

March 29, 2020

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, mobile 810-247-4265

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**The holy Gospel according to John
(20:11-18—8th Matins Gospel)**

But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 8. St. John Climacus (of The Ladder). Hieromartyr Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, Martyr Cyril the Deacon, of Heliopolis, and others who suffered under Julian the Apostate (ca. 364). Ven. John, Anchorite, of Egypt (4th c.). St. Eustathius the Confessor, Bishop of Bithynia (9th c.). St. Niketas of the Roslavl Forests (Russia—1793).

TROPARIA

(Tone 8) Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee!

(Tone 1) O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, / you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. / You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer, / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave you strength! / Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! // Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!

(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 Eighth Tone: Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!

v. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

THE READING IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (6:13-20) Brethren: when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Alleluia, Tone 8

v. Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK (9:17-31) And one of the crowd answered Jesus, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise." **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 Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus) Fourth Sunday of Lent - He is honored by Holy Church as a great ascetic and author of the renowned spiritual book called THE LADDER, from which he is also called "of the Ladder" (Climacus). John went to Sinai when he was sixteen, submitting to Abba Martyrius as his instructor and guide. After four years, Saint John was tonsured as a monk. Abba Strategios, who was present at Saint John's tonsure, predicted that he would become a great luminary in the Church of Christ.

For nineteen years Saint John progressed in monasticism in obedience to his spiritual Father. After the death of Abba Martyrius, Saint John embarked on a solitary life, settling in a wild place called Thola, where he spent forty years laboring in silence, fasting, prayer, and tears of penitence.

It is not by chance that in THE LADDER Saint John speaks about tears of repentance: “Just as fire burns and destroys the wood, so pure tears wash away every impurity, both external and internal.” His holy prayer was strong and efficacious, as may be seen from an example from the life of the God-pleasing saint.

Saint John ate the food which is permitted by the monastic rule, but only in moderation. He did not sleep very much, only enough to keep up his strength, so that he would not ruin his mind by unceasing vigil. “I do not fast excessively,” he said of himself, “nor do I give myself over to intense all-night vigil, nor lay upon the ground, but I restrain myself..., and the Lord soon saved me.”

At the request of Saint John, igumen of the Raithu monastery (Commemorated on Cheesefare Saturday), he wrote the incomparable LADDER, a book of instruction for monks who wished to attain spiritual perfection.

Knowing of the wisdom and spiritual gifts of Saint John of Sinai, the igumen of Raithu requested him to write down whatever was necessary for the salvation of those in the monastic life. Such a book would be “a ladder fixed on the earth” (Gen. 28:12), leading people to the gates of Heaven.

Saint John felt that such a task was beyond his ability, yet out of obedience he fulfilled the request. The saint called his work THE LADDER, for the book is “a fixed ladder leading from earthly things to the Holy of Holies...” The thirty steps of spiritual perfection correspond to the thirty years of the Lord’s age. When we have completed these thirty steps, we will find ourselves with the righteous and will not stumble. THE LADDER begins with renunciation of the world, and ends with God, Who is love (1 John 4:8).

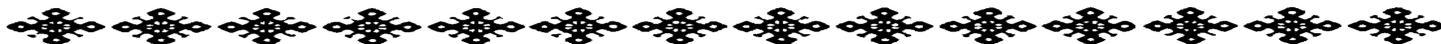
Although the book was written for monks, any Christian living in the world will find it an unerring guide for ascending to God, and a support in the spiritual life.

The twenty-second step of THE LADDER deals with various forms of vainglory. Saint John writes: “When I fast, I am vainglorious; and when I permit myself food in order to conceal my fasting from others I am again vainglorious about my prudence.” “When you hear that your neighbor or friend has slandered you behind your back, or even to your face, praise and love him.

It is not the one who reproaches himself who shows humility, for who will not put up with himself? It is the one who is slandered by another, yet continues to show love for him.”

From www.oca.

March 29, 2020

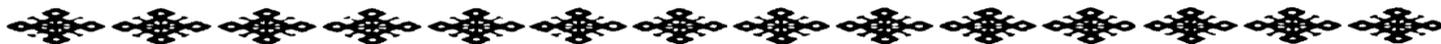


CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

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



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors who are joining us via our YouTube channel: *St Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton.*

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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.

