

January 24, 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 24, 2021 33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8. Ven. Xenia of Rome and her two female servants (5th c.). St. Gerásim, Bishop of Perm (1441). Martyr John of Kazan' (1529). Martyrs Babylas (Vavíla) of Sicily, and his two disciples: Timothy and Agapius (3rd c.). St. Macedonius, Hermit, of Syria (ca. 420). Uncovering of the relics of Saint Anastasios the Persian (7th c.). Ven. Dionysius of Olympus (16th c.). Ven. Philotheus, founder of Philotheou Monastery (Mt. Athos—10th c.). Bl. Xenia of St. Petersburg (19th c.).

TROPARIA

(Tone 8) Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee!

(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 didst bless 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 Eighth Tone: Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!

v. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

THE READING FROM THE FIRST EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO TIMOTHY (1:15-17)

Timothy, my son: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Tone 8

v. Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (18:35-43) Then it happened, as Jesus was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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

The holy Gospel according to John 21:15-25 (11th Matins Gospel)

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (*agapas*) Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (*philo*) You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He

said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (*agapas*) Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love (*philo*) You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (*phileis*) Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love (*phileis*) Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (*philo*) You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish. This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.” Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?” Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.” Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?” This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

Saint Xenia of Rome (January 24), in the world Eusebia, was the only daughter of an eminent Roman senator. From her youth she loved God, and wished to avoid the marriage arranged for her. She secretly left her parental home with two servants devoted to her, and set sail upon a ship. Through the Providence of God she met the head of the monastery of the holy Apostle Andrew in Milassa, a town of Caria (Asia Minor). She besought him to take her and her companions to Milassa. She also changed her name, calling herself Xenia [which means “stranger” or “foreigner” in Greek].

At Milassa she bought land, built a church dedicated to Saint Stephen, and founded a woman’s monastery. Soon after this, Bishop Paul of Milassa made Xenia a deaconess, because of her virtuous life. The saint helped everyone: for the destitute, she was a benefactress; for the grief-stricken, a comforter; for sinners, a guide to repentance. She possessed a deep humility, accounting herself the worst and most sinful of all.

In her ascetic deeds she was guided by the counsels of the Palestinian ascetic, Saint Euthymius. The sublime life of Saint Xenia drew many souls to Christ. The holy virgin died in 450 while she was praying. During her funeral, a luminous wreath of stars surrounding a radiant cross appeared over the monastery in the heavens. This sign accompanied the body of the saint when it was carried into the city, and remained until the saint’s burial. Many of the sick received healing after touching the relics of the saint.

Following the death of Saint Xenia, first one of her former servants died, then the other. They were buried at the saint’s feet. from oca.org

Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg (January 24) lived during the eighteenth century, but little is known of her life or of her family. Xenia Grigorievna Petrova was the wife of an army officer, Major Andrew Petrov. After the wedding, the couple lived in Saint Petersburg. Saint Xenia became a widow at the age of twenty-six when her husband suddenly died at a party. She grieved for the loss of her husband, and especially because he died without Confession or Holy Communion.

Once her earthly happiness ended, she did not look for it again. From that time forward, Xenia lost interest in the things of this world, and followed the difficult path of foolishness for the sake of Christ. The

basis for this strange way of life is to be found in the first Epistle to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 1:18-24, 1 Cor. 2:14, 1 Cor. 3:18-19). The Lord strengthened her and helped her to bear sorrow and misfortune patiently for the next forty-five years.

She started wearing her husband’s clothing, and insisted that she be addressed as “Andrew Feodorovich.” She told people that it was she, and not her husband, who had died. In a certain sense, this was perfectly true. She abandoned her former way of life and experienced a spiritual rebirth. When she gave away her house and possessions to the poor, her relatives complained to the authorities. After speaking to Xenia, the officials were convinced that she was in her right mind and was entitled to dispose of her property as she saw fit. Soon she had nothing left for herself, so she wandered through the poor section of Petersburg with no place to lay her head. She refused all assistance from her relatives, happy to be free of worldly attachments.

