

Daughters of Penelope are sponsoring a Winter Clothing Drive for the Ypsilanti Public Schools Clothes Closet and the SOS Crisis Center.

Ypsilanti Public Schools Clothes Closet needs **gently** used winter clothing for ages infant to adult, both male and female. Baby and children clothing are most needed.

Coats, jeans, sweat pants and shirts (especially for children), children's sweaters, waterproof mittens, snowsuits, underwear and socks (must be new and needed for children), diapers (all sizes), baby blankets, shoes (only if in really good condition,

SOS Crisis Center needs winter clothing for adult women of all sizes and children's clothing both girls and boys. Household items such as towels, sheets, blankets (gently used or new) are also requested.

Bring your items, in good condition to the church and we will sort them and take them to the appropriate charity.

Please pick up a flyer from the table in the hallway. Questions, contact Joanne Savas, 734-761-2529 or Vicki Kiningham, 734-429-8127.



Tiger Concession Project—Last game of the season, tied, bottom of the ninth, two outs, bases loaded, three balls, two strikes. . . .and you're at bat! It's the last chance this season to show your stuff. Come join your fellow parishioners and participate in this unique mortgage reduction project. We need three volunteers for Friday, Sept. 26th. See Dennis Cvercko or Nick Roumel in the social hall to answer questions and sign-up for a great fellowship experience. He stretches, he throws, you draw back the bat. . . .and you swing. . . .!

Choir Notes

Senior Choir will have rehearsal on September 24th from 7:00 p.m.—8:45 p.m. Please mark your calendars. Anyone ages 12 years and up is welcome. Musical experience is preferred but not required. Come and join us.

Youth Choir Rehearsals will be on the first and third Wednesdays of the month unless otherwise notified. If you have questions regarding the youth choir, please call Mrs. Anna Chapekis at 734-429-7181.



Did You Know that you can receive email messages from Fr. Nick? These messages are sent approximately every 10 days and include a variety of things such as: upcoming events and dates, special announcements and projects, spiritual messages and much more.

If you wish to be included in this list, please do the following:

1. go to the website www.stnickaa.org and go to the drop down menu
2. from the drop down menu buttons select 'Contact Us'
3. select the 'E-Mail Subscribe' option
4. enter your e-mail address

There is no cost or obligation in doing this. If you wish to unsubscribe, you may do so. It is our hope to keep you better informed, and perhaps, to save some expense for our St. Nicholas Parish.



Commemorative Trees

are still available to be sponsored in "memory of" or "for the health of" a loved one. If interested, please contact Michael Challis, 734-971-6186 or mdchallis@aol.com or Christopher A. Bekiaries.

Welcoming Committee

A welcoming committee is being formed at Saint Nicholas. Our training meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14th at 7:30 p.m. If you would like to help with this ministry, please call Penny Bekiaries—662-6606.



The Bookstore recommends *Keeper of the Light, Saint Macrina the Elder, Grandmother of Saints*, the fascinating story of the grandmother of three saints, Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, and St. Macrina the Younger. *Hear Me: A Prayerbook for Orthodox Teens* a book to help teens challenge their faith and find a road to making that faith their own. *Orthodoxy and Catholicism*, the chronicle of a former Roman Catholic's journey to Orthodoxy.

Thought for the Week—The key to knowledge is the humility of Christ. The door of the Kingdom of Heaven is open, not to those who only know in their learned minds the mysteries of faith and the commandments of their Creator, but to those who have progressed far enough to live by them. **St. Bede the Venerable** 8th c.

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

September 21, 2008

Orthros
9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy
10:00 AM

Epistle Reading
Gal. 2:16-20

Gospel Reading
Mark 8:34-38; 9-1

Creed
Greek



Psaltis
Mr. George Smyrnis

Choir
Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo
Pliakas Family
Vicky Masters

Fellowship Hour
Masters Family

Memorial Service
Maxie Masters—3 Years

SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

UP-COMING EVENTS

Sunday, Sept. 21

Philoptochos Ya'ssoo Golf Outing

Monday, Sept. 22

9:30 a.m. Spanakopita
7:30 p.m. Bible Study - **Evening ONLY This Week**

Tuesday, Sept. 23

9:30 a.m. Spanakopita
7:00 p.m. Mandatory Ushers Meeting
7:30 p.m. Young Adult League (Y.A.L.)

