

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

DECEMBER 30, 2007

Epistle Reading Timothy, my son, the saying is Timothy 1:15-17 sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. To the King of Ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

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 for Afterfeast of the Nativity

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Apolytikion for Sunday After Nativity

O Joseph, proclaim the wonders to David, the ancestor of God. Thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; thou hast given glory with the shepherds; thou hast worshipped with the Magi; and thou hast been instructed through an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

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.

Gospel Reading When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Kontakion

Today, the Virgin bears Him who is transcendent, and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach. Angels, along with shepherds glorify Him. The Magi make their way to Him by a star. For a new child has been born for us, the God before all ages.



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.

Visitors 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.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP:

Everyone's Responsibility!

As we near the end of the year, please try to complete your 2007 stewardship pledge as soon as possible. The more timely the payment is made, the better our cash flow status becomes. If you have not made a pledge for 2007, you may still do so. Please see a member of the parish council or call Kate at the office for the form to make your pledge. Without stewardship. We cannot finance our operations. Everyone's best effort is required. Thank you!

Prosforo is needed for February 10, 24, March 9, 23 and 30.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sunday January 20th and all the Sundays of February.

Saint Nicholas Church School

St. Basil Academy: Again this year the children, together with Philoptochos, will be involved in raising money for St. Basil Academy. Each class will be given a money box for the coins collected by the children during the month of December up to January 13, the day we honor St. Basil and his works. Please help and encourage your child to bring in any loose change to their class. Every little bit helps another child in need.

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES RESUME ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2008.

"The Fear of the Lord Is the beginning of Wisdom."

Saint Nicholas Philoptochos Notes

Our next Community Care Ministry will be the Vasilopita Celebration on January 13th. Church organizations have been notified and a special tray will be passed to benefit St. Basil's Academy.

We'll be making spanakopita on Wednesday, January 9 and Thursday, January 10 beginning at 9:00 a.m. We need your help, please!

Saint Nicholas Youth Programs

G.O.Y.A. News

The G.O.Y.A. Brunch is scheduled for January 13, 2008. This is our major fundraiser and we need your help. Please contact G.O.Y.A. advisor Laura Kokkales to see how you can help. The GOYA will be selling tickets in advance and can be purchased from advisor Laura Kokkales.

The 2008 G.O.Y.A. Winter Lock-In will be January 18th and 19th. Registration will be January 18th at 6:00 p.m. and Departure will be January 19th at 10:00 a.m. For more details or to RSVP by January 11th please contact: Demetra Mitropoulos-Rundus at dm-r@hotmail.com.

There will be a G.O.Y.A. meeting on Sunday, January 6th from 3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

H.O.P.E. will meet on Sunday, January 6th from 1:00 to 2:30. We will be discussing Baptism. Lunch will be provided. For more information please contact: Sophia Grias-Radwanski at sgrias@mhsi.us or Vasilia Tsilimingras at vtsilimingras@yahoo.com.

House Blessings

Rev. Father Nick will be blessing homes starting January, 2008. If you would like your home blessed, please call the office to schedule a time.

Attention High School Seniors

If your name is not included in the list below, please get in touch with Dr. Costas Kleanthous at 734-475-2034 or in person. Louis Donoghue, George Smyrnis, Anastasia Mitropoulos-Rundus, Leah Price, George Dallas.

The Bookstore has Vasilopita coins and beautiful Holy Water bowls. We have also found two copies of the long out of print *Greek Cuisine* by Vefa Alexiadou.

For New Year's reading, we recommend *The Orthodox Way* by Kallistos Ware. This classic account of belief, worship and life in the Orthodox Church raises the basic issues of theology; God as hidden yet revealed; the problem of evil; the nature of salvation; the meaning of faith; prayer; death; and what lies beyond. Written clearly and simply.

We are now featuring a CD of Nativity hymns in English, "Byzantine Christmas". A full color book explaining the celebration of Christmas in the Empire of the Romans (Byzantium), and a CD with unique Christmas carols sung in Greek. *Byzantine Christmas* book, a full-color production richly illustrated with icons, provides an overview of how Christmas was celebrated in late Byzantium (1261-1453). It includes a description of the history and development of the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity the first three centuries of Christianity by the scholar Fr. Maximum Lavriotes, the Typikon of Nativity services at the Royal Chapel, as well as the *Prokypsis* ceremony performed on Nativity Eve in the Palace court. *Byzantine Christmas* promises to be Romeiko Ensemble's best single Christmas production yet, combining authentic post-Byzantine chant in *English* with previously unrecorded Byzantine hymnography and traditional Christmas carols from Greece, all combined with a book including comprehensive content on the Feast and a great deal of unique material. For more information, please visit us on the web at www.kouphisma.net. Please support your church bookstore first! To place an order please call: St. Gregory Piscataway, NJ (848) 391-9747, (732) 463-1642 or contact Mrs. Juliana Moniodis (734) 420-0131.

AHEPA News

AHEPA New Year's Eve Party is tomorrow night, December 31, 2007 in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00 p.m. Price: \$30.00 adults; \$15 Students and Children. Everyone is welcome! There will be a variety of musical entertainment, dancing, finger food, and a complementary champagne toast to greet in the New Year! Cash bar will also be available. Seating is limited so reserve your tickets today. Contact: Costas Boutsikakis at 734-604-8737 or Christopher Bekiaries at 734-474-4682 or Vasilios Res at 734-662-6105 for reservations or more information.

Wisdom of the Fathers

The Ancient of Days, who in times past gave Moses the Law on Sinai, appears this day as a babe. As Maker of the Law He fulfills the Law, and according to the Law He is brought into the temple and given over to the Elder.

Anatolios, *Festal Menaion. Great Vespers.*

December 31

Melania the Younger, Nun of Rome

Saint Melania the Younger, who was born in 388, was the grand-daughter of Saint Melania the Elder (see June 8). Her father Publicola was an Eparch of Rome. She was joined in wedlock to a husband and became the mother of two children, both of which she lost shortly thereafter. Thus, having agreed with her husband to pass the rest of their lives in abstinence and chastity, and taking her mother Albina with her, she went off to Africa. They ransomed 8,000 captives; furthermore, they built two monasteries - one for men and one for women - in the city of Tagaste, which was in the district of Tunis. After seven years they moved to Jerusalem. Thereafter Melania shut herself up in a small and narrow hermitage by the Mount of Olives, and wearing away her body with fasting and vigil, she reposed in 434.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN DECEMBER 30, 2007

Orthros 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Church School
No Church School

Epistle Reading
Timothy 1:15-17

Gospel Reading
Matthew 2:13-23

Creed
Greek



SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

Psaltis
Zannis Res

Choir
Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo
Anonymous

Fellowship Hour
Elaine Spiliopoulos

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, Dec. 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE
8:00 P.M. A.H.E.P.A. NEWYEAR'S EVE PARTY

Tuesday, Jan. 1

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

Thursday, Jan. 3

Saint Nicholas Philoptochos Board Meeting — 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 6

Saint Nicholas **CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES RESUME**
H.O.P.E. — 1:00 p.m. —2:30 p.m.
G.O.YA. Meeting — 3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Have a Blessed New Year!

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

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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