

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Monthly 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

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

FEBRUARY 2021

ON THE ENCOUNTER OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (HYMN FOUR OF THE NATIVITY)

BY ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

In the Holy temple Simeon carried Him, and lulled Him, [saying,] "You have come, O Merciful One, showing mercy on my old age, making my bones to go into the grave in peace. In You shall I be raised from the grave into Paradise!"

Anna embraced Him, and put her mouth to His lips, and the Spirit dwelt upon her own lips. As when Isaiah's mouth was silent, the coal which approached his lips opened his mouth; so Anna burned with the Spirit of His mouth, yea, she lulled Him, [saying,] "Son of the Kingdom, Son of the lowliness, that hear and are still, that see and are hidden, that know and are unknown, God, Son of Man, glory unto Your Name."

The barren women also heard, ran, and came with their provisions: the Magi came with their treasures, the barren came with their provisions. Provisions and riches were suddenly heaped up in the house of the poor.

The barren woman Elizabeth cried out, as at that for which she did not look, "Who has granted me this sight of your Baby, O Blessed One, by whom the heaven and earth are filled! Blessed be your Fruit, which made the barren vine to bear a cluster."

Zacharias came and opened his venerable mouth and cried, "Where is the King, for whose sake I have begotten the Voice that is to preach before His face? Hail, Son of the King, to whom also our Priesthood shall be given up!"

John approached with his parents and worshipped the Son, and He shed glory upon his countenance; and he was not moved as when in the womb! Mighty miracle, that here he was worshipping, there he leaped.

FROM FATHER'S DESK

On February 2 we rejoice in a great feast of our Lord Jesus Christ as we celebrate the fortieth day after the birth of Christ when He enters into the Temple for the first time as the God-man. As God, He dwelled in the Holy of holies and now He comes as the God who has taken on human nature. This feast is often called the encounter of the Lord or the meeting of the Lord because in the Temple he encountered/met St. Symeon the Righteous and St. Anna the Prophetess.

This feast, like so many feasts of Christ Jesus, sings the praises of His humility. The feasts celebrate that the uncontainable God becomes contained in a virgin's womb. They celebrate that the One who made the heavens and the earth, all creatures (including us humans) bends Himself down to become a creature. And in this present feast, that the very Son of God Who gave Moses the Law on Mount Sinai, now comes as a forty-day old child to fulfill the Law which He Himself had given to Moses. The burning coal of divinity contained in her womb is now held in the arms of the ever-Virgin Mary who gives Him to us. God is humility. He does nothing other than be Himself, make Himself little, pour Himself out for us because of His love for us.

Today St. Joseph and the ever-Virgin offer up sacrifice on the fortieth day for the birth of a child. Because they were poor they offered up "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." In the temple Christ Jesus encounters two people: Symeon and Anna. The old man Symeon received a revelation from the Holy Spirit that he, Symeon, would not die before he had seen the Messiah, the Christ. The Holy Spirit led Symeon into the temple on the same day Mary and Joseph brought the child Jesus. The prophetess Anna who lived in the Temple with fasting and prayer, came up to the holy family and "gave thanks to God, and spoke of the Christ child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem." (Luke 2:38)

Symeon, on seeing the face of the Son of God in the flesh, says a hymn that has become the prayer at the conclusion of every Vespers and every Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion: "Now set free your servant, Master, according to your word in peace, for my eyes have seen your Salvation, whom you have prepared before the face of all peoples – Light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the Glory of your people Israel.

The 'Salvation,' 'Light' and 'Glory' are not things; Symeon is speaking of a person, the child he holds in his hands. He looks into the face of God made man and calls Christ Jesus the Salvation before all nations, Light of the Gentiles and the Glory of Israel, the one dwelling in the Holy of holies.

Symeon, upon seeing Christ, asks the Lord to free him from this life, which is a gift from God, so that Symeon may enjoy the fullness of life in Christ in the heavenly kingdom. And these same words and thought we place on our lips and heart when we have received Christ Jesus in Communion. After Communion, as we say the prayers of Thanksgiving, when we say "my eyes have seen your Salvation...Light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the Glory of your people Israel" we say this as we hold in us Salvation, Light, and Glory, the One we long for, and having received Him we ask Him to bring us to Him.

This spiritual attitude shows us how we Christians view death, not as something to be feared. No. Christ has conquered death by His own death, He has defeated it in His resurrection. Christ has made physical death not the end of life but rather a change in how life is lived. Christ Himself tells us if we live in an evil way then the resurrection will be one of judgement. Our being near to God in this way will be as burning fire. Christ tells us if we live in Him now then the resurrection will be one of life. Our being near to God in this way will be light and joy. The way we live in Christ here on earth continues after this earthly life.

