

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Monthly Newsletter

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

2143 S. Center Road – Burton, Michigan 48519

Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie – Rector Fr. Esteban Vázquez Deacon Kerry Luke Gonser

Email: stnicholas1916@att.net

Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Church Office: 810-744-0070

Services:

Wednesday- 9 am Adult Education-11 am

Saturday – 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Third Hour 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Holydays, Vigil and Vespers as announced

“But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” St. Jude 1:20

NOVEMBER 2017

ST. PORPHYRIOS ON THE PATHS TO GOD

“We can attain to the worship of God easily and bloodlessly. There are two paths that lead to God: the hard and debilitating path with fierce assaults against evil and the easy path with love. There are many who chose the hard path and ‘shed blood in order to receive Spirit’ until they attained great virtue. I find that the shorter and safer route is the path with love. This is the path that you, too, should follow. That is, you can make a different kind of effort: to study and pray and have as your aim to advance in the love of God and of the Church. Do not fight to expel the darkness from the chamber of your soul. Open a tiny aperture for light to enter, and the darkness will disappear. The same holds for our passions and our weaknesses. Do not fight them, but transform them into strengths by showing disdain for evil. Occupy yourself with hymns of praise, with the poetic canons, with the worship of God and with divine eros. All the holy books of our Church contain holy, loving words addressed to Christ. Read them with joy and love and exaltation. When you devote yourself to this effort with intense desire, your soul will be sanctified in a gentle and mystical way without your even being aware of it. . . By reading these books you will gradually acquire meekness, humility and love, and your soul will be made good. Do not choose negative methods to correct yourself. There is no need to fear the devil, hell or anything else. These things provoke a negative reaction. I, myself, have some little experience in these matters. The object is to live, to study, to pray and to advance in love – in love for Christ and for the Church. What is holy and beautiful and what gladdens the heart and frees the soul from every evil is the effort to unite yourself to Christ, to love Christ, to crave for Christ and to live in Christ, just as Saint Paul said, It is no longer I who live; Christ lives in me. This should be your aim. Let all other efforts be secret and hidden. What must dominate is love for Christ. Let this be in your head, your thought, your imagination, your heart and your will. Your most intense effort should be how you will encounter Christ, how you will be united to Him and how you will keep Him in your heart.” (*Wounded by Love*, 136-137)

FROM FATHER'S DESK

Dear faithful and friends of St. Nicholas Church,

This month, let us look at judging: ourselves and others. The text below is an excerpt from a talk by Elder Aimilianos of Simonos Petra Monastery on Mount Athos. It is Elder Aimilianos who tonsured our bishop, Archbishop Alexander, as a monk. Fr. Aimilianos here opens to us a balanced way of life, not judging anyone but leaving all to God. This is our way of life because we are not our own, we have been bought at a price and so each one of us belongs not to ourselves but to God alone. Because we are God's and He alone is judge, there is no room for us to judge anyone else, whether ourselves or another person. May we each find some food for our souls in his words.

With love in Christ,

Fr. Matthew

Stop judgment of others and of self! "Do not measure yourself in any deed" (St. Isaiah the Solitary). Do not judge yourself for what you have done--good, bad, virtue, sin--or compare it with others. How often we are dealing with this thing! Let us forget what is behind us and show no interest in what we have done. For by analyzing, we discover that we have done something important or something bad, something great and good and more accomplished than someone else or something smaller. Whether we judge the thing in itself, or in connection to our neighbor, we will fall into one of the traps: either into pride, if it is something good and greater, or into despair, misery, into the disintegration of our self, if it is not good. This is so because, as long as we believe that we are mature, that we have power within us, we bear the inaptitude of Adam and Eve, the frail ego that our ancestors bequeathed us. Therefore, in order to remain untroubled by thoughts, never stay to analyze what you have done. This is valid for all that happens with us. But how then will I confess if I don't judge? In confession I don't make an analysis of my deeds, but the revealing of my sins. This is a different thing, since I do not evaluate my deeds, but I simply relate them. I don't stay to think what I have done that morning, what I have done and what I have not done, since this thing creates in my soul a suffocating atmosphere. If we convince ourselves that we have done something good, you do understand into how much egotism we can fall. The word "do not measure yourself in any deed" is the true wisdom. Most, when they fell, they also fell for this reason. Or we use it to justify our passions. For example: I sinned once and afterwards I tell myself "what good is repentance"? What misery! How much is our self torn to shreds this way!"

