

April 5, 2020

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

2143 S. Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519

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**The holy Gospel according to John
20:19-31 (9th Matins Gospel)**

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained. Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 1. St. Mary of Egypt. Martyrs Agathopodes the Deacon, Theodulus the Reader, and those with them, at Thessalonica (ca. 303). Ven. Publius of Egypt (4th c.). Ss. Theonas, Simeon and Phorbinus, of Egypt (4th c.). Ven. Mark the Anchorite, of Athens (400). St. Plato the Confessor, of Studion (814). Ven. Theodora of Thessalonica (892). Translation of the Relics of St. Job, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (1652).

TROPARIA

(Tone 1) When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

(Tone 8) The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Mother, / for you took up the Cross and followed Christ. / By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; / but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. // Therefore your spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

(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 6) Protection of Christians never failing, Mediatrix before the Creator, ever constant. Do not despise the voice of prayer of sinners, but in your goodness come to help us who faithfully call upon you. Hasten to entreat, hurry to pray, O Theotokos, interceding always for those honor you.

The Prokeimenon in the First Tone: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee. v. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

THE READING IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (9:11-14) Brethren: Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Alleluia, Tone 1

v: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.

v: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK (10:32-45)

At that time, as the disciples were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again. Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared. And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

GO TO PG. 120 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!

THE SIXTH WEEK OF LENT – THE WEEK OF PALMS

This last week of Lent is called the Week of Palms or Palm Week because it leads us to Palm Sunday. During this week the hymns of the Church unfold for us the sickness of Lazarus and the journey of Jesus from Bethphage to Bethany to raise Lazarus from the dead. This miracle results in the triumphal entry of our Lord Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Below are a selection from the hymns of this week that will lead us to the festive days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday.

MONDAY – Lazarus is fatally ill

Matins, Monday

Ode 7 Behold, Christ is in the city of Bethphage. Rejoice, O Bethany, home of Lazarus, for He will show you a miracle without equal, by raising Lazarus from the dead.

Ode 9 Today the illness of Lazarus is made known to Christ, Who is lingering beyond the Jordan; however, in His foreknowledge, He declares: This sickness does not lead to death.

TUESDAY – Lazarus is fatally ill

Matins, Tuesday

Sessional Hymn 3 Yesterday and today Lazarus suffers from his illness; his sisters send word to Christ about him. Prepare yourself, O Bethany, to receive your Master and King in joy and to sing with us: O Lord, glory to you!

WEDNESDAY – Lazarus dies & is buried – 1st day in the tomb

Matins, Wednesday

Ode 3 Today Lazarus dies, but this death does not escape the divine eye of Jesus. Therefore, He spoke to His disciples and said: “My friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I shall go and raise him.”

Ode 9 The sisters of Lazarus weep over the tomb of their brother today, seeing him buried beneath the stone; you have said clearly to your apostles, O Christ: “I rejoice for you that I was not there, so that you may believe.”

THURSDAY – 2nd day in the tomb

Matins, Thursday

Sessional Hymn 3 Lazarus is in the tomb for two days, and his two sisters, Martha and Mary, grieve deeply as they look sadly at the rock covering the tomb. With his disciples, the Creator comes to despoil Death and give us life. Therefore, we cry out: “O Lord, glory to you!”

FRIDAY – 3rd day in the tomb

Matins, Friday

Sessional Hymn 3 On this day two disciples are sent to look for the colt of a donkey for the Master of the universe Who is seated upon the hosts of Cherubim. Death, the great devourer of the human race, begins to tremble, for Christ first carried away Lazarus; and soon He will take with Him all humanity.

Ode 8 The sound of your steps resounds in Bethphage, and they were sensed by Hades who was enraged; and It entreated Lazarus, saying: “If He Who is Life calls you, hasten to leave, for I know that my end is near.”

