

*December 27, 2020*

*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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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020 29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4. Third Day of the Feast of the Nativity. Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (34). Sunday after Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord. Ven. Theodore Graptus (“the Branded”), Confessor and brother of St. Theophanes the Hymnographer (ca. 840). St. Theodore, Archbishop of Constantinople (ca. 686).**

**FIRST ANTIPHON**

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Thy wonders known! **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! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

They are studied by all who have pleasure in them! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

His work is glory and beauty, and His righteousness endures forever! **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! **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!**

His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed! **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!**

Glory and wealth are in His house, and His righteousness endures forever! **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!**

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate and righteous! **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee! 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 didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who art 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!”** Thy 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 Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

**Until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool!** Thy Nativity, O Christ our God...

**The Lord sends forth from Zion Thy mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of Thy foes. Thy Nativity, O Christ our God...**

**Authority shall be with Thee on the day of Thy power, among the splendor of Thy holy ones! Thy Nativity, O Christ our God...**

### **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 4)** Thy 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 Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

**(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)** Protomartyr and mighty warrior of Christ our God, / you were victorious in battle and crowned with glory, holy Stephen. / You confounded the council of those who persecuted you, / beholding your Savior enthroned at the Father’s right hand. / Never cease praying that our souls may be saved!

**(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, the Virgin gives birth to the transcendent One, the transcendent One! And the earth offers, offers a cave to the unapproachable One, unapproachable One! Angels, angels with shepherds glorify Him, glorify Him! The wise men journey, journey with a star, journey with a star! Since for our sake, for our sake the Eternal God, the Eternal God was born as a little child!

***The Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth; / and their words to the ends of the universe.***

**v. The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.**

### **THE READING IS FROM THE ACTS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES (6:8-15, 7:1-5, 47-60)**

In those days, Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. Then they secretly induced men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council. They also set up false witnesses who said, “This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us. And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel. Then the high priest said, “Are these things so?” And he said, “Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, ‘Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.’ Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell. And God gave him no inheritance in it, not even enough to set his foot on. But even when Abraham had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him. But Solomon built Him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the LORD, Or what is the place of My rest? Has My hand not made all these things?’ You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the

betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it. When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

#### *Alleluia, Tone 4*

**v: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth.**

**v: For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity.**

**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."

#### **COMMUNION HYMN**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! 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)

**Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (December 27)** The Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen was the eldest of the seven deacons, appointed by the Apostles themselves, and therefore he is called "archdeacon." He was the first Christian martyr, and he suffered for Christ when he was about thirty. In the words of Asterias, he was "the starting point of the martyrs, the instructor of suffering for Christ, the foundation of righteous confession, since Stephen was the first to shed his blood for the Gospel."

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Saint Stephen preached Christianity and defeated Jewish teachers of the Law in debate. The Jews maligned Saint Stephen, saying that he had uttered blasphemy against God and against Moses. Saint Stephen came before the Sanhedrin and the High Priest to answer these charges. He gave a fiery speech, in

which he recounted the history of the Jewish nation, and denounced the Jews for persecuting the prophets, and also for executing the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ (Acts ch. 7).

During his speech, Saint Stephen suddenly saw the heavens opened and Jesus Christ standing at the right hand of God. The Jews shouted and covered their ears, and rushed at him. They dragged him out of the city and stoned him, but the holy martyr prayed for his murderers. Far off on the heights stood the Mother of God with the holy Apostle John the Theologian, and She prayed fervently for the martyr. Before his death Saint Stephen said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. O Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." Then he joyfully gave up his pure soul to Christ.

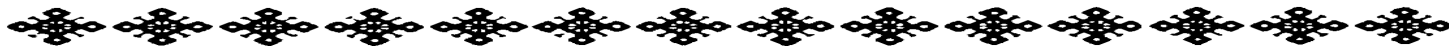
The body of the holy Protomartyr Stephen, left to be eaten by beasts, was secretly taken up by the Jewish teacher Gamaliel and his son Habib, who buried Stephen on his estate. They both believed in Christ, and later received holy Baptism.

