

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Monthly Newsletter

Diocese of Toledo-Orthodox Church in America
2143 S. Center Road – Burton, Michigan 48519

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

Email: stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com

Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Church Office: 810-744-0070

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

Wednesday- 9 am Divine Liturgy Adult Class 11:30 am

Saturday – 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions

Holydays: Vespers & Liturgy as announced

“But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

St. Jude 20

AUGUST 2020

And now I give you an example from the Fathers. Suppose we were to take a compass and insert the point and draw the outline of a circle. The centre point is the same distance from any point on the circumference. Now concentrate your minds on what is to be said! Let us suppose that this circle is the world and that God himself is the centre; the straight lines drawn from the circumference to the centre are the lives of humans. To the degree that the saints enter into the things of the spirit, they desire to come near to God; and in proportion to their progress in the things of the spirit, they do in fact come close to God and to their neighbor. The closer they are to God, the closer they become to one another; and the closer they are to one another, the closer they become to God. Now consider in the same context the question of separation; for when they stand away from God and turn to external things, it is clear that the more they recede and become distant from God, the more they become distant from one another. See! This is the very nature of love. The more we are turned away from and do not love God, the greater the distance that separates us from our neighbor. If we were to love God more, we should be closer to God, and through love of Him we should be more united in love to our neighbor; and the more we are united to our neighbor the more we are united to God. May God make us worthy to listen to what is fitting for us and do it. For in the measure that we pay attention and take care to carry out what we hear, God will always enlighten us and make us understand His will.

—St. Dorotheos of Gaza, *Discourse 6*

Dorotheos of Gaza, Discourses and Sayings. Cistercian Studies 33, Cistercian Publications, Kalamazoo, 2008.

Psalm 63

For Your mercy is better than life itself; my lips will praise you.

Let us suppose that our life span could be extended once, twice, or a thousand times beyond its natural limits. Even then, God's *mercy* would be above and beyond all the good things of life, above and beyond anything I could hope to gain or accomplish in a thousand years, beyond anything available to me in the entire world. (p 9)

For You have become my helper, and in the shelter of Your wings I will rejoice.

...We too should call to mind God's mercies, which are without number, and bestowed equally and abundantly on all, and not least on the sick, the suffering, the poor, and all those that seem insignificant in the eyes of the world. The recollection of God's mercy is a source of hope and strength...(p 13)

Psalm 17

This extraordinary psalm is at once simple and profound. It is the prayer of a man who is suffering. If today we ourselves are not suffering, let us not forget that in all likelihood things will be different tomorrow. More importantly, right now, all around us, countless friends, loved ones, relatives and acquaintances are suffering, and they are, and never cease to be, the members of our own body (cf. 1 Cor 12:12). Let us pray for them with the words of this psalm and with similar words. And even though some of us may not seem to be suffering today, the deeper truth is that we are always suffering. Our struggle to live virtuously is itself a source of pain. Satan, *like a roaring lion* (1 Pet 5:8), *like a lion's whelp that lurks in secret places* (Ps 17:12), waits for an opportunity to ensnare us in temptations. Our friendships and our loves can likewise be the cause of much pain and suffering. In the end, we can say that our whole life is a passion play, a history of extended suffering. However, let us not lose sight of the deeper meaning offered to us by the psalmist. Pain, difficulties, misfortunes, and suffering in general are the signs of divine visitation. Those who suffer are the special children of God. And so when our life is untroubled and things seem to be going well, we should stop and ask ourselves if we have not somehow moved away from God, because it is precisely suffering that constitutes our glory, our crown. (pp 48-49)

There will come times in our life - or rather, such times will come continually - when all seems lost; when it appears that even those we love and trusted have abandoned us, that they have grown distant and estranged. There will be moments when black clouds gather menacingly over our heads. But it is during such moments, my beloved, that God is visiting us, in order to see our patience, to test the quality of our trust, which is the proof of our love for him. (p 49)

...the faithful are often scandalized by the prosperity of sinners. And it is true that if we look at things from a purely human perspective it can seem as if God has distributed His blessings unjustly. Here, where He should have given a measure of happiness, He has given only misfortune. And there, where He should have dispensed riches, He gave only poverty. And where poverty was in order, He lavished wealth. When we wait for a blessing, He often deals us a hard blow, while at the same time He maintains smiles on the faces of those around us. In a way that echoes modern social concerns, we might say that God discriminates, and this is something that scandalizes us.