Elder Aimilianos, *Λόγος Περί Νήψεως*

Third Hour Schedule

November	December	January
5 Reggie	3 Angelo	7 Reggie
12 Angelo	10 Lucy	14 Angelo
19 Lucy	17 Reggie	21 Lucy
26 Reggie	24 Angelo	28 Reggie
	31 Lucy	

If you are unable to make your assigned reading date, you must find a replacement.
Available to fill in: Calvin Conrad

Reader Schedule

November	December	January
5 Angelo	3 Johnny	7 Angelo
12 Johnny	10 Angelo	14 Taras
19 Taras	17 Taras	21 Amir
26 Amir	24 Amir	28 Johnny
	31 Johnny	

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

“AS MANY AS HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST HAVE PUT ON CHRIST! ALLELUIA!”

Samuel Nicholas Seeley, son of Tim & Hannah Seeley, was baptized into Christ on Saturday, October 14. God grant him many years!

CHRISTMAS FAST begins on November 15 and continues to December 24. It is a time for us to increase our prayer, reading the Sacred Scripture, fasting and giving to those in need as we prepare to welcome the newborn Jesus Christ.

From www.oca.org “We fast before the Great Feast of the Nativity in order to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Our Lord Jesus Christ’s birth. As in the case of Great Lent, the Nativity Fast is one of preparation, during which we focus on the coming of the Savior by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

By fasting, we “shift our focus” from ourselves to others, spending less time worrying about what to eat, when to eat, how much to eat, and so on in order to use our time in increased prayer and caring for the poor. We learn through fasting that we can gain control over things which we sometimes allow to control us—and for many people, food is a controlling factor.

[We live in the only society in which an entire TV network is devoted to food!] While fasting from food, however, we are also challenged to fast from sin, from gossip, from jealousy, from anger, and from those other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us.

Just as we would refrain from eating a lot before going to an expensive restaurant for dinner—if we “ruin our appetite” we will enjoy the restaurant less—so too we fast before the Nativity in order to more fully feast and celebrate on the Nativity itself.

During the Nativity Fast, we are called upon to refrain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil. At the same time, we are challenged, within this framework, to fast to the best of our ability, and to do so consistently. If we must modify the extent to which we fast within this framework, it is of course possible, but in every instance our fasting should be consistent and regular, for Christ does not see fasting as an option, but as a “must.”

ANGEL TREE PROGRAM Our parish will participate in this program for this Christmas. In the parish hall for, our Advent fast in helping those in need. 50 children’s names are on the tree. Gifts do not need to be wrapped but include the child’s names and code number on the gifts. Gift range is between \$20 and \$30. Please return the gifts by December 13. If there are any questions, please contact Lucy Hogg (810-695-3110) or luhogg@att.net



NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters November 2nd (North End Soup Kitchen) and November 28th (St. George at North End Soup Kitchen) from 9 am-12:30 pm. “Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead.” St. John Chrysostom

	<h1 style="margin: 0;">HOPE IN A BOX</h1>
Nov.	Blanket & Coats
Dec.	Towels, Toiletries, New toys
Jan	Toilet Paper

HELP FOR PUERTO RICO To assist Fr. Esteban's family in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria we will:

- 1- Have a raffle of several items including a pearl necklace and earring set on November 5.
- 2- Have a luncheon on Sunday, November 5: sloppy joes, coleslaw, chips and cookie.

All proceeds from both events will go to Fr. Esteban's family. Please be generous!

COFFEE HOUR volunteers are needed. There is a sign-up list outside of the kitchen. Please commit to helping out so that we can continue having this social time together.



<i>November Coffee Hour Volunteers</i>	
5	<i>Luncheon to benefit Fr. Esteban's family in Puerto Rico</i>
12	
19	
26	

COOKIE WALK will be held on Saturday, December 9 from 10 am to 1 pm. This year, the Cookie Walk will be sponsored by the parish rather than St. Catherine's League. Deborah Gonsler-Adams will chair the Cookie Walk. This requires help from many volunteers. Please call Deborah at 810-695-2464 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 the 8th before 3 pm. Last year the cookie walk raised approximately \$1,500.

ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB  The Flint Area Orthodox Book Club meets every Tuesday 6pm-8pm at St. George Orthodox Church, taking a week or two break between books. The book being read now is "The Sayings of the Desert Fathers."

CONTACT INFORMATION Please contact the church office with any updates to your mailing address, email address or telephone number(s) whenever you have a change. Thank you! 810-744-0070

ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL, AUDITORS AND LAY DELEGATES on Sunday, November 5th.
Parish Council Nominees (3 will be elected)

Calvin Conrad Shari Nicoloff
Susan Ford

Auditor Nominees (2 need to be elected)

Mary Batzos Joseph Tome
Christine Panoff

Lay Delegate Nominees for 2018 All-American Council & 2018 Diocesan Conference (1 will be elected)
Joseph Tome

2018 PLEDGE CARDS have been mailed out. If you have not received yours by Nov. 4th, contact the parish office by phone 744-0070 or email stnicholas1916@att.net so that we may get a pledge card to you. Please fill out and sign your pledge card. Remember in order to be considered a member here at St. Nicholas you must return a signed pledge card. We would like for them to be returned by December, 1. **DO NOT** send your 2018 pledge back with the card or it will be credited to 2017.

DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT You will find in your box of offering envelopes one marked "Diocesan Assessment." Each parish in the Diocese is assessed \$35 per pledging adult. We have been paying this directly out of our Sunday offerings, presently \$5,320 per year. If every adult will make the \$35 assessment above and beyond their regular pledge, our parish will save \$5,320 per year. If you have not yet turned in your envelope, please do so as soon as possible.

2017 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 11.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jeanette Brayon
- 5 Mira Prusac
Alex Popoff
- 7 Gabriel Paul
- 10 Bosa Kantar
- 13 Gregory Burns
- 14 Fred Oginsky
- 15 Mary Abu-Aita
- 17 Thomai Brayanis
- 20 Gloria Zelenko
- 22 Matthew Economou
- 23 John (Joe) Tome
- 24 Ruth Conrad
- 26 Mitra Pagonis
- 28 Susan Oginsky

ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Father Matthew & Matshka Lisa (1999)
- 16 Alex & Magda Popoff
- 23 Nikolai & Valentina Evanenko (1968)
- 26 Petro & Sandra Ahejew (1963)

NAMESDAYS

- 7 Caroline Panoff (St. Karina)
- 8 Arielle Grace Borkovich
Colin Michael Karayanis
Gavin (Michael) Whittaker
Michael Biggs
Michael Borkovich
Michael Branoff
Michael Chevalier
Michael Goodman
Michael Karayanis
Michael Panoff
Michael Popoff
Michael Steiner
Michelle Gerzevske
Michelle Karayanis
Ralph Neely
- 10 Krystal Rose George
Rose Goodman
- 11 Stephanie Adkisson
Stephanie Bishop
Stephanie Houser
Stephanie Stikovich
Vickie Ann Borkovich
Victoria Batzos
Viktor Dorohov

NAMESDAYS Cont.

- 13 Devin Yasmine Binelli
- 14 Philip Bakousidis
Philip Brown
Philip Pirkovic
- 16 Matthew Batzos
Matthew Economou
Fr. Matthew
- 19 Matushka Lisa Ann Butrie
- 22 Cecile Georgopoulos
Sheila Biggs (St. Cecilia)
- 24 Catherine Steiner
Kara George
Karen Ethington
Kate Economou
Katherine Gonser
Katherine Panoff
Katherine Whittaker
Kathleen Biernacki
Stephanie Stikovich
- 24 Kathryn Stevens
Kathryn Gurin
Kathy Condon
Kathy Sfetkides
Katarina Jonascu
- 26 Stella Stergiani Nedanis
- 29 Andy Yosheff

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

REMEMBER OUR EXPECTING FAMILIES

Popadia Amanda & Fr. Esteban Vázquez
Rimi & Amir Abu-Aita
Kelly & Philip Bakousidis
Stephanie & Kraig Houser



VISITATION TO THE SICK Fr. Matthew brings Holy Communion to the shut-ins on Mondays. **If you would like to be added to this list, please contact the office.** Presently, those receiving weekly visits are: Helen Ashmun, Mary Ann Brayon, Paul Ellis, Nick Maxim, Fred Oginsky, Gloria Zelenko. Monthly Fr. Matthew visits Larry Bladecki (Bay City) and Peter and Olga Samaras (Caro).

