

# St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

## 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

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Website: [www.saintnicholasburton.org](http://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

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## DECEMBER 2022

### SAINT ISAAC THE SYRIAN, Bishop of Nineveh

I beseech you, O God, send me help from your highest heavens so that I may keep far from my heart every evil intention and every carnal wish. Do not cast me, Lord, from your protection lest my adversary find me and trample upon me just as he desires, destroying me utterly. It is you who grant repentance and a sorrowful heart to the sinner who repents; in this way you ease his heart from the weight of sin that is laid upon it, thanks to the comfort which comes from mourning and from the gift of tears.

At the door of your compassions do I knock, Lord; send aid to my scattered impulses which are intoxicated with the multitude of the passions and the power of darkness. You can see my sores hidden within me: stir up contrition, though not corresponding to the weight of my sins, for if I become fully aware of the extent of my sins, Lord, my soul would be consumed by the bitter pain produced by them. Assist my feeble stirrings on the path of true repentance, so that I may find alleviation from the vehemence of sin through the contrition that comes of your gift, for without the power of your grace I am quite unable to enter within myself, become aware of my stains, and so be able, at the sight of them, to be still from great distraction.

~From *The Prayers of Saint Isaac the Syrian* (Prayers 3 & 4).

Translated by Sebastian Brock. Adapted by the Brotherhood of the Monastery of St. John.

## FROM FATHER'S DESK

Beloved, in response to questions about our standing or sitting at services and also about lighting candles, here are items that appear in the draft pew books presently in our pews. Love, Fr. Matthew

## POSTURE AT SERVICES

The traditional posture for prayer and worship in the Church is standing. In the Orthodox "old countries", there are usually no pews in the churches. Chairs or benches on the side walls are usually reserved for the elderly and infirm. In North America, we have tended to build our churches with pews, and since we have them, we stand and sit. First of all, it is fully acceptable to stand for the entire service.

When should we stand? *Always* during these times:

- The beginning of Liturgy & Great Litany
- The Little Entrance with the Gospel book
- The Epistle Reading
- The Gospel Reading
- The Cherubic Hymn
- The Great Entrance with the gifts
- The Anaphora through to Holy Communion and to the Dismissal
- Whenever the priest or bishop gives a blessing

If health or a medical condition makes it difficult to stand for the entire Liturgy, then we can be seated for a time.

## CANDLES

There are many candles that are available to be lit as we say a prayer for the living and those fallen asleep.

- Beeswax tapers at the candle stand. Traditionally, these are lit for the living and placed in one or the other of the two round sand-filled stands at the back of the church.
- Large glass or plastic-encased candles at the candle stand. These are lit for the living or the fallen asleep and placed in the rectangular sand-filled stand on the south side (your right when facing the altar) at the back of the church.
- Candles for the fallen asleep. There are two candle stands where candles traditionally are lit for those fallen asleep. These are: the stand in the back on the north side (your left when facing the altar). This stand has 100 small candles with the cross of the Lord at the center. The other stand is a similar in the front of the church, on the north side, with the large image of Christ crucified (the Theotokos and St. John the Evangelist stand on either side of the cross).
- Candle intention sheets in the narthex on the chest of drawers. These candles are lit by the altar servers in front of the icons in the front of the church and may be lit for the living or the fallen asleep. You choose whether the candle is one that burns for seven days or fourteen days.
- Candle that hangs above the altar. On the chest of drawers in the narthex is a sheet to sponsor this candle. This is called "the Eternal Light" which reminds us of our Jewish origins as Christians: the candelabrum in the tabernacle in the desert and then in the Temple in Jerusalem was always to be burning reminding us of Christ's presence. We read in the book of Exodus 27:20-21 that the Lord said to Moses, "And you shall command the people of Israel that they bring to you pure beaten olive oil for the light, that a lamp may be set up to burn continually. In the tent of meeting, outside the veil which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening to morning before the LORD. It shall be a statute for ever to be observed throughout their generations by the people of Israel." The candle above the altar is always burning, whether it is sponsored or not, as a constant reminder that Christ dwells in the holy of Holies and it is His presence that fills the Temple.

