

*December 30, 2018*

*St. Nicholas Orthodox Church*

*Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America*

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**The Holy Gospel according to John  
20:19-31 (9th Matins Gospel)**

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained. Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018 31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday after Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord. Virgin Martyr Anysia at Thessalonica (285-305). Martyr Zoticus, Keeper of Orphans (4th c.). Apostle of the Seventy, Timon the Deacon (1st c.). Martyr Philoterus of Nicomedia (311). Ven. Theodora of Cæsarea in Cappadocia (8th c.). Ven. Theodora of Constantinople (10th c.). Monk Martyr Gideon of Karakallou (Mt. Athos—1818). St. Makáry, Metropolitan of Moscow and All Russia (1563).**

**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, 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!

**The Lord sends forth from Zion Thy mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of Thy foes.** 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!

**Authority shall be with Thee on the day of Thy power, among the splendor of Thy holy ones!** 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!

### **TROPARIA**

**(Tone 6)** The angelic powers were at Thy tomb the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

**(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)** 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 Sixth Tone: O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!***  
**v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!**

### **THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY 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 6***

**V: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.**

**v: He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust!"**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (2:13-23)** Now when they 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!

The Holy Prophet-King David was a forefather of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh. The youngest son of Jesse, David shepherded a flock of sheep belonging to his father. He was distinguished by his deep faith, and he zealously fulfilled the will of God.

During a battle with the Philistines, he vanquished the giant Goliath in single combat, which decided the outcome of the war in favor of the Israelites. He endured many things from King Saul, who saw him as a favorite of the people and his rival. David, however, showed his own decency and magnanimity. Twice, when he had the possibility of killing Saul, he did not do so.

After Saul and his son perished, David was proclaimed king of the southern part of Israel, and after Saul's second son was killed, he became king of all Israel. He built a new capital, Jerusalem ("the City of Peace"), and a new tabernacle. His great wish to build a Temple was not realized. It was foretold to him that his son would build the Temple.

The life of the Prophet David was darkened by a grievous falling: he took Uriah's wife for himself, and sent Uriah to his death in battle. He was also an example of great repentance, humbly and with faith bearing the sorrows sent in punishment for his sins. St David gave a model for repentance in Psalm 50/51. King David died in great old age with steadfast faith in the coming of the promised Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. His divinely-inspired Psalter is widely used in the divine services and in personal prayers. (See the Books of Kings and Chronicles).

The holy Prophet-King David is invoked by those facing a difficult situation, such as an interview, etc.

December 30, 2018



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

Alex & Mary

Aunt Lois, Diana, Alex, Trudy, Greg & Donna

Health & blessings for Calvin Conrad

Birthday blessings for Susie Ford, born on Dec. 23

Fr. Tom, Fr. Dimitrie, Fr. Anthony, Angelo, Aaron, Reggie, John, Alex, Irene, Rimi, Allen, Deborah, JoAnn, Susan, Luba, Kosta, David, Anna, Walt, Vladimir, Dorothy, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Christopher, Ted, Marlene, Joseph, Nicholas, Margaret, Gladys, my family and friends

Special Intention

God's blessings for good health to Calvin Conrad

God's blessings for good health to Helen Ethington

Health & God's blessings to our granddaughter Olivia on her 12<sup>th</sup> birthday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>

God's blessings to the Panoff, Gonser & Aleksoff families

Alex & Magda Popoff  
Ralph, Debbie, Joe & Sarah  
Les & Susie Ford  
Les Ford

Joe Tome  
Joe Tome  
Angelo & Christine  
Angelo & Christine  
Baba & Dedo  
Angelo & Christine

**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE**

Peter Popoff & John Naum

Dwight Fitzgerald (1 yr.)~Blessed Repose


Ponte Brown

Blessed Repose to our sweet grandson Andrew Thomas on Christmas

Alex & Magda Popoff  
Ralph, Debbie, Joe & Sarah  
Angelo & Christine  
Baba & Dedo



**WELCOME** to all our friends and visitors.

**COFFEE & DONUTS**  Volunteers are needed for the month of January. Please see the signup sheet outside the kitchen.

**THEOPHANY BANQUET AND OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER** will be held on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> following the Divine Liturgy. Bring your empty bottles to fill with Holy Water. Dress for the weather. The menu will consist of Lamb, Rice, Vegetables, Bread & Butter, Coleslaw, Dessert and Drinks. There will be sign-up sheets in the parish hall for volunteers for set-up and clean-up, also for those that would like to make a dessert. Adults \$12, children 12 and under \$6.

**HOUSE BLESSINGS** will begin on January 7<sup>th</sup>. See the enclosed flyer to set up your appointment.

**THE PARISH COUNCIL** will meet on January 8 @ 6:30 pm. Please call or email the parish office (810-744-0070) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

**7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PAN ORTHODOX WINTER DINNER** to support the Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction will be held on Thursday, January 17 at St. George. Reservations need to be made not later than Sunday, January 13. You may also see Deborah Gonser-Adams for more information and to make your reservation(s). **Our parish is responsible for supplying the appetizers this year. Please use the sign-up sheet in the hall to indicate what you will be bringing.** We expect approximately 150 people for the dinner.

**ANNUAL MEETING** The Annual Meeting of Saint Nicholas Parish will be held on Sunday, January 20, 2019 beginning with a short prayer service after the Divine Liturgy. The Meeting will then reconvene in the Parish Hall. **All parish organizations must present a report, oral or written, to be given at this meeting.**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** are ready to be picked up in the parish hall. Please don't forget to use them in the New Year.

**MEMORY ETERNAL – CHRIST IS RISEN** On December 23 Ponte Brown fell asleep in the Lord. He is the husband of Linda, father of Michelle and Monica and brother of George. Visitation and funeral took place from church on December 28 with burial at Evergreen Cemetery. God grant his newly fallen asleep servant Ponte rest among the saints. Bog da prosti! Christ is risen!

**NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN** January 3, 9 am – 1 pm. Please come and minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters.

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting **toilet paper** for the month of January. Place the items in the blue box in the Parish Hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

**FOOD DRIVE** Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall.

**WINTER WARM UP** Catholic Charities is in need of hats, gloves, scarves, socks, boots, coats & other warm winter gear. For more information call 810-265-7025. Donations can be dropped off Mon-Fri 9:30-3:30 at 812 Root St, Flint.

**Weekly Schedule:**

<b><u>Today</u></b>	<b>No Caroling at Lockwood</b>
<b><u>Monday, Dec 31</u></b>	<b>Father in Toledo</b>
<b><u>Tuesday, Jan 1</u></b>	<b>Office is Closed</b>
<b><u>Wednesday, Jan 2</u></b>	<b>No Divine Liturgy or Adult Ed class</b>
<b><u>Thursday, Jan 3</u></b> 9 am-1 pm	<b>North End Soup Kitchen</b>
<b><u>Saturday, Jan 5</u></b> 5 pm	<b>Vespers with Litya</b>
<b><u>Sunday, Jan 6</u></b> 9:30 am 10 am	<b>Theophany</b> Hours Divine Liturgy Blessing of water & Theophany Banquet

This Christmas night bestowed peace on the whole world;  
So let no one threaten.

This is the night of the Most Gentle One –  
Let no one be cruel.

This is the night of the Humble One –  
Let no one be proud.

Now is the Day of joy –  
Let us not seek revenge.

Now is the Day of Good Will –  
Let us not be mean spirited.

In this Day of Peace –  
Let us not be overcome by anger.

Today the Bountiful impoverished Himself for our sake;  
So, rich one, invite the poor to your table.

Today we receive a Gift for which we did not ask;  
So let us give alms to those who implore and beg us.

This Day cast open the heavenly doors to our prayers;  
Let us open our door to those who ask our forgiveness.

— St. Isaac the Syrian —



**Offerings for the week December 23, 2018**

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 1,521.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 4,034.03
	<b>\$-2,513.03</b>

**Attendance**

*90 people on December 23*

*28 people on Christmas Eve*

*19 people on Christmas*

**“If you want somebody to understand you, you have to become like them. This is what God did: He became human, spoke like us, interacted with us on all human levels- except sin- and so was able to communicate with us fully. So Christ came to save us and didn’t merely meet us as we are, but did something more: He gave Himself that we might live. In other words, He gave up everything He had and sacrificed Himself.” – Metropolitan Athanasios of Lemessos**