

March 7, 2021

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

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SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021 SUNDAY OF MEATFARE – Tone 6. Sunday of the Last Judgment. The Holy Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Capito, Eugene, Aetherius, Elpidius, and Agathodorus (4th c.). Ven. Paul the Simple, disciple of Ven. Anthony the Great (4th c.). St. Paul the Confessor, Bishop of Plousias in Bithynia (9th c.). St. Emilian of Rome. Icon of the Mother of God, “SURETY OF SINNERS” in Odrina (Orlovsk – 1843) and Moscow (1848).

TROPARIA

(Tone 6) The angelic powers were at Thy tomb the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

(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 1) When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, / all things shall tremble, / and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat; / the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; / then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, // and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

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 READING IS FROM THE FIRST EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS (8:8 - 9:2) Brethren: Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol’s temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother’s falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Alleluia, Tone 6

v: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

v: He will say to the Lord: “My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust!”

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (25:31-46)

At that time Jesus said, “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for 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.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did

not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

COMMUNION HYMN

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

The holy 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.

Meatfare Sunday Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, "Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent. *from oca.org*

The Holy Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Capito, Eugene, Aetherius, Elpidius, and Agathodorus -[March 7](#)

The Hieromartyrs Basil, Ephraim, Eugene, Elpidius, Agathodorus, Aetherius, and Capiton carried the Gospel of Christ into the North Black Sea region from the Danube to the Dniiper, including the Crimea. They were bishops of Cherson at different times during the fourth century, and they sealed their apostolic activity with martyrdom. Only Aetherius died in peace.

The Church's enemies unwillingly contributed to the further spread of Christianity. The Roman emperors often banished traitors to this area. During the first three centuries, Christians were regarded as traitors because they would not follow the state religion. In the reign of Trajan (98-117), Saint Clement, Bishop of Rome (November 25), was sent to work in a stone quarry near Cherson. There he continued his preaching, and suffered martyrdom.

The pagans inhabiting the Crimea stubbornly resisted the spread of Christianity. But the faith of Christ, through its self-sacrificing preachers, grew strong and was affirmed. Many missionaries gave their lives in this struggle.

At the beginning of the fourth century a bishop's See was established at Cherson. This was a critical period when Cherson served as a base for the Roman armies which constantly passed through the area. During the reign of Diocletian (284-305), the Patriarch of Jerusalem sent many bishops to preach the Gospel in various lands. Two of them, Ephraim and Basil, arrived in Cherson and planted the Word of God there.

Later on, Saint Ephraim went to the peoples living along the Danube, where he underwent many tribulations and sorrows. He was beheaded at the start of the persecution. The preaching at Cherson was continued by Saint Basil, Saint Ephraim's companion. He set many idol-worshippers on the path of truth. Other wayward inhabitants of the city, enraged at his activity, rose up against him. The saint was arrested, mercilessly beaten and expelled from the city.

He went to a mountain and settled in a cave, where he unceasingly prayed to God for those who had driven him out, asking that He might illumine them with the light of true knowledge. And the Lord provided the unbelievers with a miracle. The only son of an important citizen of Cherson died. The dead child appeared to his parents in a dream and said that a certain man named Basil could resurrect him from the dead by his prayers.

When the parents had found the saint and entreated him to work the miracle, Saint Basil replied that he himself was a sinful man and had not the power to raise the dead, but the Lord Almighty could fulfill their request if they were to believe in Him. For a long time the saint prayed, invoking the Name of the Holy Trinity. Then he blessed water, and sprinkled it on the dead one, who was restored to life. The saint returned to the city with honor, and many believed and were baptized.

Soon, by order of the emperor Maximian Galerius (305-311), the persecution against Christians spread with renewed force. The Christ-haters rose up also against Saint Basil. On March 7, 309 he was dragged from his house during the night. They tied him up, dragged him along the streets and beat him to death with stones and rods. The body of the saint was thrown out of the city to be eaten by dogs and birds, and for many days it was left unburied, but remained untouched. Then Christians secretly buried the body of the holy martyr in a cave.

