

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

MAY 4, 2008

Epistle Reading IN THOSE DAYS, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

Wisdom of the Fathers

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1) And here He pronounces blessed not the disciples only, but those also who after them should believe.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 87 on John 20
4th Century

PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God will help her right early.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the LORD, how He has wrought desolations in the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, He burns the chariots with fire! Be still, and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth! The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.



Gospel Reading On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to Him: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Apolytikion for Thomas Sunday

Whilst the tomb was sealed, Thou, O Life, didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God; and whilst the doors were shut, Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O Resurrection of all, renewing through them an upright Spirit in us according to Thy great mercy.

Kontakion

Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Hail!" and granting peace to Your disciples, You who raise up the fallen.

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: June 8

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sunday May 25; June 8 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

Reminder: Sunday, May 18, is the testing date to see if the children meet the Church School requirements. **Children must report to classrooms by 10 a.m. to begin testing.**

Upcoming Events

Sun., May 18 TESTING DATE FOR REQUIREMENTS
Church School Senior Recognition Day

Spring Parish General Assembly will take place in our Fellowship Hall today immediately following the Divine Liturgy. All members in good standing are asked to attend. The list of Members in Good Standing is posted on the bulletin board.

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.

The Bookstore Recommends

The Orthodox Study Bible, Old and New Testament. The Old Testament is a new translation from the Greek Septuagint and includes the Deuterocanon. Commentary is drawn from the early Church writers and speaks to Christians who seek a deeper experience of the roots of their faith. The Inner Kingdom, collected works by Kallistos Ware. Ware recounts his own journey to Orthodoxy and reflects on themes such as resurrection, repentance, salvation, worship, martyrdom and prayer.

Philoptochos Notes

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. Pick up dates are Saturday, 5/17 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and Sunday, May 18 after the Divine Liturgy.**

Our May Community Care will be "Dress for Success". Please start bringing your gently used, clean clothing to the Church and hang it on the racks in the hallway. The May Philoptochos meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. We'll have a guest speaker from "Dress for Success." Please be prompt.

"Cell Phones for Soldiers" is our Community Care project until July 2008. We will collect old cell phones and accessories which are redeemable toward calling cards for our troops abroad. Put your cell phones in the box 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

GOYA

Dance Practices will be held on the following dates: **Saturdays May 3, at 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. (this is a mandatory practice if you are dancing in the festival), May 10, and 31 from 11 a.m-1:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 4 from 6 p.m.—8:30 p.m.**

Schedule of Events:

Sunday, May 4, Bible Study 4 p.m.-5 p.m.; meeting/fellowship 5.-7;

Sunday, May 11, Ushering and Fellowship Hour;

Sunday, May 18, Officer Elections immediately after church service and Senior Luncheon at Cottage Inn at 1:15. Everyone invited.

Friday, June 13, Tiger's Game Outing—tickets sold on first come, first serve basis — 20 available

Tuesday, June 17, Seniors Taverna dancing at 7:00 p.m. Church

H.O.P.E. will meet May 18th from 1:00-2:30— we will be talking about the Virgin Mary. Lunch will be provided and please bring appropriate outdoor clothing.

J.O.Y. Our last meeting will be May 18th from 5:00

Greek School Notes On Sunday, May 11, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, the Greek School General Assembly and Election of PTO Board will take place in the Greek School classroom.

AHEPA Golf Outing

On Sunday, June 1, 2008, the Ann Arbor AHEPA Chapter #195 is having their 11th Educational Scholarship Golf Outing. Shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. Proceeds from this event will be used towards the AHEPA scholarships to high school graduates from our community. Our Ann Arbor AHEPA chapter has awarded more than \$50,000.00 in scholarships over the last ten years. Prices: \$100.00 to play and dinner; \$100.00 to sponsor a hole. Please contact Costas Boutsikakis 604-8738 or Christos Philippou 309-3032 for details. Thank you for your support.

