

January 5, 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 Gonser

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 5, 2025 28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. EVE OF THEOPHANY. Sunday before Theophany. Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and Martyr Theonas (303). Ven. Syncretica of Alexandria (ca. 350). Prophet Micah (9th c. BC). Virgin Apollinaria of Egypt (ca. 470). Ven. Phostorius the Hermit (9th c.). Ven. Menas of Sinai (6th c.). Ven. Gregory of Crete (ca. 820). Ven. Romanos, Martyr (1694).

TROPARIA

Tone 3 Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

Tone 4 The River Jordan was turned back by the mantle of Elisha, after Elijah had been taken up to heaven. The waters were parted in two, and the stream became a dry path. This was truly a type of baptism, by which we pass over the stream of life.// Christ has shone forth in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

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 Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: "Do not be afraid to baptize Me.// For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed 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 IS FROM THE SECOND EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO TIMOTHY (4:5-8) Timothy, my son: as for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your

ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Alleluia, Tone 8

v: God have pity on us and bless us, show His Face to us and have mercy on us. (*Psalms 66:2*)

v: To know in the earth your way, in all nations your salvation. (*Psalms 66:3*)

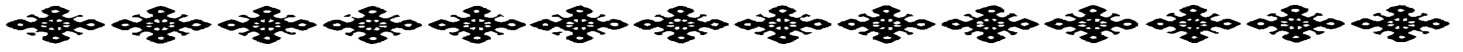
THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK (1:1-8) The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare the way" the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight—"John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the county of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Theophany (January 6) is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by the Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine "those who sat in darkness," and "in the region of the shadow of death" (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in *The Apostolic Constitutions* (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of Saint Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast. The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at services even today. Saint John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but "to bury human sin by water," to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify "the nature of water" and to offer us the form and example of Baptism. On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Indivisible. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for "As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ" (Gal 3:27).



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

OF Fr. Joseph Abud & his wife Leslie

St. Nicholas

Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Angelo, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Les, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, David, Taras, Ted, Joseph, Marlene, Ellyn, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family and friends

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE BLESSED REPOSE OF

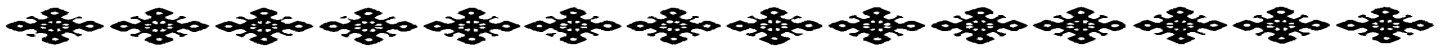
Kosta, Mitra, Alex, Niko, Pete & Donna

Tom & Mary Batzos

ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR

Angelo Popoff

Helen Popoff



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 5 CANDLESTAND: Dennis Goodman

HOURS: Phil Wiles

READER: Alexander Gonsler

Jan 12 CANDLESTAND: Susie Ford

HOURS: Barry Cavett

READER: Phil Wiles

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

INQUIRERS/CATECHUMENS' CLASS led by Reader Alexander Gonsler after the Divine Liturgy. Feel free to join in and let other inquirers know about these classes introducing the Orthodox faith. The class meets in the library.

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 - [Bulgaria - St Zlata](#)

COFFEE SOCIAL is provided today by the family of Angelo Popoff in his memory. Please join us after Liturgy in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome. There is a signup sheet next to the service window for those who would like to donate and/or serve.

THEOPHANY BANQUET AND OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER on Sunday, January 12. Bring your empty bottles to fill with Holy Water. Dress for the weather. The menu is: lamb, chicken, potatoes, salad, vegetables, bread & butter, dessert & drinks. There is a sign-up sheet in the parish hall for volunteers for set-up, clean-up, your meal and also if you would like to make a dessert. Tickets can be purchased from Sharon Jernigan. Adults \$18, children under 12 are free. If you would like to donate toward a dove the cost is \$92. We only need 1 more sponsored.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are available to be picked up in the parish hall. 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.

13th ANNUAL WINTER DINNER FOR THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD MONASTERY

On Thursday January 23. Our event will be held at St. George Orthodox Church (5191 Lennon Rd, Flint, MI 48507):

- 5 pm Vespers led by the Monastic Community followed by a time to visit, appetizers and the Monastery Gift Shop
- 7 pm Dinner & program: *What Does it Mean to be an Orthodox Christian*
- 8:30 PM Closing prayer and good night!



Please register or to give a donation go online at: <http://www.saintgeorgeflint.org> code to the right. Our parish is responsible for the drinks this year. You can also be a part by providing beverages for the dinner: 2 liter sodas-any type, Bottled water & Leelanau Cellars Witches Brew Spiced Red Wine. The deadline to leave drinks is noon on Jan 22 which can be left in the 1st church school classroom. Susie Ford is our contact person. If writing a check, make it out to Dormition Monastery.

2025 CALENDARS are available in the narthex.

GIVE TO THE CHURCH THROUGH GIVELIFY Go to our website www.saintnicholasburton.org and click on the box Give now with Givelify; this is a secure site. (2.9% + \$0.30 of your donation goes to Givelify as a fee). *Please consider adding a little extra to your donation to cover the fee we are charged. 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.

OFFICE HOURS are Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9-3.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Today 12 pm **Vespers for the Theophany of our Lord**

Monday, Jan 6 **THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**
10 am Divine Liturgy at St. Mary Magdalene

Wednesday, Jan 8
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Adult ed

Saturday, Jan 11
5 pm Vespers - live-streamed

Sunday, Jan 12 Sunday after Theophany
9:30 am Hours-live-streamed
10 am Divine Liturgy-live-streamed
Church School - No class
Blessing of water outdoors and Theophany banquet

Offerings for the week December 29, 2024

Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$ 4,514.75
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 4,380.00
	\$ 134.75

57 persons in attendance on December 29