

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Monthly Newsletter

Diocese of Toledo-Orthodox Church in America

2143 S. Center Road – Burton, Michigan 48519

Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie – Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser

Email: stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/stnicholasburton

Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Church Office: 810-744-0070

Services: Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Hours 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Wednesday- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy adult education 11:15 am

Saturday - 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions

Holydays: Vespers & Liturgy as announced

“May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.” St. Jude 1:1

DECEMBER 2021

HYMN FIVE ON THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST BY ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

At the birth of the Son, there was a great shouting in Bethlehem; for the Angels came down, and gave praise there. Their voices were a great thunder: at that voice of praise the silent ones came, and gave praise to the Son.

Blessed be that Babe in whom Eve and Adam were restored to youth! The shepherds also came laden with the best gifts of their flock: sweet milk, clean flesh, befitting praise! They put a difference, and gave Joseph the flesh, Mary the milk, and the Son the praise! They brought and presented a suckling lamb to the Paschal Lamb, a first-born to the First-born, a sacrifice to the Sacrifice, a lamb of time to the Lamb of Truth. Fair sight [to see] the lamb offered to The Lamb!

The lamb bleated as it was offered before the First-born. It praised the Lamb, that had come to set free the flocks and the oxen from sacrifices: yea that Paschal Lamb, Who handed down and brought in the Passover of the Son.

The shepherds came near and worshipped Him with their staves. They saluted Him with peace, prophesying the while, Peace, O Prince of the Shepherds. The rod of Moses praised Your Rod, O Shepherd of all.

You then the Shepherds praise, because You have reconciled the wolves and the lambs within the fold; O Babe, that are older than Noah and younger than Noah, that reconciled all within the ark amid the billows!

David Your father for a lamb's sake slaughtered a lion. You, O Son of David, have killed the unseen wolf that murdered Adam, the simple lamb who fed and bleated in Paradise.

At that voice of praise, brides were moved to hallow themselves, and virgins to be chaste, and even young girls became grave: they advanced and came in multitudes, and worshipped the Son.

Aged women of the city of David came to the daughter of David; they gave thanks and said, Blessed be our country, whose streets are lightened with the rays of Jesse! Today is the throne of David established by You, O Son of David.

The old men cried, Blessed be that Son Who restored Adam to youth, Who was vexed to see that he was old and worn out, and that the serpent who had killed him, had changed his skin and had gotten himself away. Blessed be the Babe in Whom Adam and Eve were restored to youth.

The chaste women said, O Blessed Fruit, bless the fruit of our wombs; to You may they be given as first-born. They waxed fervent and prophesied concerning their children, who, when they were killed for Him, were cut off, as it were first-fruits.

The barren also held Him, and carried Him; they rejoiced and said, Blessed Fruit born without marriage, bless the wombs of us that are married; have mercy on our barrenness, You wonderful Child of Virginity!

FROM FATHER'S DESK

A new pewbook is being prepared. It will use the translation of the *Ieratikon* (the priest's book) blessed by Archbishop Alexander for both his dioceses. The book will include:

- Vespers
- Psalm 50
- Prayers before Communion
- The Divine Liturgy of Saint John the Golden-mouth and Saint Basil the Great
- Prayers after Communion
- Trisagion
- Parastas
- Christ is risen - in various languages and the responses to Christ is risen in other languages
- Glossary of terms

The new pew book will also use "You - Your" English to match the version used by Deacon Luke and me. In French, for example, when speaking to someone older or a superior, one uses the formal "you" - *vous*. With someone younger, a friend or family member, one uses the familiar "you" - *tu*. Many languages make this distinction. Many people believe "thee" and "thou" are formal and reverential for addressing God. Quite the contrary. "Thee" and "thou" are familiar, informal words for "you." They are not formal or reverential. In common understanding, though, the perception is that they are formal. The fourth volume of the *Ieratikon* blessed by Archbishop Alexander has this explainer about the use of "You - Your" and "Thee - Thou":

1. Thee-thou language.

The thee-thou language has much to commend it but, given today's development of English, doubtlessly fewer and fewer people are able to understand it at all...

The argument has been made that we still need to use this language in order to mark reverence toward God. Other languages, it is remarked, have a reverential plural "you" while English does not. While that is true, this argument has no bearing on the Liturgy, since all such pious reverence is not present in the original Greek either. Greek had ways of expressing reverence, but all addressations to God do not use them at all; all are in the second person singular, familiar, not reverential or formal. The seeking of undue reverence can be problematic. We remain convinced that if such reverence would have been expected or at least welcomed, a few prayers would have made some use of it. None does. We are left then to seek meaning in familiarity with God, while obviously not courting the impious.