## Hours Schedule

<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
4 Lucy	1 Lucy	5 Angelo
11 Angelo	8 Angelo	12 Calvin
18 Calvin	15 Calvin	19 Alexander
25 Alexander	22 Alexander	26 Lucy
	29 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>
4 Alexander	1 Alexander	5 Kathy
11 Kathy	8 Kathy	12 Ruth
18 Ruth	15 Ruth	19 Angelo
25 Angelo	22 Angelo	26 Alexander
	29 Alexander	

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

## Candle Stand Attendant Schedule

<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
4 Dave Houser	1 Susie Ford	5 Ian & Stephanie P.
11 Susie Ford	8 Dennis Jernigan	12 Susie Ford
18 Dennis Goodman	15 Dave Houser	19 Dennis Jernigan
25 Ian & Stephanie P.	22 Christine Panoff	26 Dave Houser
	29 Dennis Goodman	

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

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** If you would like to have your name(s) included on the annual Christmas greetings list please call or email the office no later than December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Donations are appreciated.



**ANGEL TREE** Our parish will participate in this program for Christmas as part of our Advent fast, helping those in need. The tags 50 children's names and the Angel Tree will be in parish hall. Gifts do need to be placed in a gift bag or wrapped but you must include the child's names and code number on the gifts. Gift range is between \$25 and \$35. It's important to keep the amounts spent for kids in the same family the same. Please return the gifts by December 3. If there are any questions, contact Eileen Branoff at (810) 232-5132.

**DECK THE HALLS AT ST. NICHOLAS!** On Saturday, December 3<sup>th</sup> at 10am we will arrange the flowers, wreaths & put up and decorate the trees and Nativity scenes in the church and the hall. A light lenten luncheon will follow the decorating and Vespers will be served immediately afterwards. Please note this time change for Vespers.

**ANGEL WING ORNAMENTS** are available for purchase from Christine Panoff or can be picked up in the office. Cost is \$5 per ornament. These are for families to put in photos of fallen asleep family members. The ornaments will then be placed on a Christmas tree in the church annually. On Sunday, December 4 a Trisagion will be held in memory of all those fallen asleep remembered on tree.

**NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN** Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters on December 1 from 9 am-12:30 pm. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." St. John Chrysostom.

VISIT WITH ST. NICHOLAS & POTLUCK on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a lenten dish and lenten desserts to share.

PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES & EVENTS - DECEMBER 2022

December 5 6 pm Vespers with Divine Liturgy for our patron, Saint Nicholas, at our church

COOKIE WALK on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 1 pm, Lucy Hogg is chairperson. The event requires help from many people. Please call Lucy at 810-695-3110 with any questions.



- Baked goods need to be delivered by Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> before 3 pm.
- Sign-up sheet in the parish hall to volunteer whether with baking cookies, set-up, the day of the sale, or the break-down of the hall following the sale.
- Donations are also appreciated if you cannot bring cookies so baklava & some pre-made goodies can be purchased. There is a donation jar in the parish hall.
- Please help us get the word out about the Cookie Walk! Share our parish [Facebook page event](#) and [posting](#) on the Cookie Walk, take fliers to share, let your friends and neighbors know!

BAKING WORKSHOP for Russian Tea cookies for the Cookie Walk will be at church on Tuesday, December 6 at 10 am. To those who bake nut rolls, poppyseed rolls, apricot rolls – please bake some at home and freeze them to bring on Friday, December 9.

ELECTION RESULTS OF PARISH COUNCIL, AUDITORS & LAY DELEGATES

Parish Council elected were Philip Bakousidis, Paul Brayan, and Dennis Jernigan.

Auditors Eileen Branoff and Lucy Hogg

Lay Delegate - 2023 Diocesan Conference Susie Ford and Alternate is J. Joseph Tome.

