St. Nicholas Orthodox Church 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

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Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org Church Office: 810-744-0070

Services: Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Hours 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Wednesday- adult education 11:15 am Saturday - 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions Holydays: Vespers & Liturgy as announced

"May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you." St. Jude 1:1

NOVEMBER 2023

SAINT ISAAC THE SYRIAN, Bishop of Nineveh

May those who suffer from dire sicknesses and grievous illnesses of the body also be remembered before you; send to them an angel of compassion and assuage their souls which are so tormented by their bodies' terrible afflictions. Have pity, also, Lord, on those who are subjected to the hands of evil, wicked, and godless men; speedily send them an angel of compassion, and save them from their plight. O my Lord and my God, send comfort to all those who are constrained by any kind of hardship.

Lord, overshadow your holy Church which has been redeemed by you blood; cause to dwell in it your true peace which you gave to your holy apostles; bind her children in holy bonds of indissoluble love; may the rebel [Satan] not have power over her; and keep far from her persecution, tumult, and wars, both from those within and from those without; and may kings and priests be bound together in great peace and love, their minds always filled with longing for you; and may the holy faith be a wall for your flock. Deem me too, the sinner, worthy through their prayers to be preserved always under the mighty protection of your holy arm — which is your providential care that encompasses all. Amen.

I beg and beseech you, Lord: grant to all who have gone astray a true knowledge of you, so that each and every one may come to know your glory.

In the case of all who have passed from this world lacking a virtuous life and having had no faith, be an advocate for them, Lord, for the sake of the body which you took from them, so that from the single united body of the world we may offer up praise to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the kingdom of heaven, an unending source of eternal delight.

~From *The Prayers of Saint Isaac the Syrian* (Prayers 26, 27, 28, and 29 - conclusion). Translated by Sebastian Brock. Adapted by the Brotherhood of the Monastery of St. John

FROM SAINT PAISIOS OF MOUNT ATHOS (1924-1994)

A Christian must not be a fanatic, but have love for everyone. Whoever hurls indiscreet words, even when he may be in the right, does harm. I once met an author who was devout, and yet spoke to worldly people in a brutally frank way that was nonetheless profound, and was thus able to shake them out of their complacency. Once he told me, "In a gathering I said this and that to a lady."

But by the manner in which he made his remarks, he had crippled the poor woman. He embarrassed her in front of everybody. "Look," told him, "you are hurling golden crowns with diamonds at people, but the way you're throwing them you are hurting heads, not just sensitive ones, but hard ones, too." Let us not throw stones at people ... Christian-style. Whoever censures publicly someone who has sinned, or whoever speaks with animosity about someone, such a person is not motivated by the Spirit of God; he is moved by another spirit. The way of the Church is love; it differs from the way of the legalists. The Church sees everything with loving forbearance and seeks to help each person, no matter what he has done, or how sinful he may be.

I notice in some devout people a rather strange [new] type of logic. Their devotion and good intentions are all very well, but they also need to be spiritually discerning and broad-minded, so their devotion is not accompanied by narrow-mindedness or hard-headedness, that is a stubborn and closed mind. The premise is to be in a spiritual state, to have spiritual discernment; otherwise one remains at the level of the letter of the law, and the letter of the law kills (2 Corinthians 3:5-6 "... our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new testament, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life"). He who has humility never takes on the air of an instructor; he listens and when asked of his opinion, he speaks humbly. He never says "I", but rather "my thought tells me," or "the Fathers tell us." He speaks like a student. Anyone who thinks that he can correct others thinks far too highly of himself. ... Pride has infiltrated his activity but he does not realize it because he does not know himself yet and that's why he goes to extremes.

from Elder Paisios of Mount Athos — Spiritual Counsels Volume II Spiritual Awakening, Holy Monastery "Evangelist John the Theologian" Souroti, Thessaloniki, Greece 2008, pp 89-90.

_	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>		<u>January</u>		
5	Lucy	3	Angelo	7	Angelo	
12	Calvin	10	Lucy	14	Lucy	
19	Phil	17	Calvin	21	Calvin	
26	6 Alexander		Phil	2 8	Phil	
		31	Alexander	1		

Reader Schedule							
November <u>December</u> January					anuar <u>y</u>		
5	Katherine	3	Katherine	7	Alexander		
12	Angelo	10	Angelo	14	Angelo		
19	Alexander	17	Alexander	21	Phil		
26	Phil	24	Katherine	28	Katherine		
		31	Phil				
	If you are unable to make your assigned reading date, please find a replacement.						

