

February 23, 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

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SUNDAY, 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, 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!**

FEBRUARY 23, 2025 SUNDAY OF MEATFARE — Tone 2. Sunday of the Last Judgment. Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (167). Ven. Polycarp of Briansk (1620-1621). Ven. John, Antiochus, Antoninus, Moses, Zebinas, Polychronius, Moses, and Damian, Ascetics, of the Syrian deserts (5th c.). Ven. Alexander, founder of the Monastery of the “Unsleeping Ones” (ca. 430). Ven. Damian of Esphigmenou (Mt. Athos—1280). Monastic Martyr Damian of Philotheou (1568). St. Gorgonia, Sister of St. Gregory the Theologian (370).

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 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 1 When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory, / all things shall tremble, and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat; / the books shall be opened, and hidden things disclosed; / then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, // and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Righteous Judge!

The prokeimenon in the third tone: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, / His understanding is beyond measure. (Psalm 146:5)

v. Praise the Lord, for good is the psalm. To our God let praise be pleasing. (Psalm 146:1)

THE READING IS FROM THE FIRST EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS (8:8 - 9:2) Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Alleluia, Tone 8

v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, raise a great shout to God our savior. (Psalm 94:1)

v: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King over all the earth! (Psalm 94:3)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (25:31-46) At that time Jesus said, “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King

will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

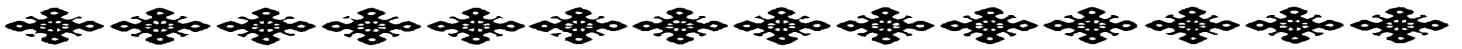
COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (*Psalm 147/148:1*)

Meatfare Sunday The foregoing two parables – the Tax Collector & the Pharisee, especially that of the Prodigal Son -- have presented to us God's extreme goodness and love for man. But lest certain persons, putting their confidence in this alone, live carelessly, squandering upon sin the time given them to work out their salvation, and death suddenly snatch them away, the most divine Fathers have appointed this day's feast commemorating Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds.

It is the aim of the holy Fathers, through bringing to mind that fearful day, to rouse us from the slumber of carelessness unto the work of virtue, and to move us to love and compassion for our brethren. Besides this, even as on the coming Sunday of Cheese-fare we commemorate Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight -- which exile is the beginning of life as we know it now -- it is clear that today's is reckoned the last of all feasts, because on the last day of judgment, truly, everything of this world will come to an end. All foods, except meat and meat products, are allowed during the week that follows this Sunday. from goarch.org

February 23, 2025



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Joan, Peggy, Bob,

Angelo, Christine, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Les, Bosa, Allison, Jeanette,

Kathryn, David, Taras, Ted, Joseph, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas,

my family and friends

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

Bosa, Milan, Mira, Radmila, Jeff, Jim, Nikke, Miroslav, Alex, Tatiana, Hannah,

Nikolas, Ashley, Gracie, and Allie

Bosa Kantor

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE BLESSED REPOSE OF

Memory Eternal Eftyhia Batsios

Irine Batcos & family

Memory Eternal~Blessed Repose Dorothy Goodman (2 yrs. Feb.27)

Nancy Krigner

In memory of Michael Rudd

Connie



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](#).

Feb 23 CANDLESTAND: Ian & Stephanie

HOURS: Lucy Hogg

READER: Angelo Panoff

Mar 2 CANDLESTAND: Dennis Goodman

HOURS: Alexander Gonser

READER: Barry Cavett

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

INQUIRERS'/CATECHUMENS' CLASS will not meet February 23 or Mar 2. Inquirers plan on attending the luncheons and fellowship on those two Sundays.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES on Wednesdays, at 11:15 am. We are reading - *Wounded by Love*, a transcription of conversations with Saint Porphyrios (1906-1991).

CHURCH SCHOOL - lesson is: [St John Chrysostom and the Liturgy](#)

NEWLY ILLUMINED & CHRISMATED on Sunday, February 16 before the Divine Liturgy, Kassiane (Madison) Green was baptized into Christ, her godparents are Reader Alexander Gonser and Matushka Lisa Butrie. Annie Bailey was chrismated. Annie's godmother is Matushka Lisa.

MEMORY ETERNAL Bernardita "Bernie" Gerzevske fell asleep in the Lord on February 5 in Naperville, IL She is sister-in-law to our parishioners Dat & Michelle Gerzevske. Her funeral was on February 18; you can read the obituary [here](#). Please remember Bernie in your prayers that she rest in the light of Christ's face and remember also her family in their time of grief that the Lord sustain them.