Archbishop Alexander has blessed the installation of those elected. The installation of the new members will take place on Sunday, December 18. Newly elected – please receive Confession before that date and receive Communion that Sunday.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE We are looking for an accountant/bookkeeper for the parish books who can operate Quickbooks online. Please contact our treasurer, Stephanie Price, if you know someone who would be interested. Endowment Fund is experiencing the ups and downs of the market. Choir music is now being done on computer by our choir director, Joe Tome. *Youth Activities* Stephanie Price would like us to do a community Trunk or Treat in our parking lot on the Saturday nearest Halloween. St. Nicholas will visit on December 4 - we need candy and treats donated for the gift bags for the children that day. Please donate candy or treats or juice boxes for the gift bags for the children. Please bring a lenten dish to share. *Fundraising* Cookie Walk is December 10, Lucy Hogg is chairing. Please bake at home and bring them and share fliers at business you frequent, pass along the word, post on your social media accounts. The first fundraiser of 2023 is our Theophany banquet on Sunday, January 8 with the outdoor blessing of water. Tickets will be sold at \$15 for an adult dinner and children dinners are free. Charity Archbishop Alexander has blessed the diocesan matching grant of \$1,000 for charitable use as our parish matches the \$1,000 by donations, etc. earmarked for charity.

*Maintenance* report was made by Dennis Jernigan. Roof repair was done over the hall/classrooms. A new battery was put in the alarm system. New sensors have been sent by Church Mutual that monitor water leaks inside. These need to be installed. Batteries in the bathrooms for the motion detectors at the sinks were replaced. Light bulbs were changed outside in the parking lot. Dennis is checking to see if we can have an account at Win's Electrical. Next meeting is December 13 at 6:30 pm.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** can be sponsored in honor of the living or as a memorial for the deceased. Forms are also in the narthex. The sponsors will be listed in the newsletter.

**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.

- Wed, December 21 6 pm Vespers for the pre-feast & St Anastasia
- Fri, December 23 10 am Royal Hours with Scripture readings from the Old and New Testament concerning the birth of our Savior
- Sat, December 24 10 am Divine Liturgy for the Saturday before the Nativity  
6 pm Vespers for the Nativity of our Lord with Scripture readings
- Sun, December 25 10 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great for Christmas

We have many opportunities to keep holy the birth of the Lord. Let us sacrifice the time to do so.

**2023 PLEDGE CARDS** were mailed out on November 9<sup>th</sup>. If you have not received yours by Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, contact the parish office by phone 744-0070 or email [stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com) so that we may get a pledge card to you. Please fill out and sign your pledge card 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, 15. **DO NOT** send your 2023 pledge back with the card or it will be credited to 2022.

**UKRAINIAN REFUGEES** Anyone who wishes to support International Orthodox Christian Charity's (IOCC) humanitarian response to the Ukraine crisis is asked to pray for all those affected and the people serving them, to share what IOCC is doing in order to spread the word, and to give as they are able financially. Please visit [iocc.org/ukraine22](http://iocc.org/ukraine22) or call 877.803.4622 to make a donation.

#### **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.



**KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS** Remember to use the Community Rewards at Kroger. If you haven't signed up yet you can do so online at [Kroger.com](http://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.

#### **OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES**

**NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN** we serve on Thursday, December 1 from 9 to 12:30 pm.

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting Socks, 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.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES** warming center is in need of snack items, blankets/comforters/sleeping bags and any outerwear.

**PRAYER SERVICE** for the sick & suffering will be held at St. Mary Magdalene the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30. Email names to [smmocafenton@gmail.com](mailto:smmocafenton@gmail.com)

 <h1>HOPE IN A BOX</h1>	
Dec	Socks, Towels, Toiletries & New Toys
Jan	Toilet Paper & Lotion
Feb	Shampoo & Conditioner

December Coffee Social Volunteers & Sponsors	
4	St. Nicholas Day potluck
11	
18	Connie Maxim
25	

2023 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



### 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
- 11 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
- 18 Debbie Neely  
Deborah Adams  
Deena Marie Karayanis
- 22 Anastasia Branoff
- 27 Robert Steven Elieff  
Stevan Pirkovic  
Steve Spankie  
Steven Nicoloff  
Steven Nikoloff
- 30 Joseph Neely

### ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

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](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com) to make an appointment.

**ELDER AIMILIANOS** Do you want to be free of the passions? It is very simple: exercise control over yourself. But do this as expressing your desire, your longing, and not thinking that you, through your own efforts, are going to overcome your weakness or your ego, or anything else like this. You can't overcome anything. No matter how long a pig rolls around in clean grass, it will always remain a pig. And no matter how long you exercise self-control, you'll always remain a person cast into sins and having every manner of darkness within yourself. Against these things, asceticism by itself does nothing. God Himself must come to free your soul and to remove from it whatever evil and darkness is clouding it. *Spiritual Life according to St. Maximos the Confessor*, trans. Fr. Maximos Constas.