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, a phone call or a visit! Please call the office to schedule a visit for Holy Communion.

Larry Bladecki	JoAnn Havens	Fred Oginsky
Deacon John Bocek	Bill Haw	Ron Salhany
Anna Branoff	Helen Iwanoff	Olga Samaras
Linda Branoff	Goldie Johnson	Peter Samaras
Gladys Edwards	Mary Karayanis	Bill Tadrick
Paul Ellis	Nick Karayanis	Wendy Tadrick
Susan Goodman	Macy Lemen	Gloria Zelenko

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

Helen Ashmun	4436 Beecher Rd	Flint, MI 48532
Larry Bladecki	409 15 th Street	Bay City, MI 48708
Mary Anne Brayon	6500 Hickory Hollow Ct.	Flint, MI 48532
Nick & Marge Butrie	30 E Bertsch St #12	Lansford, PA 18232-2036
Gladys Edwards	2 Harbor Dr.	St. Clair, MO 63077
Paul Ellis	5931 Western Rd	Flint, MI 48506-1305
Goldie Johnson	3215 W. Mount Hope Ave. Apt. 142	Lansing, MI 48911
Nevena Kocovski	3011 N. Center Rd, Rm. 514	Flint, MI 48506-3149
Nick Maxim	11941 Belsay Rd	Grand Blanc, MI 48439-1702
Pete & Olga Samaras	1285 Cleaver Rd	Caro, MI 48723-9241 (989) 673-0821
Gloria Zelenko	5370 E. Baldwin Rd. Rm. 503	Grand Blanc, MI 48439

WISDOM FROM THE DESERT

“In everything we do, we need to be careful what we say and how we say it. Our thoughts should always be focused on how we can please God. And we should want nothing more than we want Him. We shouldn’t be in a hurry to judge what other people say and do and we shouldn’t interfere in issues that are none of our business.”

“The more you practice doing good, the more you also acquire the fear of God. You recognize your minor transgressions, which you hadn’t even noticed before because you were in the darkness of ignorance.”

“There are two most powerful weapons with which we overcome all the traps and temptations of the devil: the first is holy prayer and the second is humility.”

“Temptations teach us the experience of spiritual warfare, they toughen us up in life and help us progress spiritually. They also humble us and show us our weakness and incapacity when we’re alone, without divine assistance. They also reinforce our patience, prayer, tears, humility and faith.”

“The ability to bear pain patiently increases within us through prayer, confession, holy communion, reading sacred books, the recollection of the sufferings of Our Lord Jesus Christ and all His saints. Through visiting those worse off than us and reflecting on the eternal bliss in Paradise. There’s no other path to salvation except that of the Cross, of suffering, patience and sacrifice, as the Savior says: ‘In [Through] your patience, you will gain your souls (Luke 21, 19); and ‘Those who show patience to the end will be saved (Matt. 24, 13).’

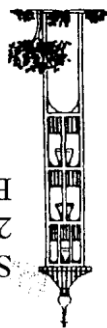
Elder Cleopa Ilie (1912-1998)

Your Business Here	Space for Rent
---------------------------	-------------------------------

<p>\$36.00 Single Space for 6 months</p> <p>\$50.00 Double Space for 6 months</p> <p>\$65.00 Triple Space for 6 months</p>	<p>?</p>	
--	----------	--

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Flint, MI
PERMIT NO. 102

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
 2143 South Center Road
 Burton, MI 48519