FROM THE CHANCELLOR OF THE DIOCESE – 22 MARCH 2020

As we see more civil authorities issuing shelter-in-place (“stay-at-home”) orders, His Eminence has directed me to share with you the following guidelines:

- If the jurisdiction issuing the shelter-in-place order does not specifically list houses of worship as essential services, you are to close.

- **If the jurisdiction issuing the shelter-in-place order lists houses of worship as essential, you may serve all the services that you normally have on your schedule, with priest (deacon), one altar server, and one chanter. No one else may be on site with you. You are encouraged to stream services on the internet, if possible, for those who cannot attend.** (emphases added)

It is our hope that these guidelines will allow for the prayer of the Church to continue and for faithful to stay connected to their parish communities, while we support civil authorities in their efforts to slow the spread of the virus.

In Christ,

Fr. Andrew Jarmus

Archpriest Andrew Jarmus, Chancellor, Bulgarian Diocese, Orthodox Church in America

Governor Whitmer has issued [Executive Order 2020-21 \(COVID-19\)](#), a stay-at-home order, which went into effect at 12:01 am March 24 and lasts until 11:59 pm April 13 (Holy Monday). An excerpt of the order reads: “Consistent with prior guidance, a place of religious worship, when used for religious worship, is not subject to penalty under section 14.”

What the Archbishop's directive and the Governor's order means for us:

the divine services continue but only with priest, deacon, one chanter, one altar server. No one else will be permitted in the church. The services will be live-streamed on our YouTube channel: St Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton

Beneath your compassion we take refuge, O Virgin Theotokos. Despise not our prayers in our necessities, but deliver us from harm, O only pure, only blessed one. Most holy Theotokos, save us.

LENTEN PRAYER PARTNER 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.

NO APRIL NEWSLETTER Given the uncertainty concerning any activities and services in April, no April newsletter is planned at this point. Please consult the April calendar in the March newsletter remembering that any activity other than the divine services are cancelled up to and including Palm Sunday, April 12. If there is any change to the governor’s “stay-at-home” order or Archbishop Alexander’s directives, these will be communicated to you.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THOSE IN NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

To aid in your outreach, here is a listing of their addresses:

Helen Ashmun	4436 Beecher Rd.	Flint, MI 48532
Larry Bladecki	409 15 th Street	Bay City, MI 48708
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

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

We have arranged for all non-essential expenses to be curtailed, e.g. only essential utility usage in the church, in the hall, and on the parish property. However, this does not eliminate the need for ongoing parish administration and the normal expenses required to keep the parish up and running and ready for a return to normal parish life. Please have in mind that, while public celebration of the Divine Services have been suspended for the foreseeable future (hopefully only for a few short weeks), the parish needs all our stewardship so that we do not fall behind in a way from which it might be difficult to recuperate. The parish has depended on your generous stewardship and financial support in the past and we are confident that, even in these difficult times for so many of us and possibly in the face of personal financial difficulties, you will not fail to continue to support the important work which the Lord has entrusted to us all.

There are presently two suggested ways to continue your stewardship without interruption:

1) by writing a check to St. Nicholas Orthodox Church and sending it to the parish address: 2143 S Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519; or

2) by donating online on our parish website <https://saintnicholasburton.org/> Go to the website and on the home page click on the box **Give now with Givelify** which will walk you through the donation process: this is a secure site. You can then fill in the requested information and make your donation.

In advance, we thank you for your ongoing support that will ensure a quick return to normal parish life as soon as possible. Be assured of our prayers and our constant attention to your needs and the needs of all our parish.
– St. Nicholas Parish Council

Weekly schedule:

Monday, March 30 Fr. Matthew with Archbishop Alexander

Wednesday, April 1
 6 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – livestream on St Nicholas YouTube channel

Thursday, Apr 2
 9 am-11:30 am North End Soup Kitchen – volunteers need only prepare the boxes of food and may leave at 11:30. The staff at the soup kitchen will distribute them to the clients.

Friday, April 3
 6 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – livestream on St. Mary Magdalene YouTube channel

Saturday, Apr 4
 5:00 pm Vespers – livestream on St Nicholas YouTube channel

Sunday, Apr 5 **5th SUNDAY OF LENT – St. Mary of Egypt**
 10:00 am Divine Liturgy – livestream on St Nicholas YouTube channel

Offerings for the week March 22nd, 2020

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 8,200.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,236.00
	\$ 4,964.00

6 people were in attendance on Sunday, March 22nd.