

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

MARCH 23, 2008

Epistle Reading "IN THE BEGINNING, you O Heb. 1:10-14; 2:1-3 Lord, didst found the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

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 for Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

O Gregory the Miracle Worker, light of Orthodoxy, support and teacher of the Church, comeliness of Monastics, invincible defender of theologians, the pride of Thessalonica, and preacher of grace, intercede forever that our souls may be saved.

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

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

Gospel Reading Mark 2:1-12 At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"-he said to the paralytic-"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Wisdom of the Fathers

Forasmuch then as they had evinced so great faith, He also evinces His own power ... He healed first that which is invisible, the soul, by forgiving his sins; ... He, in fact, in His abundance of counsel, made use of their envy for the manifestation of the miracle.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 29 on Matthew 9, 1. B#54, pp. 195, 196 4th Century

Byzantine Music Classes

This is the second "semester" for the Byzantine Music classes taught by Peter Hasiakos. Anyone interested in learning more about Byzantine Music and chanting should attend. There is only a minimal cost for the price of the coursepack. The class meets every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.



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.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sunday March 30 and April 6.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP:

Everyone's Responsibility!

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

Church School

Great Lent—Each child should have received an O.C.M.C. Lenten coin box to help raise money for the missions which need our support to continue their programs. Please encourage your child to donate their loose change on a daily basis. Through their generosity, missionaries will be able to bear witness to Christ all over the world. Please be generous!! If you do not have one, please see their teacher or pick one up from the table in the hallway.

All children are reminded that when attending any services during Great Lent, to sign the attendance book in the Narthex located next to the candles. This will count toward any missed classes.

Upcoming Events

Sat., April 19 Saturday of Lazarus Church School Communion Breakfast

Wed., April 23 Holy Unction Service and Retreat (4:00 p.m.)

Sun., April 27 PASCHA No Church School Easter Egg Hunt (grades preschool through 3rd grade)

Sun., May 11 Testing Date for requirements

Sun., May 18 Godparent Sunday and Senior Recognition Day

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

Philoptochos Notes

Our March Community Care is furniture donations to Friends in Deed. To make a donation of furniture and arrange for pick up from now through March, call 734-484-7607, Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Furniture must be in good condition, no stains, rips or pet hair. Please see the flyer on the table in the hallway.

Spanakopita is available for sale today during the fellowship hour. \$5.00 per tray. See Margaret Yates or Diane Geczi.

"Cell Phones for Soldiers" is the Philoptochos Community Care project between NOW and July 2008. We will be collecting old cell phones and accessories which will be redeemable toward calling cards for our troops abroad. Please drop off your cell phones in the box located outside the social hall. For further information, contact Jarnis Gutierrez, 677-2581 or email jogs@umich.edu or Joan Raphael, 483-0923 or jraphael810@comcast.net.

Youth Notes

H.O.P.E. welcomes children 4 years of age to second grade for fun and fellowship while learning about our Orthodox Faith. We'll meet Sunday, April 13 from 1:00 - 2:30 and talk about the Saturday of Lazarus and Palm Sunday. Lunch will be provided.

GOYA Notes

Luminaries The GOYAns will be selling luminaries again this year to light the path of the Epitaphio procession. The sale begins today and will end on Sunday, April 20th. The luminaries are \$5.00 per bag and only TWO (2) names per bag.

Dance Practices in preparation for the Greek Independence Parade, April 6 and the Y'assoo Festival June 6 and 7th, will be held on the following dates: Saturday, April 5 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 18 from 6 p.m.—8 p.m. Saturdays May 3, 10, and 31 from 11—1 and Wednesday, June 4 from 6 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Sandwiches will be provided during the 30 minute break at this practice.

Bible Study March 30 at 4:00 p.m.

Game Night—During Lent the Game Night for Grades 4 through 7 will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:15 p.m.

Choir Notes
Senior Choir



Any interested parishioner, ages 12 and up, is encouraged to join the Senior Choir. Our next choir rehearsals are: March 26; April 2, 9 & 16. We begin at 7:00 p.m. Please join us!

The Bookstore Recommends: *Treasured Traditions and Customs of the Orthodox Churches* by Mary Paloumpis Hallick, Ed. D., presents the meaningful customs of various Orthodox jurisdictions relating to Feast Days, Sacraments, Liturgy, Architecture, Icons, Vestments, Name Days, Cultural Observances. This book will fascinate you with the richness of living Orthodoxy through the ages. For our young people *Holy Week and Pascha*, a children's book presenting the services of Holy Week with gorgeous illustrations by the author, who has studied Iconography in Greece. Your children will treasure this book. We also have the CD of Fr. John Paul's arrangement of the Divine Liturgy sung by the Mens' Hellenic Chorus of St. Nicholas Parish. Price is \$10.00. The DVDs of the 2007 Y'assoo are also available at the bookstore. Cost is \$15.00.

