

*May 21, 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*

*Fr. Esteban Julio Vázquez*

*Deacon Kerry Luke Gonser*

**Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday—May 21, 2017**

To all the Clergy and the Laity of the Holy Orthodox Churches in the United States;

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

CHRIST IS RISEN! The Hierarchs of The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America have approved the sixth Sunday of Pascha, Sunday, May 21st of this year, to be Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday in all Orthodox parishes of North America. “Don’t neglect your brother in his distress while you decorate His House. Your brother is more truly His temple than any Church building” (St. John Chrysostom, On Matthew: Homily 50.4). We who do not live in the darkness of a prison or jail cannot truly comprehend the incredible distress men and women prisoners live with each and every day. OCPM needs all our help to bring the love and light of Christ to these precious souls. The Orthodox Church, through OCPM, offers both hope and healing to those living in such distress. Please remember “these the least of my brethren” by assisting OCPM with this vital ministry, not forgetting that even a “small gift may earn a crown of glory” (St. John Chrysostom). After passing a tray for the ongoing work of your parish, please pass a second tray on Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday, May 21st and send these gifts to OCPM as soon as possible to: OCPM Post Office Box 1597 New York, NY 10025

With paternal blessings and love in our Risen Lord

**SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017. 6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 5. Blind Man. Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother, Helen (Elena) (327). St. Constantine (1129) and his children, Ss. Michael and Theodore, Wonderworkers of Múrom. Ven. Cassian the Greek, of Uglich (1504). The Meeting of the VLADIMIR Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos (in commemoration of the saving of Moscow from the invasion of the Crimean Khan, Mekhmet-Girei in 1521)**

**FIRST ANTIPHON**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give glory to His praise!

**Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Say to God: How awesome are Thy deeds! So great is Thy power that Thy enemies cringe before Thee! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee! Let it praise Thy name, O Most High! **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**

God be bountiful to us and bless us! Show the light of Thy countenance upon us and have mercy on us! **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations! **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Let the people give thanks to Thee, O God! Let all the people give thanks to Thee! **O Son of God who arose from the dead, 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**

Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face. **Troparion:** Christ is risen from the dead...

As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire.

**Troparion:** Christ is risen from the dead...

So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad.

**Troparion:** Christ is risen from the dead...

This is the day which the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! **Troparion:** Christ is risen from the dead...

## **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)** 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 8)** Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal; Thou didst destroy the power of Death. In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, proclaiming Rejoice!" to the myrrhbearing women, granting peace to Thy apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

***The Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth; / and their words to the ends of the universe.***

**v. The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.**

**THE READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES (26:1-5, 11-20)** *In those days*, Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: “I think myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews, because you are especially familiar with all customs and controversies of the Jews; therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently. My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and at Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews. They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee. And I punished the saints often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme; and in raging fury against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities. Thus I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.’ And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles -- to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’ Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance.

***Alleluia, Tone 8***

**v. Look upon me and have mercy on me!**

**v. Direct my steps according to Thy word!**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN (9:1-38)**

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is

day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man’s eyes with the clay, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, “Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he”; others said, “No, but he is like him.” He said, “I am the man.” They said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’; so I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if any one should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age, ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, “Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?” And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe”; and he worshiped him.

## **THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS**

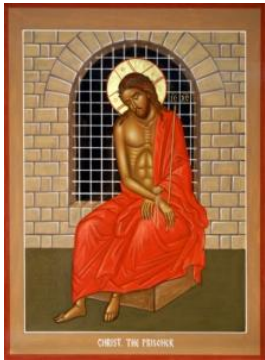
The Angel cried to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O Pure Virgin! Again I say: Rejoice! Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! With Himself He has raised all the dead! Rejoice, all ye people! Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem! The Glory of the Lord has shone on you! Exult now and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O Pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## **IN PLACE OF “WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT...”**

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.



The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate than any country in the world.

According to the International Centre for Prison Studies, the U.S. has an incarceration rate of 730 people per 100,000 compared to some other countries: Mexico-201; Turkey-168; Lebanon 122; China -121; Greece 111.



According to the National Reentry Resource Center, '708,677 sentenced prisoners were released from state and federal prisons in one year".

If the number of Orthodox men and women is only 0.5% of the entire prison population, then over 3,500 Orthodox people would be coming out of prison and into our

## **PRISON MINISTRY**

By the Grace of God five of our local parishes (listed below) have joined the National Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Team in ministering to in prisons here in Michigan and across the country. We are actively corresponding with 13 inmates and visiting one; yet we still have 9 men here in Michigan Prisons that we have not had the resources to connect with.

We are seeking MEN who desire to bear the bright light of Christ to those living in the darkness of incarceration through the open window of letters. This task is not difficult; guidance and training will be provided; we would love to have you join our small local team and be blessed by the thankfulness of the inmates who have embraced Christ and the Orthodox Church.

