

December 13, 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, DECEMBER 13, 2020 27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. REPOSE OF VEN. HERMAN OF ALASKA, WONDERWORKER OF ALL AMERICA (1837). Sunday of the Forefathers. Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes, at Sebaste (4th c.). Virgin Martyr Lucia (Lucy) of Syracuse (304). Ven. Arkády (Arcadius) of Novotorsk (11th c.). Ven. Mardárii (Mardarius), Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th c.). Ven. Arsenius of Latros (8th-9th c.). Ven. Nicodemus (Romanian).

TROPARIA

(Tone 2) When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!\

(Tone 2) Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, / betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. / These saints exult in glory, / for from their seed came forth a noble fruit: / she who without seed did bear Thee. // By their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls!

(Tone 7) O joyful North Star of the Church of Christ, guiding all men to the Heavenly Kingdom, teacher and apostle of the True Faith, intercessor and defender of the oppressed, adornment of the Orthodox Church in America: Blessed Father Herman of Alaska, pray to our Lord Jesus Christ// for the salvation of our souls!

(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 3) The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word Eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth, at the message, with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him Who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He Who is from eternity God.

The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS (3:4-11)

Brethren: When Christ who is our life appears, and then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Alleluia, Tone 4

v. Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His name.

v. They cried to the Lord and He heard them.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (14:16-24) At that time Jesus said, “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

COMMUNION HYMN Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Rest of Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13) The time of the Elder’s passing had come. One day he ordered his disciple Gerasim to light a candle before the Icons, and to read the Acts of the Holy Apostles. After some time his face glowed brightly and he said in a loud voice, “Glory to Thee, O Lord!” He then ordered the reading to be halted, and he announced that the Lord had willed that his life would now be spared for another week. A week later, again by his orders, candles were lit, and the Acts of the Holy Apostles were read. Quietly, the Elder bowed his head on Gerasim’s chest; the cell was filled with a sweet-smelling odor; and his face glowed, and Father Herman was no more! Thus he died in blessedness, he passed away in the sleep of a righteous man in the eighty-first year of his life of great labor the 25th day of December 1837. (It was the 13th of December according to the Julian Calendar, although there are some records which state that he died on November 28th and was buried on December 26th).

Those sent with the sad news to the harbor returned to announce that the administrator of the colony Kashevarov had forbidden the burial of the Elder until his own arrival. He also ordered that a finer coffin be made for Father Herman, and that he would come as soon as possible and would bring a priest with him. But then a great wind came up, a rain fell, and a terrible storm broke. The distance from the harbor to Spruce Island is not great—about a two hour journey—but no one would agree to go to sea in such weather. Thus it continued for a full month, and although the body lay in state for a full month in the warm house of his students, his face did not undergo any change at all, and not the slightest odor emanated from his body. Finally, through the efforts of Kuzma Uchilischev, a coffin was obtained. No one arrived from the harbor, and the inhabitants of Spruce Island alone buried the remains of the Elder in the ground. Thus the words which Father Herman uttered before his death were fulfilled. After this the wind quieted down, and the surface of the sea became as smooth as a mirror.

One evening, above the village Katani (on Afognak) an unusual pillar of light which reached up to heaven was seen above Spruce Island. Astonished by the miraculous appearance, experienced elders and the Creole Gerasim Vologdin and his wife Anna said, “It seems that Father Herman has left us,” and they began to pray. After a time, they were informed that the Elder had indeed passed away that very night. This same pillar was seen in various places by others. On the night of his death a vision was seen in another of the settlements on Afognak; it seemed as though a man was rising from Spruce Island into the clouds.

The disciples buried their father, and placed a wooden memorial marker above his grave. Father Peter Kashevarov, the priest on Kodiak, says, “I saw it myself, and I can say that today it seems as though it had never been touched by time; as though it had been cut this day.”

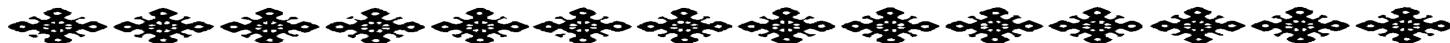
Having witnessed the life of Father Herman glorified by his zealous labors, having seen his miracles, and the fulfillment of his predictions, finally having observed his blessed falling asleep, “in general, all the local inhabitants,” Bishop Peter witnesses, “have the highest esteem for him, as though he was a holy ascetic, and they are fully convinced that he has found favor in the presence of God.”

