

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: stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org
Church Office: 810-744-0070

Services: Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Hours 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Wednesday- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Adult Class 11:15 am
Saturday – 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions
Holydays: Vespers & Liturgy 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 20

NOVEMBER 2020

Letter to Diognetus, chapter 5 – from the 2nd century

For the Christians are distinguished from other men neither by country, nor language, nor the customs which they observe. For they neither inhabit cities of their own, nor employ a peculiar form of speech, nor lead a life which is marked out by any singularity. The course of conduct which they follow has not been devised by any speculation or deliberation of inquisitive men; nor do they, like some, proclaim themselves the advocates of any merely human doctrines. But, inhabiting Greek as well as barbarian cities, according as the lot of each of them has determined, and following the customs of the natives in respect to clothing, food, and the rest of their ordinary conduct, they display to us their wonderful and confessedly striking method of life. They dwell in their own countries, but simply as sojourners. As citizens, they share in all things with others, and yet endure all things as if foreigners. Every foreign land is to them as their native country, and every land of their birth as a foreign land. They marry, as do all [others]; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the prescribed laws, and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives. They love all men, and are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned; they are put to death, and restored to life. They are poor, yet make many rich; they are in lack of all things, and yet abound in all; they are dishonoured, and yet in their very dishonour are glorified. They are evil spoken of, and yet are justified; they are reviled, and bless; they are insulted, and repay the insult with honour; they do good, yet are punished as evil-doers. When punished, they rejoice as if quickened into life.

LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER

Prot. 10072020 7 October 2020 Martyrs Sergios and Bacchos

My dear Fathers, brothers and sisters,

I have recently lightened the burden somewhat with respect to precautions regarding the virus but some of the wording was perhaps ambiguous. I wish, therefore, to make it clear, the wearing of face coverings will be required in parishes and missions of our Diocese until the crisis abates. This may occur with a vaccine or with the virus itself degrading to the level of an ordinary flu (which can happen). In the meantime, however, the danger of transmission remains. My focus is on reduction of risk through the primary means of transmission, which is airborne. Therefore, face coverings are non-negotiable in my parishes and missions.

Further, as I have insisted from the beginning, please minimize the risk introduced through singing by limiting the non-masked singers in any choir to the maximum number that can remain six feet apart (if your choir is comfortable singing with face coverings, this is even better).

The matter of physical distancing inside the temple, however, might be adjusted within the limits of your respective civil authorities in order to allow more persons inside and I therefore bless it.

With love in Christ,

+Alexander *Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese – Orthodox Church in America*

He has further clarified that those attending may NOT use “restaurant-style” face-covering but must wear masks at all times except coming when receiving holy Communion.

ATTENDANCE AT DIVINE SERVICES The rotating schedule was discontinued in October. Seating at the divine services is on a “first come, first seated” basis. Come to the front door of the church or if needing no-step access, through the hall as usual, and an usher will lead you to a pew. Once the maximum capacity (with physical distancing) in church is reached, all others will be seated in the fellowship hall.

PARISH COUNCIL met on October 13 with five members in person and three members virtually. The parish finances remain stable. Please continue your giving whether in person, through Givelify, or by sending in your donation to the office or dropping it off during office hours.

The parish council appointed Marla Houser to the endowment committee and re-appointed Bob Russell. Endowment committee terms are five years with the option to reappointment by the parish council. Next year the parish council plans to re-appoint the other members of the endowment committee so that terms are staggered as the endowment committee bylaws require. Current members of the endowment committee are: Bob Russell, Ruth Conrad, Deacon Luke Gonser, Marla Houser, and Milan Stikovich.

The interior of the church needs to be painted, perhaps those with memorial funds may designate them for this project. Next year the light posts outside need to be painted as they are rusting. A new metal door and frame from the storage room to the courtyard was installed with memorial funds in memory of John and Rose Goodman. A wooden case for the icon of our Lord in the tomb (plashchatiza) has been installed in church together with the icon both of which were done with memorial funds in memory of Joe Goodman.

At the diocesan conference on October 3 the diocesan assessment for each parish was set at 3% of income for Sept 2020 to Aug 2021. In 2021-2022 it will be 4% and in 2022-2023 it will be 5% which will bring income and expenses for the diocese to break even.

