

*August 15, 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, AUGUST 15, 2021 8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7. The Dormition (“Falling Asleep”) of our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary .**

**FIRST ANTIPHON**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! // sing of His name, give glory to His praise! (*Psalm 65/66:2*) **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His name! // make known His deeds among the nations! (*1 Chronicles 16:8*) **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

In the city of the Lord of hosts; // in the city of our God! (*Psalm 47/48:8*) **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

His sanctuary is in the city of peace, // and His dwelling in Sion! (*Psalm 75/76:2*) **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**

The Lord loves the gates of Zion // more than all the dwellings of Jacob! (*Psalm 86/87:2*) **O Son of God, who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!**

Glorious things are spoken of you, // O City of our God! (*Psalm 86/87:3*) **O Son of God, who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!**

God has established her forever! // We have thought upon Thy mercy, O God, in the midst of Thy people! (*Psalm 47/48:8-9*) **O Son of God, who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!**

The Most High has sanctified // His tabernacle! (*Psalm 45/46:4*) **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, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us!

**THIRD ANTIPHON**

**O God, my heart is ready, my heart is ready! I will sing and give praise to Thy glory!** (*Psalm 107/108:1*) **Tone 1** In giving birth you preserved your virginity. / In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. / You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, // and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

**What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me?** (*Psalm 115/116:12*) In giving birth ...

**I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord.** (*Psalm 115:4*) In giving birth ...

**TROPARIA**

**Tone 7** By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy. And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, // granting the world great mercy.

**Tone 1** In giving birth you preserved your virginity. / In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. / You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, // and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

## **KONTAKION**

**Tone 2** Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos, / who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. / For being the Mother of Life, // she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

*The Prokeimenon in the Third Tone: My soul magnifies the Lord / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Luke 1:46-47)*

**v: For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. (Luke 1:48)**

## **THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS (2:5-11)**

*Brethren:* Let this be thought in yourselves which is also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## *Alleluia, Tone 2*

**v: Arise, O Lord, into Your resting place: You and the Ark of Your sanctification! (Ps 131/132:8)**

**v: The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn back. (Ps 131/132:11)**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (10:38-42; 11:27-28)** Now it happened as they went that Jesus entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

## **INSTEAD OF "IT IS TRULY MEET TO BLESS YOU, O THEOTOKOS"**

The angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin, were struck with wonders, seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven! The limits of nature are overcome in you, O Pure Virgin: for birthgiving remains virginal and life is united to death! A virgin after childbearing and alive after death! You ever save your inheritance, O Theotokos!

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. (*Psalms 115:4*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

### **The holy Gospel according to Luke 1:39-49, 56 (festal Matins Gospel)**

Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

## **THE SYNAXARION**

**The Dormition of the Theotokos** On the 15th of the month, we celebrate the **Dormition**, or the **translation to heaven**, of our All Glorious Sovereign Lady, **the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary**

When it pleased Christ our God to call His mother to Him, He sent an angel three days beforehand, to give her this news: Coming to her, the angel said to her who is full of grace: "This is what your Son says: 'The time has come to call My mother to Me.' Do not be afraid at this news, but rather rejoice, for you are going to eternal life." Welcoming this message with great joy, the Mother of God, filled with an ardent desire to rise up to her Son, went to the Mount of Olives to pray there in tranquility, as she often did. An amazing miracle was then wrought: at the moment when the All-Holy reached the top of the hill, the trees planted there bent their branches, bowing down and glorifying the Queen of the world like reason-endowed servants.

