

# St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Newsletter

Diocese of Toledo-Orthodox Church in America

2143 S. Center Road – Burton, Michigan 48519

Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie – Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonsler

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Website: [www.saintnicholasburton.org](http://www.saintnicholasburton.org)

Church Office: 810-744-0070

Services: Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Hours 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Wednesday- adult education 11:15 am

Saturday – 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions

Holydays: Vespers & Liturgy as announced

“May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.” St. Jude 1:1

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## APRIL 2026

### ST. PAISIOS THE AGHIORITE

Suppose two men are sitting at the table to eat. In front of them, there is a plate with ten peaches. If one of them greedily eats seven peaches leaving three for his friend, he is being unfair to him, this is injustice.

Instead, if he says: “Well, we are two and the peaches are ten. So, each one of us is entitled to eat five peaches.” If he eats the five peaches and leaves the other five for his friend, then he applies human justice; that is why, many times, we go to court to find human justice.

However, if he understands that his friend likes peaches very much, he can pretend that he is not very fond of them and eat only one, and then says to him: “Please eat the rest of the peaches, as I don’t really like them; besides, my stomach aches and I should not eat any more.” This person has divine justice; he prefers to be unfair to himself by human standards and be rewarded for his sacrifice by God’s grace, which he will abundantly receive.

The true Christian must never condemn, or press charges against his fellow men, even if someone takes by force his clothes. There is a difference between those people who believe in Christ and those who do not. Christians abide by the law of divine justice whereas the unfaithful ones by the law of human justice.

## ON PASCHA

### **From St. Gregory the Theologian**

“Now we are to examine another fact and dogma, neglected by most people, but in my judgment well worth enquiring into. To Whom was that Blood offered that was shed for us, and why was it shed? I mean the precious and famous Blood of our God and High-priest and Sacrifice. We were detained in bondage by the Evil One, sold under sin, and receiving pleasure in exchange for wickedness. Now, since a ransom belongs only to him who holds in bondage, I ask to whom was this offered, and for what cause? If to the Evil One, fie upon the outrage! If the robber receives ransom, not only from God, but a ransom which consists of God Himself, and has such an illustrious payment for his tyranny, a payment for whose sake it would have been right for him to have left us alone altogether. But if to the Father, I ask first, how? For it was not by Him that we were being oppressed; and next, On what principle did the Blood of His Only begotten Son delight the Father, Who would not receive even Isaac, when he was being offered by his Father, but changed the sacrifice, putting a ram in the place of the human victim? Is it not evident that the Father accepts Him, but neither asked for Him nor demanded Him; but on account of the Incarnation, and because Humanity must be sanctified by the Humanity of God, that He might deliver us Himself, and overcome the tyrant, and draw us to Himself by the mediation of His Son, Who also arranged this to the honor of the Father, Whom it is manifest that He obeys in all things? So much we have said of Christ; the greater part of what we might say shall be revered with silence.”

### **From The Second Paschal Oration of St. Gregory the Theologian**

“It is the Day of the Resurrection, and my Beginning has good auspices. Let us then keep the Festival with splendor, (Isaiah 66:5) and let us embrace one another. Let us say Brethren, even to those who hate us; much more to those who have done or suffered anything out of love for us. Let us forgive all offences for the Resurrection’s sake: let us give one another pardon.

Yesterday the Lamb was slain and the door-posts were anointed, and Egypt bewailed her Firstborn, and the Destroyer passed us over, and the Seal was dreadful and reverend, and we were walled in with the Precious Blood. Today we have clean escaped from Egypt and from Pharaoh; and there is none to hinder us from keeping a Feast to the Lord our God – the Feast of our Departure; or from celebrating that Feast, not in the old leaven of malice and wickedness, but in the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, (1 Corinthians 5:8) carrying with us nothing of ungodly and Egyptian leaven.

Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him; yesterday I died with Him; today I am quickened with Him; yesterday I was buried with Him; today I rise with Him. But let us offer to Him Who suffered and rose again for us – you will think perhaps that I am going to say gold, or silver, or woven work or transparent and costly stones, the mere passing material of earth, that remains here below, and is for the most part always possessed by bad men, slaves of the world and of the Prince of the world. Let us offer *ourselves*, the possession most precious to God, and most fitting; let us give back to the Image what is made after the Image. Let us recognize our Dignity; let us honor our Archetype; let us know the power of the Mystery, and for what Christ died.

Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. Let us become God’s for His sake, since He for ours became Man. He assumed the worse that He might give us the better; He became poor that we through His poverty might be rich; (2 Corinthians 8:9) He took upon Him the form of a servant that we might receive back our liberty; He came down that we might be exalted; He was tempted that we might conquer; He was dishonored that He might glorify us; He died that He might save us; He ascended that He might draw to Himself us, who were lying low in the Fall of sin. Let us give *all*, offer *all*, to Him Who gave Himself a Ransom and a Reconciliation for us. But one can give nothing like oneself, understanding the Mystery, and becoming for His sake all that He became for ours.”

### **From The First Paschal Oration of St. Gregory the Theologian**

## Hours Schedule

<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
5 No Hours	3 Staci	7 Barry
12 Barry	10 Barry	14 Lucy
19 Angelo	17 Angelo	21 Angelo
26 Lucy	24 Lucy	28 Phil
	31 Phil	

If you are unable to make your assigned reading date, please find a replacement.

## Reader Schedule

<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
5 Barry	3 Barry	7 Katherine
12 Staci	10 Staci	14 Barry
19 Katherine	17 Katherine	21 Phil
26 Madison	24 Phil	28 Madison
	31 Madison	

If you are unable to make your assigned reading date, please find a replacement.

## Candle Stand Attendant Schedule

<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
5 Dennis Goodman	3 Dennis Goodman	7 Dennis Goodman
12 Ian & Stephanie P.	10 Susie Ford	14 Susie Ford
19 Christine Panoff	17 Christine Panoff	21 Christine Panoff
26 Susie Ford	24 Ian & Stephanie P.	28 Ian & Stephanie P.
	31 Susie Ford	

If you are unable to make your assigned date please find a replacement. Let Susie know of any changes or if you cannot find a replacement (810-407-3016).

**HOURS, READERS & CANDLE STAND.** Please look at each month's newsletter as the schedule may have changed since the previous publication.

**LENTEN CONFESSIONS** the sacrament of Confession is offered on Saturdays after Vespers and by appointment. Call the office 810-744-0070 or e-mail [stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com) to make an appointment.

**NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN** Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters on April 2 from 9 am-12:30 pm. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." *St. John Chrysostom.*

**WEDNESDAY ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES** are on hiatus until after Pascha.

**INQUIRERS'/CATECHUMENS' CLASS** led by Father Matthew after the Divine Liturgy from 12:15 to 1 pm. Feel free to join in and let other inquirers know about these classes introducing the Orthodox faith. The class meets in the library. Additionally, there is a Tuesday 6:30 pm Google Meet class.

**MEMORY ETERNAL! Melissa Parmer** fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, March 5. She is the mother of parishioner Sebastian Hager. You may read her obituary here:

<https://www.plumbsmithfh.com/obituary/melissa-parmer>

**Mary Jane Cox** fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, March 7. She is the mother of parishioner Vickie Borkovich. You may read her obituary here: <https://www.atchleyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Mary-Jane-Cox?obId=47501285>

May the Lord receive **Melissa** and **Mary** into His kingdom and the light of His face shine upon them. Please remember them in your prayers and also their families that the Lord comfort them in their grief. Memory eternal! Christ is risen! God forgives!

**VISIT FROM SLOVAKIA** On March 15, 2026 charity plate collection raised \$787 for Roma missionary work in Slovakia by Fr Martin Halík. We are remembering Matushka Michaela in prayer as she is with child and is due in August. You can see more here <https://www.romamission.eu>

**MACEDONIAN NIGHT AT THE TIGERS**

Tuesday, April 21 at 6:40 pm Tigers v Brewers

Package includes a Tigers Macedonian Heritage jersey and game ticket.

