

# St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Newsletter

Diocese of Toledo-Orthodox Church in America

2143 S. Center Road – Burton, Michigan 48519

Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie – Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser

Email: [stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stnicholasburton](http://www.facebook.com/stnicholasburton)

Website: [www.saintnicholasburton.org](http://www.saintnicholasburton.org)

Church Office: 810-744-0070

Services: Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Hours 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Wednesday- adult education 11:15 am

Saturday – 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions

Holydays: Vespers & Liturgy as announced

“May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.” St. Jude 1:1

---

## MAY 2026

### HOLY PENTECOST - hymns from Matins of the feast

*V. To execute on them the judgment written. This is glory for all His faithful ones. (Ps. 149:9)*

Tone 4 Today in the city of David all the nations beheld glorious wonders, when the Disciples of Christ had gathered together, and the Holy Spirit came down in tongues of fire, as Luke, inspired of God, records: “A sound came like the rushing of a mighty wind; it filled all the house where they were sitting, and they all began to proclaim strange words, strange doctrines, strange teachings of the Holy Trinity.”

*V. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament. (Ps. 150:1)*

*V. Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding greatness! (Ps. 150:2)*

The Holy Spirit was, and is, and ever shall be, without beginning, without ending, always ranked and numbered with the Father and the Son; He is Life and the Giver of life; He is Light and the Giver of light; all-good and the Fountain of goodness, through Him the Father is known, the Son is glorified; through Him all people proclaim one power, one ranking, one worship of the Holy Trinity.

*V. Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp! (Ps. 150:3)*

*V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe! (Ps. 150:4)*

*V. Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! (Ps. 150:5)*

The Holy Spirit is Light and Life, a living Fountain of spiritual gifts, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, all-knowing, upright and good: He leads us and washes away our sins. He is God, and He makes us gods; He is Fire proceeding from Fire, speaking and acting and distributing gifts. Through Him all the Prophets, Martyrs and Apostles of God are crowned. Strange account, strange and wonderful sight: fire is divided for distributing gifts.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 6 Heavenly King,

Comforter, Spirit of the Truth,

who are everywhere present and fill all things;

treasury of good things and giver of life,

come and tabernacle in us,

and cleanse us from every impurity,

and save our souls, O Good One!

## HOLY PENTECOST

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end – the achievement and fulfillment – of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

In the three Scripture readings at Vespers (Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Joel 2:23-32; Ezekiel 36:24-28) we hear the prophecies concerning the Holy Spirit. We are taught that the entire history of mankind was directed towards the day on which God "would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh." This day has come! All hope, all promises, all expectations have been fulfilled. At the end of the Aposticha hymns, for the first time since Easter, we sing the hymn: "Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of the Truth..." the one with which we inaugurate all our services, all prayers, which is, as it were, the life-breath of the Church, and whose coming to us, whose "descent" upon us in this service, is indeed the very experience of the Holy Spirit "coming and abiding in us."

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. The service begins as a solemn "summing up" of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the prokeimenon: "Who is so great a God as our God?" Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God. In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost" – and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches – for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit – "the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life – comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope.

*Father Alexander Schmemmann (1974)*

## Hours Schedule

<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
3 No Hours	7 Barry	5 Barry
10 Barry	14 Lucy	12 Lucy
17 Angelo	21 Angelo	19 Angelo
24 Lucy	28 Phil	26 Madison
31 Phil		

If you are unable to make your assigned reading date, please find a replacement.

## Reader Schedule

<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
3 Barry	7 Katherine	5 Katherine
10 Staci	14 Barry	12 Barry
17 Katherine	21 Phil	19 Madison
24 Phil	28 Madison	26 Phil
31 Madison		

If you are unable to make your assigned reading date, please find a replacement.

