

April 11, 2021

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

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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 11, 2021 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 3. St. John of Sinai, “Climacus” (of *The Ladder*). Hieromartyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum, disciple of St. John the Theologian (92). Ven. Jacob (James), Abbot of Zheleznobórovsk (1442), and his fellow ascetic, James. St. Varsonúfii (Barsanuphius), Bishop of Tver’ (1576). Martyrs Processus and Martinian of Rome (1st c.). Ven. Pharmuthius, Anchorite, of Egypt (4th c.). Ven. John, disciple of Ven. Gregory of Decapolis (9th c.). St. Callinicus of Cernica, Bishop of Rimnicului in Romania (1868). The Appearance of the “FOOTPRINT” Icon of the Mother of God at Pochayev.

TROPARIA

(Tone 3) Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down Death by death. He has become the first-born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

(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 third tone: Sing praises to our God, sing praises;/ Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

v. Clap your hands, all ye people, shout to God with loud songs of joy.

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 3

v. In you, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame.

v. Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me.

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 dumb 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. 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 holy Gospel according to John 21:15-25 (11th Matins Gospel)

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (*agapas*) Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (*philo*) You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (*agapas*) Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (*philo*) You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (*phileis*) Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love (*phileis*) Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (*philo*) You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish. This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me." Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me." Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?" This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

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 11, 2021


CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Jessica Stavridis on her birthday April 9th

Teddy Stavridis

God’s blessings of good health to newborn James Thomas & his parents

Baba & Dedo

Tom & Christy and sisters Ellie & Anna

Lucy Hogg

Nadja, Sean & Auden for health, blessings and protection

Christine Brucksh

Brucksch family

Bosiljka Kantar

Health & blessings for Milica & Janja Beslach

Bosiljka Kantar

Health & God’s blessings Kumovi Stojan & Mira Prusac

Fr. Tom, Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Aaron, Milica, Calvin, Larry,

Angelo, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Irene, Allen, Deborah,

Luba, Kosta, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, David,

Taras, Joseph, Ted, Marlene, Gladys, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my

family and friends.

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

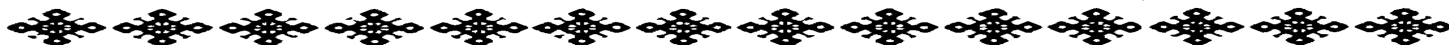
Evangelos, Sophie & Sophie Tula Stavridis
Blessed Repose to brother Carl Aleksoff (2 yrs.)
Blessed Repose for our grandsons Andrew & Matthew
Rade, Dragan & Nikola
Adrienne Ontiveros
Alex & Peter Popoff

Teddy & Jessica Stavridis
Angelo & Christine
Baba & Dedo
Bosa Kantar
Lucy Hogg
Angelo & Helen Popoff

ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR

John Bibilikow (9 yrs. April 10th)

Christine, Jerry, Josh &
Jenn



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](#) or [St George Church](#) or [Assumption Church](#) or [Dormition Monastery](#) for their livestreams.

MEMORY ETERNAL-CHRIST IS RISEN Lawrence Bladecki, aged 102, fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, April 4. He is the husband of the late Mildred Michalsky Bladecki. Together they have two daughters, Sandra Jean (Jim) Remensnyder and Diana Lynn (Randy) Broadfoot and are survived by his grandchildren. You may read his full obituary [here](#). At the family's request the funeral was private on Friday, April 9 at Penzien-Steele Funeral Home in Bay City followed by burial at Floral Gardens Cemetery, Bay City. Bog da prosti! Memory eternal! Christ is risen! Let us pray for his blessed repose, that he gaze upon the face of Christ with all the saints. Please remember in prayer his family that the Lord sustain them in this time of grief with the consolation of His presence.

ONLINE YOUTH RETREAT will take place on April 11, open to children from kindergarten through grade 12. You may register [here](#).

SPRING CLEAN UP Saturday, May 8th starting at 9:30 am. Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of things such as brush removal, bush trimming & yard cleanup. If there are enough people the light poles, which have to be painted, can be done on the same day (weather permitting). Lunch will be provided. Please call Dennis Jernigan at 810-908-3631 or the office if you are willing & able to participate so he can coordinate the jobs before hand. Everyone is welcome whether you can help a little or a lot!

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

CANDLE INTENTION REQUESTS can be emailed to the office at stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com or called in.

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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.**

ST. GEORGE CHURCH PRESCHOOL is looking for a special person to lead their Preschool & Childcare Ministry. The Preschool has been in operation since 2018 and has had over 30 children in attendance. Though currently closed and without a Program Director they have a valid Child Care License. With proper staffing and leadership it could be reopened at any time.

Dn. Michael Bassett, Kh. Leslee Abud, Kelly (St George Church Secretary) and others are ready to assist you!

They have a list of previous clients as well as a growing list of families looking for the intimate, faith based setting that they offer. Rooms are set up, in place, and waiting for children! Curriculum is purchased, learning centers are in place, and there is plenty of outdoor playspace!

This is an excellent opportunity for the right person to provide a needed service / ministry to the community and help generate revenues for St. George Church and have nearly full autonomy with minimal risk.

If you are interested or you know someone who might be, contact the Preschool at 810-732-1500, stgeorgeschool17@gmail.com, or talk with Dn. Michael or Kh. Leslee.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Today 2 pm – one year memorial for Alex Popoff at Evergreen Cemetery

Monday, April 12 *Fr Matthew in Toledo*

Tuesday, April 13

11:15 am Adult education: kontakion of Saint Romanos, *on the prodigal son*

6:30 pm Virtual adult education: kontakion of Saint Romanos, *on the prodigal son*

7 pm [OCA online church school](#)

Wednesday, April 14

10:30 am Lenten 3rd and 6th Hours

6 pm [Presanctified Liturgy – streaming on our YouTube channel](#)

Saturday, April 17 Akathistos Saturday

10 am [Divine Liturgy & Akathist to the Birthgiver of God – streaming on our YouTube channel](#)

5 pm [Vespers – streaming on our YouTube channel](#)
confessions

Sunday, April 18 5th 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 April 4th, 2021

25 persons in attendance on April 4th

Weekly Offerings	\$ 4,764.27
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 3,104.00
	\$ 1,660.27