When her late husband's red and green uniform wore out, she clothed herself in rags of those colors. After a while, Xenia left Petersburg for eight years. It is believed that she visited holy Elders and ascetics throughout Russia seeking instruction in the spiritual life. Saint Xenia eventually returned to the poor section of Petersburg, where she was mocked and insulted because of her strange behavior. When she did accept money from people it was only small amounts, which she used to help the poor. She spent her nights praying without sleep in a field outside the city. Prayer strengthened her, and in her heart's conversation with the Lord she found the support she needed on her difficult path.

Soon her great virtue and spiritual gifts began to be noticed. She prophesied future events affecting the citizens of Petersburg, and even the royal family. Against her will, she became known as someone pleasing to God, and nearly everyone loved her. They said, "Xenia does not belong to this world, she belongs to God." People regarded her visits to their homes or shops as a great blessing. Saint Xenia loved children, and mothers rejoiced when the childless widow would stand and pray over a baby's crib, or kiss a child. They believed that the blessed one's kiss would bring that child good fortune.

Saint Xenia lived about forty-five years after the death of her husband, and departed to the Lord at the age of seventy-one. The exact date and circumstances of her death are not known, but it probably took place at the end of the eighteenth century. She was buried in the Smolensk cemetery.

By the 1820s, people flocked to her grave to pray for her soul, and to ask her to intercede with God for them. So many visitors took earth from her grave that it had to be replaced every year. Later, a chapel was built over her grave.

Those who turn to Saint Xenia in prayer receive healing from illness, and deliverance from their afflictions. She is also known for helping people who seek jobs. from oca.org

January 24, 2021



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Health & God's blessings for the Elieff & Krigner family

Nancy Krigner

Anthony Dorohov (January 17 – namesday)

Victor Dorohov

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.

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Lydia Dorohov

Victor Dorohov



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.

ANNUAL REPORTS In place of an in-person annual meeting, all those who make reports (e.g., altar servers, endowment committee, Macedonian Open committee, parish council chairperson, rector, St Catherine's League, Church school, auditors, cemetery, etc.) are asked to send by email or drop off their report this week (even if it is to say there is nothing to report for 2020). All the reports will be compiled and then be e-mailed/mailed. If you have any questions, please send them in and the parish council will work to answer them.

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.

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 Saints Symeon and Anna.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at the North End Soup Kitchen & Center of Hope. For more information call 810-785-6911 or see the flier on the bulletin board. Due to covid-19 restrictions the schedule on the flier may vary so call ahead. St. Nicholas ministers at the North End Soup kitchen every 1st Thursday of the month from 9 am-11:30 am.

2021 CALENDARS are still available in the narthex.

OFFICE HOURS are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 – 3.

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

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.**

CANDLE INTENTION REQUESTS can be emailed to the office at stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com or called in.

Weekly schedule:

Monday, Jan 25 Fr. Matthew in Toledo

Tuesday, Jan 26
7 pm [OCA online church school](#)

Wednesday, Jan 27
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)

Saturday, Jan 30 **THREE HOLY HEIRARCHS – St Basil, St Gregory, and St John Chrysostom**
10 am [Divine Liturgy – streaming on our YouTube channel](#)
12 pm 6 month Parastas for Dimitrios “Jimmy” Nedanis at Evergreen Cemetery
5 pm [Great Vespers – streaming on our YouTube channel](#)
Confessions after Vespers

Sunday, Jan 31
9:30 am Third and Sixth Hours
10 am [Divine Liturgy – streaming on our YouTube channel](#)

Offerings for the week January 17, 2021

29 persons in attendance on January 17th

Weekly Offerings	\$ 401.25
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 3,104.00
	\$-2,702.75

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, or a phone call! 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