## Candle Stand Attendant Schedule

<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
3 Dennis Goodman	7 Dennis Goodman	5 Dennis Goodman
10 Susie Ford	14 Susie Ford	12 Susie Ford
17 Christine Panoff	21 Christine Panoff	19 Christine Panoff
24 Ian & Stephanie P.	28 Ian & Stephanie P.	26 Ian & Stephanie P.
31 Susie Ford		

If you are unable to make your assigned date please find a replacement. Let Susie know of any changes or if you cannot find a replacement (810-407-3016).

**HOURS, READERS & CANDLE STAND.** Please look at each month's newsletter as the schedule may have changed since the previous publication.

**NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN** Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters on May 7 from 9 am-12:30 pm. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." *St. John Chrysostom.*

**INQUIRERS'/CATECHUMENS' CLASS** led by Father Matthew after the Divine Liturgy from 12:15 to 1 pm. Feel free to join in and let other inquirers know about these classes introducing the Orthodox faith. The class meets in the library. Additionally, there is a Wednesday 6:30 pm Google Meet class.

### **MEMORY ETERNAL! CHRIST IS RISEN!**

**Grace Dagmer (Hillstrom) Dawson** fell asleep in the Lord on April 10, 2026. She is the mother of parishioner Marilyn Branoff and mother-in-law of parishioner Peter Branoff. Grace was buried at Great Lakes National Cemetery on Wednesday, April 15.

Obituary: <https://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/grace-hillstrom-dawson>

Pray the Lord grant her rest in the light of his Face and that the same risen Lord sustain her family in their grief. Memory eternal! Christ is risen! God forgive!

**Elaine Gingras Bartlett** fell asleep in the Lord on April 18, 2026 at home in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. She is the mother Matushka Lisa. During the week of April 26 funeral Mass will be at St Agnes Roman Catholic Church in Dalton, MA with burial at St Joseph Roman Catholic Cemetery in Pittsfield. Obituary (when published) will be here: <https://www.deryfuneralhome.com/obituaries/obituary-listings?page=1>

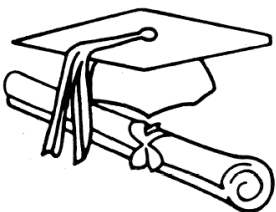
Pray the Lord grant Elaine rest in the light of his Face and that the same risen Lord sustain her family in their grief. Memory eternal! Christ is risen! God forgive!

**2026 PLEDGE CARDS** If you haven't already done so, please return your pledge card so the parish council can budget accordingly. Remember in order to be considered a voting member here at St. Nicholas 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

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** will be held on Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

**PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE** parish council meetings are public. To speak at the meeting, please ask the parish council president to be added to the agenda together with the topic and details. *secretary's report* approved as submitted. *financial report* we are \$6,370.95 in the red since January. Please keep up your stewardship donations and if you have not submitted a pledge card - whether parishioner or catechumen - please do so to help us in our budget planning. Sponsoring the coffee social on a Sunday is \$100. There have been no transfers from savings since February. *endowment report* February increase of \$16,988.73, March decrease of \$23,905. *rector's report* 1 baptism, 1 funeral, 2 receptions on 3 May, 6 catechumens to be received in December, up to 8 inquirers will be made catechumens in coming months. Adult education class resumes on April 22 reading Mother Siluana (Vlad) [1944-2021] *Offering Ourselves, We Enter into His Joy - Vol 1*. Catechesis continues on Google Meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. *church school* May 24 is the last day of church school. We **NEED** teachers. We have a range from 3 years to 13 years. We need more classes. Please, consider volunteering to be a teacher or substitute. Plan for 2026-2027 is to have one class per month in church to go over Liturgy, making the sign of the Cross, the Lord's prayer, bowing, prostrations, etc. *Community outreach* Friday, May 22 is family game night - cheese pizza. *Fundraising* Lena Bakousidis plans to make leek & cheese and cheese triangles to raise money for the August picnic - 1 for \$3, 4 for \$10. Lena suggests once or twice a month a \$10 dinner - e.g. chicken kabob with rice to raise the seed money for the picnic on August 23. Idea for a cornhole tournament/car show as a fundraiser on Saturday, June 13. *charity ministries* North End Soup Kitchen is Thursday, May 7 from 9 am to 12:30 pm. *church building and grounds* spring clean-up sign-up sheet needed. Spring clean-up is Saturday, May 9 start at 9:30 am. Belltower - need to look into the electrical system & electrical parts for the bell tower. Bill Economou replaced the water-proof power box at the electric sign outside because over time water leaked into the power box. Gas bill is down from last year with the switch-over on the thermostats. Women's restroom the tank in the handicapped stall is taking a long time to fill. *old business*: Budget the budget updates will be posted on the Parish Info bulletin board. Anniversary Archbishop Alexander will visit Saturday & Sunday, October 3 & 4 for our 110th anniversary. October 4 is the 15th anniversary of the archbishop's canonical election as bishop of our diocese by the Holy Synod of Bishops. *new business* garage sale - people have asked about a garage sale. A sign-up sheet for people to volunteer as co-chairs and work will be placed in the fellowship hall. Whether a garage sale will be held will depend on whether there are co-chairs and a sufficient number of volunteers. newsletter idea Staci's 18th Orthodox birthday is April 26 which is also her namesday this year, Myrrhbearers' Sunday. We can add Orthodox birthdays for our newer converts, that is the day of baptism or chrismation, in the newsletter with namesdays, birthdays, and anniversaries. *Adjournment* at 8:23 pm.

