

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

2143 S. Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519

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SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020 4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 3. **Ven. Athanasios, Founder of the Great Lavra and Cœnobitic Monasticism on Mt. Athos, and his six disciples (1000). Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Sergius (Sérgii) of Rádonezh (1422). Martyr Anna at Rome (304) and Martyr Cyrilla, of Cyrene in Libya, a widow (304). Ven. Lampados of Irenopolis (10th c.). Hieromartyr Cyprian of Mt. Athos (1679).**

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 3) The angelic ranks were awed by your life in the flesh, how, though corporeal, and clad with earthly clay, you did set forth with courage to invisible wars and wrestlings and did boldly smite the hordes of the demons with mortal wounds. Wherefore, Christ rewarded you with abundant gifts in return. Entreat Him that our souls find salvation, O most renowned Father Athanasios.

(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 Seventh Tone: Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints. v: What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto me?

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE GALATIANS (5:22-6:2)

Brethren: the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Alleluia, Tone 3

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

v. 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!

Saint Athanasius of Athos (July 5), in holy Baptism named Abraham, was born in the city of Trebizond. He was orphaned at an early age, and being raised by a certain good and pious nun, he imitated his adoptive mother in the habits of monastic life, in fasting and in prayer. Doing his lessons came easily and he soon outpaced his peers in study.

After the death of his adoptive mother, Abraham was taken to Constantinople, to the court of the Byzantine emperor Romanus the Elder, and was enrolled as a student under the renowned rhetorician Athanasius. In a short while the student attained the mastery of skill of his teacher and he himself became an instructor of youths. Reckoning as the true life that of fasting and vigilance, Abraham led a strict and abstinent life, he slept little and then only sitting upon a stool, and barley bread and water were his nourishment. When his teacher Athanasius through human weakness became jealous of his student, blessed Abraham gave up his teaching position and went away.

During these days there had arrived at Constantinople Saint Michael Maleinos (July 12), igumen of the Kyminas monastery. Abraham told the igumen about his life, and revealed to him his secret desire to become a monk. The holy Elder, discerning in Abraham a chosen vessel of the Holy Spirit, became fond of him and taught him much in questions of salvation. One time during their spiritual talks Saint Michael was visited by his nephew, Nicephorus Phocas, a military officer and future emperor. Abraham’s lofty spirit and profound mind impressed Nicephorus, and all his life he regarded the saint with reverent respect and with love. Abraham was consumed by his zeal for the monastic life. Having forsaken everything, he went to the Kyminas monastery and, falling down at the feet of the holy igumen, he begged to be received into the monastic life. The igumen fulfilled his request with joy and tonsured him with the name Athanasius.

With long fasts, vigils, bending of the knees, with works night and day Athanasius soon attained such perfection, that the holy igumen blessed him for the exploit of silence in a solitary place not far from the monastery. Later on, having left Kyminas, he made the rounds of many desolate and solitary places, and guided by God, he came to a place called Melanos, at the very extremity of Athos, settling far off from the other monastic dwellings. Here the monk made himself a cell and began to live an ascetical life in works and in prayer, proceeding from exploit to exploit towards higher monastic attainment.

The enemy of mankind tried to arouse in Saint Athanasius hatred for the place chosen by him, and assaulted him with constant suggestions in thought. The ascetic decided to suffer it out for a year, and then wherever the Lord should direct him, he would go. On the last day of this year’s length of time, when Saint Athanasius set about to prayer, a heavenly light suddenly shone upon him, filling him with an indescribable joy, all the thoughts dissipated, and from his eyes welled up graced tears. From that moment Saint Athanasius received the gift of tenderness, and he became as strongly fond of the place of his solitude as he had formerly loathed it.

During this time Nicephorus Phocas, having had enough of military exploits, remembered his vow to become a monk and from his means he besought Saint Athanasius to build a monastery, i.e., to build cells for him and the brethren, and a church where the brethren could commune of the Divine Mysteries of Christ on Sundays.

