

*September 7, 2025*

**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 narthex. If you have a question, a prayer request, or any need, please speak with Fr. Matthew, Deacon Luke, or with one of the ushers.

**Holy Communion – for Orthodox Christians (those received into the Orthodox Church through baptism or chrismation)**, please note that there are specific disciplines regarding receiving Communion – fasting from midnight (unless you need to take medication) and recent Confession. 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

**For our visitors who are not Orthodox Christian:** we welcome you to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Unfortunately we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. The Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship of our community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, but for which we must all pray. All, however, are welcome to partake of the blessed bread (antidoron) which will be given when coming forward to receive the final blessing from the priest at the conclusion of the Liturgy. **Again, welcome!**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4. Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos. Sunday before Elevation. Martyr Sozón of Cilicia (ca. 304). St. John the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Novgorod (1186). Ven. Serapion of Spaso-Eliazar Monastery (Pskov – 1481). Martyrdom of St. Makáry, Archimandrite of Kanev (Pereyasavl' – 1678). Apostles Evodia (Euodias) and Onesiphorus of the Seventy (66). Martyr Euphychius of Cæsarea in Cappadocia (2nd c.). Venerable Luke, Abbot of Batheos Ryako (10th c.). Ven. Cloud (Clodoald), Abbot, founder of Nogent-sur-Seine near Paris (560). Venerable Cassiani the Hymnographer.**

**TROPARIA**

**Tone 4** When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!"

**Tone 4** Today from the stem of Jesse and from the loins of David, the handmaid of God Mary is being born for us. Therefore all creation is renewed and rejoices. Heaven and earth rejoice together. Praise her, you families of nations, for Joachim rejoices and Anna celebrates crying out: // "The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life!"

**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 3** Today the Virgin Theotokos Mary, the bridal chamber of the Heavenly Bridegroom, by the will of the God is born of a barren woman, being prepared as the chariot of God the Word. // She was foreordained for this, since she is the divine gate and the true Mother of Life.

*The prokeimenon in the sixth tone: O Lord, save your people / and bless your inheritance! (Psalm 27:9a)*

*v. To you, O Lord, I cried. O my God, be not keep silent from me. (Psalm 27:1a)*

**THE READING IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE GALATIANS (6:11-18)** Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may

glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

### *Alleluia, Tone 1*

*v. I lifted up a chosen one from my people. (Psalm 88:18b)*

*v. For my hand will take hold of him, and my arm will strengthen him. (Psalm 88:20)*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN (3:13-17)** Jesus answered Nicodemus, saying: "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God loved the world such that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! *(Psalm 147:1)*

**The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary (September 8)** The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcame the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feasts at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion. [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)

September 7, 2025



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

Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Les, Bosa, Jeanette, Ted, Kathryn, David, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family and friends  
Special Intention

Joe Tome  
Joe Tome

**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE BLESSED REPOSE OF**



**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 7 CANDLESTAND:** Dennis Goodman      **HOURS:** Staci Shank      **READER:** Katherine Gonser  
**Sept 14 CANDLESTAND:** Susie Ford      **HOURS:** Madison Green      **READER:** Barry Cavett

**COFFEE SOCIAL** Please join us after Liturgy in the fellowship hall for coffee and donuts.

**CLASSROOM PREP for CHURCH SCHOOL** Stephanie Price and Michelle Gerzevske, our church school teachers, are looking for help to clean and organize the classrooms to get ready for the school year today from 1-3. Please, lend a hand!

**CHURCH SCHOOL** begins classes for the 2025-2026 year on Sunday, September 14. Parents, grandparents, godparents, take note! This year the students will be focusing on the Old Testament.

**PLEASE SEE MATUSHKA LISA** about the assisting as a greeter, assisting at our 62<sup>nd</sup> annual diocesan conference October 10 & 11 which our parish is hosting!

