

December 14, 2025

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 (those received into the Orthodox Church through baptism or chrismation), 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 14, 2025 27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2. Sunday of the Forefathers. Martyrs Thyrsos, Leukios, and Kallinikos (249-51). Martyrs Philemon, Apollonios, Arrian, and Theonas of Alexandria (286-287).

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 2 Through faith You justified the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: she who bore You without seed.// So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

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 comes 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 fourth tone: Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers / and praised and glorified is Your name forever! (*Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3*)

v. For You are just in all that You have done for us! (*Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 4*)

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS (3:4-11) Brethren, when Christ who is our Life appears, and then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Alleluia, Tone 4

v. Moses and Aaron within his priests, and Samuel within the ones who call upon His name. (*Psalm 98:6*)

v. They called upon the Lord, and he heard them. (*Psalm 98:6*)

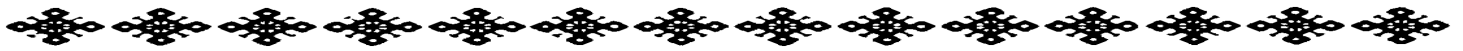
THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (14:16-24) At that time Jesus said, "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

COMMUNION HYMN Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (*Psalm 148:1*)

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In your seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3, 22:18). from oca.org

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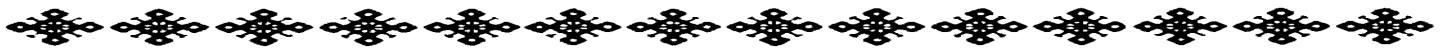


CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

The Popoff Family, Magda, Kosta, Lena & Eleni	Magda Popoff
Nicholas Khait, Elizabeth Khait, Artyom Khait, Aleksander Khait Sviatlana Khait	Sviatlana Khait
Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Les, Bosa, Jeanette, Ted, Kathryn, David, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family and friends	Joe Tome
Special Intention	Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE BLESSED REPOSE OF

Natse, Peter, Angelo Popoff & Eleni	Magda Popoff
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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 14 CANDLESTAND: Ian & Stephanie P.	HOURS: Lucy	READER: Barry
Dec 21 CANDLESTAND: Dennis Goodman	HOURS: No Hours	READER: Staci

SAINT NICHOLAS POTLUCK God bless everyone who brought a dish to share and to Alexandra Stith and Barry Cavett for the lenten desserts. In the unexpected snow 92 people came to the holy Liturgy which included 16 children to see Saint Nicholas! Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 6, 2026 when Saint Nicholas will visit on his feast day!

GOD BLESS everyone who helped decorate outside and inside for Christmas and who made donations towards the garland, wreaths, and flowers. A special thanks to Susie Ford, Lucy Hogg, Marla Houser, Charlie Jernigan & Friends, Dennis Jernigan, and Connie Maxim.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS can be sponsored in honor of the living or as a memorial for the fallen asleep. Envelopes are also in the narthex and pews. The sponsors will be listed in the newsletter.

GIFT BASKET buy tickets for the gift basket in our fellowship hall from Connie Maxim. **Tickets are one for \$2, three for \$5.** The winner will be drawn on Sunday, December 14. Do not need to be present to win. Please write name and phone number on your ticket.

COOKIE WALK God bless our co-chairs Cathy Edwards and Staci Shank and everyone who baked, set-up, took down, gave fliers, shared on Facebook, prayed, and in any way helped with our annual Christmas cookie sale! Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 12, 2026 for our next Cookie Walk!

MEMORY ETERNAL PHILLIP RAY CARTER fell asleep in the Lord on December 9 in Paragould, Arkansas. He is the uncle of Protodeacon Luke Gonser and Deborah Gonser-Adams. May Phillip rest in the light of Christ's face and may the same Lord sustain his family in their grief. Christ is risen!

