

March 17, 2019

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

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The Gospel according to Luke 24:36-53 (6th Matins Gospel)

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have. When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 1. Sunday of Orthodoxy. Ven. Aleksey (Alexius) the Man of God (411). Ven. Macarius, Abbot and Wonderworker of Kalyázinsk (Tver’—1483). Martyr Marinus. St. Patrick, Bishop of Armagh, Enlightener of Ireland (ca. 461).

FIRST ANTIPHON

The Lord reigns; He has clothed Himself with honor; the Lord has clothed and girded Himself with strength. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

For He has established the world, which shall not be moved. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Who shall tell of the mighty acts of the Lord, and cause all His praises to be heard? **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy. **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

Let them give thanks to the Lord for His mercies, and for His wonderful works for the sons of men. **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Let them exalt Him in the congregation of the people, and praise Him in the seat of the elders. **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!**

To hear the groaning of those in fetters, to loosen the sons of the slain.

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, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us!

THIRD ANTIPHON

Let the heavens and the earth praise Him.

(**Tone 2**) We vererate Thy most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: “Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, // for Thou didst come to save the world.”

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

(**Tone 2**) We vererate Thy most pure image, O Good One...

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to Thee unto the ages.

(**Tone 2**) We vererate Thy most pure image, O Good One...

TROPARIA

(**Tone 1**) When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

(**Tone 2**) We vererate Thy most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: “Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, // for Thou didst come to save the world.”

(**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!

The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers / and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (11:24-26, 32-12:2) Brethren: By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For time would fail

me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Alleluia, Tone 4

v: Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name.

v: They cried to the Lord and He answered them.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN (1:43-51) At that time Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathaniel, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathaniel said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathaniel coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathaniel said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathaniel answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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

COMMEMORATION OF THE RESTORATION OF THE HOLY ICONS

After the Prayer behind the Ambo, the procession begins:

Choir: *We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, for Thou didst come to save the world.*

Petitions for the living:

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, heark us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Again we pray for our father and Archbishop _____, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For you are a merciful God, and the Lover of Mankind, and to you we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.
Choir: Amen.
Choir: We venerate Thy most pure image...

Petitions for those who have reposed in the faith:

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, heark us and have mercy.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Let us pray for blessed, ever-memorable and pious rulers, Orthodox patriarchs, bishops, and for all our fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters who have fallen asleep in the Lord.
Choir: Memory eternal! Memory eternal! Memory eternal!

Priest: For you are the Resurrection, the Life, and the Repose of your servants who are fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and to you we send up glory, together with your unoriginate Father and your Most-Holy, Good, and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.
Choir: Amen.

Choir: We venerate Thy most pure image...

Petitions for the community:

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, heark us and have mercy.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Again we pray for this city, for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the builders and benefactors of our holy temple, for all those gathered here and for all the inhabitants of this city, and for all pious and Orthodox Christians who dwell and are to be found here and throughout the world.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who labor and those who sing, and for all the people standing here, who await your great and rich mercy.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For you are a merciful God and the Lover of mankind, and to you we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.
Choir: Amen.
Choir: We venerate Thy most pure image...

Petitions for the world:

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, heark us and have mercy.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Again we pray for the civil authorities of this country and those serving in its armed forces.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Again we pray for the protection of this holy church and that this town and every city and country be preserved from famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, invasion, and civil war; that our good and compassionate God may be gracious and favorable, that He may turn away all the wrath stirred up against us, and deliver us from His looming righteous threat, and have mercy on us.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: May the Lord God hear the voice of our supplication, sinners that we are, and be merciful with us.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior, Hope of all bounds of the earth and of those far away at sea, and graciously be merciful to us in our sinfulness and forgive us; for you are a merciful God and loves mankind, and we give praise to you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