Candle Stand Attendant Schedule						
<u>November</u>		<u>December</u>		<u>January</u>		
5 Dennis Goodman	3	Dennis Goodman	7	Dennis Goodman		
12 Susie Ford	10	Christine Panoff	14	Susie Ford		
19 Ian & Stephanie Price	17	Susie Ford	21	Susie Ford		
26 Susie Ford	24	Ian & Stephanie Price	28	Ian & Stephanie Price		
	31	Susie Ford	i			
If you are unable to make your assigned date please find a replacement. Let Susie know of any changes or if you cannot find a replacement (810-407-3016).						

<u>HOURS, READERS & CANDLE STAND</u> volunteers. Please look at each month's newsletter as the schedule may have changed since the previous publication.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters on November 2 from 9 am-12:30 pm. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." St. John Chrysostom.

<u>INQUIRERS'/CATECHUMENS' CLASS</u> led by our parish catechist, Reader Alexander Gonser, takes place on Sundays after the Divine Liturgy. Feel free to join in and let other inquirers know about these classes introducing the Orthodox faith.

PRAYER SERVICE for the sick & suffering at St. Mary Magdalene on November 14 at 6:30 pm.

<u>CONFESSIONS</u> the sacrament of Confession is offered on Saturdays after Vespers and by appointment. Call the parish office 810-744-0070 or e-mail <u>stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com</u> to make an appointment.

<u>SOUL'S SATURDAY</u> Divine Liturgy with Trisagion, November 4 at 10 am. Forms are at the candle stand. If you filled one out earlier in 2023 you don't need to turn one in again

<u>CHEESE & CHEESE/LEEK TRIANGLES</u> sale Sunday, November 19th. This is Pre-order ONLY. The signup sheet is in the parish hall. The cost is 1-\$3. 4-\$10, 8-\$20. This is a fundraiser for a band for next year's picnic. Contact Lena Bakousidis with any questions.

PARISH COUNCIL The next parish council meeting is Tuesday, November 14th at 6:30 pm.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE October 10, 2023 - Minutes were approved as submitted. Financial report was given. From the diocesan conference: diocesan assessment will remain at 5% for 2023-2024 (not go up to 6%). Diocesan conference fee will go to \$400 for 2024. There is \$10,037 in the checking account and \$21,000 in bills by the end of the month. Funds will be moved from the Grand Blanc property account to make up for this shortfall. Offerings are not on target to match 2022. Endowment report has not yet arrived in the mail. Rector's report Diocesan Conference approved a budget for the St Paul Fund for grants in the Diocese which can be found here https://www.bdoca.org/parish-development-fund.html Matching charity grant from the Diocese is up to \$1,000. Youth ministry/church school is going well. The children stay in church for Communion and then go to class. St. Catherine's League donated the funds for a new whiteboard for the classroom. Outreach/In-Reach The vecherinka/dance was a joyful event. Over 70 people came. \$500 came in through donations (after expenses). People want to have a dance in February and the funds look to be used to get a DJ instead of CDs or digital files. Trunk or Treat is Saturday, October 21 after Vespers. Please decorate your trunks and bring treats for our youth. November 11 is family game night after Vespers, pizza and drinks. November meeting Stephanie Price will have a list of events for 2024. Lockwood next door will receive a list of our community events for the remainder of 2023. Crochet/knitting on Mondays from 10 am-1 pm - contact Pam Pitlanish. Fundraising Triangle (cheese & leek) sale on November 19. Pre-order only. A sign-up sheet will be put out. Proceeds to go towards having the Skimos Band for the parish picnic in August 2024. Last sale and donations came to just over \$500. A soup luncheon on Sunday, November 5 (instead of potluck) to raise funds for the band at the picnic - donation amount to be determined. Charity Ministries North End Soup kitchen will be November 2 from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Church Building and Grounds Alarm went off - audible alarm went off because of the sound of the air compressor. There are cameras in and outside of the church, hall, and classrooms. Terry Lyons says it is too cold to paint the bell tower right now, will wait until spring. New Business suggestion was made to purchase a home dishwasher (not commercial) for the kitchen and buying re-usable mugs for coffee on Sundays to save the expense and waste of single-use Styrofoam cups. The machine can be run once on Sunday with the mugs (to be donated) from the coffee social. Someone will look into the cost of dishwasher, soap, electricity use, where to hookup, etc. Ellyn Serra will contact ABC Channel 12 for an appearance for the Cookie Walk (Saturday, December 9).

