

February 22, 2026

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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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 (those received into the Orthodox Church through baptism or chrismation), 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!**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026 SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE – Tone 4. The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. Uncovering of the Relics of the Holy Martyrs at the Gate of Eugenius at Constantinople (395-423). Martyrs Maurice and his son, Photinus, and Martyrs Theodore, Philip, and 70 soldiers, at Apamea in Syria (ca. 305). Ven. Thalassius, Limnæus and Baradates, Hermits, of Syria (5th c.). St. Athanasius the Confessor, of Constantinople (821).

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. God is known in Judea, in Israel great is his name.
(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 confess to the Lord, to chant to your name, O Most High. (Psalm 91:1)
v. So that to proclaim your mercy in the morning and your truth through the 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 (3x)! *(Psalm 148:1)*

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*

February 22, 2026



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

The Popoff Family, The Naum Family, The Papalazarou Family
Oleg, Galina, Nikolay, Nikolay, Andrey, Kirill, Lev, Vlada, Irina
Grandson Grayson who is had surgery on the 18th
Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Joan, Peggy,
Bob, Angelo, Christine, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Les, Bosa, Jeanette,
Ted, Kathryn, David, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family
And friend
Special Intention

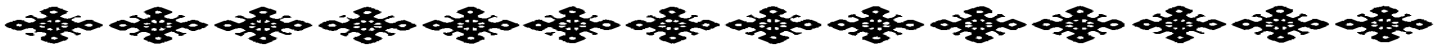
Magda Popoff
Irina Sivergina
Milica Beslac

Joe Tome
Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE BLESSED REPOSE OF

Natse, Peter, Eleni & Angelo
Adelaida Feodosiy
The Georgopoulos Family
My Good Friend, James Miller

Magda Popoff
Irina Sivergina
Mary & Tom Batzos
Bill Economou



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 22 CANDLESTAND: Susie Ford

HOURS: Staci

READER: Barry

Mar 1 CANDLESTAND: Dennis Goodman

HOURS: Barry

READER: Madison

CHEESEFARE DINNER by St Juliana's Guild today Sunday, February 22, All proceeds will go to Sadie Roberts & Sebastion Hager in anticipation of their crowning in marriage in April.

CELEBRATION for the engagement of Sebastion Hager & Sadie Roberts for the occasion of their upcoming Crowning in Marriage on April 25th. Celebration will be held on February 22nd. All are welcome to honor them with a card or gift. Any monetary gift will be put towards helping them create a beautiful and memorable honeymoon! Please contact Katherine Gonser, Susie Ford or Chris Taylor for more information.

2026 PLEDGE CARDS If you haven't already done so, please return your pledge card so the parish council can budget accordingly. To be a voting parishioner of St. Nicholas Church you must receive Confession and Communion within the past year and return a signed pledge card even if you don't enter a pledge amount

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Today **Cheesefare Dinner** - Church School: Cheesefare
inquirers, catechumens, neophytes dine with Father Matthew for informal discussion

Monday, February 23 - Great Fast Begins

6:30 pm Compline w/1st part of the Canon of St Andrew of Crete

Tuesday, February 24

6:30 pm Compline w/2nd part of the Canon of St Andrew of Crete

Wednesday, February 25

10 am lenten Hours

6:30 pm Compline w/3rd part of the Canon of St Andrew of Crete

Thursday, February 26

6:30 pm Compline w/4th part of the Canon of St Andrew of Crete

Friday, February 27

9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, February 28 **St Theodore's Saturday**

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

5 pm Vespers *Confessions*

Sunday, March 1 1st Sunday of Lent / of Orthodoxy

9:30 am Third & Sixth Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

Church School - [Orthodoxy Sunday](#)

Please bring an icon from home for the procession with the holy icons!

Offerings for the week February 15, 2026

Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$ 4,418.00
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 4,380.00
	\$ 38.00

64 persons in attendance on February 15

RESOURCES FOR THE GREAT FAST

Resources for Great Lent

Read about the services of Lent [here](#).

Read about the Sundays of Lent [here](#).

Read about Presanctified Liturgies [here](#).

Orthodox Pebbles Resources for KIDS! is [here](#).

Attending Services during Lent

This is the season of a marked increase in divine services. Please simplify, plan ahead, and prepare yourself for attending as many of the services of the Church as possible. I especially encourage a serious effort for laying that groundwork in the first week of Lent. There is a service to attend every day. Take turns with your spouse in attending services. Turn off Netflix, silence your phone notifications, give of your time and treasures, eat less, and pray more. You will discover that Christ is closer to you than you are to yourself...

Praying during Lent

Seek God in prayer. Read the Psalms. Do your morning and evening prayers. Consult the priest and get a prayer rule. Memorize the prayer of St. Ephraim appointed to be read during the weekdays of Lent. Pray and do prostrations. Use your prayer rope! Seek God in prayer.

Fasting during Lent

"Let us fast with a fast pleasing to the Lord. This is the true fast: the casting off of evil, the bridling of the tongue, the cutting off of anger, the cessation of lusts, evil talking, lies and cursing. The stopping of these is the fast true and acceptable." (Monday Vespers of the First Week).

Fast according to the tradition of the Church. Unless you cannot do so, seek advice as to how to enter into the fast. Refrain from unnecessary and excessive food and drink. Here is a refresher essay from Metropolitan Kallistos Ware and Mother Mary on the [True Nature of Fasting](#). Here is also a wonderful reflection from Fr. Sergei Sveshnikov [Fasting for Non-Monastics](#). Read more about fasting [here](#).

Almsgiving during Lent

Almsgiving is another invaluable pillar of Lent and of our lives in Christ. Read this [reflection](#) on almsgiving. One of the assumptions of the Fast is that the money we save through fasting is owed to the poor. Find a way to give, give in secret, give generously, and give from your heart.

Confessions during Lent

We are given 40 days of the Lenten Season before we enter Holy Week. Please make your confession during these 40 days. I am available for confession by appointment as well as after Vespers on Saturdays. I will not be hearing confessions after the evening service on Holy Wednesday, unless there is a particular need (distance, illness, etc.). If you have any questions please let me know! "Even if we fall a hundred times a day, it does not matter; we must get up and go on walking toward God without looking back." - Elder Thaddeus, *Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives*

Spiritual Reading during Great Lent

"Hearken, I entreat you, all you that are careful for this life, and procure books that will be medicines for the soul." St.

John Chrysostom [PDF of entire Old Testament Readings for Great Lent](#) - compiled by Dn Raphael Shelton

The Lenten Triodion translated by Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) and Mother Mary [online](#) or [hardcover](#)

[To the indolent soul](#) by Saint Ephrem of Nisbis

[On watchfulness](#) by Elder Aimilianos (talks give by Bishop Emilianos of Meloa)

[On the holy lenten fast](#) by St Dorotheos of Gaza [Homily on the publican and the Pharisee](#) by St Cyril of Alexandria

[Kontakion on the prodigal son](#) by Saint Romanos the Melodist

Book Recommendations

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann "[Great Lent: Journey to Pascha](#)" Fr. Thomas Hopko "[The Lenten Spring](#)"

Elder Aimilianos - [works available from Ormylia Monastery](#) Olivier Clement "[The Song of Tears: An Essay on](#)

[Repentance based on the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete](#)" Elder Thaddeus "[Our Thoughts Determine Our](#)

[Lives](#)" St. John of Kronstadt "[Season of Repentance: Lenten Homilies of St. John of Kronstadt](#)"