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST For our own spiritual life, let us make the time to participate in the divine services celebrating the birth of Christ. The pre-feast begins on December 20 so the hymns focus us the more on His birth. Divine Liturgy during this pre-festal period will be served on Wednesday, December 22 at 9:30 am. Royal Hours with Scripture readings from the Old and New Testament concerning the birth of our Savior will be served on Thursday, December 23 at 6 pm. Vespers with Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great will be served on Friday, December 24 at 6 pm. Divine Liturgy for Christmas will be served on Saturday, December 25 at 10 am. The feast of the Synaxis of the Mother of God/Sunday after Nativity will be served on Sunday, December 26 at 10 am. We have many opportunities to keep holy the birth of the Lord. Let us sacrifice the time to do so.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE Parish council met in person on Tuesday, November 9th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Parish council meetings are public meetings. Work continues on the new pew book which will include Vespers, Christ is risen in different languages, and a glossary. Two inquirers interested in the Orthodox Church - Barry Cavett and Phil Wiles. Two readers tonsured by Archbishop Alexander at the 105th anniversary Liturgy: Barnabas (Calvin) Conrad and Alexander Gonser. Parish council approved moving \$1,000 from unrestricted memorial funds for charity. The Diocese will match this with a grant of \$1,000 for charity. Fundraising: anniversary dinner broke even which was the plan. Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 11. Theophany banquet - lamb dinner - on Sunday, January 9. Work on the air conditioning units has begun. The old units inside the church have been removed. Sink fixture/pipe needs replaced in the classroom hallway. This needs to be taken care of as soon as possible. Approved \$1,000 for this expenditure. The eavestrough covers are in and look to be installed after the trees are trimmed. Linden trees will be trimmed by Ronald's Tree Service and we are close to the top of the list so that within the next two weeks it may be done. Birch tree coming down will have to wait. We are asking for a volunteer or volunteers to help organize the supplies in the storage room. New white boards for the classrooms will be purchased with memorial fund money designated for the church school. The parish finances remain stable. God bless you for your continuing your stewardship during these difficult times.

THE PARISH COUNCIL will meet on December 14th @ 6:30 pm. Please call or email the parish office if you are unable to attend this meeting.

2022 PLEDGE CARDS were mailed out on November 15th. If you have not received 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 as soon as possible so the parish council can budget accordingly. 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 2022 pledge back with the card or it will be credited to 2021.

ELECTION RESULTS OF PARISH COUNCIL, AUDITORS & LAY DELEGATES

Parish Council elected were Lena Bakousidis, Susie Ford, and Sharon Jernigan.

Auditor Linda Branoff

Lay Delegates - Oct. 2022 Diocesan Conference Susie Ford and J. Joseph Tome.

Swearing in will take place on Sunday, December 19 after Liturgy. Those being sworn in - please receive Confession before that Sunday and prepare to receive Communion that Sunday.

PAN-ORTHODOX MOVIE NIGHT December 4th after Vespers featuring "Martin the Cobbler".

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters December 2nd from 9 am-1 pm. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." St. John Chrysostom

Hours Schedule

<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
5 Lucy	2 Lucy	6 Alexander
12 Alexander	9 Alexander	13 Calvin
19 Calvin	16 Calvin	20 Angelo
26 Angelo	23 Angelo	27 Lucy
	30 Lucy	

If you are unable to make your assigned reading date, please find a replacement.

Reader Schedule

<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
5 Alexander	2 Alexander	6 Kathy
12 Kathy	9 Kathy	13 Angelo
19 Angelo	16 Angelo	20 Ruth
26 Ruth	23 Ruth	27 Alexander
	30 Alexander	

If you are unable to make your assigned reading date, please find a replacement.

VISIT WITH ST. NICHOLAS & DESSERT POTLUCK on December 5th. We are having baked mostaccioli for the meal. Please bring lenten desserts to share.

BAKING WORKSOP Friday, December 8 at 10 am. We will be making vanilla crescent cookies.



COOKIE WALK will be held on Saturday, December 11th from 10 am to 1 pm. This year it is chaired by Lucy Hogg and requires help from many people. Please call Lucy at 810-695-3110 with questions or to volunteer to bake cookies and desserts, set-up or the break-down of the hall following the sale. There are sign-up sheets on a table as you go into the parish hall. The baked goods need to be delivered by Friday, December 10th before 3 pm or cookies can be made ahead of time, frozen and kept here at the church.

PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES - DECEMBER 2021

December 6 - 10 am Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas for the feast of St Nicholas
 December 13 - 10 am Divine Liturgy at St. Mary Magdalene for St Herman of Alaska

DECK THE HALLS AT ST. NICHOLAS! On December 17th at 10am we will arrange the flowers, wreaths & put up and decorate the church Christmas tree.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS can be sponsored in honor of the living or as a memorial for the deceased. Forms are also in the narthex. You can also call or email the office by December 10th. The sponsors will be listed in the newsletter.