Why does this scandalize us? The answer is simple. It is because our hearts are still attached to earthly things, still clinging to false <<goods>> that we continue to covet and crave. Thus the solution to our dilemma must be sought elsewhere, and this means that we should not be hasty in abolishing whatever strikes us as discrimination or injustice. We live in a time of rapid change, when every innovation is presented to us as <<progress>>, but before real change, real progress, can take place, something must first change within us. And for this to happen we must become completely estranged to all things earthly and human, to all human logic, to all human ways of thinking, and to every so-called material good. We must be indifferent in the face of all things. And only then, when we have become strangers to all, can God become all things to us, as if there existed nothing else in the world for us except God. It is this alone that can grant us true and lasting tranquillity. Otherwise, if our heart is attached to anything earthly, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem to be, we can be sure that it will make us suffer. (pp 49-50)

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

LITURGY ON WEDNESDAY AND VESPERS ON SATURDAY

Those who wish to attend Liturgy on Wednesday or Vespers on Saturday should contact the parish office whether by e-mail or telephone call. If the maximum number of households permitted is reached for Wednesday Liturgy and Saturday Vespers by the time you notify the office of your desire to attend, your household will be put on the top of the list for the following week.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL [Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton](#) to receive notifications of livestreaming services.

CONFESSIONS the sacrament of Confession is offered on Saturdays after Vespers and by appointment. Call the parish office 810-744-0070 or e-mail stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com to make an appointment.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE Given our current stage of reopening, on July 14 parish council met by teleconference. In June our expenses exceeded our income by \$9,000. The parish council encourages everyone to continue their stewardship whether through the Givelify app on your phone, the [Givelify app](#) on our webpage www.saintnicholasburton.org or by sending it to the office.

Our parish is hosting the feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord with Pan-Orthodox Vespers & Liturgy on Wednesday, August 5 at 6 pm. This will be open to in-person attendance for St. Nicholas parishioners only and will be livestreamed.

The Liturgy for the shrine feast on August 16 will be in the church. A service of intercession to the Mother of God will take place at the shrine after the Liturgy on that day.

Vacation Church School which was to be hosted by St Mary Magdalene parish has been cancelled for this year but activity items focusing on the feasts of the Mother of God will be sent to the four parishes to be shared with our youth.

Are you willing to be an usher? We need ushers 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.

Susie Ford attended the virtual Parish Development Forum, sponsored in part by our diocese, on July 9. Recordings of the forum will be available in the future.

New altar cloths: blue (for August and September) and purple (for Lent) have been donated with memorial funds from Gerry Batcos and John Nastos. We hope to have the blue ones in before August 1 so that we can use them for the Dormition Fast and in September for the Nativity of the Mother of God.

Sunday, August 23 will be the 14th anniversary of Fr Raphael's falling asleep in the Lord. A Trisagion will be served at the end of the Liturgy for his repose and will be livestreamed.

Parish elections are scheduled for November and parish council discussed possibilities for holding the election given that everyone who will want to vote will not be able to be at church on the same Sunday. Among the possibilities is to hold the election over two Sundays so that those in attendance on those Sundays may cast their ballot while those not yet coming to church may request a ballot through the office. No decision was taken.

The grave marker for Cheryl Ellis will be installed soon, we hope in time for her 1 year anniversary (August 22).

the Parish Council of St Nicholas Church

PARISH COUNCIL will meet by teleconference on Tuesday, August 4th at 6:30 pm. The Lord God bless you all for your continuing stewardship through your pledges and donations.

CANDLES

Ushers will hand out the beeswax tapers to those who wish to light them. Any other candles to be lit in church (the small 4 hour candles or 7 day candles) will be lit by an usher who will take down the candle intention. Those in the hall may provide their candle intention to the usher who will take down the intentions and ensure the candles are lit.

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

QUARTERLY STATEMENTS were mailed out July 6th. Please call Marcia in the office at (810-744-0070) if you have any questions or if you did not receive your statement.

17TH ANNUAL ELIAS D. CHINONIS GOLF CLASSIC August 17th at Pine Knob. Contact John at Assumption for registration info. 810-922-2047.