Saint Stephen is also commemorated on August 2 (Translation of his relics) and on September 15 (Uncovering of his relics in the year 415). from [oca.org](http://oca.org)

### **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.

December 27, 2020



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

For good health to all our grandkids & their parents

Baba & Dedo

Health & blessings for my family & myself

Bosa Kantar

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

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

For good health to all of our friends & relatives

Angelo & Christine Panoff

My grandson Nicholas

Baba Bosa

### **CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE**

Blessed Repose to our grandsons Andrew & Matthew

Baba & Dedo

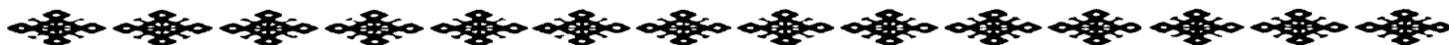
### **ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR**

In memory of Nicholas Butrie (+Dec. 27, 2019) and Margaret Kenderish Butrie (+Dec. 29, 2019)

Their family

Health & blessings for my family & myself

Bosa Kantar



Welcome to everyone joining us via our YouTube channel: [St Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...). If at the time of the divine services you cannot access the livestream, please check out [St. Mary Magdalene Church](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) or [St George Church](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) or [Assumption Church](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) for their livestreams.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** can be picked up in the narthex. **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).**

**2021 CALENDARS** are available in the narthax.

**OFFICE HOURS** this week are Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9 – 3. You are welcome to pick up your envelopes & calendar during the week. If you call ahead (810-744-0070) Marcia will have them ready for you.

**PLEDGE CARDS** Please send in your pledge card if you haven't already done so.

**THEOPHANY DOVES** we are in need of an individual(s) to donate for the 2 white doves for the outdoor blessing of the water. The cost is \$60 each.

**OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER** will be held on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> following the Divine Liturgy. Bring your empty bottles to fill with Holy Water. Dress for the weather.

**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.**

**CANDLE INTENTION REQUESTS** can be emailed to the office at [stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com) or called in.

**Weekly schedule:**

**Tuesday, Dec 29**

**7 pm** [OCA online church school](#)

**Wednesday, Dec 30**

No Liturgy or Adult Ed

**Thursday, Dec 31**

Office Open

**Friday, Jan 1**

Office closed



**Saturday, Jan 2**

**5 pm** [Great Vespers – streaming on our YouTube channel](#)

**Sunday, Jan 3**

9:30 am Third and Sixth Hours

**10 am** [Divine Liturgy – streaming on our YouTube channel](#)

**Offerings for the week December 20, 2020**

*39 persons in attendance on December 20<sup>th</sup>*

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 3,731.56
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,104.00
	\$+6278.56

**DAILY INTERCESSION FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND**

The following are our brothers and sisters of St. Nicholas who are currently homebound, suffering from chronic illness, in recovery or in need of special prayers. Please remember them in your prayers and reach out to them with a card, or a phone call! Please call the office to schedule a visit for Holy Communion.

<b>Larry Bladecki</b>	<b>Gladys Edwards</b>	<b>Mary Karayanis</b>	<b>Ron Salhany</b>
<b>Deacon John Bocek</b>	<b>Paul Ellis</b>	<b>Nick Karayanis</b>	<b>Bill Tadrick</b>
<b>Linda Branoff</b>	<b>Bill Haw</b>	<b>Macy Lemmen</b>	<b>Wendy Tadrick</b>

To aid in your outreach, here is a listing of the addresses and phone numbers of our Homebound:

<b>Larry Bladecki</b>	<b>3254 E. Midland Rd</b>	<b>Bay City, MI 48706</b>
<b>Gladys Edwards</b>	<b>2 Harbor Dr.</b>	<b>St. Clair, MO 63077</b>
<b>Paul Ellis</b>	<b>2360 Stonebridge Dr.</b>	<b>Flint, MI 48532</b>
<b>Vasilka Karatza</b>	<b>Regency 1330 Grand Pointe Ct</b>	<b>Grand Blanc, MI 48439</b>
<b>Jo Sredich</b>	<b>Victoria's House 1219 N. Dye Rd.</b>	<b>Flint, MI 48532 *Note new address</b>