

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

DECEMBER 3 2006

Epistle Reading

BRETHREN, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the pas-sions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, 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

On this day the Virgin cometh to a cave to give birth to God the Word ineffable, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the glad-some tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Wisdom of the Fathers

It is only when in the darkness of this world we discern that Christ has already "filled all things with Himself" that these things, whatever they may be, are revealed and given to us full of meaning and beauty. A Christian is one who, wherever he looks, finds Christ and rejoices in Him.

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*, p. 113 20th century

Gospel Reading

Luke 18:35-43

Lord said this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'" As he said these things he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

From the Bible

"Whoever wants to enjoy life and wishes to see good times, must keep from speaking evil and stop telling lies. He must turn away from evil and do good; he must strive for peace with all his heart." **1 Peter 3:8-11**

Parish News and Events (www.stnickaa.org)



From the Pastor's Desk

Upcoming Services

We will celebrate the Feast Day of St. Nicholas with **Great Vespers at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 5th**. There will be an Artoclasia service during the Great Vespers. Anyone wishing to bring artoclasia should do so on the Dec. 5th. Please include the names of the living for whom you would like the prayers. Following the Great Vespers, the Philoptochos has again offered the fellowship hour for us and our guests from outside this community.

Christmas falls on Monday this year, so the service schedule, as per Archdiocesan and Metropolis protocol will be as follows:

Sunday Morning, Dec. 24th: 9:00 am Orthros
10:00 am Divine Liturgy (St. John Chrysostom – as usual for a Sunday)

Sunday evening, Dec. 24th: 5:00 pm Great Vespers for the Nativity of Christ

Monday morning, Dec. 25th: 9:00 am Orthros followed immediately by the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.

Please remember, Holy Communion distributed to prepared Orthodox Christians during Divine Liturgies only.

Church School News

St. Basil Academy: Again this year the Sunday School will work with Philoptochos during the month of December collecting coins for the Vasilo-pita on January 7th.

Each classroom will have a money box so the children can begin now to collect their coins. More information will be sent home with your child.

The Church School children, under the direction of Teresa Stokes, are planning their annual Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 17th.

Reminder: Students should start working on their chosen topics for the Oratorical Parish Festival which will be held in March. It's never too early to start!!

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 is needed for January 28th.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for December 31, January 7 and 28.

Philoptochos Notes

Today is wreath pick up day. Please pick up your wreath after the Divine Liturgy. Also, anyone who has not picked up their baked goods, please do so today.

Bed pad sewing will be on Tuesday, December 5th at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room.

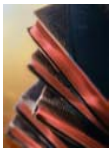
Great Vespers will be on Tuesday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m. Philoptochos will be sponsoring the coffee hour after the service.

Dec. 6th, parishioners will ring the bell for the Salvation Army beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please check the schedule for your time. We need two people from 10:00 am to 11:00 am

St. Nicholas Seniors The monthly Planning Meeting will be this coming Tuesday, December 5th at 12:30 p.m. Try to attend. All Seniors are invited to our "**Christmas Luncheon**" **Thursday, December 14th at 12 noon** in the Church Hall. There will be music, singing and a delicious meal provided. Cost: \$5.00. Sign up by notifying Joan Raphael (483-0923), Diane Geczi (747-9619) or Penny Bekiares (662-6606) no later than Sunday, December 10th. We look forward to seeing everyone!

We Extend Our Deepest Sympathy to the family of Zakhour Youssef on the death of his mother, Afransi Youssef. May her memory be eternal.





The Bookstore

The bookstore is overflowing with new items. Enjoy browsing our children's-books, which include Christmas items, beautifully illustrated books on Jesus and St. Nicholas, and books on Greek science and mythology: *The Librarian Who Measured the Earth*, a biography on a curious young child who became one of the world's first geographers, and illustrator/author Alik's *The Gods and Goddesses of Olympus*. We have just one more copy of Vefa Alexiadou's hard-to-find *Greek Cuisine* and several other cookbooks. We highly recommend Nicholas G. Lardas's collection of stories, *Ikarria Remembered*.

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 concern.



