

January 4, 2026

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 (those received into the Orthodox Church through baptism or chrismation), 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 4, 2026 30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5. Forefeast of the Theophany. Sunday before Theophany. Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles: James (Jacob), the brother of the Lord; Mark the Evangelist; Luke the Evangelist; Cleophas, the brother of Joseph the Betrothed; Simeon, the son of Cleophas; Barnabas; Justus; Thaddæus; Ananias; Stephen the Archdeacon; Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, and Parmenas of the Seven Deacons; Timothy; Titus; Philemon; Onesimus; Epaphras; Archippus; Silas; Silvanus; Crescens; Crispus; Epenetus; Andronicus; Stachys; Amplias; Urban; Narcissus; Apelles; Aristobulus; Herodion; Agabus; Rufus; Asyncritus; Phlegon; Hermes; Patrobus; Hermas; Linus; Gaius; Philologus; Lucius; Jason; Sosipater; Olympas; Tertius; Erastus; Quartus; Euodius; Onesiphorus; Clement; Sosthenes; Apollos; Tychicus; Epaphroditus; Carpus; Quadratus; Mark, called John; Zenas; Aristarchus; Pudens; Trophimus; Mark; Artemas; Aquila; Fortunatus; and Achaicus. (1st c.). Ven. Theoctistus, Abbot at Cucomo, in Sicily (800). Repose of St. Eustathius I, Archbishop of Serbia (ca. 1285). St. Aquila, Deacon, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves – 14th c.). Confessors Zosimus the Hermit and Athanasius the Commentarisius (Superintendent of Prisoners), Anchorites, of Cilicia (3rd-4th c.). St. Nikephoros the Leper (1964). Ven. Euthymius and twelve other Monks, martyred at Vatopedi (Mt. Athos – 1285). Ven. Onuphrius of Chilandari (Mt. Athos), Martyr (1818).

TROPARIA

Tone 5 Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 4 Prepare, O Zebulon, and adorn yourself, O Naphtali; river Jordan, cease flowing and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized. Adam, rejoice with our First Mother and do not hide yourself as you did of old in Paradise; for having seen you naked, He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment. Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

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, 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. (Psalm 66:2)

v: To know in the earth your way, in all nations your salvation. (Psalm 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).

January 4, 2026



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Alexandra for health, blessings and mercy

Barry Cavett

Chris, Heather, Raegan

Lucy Hogg

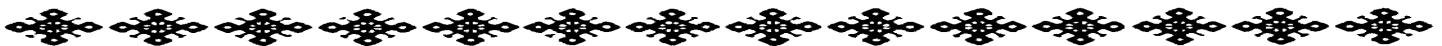
Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Joan, Peggy, Bob,
Angelo, Christine, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Les, Bosa, Jeanette, Ted,

Kathryn, David, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family and friends

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome



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 4 CANDLESTAND: Ian & Stephanie P,

HOURS: Phil

READER: Staci

Jan 11 CANDLESTAND: Dennis Goodman

HOURS: Staci

READER: Katherine

2026 PLEDGE CARDS If you haven't already done so, please return your pledge card so the parish council can budget accordingly. To be a voting parishioner of St. Nicholas Church you must receive Confession and Communion within the past year and return a signed pledge card even if you don't enter a pledge amount

OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the fellowship hall. Please check off your name on the list when you take your box. Please let Julie know if you haven't received envelopes and would like to have them. Using envelopes is very helpful to those who count the stewardship collection & for the auditors.

THEOPHANY BANQUET AND OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER on Sunday, January 11. Bring your empty bottles to fill with Holy Water. Dress for the weather. The menu is: lamb, chicken, rice, salad, vegetables, bread & butter, dessert & drinks. There are sign-up sheets 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 Christopher Taylor. Adults \$18, children under 12 are free.**

SCAM TEXTS & E-MAILS Father Matthew has only one mobile phone which is an 810 area code. Father will **NEVER** ask for gift cards, money, etc. via text or e-mail. If you receive a text or e-mail requesting gift cards, money, etc. supposedly from Father Matthew, please delete and report as scam or phishing.

ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, January 25, beginning with a short prayer service after the Divine Liturgy. The meeting will then reconvene in the Parish Hall. 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 membership 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. This provision should be included in the text of the notice convening the general membership meeting."

WEEKLY SCHEDULE **Today** Church School: [Joshua \(elementary\)](#) [Joshua \(high school\)](#)

Monday, January 5 **EVE OF THEOPHANY - strict fast**
6 pm Great Vespers for the Theophany of our Lord

Tuesday, January 6 **THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD**
9:30 am Divine Liturgy for the Theophany of our Lord
11:15 am adult education class

Saturday, January 10
5 pm **Vespers** followed by Confessions

Sunday, January 11 - **Sunday after the Theophany of our Lord**
9:30 am **Third & Sixth Hours**
10 am **Divine Liturgy - outdoor blessing of water, Theophany banquet**
No church school class, no class for inquirers, catechumens, and neophytes

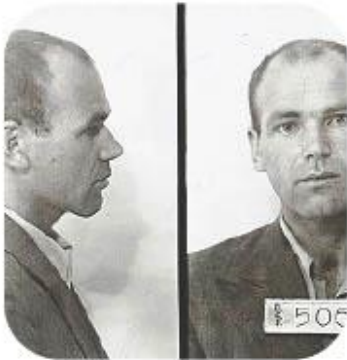
Pan-Orthodox
Churches of
Genesee Co.
Present...

“The Saintly Life of Fr. Roman Braga; Discovering the Church Within”

Join the Pan-Orthodox Churches of Genesee County, Michigan for our 14th annual charity dinner hosted on behalf of the Sisterhood of Holy Dormition Monastery.


Throughout this year’s reflections we will discuss the recent call for canonization of Fr. Roman Braga, of blessed memory, the Spiritual Father of this monastic community.


How can we use his saintly example within ourself amidst the chaos of this world?






Join in!
22 Jan 2026

5:00pm - 8:30pm

 **Holy Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church**
2245 E. Baldwin Rd
Grand Blanc, MI

 **Free- Will Offering**

Program Details & Timeline

-  5:00pm Vespers with the nuns leading the choir
-  6:00pm Appetizers, Fellowship & Meal
Monastery Bookstore will be open
-  7:00pm Program- Reflections,
Testamonials and Q & A



Keynote Speakers
Dr. Daniel B. Hinshaw &
Dr. Jane Hinshaw

How can you support?

- Pray for Fr. Roman and the community at Holy Dormition Monastery.
- Make a Donation as you are able.
- Volunteer through your parish for the meal.
- Purchase merchandise from the Monastery Bookstore.

For questions
& more information
contact :

St. Mary Magdalene
Orthodox Church

+810-750-1401

smmocafernton@gmail.com

Register Here
for online or in person



Please see **Harmony Vargo** with any questions!

If you cannot register with the QR code, please register by signing up on the registration form in the fellowship hall.