

SATURDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY

Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Malachi the Prophet, Gordios the Martyr of Caesarea, Righteous Genevieve of Paris, Righteous Peter of Atroas, Righteous Akakios the Wonderworker, Righteous Thomais of Lesbos



The Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on January 6. The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the Feast is Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or

Theophany, meaning manifestation of God. The Biblical story of the Baptism of Christ is recorded in all four of the Gospels: Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-9, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:31-34.

John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and the one chosen by God to proclaim His coming, was preaching in the wilderness and was baptizing all who would respond to his message calling for repentance. As he was doing this, John was directing the people toward the one who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. Initially, John would not do this, saying that Jesus should baptize him. Jesus said to John, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness (3:15). John consented and baptized Jesus.

When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Bible records that the Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on him. When this happened, a voice came from heaven and said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” This was the voice of God the Father.

“I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship towards thy holy temple.” Psalm 5:7

Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas



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Orthodox Church of Saint Nicholas
617 Nevada St, Toledo, OH 43605 -Phone: (419) 260-1621
orthodoxchurchofsaintnicholas.com

Saturday, January 3rd 2026



His Beatitude John X Patriarch of Antioch and all the East

**Metropolitan SABA Archbishop of The Antiochian
Orthodox Archdiocese of North America**

**Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Jeremy Davis Diocese of Toledo and
the Midwest**

V. Rev. Archpriest Michael G. Shaheen

Phone: (419) 260-1621

Office hours by appointment only

contact@orthodoxchurchofsaintnicholas.com

**The Saint Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church
Parish Council**

Chair & Treasurer: Cristina Salgau

Vice Chair & Secretary: Daniela Sirbu

Chancellor: Marcel Dobarta

Today's Lunch
Graciously sponsored by Cristina Salgau

Our next service:
Saturday, January 17, 2026
10:00 AM

**If you are interested in
sponsoring the coffee hour,
please get in touch with
Ms. Cristina Salgau –
Phone: (419) 612 -8068**



ANTHONY THE GREAT

**Anthony the Great, Anthony the New of Veria, George the
New Martyr of Ioannina, Theodosius the Emperor**

Follow us on:

Facebook: Orthodox Church of Saint Nicholas

Instagram: orthodoxchurchofsaintnicholas

If you want to stay up to date, join our mailing list.

7 facts you must know about the

Divine Liturgy

The most important moment is the Epiclesis, when the priest invokes the Holy Spirit who transforms the bread and wine.

The Liturgy is a spiritual dialogue between the priest who serves and the faithful.

People chant during the service words spoken by angels ("Holy, Holy, Holy Lord of Sabaoth").

The antidoron that is shared is the leftover prosphora from which the Lamb was removed and it represents the Theotokos.

The faithful must keep quiet until they leave the church, because in the Holy Altar the Holy Mysteries are consumed and angels are present.



The bread and wine are not symbols, they are turned into the Body and Blood of Christ.

The answer "God have mercy" is the shortest and most concentrated prayer of the Church.

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Troparion — Tone 4

Prepare, O Zebulon, / and adorn yourself, O Naphtali; / River Jordan, cease flowing / and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized. / Adam, rejoice with our First Mother / and do not hide yourself as you did of old in Paradise; / for having seen you naked, / He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment. / Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

Kontakion — Tone 4

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: / "Do not be afraid to baptize me. / For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

Troparion — Tone 4

The truth of things revealed you to your flock as a rule of faith, / a model of meekness, and a teacher of temperance. / Through humility, you attained the heights; / and through poverty, riches. / O Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved.

Holy Communion is strictly reserved for baptized Orthodox Christians.

The Epistle

The Reading from the Epistle of ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY 3:13- 16; 4:1-5

TIMOTHY, my son, those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, through the pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and enjoin abstinence from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving; for then it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

WE ENTER TO WORSHIP...

WE DEPART TO SERVE...

