

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

August 27, 2006

Epistle Reading:

1 Cor 9:2-12

BRETHREN, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, 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

In your holy birth, Immaculate One, Joachim and Anna were rid of the shame of childlessness; Adam and Eve of the corruption of death. And so your people, free of the guilt of their sins, celebrate crying: "The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, who nourishes our life."

Gospel Reading

Matt. 18:23-35

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailors, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Wisdom of the Fathers

Wherefore then did He not do this, nor forgive the debt before the account? Desiring to teach him, from how many obligations He is delivering him, that in this way at least he might become more mild towards his fellow servant He gave more than he asked, remission and forgiveness of the entire debt.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 61 on Matthew 18
4th Century

LORD, I HAVE CRIED TO YOU

LORD, I Have Cried Out Unto You: hear me!

Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I Have Cried Out Unto You: hear me! Receive the voice of my prayer! When I call upon You, hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense,
And let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.
Hear me, O Lord!

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 Sunday October 15.

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

Sunday, September 17, 2006 at Stonebridge Golf Club, 1825 Clubhouse Drive, Ann Arbor. Shotgun Start at 1:00 p.m.

Golf Package \$115.00; Hole Sponsor \$100.00; Dinner only: \$32.00 (Adult); Children's Menu \$12.00; Dinner & Cash Bar at 5:30 p.m. Award Ceremony. Reservations by September 10th — Therese Apostoleris, 734-904-1301.

Proceeds to benefit the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

Church Food Cooking Classes

Thursday, September 21st, 7:00 p.m. How to make Kolyva; Thursday, October 5th, 7:00 p.m. How to make Prosforo.

Classes are open to both men and women who want to learn to make these two important church foods. Classes will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Congratulations to Nick & Margaret Booras on the occasion of their 40th Wedding Anniversary today, August 27th.



The St. Nicholas Church Bookstore Recommends:

This month the bookstore is featuring books for young and old on our Church's images and icons. You will find RECHENKA'S EGGS by Patricia Polacco, a vibrantly illustrated story of an Old Babushka painting eggs for Easter Festival; ICONS AND SAINTS OF THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH, a beautifully illustrated guide showing and explaining what icons represent in our church; BRUSH WITH GOD, a book guiding aspiring artists - young and old, from novice to professional - through the process of icon painting, using traditional techniques but employing contemporary materials.



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. Call Ioanna Ioannou — 996-0481 or Koula Pliakas—582-0920 or just show up if you can help.

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.

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!

Beheading of St. John the Forerunner

The divine Baptist, the Prophet born of a Prophet, the seal of all the Prophets and beginning of the Apostles, the mediator between the Old and New Covenants, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, the God-sent Messenger of the incarnate Messiah, the forerunner of Christ's coming into the world (Esaias 40: 3; Mal. 3: 1); who by many miracles was both conceived and born; who was filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb; who came forth like another Elias the Zealot, whose life in the wilderness and divine zeal for God's Law he imitated: this divine Prophet, after he had preached the baptism of repentance according to God's

command; had taught men of low rank and high how they must order their lives; had admonished those whom he baptized and had filled them with the fear of God, teaching them that no one is able to escape the wrath to come if he do not works worthy of repentance; had, through such preaching, prepared their hearts to receive the evangelical teachings of the Savior; and finally, after he had pointed out to the people the very Savior, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world" (Luke 3:2-18; John 1: 29-36), after all this, John sealed with his own blood the truth of his words and was made a sacred victim for the divine Law at the hands of a transgressor.

This was Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch of Galilee, the son of Herod the Great. This man had a lawful wife, the daughter of Arethas (or Aretas), the King of Arabia (that is, Arabia Petraea, which had the famous Nabatean stone city of Petra as its capital. This is the Aretas mentioned by Saint Paul in II Cor. 11:32). Without any cause, and against every commandment of the Law, he put her away and took to himself Herodias, the wife of his deceased brother Philip, to whom Herodias had borne a daughter, Salome. He would not desist from this unlawful union even when John, the preacher of repentance, the bold and austere accuser of the lawless, censured him and told him, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife" (Mark 6: 18). Thus Herod, besides his other unholy acts, added yet this, that he apprehended John and shut him in prison; and perhaps he would have killed him straightway, had he not feared the people, who had extreme reverence for John. Certainly, in the beginning, he himself had great reverence for this just and holy man. But finally, being pierced with the sting of a mad lust for the woman Herodias, he laid his defiled hands on the teacher of purity on the very day he was celebrating his birthday. When Salome, Herodias' daughter, had danced in order to please him and those who were supping with him, he promised her -- with an oath more foolish than any foolishness -- that he would give her anything she asked, even unto the half of his kingdom. And she, consulting with her mother, straightway asked for the head of John the Baptist in a charger. Hence this transgressor of the Law, preferring his lawless oath above the precepts of the Law, fulfilled this godless promise and filled his loathsome banquet with the blood of the Prophet. So it was that that all-venerable head, revered by the Angels, was given as a prize for an abominable dance, and became the plaything of the dissolute daughter of a debauched mother. As for the body of the divine Baptist, it was taken up by his disciples and placed in a tomb (Mark 6: 21 - 29).

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

AUGUST 27, 2006

Orthros 9 AM

Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Epistle Reading
I Cor. 9:2-12

Gospel Reading
Matt. 18:23-35



Psaltis

George Smyrnis

Choir Director

Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo

Anonymous

Fellowship Hour

Dr. Anthony Kales Family

Memorial Service

1 Year Demetra Kales

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, August 29

YAL "Hang Out" Night — 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 30

**Orthros & Divine Liturgy — 10:00 a.m.
St. Alexander — Archbishop**

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