

*January 7, 2018*

*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*

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### **The Gospel according to Saint John**

#### **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.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Theophany . Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. Sunday after Theophany.**

#### **FIRST ANTIPHON**

When Israel went forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language.

**Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Judah became His sanctuary, Israel His dominion.

**Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

The sea looked and fled, Jordan turned back.

**Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

What ails you, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back? **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

#### **SECOND ANTIPHON**

I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication.

**O Son of God baptized in the Jordan, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

**O Son of God baptized in the Jordan, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me. I suffered distress and anguish, then I called upon the name of the Lord.

**O Son of God baptized in the Jordan, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Gracious and righteous is the Lord, and our God is merciful.

**O Son of God baptized in the Jordan, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, save us!

### **THIRD ANTIPHON**

**O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!**

**(Tone 1)** When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Fa

Father bare witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son! And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

**Let the house of Israel say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son! And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

**Let the house of Aaron say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son! And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

**Let those who fear the Lord say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son! And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

### **THE SMALL ENTRANCE**

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Let us attend!

**Choir:** Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ...

### **TROPARIA**

**(Tone 6)** The angelic powers were at Thy tomb the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

**(Tone 1)** When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son! And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

**(Tone 2)** The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner. You were shown indeed to be the most honorable of the Prophets, for in the waters you baptize the One Whom you preached. After suffering with joy on behalf of the truth, you proclaimed even to those in hell the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takes away the sin of the world//

and grants us 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)** Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, and Thy light, O Lord, hast shone on us, who with understanding praise Thee: Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O Light Unapproachable!

***The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone: The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall set his hope on Him.***

**v. Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to Thee.**

**THE READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES (19:1-8)** In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all. And he went into the

synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.

### *Alleluia, Tone 5*

**v. Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright of heart.**

**v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of His Holiness.**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN (1:29-34)**

At that time John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia!

### **THE OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY.**

**EVERYONE, PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL EPIPHANY BANQUET FOLLOWING THE BLESSING OF WATER**

**Theophany** 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.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind.

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.

There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and Saint Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.

The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at Orthodox 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).

January 7, 2018



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

Fr. Tom, Fr. Dimitri, Deacon Anthony, Reggie, Allen, Deborah, Joann, Gloria, Luba, Kosta, Jimmy, Laurie, David, Helen, Anna, Walt, Zina, Vladimir, Nicolai, Dorothy, Michael, Nicolai, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Nicholas, Margaret, Joseph, Gladys, Ted, Marlene, my family and friends

Special Intention

Helen Popoff, Alex Popoff, Anna Branoff & Elen Servinis

Prayer & blessings for Bosa Kantor and family

Joe Tome

Joe Tome

Alex & Magda Popoff

Bosa Kantor

**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE**

Peter Popoff & John Naum

Alex & Magda Popoff



**WELCOME** to all our friends and visitors. Please join us for our luncheon in our fellowship hall.



**COFFEE HOUR**

Volunteers are needed to help serve coffee and donuts for the month of January. Please see the sign-up sheet outside of the kitchen. Call or email the parish office as well as signing up, if you'd like to sponsor the donuts and/or coffee.

**OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES**

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting Toilet Paper for the month of January. Place the items in the blue box in the hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

**FOOD DRIVE** Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall

**PRAYER LISTING** On the table in the hall is a booklet with the names of all the living and fallen asleep members of Saint Nicholas parish. This is the booklet Fr. Matthew uses to remember our parishioner at the preparation of the bread and wine for Liturgy. Please use the red pencil on the table to make any corrections or additions. The hope is to print out a copy of this booklet to each parish family so that you may remember in prayer all of our fellow parishioners.

**2018 CALENDARS** are located in the narthex. One calendar per family, please.

**2018 PLEDGE CARDS** Please fill out and sign your pledge card even if you don't know the amount of your pledge yet. Remember in order to be considered a member here at St. Nicholas you must return a signed pledge card.

**2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are ready to be picked up in the parish hall. If you give regularly (whether or not you filled out a pledge card) it's a tremendous help if you use the numbered envelopes. Please check to see if you have a box with your name on it, even if you marked No on your pledge card for them. If you do not see envelopes with your name on them and did request them, let Marcia know so that she can get envelopes for you

**ANNUAL MEETING** The Annual Meeting of Saint Nicholas Parish will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2018 beginning with a short prayer service after the Divine Liturgy. The Meeting will then reconvene in the Parish Hall. **All parish organizations must prepare a report, oral or written, to be given at this meeting.**

**THEOPHANY DOVES** are sponsored by Philip Bakousidis & family for Health & Blessings, Gerry Bakousidis & family for Health & Blessings and Calvin & Ruth Conrad.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS**

*Poinsettias*

(2) Stojan & Mira Prusac & family

*In Memory of Danica, Milosh, Mary, Milka, Luke, Mara, Ljubomir, Mile, Evica, Dushan, Draginja, Damyan & Dushan*

(1) Mary Batzos

*In memory of Alex Georgopoulos, Kosta Georgopoulos & Demitra Georgopoulos*

**6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PAN ORTHODOX WINTER DINNER** to support the Dormition of the Mother of God Orthodox Monastery will be held on Thursday, January 18 at Assumption. The event will start at 5:30 with Vespers sung by the Mothers of Dormition Monastery, social time, dinner at 7:00 & the benediction at 8:30. Donations are requested at \$35 per adult and \$25 per student. Reservations need to be made by Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. You may contact Deborah Gonser-Adams at (810) 695-2464 for more information and to make your reservation(s).

**Weekly Schedule:**

**Monday, Jan. 8** Fr. Matthew in Toledo

**Tuesday, Jan 9**

6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting **Parish Council members please pick up your information packets in the hall. Please call the office if you are unable to attend the meeting.**  
 6 pm-8 pm Book Club

**Wednesday, Jan 10**

9:30 am Divine Liturgy (NOTE TIME CHANGE)  
 11 am Adult Ed

**Saturday, Jan 13**

5 pm Vespers

**Rebekah Hildreth Humphries will give a presentation on her recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land following Vespers. All are invited to attend.**

**Sunday, Jan 14**

9:30 am Third Hour  
 10 am Divine Liturgy  
 Church School  
 Annual Meeting

**Offerings for the week December 31, 2017**

Weekly Offerings	\$2,572.00
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$4,034.03
	<b>-\$1,462.03</b>

*70 people were in attendance on Sunday, December 31, 2017*

**“Some want to go to the Resurrection without passing by way of Golgotha” Abbess Gavriillia**