

February 28, 2016

Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America

2143 S. Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519

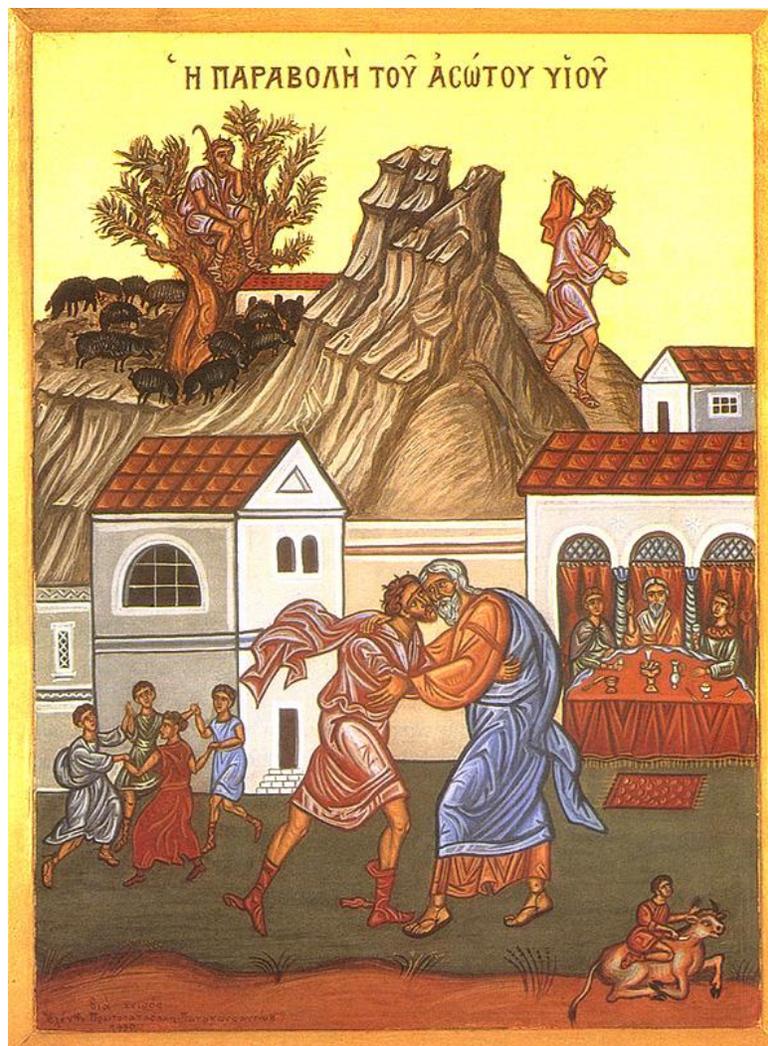
Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie – Rector

Deacon Kerry Luke Gonser

Deacon Esteban Julio Vázquez

Web Page: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Church: 810-744-0070 Fr Matthew: 810-247-4265



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2016 SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON — Tone 6. Ven. Basil the Confessor, Companion of Ven. Procopius at Decapolis (750). Bl. Nikolai, Fool-for-Christ at Pskov (1576). Hieromartyr Proterius, Patriarch of Alexandria (457). Hieromartyr Nestor, Bishop of Magydos in Pamphylia (250). Ven. Marina (Marana), Cyra (Kira, Kyra) and Domnica (Domnina), of Syria (ca. 450).

TROPARIA

(Tone 6) The angelic powers were at Thy tomb the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

(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) I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me. And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal: / “I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father; / receive me a penitent, and make me as one of Thy hired servants!”

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 FROM THE FIRST EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS (6:12-20) BRETHREN: “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food” -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two shall become one flesh.” But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

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 SAINT LUKE (15:11-32) And Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.’” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was

yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry. “Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

COMMUNION HYMN

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

The Prodigal Son: “From a far country...”

“And He said, ‘There was a man who had two sons....’”

This is how Christ begins what is perhaps the greatest of his parables, the one we know as the Parable of the Prodigal Son, but which could easily be titled the “Parable of the Two Sons” or the “Parable of the Compassionate Father.” With this parable, which we will hear at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 28, we are invited to enter the “school of repentance”—Great Lent—and sit at the feet of the Master, so that we can hear the words of eternal life and “keep them.”

After receiving his portion of the inheritance, even before his father had died, the younger of the two sons “gathered all that he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living” [Luke 15:13]. This one sober understatement does not demand a great deal of imagination to yield its meaning. We know that *loose living* refers to a web of wrong choices, bad company, unrestrained satisfaction of “the passions,” and forgetfulness of God. This spiritually suicidal combination leads to bankruptcy on a further series of interrelated levels: the material, moral/ethical and spiritual. In no time, the prodigal son is forced to feed “on the pods that the swine ate” [Luke 15:16].

Before succumbing to the temptation of trying my hand at an updated melodramatic script that would luridly describe the sins of the wayward young man of the parable—replete with money, sex and drugs—together with all of the didactic apparatus meant to strengthen our resolve to protect our children (since we are now too old for all of that), I would rather more modestly pause at the words about a journey “into a far country.” The far country of the parable is geographical, for the young man of the parable ventured far from his home. Yet, a “far country” can also refer to a hidden place in our interior landscape; a “place” in which we can distance ourselves from God and right living to a frightening degree, even if slowly and unintentionally. At first, that interior far country can prove to be appealing. It can appease our vanity, protect our pride and/or feed “the passions” that we can nurture, even if hidden from the view and censure of others. This is initially stimulating and seems to promise endless delight—perhaps like the endless freedom that an unsupervised dorm may offer to an innocent college student away from the sheltering, but seemingly restrictive, atmosphere of home.

