

Saint Nicholas Seniors

Join us for our Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 16th at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$8.00.

Please RSVP to Diane Geczi-747-9619; Penny Bekiaries-662-6606 or Joan Raphael -483-0923 by Sunday, December 14th.. If you need a ride please call one of the ladies above. We look forward to seeing you there!

Toys for Tots

The Saint Nicholas Young Adult League (Y.A.L.) is again collecting toys for the Toys for Tots program sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. Please donate a new toy for a needy child this Christmas season. Just drop off your toy in the collection boxes that will be in the exo-narthex. You will definitely make a child's Christmas a merrier one.

The Saint Nicholas Parish Bookstore

Vasilopita coins are now available! There is also a good selection of Christmas books for children, including beautiful books on the real St. Nicholas; Byzantine Christmas CD with book by the Romeiko Ensemble offers an anthology of orations, icons, chanted hymns and carols. There is also a wide selection of icons. For teens, *Hear Me: A Prayerbook for Orthodox Teens* is a book that will challenge their faith and help them on the road to making that faith their own.

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.



PSALM 114: 4-16

"The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the works of men's hands. They have a mouth, but they cannot speak; they have eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but they cannot hear; they have noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but they cannot handle; they have feet but they cannot walk: they cannot speak through their throat. Let those that make them become like to them, and all who trust in them.

G.O.Y.A. Calendar

December 2008 Calendar

Sun. Dec. 14 4-5 p.m. Bible Study
5-7 p.m. Game Night
Fri. Dec. 19 5-7 p.m. Christmas Caroling with Y.A.L.

January 2009 Calendar

Sun. Jan. 4 4-5 p.m. Bible Study
5-7 p.m. Meeting
Sun. Jan. 11 12 Noon Annual Brunch/Fundraiser
5-7 p.m. Game Night
Fri. Jan. 16 6:00 p.m. Lock-In Retreat
Sat. Jan. 17 10:00 a.m. Lock-In Retreat Ends
Sun. Jan. 18 5-7 p.m. Game Night
Sun. Jan. 25 8:45 a.m. Ushering
4-5 p.m. Bible Study
5-7 p.m. Game Night

Daughters of Penelope turkey raffle drawing is today, Sunday, December 14th

The Daughters are continuing to accept clothing donations for the Ypsilanti Public Schools Clothes Closet. Please bring to the church clothing for infants to adults both men's and women's gently used and clean. This is an on-going project and will continue through the winter months. Your support is greatly appreciated. Co-chairs are Joanne Savas—761-2529 and Vicki Kiningham—429-8127.

Saint Nicholas Greek School Notes

Christmas Party for all Greek School Students will be held on Friday, December 19th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m. Food
6:30 p.m.— 7:00 p.m. Games
7:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m. Christmas Craft & Storytelling
7:30p.m.—8:00 p.m. Cookie Baking and Gift Exchange
Please bring a gender neutral gift to exchange — \$10 or less.

Volunteers needed — please call Mary Hays at 887-3720 (work) or 649-4403 (cell) or email at mhays481776@msn.com.



THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

December 14, 2008

Orthros

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

10:00 AM

Epistle Reading

Col. 3:4-11

Gospel Reading

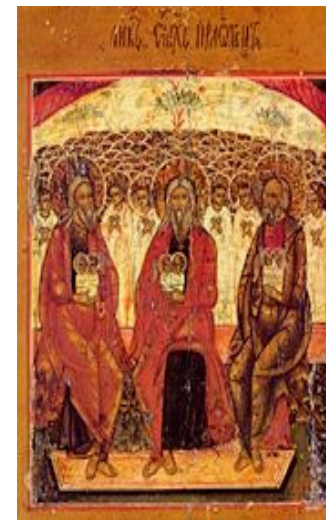
Luke 14:16-24;
Matthew 22:14

Creed

English

Greeters 12/21

Elizabeth Bairactaris, Joy Melzian, Bill Ziegler



ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

UP-COMING EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 14

Church School Christmas Pageant

Christmas Cookie Bake Sale

4:00 p.m. Saint Nicholas G.O.Y.A. Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Saint Nicholas G.O.Y.A. Game Night

Monday, Dec. 15

10:30 a.m. Bible Study
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Tuesday, Dec. 16

12:30 p.m. Seniors Christmas Luncheon
7:30 p.m. Saint Nicholas Young Adult League (Y.A.L.)

