

A.H.E.P.A. Scholarship

Attention High School Seniors and College Students: If you are interested in a scholarship from A.H.E.P.A., the local chapter or the district, please try to meet with Dr. Kleanthous in the board room after services on Sunday or get in touch with him at 475-2034 or email: c.kleanthousmd@sbcglobal.net.

Saint Nicholas G.O.Y.A. Calendar 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

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.

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.



A.H.E.P.A. New Year's Eve Dance

The annual A.H.E.P.A. New Year's Eve Dance/Fundraiser will take place on Wednesday, December 31 at 9:00 p.m. Cost is \$30.00. Food, including three roast lambs, will be served; music will be provided by Jimmy Michos and his band.

Thought for the Week

Isaiah 11:1-3

There shall come forth 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.

The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

The incomprehensible and inexplicable Nativity of Christ came to pass when Herod the Great was reigning in Judea; the latter was an Ascalonite on his father's side and an Idumean on his mother's. He was in every way foreign to the royal line of David; rather, he had received his authority from the Roman emperors, and had ruled tyrannically over the Jewish people for some thirty-three years. The tribe of Judah, which had reigned of old, was deprived of its rights and stripped of all rule and authority. Such was the condition of the Jews when the awaited Messiah was born, and truly thus was fulfilled the prophecy which the Patriarch Jacob had spoken 1,807 years before: "A ruler shall not fail from Judah, nor a prince from his loins, until there come the things stored up for him; and he is the expectation of the nations" (Gen.49:10).

Thus, our Saviour was born in Bethlehem, a city of Judea, whither Joseph had come from Nazareth of Galilee, taking Mary his betrothed, who was great with child, that, according to the decree issued in those days by the Emperor Augustus, they might be registered in the census of those subject to Rome. Therefore, when the time came for the Virgin to give birth, and since because of the great multitude there was no place in the inn, the Virgin's circumstance constrained them to enter a cave which was near Bethlehem. Having as shelter a stable of irrational beasts, she gave birth there, and swaddled the Infant and laid Him in the manger (Luke 2:1-7). From this, the tradition has come down to us that when Christ was born He lay between two animals, an ox and an ass, that the words of the Prophets might be fulfilled: "Between two living creatures shalt Thou be known" (Abbacum 3:2), and "The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib" (Esaias 1: 3).

But while the earth gave the new-born Saviour such a humble reception, Heaven on high celebrated majestically His world-saving coming. A wondrous star, shining with uncommon brightness and following a strange course, led Magi from the East to Bethlehem to worship the new-born King. Certain shepherds who were in the area of Bethlehem, who kept watch while tending their sheep, were suddenly surrounded by an extraordinary light, and they saw before them an Angel who proclaimed to them the good tidings of the Lord's joyous Nativity. And straightway, together with this Angel, they beheld and heard a whole host of the Heavenly Powers praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men" (Luke 2:8-14). *Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery*

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN December 21, 2008

Orthros
9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy
10:00 AM

Church School
Following Communion

Epistle Reading
Ephesians 6:10-17

Gospel Reading
Matthew 1:1-25

Creed
Greek



SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY

UP-COMING EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 21

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

Monday, Dec. 22

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

Tuesday, Dec. 23

5:30 p.m. Saint Nicholas Young Adult League (.Y.A.L.)
Christmas Caroling with G.O.Y.A.

Wednesday, Dec. 24

CHRISTMAS EVE
5:00 P.M. VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY

Thursday, Dec. 25

CHRISTMAS DAY
10:00 A.M. ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

Merry Christmas and God Bless all of you!

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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Psaltis
Zannis Res

Prosforo
Pliakas Family

Fellowship Hour
Parish Council

Memorial Service
9 Days Irene Stylianidou
Greeters 12/21
Elizabeth Bairactaris, Joy
Melzian, Bill Ziegler

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
December 21, 2008

Epistle Reading Brethren, be strong in the Lord Eph. 6:10-17 and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Gospel Reading The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Matthew 1:1-25 Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You.

Apolytikion for the Sunday before the Nativity

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 Sundays, February 15 and 22.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sunday, January 4, 18, Feb. 1, 15, 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.

"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.

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.

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 H.O.P.E. WILL MEET TODAY 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.

2009 Church Calendars are available in the hallway as well as the pocket calendars for 2009. **PLEASE TAKE ONE CHURCH CALENDAR PER FAMILY.** Thank you.



Saint Nicholas G.O.Y.A. Brunch

The G.O.Y.A.'s annual fundraiser brunch will be on Sunday January 11th. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults (12 and up) and \$5.00 for children

We extend our deepest sympathy to Ioanna Ioannou and her family on the death of Ioanna's mother, Irene Stylianidou, Saturday, December 13. May her memory be eternal.



Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.