After having prayed, the All-Holy returned home to Mount Zion. When she went into the house, it suddenly began to shake. Giving thanks to God, she had the house-lamps lit and called together her kinsfolk and friends. She herself set everything in order, prepared her deathbed and gave orders that all be made ready for her funeral. To the women who came at her summons, she revealed the news of her departure to heaven and, as proof, gave them the palm branch, the symbol of victory and incorruptibility, that the angel had given her. Still held by the bonds of the world, her companions heard this news with copious tears and groans, begging the Mother of God not to leave them orphaned. She reassured them, saying that she was indeed going to heaven but would nonetheless continue to protect

both them and the whole world by her prayers. At these words, the women stopped their weeping and hastened to make the preparations. The All-Holy also told them to give the only two robes that she possessed to two poor widows who were her constant companions and friends.

She had scarcely spoken these words when the house was shaken once again by a noise like thunder, and it was filled with clouds, bearing the Apostles, assembled from the furthest parts of the world. It was thus that the whole Church, in their persons, was mystically present to celebrate the funeral of its sovereign Lady. To the choir of the Apostles was joined that of the Hierarchs such as Saint Hierotheus (4 Oct.), Saint Dionysius the Areopagite (3 Oct.) and Saint Timothy (22 Jan.). Their eyes full of tears, they said to the Mother of God: "If you were to stay in the world and live among us, we would, of course, have great consolation, O Lady, as it would be as though we saw your Son and our Master. But as it is now according to His will that you are taken to heaven, we are weeping and lamenting as you see. But we rejoice at all that has been arranged for you." She replied: "O you disciples and friends of my Son and my God, do not turn my joy to sorrow but bury my body and keep it in the position that I shall take on my deathbed."

At these words, Saint Paul, the chosen vessel, arrived in his turn. He threw himself at the feet of the All-Holy to venerate her, and addressed this praise to her: "Rejoice, O Mother of Life and object of my preaching, for although I never saw Christ in the flesh, it is Him, in seeing you, that I believe I behold."

After having made her last farewells to all those present, the All Immaculate laid herself down on her deathbed, settling her body as she wished it, and offered ardent prayer to her Son for the preservation of peace in the whole world. Then, having given her blessing to the Apostles and hierarchs, she, with a smile, peacefully gave her soul, white and more resplendent than any light, into the hands of her Son and her God, who had appeared together with the Archangel Michael and a host of angels. Her death came about with no suffering or anguish, as her childbearing had been without pain.

Peter, the leader of the Apostles, then intoned the funeral hymn and his companions took up the bier, preceded by others present who carried torches and accompanied the cortege with their chanting. Saint John the Theologian was at their head, holding the palm of victory in his hand and followed in silence by the crowd of disciples. Angels could also be heard, joining their voices to those of men, so that heaven and earth were entirely filled with this threnody (hymn of lament) in honour of the sovereign Lady of the world. The air was purified by the ascending of her soul, the earth was sanctified by the burial of her body, and many of the sick recovered their health.

Not being able to bear this sight, the leaders of the Jews aroused the people and sent them to overturn the bier bearing the life-giving body. But divine justice forestalled their dark design, and they were all struck with blindness. One of them, the priest Jephoniah, who, with greater daring, had succeeded in laying hands on the holy bier, also had his hands cut off at the elbow by the sword of divine wrath, and his severed arms hung on the bier, presenting a pitiable sight.

Brought to repentance by the punishment, Jephoniah wholeheartedly embraced the Faith; and, at a word from Peter, he was healed and became for his companions an instrument of salvation and healing. When he was given a branch of the Mother of God's palm, he laid it on the eyes of his companions and healed, at one and the same time, their physical and spiritual blindness.

Arriving in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Apostles buried the most holy body of the Mother of God and remained there for three days, their prayers unceasingly being accompanied by angelic hymns. In conformity with a disposition of divine Providence, one of the Apostles (Thomas, according to some), was not at the funeral.

