

**January 17, 2021**

**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, JANUARY 17, 2021 32nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7. Venerable and Godbearing Father Anthony the Great (356). Ven. Anthony of Dymsk (Novgorod—ca. 1224). Ven. Anthony of Chernoezérsk (16th c.)**

**TROPARIA**

**(Tone 7)** By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death. To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise. For the myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy. And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

**(Tone 4)** You imitated the ways of zealous Elijah, and followed the straight path of John the Baptist. You became a desert dweller and strengthened the world by your prayers. Father Anthony, intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved.

**(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)** By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb! And blessed Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

***The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone: Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints.***

**v: What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto me?**

**THE READING IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (13:17-21)**

Brethren: Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

***Alleluia, Tone 7***

**v: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.**

**v: To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night.**

**THE READING IS FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (17:12-19)**

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

**COMMUNION HYMN Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**The holy Gospel according to John 21:1-14 (10th Matins Gospel)**

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No." And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" – knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

**Saint Anthony the Great** (January 17) is known as the Father of monasticism, and the long ascetical sermon in *The Life of Saint Anthony* by Saint Athanasius (Sections 16-34), could be called the first monastic Rule.

He was born in Egypt in the village of Coma, near the desert of the Thebaid, in the year 251. His parents were pious Christians of illustrious lineage. Anthony was a serious child and was respectful and obedient to his parents. He loved to attend church services, and he listened to the Holy Scripture so attentively, that he remembered what he heard all his life.

When Saint Anthony was about twenty years old, he lost his parents, but he was responsible for the care of his younger sister. Going to church about six months later, the youth reflected on how the faithful, in the Acts of the Apostles (4:35), sold their possessions and gave the proceeds to the Apostles for the needy.

Then he entered the church and heard the Gospel passage where Christ speaks to the rich young man: "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow Me" (Mt.19:21). Anthony felt that these words applied to him. Therefore, he sold the property that he received after the death of his parents, then distributed the money to the poor, and left his sister in the care of pious virgins in a convent.

Leaving his parental home, Saint Anthony began his ascetical life in a hut not far from his village. By working with his hands, he was able to earn his livelihood and also alms for the poor. Sometimes, the holy youth also visited other ascetics living in the area, and from each he sought direction and benefit. He turned to one particular ascetic for guidance in the spiritual life.

In this period of his life Saint Anthony endured terrible temptations from the devil. The Enemy of the race of man troubled the young ascetic with thoughts of his former life, doubts about his chosen path, concern for his sister, and he tempted Anthony with lewd thoughts and carnal feelings. But the saint extinguished that fire by meditating on Christ and by thinking of eternal punishment, thereby overcoming the devil.

Realizing that the devil would undoubtedly attack him in another manner, Saint Anthony prayed and intensified his efforts. Anthony prayed that the Lord would show him the path of salvation. And he was granted a vision. The ascetic beheld a man, who by turns alternately finished a prayer, and then began to work. This was an angel, which the Lord had sent to instruct His chosen one.

Saint Anthony tried to accustom himself to a stricter way of life. He partook of food only after sunset, he spent all night praying until dawn. Soon he slept only every third day. But the devil would not cease his tricks, and trying to scare the monk, he appeared under the guise of monstrous phantoms. The saint however protected himself with the Life-Creating Cross. Finally the Enemy appeared to him in the guise of a frightful looking black child, and hypocritically declaring himself beaten, he thought he could tempt the saint into vanity and pride. The saint, however, vanquished the Enemy with prayer.

For even greater solitude, Saint Anthony moved farther away from the village, into a graveyard. He asked a friend to bring him a little bread on designated days, then shut himself in a tomb. Then the devils pounced upon the saint intending to kill him, and inflicted terrible wounds upon him. By the providence of the Lord, Anthony's friend arrived the next day to bring him his food. Seeing him lying on the ground as if dead, he took him back to the village.

They thought the saint was dead and prepared for his burial. At midnight, Saint Anthony regained consciousness and told his friend to carry him back to the tombs.

Saint Anthony's staunchness was greater than the wiles of the Enemy. Taking the form of ferocious beasts, the devils tried to force the saint to leave that place, but he defeated them by trusting in the Lord. Looking up, the saint saw the roof opening, as it were, and a ray of light coming down toward him. The demons disappeared and he cried out, "Where have You been, O Merciful Jesus? Why didn't You appear from the very beginning to end my pain?"

The Lord replied, "I was here, Anthony, but wanted to see your struggle. Now, since you have not yielded, I shall always help you and make your name known throughout all the world." After this vision Saint Anthony was healed of his wounds and felt stronger than before. He was then thirty-five years of age.

Having gained spiritual experience in his struggle with the devil, Saint Anthony considered going into the Thebaid desert to serve the Lord. He asked the Elder (to whom he had turned for guidance at the beginning of his monastic journey) to go into the desert with him. The Elder, while blessing him in the then as yet unheard of exploit of being a hermit, decided not to accompany him because of his age.

