

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

APRIL 6, 2008

Epistle Reading BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he Heb. 6:13-20

had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and had rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion for Sunday of St. John Climacus

With the rivers of your tears, you have made the barren desert fertile. Through sighs of sorrow from deep within you, your labors have borne fruit a hundred-fold. By your miracles you have become a light, shining upon the world. O John, our Holy Father, pray to Christ our 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.

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 At that time, a man came to Jesus Mark 9:17-31 kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a

dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Wisdom of the Fathers

He that prays with fasting hath his wings double, and lighter than the very winds. ... For nothing is mightier than a man who prays sincerely. ... But if thy body be too weak to fast continually, still it is not too weak for prayer, nor without vigor for contempt of the belly. For although thou canst not fast, yet canst thou avoid luxurious living.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 57 on Matthew 17,4,5, B#54, pp.355,356. 4th 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.

Prosforo needed: May 18 and June 8

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sunday May 4, 11 and 25; June 1, 8, 15 and 22.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP:

Everyone's Responsibility! If you have not made your pledge for 2008, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a pledge card, please call the office.

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

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.

Philoptochos Notes

The **Palm Sunday Luncheon** will be on April 20th following the Divine Liturgy. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 10 and under. For tickets, please see Vicky Masters, Katerina Roumanis or Ioanna Boutsikakis after the Divine Liturgy today and any Sunday until April 20th. Our **March/April 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. \$15.00 per tray. See Diane Geczi. **Spring Flower Sale**—Place your order now for your spring flowers. Order forms are on the table in the hallway. **Deadline to order is May 11th and pick up dates are Saturday, 5/17 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and Sunday, May 18 after the Divine Liturgy.**

Youth Notes

H.O.P.E. Will meet Sunday, April 13 from 1:00 - 2:30 and talk about the Saturday of Lazarus and Palm Sunday. Lunch will be provided.

G.O.Y.A. 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: 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.

Next Meeting is Sunday, April 13 at 3:00 p.m. We'll be visiting shut-ins.

Summer Camp at Rose City

The MDSC summer camp runs from July 5-August 2. Register online by visiting www.detroit.goarch.org/mdsc. Fr. Nick will be at camp during 4th week.

"Christian love is the 'possible impossibility' to see Christ in another man, whoever he is..." **Alexander Schmemmann, Great Lent 20th Century**

Choir Notes Senior Choir



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

The Bookstore Recommends: The new, complete *Orthodox Study Bible*. A Box of 12 Bibles will be arriving in the next week. Stop by to reserve a copy. We have Holy Week books and red Easter Dye, and for Lenten cooking, Diane Kochilas' *The Greek Vegetarian*. *Holy Week and Pascha*, is a children's book presenting the services of Holy Week with gorgeous illustrations by the author, who has studied Iconography in Greece. *Song of Talanton*, a book about Christ's call to worship. A CD with "The Hymns and Responses of the Divine Liturgy" arranged by Reverend Protopresbyter Father John Paul and sung by the Men's Hellenic Chorus is now available at the bookstore.

The DVDs of the 2007 Y'assoo are also available at the bookstore. Cost is \$15.00.

🎵 "Let me root, root, root for the homme team. . ."

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 will be held at 1:00 p.m. May 18th, in our St. Nicholas social hall!

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.

Two Greek professors seeking help at home with either cooking or childcare or both. Our daughter, Selene, is almost one year old and is learning Greek as her first language. Days and hours are flexible. We would be happy to accommodate any schedule. Please call Barbara Koremenos' cell.: 310-613-6544 if you are interested.



John Climacus the Righteous, author of *The Divine Ladder of Ascent*

This Saint gave himself over to the ascetical life from his early youth. Experienced both in the solitary life of the hermit and in the communal life of cenobitic monasticism, he was appointed Abbot of the Monastery at Mount Sinai and wrote a book containing thirty homilies on virtue. Each homily deals with one virtue, and progressing from those that deal with holy and righteous activity (praxis) unto those that deal with divine vision (theoria), they raise a man up as though by means of steps unto the height of Heaven. For this cause his work is called *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. The day he was made Abbot of Sinai, the Prophet Moses was seen giving commands to those who served at table. Saint John reposed in 603, at eighty years of age.

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on March 30, but he is celebrated today because his book, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, is a sure guide to the ascetic life, written by a great man of prayer experienced in all forms of the monastic polity; it teaches the seeker after salvation how to lay a sound foundation for his struggles, how to detect and war against each of the passions, how to avoid the snares laid by the demons, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. It is held in such high esteem that it is universally read in its entirety in monasteries during the Great Fast.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

Daughters of Penelope

Our Tsoureki 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 Fear of the Lord
Is the beginning of Wisdom."*

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN April 6, 2008

Orthros 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Church School
Following Communion

Epistle Reading
Heb. 6:13-20

Gospel Reading
Mark 10:32-45

Creed
Greek



SUNDAY OF SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS

UP-COMING EVENTS

Monday, April 7

7:30 p.m.—Great Compline
Lenten Discussion—Reading of the "Life of St. Mary of Egypt"

Tuesday, April 8

7:30 p.m.— Young Adult League (Y.A.L.)

Wednesday, April 9

6:30 p.m.— Presanctified Divine Liturgy
Lenten Disc. —Robert Ashley and his conversion to Orthodoxy

7:00 p.m.— Senior Choir
7:30 p.m.— Philoptochos
8:00 p.m.— Byzantine Music

Thursday, April 10

7:00 p.m.—Parish Council

Friday, April 11

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.— Akathist Hymn
Bible Study — The Psalms

Saturday, April 12

9:00 a.m.— Church Spring Cleaning

Sunday, April 13

1:00-2:30— H.O.P.E.
3:00-5:00 —G.O.Y.A.
5:00-7:00—J.O.Y.

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

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