

# Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

DECEMBER 10, 2006

## Epistle Reading

Eph: 5:8-19

Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

## 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 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.

## Gospel Reading

Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

## Wisdom of the Fathers

So great an evil is envy. For not against strangers only, but even against our own, is it ever warring.

And yet here He speaks only; whereas elsewhere in many cases He heals by laying on of hands also. But nevertheless none of these things made them meek; rather, while the man was healed, they by his health became worse. For His desire indeed was to cure them before him, and He tried innumerable ways of healing, both by what He did in their presence, and by what He said: but since their malady after all was incurable, He proceeded to the work  
**St. John Chrysostom, Homily 40 on Matthew 12 4th Century**

## From the Bible

For God has revealed His grace for the salvation of all mankind. That grace instructs us to give up ungodly living and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this world, as we wait for the blessed Day we Hope for, when the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ will appear.

*Paul's Letter to Titus 2: 11-13*



# Parish News and Events ([www.stnickaa.org](http://www.stnickaa.org))



## From the Pastor's Desk

### Upcoming Services

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

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

**Sunday Evening, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: 5:00 pm**  
**Great Vespers** for the Nativity of Christ

**Monday Morning, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>: 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!!



**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.

## Philoptochos Notes

The Philoptochos Christmas Party and meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. sharp on Wednesday, December 13th in the social hall. All ladies of the parish are welcome to attend.

## 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.

**Fellowship Hour** sponsor needed for December 31.

## St. Nicholas Seniors

Attention Seniors: Today is the last day to sign up for our "**Christmas Luncheon**" **Thursday, December 14th at 12 noon** in the Church Hall. Please call Joan Raphael (483-0923), Diane Geczi (747-9619) or Penny Bekiars (662-6606) by the end of today to make your reservation. Cost: \$5.00.

**All Seniors** are invited. There will be music, singing and a delicious meal provided.

**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.

## 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.



**December 12**

**Spyridon the Wonderworker of Trymithous**

Spyridon, the God-bearing Father of the Church, the great defender of Corfu and the boast of all the Orthodox, had Cyprus as his homeland. He was simple in manner and humble of heart, and was a shepherd of sheep. When he was joined to a wife, he begat of her a daughter whom they named Irene. After his wife's departure from this life, he was appointed Bishop of Trimythus, and thus he became also a shepherd of rational sheep. When the First Ecumenical Council was assembled in Nicaea, he also was present, and by means of his most simple words stopped the mouths of the Arians who were wise in their own conceit. By the divine grace which dwelt in him, he wrought such great wonders that he received the surname "Wonderworker." So it is that, having tended his flock piously and in a manner pleasing to God, he reposed in the Lord about the year 350, leaving to his country his sacred relics as a consolation and source of healing for the faithful.

About the middle of the seventh century, because of the incursions made by the barbarians at that time, his sacred relics were taken to Constantinople, where they remained, being honoured by the emperors themselves. But before the fall of Constantinople, which took place on May 29, 1453, a certain priest named George Kalokhairetes, the parish priest of the church where the Saint's sacred relics, as well as those of Saint Theodora the Empress, were kept, took them away on account of the impending peril. Travelling by way of Serbia, he came as far as Arta in Epirus, a region in Western Greece opposite to the isle of Corfu. From there, while the misfortunes of the Christian people were increasing with every day, he passed over to Corfu about the year 1460. The relics of Saint Theodora were given to the people of Corfu; but those of Saint Spyridon remain to this day, according to the rights of inheritance, the most precious treasure of the priest's own descendants, and they continue to be a staff for the faithful in Orthodoxy, and a supernatural wonder for those that behold him; for even after the passage of 1,500 years, they have remained incorrupt, and even the flexibility of his flesh has been preserved. Truly wondrous is God in His Saints! (Ps. 67:3 5)

*Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery*



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Ring in the New Year in our St. Nicholas fellowship hall on Sunday, December 31, 2006. Start time is 9:00 p.m. and everyone is welcome! Entertainment for children is provided.

There will be a variety of music, door prizes, dancing, finger food and a complementary champagne toast to greet the New Year!

Tickets are \$30 per person for adults, \$15 for students, children 15 and under are free. Seating is limited, reserve tickets today! Please share with everyone you wish.

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



**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 Alikis'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 cook-books. We highly recommend Nicholas G. Lardas's collection of stories, *Ikaria Remembered*.

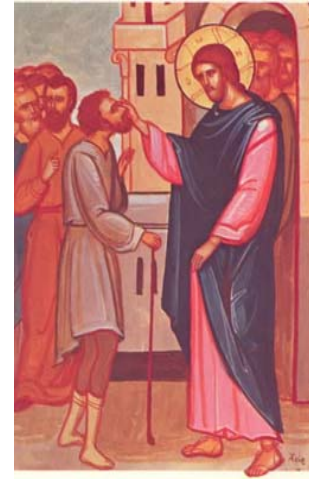
The bookstore now has a limited supply of VASILOPITA COINS.

**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.

**THE SUNDAY BULLETIN**

**December 10, 2006**



**TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Monday, Dec. 11**

Bible Study—10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study — 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, Dec. 12**

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

**Wednesday, Dec. 13**

Philoptochos Meeting & Christmas Party—7:00 p.m.  
Senior Choir Rehearsal—7:00 p.m.  
YAL Hang Out Night — 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 14**

Seniors Christmas Lunch — 12 Noon  
Parish Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.

**Friday, Dec. 15**

Paraklesis 7:30 p.m.

**Submissions for the Sunday bulletin must be sent to: [office@stnickaa.org](mailto: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](http://www.stnickaa.org) E-Mail: [office@stnickaa.org](mailto:office@stnickaa.org)**

**Proistamenos: Father Nicolaos H. Kotsis ( [frnick@stnickaa.org](mailto: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](http://www.stnickaa.org)**

**Psaltis**  
Zannis Res

**Choir Director**  
Rev. Fr. John Paul

**Prosforo**  
Bob Tsarbopoulos

**Fellowship Hour**  
Hays, Tsarbopoulos & Adamopoulos Families

**Trisagion Service:**  
Leah Tsarbopoulos