Choir Notes

Senior Choir

Any interested parishioner, ages 12 and up, is encouraged to join the Senior Choir.

Junior Choir

Come join the Junior Choir on Wednesday, May 14 and May 28. We practice from 6:30 pm. to 7:15 p.m.

The Friends of St. Nicholas Library Group are encouraging all parents to attend the General Assembly today where there will be a final vote taken on the library. The Parish Council has already approved the Memorial Library. This will greatly benefit the children of our parish and we hope all of our families at this time will put their thoughts and support into this endeavor.

Shopping for St. Nicholas

Support "Shopping for St. Nicholas" by buying Scrip Gift cards. We have a variety of cards on hand including Borders, Kohls, Macys, Star Bucks, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Olive Garden and more. These make great gifts. If we don't have the cards you want, we'll place an order for you. Visit the "Shopping for St. Nicholas" desk during the fellowship hour after the Divine Liturgy.

Y.E.R.A.C. Dance—The Y.E.R.A.C. is holding classes for Greek Dance on the following Saturdays, May , 10, 24, 31 from 1 p.m.—3 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



YA'SSOO FESTIVAL

Coffee Hour and sign up on May 4th to help in all areas the week of the Festival. We need everyone's help to make this festival an outstanding success. Please help out by doing your fair share!!!

GREEK SCHOOL YA'SSOO FESTIVAL DANCE PRACTICE

Saturday, May 17—3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 31—3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 4—4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 5—4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

YA'SSOO FESTIVAL BAKERS NEEDED

The schedule for Festival Baking is listed below. All parishioners are welcome to come and help. Please call one of the chairpersons to offer your help or drop in when you have some time. We start at 9:30 a.m. each day. We need lots of help!

Mon. & Tue., May 12 & 13

Koulourakia—Tasia Goffas

Mon & Tue., May 19 & 20

Paximathakia—Presvytera Eva Paul

Thurs. & Fri. May 29 & 30

Kourabiethes—Katerina Roumanis & Yianna Boutsikakis

Mon. & Tues., June 2 & 3

Baklava—Tula Prokos

Wed. & Thurs., June 4 & 5

Karithopita—Eleni Banos

YA'SSOO FESTIVAL RAFFLE

All parishioners will be receiving a ticket for the festival raffle. Please let us know if you would like to receive two more for a total of \$20.00 (3 tickets for \$20.00). Please support our effort for reduction of our debt.

🎵 **"If they don't win it's a shammme. . ."** 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. **All volunteers must be prepared to attend MANDATORY TRAINING on Sunday May 18 at 1:00 pm in our St. Nicholas social hall. You will not be allowed in Comerica Park without first completing this training.** See Dennis Cvercko or Nick Roumel in the social hall to answer questions and sign-up for a great fellowship experience.

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

May 4, 2008



Orthros

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

10:00 AM

Church School

After Communion

Epistle Reading

Acts 5:12-20

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

Creed

Greek

Psaltis
Zannis Res

Choir
Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo
Anonymous

THOMAS SUNDAY

UP-COMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 4

SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Sign-up for Ya'ssoo Volunteers

Tuesday, May 6

9:30 a.m. Bed Pad Sewing
12:30 p.m. Senior Planning Meeting
1:00 p.m. "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"
7:30 p.m. YAL Meeting

Wednesday, May 7

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday, May 8

7:00 p.m. Parish Council

Friday, May 9

11:00 a.m. Exercise Class
6:30 p.m. Game Night
7:30 p.m. Paraklesis

Saturday, May 10

11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. GOYA Dance
1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. YERAC Greek Dance

Sunday May 11

Mother's Day
Greek School General Assembly &
PTO Board Elections

Today we warmly welcome Mrs. Kiersten Chapman of Saline High School and her World Mythology and Religion Class to our Liturgy.

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

3109 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

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

Proistamenos: Rev. Father Nicolaos H. Kotsis (nhkotsis@hotmail.com)

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