

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Monthly Newsletter

Diocese of Toledo-Orthodox Church in America
2143 S. Center Road – Burton, Michigan 48519

Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie – Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser

Email: stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com

Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Church Office: 810-744-0070

Services: Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Hours 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Wednesday- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Adult Class 11:30 am

Saturday – 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions

Holydays: Vespers & Liturgy as announced

“But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

St. Jude 20

JUNE 2020

The sick are under God’s special protection. They have God’s special blessing. They have God’s love. They are in His embrace, whereas someone who has health might not be.

The sick person, the suffering person, the person with illness is in a privileged place, or a potentially privileged place, with respect to God. Those who have never known sickness, and those who have never known suffering, often have a lack of empathy; and often their heart is narrow and small and restricted, and not able to open up and embrace the suffering of others because they just don’t know it.

The sick, on the other hand, are often the most loving and understanding and compassionate people that you will ever meet, and they are the ones who will have boldness before God in their prayers for others.

So don’t be afraid of your illness. Leave it to God. Do what the doctors tell you. When you take your medication, you receive Christ. It’s not bad, or a sign of a lack of faith, to take your medication. When you take your medication, you are receiving a blessing, you are receiving Christ Himself.

Do what the doctors say, take your medications, go for your tests, but have no anxiety. Sometimes what’s worse than being sick is being afraid of getting sick. Leave it to God. Whatever God gives you is best for you. God never gives you a Cross without first weighing and measuring it very carefully to make sure that the Cross will result in your spiritual growth.

So don’t think it’s random, don’t think it’s chance, don’t think it’s too much. It’s been very carefully weighed and very carefully measured, so that it will result in spiritual growth and spiritual benefit.

As much as the body wastes away, that much is our life in God renewed. God cannot be born within us without birth pangs. And the suffering that we experience, whether it’s emotional suffering or physical suffering, these are the birth pangs, the travail, the suffering in our life that will enable God to be born and to grow within us.

So we should feel pity for the person who has not tasted involuntary pain because that person is not likely to impose upon himself a sufficient amount of voluntary pain. So feel pity for the person who does not know involuntary pain because they’re not going to inflict it on themselves. They’re going to want to stay in their comfortable place, their comfort-zone, and they’re going to resist all kinds of change.

Sickness is a visitation from God, a divine visitation. Sickness humbles us, it teaches us, it reshapes us, it awakens us to reality, it enables us to see what is truly important and of value. It is not a punishment, but a divine visitation for our correction and education.

—Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra Monastery

STAGE 4 RE-OPENING

Federal gating criteria look to beginning re-opening based on 14 days downward trend of new coronavirus infections. Genesee County is on such a trend. The governor's executive order states there is no penalty for houses of worship to operate as houses of worship nor is there a penalty for anyone to attend a house of worship for that purpose. Therefore Archbishop Alexander has blessed our parish to move to Stage 4 of re-opening.

WHAT IS A HOUSEHOLD?

A household is the people who live under the same roof. A household may be one person, it may be several people – all who live under the same roof. Members of the same household do not have to social distance from each other in church.

HOW MANY HOUSEHOLDS ARE PERMITTED IN STAGE 4?

We are permitted 50% of social distancing capacity in Stage 4. We can fit 16 households in church and 16 in the fellowship hall. 50% capacity is 8 households in church, 8 households in the hall.

WHAT DOOR DO WE ENTER FOR SERVICES?

Church entry will be through the front doors with the office door used for those who need step-less access. *Hall entry* will be used only by those joining the livestream of the Liturgy in the hall.

HOW WILL CHURCH AND FELLOWSHIP HALL ROTATION WORK?

A household that is in church for the first rotation will be in the fellowship hall for their next rotation. A household that is in the hall on their first rotation will be in the church for their next rotation.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR A PERSON ATTENDING SERVICES?

