

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Monthly Newsletter

Diocese of Toledo-Orthodox Church in America
2143 S. Center Road – Burton, Michigan 48519

Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie – Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser

Email: stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com

Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Church Office: 810-744-0070

Services: Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Hours 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Wednesday- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Adult Class 11:15 am

Saturday – 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions

Holydays: Vespers & Liturgy as announced

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

SEPTEMBER 2019

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS – ST. ISAAC OF SYRIA

For it would be most odious and utterly blasphemous to think that hate or resentment exists with God, even against a demonic beings; or to imagine any other weakness, or passibility, or whatever else might be involved in the course of retribution of good or bad as applying, in a retributive way, to that glorious divine Nature. Rather, He acts towards us in ways He knows will be advantageous to us, whether by way of things that cause suffering, or by way of things that cause relief, whether they cause joy or grief, whether they are insignificant or glorious: all are directed towards the single eternal good, whether each receives judgement or something of glory from Him not by way of retribution, far from it! but with a view to the advantage that is going to come from all these things. This is how everything works with Him, even though things may seem otherwise to us: with Him it is not a matter of retribution, but He is always looking beyond to the advantage that will come from His dealings with humanity. . . . I am of the opinion that He is going to manifest some wonderful outcome, a matter of immense and ineffable compassion on the part of the glorious Creator, with respect to the ordering of this difficult matter of Gehenna’s torment: out of it the wealth of His love and power and wisdom will become known all the more and so will the insistent might of the waves of His goodness. It is not the way of the compassionate Maker to create rational beings in order to deliver them over mercilessly to unending affliction in punishment for things of which He knew even before they were fashioned, being aware how they would turn out when He created them and whom nonetheless He created. All the more since the fore-planning of evil and the taking of vengeance are characteristics of the passions of created beings, and do not belong to the Creator. . . This is what the Scriptures bring to our attention and remind us of, as has frequently been shown by us in sound expositions above, namely, that God is not one who requites evil, but He sets aright evil: the former is the characteristic of evil people, while the latter is characteristic of a father. Scripture shows Him as if He is bringing good and evil by way of requital, whereas His purpose is not in fact this, but to instill in us love and awe, so that by the latter we might make our conduct chaste, while, by means of love, we might grow in excellency of understanding. If this were not the case, what resemblance does Christ’s coming have with the deeds of the generations which were prior to it? Does this immense compassion seem to you to be a retribution for those evil deeds? Tell me, if God is someone who requites evil, and He does what He does by means of requital, what commensurate requital do you see here, O man? Show me! If we think otherwise than this, then according to the resulting childish view the Creator will prove to be weak I speak as a human being for after what He had established had become corrupted against His will, He devised some other plan, preparing ills in return for its corruption. Such are the feeble ways of understanding the Creator!

FROM FATHER'S DESK

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

To make room for Christ in us, we follow Him, we deny ourselves, crucify our ego and selfishness so that He may increase in us. This we do not because we are forced to do so but because we express our love for God through this. We make our love of God visible through the self-denial of fasting. Christ Jesus Himself fasted from all food and drink for forty days in the desert where he was tempted by the devil.

There are two types of fasting we keep: the ascetical fast we observe during the lenten seasons of Great Lent, the Apostles' Fast, Dormition Fast, and Christmas Fast (no meat, dairy products, eggs, etc.). We also keep such a fast on most of the Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the year. Wednesdays because it is the day Judas went to the chief priests to betray Jesus. Fridays because it is the day our Lord died upon the cross for us. There are certain fast-free days and time in the year such as the time from Christmas until the eve of Theophany, the week following the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, Bright Week and Pentecost Week.

Fr. Andrew Jarmus says this on fasting, "How strict should we be in our fasting? My rule of thumb is that our fast should be a challenge, but not overwhelming. Fasting is kind of like driving on a snowy, slippery road. The best results come from taking it easy and maintaining steady momentum, rather than giving it full gas and losing traction (and perhaps crashing)." That is an excellent rule of thumb. The ascetic fast is to curb our physical appetite and quiet our unruly desires so that we focus on the spiritual hunger in us and discover Christ alive in us. If there's a medical necessity for eating certain foods that may not be suitable for a strict fast then you can take on an additional effort whether other prayers or a special almsgiving over and above your lenten observance. As always, if you have any questions about your particular circumstances, please see me and we can talk about it.