ANGEL TREE PROGRAM Our parish will participate in this program for Christmas as part of our Advent fast helping those in need. Please call Lucy Hogg at (810)-695-3110 as soon as possible if you are



interested and let her know how many children you would like to sponsor or if you have questions.

The children's names & information will be mailed to you as soon as possible. Commitments have been made for 29 children so far, only 21 more need to be sponsored. 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-no more than \$40 each; if you have more than one child please spend the same amount for each one. Gift cards are ok for children 15-17 years old. Several items may be requested but you only need to pick one or more of these items. Please return the gifts by December 2.

SOUP KITCHEN CONTACT We need someone to be the contact person for our group. Please call the parish office 810-744-0070 or email stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com

PARISH MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL, AUDITORS & LAY DELEGATES

takes place on Sunday, Nov. 8. To vote you must have submitted a pledge card & received Confession and Communion with the past year. Absentee ballots are available in the office. Only one vote per person. If you fill out an absentee vote please do not fill out a ballot on November 8. Absentee ballots must be returned by November 8. The nominees are:

Parish Council (3 will be elected)

Shari Nicoloff (term ending this year)

Ian Price

Stephanie Price

Ellyn Serra

Michael Serra

Jennifer Shann

Jonathon Shann

Auditor (1 will be elected)

Calvin Conrad

Fannia Young



Lay Delegate - Oct. 2021 Diocesan Conference (1 will be elected)

Deborah Gonser-Adams

Susie Ford

Joe Tome

Lay Delegate - July 2021 OCA All-American Council (1 will be elected)

Deborah Gonser-Adams

Susie Ford

Joe Tome

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS meets on Wednesdays after Liturgy at 11:15 am -12:15 pm. The class continues in the book *Early Christian Fathers*. If you would like to join the class virtually through Zoom, please contact the office.

ONLINE CHURCH SCHOOL for middle school and high school will be held every Tuesday at 7 pm. The interactive sessions will explore various topics of interest to Orthodox Christian students via video conference and will last approximately one hour. **Middle School** teacher, Ms. Catherine Golitzn (one of Archbishop Alexander's nieces), will lead the Middle School class, and Father Alexander Koranda of **Holy Trinity Cathedral** in Chicago, IL, along with Father Jonathan Lincoln of **Saint Joseph Church** in Wheaton, IL will team-teach the High School class. For students to participate, no registration is required. To join the class, visit oca.org/ocs. Students should click on the link for their level no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the starting time and they will gain access to the online class.

PARISH COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday, November 10th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall with physical distancing and wearing masks. The virtual option will be available for parish council members who wish to attend by teleconference. The Lord God bless you all for your continuing stewardship through your pledges and donations.



You can donate to St. Nicholas with an app on your phone & as always on our website by <https://saintnicholasburton.org/> Go to the website and on the home page click on the box "Give now with Givelify" which will walk you through the donation process; this is a secure site. 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.

2021 PLEDGE CARDS will be mailed out on November 16th. If you have not received yours by Nov. 30th, 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 so the parish council can budget accordingly. 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 7th. **DO NOT** send your 2021 pledge back with the card or it will be credited to 2020.



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS Remember to sign up for Community Rewards online at Kroger.com or go to the customer service desk in the store. Rewards will be applied when using your Kroger card at the check out. They send a check to St. Nicholas for a portion of everything participants spend in their stores.

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.

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

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS If you would like to have your name(s) included on the annual Christmas greetings list please call or email the office no later than December 1st. Donations are appreciated.

PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES – NOVEMBER 2019

November 21st – the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple– 9 am Orthros and 10 am Divine Liturgy at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Grand Blanc. [Liturgy livestreamed on Facebook.](#)

ST GEORGE LUNCHEON on Thursday, November 12 from 11 am to 2 pm. Orders must be placed in advance and are available only as pick-up (no dine-in option).

VISITATION TO THE SICK Presently, Fr. Matthew may bring Communion to those who are at home. When permitted, Fr. Matthew will resume bringing Holy Communion to those in nursing homes, assisting living homes, and other care facilities shut-ins on Tuesdays. If you would like to be added to this list, please contact the office. Presently, those receiving weekly visits at home are: Milica Beslach, Angelo Popoff, Eleni Servinis, and Peter & Jo Sredich.