We give care to live in Christ in this life, receiving Him who is Life in Holy Communion so that when we die physically it is not destruction but the passing from one way of living life in Christ (here on earth) to the way of life in Christ that the saints now have. And, especially at Holy Communion, this prayer of Symeon is put on our lips again and again as we look to Christ and behold Him in us, so that our passing from this life is the fulfillment of the life in Christ we began at our baptism. To Him, Christ our God, be all glory with the Father and the Spirit.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters February 4th from 9 am-11:30 am. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." St. John Chrysostom

MEMORY ETERNAL! CHRIST IS RISEN!

Remember in your prayers Sophie Tula Stavridis, infant daughter of Teddy and Jessica Stavridis. Sophie fell asleep in the Lord on December 30, 2020. Her twin brother is Lazaros Dimitrios and her great-grandmother is Vasilka Karatza. Burial was at Elmwood Cemetery, Detroit on January 5, 2021. Sophie Tula rest in the light of Christ's face with all the righteous. God sustain her family. Memory eternal! Christ is risen!

THE PARISH COUNCIL will meet on February 9th @ 6:30 pm. Please call or email the parish office if you are unable to attend this meeting. Those who wish to attend virtually will be able to do so.

DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT You will find in your box of offering envelopes one marked "Diocesan Assessment." Each parish in the Diocese is assessed by income. We have been paying this directly out of our Sunday offerings, using this envelope sets the funds directly aside for the Diocese.

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.

PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS WITH LITURGY Monday, February 1st - 6 pm at Assumption Church for the great feast of the Encounter of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Temple with Symeon and Anna. In-person attendance. Not livestreamed.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! St. Nicholas, 1st Thursday of every month, 9 am to 11:30 am. St. George, 4th Tuesday, 9 am to 11:30 am. Call ahead to confirm times & other days they need help. (810-785-6911)

Assumption - *Center for Hope, 517 E Fifth Ave, 3rd Wednesday, 11 am to 1 pm.*

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

	
HOPE IN A BOX	
February	Shampoo, Conditioner & Lotion
March	Feminine Care Products
April	Deodorant

Abba Macarius was asked, "How should one pray?" The old man said, "There is no need at all to rattle on; it is enough to stretch out one's hands and say, 'Lord, as you will, and as you know, have mercy.' And if the conflict grows fiercer say, 'Lord, help!' He knows very well what we need and he shows us his mercy."

FACEBOOK PAGE Please visit & follow our parish page: <https://www.facebook.com/stnicholasburton>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL subscribe to our YouTube channel [Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton](#) to receive notifications of upcoming livestreams for services.

VISITATION TO THE SICK Presently, Fr. Matthew may bring Communion to those who are at home. When permitted, Fr. Matthew will resume bringing Holy Communion to those in nursing homes, assisting living homes, and other care facilities shut-ins on Tuesdays. If you would like to be added to this list, please contact the office. Presently, those receiving weekly visits at home are: Milica Beslach, Angelo Popoff, Eleni Servinis, and Peter & Jo Sredich.

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.

Larry Bladecki	Gladys Edwards	Mary Karayanis	Ron Salhany
Deacon John Bocek	Paul Ellis	Nick Karayanis	Bill Tadrick
Linda Branoff	Bill Haw	Macy Lemmen	Wendy Tadrick

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

Larry Bladecki	3254 E. Midland Rd	Bay City, MI 48706
Gladys Edwards	2 Harbor Dr.	St. Clair, MO 63077
Paul Ellis	2360 Stonebridge Dr.	Flint, MI 48532
Vasilka Karatza	Regency 1330 Grand Pointe Ct	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Eleni Servinis	Regency 1330 Grand Pointe Ct	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Jo Sredich	Victoria's House 1219 N. Dye Rd.	Flint, MI 48532

PARISH COUNCIL met on Tuesday, January 19th. The election of officers took place: Sharon Jernigan, president; Paul Brayan, vice-president; Stephanie Price, treasurer; Michelle Gerzevske, secretary; Katherine Gonser, non-officer on the executive committee. The parish will make a donation of \$250 to Holy Dormition Monastery for the Dormition fundraiser on January 21. The prospect of buying a back-up compressor for \$200 fell through so we are still looking for one. Work needs to be done on the electronic door-opener at the office door together with the doorbell. The Synod of Bishops mandated that all parishes in the OCA must make increase their contribution for clergy pension from 8% to 10% effective January 1. Stephanie Price suggested an outreach to pair up college age students with an adult from the parish to be there for them during the stresses of these days. Dennis Jernigan suggested a group of people to assist with outreach to parishioners not yet attending services during the pandemic. These two ministries exist already in other parishes. Thank you to the Borkovich family for donating an AED (automatic defibrillator) installed by Dave Houser in the hallway. A class will be looked into to train persons how to use the AED. If you are interested, please contact the office.

