

August 2, 2020

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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SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020 8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — **Tone 7. Translation of the Relics of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople (ca. 428), and the finding of the Relics of the Righteous Nicodemus, Gamaliel, and Abibas (ca. 428). Blessed Basil of Moscow, Fool-for-Christ (1552). Bl. Basil of Kubensk (15th c.). Hieromartyr Stephen, Pope of Rome, and those with him (257).**

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 4) Your relics have risen from the depths of the earth, like a treasury for the immortal life of all of creation. The Church, rejoicing in the grace that she receives from them, duteously honors you, Protomartyr Stephen. Preserve us from error and heresy by your intercession!

(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 7) On the mountain wast Thou transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world that Thou art truly the radiance of the Father!

The Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth; / and their words to the ends of the universe.

v. The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

THE READING IS FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60) In those days: Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us.” And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. And the high priest said, “Is this so?” And Stephen said: “Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, ‘Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.’ Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot’s length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, ‘Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did

not my hand make all these things?’ You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your father’s persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Alleluia, Tone 7

v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High!

v. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (14:14-22) At that time, as Jesus went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The holy, glorious, all-laudable **Apostle and Archdeacon Stephen the Protomartyr** was an early Christian convert from among the Hellenistic Jews, one of the original seven deacons ordained by the Apostles, and the first martyr of the Orthodox Church. The Church remembers the martyrdom of St. Stephen on December 27, and the translations of his relics on August 2, as well as commemorating him on June 15 with Ss. Fortunatus and Achaicus.

St. Stephen was a Jew living in the Hellenic provinces, related to the Apostle Paul and one of the first seven deacons ordained by the Apostles to serve the Church in Jerusalem (thus making him an archdeacon).

In the words of Asterias: St Stephen was "the starting point of the martyrs, the instructor of suffering for Christ, the foundation of righteous confession, since Stephen was the first to shed his blood for the Gospel."

The Holy Spirit worked powerfully through his faith, enabling him to perform many miracles and always defeat those who would dispute with him.

The people were enraged by what they thought was blasphemy and 'gnashed their teeth' at Stephen. It was then that he saw his Christ in the heavens and declared it so. Hearing this, the Jews took him outside the city and stoned him to death, with his kinsman Saul (later St. Paul) holding their coats while they did it. Afar off on a hill was the Virgin Mary and St. John the Theologian who witnessed this first martyrdom for the Son of God and prayed for him while he was being stoned. This occurred about a year after the first Pentecost.

The body of the holy Protomartyr Stephen, was left at the foothill of the city for two days to be eaten by dogs. But on the second night, Gamaliel— teacher of the Apostle Paul and the Apostle Barnabas— along with his son, secretly came and took the body to his own estate, in Capharganda, to be buried.

Nicodemus, who died while weeping at this grave, was also buried there along with Gamaliel's godson

Abibus and Gamaliel himself upon his repose.

After many years the memory of St. Stephen's burial place had left the minds of men, until 415 when Gamaliel appeared three times to Father Lucian, priest at Capharganda. He revealed to Fr. Lucian the place of his burial and

everything about it. Fr. Lucian received the blessing of the Patriarch to exhume the saints from their grave where a strong, sweet fragrance filled the cave.

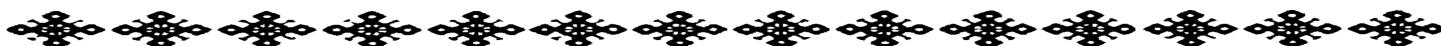
St. Stephen's relics were translated to Zion and honorably buried, and many of the sick were healed by his relics. The other three relics were placed inside a church atop the cave on a hill. Eventually, his relics were translated to Constantinople.

Today, you will find his whole right arm at *The Holy Trinity of St. Sergius Lavra*, established by St. Sergius of Radonezh in 1345, at Sergiyev Posad, Russia. from www.oca.org

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

Aug 2, 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, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Anna, Irene, Allen,
Deborah, Luba, Kosta, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Katheryn,
Joseph, Ted, Marlene, Gladys, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family &
friends.