PARISH MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL, AUDITOR & LAY DELEGATE takes place on Sunday, November 5. To vote you must have submitted a pledge card & received Confession and Communion within the past year. Only one vote per person: if you fill out an absentee vote please do not fill out a ballot on November 5. The nominees are:

Parish Council (3 year term)

(3 will be elected)

Barry Cavett

Connie Maxim

Ian Price

Stephanie Price (term expiring) **Ellyn Serra** (term expiring)

Auditor (3 year term) (1 will be elected)

Calvin Conrad (term ending)

Lay Delegate to the 2024 Diocesan Conference

(1 will be elected)

Susie Ford Joe Tome

(top vote-getter is the delegate, next in votes is the alternate delegate)

- Absentee ballots are available in the office
- Absentee ballots must be returned by November 3

A soup luncheon will follow the meeting.

<u>FAMILY GAME NIGHT</u> November 11 after Vespers. Bring your own or use the ones that are provided. Pizza & drinks will be provided. Contact Stephanie Price with questions at 248-396-3899.



ANGEL TREE Our parish will participate in this program for Christmas as part of our Advent fast, helping those in need. The 50 tags with children's names will be on the Angel Tree in the parish hall by November 12. 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 \$25 and \$35. It's important to keep the amounts spent for kids in the same family the same. Please return the gifts by December 6. If there are any questions, contact Eileen Branoff at (810) 232-5132.

MCOC CONFERENCE 2023 - All young adults are invited to the second annual Motor City Orthodox Christians Young Adult Conference this November 3-5! Our keynote speaker is Mother Gabriella speaking on our theme: "You are the light of the world and the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13-16). Some other highlights of the weekend-long conference will be our meet and greet at Jolly Pumpkin in Royal Oak, Conference breakout sessions, a Saturday Night Gala with a panoramic view of Detroit at the Highlands, and celebrating vespers & divine liturgy together. EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS: 10/21/23. Regular registration: 10/28/23, Check us out on social media @motorcityorthodox, learn more and REGISTER at our website motorcityorthodox.org, or see a board member for any questions or to sign up!

<u>WILDLIFE 911</u> John Borkovich, a longtime member at St. Nicholas will be speaking at the Davison Library on November 7 at 6 pm. He is a former Michigan Conservation Officer and has published a book, <u>Wildlife 911</u>, sharing his stories from his career of protecting nature.

<u>VETERAN'S APPRECIATION LUNCHEON</u> at St. Michael's Conference Center on Friday, November 10 at 12 pm. The address is 609 E. Fifth Ave., Flint and is being hosted by Catholic Charities. Free to veterans and guests. RSVP is required by November 6 at www.ccsgc.org/sacredheartvillage.org.

PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES & EVENTS - NOVEMBER 2023

Nov 14 6:30 pm Prayer service for the sick and suffering at St. Mary Magdalene.

Nov 20 6 pm Vespers and Liturgy for Entrance of the Theotokos <u>at Assumption Church</u> Special guest - Bishop Earl Boyea of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing

<u>CHRISTMAS GREETINGS</u> 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.

VISIT WITH ST. NICHOLAS & LENTEN POTLUCK on December 3rd.

COOKIE WALK will be held on Saturday, December 9th from 10 am to 1 pm. This year the Cookie Walk will be chaired by Lucy Hogg and requires help from many people. Please call Lucy at 810-695-3110 with any questions. The baked goods need to be delivered by Friday, December 8th before 3 pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the parish hall to volunteer whether with baking cookies, set-up, the day of the sale, or the break-down of the hall following the sale. Donations are also appreciated if you cannot bring cookies so some premade goodies can be purchased.



<u>KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS</u> Remember to use your Community Rewards when checking out at the register. They send a check to St. Nicholas for a portion of everything participants spend in their stores. We've received \$50.76 so far this year.

MAKE YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING EASY AND CONVENIENT WITH GIVELIFY

Go to the <u>website</u> and on the home page click on the box <u>Give now with Givelify</u> which will walk you through the donation process; this is a secure site. (2.9% + \$0.30 of your donation goes to Givelify as a fee). 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.

<u>2024 PLEDGE CARDS & QUARTERLY STATEMENTS</u> were mailed out the last week in October. If you have not received yours by Nov. 15th contact the parish office by phone 744-0070 or email <u>stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com</u> 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 <u>must</u> return a signed pledge card. We would like for them to be returned by December, 1. <u>DO NOT</u> send your 2024 pledge back with the card or it will be credited to 2023.

<u>THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP/SEMINARIAN OFFERING</u> On the first Sunday of the month an envelope will be placed in the bulletin for this fund to be placed in the plate when it is passed. There is also a category marked "Seminarian" on your stewardship envelopes that you can include with your regular giving. This helps to support parish seminarians, those training to become catechists, and kiosk expense for theological materials for inquirers. Through the years these funds have been used to support our seminarians, most recently Father Esteban Vázquez.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN we serve on Thursday, November 2 from 9 to 12:30 pm.