A year after the martyrdom of Saint Basil, three of his companions, Bishops Eugene, Elpidius and Agathodorus, ceased their preaching in the Hellespont, and arrived at Cherson to continue his holy work. They endured many hardships for the salvation of human souls. All three bishops shared the fate of their predecessor: they were stoned to death by the pagans on March 7, 311.

When Constantine the Great (May 21) took the throne, Bishop Aetherius was sent by emperor Constantine to Cherson from Jerusalem. At first he also encountered hostility on the part of the pagans, but the holy emperor would not tolerate acts of violence against the preacher. He issued a decree permitting the Christians of Cherson to have church services without hindrance. Through the efforts of Saint Aetherius a church was built in the city, where the saint peacefully governed his flock.

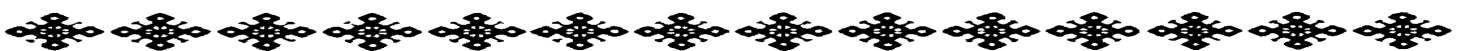
Saint Aetherius journeyed to Constantinople to thank the emperor for protecting the Christians. He fell ill and died on the return trip.

The holy emperor Constantine then sent Bishop Capiton to Cherson to replace Saint Aetherius. The Christians met him with joy, but the pagans demanded a sign from the new bishop, so they might believe in the God Whom he preached. Placing all his hope on the Lord, Saint Capiton put on his omophorion and went into a burning furnace. He prayed in the fire for about an hour, and emerged from it unharmed. "Shall anyone bind fire in his bosom, and not burn his garments?" Solomon asks (Prov. 6:27). Saint Capiton carried red-hot coals in his phelonion, yet neither his body nor his garments were scorched. Many of the unbelievers were then persuaded in the power of the Christian God.

This miracle and the great faith of Saint Capiton were reported to Saint Constantine and the holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council (325), and they all glorified God.

After several years Saint Capiton journeyed to Constantinople on business, but the ship encountered a storm at the mouth of the Dniepr River. The local people (pagans) seized the ship and drowned all those on board, including Saint Capiton. Although this occurred on December 21, Saint Capiton is commemorated with the other hieromartyrs of Cherson on March 7.

March 7, 2021



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

God's blessings for Megan Krigner on her birthday March 14 th Love,	Mom, Dad & Danny
Health & God's blessings for Milica, Radmila, Nikola & Milan	Bosa Kantar
Health & blessings for Harry Price & Karen Pavia	Ian & Stephanie
Fr. Tom, Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Aaron, Milica, Calvin, Larry, Angelo, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Kosta, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, David, Taras, Joseph, Ted, Marlene, Gladys, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family and friends.	Joe Tome
Special Intention	Joe Tome

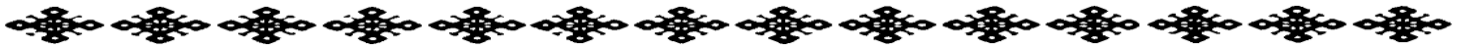
Health & blessing for Feodosiy, Oleg, Galina, Nikolay, Nikolay, Kirill, Andrey, Vlada,
Lev & Irina
Health & blessings for Deborah Adams
Auden, Nadja & Sean for God's protection and health
Health & blessings for Melissa and family
Health & blessing Kum Stojan & Mira
Health & blessings for Milica & Janja
God's blessings for good health to all our grandkids & their parents
God's blessings for good health to Stojan Prusac & Milica Beslach
Special Intention

Irina Sivergina
Dorothy Goodman
Lucy Hogg
Bosiljka
Kuma Bosa
Bosiljka
Christine & Angelo
Christine & Angelo
Christine & Angelo

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

For my brother Rade – Bog da prosti za pokoj duše
In loving memory of my dear husband Nicholas, I miss you sweetheart (3 yrs. March 12)
Blessed Repose~Memory Eternal Jim Popoff
Blessed Repose~Memory Eternal Rade Beslach

Bosa Kantar
Connie Maxim
Dorothy Goodman
Dorothy Goodman



Welcome to everyone 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](#) or [St George Church](#) or [Assumption Church](#) for their livestreams.

