

Saint Nicholas Choir Notes

Men's Choir will practice on **Thursday, June 26, at 6 p.m.** They will be singing at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 29th. If interested, please call Alex Kales.

G.O.Y.A. Summer Schedule

Sunday, June 29 6:30 p.m. Senior farewell with Fr. Nick

7:30 p.m. Bible Study & Game Night

Sunday, July 6 7:30 p.m. Bible Study & Game Night

Sunday, July 13 7:30 p.m. Bible Study & Game Night

Sunday, July 27 7:30 p.m. Bible Study & Game Night

Sunday, Aug 3 7:30 p.m. Bible Study & Game Night

Sunday, Aug 10 5:00 p.m. Meeting/Bible Study/Game Night

Sunday, Aug. 17 7:30 p.m. Bible Study & Game Night

Sunday, Aug. 24 7:30 p.m. Bible Study & Game Night

Sunday, Aug. 31 7:30 p.m. Bible Study & Game Night

Sunday, Sep. 7 GOYA Registration and Parent Orientation after Divine Liturgy

Sunday, Sep. 14 4:00 p.m. Bible Study

5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. Parent Meeting with Fr. Nick



Need Gifts for Special Occasions or Birthdays?

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.

Saint Nicholas Church School—Vacation Bible School 2008 was a great success with 40 children enrolled. Every day the children participated in the Orthros, led by Fr. Nick. We learned about God, creation, the first man and woman; Noah and the flood; the obedience of Abraham; the lives of the patriarchs Jacob and Joseph and God's continuous renewal of His promise for the world's salvation in Jesus Christ.

Our crafts taught us that the Lord has the whole world in His Hands, that Christ is the Lamb of God offered as sacrifice and that we should love God's creation. We learned hymns of praise and thanksgiving from the Divine Liturgy.

The children planted flowers in the Children's Garden project continuing the theme of last year's V.B.S. "Genesis."

All Saints

Honoring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honorable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the divine Apostle, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood.

Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we the pious honor all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honor the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Saviour" (Sunday of All Saints, Doxasticon of Vespers).

In this celebration, then, we reverently honor and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honor today, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

June 22, 2008

Orthros

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

10:00 AM

Church School

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

Gospel Reading

Matt. 10:32-33, 17-18;
19:27-30

Creed

English



ALL SAINTS

UP-COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, June 24

2:00 p.m. Saint Nicholas Seniors Meeting
7:00 p.m. Greek Festival Wrap-up Meeting
7:30 p.m. Saint Nicholas Young Adults (Y.A.L.)

Wednesday, June 25

Detroit Tiger Concession Project

Friday, June 27

6:30 p.m. Game Night

Sunday, June 29

1 Year Memorial—Rev. Father John Paul
7:30 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Bible Study & Game Night

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

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 (nhkotsis@hotmail.com)

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

June 22, 2008

Epistle Reading BRETHREN, all the saints Heb. 11:33-40; through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

Wisdom From The Fathers

AT all times indeed, but especially then when I reflect upon the achievements of the saints, it comes over me to feel despondency concerning my own condition, because we have not even in dreams experienced the things among which those men spent their whole lives, not paying the penalty of sins, but always doing rightly and yet always afflicted...For "God" (he says) "has provided some better thing for us." In order that they might not seem to have the advantage of us from being crowned before us, He appointed one time of crowning for all; and he that gained the victory so many years before, receives his crown with thee. Seest thou His tender carefulness?

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 28 on Hebrews 11
4th Century



Gospel Reading The Lord said to his disciples, Matt. 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30 "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

Resurrectional Apolytikion

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You.

Apolytikion for All Saints

Adorned in the blood of Thy Martyrs throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church, though them, doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassions upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy commonwealth, and great mercy to 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

As the first-fruits of our nature to the Planter of created things, the world presenteth the God-bearing martyred Saints in offering unto Thee, O Lord. Through their earnest entreaties, keep Thy Church in deep peace and divine tranquillity, through the pure Theotokos, O Thou Who art greatly merciful.

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 July 13 and 20th.

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.

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord, your God, which He has given you.

Did You Know? In his final prayer to God at the time of his death, King David said, "Everything in Heaven and Earth is yours. . . All riches and wealth come from you. Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name. Yet my people and I cannot give you anything, because everything is a gift from you, and we have only given back what is yours already."

I Chronicles 29:11-14.

When we make a commitment, we should be mindful that we have not given God something which belongs to us and for which He should be grateful. Rather, we should be thankful for the bountiful gifts with which God has blessed us and gladly offer our assistance to His Church.

The proportion of the gifts you commit should stem from the love and concern you have for your Church, your willingness to make personal sacrifices and your ability to recognize the needs of the Church even beyond the local level. you, alone, must determine your response to the love of God. Then, and only then, will you discover the true meaning of Christian Stewardship.
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Stewardship Department

GREEK FESTIVAL WRAP-UP MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008 — 7:00 P.M.

This meeting is open to ALL parishioners. Please come and share your comments and any ideas you may have for next year.

Philoptochos Notes

Needed Sheets and Pillowcases. We are in need of sheets for our Hospice Bed Pad Sewing and pillowcases to make dresses for little girls in Africa. Please bring your clean sheets and pillowcases to the church.

"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.

Saint Nicholas Altar Boy Baseball Outing

Our yearly baseball outing will be July 8th Tigers v Cleveland Indians. There are 20 tickets at \$19.50 each. We'll leave from the church at 5:30 p.m. Please call Dani Nadra 586-291-2149 if you plan to come.

Saint Nicholas Seniors: This Tuesday, June 24th, a representative from Branson Tours will be here to present information on our trip to Branson, Missouri. All seniors are invited to come to the meeting which begins at 2:00 p.m.

The 25 tickets for "The King & I" at the Crosswell Theatre on Thursday, July 31st are going quickly. Please call Diane, Joan or Penny if you want to go. We leave by bus at 4:45 p.m. and return 10:30 p.m.

The Saint Nicholas 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.

Detroit Tiger Baseball Project—Throw your khakis in the washer, grab your Tiger baseball cap and sign up with your fellow parishioners to participate in this unique mortgage reduction program. We need four volunteers for Wednesday, June 25th. Call some friends and volunteer together! Check the sign-up board for other available dates. See Dennis Cvercko or Nick Roumel in the social hall to answer questions and sign up for a great fellowship experience.