

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 – Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser
Email: stnicholastburtonmi@gmail.com
Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org
Church Office: 810-744-0070

Services:

Wednesday- 9:30 am Adult Education-11:15 am
Saturday – 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Third Hour 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Holy Days, Vigil and Vespers as announced

Therefore I will rather boast most gladly in my weaknesses,
so that the power of Christ tabernacles upon me. 2 Corinthians 12:9

NOVEMBER 2018

What is a merciful heart?
It is a heart on fire for the whole of creation,
for humanity,
for the birds,
for the animals,
for demons,
and for all that exists.

By the recollection of them
the eyes of a merciful person
pour forth tears in abundance.
By the strong and vehement mercy
that grips such a person's heart,
and by such great compassion,
the heart is humbled
and one cannot bear to hear or to see
any injury or slight sorrow
in any in creation.

For this reason, such a person
offers up tearful prayer continually
even for irrational beasts,
for the enemies of the truth,
and for those who harm him,
that they be protected and receive mercy...
because of the great compassion
that burns without measure
in a heart that is
in the likeness of God.

St. Isaac the Syrian
Homily 81

FROM FATHER'S DESK

Last month we looked at the gospel verse that precedes the beginning of the Divine Liturgy. The verse which follows shortly afterward is unique to the Simonopetra *Ieratikon*: “Lord, Lord, open the door of your mercy to us.” This verse echoes Matthew 25:11 and Luke 13:25 where the first portion of the plea is made “Lord, Lord, open the door to us.” This prayer is particularly significant. Fr. Aimilianos, former abbot of Simonopetra Monastery who oversaw the publishing of the Greek *Ieratikon*, understood that the beginning of the Liturgy is a knocking on the door of God’s kingdom, which is then opened to us. To emphasize this, when the priest says, “Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” he uses the Holy Gospel to knock on the altar on the east, west, north, and south, that is, making the sign of a cross. We are knocking at the door of God’s mercy which God himself opens to us. Our Liturgy is an assured entrance into the Kingdom, entrance that will be there for us again. To quote Fr. Aimilianos,

[the Liturgy] takes us into His kingdom. Then we will depart again to go to our houses with our passions, our sins, our fallenness. It doesn’t matter! We will again go to the Liturgy, we will grab Christ again, He will deify us again. (*Theia Latreia*, p. 50)

Again, as Fr. Aimilianos points out, the priest’s out-loud “always, now and ever and unto ages of ages” after Communion, “is the moment in which Christ promises to remain with us always.” (*Theia Latreia*, p. 50) And indeed, Christ said “And behold I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). He says “behold!,” “look!,” because this hope is right in front of us. Indeed it comes to us, when we first realize it, as a surprise, as a life-changing and even life-shattering surprise. The Lord uses the present tense here...and not the future, because it is a certainty beyond all certainties. This means that our “meeting with God in the Liturgy will happen undoubtedly.”

The following story from the life of Saint Nicetas the Hidden (September 8) is worth mentioning here. “He lived at Constantinople and occupied the position of ‘chartolarium’ (‘letter-writer’). They call him ‘the Hidden,’ because living in the world amid the bustle of the city, with secret exploits of faith, he attained spiritual perfection and was a great saint of God. His saintly life was revealed through unusual circumstances. Two friends, a certain priest and the deacon Sozon, had quarreled. The priest died, and the deacon grieved that they had not been able to be reconciled. He told an experienced Elder of the sin that tormented his conscience. He gave Sozon a letter and ordered him to give it to the first person whom he would meet at midnight at the temple of Hagia Sophia, the Wisdom of God. Saint Nicetas the Chartolarian appeared before him. Having read the letter, he began weeping and said, that it made him responsible for this, and that it was beyond his strength, but with the prayers of the Elder who had sent Sozon, he would strive to accomplish this. Making a prostration before the church doors, Saint Nicetas said: ‘Lord, open to us the doors of Thy mercy,’ and the doors of the temple flew open by themselves. Leaving the deacon at the threshold, Saint Nicetas began to pray, and Sozon saw that he shone with a strange light. Afterwards they went from the church, and the doors again closed. Approaching the church of the Blachernae Mother of God, Saint Nicetas again began praying and again the doors opened in front of them. In the church there shone a light, and from the altar came two rows of priests, among whom Deacon Sozon recognized his dead friend. Saint Nicetas quietly said: “Father, speak to your brother, and cease the enmity between you.” Immediately the priest and Deacon Sozon greeted each other. They embraced one another with love and were reconciled. The priest went back, and the doors closed by themselves. Saint Nicetas said to the deacon: ‘Brother Sozon, save your soul both for your sake, and for my benefit. To the Father who sent you, say that the purity of his holy prayers and his trust in God made possible the return of the dead.’ After these words Saint Nicetas became invisible to Sozon. Having returned to his spiritual Father and Elder, the deacon thanked him with tears, that through his prayers, the great hidden saint of God Nicetas the Chartolarian had removed the sin from both the living and the dead.” <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2018/09/09/102554-blessed-nicetas-the-hidden-of-constantinople>

(The above is excerpted from Volume 4 Comments on the Simonopetra *Ieratikon*, forthcoming).