- "... those with pre-existing and underlying conditions as defined by civil government are to refrain from coming to church. Clergy within this group must seek the blessing of their diocesan bishop to attend and serve, if they so desire." (Synod of Bishops)
- "Clergy and faithful 65 years of age and older without underlying medical conditions may attend services if they choose to. (I. General Guidelines, 4. a.)
- if you are presenting with symptoms of COVID-19, you must remain at home. (Synod of Bishops)
- faithful who do not feel safe leading services or attending them may stay home. (Synod of Bishops)

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR HOUSEHOLDS

- the usher will give you hand sanitizer and ensure that you are properly wearing a face-covering (face-coverings are mandatory per the governor's executive order)
- the usher will provide you with a donation envelope if you need; please drop it in the basket provided
- the usher will lead you to a pew in church or chair in the hall
- maintain social distancing both inside and outside of church and the hall
- "contactless" veneration of icons, priest/bishop's hand, etc. - venerate with a bow
- the usher will release households by pew /chairs for Communion. Only after a household has returned to their pew / chairs will the next household be released. Holy Communion will be brought to those in the hall at every Liturgy.
- continue to refrain from kissing the chalice after holy Communion
- continue to refrain from touching the Communion cloth, rather take up the paper napkin provided and hold it under your chin and wipe your lips with it and then place it in the vessel provided. These will be burned after the Liturgy.
- you may bring your own pew book and take it home with you at the end of Liturgy
- no bulletin or announcements will be handed out. You may print your own and bring it and take it with you when you leave.
- Wait for the usher to lead you out of church / hall.

Given the circumstances, we may be inclined to greet one another more closely than social distancing guidelines permit. Let us keep social distancing for the sake of the person with whom we interact, for their safety and well-being. If you wish, chat in the parking lot at a safe social distance or get into your vehicles and chat with your windows down from six feet apart.

BATHROOMS

One person at a time in the bathrooms, unless they are in the same household. Bathrooms near the conference room are for those in church. Bathrooms in the classroom hallway are for those in the hall.

CANDLES

Ushers will hand out the beeswax tapers to those who wish to light them. Any other candles to be lit in church (the small 4 hour candles or 7 day candles) will be lit by an usher who will take down the candle intention. Those in the hall may provide their candle intention to the usher who will take down the intentions and ensure the candles are lit.

ROTATING SCHEDULE

Parish council members have been attending May 17 and May 24 to see what procedures are in place and for those who are ushers to see how these work. Father Matthew has been contacting households to see who is able, based on the criteria listed above, and who is willing to attend at this time to get a sense of how many to expect in the coming weeks. We will begin the rotating schedule on May 31 for attending Sunday Liturgy. 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.

PARISH COUNCIL will meet by teleconference on Tuesday, June 9 at 6:30 pm.

MACEDONIAN OPEN has been postponed but the committee is hoping to do an event in late summer or early fall.

VISITATION TO THE SICK When permitted, Fr. Matthew will resume bringing Holy Communion to the shut-ins on Tuesdays. If you would like to be added to this list, please contact the office. Presently, those receiving weekly visits are: Helen Ashmun, Anna Branoff, Paul Ellis, Vasilka Karatza, Fred Oginsky, and Pete & Jo Sredich. Monthly Fr. Matthew visits Larry Bladecki (Bay City).

DAILY INTERCESSION FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND

The following are our brothers and sisters of St. Nicholas who are currently homebound, suffering from chronic illness, in recovery or in need of special prayers. Please remember them in your prayers and reach out to them with a card, a phone call or a visit! Please call the office to schedule a visit for Holy Communion.

Larry Bladecki	Gladys Edwards	Nick Karayanis	
Deacon John Bocek	Paul Ellis	Macy Lemmen	Bill Tadrick
Anna Branoff	Bill Haw	Fred Oginsky	Wendy Tadrick
Linda Branoff	Mary Karayanis	Ron Salhany	

To aid in your outreach, here is a listing of the addresses and phone numbers of our Homebound:

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
Jo Sredich	Magnolia House 4134 N. State Rd.	Davison, MI 48423

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Anastasia (Stasia) Butrie graduated from Grand Blanc High School with Honors. She will be attending Mott Community College in the Fall. Her parents are Fr. Matthew & Popadia Lisa Butrie.

Eli George graduated from Alma College with honors with a degree in Music Education. He is going to be the band director this fall at Glen Lake High School. His parents are David and Kris George and grandparents are Peter and Jo Sredich.

Kara George graduated from St Clair High School with honors. She will be attending Saginaw Valley State University in the fall. Her parents are David and Kris George and grandparents are Peter and Jo Sredich.