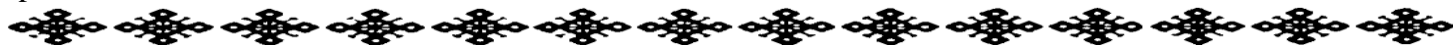
LAZARUS SATURDAY – 4th day in the tomb

Vespers & Matins, Saturday

Vespers, sticheron The kingdom of Hades was demolished at the sound of your voice, O Lord; your powerful word awakened from the tomb one who had been dead four days. Lazarus becomes a saving prelude of our regeneration. Nothing is impossible for the King of the universe; O Lord, grant to your servants forgiveness and great mercy!

Matins, at the Praises Even though Lazarus had been dead four days, you raised him from Hades, O Christ; before your own death, you destroyed the power of Death; you freed one of your friends from the tomb to announce the resurrection of all. Therefore, we bow before your sovereign power and cry out: Blessed art you, O Savior, have mercy on us!

April 5, 2020



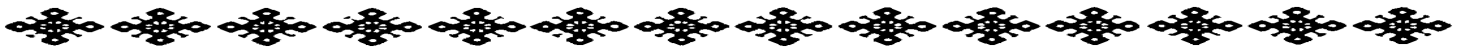
CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Fr. Tom, Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Aaron, Milica, Calvin, Larry,
Helen, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Anna, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Kosta,
Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Katheryn, Joseph, Ted, Marlene,
Gladys, my family and friends.

Special Intention	Joe Tome
God’s blessings for good health to all our children and their families, relatives & friends	Angelo & Christine Panoff
Birthday blessings to our son Christopher (April 2)	Angelo & Christine Panoff
God’s blessings for Julia Peck	Julia & family
God’s blessings and health for everyone	Bosa Kantar

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Blessed Repose to our grandsons Andrew & Matthew and brother Carl Aleksoff (1 yr) Angelo & Christine Panoff



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors who are joining us via our YouTube channel: *St Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton*.

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You can now donate to St. Nicholas with an app on your phone & as always on our website by <https://saintnicholasburton.org/> 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. You can then fill in the requested information and make your donation. You can donate toward any fund even coffee hour. If you want to split a donation between different areas just include a memo indicating how you would like the funds applied.

FROM ARCHBISHOP AL DIOCESE – 22 MARCH 2020

Beloved,

On March 31 Archbishop Alexander sent a directive to the clergy of both of his dioceses (you may read the pertinent sections at the bottom of this note as well as a note shared by Archimandrite Gerasim).

What this means for us:

This is a continuation of the *status quo* in most respects through to April 30:

+ Saturday Vespers, Sunday Liturgy and a weekly Presanctified will be served and be live-streamed on our [YouTube channel](#)

+ a change: once the priest, deacon, altar server, chanter (no more than 5) have arrived, the doors will be locked. No one else will be admitted.

+ Holy Week and Pascha will be celebrated but with fewer services yet they will be live-streamed.

+no one-on-one pastoral interaction except in extreme circumstances. This means no Communion outside of the Liturgy nor Confession for the time being.

+ **after this is all over, a common Sunday will be chosen for all parishes and missions to serve the Paschal Matins and Liturgy in full. (emphasis added)**

Members of the parish council have been reaching out to our households by phone, text, and card to check in on everyone. If there is anything I can do: light a candle, remember someone at the preparation of the Gifts at Liturgy, etc., please let me know.

You may see the message recorded for the parish on our YouTube channel [here](#).

We are in the care of God. Keeping this in mind, let us remember as Vladyka has reminded us of the Lord's words, we with patience patiently endure and so shall we possess our souls.

with love in Christ,

Fr Matthew

Letter from Archbishop Alexander

March 31, 2020
Repose of Saint Innocent of Alaska

Dear Beloved Fathers and Brothers,

The blessing of the Lord!

