

December 3, 2017

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

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The Gospel according to Saint Luke

24:1-12 (4th Matins Gospel)

Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’ And they remembered His words. Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. 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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017 26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone

1. Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias—635-605 B.C.). Ven. Savva (Sabbas), Abbot of Zvenigorod, disciple of Ven. Sergius of Rádonezh (1406). St. Theodulus, Eparch of Constantinople (ca. 440). Ven. John the Silent of St. Sabbas’ Monastery (558). Hieromartyr Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria (606). Monk Martyr Cosmas of St. Anne’s Skete (Mt. Athos).

TROPARIA

(Tone 1) When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

(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) The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word Eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth, at the message, with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him Who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He Who is from eternity God.

The Prokeimenon in the First Tone: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee.

v. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS (5:8-19) Brethren: once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.” Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

Alleluia, Tone 1

v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me.

v. He magnifies the salvation of the king, and deals mercifully with His Christ, with David and his seed forever.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (18:35-43) Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, “What do you want Me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, that I may receive my sight.” Then Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

COMMUNION HYMN:

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

Learning from the Fathers: Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra
www.apriestoftheorthodoxchurch.wordpress.com

The aim of love is for one person to give joy to another; for me to voluntarily deprive myself of something so that someone else has more; for me to sacrifice myself so that the other feels at ease, feels secure in his life. . . How are we to achieve this? By “bearing patiently with one another’s failings in the spirit of love,” as the Apostle Paul says (cf. Eph 4:2), by accepting the other person as he is. Does he grumble? Let him grumble! If you try to make him stop grumbling, he’ll grumble even more, and you’ll get upset and start to shout. Someone else gets up in the middle of the night, makes a lot of noise, and wakes you up. You probably do the same thing and don’t even realize it. Leave him alone, because if you try to reproach him, he’ll want to correct your mistakes. . . And thus there are no fits of anger or shouting based on disagreements; no malice, no revenge, and everybody is kind. And what does “kind” mean? It is the mark of one whose absence does not pass unnoticed because he is merciful and compassionate. How do we become kind? By “forgiving one another” (Eph 4:32). I realize, for instance, that someone is angry with me. I don’t speak roughly to him. Instead, I behave toward him with great politeness and love, imitating the Lord. . .

If someone has failed in something, makes a mistake, or has a problem, we will show him great love, in order to restore a sense of balance and relieve him of his difficulties, thus “looking to each other’s interests,” as the Apostle Paul says to the Philippians (Phil 2:4). Let each of us do what the other wants. The husband what his wife wants, and the wife what her husband wants.

Do you see, my brothers and sisters, how much delicacy of feeling there is in the Church, and particularly among the saints? The saints are always careful in their dealings with others. Why? Because they have tasted the sweetness and peace of the Holy Spirit, and they know that, if they are not careful in their relations with their neighbors, they will lose the gifts of the Spirit. The saints never try to sadden anybody, not even the animals. They see the other person as if he were Christ. And the other person really is Christ, because he is an image of God. And thus the saints love all men, for all men are images of God, and in this way Christ and humanity become one in the hearts of the saints, in the inner depths of their being. . .

Among the Monastic Rules of St. Anthony the Great is the following: “Never create difficulties for someone else; never attempt to insist on what you say.” You have said something, for instance, to which the other replies, “No. It isn’t as you say.” In response, don’t try to prove that you are right, but instead find a polite way of letting him know that he has won the argument. Because if he doesn’t feel that he is the victor, he may be overcome by bitterness, obstinacy, poison, feelings of revenge and inferiority, and much else besides. Gently yield to him without showing it, without his realizing it, so that he thinks he’s convinced you. You, of course, will remain steadfast in the truth. If we don’t behave like this, evil will rule us, as the Rule of St. Anthony goes on to say. . .

We don't tell the truth straight out. The other person can't bear this. A husband, for example, returns from work, and finds that his wife has done something wrong. Then the husband berates her: "You've made a mistake! That's the truth, and it should be told!" But this is not the truth. It isn't love. It's merely self-centeredness. It means that you don't love your wife, whom you embrace every day, since now you give her a blow to the head and to the heart: how can you reconcile these things? The same applies to the wife with her husband, the abbot with the novice, the novice with the abbot, brother with brother.

December 3, 2017



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Alex Popoff
Alex Popoff
Health & God's Blessings to Father Estaban on his new parish
Fr. Tom, Fr. Gabriel, Deacon Anthony, Aaron, Reggie, Allen,
Deborah, Joann, Gloria, Luba, Kosta, Jimmy, Laurie, David, Helen, Anna, Walt,
Zina, Nicolai, Dorothy, Michael, Nicolai, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette,
Nicholas, Margaret, Joseph, Gladys, my family and friends
Special Intention
Health & God's Blessings to all the Panoffs during the Christmas Season
Feodosiy, Adelaida, Oleg, Nikolay, Galina, Irina & Nikolay

Helen & Angelo Popoff
Magda Popoff
Angelo & Christine

Joe Tome
Joe Tome
Angelo & Christine
Irina Sivergina

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Elene Iwanoff Blessed Repose ~ Memory Eternal
Blessed Repose for Helen Christich who fell asleep in the Lord Nov. 14th
Vasiliy, Andrey, Galina, Nikolay & Vitaliy

Dorothy Goodman
Angelo & Christine
Irina Sivergina



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors. Please join us for fellowship in the Hall.

