

**December 22, 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.saintricholasburton.org](http://www.saintricholasburton.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 22, 2024 26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday before the Nativity. Great Martyr Anastasia, "Deliverer from Poisons", and her teacher, Martyr Chrysogonos, and with them Martyrs Theodota, Evodias, Eutychianus, and others, who suffered under Diocletian (ca. 304).**

**TROPARIA**

**Tone 1** When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body, You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your Kingdom! Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!"

**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 Mehaliel (Maleleim), son of Kenan, the righteous Jared, son of Mehaliel, the righteous Enoch, son of Jared, 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](http://oca.org)

December 22, 2024



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

Health & blessings for Linda Branoff and a successful surgery	Eileen & Dennis
Bosa, Milan, Mira, Rodmila, Miroslav, Alex, Tationa, Nikolas, Jeffrey, Jeff, Hannah & Nikke	Bosa Kantar
My family-health, healing & blessings	Lucy Hogg
In celebrating His birth may our Savior bless Fr. Matthew, Dcn. Kerry & their families with peace, comfort & strength	Connie
OF Fr. Joseph Abud & his wife Leslie	St. Nicholas
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

**ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR**

Angelo Popoff	Helen Popoff
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**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 22	CANDLESTAND: Christine Panoff	HOURS: Angelo Panoff	READER: Katherine Gonser
Dec 29	CANDLESTAND: Susie Ford	HOURS: Alexander Gonser	READER: Angelo Panoff

**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** will resume on Wednesday, January 8 at 11:15 am. We are reading - *Wounded by Love*, a transcription of conversations with Saint Porphyrios (1906-1991).

**CHURCH SCHOOL** lesson [St. Stephen](#)

**COFFEE SOCIAL** is provided today by Connie Maxim in memory of Nicholas Maxim (6 yrs.) Please join us after Liturgy in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome.

**NEWLY-CHRISMATED** received into the Church on Sunday, December 22 – Steven, Sharon, and Victoria Krych. God grant them many years! Please continue to remember the catechumens Michael Donigan, Adam and Kassie Lang, and Joel Green. Michael, Adam, and Kassie will be received into the Church in the spring and Joel in the summer.

**OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER** is January 12. If you would like to donate toward a dove call the office.

**THEOPHANY BANQUET AND OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER** on Sunday, January 12. Bring your empty bottles to fill with Holy Water. Dress for the weather. The menu is: lamb, chicken, potatoes, salad, vegetables, bread & butter, dessert & drinks. There are sign-up sheets in the parish hall for volunteers for set-up, clean-up, your meal and also if you would like to make a dessert. Tickets can be purchased from Sharon Jernigan. Adults \$18, children under 12 are free.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** are in the parish hall. 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 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.

# 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.

**OFFICE HOURS** are this week are Monday & Friday from 9-3.

*Fr. Matthew is out of town from December 26-January 3. In emergency ONLY contact Father Gabriel 330-285-1740, Father Amin 810-732-0720 or Father Peter 989-928-3455.*

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

**Today** Installation of new parish council members

### **Monday, Dec 23**

6 pm Royal Hours for the Nativity of our Lord

### **Tuesday, Dec 24**

5:45 [Carols & Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great- live-streamed](#)

### **Wednesday, Dec 25** Nativity of Christ

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

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

### **Saturday, Dec 28**

5 pm [Vespers - live-streamed](#) No Confessions

### **Sunday, Dec 29**

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

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

Church School - No class

## **Offerings for the week December 15, 2024**

<i>Weekly Tithes &amp; Offerings</i>	\$ 2,329.07
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 4,380.00
	<b>\$ -2,050.93</b>

*59 persons in attendance on December 15*

## **FROM THE CHANCELLOR**

18 December 2024

Dear Brothers,

Last week - December 3, 2024 - , His Eminence Archbishop Alexander was diagnosed with an increased PSA level indicating a biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer. On December 17, 2024 he consulted his oncologist. His treatment plan will include androgen deprivation therapy followed by 39 radiation sessions. Treatments will begin in early January, after the Nativity feast, and will be completed by early April. As a result, His Eminence will not be traveling or giving talks from January 3 until the conclusion of treatment.

Please continue to keep His Eminence in your prayers.

In Christ,

Archpriest Andrew Jarmus, *Chancellor*

## **SERVICES FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

*Schedule at our sister Orthodox churches of Genesee County:*

### **Mon, Dec 23**

6 pm Royal Hours at St George Church

### **Tues., Dec 24 - Eve of the Nativity of our Lord**

10 am Royal Hours at St Mary Magdalene

5 pm Vespers w/Liturgy at Assumption

5:30 pm Holy Supper at Saint Mary Magdalene

6 pm Divine Liturgy at Saint George

7 pm Vigil at St Mary Magdalene

### **Wed, Dec 25 - Nativity of our Lord**

10 am Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene

10 am Arabic Liturgy at St George

### **Tues, Dec 26 - Synaxis of the Theotokos**

10 am Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene

### **Tues, Dec 31**

6 pm Vespers/ Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene for the Circumcision of our Lord and the feast of Saint Basil the Great