 **"Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack..."**

It's time to sign-up for this year's Tiger Baseball concessions project. Please sign up with your fellow parishioners to participate in this project, help the church earn extra funds to reduce our mortgage balance, get to know your fellow church members on a whole new level and take pride in your St. Nicholas community. See Dennis Cvercko or Nick Roumel in the social hall to answer questions and sign-up for a great fellowship experience. Spring training begins soon!

LOST—5 Red Sashes for the GOYA Greek Costumes. We need the sashes returned ASAP. Please call Katerina Roumanis at 665-3254. Thanks for your help.

Help Wanted—U of M Professor is seeking a part time nanny, 2 to 3 days per week — 8 to 10 hours per day for 13 month old girl. Salary negotiable. If interested, please call Maria at 734-929-4130 or 415-624-9097.

Promptness: It is important that you be on time for church services. Bad habits of wandering in woefully late are not God-pleasing, are a distraction to others and a poor example for our children.

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

This divine Father, who was from Asia Minor, was from childhood reared in the royal court of Constantinople, where he was instructed in both religious and secular wisdom. Later, while still a youth, he left the imperial court and struggled in asceticism on Mount Athos, and in the Skete at Beroea. He spent some time in Thessalonica being treated for an illness that came from his harsh manner of life. He was present in Constantinople at the Council that was convened in 1341 against Barlaam of Calabria, and at the Council of 1347 against Acindynus, who was of like mind with Barlaam; Barlaam and Acindynus claimed that the grace of God is created. At both these Councils, the Saint contended courageously for the true dogmas of the Church of Christ, teaching in particular that divine grace is not created, but is the uncreated energies of God which are poured forth throughout creation: otherwise it would be impossible, if grace were created, for man to have genuine communion with the uncreated God. In 1347 he was appointed Metropolitan of Thessalonica. He tended his flock in an apostolic manner for some twelve years, and wrote many books and treatises on the most exalted doctrines of our Faith; and having lived for a total of sixty-three years, he reposed in the Lord in 1359.

His holy relics are kept in the Cathedral of Thessalonica. A full service was composed for his feast day by the Patriarch Philotheus in 1368, when it was established that his feast be celebrated on this day. Since works without right faith avail nothing, we set Orthodoxy of faith as the foundation of all that we accomplish during the Fast, by celebrating the Triumph of Orthodoxy the Sunday before, and the great defender of the teachings of the holy Fathers today.

Daughters of Penelope

Our Tsourekis Sale is a St. Nicholas Easter tradition. To order your loaves, please fill out the order form located on the table in the hallway. Loaves are \$10.00 per one pound loaf. There is no egg. Orders must be submitted by April 13, 2008 for pick up on April 20th.

The Daughters are preparing a Fr. John Paul Memory Book which is a collection of favorite stories about Fr. John. We ask everyone to write a one-page narration of your favorite story or experience you would like to share with all of us. One book will be given to Pres. Eva and one will be given to the church archives. Please mail your story to the church in care of the Daughters of Penelope or e-mail your one page contribution to chris-katsikas@yahoo.com.

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN
March 23, 2008

Orthros 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Church School
Following Communion

Epistle Reading
Heb. 1:10-14; 2:1-3

Gospel Reading
Mark 2:1-2

Creed
English



SUNDAY OF GREGORY PALAMAS

UP-COMING EVENTS

Monday, March 24

Vespers at Annunciation Cathedral—7:00 p.m.
Van leaves parking lot at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 25

Feast of the Annunciation
10:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy
7:00 p.m. Y'assoo Meeting
7:30 p.m.— Y.A.L.

Wednesday, March 26

6:30 p.m.— Presanctified Divine Liturgy
Lenten Discussion
7:00 p.m.— Senior Choir
8:00 p.m.— Byzantine Music

Friday, March 28

11:00 a.m. Exercise Class — Open to all
6:00 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Game Night Grades 4-7
7:30 p.m. — 3rd Stanza Salutations to the Virgin Mary
Bible Study — The Psalms

Saturday, March 29

9:00 a.m. — 3:30 p.m. Church Music Institute Workshop
All are welcome to come

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 (nhkotsis@hotmail.com)

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