MEMORY ETERNAL – CHRIST IS RISEN! Memory eternal to Reginald Milan Jehnsen who fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, March 4. Funeral arrangements are through [Dodds-Dumanois Funeral Home](#):

Tuesday, March 9 at Dodds-Dumanois Funeral Home

10:30 am to 12 noon - visitation

12 noon - funeral followed by burial at Evergreen Cemetery

Christ God grant Reggie rest in the light of His face and sustain his family by His grace. Bog da prosti! Christ is risen! Hristos vaskrse!

The funeral for Rade Beslach took place on Saturday, March 6 at church with burial at Evergreen Cemetery. Bog da prosti! Christ is risen!

PARISH COUNCIL meets on Tuesday March 9th at 6:30 pm. This is an in-person meeting with the option of virtual attendance. Please notify the office if you are unable to attend.

VIRTUAL ADULT EDUCATION CLASS on Tuesdays during Lent at 6:30 pm beginning the second week of Lent, Tuesday, March 23. The link will be sent by e-mail. Please e-mail the office if you would like to receive the link.

YOUNG ADULTS Parish council is looking to help our youth, in college and those beginning their careers, remain engaged in their life in Christ, especially during the complexities of the pandemic and the stresses of college life. To do this we need your help. Specifically, we need the contact information (e-mail) for our young adults so that we can reach out to them. You can call the parish office 810-744-0070 or have your child, grandchild, or godchild send an email to stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com

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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. (2.9% + \$0.30 of your donation goes to Givelify as a fee). **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.**

BULLETINS, Vespers and Candle Intention Sheets will now be available in the narthex. If you are on the mailing list for these but no longer need or want to receive them by regular mail please let the office know.

CANDLE INTENTION REQUESTS can be emailed to the office at stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com or called in.

OFFICE HOURS are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 – 3.

Weekly schedule: **CHEESEFARE WEEK (fish, dairy and eggs permitted on all days– no meat)**

Monday, March 8 Fr. Matthew in Toledo

Tuesday, March 9 **FORTY MARTYRS OF SEBASTE**

9:30 am **Divine Liturgy – streaming on our YouTube channel**

10:30 to 12 noon Visitation for Reginald Milan Jehnsen at Dodds-Dumanois Funeral Home

12 noon funeral followed by burial at Evergreen Cemetery

6:30 pm Parish Council meeting

7 pm **OCA online church school**

Wednesday, March 10

10:30 am Lenten 3rd & 6th Hours
11:15 am Adult education in the fellowship hall (physical distancing and wearing of masks)

Saturday, March 13

5 pm **Great Vespers – streaming on our YouTube channel**



Sunday, March 14

CHEESEFARE SUNDAY

9:30 am Third and Sixth Hours

10 am **Divine Liturgy – streaming on our YouTube channel**

Followed by vespers for the beginning of Great Lent

Offerings for the week February 28th, 2021

34 persons in attendance on February 28th

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 9,000.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,104.00
	\$ 5,896.00

DAILY INTERCESSION FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND

The following are our brothers and sisters of St. Nicholas who are currently homebound, suffering from chronic illness, in recovery or in need of special prayers. Please remember them in your prayers and reach out to them with a card, or a phone call! Please call the office to schedule a visit for Holy Communion.

Larry Bladecki	Gladys Edwards	Mary Karayanis	Ron Salhany
Deacon John Bocek	Paul Ellis	Nick Karayanis	Bill Tadrick
Linda Branoff	Bill Haw	Macy Lemmen	Wendy Tadrick

To aid in your outreach, here is a listing of the addresses and phone numbers of our Homebound:

Larry Bladecki	3254 E. Midland Rd	Bay City, MI 48706
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
Eleni Servinis	Regency 1330 Grand Pointe Ct	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Jo Sredich	Victoria’s House 1219 N. Dye Rd.	Flint, MI 48532