

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FIFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of the Healing Gadarene Demoniacs

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

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The Propers for today: Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 4; Glory be ... Now and ever; Kontakion of the Resurrection, Tone 4; Prokeimenon and Alleluia, Tone 4; Epistle, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (EOT 57-58); Gospel, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost.

GLORY BE TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU! SLAVA NA VIKI!

Scripture readings: Epistle: Romans 10: 1-10

Gospel: St. Matthew 8: 28-9:1

Divine Liturgy Schedule:

Sat.	July	4	Our Holy Father Andrew — Independence Day 4:00 p.m. For the parish family of St. Nicholas Church
Sun.	July	5	FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:30 a.m. +John and Agnes Chontos by Judy Chontos 11:00 a.m. +Sophie Koval Dzurnak by Jack and Dorothy Grant
Mon.	July	6	Our Venerable Father Sisoës the Great
Tues.	July	7	Our Venerable Father Thomas and Acacius 9:00 a.m. No Divine Liturgy celebrated
Wed.	July	8	The Holy Great Martyr Procopius 9:00 a.m. No Divine Liturgy celebrated
Thurs.	July	9	The Holy Martyr Pancratius
Fri.	July	10	Our Venerable Father Anthony
Sat.	July	11	Our Holy Martyr the Illustrious Euphemia 4:00 p.m. For the parish family of St. Nicholas Church
Sun.	July	12	SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:30 a.m. +Betty Dirda by Charlotte Dirda 10:30 a.m. Akathist to the Mother of God — for our parish and eparchy 11:00 a.m. +Dr. Robert Mihalo by Gary Spisak

WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS The faithful of St. Nicholas Church would like to welcome new parishioners and visitors. We are happy that you have joined us on our spiritual journey and we hope that you feel welcome. **RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION** If you are Roman Catholic or Orthodox you are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When coming to receive Communion please do not extend your tongue — tilt your head back and open your mouth as wide as possible so that the priest can place the Body and Blood of Christ into your mouth. **FASTING BEFORE LITURGY** Please fast at least (a minimum of) one hour before attending the Divine Liturgy and receiving Communion. **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)** Please do not receive Communion if you have committed sins of a grave nature (i.e., "mortal sins"). Go to Confession first before receiving Communion. Visitors: please sign the guest book by the bulletin board. All precautions are being taken to make our church as safe and sanitary as possible during this time of COVID-19.

Please continue to pray for the sick and shut-in of our parish: Doris Crawley, Lillian Stefano, Kitty Marchione, Marie Sloff, Ray Huddas. Continue to pray for all health care workers and first responders, including and especially the police.

"God bless America, land that I love. Stand beside her and guide her through the night with the light from above; From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam, God bless America, my home sweet home."

Gospel Reflection The direct hit that Jesus scores against the unclean spirit in today's Gospel proves that the Holy One of God is not going to let himself be dazzled or dismayed by an array of devilish howls, growls, and scowls. Jesus gives not an inch or a second to his enemy's antics. That unclean spirit surely knows the answer to his own stupid question, "Have you come to destroy us?" Of course Jesus has come to destroy the demonic. He is the exorcist par excellence. *Identifying the Devil* As he exercises his authority to cast out the unclean, Jesus gives us a valuable lesson in identifying the devil in our own lives and times. The demonic, the devilish, and the dirty blow their cover and reveal their presence by the way they act. They act in a harsh, violent, and destructive way. There is nothing calm, serene, peaceful, or constructive about their operational procedures. They cannot speak quietly — they shriek and holler. They cannot act gently or tenderly — they convulse, twist, contort. *The Sights and Sounds of Violence* Look for and listen to the sights and sounds of violence in our society today and you will see the misshapen shadows and hear the shrieks of the unclean spirits of the twenty-first century. Violence is the age-old trademark of the demonic. Whenever and wherever we participate in, encourage, or tolerate violence — on the highways or athletic arenas or on TV and cinema screens or on social media — we do the devil's work and make the world a hell of a place to live. *"Be Quiet!"* Jesus' substitute for detente with the demonic is his brisk rebuke: "Be quiet!" We can be sure that the unclean spirits neither want to be quiet themselves nor do they want us to be quiet. To be quiet, to be at rest — and does anyone remember that Sunday is the *Day of Rest*? — is the first condition for hearing God's voice. Because God is a lover, he does not shriek or scream or shout. So be quiet. "If today you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