With love in Christ,

Fr. Matthew

Third Hour Schedule

November	December	January
4 Angelo	2 Lucy	6 Angelo
11 Lucy	9 Calvin	13 Lucy
18 Calvin	16 Angelo	20 Calvin
25 Angelo	23 Lucy	27 Angelo
	30 Calvin	

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

Reader Schedule

November	December	January
4 Amir	2 Amir	6 Johnny
11 Angelo	9 Angelo	13 Angelo
18 Johnny	16 Johnny	20 Taras
25 Taras	23 Taras	27 Amir
	30 Amir	

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

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.

“EXPLORING OUR FAITH” The group will meet at St. George Church Nov. 27th from 6pm-8pm.

The intent of the series is to discover (or rediscover) various aspects of our Orthodox Christian Faith and practice so that they might be of practical benefit to us on our life's journey to Christ.

The format will be a Small Compline in the Church followed by a time of fellowship and snacks, teaching and discussion in the lounge.

SPECIAL PARISH MEETING on October 7 resulted in a vote to distribute \$28,000 of un-invested money from the money market fund of the Endowment Fund for the parking lot repaving. The rough coat of asphalt on the south lot and north lot has been done as of mid-October.

ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL, AUDITORS AND LAY DELEGATES on Sunday, November 4th.

Parish Council Nominees (3 will be elected)

Michelle Gerzevske Sharon Jernigan (term ending 2018) Fannia Young
Kathy Gonser (term ending 2018) Cathy Steiner (term ending 2018)

Auditor Nominees (1 needs to be elected)

Linda Branoff

Lay Delegate Nominees for 2019 All-American Council & 2019 Diocesan Conference (1 will be elected)

Deborah Gonser-Adams

2019 PLEDGE CARDS have been mailed out. If you have not received yours by Nov. 12, contact the parish office by phone 744-0070 or email stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com 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 2019 pledge back with the card or it will be credited to 2018.

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.

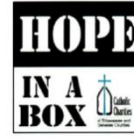
THANK YOU Tom & Christy Panoff and Angelo & Christine Panoff would like to thank the entire St. Nicholas parish community for all the prayers and support for their son and grandson, Andrew Thomas Panoff, as he bravely battled cancer this summer. The prayers and encouragement provided great comfort to Andrew, his parents, his sisters Ellie & Anna, and his grandparents during this difficult time. May Andrew’s memory be eternal. Bogda Prosti



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS Remember to give the cashier our Non Profit Organization #85687 when checking out. They send a check to St. Nicholas for a portion of everything participants spend in their stores.

WORK READY ROOM Catholic Charities Work Ready Room wants your new & gently used career clothes to help individuals in need! i.e. Khakis, Scrubs, Shoes, Work Boots, Dress Pants & Collared Shirts.
For more information call 810-265-7025. Donations can be dropped off Mon-Fri at 812 Root St, Flint.

COMMUNITY CLOSET Catholic Charities is in need of new or gently used towels, sheets, comforters & toiletries. For more information call 810-265-7025. Donations can be dropped off Mon-Fri at 812 Root St, Flint.



HOPE IN A BOX

November	Blankets & Coats
December	Towels, Toiletries & New Toys
January	Toilet Paper

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters November 1st (North End Soup Kitchen) and November 27th (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

ANGEL TREE PROGRAM Our parish will participate in this program for this Christmas as part of our Advent fast helping those in need. In the parish hall is the Angel Tree with 50 children’s names on it. 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 \$20 and \$30. Please return the gifts by December 2. If there are any questions, please contact Connie Maxim (810-603-7717).



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 something we do for the love of him, our Savior.