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	Bill Tadrick
Linda Branoff	Bill Haw	Macy Lemmen	Wendy Tadrick

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

Larry Bladecki	3254 E. Midland Rd	Bay City, MI 48706
Gladys Edwards	2 Harbor Dr.	St. Clair, MO 63077
Paul Ellis	2360 Stonebridge Dr.	Flint, MI 48532
Vasilka Karatza	Regency 1330 Grand Pointe Ct	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Jo Sredich	Serenity 11328 N Bray Rd	Clio, MI 48420

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jeanette Brayan
- 3 Debbie Neely
- 5 Mira Prusac
Jonathon Shann
- 7 Gabriel Paul
- 10 Bosa Kantar
- 13 Gregory Burns
- 15 Mary Abu-Aita
- 19 Alexander Chevalier
- 22 Matthew Economou
- 23 John (Joe) Tome
- 24 Ruth Conrad
- 26 Mitra Pagonis
- 27 Hannah Shann
- 28 Susan Oginsky



ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Father Matthew & Matushka Lisa (1999)
- 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 Grousopoulos
Michael Karayanis
Michael Popoff
Michael Steiner
Michelle Gerzevske
Michelle Karayanis
Ralph Neely

NAMESDAYS cont.

- 10 Krystal Rose George
- 11 Stephanie Adkisson
Stephanie Bishop
Stephanie Houser
Stephanie Price
Stephanie Stikovich
Vickie Ann Borkovich
Victoria Batzos
Viktor Dorohov
- 13 Devin Yasmine Binelli
- 14 Philip Bakousidis
Philip Brown
Philip Pirkovic
- 16 Everett Matthew Batzos
Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie
Matthew Batzos
Matthew Economou
- 17 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 Killian
Kathryn Stevens
Kathryn Gurin
Kathy Condon
Kathy Sfetskides
- 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.

