

December 29, 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.saintnicholasburton.org Church: 810-744-0070 e-mail: 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 29, 2024 27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – **Tone 2. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord. Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday after Nativity. The 14,000 Infants slain by Herod at Bethlehem. Ven. Marcellus, Abbot of the Monastery of the "Unsleeping Ones" (485). Ven. Mark the Grave-digger, Theophilus, & John, of the Kiev Caves. Venerable Theophilus and Jacob, wonderworkers of Omuch (15th c.). Ven. Thaddeus the Confessor, of the Studion (818).**

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 on my right.** (*Psalm 109:1a*) 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!

Until I make your enemies a footstool of your feet. (*Psalm 109:1b*) Your Nativity,...

A rod of power the Lord will send you from Sion, and lord over in the midst of your enemies. (*Psalm 109:2*) Your Nativity, O Christ our God...

With you – the rule on the day of your power, in the brightnesses of your holies. (*Psalm 109:3*) Your Nativity

THE LITTLE ENTRANCE *Deacon:* Wisdom! Upright!

Choir: Come let us worship and fall down before Christ, O Son of God, risen from the dead, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

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!

The prokeimenon in the second tone: The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (Psalm 117:14) v. The Lord chastising chastised me, and did not give me over to death. (Psalm 117:18)

THE READING IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE GALATIANS (1:11-19) Brethren, I make known to you that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Alleluia, Tone 2

v: The Lord hear you in the day of affliction, the name of the God of Jacob shield you. (Psalm 19:1)

v: Lord, save the king and hear us, on whichever day we call upon you. (Psalm 19:9)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (2:13-23) At that time when the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

INSTEAD OF "IT IS TRULY MEET..." Magnify, O my soul, Christ the King who was born in a cave! I contemplate a marvelous and all-glorious mystery: heaven has become a cave, the cherubic throne - a virgin; and the manger has become an honorable place in which lies Christ, the uncontainable God. As we praise Him with song, let us extol Him!

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

INSTEAD OF "WE HAVE SEEN..." 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!

December 29, 2024



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Angela, Joseph, Philip, Kelly, Alana, Izzy & Andy	Mom & Dad
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

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE BLESSED REPOSE OF

My father, Milton Economou & my Godfather Bill Gogas	Bill Economou
Mitra, Evangelos, Kosta, Theodora, Nikolas, Evangelia & Germanos	Lena & Gerry Bakousidis

ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR

Angelo Popoff	Helen Popoff
---------------	--------------



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 29 CANDLESTAND: Susie Ford	HOURS: Alexander Gonser	READER: Angelo Panoff
Jan 5 CANDLESTAND: Dennis Goodman	HOURS: Phil Wiles	READER: Alexander Gonser

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 - No Class

COFFEE SOCIAL is provided today by the Butrie family in memory of Nicholas Butrie (Dec 27, 2019) and Margaret Kenderish Butrie (Dec 29, 2019). Please join us after Liturgy in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome. There is a signup sheet next to the service window if you would like to donate and/or serve.

2025 CALENDARS are available in the narthex. Thank you to Swartz Funeral Home for sponsoring them.

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.

13th 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 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.

Paul Ellis is back in Beaconsfield. The address is 21630 Hessel Ave, Detroit, MI 48219; phone (313-534-8400)
OFFERING ENVELOPES are available to be picked up 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.

MEMORY ETERNAL

George Abu-Aita fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, December 21, 2024. He is the father of Amir, Jacob, Jordan, and Amira. George was a parishioner of Saint George Church, Flint. Visitation and funeral took place at Saint George Church on Monday, December 23 with burial at Thetford Township Cemetery. Arrangements were through Swartz Funeral Home. Please remember George in your prayers that he rest in the light of Christ's Face. And remember his family that the Lord sustain them in their grief. Christ is risen!

GIVE TO THE CHURCH THROUGH GIVELIFY Go to our website 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.

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:

Tuesday, Dec 31

6 pm Vespers & Divine Liturgy at St. Mary Magdalene for the feast of the circumcision of the Lord and the feast of Saint Basil the Great

Wednesday, Jan 1

No Liturgy or adult ed

Thursday, Jan 2

9 am-12:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen

Saturday, Jan 4

[5 pm Vespers - live-streamed](#)

Sunday, Jan 5

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

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

Church School - [Bulgaria - St Zlata](#)

[12 pm Vespers for Theophany](#)

Offerings for the week December 22, 2024

<i>Weekly Tithes & Offerings</i>	\$ 6,976.26
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 4,380.00
	\$ 2,596.26

85 persons in attendance on December 22

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2024

Beloved in Christ,

On the feast of the Nativity we thank God for His most precious gift: His only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We express our thanks through the very elements proclaimed by the angels: Glory, Peace, and Good Will.

The defining characteristic of our Faith is the act of glorifying God. This glorification transcends mere spoken prayers. We glorify God through attitudes and actions that honor Him and His Kingdom.

Christians are summoned to be bearers of peace in the world, a peace which must first take root within our own hearts. As St. Seraphim of Sarov wisely counseled, when we acquire the Spirit of Peace, thousands around us will be saved.

In every interaction, we are called to embody a spirit of good will. Whether dealing with friend or stranger we must not permit animosity or indifference to take residence in our hearts. To hate is a grievous sin, but equally sinful is the cold indifference to the suffering and sorrows of others.

As we join the angelic chorus of praise to the newborn Lord, let us hold sacred the profound meaning of His birth. Our Lord Jesus Christ came so that we might all become recipients of His boundless good will, and participants in the peace and glory of His eternal Kingdom.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

With love in the newborn King,
Alexander
Archbishop of Toledo