

March 30, 2025

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 & Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser

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Welcome! We are honored that you have joined us in our celebration of the Lord's resurrection this day.

If you are a first-time visitor to our parish, we invite you to sign our guest book in the narthex. If you have a question, a prayer request, or any need, please speak with Fr. Matthew, Deacon Luke, or with one of the ushers.

Holy Communion – for Orthodox Christians, please note that there are specific disciplines regarding receiving Communion – fasting from midnight (unless you need to take medication) and recent Confession. If you are an Orthodox Christian from another parish who has prepared in accordance with your discipline, and have a blessing from your home priest to do so, we invite and encourage you to partake of Holy Communion

For our visitors who are not Orthodox Christian: we welcome you to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Unfortunately we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. The Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship of our community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, but for which we must all pray. All, however, are welcome to partake of the blessed bread (antidoron) which will be given when coming forward to receive the final blessing from the priest at the conclusion of the Liturgy. **Again, welcome!**

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 7. St. John Climacus (of The Ladder). Ven. John Climacus of Sinai, author of The Ladder (6th c.). St. Sophróny (Sophronius), Bishop of Irkutsk (1771). Prophet Joad (1 Kings 13:11 – 10th c. B.C.). Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Cæsar, and Epaphroditus, of the Seventy (1st c.). St. Eubula, mother of St. Panteleimon (ca. 303). Ven. John the Silent of St. Savva Monastery (6th c.). St. Zosimas, Bishop of Syracuse (ca. 662).

TROPARIA

Tone 7 By Your Cross You destroyed death. To the thief You opened Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy. And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that You are risen, granting the world great mercy.

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 seventh tone: The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Psalm 28:11)

v. Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord sons of rams. (Psalm 28:1a)

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 Melchisedek.

Alleluia, Tone 7 v. It is good to confess to the Lord, to chant to your name, O Most High. (Psalm 91:1)

v. So that to proclaim your mercy in the morning and your truth through the night. (Psalm 91:2a)

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 mute 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."

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! (*Psalms 148:1*)

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 oca.org

March 30, 2025



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

God's blessings for good health for our grandson, James on his 4th birthday (Mar 26) Baba & Dedo
Oleg, Galina, Nikolay, Nikolay, Andrey, Vlada, Kirill, Lev & Irina Irina Sivergina
Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Joan, Peggy, Bob,
Angelo, Christine, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Les, Bosa, Allison, Jeanette,
Kathryn, David, Ted, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family and friends Joe Tome
Special Intention Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE BLESSED REPOSE OF

Germanos Batcos (6 yrs.) Irene Batcos & family
Adelaïda & Feodosiy Irina Sivergina
Mykola (Nick) Ponomarenko Lucy Hogg
Angelo, Alex, Lena & Peter Helen Popoff & family



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors and those joining us via our YouTube channel: [St Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton](#). If at the time of the divine services you cannot access the livestream, please check out [St. Mary Magdalene Church](#), [St George Church](#) or [Dormition Monastery](#).

Mar 30 CANDLESTAND: Susie Ford **HOURS:** Lucy Hogg **READER:** Angelo Panoff
Apr 6 CANDLESTAND: Dennis Goodman **HOURS:** Phil Wiles **READER:** Staci Shank

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

INQUIRERS'/CATECHUMENS' CLASS with Deacon Luke after the Divine Liturgy. Feel free to join in and let other inquirers know about these classes introducing the Orthodox faith. The class meets in the library.

ADULT EDUCATION class schedule during Lent:

- **Friday, April 4** - 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy w/ Akathistos hymn followed by class
- **Friday, April 11** - 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy followed by class

CHURCH SCHOOL - lesson is: - [St Cyril of Alexandria](#)

COFFEE SOCIAL Please join us after Liturgy in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome. There is a signup sheet next to the service window for those who would like to donate and/or serve.

THE LORD GOD BLESS the newborn Penelope Maria, daughter of Annie and Alec Bailey. Penelope was born on Sunday, March 23 in Ann Arbor. Please keep them all in your prayers.

ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER (Golitzin) is continuing to receive radiation therapy for the biochemical recurrence of his prostate cancer. His treatment will conclude on Holy Wednesday, April 16. Please send him a card or letter letting him know he is in your thoughts and prayers. His mailing address is: 519 Brynhaven Dr., Oregon, OH 43616-2809.

FLOWERS FOR PASCHA & ITEMS FOR LENT donations this year are not specified by a certain amount. Give as you are able to. Please fill out the form (at the candle stand) & return it to the office. Sponsors will be listed in the newsletter.