NOVEMBER 2017


































St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

2143 S. Center Rd.

Burton, MI 48519

810-744-0070

Email: stnicholas1916@att.net Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Charitable Ministries of the Orthodox Churches of Flint: St. George – N. End Soup Kitchen, 4 th Tuesday, 9 am to 12:30 pm Assumption – Center for Hope 517 E Fifth Ave, 3 rd Wednesday, 11 am to 1 pm			1  9 am Divine Liturgy 11 am Adult Ed	2 9:am to 12:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen Office Closed	3  4 5 pm Vespers Set your clocks back!	
5 9 am Choir Practice 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School Elections Luncheon	6	7 Father in Toledo 6-8pm Book Club	8   Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & All the Angels 9 am Divine Liturgy 11 am Adult Ed	9 Office Closed	10  11 5 pm Vespers	
12 9 am Choir Practice 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School	13 St. John Chrysostom 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Communion Calls in Bay City & Caro	14 6:30 pm Parish Council 6-8pm Book Club	15 CHRISTMAS FAST  BEGINS 9 am Divine Liturgy 11 am Adult Ed 11 am- 1 pm Center for Hope (Assumption) 6 pm Advent Service at St. George	16   St. Matthew Office Closed	17  18   10 am The Church in the Public Square at Holy Trinity 20500 Anglin St. Detroit 5 pm Vespers	
19   9 am Choir Practice 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School	20  6 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespertal Liturgy at St. Nicholas	21 Entry of the Theotokos   Father in Toledo 6-8pm Book Club	22  6 pm Advent Service at St. George	23   Repose of St. Alexander Nevsky Thanksgiving Office Closed	24  Office Closed 25   5 pm Vespers	
26   9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy 5 pm Fr. Matthew at St. George	27 	28 Fr. in Toledo  9:am to 12:30 pm St. George Church at North End Soup Kitchen 6-8pm Book Club	29  9 am Divine Liturgy 11 am Adult Ed 6 pm Advent Service at St. George	30   St. Andrew Office Closed	 Fast  Dairy Permitted (no meat)  Wine & Oil Permitted (no meat)  Fish Permitted (no other meat)	

DECEMBER 2017

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

Email: stnicholas1916@att.net Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>✠ <i>Fast</i></p> <p> <i>Dairy Permitted (no meat)</i></p> <p> <i>Wine & Oil Permitted (no meat)</i></p> <p> <i>Fish Permitted (no other meat)</i></p>		<i>All dates and times are tentative</i>			1	<p>✠ 2</p> <p> </p> <p>5 pm Vespers</p>
<p>3 </p> <p>9 am Choir Practice 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School</p>	<p>4 ✠</p> <p>Father in Toledo</p>	<p>5 </p> <p>St. Sabbas the Sanctified 6 pm Vespers with Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Nicholas</p>	<p>6 </p> <p>St. Nicholas 10 am 3rd & 6th Hours 11 am Adult Ed. 6 pm Advent Service at St. George</p>	<p>7 </p> <p>North End Soup Kitchen 9 am – 1 pm Office Closed</p>	8	<p>9 </p> <p>Conception by Righteous Anna of the Theotokos 10 am -1 pm Cookie Walk 5 pm Vespers</p>
<p>10 </p> <p>9 am Choir Practice 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy 2 pm Christmas Concert by the BAY CHORALE</p>	<p>11 ✠</p> <p>Father in Toledo</p>	<p>12 </p> <p>6:30 pm Parish Council 6-8pm Book Club</p>	<p>13 </p> <p>Repose of St. Herman of Alaska 9am Divine Liturgy 11 am Adult Ed. 6 pm Advent Service at St. George</p>	<p>14 </p> <p>Office Closed</p>	15	<p>16 </p> <p>5 pm Vespers</p>
<p>17 </p> <p>9 am Choir Practice 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School</p>	<p>18 ✠</p> <p>Communion Calls in Bay City & Caro</p>	<p>19 </p> <p>Father in Toledo 6-8pm Book Club</p>	<p>20 ✠</p> <p>9am Divine Liturgy 11 am Adult Ed. 11 am to 1 pm Assumption at Center for Hope 6 pm Advent Service at St. George</p>	<p>21 </p> <p>Office Closed</p>	22	<p>23 </p> <p>5 pm Vespers</p>
<p>24 Christmas Eve 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy 12:30 pm Vespers</p>	<p>25 <i>Fast Free</i> Nativity of Christ Christmas 10 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>26 <i>Fast Free</i> Synaxis of the Theotokos 9:am to 12:30 pm St. George Church at North End Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>27 <i>Fast Free</i> St. Stephen, First Martyr and Archdeacon</p>	<p>28 <i>Fast Free</i></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	29 <i>Fast Free</i>	<p>30 <i>Fast Free</i> 5 pm Vespers</p>
<p>31 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy No Church School</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>					