

December 16, 2018

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

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The Holy Gospel according to John

20:1-10 (7th Matins Gospel)

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018 29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4. Sunday of the Forefathers. Prophet Haggai (Aggæus—50 B.C.). Martyr Marinus of Rome (3rd c.). Bl. Empress Theophano (Theophania—893-4). St Sophia (1542).

TROPARIA

(Tone 4) When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!”

(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 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 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 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 SAINT 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!

“I know from experience that in this life people are divided in two categories. A third category does not exist; people either belong to one of the other. The first one resembles the fly. The main characteristic of the fly is that it is attracted by dirt. For example, when a fly is found in a garden full of flowers with beautiful fragrances, it will ignore them and will go sit on top of some dirt found on the ground. It will start messing around with it and feel comfortable with the bad smell. If the fly could talk, and you asked it to show you a rose in the garden, it would answer: ‘I don’t even know what a rose looks like. I only know where to find garbage, toilets, and dirt.’ There are some people who resemble the fly. People belonging to this category have learned to think negatively, and always look for the bad things in life, ignoring and refusing the presence of good.

The other category is like the bee whose main characteristic is to always look for something sweet and nice to sit on. When a bee is found in a room full of dirt and there is a small piece of sweet in a corner, it will ignore the dirt and will go to sit on top of the sweet. Now, if we ask the bee to show us where the garbage is, it will answer: ‘I don’t know. I can only tell you where to find flowers, sweets, honey and sugar;’ it only knows the good things in life and is ignorant of all evil. This is the second category of people who have a positive way of thinking, and see only the good side of things. They always try to cover up the evil in order to protect their fellow men; on the contrary, people in the first category try to expose the evil and bring it to the surface.

When someone comes to me and starts accusing other people, and puts me in a difficult situation, I tell him the above example. Then, I ask him to decide to which category he wishes to belong, so he may find people of the same kind to socialize with.

St. Paisios of Mount Athos

December 16, 2018



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Alex & Mary

Helen, Angelo, Christine, Stephanie & my family

Fr. Tom, Fr. Dimitrie, Fr. Anthony, Angelo, Aaron, Reggie, John, Alex, Rimi, Allen,

Deborah, JoAnn, Susan, Luba, Kosta, David, Anna, Walt, Vladimir, Dorothy, Michael,

Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Christopher, Ted, Marlene, Joseph, Nicholas,

Margaret, Gladys, my family and friends

Special Intention

Health & Blessings on Craig Wilhelm

God's blessings & health for Helen Ethington

Health & blessings for Angelo Panoff

A blessed & Merry Christmas to all!

Mr. & Mrs. Alex Popoff

Lucy Hogg

Joe Tome

Joe Tome

Adams family

Peter & Jo Sredich

Bosa Kantar

Bosa Kantar

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Peter Popoff & John Naum

Susan Goodman, birthday Dec. 10th, Memory Eternal~Blessed Repose

Mr. & Mrs. Alex Popoff

Dorothy & family


ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR

Joe (18 yrs.) & Mickey (4 yrs.) Gonser

Adams & Gonser family



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors.

COFFEE & DONUTS  Volunteers are needed for the months December & January. Please see the signup sheet outside the kitchen.

DECK THE HALLS! Volunteers are needed December 17th at 10 am to decorate the church for Christmas.

PLEDGE CARDS If you haven't turned in your pledge card for 2019 please do so by December 23rd. To be considered a member in good standing you must receive Confession and Holy Communion and sign a pledge card.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are ready to be picked up in the parish hall. Please don't forget to use them in the New Year.



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS You can register for Community rewards online or at the store's services desk. After doing so, they will send a check to St. Nicholas for a portion of everything participants spend.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting **towels, toiletries & new toys** for the month of December. Place the items in the blue box in the Parish Hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

FOOD DRIVE Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall.

WINTER WARM UP Catholic Charities is in need of hats, gloves, scarves, socks, boots, coats & other warm winter gear. For more information call 810-265-7025. Donations can be dropped off Mon-Fri 9:30-3:30 at 812 Root St, Flint.

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW PARISH COUNCIL AND AUDITORS will be held on Sunday, December 23, please be in attendance. Parish council members should receive Confession in preparation for their installation and receive Holy Communion on December 23. Confessions should be heard prior to the feast of the Nativity.



December 30th, Caroling at Lockwood after coffee hour. Everyone is welcome.

January 6th, Theophany blessing of water & banquet

January 17th, Dormition Winter Dinner at St. George

January 20th, Annual Meeting

Weekly Schedule:

Today **Noisy Offering**

Monday, Dec 17

10 am Decorate the church

Tuesday, Dec 18

Fr. Matthew in Toledo

Wednesday, Dec 19

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

11:15 am Adult Ed class

Saturday, Dec 22

5 pm Vespers

Sunday, Dec 23

9:30 am Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

Church School

Installation of New Parish Council members & auditors

6:30 pm Royal Hours for the Nativity of our Lord

Orthodox Churches of Genesee County
Services for Christmas

St. Nicholas

Sun. Dec. 23 6:30 pm Royal Hours

Mon. Dec. 24 6 pm Vespers & Liturgy of St. Basil

Tues. Dec. 25 10 am Divine Liturgy

St. Mary Magdalene

Mon. Dec. 24 7 pm Vigil

Tues. Dec. 25 10 am Divine Liturgy

St. George

Mon. Dec. 24 4:50 pm Matins

6 pm Divine Liturgy

Assumption

Mon. Dec. 24 6 pm Vespers & Divine Liturgy

Tues. Dec. 25 10 am Divine Liturgy

Offerings for the week December 9, 2018

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 1,565.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 4,034.03
	\$-2,469.03

30 people were in attendance on Wednesday, December 5th.

77 people were in attendance on Sunday, December 9th.

“Human charity is suspicious: it fears lest it may somehow give to a person who already has something, or lest it may give too much. But the Lord’s charity is not like this: ‘The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.’” – St. John of Kronstadt