

**December 26, 2021**

**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 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 26, 2021 27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2. Second Day of the Feast of the Nativity . Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos . Sunday after Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord. Hieromartyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis (ca. 840). Ven. Constantine of Synnada (8th c.). Ven. Evaristus of the Studion Monastery (9th c.). Saint Nikódēmos the Sanctified of Tismana, Romania (Macedonia – 1406). Hieromartyr Constantine the Russian of Lavra on Mt. Athos (Mt. Athos – 1743).**

**FIRST ANTIPHON**

I will give thanks to You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Your wonders known! *(Psalm 110:1a)* **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord! *(Psalm 110:1b-2a)* **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

They are studied by all who have pleasure in them! *(Psalm 110:3)* **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

His work is glory and beauty, and His righteousness endures forever! *(Psalm 110:2b)* **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

**SECOND ANTIPHON**

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord! Who greatly delights in His commandments! *(Psalm 111:1)* **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You! Alleluia!**

His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed! *(Psalm 111:2)*  
**O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You! Alleluia!**

Glory and wealth are in His house, and His righteousness endures forever! *(Psalm 111:3)* **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You! Alleluia!**

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate and righteous! *(Psalm 111:4)* **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You! Alleluia!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation willed to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and was crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who are one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us!

### **THIRD ANTIPHON**

**The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand!"** *(Psalm 109:1a)* **Tone 4** Your Nativity, O Christ our God...

**Until I make Your enemies Your footstool!** *(Psalm 109:1b)* **Tone 4** Your Nativity, O Christ our God...

**The Lord sends forth from Sion Your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of Your foes.** *(Psalm 109:2)*  
**Tone 4** Your Nativity, O Christ our God...

**Authority shall be with You on the day of Your power, among the splendor of Your holy ones!**  
*(Psalm 109:3)* **Tone 4** Your Nativity, O Christ our God...

### **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 4** Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to You!

**Tone 2** Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, / to David, the ancestor of God; / you saw a Virgin great with child; / you gave glory with the shepherds; / you worshipped with the Magi; / you received the news from the Angel. // Pray to Christ God to 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** Today the Virgin gives birth to the transcendent One! And the earth offers a cave to the unapproachable One! Angels with shepherds glorify Him! The wise men journey with a star! Since for our sake, the Eternal God was born as a little child!

## **INSTEAD OF "HOLY GOD..."**

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ! Alleluia!

*The prokeimenon in the fourth tone: God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. (Psalm 67:35a)*

*v. In the Churches bless God, the Lord from the springs of Israel. (Psalm 67:27)*

## **THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE GALATIANS (1:11-19)**

Brethren: I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

## ***Alleluia, Tone 4***

*v. Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness! (Psalm 131:1)*

*v. The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn back. (Psalm 131:11)*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (2:13-23)** Now when the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

**INSTEAD OF "IT IS TRULY MEET TO BLESS YOU..."** Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts. Out of fear, we should choose to love silence, for that is a safer course; so difficult it is lovingly to compose intricately woven songs to you, O Virgin. But grant us strength, O Mother, equal to our natural calling.

**COMMUNION HYMN** The Lord has sent redemption to His people! *(Psalm 110:8a)* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord.** The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

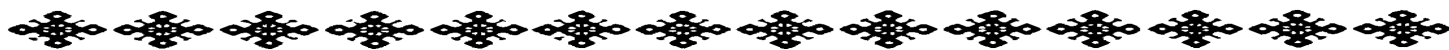
At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James. from [oca.org](http://oca.org)

### **The holy Gospel according to Luke 24:12-35 (5th Matins Gospel)**

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. Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see. Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

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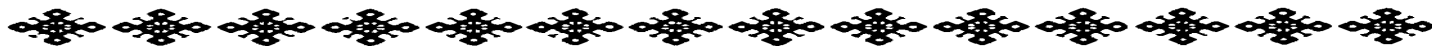


**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF**

Special Intentions for Taïsa Akkerman	Vladimir & Eugene
Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Aaron, Milica, Calvin, Angelo, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Kosta, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, David, Taras, Ted, Joseph, Marlene, Mary, Gladys, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family and friends	Joe Tome
Special Intention	Joe Tome
Nikolai & Taras Evanenko, Ruth & Calvin Conrad, Vuckovich family & Paul Brayon	Victor Dorohov
Bob & Natalie Cooper	Lucy Hogg
Mick, Millie & Don George, Paul Cunningham, Kuma Allison & family, Kum Stojan & Kuma Mira Prusac and the church family	Kris, David & George family

**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE**

Peter, Josephine, Mike & Sophie Sredich and Milo & Mary Rambat	George family
Dina, Kosta, Theodora, Nikolas, Evangelia, Kosta, Eleni, Germanos, Kotsi, Elias & Dimitrios	Lena Bakousidis
Evdokia & Ivan Ponomarenko	Lucy Hogg
Peter & Alex Popoff	Magda Popoff
Vična pamjat' for my beloved mother, Valentina - blessed repose	Taras Evanenko
My brother Charles and parents of both Nick & mine~Memory Eternal	Connie
Valentina Evanenko	Victor Dorohov



**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](#) for their livestreams.

**OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER & THEOPHANY DINNER** will be held on Sunday, January 9 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, Coleslaw, Dessert and 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. Adults \$15, children are free.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** can be picked up at the candle stand. If there are boxes for family members who have not been attending whom you will be seeing this month, please deliver them to help save on postage costs (\$5 per box of envelopes).

**10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY WINTER DINNER** supporting Holy Dormition Monastery is scheduled on Thursday, January 20 at Saint George Church. Archbishop Nathaniel of the Romanian Episcopate (Orthodox Church in America) will be the guest speaker. Susie Ford is our parish coordinator. Our parish is responsible for providing the entrée, plates, utensils, napkins, etc. Please keep in mind the possibility of a cancellation due to COVID - such a decision would be made toward the very close to the date. Vespers will be livestreamed.

**COFFEE SOCIAL** is provided today by Fr. Matthew & Matushka Lisa in memory of Nicholas & Margaret Butrie (2 yrs.). 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 refreshments and/or to help serve.

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

**MAKE YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING EASY AND CONVENIENT WITH GIVELIFY**

Go to the [website](#) and on the home page click on the box **Give now with Givelify** which will walk you through the donation process; this is a secure site. (2.9% + \$0.30 of your donation goes to Givelify as a fee). **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.**

**PLEDGE CARDS** were mailed out in November. If you haven't returned yours yet please do so as it helps the parish board set a budget for the new year. Even if you don't know the amount you want to pledge you can return the card with your signature, which is one of the requirements to be considered a member in good standing.

**HOUSE BLESSINGS** If you would like your home to be blessed with the new holy water by Father Matthew please fill out the form that is available at the candle stand and return it to the office.

**CALENDARS** are available in the narthex as well as small tri-fold calendars to carry in your purse or wallet.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

**Wednesday, December 29**

No Divine Liturgy  
No Adult education

**Saturday, January 1** Circumcision of our Lord / Saint Basil the Great  
5 pm Vespers - not livestreamed

**Sunday, January 2** Sunday before Theophany  
9:30 am Third and Sixth Hours  
**10 am** [Divine Liturgy - streaming on our YouTube channel](#)  
40 day memorial for +Valentina Evanenko

**Offerings for the week December 19, 2021**

*56 persons in attendance on December 19<sup>th</sup>*

Weekly Offerings	\$ 3,623.23
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 3,104.00
	\$ 519.23