

December 18, 2022

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 one of the ushers.

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 after the Liturgy and understand our discipline and piety regarding this sacrament and its implication for responsibility towards and membership in the Orthodox Church. 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. **Again, welcome!**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022 27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2. Sunday before the Nativity. Martyr Sebastian at Rome and his companions: Martyrs Nicostratus, Zoë, Castorius, Tranquillinus, Marcellinus, Mark, Claudius, Symphorian, Victorinus, Tiburtius, and Castulus (ca. 287). Ven. Sebastian, Abbot of Pshekhónsk Monastery (Vologdá – ca. 150). Righteous Simeon, Wonderworker of Verkhotúr'ye (1694). St. Modestus, Archbishop of Jerusalem (633-634). St. Florus, Bishop of Amisus (7th c.). St. Michael the Confessor at Constantinople (ca. 845).

TROPARIA

Tone 2 When You descended to death, O Life Immortal, You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead! And when from the depths You raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to You!

Tone 2 Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. // So by their prayers, 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 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! (v. 4)

THE READING IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40) Brethren: by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your descendants be named." He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his burial. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, and ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Alleluia, Tone 4

v: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (Psalm 43:1a)

v: For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that hate us. (Psalm 43:8)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (1:1-25) The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

COMMUNION HYMN Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (*Psalm 148:1*)

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD remembers the forefathers of our Lord. In addition to those named in the Gospel today we remember Adam and Eve (the first-created), the righteous Abel, son of Adam, the righteous Seth, son of Adam, the righteous Enos, son of Seth, the righteous Kenan, son of Enos, the righteous Methuselah, son of Enoch, the righteous Lamech, son of Methuselah, the righteous Noah, son of Lamech, the righteous Shem, son of Noah, the righteous Japheth, son of Noah, the righteous Arphachshad, son of Shem, the righteous Canaan, son of Arphachshad (in some versions of the OT, Canaan is called the son of Ham), the righteous Shelah, son of Canaan (some versions of the OT call Shelah the son of Arphachshad), the righteous Eber (from whom the Hebrews take their name), son of Shelah, the righteous Peleg, son of Eber, the righteous Ragab (Reu), son of Peleg, the righteous Serug, son of Ragab, the righteous Nahor, son of Serug, the righteous Terah, son of Serug.

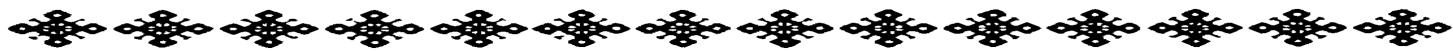
The righteous Patriarch Reuben, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Simeon, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Levi, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Judah (Christ was of this tribe), the righteous Patriarch Zebulon, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Issachar, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Dan, son of Jacob and Bilhah (Rachel's maid), the righteous Patriarch Gad, son of Jacob and Zilpah (Leah's maid), the righteous Patriarch Asher, son of Jacob and Zilpah, the righteous Patriarch Naphthali, son of Jacob and Bilhah, the righteous Patriarch Joseph, son of Jacob and Rachel, the righteous Patriarch Benjamin, son of Jacob and Rachel.

St Joseph the Betrothed, son of Jacob.

The righteous Melchizedek, King of Salem, the righteous Job, the holy Prophet Moses, the priests Hur and Aaron, Joshua, son of Nun.

The holy prophet Samuel, the holy prophet Nathan, the holy prophet Daniel, the three holy youths Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

The righteous Sarah, wife of Abraham, the righteous Rebecca, wife of Isaac, the righteous Leah, first wife of Jacob, the righteous Rachel, second wife of Jacob, the righteous Asineth, wife of Patriarch Joseph the all-comely, the righteous Miriam, sister of Moses, the righteous Deborah, Judge of Israel and prophetess, the righteous Ruth, wife of Boaz, the righteous woman of Zarephath, to whom Elias was sent (3 Kings 17), the righteous woman of Shunem, who was hospitable to Elisha (4 Kings 4), the righteous Judith, slayer of Holofernes, the righteous Esther, who delivered Israel from death, the righteous Hannah, mother of the prophet Samuel, the righteous Susanna. from oca.org