Then there's the Eucharistic fast, the total fast (no food, no drink) before we come to receive our Lord Jesus in Holy Communion. For morning Divine Liturgies we fast from midnight from everything, food and drink, for receiving Holy Communion. For evening Liturgies (Vespers with Divine Liturgy or the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts), we fast from after lunch to receive Communion. Fasting does not make us worthy to receive Christ Jesus in Holy Communion. Fasting is our preparation, to make us ready, to make us hungry for the spiritual and physical nourishment that comes from communion with our Lord Jesus Christ. That said, what about those who have to take medications or who because of illness must have something to eat? As an example, those who are diabetics must follow a schedule for eating in order to keep their blood sugar at safe levels. Others may have to take medicine for blood pressure or their heart. In these and other similar cases we may take food or drink with our medicine as prescribed and still approach to receive our Lord Jesus Christ in Communion. We are not taking these with the intent of breaking the fast or out of disregard for our Lord Jesus but because we want to be good stewards of our health as we approach Him who is the Physician of our souls and bodies. Again, if you have any questions about your particular circumstances, please see me and we can talk some more.

In all things we are to be mindful that fasting is not an end in itself. It is a way we show our love for God. The ascetic fast also works to tame our passions, open us up to experience Christ, finding out that in our seeking Him we discover that He finds us first. The Eucharistic fast is a concrete way of living the truth that we do not live on bread alone but every word that comes from the mouth of God. It is the Word of God Himself, our Lord Jesus Christ, Whom we receive into our souls and bodies through Holy Communion. With love in our hearts and non-judgement of others our fast will be spiritually healthy.

The Pharisee in the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee prayed to God saying, "I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get." (Luke 18:12) But our Lord Jesus warned the Pharisees, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith; these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others." (Matthew 23:23) We can keep the fast and have a hardened heart towards one another. If we fail to be loving then our fasting is fruitless. We are to show mercy and fast. It is not one or the other but both together that will lead us along the path of communion with God. As Saint Paul poetically states in writing to the Christians at Corinth, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13).

With love in Christ,

Fr. Matthew

Hours Schedule

<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
1 Lucy	6 Angelo	3 Lucy
8 Calvin	13 Lucy	10 Calvin
15 Angelo	20 Calvin	17 Angelo
22 Lucy	27 Angelo	24 Lucy
29 Calvin		

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

Reader Schedule

<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
1 Alexander	6 Johnny	3 Johnny
8 Johnny	13 Amir	10 Angelo
15 Amir	20 Angelo	17 Amir
22 Angelo	27 Alexander	24 Alexander
29 Alexander		

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

BINGO Sunday, September 8th following Divine Liturgy. Lunch will be served & the cost is included when purchasing the cards-3 cards for \$10. **PRIZES • FAMILY FUN**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING September 10th at 6:30. Please call or email the office if you cannot attend. Meeting information will be emailed.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



❖ Church School will begin on Sunday, September 15th. The New Year will begin with prayers during the Liturgy for the teachers and students and a blessing after Communion for them as they go to class. See you then!

3rd ANNUAL COMMUNITY PET BLESSING September 10th at 6:30 pm at 13575 N. Fenton Rd., Fenton. The last few years, we have been partnering and using the property for Adopt A Pet, to hold a Pet Blessing in September, where we set up and do a small moleben to St. Mammas, say some prayers for the owners, and then bless the leashed pets that are brought, as well as the sick ones inside the center. The lot that they provide for us has worked well over the last few years, and it always seems to be a nice event!

Fr. Gabriel would love to turn this into a larger Pan Orthodox Gathering, and have your presence to help serve and bless the pets there! It is has been a wonderful chance to meet people from all over, who for many this is their first experience of Orthodoxy! It would also be a nice thing for your parishioners to get and get their pets blessed!

All of the pets this year will be getting an Orthodox Dog Tag for coming! Please advertise, and let me know if you are willing to come serve with me on that day! For more information call (810) 750-1401 or go to st-marymagdalene.org.