Michael G. Rudd fell asleep in the Lord on February 6, 2025. He is the brother of our parish secretary, Marcia (Terry) Hammerberg. He was a Navy Veteran and very active in his community in Chicago, IL. His funeral was February 22 and the obituary can be read [here](#). Please remember Michael in your prayers that he rest in the light of Christ's face and remember also his family in their time of grief that the Lord sustain them.

Eftyhia Batsios fell asleep in the Lord on February 14, 2025. She is the sister-in-law to our parishioner Irene and late husband Gerry Batcos. Her funeral was February 18 and was buried at Evergreen. She and her late husband, Lazaros, were members of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. Her obituary can be read [here](#). Please remember Eftyhia in your prayers that she rest in the light of Christ's face and remember also her family in their time of grief that the Lord sustain them.

PAN-ORTODOX LENTEN RETREAT March 21 & 22 at St. George with Fr. Silviu Bunta. The topic will be the *hymnography of Holy Friday & Holy Saturday in our lives*. The deadline to register is March 14. Fliers with the details are in the parish hall. You can register at saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com or call 810-732-0720.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE *Present:* Father Matthew Butrie, Chris Taylor, Paul Brayan, Stephanie Price, Eileen Branoff, Dennis Jernigan, Bill Economou, Connie Maxim. *Absent:* Lena Bakousidis, Barry Cavett. The meeting convened with "Heavenly King..." at 6:33 pm. The first order of business was to elect the officer of secretary. The motion was made by Stephanie Price and seconded by Connie Maxim to nominate Eileen Branoff as interim secretary of parish council, approved. *Review of secretary's report* Bill Economou moved, Dennis Jernigan seconded, approved. *Review financial report* we finished the month of January with a deficit of \$1,734.52. A budget will be in place for 2025. *Endowment report* the fund is up \$9,859.25 from last month. *Rector's report* 3 baptisms, 4 receptions by chrismation, 2 deaths. *Youth ministry/church school* looking for a middle school/high school teacher. May move class to after the Divine Liturgy. *Community outreach* Adam George offered to be part of the media ministry for Facebook, livestreaming, etc. Pre-Lenten dance was rescheduled to Saturday, May 10 because of the snowstorm February 14 & 15. No family game night on May 17. *Fundraising* Meatfare dinner on Sunday, February 22 (chaired by Reader J Joseph Tome), Cheesefare dinner on Sunday, March 2 (chaired by Kathy Gonser & Shari Nicoloff). *Charity ministries* North End Soup Kitchen service on Thursday, March 6 from 9:30 am to 12 pm. *Church building and grounds* Spring clean-up on Saturday, May 3. Need to buy a container (10 by 20 feet or 20 by 40 feet) for storage that is rodent-proof as we are running out of storage space. Dennis Jernigan made the motion to investigate and purchase a storage container, seconded by Bill Economou, approved. It would be helpful to have an event sheet listing chairperson who seek out the persons who will do pre-check (how many plates are needed, napkins, cups, flatware, etc), set-up, wipe down tables, wash dishes, take our trash, etc. We can ring the bell in the hall during an event to ask persons to help clean up. Dennis Jernigan cleared the snow off the roof. New ballast on lights in the hall. *Old business* Chris Taylor has been working with ABC 12 to get our future community events on their community calendar and has succeeded in doing so. *New business* A. budget: a draft was presented and will be revisited at the March meeting. B. pavilion and hall rental: hall rentals only for parishioners, pavilion rentals available for non-members but they need to provide porta-potties. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.

GIVE TO THE CHURCH THROUGH GIVELIFY Go to our website www.saintnicholasburton.org and click on the box [Give now with Givelify](#); this is a secure site. (2.9% + \$0.30 of your donation goes to Givelify as a fee). ***Please consider adding a little extra to your donation to cover the fee we are charged.** 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.

OFFICE HOURS are Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9-3.

God bless Fr. Matthew, Deacon Kerry and all my church sisters & brothers in Christ for your prayers, cards & caring on the loss of my beloved daughter, Ellyn. Your comfort means so much. *Connie Maxim*

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Monday, Feb 24 *Communion calls*

Wednesday, Feb 26

10 am Lenten Hours
11:15 am Adult education class
1 pm Fr Matthew leaves for Toledo

Thursday, Feb 27

11 am Diocesan spiritual council meeting in Toledo (Fr Matthew returns in the late afternoon)

Saturday, Mar 1

5 pm **Vespers - live-streamed** *Confessions*

Sunday, Mar 2

Cheesefare Sunday

9:30 am **Hours-live-streamed**

10 am **Divine Liturgy-live-streamed**

Church School - **St Gerasimus and monasticism**

12:15 pm Forgiveness Vespers

Offerings for the week February 16, 2025

<i>Weekly Tithes & Offerings</i>	\$ 1,456.65
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 4,380.00
	\$ -2,923.35

38 persons in attendance on February 16