

*August 13, 2017*

*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*

*Fr. Esteban Julio Vázquez Deacon Kerry Luke Gonser*

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**The Gospel according to Saint John 21:1-14 (10th Matins Gospel)**

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We are going with you also.” They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?” They answered Him, “No.” And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.” Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, “Come and eat breakfast.” Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?” – knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017 10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. Leavetaking of the Transfiguration. St. Tikhon, Bishop of Vorónezh, Wonderworker of Zadónsk and All Russia (1783). Translation of the Relics of St. Maximus the Confessor (662). Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Maxim of Moscow, Fool-for-Christ (ca. 1547). Martyr Hippolytus of Rome and those with him: Martyr Concordia, Irenæus, and Abundius (258). The Icon “PASSION” of the Most-holy Theotokos.**

**FIRST ANTIPHON**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give glory to His praise! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

The crash of Thy thunder was in the whirlwind; Thy lightning lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook.

**Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment. **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**

Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the Great King! **O Son of God who wast transfigured on the mount, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

And He brought them to the mountain of His holiness, this mountain which His right hand had won! **O Son of God who wast transfigured on the mount, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

The Mount Zion which He loved, He fashioned for His holy abode. **O Son of God who wast transfigured on the mount, 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, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, save us!

## **THIRD ANTIPHON**

**Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever! (Tone 7)** Thou wast transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light shine upon us sinners! Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

**As the mountains are round about Him, so the Lord is round about His people, from this time forth and forevermore. (Tone 7)** Thou wast transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light shine upon us sinners! Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

**O Lord, who shall sojourn in Thy tent? Who shall dwell on Thy holy hill? (Tone 7)** Thou wast transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light shine upon us sinners! Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

**Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? (Tone 7)** Thou wast transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light shine upon us sinners! Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

## **THE SMALL ENTRANCE**

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Upright!

**Priest:** For with Thee is the fountain of life, O Lord, and in Thy light shall we see light.

**Choir:** O Son of God who wast transfigured on the mount, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

### **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 7)** Thou wast transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light shine upon us sinners! Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

### **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 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 FIRST EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS (4:9-16)** *Brethren:* I think that

God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

### ***Alleluia, Tone 1***

**v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me.**

**v. He magnifies the salvation of the king, and deals mercifully with His Christ, with David and his seed forever.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (17:14-23)** And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought

him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.” And Jesus answered, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.” And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.” As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.”

**HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS** Magnify, O my soul, the Lord Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor! Your birthgiving was incorruptible! God came from your body and appeared on earth in the flesh, dwelling among men. Therefore we magnify you, O Theotokos!

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

O Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance, and will exult in Thy name forever! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### **Encountering The Beauty Of The Church: The Way Of Love by Jonathan Jackson**

<http://pemptousia.com/2017/01/encountering-the-beauty-of-the-church-the-way-of-love/>

I would like to briefly express what the Orthodox Church means to me, as one who has entered into it later in life. This of course, is impossible to articulate with words, because it is a mystery, but I will speak, like a child in awe. I am in awe at the Orthodox Church. It's beauty, its grace. The mystical silence and stillness, which abides here. I am in awe at the purity of the Church's teachings. The Lives of the Saints and Martyrs, the prayers and hymns of the Church, the Protection of the Panagia. The humility and sanctity of the Holy Mountain. The Icons and writings of the Fathers of the Church. The mercy of the Sacraments, the Christ-like humility of the Priesthood.

Orthodoxy is not a religion. It is Life. It is not a list of rules. It is Mystical Communion with the Holy Trinity. It is actual communion with God and man. In the Orthodox Church there exists the grace of Theosis, Deification and Transfiguration. Icons drip myrrh, relics miraculously heal, Saints are filled with Divine Light, infants receive Holy Communion, Priests confess their own unworthiness as they pray over the penitent before them, the mentally handicapped can be theologians too, because they can pray with purity of heart. The whole world is a Sacrament, for the Spirit of Truth “art everywhere present and fillest all things.”

In the Orthodox Church I found a Hospital for the Sick, whereby our wounds, sins and delusions are healed through communion with the Holy Trinity and the “Cloud of Witnesses”, (the communion of saints) which radiate the love and truth of God.