ALL PARISHIONERS Your help will be needed as we get closer to Pascha. Your help will also be needed twice on Great and Holy Friday. First, after the Royals Hours the tomb of our Lord will be decorated with flowers. Second, after the Lamentations that evening your help will be needed to change over all the candles to white.

YOUTH NEEDED TO ASSIST ON GOOD FRIDAY We look to the children and young adults to assist Father during the Vespers Service (3 pm) and at the Lamentations Service (6 pm). As Father removes the image of the body of Christ from the Crucifix at Vespers, the children help by holding the winding sheet and covering the icon for Father. And, at the evening service, the young ladies of the parish (as well as family and friends), are invited to join in by sprinkling the Tomb with rose water during the Lamentations. They will participate in the procession by scattering flower petals before the Tomb and our other young people are invited to join in by bearing various instruments of the Passion.

PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE is April 13. Please bring baked goods (individually wrapped) in to donate for the sale.

PASCHAL VESPERS It is customary at this service on Pascha morning (Agape Vespers) – April 20 at 11 am - to read the Gospel in various languages. If anyone would like to read the Gospel in a language other than English at this service, please contact the office as soon as possible.

KOLBASA Please see Joe Tome if you would like to pre-order kolbasa for the Palm Sunday bake sale (April 13) and for details. Pre-orders only! **Deadline for making an order is April 6.**

LAZARUS SATURDAY – April 12 – our church is hosting. This day celebrates the Lord Jesus raising his friend Lazarus who had been dead in the tomb for four days. Every year we celebrate this as a pan-Orthodox Liturgy, this year at our church. **As is our local custom, the preparation of the gifts of bread and wine will take place publicly. Please bring the first names of those you wish to be remembered, those living and those fallen asleep. This takes place at 9:30 am followed by the Divine Liturgy.**

PASCHA & BRIGHT WEEK SCHEDULE please see the flier for the Pan-Orthodox Services in this newsletter for days, times, and locations.

LENTEN PRAYER PARTNER Pray daily for the person on the card you drew. Remember to keep it secret! At Pascha, you can let your prayer partner know you remembered them in prayer during Lent by giving them a card or a red egg or sending them a card.

COIN BOXES during Lent we collect coins to help support the Orthodox missions here in the US and around the world through the Orthodox Christians Mission Center (OCMC). Boxes are found on the tables in the church hall. Please be generous!

GIVE TO THE CHURCH THROUGH GIVELIFY Go to our website www.saintnicholasburton.org and click on the box [Give now with Givelify](#); this is a secure site. (2.9% + \$0.30 of your donation goes to Givelify as a fee). ***Please consider adding a little extra to your donation to cover the fee we are charged.** If you do not wish to donate online, you may write a check to St. Nicholas Orthodox Church and send it to the parish address: 2143 S Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519.

OFFICE HOURS this week are Thursday & Friday from 9-3. **Closed Monday-Wednesday.**

2025 DIOCESAN CONFERENCE We will host the annual Diocesan Conference, October 10, 11, and 12 this year. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer to the dates. We will need persons to serve in hospitality for the weekend.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Monday, Mar 31 *Office Closed *Fr Matthew leaves for Archbishop Alexander's in the afternoon*
[6 pm](#) [Great Compline at St. George](#)

Tuesday, Apr 1 *Fr Matthew returns from Archbishop Alexander's in the evening*

Wednesday, Apr 2 *Office Closed
9:30 am **Presanctified Liturgy (please note this change in schedule)**
[6 pm](#) [Presanctified Liturgy @ St. George-live-streamed](#)
7 pm Matins with the canon of St Andrew of Crete at Dormition Monastery

Thursday, Apr 3
9 am-12:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen

Friday, Apr 4
9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy with Akathistos hymn to the Mother of God
11:30 am Adult education class

Saturday, Apr 5
[5 pm](#) [Vespers - live-streamed](#) *Confessions*

Sunday, Apr 6 **5th Sunday of Lent – St Mary of Egypt**
[9:30 am](#) [Hours-live-streamed](#)
[10 am](#) [Divine Liturgy-live-streamed](#)
Church School – [St Mary of Egypt](#) and Confessions
6 pm **pan-Orthodox Vespers at St Mary Magdalene Church, Fenton**

Offerings for the week March 23, 2025

Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$ 3,847.41
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 4,380.00
	\$ - 532.59

71 persons in attendance on March 23