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Health, blessings & protection for my family

Lucy Hogg
Pam Pitlanish
Sandy Taylor

Health for my husband Rick

Julia Peck

Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Angelo, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Kosta, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, David, Taras, Ted, Joseph, Marlene, Mary, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family and friends

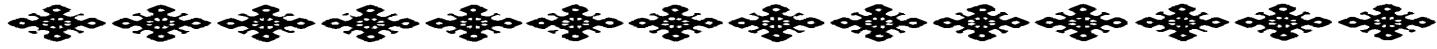
Joe Tome
Joe Tome

Special Intention

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Olga & Peter Samaras

Sandy Taylor



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

CANDLESTAND: Dennis Goodman

HOURS: Calvin Conrad

READER: Ruth Conrad

COFFEE SOCIAL today is sponsored by Connie Maxim in memory of her beloved husband, Nicholas. Please join us in our fellowship hall. **Next Sunday, Christmas, no coffee social.**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHURCH SCHOOL today - [Good Samaritan](#)

ADULT EDUCATION classes have concluded for December and will resume January 11.

INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS & AUDITORS today.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE Finances Utilities are up 40% over last year. Gleason Accounting Services has been engaged to do the church financials using Quickbooks (on a month by month basis at present). \$13,000 was transferred into church checking from Grand Blanc property account at ELGA. The Grand Blanc property account contains the funds from the sale of the late Lubov Stevens' home which was willed to the church. The endowment fund was at \$392,597.53 as of November 30, representing a gain of \$27,325.33 since October. **Rector's Report** -With the blessing of Metropolitan Nicholas of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit Fr. Matthew served the funeral for Voula Pagonis at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Grand Blanc, on Monday, December 12. **Charity** - Angel Tree went very well this year and thanks to Eileen Branoff for chairing and all those who sponsored children. The North End Soup kitchen will be January 5 from 9-12:30 pm. Holy Archangel Michael and All Angels Skete which had a fire, the OCA Diocese of Alaska & the OCA Diocese of Mexico received \$800 each. **Church School** - good turnout with children and adults for St Nicholas' visit on December 4. The online curriculum is working well for lessons and planning. Stephanie Price has prepared all lessons and crafts are planned through February. **Fundraising - Cookie Walk** brought in a grand total of \$4,236 after expenses. Thanks to Lucy Hogg who chaired the event and all those who helped bake, set-up, and clean-up. **Maintenance** - Dennis Jernigan does maintenance work here voluntarily, without fee. A new television set was purchased using funds from fall fundraisers. The coat racks in the school hallway were rehung by Dennis Jernigan. The furnace system was put in twelve years ago but the rest of the system dates to 1967 so the parts are now 55 years old. Dennis has been, in essence, putting band-aids on it to carry us through. We will need updates to the rest of the system in 2023. The circulating pump needed to be replaced the time clock on air handler was over 50 years old, no longer make the parts for it. Over \$2,500 was spent to update some of these. The thermostats need to be updated and will be costly. A new pressure switch was put on the air compressor. Everything for maintenance will be focused on updating the system piecemeal so the costs will be spread out over time. **New business** - The *annual meeting* will be Sunday, January 29 with a luncheon. Reports can be sent to Ellyn Serra, parish council secretary at eserra@vellohealth.com

THEOPHANY BANQUET AND OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER will be held on Sunday, January 8th following the Divine Liturgy. Bring your empty bottles to fill with Holy Water. Dress for the weather. The menu will consist of Lamb, Chicken, Rice, Vegetables, Bread & Butter, Salad, Dessert & Drinks. There are sign-up sheets in the parish hall for volunteers for set-up, clean-up, your meal, and if you would like to bring a dessert. **Adult tickets are \$15, children's meals are free. Please see Sharon Jernigan or call her 810-877-1766 to purchase a ticket & reserve your dinner. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.**