HOLY COMMUNION & HOLY PENANCE (CONFESSION)

Eucharist is the most Sacred act of our Holy Orthodox Faith. Holy Communion is the essence of our Divine Liturgy. Proper preparation is necessary to partake of the Holy Mysteries:

- ✘ Fasting from Midnight before the Liturgy
- ✘ Confession to the priest by proper examination of ones conscience
- ✘ Absolution given by the priest is the gift of repentance

PROPER ETIQUETTE WHILE IN CHURCH

- ✘ Arrive to church in **modest attire** and turn off cell phones before entering church.
- ✘ We **DO NOT** cross our legs in church.
- ✘ There should be no talking or chewing gum while in church. **Absolutely NO FOOD.**
- ✘ No **water** or any other beverage should be consumed while in church.
- ✘ The only persons permitted behind the Holy Altar are the Clergy and Altar servers.
- ✘ No walking up or down the aisle if the Epistle; Gospel or Homily is being said.
- ✘ The only persons that should be standing in the back are the ushers to keep order.
- ✘ If you are planning to partake of Holy Communion, please prepare yourself properly.
- ✘ During Holy Communion, all parishioners are to remain standing until the last person receives.

THE PROPER WAY TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

- ✘ Approach the chalice with reverence with arms crossed over your chest & state your name for the priest
- ✘ Tilt your head **STRAIGHT BACK** (not left or right) and open your mouth to avoid touching the spoon with your mouth.
- ✘ Following these three simple steps will ensure us that we are receiving Holy Communion (**NOT** taking) in the correct order prescribed by the Orthodox Church and at the same time gives consideration to our fellow parishioners.

The Eastern Orthodox Church

The Eastern Orthodox Church is the original Christian Church founded by Jesus Christ and His Apostles, preserved through the centuries in the life, worship, and teachings of the ancient Church. With deep roots in Scripture, sacred Tradition, and the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments), Orthodoxy offers a living, unbroken connection to the early Church and its timeless Truth.

To be **Orthodox** is to live the fullness of the Christian faith: to worship as the Apostles did, to experience Christ in the Divine Liturgy, and to walk the path of transformation through prayer, fasting, and love. It is a way of life centered on Christ, in communion with the saints and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Interested in Becoming Orthodox?

We'd love to walk that journey with you. To learn more or to speak with a priest, contact:

V. Rev. Archpriest Michael G. Shaheen

Phone: 419-260-1621

Father Michael's office hours are **by appointment only**

The Holy Gospel

*The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to
LUKE 9:57-62*

At that time, John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

POLISHED & POWERFUL

Teen Etiquette Academy



*Reviving timeless habits
to empower today's youth!*



Learn From a Certified Etiquette Consultant!

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- ✓ Public Speaking
- ✓ Interviewing Skills
- ✓ Everyday Manners & More!