Thursday, Dec. 18

7:00 p.m. Saint Nicholas Parish Council Physical Plant & Maintenance Committee Meeting

Friday, Dec. 19

11:00 a.m. Exercise Class
6:00 p.m. Greek School Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 21

12:30 p.m. —2:00 p.m. H.O.P.E.
5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. J.O.Y.

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

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

Psaltis

Zannis Res

Prosforo

Elaine Spiliopoulos

Fellowship Hour

Parish Council & Church School

Greeters 12/14

Diane Geczi,
Vasilios Pliakas
Connie Ziegler

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
December 14, 2008

Epistle Reading BRETHREN, when Christ who is Col. 3:4-11 our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Kontakion

On this day the Virgin cometh to a cave to give birth to God the Word ineffable, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Wisdom from the Fathers

What was the nature of the invitation? God the Father has prepared in Christ for the inhabitants of earth those gifts which are bestowed upon the world through Him, even the forgiveness of sins, the cleansing away of all defilement, the communion of the Holy Spirit, the glorious adoption of sons, and the kingdom of the heavens. **St. Cyril of Alexandria**, *Translating courtesy of "The Orthodox New Testament" Volume 1 4th Century*

Eleutherios the Holy Martyr, Bishop Illyria and his mother Anthia

This Saint had Rome as his homeland. Having been orphaned of his father from childhood, he was taken by his mother Anthia to Anicetus, the Bishop of Rome who instructed him in the the divine Scriptures. At a very young age, he was made Bishop of Illyricum because of his surpassing virtue. However, during the persecution of Christians under Hadrian (reigned 117-138), the Saint was arrested and endured many torments for Christ, until he was finally put to death about the year 126. His mother Anthia, while embracing his remains was beheaded.

Gospel Reading Luke 14:16-24; Matthew 22:14 The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

Resurrectional Apolytikion

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; glory to Your eternal rule; glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind.

Apolytikion for the 11th Sunday of Luke

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast established our Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, and through them didst guide us all to the true Faith. O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.

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.

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 for Sunday, December 28.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sunday, December 14, 21 & 28.

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

Did You Know that you can receive email messages from Rev. Father 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 Saint Nicholas Parish..

Friends of the Metropolis—Please consider helping the Metropolis of Detroit and Metropolitan Nicholas with the ministries of the Church by donating to the Friends of the Metropolis program. Brochures are in the hallway.



Philoptochos Notes

Baklava is for sale after the Divine Liturgy.

Warm the Children Volunteers — please get your form from Vicky Masters as soon as possible.

Saint Nicholas Church School Notes

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.

During the month of December, the children will be involved with Philoptochos to help raise funds for St. Basil's Academy. More information to follow.

No church school Sunday Dec. 28 classes will resume Sunday Jan. 4th

Oratorical Festival It is time to start preparing for the Parish Oratorical Festival. Vicki Kiningham will distribute the 2008-09 topics to students in grades 7-12. Children in preschool-6th grade will do something in their class with topics chosen by their teacher.

PLEASE NOTE THAT HOPE WILL MEET ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 21, FROM 12:30 P.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

Our topic for this month is the importance of telling the truth. Lunch will be provided.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

Christmas Cookie Bake Sale — December 14th



Christmas Cookie orders can be picked up today, December 14th after the Divine Liturgy. All proceeds will go to the church.

Thought for the Week

There shall come for a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 11:1-3