KONEVETS QUARTET Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30 at St. Nicholas. This is a beautiful & fun concert of traditional Russian Folk & Church music. Please take fliers to share and pass the word!

THANK YOU Fr. Matthew, Matushka & church family for all of the prayers & support that you give and continue to give. It is greatly appreciated! Please keep praying as I am in the Air Force. Love, Bogdan & family

MEMORY ETERNAL Tom Branoff, father of Linda & Peter (wife Marilyn) fell asleep in the Lord August 11, 2019. The funeral service was held Friday, August 16, 2019 with burial in Evergreen Cemetery. Bog da prosti! Memory eternal! Christ is risen!

COFFEE HOUR volunteers are needed. There is a sign-up list outside of the kitchen. Please commit to helping out so that we can continue having this social time together.

PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES – SEPTEMBER 2019

September 14 – the Elevation of the Cross – 10am Divine Liturgy at St George followed by light lunch and Vespers

September Coffee Hour Volunteers	
1	Goodman family - 40 days Mike Goodman
8	Bingo
15	Prusac family - 1 yr Luka Prusac
22	
29	

 HOPE IN A BOX	
September	Bar & Hand Soap
October	Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
November	Dish Soap

CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting bar & hand soap for the month of September. 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.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters September 5th (North End Soup Kitchen) and September 24th (St. George at North End Soup Kitchen) from 9am-1 pm. Assumption will be at the Center for Hope 517 E. Fifth Avenue, Flint on September 19 from 11 am to 1 pm. Please use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand to volunteer.



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

VISITATION TO THE SICK Fr. Matthew brings Holy Communion to the shut-ins on Mondays. If you would like to be added to this list, please contact the office. Presently, those receiving weekly visits are: Helen Ashmun, Paul Ellis, Rose Goodman, Pete & Jo Sredich, & Fred Oginsky. Monthly Fr. Matthew visits Larry Bladecki (Bay City), Peter and Olga Samaras (Caro).

DAILY INTERCESSION FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND

The following are our brothers and sisters of St. Nicholas who are currently homebound, suffering from chronic illness, in recovery or in need of special prayers. Please remember them in your prayers and reach out to them with a card, a phone call or a visit! Please call the office to schedule a visit for Holy Communion.

Larry Bladecki	Gladys Edwards	Nick Karayanis	Olga Samaras
Deacon John Bocek	Paul Ellis	Macy Lemmen	Peter Samaras
Anna Branoff	Bill Haw	Fred Oginsky	Bill Tadrick
Linda Branoff	Mary Karayanis	Ron Salhany	Wendy Tadrick

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

Helen Ashmun	4436 Beecher Rd.	Flint, MI 48532	
Larry Bladecki	409 15 th Street	Bay City, MI 48708	
Nick & Marge Butrie	30 E. Bertsch St. #12	Lansford, PA 18232	
Gladys Edwards	2 Harbor Dr.	St. Clair, MO 63077	
Paul Ellis	2360 Stonebridge Dr.	Flint, MI 48532	
Rose Goodman	12458 St. Andrews Way #56	Fenton, MI 48430	
Pete & Olga Samaras	1285 Cleaver Rd.	Caro, MI 48723	(989) 673-0821

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Gregory Oginsky
- 6 Anastasia Butrie
Roseanne Bagale
- 10 Cathy Steiner
- 12 Brandon Conover
Ciera Conover
Joseph Neely
- 14 Amani Helal
Matthew Batzos
- 18 Peggy Russell
- 20 Nick Sfetkidis
Noah Gonser
Peter Economou
Taras-Michael Butrie
- 25 Jo Sredich
- 27 James Shann
- 28 Kathy Swanigan
- 29 Angela Panoff
Georgiana Adkisson
- 30 Luke Shann