♦ *Manners are making a comeback - and your teen is invited!*

**Register Your
Teen Today!**

Seats Are Limited



**FREE Course –
Unlimited Reward!**



Begins February 10 - March 31, 2026



Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:30 - 5:30 PM



617 Nevada St., Toledo, Ohio 43605



Instructor Ms. Kryz (419) 796-0540



salgaufoundation.com/programs



EVERY WEDNESDAY QUIET HOUR OF PRAYER

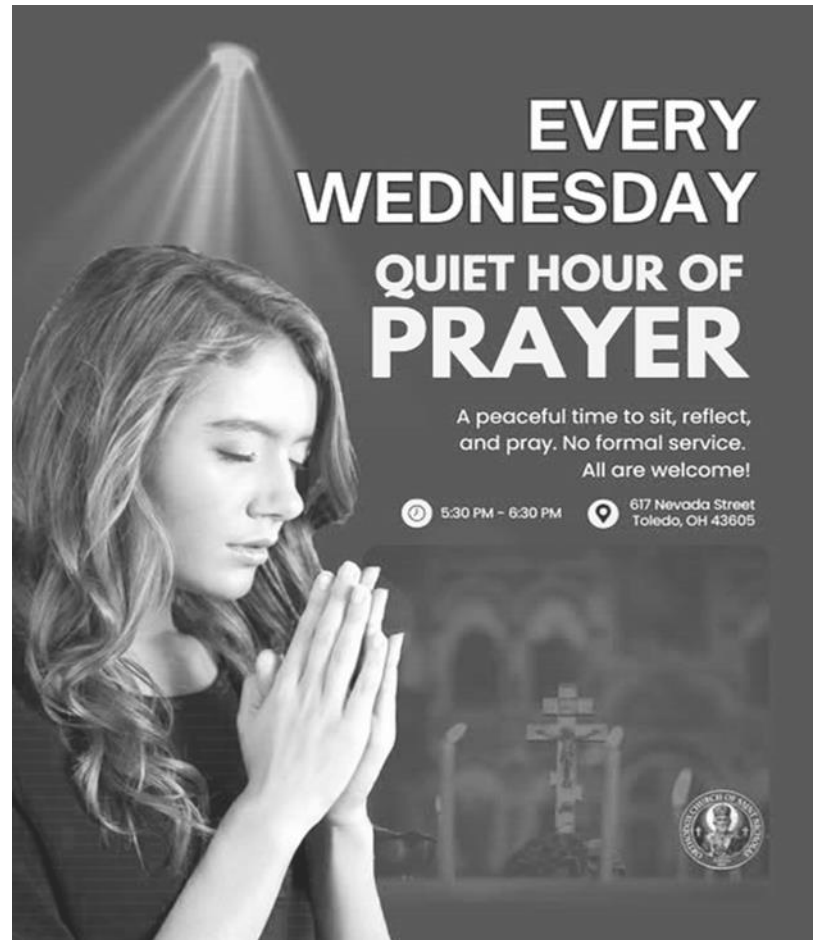
A peaceful time to sit, reflect,
and pray. No formal service.
All are welcome!



5:30 PM - 6:30 PM



617 Nevada Street
Toledo, OH 43605



**Every Wednesday, from 5:30 – 6:30 PM, our church will
open its doors for a special time of silence and reflection.**

**No liturgy, no service - just a peaceful hour to sit, pray, and
draw closer to God.**

All are welcome!

Today's Quote

No matter how much we may study, it is not possible to come to know God unless we live according to His commandments, for God is not known by science, but by the Holy Spirit. Many philosophers and learned men came to the belief that God exists, but they did not know God. It is one thing to believe that God exists and another to know Him. If someone has come to know God by the Holy Spirit, his soul will burn with love for God day and night, and his soul cannot be bound to any earthly thing."

(St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, VIII.3)

Have you had CONFESSION?

As our Divine liturgy is our entry into the Kingdom of God from the moment of the Great Proclamation:

"Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen"

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." - 1 John 1:9

Therefore, Father Michael is offering you, beloved faithful, 2 ways for you to confess.

1. A private appointment can be scheduled
2. Sunday during Orthros at 9:30 AM

This is a significant part of our Orthodox Christian faith and **MUST** be practiced regularly

Feel uncomfortable with confession?

The following video may help ease the discomfort.

<https://youtu.be/IOvAH3Sp9Ik>

Polished & Powerful-Teen Etiquette Academy

Hosted by the Salgau Foundation at the Orthodox Church of Saint Nicholas, this program helps teens build real-world confidence and skills they can use every day! This academy isn't about perfection – it's about helping your teen feel prepared, poised, and proud of who they are – to carry themselves with respect, and step boldly into new opportunities.

Our Teen Etiquette Academy is the place where those skills take root and grow, and young people step into every room knowing they belong there!