Everything can be found here, in the mystic Church; all of the scattered pieces of truth come together in the mysterious joy of communion with God. Nothing has been added to the Holy Tradition and nothing has been taken away. **The Church is God-Breathed.**

#### ***The Way Of Love***

Orthodoxy is the Way of Love. Religion without love is an offense to God. We don't pray and fast and give alms and attend vigils to impress God or appease His anger, as if He were some kind of tyrannical pagan deity.

We do these things out of love! We do these things because it draws our hearts closer to Christ. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. When I pray, “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, the sinner,” I am not praying to change Christ's heart towards me. I am not praying as if God's back is turned to me, out of anger and disapproval—His back is not turned to me at all! He is facing me! He is pursuing me! He has left the ninety-nine to seek out the one lost sheep. Christ is looking at me with infinite love and mercy! Even the very flames of hell are His love. As a father (and dear friend) on the Holy Mountain wrote so beautifully in a poem he shared with me... in the poem Christ says, “**I do not hold hell in my hand to threaten...**” Tell me, does the world know this Christ? The Christ of the Orthodox Church?

I am the one who has drifted away. I am the one who is repenting, not God. He is the Great Physician... and repentance along with the Jesus Prayer and Holy Communion are the medicine He has given me for the healing of my soul and body. The entire sacramental life of the Church is for our healing and

salvation.

I am not changing God in my prayers or worship. He is changing me, by His Grace! Christ is love! The Holy Trinity is Love. God is not petty, harsh and vindictive one day and then gracious, loving and merciful the next. He is Love, everyday, all the time, in every circumstance. The Orthodox Church reveals this to the world and this transforms everything in our lives. By encountering the love of the Holy Trinity, we are continually healed and transformed by Grace into the likeness of Christ. It is God who first loved us! I am in awe at the beauty of the Orthodox Faith.

Orthodoxy is **Life**, it is the Church of the Resurrection! It is universal and eternal in its union with God. It houses many different and beautiful cultural expressions, but transcends them, because we are all “one in Christ.” The Orthodox Church is not a cultural phenomenon. I am not Russian, Greek, Romanian, Serbian or Arab; I come from a culture that is not Orthodox. And yet somehow, because of the mystery of The Body of Christ, I feel that I am somehow Greek and I am Russian and Romanian... I am one with my brothers and sisters for we share the same blood, the Blood of Christ.

Orthodoxy is divine therapy. It is the true healing offered by Christ Himself. It is His love that heals us. We, as God’s beloved patients, need only receive the medicine of the Great Physician and trust Him with our whole being—this is salvation. If He says the most important thing is to “Love God with all of your heart, mind soul and strength and love your neighbor as yourself” than we should follow that holy prescription! If he says, “Take, eat; this is my body...” And also, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Then we should do that very thing. He is the Physician; He knows how to cure us! Why should we try to invent other ways to be healed? Could there be anything more profound than to receive the Body and Blood of Christ? Could there be anything more sacred and mysterious?

Orthodoxy is healing, it is our response to Grace and our participation in the Love of the Holy Trinity. It is the Way of Love.

August 13, 2017



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

Fr. Tom, Fr. Gabriel, Deacon Anthony, Aaron, Reggie, Allen, Deborah, Jo Ann,  
Luba, Kosta, Jimmy, Laurie, David, Helen, Anna, Walt, Zina  
Dorothy, Michael, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Ted, Marlene,  
Joseph, Nicholas, Margaret, Gladys, my family and friends  
Special Intention

Joe Tome  
Joe Tome

**ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR**

Father Matthew-Peter: Many Blessed Years on your birthday!

His family



**WELCOME** all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas! Please join us for fellowship in the hall.

**COFFEE HOUR**  Volunteers are needed to help serve coffee and donuts for August & September. Please see the sign-up sheet outside of the kitchen.

**PARISH PICNIC** on Sunday, August 20. Tickets are \$12. Menu: Ribs or Chicken, Beans, Coleslaw & Bread  
Bring a dessert to share. Dance Music will be provided! Please see Christine Panoff to buy your ticket!