NAMESDAYS

- 1 Athena Adkisson
Joshua Brucksch
Joshua Vuckovich
- 5 Betty Nicevski
Caitlyn Elizabeth Nicole Rittman
Lisa Pray
Ressa Ann Borkovich
Quin Elizabeth Gerzevske
- 9 Anita Glusica
Anna Zubovich
Cortney Anne Batzos
Kelly Anne Panoff
Megan Ann Krigner
Nancy Ann Krigner
Nancy Borkovich
Nancy Kocovski
Peggy Ann Russell
- 13 Amy Sfetkidis (St. Amatus)
Cheryl Ellis (St. Amatus)
Corey Treloar (St. Cornelius)
- 16 Lucy (Ludmilla) Hogg
- 17 Luba Todorovsky
Luba Yosheff
Madi Lu Fisher
Sophia Batzos
Sophia Treloar
- 18 Ariana Loomis
Arinn Alexandra Pray
Ashley Goodman
- 20 Oleg Dashevsky
Oleg Zubovich

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 George & Sherry Brown (1978)
- 4 Scott & Georgiana Adkisson (2009)
- 11 Thomas & Nancy Krigner (1988)
- 19 Dennis & Sharon Jernigan (1964)
- 20 Jerry & Christine Brucksch (1986)
- 27 Jeremy & Jami Fisher (2008)
- 29 Bob & Cathy Edwards (2000)

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



Nativity of the Theotokos

The feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, which is kept on the eighth of September, is a glorification of Mary's birth, of Mary herself and of her righteous parents. It is a celebration as well of the very first preparation of the salvation of the world. As on all liturgical celebrations of Christ's Mother, we proclaim and celebrate that through God's graciousness to mankind every Christian receives what the Theotokos receives, the "great mercy" which is given to human persons because of Christ's birth from the Virgin.



Orthodox Women in the Healing Ministries

27th Annual Retreat
October 4, 5 & 6, 2019
Holy Dormition Monastery
Rives Junction, Michigan



The Mothers of Modern Medicine
Sts. Hermione, Philonella & Zenaida

V. Rev. Dimitrie Vincent **“My Grace is Sufficient for You, My Strength is Made Perfect in Weakness”**

OWHM is pleased to welcome Rev. Dimitrie Vincent as our speaker for our 27th annual retreat. Father was born and raised in the metro Detroit area and grew up in St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral parish in Southfield, MI. He received his M.Div. from St. Vladimir Seminary and did Ph.D. studies in historical theology at Saint Louis University, in Missouri. Father has served in parishes in St. Louis and Michigan before becoming the permanent pastor of St. Thomas Orthodox Church, of the Albanian Archdiocese, in Farmington Hills, MI. In addition, Father Dimitrie is also an Art Educator and Sculptor, teaching Art at a Charter School in Detroit for five years. Many of his sculptures are done in bronze, mild and stainless steel and copper.

REGISTRATION: OWHM.ORG

Please register by using one of the two methods listed below:

1. Use the [PayPal](#) link on our web site [owhm.org](#) (*any credit card is accepted*).
2. [Mail](#) the registration form found on the web site with a check made out to OWHM (U.S. dollars only, please) to OWHM, Monica Dellas, 2744 Carric Court, Jackson, MI. 49201 (517-414-3829)

AN EVENING WITH

The Konevets Quartet

A Concert of Traditional Russian Folk
& Church Music

Tuesday
September 17, 2019
6:30



The Konevets Quartet, under the direction of Igor Dmitriev, was founded by graduates of the St. Petersburg Music Conservatory in July 1992 with the goal of sharing the rich Russian vocal tradition with it's audiences. The Quartet takes it's name from the Konevets Island and Monastery.

Hosted by:

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

A free-will offering will be collected, a portion of which will benefit the restoration of the Konevets Monastery. CDs will be available for purchase.



3rd Annual Community Pet Blessing



Tuesday, September 10th @ 6:30 PM
Adopt-A-Pet
13575 N Fenton Rd. Fenton, MI

In the ups and downs of life, one of the greatest blessings that our Lord bestows upon mankind are our pets! Come join us for the 3rd Annual Community Pet Blessing where we will gather together to offer thanks to God for our furry friends, and to bless them so that they can, in good health, continue to assist us throughout our journey in life!

Any leashed or crated pets are welcome!

There will be a special gift for all pets in attendance!

