

March 22, 2020

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

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**The Holy Gospel according to 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 22, 2020 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 7. Veneration of the Cross. Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra (362-363). Martyr Drosida, daughter of Emperor Trajan (1st-2nd c.). Ven. Isaac, Founder of the Dalmatian Monastery at Constantinople (4th c.). Monastic Martyr Euthymius of Prodromou (Mt. Athos—1814).

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, 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

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 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, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a Priest to the age, according to the order of Melchizedek."

Alleluia, Tone 8

v. Remember your congregation which you have purchased of old.

v. God is our King before the ages: He has 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." **GO TO PG. 120 IN THE PEW BOOK.**

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.

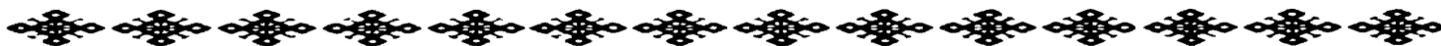
As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers "planted" on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled 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 22, 2020



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Health & God's blessings to Nik

Val Evanenko

My family, my church family & my health

Lucy Hogg

Veniamin, Timothy, Timosha & Larisa

Svetlana DeShaw

Fr. Tom, Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Aaron, Milica, Calvin, Larry,

Helen, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Anna, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Kosta,

Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Katheryn, Joseph, Ted, Marlene,

Gladys, my family and friends.

Special Intention

Joe Tome

Mary, Angelo, Helen, Alex, Anna, Patsy

Alex & Magda Popoff

God's blessings for good health to all our sons, daughter-in-laws & grandkids

Baba & Dedo

Good health to all of our relatives & friends

Baba & Dedo

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

My loving husband Nicholas (2 yrs.) I love & miss you so much

Connie Maxim

Peter Popoff

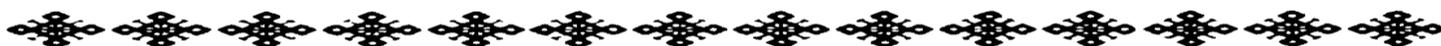
Alex & Magda Popoff

Blessed Repose to our sweet grandsons Matthew & Andrew

Baba & Dedo

Blessed repose to all of our deceased relatives & friends

Baba & Dedo



REVISED COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Prot. 03162020

16 March 2020

Martyr Sabinus of Egypt

To the clergy and faithful of our God-protected Diocese:

Our divine services, chief among them the Holy Liturgy, are an offering made to God "on behalf of all and for all." During this global health crisis, we must continue to pray and, as long as possible, to gather for prayer in church and to offer to God his "due worship and praise" (Prayer of the Trisagion). "It is proper and right" (Eucharistic prayer of St. John Chrysostom). As a result, I am not yet prepared to cancel church services in our parishes.

However, in light of new information and recommendations released by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) today, some revisions to my initial directives are necessary. I bless the celebration of Vespers on Saturday evenings, the Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings, the Lenten Presanctified Liturgies, and the Vespertal Liturgy of the Annunciation under the following condition: the only people that are required to be present are the priest (and deacon), an altar server, and chanter or small group of singers. As far as one can plan attendance, the complete gathering should total no more than ten (10) people.

Yet, anyone else who comes to services cannot and will not be turned away at the door. They along with the singers and the servers are to be advised of the risk. However, I advise that everyone other than the people mentioned above pray at home during the time of the divine services.

These revised guidelines are in effect up to, and including, Palm Sunday, April 12, 2020.

I do not make this decision lightly. However, we must do what is necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19.

With love in Christ,
+Alexander

Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese – Orthodox Church in America

What this means:

1. We are still planning to have Saturday evening Vespers, Sunday Liturgy of St. Basil, Wednesday and Friday evening Presanctified Liturgies, and the Liturgy for Annunciation.
2. the only people that are required to be present are the priest, an altar server, and chanter or small group of singers. As far as one can plan attendance, the complete gathering should total no more than ten (10) people.
3. **The faithful are advised to stay home**, praying quietly or reading the text of the service at the time that it is being celebrated. Live-streaming of the services will take place. To the best of your ability, treat watching the live-stream as though you were in church, light a candle and refrain from eating, drinking, answering the phone, texts, etc.
4. Those who choose to come however, aware of the risks involved, **will not be turned away**.
5. These guidelines will remain in effect at least through April 12th (Palm Sunday).

The bishop does not make this decision lightly. However, we must do what is necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19.

COFFEE HOUR is cancelled until April 12th.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting Feminine Care Products 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.

MAKE YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING EASY AND CONVENIENT WITH GIVELIFY



You can now donate to St. Nicholas with an app on your phone & as always on our website. You can donate toward any fund even coffee hour. If you want to split a donation between different areas just include a memo indicating how you would like the funds applied.

LENTEN PRAYER PARTNER Just a reminder to pray for your prayer partner throughout Lent especially. At Pascha you may want to let them know you were praying for them with a card or note.

Weekly Schedule:

Monday, Mar 23

Fr. Matthew in Toledo
No Compline at St George

Wednesday, Mar 25

6 pm

Vespertal Liturgy for Annunciation at St George – live-streamed on YouTube

Friday, Mar 27

6 pm

Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Saturday, Mar 28

4:45 pm

Trisagion

5:00 pm

Vespers (confessions only by appointment)

Sunday, March 29**4th SUNDAY OF LENT – St. John Climacus**

No Hours

10:00 am

Divine Liturgy

Given the restrictions the Governor has placed on visiting people in hospitals and other health care facilities because of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, let us reach out to those who are isolated through social distancing (a measure to slow the spread of the virus). Christ Jesus makes clear that our life is all about our neighbor: the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, and the ones in prison. “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me” (Mt 25:35-36) To help us fulfill these words of our Lord Jesus Christ, below is a list of our sick and homebound for whom we can pray daily. And we can send a card, a phone call, an email. Because what you do for the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick and the ones in prison is not done merely to them. You are doing it to Christ Jesus Himself.

Helen Ashmun**4436 Beecher Rd.****Flint, MI 48532****Larry Bladecki****3254 E Midland Rd #317****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****Offerings for the week March 15th, 2020**

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 1,613.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,236.00
	\$-1,623.00

44 people were in attendance on Sunday, March 15th.