

**February 26, 2023**

**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*

**Website: [www.saintnicholasburton.org](http://www.saintnicholasburton.org) Church: 810-744-0070 e-mail: [stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com)**

**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 vestibule. If you have a question, a prayer request, or any need, please speak with Fr. Matthew, Deacon Luke, or with one of the ushers.

For our friends present with us who are not Orthodox Christians, please note that we have specific disciplines regarding receiving Communion. We ask that you refrain from going to Communion until you have spoken with Fr. Matthew after the Liturgy and understand our discipline and piety regarding this sacrament and its implication for responsibility towards and membership in the Orthodox Church. The bread offered at the end of the service is available to all.

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. **Again, welcome!**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023 SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE – Tone 4. The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. "Mezhetsk" Icon of the Mother of God. St. Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza (420). Ven. Sebastian of Poshekhónsk (ca. 1500). Martyr Christodoulos.**

**TROPARIA**

**Tone 4** When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / "Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!"

**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 4** Now the season of virtues has come, and the Judge is at the door. Let us not hold back with a darkened face, but offering tears, contrition and giving of alms let us keep the fast, and let us cry: Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea, but forgive each of us, that we may receive an incorruptible crown, O Savior of all!

*The prokeimenon in the eighth tone: Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God! (Psalm 75:10a)*  
**v. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (Psalm 75:1)**

**THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE ROMANS (13:11 - 14:4)**

Brethren, you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

***Alleluia, Tone 6***

**v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your Name, O Most High. (Psalm 91:1)**

**v. To declare your mercy in the morning, and your truth by night. (Psalm 91:2a)**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (6:14-21)** The Lord said: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received

their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

### COMMUNION HYMN

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

### **The holy Gospel according to Luke 24:1-12 (4th Matins Gospel)**

Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' And they remembered His words. Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

**Sunday of Cheesefare, the expulsion of Adam from Paradise** The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are unbridled desire and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the unbridled desire and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matthew 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation. *from [goarch.org](http://goarch.org)*

February 26, 2023



### CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Health & God's blessings for Dorothy Goodman

Nancy Krigner

Health, blessings & protection for my family

Lucy Hogg

Health & God's blessings for Dorothy Goodman

Debbie, Ralph, Joe & Sarah

Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Angelo, Joan,

Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Kosta,

Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, David, Taras, Ted,

Joseph, Marlene, Mary, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family

and friends

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome



**WELCOME** to all our friends and visitors! Welcome to everyone 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](#).

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHURCH SCHOOL - [Transfiguration](#)

ADULT EDUCATION class is reading Fr Silviu Bunta's book [Your Life Will Be Hung Before Your Eyes': Meanings of Our Life in Orthodox Liturgy](#). The cost is \$24 for the book which is in the office.

**CANDLESTAND:** Dave Houser

**HOURS:** Lucy Hogg

**READER:** Alexander Gonser

**CHEESEFARE LUNCHEON** is today, February 26. The dinner includes pierogies, strata and French toast. The Fundraising Committee is asking for your help in preparation, serving and clean-up. A freewill offering will be collected. Everyone is invited to attend.

**FORGIVENESS VESPERS** will be served following the Cheesefare luncheon.

**LENTEN RETREAT** on March 18 with Archbishop Alexander and Bishop Anthony here at St Nicholas Church. Please see the flier [HERE](#) which is also on the tables in our fellowship hall. **There is a signup sheet in the fellowship hall or you can email the office with your R.S.V.P.**

**PAN-ORTHODOX LENTEN SERVICES** The flier for these services is in the [March newsletter](#) and also on the tables in the fellowship hall. Let us join together in one voice to give glory to God!

**EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE** You may donate to assist the people suffering in the aftermath of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria through [IOCC](#), the Antiochian Archdiocese at [Antiochian.org/earthquake](#), the Greek Archdiocese at [goarch.org/earthquake](#). Pray for those who have died and those who suffer and help. Offerings & money from the Meatfare on February 19 totaled \$1525 which will go toward this need.

**PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE** **Finances** - please continue to make your donations regularly. God bless you for your faithful stewardship. **Fundraising** - Joe Tome will chair a Palm Sunday bake sale on Sunday, April 9. **Social activities** - 29 people attended Vespers on Saturday, February 4, over 15 people stayed for game night, and \$207 was donated. These funds will be used for the other upcoming social activities through the year. Thank you to Stephanie and Ian Price for organizing game night. **Church building and grounds** - Dennis Jernigan installed a new sign for the office. The Hoover vacuum motor burned up. A commercial Oreck will be purchased to replace it. The bell tower is rusting so it will need to be sandblasted and painted. The small bell in the tower is not working. Both of these items will be looked into. Spring cleanup needs to be done. The old television in the hall is available free - first come first served. The proceeds from the Angel Wing Tree will go towards our Church School. Spring clean-up is Saturday, May 6 - we will need many hands to help.

**BOOKS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL** There are sets of six different spiritual books in the fellowship hall. All of them were given by Saint Anthony Monastery in Florence, Arizona. Our only cost was postage. If you want copies, take some books and leave a donation. The proceeds will be sent to the monastery.

**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.**

### GREAT LENT 2023

Dearly beloved in the Lord,

As we enter the season of Great Lent, I encourage you to remember these words of St. Cyril of Alexandria: "Lent is a time to return to our first love, to rediscover the joy of our salvation, and to renew our commitment to Christ."

At the threshold of this year's Lenten journey, let us remember the words of St. Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:2, which say, "Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." Let us also be inspired by the examples of saints such as St. Mary of Egypt, who lived a life of great humility and repentance, and St. Basil the Great, who taught us to "fast not only with our mouth but with our eyes, our ears, our feet, our hands, and all our members."

In short, our fasting must be understood as an opportunity, not a burden. We have before us a great gift, a time set aside for an intentional and intensified pursuit of spiritual healing and ascent. These are the "most-holy days for the cleansing of souls and bodies, for control of passions, and for hope in the resurrection." (Divine Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts)

Let us, therefore, enter this Lenten season with humble and joyous hearts overflowing with anticipation for our Lord's radiant resurrection. May we be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and may our Lenten journey lead us closer to the kingdom of God.  
with love in Christ,

**+Alexander**

*Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese*

**ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER'S** letter for Lent also available online in English, Bulgarian, and Romanian [HERE](#).

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

**Monday, February 27** *Fr. in Toledo*

6 pm Compline w/Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

**Tuesday, February 28**

6 pm Compline w/Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

**Wednesday, March 1**

10:30 am Lenten Hours

11:15 am Adult education class

6 pm Compline w/Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

**Thursday, March 2**

9 am-12:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen

6 pm Compline w/Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

**Friday, March 3**

9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy served by Fr Michael Bassett & sung by Fr Matthew  
*if you would like to make the koliva, please let Fr Matthew know*

**Saturday, March 4** **St Theodore Tyro** *if you would like to make the koliva, please let Fr Matthew know*

9:30 am Confessions

10 am Divine Liturgy

**5 pm** **Vespers - streaming on our YouTube channel** *Confessions*

**Sunday, March 5** **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent** *please bring icons from home for the procession*

9:30 am Third & Sixth Hours

**10 am** **Divine Liturgy- streaming on our YouTube channel**

Icon Procession

**Offerings for the week February 19, 2023**

Weekly Offerings	\$ 1,879.9
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 3,104.00
	<b>\$ -1,224.01</b>

60 persons in attendance on February 19