**Please sign up in the fellowship hall.** If 10 or more people sign up, there will be a discount on the price.

**2026 PLEDGE CARDS** If you haven't already done so, please return your pledge card so the parish council can budget accordingly. Remember in order to be considered a voting member here at St. Nicholas you must receive Confession and Communion within the past year and return a signed pledge card even if you don't enter a pledge amount

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** will be held on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**PAYPAL** You can use PayPal for your financial stewardship! Go to our website

[www.saintnicholasburton.org](http://www.saintnicholasburton.org) and click on the box [Give now with PayPal](#); this is a secure site.

(1.99% + \$0.49 of your donation goes to PayPal as a fee). **\*Please consider clicking the box to cover the fee we are charged.** 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

PayPal will send an email to the church to let us know a donation was received for St. Nicholas Church, the amount, and the giver.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** are in the fellowship hall. If there are boxes for family who have not been attending whom you will be seeing, please deliver them to help save on postage costs (\$5 per box of envelopes). Please let Julie know if you haven't received envelopes and would like to have them. Using envelopes is very helpful to those who count the stewardship collection & for the auditors.


**BAPTISM** Mia Johnson, daughter of Levi Johnson, will be baptized at 9 am on Palm Sunday, April 5, 2026.

**OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES**

**NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN** we serve on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 to 12:30 pm.

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting Deodorant for the month of April. 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.

 <b>HOPE IN A BOX</b>	
<b>April</b>	Deodorant
<b>May</b>	Bar & Hand Soap
<b>June</b>	Laundry Soap

April Coffee Social Volunteers & Sponsors	
<b>5</b>	<b>In Memory of Julia Ferchak Peck (1yr)</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Pascha</b>
<b>19</b>	
<b>26</b>	<b>Sponsored by Sadie &amp; Sebastian</b>

# APRIL BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

## BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Zayn Abu-Aita
- 7 Aretoula Nedanis  
David Houser  
Kristal George  
Lennon Gerzevske  
Nancy Krigner  
Nancy Tasevski
- 11 Jennifer Borkovich  
Majd Helal
- 12 Helen Popoff
- 13 Barbara Brown
- 15 Ariana Loomis
- 16 Anastasia Pirkovic  
Bob Steiner
- 17 Irina Sivergina
- 22 Jenna Paul
- 28 George Brown
- 29 Tammy Sapardanis
- 30 Fred Paul  
Les Ford  
Vickie Borkovich



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Vladimir & Taisa Akkerman
- 16 Alex & Anastasia Branoff (1961)
- 21 Germanos & Lena Bakousidis (1985)

*If your name is missing or has the incorrect information in the birthday, anniversary or namesday list please call the office: 810-744-0070*



## NAMESDAYS

- 4 Lazaros Stavridis (Lazarus Sat.)
- 10 Alexander Ahejew  
Alex Karayanis  
Alex Nedanis
- 12 Anastasia Branoff (Pascha)  
Lambros Grousopoulos
- 14 Tammy Sapardanis
- 16 Shari Marie Nicoloff
- 17 Zoe Grace Batzos (Bright Friday)  
Zoe Karayanis  
Zoe Conover  
Zoe Stavridis
- 19 Thomas Stavridis (Thomas Sun.)  
Tom Batzos  
Tom Krigner  
Tom Sfetkidis
- 21 Lena Grousopoulos
- 23 Alexa Isabelle Stevens  
Carli Alexa Nicoloff  
Fred (George) Paul  
George Branoff  
George Brown  
George Popoff  
Richard George Elieff  
Roseanne (Alexandra) Bagale  
Sandra Ahejew  
Sandra Grossi  
Sandy Spankie
- 24 Brian (Branko) Mitevski
- 25 Marc Ethington  
Mark Choate, Jr
- 30 Jacob Abu-Aita  
James Binelli  
James Grossi  
James Hart  
Lennon Gerzevske