In 1842, five years after the passing away of the Elder, Archbishop Innocent of Kamchatka and the Aleutians, was near Kodiak on a sailing vessel which was in great distress. He looked to Spruce Island, and said to himself, “If you have found favor in God’s presence, Father Herman then may the wind change.” It seems as though not more than fifteen minutes had passed, said the bishop, when the wind became favorable, and he successfully reached the shore. In thanksgiving for being saved, Archbishop Innocent himself conducted a Memorial Service (Panikhida) over the grave of the blessed Father Herman. O Holy Father Herman of Alaska, pray unto God for us! from oca.org

The holy Gospel according to Luke 24:12-35 (5th Matins Gospel)

But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened. Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see. Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

December 13, 2020



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

John Sfetkides speedy recovery~health & blessings
Health & God's blessings for our St. Nicholas parish family
Health & blessings for my family & myself
Fr. Tom, Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Aaron, Milica, Calvin, Larry,
Angelo, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Irene, Allen, Deborah,
Luba, Kosta, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, Taras
Joseph, Ted, Marlene, Gladys, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family &
friends.

Numka & Numko
Nancy Krigner
Bosa Kantar

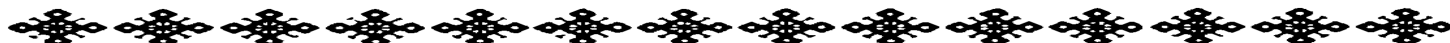
Special Intention

Joe Tome
Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Walt Borkovich

Allison Borkovich



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.

MICHIGAN GATHERINGS AND FACE MASK ORDER is in effect until December 20. **Religious worship is permitted.** Otherwise indoor gatherings outside of a residence are not permitted. Therefore adult education class and any other in-person meeting will not meet for the duration of this order. The interior of the church will finish being decorated after Liturgy today. The scheduled decorating day on Tuesday, December 15 has been cancelled.

PARISH COUNCIL met on Tuesday, December 8 virtually. November saw a dip in parish finances. \$10,000 had to be transferred from savings to cover expenses. **Please continue your giving whether in person, through Givelify, or by sending in your donation to the office or dropping it off during office hours.** The cleaning of the radiators in church has begun in order to remove any soot or dust before painting begins in January. There is only one compressor for the heating system. It would be best for us to have a back-up compressor. A motion was passed to purchase a back-up compressor for \$200. The light outside the storage room door has been flickering and will need to be looked at. Work is completed on the installation of the storage room door. The installation of the new parish council members and auditor will take place on Sunday, December 20. Sharon Jernigan, parish council president, said thank you to Calvin Conrad and Susie Ford for their work on parish council these past three years and extended a welcome to Stephanie Price and Jonathon Shann who also joined the meeting and will be sworn in this month. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12 at 6:30 pm.

PAN-ORTHODOX ADVENT LECTURE *"Where did the Bible Come From?"* by Fr. Stephen De Young hosted virtually on Zoom by St Mary Magdalene parish on Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30 pm.

OFFERING ENVELOPES can be picked up at the candle stand. **If there are boxes for family members who have not been attending whom you will be seeing this month, please deliver them to help save on postage costs (\$5 per box of envelopes).**

2021 CALENDARS are available at the candle stand.

PLEDGE CARDS Please send in your pledge card if you haven't already done so.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES needs help with Christmas dinner from 9 am – 1 am. All meals will be served curbside on Christmas day but they still need help with preparation and handing out gifts. Please contact John Manse at jmanse@ccsgc.org or 810-785-6911.

OFFICE HOURS Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 – 3. You are welcome to pick up your envelopes & calendar during the week. If you call ahead (810-744-0070) Marcia will have them ready for you.

MAKE YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING EASY AND CONVENIENT WITH GIVELIFY

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. (2.9% + \$0.30 of your donation goes to Givelify as a fee). **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.**

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

Weekly schedule:

Tuesday, Dec 15

7 pm [OCA online church school](#)

Wednesday, Dec 16

9:30 am [Divine Liturgy– streaming on our YouTube channel](#)

No Adult Ed

6:30 pm Pan-Orthodox lecture “Where Did the Bible Come From” by Fr Stephen De Young via Zoom

Saturday, Dec 19

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

Confessions after Vespers

Sunday, Dec 20

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

9:30 am Third and Sixth Hours

10 am [Divine Liturgy – streaming on our YouTube channel](#)

Offerings for the week December 6, 2020

35 persons in attendance on December 6th

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 3,002.48
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,104.00
	\$ - 101.52

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

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

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

Larry Bladecki	3254 E. Midland Rd	Bay City, MI 48706
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
Jo Sredich	Victoria's House 1219 N. Dye Rd.	Flint, MI 48532 *Note new address