

**December 15, 2024**

**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*

**Website: [www.saintnicholasburton.org](http://www.saintnicholasburton.org) Church: 810-744-0070 e-mail: [stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com)**

**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 narthex. If you have a question, a prayer request, or any need, please speak with Fr. Matthew, Deacon Luke, or with one of the ushers.

**Holy Communion** – for Orthodox Christians, please note that there are specific disciplines regarding receiving Communion – fasting from midnight (unless you need to take medication) and recent Confession. 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

For our visitors who are not Orthodox Christian: we welcome you to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Unfortunately we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. The Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship of our community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, but for which we must all pray. All, however, are welcome to partake of the blessed bread (antidoron) which will be given when coming forward to receive the final blessing from the priest at the conclusion of the Liturgy. **Again, welcome!**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8. Sunday of the Forefathers. Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria, his mother, Martyr Evanthia, and Caribus the Eparch (2nd c.). Ven. Paul of Latros (955). St. Stephen the Confessor, Archbishop of Sourozh, 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 8** You descended from on high, O Merciful One! You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

**Tone 2** Through faith You justified the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: she who bore You without seed.// So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

**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 comes 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 are You, O Lord God of our Fathers / and praised and glorified is Your name forever! (Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)**

**v: For You are just in all that You have done for us! (Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 4)**

**THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY 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 within his priests, and Samuel within the ones who call upon His name. (Psalm 98:6)*

*v. They called upon the Lord, and he heard them. (Psalm 98:6)*

**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! (*Psalm 148:1*)

**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS** The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In your seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3, 22:18). from [oca.org](http://oca.org)

December 15, 2024



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

Health of Deda, Teti Dorothy, Uncle Al, Adam, Eli, Kara & Kuma Allison

Kris & David George

Oleg, Galina, Nikolay, Nikolay, Vlada, Kirill, Lev & Irina

Irina Sivergina

Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Angelo, Joan,

Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Les, Bosa,

Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, David, Taras, Ted, Joseph, Marlene,

Ellyn, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family and friends

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE BLESSED REPOSE OF**

Adelaïda & Feodosiy

Irina Sivergina

Mitra & Angelo (Evangelos)

Lena & Gerry

Mildred Vinovich Musulin (40 yrs)

John Musulin

**ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR**

Angelo Panoff

Helen Popoff



**WELCOME** to all our friends and visitors and those 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](#), [St George Church](#) or [Dormition Monastery](#).

Dec 15 CANDLESTAND: Ian & Stephanie

HOURS: Lucy Hogg

READER: Alexander Gonsler

Dec 22 CANDLESTAND: Christine Panoff

HOURS: Angelo Panoff

READER: Katherine Gonsler

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**INQUIRERS'/CATECHUMENS' CLASS** led by Reader Alexander Gonser after the Divine Liturgy. Feel free to join in and let other inquirers know about these classes introducing the Orthodox faith. The class meets in the library.

**ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES** are on Wednesdays at 11:15 am. We are reading - *Wounded by Love*, a transcription of conversations with Saint Porphyrios (1906-1991). The cost of the book is \$30. You may purchase them at the kiosk.

**CHURCH SCHOOL** lesson [St. Nicholas of Japan](#) and Confessions

**COFFEE SOCIAL** is provided today by John Musulin in memory of Mildred Vinovich Musulin. Please join us after Liturgy in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome. There is a signup sheet next to the service window for those who would like to donate and/or serve.

**CHEESE TRIANGLES** will be available to pick up on December 14 & 15. The deadline to pre-order was December 8. The cost is 1@ \$3, 4@ \$10 & 8@ \$20.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** can be sponsored in honor of the living or as a memorial for the deceased. Forms are also in the narthex. The sponsors will be listed in the newsletter.

**2025 CALENDARS** are available in the narthex. Thank you to Swartz Funeral Home for sponsoring them.

**OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER** is January 12. If you would like to donate toward a dove please call the office at (810) 744-0070.

**13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WINTER DINNER FOR THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD MONASTERY**  
On Thursday January 23. Our event will be held at St. George Orthodox Church (5191 Lennon Rd, Flint, MI 48507):

- 5 pm Vespers led by the Monastic Community followed by a time to visit, appetizers and the Monastery Gift Shop
- 7 pm Dinner & program: *What Does it Mean to be an Orthodox Christian*
- 8:30 PM Closing prayer and good night!