**CHURCH SCHOOL** will finish the academic year on May 24 in church recognizing milestones such as students moving from elementary to middle school, high school & college graduations, acknowledging participants with certificates and our teachers.



**GRADUATIONS** It's that time of year again. If you have anyone in your family that will be graduating from High School or College please let us know so that we may put their name in our June bulletin. We will need the following information no later than May 7. **1)** Name of Graduate **2)** School they are graduating from **3)** If they are graduating with honors **4)** Name of the parents and grandparents and **5)** Where they will be attending in the fall if they are a high school graduate.

**BAPTISM** Nathan Vargo will be baptized at 9 am on Sunday, May 3. **Harmony Vargo** will be chrismated at 9 am on Sunday, May 3.


**SPRING CLEAN-UP** is Saturday, May 9 starting at 9:30 am.

**OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES**

**NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN** we serve on Thursday, May 7 from 9 to 12:30 pm.

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting Bar & Hand Soap for the month of May. 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.

 <h2 style="margin: 0;">HOPE IN A BOX</h2>	
<b>May</b>	Bar & Hand Soap
<b>June</b>	Laundry Soap
<b>July</b>	Toilet Paper/Travel Size Toiletries

MAY	
Coffee Social Volunteers & Sponsors	
3	
10	<b>Mother's Day</b>
17	<b>Borkovich Family</b>
24	
31	<b>Pentecost</b>

**MACEDONIAN OPEN GOLF SCRAMBLE** The Macedonian Open is right around the corner. There are a number of ways to get involved. If you can sponsor a sign it is highly encouraged. Donating a gift card, gift basket or cash is also needed.

This year's outing will be held on Monday, June 22 at the Flint Elks Golf Club. As has been our tradition, that is the Monday after Father's Day. We encourage everyone to participate in some way!

The Macedonian Open is our biggest fundraiser and we are hoping for an even bigger and better turnout this year. If you have any questions or know of someone who would like to help, please contact Chris Nedanis ([cned77@gmail.com](mailto:cned77@gmail.com) or 810-877-0889), Christine Panoff ([capanoff@umich.edu](mailto:capanoff@umich.edu) or 810-232-4868), George Branoff ([gabman24@charter.net](mailto:gabman24@charter.net) or 810-252-5395), George Popoff ([popoffgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:popoffgeorge@gmail.com) or 10-962-4792) Linda Branoff ([branoff721@aol.com](mailto:branoff721@aol.com) or 810-964-3654), Peter Branoff ([ptb704@yahoo.com](mailto:ptb704@yahoo.com) or 810-877-8773) or Philip Bakousidis ([Philip.bakousidis@gmail.com](mailto:Philip.bakousidis@gmail.com) or 810-919-4500).

