

December 9, 2018

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

2143 S. Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519

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The Gospel according to Saint Luke 24:36-53 (6th Matins Gospel)

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have. When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018 28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most-holy Theotokos. Prophetess Anna (Hannah), mother of the Prophet Samuel (ca. 1100 B.C.). St. Sophronius, Archbishop of Cyprus (6th c.). St. Stephen the “New Light” of Constantinople (10th c.).

TROPARIA

(Tone 3) Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down Death by death. He has become the first-born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

(Tone 4) Today the bonds of barrenness are broken; God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna. He has promised them beyond all their hopes to bear the Maiden of God, by whom the uncircumscribed One was born as a mortal Man; He commanded an angel to cry to her: “Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you!”

(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 4) Today the universe rejoices, for Anna has conceived the Theotokos through God's dispensation, for she has brought forth the one who is to bear the ineffable Word!

The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: God is wonderful in His saints / the God of Israel.
v. Bless God in the churches, the Lord, O you who are of Israel's fountain.

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE GALATIANS (4:22-27) Brethren: it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

Alleluia, Tone 3

v. In You, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame.
v. Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE (13:10-17) At that time Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Mother of God (December 9)

Saint Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Saint Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee.

For a long time Saint Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, Who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by Saint Anna took place at Jerusalem. The many icons depicting the Conception by Saint Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot.

In the icon Saints Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward and they contemplate the Mother of God, Who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under Her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer all the universe by its power.

There are also icons in which Saint Anna holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On Saint Anna's face is a look of reverence.

From www.oca.org

On the east wall of the church, on the south side near the choir, we see the icon of Ss. Joachim and Anna.

Stichera from Vespers

The barren Anna leaped for joy when she conceived Mary the Virgin, who in turn will conceive in the flesh God the Word. From the fullness of her joy, she cried out: "Rejoice with me, all ye tribes of Israel, for I have conceived according to the will of God my Savior. He has answered my prayer and ended my shame, in fulfillment of His promise, He will heal the pains of my heart, through the pains of child-bearing."

He Who made waters gush forth from the rock, permitted your womb to carry the ever-Virgin Mary through whom our salvation will come. By this, you were delivered from shame; no longer will you dwell on earth as barren, for you will bear the earth bringing forth the Tree of Life. According to His will, He has delivered the human race from all shame, by taking on our human form and becoming Man, for He is rich in mercy.

Behold, the promises of the Prophets are fulfilled. The holy mountain is planted in the womb. The divine ladder is set up, the great throne of the King is ready. The place for the Lord's passage is prepared. The dry bush, which the fire could not consume, is blossoming. The treasury of grace is an abundant flow of blessing which heals the barrenness of Anna, whom we glorify with faith.

Today the great mystery announced from all eternity whose depths angels and men cannot perceive, appears in the barren womb of Anna. Mary, the Maiden of God, is prepared to be the dwelling of the eternal King, Who will renew our human nature. Let us entreat her with a pure heart and say: "Intercede for us with your Son and our God that our souls may be saved!"

December 9, 2018



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Catherine, Christina, Elena & Callie

John & Judy Blebea

God's blessings for Angelo Panoff & family

Stojan & Mira Prusac

Fr. Tom, Fr. Dimitrie, Fr. Anthony, Angelo, Aaron, Reggie, John, Alex, Rimi, Allen,

Deborah, JoAnn, Susan, Luba, Kosta, David, Anna, Walt, Vladimir, Dorothy, Michael,

Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Christopher, Ted, Marlene, Joseph, Nicholas,

Margaret, Gladys, my family and friends

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

Feodosiy, Oleg, Nikoly & Irina

Irina Sivergina

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Adelaida, Vitaliy, Vasiliy, Andrey, Galina & Nikolay

Irina Sivergina

For my loving brother Charles Gates (1 yr.) December 8

Connie Maxim

George, June & Alexander

John & Judy Blebea

Kosta & Theodora Papalazarou, Evangelia Bakouldis, Eleni, Kosta, Elias, Kosti,

Themis & Elias

Lena Bakousidis



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors.

COFFEE & DONUTS  Volunteers are needed for the months December & January. Please see the signup sheet outside the kitchen.

"AS MANY AS HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST..." Alexander, son of Michael and Jessica Chevalier, was baptized Saturday, December 8 after Vespers. He joins his brothers James, Dante, and Julius. God grant them all many years!

COOKIE WALK Thank you to all the volunteers & those who made baked goods. Your generosity made it a success!

BAKING WORKSHOPS There will be a Prosfora/Litouryia baking workshop Saturday, December 15th at 10 am.

CHRISTMAS GREETING If you would like to have your name(s) included in the annual Christmas greetings list please call or leave the info. in the office no later than December 10th. Please make a donation.

PLEDGE CARDS If you haven't turned in your pledge card for 2019 please do so by December 23rd. To be considered a member in good standing you must receive Confession and Holy Communion and sign a pledge card.

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



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS Remember to give the cashier our Non Profit Organization when checking out. They send a check to St. Nicholas for a portion of everything participants spend in their stores.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting **towels, toiletries & new toys** for the month of December. 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.



- **December 17th**, 10 am we will be decorating the church for Christmas. Many hands make the work light. Please come & help.
- **December 30th**, caroling at Lockwood after coffee hour. Everyone is welcome.

Weekly Schedule:

Monday, Dec 10

Fr. Matthew in Toledo

Tuesday, Dec 11

6:30 pm

Communion calls in Bay City, Caro & Lapeer

Parish Council meeting – parish council members please check your email for agenda, minutes, and reports. Please contact the office if you are unable to attend.

Wednesday, Dec 12

9:30 am

Divine Liturgy

11:15 am

Adult Ed class

Saturday, Dec 15

10 am

Prosfora Baking Workshop

5 pm

Vespers

Sunday, Dec 16

9:30 am

Hours

10 am

Divine Liturgy

Church School

Noisy Offering

Orthodox Churches of Genesee County
Services for Christmas

St. Nicholas

Sun. Dec. 23 6:30 pm Royal Hours
 Mon. Dec. 24 6 pm Vespers & Liturgy of St. Basil
 Tues. Dec. 25 10 am Divine Liturgy

St. Mary Magdalene

Mon. Dec. 24 7 pm Vigil
 Tues. Dec. 25 10 am Divine Liturgy

St. George

Mon. Dec. 24 4:50 pm Matins
 6 pm Divine Liturgy

Assumption

Mon. Dec. 24 6 pm Vespers & Divine Liturgy
 Tues. Dec. 25 10 am Divine Liturgy

Offerings for the week December 2, 2018

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 4,564.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 4,034.03
	\$+ 530.03

*97 people were in attendance on
 Sunday, December 2nd.*

“Human charity is suspicious: it fears lest it may somehow give to a person who already has something, or lest it may give too much. But the Lord’s charity is not like this: ‘The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.’” – St. John of Kronstadt