CHURCH E-MAIL is stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com E-mail is checked when the office is open - Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 am to 3 pm.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE present: Christopher Taylor, Stephanie Price, Lena Bakousidis, Eileen Branoff, Bill Economou, Dennis Jernigan. Absent: Paul Brayan, Connie Maxim. **Minutes** November minutes were approved. **Financial report** was submitted. Please keep up with your pledges, as you are able, especially as the last two weeks have been snowy Sundays. **Endowment report** - two reports October and November. October loss: -\$5,033.98, November increase: \$6,335.61. The fund has \$508,448.96. **Father Matthew** reported that 92 people were at church for Saint Nicholas Day, including 16 children. Almost half of the worshippers were inquirers or catechumens. A baptism and chrismation are scheduled on Sunday, December 21 at 9 am. There are six catechumens, twelve inquirers. No report on church school/youth ministry. **Community Events** - movie night planned for outdoors in July on a Friday evening. **Cookie Walk** - much of the phyllo went moldy so not as much was able to be made with it. Next year shall we lower the price? **Theophany banquet** - Sunday, January 11, 2026 adult meal \$18, children 12 and under free - menu: lamb/chicken, potatoes, vegetable, salad, bread & butter, dessert, coffee & soft drinks - need to contact Dave Houser if he can make the lamb. Christopher Taylor will start selling tickets beginning on Sunday. Need help making food and clean up. **Church building and grounds** - Dennis Jernigan said the

big ventilation fan (12 filters) were changed, bearings need to be greased and 2 blowers greased at least once a year - it is done. Bearing assembly for the main pump was going and Dennis rebuilt it. The rebuild kit needs to be replaced, it's \$100 some. Bill Economou worked on the small bell and will look at the outlet at the altar. He said the electronics of the bell system should be re-done - current plan is to address this in the summer. Air compressor and the air dryer are for sale as we have no need for them anymore. Bulbs in bathrooms replaced and on large chandelier in church. Electrical bill is dropping because of the new thermostats. Heated tape has been purchased to put on the north side of the hall roof to keep ice dams from forming in the winter. **Old business** we have a PayPal QR code which can be used anytime including the Cookie Walk. **New business** Dormition Dinner – Thursday, January 22, 2026, from Father Michael Bassett, one of the coordinators: "Saint Nicholas - Main Meal (obviously, this is the biggest and most costly piece - if SN is unable to commit to this please negotiate a swap with another parish or contact me for help) Please remember that food choices should be kept simple and basic, comfort food and portions should be medium sized - many people never finish their whole meal and besides, they are here for the program more so than for the food. Note: Saint Nicholas did the Main Meal in 2024 but prior to that went many years without doing the main meal." Father Matthew and Matushka Lisa volunteered to make halušky s kapustou (homemade dumplings with sautéed cabbage and browned onion in butter) We need persons to make a salad and pick up rolls and butter. We need a parish contact person for the Dormition Dinner. B. Cellphone for church to streamline setting up accounts. This will be looked into first before a decision is made. A list of two-factor authentications needs to be made. Mailchimp non-profit status went through for the church, we get a discount as a result. SMS does not get discounted if we opt for that. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, December 15

Fr Matthew makes Communion calls east of Center Road and leaves for Archbishop Alexander's in the afternoon returning on Tuesday afternoon.

Wednesday, December 17

9:30 am holy Liturgy served by Fr Michael Bassett with responses led by Fr Matthew
 11:15 am adult education class

Saturday, December 20

5 pm **Vespers** followed by Confessions

Sunday, December 21

9 am **Baptism of Chloe Choate, Chrismation of Levi Johnson (no Hours)**
 10 am **Divine Liturgy**
 12:15 to 1 pm class for inquirers, catechumens, and neophytes

Offerings for the week December 7, 2025

<i>Weekly Tithes & Offerings</i>	\$ 2,885.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 4,380.00
	\$ -1,495.00

92 persons in attendance on December 7 (snow)

SERVICES FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Schedule at the four Orthodox churches of Genesee County:

Tues, Dec 23

6 pm Royal Hours at St Nicholas Church

Wed, Dec 24 - Eve of the Nativity of our Lord

10 am Royal Hours at St Mary Magdalene Church
 5 pm Liturgy at Assumption Church
 5 pm Matins and Liturgy at St George Church
 5:45 pm carols and Vespers w/Liturgy at St Nicholas Church
 7 pm Vigil at St Mary Magdalene Church

Thurs, Dec 25 - Nativity of our Lord

9:30 am Hours, Carols, & Liturgy at St Nicholas Church
 9:40 am Hours & Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Church

Fri, Dec 26 - Synaxis of the Theotokos

9:40 am Hours & Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Church served by Fr Matthew, choir led by Fr Gabriel