

May 27, 2018

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

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Matins Gospel of Pentecost

The Gospel according to Saint John

20:19-23

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2018 8th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 7. HOLY PENTECOST: Feast of the Holy Trinity . Hieromartyr Therapon, Bishop of Sardis (3rd c.). Translation of the Relics of Ven. Nilus of Stolobensk (1667). St. John the Russian (Confessor), whose relics are on the Island of Euboia (1730). Ven. Ferapónt (Therapon), Abbot of Belozérsk (1426). Translation of the Relics of Ss. Kiprián, Photii (Photius), and Jonah, Metropolitans of Moscow and All Russia (1472). Ven. Therapon, Abbot of Monza (16th c.). Virgin Martyr Theodora and Martyr Didymus the Soldier, of Alexandria (304).

FIRST ANTIPHON The heavens are telling the glory of God; / and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Day to day pours forth speech, / and night to nights declares knowledge. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the ends of the universe. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

SECOND ANTIPHON The Lord answer you in the day of trouble; / the name of the God of Jacob protect you! **O Gracious Comforter, save us who sing to Thee: "Alleluia!"**

May He send you help from the sanctuary / and give you support from Zion! **O Gracious Comforter, save us who sing to Thee: "Alleluia!"**

May He remember all your offerings, / and fulfill all your plans! **O Gracious Comforter, save us who sing to Thee: "Alleluia!"**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, save us!

THIRD ANTIPHON In Thy strength the King rejoices, O Lord, and exults greatly in Thy salvation. **Troparion** (Tone 8): Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withheld the request of his lips. **Troparion:** Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

For Thou dost meet him with goodly blessings; Thou dost set a crown of fine gold upon his head. **Troparion:** Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

SMALL ENTRANCE

Deacon Wisdom! Aright!

Priest: Be exalted, O Lord, in Thy strength! We will sing and praise Thy power!

Choir: O Gracious Comforter, save us who sing to Thee: "Alleluia!"

TROPARION

(Tone 8) Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

KONTAKION

(Tone 8) When the Most High came down and confused the tongues He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the All-Holy Spirit!

Instead of "Holy God" we sing: As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ! Alleluia!

The Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth; / and their words to the ends of the universe.

v. The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

THE READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES (2:1-11) In those days, when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

Alleluia, Tone 8

v. By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made; and all their host by the Spirit of His mouth.

v. The Lord looked down from heaven, and saw all the sons of men.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN (7:37-52, 8:12) On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS Without knowing a man you became a mother, without knowing corruption you bore a child, giving flesh to the Word who creates all things, containing Him Who cannot be contained, encompassing your infinite Maker: O Virgin Theotokos, we magnify you!

COMMUNION HYMN Let Thy good Spirit lead me on a level path. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IN PLACE OF "WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT"

(Tone 8) Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

HOLY PENTECOST Fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles gathered in Jerusalem. By the power of the Spirit they went forth to proclaim the good news that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God made flesh and that by His death and Resurrection we have been saved. This kernel of faith has been passed on from generation to generation and faith has been passed on from generation to generation and preached to the four corners of the world. We ourselves receive this missionary command because we, too, have received the Holy Spirit. At our chrismation, our own personal Pentecost, we were anointed with the sacred chrism and the words were pronounced to us: "The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit!" Sealed with the Holy Spirit as God's gift to us, our bodies have become living temples of God's Spirit. And we at our baptism and chrismation heard the words of Christ, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19) This mission given to the first apostles in the first century is given to us the Church in the twenty-first century.

We who believe are not to hide our faith under a bushel basket but to live it as a light before all people. We are not to be ashamed of our faith or apologetic about it. And we must be prepared to give good answer to those who ask us why we believe in Jesus, what makes us follow Him. “Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.” (1 Peter 3:15-16) We believe and follow Him because He is God Himself become man who has given us the words of eternal life. By His death and resurrection He has saved us from the bondage of sin and death. And as a memorial of all this He has given us His own Body and Blood that we may be united with Him and He with us. May we reflect in our lives the communion with one another and with the Father that Christ calls us to by the power of the Holy Spirit who came upon the Apostles at the first Pentecost and who dwells with us, the Church, even today.



