

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

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- 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 2023

SAINT ISAAC THE SYRIAN, Bishop of Nineveh

The prayers from the fifth homily of the second part by Saint Isaac of Nineveh have been printed in every monthly newsletter beginning in October 2022 and concluded in November 2023. The preface to this homily of prayers says:

“The converse of hidden prayer, by Mar Isaac, which he drew up, arranged, and composed with words of feeling and supplication, making out of limbs joined together, a single body which will be useful for the meditation of hidden prayer: a person can be occupied with these words while standing up or sitting down, while working or while walking inside his (monastic) cell, while he is going to sleep, until the point when sleep takes over, while he is indoors or while he is travelling on a journey, secretly occupying himself with them within his heart; likewise, while he is constantly kneeling on the ground, or wherever he happens to be standing, even in it is not in front of the Cross, and he will mingle the humility of his body with the stirrings of his prayer, for by these he will find benefit, as well as from those which he has laid down as his rule and from the place set aside, with the beneficial advantages which occur from it for him in the face of his changing state of mind and the times of peace and of vexations which come upon him. Thus, by making use of these prayers which have been appropriately composed so that he may find comfort, his soul will receive sanctification by them, and will be filled with the grace of the Spirit.”

~From *Isaac of Nineveh (Isaac the Syrian): The Second Part, Chapters 4-41, chapter 5, preface, translated by Sebastian Brock. Peeters, 1995.*

FROM FATHER'S DESK

12 November 2023 - Saint John the Merciful, archbishop of Alexandria

Beloved in Christ,

On December 6 – the feast of our father among the saints Nicholas, archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the wonderworker – our archbishop and father Alexander will have surgery to remove his prostate gland and thus remove the cancer. Please keep Archbishop Alexander in your prayers and the doctors and nurses and staff who will be caring for him.

Because Archbishop Alexander will be at home and will need assistance in preparation for his surgery and during the initial stages of his recovery, I will stay with him from December 5 through at least December 25. The parish council has unanimously agreed to my doing this for our father in faith.

Here is an updated schedule for my part, all God-willing:

Saturday, December 2 - 10 am set up indoor Nativity scenes and any other Christmas trees/decorations that need to be put up in church and hall. Outdoor Nativity scene can be put up when convenient and weather is good. Your help is needed!

Sunday, December 3 - Saint Nicholas visits, as scheduled.

Tuesday, December 5 - 6 pm pan-Orthodox Vespers and Liturgy at our church for the feast of St Nicholas. Father Joe Abud will be the main celebrant (*Protos*) for the service as the senior priest. Joe Tome will lead the singing. If you are able, please plan on attending this service as this is our parish feast and we welcome faithful from the three other churches.

Wednesday, December 6 - No Liturgy and no adult education - Archbishop Alexander's surgery.

Thursday, December 7 ABC 12 interview is scheduled at 9:45 am. Stephanie Price will be interviewed. We need a volunteer or volunteers to make a tray of assorted goodies for the interview.

Saturday, December 9 Cookie Walk - Deacon Luke (Kerry) will lead church tours for visitors.

Sunday, December 10 Fr Robert Royer serves 10 am Liturgy - Confessions after Liturgy.

Sunday, December 17 Fr Robert Royer serves 10 am Liturgy - Confessions after Liturgy.
installation of those elected

Sunday, December 24 Fr Robert Royer serves 10 am Liturgy - Confessions after Liturgy.
Fr Robert serves 6 pm Great Vespers for Christmas.

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day 10 am Liturgy served by Father Michael Bassett.

- Steve Timofeev, the diocesan treasurer, stated that the diocese will cover the cost of any priests' *honoraria* for those days one serves in my place.
- God-willing, I should be able to do remote work such as preparing the Sunday bulletins, vespers, hours, Facebook postings, etc. and adult education can continue via Zoom.
- during this time, emergency sick calls, funerals or other holy mysteries (confession, etc.) will be seen to by the area priests.
- If you need to contact me for any reason, please text or call my mobile phone and I will answer when I am able.

Thank you for your patience, love, and prayers. Again, please keep Archbishop Alexander in your prayers for his healing.

Love, *Fr Matthew*

ON SUFFERING AND OUR LIFE

Beloved,

This month I share with you words from a modern father of the Church, Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra, father in God to our Archbishop Alexander. This is the conclusion of the Elder's talk on Psalm 17 given in 1969 that resonates still.