**As the prophets beheld,
as the Apostles have taught,
as the Church has received,
as the Teachers have declared,
as the world has agreed,
as Grace has shown forth;
as Truth has been revealed,
as falsehood has been dissolved,
as Wisdom has become manifest,
as Christ awarded
– thus we declare,
thus we assert,
thus we preach Christ our true God,
and honor His Saints
in words,
in writings,
in thoughts,
in sacrifices,
in churches,
in Holy Icons;
on the one hand worshipping and reverencing Christ as God and Lord;
and on the other hand honoring the saints as true servants of the same Lord of all and accordingly offering them
veneration.
This is the Faith of the Apostles,
this is the Faith of the Fathers,
this is the Faith of the Orthodox,
this is the Faith which has established the universe.
These preachers of true piety, we praise as brothers and as those we long to have as our fathers, to the glory and
honor of the true Faith for which they struggled, and we say: To the champions of Orthodoxy, pious Emperors,
most-holy Patriarchs, Hierarchs, Teachers, Martyrs, and Confessors:**

Choir: Memory eternal! Memory eternal! Memory eternal!

Priest: The Holy Trinity has glorified them. By their contests and struggles and teachings for the sake of the true Faith to the point of death, we entreat God that we may be guided and strengthened and beg that we may be shown to be imitators of their inspired way of life until the end, by the mercies and grace of the great and first high-priest, Christ our true God; through the intercessions of our All-glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, of the Angels, and all the Saints. **People:** Amen.

The Great Prokeimenon – Tone 7

Priest: *Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God Who does wonders!*

Choir: *Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God Who does wonders!*

Priest: *Thou hast made known Thy power among the peoples.*

Choir: *Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God Who does wonders!*

Priest: And I said, now have I begun; this is the change of the right hand of the Most High.

Choir: *Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God Who does wonders!*

Priest: I remembered the works of the Lord; for from the beginning will I remember Thy wonders.
Choir: *Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God Who does wonders!*
Priest: *Who is so great a God as our God?*
Choir: *Thou art the God Who does wonders!*

GREAT LENT 2019

Dearly beloved in the Lord,
On the Wednesday of Cheesefare week, we hear a reading from the Holy Prophet Joel. The reading begins with this exhortation:
"Now, therefore," says the Lord,
'Turn to Me with all your heart,
With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.'
So rend your heart, and not your garments;
Return to the Lord your God,
For He is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and of great kindness;
And He relents from doing harm." (Joel 2:12-13)

The words "Turn to Me with all your heart" are a call to repentance. Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us that, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21) "Metanoia," the Greek word for repentance, indicates a complete change of heart. We no longer treasure the values of a fallen world, because they are fleeting and in them we will not find rest for our souls. Rather, we embrace the treasures of God's Kingdom, "where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal." (Matthew 6:20)

To accomplish this life-giving change of heart, mourning is unavoidable. In the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), we hear, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." We typically associate this passage with bereavement. However, the Holy Fathers teach us that this Beatitude flows out of the one immediately preceding it: "Blessed are the poor in spirit." We mourn our spiritual poverty, looking toward Christ's promise of a life of true abundance through forgiveness and the restoration of God's image in us.

"So rend your heart, and not your garments," the Lord tells us; in these words, we receive a challenge and a warning as we draw near to the Great Fast. If our fasting is not indicative of an inner change -- "metanoia," that complete change of heart -- then the outward appearance of our fast has no value. We must apply ourselves to the spiritual disciplines of the Lenten season, not as ends in and of themselves, but as the means offered to us by God to effect our healing and sanctification.

The above words of the prophet end on a note of encouragement and hope: "For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm." Thus, we remember that Great Lent is a gift, given to us by Christ himself. It bears the promise of renewal and healing if we engage it in the proper manner. With God's help, let us all make wise use this holy season.

May the Lord grant you all a blessed Fast, and lead you, with renewed hearts, to the celebration of his glorious Resurrection.
With love in the Lord,
+Alexander, *Archbishop of Toledo*

March 17, 2019



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Mary, Anna & Alex

Alex & Magda Popoff

Fr. Tom, Fr. Dimitrie, Fr. Anthony, Angelo, Christine, Aaron, Reggie, John, Alex, Irene,

Rimi, Allen, Deborah, JoAnn, Susan, Luba, Kosta, David, Anna, Walt, Calvin,

Vladimir, Dorothy, John, Rose, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Ted,

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

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

My precious husband Nicholas. I love & miss you so very much!
Peter Popoff

Connie
Alex & Magda Popoff



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors.