Wednesday, Sept. 24

9:30 a.m. Spanakopita
6:30 p.m. Senior Choir Practice

Thursday, Sept. 25

6:00 p.m. Greek School PTO
7:00 p.m. Physical Plant & Maintenance

Friday, Sept. 26

11:00 a.m. Exercise Class — Open to all
Final Tiger Concession Project

Saturday, Sept. 27

9:30 a.m. G.O.Y.A. Dance Practice

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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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



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
September 21, 2008

Epistle Reading BRETHREN, you know that a man Gal. 2:16-20 is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Wisdom of the Fathers

A Christian's . . . duty is to "take up his cross." The word cross means sufferings, sorrows and adversities. To take up one's cross means to bear without grumbings everything unpleasant, painful, sad, difficult and oppressive that may happen to us in life. . .without expecting any earthly reward in return, but bear it all with love, with joy and with courageous strength.

Interior crosses can found at all times, and more easily than exterior ones. You have only to direct your attention to yourself and examine yourself with a sense of repentance, and a thousand interior crosses will at once present themselves to you. . . Interior crosses are sometimes so burdensome that the sufferer can find no consolation whatever in anything.

All this can happen to you too! But in whatever position you may be, and whatever sufferings of the soul you may feel, do not despair and do not think that the Lord has abandoned you. NO! God will always be with you and will invisibly strengthen you even when it seems to you that you are on the very brink of perdition.

St. Innocent of Alaska, *The Lenten Spring*, SVS Press, p.148 19th Century

Gospel Reading The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to Mark 8:34-38; 9:1 come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. For in His goodness He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, and to raise up those who had died, by His glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion for Apodosis of the Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross

Save, O Lord, Thy people and bless Thine inheritance; grant Thou unto the faithful victory over adversaries. And by the power of Thy Cross do Thou preserve Thy commonwealth.

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

Lifted up on the Cross by Your free will, Christ God, grant mercies to the new commonwealth that bears Your name. Gladden our faithful rulers by Your power, giving them victories over their adversaries. May Your alliance be for them a weapon for peace, an invincible standard.

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

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 for Sunday, October 19th.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sundays of Oct. 5, 12 and all the Sundays of November.

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.

. "From those to whom much is given, much will be required." Luke 12:48

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.

G.O.Y.A. Schedule

Saturday, Sep. 27 Dance Practice
9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Sunday, Sep. 28 GOYA Game Night
5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 5 4:00 GOYA Bible Study
5:00 p.m.—GOYA meeting, dinner & fellowship

Registration still being accepted for G.O.Y.A.. Please see any advisor.



Student Dinner The Saint Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos invites all college students to a home cooked Greek style dinner on Sunday, October 12th at 5:30 p.m. Please join us in the fellowship hall to meet new friends and enjoy a terrific dinner. Information: Athena Papageorgiou 663-2318.

Philoptochos Notes

We will continue making spanakopita this week We'll begin at 9:30 a.m. and work until 8:30 p.m. We still need volunteers. Please give as much time as you can. For further information or to volunteer, call Margaret Yates — 663-0131

"Cell Phones for Soldiers" an ongoing Philoptochos Community Care project. We are still collecting old cell phones and accessories which are redeemable toward calling cards for our troops abroad. Please drop off your cell phones in the box located outside the social hall. Thank you for your support.

Church School Notes.

The Church School Department would like to welcome back all of our students, and those children who are new to our Church and Church School program. Thank you to all the families who registered last Sunday. For those families who have not registered, it is not too late. Please do so as soon as possible. If you need a registration form, you may download a copy from the website, or pick one up from the main office or Church School Office. Scholarships are available, if needed. Please see Fr. Nick or Susan Pagalos.

Reminders: Please refer to the "St. Nicholas Church School guide booklet" you received at registration for details and information regarding your child's grade requirements, general rules, the schedule of events for the year and a letter from Fr. Nick. It is important that you read through the booklet so that together (home and Church) we can provide the best religious education for your child. If you did not receive a copy of this booklet at registration, please see your child's teacher or Susan Pagalos.

Also, as part of the Church school curriculum, it is required that all children be present for the Divine Liturgy (10:00 a.m.) and attend class instruction after communion. It is difficult for our children to follow the traditions of our faith if they do not participate and engage in all aspects of our church life.

The St. Nicholas Church School teachers are looking forward to teaching our youth and enriching them with the Orthodox traditions.

Saint Nicholas Ushers Meeting

On **Tuesday, September 23rd**, there will be a **mandatory ushers meeting** at 7:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars now for this important meeting.