“Prayer, as we have said, is linked to something else, namely, our worship and especially with Holy Communion. If there is no worship and no Holy Communion, there can be no prayer. Any prayer uttered apart from them is false. If, on the other hand, there is worship divorced from intense, spiritual prayer - internal, powerful prayer which cries out - you can be certain that our worship and our Holy Communion is in vain: an attempt to deceive God by throwing mud in His eyes, pretending that we love Him, when in fact we have no relationship with Him whatsoever.” **Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra, "On Prayer"**

From “Taking Custody of Your Thoughts—Prayer of the Heart in an Age of Technology and Distraction” by Fr. Maximos Constas

“Those who practice this (the Jesus Prayer) will realize right away because we’re so used to the scattered, fragmented life we will easily float away from the prayer without even realizing it. That happens all the time, and when it happens don’t get upset or angry—just gently recall your attention to the heart and continue to say the prayer without even thinking about what happened. Expect that this will happen and know it’s not a huge problem. Just bring yourself back to the work you were doing.

...

The other thing we need to know is that these obsessive, recurring and impassioned thought-feelings are *not* you. Maybe they *happened* to you, or they’re places where you were wounded, but they are *not* you. I think most of us from an early age in life make the fatal mistake of self-identifying with those impulses. I told you the story about the colleague who had insulted me and the thought of anger was there. The fact that I could even see that thought shows you that it’s not absolutely one with myself. I could look at it, hear it and see it. The fact that I can differentiate such thoughts from my own thoughts shows that there’s a difference. I could have just uncritically said, ‘Well, anger came in—of course, because I’m an angry guy.’ I could have just embraced that impulse and thought and run with it; and if I’ve been doing that my whole life it becomes me. I think that’s who I am. All kinds of other thoughts and desires and inclinations are not us. But they can become us if all we do is welcome them and magnify them, and allow them to unleash their dark energy within us. I think all of us have seen these things. Unchecked, many of these thoughts can lead to neuroses of various kinds, obsessive-compulsive disorders, and at their worst, various sociopathic kinds of behavior.

It always intrigued me that in Greece there seemed to always be a little cloud settled on the peak of Mt. Athos, and sometimes it’s a perfect saucer shape. The monks call it the ‘veil.’ I always wondered what was happening meteorologically, and of course it’s very simple. The warm air moves across the surface of the ocean and hits the wall of the mountain, and it has nowhere to go so it rises and condenses and forms into a cloud. The mountain is a weather-maker. I thought, this is a profound image, because *you* are the mountain, you are not the cloud, but we make the mistake of self-identifying with the cloud. You’re not the emotional storm in your mind—that is other than you. It has come to rest on you, but don’t they come and go? Our job is not to follow them wherever they go, but to be rooted in the mountain that we are. During a storm, what is the most active part of a tree? The outermost part. If we live up here in our minds we’ll be agitated and blown about by every breeze. When we recognize that, it is the time to turn our attention to the core, the trunk, and not to self-identify with those thoughts.

There have been times when I was in line to receive Communion, and some of the most horrible, dark, even blasphemous thoughts came into my mind. Is that me? Why would I think such things, that I’d never thought before in my life, when my entire self is concentrated on receiving Communion? It breaks my heart even to know that I had such thoughts. I feel so bad that I have wounded God in some way. The pre-Communion prayer says ‘I stand before the doors of Thy temple, yet I do not put away evil thoughts’—is that us? Some people think they need to leave the line at that point, but we should simply make the sign of the Cross, ask God to forgive us, bemoan the fact that our humanity is corrupt and fallen, and hold our ground.”

May 27, 2018



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Healing & blessings for Andrew Panoff & the Panoff family
Lois Neely, Goldie Johnson & Andrew
Fr. Tom, Fr. Dimitri, Fr. Anthony, Aaron, Amir, Rimi, Reggie, Allen, Deborah,
JoAnn, Luba, Kosta, Jimmy, Laurie, David, Helen, Anna, Walt, Vladimir,
Dorothy, Michael, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Christopher, Nicholas,
Margaret, Joseph, Gladys & my family and friends
Special Intention

Lucy Hogg
Ralph, Debbie, Joe, Sarah & Dorothy

Joe Tome
Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

My mom Violet Economou May 6, 2018
Evanka & Louis Elieff, John & Helen Bibilikow
Kum Milan Glusica (1 yr.)

Bill Economou
Christine, Jerry, Josh & Jenn
Kuma Bosa

ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR

Gloria, John, Rosemary & Marko ~ together again. Love,

Helen



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors. Please join us in our fellowship hall.



COFFEE & PASTRIES are provided today by Peter Brayan & family in memory of Mary Anne Brayan (6 mo.).