Charles Jernigan Jr. graduated from Flushing High School. He will be attending MIAT College of Technology in the fall. Parents are the late Charles Jernigan and Felicia Jernigan. Grandparents are Dennis and Sharon Jernigan.

Megan Kriener graduated from MSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Packaging Engineering. Her parents are Tom & Nancy Kriener and grandparents are the late Lewis & Evanka Elieff.

Tia Ling Manning graduated with honors from Waterford Mott High School and was accepted at Oakland University for fall classes. Her parents are Stacy & Matt Manning and her proud grandparents are Kathy & Bob Edwards.

Joseph (Joe) Neely, son of Ralph and Debbie Neely, grandson of Dorothy Goodman and the late Joe Goodman, graduated from Central Michigan University. He majored in Criminal Justice with a minor in Substance Abuse. Joe will be attending the Police Academy.

Carli Nicoloff graduated from Oakland University with honors. Her parents are Steve & Shari Nicoloff and her grandmother is Lydia Nicoloff.

Austin Selmi graduated from Pinckney High School and will be attending Western MI University in the fall. He'll be majoring in Construction Management as well as playing on their hockey team. Austin's parents are Elva & Tim Selmi and his grandparents are Angelo & Helen Popoff.

CHARITY MINISTRIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN June 4th, 9 am – 12:30 pm.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting laundry soap for the month of June. 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.

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



VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL August 11, 12 & 13 at St. Mary Magdalene.

More information to come.

17th Annual Elias D. Chinonis Golf Classic August 17th at Pine Knob. Contact John at Assumption for registration info. 810-922-2047.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Dakota Selmi
Michael Serra
- 4 John Todorovsky
- 5 Dennis Jernigan
- 6 Kate Stevens
Michael Chevalier
- 8 Adam George
Elijah George
- 11 Angelo Panoff
- 14 Joshua Brucksch
- 15 Jonathan Sfetkides
- 18 Philip Bakousidis
- 20 Eileen Branoff
- 21 Dennis Goodman
- 22 Izis Helal
Luke Borkovich
- 24 Joshua Vuckovich
- 27 Ralph Neely



NAMESDAYS

- 3 Paula Zelenko
- 7 Dante Hatch (Pentecost)
- 11 Calvin (Barnabas) Conrad
- 14 Nancy Nevena Tasevski
- 21 Julius Chevalier
- 27 Jennifer Shann (St. Joanna)
- 29 Brandon Paul Conover
Colin Paul Panoff
Paul Brayan
Paul Ellis
Paul Panoff
Paul Yosheff
Peter Biggs
Peter Branoff
Peter Economou
Peter Sredich
Petro Ahejew

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Angelo & Christine Panoff (1968)
- 4 Joe & Susan Oginsky (1983)
- 6 Alex & Menka Nedanis (1971)
- 8 Paul & Luba Yosheff (1975)
- 10 Protodeacon Kerry & Katherine Gonser (1990)
- 12 Paul & Olesya Childs (2018)
- 23 Gabriel & Suzanne Paul (2018)
Jim & Sandra Grossi (1974)

If your name is missing or has the incorrect information in the birthday, anniversary or namesday list please call the office: (810) 744-0070



BLESSED REPOSE~MEMORY ETERNAL Nikolaos Bakousidis (1 yr. June 6) from Irene Batcos & family and the Bakousidis family.

BLESSED REPOSE~MEMORY ETERNAL Evangelia Bakousidis from Irene Batcos & family and the Bakousidis family.



Nick's (Vuckovich) Lawn Care
810-618-0315

Free Estimates

**Lawn Mowing, Weed Whipping,
Weed Killer, Mulch, Spring/Fall Clean-up,
Gardens, Deck Staining, Painting**

I am 17 yrs. old raising money to continue my education at Mott College. I have 3 yrs. experience in lawn care. Your support is very much appreciated.



**DO YOU STILL WANT
TO RECEIVE THIS
NEWSLETTER? IF NOT
PLEASE CALL OR
EMAIL THE OFFICE TO
BE TAKEN OFF OF THE
MAILING LIST.**

Your Business Here

\$36.00 Single Space
for 6 months

\$50.00 Double Space
for 6 months

\$65.00 Triple Space
for 6 months

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