Daughters of Penelope are selling Christmas ornaments personalized in Greek and English. They are \$7.50 each. Proceeds benefit St. Nicholas Church and the Daughters of Penelope charities. Contact Perry Katsikas at 734-995-4766 for more information or to order.

Family Christmas Party—The AHEPA, Daughters of Penelope and Maids of Athena Family Christmas Party will take place on Wednesday, December 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Original Cottage Inn. Dinner includes Mediterranean chicken, parmesan potatoes, Kritharaki, green beans, Greek salad, bread, dessert, soft drinks, tea and coffee. Cost: \$15.00 per person-includes tax and gratuity. Please RSVP no later than Sunday, December 17, 2006 by contacting Perry Katsikas—734-995-4766 or Christos Philippou at 734-913-4832.



NEW YEAR'S EVE 2006!

The young members of the St. Nicholas Ann Arbor AHEPA Chapter, with Parish Council authorization, will be hosting a New Year's Eve Celebration in our St. Nicholas fellowship hall on **Sunday, December 31, 2006, 9:00 P.M.—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

All are welcome!! There will be a variety of musical entertainment, door prizes, dancing, finger food, entertainment for your children and a complementary champagne toast to greet the New Year!

Tickets are \$30.00 per person for adults; \$15.00 for students; children under 15 are free.

Seating is limited, so reserve your tickets today! Please feel free to invite your friends. Proceeds will be donated to St. Nicholas Parish.

For reservations or more information, please call Christopher Bekiaries at 734-761-9255 or Billy Res at 734-662-6105.

SCRIP Gift Cards

Beat the holiday shopping rush and help St. Nicholas by buying SCRIP gift cards. They start as low as \$5.00. For more information, inquire at the SCRIP booth this Sunday or call 644-1614 with questions. The first and third Sundays of each month are SCRIP Gas Sundays, so please, plan on placing your order for gas gift cards them. We have SCRIP gas cards for almost every gas company and you can use them at gas stations nationwide. Inquire how you may get Meijer's rewards for your gas if you get your gas from Meijer's.

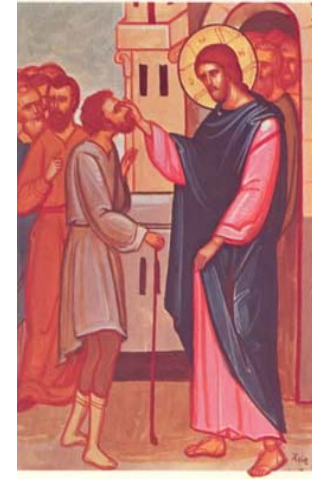
Help us speed up the time in which you get your gift cards by participating in this program. Some volume of orders is needed in order to place an order of SCRIP, so your participation helps that of others.

Box Tops for Education

The Greek School is now registered to receive funds from the General Mills Box Tops for Education Program. We can use the box tops from the General Mills cereal boxes, ziploc bags, snack foods etc. The only thing we have to do is collect the points and send them in. Please contact Koula Pliakas, 734-528-0920, for further information.

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

December 3, 2006



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

Orthros 9 AM
Divine Liturgy 10 AM
 Following Communion
Church School
 Following Communion
Epistle Reading
 Eph. 4:1-7
Gospel Reading
 Luke 18:35-43

Psaltis
 Zannis Res

Choir Director
 Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo
 Theanne Ballios

Fellowship Hour
 Helen Stamos

WELCOME METROPOLITAN NICHOLAS AND DEACON TEODOR

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, Dec. 4

Bible Study—10:00 a.m.

Bible Study — 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Bed Pad sewing — 9:30 a.m.

Senior Planning Meeting — 1:00 p.m.

Great Vespers —7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Orthros & Divine Liturgy — 10:00 a.m. Feast of St. Nicholas

Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army — Please see Schedule

Metropolis Open House — 2:00 p.m.-8:00p.m.

2560 Crooks Road, Troy Michigan

Y.E.R.A.C. meeting 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 7

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: Father Nicolaos H. Kotsis (frnick@stnickaa.org)

Church office: 734/332-8200 Home: 734/677-7891 Cell: 734/604-3214

Reverend Protopresbyter John Paul

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