CHARITY MINISTRIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN August 6th, 9 am-1 pm.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting razors & shaving cream/lotion 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.

VISITATION TO THE SICK Presently, Fr. Matthew may bring Communion to those who are at home. When permitted, Fr. Matthew will resume bringing Holy Communion to those in nursing homes, assisting living homes, and other care facilities shut-ins on Tuesdays. If you would like to be added to this list, please contact the office. Presently, those receiving weekly visits are: Helen Ashmun, Anna Branoff, Paul Ellis, Vasilka Karatza, Fred Oginsky, and Pete & Jo Sredich. Monthly Fr. Matthew visits Larry Bladecki (Bay City).

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! Please call the office to schedule a visit for Holy Communion.

Larry Bladecki	Gladys Edwards	Nick Karayanis	
Deacon John Bocek	Paul Ellis	Macy Lemmen	Bill Tadrick
Anna Branoff	Bill Haw	Fred Oginsky	Wendy Tadrick
Linda Branoff	Mary Karayanis	Ron Salhany	

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

Helen Ashmun	4436 Beecher Rd.	Flint, MI 48532
Larry Bladecki	3254 E. Midland Rd	Bay City, MI 48706
Anna Branoff	Grand Blanc Fields 12628 Pagels Dr	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dat Gerzevske
Julie Conover
Sophia Todorovsky
- 5 Paul Brayon
- 6 Diana Broadfoot
- 8 Maria Green
- 9 Katelyn Price
Milan (Michael) Stikovich
- 12 Janja Beslach
- 18 Lisa Pray
Tom Krigner
- 19 Alexis Liley
Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie
- 20 Quinn Gerzevske
- 22 Michael Borkovich
- 25 Sophia Batzos
- 26 Christine Panoff
- 27 Katherine Gonser
Tom Batzos
- 30 Courtney Batzos
Lydia Nicoloff



NAMESDAYS

- 4 Maximilian Biernacki
- 10 Lawrence Bladecki
- 11 Susan Oginsky
Susan Popoff
- 15 Donna (Susie) Ford (Theotokos)
Linda Marie Branoff
Maria Papalazarou Green
Marie Todorovsky
Marika Karayanis
Marilyn Branoff
Mary Abu-Aita
Mary Batzos
Mary Kosman
Mary Anna (Marie Anna) Kilbourne
May Kokaly
Sharon Jernigan (Theotokos)
Sharon George
- 18 Laurie (Florinka) Brock
- 21 Cameron Stevens
Dat Gerzevske
- 26 Adriane Grossi (St. Adrian)
Adrienne Biernacki (St. Adrian)
Natasha Oginsky
- 27 Monica Mitevski
- 30 Archbishop Alexander
Sašo Pirkovic

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Pete & Jo Sredich (1957)
- 19 Luai & Amani Helal (1993)
- 21 Amir & Rimi Abu-Aita (2015)
Bill & Cindy Economou (1992)

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



The Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15 each year.

This great Feast of the Church and the icon celebrates a fundamental teaching of our faith—the Resurrection of the body. In the case of the Theotokos, this has been accomplished by the divine will of God. Thus, this Feast is a feast of hope, hope in Resurrection and life eternal. Like those who gathered around the body of the Virgin Mary, we gather around our fallen asleep loved ones and commend their souls into the hands of Christ. As we remember those who have reposed in the faith before us and have passed on into the communion of the Saints, we prepare ourselves to one day be received into the new life of the age to come.

We also affirm through this Feast as we journey toward our heavenly abode that the Mother of God intercedes for us. Through Christ she has become the mother of all of the children of God, embracing us with divine love.



MACEDONIAN OPEN **CANCELLATION NOTICE**



After consultation with our committee members and Father Matthew regarding the health and safety of everyone that would have participated in this year's golf outing, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Macedonian Open.

Following concerns about the COVID-19 virus and uncertainty with what would be acceptable and allowed in regards to a golf outing and/or banquet, we feel it is the right decision based on the information we have to date.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year. We are planning on having our golf outing at the Flint Elks Golf Club on the usual date, the Monday after Father's Day, June 21, 2021.

