

June 25, 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 Mark
16: 9-20 (3rd Matins Gospel)**

Now when Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe. After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either. Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017 3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 2. 3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. All Saints of Britain and Ireland. Virgin Martyr Febronia of Nisibis (ca. 304). Ss. Peter and Fevronia (tonsured David and Euphrosyne), Wonderworkers of Múrom (1228). Ven. Dionysius the Hagiorite (1375). Ven. Dometius of Dionysiou (1405). Monk Martyr Procopius of Iveron.

TROPARIA

(Tone 2) When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! 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 Second Tone: The Lord is my strength and my song / He has become my salvation.

v: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over unto death.

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE ROMANS

(5:1-10) *Brethren:* since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Alleluia, Tone 2

v: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the Name of the God of Jacob protect you!

v: Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW (6:22-33) And Jesus taught the people who had come to Him saying: "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

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

Above all pray without ceasing and thank God for everything that happens to you.

(Rule of Anthony the Great)

Anthony the Great is a realist. His rules or canons aren't some formula he's found and thrown to us. Each of them has something unique concerning the life of the monk and, if one is broken, everything comes crashing down. He says we have to pray without ceasing but at the same time thank God for everything that happens to us. He uses a coordinating conjunction because these two things can't be separated, they go together. We thank God for pleasant things, but even more for something else: in life, matters don't always turn out as we would want them to. We pray, for instance, and it seems that God doesn't listen. We ask for our health, and our illness worsens. We ask God to grant us certain things and He gives us nothing. Everything's back to front.

People who don't learn to thank God for everything, especially for adversity, will never advance even an inch beyond where they were when their mothers bore them. They'll make no progress. And, of course, when their mothers bore them, such people were innocent babes, they had a natural sanctity, whereas we have cruelty, and knowledge that makes us guilty. So we have to learn to thank God. When we have bad thoughts, when our brother says something and we feel hatred within us, we must, at that very time, thank God and smile at our brother. Unless we do so, it's impossible to advance a step, because everything will seem perverse to us. And then, in particular, others and our circumstances will cause us to have bad thoughts, temptations, passions and contrariness.

Ceaseless prayer and gratitude to God for all that happens to us are the necessary conditions for a natural life. If people don't thank God for everything, they can't even pray, nor live in the monastic state. People have to be grateful for whatever happens to them in the monastery, whether that comes from their inner world or from the brotherhood, from enemies or from demons. For instance, a monk has bad thoughts which torment him. He shouldn't be worried, but should rejoice and thank God. He should say to the demon: "Get behind me, Satan" and send him on his way, or, if he refuses to leave, the monk should be able to say: "The bed's big enough for the two of us. Sleep with me. Just turn over onto the other side so that I don't have to put up with your foul breath". The demon will then leave like lightning.

Unceasing prayer and gratitude for everything are directly connected to our personal rule. In other words, anyone can perform his rule when he learns to pray ceaselessly. And anyone who performs his rule can have unceasing prayer. If he wants to separate his rule from unceasing prayer, both will come tumbling down. This is basic and we must remember it. Miss your rule for two days and you'll see that you'll forget to say "Glory to you, our God" even once a day. That's a law.

Archimandrite Aimilianos of Simonopetra

Νηπτική ζωή και Ασκητικοί κανόνες

(Neptical life and ascetic rules), Indiktos Eds, Athens 2011, pp. 5-6.

June 25, 2017



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Health & blessings to Kuma & Anna

Borkovich family

Health & God's blessings to our granddaughters on their birthdays-Rachel (June 18)

& Elizabeth (June 21)

Baba & Dedo

Feodosiy, Adelaida, Oleg, Sergey, Irina, Galina, Nikolay & Nikola

Irina Sivergina

Tom Branoff for Father's Day

Linda, Peter & Marilyn

Health & God's blessings to all our Fathers, Grandfathers, Godfathers & Uncles
of our parish

St. Catherine's League

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

Anna Branoff, Gloria Zelenko, Reggie Jehnsen, Linda Branoff, Katherine,
Jake Kusluski, Adam George, & all sick and shut-ins of our parish
Health & God’s blessings for Father’s Day to Michael, Christopher, Thomas, Angelo,
Carl, Paul, Steve, Kerry & Philip
Anna Branoff & Petsy Papalazarou
Thanksgiving for Christine Panoff, Linda Branoff, Chris Nedanis, Angelo Panoff &
EVERYONE who organized & made our Macedonian Open happen
Thanksgiving & blessings on everyone who came and everyone who supported the
Open to support our church

Joe Tome

Adams family

Angelo & Christine Panoff
Alex & Magda Popoff

Anonymous

Anonymous

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE

Vasiliy, Andrey, Galina, Nikolay & Vitaliy
Blessed Repose to all our deceased Fathers, Grandfathers, Godfathers & Uncles our
Parish
Blessed Repose to Chris, Kristo, Alexso, Lazo, Sam, John, Stavro & Michael
Peter Popoff & John Naum
Sandy Pettis, Nancy McDonald, Hazel Carter & Randy Hopkins

Irena Sivergina

Sr. Catherine’s League
Angelo & Christine Panoff
Alex & Magda Popoff
Adams family



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

CHARITY PLATE TODAY is to help those displaced from their apartments by the fire at Burton Arms. Please be generous!

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.**

OUTDOOR CLEAN-UP Please contact Dennis Jernigan (810-908-3631) if you are able to assist with trimming bushes and trees at the church as well as to take down the anniversary banner by the office door.

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:

Wednesday, June 28

6 pm Combined Vespers/Liturgy at St. Mary Magdalene for Ss. Peter and Paul

Saturday, July 1

5 pm Vespers

Sunday, July 2

9:30 am Third Hour
10 am Divine Liturgy

Offerings for the week June 18, 2017

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$1,856.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$4,034.03
	\$-2,178.03

*100 people were in attendance on
Sunday, June 18, 2017*

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