Please register or to give a donation go online at: [www.saintgeorgeflint.org](http://www.saintgeorgeflint.org) or use the QR code to the right. Our parish is responsible for the drinks this year. Susie Ford is our contact person. If writing a check, make it out to Dormition Monastery.



**PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE** *finances* Please continue your tithes and offerings so that we can finish the year in the black. Susie Ford, treasurer, reported that the balance sheet has increased slightly from October. *endowment report* no report. *rector's report* written report submitted. Many new visitors and inquirers. Father Peter Bistolarides was elevated to protopresbyter by Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit (Greek Archdiocese). Vision plan was printed in December newsletter and will be posted large-size in fellowship hall. *Church school/youth ministry* Stephanie Price reported that we need six Orthodox Study Bibles needed for the middle school/high school class. Rent a bounce house, snow cone machine and do hamburgers and hot dogs on the Sunday of Church school recognition at church. Most bags given for St Nicholas Day in quite a few years. *community outreach 2025* Stephanie Price prepared our community outreach calendar for 2025 and it will be shared in our newsletter. *fundraiser* Cookie Walk is Saturday, December 14 from 10 am to 1 pm. *charity* North End Soup Kitchen is on Thursday, January 2 from 9 am to 12:30 pm. *maintenance* Dennis Jernigan cleaned leaves off roof which needs to be done every season. Planning to create a schedule of regular maintenance and other items that need to be done every year, season by season, month by month. Stoves in kitchen need to be cleaned once a year - perhaps in November each year before St Nicholas day. Exterior front door was repaired and new threshold was put in with new hydraulic piston so it does not slam shut. Weather seals will be added to the bottom of both doors. City of Burton was contacted with drain issue in south parking lot and crack in asphalt near our entrance way. City representative said they will add these items to their list to examine. Air handler needed repair work. Sanitation line needs to be augured out. Salting of front porch of church and sidewalks will be applied by parishioners so that we use the appropriate salt rather than our snow removal company having to use two different salts. *old business* Connie Maxim reported that \$93 was net for the three gift baskets on December 8. Dennis Jernigan said the hand rail is being used on the front steps of church which is great. *new business* Theophany dinner is Sunday, January 12. Dave Houser will prepare the lamb. Sharon Jernigan and Kathy Gonser will work to put together the dinner. \$18 per plate. Children 12 and under eat free. Lamb or chicken, potatoes, vegetable, salad, bread & butter, dessert, coffee and soft drinks. Three doves available for sponsorship. Dormition Monastery Winter Dinner is Thursday, January 23 at St George. Susie Ford is our parish contact person. Our responsibility this year is beverages. Stephanie Price will set up Project Broadcast in December and go live with it at the annual meeting - this allows our church to send out text messages for news and events. Sharon Jernigan said that our Xfinity bill can perhaps

be reduced and Charlie Jernigan will look into it. The parish council expressed thanks to Sharon Jernigan for her almost 50 years on parish council and many of those as chairperson. The parish council also expressed thanks to Susie Ford as she concludes her term and her service as treasurer.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available to be picked up in the narthax. If you gave regularly this year with cash or a check there will be a box with your name on it. If there are boxes for family/friends who have not been attending whom you will be seeing, please deliver them to help save on postage costs (\$5 per box of envelopes). It helps a great deal when you use the envelopes & fill out the information on each one.

**GIVE TO THE CHURCH THROUGH GIVELIFY** Go to our website [www.saintnicholasburton.org](http://www.saintnicholasburton.org) and click on the box **Give now with Givelify**; this is a secure site. (2.9% + \$0.30 of your donation goes to Givelify as a fee). **\*Please consider adding a little extra to your donation to cover the fee we are charged.** 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.

**OFFICE HOURS** are Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9-3.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

**Today** Trisagion for Mary Kosman after Psalm 33.

**Tuesday, Dec 17** Fr Matthew in Toledo

**Wednesday, Dec 18**

11:15 am Adult ed class

**Friday, Dec 20**

**PRE-FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD BEGINS**

9:30 am Divine Liturgy served by Fr Michael Bassett & responses led by Fr Matthew

**Saturday, Dec 21**

**5 pm** [Vespers - live-streamed](#) Confessions

**Sunday, Dec 22**

**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

**9:30 am** [Hours-live-streamed](#)

**10 am** [Divine Liturgy-live-streamed](#)

Church School - [St. Stephen](#)

**Offerings for the week December 8, 2024**

Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$ 4,424.57
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 4,380.00
	\$ 44.57

74 persons in attendance on December 8