Your support of the outing is greatly appreciated, as all proceeds directly benefit St. Nicholas Orthodox Church. The Church is still providing services to the parish and surrounding community and now more than ever could use your help. If you are able to offer a donation at this time, we encourage you to do so (see attached envelope).

Take care of yourselves and stay safe, informed and connected.

God Bless,

Macedonian Open Committee

Committee Contact Info:

Christine Panoff (810) 232-4868 capanoff@umich.edu	Angelo Panoff (810) 423-6020 angelo.panoff@stifel.com	Linda Branoff (810) 964-3654 branoff721@aol.com	George Branoff (810) 252-5395 gabman24@charter.net	Chris Nedanis cned77@gmail.com
--	---	---	--	-----------------------------------

100% OF DONATIONS TO BENEFIT:
ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH
Burton, MI 810.744.0070

Make Checks Payable to:
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
memo: c/o Macedonian Open
Donations are greatly appreciated

**** SAVE THE DATE ****
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021
(DAY AFTER FATHER'S DAY)
AT THE FLINT ELKS GOLF CLUB

Nick's (Vuckovich) Lawn Care
810-618-0315

**Lawn Mowing (\$10-\$25), Weed Whipping,
Weed Killer, Mulch, Spring/Fall Clean-up,
Gardens, Deck Staining, Painting**

I am 17 yrs. old raising money to continue my education at Mott College. I have 3 yrs. experience in lawn care. Your support is very much appreciated.



**DO YOU STILL WANT
TO RECEIVE THIS
NEWSLETTER? IF NOT
PLEASE CALL OR
EMAIL THE OFFICE TO
BE TAKEN OFF OF THE
MAILING LIST.**

Your Business Here

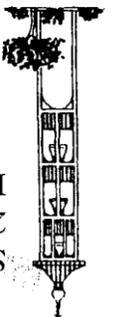
\$36.00 Single Space
for 6 months

\$50.00 Double Space
for 6 months

\$65.00 Triple Space
for 6 months

**Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Flint, MI
PERMIT NO. 102**

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
2143 South Center Road
Burton, MI 48519



AUGUST 2020

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
2143 S. Center Rd.
Burton, MI 48519
810-744-0070

Email: stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>✠ <i>Fast</i>  <i>Dairy Permitted (no meat)</i>  <i>Wine & Oil Permitted (no meat)</i>  <i>Fish Permitted (no other meat)</i></p>		<p><i>Services are streamed on our YouTube channel</i> St Nicholas Burton</p>				<p><i>1 Dormition Fast</i>  <i>Begins</i> 5 pm Vespers <i>Confessions</i></p>
<p>2  9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy <i>Moleben to the Mother of God at the shrine</i></p>	<p>3 ✠ <i>Father in Toledo</i></p>	<p>4 ✠ 6:30 pm Parish Council</p>	<p>5 ✠ 6 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers & Liturgy for Transfiguration <i>with blessing of fruit</i></p>	<p>6   <i>Transfiguration</i> 10am Liturgy @ St. Mary <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>7 ✠</p>	<p>8  5 pm Vespers <i>Confessions</i></p>
<p>9   <i>Glorification of St Herman of Alaska</i> 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy <i>Blessing of fruit</i> <i>Moleben to the Mother of God at the shrine</i></p>	<p>10 ✠</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 ✠ <i>No Liturgy</i></p>	<p>13   <i>St Tikhon of Zadonsk</i> <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>14 ✠ 6 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers @ Assumption</p>	<p>15 <i>Dormition of the Theotokos</i> 10 am Pan-Orthodox Liturgy @ Assumption 5 pm Vespers <i>Confessions</i></p>
<p>16 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy <i>Moleben to the Mother of God at the shrine</i></p>	<p>17 <i>Father in Toledo</i></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 ✠ 9 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>20 <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>21 ✠</p>	<p>22 5 pm Vespers <i>Confessions</i></p>
<p>23 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy <i>Trisagion for Fr. Raphael</i></p>	<p>24 <i>Father in Toledo</i></p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 ✠ 9 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 ✠</p>	<p>29 ✠  <i>Beheading of St. John the Baptist</i> 10 am Liturgy <i>Lenten snack then</i> 12:30 pm Vespers <i>Confessions</i></p>
<p>30 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>31 <i>Father in Toledo</i></p>			<p><i>Office Closed</i></p>		