

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

JANUARY 6, 2008

Epistle Reading

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

TITUS, my son, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men,

training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

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 The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan, the veneration of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father gave witness to You, calling You Beloved, and the Spirit, in the guise of a dove, confirmed the certainty of His words. Glory to You, Christ our God, who appeared and enlightened the world.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

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

You appeared to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us. With fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light."

Wisdom of the Fathers

Christ is illumined, let us shine forth with Him. Christ is baptized, let us descend with Him that we may also ascend with Him.

St. Gregory the Theologian, Oration on the Holy Lights, Epiphany 381, 10-16. 4th Century

Watch yourselves - your passions especially - in your home life, where they appear freely, like moles in a safe place

St. John of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ, Part 1; Holy Trinity Monastery pg. 33 19th century

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!

If you have not completed your pledge for 2007, please try and do so as soon as possible.

Pledge cards have been mailed for 2008. If you did not receive one, 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 Feb. 24, March 9, 23 and 30.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sunday February 17, 24, March 2, 16, 23 and 30.

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 TODAY 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, Jan. 9 and Thursday, Jan. 10 beginning at 9:00 a.m. We need your help, please!

Saint Nicholas Youth Programs

G.O.Y.A. meeting today, January 6th will be at Bel-Mark Lanes on Jackson Avenue from 2:30 pm to 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$12.00 per person.

G.O.Y.A. Brunch Jan. 13th: Please support the GOYAns by purchasing a ticket to their brunch. This is the G.O.Y.A.'s major fundraiser and we need your help. Tickets can be purchased from Laura Kokkales, G.O.Y.A. advisor.

Winter Lock-In: 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.

G.O.Y.A. Parent Meeting: Join us for our second G.O.Y.A. Parent meeting with Rev. Father Nick on Sunday, Jan. 26th at 4:00 p.m.

G.O.Y.A. Bible Study: Jan. 27th at 4:00 p.m.

H.O.P.E. will meet today at 1:00 p.m. We will be discussing Baptism. Lunch will be provided.

J.O.Y. will meet next Sunday, January 13 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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.



Saint Nicholas Choir Notes
Senior Choir



Any interested parishioner, ages 12 and up, is encouraged to join the Senior Choir. We do not have auditions — simply come to rehearsal. Some musical experience is preferred, but not required. Knowledge of the Greek language is NOT necessary — all our music has English phonetics, and we sing parts of the Divine Liturgy in English. Our January rehearsals are Wednesday, January 16 and Wednesday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m. Please join us!

Junior Choir Anyone interested in joining the junior choir is welcome to come to rehearsals on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 6:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Our next rehearsal is January 9th. We hope to see you there!

The Saint Nicholas Bookstore Recommends: A very beautiful book for a godchild, grandchild, or friend is *Painted Words and Spoken Memories*, written and illustrated by Alik, telling how she, daughter of Greek immigrants in Philadelphia, began school without knowing English. *Greek Sapouni*, a novel about tradition by Ann Arbor native Maro Kentros, based on historical fact, explores the psychological and philosophical influences of Greek immigrant parents on their children, who adapted to living in two cultures simultaneously.

Black Coat mistakenly taken

If last week you mistakenly took a black, double-breasted overcoat with a label written in Chinese, please return it to the office or call Rev. Father Nick. *Thank you.*

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church GOYAns

cordially invite you to attend a family Taverna night on Saturday, January 12th, at 6:00 p.m. All parishioners and GOYAns are invited. Cost is \$20.00 per person and that includes everything. There is an open bar. If you plan to attend, please call the church at 586-779-6111.

January 6
The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvelous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

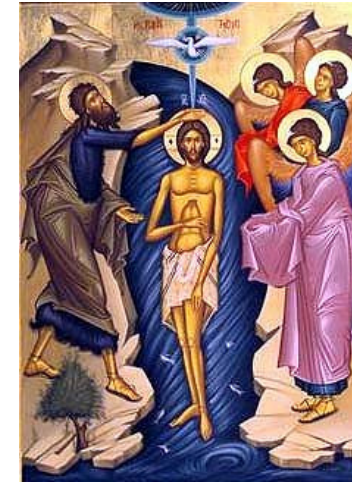
Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

The Ancient Fathers

"If two brothers quarrel," says Saint Ephraim the Syrian, "the one who first asks forgiveness will earn the crown of victory. And assent will be produced on the other's behalf, if he does not treat his brother with scorn, but is eager to make peace between them."



THE SUNDAY BULLETIN
JANUARY 6, 2008



THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

Orthros 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Church School
Following Communion

Epistle Reading
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Gospel Reading
Matthew 3:13-17

Creed
English

Psaltis
Zannis Res

Choir
Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo
Spiridon & Nicodemus

Fellowship Hour
The Kokkales Family

Memorial Service
1 Year Demetra
Kokkales

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Jan. 6

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES RESUME—Agiassmos
H.O.P.E. — 1:00 p.m. —2:30 p.m.
G.O.Y.A. Meeting @ Bel-Mark Lanes— 2:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 7

Feast of St. John the Baptist
Orthros & Divine Liturgy — 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study — 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 8

Bed Pad Sewing—9:30 a.m.
Saint Nicholas Young Adult League (Y.A.L.) 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 9

Spanakopita —9:00 a.m.
Saint Nicholas Junior Choir—6:30 p.m.
Saint Nicholas Philoptochos—7:30 p.m.
Saint Nicholas Byzantine Music—8:00 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 10

Spanakopita—9:00 a.m.
Saint Nicholas Parish Council — 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 11

Paraklesis—7:30 p.m.

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

3109 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

Web: www.stnickaa.org E-Mail: office@stnickaa.org

Proistamenos: Rev. Father Nicolaos H. Kotsis (frnick@stnickaa.org)
Church office: 734/332-8200 Home: 734/677-7891 Cell: 734/604-3214