COFFEE & DESSERTS are provided today by Connie Maxim in memory of Nick Maxim (1 yr. March 12).

COIN BOXES have been placed on the tables in the church hall to help support the OCA Missions here in the US and around the world. Please be generous.

PRAYER PARTNER CARD FOR LENT. Some cards were not picked up last Sunday. If you put in a card last Sunday but did not take one, please take one from the basket in the hall.

PAN-ORTHODOX LENTEN RETREAT – SATURDAY, MARCH 23 AT ST MARY MAGDALENE

Abbot Sergius will present “Acquiring the Mind of Christ.” **RSVP To This Event by Calling (810) 750-1401, or by emailing Fr. Gabriel at frgabrielmmm@gmail.com by Wednesday, March 20 or use the sign up sheet in the hall.**

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL will be hosted by St. Nicholas this year. There will be a planning meeting on March 24th after Liturgy.

PAN-ORTHODOX YOUTH RETREAT – MARCH 29, 30, & 31 AT DORMITION MONASTERY

Please see Matushka Lisa to make your reservation and to obtain a registration form.

INFORMATION SESSION, SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019 This is an additional opportunity to ask questions, etc. in advance of the Special Parish Meeting on April 7.

SPECIAL PARISH MEETING, SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019 The sole item on the agenda regards the extreme financial hardship of our parish. The motion will be made to disburse \$100,000 from the Endowment Fund as a loan to help carry us for the coming year. **Donations have been increasing since the Annual Meeting in January and the letter was sent to the parish families.** The funds from the Endowment will help us catch up until we get to the point that we can cover our monthly expenses through donations and other sources of income. A vote of 2/3 in favor is required to approve the motion. The requirements to vote are: 1- submit a pledge card, 2- have received Confession, 3- have received Holy Communion.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting **baby items, wipes & formula** for the month of March. Place the items in the blue box in the Parish Hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

FOOD DRIVE Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall.

KEEP IN PRAYER JoAnn Havens (Room 108) and John Nastos (Room 612) are at Wellbridge, 3139 E Baldwin Rd, Grand Blanc. Anna Branoff (Room 17) is at Grand Blanc Fields, 12628 Pagels Dr, Grand Blanc. Gerry Batcos is now at home. Christine Panoff is recuperating from her knee surgery. Nik Evandenko had hip surgery on March 14. John Goodman is at home.

Weekly Schedule:

Today

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT – SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY
Parastas for Nick Maxim

Monday, Mar 18 Fr. Matthew in Toledo
6:30 pm Compline at St. George

Wednesday, Mar 20

10 am Lenten Hours
11:15 am Adult Education
6 pm Combined Presanctified at St. Mary followed by a Lenten potluck (bring a lenten dish to pass)

Saturday, Mar 23 **Pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat at St. Mary Magdalene (all services at St Mary's)**

9 am Divine Liturgy
10:30 am Registration and Breakfast
11:15 am Session 1
12:45 pm Lunch
1:45 pm Session 2
3:30 pm Questions & Answers
5 pm Vespers and Moleben to St Anna

Sunday, Mar 24 **2nd SUNDAY OF LENT – ST GREGORY PALAMAS**

9:30 am Hours
10 am Divine Liturgy & Church School
Information Session
Great Vespers with Litiya for the Annunciation of the Mother of God

Monday, Mar 25 **ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS**
6 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers with Divine Liturgy at St. George

Offerings for the week March 10, 2019

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 7,252.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,236.00
	\$ 4,016.00

46 people were in attendance on Sunday, March 10th.

Here's the shortest and easiest path to salvation: Be obedient, restrained, don't judge, and guard your heart and mind against wicked thoughts. Think well of everyone and bear in mind that the Lord loves them. Because of these humble thoughts, the grace of the Holy Spirit will dwell in your heart and you'll say: 'The Lord is merciful'.

- St Silouan the Athonite