Love, Father Matthew

Psalm 17 - This extraordinary psalm is at once simple and profound. It is the prayer of a man who is suffering. If today we ourselves are not suffering, let us not forget that in all likelihood things will be different tomorrow. More importantly, right now, all around us, countless friends, loved ones, relatives and acquaintances are suffering, and they are, and never cease to be, the members of our own body (see 1 Corinthians 12:12). Let us pray for them with the words of this psalm and with similar words. And even though some of us may not seem to be suffering today, the deeper truth is that we are always suffering. Everything around us can become a cause of suffering. Our struggle to live virtuously is itself a source of pain. Satan, like a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8), like a lion's whelp that lurks in secret places (Psalm 17:12), waits for an opportunity to ensnare us in temptations. Our friendships and our loves can likewise be the cause of much pain and suffering. In the end, we can say that our whole life is a passion play, a history of extended suffering. However, let us not lose sight of the deeper meaning offered to us by the psalmist. Pain, difficulties, misfortunes, and suffering in general are the signs of divine visitation. Those who suffer are the special children of God. And so when our life is untroubled and things seem to be going well, we should stop and ask ourselves if we have not somehow moved away from God, because it is precisely suffering that constitutes our glory, our crown.

When we suffer, we can offer two things to God. The first is our virtue, by which I mean the witness of a clear conscience at peace with itself and God. This is our longing for uprightness (Psalm 17:2) and for the sovereignty of God's will over our own. Our will should be in accord with the will of God. The second is our complete trust in God; the patient, hopeful surrender of ourselves to God. There will come times in our life - or rather, such times will come continually - when all seems lost; when it appears that even those we love and trusted have abandoned us, that they have grown distant and estranged. There will be moments when black clouds gather menacingly over our heads. But it is during such moments, my beloved, that God is visiting us, in order to see our patience, to test the quality of our trust, which is the proof of our love for Him.

We said a moment ago that the faithful are often scandalized by the prosperity of sinners. And it is true that if we look at things from a purely human perspective it can seem as if God has distributed His blessings unjustly. Here, where He should have given a measure of happiness, He has given only misfortune. And there, where He should have dispensed riches, He gave only poverty. And where poverty was in order, he lavished wealth. When we wait for a blessing, He often deals us a hard blow, while at the same time He maintains smiles on the faces of those around us. In a way that echoes modern social concerns, we might say that God discriminates, and this is something that scandalizes us.

Why does this scandalize us? The answer is simple. It is because our hearts are still attached to earthly things, still clinging to false «goods» that we continue to covet and crave. Thus the solution to our dilemma must be sought elsewhere, and this means that we should not be hasty in abolishing whatever strikes us as discrimination or injustice. We live in a time of rapid change, when every innovation is presented to us as «progress», but before real change, real progress, can take place, something must first change within us. And for this to happen we must become completely estranged

to all things earthly and human, to all human logic, to all human ways of thinking, and to every so-called material good. We must be indifferent in the face of all things. And only then, when we have become strangers to all, can God become all things to us, as if there existed nothing else in the world for us except God. It is this alone that can grant us true and lasting tranquility. Otherwise, if our heart is attached to anything earthly, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem to be, we can be sure that it will make us suffer.

The psalmist reveals to us, in all its clarity, an eschatological way of life. At the beginning of the psalm, and again at its conclusion, he shows us the search for the face of God; a search to which he was continuously devoted and by means of which he united the present with the future. For him, the present and the future are one and the same, as they should be for us. For the psalmist, the presence of God is always something tangible, an experience that begins here and will continue into the next life. David's search for God must become our search as well. It should become our daily occupation, our food and our drink, our ongoing work. Nothing else should have any value for us.

