

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
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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

OCTOBER 2020

Saint Dorotheos of Gaza - Seventh Discourse: “How we must accuse ourselves, and not our neighbors”

“There is the case of a man minding his own business, sitting at peace and quiet; and when a brother comes up and says an annoying word to him, he is put out by it. And from the circumstances he thinks that he is justifiably angered, and he speaks against the one who troubled him, saying, ‘If he had not come and spoken to me and annoyed me I should not have been sinned.’ This is a diabolic delusion! Could it really be that the one who spoke a word to him put that passion into him? He only showed that it already existed in him; so that he could, if he chose, repent of it. But the man referred to above is like rotten bread, externally good, but inwardly all moldy, and when someone crushes it, its corruption is revealed. He was sitting at peace, as we were saying, but he had this anger inside him and he did not know it. One word to him from the other and the corruption hidden inside him showed itself. If, therefore, he wants to receive mercy, then let him repent, purify himself, and spiritually progress; let him see that he should rather thank that brother, who had been an occasion of spiritual help to him... Once there came to me two brothers who had a grievance with each other, and the Elder said about the younger: ‘When I tell him to do something he gets upset, and I am also upset, because I think that if he had confidence and love towards me he would except my words with faith.’ And the younger said, ‘Forgive me Abba, he speaks to me not at all with the fear of God, but he commands me like a despot and I think that is why my heart is not inclined to have confidence in him, as the Fathers say.’ Notice how both reproach each other, and not one of them reproaches himself. There were also two other brothers who were angry with each other, and, having bowed down before each other, did not receive peace. One of them said: ‘His bow did not come from his heart and that is why I am not settled, for thus the fathers have said.’ And the other said, ‘Since he was not prepared with love for me when I begged forgiveness of him, I am not settled.’ Do you see what a corruption of understanding this is! God knows I am terrified that even the very sayings of our Holy Fathers we use in accordance with our evil will and for the perdition of our souls. Each one of them should have placed the blame upon himself, and one of them should have said: I did not bow down to my brother from the heart, and that is why God did not dispose him towards me. The other should have said: since I was not prepared with love towards my brother before he asked forgiveness, God did not dispose him towards me. The first two brothers mentioned should have acted in the same way. One of them should have said: ‘I speak despotically, therefore God did not dispose my brother to have confidence in me’; and the other should have thought: ‘My brother commands me with humility and love, but I am not obedient and have no fear of God.’ And not one of them found the path to self-reproach, to the contrary, each laid the blame on the other. This why we do not advance, this is why we cannot come to the knowledge of good, but rather spend all our time at odds with one another and torment our own selves. Because each of us justifies himself, and as I have said, each of us allows himself to ignore the commandments, but we demand that our neighbor fulfill every one, we cannot come to a knowledge of the good. For if we learn even a small portion of something we immediately demand the same of our neighbor, reproaching him and saying: he should have done this, or, why did he do that? Why do we not rather demand of ourselves the fulfillment of the commandments, and why do we not reproach ourselves for the fact that we did not keep them?”

PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD (October 1)

Troparion: “Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church, and with choirs of Saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels and Bishops venerate Her, Apostles and prophets rejoice together, Since for our sake she prays to the Eternal God!”

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Vlachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop’s Throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed “more than the rays of the sun.” Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, “Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?” Epiphanius answered, “I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe.”

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, “O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard.”

Saints Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and “for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation.”

At the Vlachernae church, the memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God was remembered. In the fourteenth century, the Russian pilgrim and clerk Alexander, saw in the church an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos praying for the world, depicting Saint Andrew in contemplation of her.

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor reflects that the protective intercession of the Mother of God was needed because an attack of a large pagan Russian fleet under the leadership of Askole and Dir. The feast celebrates the divine destruction of the fleet which threatened Constantinople itself, sometime in the years 864-867 or according to the Russian historian Vasiliev, on June 18, 860.

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor also notes the miraculous deliverance followed an all-night Vigil and the dipping of the garment of the Mother of God into the waters of the sea at the Blachernae church, but does not mention Saints Andrew and Epiphanius and their vision of the Mother of God at prayer. These latter elements, and the beginnings of the celebrating of the Feast of the Protection, seem to postdate Saint Nestor and the Chronicle. A further historical complication might be noted under (October 2) dating Saint Andrew’s death to the year 936.

The year of death might not be quite reliable, or the assertion that he survived to a ripe old age after the vision of his youth, or that his vision involved some later pagan Russian raid which met with the same fate. The suggestion that Saint Andrew was a Slav (or a Scythian according to other sources, such as S. V. Bulgakov) is interesting, but not necessarily accurate. The extent of Slavic expansion and repopulation into Greece is the topic of scholarly disputes.

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, “Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you.” *from oca.org*

We will keep this feast with Vespers on Wednesday, September 30 at 6 pm and Liturgy on Thursday, October 1 at 10 am.

ROTATING SCHEDULE You will receive a phone call and e-mail from the parish office notifying you the Sunday Liturgy you are scheduled to attend. The groups have been consolidated into two rather than three groups.

WHEN YOUR HOUSEHOLD WISHES TO BE ADDED TO THE ROTATION, PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL THE PARISH OFFICE: 810-744-0070 or stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com

SERVICE DURING PREGNANCY & INFANT LOSS AWARENESS MONTH October 15 at 6 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.

FACEMASKS AT WORSHIP Archbishop Alexander has given his blessing to adhere to the “restaurant-style” wearing of masks for divine services which conforms to the governor’s executive order. Masks must still be worn upon entering the church or fellowship hall and when moving about (coming up to Communion, veneration of the cross, leaving the church, etc.) but, once at your place in a pew or chair you *may* remove your mask. Masks must be worn on entering and leaving the church / fellowship and when moving around.

PARISH COUNCIL met on September 8 by teleconference. Susie Ford was elected as lay delegate to attend the virtual Diocesan Conference on Saturday, October 3. The election for parish council members & auditors will be held on Sunday, November 8. Parish council members whose terms expire in 2020 are Calvin Conrad, Susie Ford, and Shari Nicoloff. The auditor whose term ends in 2020 is Mary Batzos. We hope to have absentee ballots ready by Sunday, October 18. If you would like an absentee ballot, please call or email the office. Absentee ballots must be returned by Sunday, November 8. Jonathon Shann has repaired the cracked bricks on the south side of the church. God bless him for his work.

The parish finances remain stable. Please continue your giving whether in person at Liturgy, through Givelify, or by sending in your donation to the office or dropping it off during office hours.

ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL, AUDITORS & LAY DELEGATES on Sunday, Nov. 8. 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

(vote for 1)

Deborah Gonser-Adams

Susie Ford

Joe Tome

Lay Delegate - July 2021 OCA All-American Council

(vote for 1)

Deborah Gonser-Adams

Susie Ford

Joe Tome

If you would like to nominate someone, please call the parish office at 810-744-0070. Absentee ballots will be available by mid-October and must be returned by November 8. Call or e-mail the office if you would like an absentee ballot.

THE MACEDONIAN OPEN COMMITTEE would like to thank everyone who made a donation on behalf of the Macedonian Open. Although we were not able to host our golf outing this year, we greatly appreciate the generous support of those who were able to donate and help out the Church this year.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year. We are planning on having our golf outing at the Flint Elks Golf Club on the usual date, the Monday after Father’s Day, June 21, 2021.

God Bless you all,

- Macedonian Open Committee

GOD BLESS newborn twins, Lazaros Dimitrios and Sophie Tula Stavridis, children of Teddy and Jessica Stavridis. The babies were born on Wednesday, September 9. Sophie Tula was baptized the same day and is went home under hospice care. Please keep Lazaros and Sophie in your prayers together with their parents, Teddy and Jessica, and their great-grandmother, Vasilka Karatza.

MEMORY ETERNAL David Gerzevske, stepfather of Dat Gerzevske, fell asleep in the Lord in Minnesota on Thursday, September 10. May he rest in the light of Christ's face. God grant His comfort to Dat and his family. Memory eternal! Christ is risen!

MEMORY ETERNAL On September 18 our parish was informed that Helen Ashmun, last living sibling of the late Emil Harrison, fell asleep in the Lord on September 6. There was a graveside service at our parish cemetery on September 22. May Helen rest in the light of Christ's face together with all the saints. Memory eternal! Christ is risen! Bog da prosti!

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS meets on Wednesdays after Liturgy at 11:15 am -12:15 pm. The class will be continuing our book *Early Christian Fathers*, beginning with *The Didache*.

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.

ANGEL TREE We will participate in the Angel Tree program again this year. Please call or email the office as soon as possible if you are interested and let us know how many children you would like to sponsor. Christmas seems a long way off right now but we have to let Catholic Charities know how many children we will help this Christmas.

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 COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday, October 13th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall with physical distancing and wearing masks. This has been blessed by Archbishop Alexander. Attendance limited to 10 persons per the governor's executive order. 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.

QUARTERLY STATEMENTS will go out in the mail mid October. Please call the office if you have any questions.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ends November 1st.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Vasilka Karatza
- 2 Ellyn Serra
- 3 Alyson Wilhelm
- 7 Jacob Abu-Aita
- 9 Sarah Neely
- 13 Allen Adams
- 14 Cameron Stevens
- 15 Eugene Akkerman
Stephanie Stikovich
- 25 Phil Brown
- 27 David George
Taras Evanenko
- 29 Bruce Borkovich
- 31 Jack Todorovsky
Vladimir Pyatenko



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

ANNIVERSARIES

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

NAMESDAYS

- 3 Dennis Goodman
Dennis Jernigan
- 4 Bernita Brown
- 6 Thomas Panoff
Thomas Stavridis
Tom Batzos
Tom Krigner
Tom Sfetkidis
- 8 Taïsa Akkerman
- 18 Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser
Luke John Borkovich
- 20 Diana Mitevski
Diane Broadfoot
Diane Todorovsky
- 23 James Shann
- 26 Jack (Dmitri) Todorovsky
John (Dimitrios) Todorovsky
- 29 Anastasia Pirkovic
Anastasia Tecla Butrie
Anastasia Whittaker
Stacy Jean Binelli
Stacy Loomis
Stacy Grousopoulos
- 30 Milan Stikovich
Reggie Milan Jehnsen

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
Deacon John Bocek
Linda Branoff

Gladys Edwards
Paul Ellis
Bill Haw

Mary Karayanis
Nick Karayanis
Macy Lemmen

Ron Salhany
Bill Tadrick
Wendy Tadrick

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

Larry Bladecki
Gladys Edwards
Paul Ellis
Vasilka Karatza
Jo Sredich

3254 E. Midland Rd
2 Harbor Dr.
2360 Stonebridge Dr.
Regency 1330 Grand Pointe Ct
Serenity 11328 N Bray Rd

Bay City, MI 48706
St. Clair, MO 63077
Flint, MI 48532
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Clio, MI 48420 *Note new address

CHARITY MINISTRIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN October 1st, 9 am-1 pm.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting toothpaste & toothbrushes for the month of October. 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.

SOCKTOBER! During Socktober we encourage donations of warm socks of all sorts. We will also begin distributing coats and winter gear in October.

Catholic Charities is welcoming volunteers to help sort and hang donations in the morning, Monday through Friday, from 9am to 12noon. Call Mary Stevenson Center for Hope 810-265-7025 ext. 712 for more information.

		HOPE IN A BOX
October	Toothpaste/Toothbrushes	
November	Dish Soap	
December	Socks, Towels, Toiletries & New Toys	

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

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <i>Fast</i>  <i>Dairy Permitted (no meat)</i>  <i>Wine & Oil Permitted (no meat)</i>  <i>Fish Permitted (no other meat)</i>				1 Protection of the Mother of God <u>10 am Divine Liturgy</u> 9 am to 12:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen Office Closed	2  Father in Toledo	3 <i>Fr in Toledo</i> virtual Diocesan Conference @ 1pm <u>5 pm Vespers</u> confessions
4 9:30 Third Hour <u>10 am Divine Liturgy</u>	5	6 Father in Toledo 7 pm <u>online Church School</u>	7  <u>9:30 am Divine Liturgy</u> 11:15 am Adult Ed	8 Office Closed	9  Glorification of St Tikhon, Apostle to America	10 <u>5 pm Vespers</u> confessions
11 9:30 Hours <u>10 am Divine Liturgy</u>	12 Father in Toledo	13 6:30 pm Parish Council 7 pm <u>online Church School</u>	14  <u>9:30 am Divine Liturgy</u> 11:15 am Adult Ed	15 6 pm service for parents who have lost infants and for the infants fallen asleep Office Closed	16 	17 No Vespers No confessions
18 9:30 Hours <u>10 am Divine Liturgy</u>	19	20 Father in Toledo 7 pm <u>online Church School</u>	21  <u>9:30 am Divine Liturgy</u> 11:15 am Adult Ed	22 Office Closed	23 	24 <u>5 pm Vespers</u> confessions
25 9:30 Hours <u>10 am Divine Liturgy</u>	26 Father in Toledo	27 7 pm <u>online Church School</u>	28  <u>9:30 am Divine Liturgy</u> 11:15 am Adult Ed	29 Office Closed	30 	31 <u>5 pm Vespers</u> confessions Daylight Savings Time Ends Tonight