Saint Anthony went into the desert alone. The devil tried to hinder him, by placing a large silver disc in his path, then gold, but the saint ignored it and passed by. He found an abandoned fort on the other side of the river and settled there, barricading the entrance with stones. His faithful friend brought him bread twice a year, and there was water inside the fort.

Saint Anthony spent twenty years in complete isolation and constant struggle with the demons, and he finally achieved perfect calm. The saint's friends removed the stones from the entrance, and they went to Saint Anthony and besought him to take them under his guidance. Soon Saint Anthony's cell was surrounded by several monasteries, and the saint acted as a father and guide to their inhabitants, giving spiritual instruction to all who came into the desert seeking salvation. He increased the zeal of those who were already monks, and inspired others with a love for the ascetical life. He told them to strive to please the Lord, and not to become faint-hearted in their labors. He also urged them not to fear demonic assaults, but to repel the Enemy by the power of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord.

In the year 311 there was a fierce persecution against Christians, in the reign of the emperor Maximian. Wishing to suffer with the holy martyrs, Saint Anthony left the desert and went to Alexandria. He openly ministered to those in prison, he was present at the trial and interrogations of the confessors, and accompanying the martyrs to the place of execution. It pleased the Lord to preserve him, however, for the benefit of Christians.

At the close of the persecution, the saint returned to the desert and continued his exploits. The Lord granted the saint the gift of wonderworking, casting out demons and healing the sick by the power of his prayer. The great crowds of people coming to him disrupted his solitude, and he went off still farther, into the inner desert where he settled atop a high elevation. But the brethren of the monasteries sought him out and asked him to visit their communities.

Another time Saint Anthony left the desert and arrived in Alexandria to defend the Orthodox Faith against the Manichaeian and Arian heresies. Knowing that the name of Saint Anthony was venerated by all the Church, the Arians said that he adhered to their heretical teaching. But Saint Anthony publicly denounced Arianism in front of everyone and in the presence of the bishop. During his brief stay at Alexandria, he converted a great multitude of pagans to Christ.

People from all walks of life loved the saint and sought his advice. Pagan philosophers once came to Abba Anthony intending to mock him for his lack of education, but by his words he reduced them to silence. Emperor Constantine the Great (May 21) and his sons wrote to Saint Anthony and asked him for a reply. He praised the emperor for his belief in Christ, and advised him to remember the future judgment, and to know that Christ is the true King.

Saint Anthony spent eighty-five years in the solitary desert. Shortly before his death, he told the brethren that soon he would be taken from them. He instructed them to preserve the Orthodox Faith in its purity, to avoid any association with heretics, and not to be negligent in their monastic struggles. "Strive to be united first with the Lord, and then with the saints, so that after death they may receive you as familiar friends into the everlasting dwellings."

The saint instructed two of his disciples, who had attended him in the final fifteen years of his life, to bury him in the desert and not in Alexandria. He left one of his monastic mantles to Saint Athanasius of Alexandria (January 18), and the other to Saint Serapion of Thmuis (March 21). Saint Anthony died peacefully in the year 356, at age 105, and he was buried in the desert by his disciples.

The Life of the famed ascetic Saint Anthony the Great was written by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria. This is the first biography of a saint who was not a martyr, and is considered to be one of the finest of Saint Athanasius' writings. Saint John Chrysostom recommends that this Life be read by every Christian.

"These things are insignificant compared with Anthony's virtues," writes Saint Athanasius, "but judge from them what the man of God Anthony was like. From his youth until his old age, he kept his zeal for asceticism, he did not give in to the desire for costly foods because of his age, nor did he alter his clothing because of the infirmity of his body. He did not even wash his feet with water. He remained very healthy, and he could see well because his eyes were sound and undimmed. Not one of his teeth fell out, but near the gums they had become worn due to his advanced age. He remained strong in his hands and feet.... He was spoken of everywhere, and was admired by everyone, and was sought even by those who had not seen him, which is evidence of his virtue and of a soul dear to God."

The following works of Saint Anthony have come down to us:

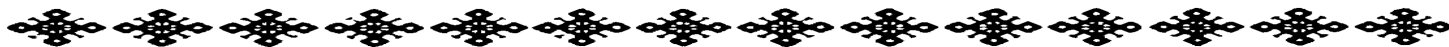
Twenty Sermons on the virtues, primarily monastic (probably spurious).

Seven Letters to various Egyptian monasteries concerning moral perfection, and the monastic life as a spiritual struggle.

A Rule for monastics (not regarded as an authentic work of Saint Anthony).