**HOW CAN I HELP? I DON'T GOLF.**

- ❖ Donate a sign wishing "good game" or in honor or in memory of a loved one. A sign sponsorship is a great advertising opportunity for any business. Whether it's for your business or one that you frequent, we encourage everyone to participate in getting new sign sponsors this year.
- ❖ Donate money for prizes-any amount you can give would be very much appreciated to offset the cost of buying prizes.
- ❖ Donate a gift card-we are looking for gift cards to give as prizes in the amount of \$20 or \$25 similar to these: Visa gift cards, Meijer, Dunham's, Gas Cards, Restaurant cards, or any establishment you frequent.
- ❖ Donate a prize- whether it's golf related or not; or ask a business you frequent to make a donation (such as a gift card).
- ❖ Join us for dinner.

**VISIT TO HOLY DORMITION MONASTERY** Mother Abbess Gabriella will contact Father Matthew about a Saturday visit to the monastery. On Saturdays Liturgy begins at 8:45 am followed possibly by a memorial service then lunch and we will receive a tour of the monastery church and grounds. The monastery also has a gift shop that accepts cash, credit card, or check. Credit card purchases have a processing fee added.

- The guideline for monastery visitors is [HERE](#).
- If you would like to carpool with each other, please discuss amongst yourselves. The monastery address is: Holy Dormition Monastery 3389 Rives Eaton Rd Rives Junction, MI 49277
- It is customary to make a monetary donation to a monastery for their hospitality. Please give what you are able.

**Please call the church office at 810-744-0070 or e-mail [stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com) with the number of persons attending. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Also, we will offer a monetary gift to the monastery for the hospitality we receive.**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** is May 12 at 6:30 pm.

**FAMILY GAME NIGHT** Friday, May 22 at 6 pm. Bring your favorite game to share. Dinner & drinks will be provided; a freewill offering taken. Contact Stephanie Price @ 248-396-3899 if you have any questions.

**PRAYERS AT THE GRAVES** will take place on Souls' Saturday (Zadušnica), May 30 and Pentecost, May 31 at Evergreen, Crestwood, Sunset Hills, and Saint Nicholas Cemeteries as well as any other cemetery requested of Father Matthew. The schedule is:

**Saturday, May 30 Souls' Saturday**

- 9 am Evergreen Cemetery beginning in the chapel with a Trisagion service
- 12:30 pm Crestwood Cemetery
- 1:30 pm Sunset Hills Cemetery
- 2 pm Gracelawn Cemetery

**Sunday, May 31 Holy Pentecost**

- 2 pm St. Nicholas Cemetery
- 4 pm Great Lakes National Cemetery



If there is another cemetery you'd like to be visited, please contact the parish office as soon as possible so that it can be scheduled. If you know anyone who has family buried at the parish cemetery but who are not parishioners of St. Nicholas, please let them know of the date and time for the services at the graves on Sunday, May 31.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING** after Holy Communion begin during the distribution of the antidoron.

During these prayers:

- Please keep silence so that those staying for the prayers and those consuming the Holy Gifts may hear the prayers.
- Please join fellowshiping in our fellowship hall.
- Candle stand attendants will close the doors to the narthex during the prayers.

**PAYPAL** You can use PayPal for your financial stewardship! Go to our website

[www.saintnicholasburton.org](http://www.saintnicholasburton.org) and click on the box [Give now with PayPal](#); this is a secure site.

(1.99% + \$0.49 of your donation goes to PayPal as a fee). **\*Please consider clicking the box 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

PayPal will send an email to the church to let us know a donation was received for St. Nicholas Church, the amount, and the giver.

