

January 26, 2025

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 Gosner

Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org Church: 810-744-0070 e-mail: 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 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, 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, JANUARY 26, 2025 31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Sunday of Zacchaeus. Ven. Xenophon, his wife, Mary, and their two sons, Arcadius and John, of Constantinople (5th-6th c.). Translation of the Relics of Ven. Theodore, Abbot of Studion (845). St. Xenophon of Robeika (1262). Martyrs Ananias—Presbyter, Peter, and seven soldiers, in Phœnicia (284-305). St. Simeon “the Ancient” of Mt. Sinai (ca. 390). St. Joseph, Bishop of Thessalonica, brother of St. Theodore of Studion (830). Rt. Blv. David (Dató) III, King of Iberia and Abkhazia (Georgia—1125).

TROPARIA

Tone 6 The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Your grave, / seeking Your most pure body. / You captured hell, not being tempted by it. / You came to the Virgin, granting life. / O Lord, Who rose from the dead, //glory to You.

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 Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin's womb! And blessed Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now You have come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

The prokeimenon in the sixth tone: O Lord, save Your people / and bless Your inheritance! (*Psalm 27:9a*)
v. **To you, O Lord, I cried, O my God, do not keep silent from me.** (*Psalm 27:1a*)

THE READING FROM THE FIRST EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO TIMOTHY (4:9-15)

Timothy, my son, this saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, for to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

Alleluia, Tone 6

v: **The one who dwells in the help of the Most High, in the shelter of the God of heaven will be abiding.**
(*Psalm 90:1*)

v: **He will say to the Lord, You are the one who takes hold of me and my refuge, my God, and I will hope in him.** (*Psalm 90:2*)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (19:1-10) At that time Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.” Then Zacchaeus

stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

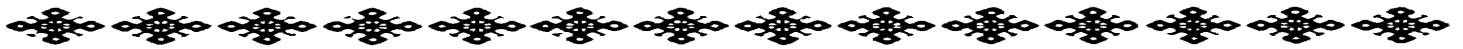
COMMUNION HYMN

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

The holy Gospel according to John 20:20:19-31 (9th Matins Gospel)

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained. Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

January 26, 2025



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Health & blessings for my family

Lucy Hogg

OF Fr. Joseph Abud & his wife Leslie

St. Nicholas

Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Joan, Peggy, Bob,

Angelo, Christine, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Les, Bosa, Allison, Jeanette,

Kathryn, David, Taras, Ted, Joseph, Ellyn, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas,

my family and friends

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

Bosa, Milan, Mira, Radmila, Jeff, Jim, Nikke, Miroslav, Alex, Tatiana, Hannah, Nikolas,

Ashley, Gracie, and Allie

Bosa Kantar

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE BLESSED REPOSE OF

Repose of Gretchen Cleavenger

Les & Susie



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](#).

Jan 26 CANDLESTAND: Ian & Stephanie

HOURS: Alexander Gonser

READER: Angelo Panoff

Feb 2 CANDLESTAND: Christine Panoff

HOURS: Angelo Panoff

READER: Phil Wiles

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CATECHUMENS' CLASS led by Reader Alexander Gonser after the Divine Liturgy. No class today.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES on Wednesdays, at 11:15 am. We are reading - *Wounded by Love*, a transcription of conversations with Saint Porphyrios (1906-1991).

CHURCH SCHOOL - lesson is: [Three Hierarchs: St. Gregory Nazianzus](#)

LUNCHEON today is provided by Katherine & Dcn. Kerry Gonser in memory of Simeon (Sam) Panoff. Please join us after Liturgy in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome.

ANNUAL MEETING The Annual Meeting of Saint Nicholas Church will be held today Sunday, January 26, 2025. The meeting will reconvene in the fellowship hall. The nominating committee will also be elected. **All parish organizations must present a report, oral or written, to be given at this meeting. Please email reports to stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com** From the parish bylaws: "A quorum for membership meetings shall consist of 25 per cent of the total number of members in good standing on record...If at a time fixed for the meeting; the present parish members should fail to constitute the required quorum, another member-

ship meeting shall be convened one hour later on the same day which meeting shall be considered valid in the presence of any number of attending members.”

YOUR HELP NEEDED! February 2 after coffee social. We need to put away the Christmas decorations.

PLEDGE CARDS If you have not turned in your pledge card yet please do so this week. You can also email your signed card to the office. There are blank cards available at the candle stand. It is important to sign a card as it's one of the requirements to be considered a member in good standing. Pledging an amount will help the parish council set a budget and also ensures your donations are applied to your new pledge.

