

February 24, 2019

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

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The Gospel according to Saint Luke 24:36-53 (6th Matins Gospel)

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have. When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019 SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON — Tone 6. First (4th c.) and Second (452) Finding of the Honorable Head of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. Beginning of the Lenten Triodion. Ven. Erasmus of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th c.).

TROPARIA

(Tone 6) The angelic powers were at Thy tomb the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

(Tone 4) The head of the Forerunner has shone from the earth, sending forth rays of incorruption and healings to the faithful. It gathers together a multitude of Angels above and summons the human race below// to send up glory with one voice to Christ our God.

(Tone 4) In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, O Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

KONTAKION

(Tone 3) I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me. And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal: / “I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father; / receive me a penitent, and make me as one of Thy hired servants!”

The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone: The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall set his hope on Him.

v. Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to Thee.

THE READING FROM THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS (4:6-15) Brethren: it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Alleluia, Tone 6

v: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

v: He will say to the Lord: “My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust!”

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (15:11-32) And Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.’” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry. “Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

First and second finding of the Honorable Head of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord, John – February 24

After the Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John (August 29), his body was buried by disciples in the Samaritan city of Sebaste, and his venerable head was hidden by Herodias in an unclean place. Saint Joanna (June 27), the wife of King Herod's steward Chuza (Luke 8:3), secretly took the holy head and placed it into a vessel and buried it on the Mount of Olives in one of Herod's properties.

After many years, this property passed into the possession of a government official who became a monk with the name of Innocent. He built a church and a cell there. When they started to dig the foundation, the vessel with the venerable head of John the Baptist was uncovered. Innocent recognized its great holiness from the signs of grace emanating from it. Thus occurred the First Finding of the Head. Innocent preserved it with great piety, but fearful that the holy relic might be abused by unbelievers, before his own death he again hid it in that same place, where it was found. Upon his death the church fell into ruin and was destroyed.

During the days of Saint Constantine the Great (May 21), when Christianity began to flourish, the holy Forerunner appeared twice to two monks journeying to Jerusalem on pilgrimage to the holy places, and he revealed the location of his venerable head.

The monks uncovered the holy relic and, placing it into a sack of camel-hair, they proceeded homewards. Along the way they encountered an unnamed potter and gave him the precious burden to carry. Not knowing what he was carrying, the potter continued on his way. But the holy Forerunner appeared to him and ordered him to flee from the careless and lazy monks, with what he held in his hands. The potter concealed himself from the monks and at home he preserved the venerable head with reverence. Before his death he placed it in a water jug and gave it to his sister. From that time the venerable head was successively preserved by devout Christians, until the priest Eustathius (an Arian) came into possession of it. He beguiled a multitude of the infirm who had been healed by the holy head, ascribing their cures to the fact that it was in the possession of an Arian. When his blasphemy was uncovered, he was compelled to flee. After he buried the holy relic in a cave, near Emesa, the heretic intended to return later and use it for disseminating falsehood. God, however, did not permit this. Pious monks settled in the cave, and then a monastery arose at this place. In the year 452 Saint John the Baptist appeared to Archimandrite Marcellus of this monastery, and indicated where his head was hidden. This became celebrated as the Second Finding. The holy relic was transferred to Emesa, and later to Constantinople.

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CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Tom Branoff for his 85 th birthday	Linda Branoff
John & Rose Goodman and Dorothy Goodman	Brucksch family
God's blessings & healing for Rose & John Goodman, Calvin Conrad & Helen Ethington	Evanenko family
Fr. Tom, Fr. Dimitrie, Fr. Anthony, Angelo, Aaron, Reggie, John, Alex, Irene, Rimi, Allen, Deborah, JoAnn, Susan, Luba, Kosta, David, Anna, Helen, Walt, Calvin, Vladimir, Dorothy, John, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Christopher, Ted, Marlene, Joseph, Nicholas, Margaret, Gladys, my family and friends	Joe Tome
Special Intention	Joe Tome
God's blessings & health for Rose & John Goodman & happy 95 th birthday to Rose Feb. 22 nd .	Dorothy Goodman

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Blessed Repose for our dear sweet grandson Andrew (6 mo. Feb. 18) & Blessed Repose for Mitra Tsotsos (1 yr.)	Baba & Dedo
Chris Velo Blessed Repose~Memory Eternal	Dorothy Goodman
Chris Velo	Brucksch family
Blessed Repose~Susan Goodman, Ronnie & Peter	Mike Goodman



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors.



COFFEE is provided today by Anastasia & Alex Branoff in memory of their parents, grandparents, brothers, sister, uncle, aunt, sister-in-law & her mother. There will be a free will offering for donuts.

MEMORY ETERNAL - CHRIST IS RISEN Helen Ethington fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, February 21. Visitation is at Swartz Funeral Home today 1 pm-8 pm, the Parastas will be at 7 pm. The funeral service is Monday at 11 am at St. Nicholas, with visitation starting at 10 am. Burial will take place at Evergreen Cemetery followed by a mercy meal. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. Christ God grant her rest among the saints. Bog da prosti! Memory eternal! Christ is risen!

MEATFARE SUNDAY is March 3rd, which will be a turkey dinner. Volunteers are always needed. There will be a free will offering. Please bring a dessert to share.

Upcoming Events

March 10 - Cheesefare

March 17 - 1st Sunday of Lent & Icon Procession

CHURCH MAINTENANCE To help with the cost of maintenance for our parish we are providing offering envelopes for this purpose. Please consider making this a regular part of your giving throughout the year.

WALL CALENDARS are still available at the candle stand.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting **shampoo, conditioner & lotion** for the month of February. Place the items in the blue box in the Parish Hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

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

Weekly Schedule:

Today

1 pm-8 pm

Visitation & Parastas for Helen Ethington at Swartz Funeral Home

Monday, Feb 25

10 am

Visitation at St. Nicholas for Helen Ethington

11 am

Funeral service at St. Nicholas for Helen. Mercy meal will follow the burial at Evergreen.

Tuesday, Feb 26

Fr. Matthew in Toledo

Wednesday, Feb 27

9:30 am

Divine Liturgy

11:15 am

Adult Ed. Class

Saturday, Mar 2

Memorial Saturday

4:45 pm

Trisagion

5 pm

Vespers

Sunday, Mar 3

9:30 am Hours
10 am Divine Liturgy
Church School
Meatfare Luncheon

Offerings for the week February 17, 2019

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 1,650.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,236.00
	\$-1,5861.00

70 people were in attendance on Sunday, February 17th.

Here's the shortest and easiest path to salvation: Be obedient, restrained, don't judge, and guard your heart and mind against wicked thoughts. Think well of everyone and bear in mind that the Lord loves them. Because of these humble thoughts, the grace of the Holy Spirit will dwell in your heart and you'll say: 'The Lord is merciful'.

- St Silouan the Athonite