He only reached Gethsemane on the third day, and was unconsolable at not having a last sight of the deified body of the All-Holy. The Apostles therefore, with one accord, decided to open the tomb in order to let him venerate the holy body. When they raised the stone that closed the entrance, they were all filled with amazement on finding that the body had disappeared and that only the shroud remained, empty and keeping the shape of the body. It was an irrefutable proof of the translation to heaven of the Mother of God: her resurrection and the ascension of her body, united again with her soul, above the skies in the close company of her Son, to be our representative and advocate before God.' Mary, 'daughter of Adam' but having become truly 'Mother of God' and 'Mother of Life' in giving birth to Him who is the Fullness of Life (cf Jn 14:6) thus passed through death. But her death was no dishonour, for, overcome by Christ, Who submitted to it by His own will for our salvation, the condemnation of Adam became a 'lifegiving death' and the principle of a new existence. And the tomb of Gethsemane, as well as the Holy Sepulchre, appeared as a 'bridal chamber' where the wedding feast of incorruptibility is made radiant.

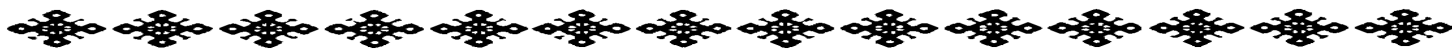
It 'was fitting, indeed, that, conforming in all things to Christ our Saviour, the most holy Virgin should follow all the paths trodden by Christ to spread sanctification throughout our nature. After having followed Him in His Passion and having 'seen' His Resurrection, she now had the experience of death. As soon as she was parted from the body, her most pure soul found itself united with divine Light; and her body, having lain a short time in the earth, was soon raised by the grace of the risen Christ. This 'Spiritual Body,' was received into heaven as the tabernacle of God-became-Man, as the throne of God. It is the most significant part of the Body of Christ, and had often been likened by the holy Fathers as the Church itself, the dwelling-place of God among men, the first-fruits of our future state and the source of our divinisation. Through the womb of Mary most chaste, the Mother of God, the Kingdom of heaven has been opened to us, and this is why her translation to heaven is a cause of joy for all believers, having thus acquired a guarantee that, in her person, it is the whole of human nature, having become a Christ-bearer, that is called to abide in God.

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*This feast was fixed on 15 August and made obligatory in the whole of the East by Emperor Maurice (582-602). The practice spread widely, thanks to the eulogies given by the holy fathers and great Church orators on this feast: Ss Andrew of Crete, John Damascene, Germanos of Constantinople, Theodore the Studite, Gregory Palamas, etc.*

Source: *The Synaxarion, The Lives of the Saints of the Orthodox Church* Compiled by Hieromonk Makarios of Simonos Petra Monastery

August 15, 2021

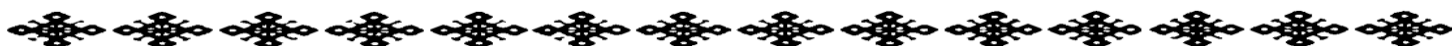


**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF**

God's blessings & good health to Joe Tome & his beautiful choir	Connie Maxim
God's blessings for good health to all our kids and grandkids	Baba & Dedo
God's blessing to Calvin Conrad for good health & a speedy recovery	Angelo & Christine
Fr. Tom, 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, Joseph, Ted, Marlene, Gladys, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family and friends	Joe Tome
Special Intention	Joe Tome
Special Intention	Baba & Dedo

**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE**

Rick Ford	Les & Susie Ford
Tom Branoff (2 yrs.)	Linda Branoff
Blessed Repose to our grandsons Andrew & Matthew and for Tom Branoff (2 yrs.)	Angelo & Christine



