

April 3, 2022

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 & Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser

Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org Church: 810-744-0070 e-mail: stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com

Welcome! We are honored that you have joined us in our celebration of the Lord's resurrection this day.

If you are a first-time visitor to our parish, we invite you to sign our guest book in the vestibule. If you have a question, a prayer request, or any need, please speak with Fr. Matthew, Deacon Luke, or with one of the ushers.

For our friends present with us who are not Orthodox Christians, please note that we have specific disciplines regarding receiving Communion. We ask that you refrain from going to Communion until you have spoken with Fr. Matthew after the Liturgy and understand our discipline and piety regarding this sacrament and its implication for responsibility towards and membership in the Orthodox Church. The bread offered at the end of the service is available to all.

If you are an Orthodox Christian from another parish who has prepared in accordance with your discipline, and have a blessing from your home priest to do so, we invite and encourage you to partake of Holy Communion. **Again, welcome!**

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 8. St. John of Sinai, "Climacus" (of *The Ladder*). Ven. Nikéas the Confessor, Abbot of Medikion (824). Virgin Martyr Theodosia of Tyre, and Martyr Irene (307-308). St. Illyricus of Mt. Myrsinon in the Peloponnesus. Martyrs Elpidophorus, Dius, Bithonius, and Galycus. "Unfading Flower" Icon of the Mother of God .

TROPARIA

Tone 8 You descended from on high, O Merciful One! You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Tone 1 O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, / you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. / You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer, / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave you strength! / Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! // Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!

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 O victorious leader of triumphant hosts! We, your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might set us free from ev'ry calamity so that we may sing: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

The prokeimenon in the eighth tone: Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God! (Psalm 75:10a)

v. **In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.** (Psalm 75:1)

THE READING IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (6:13-20)

Brethren: when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedek.

Alleluia, Tone 8

v. **Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!** (Psalm 94:1)

v. **Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!**

(Psalm 94:2)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK (9:17-31) And one of the crowd answered Jesus, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a mute spirit; and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came

running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise." **GO TO PG. 103 IN THE PEW BOOK.**

Instead of "It is truly meet ... ,": All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child, our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

COMMUNION HYMN Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (*Psalms 148:1*)

The holy Gospel according to 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.

Saint John "of the Ladder" ("Climacus") Fourth Sunday of Lent - He is honored by Holy Church as a great ascetic and author of the renowned spiritual book called *The Ladder*, from which he is also called "of the Ladder" (Climacus). John went to Sinai when he was sixteen, submitting to Abba Martyrius as his instructor and guide. After four years, Saint John was tonsured as a monk. Abba Strategios, who was present at Saint John's tonsure, predicted that he would become a great luminary in the Church of Christ.

For nineteen years Saint John progressed in monasticism in obedience to his spiritual Father. After the death of Abba Martyrius, Saint John embarked on a solitary life, settling in a wild place called Thola, where he spent forty years laboring in silence, fasting, prayer, and tears of penitence.

It is not by chance that in *The Ladder* Saint John speaks about tears of repentance: "Just as fire burns and destroys the wood, so pure tears wash away every impurity, both external and internal." His holy prayer was strong and efficacious, as may be seen from an example from the life of the God-pleasing saint.

Saint John ate the food which is permitted by the monastic rule, but only in moderation. He did not sleep very much, only enough to keep up his strength, so that he would not ruin his mind by unceasing vigil. "I do not fast excessively," he said of himself, "nor do I give myself over to intense all-night vigil, nor lay upon the ground, but I restrain myself..., and the Lord soon saved me."

At the request of Saint John, igumen of the Raithu monastery (Commemorated on Cheesefare Saturday), he wrote the incomparable *Ladder*, a book of instruction for monks who wished to attain spiritual perfection. Knowing of the wisdom and spiritual gifts of Saint John of Sinai, the igumen of Raithu requested him to write down whatever was necessary for the salvation of those in the monastic life. Such a book would be "a ladder fixed on the earth" (Gen. 28:12), leading people to the gates of Heaven.

Saint John felt that such a task was beyond his ability, yet out of obedience he fulfilled the request. The saint called his work *The Ladder*, for the book is "a fixed ladder leading from earthly things to the Holy of Holies...." The thirty steps of spiritual perfection correspond to the thirty years of the Lord's age. When we have completed these thirty steps, we will find ourselves with the righteous and will not stumble. *The Ladder* begins with renunciation of the world, and ends with God, Who is love (1 John 4:8).

Although the book was written for monks, any Christian living in the world will find it an unerring guide for ascending to God, and a support in the spiritual life.

The twenty-second step of *The Ladder* deals with various forms of vainglory. Saint John writes: "When I fast, I am vainglorious; and when I permit myself food in order to conceal my fasting from others I am again vainglorious about my prudence." "When you hear that your neighbor or friend has slandered you behind your back, or even to your face, praise and love him. It is not the one who reproaches himself who shows humility, for who will not put up with himself? It is the one who is slandered by another, yet continues to show love for him." *From oca.org*

April 3, 2022



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

For good intentions for my family & friends

Bill Economou

Health & God's blessings for Nancy Krigner on her birthday April 7

her family

Heather, Chris & Raegan

Lucy Hogg

Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Aaron, Milica, Calvin, Angelo, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Kosta, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, David, Taras, Ted, Joseph, Marlene, Mary, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family and friends

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors! Welcome to everyone joining us via our YouTube channel: [St Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton](#). If at the time of the divine services you cannot access the livestream, please check out [St. Mary Magdalene Church](#) [St George Church](#) or [Dormition Monastery](#).