CATECHUMENS the following persons will be made catechumens prior to the Divine Liturgy on Sundays - January 26 - Annie Bailey (godmother Matushka Lisa), February 2 - Madison Kassiane Green (godfather Reader Alexander Gonser, her cousin), February 9 - Jeff James & Jeffrey David Muma, February 22 - Sebastian & Sadie Roberts.

OFFERING ENVELOPES There are still some that need to be picked up at the candle stand. If there are boxes for family who have not been attending whom you will be seeing, please deliver them to help save on postage costs (\$5 per box of envelopes). It helps a great deal when you use the envelopes & fill out the information on each one.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Today Annual Meeting after Liturgy with luncheon

Monday, Jan 27 afternoon - Fr. in Toledo

Tuesday, Jan 28 morning - Fr. in Toledo

Wednesday, Jan 29

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

11:15 am Adult ed

Saturday, Feb 1

[6 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Mary Magdalene](#)

Sunday, Feb 2

[9:30 am Hours-live-streamed](#)

[10 am Divine Liturgy-live-streamed](#)

Church School - [St Innocent - Apostle to America](#)

Christmas decorations clean-up after coffee social

Offerings for the week January 19, 2025

Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,526.57
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 4,380.00
	\$ -1,853.43

57 persons in attendance on January 19

**SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY - LETTER FROM METROPOLITAN TIKHON,
*Primate of the Orthodox Church in America***

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

As we mark our annual Sanctity of Life Sunday, I would like to speak to you about martyrdom. Specifically, by understanding martyrdom, which we might consider the most pure, fundamental realization of the Christian vocation, we understand just why we hold life sacred.

At first, this may appear paradoxical. Martyrdom, after all, is willingly surrendering one's life for the sake of the Christian faith. Martyrdom teaches us that life in this world is not to be compared with the glorious and everlasting life that awaits us in the world to come. As the Lord says, "Whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it" (Mk. 8:35).

Christ promises us in his Beatitudes that "blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven" (Matt. 5:11-12). When we are rejected by the world because we accept the Gospel – when we reject the world in order to take up our Cross – then we display the Christian faith in all its truth and power and glory. Martyrdom, etymologically and in fact, always means "bearing witness," and the greatest and most fundamental way to bear witness to the Gospel is to die for the sake of the Gospel.

However, martyrdom, even when it points us towards the next life, also testifies to the immeasurable sacredness of our mortal life in this world. Here, in this life, it is possible for us to bear witness; here, in this life, we have the possibility of accepting Christ's gift of salvation. This is true for the literal martyrs, but it is also possible for every Christian through the bloodless martyrdom of asceticism. Whenever we die to our fleshly desires for the sake of the Gospel, we suffer a little martyrdom. Whenever we forgo power or wealth or gratification for the sake of Christ's commandments, we are bearing witness, in a small way, to the truth of the Christian faith.

In other words, martyrdom proper, as well as the ascetic martyrdom to which we are all called, are a way of “redeeming the time” (Eph. 5:16). Through Christ’s Incarnation and Passion, the fallen world and passing present age have become an arena of spiritual struggle and the place where salvation is accomplished.

Seen from this perspective, life in this world is not something cheap and utilitarian, but incredibly dear. The Lord gives us this life that we might offer it back to him, fulfilling our primordial role as priest and mediator of creation: man is called to commend himself and his fellow-men and all his life to Christ our God.

All life comes from God; all life belongs to God; and through the saving work of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, biological life in this world is now open to the possibility of true and everlasting life in the world to come.

Thus, on this Sanctity of Life Sunday, we bear witness to the truth that all human life, from conception to natural death, is sacred. We pray that the scales will fall from the eyes of our countrymen who do not recognize this basic truth, and we beseech the Lord that all violations of this holy principle – abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and the rest – would come to a swift end in our age and our land. Finally, we pray that we might find the strength to live in accordance with this teaching, showing forth the sanctity of life by devoting our own life to the pursuit of sanctity, thus bearing witness in our flesh to the truth of the holy Orthodox Christian faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington - Metropolitan of All America and Canada



PRE-LENT DANCE February 15 from 6 pm – 9 pm at St. Nicholas. A DJ will be playing cd’s. The cost is \$10/under 10 free. There will be a freewill offering for food. All ages are welcome! Please join us for an evening of fun, dancing, fellowship & food.

