

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

July 9, 2006

Epistle Reading: BRETHREN, having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades He delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy.

Kontakion

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Pancratios, Bishop of Sicily

This Saint, who was a contemporary of the Apostles, had Antioch as his homeland, where he was guided to the Faith of Christ by Peter, the Chief of the Apostles. Later, he came to Sicily, where he brought many to the Faith, and was finally put to death by the pagans.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

Gospel Reading . At that time, as Jesus entered Matt. 8:51-3 Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

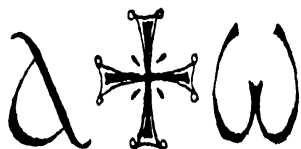
Apolytikion of the Church

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.

Wisdom From the Fathers

Let us hearken, as many as are to receive Christ: for it is possible to receive Him even now. Let us hearken, and emulate, and receive Him with as great zeal; for indeed, when you receive a poor man who is hungry and naked, you have received and cherished Him.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 26 on Matthew 8
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.

Visitor's 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 Sundays of August 20 and 27.

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

Stewardship

Christian Stewardship is our response of faith to God's divine grace. Here we knock on the door of the ultimate answer to the question of our giving. Here is no profit motive and no effort to accumulate great wealth. Stewardship is simply how we respond to the goodness, the grace and love of our divine heavenly Father. When we accept this, our motivation in giving is simply our effort to respond to God's giving and forgiving love. We can never be givers until we are willing and open to receive the gifts of God so liberally available for us but unavailable for our use until with faith we respond to God's grace.

Rev. Fr. Michael A. Makridis

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.



You may take a vacation but our parish bills don't. Please continue to support the parish during the summer months.

Thank you!

Philoptochos Notes

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

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

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

St. Nicholas Seniors Please join with us for an "Ice-Cream Afternoon" this Tuesday, July 11th at 1:00 p.m. We will meet at the home of Joan Raphael (810 Courtland, Ypsilanti). Sign up today by calling Penny Bekiares (662-6606), Diane Geczi (747-9619) or Joan Raphael (483-0923). Let us know if you need a ride!

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

The Y.A.L. "Hang-Out" Night is in full swing! We get together every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. at St. Nicholas. Some nights we may stay in and watch a video in the St. Nicholas Library or play some games other nights we will go out for coffee, see a movie, go bowling etc. All Young Adults are welcome to come join us! Meet new people, have fun and fellowship. Need a ride or have any questions? Contact Christopher A. Bekiares: cbgoblue@mgoblue.com or 734-761-9255. Our schedule is posted at ww.stnickaa.org

Prayer of the Holy Spirit

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: come and abide in us, cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One.

E.G.G.S.(Everybody Goes Grocery Shopping)
Our parish is pushing this effort to encourage our parishioners to sign up at Meijer, Kroger and Busch's so that our normal shopping habits can benefit our community financially. To sign up, please read the information below. Please remember, this is at NO EXPENSE to you—our parish gets rewarded from the stores. 4%-5% of the purchase price of your items comes back to St. Nicholas from the stores. Please sign up and help us in this easy program to help meet our financial needs!

Meijer Community Rewards

Our community is now participating in the Meijer Community Rewards project. If you shop Meijer, sign up for a rewards card (absolutely NO FEE involved)! Up to 4% of all the purchases made by parishioners who have signed up comes back to us! Our Meijer rewards account number is: **406440**. **You MUST show your card prior to starting your checkout!**

Kroger's and Busch's rechargeable \$5 gift cards are available outside our fellowship hall. 5% of anything you buy at Korger's or Busch's goes back to the church. Use a credit-card or cash as you would normally and pay with your rechargeable gift-card. Thank you!

St. Panteleimon Greek Festival —Sunday, July 23, 2006 at St. Panteleimon Church, 7143 Cedar Road, Lexington, Michigan.

Orthros 9:00 A.M.—Divine Liturgy 10:00 A.M.

Lambs cooked on the Souvla; Barbecue Chicken, Salads and Souvlakia, Pastries and Beverages.

No food will be allowed to be brought into the pavilion. You can buy food and drink there.

Greek Music by "HELLAS" - Dancing

Please join us on Wednesday, July 26 for our Vesper Service at 7:30 p.m. and Thursday, July 27th for Orthros at 10:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 11:00 a.m.

Vacation Bible School

Thanks to Susan Pagalos, Pres. Peggy Bistolarides and Eleni Res, our V.B.S. coordinators and to all the adults who helped with the program, and especially the garden, for making this a successful week!

The children really enjoyed themselves and learned a lot about Pascha. Our day began with a light breakfast, prayer in Church, classes, crafts, music, lunch and work in our children's garden.

Each child contributed to the garden so please come and see how much hard work they put into this beautiful Children's Garden.

We look forward to working with our young people next year as we learn another chapter in our Orthodox Faith. We hope that many more will join us. Talk to those who came to V.B.S. and find out what a wonderful, inspiring time it was.



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.

GOYA Notes

There will be a GOYA fellowship night on Saturday, July 15th, 6:00 p.m. at the Mitropoulos-Rundus home. All GOYAnS are invited for food, fun and fellowship.

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

JULY 9, 2006



Orthros 9 AM

Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Epistle Reading
Romans 6:18-23

Gospel Reading
Matt.8:5-13

Protopsaltis
Zannis Res

Choir Director
Jon Wardner

Prosforo
Betty Manolakis

Fellowship Hour
Elaine Spiliopoulos

FOURTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday, July 10** -Bible Study—Exodus—10:00 a.m.
-Bible Study—Exodus—7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 11** -YAL “Hang Out” Night—7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, July 13** -Parish Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.
- Friday, July 14** -Paraklesis Service—7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, July 15** -GOYA Fellowship Night—6:00 p.m.

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

3109 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

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