**SAINT PAISIOS** Some people tell me that they are scandalized because they see many things wrong in the Church. I tell them that if you ask a fly, "Are there any flowers in this area?" it will say, "I don't know about flowers, but over there in that heap of rubbish you can find all the filth you want." And it will go on to list all the unclean things it has been to.

Now, if you ask a honeybee, "Have you seen any unclean things in this area?" it will reply, "Unclean things? No, I have not seen any; the place here is full of the most fragrant flowers." And it will go on to name all the flowers of the garden or the meadow.

You see, the fly only knows where the unclean things are, while the honeybee knows where the beautiful iris or hyacinth is.

As I have come to understand, some people resemble the honeybee and some resemble the fly. Those who resemble the fly seek to find evil in every circumstance and are preoccupied with it; they see no good anywhere. But those who resemble the honeybee only see the good in everything they see. The stupid person thinks stupidly and takes everything in the wrong way, whereas the person who has good thoughts, no matter what he sees, no matter what you tell him, maintains a positive and good thought.

*"Good and Evil Thoughts," Spiritual Counsels III: Spiritual Struggle*

**VISIT TO ST ROMANOS HERMITAGE** is scheduled for Saturday, December 17 at 11 am. Those who would like to carpool, Fr Matthew will be leaving the church at 10 am. The visit will include a tour, Akathist hymn, and lunch concluding around 1:15 or 2pm. Directions are printed out and are on the table in the fellowship hall.

**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES** will be available in the parish hall December 4<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**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	Paul Ellis	Nick Karayanis	Bill Tadrick
Linda Branoff	Bill Haw	Macy Lemmen	Wendy Tadrick
Mary Abu-Aita	Mary Karayanis	Ron Salhany	Dave Vuckovich

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

Paul Ellis	2360 Stonebridge Dr	Flint, MI 48532
Dorothy Goodman	1481 E Hill Rd, Suite 18	Grand Blanc, MI 48439 (Bella Vita)
Dave Vuckovich	9352 Morrish Rd	Swartz Creek, MI 48473

**THE NATIVITY FAST** *On November 15 we began the Nativity Fast (40 days before Christmas). The following excerpt offers some thoughts on the purpose of fasting by Fr Stephen Freeman, a retired priest of the Diocese of the South.*

...I read recently (though I cannot remember where) that the rejection of Hesychasm was the source of all heresy. In less technical terms we can say that knowing God in truth, participating in His life, union with Him through humility, prayer, love of enemy and repentance before all and for everything, is the purpose of the Christian life. Hesychasm (Greek Hesychia=Silence) is the name applied to the Orthodox tradition of ceaseless prayer and inner stillness.

But these are incorrectly understood if they are separated from knowledge of God and participation in His life, union with Him through humility, prayer, love of enemy and repentance before all and for everything.

And it is the same path of inner knowledge of God (with all its components) that is the proper context of fasting. If we fast but do not forgive our enemies - our fasting is of no use. If we fast and do not find it drawing us into humility - our fasting is of no use. If our fasting does not make us yet more keenly aware of the fact that we are sinful before all and responsible to all then it is of no benefit. If our fasting does not unite us with the life of God - which is meek and lowly - then it is again of no benefit.

Fasting is not dieting. Fasting is not about keeping a Christian version of kosher. Fasting is about hunger and humility (which is increased as we allow ourselves to become weak). Fasting is about allowing our heart to break.

I have seen greater good accomplished in souls through their failure in the fasting season than in the souls of those who "fasted well." Publicans enter the kingdom of God before Pharisees pretty much every time.

Why do we fast? Perhaps the more germane question is "why do we eat?" Christ quoted Scripture to the evil one and said, "Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." We eat as though our life depended on it and it does not. We fast because our life depends on the word of God.

I worked for a couple of years as a hospice chaplain. During that time, daily sitting at the side of the beds of dying patients - I learned a little about how we die. It is a medical fact that many people become "anorexic" before death - that is - they cease to want food. Many times family and even doctors become concerned and force food on a patient who will not survive. Interestingly, it was found that patients who became anorexic had less pain than those who, having become anorexic, were forced to take food. (None of this is about the psychological anorexia that afflicts many of our youth. That is a tragedy)

It is as though at death our bodies have a wisdom we have lacked for most of our lives. It knows that what it needs is not food - but something deeper. The soul seeks and hungers for the living God. The body and its pain become a distraction. And thus in God's mercy the distraction is reduced.