For More Information, contact the Church at (810) 750-1401 or Adopt-A-Pet at (810) 629-0723

st-marymagdalene.org or adoptapetfenton.com



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NEWSLETTER? IF NOT
PLEASE CALL OR
EMAIL THE OFFICE TO
BE TAKEN OFF OF THE
MAILING LIST.**

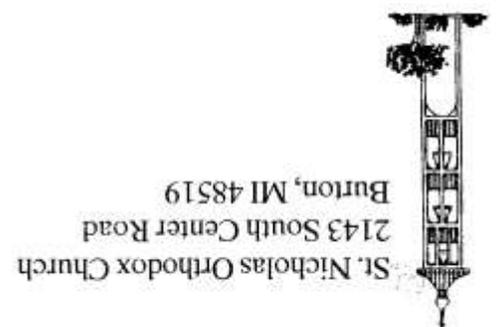
Your Business Here

\$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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September 2019

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Church New Year</p> <p>9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy 40 day Parastas for Michael Goodman</p>	<p>2  Office Closed</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 † 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Ed</p>	<p>5 9am to 12:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen Office Closed</p>	<p>6 †</p>	<p>7 5 pm Vespers with Litya followed by Confessions</p>
<p>8 Nativity of the Theotokos</p> <p>9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy BINGO</p>	<p>9 Father in Toledo</p>	<p>10 6:30 pm Parish Council 6:30 pm Pet Blessing at Adopt-a-Pet, Fenton</p>	<p>11 † 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Ed</p>	<p>12 Office Closed</p>	<p>13 † 7 pm Flint OCF meeting at St. George with Fr. Matthew</p>	<p>14 Elevation of the Cross  10 am Pan-Orthodox Liturgy at St. George followed by light luncheon and Vespers</p>
<p>15 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy 1 yr Parastas for Luka Prusac followed by meal in fellowship hall Church School begins Noisy Offering</p>	<p>16 Father in Toledo</p>	<p>17 Konevets Quartet 6:30 pm</p>	<p>18 † 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Ed</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 † Office Closed</p>	<p>21 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions</p>
<p>22 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School</p>	<p>23 Communion Calls to Bay City & Caro</p>	<p>24 9 am to 12:30 pm St. George Church at North End Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>25  Repose of St Sergius of Voronezh 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Ed</p>	<p>26 Repose of St John the Theologian Office Closed</p>	<p>27 †</p>	<p>28 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions</p>
<p>29 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy 40 day Parastas for Cheryl Ellis Church School</p>	<p>30</p>			<p>Times and events are subject to change</p>	<p>†  Fast Dairy Permitted (no meat) Wine & Oil Permitted (no meat) Fish Permitted (no other meat)</p>	

OCTOBER 2019

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 6 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School	<p><i>Times and events are subject to change</i></p> 7	1 Protection of the Theotokos 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	2 ✠ No Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Ed	3 ✠ 9:am to 12:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen Office Closed	4 ✠ Orthodox Women's Annual retreat	5 Orthodox Women's Annual retreat No Vespers
		Diocesan Conference – Oct. 4, 5, & 6 at St Nicholas Church, Fort Wayne, IN				
6 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School	7	8 6:30 pm Parish Council	9 ✠ Holy Apostle James Glorification of St. Tikhon of Moscow 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Ed	10 ✠ Father in Toledo Office Closed	11 ✠	12 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions
13 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School	14 Communion Calls to Bay City & Caro	15 Father in Toledo	16 ✠ 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Ed 11 am to 1 pm Assumption at Center for Hope	17 ✠ Office Closed	18 ✠	19 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions
20 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy Noisy Offering Church School	21	22 Father in Toledo 9:am to 12:30 pm St. George Church at North End Soup Kitchen	23 ✠ 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Ed	24 ✠ Office Closed	25 ✠ 7 pm Flint OCF meeting at St. George with Fr. Gabriel	26 ✠ St. Demetrios 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions
27 9:30 Third Hour 10 am Divine Liturgy Church School	28	29 Father in Toledo	30 ✠ 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Adult Ed	31 ✠  Fast Dairy Permitted (no meat) Wine & Oil Permitted (no meat) Fish Permitted (no other meat)		