

# 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](http://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

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## OCTOBER 2025

### **HYMNS FROM THE VESPERS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**

O pure Theotokos, fount of wisdom, and great help to those in distress, you are a speedy aid, protectress, and support of the world. We the faithful sing in praise of her who is a sea of compassion, ineffably praising her radiant omophorion: “Rejoice, O Maiden, full of grace, the Lord is with you, granting the world great mercy through you!”

The wondrous Isaiah prophesied: “In the latter days,” said he, “it will come to pass that the mountain of the Lord shall be revealed, and the house of the Lord shall be upon the summit of the mountain.” And of this, O sovereign Lady, we have seen in you the true fulfillment. For the mountains and hills are adorned with churches that bear the many names of your festivals. Therefore, joyfully we sing to you: “Rejoice, O highly favored Maiden, the Lord is with you, granting the world great mercy through you!”

Oh, how marvelous an adornment are you to all the faithful! You are the true fulfillment of the prophecies, the glory of the Apostles and the beauty of the Martyrs, the boast of virginity and the marvelous protection of the whole world. O sovereign Lady, protect with the omophorion of your tender mercy all the people who cry out to you: “Rejoice, O Virgin, full of grace, the Lord is with you, granting the world great mercy through you!”

You are like the divinely planted Paradise, O Theotokos, the place where the Tree of Life was watered by the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge that you gave birth to the Creator of all Who feeds the faithful with the Bread of Life. Together with the Forerunner, entreat Him on our behalf; and by your precious omophorion protect your people from all attacks!

Heaven and earth are sanctified; the Church is radiant, and all the people celebrate, for behold, the Mother of God enters invisibly with the armies of the Angels, the Forerunner, and the Theologian, the Prophets, and the Apostles! She prays to Christ for Christians and entreats Him to have mercy on this land and its people, who glorify the feast of her Protection.

Today the Powers of Heaven rejoice with us, and the souls of the just are spiritually assembled to behold the Queen and Mother glorified by the faithful. They witness the vision of the Mother of God: her arms outstretched upon the clouds in prayer, entreating peace for the world, strength for Orthodox Christians, and salvation for our souls.

**The "Cry Poor" Approach**

In our review of approaches to giving money to the church, the third method we'll call the "Cry Poor" approach. The message comes out like this: "Friends, we are living in difficult times. Our parish is in grave danger ." And then are listed all the desperate needs of the parish which might include leaks in the roof, cracks in the parking lot surface, the need for secretarial help, janitorial help, a whole new Church School curriculum, etc. It all adds up to a message that says, "Poor old St. Nicholas. Won't you all please dig a little deeper to help us out in this time of crisis?" The theory, of course, is that very few people can resist such a plea from their own parish, but this approach seems to have some severe liabilities.

This approach also plays on feelings, this time a feeling of pity. And pity is no more an appropriate basis for Christian stewardship than is guilt. Certainly, when there is a special need, one beyond the resources of the parish budget, a special appeal must be made and all should, from compassion, from divine love, respond generously. But to "cry poor" routinely, to make the Church, the glorious Body of Christ and His all-radiant Bride, into a beggar is to sinfully misrepresent reality.

**Theology of Money**

Experience shows that there is a way that is more theologically sound and much more spiritually challenging than the approaches just described. The book of Genesis begins with the words:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

The theme of God's ownership recurs in both the Old and the New Testaments. The writer of Deuteronomy, after listing many of the accomplishments of man's hand -the building of his house, of his herds and flocks, and his accumulation of money -then warns:

"Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand has given me this wealth.' "

"You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth."

(Deuteronomy, 8:17, ]8)

God is the source and man is the recipient of God's gifts. In I Chronicles 29: 14-16, King David prays, "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from Thee, and of Thy own have we given Thee. ..Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building Thee a house for Thy holy name comes from Thy hand and is all Thy own."

The same theme is caught by the prophet Malachi. He chastises the people for withholding their offerings to God and He asks, "Will man rob God'? Yet you are robbing Me. But you say, 'How are we robbing Thee?' In your tithes and offerings. ..Bring the full tithe into the storehouse" (Malachi 3:8-10).

Turning to the New Testament we hear the same basic principle sounded again: God is the owner of things. In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus is saying that whatever we possess has been given by God's hand. And from the gift, some return to God is expected. The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard declares that God is a giver of gifts, not wages, and that we do not earn His bounty. The words of the parable, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me," put in the mouth of God, are a proclamation of God's ownership of His creation. Indeed, the earth is the Lord's, and we are the recipients of His great gifts. Any coherent theology of money, the earning, spending, and giving of it, must begin with this.

This principle is expanded for a Christian in one magnificent way. The greatest gift of God to us is the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, and, through Him, the opportunity to live in the power of the Holy Spirit. Clearly, when we think about the gifts of the earth, of life, and the human qualities of body, brain, talents, and the like, and identify these as gifts of God, we have only begun to recognize his gracious self-emptying love to us. **From What is Proportionate Giving? by Father Joseph Hirsch published by the Department of Stewardship, The Orthodox Church in America**

**CHRISMATION** On Sunday, October 19 before the holy Liturgy **Jonothan Miller** will be received by holy Chrismation. His godfather is Protodeacon Luke (Kerry) Gonser.

## Hours Schedule

<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
5 Barry	2 Phil	7 Madison
12 Lucy	9 Angelo	14 Lucy
19 Madison	16 Barry	21 Barry
26 Angelo	23 Staci	28 Angelo
	30 Katherine	

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

## Reader Schedule

<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
5 Phil	2 Madison	7 Angelo
12 Angelo	9 Staci	14 Barry
19 Katherine	16 Katherine	21 Katherine
26 Barry	23 Barry	28 Madison
	30 Phil	

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

## Candle Stand Attendant Schedule

<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
5 Dennis Goodman	2 Susie Ford	7 Christine Panoff
12 Christine Panoff	9 Dennis Goodman	14 Ian & Stephanie P.
19 Susie Ford	16 Christine Panoff	21 Dennis Goodman
26 Ian & Stephanie P.	23 Ian & Stephanie P.	28 Susie Ford
	30 Susie Ford	

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).

**SERVICE DURING INFANT LOSS AWARENESS MONTH** on Sunday, October 19 at 12 pm will be a service for parents who have lost an infant at any stage of development - miscarriage, stillbirth, SIDS, disease, abortion, accident, or other causes - and for their infants who have gone into their rest before us.



at St. Nicholas on Saturday, October 25 from 1 to 3 pm. Donations needed for Trunk or Treat. A box will be out for the faithful for candy donations. Bring your vehicles to the church parking lot - don't need to dress up - just be here to enjoy!

**Topics on Orthodox and Halloween** by John Sanidopoulos, an Orthodox author recommended to and by Father Matthew: <https://www.daimonologia.org/search?q=halloween>

**CONFESSIONS** the holy Mystery of Confession is offered on Saturdays after Vespers and by appointment. Call the parish office 810-744-0070 or e-mail [stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com) to make an appointment.

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

### **MEMORY ETERNAL**

**Petros Bakousidis** fell asleep in the Lord in Australia. He is the uncle of Gerry Bakousidis and Irene Batcos. **Anna Butrie** fell asleep in the Lord on September 2 in Pennsylvania. She is aunt to Father Matthew. **Joyce Gaskin** fell asleep in the Lord on September 11. She is the great-grandmother of parishioner Madison Kassiani Green. **Christ God grant that your newly-fallen asleep servants Petros, Anna, and Joyce rest in the light of your Face. Memory eternal! Christ is risen!**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** is October 14th at 6:30 pm.

**SEPTEMBER PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE** Meeting commenced with prayer. *Minutes* accepted without correction. *Treasurer's report* Goal is to have a budget prepared through QuickBooks ready by November for approval by parish council in December. Suggestion to have an outside CPA audit the books once a year as the Diocese does. Will ask CPA his fee for such work and that will be reported to the parish council before a decision is made. *Endowment report* gain of \$16,000 since last month. Parish council president is the signer on the endowment fund. *Rector's report* Father Matthew's report was emailed to the parish council members. Dennis Jernigan commented on the amount of information on Facebook about Orthodoxy. Media ministry ideas were put forward including getting persons to assist with Facebook posting, etc. *Community outreach* Friday, September 19 is the bonfire with s'mores from 7 to 9 pm. Different candies we'll have for the s'mores. Donations needed for Trunk or Treat - Saturday, October 25 from 1 to 3 pm. A box will be out for the faithful for candy donations. Encourage people to have vehicles here - don't need to dress up - just be here to enjoy! It lets people know we are here in Burton. *Fundraising* cornhole tournament - Bill Economou did some research and cornhole tournament is better to be held in spring and with something else like a car show. The August picnic was a success, awaiting final results. Luncheon on Sunday, August 28 - \$18 per adult: baked ham dinner with trimmings (peppers too expensive for stuffed peppers). Please bring dessert to pass. Stephanie Price will look into Dennis Jernigan's suggestion about a comedy club night *Charity ministries* North End Soup Kitchen is Thursday, October 2 from 9 am to 12:30 pm. *Church building and grounds* dead bushes by the electronic sign need to be pulled and rock put in so it will be clean. Replace air filter in attic furnace (above water fountain), needs to be done every 45 days. Tunnels - re-supported water lines through small tunnel going to church. The boiler lines are all supported. Some sealing has been done on the parking lot. More needs to be done with the sealing. Exhaust fan in the kitchen - a switch with a timer will eliminate the need to remember to turn the fan off. A fire suppression system would be needed if deep fryers were installed in the kitchen and such a system is prohibitively expensive. Idea of a fish fry on Lenten Fridays. Lena Bakousidis will look into this. Appointment with Burton City on Wednesday, September 10 at 3 pm about the drain in our south parking lot: Father Matthew, Christopher Taylor, Dennis Jernigan, and Bill Economou will be at this meeting. *Church school* begins Sunday, September 14 - buddies between older and younger children. Start together in one classroom - middle & high school with elementary school and then split up into classes later. Reminds older children that they are role models. Stephanie Price and Michelle Gerzevske are teachers. Kickball, picnic Sunday, September 14. September 21 is first class. Old Testament is the focus but also about giving thanks to God for blessings every day. *New business:* Gift card for those in need currently we have \$10 food gift card from Meijer given to those in need on the third Wednesday of the month. Discussion by December on whether to increase the amount of the gift cards. Father Matthew asked that parish council vote on the Lilly Clergy Renewal Grant for him at the October meeting. Given the parish finances, the parish council directed that before payment for invoices is sent out, the parish council president or treasurer review the payment before it is sent out by the church secretary.

### **FATHER MATTHEW'S WEEKDAY SCHEDULE**

Father Matthew serves in three roles: rector of Saint Nicholas Church, secretary to Archbishop Alexander, and a member of the diocesan spiritual council. His usual weekday schedule is:

**Mondays** Communion calls and depart for Archbishop Alexander's

**Tuesdays** return from Archbishop Alexander's

**Wednesdays** Divine Liturgy and adult education class and office

**Thursdays** are Father Matthew's "day off" when he goes completely "offline" - not checking emails or texts. If there is an emergency, please call him. Your email or text will be returned the next day.

**Fridays** office

**This schedule is subject to change especially in fasting seasons and weeks of parish council meetings or when required by Archbishop Alexander.**

**PARISH MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL, AUDITORS & LAY DELEGATE**

takes place on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 2<sup>nd</sup>. The nominees will be published in the bulletins on October 12<sup>th</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup>, October 26<sup>th</sup>, and November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The November newsletter will also list the names of the nominees.

- Absentee ballots are available in the office beginning Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>
- Absentee ballots must be returned by November 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Parish Council (3 year term)**  
**(3 will be elected)**

Paul Brayan (*term expiring*)  
 Dennis Jernigan (*term expiring*)  
 Rebecca Lazar  
 Staci Shank  
 Christopher Taylor (*term expiring*)

**Auditors**  
**(2 will be elected)**

Laurie Brock  
 Cathy Edwards (*term expiring*)  
 Shari Nicoloff

**Lay Delegate to the**  
**2026 Diocesan Conference**  
**(1 will be elected)**

Christopher Taylor  
 Joe Tome

**VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED:**

- Assistant choir director trainee.
- Maintenance ministry - persons to assist.
- **Livestream - persons to assist beginning and ending livestreaming of services**
- Media Ministry person(s)
- An additional church school teacher and substitute because of the increase in number of students in church school - please see Stephanie Price.




**God bless those who have given of their time for these ministries:**

**OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES**

**NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN** we serve on Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 to 12:30 pm.

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting soaps for the month of September. Place the items in a bag and then put 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.

 <b>HOPE IN A BOX</b>	
Oct	Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
Nov	Dish Soap
Dec	Socks, Towels, Toiletries, & New toys

October Coffee Social Sponsors	
5	Connie Maxim
12	In memory of Stefan Kendereš (1940) & Mária Kutná (1952)
19	
26	

**THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP/SEMINARIAN OFFERING** There is a category marked “Seminarian” on your stewardship envelopes that you can include with your regular giving. There are also specially marked envelopes at the candle stand. This helps to support parish seminarians, those training to become catechists, and kiosk expense for theological materials for inquirers.



**NOTE FROM THE TREASURER** To be transparent in our 5-year vision to a financially secure parish:

2025	July	Aug
Monthly Offering Income	\$ 18,034.85	\$ 13,399.00
Monthly General Operating Expenses	\$ 19,400.33	\$ 25,481.46
	\$ -1,365.48	\$ -12,082.46

**PICNIC/DANCE** was more than successful! There were 175 dinners purchased and approximately 150 additional people came to the dance. The final profit after expenses is \$4,426.66. THANK YOU everyone for making the 2025 Picnic/Dance so enjoyable! Thank you especially to our chairperson, Sharon Jernigan and all who helped in any way to make the day such a joy!

**PAYPAL** You can use PayPal for your financial stewardship! Go to our website [www.saintnicholasburton.org](http://www.saintnicholasburton.org) and click on the box [Give now with PayPal](#); this is a secure site. (1.99% + \$0.49 of your donation goes to PayPal as a fee). **\*Please consider clicking the box to cover the fee we are charged.** 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  
PayPal will send an email to the church to let us know a donation was received for St. Nicholas Church, the amount, and the giver.

**FELLOWSHIP OF ST. MOSES THE BLACK ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025** St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church, out of Grand Rapids, MI. is hosting the Cross Bearers with the theme “Linking Ancient African Orthodoxy and African American Christianity”. The conference will be held on October 10-12<sup>th</sup> at the DoubleTree by Hilton Grand Rapids Airport, 4747 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE., Grand Rapids, MI 49512. For more information call (616) 916-0100. Registration [here](#).

**OCW MEETING/PRESENTATION** the October presentation will have Rev. John York presenting on a beloved topic that we have all been anticipating! He will be speaking on “A New American Saint: Reflections on the Life of Matushka Olga of Alaska”. It will be held at Descent of the Holy Ghost Romanian Orthodox Church, Warren, Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**FATHER ROMAN BRAGA PROPOSED FOR CANONIZATION** The 93<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America (Orthodox Church in America) convened on September 5, 2025 at Holy Nativity Orthodox Parish in Chicago. The highlight of the Congress came during its final session, when Archbishop Nathaniel presented to the plenary assembly a resolution to advance to the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in **America the cause for the canonization of Father Archimandrite Roman Braga**. Father Roman Braga, a confessor of the faith who endured persecution and imprisonment under communist rule for his unwavering witness to Christ, reposed in the Lord in April 2015 at the Dormition Orthodox Monastery, where he faithfully served from its founding until his passing. (from the Facebook page of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America <https://www.facebook.com/ROEofA/>)

## 62<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONFERENCE

Friday, Oct 10<sup>th</sup>

6 pm to 8 pm reception at the hotel

Saturday, Oct 11<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am Meeting of Archbishop Alexander & Pontifical Divine Liturgy with memorial service.

Luncheon in our fellowship hall

1:30 pm business session in our fellowship hall

5 pm Vespers with Lity

**Tentative Agenda** [Download the agenda as pdf](#)

- Opening Prayer
- Appointments: Facilitator, Recording Secretary, Credentials
- Information from Diocesan Prelate
- Chancellor's Report (Summary)
- Credentials Report
- Old Business
  - 2024 Minutes
  - Treasurer's Report
  - Auditors' Report
  - Property Manager's Report
  - Metropolitan Council Report
  - St. Paul Fund
    - 2025 Activity
    - Our Diocese App - Rebekah Humphreys
- New Business
  - 2025-2026 Budget Review
  - Elect Clergy and Lay Metropolitan Council Representatives
  - Elect one Lay Diocesan Council Rep.
- Questions/Comments
- Adjournment/Closing Prayer

**LUNCHEON AT THE CONFERENCE** if you would like a meal at the luncheon, please sign up in the fellowship hall or use the **Google Form:** <https://forms.gle/1senSZyKhMwW29se6> . This is important so that we have enough food for delegates and non-delegates.

### CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS - OCTOBER

- Oct 5 [Noah](#) [Noah \(high school\)](#)
- 12 Archbishop Alexander visits
- 19 [Tower of Babel](#) [Tower of Babel \(high school\)](#)
- 25 1 to 3 pm Trunk or Treat at Church
- 26 [Abraham](#) [Abraham \(high school\)](#)



**THE LIFE OF OUR FATHERS** An Introduction to the Bible in the Orthodox Church by Fr Silviu Bunta is available for purchase! **If you would like your own copy, the cost is \$25 through our kiosk.** "...this book remains deeply accessible. It challenges common assumptions about how to approach Scripture, showing us a far deeper and richer path of participation. This is not a call to interpret better, but to live differently. For anyone seeking to understand how Scripture functions in the Orthodox tradition, *The Life of Our Fathers* offers a rare and timely guide." (write-up from [St Vladimir's Seminary Press](#))

# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

## BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Alyson Wilhelm
- 7 Jacob Abu-Aita
- 9 Sarah Neely
- 11 Tammy Bolinger
- 12 Stacy Brock
- 13 Allen Adams
- 14 Cameron Stevens  
Jeffrey David Muma
- 15 Elliot Prusac  
Eugene Akkerman  
Stephanie Stikovich
- 21 John Paul Krych
- 23 Taisa Akkerman
- 25 Phil Brown
- 27 David George  
Taras Evanenko
- 29 Bruce Borkovich
- 31 Jack Todorovsky



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Michelle & Dat Gerzevske (2011)
- 13 Irina Sivergina & Oleg Dashevsky
- 17 Peter & Marilyn Branoff (2004)
- 18 David & Barbara Vuckovich (1986)
- 20 David & Cortney Batzos (2007)

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

## NAMESDAYS

- 3 Dennis Goodman  
Dennis Jernigan
- 4 Bernita Brown
- 8 Taisa Akkerman
- 18 Kerry Luke Gonser  
Luke John Borkovich  
Luke Shann
- 19 Joel Green
- 20 Diana Mitevski  
Diane Broadfoot  
Diane Todorovsky
- 23 James Shann
- 26 Jack (Dimitrios) Todorovsky  
John (Dimitrios) Todorovsky
- 29 Anastasia Pirković  
Stacy Jean Binelli  
Stacy Brock  
Stacy Grousopoulos
- 30 Milan Stikovich

## DAILY INTERCESSION FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND

**VISITATION TO THE SICK** 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!

Deacon John Bocek	Bill Haw	Macy Lemmen	Bill Tadrick
Paul Ellis	Mary Karayanis	Helen Popoff	Wendy Tadrick
Joan Gajewski	Nick Karayanis	Ron Salhany	Dave Vuckovich

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

<b>Jeanette Bryan</b> @ Serene Gardens	1481 E Hill Rd room MC-6	Grand Blanc, MI 48439	
Paul Ellis @ Flat Rock Manor of Goodrich	N 7280 S. State Rd.	Goodrich, MI 48438	*New
Mary & Nick Karayanis	2238 Old Hickory	Davison, MI 48423	810-653-1169
Helen Popoff	2221 Bellemeade Dr.	Davison, MI 48423	810-653-3867
Dave Vuckovich	9352 Morrish Rd	Swartz Creek, MI 48473	810-348-4733 (Barb)
Mike Stikovich @ Whispering Pines	3941 Lippincott Rd.	Lapeer, MI 48446	*New 810-658-8321(Stephanie)
Diane Todorovsky	14182 Moffett Dr	Fenton, MI 48430	810-750-7860

“In my life, prayer occupies the first place. I do not fear hell and I don’t think of Paradise. I ask only for God to have mercy on the whole world and on me.” p 132

“We are one even with those who are not close to the Church. They are distant on account of ignorance. We must pray that God will enlighten them and change them so that they too may come to Christ. We see things in a human light, we move on a different plane and imagine that we love Christ. But Christ, who sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous, (Matthew 5:45) tells us: Love your enemies. (Matthew 5:44) We need to pray that we may all be united, united in God. Then, if we live out this prayer, we will achieve corresponding results; we will all be united in love.” p 89

“When someone injures us in whatever way, whether with slanders or with insults, we should think of him as our brother who has been taken hold of by the enemy. He has fallen victim to the enemy. Accordingly we need to have compassion for him and entreat God to have mercy both on us and on him, and God will help both. If, however, we are filled with anger against him, then the enemy will jump from him to us and make a mockery of us both. A person who condemns others does not love Christ. Our egotism is at fault. This is where condemnation of others stems from.” p 182

“...among the Fathers of the Church, who were ascetics and teachers of spiritual sobriety, there are many who speak of the fear of death and hell. Fear of Hell, Fear of Punishment Trying to avoid sin, one indulges in such thoughts, the consequence of which is the fear of death, hell and the devil.

Everything has its meaning, its time and its appropriate opportunity. The notion of fear is good for the first spiritual steps. It is for beginners, for those in whom the old man still lives. Such a man, a beginner, who is not yet spiritually refined, overcomes the tendency towards evil with the help of fear. We need fear while we are attached to matter and while we are spiritually crawling on the ground. But that is, let’s say, the initial stage, it is a low degree of relationship with the Deity.

It’s as if we’re going to a store, to an exchange of services, so that we don’t deserve heaven or get rid of the torment in hell. If we think a little better, such a relationship contains a certain self-sufficiency, a certain interest. I don’t like that approach. When a person progresses spiritually and enters the love of God, then what is his fear? Whatever he does, he does it out of love, and that has a much greater value than fear. To be good because of the fear of God, and not out of love for Him – there is no value in that.

If we go further, we discover that the Gospel also lets us know that Christ is joy and truth, that Christ is paradise. What does the evangelist John say? “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for in fear there is torment: but he that feareth is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18). Working in the fear of God on the way of salvation, we gradually enter into the love of God. Then hell disappears, fear disappears, death We are only interested in the love of God We do everything for that love – as a bridegroom for a bride.

If we want to follow Christ, this life on earth will be our joy with Christ, regardless of the difficulties. In this regard, the apostle Paul says: I rejoice in my sufferings. That is our religion. We should go in that direction. It does not consist so much of formal obligations as of the determination to live with Christ. When you can do that, what else would you like? You got it all. You live with Christ, and Christ lives in you. Everything is then very easy – obedience, calmness, peace of mind.” pp 104-105

“...This is the way we should see Christ. He is our friend, our brother; He is whatever is good and beautiful. He is everything. Yet, He is still a friend and He shouts it out, “You’re my friends, don’t you understand that? We’re brothers. I’m not... I don’t hold hell in my hands. I am not threatening you. I love you. I want you to enjoy life together with me.” *Elder Porphyrios Testimonies and Experiences*, p 44

## 2025-2026 Church School Calendar

### Dr. Pat's Orthodox Church School

- Old Testament - elementary/middle school will use the curriculum for 6-9 year olds, high school will use the high school curriculum

#### SEPTEMBER

14 back-to-school event - kickball/picnic

21 [Creation](#)  
[Creation \(high school\)](#)

28 [Adam & Eve](#)  
[Adam & Eve \(high school\)](#)

#### OCTOBER

5 [Noah](#)  
[Noah \(high school\)](#)

12 Archbishop Alexander visits

19 [Tower of Babel](#)  
[Tower of Babel \(high school\)](#)

25 1 to 3 pm Trunk or Treat at Church

26 [Abraham](#)  
[Abraham \(high school\)](#)

#### NOVEMBER

2 [Isaac](#)  
[Isaac \(high school\)](#)

9 [Jacob](#)  
[Jacob \(high school\)](#)

16 [Joseph](#)  
[Joseph \(high school\)](#)

23 [Joseph #2](#)  
[Joseph #2 \(high school\)](#)

30 [Moses](#)  
[Moses \(high school\)](#)

#### DECEMBER

7 St Nicholas Visit

14 [Moses #2](#)  
[Moses #2 \(high school\)](#)

21 Confessions

28 [Balaam](#)  
[Balaam \(high school\)](#)

## 2025-2026 Church School Calendar

### JANUARY

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 4  | <a href="#">Joshua</a><br><a href="#">Joshua (high school)</a>               | 11 | Outdoor blessing of water and lamb banquet               |
| 18 | <a href="#">Judges/Gideon</a><br><a href="#">Judges/Gideon (high school)</a> | 25 | <a href="#">Job</a><br><a href="#">Job (high school)</a> |

### FEBRUARY

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1  | <a href="#">Ruth</a><br><a href="#">Ruth (high school)</a> | 8  | <a href="#">Hannah/Samuel</a><br><a href="#">Hannah/Samuel (high school)</a> |
| 15 | Meatfare   | 22 | Cheesefare   |

### MARCH

1 Orthodoxy Sunday (Please bring your icon to church)

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 8  | <a href="#">Saul</a><br><a href="#">Saul (high school)</a>                               | 15 | <a href="#">David (to Goliath)</a><br><a href="#">David &amp; Jonathan (high school)</a> |
| 22 | <a href="#">David &amp; Jonathon</a><br><a href="#">David - later life (high school)</a> | 29 | <a href="#">Solomon</a> and Confessions<br><a href="#">Solomon (high school)</a>         |

### APRIL

- 5 Palm Sunday - procession at the end of Liturgy
- 10 Holy Friday - youth assist at 3 pm Vespers and 6 pm Matins
- 12 Pascha
- 19 St Thomas Sunday - gift bags
- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 26 | <a href="#">Proverbs &amp; Song of Songs</a> | <a href="#">Ecclesiastes (high school)</a> |
|----|--|--|

### MAY

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 3  | <a href="#">Elijah</a><br><a href="#">Elijah (high school)</a> | 10 | <a href="#">Elisha</a><br><a href="#">Elisha (high school)</a> |
| 17 | end of year with recognition in church                         |    |  |

St. George Orthodox Church  
5191 Lennon Road • Flint, MI

# Middle Eastern Lunch & Bake Sale

Dine in/take out/delivery (8+ order minimum)  
Order deadline for take out/delivery-September 25th

Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025  
11am-2pm

Cost is only \$20 per meal

**Combo #1** Cooked Kibbee, Green Bean Stew (*Yahnee*), Rice, Hummus, Salad, Pita Bread, Dessert, and a bottled water

**Combo #2** (Vegetarian Option) Spinach Pie, Green Bean Stew (*Yahnee*), Rice, Hummus, Salad, Pita Bread, Dessert, and a bottled water

**Combo #3** Chicken Shawarma, Rice, Hummus, Salad, Pita Bread, Dessert, and a bottled water

Placing an order? Fill out form below or call St. George @ 810-732-0720

Item	Total # of each combo	Price (\$20 per meal)
Combo #1		
Combo #2		
Combo #3		
Bake Sale Items	Number of Dozens	Price (\$25 per dozen)
Kibbee		
Meat Pies		
Spinach Pies		
Date Cookies ( <i>Kaak</i> )		
TOTAL PRICE		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Pick-up Time \_\_\_\_\_

# **2025 CHADA BAKE FUND RAISER**

## **ASSYRIAN CLUB, CHURCH AND CEMETERY**

**WHERE?**

**ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST  
ON LEITH AND LEWIS STREET  
FLINT, MICHIGAN**



**OCTOBER 6,7**

**LIMITED ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN**

**CUT OFF DATE IS**

**SEPT. 24, 2025**

**REGULAR/SWEET**



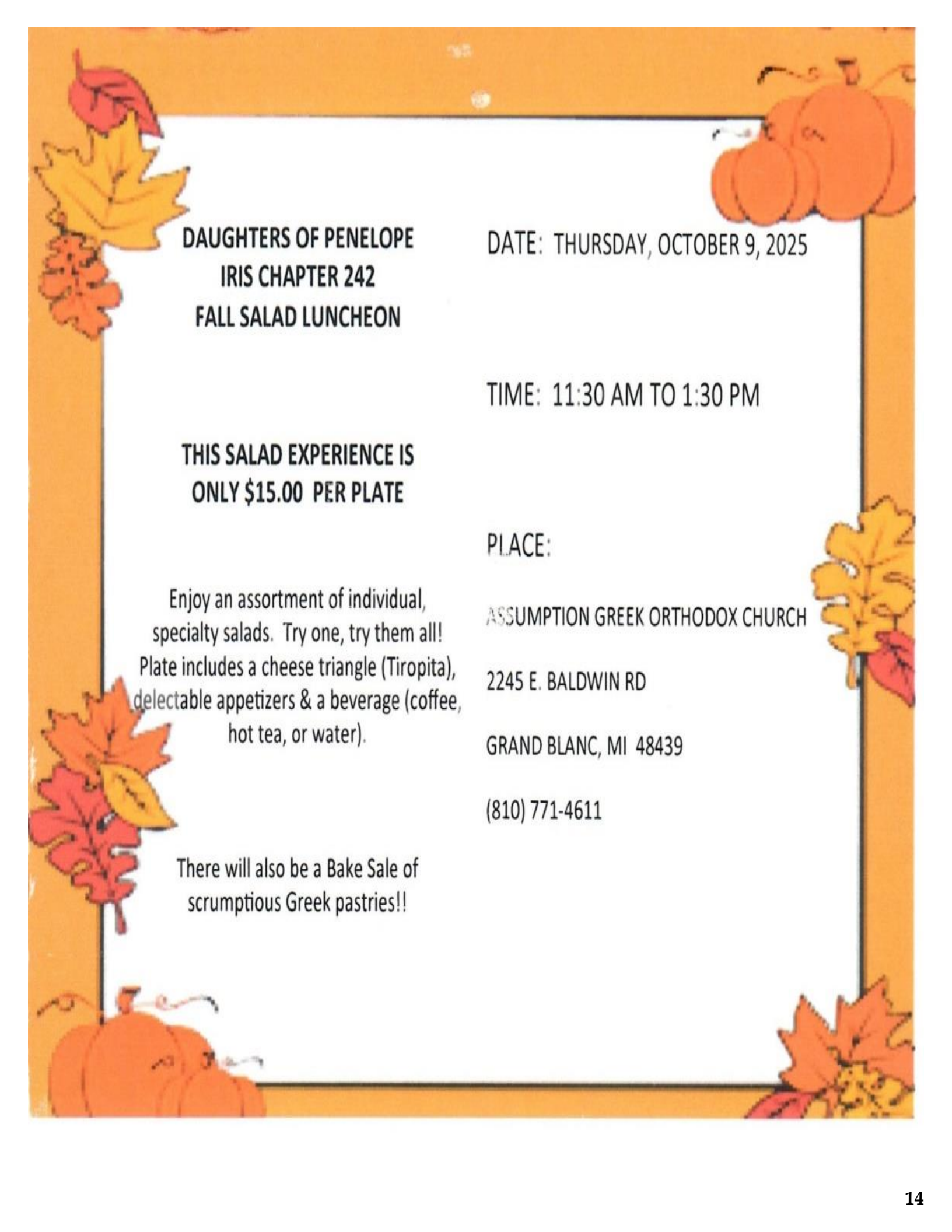
**CALL PAM BEEBE TO ORDER -**

**(810)931-9202**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE APPRECIATED, LET PAM KNOW WHAT  
DAY/DAYS YOU ARE AVAILABLE, FOR ROLLING, BAKING,  
CLEAN-UP, ETC. .**

**ANY ORDERS NOT PICKED UP BY 5PM ON OCT.7 WILL BE SOLD  
TO OTHERS ON THE WAITING LIST.**

**PRICE IS \$20 FOR 12 PIECES**



**DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE  
IRIS CHAPTER 242  
FALL SALAD LUNCHEON**

**DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025**

**TIME: 11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM**

**THIS SALAD EXPERIENCE IS  
ONLY \$15.00 PER PLATE**

Enjoy an assortment of individual, specialty salads. Try one, try them all!  
Plate includes a cheese triangle (Tiropita), delectable appetizers & a beverage (coffee, hot tea, or water).

There will also be a Bake Sale of scrumptious Greek pastries!!

**PLACE:**

**ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**2245 E. BALDWIN RD**

**GRAND BLANC, MI 48439**

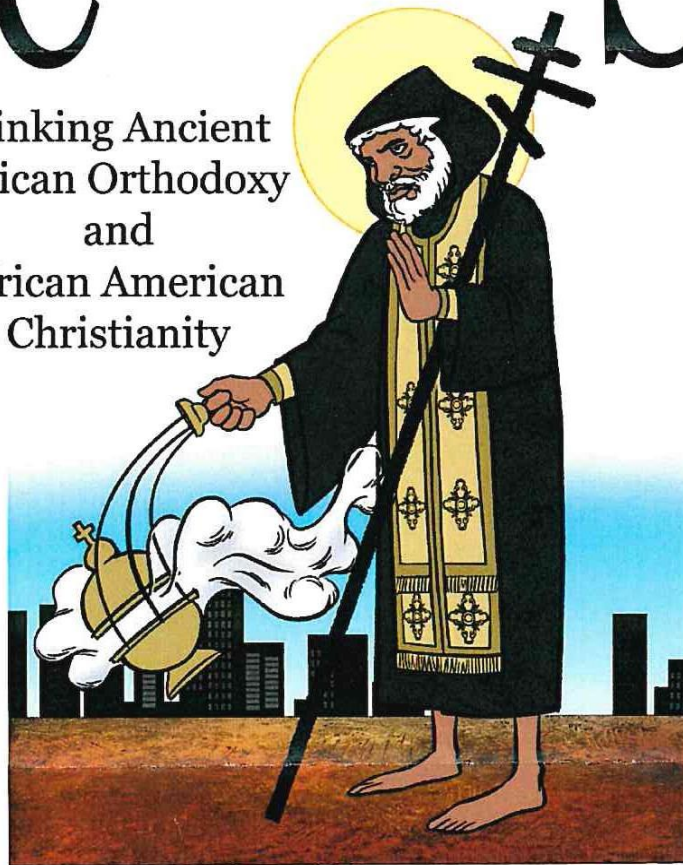
**(810) 771-4611**

# Fellowship of St. Moses the Black Annual Conference 2025

October 10th-12th

## Cross Bearer S

Linking Ancient  
African Orthodoxy  
and  
African American  
Christianity



"And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus." (St. Luke 23:26)

Hosted by:

**St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church**

2250 E Paris Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

DoubleTree by Hilton Grand Rapids Airport

4747 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49512

















616-916-0100

Registration coming soon. [mosestheblack.org/conferences/](https://mosestheblack.org/conferences/)

# October 2025

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

[stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com) Website: [www.saintnicholasburton.org](http://www.saintnicholasburton.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 fast  dairy & fish permitted (no meat)  wine & oil permitted ( <b>no meat</b> )  fish permitted ( <i>no other meat</i> )			<b>1</b>   The Protection (Pokrov) of Lady Theotokos and Virgin Mary 9:30 am Liturgy** 11:15 am adult ed.	<b>2</b> St George Luncheon & Bake Sale 11 to 2 pm 9 am Soup Kitchen Office Closed	<b>3</b>  <i>Father Matthew with Archbishop Alexander</i>	<b>4</b> <a href="#">5 pm Vespers</a> Confessions
<b>5</b> <a href="#">9:30 Hours</a> <a href="#">10 am Divine Liturgy</a>	<b>6</b> Glorification of St. Innocent  <i>Father Matthew with Archbishop Alexander</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  <a href="#">9:30 am Liturgy</a> 11:15 am adult ed.	<b>9</b> Assumption Salad Luncheon 11:30 to 1:30  Office Closed	<b>10</b>  6 pm to 8 pm reception for delegates at the hotel	<b>11</b> <a href="#">9:30 am Pontifical Liturgy</a> <a href="#">5 pm Vespers</a> Confessions
<b>62<sup>nd</sup> Diocesan Conference - hosted by our parish</b>						
<b>12</b> <a href="#">9:30 Hours</a> <a href="#">10 am Divine Liturgy</a> Archbishop Alexander serves Liturgy	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30 pm Parish Council	<b>15</b>  <a href="#">9:30 am Liturgy</a> 11:15 am adult ed.	<b>16</b> <i>Father Matthew with Archbishop Alexander</i>  Office Closed	<b>17</b>  <i>Father Matthew with Archbishop Alexander</i>	<b>18</b> Apostle and Evangelist Luke <a href="#">5 pm Vespers</a> Confessions
<b>19</b> Chrismation of Jonothan Miller <a href="#">10 am Divine Liturgy</a> service for unborn who have died	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  No Liturgy No adult ed.	<b>23</b> Office Closed	<b>24</b>  <b>25</b>  4 pm Vespers at St George No Vespers at St Nicholas No Confessions	
<b>26</b> Greatmartyr Demetrios <a href="#">9:30 Hours</a> <a href="#">10 am Divine Liturgy</a> Tentative - Vespers at St Mary Magdalene	<b>27</b> St Olga of Kwethluk tentative Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene for St Olga's feast	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  No Liturgy No adult ed.	<b>30</b> Office Closed	<b>31</b>  All texts in blue are links to the livestreams for the divine services	