**62<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONFERENCE** will be hosted by our church on Friday, October 10 to Saturday, October 11. Friday, Oct 10<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 8 pm will be a reception at the hotel Best Western Plus Flint Airport Inn & Suites 6075 Hill 23 Dr, Flint, MI 48507. Saturday, Oct. 11th there will be 9:30 am greeting of Archbishop Alexander & Pontifical Divine Liturgy with memorial service. There will be a 1:30 pm business session and Vespers at 5 pm. All other information [here](#).

**FLOWERS FOR THE CROSS** If you would like to donate the wreath of flowers for the cross that will be used on September 14, please contact the office of see Father Matthew.

**HISTORIC FILMS** Earlier this summer, a cache of films was discovered at the church which date from the 1950s when our church was on Liberty Street and also from the parish picnic. These were from Emil Harrison (1913-2012), lifelong parishioner and long-time parish council president. These films have been digitized and uploaded to our church YouTube channel as one file and can be seen [HERE](#). It is a 49 minute video. Please take the time to watch and look for familiar faces and, if you are a newer member of the church, take a peek back into history with Father Alexander Znamensky, rector from 1944 to 1973, who left Russia during the civil war following the Bolshevik revolution. You will also see Father Paul Kleinschrodt, the first priest ordained in Saint Nicholas Church (in 1954) who served as assistant to Father Znamensky. You will also see many of the faithful from over seventy years ago! Saint Nicholas Church is the oldest parish in our Diocese, founded in 1916 - next year we mark 110 years of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection.

**PROSPHORA SEALS** are available at the kiosk. The cost is \$25 each and there is an envelope at each one for your to make your payment and drop in the office or in the collection tray.

**CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT** please contact the church office (810) 744-0070 if you have any equipment you would like to lend for the tournament which will be returned after the event. The tentative date is September 27, 2025. Please be advised that this date is subject to change. More information will be forthcoming.

**PHOTOS** from the Primatial Liturgy between our Metropolitan Tikhon and Archbishop Stefan of Ohrid and the Macedonian Orthodox Church together with an article and the Metropolitan's homily and remarks are

here <https://www.oca.org/news/headline-news/his-beatitude-metropolitan-tikhon-concelebrates-with-his-beatitude-archbishop-stefan-of-macedonian-orthodox-church>

**OCW MEETING/PRESENTATION** will be on Monday, September 22nd at 7:00pm at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Bloomfield Hills. The presenter will be Rev. Gabriel Bilas of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Fenton. His presentation will be about "Hidden Prayers of the Liturgy". Rev. Fr. Gabriel Bilas is a fascinating and compelling speaker well-known to our group.

**THE PRODIGAL SON RETREAT** will be held September 26-28<sup>th</sup> at the Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church 36075 Seven Mile Rd, Livonia, MI. The speakers and retreat leaders are Fr Michael Butler, Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, Fr. Hans Jacobse, St Peter Orthodox Church, Founder of the St Paisios Brotherhood, and Paul Robson, Founder of Maniphesto, a European organization for men's accountability and integrity. All information [here](#).

**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](#).

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

**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 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 Givelify is also available for making online donations.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

**Today, September 7**

- [9:30 am](#) [Hours](#)
- [10 am](#) [Divine Liturgy-live-streamed on YouTube](#)
- 1 to 3 pm prepare classrooms for school year - your help is needed!
- [6:30 pm](#) [Vespers for the Nativity of the Theotokos](#)

**Monday, September 8 NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS**

- [10 am](#) [pan-Orthodox Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Church](#)

**Tuesday, September 9**

- 6:30 pm parish council meeting

**Wednesday, September 10**

- [9:30 am](#) [Divine Liturgy](#)
- 11:15 am adult education - continuing St Porphyrios's *Wounded by Love*

**Sat., September 13**

- [4 pm](#) [pan-Orthodox Vespers at St George Church](#)

**Sunday, September 14 ELEVATION OF THE CROSS**

- [9:30 am](#) [Hours](#)
- [10 am](#) [Divine Liturgy-live-streamed on YouTube](#)
- Church School classes begin
- 12 pm catechumen/inquirer's class

**Offerings for the week August 31, 2025**

Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,326.00
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 4,380.00
	<b>\$ 2,054.00</b>

75 persons in attendance on Aug 31