SAINT MACARIUS THE GREAT

“You should know that, hidden away in sorrows and sufferings, in patience and faith are God’s promises, as also are His glory and the acquisition of the heavenly blessings. Because even the wheat that’s sown in the earth first has to rot and seemingly decay before we can enjoy its beauty and the multiplication of its yield. If it isn’t subjected to this rotting and decaying, there’s no harvest.”

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Kristin Hart
Luba Todorovsky
5 Joseph Oginsky, Jr.
9 Milica Beslach
10 Andy Yosheff
Nicole Hiteshew
11 Sharon Jernigan
13 Jordan Abu-Aita
15 Angelo Popoff
Sherry Brown
19 Paul Ellis
20 Matushka Lisa Butrie
Stojan Prusac
21 Mark Houser
25 Bob Edwards
26 Jerry Brucksch



NAMESDAYS

- 6 Dorothy Goodman
10 Valentina Evanenکو
17 Bogdan Beslach
Theodore Stavridis
Theodore Wilhelm
25 Taras Evanenکو
Taras-Michael Butrie
28 Kira Rabkina

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Jonathon & Jennifer Shann
12 Allen & Deborah Adams
Angelo & Helen Popoff
26 Ian & Stephanie Price

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

[SAINTS BARSANUPIUS THE GREAT AND JOHN THE PROPHET \(February 6\)](#)

St. John the Prophet

"Brother, the passions are afflictions. And the Lord did not distinguish between them, but rather said: 'Invoke me in the day of your affliction, and I shall deliver you, and you shall glorify me' (Ps 49:15). Therefore, in the case of every passion, there is nothing more beneficial than to invoke the name of God. Contradicting a passion does not belong to everyone, but only to those who are strong according to God, who are able to subdue the demons (Lk 10:20). For if someone who is not strong contradicts them, then the demons will ridicule that person for being inferior to them and yet contradicting them. Similarly, rebuking the passions belongs to the great and powerful ones. Whom among the saints will you find rebuking the devil like St Michael (Jude 9-10)? Indeed, he has the power to do so. Those of us who are weak can only take refuge in the name of Jesus."

St. Barsanuphius

"You called yourself a sinner, but in your deeds you did not consider yourself as such. For one who considers oneself a sinner and the cause of evil is neither contentious nor angry against anyone else, but considers everyone to be better and wiser than oneself."

St. John the Prophet

"Saying something with humility means not speaking as a teacher, but as one who has heard from the Abbot or the fathers."

Letters from the Desert: Barsanuphius and John translated by John Chryssavgis, published by [St Vladimir Seminary Press](#).

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**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
2143 South Center Road
Burton, MI 48519**

A decorative vertical graphic element consisting of a series of rectangular blocks stacked vertically, with a small floral or leaf-like motif at the top.

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Burton, MI 48519

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers and Liturgy at Assumption for the Entry of our Lord into the Temple	2 Entry of our Lord into the Temple <i>Fr. in Toledo</i> Office Closed	3 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed	4 9am to 11:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen Office Closed	5 †	6 5 pm Vespers with Litya confessions
7 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Take down Christmas decorations	8 <i>Fr. in Toledo</i>	9 6:30 pm parish council Office Closed	10  St Haralambos 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed	11 Office Closed	12 †	13 4 pm Vespers at St. Mary Magdalene with Archbishop Alexander
14 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy	15 <i>Fr. in Toledo</i>	16 Office Closed	17 St. Theodore  the Recruit 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed	18 Office Closed	19 †	20 5 pm Vespers confessions
21 Publican & Pharisee beginning of the Triodion 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy	22 Fast Free Week <i>Fr. in Toledo</i>	23 Office Closed	24 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed	25 Office Closed	26	27 5 pm Vespers confessions
28 Prodigal Son 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy					† Fast  Dairy Permitted (no meat)  Wine & Oil Permitted (no meat)  Fish Permitted (no other meat)	