Joe Tome

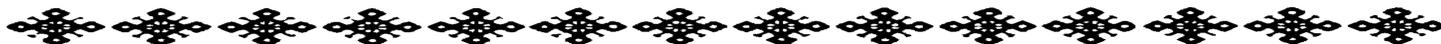
Special Intention

Joe Tome

ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR

Health & blessing for the Bakousidis family & everyone around the world
Health

Lena & Gerry Bakousidis
Bosa Kantar



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](#) for their livestreams.

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD Our parish is hosting the Pan-Orthodox Vespers & Liturgy on Wednesday, August 5th at 6 pm. This will be open to in-person attendance for St. Nicholas parishioners only and will be livestreamed. Please bring fruit to be blessed. We need ushers for this service.

MEMORY ETERNAL- CHRIST IS RISEN! Dimitrios "Jimmy" Nedanis, husband to Stella, fell asleep in the Lord Thursday, July 30. He is the father of Donna, Toula, and the late Konstantinos; grandfather of Kosta, Kaylee Zoi and the late Kaylee Nicole; great-grandfather of Tytan. He is also survived by his brother Alex and wife Menka, sisters Anastasia and husband Alex Branoff, Tammy and husband Peter Papas of Australia, and Maria Papalazarou Green and many nieces and nephews. Swartz Funeral Home is handling arrangements. The private funeral service will be held at church with burial at Evergreen Cemetery. Because of the current restrictions, visitation and funeral are by invitation from the family. You may view his obituary [here](#). Let us pray that Dimitrios gaze upon the face of Christ with the righteous and the Holy Spirit bring comfort to his family. Bog da prosti! Christ is risen!

USHERS NEEDED Are you willing to be an usher so that we can continue using both the church and the fellowship hall for in-person attendance at Sunday Liturgies? Please contact the office 810-744-0070, stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com or contact Matushka Lisa.

CONFESSIONS The sacrament of Confession is offered on Saturdays after Vespers and by appointment.

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

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	3254 E. Midland Rd.	Bay City, MI 48706
Anna Branoff-Courtyard Manor	8240 Miller Rd. Rm. #17	Swartz Creek, MI 48473
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
Eleni Servinis	Regency 1330 Grand Pointe Ct	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Jo Sredich	Magnolia House 4134 N. State Rd.	Davison, MI 48423

ROTATING SCHEDULE You will receive a phone call and e-mail from the parish office notifying you the Sunday Liturgy you are scheduled to attend. The groups have been consolidated into two rather than three groups.

WHEN YOUR HOUSEHOLD WISHES TO BE ADDED TO THE ROTATION, PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL THE PARISH OFFICE: 810-744-0070 or stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com

OFFICE OPEN Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am -3 pm.

MAKE YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING EASY AND CONVENIENT WITH GIVELIFY



You can 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. **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.**

ALL OCA ONLINE CHURCH SCHOOL check out the offerings here: <https://www.oca.org/all-oca-church-school>

Weekly schedule:

Tuesday, Aug 4

6:30 pm Parish Council meeting

Wednesday, Aug 5

6 pm **[Pan-Orthodox Vespers & Liturgy for Transfiguration](#)**
[Text for the service](#)

Thursday, Aug 6

9 am-1 pm **TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (fish permitted)**
North End Soup Kitchen

Saturday, Aug 8

5 pm **[Great Vespers – streaming on our YouTube channel](#)**
Confessions after Vespers

Sunday, Aug 9
10 am

Group 1A is in the church and Group 1B is in the fellowship hall
Divine Liturgy – streaming on our YouTube channel

Offerings for the week July 26, 2020

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 3,568.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,104.00
	\$ +464.00

That we should imagine that anger, wrath, jealousy or the such like have anything to do with the divine Nature is utterly abhorrent for us...nor again can we possibly say that He acts thus out of retribution, even though the Scriptures may on the outer surface posit this...A right way of thinking about God would be the following: the kind Lord, who in everything He does looks to ways of assisting rational beings, directs thought concerning judgement to the advantage of those who accept this difficult matter. ...He acts towards us in ways He knows will be advantageous to us, whether by way of things that cause suffering, or by way of things that cause relief, whether they cause joy or grief, whether they are insignificant or glorious: all are directed towards the single eternal good, whether each receives judgement or something of glory from Him not by way of retribution - far from it! - but with a view to the advantage that is going to come from all these things. - *St. Isaac of Nineveh*