

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

May 28, 2006

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a remembrance for those who have died in the service of our nation. It was declared a federal holiday in 1971 with the passing of the National Holiday Act which ensures a three day weekend for Federal holidays.

There are many stories regarding its actual beginning and there is evidence that organized women's groups in the South were decorating the graves of the Confederate Soldiers before the end of the Civil War. However, Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. The day was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

New York state officially recognized the holiday in 1873 and was the first state to do so. By 1890 all northern states recognized the holiday but the South refused to acknowledge it and honored their dead on separate days until after World War I. At that time, the holiday changed from honoring those who died fighting in the Civil War to all who died fighting in any war. Almost every State now celebrates the holiday on the last Monday in May (the National Holiday Act of 1971) although several southern states have an additional separate day honoring the confederate war dead..

Over the years the traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished and many of us have forgotten the true meaning and traditions of this day. We see in many cemeteries that graves of the fallen are increasingly ignored and neglected and most people do not even remember proper flag etiquette for this day. There are some towns and cities that remember and still hold parades but many have not done so in decades. Some people think the day is for honoring any and all dead and not just those fall in the service to our country.

In December, 2000, the "**National Moment of Remembrance**" resolution was passed which asks that at 3:00 p.m. local time, for all Americans "*To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of Remembrance and Respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence of listening to 'Taps'.*"

Many believe that the Moment of Remembrance is a good start to returning the meaning back to the day. But many think what may be needed to return to the solemn and sacred meaning of the day is to go back to the traditional day of observance. As the VFW stated in its 2002 Memorial Day address: "*Changing the date merely to create three-day weekends has undermined the very meaning of the day. No doubt, this has contributed greatly to the general public's nonchalant observance of Memorial Day.*"

There has been some movement to restore Memorial Day to its original May 30th date instead of the last Monday in May.

from: usmemorialday.org



Parish News and Events (www.stnickaa.org)

Welcome Visitors!

Please fill out the form on the notepads in the pews and put it in the collection tray so we may welcome you to our Parish.

Visitors Please Note

Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians. Visitors are welcome to receive the Antidoro (Blessed Bread), which is distributed at the end of the Divine Liturgy..

Prosforo will be needed for the following Sundays: July 2 and 30.

Fellowship Hour Sponsors needed for the following Sundays: June 18, 25, July 9, and 30.

Stewardship

As Christians, if we truly understood the principle of Christian Stewardship, we would not pose the question: "How much do I have to give to become a member of this parish?" "What are your parish dues?" Rather, we would know that our whole life is a partnership with God and that we offer to God the "first fruits" as emphasized by St. Paul in 1 Cor. 16:2 and not the leftovers.

Therefore, your commitment to the Stewardship Program of this parish is critical to our continued operation and ministries. For those who have not filled out a stewardship card for 2006, or who need to complete a 2005 pledge, please do so as soon as possible. We appreciate your care and concern.



Vacation Bible School

"Summer Pascha" is our theme for our first V.B. School—2006, scheduled June 19th-22nd. We invite children from Kindergarten to 7th grad to come and share their faith, meet new friends and have fun. Learn about Holy Week through music, crafts and class instruction, and help create a children's garden with flowers and painted rocks.

Please fill out a registration form for V.B.S. Forms are located on the table outside the fellowship hall. Fee is \$25.00/child and the deadline is Sunday, June 11, 2006.

Philoptochos Notes

The Philoptochos May Community Care Ministry is the collection of gently used, clean women's clothing. We need suits, pantsuits (all sizes) and accessories suitable for job interviews. Please bring your donations, clothing on hangers, to the Church during the month of May. More details will appear in the April/May bulletin.

We need clean sheets for our cancer pad project. Please bring your sheets to the church. Please note: NO PILLOWCASES they are not large enough to use for the blue pads. Please put sheets in plastic bags.

Church School

As we are approaching the end of the Church School year, the children are reminded of the requirements needed to receive their honor pins.

On Sunday June 4 and June 11, Church School will begin at 10:00 a.m. instead of after Communion so that there will be enough time allowed for testing all students.

Other reminders:

June 11th Parish Picnic and **Deadline for VBS registration.**

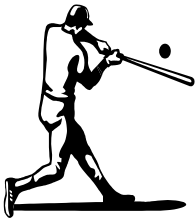
June 18th Church School Graduation
June 19-22 Vacation Bible School grades K-7 (8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. daily)

Cemetery Visits On Memorial Day, Fr. Nick will be going to the cemeteries for prayers. He will be at Bethlehem, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.; Washtenong, 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m. and Forest Hills-2:00 p.m.

There will be a general Memorial Service at Bethlehem Cemetery starting at 9:00 a.m. for those unable to stay for individual prayers at the gravesite.

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Altar Boy Tiger Outing

Come see the Tigers play the St. Louis Cardinals on **Friday, June 23, 2006, 7:05 p.m.**

Altar Boys and their families get first priority. If anyone else want to come, we'll put

you on the waiting list. **Cost is \$15.00 per person and you must arrange your own transportation.**

Please R.S.V.P. by June 18th to Andreas Stathopoulos—665-2658.