CHURCH SCHOOL CORNER

Nov. 4th – Class
 Nov 11th – Class (HS/MS Q&A w/Fr. Matthew)
 Nov. 18th – Class (Preparation for Archbishop’s Visit)
 Nov. 25th – NO CLASS
 Dec. 2nd – NO CLASS - Archbishop’s Visit/
 St. Nicholas Potluck

SAVE THE DATE:

Dec. 30th – Caroling at Lockwood
 (All are invited to join us)
 Mar. 29th-31st – Diocesan Teen Retreat at
 Dormition Monastery

2018 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 10th. (810) 744-0070

COOKIE WALK will be held on Saturday, December 8 from 10 am to 1 pm. This year, the Cookie Walk will be sponsored by the Parish Council & chaired by Lucy Hogg. This requires help from many volunteers. Please call Lucy at 810-695-3110 or 810-241-0062 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 7 before 3 pm.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

What is a Pilgrimage? A pilgrimage is not a pious tourist. A pilgrimage and a tourist follow the same itinerary, but the pilgrim is on a sacred journey in which God is encountered through places, people, and situations. The tourist sees sights, discovers new places, learns interesting facts, takes photographs & accumulates souvenirs. The tourist returns home the same person as the one who left, save perhaps a broadened mind. The pilgrim gains insights and discerns new truths about oneself. The pilgrim travels with the expectation that the one who returns will not be the same person who set out. The outcome of the pilgrim will be the transformation that has taken place inside the person. The pilgrim will return with an impression imprinted on the soul.

Maher & Jane Alatrash, who are members at St. George parish, offer pilgrimages to the Holy Land. If you want more information or have questions you can contact them at 810-965-0916 or email at maher2278@hotmail.com

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, Paul Ellis, Fred Oginsky. Monthly Fr. Matthew visits Larry Bladecki (Bay City), Peter and Olga Samaras (Caro), and Betty Dimich (Lapeer).

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	Gladys Edwards	Mary Karayanis	Ron Salhany
Deacon John Bocek	Paul Ellis	Nick Karayanis	Peter Samaras
Anna Branoff	JoAnn Havens	Macy Lemmen	Olga Samaras
Linda Branoff	Bill Haw	Fred Oginsky	Bill Tadrick
			Wendy Tadrick

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	
Nick & Marge Butrie	30 E. Bertsch St. #12	Lansford, PA 18232	
Betty Dimich	2525 Demille Rd. #327	Lapeer, MI 48446	(810) 538-4845
Gladys Edwards	2 Harbor Dr.	St. Clair, MO 63077	
Paul Ellis	2360 Stonebridge Dr.	Flint, MI 48532	
Janice Jackson	2315 Costa Verde Blvd.	Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250	
Pete & Olga Samaras	1285 Cleaver Rd.	Caro, MI 48723	(989) 672-7550

NOVEMBER NAMESDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

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
- 22 Matthew Economou
- 23 John (Joe) Tome
- 24 Ruth Conrad
- 26 Mitra Pagonis
- 28 Susan Oginsky



NAMESDAYS cont.

- 10 Krystal Rose George
Rose Goodman
Viktor Dorohov
- 11 Stephanie Adkisson
Stephanie Bishop
Stephanie Houser
Stephanie Stikovich
Vickie Ann Borkovich
Victoria Batzos
- 13 Devin Yasmine Binelli
- 14 Philip Bakousidis
Philip Brown
Philip Pirkovic
- 16 Everett Matthew Batzos
Fr. Matthew Butrie
Matthew Batzos
Matthew Economou
- 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
Kathryn Stevens
Kathryn Gurin
Kathy Condon
Kathy Sfetkides
Katarina Jonascu
- 26 Stella Stergiani Nedanis
- 29 Andy Yosheff

ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Father Matthew & Matushka Lisa
- 16 Alex & Magda Popoff
- 23 Nikolai & Valentina Evanenko
- 26 Petro & Sandra Ahejew

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 Grosopoulos
Michael Karayanis
Michael Panoff
Michael Popoff
Michael Steiner
Michelle Gerzevske
Michelle Karayanis
Ralph Neely

*Please call or email the office if your name is missing or has the incorrect information. (810)744-0070.
stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com*

PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES – NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER 2018

November 20 – for the Entry of the Theotokos – 6 pm Vespers & Liturgy at St. George