**THANK YOU** to Dave Houser, Charlie and Dennis Jernigan for the repair work they did on the large and small bells. The Lord God re-pay you! Thank you, also, to Tim Seeley for his valuable help with the audio-visual upgrade.

**MACEDONIAN OPEN** If you wanted to make a donation but forgot, you can still make a donation. Proceeds from the Open are going to the Parish Pride Fund which is for capital improvements/repairs.

**OUR CHARITY MINISTRUES**

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting **Feminine Care Products/Razors & Shaving Cream** for the month of August. 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.

**PAN-ORTHODOX VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL**



VCS was a great success. A big thank you to all those who were supportive & who volunteered! Volunteers from St. Nicholas were: Deborah Gonser-Adams, Bogdan Beslach, Michelle Gerzevske, Popadia Amanda Vázquez, Alexander Gonser. St. George will host VCS next year, 2018. Our parish will host in 2019.

**PROSFORA BAKERS** we need loaves for the Liturgy. If you are able, please bake some and drop them off at the office during the week. God repay you!

**100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MICHAEL, FLUSHING** on Saturday, October 21. Envelopes with information and to make reservations are on the Parish Info bulletin board in the hall. Cost for the banquet is \$20 per person.

**PILGRIMAGE TO DORMITION MONASTERY, RIVES JUNCTION** (see schedule on the next page - Fr. Matthew will be at the pilgrimage for both days)

**Weekly Schedule:**

**Today**

12:30 pm Moleben to the Theotokos at the shrine

**Monday, Aug. 14**

**Pilgrimage to Dormition Monastery (please see schedule in the bulletin)**

6 pm Vespers & Artoklasia at Assumption – reception afterwards  
7 pm Matins and Lamentations for Dormition at St. Mary Magdalene

**Tuesday, Aug. 15**

**DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS**

10 am Divine Liturgy at Assumption

**Wednesday, Aug. 16**

9 am Divine Liturgy  
11 am Adult Education – “Wounded by Love” by St. Porphyrios

**Thursday, Aug. 17**

Fr. Matthew in Toledo

**Saturday, Aug. 19**

5 pm Vespers

**Sunday, Aug. 20**

8:00 am We need volunteers to help set-up the pavilion for Liturgy: chairs, tables, altar items, etc.  
9:45 am Procession to the Pavilion with the Icon of our Lady of Iveron  
10 am Divine Liturgy in the Pavilion. Rib dinner following.

**Offerings for the week August 6, 2017**

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$6,948.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$4,034.03
	<b>\$+2913.97</b>

*79 people attended Liturgy & 20 people were in attendance in the Shrine on Sunday, August 6, 2017*

“I want to go to Heaven even if I am the last one in, after the worst person in the world. May God place me in Paradise even if he’s put Nero and Hitler there, as well, even if it means that I shine their shoes. What do I care who God puts in Paradise? It’s His for Him to do what He wants. It’s not up to me to say anything. I want to be saved and the rest is up to the Lord.” **Elder Epifanios Theodoropoulos**



# 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE CELEBRATION 2017

## DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD ORTHODOX MONASTERY

### Guests of Honor:

His Eminence Archbishop ALEXANDER (OCA)

His Grace Bishop PAUL (OCA)

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY (Antiochian)

### Hosted by

His Eminence Archbishop NATHANIEL

### PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULE

#### Monday, August 14

5:00 pm Light Supper  
6:30 pm Vigil of the Feast with Lamentations.

#### Tuesday, August 15

9:00 am Akathist, 3rd Hour, 6th Hour, Vesting of the Hierarchs and procession to the Pavilion  
10:00 am Hierarchal Holy Liturgy.  
12:45 pm Lunch  
2:30 pm Mystery of Holy Unction.  
5:30 pm Vespers  
6:30 pm Supper

*Directions: I94 to exit 138 - Rt. 127 North. Go 7½ mi. Take "Berry Rd./Rives Jct." exit; turn left (If exiting from 127 South, turn right). At stop sign (app. 1 mi.), turn right. The monastery is located on the left side of the road.*

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#### DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD ORTHODOX MONASTERY

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