Let us consider one final verse from the psalm: For the sake of the words of Your lips have I kept ways that are hard (v. 4). If we want to belong to God, our way will be a hard one. Suffering and arduous journeying is the way of the Apostles, the way of the Fathers, and the way of the Saints. It is the only road that leads to heaven (cf. Acts 14:22). In the same way that worldly people look upon the so-called «good things» of this life, and in the same way that conquering soldiers look upon the spoils of war, so too should we look upon the various difficulties that we encounter on our journey. We must learn to love to struggle; we must learn to love the ways of the Lord that are hard, regardless of the form they take. We must be ready to suffer with joy, with enthusiasm, and with a deep sense of gratitude. Then we will be filled with God's glory. [*Psalms and the Life of Faith by Archimandrite Aimilianos of Simonopetra, Holy Convent of the Annunciation, Ormylia, Greece 2015, pp 48-51.*](#)

SERVICES FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Schedule at the four Orthodox churches of Genesee County:

Fri., Dec 22

6 pm Royal Hours at St George Church
6 pm Royal Hours at St Mary Magdalene Church

Sat., Dec 23

5 pm Great Vespers here

4 pm Great Vespers at St George Church
4 pm Vigil at St Mary Magdalene Church

Sun., Dec 24

10 am Liturgy here
10 am Liturgy at
Assumption, St George, St Mary Magdalene

Sun., Dec 24, cont.

6 pm Nativity Great Vespers here

5 pm Nativity Vespers at Assumption Church
4:50 pm Nativity Matins at St George Church
6 pm Nativity Divine Liturgy at St George Church
7 pm Nativity Vigil at St Mary Magdalene Church

Mon, Dec 25 - Nativity of our Lord

9:30 am Hours, Carols, & Divine Liturgy here

8:50 am Orthros at Assumption Church
10 am Liturgy at Assumption Church
9:40 am Hours & Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Church

Tues, Dec 26 - Synaxis of the Theotokos

9:40 am Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Church



BULGARIAN DIOCESE
— OF TOLEDO —
Orthodox Church in America

519 Brynhaven Drive, Oregon, OH 43616

ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER
Diocesan Prelate

office: 419-693-9540
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mobile: 419-690-99979
email: alexander@bcoca.org

November 15, 2023
Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias,
Samonas, and Habibus, of Edessa

Dear Ms. Jernigan,

On behalf of our entire diocese, please accept my heartfelt thanks for your parish's understanding regarding your parish's rector, Fr. Matthew-Peter, Butrie staying with His Eminence, Archbishop Alexander for what will likely be the better part of December, following His Eminence's surgery on Wednesday, December 6.

This is a busy time of the year and I am inspired by your concern for our Father and Archbishop, Vladyka Alexander, and by your support of Father Matthew. In the Gospel of Matthew, our Lord describes one of the attributes of his sheep as visiting the sick. Working with Father Mathew as you are makes your entire parish participants in this good and faithful ministry.

I pray that you have a joyful and blessed Nativity Fast.

In Christ,

Archpriest Andrew Jarmus, Chancellor
Bulgarian Diocese, Orthodox Church in America

Hours Schedule

<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
3 Angelo	7 Angelo	4 Alexander
10 Lucy	14 Lucy	11 Angelo
17 Calvin	21 Calvin	18 Lucy
24 Phil	28 Phil	25 Calvin
31 Alexander		

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>
3 Katherine	7 Alexander	4 Angelo
10 Angelo	14 Angelo	11 Alexander
17 Alexander	21 Phil	18 Phil
24 Katherine	28 Katherine	25 Katherine
31 Phil		

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>
3 Christine Panoff	7 Christine Panoff	4 Dennis Goodman
10 Dennis Goodman	14 Dennis Goodman	11 Christine Panoff
17 Susie Ford	21 Susie Ford	18 Susie Ford
24 Ian & Stephanie Price	28 Ian & Stephanie Price	25 Ian & Stephanie Price
31 Susie Ford		

If you are unable to make your assigned date please find a replacement. Let Susie know of any changes or if you cannot find a replacement (810-407-3016).

HOURS, READERS & CANDLE STAND volunteers. Please look at each month's newsletter as the schedule may have changed since the previous publication.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters on December 7 from 9 am-12:30 pm. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." St. John Chrysostom.

INQUIRERS'/CATECHUMENS' CLASS led by our parish catechist, Reader Alexander Gonser, takes place on Sundays after the Divine Liturgy. Feel free to join in and let other inquirers know about these classes introducing the Orthodox faith.

PRAYER SERVICE for the sick & suffering at St. Mary Magdalene on December 12 at 6:30 pm.

CONFESSIONS the sacrament of Confession is offered on Saturday, December 2 after Vespers and on Sundays, December 10, 17, and 24. Also, Confession may be taken at Assumption Church, Saint George Church or Saint Mary Magdalene Church.