Our Divine Services, chief among them the Holy Liturgy, are an offering made to God "on behalf of all and for all." During this global health crisis we must continue to pray and, as long as possible, to gather for prayer in church and to offer to God his "due worship and praise" (*Prayer of the Trisagion*), as is "proper and right" (*Eucharistic Prayer of St. John Chrysostom*). As a result, I am not yet prepared to cancel church services in our parishes and missions.

We, of course, face an uncertain time ahead of us. Thus, I continue to be concerned for the health and welfare of the clergy and faithful of my two dioceses (and of all of our neighbors). Still I remain convinced of the importance of celebrating the Divine Services.

Trying to balance these two goods, I put forth the following...

If a parish or mission is in a civil jurisdiction that is under "shelter at home" or mandatory isolation, then

1. Parishes and Missions, **where it is feasible and appropriate, may serve**

- One Presanctified and the Sunday Resurrectional Divine Liturgy (*the Chancellor has clarified that Vespers on Saturday may still be served*)
- The Liturgy of Palm Sunday
- The following recommended for Holy Week: One Bridegroom Service, Vespers of Holy Thursday, Vespers of Holy Friday, and Vespers of Holy Saturday.
- The Vespers of Holy Saturday may be served in the late afternoon.
- The Liturgy for Pascha on Sunday morning (scheduled at your normal Sunday service time).

2. All Parishes and Missions

- Shall have no more than 5 people total, that **must be the same** for every service, in attendance inclusive of clergy. Rotating schedules are **not** to be employed.
- Parishioners shall be instructed to remain at home. The doors of the church are to be locked.
- A thorough disinfection shall be conducted after each service.
- The Church building shall not be opened for any purposes outside of your scheduled liturgical services.
- No one-on-one pastoral interaction, except *in extremis*. Therefore, no confessions and no distribution of communion.
- Confessions, baptisms and chrismations shall be postponed until further notice...

The services will be celebrated simply, "on behalf of all and for all". This is a season of life where we are being called to sacrifice our pastoral longings and customary service for the good of the very cities and towns for which we pray during each divine service. This is a truly noble endeavor befitting the Gospel of Christ, even if we are unsettled by it all...

These provisions will remain in place at least through April 30, 2020, unless otherwise updated. When the "all clear" has finally been signaled by all the civil jurisdictions, I will designate a common Sunday that all the parishes and missions of my dioceses will be directed to celebrate the Paschal Matins and Liturgy in full (*viz.* 2 Chronicles 30:1-4).

Continue to be patient. Neither this pandemic nor any civil decree can keep you from keeping the Gospel commandments.

in Christ Jesus, with the love of our Lord, and with the fast,

+**Alexander**

Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese

– Orthodox Church in America

Archimandrite Gerasim - Administrator of the Diocese of the South:

In the Second Book of Chronicles we read how Hezekiah, King of Israel, following a time of sacrilege, ordered the date of the celebration of Pascha for that year to be changed! The Chronicler tells us: "Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the Lord God of Israel. For the king and his leaders and all the assembly in Jerusalem had agreed to keep the Passover in the second month. For they could not keep it at the regular time, because a sufficient number of priests had not consecrated themselves, nor had the people gathered together at Jerusalem. And the matter pleased the king and all the assembly. So they resolved to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that they should come to keep the Passover to the Lord God of Israel at Jerusalem, since they had not done *it* for a long *time* in the *prescribed* manner" (2 Chron 30. 1 - 5). King Hezekiah made this decision based on a provision in the Law of Moses, as recorded in the Book of Numbers, stipulating that the Passover may be kept in extraordinary circumstances on the fourteenth day of the second month instead of the first month. No one has any intention of tampering with the date of the celebration of Pascha, but we make this observation so that you know that even the Law of Moses makes provision for cases in which the celebration of Pascha is interrupted.