Tending to shun cares and worries, Saint Athanasius at first would not agree to accept the hateful gold, but seeing the fervent desire and good intent of Nicephorus, and discerning in this the will of God, he set about the building of the monastery. He built a large church in honor of the holy Prophet and Forerunner of Christ, John the Baptist, and another church at the foot of a hill, in the name of the Most Holy Theotokos. Around the church were the cells, and a wondrous monastery arose on the Holy Mountain. In it were a trapeza (dining area), a hospice for the sick and for taking in wanderers, and other necessary structures.

Brethren flocked to the monastery from everywhere, not only from Greece, but also from other lands, simple people and illustrious dignitaries, desert-dwellers having labored in asceticism for long years in the wilderness, igumens from many monasteries and hierarchs wanting to become simple monks in the Athos Lavra of Saint Athanasius.

The saint established at the monastery a cenobitic monastic Rule on the model of the old Palestinian monasteries. Divine services were served with all strictness, and no one was so bold as to talk during the services, nor to come late or leave the church without necessity.

The Heavenly Patroness of Athos, the All-Pure Mother of God Herself, was graciously disposed towards the saint. Many times he was privileged to see Her with his own eyes. By God's dispensation, there once occurred such a hunger, that the monks one after the other quit the Lavra. The saint remained all alone and, in a moment of weakness, he also considered leaving. Suddenly he beheld a Woman beneath an ethereal veil, coming to meet him. "Who are you and where are you going?" She asked quietly. Saint Athanasius from an innate deference halted. "I am a monk from here," Saint Athanasius replied, and spoke about himself and his worries.

"Would you forsake the monastery which was intended for glory from generation unto generation, just for a morsel of dry bread? Where is your faith? Turn around, and I shall help you." "Who are you?" asked Athanasius. "I am the Mother of the Lord," She answered, and bid Athanasius to strike his staff upon a stone. From the fissure there gushed forth a spring of water, which exists even now, in remembrance of this miraculous visitation.

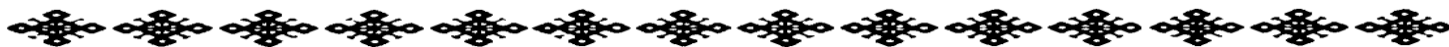
The brethren grew in number, and the construction work at the Lavra continued. Saint Athanasius, foreseeing the time of his departure to the Lord, prophesied about his impending end and besought the brethren not to be troubled over what he foresaw. "For Wisdom disposes otherwise than as people judge." The brethren were perplexed and pondered the words of the saint. After giving the brethren his final guidance and comforting all, Saint Athanasius entered his cell, put on his mantiya and holy kukolion (head covering), which he wore only on great feasts, and emerged after prolonged prayer. Alert and joyful, the holy igumen went up with six of the brethren to the top of the church to inspect the construction. Suddenly, through the imperceptible will of God, the top of the church collapsed. Five of the brethren immediately gave up their souls to God. Saint Athanasius and the architect Daniel, thrown upon the stones, remained alive. All heard the saint call out to the Lord, "Glory to You, O God! Lord, Jesus Christ, help me!" The brethren with great weeping began to dig out their father from the rubble, but they found him already dead.

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The holy Gospel according to 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.

July 5, 2020



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Bosa & her family

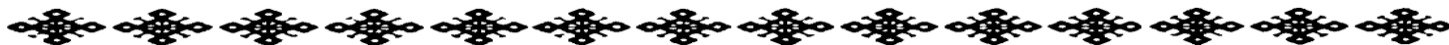
Bosa Kantar

Fr. Tom, Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Aaron, Milica, Calvin, Larry, Helen, Angelo, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Anna, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Kosta, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Katheryn, Joseph, Ted, Marlene, Gladys, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family & friends.

