

July 23, 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

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The Gospel according to Saint John

20:1-10 (7th Matins Gospel)

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017 7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus, and 13 others in Lycia (4th c.). Hieromartyr Apollinaris, Bishop of Ravenna (ca. 75). Commemoration of the Miraculous Appearance of the POCHAEV Icon of the Mother of God, which saved the Monastery from the assault of the Tatars and Turks (1675). Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, “THE JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW” (with coins) in St. Petersburg (1888).

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 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, Mediatrix 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 Sixth Tone: O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!

v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE ROMANS (15:1-7) Brethren: who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.” For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Alleluia, Tone 6

v: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

v: He will say to the Lord: “My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust!”

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW (9:27-35)

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.” When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” Then he touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.” And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, “See that no one knows it.” But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in Israel.” But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.” And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

COMMUNION HYMN

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

ASK FATHER

In the Jesus Prayer and some other prayers we say “...have mercy on me, a sinner”. Other translations say “...have mercy on me the sinner”. Which is correct?

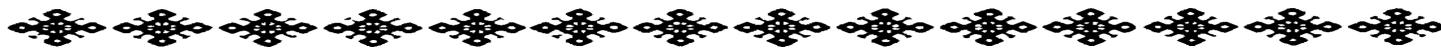
No other translation except for English uses “a sinner.” All other translations and all the Greek manuscripts have “**the** sinner” (τῷ ἁμαρτωλῷ - toh amartolo). In Greek, to say “a sinner”, one would have to omit the definite article “the” “τῷ” but no Greek text omits that particle. To use “a sinner” is a spiritual mistake. The Liturgy and other prayers call each one of us to see ourselves as the worst sinners in each own’s right, not as “a sinner” – one out of many. To be “a sinner” can only mitigate our own sinfulness. Rather than judging others as sinners we are to say, “God, be merciful to me the sinner” “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me the sinner” confessing to God that I am not merely one sinner among many, but **THE** sinner, the only one.

Where we do pray, acknowledging that we are sinners among others, we take our lead from Saint Paul. Saint Paul who, before he became a follower of Christ, persecuted the Christians, writes of himself, “I am the first (πρωτος - protos) of sinners.” (1 Timothy 1:15) Here Saint Paul says that all are sinners but he says that **he** is the **first** of all sinners. He calls himself the chief sinner of all sinners. We take his words and make them our own, each one of us, individually. We say this in the very first sentence of the Communion Prayer we recite at every Liturgy: “I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Who camest into the world to save sinners, **of whom I am first.**”

Pride would have us judge ourselves better than others. Pride would have us judge ourselves better than other sinners because we don’t commit their sins. Confessing ourselves as the first of sinners, praying “God, be merciful to me **the** sinner”, this is the path of all the saints who have gone before us and who live among us. The holy ones of God do not look left nor right, before nor behind them to see and judge other sinners. The saints look only into their own hearts and see their own sins and call themselves the first of sinners. So great was the saints’ knowledge of their own sins that one saint, Sisoës the Great (July 6) on his deathbed “was entreating the angels to give him a little more time for repentance. The monks said, ‘You have no need for repentance, Father.’ Saint Sisoës said with great humility, ‘I do not think that I have even begun to repent.’” (Life of St. Sisoës the Great)

For us to tread the same path as the saints, the path which leads to life in God here and in His kingdom which is come and is yet to come, we must confess our sinfulness to God, as “the sinner”, as “the first” (chief) of all sinners.

July 23, 2017



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Health & God’s blessings to Christy Panoff on her birthday (July 21st)

Angelo & Christine
His family

Health & blessings Peter Sredich

Fr. Tom, Fr. Gabriel, Deacon Anthony, Aaron, Reggie, Allen, Deborah, Jo Ann,

Luba, Kosta, Jimmy, Laurie, Helen, Anna, Walt, Zina

Dorothy, Michael, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Ted, Marlene,

Joseph, Nicholas, Margaret, Gladys, my family and friends

Joe Tome
Joe Tome

Special Intention

Magda Popoff & Anna Branoff

Alex & Magda Popoff

Health & God’s blessings to our Godson Alexander’s, birthday (July 16th)

Numko & Numka

Health & blessings Magda Popoff

Sredich family

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE

Tronda Nicevski, Kosta & Theodora Papalazarou

Lena Bakoundis

Peter Popoff & John Naum

Alex & Magda Popoff



WELCOME all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas! Please join us for fellowship in the hall.

COFFEE HOUR Coffee, pastries & donuts are donated today by the Yosheff and Nedanis families in memory of Tronda Nicevski

THANK YOU to an anonymous donor who is donating the cost for an audio-visual upgrade for our entire complex: webcam in church for services, television in the hall, new speakers in the church and additional speakers elsewhere. God bless you for your generosity!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT Ten adults and children watched “The Incredibles” at our family movie night on July 14. Mark your calendar for our next night, August 11 when we’ll see “Night at the Museum.” Bring friends!

Eight adults and youth from our parish participated in the Pan-Orthodox trip to Cedar Point last week.

OLD TABLES AND CHAIRS IN THE GARAGE At the July parish council meeting it was decided to get rid of the old tables and chairs in the garage. If you are interested in having any, please see Dennis Jernigan. Any tables and chairs not taken by parishioners will be left out for others to take.

CHARITY MINISTRIES

Our parish raised \$333 from special collections to assist the over 100 people displaced by the fire at Burton Arms. God reward you for your generosity. The parish will contribute \$167 to bring the amount to \$500 so that our Diocese will make a matching grant of \$500 so that we can offer \$1,000 in charitable assistance from our parish to those who lost all their belongings in the fire.

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.

PAN-ORTHODOX VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL Again, our four Orthodox Churches in Genesee County are having a combined **Pan-Orthodox Vacation Church School** *hosted by the Assumption Church in Grand Blanc*. The Flier and Registration Form is in the July/August newsletter and posted on the bulletin board in the hall. The VCS will be offered for 3 days August 7th to August 9th, from 6 to 8:30 pm.

Ages are 3 (potty trained) up through 12 The cost of registration is \$15 per child. Checks made out to AGOC-RE. We want as many of our children to participate as possible, so if there is ANY financial need, families can contact Fr. Matthew and we'll work something out. All registration forms can be emailed to Lori Photiou at loriphotiou@gmail.com or faxed to the Assumption church office at 810-771-4586.

We also want to have t-shirts made up for each of the kids, but need to know ASAP who has or will be registering with the age of the children so the shirts can be ordered and ready before the VCS start.

Last, but not least, we are in need of volunteers to help out during VCS. Two persons have already offered to help but we need more!

Please contact our parish coordinator, Matushka Lisa (matushka13xi@gmail.com) to tell her you are registering your children with the ages or to volunteer.

Weekly Schedule:

Wednesday, July 26

9 am Divine Liturgy
11 am Adult Education – “Wounded by Love” by St. Porphyrios

Saturday, July 29

5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions

Sunday, July 30

9:30 am Third Hour
10 am Divine Liturgy

Offerings for the week July 16, 2017

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$2,105.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$4,034.03
	\$-1,929.03

*84 people were in attendance on
Sunday, July 16, 2017*

“Remember, Lord, those who remember the poor...” (St. John Chrysostom’s Liturgy)