LENTEN PRAYER PARTNER Pray for your prayer partner throughout Lent especially. At Pascha you may want to let them know you were praying for them with a card or note.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THOSE IN NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

To aid in your outreach, here is a listing of their addresses:

Helen Ashmun	4436 Beecher Rd.	Flint, MI 48532
Larry Bladecki	409 15 th Street	Bay City, MI 48708
Anna Branoff	Grand Blanc Fields 12628 Pagels Dr	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Gladys Edwards	2 Harbor Dr.	St. Clair, MO 63077
Paul Ellis	2360 Stonebridge Dr.	Flint, MI 48532
Vasilka Karatza	Regency 1330 Grand Pointe Ct	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Jo Sredich	Magnolia House 4134 N. State Rd.	Davison, MI 48423

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

We have arranged for all non-essential expenses to be curtailed, e.g. only essential utility usage in the church, in the hall, and on the parish property. However, this does not eliminate the need for ongoing parish administration and the normal expenses required to keep the parish up and running and ready for a return to normal parish life. Please have in mind that, while public celebration of the Divine Services have been suspended for the foreseeable future (hopefully only for a few short weeks), the parish needs all our stewardship so that we do not fall behind in a way from which it might be difficult to recuperate. The parish has depended on your generous stewardship and financial support in the past and we are confident that, even in these difficult times for so many of us and possibly in the face of personal financial difficulties, you will not fail to continue to support the important work which the Lord has entrusted to us all.

There are presently two suggested ways to continue your stewardship without interruption:

1) by writing a check to St. Nicholas Orthodox Church and sending it to the parish address: 2143 S Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519; or

2) by donating online on our parish website <https://saintnicholasburton.org/> 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. You can then fill in the requested information and make your donation.

In advance, we thank you for your ongoing support that will ensure a quick return to normal parish life as soon as possible. Be assured of our prayers and our constant attention to your needs and the needs of all our parish.

– **St. Nicholas Parish Council**

FURTHER YouTube INSTRUCTION

+Visit our YouTube page [here](#)

+To be notified of when we go live be sure to **subscribe** and **turn on notifications** for our YouTube page.

+At this time we will be live-streaming Presanctified Liturgies, Vespers on Saturday evening, and Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning as well as the services of Holy Week and Pascha. The next live-stream is [Friday, April 3 6:30 PM EDT Presanctified Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Church](#)

+Updates will be posted on our [Facebook page](#) as well

+If you miss the live-stream, the service will be archived. Be aware that once the live-stream ends it will take some time for the video to render to be able to be archived so if you don't see the video right away don't worry.

+Treat the live-stream as you were in the church, get dressed, light a candle, stand in your icon corner, stand for the Gospel, etc.

+If you have a difficult time accessing the live-stream please reply to this email so we can help you.

Weekly schedule:

Monday, April 6 Fr. Matthew with Archbishop Alexander

Tuesday, April 7 7 pm online meeting of the Diocesan Treasurer, Steve Timofeev, with the priests and one parish council member from each parish of the Diocese

From Fr. Andrew Jarmus, Diocesan Chancellor:

"On **Tuesday, April 7, at 7:00 pm EDT** our diocesan treasurer, **Steve Timofeev, will hold a webinar with parish rectors and one representative from each parish council** to discuss some of the financial implications of the outbreak and possible means of somewhat mitigating their effects. "

Wednesday, April 8

6 pm

[Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – livestream on St Mary Magdelene YouTube channel](#)

Friday, April 10

6 pm

40th day of the 40 days of Lent

[Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – livestream on St. Nicholas YouTube channel](#)

Saturday, Apr 11

9:30 am

LAZARUS SATURDAY

[Divine Liturgy livestreamed on Assumption Facebook page](#)

5:00 pm

[Vespers – livestream on St Nicholas YouTube channel](#)

Sunday, Apr 12

10:00 am

PALM SUNDAY – SUNDAY OF THE BRANCHES

[Divine Liturgy – livestream on St Nicholas YouTube channel](#)

Offerings for the week March 29nd, 2020

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 8,200.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,236.00
	\$ 4,964.00