-up sheets in the parish hall for volunteers for set-up and clean-up, also for those that would like to make a dessert. Adults \$12, children 12 and under \$6.

PROSFORA/LITURGIA If you are able, please bake some loaves for Liturgy and drop them off at the office.

Weekly Schedule:

Tuesday, Jan 2

6 pm-8 pm Book Club

Wednesday, Jan 3

*No Liturgy
No Adult Ed*



Thursday, Jan 4

9 am-1 pm Fr. Matthew in Toledo
6 pm North End Soup Kitchen
The movie "Becoming Human" at St. George-please see attached flier.

Friday, Jan 5

6 pm **EVE OF THEOPHANY**

Vespers

Saturday, Jan 6

10 am **THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD**
5 pm Liturgy
Vespers

Sunday, Jan 7

9:30 am **SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY**
10 am Third Hour
Divine Liturgy
Theophany Blessing of the water & Banquet

Offerings for the week December 24, 2017

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$1,586.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$4,034.03
	-\$2,448.03

*93 people were in attendance on
Sunday, December 24, 2017*

"Some want to go to the Resurrection without passing by way of Golgotha" Abbess Gavriillia