**MAY GOD REPAY ALL FOR THEIR SERVICE DURING HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA:**

- ❖ those who read the Gospel in different languages for Agape Vespers
- ❖ those who kept vigil at the Tomb of our Lord Friday night and Saturday
- ❖ all those who offered their sincere gifts to the Lord at Pascha.
- ❖ those who assisted in preparing items during Palm Week and preparing the palms and pussy willows and those who stayed after Holy Week services to prepare the church for services on the next day.
- ❖ our Protodeacon Luke Gonser for his ministry in and outside of the holy Altar.
- ❖ our choir director Reader J. Joseph Tome, for lifting up our hearts and minds during the services of Great and Holy Thursday, Friday, and Saturday & Pascha.
- ❖ St. Juliana's Guild for coloring the red paschal eggs.

Thanks be to God for every person and everything!

**CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!**

**MAY BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 Arinn Pray
- 7 Bill Economou
- 8 Levi Johnson
- 9 Daniel Krigner
- 10 Paul Yosheff
- 12 Diana Mitevski
- 16 David Mitevski
- 20 Fanny Popoff
- 24 Cindy Economou  
George Popoff
- 27 Archbishop Alexander
- 28 Sadie Hager
- 31 Jennifer Shann

**ANNIVERSARY OF  
BECOMING ORTHODOX**

**NAMESDAYS**

- 5 Irene Batcos  
Irina Sivergina
- 9 Christopher Branoff  
Christopher Nedanis
- 12 Germanos Bakousidis  
Jerry Brucksch
- 21 Connie Maxim  
Eileen Branoff  
Helen Popoff  
Kosta Popoff  
Kosta Slaughter  
Kosta Tasevski  
Lena Bakousidis  
Lena Grousopoulos

*If your name is missing or has the incorrect information in the birthday, anniversary or namesday list please call the office: 810-744-0070*

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 Mike & Stephanie Stikovich
- 5 Archbishop Alexander consecration (2012)
- 7 Brian & Diana Mitevski
- 11 Ralph & Deborah Neely (1997)
- 14 Fr. Matthew ordination (1995)
- 15 Kosta & Nancy Tasevski  
Les & Susie Ford (2015)
- 16 Michael & Jennifer Borkovich (1992)
- 19 Teddy & Jessica Stavridis (2018)
- 29 Bob & Cathy Steiner (1977)

# MAY 2026

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church  
 2143 S. Center Rd.  
 Burton, MI 48519  
 810-744-0070

Email: [stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com) Website: [saintnicholasburton.org](http://saintnicholasburton.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 †	2 5 pm Vespers Confessions
3 <b>Paralytic</b> 9 am baptism & chrismation 10 am Liturgy Church School	4	5	6 †	7 Office Closed	8	9 9:30 am spring cleanup at church 5 pm Vespers Confessions
10 <b>Samaritan Woman</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 9:30 Hours 10 am Liturgy	11	12 6:30 pm parish council meets	13 † 11:15 am Adult Education	14 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Office Closed	15 †	16 5 pm Vespers Confessions
17 <b>Blind Man</b> 9:30 Hours 10 am Liturgy	18	19	20 9:30 am Liturgy † 11:15 am Adult Education 6 pm Vespers at St Mary Magdalene	21 <b>Ascension</b> 10 am Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Church Office Closed	22 †	23 5 pm Vespers Confessions
24 <b>1st Council</b> 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy End of Church School year recognition	25 <b>Memorial Day</b>  Office Closed	26	27 † 9:30 am Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Education	28 Office Closed	29 †	30 9 am Evergreen (in chapel) Trisagion service 12:30 pm Crestwood 1:30 pm Sunset Hills 2 pm Gracelawn 5 pm Vespers
31 <b>Pentecost</b> 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Vespers w/Kneeling Prayers 2 pm St. Nicholas Cemetery 4 pm Great Lakes Cemetery	<b>June 1</b> No Fast	<b>June 2</b> No Fast	<b>June 3</b> No Fast	<b>June 4</b> No Fast	† Fast  Wine & Oil Permitted  Fish Permitted	