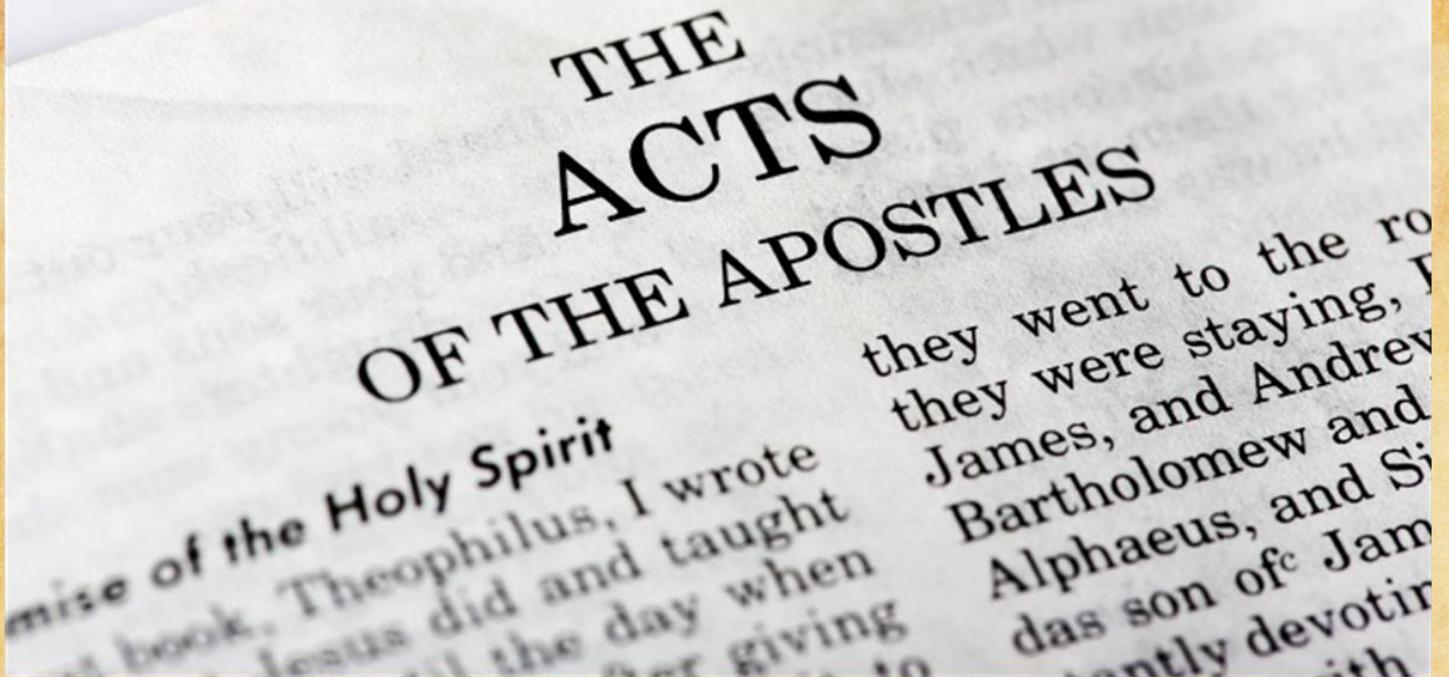
December

ST. TIKON'S SEMINARY LIVE STREAM FESTIVAL December 6th. 7-9 pm on [YouTube.stots.edu](https://www.youtube.com/stots.edu) and St Tikhon's Seminary Facebook

PAN-ORTHODOX LECTURE -Where did the Bible come from? by Fr Stephen De Young on Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30 pm via Zoom hosted by St Mary Magdalene parish. By November 29 please sign up electronically [here](#) or call St Mary Magdalene parish office (Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10 am to 3 pm) at 810-750-1401. This lecture is the last of a three-part Advent series which begins December 2 at 6:30 pm. Please see the flier in this newsletter for more information.

"Early Roots"

The First Days of Christianity



Advent Three Part Lecture Series

Class 1, December 2nd, 6:30 PM:

The Apostolic Fathers, What did the Church Look Like After The Book of Acts

Class 2: December 9th, 6:30 PM:

Fighting for Truth: Defending Against
Heresy

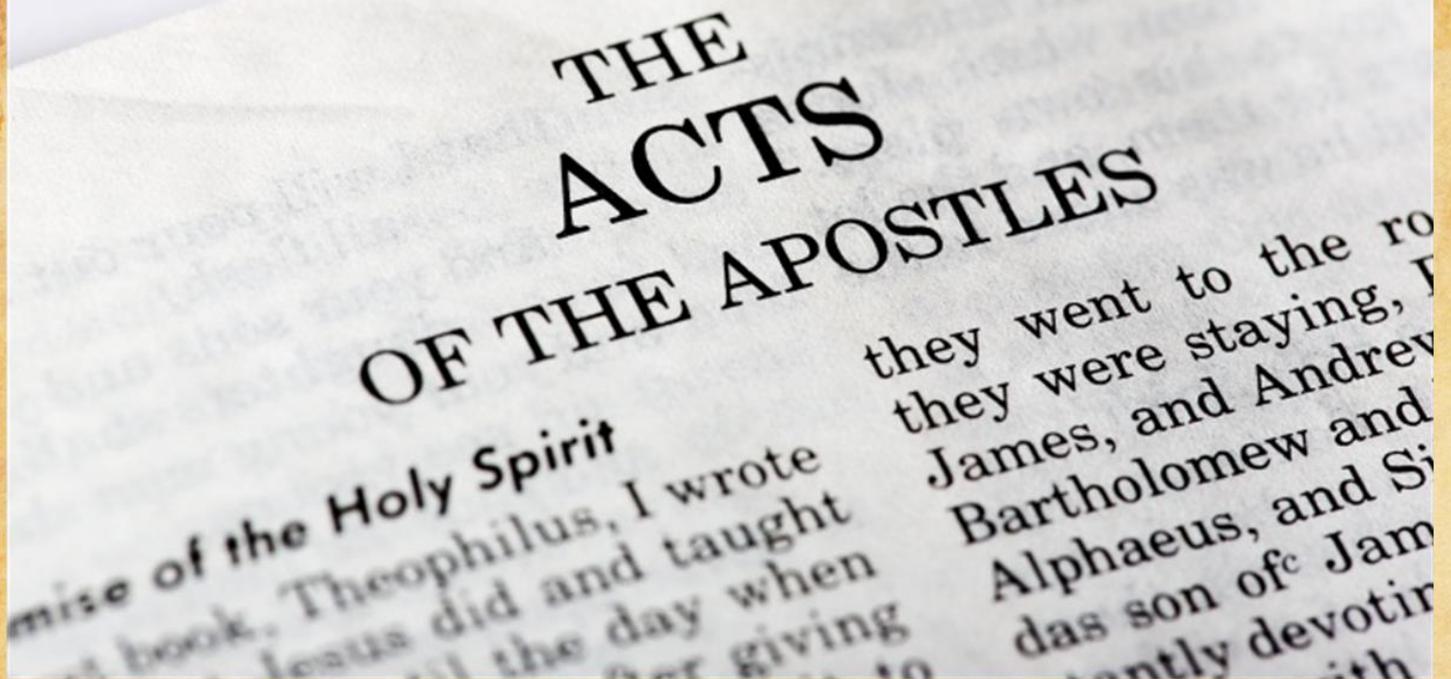
Class 3: December 16th, 6:30 PM:

Where Did the Bible Come From? With Guest Speaker, Fr. Stephen De Young



St. MARY
MAGDALENE
ORTHODOX CHURCH

Where Did the Bible Come From?



Advent Lecture—The Pan Orthodox Churches of Genesee County

December 16th, 6:30 PM: Where Did the Bible Come From? With Guest
Speaker, Fr. Stephen De Young

Rev. Dr. Stephen De Young is the Priest of Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church in Lafayette, Louisiana. He holds a PhD in Biblical Studies from Amridge University. Fr. Stephen is also the host of the Whole Counsel of God podcast from Ancient Faith and author of the Whole Counsel Blog. He co-hosts the live call-in show and podcast Lord of Spirits with Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick.



CHARITY MINISTRIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN November 5th, 9 am-1 pm.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting dish soap for the month of 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.

VOLUNTEER(S) needed to deliver donations to Catholic Charities once a month.

	
HOPE IN A BOX	HOPE IN A BOX
November	Dish Soap
December	Socks, Towels, Toiletries & New Toys
January	Toilet Paper & Mouthwash

Nick's (Vuckovich) Lawn Care **810-618-0315**

**Fall Clean-up, Lawn Mowing (\$10-\$25),
Weed Whipping,
Weed Killer, Mulch,
Gardens, Deck Staining, Painting**

I am 17 yrs. old raising money to continue my education at Mott College. I have 3 yrs. experience in lawn care.
Your support is very much appreciated.



**DO YOU STILL WANT TO
RECEIVE THIS
NEWSLETTER? IF NOT
PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL
THE OFFICE TO BE
TAKEN OFF OF THE
MAILING LIST.**

Your Business Here

\$36.00 Single Space
for 6 months

\$50.00 Double Space
for 6 months

\$65.00 Triple Space
for 6 months

NOVEMBER 2020

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
1 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy	2 Fr. in Toledo	3 7 pm online Church School	4 ✠ 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Ed	5 9am to 12:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen Office Closed	6 ✠	7 4:30 pm Trisagion for Soul Saturday followed by Vespers confessions
8 Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & all the Angels 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy Elections after Liturgy	9	10 6:30 pm Parish Council 7 pm online Church School	11 9:30 am Divine Liturgy No adult ed. Fr. in Toledo	12 St George Luncheon 11 am to 2 pm Orders for pick-up only Office Closed	13  St John Chrysostom	14 5 pm Vespers confessions
15  9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy 1:30 pm baptism of Lazaros Stavridis CHRISTMAS FAST BEGINS	16  St. Matthew	17  7 pm online Church School	18 ✠ 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Ed	19  Office Closed	20 ✠	21  Entry of the Theotokos Pan-Orthodox 9 am Orthros at Assumption 10 am Liturgy at Assumption 5 pm Vespers confessions
22  9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy	23 ✠	24  7 pm online Church School	25  Leavetaking of the Entry of the Theotokos No Divine Liturgy No Adult Ed	26  Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed	27 ✠	28  5 pm Vespers No confessions
29  9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy	30  St Andrew			Times and events are subject to change	✠ fast  dairy & fish permitted (no meat)  wine & oil permitted (no meat)  fish permitted (no other meat)	