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

**PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE** Parish council met in person on Tuesday, August 10 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Linda Branoff made a report on behalf of the Macedonian Open Committee, the income from the Open will be announced at the outdoor Liturgy on August 22. Adjustments will be made crediting full amounts donated for the Macedonian Open and will be reflected on a future statement. She also made a report on behalf of the auditors that all of 2020 is completed and 2021 will be started. The new livestreaming equipment is up and running and any issues are being ironed out. Church school is moving to a one room classroom with lessons that can be taught for the various age groups at once - craft for the younger children, in-depth material for the older children. The motor on the air conditioner on the south wall in the church is broken. The units are forty years old and parts are no longer available. The other units will begin to fail. New units will be priced to see the cost to replace them all. The covers for the gutters are being looked into and additions of a couple of downspouts. The cemetery needs weed treatment. Want to know what is happening on Center Road in front of the church. The compressor in the large refrigerator in the bar room is going bad. Archbishop Alexander will visit November 6 & 7 for the 105th anniversary and we are looking into a catered dinner in our fellowship hall following the Liturgy on Sunday, November 7. Looking into hiring a financial secretary part-time to handle QuickBooks not-for-profit, a position which can be posted on our website and Facebook page.

**FROM OUR CHOIR** - Choir rehearsals are every Sunday at 9 am in the back classroom. Please consider joining us at rehearsals & services & becoming part of the choir, as we need new singers. Music is a ministry of the church. We sing as a community of singers and our hearts are welcoming you all.

**VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL** is August 17, 18 & 19 hosted by St. Mary Magdalene this year.

**DIOCESAN CATECHIST & DEACON'S PROGRAM** Archbishop Alexander has blessed for our Diocese an online catechist, church school teacher, and diaconal vocations program headed by Fr Silviu Bunta and Fr Bogdan Bucur. *Registration deadline is October 1. If you would like details or to register, please see Fr. Matthew.*

**YOUNG ADULTS** Our parish is looking to help our youth, in college and those beginning their careers, remain engaged in their life in Christ, especially during the complexities of the pandemic and the stresses of college life. To do this we need your help. Specifically, we need the contact information (e-mail) for our young adults so that we can reach out to them to link them up with their local Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) or Orthodox church in their area. You can call the parish office 810-744-0070 or have your child, grandchild, or godchild send an email to [stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com)



**COFFEE & DONUTS** are provided today by Ian & Stephanie Price to celebrate their daughter Kate's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

**SHRINE FEAST OUTDOOR LITURGY & PARISH PICNIC** Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The menu for lunch is lamb/chicken, rice, coleslaw, vegetable, bread & dessert. Tickets are available now and are \$15 adult & \$8 children. Please purchase tickets from Sharon Jernigan before the 22<sup>nd</sup> or call the office to ensure there is enough food. **Volunteers are needed Saturday after Vespers to set up the pavilion for Sunday's Liturgy! Volunteers are also needed to break-down the pavilion after Liturgy.**

**CRAFT SHOW** that was scheduled for August 28<sup>th</sup> at Assumption has been cancelled.

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**WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

**Today Moleben to the Theotokos - anointing w/ myrrh from the Icon of our Lady of Iveron**

3 pm Classic Car Show in our church parking lot. Hotdogs, hamburgers & pop will be provided.

**Tuesday, August 17**

4:45 -7:15 pm Vacation Church School @ St. Mary

**Wednesday, August 18**

No Divine Liturgy or adult education

4:45 -7:15 pm Vacation Church School @ St. Mary

**Thursday, August 19**

4:45 -7:15 pm Vacation Church School @ St. Mary

**Saturday, August 21**

**5 pm** [Great Vespers - streaming on our YouTube channel](#)

**Set-up in the pavilion for Liturgy - your help needed!**

**Sunday, August 22**

**8 am** **Set-up altar, icons, candles, and stands in the pavilion - your help needed!**

9:45 am Procession with the Iveron Icon of the Mother of God

**10 am** [Outdoor Divine Liturgy - streamed on Facebook](#)

Lamb/Chicken picnic

**Put away altar, chairs, icons, etc. - your help needed!**

*Offerings for the week August 8, 2021*

*63 persons in attendance on August 8*

Weekly Offerings	\$ 3,406.29
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 3,104.00
	\$ + 302.29



Bring any outdoor games to play.  
A fun time for everyone!