[LILLY CLERGY RENEWAL GRANT](#) sent an e-mail on March 19 "We're writing to let you know your congregation's proposal to the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs has been processed into our database and assigned to a review team. You can expect to hear from us with news about a decision regarding your congregation's proposal on Friday, August 28." **If awarded, the sabbatical must be taken between January 1, 2027 and December 31, 2028.**

# Orthodox Churches of Genesee County, Michigan

Assumption (Greek) 2245 Baldwin Road ❖ Grand Blanc, MI 48439 ❖ 810-771-4611  
St. George (Antiochian) 5191 Lennon Road ❖ Flint, MI 48507 ❖ 810-732-0720  
St. Mary Magdalene (OCA) 2439 S. Long Lake Road ❖ Fenton, MI 48430 ❖ 810-750-1401  
St. Nicholas (OCA) 2143 South Center Road ❖ Burton, MI 48519 ❖ 810-744-0070

## 2026 Great Fast and Bright Week



### Pan-Orthodox Divine Services and Lenten potlucks

**Great Compline** at St. George (*Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays 6 pm, Fridays 6 pm Akathist*) All are welcome. This beautiful service along with the Lenten Hours on Wednesdays allows us to experience the Great Fast more deeply. Confessions will be available after the service.

**Lenten Hours** at St. Nicholas (*Wednesdays, 10 am*) All are welcome.

**Presanctified Divine Liturgy** and **Lenten Potlucks** (*Wednesdays, 6 pm*) We will celebrate together the Presanctified Liturgy and the Great Feast of the Annunciation according to the schedule below. Holy Communion is given at both. To partake of Holy Communion at evening liturgies, please be prepared with prayer and fasting (*no eating or drinking after 12 noon*). Confessions will only be available prior to the evening liturgies from 5:30pm-6pm. The lenten potluck dinners will be coordinated by the host parish.

**March 4** **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 6 pm

**March 18** **Presanctified Liturgy** at St Mary Magdalene 6 pm

**March 20 & 21** **Lenten Retreat with Fr Barnabas Powell** at Assumption

**March 25** **Great Feast of the Annunciation - Divine Liturgy** at Assumption 10 am

**April 1** **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. George 6 pm

**April 4** **Preparation of Gifts, Raising of Lazarus Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 9:30 am

### Bright Week (April 12-18)

**April 13** **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 10 am

**April 14** **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 10 am

**April 15** **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. George 6 pm

**April 17** **Paschal Divine Liturgy for the Life-giving Font** at Assumption 10 am

Member Churches of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in North America  
A Vision of Orthodox Unity

**HOLY WEEK, PASCHA, BRIGHT WEEK SCHEDULE** - Please see the April calendar at the end of the newsletter for dates and times of services.

**KOLBASA** Please let Joe Tome know by April 1 if you would like to order kolbasa for Pascha.

**PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE** on April 5. Please see Joe Tome to place your order.

**DAILY INTERCESSION FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND**

**VISITATION TO THE SICK** If you would like Fr. Matthew to make a visit to home, hospital, or nursing home, please contact the office 810-744-0070.

**DAILY INTERCESSION FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND**

The following are our brothers and sisters of St. Nicholas who are currently homebound, suffering from chronic illness, in recovery or in need of special prayers. Please remember them in your prayers and reach out to them with a card, a phone call or a visit!