See below for local parish contact information:

Saint Nicholas Parish, Burton: Deborah Gonser-Adams (810-695-2464)

Assumption Parish, Grand Blanc: Ruth Karabina ([rkarabina@gmail.com](mailto:rkarabina@gmail.com) / 810-348-1372)

Holy Transfiguration Parish, Livonia: Joanne Sedor ([js532410@gmail.com](mailto:js532410@gmail.com) / 248-760-4388) & Bob Graban ([rgraban@yahoo.com](mailto:rgraban@yahoo.com) / 313-702-1300)

Saint George Parish: Flint: Protodeacon Michael Bassett ([frdnmike@gmail.com](mailto:frdnmike@gmail.com) / 989-725-2753)

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish, Fenton: Dn. Michael Schlaack ([schlaackm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:schlaackm@sbcglobal.net) / 517.672.6841)

May 21, 2017



**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF**

Fr. Joe, Fr. Tom, Deacon Anthony, Aaron, Reggie, Allen, Deborah, Noah, JoAnn, Nicolai, Kosta, Luba, Jimmy, Laurie, Walt, Zina, Dorothy, Anna, Michael, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Ted, Marlene, Nicholas, Margaret, Gladys, my family and friends

Special Intention

David Goodman- Happy Birthday, God's Blessings!

Joe Tome  
Joe Tome  
Mom

**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE**

Evanka Elieff (2 yrs.) Blessed Repose, Memory Eternal

**ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR**

For Father Esteban & Popadia Amanda Christine on their 8<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (May 25<sup>th</sup>)



**CHRIST IS RISEN!** Welcome all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas! Please join us for fellowship in our parish hall.

**COFFEE & DONUTS** are donated today by the family in memory of Evanka Elieff (2 years).

**SPECIAL PARISH MEETING will be held TODAY** to elect a lay delegate to our Diocesan Conference. The Conference will be held June 24-25 at St. Cyril & Methodius Church, Lorain, OH.

**CHARITY MINISTRIES**

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting bar and hand soap for the month of May. 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** Please come on Thursday, June 1 (9:00 to 1:00pm) to minister to Christ in our brothers and sisters. Sign up on the form in the narthex.

**MIDDLE EASTERN LUNCHEON & BAKE SALE** Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at St. George Orthodox Church on Lennon Rd. Cost is \$10. For more information call 810-732-0720.

**MACEDONIAN OPEN GOLF SCRAMBLE** The 37th Macedonian Open Golf Scramble will be held this year on Monday, June 19th at the Flint Elks Golf Club. Once again that is the Monday after Father's Day and would make a great Father's Day gift.

Everyone is encouraged to help out in any way they can. There are many sponsorship opportunities for Families and individuals who would like to support the event, from signs wishing "good luck" to signs "in memory" of a loved one. A sign sponsorship is a great advertising opportunity for any business. Whether it's for your business or one that you frequent, we encourage everyone to participate in getting new sign sponsors this year.

The Macedonian Open raised over \$16,400 for the Church last year and is hopeful for an even bigger and better turnout this year. If you have any questions or know of someone who would like to help, please contact Angelo Panoff (angelo.panoff@wfadvisors.com or 810-423-6020), Christine Panoff (capanoff@umflint.edu or 810-232-4868), Linda Branoff (branoff721@aol.com or 810-964-3654), George Branoff (george.branoff27@frontier.com or 810-252-5395) or Chris Nedanis (cned77@gmail.com or 810-877-0889).

### **MEMORY ETERNAL**

Faouzi Ghantous fell asleep in the Lord on May 21. He is the father of Fadi Ghantous and brother of Jamil Ghantous and Aida Raffoul. Arrangements are in the weekly schedule below. Bog da prosti! Christ is risen!

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** will take place on Saturday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28. The Schedule is listed below. If there is another cemetery you'd like Father Matthew to visit, please contact the parish office as soon as possible so that I can be scheduled. If you know anyone who has family buried at the parish cemetery but who are not parishioners of St. Nicholas, please let them know of the date and time for the services at the graves on Sunday, May 28.

### ***Weekly Schedule:***

#### **Tuesday, May 23**

4 to 8 pm Visitation for Faouzi Ghantous at church  
7 pm Parastas

#### **Wednesday, May 24**

9 am **LEAVETAKING OF PASCHA**  
Divine Liturgy  
10:30 am Visitation for Faouzi Ghantous at church  
11 am Funeral followed by interment at Evergreen Cemetery (Adult Education CANCELLED)  
6 pm Combined Vespers Divine Liturgy at St. George for Ascension of our Lord

#### **Thursday, May 25**

11 am – 3 pm **ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**  
Middle Eastern Luncheon and Bake Sale at St. George

#### **Saturday, May 27**

9 am Evergreen Cemetery beginning inside the chapel with a Trisagion Service  
**Blessing of graves begins at cemetery entrance on Hill Road.**  
12:30 pm Crestwood Cemetery  
1:30 pm Sunset Hills Cemetery  
2:30 pm New Calvary Cemetery  
5 pm Vespers

#### **Sunday, May 28**

9:30 am **COUNCIL FATHERS – 7<sup>TH</sup> PASCHAL SUNDAY**  
Third Hour  
10 am Divine Liturgy  
2 pm St. Nicholas Cemetery

*Offerings for the week May 14, 2017*

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <i>Weekly Offerings</i>                  | \$1,232.00         |
| <i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i> | \$4,034.03         |
|  | <b>\$-2,802.03</b> |

*80 people were in attendance on  
Sunday, May 14, 2017*

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