SPECIAL PARISH MEETING – SUNDAY, JUNE 3 The sole purpose of this meeting is to elect two lay delegates for the 6th Diocesan Congress-Sobor to be held immediately prior to the Diocesan Conference on June 30. **Presently we have two nominees to fill the two delegate positions available: Sharon Jernigan and J. Joseph Tome.** The purpose of the Congress-Sobor is to approve a revised Constitution that has been aligned with the revised Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, among other amendments. The letter of the Archbishop announcing the Congress-Sobor, its agenda, the present and proposed Constitutions are posted on the bulletin board in the hall.

MACEDONIAN OPEN GOLF SCRAMBLE The 38th Macedonian Open Golf Scramble will be held this year on Monday, June 18th at the Flint Elks Golf Club. Once again that is the Monday after Father's Day and would make a great Father's Day gift.

Everyone is encouraged to help out in any way they can. There are many sponsorship opportunities for Families and individuals who would like to support the event, from signs wishing "good luck" to signs "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.

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 Angelo Panoff (angelo.panoff@stifel.com or 810-249-6031), Christine Panoff (capanoff@umflint.edu or 810-232-4868), Linda Branoff (branoff721@aol.com or 810-964-3654), George Branoff (george.branoff27@frontier.com or 810-252-5395) or Chris Nedanis (cned77@gmail.com or 810-877-0889).

HOW CAN I HELP? I DON'T GOLF.

- ❖ 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-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

CHRIST IS RISEN! MEMORY ETERNAL! Violet Economou, mother of Bill Economou, fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, May 6 in Florida. God grant her rest among the saints. Bog da prosti. Christ is risen!



GRADUATIONS Jacob Beslac, son of Rade Beslac & Jessica Tucker graduated from Swartz Creek High School with honors. He will be attending Central MI University in the fall.



OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting Laundry Soap for the month of June. 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.



RUMMAGE SALE June 8th & 9th. Donations are needed to make this successful. Proceeds will go toward repaving the parking lot. If you have large items call Dennis Jernigan at 810-908-3631. Smaller items can be left in the foyer in the parish hall. All donations need to be in working order, cleaned up and ready to sell. **Flyers are in the parish hall-please post them in the community.**

END OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL YEAR PANCAKE BRUNCH June 10 after Liturgy.

FIFTH ANNUAL SMALL PARISH FORUM – JULY 12, 13, AND 14 AT ST GEORGE, ROSSFORD, OH

The OCA’s Fifth Annual Small Parish Forum will be held at our Diocesan Cathedral of Saint George Cathedral in Toledo (Rossford, OH) from July 12-14. **Registration is \$100.00 per person; however, because our Diocese is a sponsor of this year’s forum, any diocesan clergy and laity that take part will receive a 100% reimbursement of their registration. There is also the possibility of having a portion of your hotel costs covered as well.** This is a follow-up of the visit of Joe Kormos to our parish. This particular forum will address the necessity of parishioner involvement in the ministries of the parish, especially parish council. **Specific themes to be explored include reshaping parish councils to move beyond “firefighting” and “money” to fulfilling the overall parish mission; generating dialogue in “finding the center” in parish discussions; envisioning a bright future through a sense of purpose and direction that leads to prioritized action; inspiring stewardship by replacing begging and continual pleas with generosity and gratitude; and stimulating ministry by building a thirst for outreach, overcoming insularity, and “being the Church of Christ.”** It would be good for members of our parish to attend. The Forum is open only to the first 65 registrants. If you are able, please plan to attend.

Register here: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07efciztt00610e6f3&llr=wy96qwbab>

Hotel reservations here: <http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/T/TOLPGHX-STG-20180711/index.jhtml>

Weekly Schedule:

Today 2 pm 6 month memorial for Mary Anne Brayan following the veneration of the cross Trisagion at St. Nicholas Cemetery

Monday, May 28 Memorial Day – Office closed

Tuesday, May 30 Father Matthew in Toledo

Wednesday, May 30
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
 11:15 am Adult Ed class

Thursday, May 31
 11 am-3 pm Middle Eastern Luncheon at St. Gorge

Saturday, June 2
 5 pm Vespers

Sunday, June 3
 9:30 am Third Hour
 10 am Divine Liturgy
 End of the Church School Year – Pancake Breakfast
 Trisagion for Faouzi Ghantous
 Special Parish Meeting to elect 2 delegates to the Diocesan Congress-Sobor



Offerings for the week May 20, 2018

Weekly Offerings	\$ 2,565.00
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 4,034.03
	-\$ 1,469.03

105 people were in attendance on Sunday, May 20.

“Let no one fear death for the death of our Savior has set us free.”