

*March 11, 2018*

*St. Nicholas Orthodox Church*

*Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America*

*2143 S. Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519*

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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, MARCH 11, 2018 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT** — Tone 7. Veneration of the Cross. St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (638-644). St. Euthymius, Bishop of Novgorod (1458). Hieromartyr Pionius of Smyrna and those with him: Asclepiades, Macedonia, Linus, and Sabina (250). Translation of the Relics of Martyr Epimachus of Pelusium. St. Sophronius, Bishop of Vracha (Bulgaria—1813). Ven. Sophronii, Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th c.).

**FIRST ANTIPHON**

The light of Thy countenance, O Lord, hath been signed upon us. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Thou hast given a sign unto them that fear Thee, that they may flee from before the face of the bow. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Thou hast ascended on high, Thou didst lead captivity captive. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Thou hast given an inheritance to them that fear Thy Name. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

### **SECOND ANTIPHON**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Let us worship at the place where his feet have stood. **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

The eyes of the Lord are upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy. **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

God is our King before the ages, He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth. **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

High above all nations is the Lord; Thou art Lord Most High over all the earth. **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, save us!

### **THIRD ANTIPHON**

**Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at the footstool of His feet. (Tone 1) O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!**

**O God, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.**

**(Tone 1) O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!**

**Shepherd them and bear them up unto the ages.**

**(Tone 1) O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!**

### **TROPARIA**

**(Tone 7) By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death! To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise! For the myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy! And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy!**

**(Tone 1) O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!**

**(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 8) O victorious leader of triumphant hosts! We, your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might set us free from ev'ry calamity so that we may sing: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

### **IN PLACE OF THE TRISAGION, WE SING:**

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify.

*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 EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (4:14-5:6)** Brethren: Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

*Alleluia, Tone 8*

*v. Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased of old.*

*v. God is our King before the ages: He hath wrought  
salvation in the midst of the earth.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK (8:34-9:1)** At that time Jesus called to him the multitude with His disciples, and said to them, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

**INSTEAD OF "IT IS TRULY MEET ... ,":** All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child, our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

**COMMUNION HYMN** The light of Thy countenance is signed upon us, O Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**INSTEAD OF "WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT":**

**(Tone 1)** O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

### **The Third Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross**

On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers "planted" on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam's gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal

March 11, 2018



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

Birthday blessings for Megan Krigner on her birthday March 14<sup>th</sup>

Her Family

Bakousidis family & the Murphy family

Lena Bakousidis

God's blessings for good health & a safe trip for Tom Panoff and good health for all the Panoffs

Mom & Dad

Feodosiy, Adelaida, Oleg, Irina, Galina & Nikolay

Irina Sivergina

Fr. Tom, Fr. Dimitri, Fr. Anthony, Aaron, Reggie, Allen, Deborah, JoAnn, Gloria,

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

Nicolai, Dorothy, Michael, Nicolai, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette,

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

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

### **CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE**

Vasiliy, Andrey, Galina, Nikolay, Vitaliy, Yulia & Feodosy

Irina Sivergina

In memory of Peter Sutak & Mitra Tsotsos

Mira & Stojan

Theodora & Kosta Papalazarou, Evangelia Bakousidis, Eleni & Kosta Nedanis

Lena Bakousidis

Nevena & Vlado Kocovski

Nancy & Kosta Tasevski



**WELCOME** to all our friends and visitors. Please join us in our fellowship hall following the veneration of the cross.



### **COFFEE HOUR**

Volunteers are needed to help serve coffee and bagels for the rest of the month of March. Please see the sign-up sheet outside of the kitchen. Call or email the parish office as well as signing up, if you'd like to sponsor the bagels and/or coffee.

## OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting Baby Items, Wipes & Formula for the month of March. 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

**FLOWERS & SPECIAL ITEMS** for Holy Week, Great Friday & Pascha are now available for sponsorship. Donations can be given in honor of or in memory of someone & it will be published at a later date. Forms are in the Narthex. Please turn them into the office (you can slip it under the office door ;).

**HOLY LAND PRESENTATION** Rebekah Hildreth Humphreys will give a presentation on her recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land following the Presanctified at our church on Wednesday, March 21. All are invited to attend; invite your friends and neighbors to hear about the land where Jesus walked and lived among us.

**MANY YEARS!** Kelly and Philip Bakousidis welcomed their babies on Wednesday, Anastasios Germanos and Isabella Todora. Babies and mom are doing well and are at home. May God grant to them all many and blessed years!

**Weekly Schedule:**      **THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT**

**Monday, March 12**      **Communion Calls in Bay City & Caro**  
6:30 pm                  Compline at St. George

**Tuesday, March 13**      **Father Matthew in Toledo**

**Wednesday, March 14**

9am                      Lenten Hours

No Adult Education

6 pm                      **Combined Presanctified followed by Lenten potluck at Assumption**  
**Fast from after your lunch to receive Holy Communion.**  
**Please bring a Lenten dish to share.**

**Saturday, March 17**

4:45 pm                  **Trisagion for those fallen asleep**

5 pm                      **Vespers**

**Sunday, March 18**      **4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of LENT – St. John of “The Ladder”**

9:30 am                  Hours

10 am                    Divine Liturgy

**Offerings for the week March 4, 2018**

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 2,784.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 4,034.03
	<b>-\$ 1,250.03</b>

*105 people were in attendance on  
Sunday, March 4, 2018*

**“Through the cross, by His suffering, He calls you who are the parts of His body.”**

***St. Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Trallians 11***