

*July 2, 2017*

*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*

*Fr. Esteban Julio Vázquez Deacon Kerry Luke Gonser*

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**The Gospel according to Saint Luke**

**24:1-12 (4th Matins Gospel)**

Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’ And they remembered His words. Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

**SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2017 4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 3. The Placing of the Honorable Robe of the Most-holy Theotokos at Blachernæ (5th c.). St. Photius, Metropolitan of Kiev (1431). St. Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem (ca. 458).**

**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 8)** Ever-Virgin Theotokos, protectress of mankind, you have given your people a powerful legacy: / the robe and sash of your most honored body, which remained incorrupt throughout your seedless childbearing; for through you time and nature are renewed! / Therefore we implore you: “Grant peace to your people and to our souls 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 6)** Protection of Christians never failing, Mediatress before the Creator, ever constant. Do not despise the voice of prayer of sinners, but in your goodness come to help us who faithfully call upon you. Hasten to entreat, hurry to pray, O Theotokos, interceding always for those honor you.

*The Prokeimenon in the Third Tone: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

**∇: For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden; for behold henceforth all generations will call me blessed.**

**THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (9:1-7)** Brethren: even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

*Alleluia, Tone 3*

**∇. In Thee, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame.**

**∇. Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (8:5-13)** At that time as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress.” And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.” But the centurion answered him, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer

darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.” And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; be it done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

On July 2nd the Church commemorates a saint and an event, both of which remind us of the central place in our theology of Mary the Theotokos. The event is the "Placing of the Honorable Robe of the Most Holy Mother of God at Blachernae." It took place in the year 458 at the church in Blachernae, a suburb of Constantinople. The saint is Juvenal, who served as Patriarch of Jerusalem from 420 to 458.

The story of the Theotokos' robe begins with two brothers from Constantinople named Galbuis and Candidus. They set out for Palestine to venerate the holy places there, and near Nazareth they stayed with a devout elderly woman. She told them she'd been caring for a sacred item in her home: the Theotokos' robe. Near the end of her life, the Mother of God had given it to a pious maiden, and it had been passed down through generations of that maiden's family. Many people in ill health or distress, she said, received healing by prayerfully touching the robe.

Knowing the sacred relic belonged in a church; the brothers took it back with them to Constantinople and informed the Emperor and the Patriarch about it. In June of 458, it was placed in the Blachernae church, which is dedicated to the Mother of God. Almost 900 years later, a Russian pilgrim described seeing it: "We arrived at Blachernae, where the Robe lies upon an altar in a sealed reliquary."

Saint Juvenal was an excellent theologian who attended both the Third and Fourth Ecumenical Councils. At the Third Council, in Ephesus, he insisted on the term "Mother of God" to describe Mary against those who claimed that she could only be called the mother of Christ. Giving her that diminished title, he argued, would be denying that Jesus is truly the Christ, both God and Man in one Person.

Saint Juvenal had to defend the Church's teachings at both Councils, and did so successfully. But his opponents in Jerusalem continued to spread their wrong beliefs, and managed to have Juvenal removed from his position as Patriarch. They installed a man named Theodosius, who at first had the support of the empress Eudoxia. Fortunately she was convinced by Saint Simeon the Stylite to adhere to the Councils' decisions. Juvenal's position was restored, and he served the Jerusalem church as patriarch for 38 years.

On July 1st we read Jesus' own words about seeking the truth. He says, "The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here!" (Matthew 12: 42). The Queen of Sheba made a great effort to hear truth from Solomon. God has given us ways to know the truth, too. Those at the Councils used their God-given minds to work out that Mary is rightly called Mother of God because her Son is the Divine and Human Savior. God also gave us a tangible proof of Mary's holiness: a Robe that drew people to Christ by healing and renewing His people.

July 2, 2017



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

Fr. Joe, Fr. Tom, Deacon Anthony, Aaron, Reggie, Allen, Deborah, Noah,  
Dušan, JoAnn, Nicolai, Luba, Kosta, Jimmy, Laurie, Anna, Walt, Zina,  
Dorothy, Michael, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Ted, Marlene,  
Joseph, Nicholas, Margaret, Gladys, my family and friends

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

Health & God's blessings to Tom & Christy Panoff on their anniversary (June 30)  
and a safe trip

Angelo & Christine

Thanksgiving for George Branoff, Christine Panoff, Linda Branoff, Chris Nedanis,  
Angelo Panoff & EVERYONE who organized & made our Macedonian Open

A great success

Anonymous



**CHARITY PLATE** \$115 was collected over the past two Sundays to help those displaced from their apartments by the fire at Burton Arms. God bless you for your generosity!

We need volunteers to help with coffee & donuts today and for the months of July & August.

**CHARITY MINISTRIES**

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting **Toilet Paper** for the month of July. 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.

**NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN** We serve on **Thursday, July 6 from 9 am to 12:30 pm.**

**ANNUAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN RETREAT** is Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> 9-3 in Rives Junction, MI. The flyer with more details is on the bulletin board.

*Father Matthew will be on vacation June 26 – July 5. In case of a pastoral emergency you may reach Fr. Gabriel Bilas 330-285-1740, Fr. Joseph Abud 810-444-9108, Fr. Angelo Maggos 810-471-0316 or Fr. Robert Royer 810-919-9485.*

***Weekly Schedule:***

**Thursday, July 6**

**9 am- 12:30pm North End Soup Kitchen**

**Sunday, July 9**

**9:30 am Third Hour**

**10 am Divine Liturgy**

**3 pm 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PAN-ORTHODOX SOFTBALL GAME at Grand Blanc East Middle School, Baseball Field B, 6100 East Perry Rd, GB, 48439. Sign up sheet is in the hall. Picnic at 3 pm, Game 5 to 8 pm.**

***Offerings for the week June 25, 2017***

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$2530.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$4,034.03
	<b>\$-1504.03</b>

“If you cannot see Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the chalice.” **St. John Chrysostom**