<u>SLEEPING BAG GIVEAWAY</u> November 4, 10 am-1 pm at the North End Soup Kitchen. Donations of new or gently used sleeping bags, blankets, clothing & kids backpacks are greatly appreciated!

<u>HOPE IN A BOX</u> is collecting Dish, Laundry & Bar Soap for the month of November. Place the items in the Blue Box in the hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items. If you are interested in volunteering call 810-265-7025.

FOOD DRIVE Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall.

HOPB IN A Distriction	HOPE IN A BOX
Nov	Dish, Laundry & Bar Soap
Dec	Socks, Towels, Toiletries & New Toys
Jan	Toilet Paper & Lotion

November					
C	Coffee Social Volunteers & Sponsors				
5	Soup Luncheon				
12					
19					
26					

MEMORY ETERNAL - CHRIST IS RISEN JESSIE MAE AUTRY GRIFFIN of Myrtle Beach, NC fell asleep in the Lord on October 11, 2023. She is the sister of parishioner Diane (Autry) Todorovsky. Please remember Jessie in your prayers and pray for the comfort of her family in their time of grief. Christ God rest the soul of his handmaiden Jessie in the light of His Face in the abodes of the righteous. Memory eternal! Christ is risen!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jeanette Brayan
- 3 Deborah Neely Viktor Dorohov
- 5 Jonathon Shann Mira Prusac
- 7 Gabriel Paul
- 10 Bosa Kantar
- 13 Gregory Burns
- 15 Mary Abu-Aita
- 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)
- 26 Petro & Sandra Ahejew (1963)

NAMESDAYS

8 Arielle Grace Borkovich Colin Michael Karayanis Gavin (Michael) Whittaker **Michael Biggs** Michael Borkovich Michael Branoff Michael Grousopoulos Michael Karayanis Michael Popoff Michael Serra

Michael Steiner

Ralph Neely

Michelle Gerzevske Michelle Karayanis





NAMESDAYS cont.

- 10 Krystal Rose George
- 11 Stephanie Houser **Stephanie Price** Stephanie Stikovich Vickie Ann Borkovich Victoria Batzos Viktor Dorohov
- 13 Devin Yasmine Binelli
- 14 Philip Bakousidis Philip Brown Philip Pirkovic Philip Wiles
- 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 Sfetkides**
- 26 Stella Stergiani Nedanis
- 29 Andy Yosheff
- **Barry Andrew Cavett** 30

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

YOUTUBE CHANNEL subscribe to our YouTube channel Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton to receive notifications of upcoming livestreams for services.

FACEBOOK PAGE Please visit & follow our parish page: www.facebook.com/stnicholasburton





DAILY INTERCESSION FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND

<u>VISITATION TO THE SICK</u> If you would like Fr. Matthew to make a visit to home, hospital, or nursing home, please contact the office 810-744-0070.

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.

Deacon John BocekPaul EllisNick KarayanisBill TadrickLinda BranoffBill HawMacy LemmenWendy TadrickMary Abu-AitaMary KarayanisRon SalhanyDave Vuckovich

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

Mary Abui-Aita6407 Sanctuary Pointe Ct.Grand Blanc, MI 48439Linda Branoff5238 Sandalwood CircleGrand Blanc, MI 48439

Paul Ellis 2360 Stonebridge Dr Flint, MI 48532 Mary & Nick Karayanis 2238 Old Hickory Davison, MI 48423

Dave Vuckovich 9352 Morrish Rd Swartz Creek, MI 48473



<u>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</u> for a variety of things. Depending on the activity it could be only once a month, every other month or just occasionally. If you're not able to help when needed that's ok. Please fill out the form & turn it into the office if you are interested.

y
_ Inventory (supplies & candles)
_ Kitchen organization
_ Supply room organization
_ Keep refrigerators cleaned out
_ Do price comparisons for specific needs/projects(i.e. Poinsettias for Christmas)
_ Take care of recycling/shredded paper
_ Staple & fold special publications
_ Special mailings
Other miscellaneous that are unknown at this time
Name
Phone Number
Email