December 5 – for St Nicholas – 6 pm Vespers & Liturgy at our church

Your Business Here


\$36.00 Single Space
for 6 months

\$50.00 Double Space
for 6 months

\$65.00 Triple Space
for 6 months

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


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



NOVEMBER 2018

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

Email: stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
† Fast 🍞 Dairy Permitted (no meat) 🍷 Wine & Oil Permitted (no meat) 🐟 Fish Permitted (no other meat)		Charitable Ministries by 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 to 12:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen	2 † Office Closed	3 5 pm Vespers
4 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Elections after Divine Liturgy Church School	5 Communion Calls to Bay City, Caro & Lapeer	6 Father in Toledo	7 † 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Ed	8 Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & All the Angels Office Closed	9 †	10 5 pm Vespers
11 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School Red Cross Presentation	12 Father in Toledo	13 6:30 pm Parish Council	14 🍷 St. Philip 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Ed	15 🍷 CHRISTMAS FAST BEGINS Office Closed	16 🐟 🍷 St. Matthew	17 🐟 🍷 5 pm Vespers
18 🐟 🍷 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School	19 † Father in Toledo	20 † 6 pm Vesperal Liturgy at St. George	21 🐟 🍷 Entry of the Theotokos No Divine Liturgy No Adult Ed 11 am to 1 pm Assumption at Center for Hope	22 🍷 Thanksgiving Office Closed	24 † Repose of St. Alexander Nevsky Office Closed	25 🐟 🍷 5 pm Vespers
25 🐟 🍷 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy	26 †	27 🍷 Fr. in Toledo 9:am to 12:30 pm St. George Church at North End Soup Kitchen	28 † 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Ed	29 🍷 Office Closed	30 🍷 St. Andrew	

DECEMBER 2018

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

Email: stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com 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>		<p><i>All dates and times are tentative</i></p>				<p>† 1 </p> <p><i>Archbishop Alexander talk before Vespers</i></p> <p><i>5 pm Vespers</i></p>
<p>2 </p> <p><i>9:30 Hours</i></p> <p><i>10 am Pontifical Divine Liturgy</i></p> <p><i>St. Nicholas Day Potluck</i></p>	<p>3 †</p> <p><i>Communion Calls in Bay City, Caro & Lapeer</i></p>	<p>4 </p> <p><i>Father in Toledo</i></p>	<p>5 </p> <p><i>St. Sabbas</i></p> <p><i>11:15 am Adult Ed.</i></p> <p><i>6 pm Vespers with Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Nicholas</i></p>	<p>6 </p> <p><i>St. Nicholas</i></p> <p><i>North End Soup Kitchen</i></p> <p><i>9 am – 1 pm</i></p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>7 †</p>	<p>8 </p> <p><i>10 am -1 pm Cookie Walk</i></p> <p><i>5 pm Vespers</i></p>
<p>9 </p> <p><i>Conception by Righteous Anna of the Theotokos</i></p> <p><i>9:30 Hours</i></p> <p><i>10 am Divine Liturgy</i></p> <p><i>Church School</i></p>	<p>10 †</p> <p><i>Father in Toledo</i></p>	<p>11 </p> <p><i>6:30 pm Parish Council</i></p>	<p>12 †</p> <p><i>9:30 am Divine Liturgy</i></p> <p><i>11:15 am Adult Ed.</i></p>	<p>13 </p> <p><i>Repose of St. Herman of Alaska</i></p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>14 †</p>	<p>15 </p> <p><i>5 pm Vespers</i></p>
<p>16 </p> <p><i>9:30 Hours</i></p> <p><i>10 am Divine Liturgy</i></p> <p><i>Church School</i></p>	<p>17 †</p> <p><i>10 am</i></p> <p><i>Decorate Church for Christmas</i></p> <p><i>Indoor & outdoor</i></p>	<p>18 </p> <p><i>Father in Toledo</i></p>	<p>19 †</p> <p><i>9:30 am Divine Liturgy</i></p> <p><i>11:15 am Adult Ed.</i></p>	<p>20 </p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>21 †</p>	<p>22 </p> <p><i>5 pm Vespers</i></p>
<p>23 </p> <p><i>9:30 Hours</i></p> <p><i>10 am Divine Liturgy</i></p> <p><i>Church School</i></p> <p><i>6:30 pm Royal Hours</i></p>	<p>24 †</p> <p><i>Christmas Eve</i></p> <p><i>6 pm Vespers w/Liturgy</i></p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>25 <i>Fast Free</i></p> <p><i>Nativity of Christ</i></p> <p><i>Christmas</i></p> <p><i>10 am Divine Liturgy</i></p>	<p>26 <i>Fast Free</i></p> <p><i>Synaxis of the Theotokos</i></p>	<p>27 <i>Fast Free</i></p> <p><i>St. Stephen, First Martyr and Archdeacon</i></p>	<p>28 <i>Fast Free</i></p>	<p>29 <i>Fast Free</i></p> <p><i>5 pm Vespers</i></p>
<p>30 <i>9:30 Hours</i></p> <p><i>10 am Divine Liturgy</i></p> <p><i>Caroling at Lockwood</i></p>	<p>31 <i>Fast Free</i></p>	<p><i>Office Closed</i></p>				

