

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

July 30 2006

Epistle Reading:

Rom: 15:1-7

BRETHREN, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not

to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of your Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When the angelic powers appeared at Your grave, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary who was seeking Your immaculate body. You devastated Hades, not afflicted by it. You went to meet the virgin, and granted eternal life. You resurrected from the dead. O Lord, glory 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

You were transfigured upon the mount, O Christ our God, and Your disciples, in so far as they could bear, beheld Your glory. Thus, when they see You crucified, they may understand Your voluntary passion, and proclaim to the world that You are truly the effulgence of the Father.

Gospel Reading

Matt. 9:27-35

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud,

"Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

Wisdom of the Fathers

And then at last He for His part lays His hand upon them, saying, "According to your faith be it unto you." And this He does to confirm their faith, and to show that they are participators in the good work ...

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 32 on Matthew 9 4th Century

PSALM 69 (70)

O God, be attentive to help me. Lord, make haste to help me. Let them be ashamed and confounded who seek my life.

Let them be turned back and be ashamed who desire evil against me. Let them be turned back because of their shame, who say to me, Well done! Well done!

Let all those who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; and let those who love your salvation say continually, Let God be magnified!

But as for me, I am poor and needy; O God, help me! You are my help and my deliverer; Lord, do not delay.

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 17.

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

Stewardship

Christian Stewardship requires that:

- 1) We recognize ourselves and our world as belonging to God.
- 2) We affirm all life, possessions, talents, gifts—both actual and potential—are entrusted to us for our lifetime use and management. (Genesis 1:26-28)
- 3) We acknowledge that we are not only responsible, but also accountable for how we exercise this Stewardship. (Malachi 3:7-11)
- 4) We share a portion of God's gifts to us with the rest of His creation, out of gratitude for His first loving us. (II Corinthians 9:7).

A Christian Steward serves God out of love and gratitude for these gifts knowing that it is not how much we have, but what we do with what we have that is important. *Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.*

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

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

This Sunday, July 30th, Philoptochos is 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. Please be generous.

Yassou Golf Outing

Yassou Golf Outing is going to be held on Sunday, September 17, 2006 at Stonebridge Golf Club in Saline. Thanks in advance for your support.



St. Nicholas Seniors

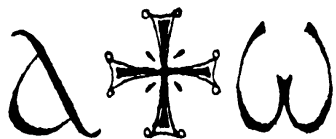
A trip is planned for **Wednesday, August 16th** for the "Bavarian Belle—River Cruise" in Frankenmuth, MI. This is a 1 hour trip on the Cass River. **We will leave church at 9:30 a.m. and return by 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$27.50. This includes the bus ride, boat ride, and driver tip.** Shopping and lunch will be an individual responsibility. Reserve by Sunday August 13th, by calling Penny Bekiars (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.



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





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!



St. Nicholas Family Night — Chili Fest — Thursday, August 24th— 6:30 p.m.

Come and enjoy an evening of fellowship, fun and games for the entire parish. Bring your best, secret recipe because you could be voted this year's "Chili Co-Off Champion." A panel of judges will taste-test and determine the winner.



Silas & Silvanos the Apostles of the 70 — July 30th

Saint Silas was a companion and fellow labourer of the Apostle Paul: "And Paul chose Silas and departed...and he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches" (Acts 15:40-41). He later became Bishop of Corinth, and reposed in peace. Saint Silvan became Bishop of Thessalonica, and also reposed in peace. Saint Crescents, whom Saint Paul mentions in his Second Epistle to Timothy(4:10), became Bishop of Chalcedon, and brought many to the Faith. As for him whom the Apostle of the Nations praises as "my well-beloved Epenetus, the first-fruits of Achaia unto Christ" (Roman 16:5), he became Bishop of Carthage, and after enduring many afflictions from the idolators, and bringing many of them to Christ, he departed to the Lord.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

Translation of the Relics of Stephen the Protomartyr — August 2nd

After the First Martyr had been stoned to death (see Dec. 27), Gamaliel, his teacher, encouraged certain of the Christians to go by night and take up the Saint's body and bury it in his field, which was at a distance of some twenty miles from Jerusalem and was called by his name, "Kaphar-gamala," that is, "the field of Gamala," where Gamaliel himself was later buried. About the year 427, a certain pious man called Lucian, who was the parish priest of a church near to that field, received from God a revelation in a dream concerning the place where the First Martyr was buried. He immediately made this known to John, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Thus, coming to the place indicated, and digging there, they found a box with the word "Stephen" in Aramaic letters. On opening it, they took these most sacred relics and transferred them to Jerusalem with great honor and in the company of a very great multitude of the faithful.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN JULY 30, 2006

Orthros 9 AM

Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Epistle Reading
Romans 15:1-7

Gospel Reading
Matt. 9:27-35



Protopsaltis
Zannis Res

Choir Director
Jon Wardner

Prosforo
Diane Geczi

Fellowship Hour
Philoptochos International
Coffee Hour

Trisagion
Lucille Koken

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, July 31

Bible Study — 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study — after Paraklesis
Paraklesis — 7:30 pm

Tuesday, August 1

Bed Pad Sewing—9:30 a.m.
YAL "Hang Out" Night — 7:30 p.m

Wednesday, August 2

Paraklesis 7:30 p.m.

Friday, August 11

Paraklesis 10:00 a.m.

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

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