November 11th 6pm after Vespers

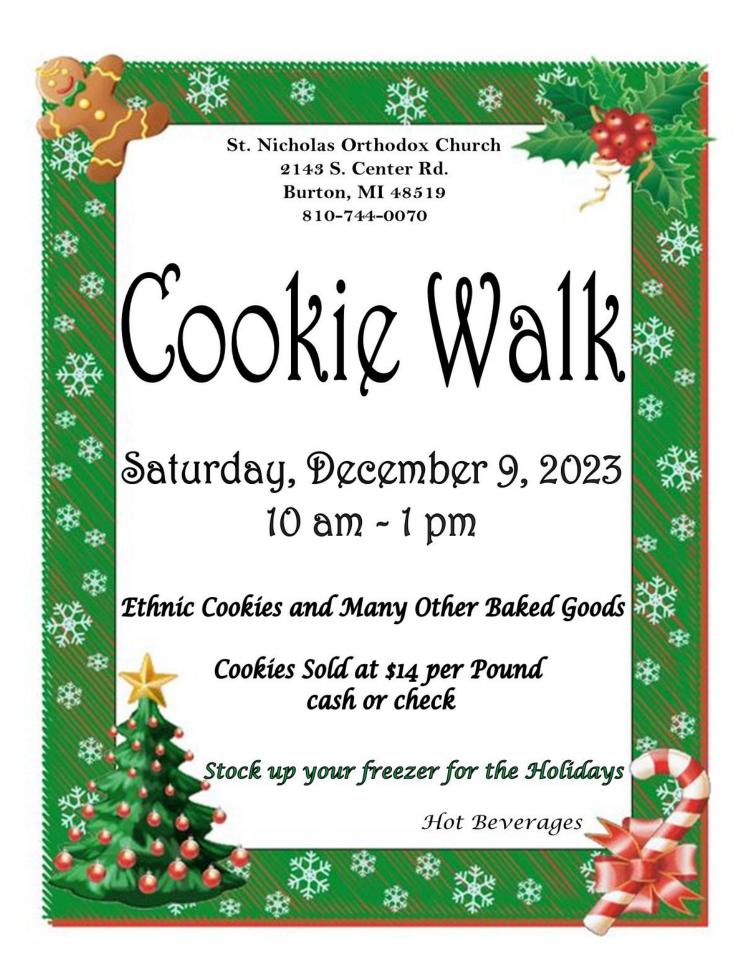
Bring your favorite game to share. Dinner - Free will offering



Christmas flowers can be sponsored in honor of the living or as a memorial for the deceased.

Please fill out the form below as soon as possible. There are a limited number of plants available. Donations will be taken on a first come first served basis. Return the form to the office or put it into the collection basket on Sunday. The names of those honored or memorialized will be published on a later date.

I wish to donate:	•
(How many)	_ Red poinsettia (\$20) (3 available) Any donation welcome
(How many)	_ 36 inch wreath (\$85) (1 available) Any donation welcome
(How many)	_24 inch wreath (\$60) (1 available) Any donation welcome
(How many)	_ 10 inch wreath (\$25) (2 available) Any donation welcome
(How many)	_ 20 foot garland (\$25) (2 available) Any donation welcome
In honor of (for the living)	
Or, in memory of (deceased)	
Name:	unt \$



November 2023

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
W Give Thanks with a Corateful of Heart	Times and events are subject to change	Services in blue – click for the livestream	1 Ss Cosmas & Damian ‡ 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed.	2 Fr in Toledo 9am to 12:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen Office Closed	3 ‡	4 Souls' Saturday 10 am Divine Liturgy and Trisagion 5 pm Vespers Confessions
5 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Election Soup Luncheon Church School: Requiem Daylight Saving Time ends	6 10 am-1 pm Crochet/Knitting Group	7	8 Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the bodiless powers No Divine Liturgy No adult ed.	9 Office Closed	10 ‡	11 <u>5 pm Vespers</u> Confessions Family Game Night
Daylight Saoing 11me enas	Holy Synod of I					
9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Angel Tree tags available Church School: Confession	13 St John Chrysostom Fr. in Toledo 10 am-1 pm Crochet/Knitting Group	14 Saint Philip 6:30 pm Parish Council 6:30 pm Prayer Service for the sick & suffering at St. Mary Magdalene Church	CHRISTMAS FAST BEGINS No Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed.	16 Saint Matthew 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	17 ‡	5 pm Vespers Confessions
<u>Conjession</u>		Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed	
9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School: Romans – members of one body	6 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers & Liturgy at Assumption Church 10 am-1 pm Crochet/Knitting Group	Entrance of the Birthgiver of God into the Temple	No Divine Liturgy No adult ed.	23 HAPPY Office Closed	24 † Office Closed	25 5 pm Vespers No Confessions
26 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School: Giving Thanks	27 Fr. in Toledo ‡ 10 am-1 pm Crochet/Knitting Group	28	9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed.	30 Saint Andrew Office Closed	Wine & Oi	nitted (no meat) il Permitted (no meat) itted (no other meat)