WINTER DINNER supporting Dormition Monastery is scheduled in-person at St. George Church on Thursday, January 20. Fr. Michael Bassett will be coordinating the planning meetings. Each parish needs a coordinator to attend meetings, oversee the selling of tickets, and overseeing the parish's responsibility for the meal. We need a coordinator from our parish. Please, consider volunteering and let Fr. Matthew know so that we can continue to make this gathering a source of support for the mothers and sisters of Dormition Monastery.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CENTER FOR HOPE Their Warming Center will welcome guests beginning Wednesday, December 1 in the former St. Michael Church. Everyone is welcome to attend the Warming Center Blessing event on Friday, December 3 from 11am to 1pm, when area clergy gather to bless our upcoming season and those who find shelter at Catholic Charities. Donations of coffee, creamer, individual cereal and oatmeal, muffins, bagels, individually wrapped snacks, sleeping bags, blankets, plastic cutlery, disposable cups, playing cards, books/magazines and chess sets are welcome at the Center for Hope, or in your Hope in a Box tote. Please call if you have any questions at 810-265-7025 ext. 712.

December Coffee Hour Volunteers	
5	
12	
19	Connie Maxim
26	

 HOPE IN A BOX	
	Towels, Toiletries, Socks & New Toys
December	
January	Toilet Paper & Hand Sanitizer
February	Shampoo/Conditioner & Lotion

MAKE YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING EASY AND CONVENIENT WITH GIVELIFY

Go to the website and on the home page click on the box Give now with Givelify which will walk you through the donation process; this is a secure site. (2.9% + \$0.30 of your donation goes to Givelify as a fee). 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.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be handed out December 5th. Boxes that are not given out will be mailed. If you did not receive envelopes with your name on them and you want to receive numbered & dated envelopes, please let Marcia know. Using envelopes is very helpful to those who count the money & the auditors.

CONFESSIONS the sacrament of Confession is offered on Saturdays after Vespers and by appointment. Call the parish office 810-744-0070 or e-mail stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com to make an appointment.



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS Remember to sign up for Community Rewards online at Kroger.com or go to the customer service desk in the store. They send a check to St. Nicholas for a portion of everything participants spend in their stores.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL subscribe to our YouTube channel Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton to receive notifications of upcoming livestreams for services.

FACEBOOK PAGE Please visit & follow our parish page: www.facebook.com/stnicholasburton

2022 CALENDARS have arrived and will be handed out at the candle stand. Please, one per family.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Nick George
- 4 Donna Nedanis
- 6 Diane Todorovsky
- 12 Hailey Paul
- 13 David Vuckovich
- 17 Kosta Slaughter
- 19 Doug Brown
- 21 Christine Brucksch
- 23 Caitlyn Rittman
John Sfetkides
Susie Ford
- 24 George Branoff
- 26 Chad Conover
Marla Houser
- 27 Alexandra Price
Constance Maxim
- 28 Bogdan Beslach
- 30 Marilyn Branoff



ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Jim & Kristin Hart (2011)
- 21 Kosta & Luba Todorovsky (1954)

NAMESDAYS

- 4 Barbara Brown
Barbara Vuckovich
- 6 Nicholas Karayanis
Nicholas Karayanis
Nicholas Nicoloff
Nicholas Ponomarenko
Nicholas Sfetkidis
Nick George
Nicola Pirkovic
Nicole Grousopoulos
Nicole Steiner
Nicole Zelenko
Nikolai Evanenko
- 9 Hannah Shann

NAMESDAYS cont.

- 12 Adam Ford
Adam Michael George
Cierra Joy Conover (form of Sarah)
Noah Gonser
Sarah Rose Neely
Rachel Nicevski
Ruth Conrad
- 16 Allison Borkovich
Alyson Wilhelm
- 17 Daniel Krigner
- 19 Debbie Neely
Deborah Adams
Deena Marie Karayanis
- 22 Anastasia Branoff
- 26 Charles Joseph Jernigan
David Batzos
David Condon
David George
David Goodman
David Houser
David Jernigan
David Mitevski
David Vuckovich
Jesse Popoff
Jessica Biggs
Jessica Chevalier
Joseph Brock
Joseph Oginsky
Joseph Oginsky, Jr.
Kraig David Houser
Robert Steven Elieff
Stevan Pirkovic
Steve Spankie
Steven Nicoloff
Steven Nikoloff
Steven Panoff
- 30 Joseph Neely

If your name is missing or has the incorrect information in the birthday, anniversary or namesday list please call the office: (810) 744-0070





THEOPHANY BANQUET AND OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER will be held on Sunday, January 9th 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, Salad, Dessert & 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.