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 1st. Donations are appreciated.



DECK THE HALLS AT ST. NICHOLAS! On Saturday, December 2 at 10am we will arrange the flowers & 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 at 12:30 or when decorating is finished. Please note this time change for Vespers.



VISIT WITH ST. NICHOLAS & LENTEN POTLUCK on December 3rd.



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.

PARISH COUNCIL The next parish council meeting is Tuesday, December 12th at 6:30 pm.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE Prayer at 6:55 pm and minutes approved as submitted. Financial Report Financial stewardship is slightly behind 2022, everyone is encouraged to keep up with their financial pledge. Endowment Report down \$4,500 since September. Community Outreach 100 people (parishioners and visitors) participated in the Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 21. Looking forward to doing it again next year. We now have a contact at Lockwood (the executive director) next door to bring fliers of events there regularly. Fundraising *Triangle sale* on Sunday, November 19 to raise funds for band at August picnic. *Cookie Walk*, Saturday, December 9 - 10 am to 1 pm. The ABC 12 interview on Thursday, December 7 at 9:45 am on "Good Morning Mid-Michigan," Stephanie Price will do the interview in place of Father Matthew. *Theophany banquet* on Sunday, January 14 - lamb dinner. *Meatfare dinner*, Sunday, March 10 - turkey dinner. Stephanie Price has prepared a list of activities for 2024. Charity ministries North End Soup Kitchen, Thursday, December 7 from 9 am to 12 pm. Angel Tree is up in the hall to take children's names for Christmas gifts. Gift range is between \$25 and \$35. Please see Eileen Branoff with questions about the Angel Tree. The diocese offers a matching charity grant of up to \$1,000 for the fiscal year of Sept 1, 2023 to Aug 31, 2024 and offers this every year. Our parish has received this grant every year since it has been available and used it for purchasing Meijer gift cards for those in need. Church Building and Grounds New parts ordered for the furnaces. Furnaces have been prepped, serviced, and cleaned for winter. Dennis Jernigan will meet the state inspector on Friday, November 17 between 9 am to 12 noon, a licensed contractor (Dennis) must be present for the inspection. Repairs done to the bathrooms. Extra material/plumbing supplies were bought for the bathrooms to save time and money. Storage room needs new light bulbs - LED (12 bulbs - brighter and longer life) and fixtures need to be re-wired (by Dennis) will be \$144. Zone valves, thermostats and controls work to begin in January to be completed in summer 2024 by Dennis Jernigan. \$5,000 already approved for this. Charlie Jernigan looked over the dumpster contract for the church and cemetery. Cemetery dumpster - can have 55 gallon drums for trash to maintain ourselves instead of paying for dumpster at cemetery. We can get 3 drums for free that can be secured. A few more cameras can be added for security. *Need a volunteer to look over the monthly invoices every quarter to keep an eye on variations in expenses.* Old Business No update on possibility of a dishwasher for kitchen, tabled for December's meeting. New Business *Community Outreach* Fannia Young presented the idea of the parish sponsoring an article about the parish in the Flint magazine "On the Town" (50th anniversary issue in January - a double issue) - cost \$1,500 full page, 750 words with photographs (old and new). Motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION RESULTS OF PARISH COUNCIL, AUDITORS & LAY DELEGATES

Parish Council elected were Barry Cavett, Connie Maxim & Stephanie Price.

Auditors Calvin Conrad

Lay Delegate - 2024 Diocesan Conference Susie Ford and alternate is J. Joseph Tome.

Given Archbishop Alexander's blessing, the installation of those elected will take place on Sunday, December 17. Newly elected - please receive Confession before that date and receive Communion that Sunday.

PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES & EVENTS – DECEMBER 2023

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

COOKIE WALK on Saturday, December 9th 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 8th 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!



ANGEL TREE Our parish will participate in this program for Christmas as part of our Advent fast, helping those in need. The tags with children’s names are on the Angel Tree in the 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 6. If there are any questions, contact Eileen Branoff at (810) 232-5132.

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 3rd a Trisagion will be held in memory of all those fallen asleep remembered on tree.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN we serve on Thursday, December 7 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 plastic bags & put in the Blue Box in the hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items. If you are interested in volunteering call 810-265-7025.