COFFEE SOCIAL Please join us after Liturgy in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome. There is a sign up sheet next to the service window for those who would like to donate donuts & coffee and/or serve.

SAVE THE DATE! On Thursday, May 5, at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Fort Wayne, IN, our diocese will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the consecration and enthronement of our Archbishop and Father, Alexander. Pontifical Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:00 am, with an anniversary luncheon following. There are special room rates available at two downtown hotels. **For details on that and to RSVP, please send an email to Father Andrew Jarmus, ajarmus@bdoca.org Deadline for hotel reservations is April 22.**

MATINS OF ST ANDREW OF CRETE - Mother Gabriella has given her blessing for those who would like to join the nuns at [Holy Dormition Monastery](#) for the matins of St Andrew of Crete on Wednesday, April 6 from 7 to 11 pm. This matins includes the entire canon of St Andrew together with the reading of the life of Saint Mary of Egypt. Please see Fr Matthew if you would like to go.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters on April 7th from 9-11:30 am. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." St. John Chrysostom

FUNDS FOR UKRIANIAN REFUGEES Anyone who wishes to support International Orthodox Christian Charity's (IOCC) humanitarian response to the Ukraine crisis is asked to pray for all those affected and the people serving them, to share what IOCC is doing in order to spread the word, and to give as they are able financially. Please visit ioc.org/ukraine22 or call 877.803.4622 to make a donation.

COIN BOXES to help support the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) in its work bringing the gospel of Christ around the world are found on the tables in the church hall. Please be generous.

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.**

OFFICE HOURS are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9-3.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Monday, April 4 Fr. in Toledo
6 pm Compline at St. George Church

Tuesday, April 5
11:15 am Adult education - "on thanksgiving and mourning" by St Basil the Great

Wednesday, April 6
9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy
7 - 11 pm **Dormition Monastery - Matins of St. Andrew of Crete**

Thursday, April 7
9-11:30 am North End Soup Kitchen

Saturday, April 9 **Akathistos Saturday**
10 am Divine Liturgy & Akathistos hymn to the Mother of God
5 pm **Great Vespers - streaming on our YouTube channel** followed by *Confessions*

Sunday, April 10 **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - St. Mary of Egypt**
9:30 am Third and Sixth Hours
10 am **Divine Liturgy - streaming on our YouTube channel**

Offerings for the week March 27, 2022

40 persons in attendance on March 27th

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 2,221.12
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,104.00
	\$ - 882.88

HOLY SYNOD STATEMENT ON UKRAINE - 27 March 2022

Witnessing the war of aggression waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the consequent humanitarian crisis developing there, no Christian can remain impartial or lukewarm in the face of the suffering or remain silent when confronted with such evils as are being perpetrated. As such, we, the bishops of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America, condemn the war which is causing death and devastation affecting millions of innocent people. We particularly grieve the killing and violence committed by Orthodox Christians against other Orthodox Christians.

Orthodox Christians abhor all forms of aggression, repeating the condemnation of the holy prophets against all those who “make haste to shed innocent blood” (Isaiah 59:7). Joining our voice to that of other Christian leaders, who also decry the invasion of Ukraine, we call on the Russian authorities to end the hostilities. Furthermore, we exhort the international community to condemn the war against Ukraine and use all diplomatic means to achieve an expeditious resolution.

We proclaim our solidarity with the suffering Orthodox Christian brethren of Ukraine, with the entire Ukrainian people, and the civil and religious leaders who bear the responsibility of caring for their people at this time. In particular, we express our continuing support for His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufriy of Kyiv and the entire Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

We call the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America to join us in interceding on behalf of Ukraine, praying to our merciful God for an end to bloodshed, beseeching Him to comfort the afflicted, the displaced and wounded. We also beseech Him to bless Ukraine with peace, healing, and rebuilding. We are mindful of the hardships being borne by the people of Russia, many of whom oppose this war, and who are suffering the loss of loved ones sent to the front, economic ruin, and social damage.

The Holy Synod of Bishops affirms the letter sent by Metropolitan Tikhon to Patriarch Kirill, imploring His Holiness to do whatever possible to end the war in Ukraine and the suffering and death of countless victims.

As we celebrate this Third Sunday of Great Lent, the Sunday of the Exaltation of the Cross, which is the only weapon of peace, we beseech our flock and all people of goodwill to do whatever lies within their power to aid the suffering and war-displaced. Those to whom God has given the means: we urge you to make material contributions to assist those affected by the war, especially refugees, who now number in the millions. Finally, we remind all of the words of the Lord who tells us that, though we may have tribulation, we always find our peace in him who has overcome the world (John 16:33).

In the love of Jesus Christ, who is the Peace and Power of God,

The Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America