Happy Birthday America! Your flag waves proudly in the free air - a symbol of all that makes you great. Whether at a ball game, political rally, concert, or worship service, she still sends a chill up and down our spine. Our currency carries the motto, "IN GOD WE TRUST." May we learn to transfer this motto from our coins to our hearts! No nation on earth will long endure that does not depend on God. How can we transfer this motto from our coins and put it into our hearts? I think the answer lies in Psalm 33.

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia in the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall), approved the Declaration of Independence. Its purpose was to set forth the principles upon which the Congress had acted two days earlier when it voted in favor of Richard Henry Lee's motion to declare the freedom and independence of the 13 American colonies from England. The Declaration was designed to influence public opinion and gain support both among the new states and abroad, especially from France.

On Independence Day (and the time around this national holiday, maybe even this weekend), we might find ourselves picnicking, barbecuing, enjoying the company of friends and loved ones, or perhaps just relaxing in the backyard. When it gets dark, though, and we are watching the fireworks with our family, you might want to take a moment to appreciate that maintaining our independence as a nation has sometimes come at a steep price. Our brave men and women, those in uniform, on and off the battlefield, have risked their lives, and often sacrificed their lives, to protect us and keep us all safe. Have a fun and memorable Fourth of July week. Enjoy your family and friends, the good food and the sights and sounds of the holiday. And if you get the chance, don't forget to walk up to a veteran and thank them for their service.

Weekly Collections

6/28/2020

"My return to the Lord for all His goodness to me"

Offertory	\$ 1,098.00
Holy Days	\$ 130.00
Candles	\$ 12.00
E-Donations	\$ 100.00
Total:	\$ 1,340.00

St. Nicholas parishioners are exceptionally generous. *Everything we have is on loan from the Lord, entrusted to us for a while to use in serving Him.*

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

23300 King Drive, Clinton Township, MI 48035

Phone: (586) 791-1052; Email: stnicksbyzantine@yahoo.com

Served by: Father Joseph J. Repko, Pastor
Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore

Cantors: George Nagrant, Nicholas P. Nagrant, Joseph Wanchik, Steve Terlescki, John P. Minarish, and Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore and Richard Baranko, *Cantor Emeritus*.

Choir Director: Nicholas J. Nagrant

Catechetical Director: Suzanne Swanney

Youth Directors: Adam Digon and Kimberly Kaufman

Liturgy Schedule: Saturday 4:00 P.M. (Anticipated Sunday Obligation with Vespers)
Sunday 8:30 A.M. (Slavonic / English mix)
11:00 A.M. (English)
Daily Liturgy as scheduled (see inside of the bulletin)

Warfare Within Us

The whole warfare of the demons against us is waged with the one purpose of alienating those who obey them from the glory of God and the grace of the Holy Spirit. But, as I see it, we have already deprived ourselves of such a gift before they even attack us, because we have forsaken the commandments of God and have not been eager to seek Him with all our soul. Had we sought Him we should not have lived so idly and carelessly! Had we been concerned for the things of heaven we should not have shown such great eagerness for the things of earth. Had our thoughts been on things incorruptible we should not have gaped greedily after the things that are transitory and corruptible.

Had we striven for things eternal we should not thus have pursued things temporal. Had we loved God we should not thus have turned away from those who guide us to Him. Had we sought to acquire virtues we would not have abhorred the teachers of virtues. Had we gladly embraced fasting we should not have complained of the lack of food and drink. Had we fought to gain control over our passions we should not have given ourselves unrestrainedly to pleasures. Had we a right and firm faith we should not have performed the works of faithlessness. Had we been found worthy to attain true love we should have known God.