Christianity as a religion - as a theoretical system of explanations regarding heaven and hell, reward and punishment, is simply Christianity that has been distorted from its true form. Either we know the living God or we have nothing. Either we eat His flesh and drink His blood or we have no life in us. The rejection of Hesychasm is the source of all heresy.

Why do we fast? We fast so that we may live like a dying man - and in dying we can be born to eternal life.



**THEOPHANY BANQUET AND OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER** will be held on Sunday, January 8<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, 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 need an individual(s) to donate for 3 white doves for the outdoor blessing of the water January 8<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$60 each.



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

# Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 10, 2022  
10 am - 1 pm

*Ethnic Cookies and Many Other Baked Goods*

*Cookies Sold at \$12 per Pound  
cash or check*

*Stock up your freezer for the Holidays*

*Hot Beverages*





## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please fill out and 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.

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**I wish to donate:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Flowers**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Wreaths and Garland**

**In honor of (for the living)**

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**Or, in memory of (departed)**

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**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



# DECEMBER 2022

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[stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com) Website: [www.saintnicholasburton.org](http://www.saintnicholasburton.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>✠ <i>Fast</i></p> <p> Dairy Permitted (no meat)</p> <p> Wine &amp; Oil Permitted (no meat)</p> <p> Fish Permitted (no other meat)</p>				<p>1 </p> <p>9 am to 12:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>2 </p> <p>Father in Toledo</p>	<p>3 </p> <p>10 am decorate church and hall Vespers after decorating Confessions</p>
<p>4 </p> <p>9:30 am Hours <u>10 am Divine Liturgy</u> St. Nicholas visits &amp; potluck Trisagion for those on our Angel Tree</p>	<p>5 </p> <p><u>6 pm Pan Orthodox Vespers</u> Vespers &amp; Liturgy at our church for the feast of St. Nicholas</p>	<p>6 St Nicholas </p> <p>10 am Russian tea cookie workshop</p> <p>6:30 pm Prayer Service for the sick &amp; suffering @ St. Mary Magdalene Church</p>	<p>7 </p> <p>No Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed at church 6:30 pm adult ed at Deacon Luke &amp; Diakonissa Kathy Gonser</p>	<p>8 </p> <p>Father in Toledo</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>9 </p> <p>Conception by St Anna of the Theotokos</p> <p>10 am Set-up for Cookie Walk</p>	<p>10 </p> <p>Cookie Walk 10 am-1 pm <u>5 pm Vespers</u> Confessions</p>
<p>11 </p> <p>9:30 am Hours <u>10 am Divine Liturgy</u> Church School</p>	<p>12 </p> <p>Father in Toledo</p>	<p>13 </p> <p>St Herman of Alaska</p> <p>6:30 pm Parish Council</p>	<p>14 </p> <p>No Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed at church 6:30 pm adult ed at Fr Matthew &amp; Matushka Lisa's</p>	<p>15 </p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>16 </p>	<p>17 </p> <p>11 am Visit to St Romanos Hermitage <u>5 pm Vespers</u> Confessions</p>
<p>18 </p> <p>9:30 am Hours <u>10 am Divine Liturgy</u> Church School Installation of newly elected</p>	<p>19 </p> <p>Father in Toledo</p>	<p>20 </p> <p>Pre-feast of Nativity of our Lord begins</p>	<p>21 </p> <p>No Divine Liturgy No adult ed <u>6 pm Vespers</u></p>	<p>22 </p>	<p>23 </p> <p><u>10 am Royal Hours</u> for the Nativity of our Lord Office Closed</p>	<p>24 </p> <p>Eve of the Nativity of our Lord 10 am Liturgy <u>6 pm Vespers</u> for the Nativity of our Lord</p>
<p>25 Nativity of Christ (Christmas) <u>10 am Divine Liturgy</u></p>	<p>26 Synaxis of the Theotokos</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>No Divine Liturgy No adult ed</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p><u>5 pm Vespers</u> No Confessions</p>
<p><b>FAST FREE from December 25 through January 4</b></p>						