Deacon John Bocek	Bill Haw	Macy Lemmen	Bill Tadrick
Paul Ellis	Mary Karayanis	Helen Popoff	Wendy Tadrick
Joan Gajewski	Nick Karayanis	Ron Salhany	Dave Vuckovich

To aid in your outreach, here is a listing of the addresses and phone numbers of our Homebound:

Jeanette Brayan @ Serene Gardens	1481 E Hill Rd room MC-6	Grand Blanc, MI 48439	
Paul Ellis @ Flat Rock Manor of Goodrich N	7280 S. State Rd.	Goodrich, MI 48438	*New
Mary & Nick Karayanis	2238 Old Hickory	Davison, MI 48423	810-653-1169
Helen Popoff	2221 Bellemeade Dr.	Davison, MI 48423	810-653-3867
Dave Vuckovich	9352 Morrish Rd	Swartz Creek, MI 48473	810-348-4733 (Barb)
Diane Todorovsky	14182 Moffett Dr	Fenton, MI 48430	810-750-7860
Luba Todorovsky	5077 Wishing Well Dr	Grand Blanc, MI 48439	

**CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS - APRIL**

**Apr 5 Palm Sunday - procession at the end of Liturgy**

**10 Holy Friday - youth assist at 3 pm Vespers and 6 pm Matins**

**12 Pascha**

**19 St Thomas Sunday - gift bags**

**26 Proverbs ([elementary](#))      Ecclesiastes ([high school](#))**

# APRIL 2026

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

2143 S. Center Rd.

Burton, MI 48519

810-744-0070

Email: [stnicholas1916@att.net](mailto:stnicholas1916@att.net) Website: [www.saintnicholasburton.org](http://www.saintnicholasburton.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  10 am lenten hours 6 pm pan-Orthodox Presanctified & lenten potluck at St. George	2   <b>Office Closed</b>	3 	4 <b>Lazarus Saturday</b>  9:30 am pan-Orthodox Liturgy & lenten breakfast at St. Mary Magdalene 5 pm Vespers <i>Confessions</i>
5 <b>Palm Sunday</b>  9 am baptism of Mia Johnson 10 am Liturgy Bake Sale 6 pm Matins <i>Last Confessions before Pascha</i>	6 <b>Holy Monday</b>  9 am Presanctified @ St. George 6 pm Bridegroom Matins	7 <b>Holy Tuesday</b>  9 am Presanctified @ St. George 6 pm Bridegroom Matins	8 <b>Holy Wednesday</b>  9 am Presanctified @ St. George 6 pm Unction	9 <b>Holy Thursday</b>  10 am Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene w. Archb. Alexander 6 pm Matins  <b>Office Closed</b>	10 <b>Holy Friday</b>  9 am Royal Hours Dye eggs 3 pm Vespers Set up the Tomb 6 pm Matins  <b>Office Closed</b>	11 <b>Holy Saturday</b>  10 am Liturgy simple blessing of foods 10:30 pm Nocturns/ Matins/Liturgy Blessing of Foods Fellowship in hall
12 <b>Pascha</b> 10:30 Paschal Hours 11am Paschal Vespers	13 <b>Bright Monday</b> 10 am pan-Orthodox Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene	14 <b>Bright Tuesday</b> 10 am pan-Orthodox Liturgy at St Nicholas	15 <b>Bright Wednesday</b> 6 pm pan-Orthodox Liturgy at St. George	16 <b>Bright Thursday</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	17 <b>Bright Friday</b> 10 am pan-Orthodox Liturgy at Assumption	18 <b>Bright Saturday</b> 5pm Vespers <i>No Confessions</i>
	<b>Fast Free Week</b>		<b>Fast Free Week</b>		<b>Fast Free Week</b>	
19 <b>St. Thomas</b> 9:30 Hours 10 am Liturgy Easter Egg Hunt 2 pm Grave Blessings at St. Nicholas Cemetery	20  6:30 pm parish council meets	21	22   9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Education	23  <b>Office Closed</b>	24 	25  Crowning in marriage of Sebastion Hager & Sadie Roberts  5pm Vespers <i>Confessions</i>
26 <b>Myrrhbearing Women</b> 9:30 Hours 10 am Liturgy Church School	27	28	29  9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Education	30  <b>Office Closed</b>	 Fast  Wine & Oil Permitted  Fish Permitted	