DOVES FOR THEOPHANY we are in need of an individual(s) to donate for 3 white doves for the outdoor blessing of the water January 9th. The cost is \$60 each.

HOUSE BLESSINGS will begin on January 6th.

DAILY INTERCESSION FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND

VISITATION TO THE SICK If you would like Fr. Matthew to make a visit to home, hospital, or nursing home, please contact the office 810-744-0070.

DAILY INTERCESSION FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND

The following are our brothers and sisters of St. Nicholas who are currently homebound, suffering from chronic illness, in recovery or in need of special prayers. Please remember them in your prayers and reach out to them with a card, a phone call or a visit! Please call the office to schedule a visit for Holy Communion.

Deacon John Bocek	Gladys Edwards	Mary Karayanis	Ron Salhany
Linda Branoff	Paul Ellis	Nick Karayanis	Bill Tadrick
Mary Abu-Aita	Bill Haw	Macy Lemmen	Wendy Tadrick

To aid in your outreach, here is a listing of the addresses and phone numbers of our Homebound:

Gladys Edwards	2 Harbor Dr.	St. Clair, MO 63077
Paul Ellis	2360 Stonebridge Dr.	Flint, MI 48532

The Virgin today gives birth to the One above being, and the earth brings the cave to the Unapproachable One; angels with shepherds glorify, and magi journey with a star, since for us is born a new child, the God before the ages.

kontakion of the Nativity of the Lord by St. Romanos the Melodist

Your Business Here	\$36.00 Single Space for 6 months
	\$50.00 Double Space for 6 months
	\$65.00 Triple Space for 6 months



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
2143 S. Center Rd.
Burton, MI 48519
810-744-0070

Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 11, 2021
10 am ~ 1 pm

Ethnic Cookies and Many Other Baked Goods

Cookies Sold at \$10 per Pound

Stock up your freezer for the Holidays

Hot Beverages





CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Christmas flowers can be sponsored in honor of the living or as a memorial for the deceased. Poinsettias will be available only in the large arrangement.

Please fill out the form below as soon as possible. There are a limited number of plants available. Donations will be taken on a first come first served basis. Return the form to the office or put it into the collection basket on Sunday. The names of those honored or memorialized will be published on a later date.

I wish to donate:

_____ Red poinsettia (\$20 ea.) (20 available)
(How many)

_____ 36 inch wreath (\$75 ea.) (2 available)
(How many)

_____ 24 inch wreath (\$55) (2 available)
(How many)

_____ 10 inch wreath (\$25 ea.) (2 available)
(How many)

_____ 25 foot Garland (\$30 ea.) (2 available)
(How many)

In honor of (for the living)

Or, in memory of (deceased)

Name: _____

Amount \$ _____





ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Annual Craft Show

BAKE & SALE 2021

Indulge your sweet tooth and shop for
Christmas all in one place!

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 18TH
10:00AM - 3:00PM

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 19TH
FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY



All proceeds from this year's bake sale and craft show will benefit the capital campaign building project for the Church expansion.

December 2021

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Burton, MI 48519
810-744-0070

stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <i>Fast</i>  <i>Dairy Permitted (no meat)</i>  <i>Wine & Oil Permitted (no meat)</i>  <i>Fish Permitted (no other meat)</i>			1  9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed	2  9 am to 1 pm North End Soup Kitchen <i>Office Closed</i>	3 	4  5 pm Vespers Confessions Movie Night
5  9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School St. Nicholas visits Epotluck	6  St Nicholas 10 am Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy	7  <i>Father in Toledo</i>	8  10 am vanilla crescent cookie workshop No Divine Liturgy No adult ed	9  Conception by St Anna of the Theotokos 9:30 am Divine Liturgy <i>Office Closed</i>	10  9:15 am ABC 12 interview - Fr Matthew Set-up for cookie walk 1 pm	11  5 pm Vespers Confessions
12  9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School	13  St Herman of Alaska 10 am Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy @ St. MaryMagdalene <i>Father in Toledo</i>	14  6:30 pm Parish Council	15  9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed	16  <i>Office Closed</i>	17  10 am Decorate Church for Christmas	18  5 pm Vespers Confessions
19  9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School	20  Pre-feast of Nativity of our Lord begins <i>Father in Toledo</i>	21 	22  9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed	23  6 pm Royal Hours for the Nativity of our Lord <i>Office Closed</i>	24  Christmas Eve 6 pm Vespers w/Liturgy <i>Office Closed</i>	25 Nativity of Christ (Christmas) 10 am Divine Liturgy <i>No Vespers</i> <i>No confessions</i>
26 Synaxis of the Theotokos 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School	27	28	29 No Divine Liturgy No adult ed	30 <i>Office Closed</i>	31	January 1, 2022