COFFEE HOUR  Volunteers are needed to help serve coffee and donuts for the month of December. Please see the sign-up sheet outside of the kitchen. Call the parish office as well as signing up, if you'd like to sponsor the donuts and/or coffee.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting **TOWELS, TOILETRIES & NEW TOYS** for the month of December. Place the items in the blue box in the hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

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

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN December 7th 9 am to 1 pm. Please come to minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters. Sign up on the form in the narthex.

ANGEL TREE PROGRAM Please place the gifts in gift bags, attach the provided gift tag with the child's name & code number to the gift and return by December 10th. If there are any questions, please see Lucy Hogg.



INDOOR NATIVITY SET-UP We need your help to set up the indoor Nativity on Monday, December 4 at 11 am.

“Many hands make light work”

COOKIE WALK Saturday, December 9 10 am – 1 pm. Please call Deborah Gonser-Adams at 810-695-2464 to volunteer whether with baking cookies, set-up, the day of the sale, or the break-down of the hall following the sale. The baked goods need to be delivered by Friday December 8th before 3 pm
If you would like to join us for a Cookie Baking workshop we'll be in the kitchen at 1 pm on Wednesday the 6th.
We need volunteers to hang flyers out in the community. There are flyers in the hall & a signup sheet so you can see where they've been taken to. Please write down where you'll be taking them so we know which places have them and which places they have yet to be posted.

THE BAY CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERT is Sunday, December 10th at 2 pm. No need to go home for lunch as we'll be having a free will offering luncheon following Liturgy AND a visit from St. Nicholas. ***We need volunteers to hang flyers out in the community.*** There are flyers in the hall & a signup sheet so you can see where they've been taken to. Please write down where you'll be taking them so we know which places have them and which places they have yet to be posted.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & GREENS can be sponsored in honor of the living or as a memorial for the deceased. The forms are in the parish hall. There are also envelopes available if you would like to just give a donation.

PRAYER LISTING On the table in the hall is a booklet with the names of all the living and fallen asleep members of Saint Nicholas parish. This is the booklet Fr. Matthew uses to remember our parishioner at the preparation of the bread and wine for Liturgy. Please use the red pencil on the table to make any corrections or additions. The hope is to print out a copy of this booklet to each parish family so that you may remember in prayer all of our fellow parishioners.

2018 CALENDARS have arrived and are located in the narthex.

2017 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS If you would like to have your name(s) included on the annual Christmas greetings list please call the office no later than December 11.

2018 PLEDGE CARDS have been mailed out. If you did not receive yours contact the parish office by phone 744-0070 or email stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com so that we may get a pledge card to you. Please fill out and sign your pledge card even if you don't know the amount of your pledge yet. Remember in order to be considered a member here at St. Nicholas you must return a signed pledge card. We would like for them to be returned by December, 1. **DO NOT** send your 2018 pledge back with the card or it will be credited to 2017.

MEMORY ETERNAL +Elena Iwanoff fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, November 27, 2017. +Elena is the wife of the late Atanas and mother of Tom and Ivan and the late Doris Penny. God grant her blessed repose among the saints! Bog da i prosti! See funeral information below.

Weekly Schedule:

Monday, Dec 4

- 11 am Set up Nativity
- 12 pm Viewing for Elena (Helen) Iwanoff at Sharp Funeral Home in Swartz Creek
- 2 pm Funeral service for Elena (Helen) Iwanoff at Sharp Funeral Home followed by interment at Evergreen Cemetery

Tuesday, Dec. 5

- 6 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers with Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas

Wednesday, Dec. 6

ST. NICHOLAS

- 10 am 3rd and 6th Hours
- 11 am Adult Ed
- 1 pm Cookie Baking workshop in the kitchen
- 6 pm Advent Service at St. George



Thursday, Dec. 7

- 9 am-1 pm North End Soup Kitchen

Saturday, Dec. 9

- 10 am-1 pm Cookie Walk
- 5 pm Vespers

Sunday, Dec 10

- 9:30 am Third Hour
- 10 am Divine Liturgy
- Church School
- Luncheon
- 2 pm ***Bay Chorale Christmas Concert***

Offerings for the week November 26, 2017

Weekly Offerings	\$2,355.00
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$4,034.03
	-\$1,679.03

110 people were in attendance on Sunday, November 26, 2017

“Do you have compassion for the poor? Never judge them! If you can help them, help them! And even if you cannot give them anything, have compassion for them! And if you have where from, give them! Do almsgiving with both your deed and your word. Do all you can! Don’t give so much that you regret it. But never judge them! And if you give, run as much as you can from pride. Tell yourself: ‘So what if I gave, I gave out of compassion? I gave to get rid of them. As if I did something! There were saints who gave even the clothes they were wearing. What great deed did I do?’”

Elder Paisie Olaru