

March 22, 2026

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 (those received into the Orthodox Church through baptism or chrismation), 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 22, 2026 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 8. St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*). Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra (362-363). Martyr Drosis, daughter of Emperor Trajan (1st-2nd c.). Ven. Isaac, the Confessor Founder of the Dalmatian Monastery at Constantinople (4th c.). Monastic Martyr Euthymius of Prodromou (Mt. Athos – 1814

TROPARIA

Tone 8 You descended from on high, O Merciful One! You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

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! (*Psalms 75:12*) v. **God is known in Judea, in Israel great is his name.** (*Psalms 75:1*)

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 8 v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, raise a great shout to God our savior. (*Psalms 94:1*) v. **Let us come before his Face in confession, and in psalms let us raise a great shout to him.** (*Psalms 94:2*)

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 Cheese-fare 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 22, 2026



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Joan, Peggy,
Bob, Angelo, Christine, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Les, Bosa, Jeanette,
Ted, Kathryn, David, Dennis, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family
And friend

Joe Tome
Joe Tome
her family
Sharon & Charlie

Special Intention

Elaine Gingras Bartlett & special intention

Dennis Jernigan

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE BLESSED REPOSE OF

Gerry Batcos; beloved Husband, Father & Grandfather (7 yrs on March 19th)

His 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 22 CANDLESTAND: Ian & Stephanie P.

HOURS: Madison

READER: Staci

Mar 29 CANDLESTAND: Susie Ford

HOURS: Lucy

READER: Madison

PLEASE JOIN US for our coffee social in the fellowship hall after the Liturgy.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 The Pirković Family will be hosting coffee hour on Sunday March 29 in honor of Nikola Pirković (March 31, 2025), one year memorial.

2026 PLEDGE CARDS If you haven't already done so, please return your pledge card so the parish council can budget accordingly. To be a voting parishioner of St. Nicholas Church you must receive Confession and Communion within the past year and return a signed pledge card even if you don't enter a pledge amount

KOLBASA Please see Joe Tome if you would like to pre-order kolbasa for the Palm Sunday bake sale (April 5) and for details. Pre-orders only! **Deadline for making an order is April 1.**

VISIT FROM SLOVAKIA Last week our charity collection raised \$787 for Roma missionary work in Slovakia by Fr Martin Halík. We are remembering Matushka Michaela in prayer as she is with child and is due in August. <https://www.romamission.eu>

MACEDONIAN NIGHT AT THE TIGERS

Tuesday, April 21 at 6:40 pm Tigers vs Brewers

Package includes a Tigers Macedonian Heritage jersey and game ticket.

Please sign up in the fellowship hall. If 10 or more people sign up, there will be a discount on the price. **We need a volunteer to coordinate.**

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Today Church School - David/Jonathan ([elementary](#)) David ([high school](#))

12:15 pm class for inquirers, catechumens, neophytes reading **pages 27 - 41, The Presanctified in Your Life Will Be Hung Before Your Eyes - Meanings of Our Life in Orthodox Liturgy.** Copies are available at the kiosk.
Fr Matthew goes to Archbishop Alexander's

Monday, March 23

7 pm Matins/canon of St Andrew of Crete & the Life of St Mary of Egypt at Dormition Monastery

Tuesday, March 24 *Fr Matthew returns from Dormition Monastery*

6:30 pm Google Meet inquirers, catechumens, neophytes class with Fr Matthew

Wednesday, March 25 ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS (fish, wine, oil permitted)

10 am pan-Orthodox Liturgy at Assumption Church

Friday, March 27

No Presanctified (**please note this change in schedule**)

Saturday, March 28 Akathistos Saturday

9:30 am Liturgy & Akathistos to the Theotokos

5 pm Vespers *Confessions*

Sunday, March 29 5th Sunday of the Great Fast / St Mary of Egypt

9:30 am Third & Sixth Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

Church School – learning about Confession, Confessions

Offerings for the week March 15, 2026

<i>Weekly Tithes & Offerings</i>	\$ 4,422.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 4,380.00
	\$ 42.00

83 persons in attendance on March 15

**HIS BEATITUDE METROPOLITAN TIKHON SENDS LETTER OF CONDOLENCE TO
GEORGIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

SPRINGFIELD, VA [OCA] With deep sorrow and in the hope of the Resurrection, the Orthodox Church in America joins the Georgian Orthodox Church in mourning the falling asleep of His Holiness Ilia II, Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, who reposed in the Lord on March 17, 2026 at the age of 93.

Elected Catholicos-Patriarch on December 25, 1977, His Holiness shepherded the Georgian Orthodox Church through many years of change, particularly in the period leading up to the collapse of the Soviet Union and its aftermath. During his ministry, many churches and monasteries were restored or newly established, theological education in the country was revived, and the life of the Orthodox Church in Georgian society was strengthened.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon sent a letter of condolence to His Eminence Metropolitan Shio, Locum Tenens of the Patriarchal Throne, which reads:

His Eminence Metropolitan Shio
Metropolitan of Senaki and Chkhorotsku
Locum Tenens of the Patriarchal Throne of Georgia

Your Eminence, beloved brother and concelebrant in the Lord's Mysteries,

I write to express my heartfelt condolences to Your Eminence and to the Holy Synod, clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Georgian Orthodox Church on the repose of your beloved Primate, His Holiness Patriarch Ilia II.

His Holiness' long and remarkable tenure as Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia stands as a profound witness to faithfulness, perseverance, and pastoral love. For decades, he guided the Georgian Church through times of great trial and renewal, preserving her unity, strengthening her witness, and nurturing the spiritual life of her faithful. His ministry bore enduring fruit not only within Georgia, but throughout the Orthodox world, where he was widely recognized as a father among hierarchs and a steadfast confessor of the Orthodox faith.

Throughout his life, His Holiness exemplified the Gospel he proclaimed. His humility, wisdom, and deep love for Christ and His Church inspired generations of clergy and faithful. In his person, many encountered a living testimony to the enduring strength of the Orthodox Church and her sacred tradition.

The Orthodox Church in America joins you in mourning his passing while giving thanks to God for his life and ministry. His Holiness will be remembered with gratitude and reverence by our clergy and faithful, who have long held him in high esteem.

Please be assured of my prayers for the blessed repose of his soul. May the Lord grant rest to His faithful servant in a place of light, a place of green pasture, a place of refreshment, where there is no pain, sorrow, or sighing, but life everlasting.

May his memory be eternal!

Your brother in Christ,

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada