

*September 15, 2024*

***St. Nicholas Orthodox Church***

*Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America • 2143 S. Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519*

*Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie – Rector, mobile: 810-247-4265 & Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser*

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**Welcome!** We are honored that you have joined us in our celebration of the Lord's resurrection this day.

If you are a first-time visitor to our parish, we invite you to sign our guest book in the vestibule. If you have a question, a prayer request, or any need, please speak with Fr. Matthew, Deacon Luke, or with one of the ushers.

For our friends present with us who are not Orthodox Christians, please note that we have specific disciplines regarding receiving Communion. We ask that you refrain from going to Communion until you have spoken with Fr. Matthew after the Liturgy and understand our discipline and piety regarding this sacrament and its implication for responsibility towards and membership in the Orthodox Church. The bread offered at the end of the service is available to all.

If you are an Orthodox Christian from another parish who has prepared in accordance with your discipline, and have a blessing from your home priest to do so, we invite and encourage you to partake of Holy Communion. **Again, welcome!**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. Greatmartyr Niketas the Goth (ca. 372). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Acacius, Bishop of Melitene (3rd c.). Martyrs Theodotus, Asclepiodotus, and Maximus (305-311). Martyr Porphyrius the Actor (361). Uncovering of the Relics of the Holy Protomartyr & Archdeacon Stephen (415). St. Philotheus the Presbyter (10th c.). Ven. Joseph, Abbot, of Alaverdsk in Georgia (570). St. Joseph the New of Partos, Metropolitan of Timisoara (1656).**

**FIRST ANTIPHON**

God, my God, attend to me! // Why have You forsaken me? (*Psalm 21:1a*) **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Why are You so far from helping me, // from the words of my groaning? (*Psalm 21:1b*) **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; // and by night, but find no rest. (*Psalm 21:2*) **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

You dwell in the sanctuary, // the praise of Israel. (*Psalm 21:3*) **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

**SECOND ANTIPHON**

O God, why do You cast us off forever? (*Psalm 73:1a*) **O Son of God, who arose from the dead, save us who sing to You! Alleluia!**

Remember Your congregation, // which You have gotten of old. (*Psalm 73:2*) **O Son of God, who arose from the dead, save us who sing to You! Alleluia!**

Remember Mount Zion, // where You have dwelt. (*Psalm 73:3b*) **O Son of God, who arose from the dead, save us who sing to You! Alleluia!**

God is our King before the ages; // He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth. (*Psalm 73:13*) **O Son of God, who arose from the dead, save us who sing to You! Alleluia!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation willed to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and were crucified, O Christ our God,

trampling down death by death, Who are one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us!

### **THIRD ANTIPHON**

**The Lord reigned, let the peoples be enraged.** (*Psalm 98:1a*) **Tone 1** O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Your Cross, // preserve Your habitation!

**The Lord reigned, let the peoples be enraged, the one who sits upon the cherubim, let the earth be shaken.** (*Psalm 98:1*) O Lord, save Your people...

**The Lord – great in Sion, and is high over all the peoples.** (*Psalm 98:2*) O Lord, save Your people...

**Lift up the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain, for holy is the Lord our God.** (*Psalm 98:10*) O Lord, save Your people...

### **TROPARIA**

**Tone 3** Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world // great mercy.

**Tone 1** O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Your Cross, // preserve Your habitation!

**Tone 4** In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, O Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

### **KONTAKION**

**Tone 4** As You were voluntarily raised upon the cross for our sake, / grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God; / make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power, / granting them victories over their adversaries, / by bestowing on them the Invincible trophy, Your weapon of Peace.

### **INSTEAD OF "HOLY GOD..."**

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Your holy Resurrection, we glorify!

**The prokeimenon in the seventh tone: Extol the Lord our God; / worship at His footstool for He is holy!**  
(*Psalm 98:5*)    *v.*    **The Lord reigned, let the peoples be enraged,**.(*Psalm 98:1a*)

**THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE GALATIANS (2:16-20)** Brethren, we ourselves who know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

### ***Alleluia, Tone 1***

*v:* **Remember your assembly which you obtained from of old.** (*Psalm 73:2*)

*v:* **God is our king from before the ages, he worked salvation in the midst of the earth.** (*Psalm 73:13*)

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK (8:34-9:1)** And Jesus called to Him the multitude with His disciples, and said to them, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the

gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (*Psalm 148:1*)

### **INSTEAD OF "WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT..."**

**Tone 1** O Lord, save Your people...

### **THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (SEPTEMBER 14)**

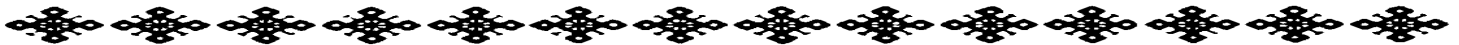
The Elevation of the Holy Cross is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on September 14; the celebration continues through September 21. This feast is also referred to as the Exaltation of the Cross. This is also a popular name day for Stavroula/Stavros (from "stavros" meaning cross).

This feast commemorates The finding of the Cross by the Empress Helen (the mother of St. Constantine the Great) on Golgotha in 326 AD, the place where Christ was crucified.

On the spot where the Cross was discovered, St. Helen had found a hitherto unknown flower of rare beauty and fragrance, which has been named "Vasiliko," or Basil, meaning the flower of royalty. Note that the word "Vasiliko" means "of the King," since the word "Basileus" in Greek means "King"; so, the plant Vasiliko, Basil, is tied to the Precious Cross of the King of Glory, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Underneath the Basil, the Cross of Christ was found, but with it were the other two crosses, those used to crucify the two thieves on either side of Christ. The sign with the inscription, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews", also lay among the three crosses. In order to determine which one was the true cross, a sick woman was told to kiss each of the three crosses. The woman kissed the first cross with no result. She kissed the second cross and again nothing happened. However, when the ailing woman kissed the True Cross, she was immediately made well. It so happened that a funeral procession was passing that way, and so the body of the dead man was placed on each of the crosses, and when it was placed on the True Cross, the dead man came to life – thus the name the "Life-Giving" Cross, which gives life not only to that man, but to each person who believes in the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross and His all-glorious three day Resurrection. When the true Cross was identified, it was lifted on high for all the people to see, who then continually sang Kyrie eleison, a practice which is still enacted at current celebrations of this feast.

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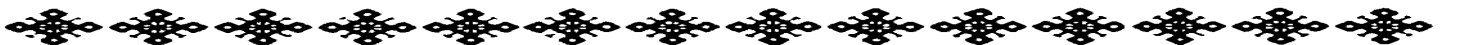


### **CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF**

Oleg, Galina, Nikolay, Nikolay, Andrey, Vlada, Kirill, Lev & Irina	Irina Sivergina
Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Angelo, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Les, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, David, Taras, Ted, Joseph, Marlene, Ellyn, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family and friends	Joe Tome
Special Intention	Joe Tome

### **CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE BLESSED REPOSE OF**

Adelaïda & Feodosiy	Irina Sivergina
Memory Eternal Anthony Branoff for his birthday Sept. 19	His family



**WELCOME** to all our friends and visitors and those joining us via our YouTube channel: [St Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton](#). If at the time of the divine services you cannot access the livestream, please check out [St. Mary Magdalene Church](#), [St George Church](#) or [Dormition Monastery](#).

Sept 15 CANDLESTAND: Christine Panoff

HOURS: Angelo Panoff

READER: Phil Wiles

Sept 22 CANDLESTAND: Ian & Stephanie Price

HOURS: Alexander Gonser

READER: Angelo Panoff

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

INQUIRERS'/CATECHUMENS' CLASS led by Reader Alexander Gonser after the Divine Liturgy *in the library*. Feel free to join in and let other inquirers know about these classes introducing the Orthodox faith.

ADULT EDUCATION classes are on Wednesday at 11:15 am. We are continuing with [\*Psalms and the Life of Faith\*](#) by Elder Aimilianos looking at twelve of the one hundred and fifty Psalms.

CHURCH SCHOOL begins with prayers and a blessing for our students and teachers. Lesson - [Elevation of the Cross](#)

KICK-OFF DINNER for Church School Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. The menu is stuffed peppers, greek salad & rolls. Please bring a dessert to share. Tickets are \$15 adults. Children's meals are free. See Sharon Jernigan for tickets. Students and parents will be able to meet our teachers and see the classrooms.

ELEVATION OF THE CROSS flowers were donated by Angelo & Christine Panoff in memory of their grandsons Andrew & Matthew Panoff.

RETREAT FOR ORTHODOX MEN September 27-29 at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia, MI. For more information go to <https://www.avg2alpha.com/cry-of-the-forerunner/>

GIVE TO THE CHURCH THROUGH GIVELIFY Go to our website [www.saintnicholasburton.org](http://www.saintnicholasburton.org) and click on the box [Give now with Givelify](#); this is a secure site. (2.9% + \$0.30 of your donation goes to Givelify as a fee). \*Please consider adding a little extra to your donation 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.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE Church School kick off is Sunday, September 15 with stuffed pepper dinner, bringing dessert to share. Income for August exceeded expenses. The picnic and dance fundraiser made \$5,009 profit with 10% (\$500) to charity account. The picnic and dance is planned for Sunday, August 17, 2025. Mike Fioritto, CPA, has been a great help with Quickbooks accounting. Nominating committee will meet on Saturday, September 14. Sunday, November 3 will be the date for elections to parish council, auditors, and lay delegate to the 2025 diocesan conference. Possible free-will luncheon on November 3. Trunk or Treat will be Saturday, October 26 before Vespers. We will participate in the Angel Tree program this year, buying gifts for children in need. A lot of work was done in the pavilion and painting still needs to be done (gable ends) and garage. The barbecue pit was fixed up with new plywood and painting. The roof on the small kitchen in the pavilion is leaking in one spot. In the tunnel between the altar and the boiler room the brackets have rotted away so that the pipes (water lines and electrical lines) are sagging. Not an expensive item but it must be addressed. New aluminum was put on the shrine of our Lady of Iveron by the icon to channel water out. Filters in air conditioning in the church and hall were changed and coil washed in big unit in hall. Parish development forum was attended by Chris Taylor and he informed us that our parish is doing the vast majority of the things that can be done are being done by our parish - outreach via digital presence, calendar, welcome gift bags for newcomers, etc. One item that was suggested was a video interview with different age groups, converts and cradle Orthodox, to speak about their experience and be posted on our parish webpage and YouTube channel for seekers and inquirers to learn a little more about the Church before their visit. Eileen & Cindy Branoff will co-chair Angle Tree.

**OFFICE HOURS** are Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9-3.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

**Today** Prayers for teachers & students  
Kick-off dinner for church school

**Monday, September 16** *Fr Matthew in Toledo*

**Wednesday, September 18**

9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15 am Adult ed class

**Friday, September 20** **at Nativity of the Virgin Mary Macedonian Cathedral in Sterling Heights**

5:45 pm arrival of the Wonderworking Hawaiian Iveron Icon  
- the icon will remain at the cathedral through Sunday, September 22  
6 pm Great Vespers (Sterling Heights)

**Saturday, September 21** **at Nativity of the Virgin Mary Macedonian Cathedral in Sterling Heights**  
**50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cathedral parish**

10:30 am Pontifical Liturgy followed by luncheon at Nativity of the Virgin Mary Macedonian Cathedral  
7 pm Gala banquet at Nativity of the Virgin Mary Macedonian Cathedral  
**No vespers at St. Nicholas**

**Sunday, Sept. 22**

[9:30 am](#) [Hours-live-streamed](#)  
[10 am](#) [Divine Liturgy-live-streamed](#)  
Church School - [Pentecost](#)

**Offerings for the week September 8, 2024**

<i>Weekly Tithes &amp; Offerings</i>	\$ 1,899.95
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 4,380.00
	<b>\$ -2,480.05</b>

*45 persons in attendance on September 8*