

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

August 20, 2006

Epistle Reading:

1 Cor 4:9-16

BRETHREN, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced

to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

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

Neither the grave nor death could contain the Theotokos, the unshakable hope, ever vigilant in intercession and protection. As Mother of life, He who dwelt in the ever-virginal womb transposed her to life.

Wisdom of the Fathers

For a man to have such faith appears simple, but it is, on the contrary, something very lofty, not easily attained by many. Such faith is born of boldness before God; but such boldness comes (only) from pleasing God. Beloved, great labour is needed to acquire, through pleasing God, such boldness before Him that one firmly believes that he will grant all that one asks; as it is written, Ask, and it shall be given to you.

St. John Chrysostom, *The Gospel Commentary*: edited by Hieromonk German Ciuba, 2002. 4th Century

Gospel Reading

Matt. 17:14-23

At that time, a man came up to Him and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my

son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."

Resurrectional Apolytikion

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, * and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. * You rose on the third day, O Lord * and Savior, grant-ing life unto the world. * For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver: * Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; * glory to Your eternal rule; * glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind.

Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary

In giving birth you retained your virginity, and in dormition you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated unto life, being the Mother of Life. And thus by virtue of your intercessions you deliver our souls from death.



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 August 27 and October 15.

Fellowship Hour Sponsors needed for Sunday, October 29th.

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.

Stewardship

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 support the parish during the summer months. Thank you !

Church School Notes

Summer is fast coming to a close and it's time to start thinking about Church School.

Church School begins on Sunday, September 10th, immediately following Holy Communion. Please remember that part of the Church School curriculum is attendance at the Divine Liturgy. Therefore, please have your child at the Church by 10:00 a.m.

Registration forms are available in the hallway outside the fellowship hall. Please complete the form and bring it to class on September 10th.

Tuition this year is **\$20.00/child** due to increased costs of supplies, and this year, each child will have a workbook which will be taken home at the end of the year.

The staff is looking forward to working with you and your children again this year.



Philoptochos Notes

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.

Daughters of Penelope

On Sunday October 1, after the Divine Liturgy, the Daughters will sponsor a Salad Luncheon to benefit the church. Please keep the date open.

For tickets and information, please contact Vivi Roumanis—996-3600 or Perry Katsikas—995-4766.

The St. Nicholas Church Bookstore Recommendations:

This month the Bookstore is featuring Diana Kochilias's now classic cookbook, *The Glorious Foods of Greece: Traditional Recipes from Greece's Islands, Cities and Villages*, and Nicholas Kokonis's *Arcadia, My Arcadia*, a story fashioned from the common people of the Greek countryside, their hopes and disappointments, struggles and misfortunes. We also recommend Anthony M. Coniaris's *The Eye Cannot Say to the Hand, "I Have No Need of You,"* an exceptionally clear exploration of the them spelled out in Marshall McLuhan's famous words, "There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew." *Wounded by Love, the life and wisdom of Elder Porphyrios*, a charismatic guide for life's tough spiritual struggles. The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese's beautiful Agenda Planner 2006-07 is on order and will be arriving soon. Stop by to reserve your copy.



St. Nicholas Family Night — Chili Fest — This 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 Cook-Off Champion." A panel of judges will taste-test and determine the winner.



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 528-0920 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!

Samuel the Prophet

This most holy man, a Prophet of God from childhood, was the last judge of the Israelite people, and anointed the first two Kings of Israel. He was born in the twelfth century before Christ, in the city of Armathaim Sipa, from the tribe of Levi, the son of Elkanah and Hannah (Anna). He was the fruit of prayer, for his mother, being barren, conceived him only after she had supplicated the Lord with many tears; wherefore she called him Samuel, that is, "heard by God." As soon as Hannah had weaned him, she brought him to the city of Silom (Shiloh), where the Ark was kept, and she consecrated

him, though yet a babe, to the service of God, giving thanks to Him with the hymn found in the Third Ode of the Psalter: "My heart hath been established in the Lord . . ." Samuel remained in Silom under the protection of Eli the priest. He served in the Tabernacle of God, and through his most venerable way of life became well-pleasing to God and man (I Kings 2: 26). While yet a child, sleeping in the tabernacle near the Ark of God, he heard the voice of God calling his name, and foretelling the downfall of Eli; for although Eli's two sons, Ophni and Phineas, were most lawless, and despisers of God, Eli did not correct them. Even after Samuel had told Eli of the divine warning, Eli did not properly chastise his sons, and afterwards, through various misfortunes, his whole house was blotted out in one day.

After these things came to pass, Samuel was chosen to be the protector of the people, and he judged them with holiness and righteousness. He became for them an example of all goodness, and their compassionate intercessor before God: "Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; yea, I will serve the Lord, and show you the good and the right way" (ibid. 12:23). When he asked them -- having God as witness -- if he ever wronged anyone, or took anyone's possessions, or any gift, even so much as a sandal, they answered with one voice: "Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, nor afflicted us, neither hast thou taken anything from anyone's hand" (ibid. 12:4).

When Samuel was old, the people asked him for a king, but he was displeased with this, knowing that God Himself was their King. But when they persisted, the Lord commanded him to anoint them a king, saying, "They have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me from reigning over them" (ibid. 8:7); so Samuel anointed Saul. But Saul transgressed the command of God repeatedly, so Samuel anointed David. Yet, since Samuel was a man of God, full of tender mercy, when the Lord told him that He had rejected Saul, Samuel wept for him the whole night long (ibid. 15:11); and later, since he continued to grieve, the Lord said to him, "How long wilt thou mourn for Saul?" (ibid. 16:1). Having lived blamelessly some ninety-eight years, and become an example to all of a God-pleasing life, he reposed in the eleventh century before Christ. Many ascribe to him the authorship of the Books of Judges, and of Ruth, and of the first twenty-four chapters of the First Book of Kings (I Samuel) Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN AUGUST 20, 2006

Orthros 9 AM

Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Epistle Reading
1 Cor. 4:9-16

Gospel Reading
Matt. 17:14-23



TENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, August 21

Bible Study — 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, August 22

YAL "Hang Out" Night — 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 24

**St. Nicholas Family Night — 6:30 p.m.
Chili Fest**

**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