St. Simeon the New Theologian



Saint Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

Clinton Township, MI

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na v'iki!

Announcements for July 5, 2020: The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

A HUGE Fish Fry Thank You: We would like to thank GCU Lodge 860 and everyone who supported our abbreviated Lenten Fish Fry fundraiser this year- including those of you that made separate monetary donations to help make up for lost sales due to the COVID-19 pandemic (If you recall, because of the virus outbreak, we only served meals on two of the seven Friday's during Lent). We are very grateful for all of the donations, several of which were quite sizable-- including one for \$500 made in memory of Bob Stefano, who was the President of GCU Lodge 860 for several years before he passed away last fall, and who volunteered countless hours of his time at our fish fry's going back many years, including even back to our Beaconsfield (Detroit) location. Due especially to your generous donations this year, GCU Lodge 860 has reported a total profit of \$2,400.00 for this year, which will be matched in its entirety by the GCU Home Office. Combined together, this means that Lodge 860 will be able to donate a total of \$4,800.00 to St. Nicholas Parish (WOW!!!!) Thank you to everyone that prepped, cooked, served, cleaned, or otherwise volunteered your time to help. Thank you to everyone that donated halushki, mac/cheese, soups, and desserts for people to purchase! And, of course, thank you to everyone who made the effort to come in and purchase your Friday dinners here at St. Nick's during Lent! May God grant all of you many happy and blessed years!

Fish Fry Raffle Winners: Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fish Fry raffle was limited as well, but we did have the drawing, and the winners were Christi Beitel (the 50/50 prize of \$16) and Victor Raybaud (the beautiful Easter basket and cover, donated by Sharon and Gerry May). Congratulations to both Christi and Victor!

You're Invited-- Prayer Ministry Opportunity: Please consider joining this important ministry of prayer here at St. Nick's. During this time of crisis, prayer is needed now more than ever! Prayerfully consider if the Lord is calling you to join this ministry! Most of the prayers can be done from your home. For more information please contact Subdeacon Phillip or email us at stnicksbyzantine@yahoo.com.

This year's Uniontown Pilgrimage has been cancelled: In the interest of safety and well-being of all, this year's Pilgrimage to Mount St. Macrina (Uniontown, PA) in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help has been cancelled. However, the Sisters of St. Basil are hoping to provide a series of internet services which pilgrims can watch from their own homes. This will allow you to make a pilgrimage "of the heart" this year, instead of a pilgrimage "of the feet." As new information is announced, we will pass it along.

For more info: Please see our bulletin, LIKE us on Facebook or visit our website: stnicksdetroit.com

Information from the Eparchy of Parma
(visit www.parma.org for more info)

**The Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma
Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch
Annual Eparchial Pilgrimage**
Sunday, August 16, 2020



Schedule . . .

1:30pm - Moleben to the Mother of God

2:00pm - Talk given by Fr. Cyril Pinchak, SJ

3:00pm - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

The Most Rev. Kurt Burnette,
Bishop of the Eparchy of Passaic,
main celebrant and homilist

The opportunity for Holy Repentance
(Confession) will be available from
1pm to 4pm.

The Eastern Treasures Gift Shop will be open.

17486 Mumford Road, Burton, Ohio
216-469-1425
www.shrineofmariapoch.com
wfredrick@parma.org
Deacon William V. Fredrick, Director

Due to the COVID-19 situation, there have been some changes to the typical pilgrimage schedule:

- no camping of any kind is permitted
- food will not be available for purchase at the cafeteria so you are welcome to bring your own food
- masks are encouraged but will not be furnished
- bring your own chair to maintain social distancing (folding chairs will not be available)
- bottled water will be provided

Please note: Picnic tables will NOT be available for use.