

November 24, 2019

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

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The holy Gospel according to Matthew

28:16-20 (1st Matins Gospel)

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Entry Into the Temple. Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria (305-313). Greatmartyr Mercurius of Caesarea in Cappadocia (3rd c.). Martyr Merkúry of Smolensk (1238). Ven. Mercurius, Faster, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—14th c.). Martyrs Augusta the Empress, Porphyrius the General, and 20 soldiers, martyred at Alexandria with Greatmartyr Catherine (305-313). Virgin Mastridia of Alexandria. Martyr Philotheus (Romanian—1060). Ven. Simon, Abbot of Soiga Monastery (Vologdá—1562).

FIRST ANTIPHON

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; in the city of our God.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!

Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!

Within her citadels, God has shown Himself a sure defense. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of Hosts, in the city of our God.

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

God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved.

Save us, O Son of God, who rose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Save us, O Son of God, who rose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

This is the gate of the Lord, the righteous shall enter through it.

Save us, O Son of God, who rose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house, Thy holy temple.

Save us, O Son of God, who rose from the dead, 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, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us!

THIRD ANTIPHON

Even the rich among the people shall entreat your favor.

(Tone 4) Today is the preview of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her:// “Rejoice, O divine Fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation!”

The King’s daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is of wrought gold.

(Tone 4) Today is the preview of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her:// “Rejoice, O divine Fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation!”

Virgins shall be brought to the King after her; her companion shall be brought to You.

(Tone 4) Today is the preview of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her:// “Rejoice, O divine Fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation!”

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) Today is the preview of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her:// “Rejoice, O divine Fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation!”

(Tone 4) By your virtues as by rays of the sun you enlightened the unbelieving philosophers, and like the most bright moon you drove away the darkness of disbelief from those walking in the night; you convinced the queen, and also chastised the tyrant, God-summoned bride, blessed Catherine. You hastened with desire to the heavenly bridal chamber of the fairest Bridegroom of Christ, and you were crowned by Him with a royal crown; // Standing before Him with the Angels, pray for us who keep your most sacred memory!

(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 4) The most pure Temple of the Savior; the precious Chamber and Virgin; the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, is presented today to the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, which the Angels of God do praise. “Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

v: Bless God in the churches, the Lord, O you who are of Israel's fountain.

THE READING IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE GALATIANS (3:23-4:5)

Brethren: before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

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 LUKE (18:18-27) At that time a ruler asked Jesus, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

INSTEAD OF "IT IS TRULY MEET..."

The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed! How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies! As you are a living Temple of God, let no impure hand touch you, O Theotokos! But let the lips of all believers sing, constantly magnifying you in joy with the angelic salutation: Truly you are above all creatures, O Pure One!

COMMUNION HYMN

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**THE ENTRY OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE
NOVEMBER 21**

According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said Saint Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian."

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, also mentions this Feast. In the eighth century Saints Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry. *from www.oca.org*

The feast is celebrated on November 21 and we continue to celebrate it until November 25.

November 24, 2019



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Thanksgiving for God's many blessings

Dennis & Sharon Jernigan

Good health to all our grandkids & their parents

Baba & Dedo

Fr. Tom, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Matushka Rose Marie, Calvin, Helen, Angelo, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Anna, Anna, Alex, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Kosta, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, Nicholas, Margaret, Joseph, Ted, Marlene, Gladys, my family and friends

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Blessed Repose for our grandsons Matthew & Andrew Panoff

Baba & Dedo

ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR

Helen Bibilikow Blessed Repose (5 yrs. Nov. 28)

Dorothy Goodman



WELCOME all our friends and visitors. Please join us in our fellowship hall after liturgy for coffee & donuts.

COFFEE & DONUTS are provided today by Michael & Ellyn Serra in honor of Joe Tome's birthday. Many years Joe.

SILENT AUCTION Three Christmas wreaths are on a table in the parish hall. This is a silent auction fundraiser. Write down your bid on one of the notepads next to the wreath you would like to bid on. Make your bid now!

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS If you would like to have your name(s) included on the annual Christmas greetings list please call the office no later than December 2nd. There is a form in the parish hall to sign up or you can email the office. Donations are appreciated.

ANGEL TREE PROGRAM There are only 11 names left on the Angel Tree in the parish hall. Please be generous & let's make sure all of these children feel the love & blessings of God this Christmas.



Gifts do need to be placed in a gift bag or wrapped but you must include the child's names and code number on the gifts. Gift range is between \$30 and \$40 & gift cards are ok for children 15-17 yrs. old. You can pick one or more items from their list-you DO NOT have to purchase all the items requested. Keep the gift amount consistent for all kids in each family Please return the gifts by December 8th. If there are any questions, contact Susie Ford (910-978-3026) or Jennifer Shann (810-728-6940).

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS DINNER Catholic Charities hopes to include a \$20 gift card with every gift bag they give out to the adults at the dinner but they need our help. They can be from Walmart, Meijer or grocery stores. You can give the gift cards to Susie Ford, Jennifer Shann or drop them off at the office.

HOLIDAY PASTRY SALE Assumption is having their holiday pastry sale & luncheon on December 12th, 11am – 1:30 pm. Lunch is \$10 & the deadline to pre-order pastries is December 1st. There are fliers in the parish hall with more details.



COOKIE WALK will be held on Saturday, December 14th from 10 am to 1 pm. Stephanie Stikovich will chair the Cookie Walk this year and requires help from many volunteers. Please call Stephanie at 810-658-8321 or sign up to volunteer whether with baking cookies, set-up, the day of the sale, or the break-down of the hall following the sale. The baked goods need to be delivered by Friday, December 13th before 3 pm. There are signup sheets in the parish hall.

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

COOKIE BAKING WORKSHOP on December 9th at 11:30 am & the 11th at 10 am.

DECK THE HALLS December 16th at 10 am. We will be setting up the indoor Nativity scene & decorating the church. Many hands lighten the load so any help you can offer is greatly appreciated.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting dish soap for November. 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.

COFFEE HOUR volunteers are needed. There is a signup sheet outside the kitchen window. Please commit to helping out so we can continue having this social time together.

FACEBOOK PAGE Please visit and follow our parish Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stnicholasburton>

Weekly Schedule:

Monday, Nov 25

Fr. Matthew in Toledo

Wednesday, Nov 27

NO Divine Liturgy or Adult Ed Class

Saturday, Nov 30

5 pm

Vespers

No Confessions



Sunday, Dec. 1

9:30 am Hours
10 am Divine Liturgy
Church School

Offerings for the week November 17th, 2019

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 3,594.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,236.00
	\$ + 358.00

73 people were in attendance on Sunday, November 17th.

NOISY OFFERING collection on November 17th was \$91.19. Thank you for your generosity.

Someone who has actually tasted Truth is not contentious for the Truth. Someone who is considered by people to be zealous for Truth has not yet learned what Truth is really like. Once he has truly learned it, he will cease from zealousness on its behalf. *St. Isaac the Syrian*

