

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

July 23, 2006

Epistle Reading:

Rom: 12:6-14

BRETHREN, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to

us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate * with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born * for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. * For in His goodness He was pleased * to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, * and to raise up those who had died, * by His glorious Resurrection.

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.



Gospel Reading

Matt. 9:1-8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

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.

Wisdom of the Fathers

In this place He gives a complete likeness of the resurrection. Healing wounds of mind and body, He forgives the sins of souls and makes an end of the infirmity of the flesh: This is to cure the whole man. And though it is a great thing to forgive men their sins. . . nevertheless, it is a much more divine work to give resurrection to their bodies, because the Lord is Himself the resurrection.

Saint Ambrose, *The Healing of the Paralytic*, P. L. 15 (col. 1638) Fourth 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 and September 3 & 17.

Fellowship Hour Sponsors needed for the following Sundays: August 13, 20, and 27,

Stewardship

Stewardship is a way for Orthodox Christians to meet Church obligations with responsibility, dignity and equity. It is the only way: a) to participate totally in the work and mission of the church; b) through which the support of our Church becomes a matter of conscience instead of coercion; c) that considers the support of the Church as a personal obligation and a matter of commitment; d) the only way we can escape assessments and endless requests for support and e) the only way the Church is able to meet the needs of the faithful now and in the future based purely on Christian principles

A good steward is neither a miser nor a spendthrift. A good steward is not one who economizes but one who is a good manager of what has been entrusted to him. *Rev. Fr. E. Constantinides,*

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

Bed pad sewing resumes Tuesday, August 1st at 9:30 a.m..

We need clean sheets for our cancer pad project. Please put sheets in plastic bags and drop them off at the church. **No pillowcases.**

Next Sunday, July 30th, Philoptochos will be sponsoring the International Coffee Hour for the IOCC. IOCC is the internationally respected Pan-Orthodox Humanitarian Organization of SCOBA that responds to needs anywhere in the world, including the United States and our Community Care for the months of June, July and August.

Anyone interested in sharing ethnic food with their fellow parishioners, please call Natalie Challis, 971-6186 or Perry Katsikas, 995-4766, and let them know what you will be bringing by Friday, July 28th.

St. Nicholas Seniors

A trip is planned for **Wednesday, August 16th** for the "Bavarian Belle—River Cruise" in Frankenmuth, MI. This is a 1 hour trip on the Cass River. **We will leave church at 9:30 a.m. and return by 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$27.50. This includes the bus ride, boat ride, and driver tip.** Shopping and lunch will be an individual responsibility. Reserve by Sunday August 13th, by calling Penny Bekiaries (662-6606), Diane Geczi (747-9619) or Joan Raphael (483-0923). Hope you can come!

The St. Nicholas Church Bookstore recommends:

Arcadia, My Arcadia by Nicholas D. Kokonis, the story of a bright son of poor farmers in Arcadia who dreams of coming to the United States; *Wounded by Love, the Life and Wisdom of Elder Porphyrios*, a charismatic guide through life's tough spiritual struggles, and *The Glorious Foods of Greece*, a book that serves up feast after feast of food, history and culture. We also have a wide, new selection of icons.



Saturday Bread Baking

Come lend a hand on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as we make homemade bread to help raise funds for our church.

No experience necessary.

If you can help, call Ioanna Ioannou at 996-0481 or Koula Pliakas at 572-0920 or just show up on Saturdays.

You can buy the bread on Saturdays between 1 and 3 p.m. or after church on Sundays.

We'll also make special orders for your weekend events or parties.

University of Michigan: Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)/Hellenic Student Association (HSA)

Will you or someone you know be a college freshman this fall? If so, you will want to know about two great student run organizations on campus:

The Hellenic Student Association (HSA)

hosts activities including weekly gatherings, concerts, films, trips and Greek dance.

Contact: hsa-board@umich.edu.

The Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)

hosts activities including rec sports, discussions, retreats and community service. They also coordinate rides to church.

Contact: ocf-board@umich.edu.

If your student is already at school, be sure to inform him/her about these groups. Have them search their school's website or contact the University of Michigan chapters, listed above, who can give them any information they need!

PSALM 1

Blessed is the man who has not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, and has not stood in the way of sinners, and has not sat in the seat of evil men. But his pleasure is in the law of the Lord; and in his law will he meditate day and night. And he shall be as a tree planted by the brooks of waters, which shall yield its fruit in its season, and its leaf shall not fall off; and whatsoever he shall do shall



Saint Christina Great Martyr of Tyre

Saint Christina was from Tyre in Syria, the daughter of a pagan named Urban. Enlightened in her heart to believe in Christ, she broke her father's idols, made of gold and silver, and distributed the pieces to the poor. When her father learned this, he punished her ruthlessly, then cast her into prison. The rulers subjected her to imprisonments, hunger, torments, the cutting off of her breasts and tongue, and finally impalement, in the year 200, during the reign of the Emperor Septimius Severus.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

Icon Courtesy of St. Isaac Skete

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is doxology, praise, thanksgiving, confession, supplication and intercession to God. "When I prayed I was new," wrote a great theologian of Christian antiquity, "but when I stopped praying I became old." Prayer is the way to renewal and spiritual life. Prayer is aliveness to God. Prayer is strength, refreshment, and joy. Through the grace of God and our disciplined efforts prayer lifts us up from our isolation to a conscious, loving communion with God in which everything is experienced in a new light. Prayer becomes a personal dialogue with God, a spiritual breathing of the soul, a foretaste of the bliss of God's kingdom.

As we pray deeply within our hearts we grow in prayer. By the grace of God we suddenly catch a glimpse of the miracle of the presence of the Holy Spirit working within us. At first it is only a spark but later it becomes a flame freeing and energizing our whole being. To experience the fire of God's holy love, to give it space within us to do its cleansing and healing work as a breath of the Holy Spirit, and to use it as light and power for daily living -- such are the goals as well as the fruits of true prayer. *From the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Website.*

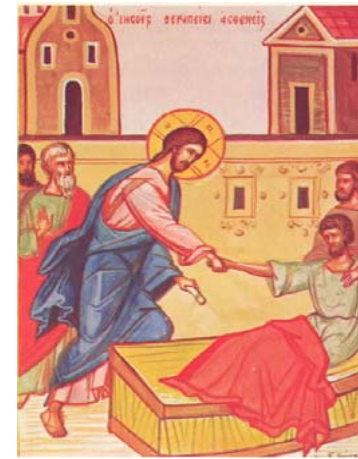
THE SUNDAY BULLETIN JULY 23, 2006

Orthros 9 AM

Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Epistle Reading
Romans 12:6-14

Gospel Reading
Matt. 9:1-8



SIXTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, July 25 YAL "Hang Out" Night — 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 27 Physical Plant & Maintenance Committee — 7:00 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

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



Protopsaltis
Zannis Res

Choir Director
Jon Wardner

Prosforo
Elaine Spiliopoulos

Fellowship Hour
Elaine Spiliopoulos