AHEPA Golf Outing The 9th Annual Ann Arbor AHEPA Golf Outing will take place at noon on Saturday, June 3rd, 2006, at the Stonebridge Golf Club. Proceeds from this event will be used for the Chapter's Educational Scholarship and other charitable donations. Please contact the Golf Committee Chairman, Costas Boutsikakis (734-604-8737) or Christos Philippou (734-309-3032) for more information.

New Parish Directory

A new parish directory will be put together during the next several months. Please see the poster in the hallway regarding time for portraits. Times are available in June, October, and November. Please be ready to sign-up, have your and your family's portrait taken, and be a part of our directory!

Greek School

Sunday, June 4th, Greek School Graduation

As the Greek School year comes to a close, there are several families who have yet to pay their tuition. Our Greek School has a long history of excellent programs and activities that nurture our children's Hellenic education and development. To continue at this high level, it is very important that everyone pay their tuition fees on time. Please send your check to the church office as soon as possible. Scholarships are available for those in need. Please contact Fr. Nick

If you would like to volunteer for the PTO, please contact either Koula Pliakas at koulap@comcast.net or Demetra M-R. at dmr@hotmail.com.

Participate in the SCRIP Program

The Scrip program is similar to the EGGS program except that you buy a pre-paid card from any of a large number of stores and vendors in the area. St. Nicholas will receive a percentage of the purchase price as our earning, but the card will retain its full amount for your usage. The following is a sample of vendors, the card amounts you can purchase, and the earnings return for St. Nicholas.

Speedway-\$25-\$100-4%; American Airlines-\$50-16%; Bed, Bath & Beyond-\$25-7%; Marriott-\$50-\$100-12%; Sears-\$25-4%; Marathon-\$25-3%; Barnes & Noble-\$10-9%; Whole Foods-\$25-5%; Kohl's-\$25-5%; Lowe's \$25-\$100-4%.

To see the **complete list of vendors**, card amounts you can purchase and earnings return for St. Nicholas see the sign up sheets in the hallway.

PLEASE PARTICIPATE!!

Church Etiquette—Receiving Communion

Please remember the following etiquette when coming forward to receive Holy Communion:

- Privately recite the Communion preparation prayers found on the laminated sheets in the pews
- Please come forward only when an usher has called your row
- Take the Communion cloth in your hands and place it underneath your chin (using both hands)
- Open your mouth wide and take all of the Communion off of the spoon
- Wipe your mouth on the cloth
- Pass the cloth to the next person in line
- When you return to your pew, privately recite the prayer for after receiving communion on the laminated sheet
- If you are bringing forward a baby, hold the baby cradled in your right arm and gently restrain his or her hands and feet. An altar boy will help with the placement of the child's head if necessary

Be Greek For A Day! 13th Annual Opa! Fest

Come join us June 23 - 25 for a weekend of food, dancing, cultural events and family fun. Celebrate our Greek Culture and become family! St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Troy, MI.

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

MAY 28, 2006

Orthros 9 AM

Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Church School

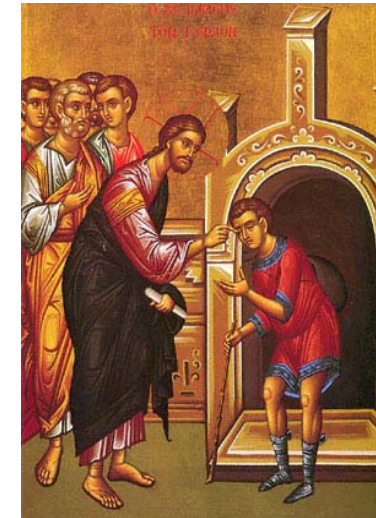
No Church School Today

Epistle Reading

Acts 16:16-34

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-38



SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

Protopsaltis

Zannis Res

Choir Director

Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo

Maria Papaefthymiou

Fellowship Hour

Holly Polopolos & Moniodis Family

Memorial Service

Gregory Polopolos 40 Days

UP-COMING EVENTS—www.stnickaa.org

Monday, May 29

MEMORIAL DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

-Cemetery Visits

-Bethlehem 9 a.m.; Washtenong 12 Noon, Forest Hills 2 p.m.

-YAL Night—7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 30

-Orthros & Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Ascension of Our Lord

Thursday, June 1

-Y.E.R.A.C. Meeting –7:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 3

-AHEPA Golf Outing—12 Noon

Submissions for the Sunday bulletin must be sent to: office@stnickaa.org by 10 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to publication.

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Web: www.stnickaa.org E-Mail: office@stnickaa.org

Proistamenos: Rev. Father Nicolaos H. Kotsis (frnick@stnickaa.org)

Church office: 734/332-8200 Home: 734/677-7891 Cell: 734/604-3214

MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE: www.stnickaa.org