In the year 544 the relics of Saint Anthony the Great were transferred to Alexandria, and after the conquest of Egypt by the Saracens in the seventh century, they were transferred to Constantinople. The holy relics were transferred from Constantinople in the tenth-eleventh centuries to a diocese outside Vienna. In the fifteenth century they were brought to Arles (in France), to the church of Saint Julian. from [oca.org](http://oca.org)

January 17, 2021



### **CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF**

God's blessings on my new baby great granddaughter Deklyn (3 mo.), great grandson

Jayce (14 mo.) & their parents Lauren & Luke Stewart and Courtney & Nate Allison

Health & blessings for Harry Price

Health & blessings for my family & myself

Fr. Tom, Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Aaron, Milica, Calvin, Larry,

Angelo, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Irene, Allen, Deborah,

Luba, Kosta, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, David,

Taras, Joseph, Ted, Marlene, Gladys, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family and friends.

Special Intention

God's blessings for good health to all our children & their families

A blessed New Year to all our family, relatives & friends

Buni Connie  
Stephanie & Ian  
Bosa Kantar

Joe Tome  
Joe Tome  
Angelo & Christine Panoff  
Angelo & Christine Panoff

### **CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE**

My father Milton Economou

My godfather Bill Gogas

My sister Joann Economou

Stacy Barney

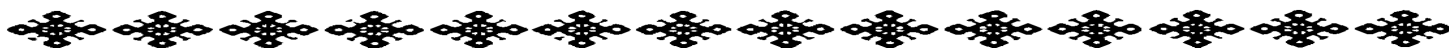
In Blessed Repose for all of our family that have passed away

Bill Economou  
Bill Economou  
Bill Economou  
Stephanie & Ian  
Angelo & Christine Panoff

### **ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR**

Health & blessings for my family & myself

Bosa Kantar



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](#) or [St George Church](#) or [Assumption Church](#) for their livestreams.

## **9TH ANNUAL DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD MONASTERY WINTER MICRO-RETREAT**

**CLICK [HERE](#) to REGISTER** (*known in previous years as the Winter Dinner for Dormition Monastery*).

- Thursday, Jan 21 starting at 4:45 PM (details below)
- A Virtual (Zoom) Event you can attend from your computer, pad, smartphone or telephone
- Agenda (all times are Eastern and may vary slightly):
  - 4:45 PM - A video tour of the monastery followed by a brief welcome
  - 5:00 PM - Vespers live from the monastery
  - 5:40 PM - Welcome
  - 5:50 PM - Three brief spiritual talks on the theme of *Living a Christian life in the midst of chaos (the pandemic and civil / political tensions)*
- After our speakers there will be time for Q&A

### **Notes:**

- More information is available when you register
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar

### **Please use the following links for:**

- [PRAYER REQUESTS](#)
- [MONASTERY GIFT SHOP](#)
- [MONASTERY DONATIONS](#)

*Sponsored by the Orthodox Churches of Genesee County, Michigan*

- *The Assumption Greek Orthodox Church*
- *Saint George Orthodox Church*
- *Saint Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church*
- *Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church*

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. In person, with physical distancing and wearing of masks. There is also the option of joining virtually; the WebEx link will be emailed to you. Please contact the office if you cannot attend.

**REPORTS FOR 2020** There is no in-person annual meeting this year but parish council asks that written reports be submitted by January 24<sup>th</sup>. All of the reports will be e-mailed/mailed after they've been compiled. If you have any questions, please send them in and the parish council will work to answer them.

**2021 CALENDARS** are still available in the narthex.

**OFFICE HOURS** are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 – 3. You are welcome to pick up your envelopes & calendar during the week. If you call ahead (810-744-0070) Marcia will have them ready for you.

**PLEDGE CARDS** Please send in your pledge card if you haven't already done so. The office needs them as soon as possible.

**CANDLE INTENTION REQUESTS** can be emailed to the office at [stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com) or called in.

### **Weekly schedule:**

**Monday, Jan 18** Fr. Matthew in Toledo

### **Tuesday, Jan 19**

6:30 pm Parish council meeting in person or teleconference

[7 pm OCA online church school](#)

### **Wednesday, Jan 20**

[9:30 am Divine Liturgy – streaming on our YouTube channel](#)

11:15 am adult education in the fellowship hall (physical distancing and wearing of masks)

**Thursday, Jan 21**      **9TH ANNUAL DORMITION MONASTERY WINTER MICRO-RETREAT**

All via Zoom

4:45 pm

A video tour of the monastery followed by a brief welcome

5:00 pm

Vespers live from the monastery

5:40 pm

Welcome

5:50 pm

Three brief spiritual talks on the theme of *Living a Christian life in the midst of chaos (the pandemic and civil / political tensions)*

**Saturday, Jan 23**

**5 pm**

**Great Vespers – streaming on our YouTube channel**

Trisagion for Evdokia & Ivan Ponomarenko

Confessions

**Sunday, Jan 24**

9:30 am

Third and Sixth Hours

**10 am**

**Divine Liturgy – streaming on our YouTube channel**

**Offerings for the week January 10, 2021**

*46 persons in attendance on January 10<sup>th</sup>*

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 1,821.47
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,104.00
	<b>\$-1,282.53</b>