

*December 15, 2019*

*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 any parish member.

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 and understand our discipline and piety regarding this sacrament and its implication for responsibility towards and membership in the Orthodox Church. The bread and wine offered after Communion and 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.

There are coil-bound booklets available with the text for the Divine Liturgy – if you find it useful, please feel free to take one of those as well, with our compliments. We also hope you will stay and join us in our coffee and fellowship hour, which immediately follows the service. We want the opportunity to get to know you, and for you to get to know us. **Again, welcome!**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019 26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8. SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS.** Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria, & his mother, Martyr Anthia (2nd c.). Ven. Paul of Latros (955). St. Stephen the Confessor, Archbishop of Surozh in the Crimea (8th c.). Ven. Tryphon, Abbot of Pechenga (Kol'sk), and his martyred disciple, Jonah (1583). Martyr Eleutherius at Constantinople (3rd c.). Ven. Pardus, Hermit, of Palestine (6th c.).

**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 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 5)** Adorned with the robe of priest / Stained with the streams of your blood, / O wise and blessed Eleutherius, over-thrower of Satan / You hastened to Christ your Master. / Pray unceasingly for those who faithfully honor your contest!

**(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 Eighth Tone: Let the righteous exult in glory! / Let them sing for joy on their couches.***  
**v. Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the faithful!**

**THE READING FROM THE SECOND EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO TIMOTHY (1:8-18)** Timothy my son: do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me -- may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day -- and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

### ***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!

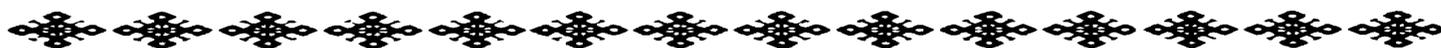
**The Holy Gospel according to Luke  
24:1-12 (4th Matins Gospel)**

Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' And they remembered His words. Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. 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.

**Eleutherios the Hieromartyr, Bishop of Illyricum, and his mother Anthia December 15**

This Saint had Rome as his homeland. Having been orphaned of his father from childhood, he was taken by his mother Anthia to Anicetus, the Bishop of Rome (some call him Anencletus, or Anacletus), by whom he was instructed in the sacred letters (that is, the divine Scriptures). Though still very young in years, he was made Bishop of Illyricum by reason of his surpassing virtue, and by his teachings he converted many unbelievers to Christ. However, during a most harsh persecution that was raised against the Christians under Hadrian (reigned 117-138), the Saint was arrested by the tyrants. Enduring many torments for Christ, he was finally put to death by two soldiers about the year 126. As for his Christ-loving mother Anthia, while embracing the remains of her son and kissing them with maternal affection, she was also beheaded. [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

December 15, 2019



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

Madeline, Hannah and my family

Lucy Hogg

Fr. Tom, Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Matushka Rose Marie, Calvin, Larry, Helen,  
Angelo, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Anna, Anna, Alex, Irene, Allen,  
Deborah, Luba, Kosta, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn,  
Nicholas, Margaret, Joseph, Ted, Marlene, Gladys, my family and friends

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

St. Nicholas Day Blessing for good health to all our grandkids and their parents

Baba & Dedo

**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE**

Peter Samaras Blessed Repose ~ Memory Eternal

Dorothy Goodman

Blessed Repose on St. Nicholas Day to our grandsons Andrew and Matthew

Baba & Dedo

**ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR**

Joe and Mickey Gonser Blessed Repose

Adams Family



**WELCOME** all our friends and visitors. Please join us in our fellowship hall after Liturgy for coffee and doughnuts.

**MEMORY ETERNAL** Olga Samaras, preceded in death by her husband Peter, fell asleep in the Lord on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The funeral is Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at church; visitation at 10 am, funeral service at 11 am & burial at 1 pm at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Bog da prosti! Memory eternal! Christ is risen!



**DECK THE HALLS** December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. We will be setting up the indoor Nativity scene & decorating the church. Everyone is welcome. Many hands lighten the load so any help you can offer is greatly appreciated.



**CATHOLIC CHARITIES GIFT CARDS** Catholic Charities hopes to include a \$20 gift card with every gift bag they give out to the adults at the Christmas dinner but they need our help. They can be from Walmart, Meijer or grocery stores. You can give the gift cards to Susie Ford, Jennifer Shann or drop them off at the office.

**2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES** Offering envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Parish Hall. It is extremely helpful when you use them so thank you in advance.

**NEWSLETTER** Crew will be meeting Tuesday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. With it being such a busy time, extra help will be needed. We look forward to seeing you there.

**INSTALLATION OF THE NEWLY ELECTED PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS AND AUDITORS** will be held on Sunday, December 22, please be in attendance. Please receive Confession in preparation for installation and receive Holy Communion on December 22. Confessions should be heard prior to the feast of the Nativity.

### **OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES**

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting socks, towels, toiletries and new toys for December. 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.

### **Weekly Schedule:**

<b><u>Today</u></b>	<b>Noisy offering</b>
<b><u>Monday, Dec 16</u></b> 10 am	Decorate Church for Christmas
<b><u>Tuesday, Dec 17</u></b>	Fr. Matthew in Toledo
<b><u>Wednesday, Dec 18</u></b> 9:30 am 11:30 am	Divine Liturgy Adult Ed Class
<b><u>Friday, Dec 20</u></b>	Communion Calls in Bay City and Caro
<b><u>Saturday, Dec 21</u></b> 5 pm	Vespers followed by confessions
<b><u>Sunday, Dec 22</u></b> 9:30 am 10 am	<b>SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD</b> Hours Divine Liturgy Installation of the parish council members and auditors elected this past November Church School

**Offerings for the week December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 1,794.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,236.00
	<b>\$-1,438.00</b>

*80 people were in attendance on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.*

**KONTAKION FOR THE PRE-FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

**Today the Virgin comes to the cave  
to give birth to the Eternal Word.**

**Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!**

**Glorify with the Angels and the shepherds**

**the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!**

**Orthodox Churches of Genesee County**  
**Services for Christmas**

**St. Nicholas**

Mon. Dec. 23 6:30 pm Royal Hours  
Tues. Dec. 24 6 pm Vespers & Liturgy of St. Basil  
Wed. Dec. 25 10 am Divine Liturgy

**St. Mary Magdalene**

Tues. Dec. 24 9 am Royal Hours  
7 pm Vigil  
Wed. Dec. 25 10 am Divine Liturgy  
Thurs. Dec. 26 10 am Divine Liturgy

**St. George**

Mon. Dec 23 6 pm Royal Hours  
Tues. Dec. 24 4:50 pm Matins  
6 pm Divine Liturgy

**Assumption**

Tues. Dec. 24 9 am Royal Hours  
6 pm Vespers & Divine Liturgy  
Wed. Dec. 25 9:30 am Divine Liturgy