Everyday manners and respect



Table and mealtime skills



How to show kindness and empathy



Building confidence and self-respect



Talking and listening with confidence



When:

Class 1: Tuesday, February 10

Class 2: Thursday, February 12

Class 3: Tuesday, February 17

Class 4: Thursday, February 19

Class 5: Tuesday, February 24

Class 6: Thursday, February 26

Class 7: Tuesday, March 3

Class 8: Thursday, March 5

Class 9: Tuesday, March 10

Class 10: Thursday, March 12

Class 11: Tuesday, March 17

Class 12: Thursday, March 19

Class 13: Tuesday, March 24

Class 14: Thursday, March 26

Class 15: Tuesday, March 31



Where: Saint Nicholas Church, 617 Nevada St., Toledo



Cost: Completely FREE!



Sign Up: Fill out the registration form below, or call/text Krys at (419) 796-0540, or email krys@salgaufoundation.com

The Lord's Prayer

When teaching men to pray, Christ said: *Pray then like this:*

“Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

(Mt 6.9–13, cf. Lk 11.2–4).

This is the usual translation of the prayer used in the Orthodox Church. It begins with a petition to God as ***“our Father.”*** There was no such prayer before this teaching of Christ. The Old Testament people did not address God as “Abba: Father” (Rom 8.15, Gal 4.6). This name of “Father” for God is given by Christ, the divine Son of God.

The statement that the Father is ***“in heaven,”*** means that He is everywhere and over all things. The heavens are over all and encompass all. Wherever man goes on the earth or in the air, or even in space, the heavens are around him and over him.

“Hallowed be Thy name” means that God’s name is holy and should be treated with respect and devotion. “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain” (Ex 20.7).

“Thy Kingdom come” in the Lord’s Prayer is first of all the prayer for the end of the ages. Christians want the world to end so that God’s Kingdom would fill all creation with divine glory and life.

For the Kingdom of God is... righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom 14.17).

“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” is the center of the Lord’s Prayer, the central desire of Christians. The whole purpose of prayer, the very purpose of man’s life, is to do the will of God. There is but one purpose of prayer, say the spiritual teachers, to keep God’s commandments so as not to sin.

The prayer for ***our “daily bread”*** is normally understood to signify generally all of our bodily needs and whatever we require to sustain our lives in this world. In the spiritual sense to mean the nourishment of our souls by the Word of God, Jesus Christ who is the “Bread of Life;” Thus the prayer for “daily bread” becomes the petition for daily spiritual nourishment through abiding communion with Christ so that one might live perpetually with God.

The prayer ***“forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”*** has been especially emphasized by the Lord.

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses (Mt 6.14–15).

“Lead us not into temptation” should not be understood as if God puts His people to the test or brings them in to the occasion of evil.

God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempts no one; but each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

“Lead us not into temptation” means that we ask God not to allow us to be found in situations in which we will be overcome by sin. It is a prayer that we be kept from those people and places where wickedness reigns and where we in our weakness will certainly succumb. It is a prayer that we will be liberated from the deceit and vanity of our minds and hearts, from the carnal lusts that dwell in our bodies. It is a prayer that God Himself would be man’s shelter and refuge (cf. Ps 91).

“Deliver us from evil” says literally “rescue us from the evil one,” that is, the devil. The meaning is clear. There are but two ways for man: God and life or the devil and death. Deliverance from the devil means salvation and redemption from every falsehood, foolishness, deceit, wickedness and iniquity that leads to destruction and death.

Pan-Orthodox Toledo
invites you to our

2026

BLESSING OF THE WATERS



JOIN THE PARISHIONERS OF
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
ST. ELIAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ST. ELIZABETH THE NEW MARTYR OCA MISSION
ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10TH
11AM
GLASS CITY METRO PARK, TOLEDO

Follow park signs to meet at Market Hall.
At 11am, we will process to Sturgeon Point for the service.

Fellowship & ice-skating following.

Contact: PanOrthodoxToledo@gmail.com

