

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

June 18, 2006

Epistle Reading: BRETHREN, all the saints Heb. 11:33-40; 12:1-2 through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the

mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the pas-sions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You.

Apolytikion of the Church

The truth of your manner of life manifested you to your flock as a rule of faith and an icon of gentleness and a teacher of self-control. By humility, therefore, you acquired the things on high, and riches through poverty. Father Holy Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God, entreating that our souls be saved.

Kontakion

The world offers You, the author of all creation, as the first-fruits of nature, the God-bearing martyrs. O most merciful, by their intercessions, through the Theotokos, maintain Your Church in perfect peace.

Gospel Reading The Lord said to his disciples, Matt. 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30 "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven;

but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

Apolytikion for All Saints

Your Church, O Christ our God, clothed itself in the blood of Your martyrs from throughout the world, as though it were a robe of linen and purple; through them, she cries out to You, "Send down upon Your people compassion, grant peace to Your commonwealth, and to our souls, great mercy."

From the Fathers of the Church

AT all times indeed, but especially then when I reflect upon the achievements of the saints, it comes over me to feel despondency concerning my own condition, because we have not even in dreams experienced the things among which those men spent their whole lives, not paying the penalty of sins, but always doing rightly and yet always afflicted...For "God" (he says) "has provided some better thing for us." In order that they might not seem to have the advantage of us from being crowned before us, He appointed one time of crowning for all; and he that gained the victory so many years before, receives his crown with thee. Seest thou His t e n d e r c a r e f u l n e s s ?
St. John Chrysostom, Homily 28 on Hebrews 11
4th Century



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.

Prosforo will be needed for the Sundays of July 30, August 13, 20 and 27.

Fellowship Hour Sponsors needed for the following Sundays: June 25, August 6, 13, 20, & 27..

Stewardship

The New Testament promotes the concept of "proportionate giving", which may even exceed the ten percent limitation denoted by the word "tithe". Tithing meant one tenth of one's income and tithes were obligatory of the Jews of the Old Testament for the support of the priesthood and the Temple. They usually consisted of grains or animals.

St. Paul, in I Corinthians 16:2, emphasizes regular and proportionate giving when he writes, "on the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and store it up, as he may prosper. . ."; and St. Luke in his Gospel (chapter 1:1-4) relates the story of the poor widow who offered two mites, "all the living that she had", an offering which far exceeded the tithe of the rich men because she cast in all that she possessed, not merely the "required" one tenth.

Christian Stewardship refers to our attitude toward ourselves and our world. It has to do with all that we are and have. Thus, we recognize ourselves and our world as belonging to God; we affirm all life, possessions, talent, gifts—both actual and potential—are entrusted to us for our lifetime use and management, (Genesis 1:26-28); we acknowledge that we are not only responsible, but also accountable for how we exercise this Stewardship. (Malachi 3:7-11)

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.

Philoptochos Notes

No bed pad sewing in July. We'll resume on August 1st at 9:30 a.m.

Community Care for June, July and August is IOCC. The IOCC is the internationally respected Pan-Orthodox Humanitarian Organization of SCOPA that responds to needs anywhere in the world including the United States. Please be generous

Vacation Bible School

"Summer Pascha" the theme for our first Vacation Bible School—2006 starts tomorrow, June 19th and goes through June 22nd. Learn about Holy Week through music, crafts and class instruction, and help create a children's garden with flowers and painted rocks.

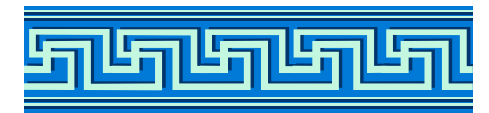
St. Nicholas Seniors Are invited to attend the "2nd Annual Taverna Gathering" on Tuesday, June 20th at 4:00 p.m. We will enjoy a full Souvlaki Dinner, singing and dancing in the church hall. Cost \$7.00. For more information, please call Penny Bekiaries—662-6606 or Joan Raphael—483-0923. Hope to see you there.

Daughters of Penelope The Daughters of Penelope End of the Year Dinner, is this Wednesday, June 21st at 6:30 p.m. All women of the Parish are invited to join us at the Quarter Bistro Restaurant.

Altar Boy Notes

Tiger baseball game on Friday June 23rd. Game starts at 7:05 p.m.

"Happy Father's Day"



The Feast of All Saints

Honouring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honourable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the divine Apostle, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood.

Therefore, guided by the teaching of Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we honour all the Saints, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. We honor the known Saints on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. Since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Saviour" (Sunday of All Saints, Doxasticon of Vespers).

Reading courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery



SAVE THE DATE
June 29th 7:00 p.m.
Ice Cream Social
here at St Nicholas

Sponsored by the Y.A.L.

Join us again this year for your favorite ice cream delight! Enjoy fellowship with other parishioners and meet new people.

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
- Women should remove lipstick before receiving
- Men should not have their hands in their pockets

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.

Saint Nicholas Young Adults (Y.A.L.)

Tuesday night, June 20th, 7:30 pm we'll have a spiritual discussion here at the Church. We'll also have some fun and fellowship! All are welcome! Need a ride or have any questions? Contact Christopher A. Bekiars: cbgoblue@mogloblue.com or 734/761-9255.



THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

JUNE 18, 2006

Orthros 9 AM

Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Church School

Epistle Reading

Heb. 11:33-40;12:1-2:

Gospel Reading

Matt.10:32-33; 37-38;19:27-30



ALL SAINTS

Protopsaltis
Zannis Res

Choir Director
Jon Wardner

Prosforo
Ioannou Family

Fellowship Hour
Parish Council

UP-COMING EVENTS—www.stnickaa.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

Monday, June 19

Tuesday, June 20

Wednesday, June 21

Thursday, June 22

Friday, June 23

-CHURCH SCHOOL GRADUATION

- Vacation Bible School—8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Children's Play Group—11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Bible Study—7:30 p.m.
- Vacation Bible School—8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Seniors Taverna Night-4:00 p.m.
- YAL Spiritual Discussion —7:30 p.m.
- Vacation Bible School—8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- AHEPA Meeting
- Vacation Bible School—8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Altar Boy Tiger Game — 7:05 p.m.

"Happy Father's Day"

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