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome



Welcome to everyone joining us via our YouTube channel: [St Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton.](#)

CONFESSIONS The sacrament of Confession is offered on Saturdays after Vespers and by appointment.

PANORTHODOX SOFTBALL GAME Sunday, July 19 at St. Pius Catholic School. The game starts at 3 pm. Food & drinks will be provided by Assumption Church. Please sign up by calling the office at 810-744-0070 or e-mailing stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com

Any questions? please e-mail Fr. Gabriel at frgabrielsmm@gmail.com



CANDLE INTENTION REQUESTS can be emailed to the office at stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com or called in.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THOSE IN NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

To aid in your outreach, here is a listing of their addresses:

Helen Ashmun	4436 Beecher Rd.	Flint, MI 48532
Larry Bladecki	3254 E. Midland Rd.	Bay City, MI 48706
Anna Branoff	Grand Blanc Fields 12628 Pagels Dr	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Gladys Edwards	2 Harbor Dr.	St. Clair, MO 63077
Paul Ellis	2360 Stonebridge Dr.	Flint, MI 48532
Vasilka Karatza	Regency 1330 Grand Pointe Ct	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Eleni Servinis	Regency 1330 Grand Pointe Ct	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Jo Sredich	Magnolia House 4134 N. State Rd.	Davison, MI 48423

ROTATING SCHEDULE

The rotating schedule for attending Sunday Liturgy has begun. The groupings are based on alphabetical order from households that wish to return presently. You will receive a phone call and e-mail from the parish office notifying you the Sunday Liturgy you are scheduled to attend.

WHEN YOUR HOUSEHOLD WISHES TO BE ADDED TO THE ROTATION, PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL THE PARISH OFFICE: 810-744-0070 or stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com

LITURGY ON WEDNESDAY AND VESPERS ON SATURDAY

Those who wish to attend Liturgy on Wednesday or Vespers on Saturday should contact the parish office whether by e-mail or telephone call. If the maximum number of households permitted is reached for Wednesday Liturgy and Saturday Vespers by the time you notify the office of your desire to attend, your household will be put on the top of the list for the following week.

ST. MARY'S PATRONAL FEAST - Myrrhbearer and Equal of the Apostles. Will be held Tue., July 21st with Vespers & Lajtia at 5 pm and Wed., July 22nd with Divine Liturgy at 10 am. This is open to in-person attendance.

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You can donate to St. Nicholas with an app on your phone & as always on our website by <https://saintnicholasburton.org/> Go to the website and on the home page click on the box **Give now with Givelify** which will walk you through the donation process; this is a secure site. **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 OPEN Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 am -3 pm.

ALL OCA ONLINE CHURCH SCHOOL check out the offerings here: <https://www.oca.org/all-oca-church-school>

Weekly schedule:

Wednesday, July 8

9 am

Divine Liturgy – streaming on our YouTube channel

Saturday, July 11

5 pm

Great Vespers – streaming on our YouTube channel

Confessions after Vespers

Sunday, July 12

10 am

Group 1A is in the church and Group 1B is in the fellowship hall

Divine Liturgy – streaming on our YouTube channel

Offerings for the week June 28, 2020

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 1,768.25
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,104.00
	\$-1,335.75

That we should imagine that anger, wrath, jealousy or the such like have anything to do with the divine Nature is utterly abhorrent for us...nor again can we possibly say that He acts thus out of retribution, even though the Scriptures may on the outer surface posit this...A right way of thinking about God would be the following: the kind Lord, who in everything He does looks to ways of assisting rational beings, directs thought concerning judgment to the advantage of those who accept this difficult matter. ...He acts towards us in ways He knows will be advantageous to us, whether by way of things that cause suffering, or by way of things that cause relief, whether they cause joy or grief, whether they are insignificant or glorious: all are directed towards the single eternal good, whether each receives judgment or something of glory from Him not by way of retribution - far from it! - but with a view to the advantage that is going to come from all these things. - *St. Isaac of Nineveh*