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

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

2024 CALENDARS have arrived and will be handed out at the candle stand. Please, one per family.

KNITTING & CROCHET GROUP will not meet during December.



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS Remember to use your Community Rewards when checking out at the register. They send a check to St. Nicholas for a portion of everything participants spend in their stores. We have received \$50.76 so far this year.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES can be picked up in the parish hall. If there are boxes for family members who have not been attending whom you will be seeing this month, please deliver them to help save on postage costs (\$5 per box of envelopes). 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 & for the auditors.

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.

2024 PLEDGE CARDS & QUARTERLY STATEMENTS were mailed out the last week in October. 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 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 2024 pledge back with the card or it will be credited to 2023.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP/SEMINARIAN OFFERING On the first Sunday of the month an envelope will be placed in the bulletin for this fund to be placed in the plate when it is passed. There is also a category marked "Seminarian" on your stewardship envelopes that you can include with your regular giving. This helps to support parish seminarians, those training to become catechists, and kiosk expense for theological materials for inquirers.

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:

Mary Abu-Aita	6407 Sanctuary Pointe Ct.	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Linda Branoff	5238 Sandalwood Circle	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Paul Ellis	2360 Stonebridge Dr	Flint, MI 48532
Mary & Nick Karayanis	2238 Old Hickory	Davison, MI 48423
Dave Vuckovich	9352 Morrish Rd	Swartz Creek, MI 48473

MEMORY ETERNAL Matushka Loretta Karpelenia fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, November 6 and was being buried in Tampa, FL on November 13. She is the widow of Father Basil Karpelenia and both are known to many in the Flint Orthodox churches. Their daughter Denise Ghattas lives locally here. Please remember Matushka Loretta in your prayers that she rest in the light of Christ's face. God sustain her family in their time of grief. You may read her obituary [here](#). Christ is risen!

ASSISTANCE TO ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN THE WEST BANK, PALESTINE

Here is an email Father Michael Bassett sent to the local Orthodox priests:

Dear Fathers,

A year or more ago Fr. Vasili Gross, rector of St. Andrew Orthodox Church in East Lansing sought, through St. George Church a contact in the West Bank through which his parish could provide support for one or more Palestinian families in need.

We eventually connected with an individual who is related to some of our parishioners, whose family is known to others, and it just so happens also works full time for the Jerusalem Patriarchate. After talking with her several times we felt very comfortable with her knowledge and ability to navigate the best channel and target for this support.

She has been very discerning and discrete as we have worked with her to make sure that funds go directly to those in need. Ultimately she has connected us with a priest in the West Bank. He receives these funds and uses them to directly pay for various services (medical, food, schooling, etc.) of his parishioners and others who are in need.

Fr. Vasili recently contacted me about getting ready to send more funds recently and with the Gaza situation the need in the West Bank has increased significantly. I talked to our contact in Palestine on Saturday, October 28 and she indicated that tourism is completely shut down, movement between the West Bank and Jerusalem is severely curtailed, people are unable to work and the needs are increasing rapidly. She said that she has, in all her life, never seen a situation like this and an atmosphere as tense and difficult as this, impacting so many people so severely, and escalating so rapidly.

If your parish would like to participate in this fund parishioners can make donations directly to your parish and then your parish can write one check to St. Andrew Orthodox Church and send it to his parish in East Lansing (earmark it "West Bank Assistance"). Fr. Vasili will take care of all the administrative work to transfer the funds to the priest we are working with.

The address is:

Rev. Basil Gross

St. Andrew Orthodox Church

1216 Greencrest Ave

East Lansing, MI 48823-2906

Many thanks for your consideration of this channel for assistance and for allowing us to share it with you.

Anyone who might be interested is welcome to reach out to me for further information.

Love,

Fr. Mike Bassett

989.627.9580

Father Michael Bassett

Assistant Priest, Saint George Orthodox Church / Flint, MI · Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry

Michigan Volunteer Chaplain - Memorial Hospital / Owosso, MI

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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Nick George
- 4 Donna Nedanis
- 6 Diane Todorovsky
- 9 Sandy Taylor
- 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
- 31 Vladimir Akkerman



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
- 9 Hannah Shann

NAMESDAYS cont.