When the emptiness of such a landscape becomes evident, we too can desperately desire to “feed on the pods that the swine ate.” The self-serving (or “self-help!”) philosophies on which we squandered our “inheritance” from

God will no longer satisfy us, but in a restless and hungry search for something else to replace these, we can even fall to the level of “swinish delights”—anything to relieve our boredom or frustrations. Without moving anywhere, and without changing the patterns of our lifestyle, we can still withdraw to a “far country” in that interior landscape that can prove to be as treacherous as any unknown environment of the exterior world. It is said of the prodigal son of the parable, that when at “rock bottom,” he “came to himself” [Luke 15:17]. This is certainly one of the key expressions found in this endlessly rich parable. The young man found his right mind, his sanity was restored, and basically he “got a grip on reality”—an undramatic, but perfect, way to describe “conversion,” or the process of turning back toward God and the warm embrace of our heavenly Father.

A certain clarity of thought is needed to find our way home when we drift off toward a far country. The short-lived rock band of the late 1960s, Blind Faith, had an intriguing song entitled “Can’t Find My Way Home.” Perhaps that was an honest and clear-sighted assessment of the band’s state of mind at that time (money, sex and drugs?) and a poignant recognition of being in a “far country.” Two other songs on the album, however—“In the Presence of the Lord” and “Sea of Joy”—may have pointed to more promising discoveries. Every year, through the lectionary of the Church especially in this pre-lenten season of preparation, we are powerfully reminded of just how far away from “home” we may actually be in mind and heart. If we have been equally prodigal with the gifts bestowed upon us by God, then we can equally “come to ourselves” and return home to the embrace of our compassionate Father.

Fr. Steven Kostoff

February 28, 2016



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

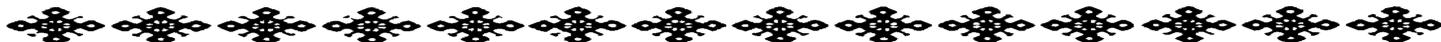
Happy Birthday Mrs. Goodman.....	George family
Health & God’s Blessings to our granddaughter Avery Panoff on her 15 th birthday, Feb. 23	Baba & Dedo
Health & God’s Blessings Alex Popoff	Dorothy & Family
Special Intention.....	Joe Tome
Happy Anniversary & God’s Blessings Vladimir & Zina Pyatenko.....	Pyatenko family
God’s Blessings to Adam George for State Swim Competition, March 10.....	George family
Rose Goodman on her 92 nd Birthday Feb. 22 good health & God’s blessings.....	Dorothy & Family
Fr. Joe, Fr. Moses, Fr. Lavrenty, Deacon Anthony, Ruth, Aaron, Alex, Gloria, Laurie, Anna, Walt & Zina, Dorothy, Jeanette, Reggie, Stojan & Mira, Bosa, Joseph, Helen, Ted & Marlene, Fr. David, Gladys, my family & friends	Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE

Anne Smith-Memory Eternal	George family
Theodora Branoff- 34yrs Blessed Repose-Memory Eternal	Her family
Sam Panoff-Memory Eternal	George family

ETERNAL LIGHT

Filimon Cozacioc-10 yrs Blessed Repose	Christine Cozacioc
--	--------------------



Welcome all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas! Please join us for fellowship, coffee and donuts in our parish hall.

Coffee and donuts are being donated today by Vladimir and Zina Pyatenko in honor of their 62nd Wedding Anniversary.

100th ANNIVERSARY PILGRIM ICON There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for parishioners to take the icon to their homes a week at a time. There is a special carrying case for the icon and a card with prayers you can offer before the image of the Mother of God.

CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting Feminine Care Products for March. 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 We next serve **Thursday, March 3 from 9 am to 1 pm.**

MEATFARE LUNCHEON sponsored by St. Juliana's Guild will be held on Sunday, March 6. The menu consists of Lasagna, Baked Chicken, Garlic Bread, Salad, Dessert and Beverage. Join us for fellowship and a wonderful homemade meal as we prepare for Lent.

CHEESEFARE LUNCHEON will be held on Sunday, March 13. We are in need of volunteers to help cook, set-up/serving and clean-up. There are sign-up sheets in the parish hall.

WALK FOR LIFE will be held Saturday, March 12 from 9 am to 12 pm at Carman-Ainsworth High School. Come to walk or come cheer us on. The event will help support the Answer Center for Women in Flint. This is the 100th Anniversary event for March. For more information or to register to walk see Deborah Gonser-Adams.

GREEK MARDI GRAS will be held on Saturday, March 5 from 6 pm to 11 pm at Assumption. Join our brothers and sisters at Assumption for a Prime Rib dinner and dancing, adults: \$20, children 4-10 \$8 under 3yrs free. Costumes encouraged, but not required. For more information call Assumption at 810-771-4611. Flyers are also available in the parish hall

Schedule of services and events for the week of February 28:

Tuesday, March 1

Fr. in Toledo

Wednesday, March 2

9:00 am

Divine Liturgy

11:00 am

Adult Education

5:30 pm

100th Anniversary Committee Meeting at Davison Country Club

Saturday, March 5

MEMORIAL SATURDAY

4:45 pm

Trisagion for all the departed

5:00 pm

Vespers

Sunday, March 6

MEATFARE

9:30 am

Third Hour

10:00 am

Divine Liturgy/Procession

Church School

Meatfare Luncheon

Offerings for the week February 21, 2016

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$1,709.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$5,255.62
	-\$3,546.62

*102 people were in attendance on
Sunday, February 21, 2016*

“If you cannot see Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the chalice.”

St. John Chrysostom