- 10 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
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
- 31 Charles Joseph Jernigan
David Batzos
David Condon
David George
David Goodman
David Houser
David Jernigan
David Mitevski
David Vuckovich
Jesse Popoff
Jessica Biggs
Joseph Brock
Joseph Oginsky
Joseph Oginsky Jr.
Kraig David Houser

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



JANUARY



*Theophany banquet & Outdoor Blessing of Water - Sunday, January 14 - lamb dinner.
Dormition Fundraiser
Annual Parish Meeting - January 28*



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Christmas flowers can be sponsored in honor of the living or as a memorial for the deceased.

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.) (11 available) *Any donation welcome*
(How many)

_____ 36 inch wreath (\$85 ea.) (2 available) *Any donation welcome*
(How many)

~~_____ 24 inch wreath (\$60) (0 available) *Any donation welcome*~~
(How many)

~~_____ 10 inch wreath (\$25) (0 available) *Any donation welcome*~~
(How many)

~~_____ 20 foot garland (\$25) (0 available) *Any donation welcome*~~
(How many)

In honor of (for the living)

Or, in memory of (deceased)

Name: _____

Amount \$ _____





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

Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 9, 2023
10 am ~ 1 pm

Ethnic Cookies and Many Other Baked Goods

*Cookies Sold at \$14 per Pound
cash or check*

Stock up your freezer for the Holidays

Hot Beverages



December 2023

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
<p>✠ Fast</p> <p>🍞 Dairy Permitted (no meat)</p> <p>🍷 Wine & Oil Permitted (no meat)</p> <p>🐟 Fish Permitted (no other meat)</p>		<p>Services in <i>blue</i></p> <p>- click for the <i>livestream</i></p>	<p>Times and events are subject to change</p>		1	<p>✠</p> <p>2</p> <p>🐟🍷</p> <p>10 am decorate church and hall</p> <p>12:30 pm Vespers</p> <p>Confessions</p>				
<p>3</p> <p>🐟🍷</p> <p>St. Nicholas visits & lenten potluck</p> <p>9:30 am Hours</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Trisagion @ Angel Wing Tree</p>	4	<p>✠</p> <p>5</p> <p>🍷</p> <p>6 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers & Liturgy for the feast of St Nicholas</p>	6	<p>🐟🍷</p> <p>Saint Nicholas</p> <p>No Divine Liturgy</p> <p>No adult education</p>	7	<p>9:45 am ABC 12 Stephanie Price interview</p> <p>9am to 12:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	8	<p>✠</p> <p>10 am Set-up for Cookie Walk</p>	9	<p>🐟🍷</p> <p>Cookie Walk 10 am-1 pm</p> <p>5 pm Vespers</p> <p>No Confessions</p>
<p>10</p> <p>🐟🍷</p> <p>9:30 am Hours</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Church School: Christ Crucified</p> <p>Confessions</p>	11	<p>✠</p> <p>12</p> <p>🍷</p> <p>6:30 pm Parish Council</p> <p>6:30 pm Prayer Service for the sick & suffering at St. Mary Magdalene Church</p>	13	<p>🐟🍷</p> <p>Repose of St Herman of Alaska</p> <p>No Divine Liturgy</p> <p>11:15 am adult education by Zoom</p>	14	<p>🍷</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	15	<p>✠</p>	16	<p>🐟🍷</p> <p>5 pm Vespers</p> <p>No Confessions</p>
<p>17</p> <p>🐟🍷</p> <p>9:30 am Hours</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Run the Race</p> <p>Installation of newly elected</p> <p>Confessions</p>	18	<p>✠</p> <p>19</p> <p>🍷</p>	20	<p>✠</p> <p>Pre-feast of the Nativity begins</p> <p>No Divine Liturgy</p> <p>11:15 am adult education by Zoom</p>	21	<p>🍷</p>	22	<p>✠</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	23	<p>🍷</p> <p>5 pm Vespers</p> <p>Confessions</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:30 am Hours</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Sharing & Caring</p> <p>Confessions</p> <p>6 pm Great Vespers</p>	25	<p>26</p> <p>Synaxis of the Theotokos</p>	27	<p>No Divine Liturgy</p> <p>No adult education</p>	28	<p>29</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	29	<p>30</p> <p>5 pm Vespers</p> <p>no Confessions</p>		
<p>31</p> <p>9:30 am Hours</p> <p>10 am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Church School: God is Love</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>									
<p>FAST FREE from December 25 through January 4</p>										