

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

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.

Wisdom from the Ancient Fathers

Abba Markos once asked the holy Arsenios why it is that the most pious and virtuous people pass through the world with numerous sorrows and in privation.

"Sorrows, for those who accept them with forbearance," the holy one answered, "are the salt which prevents putrefaction by sins and allows the soul to approach heaven cleansed."

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.

January 6

The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvellous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

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.



Greeters Needed

The Welcoming Program is in need of Greeters "To ensure that everyone passing through our doors and entering

Christ's Church are welcomed and made to feel comfortable as being created in the image and likeness of God. As well, to get to know others in our parish we normally might not get to know—or make the time to know."

Please consider taking part in this program and volunteer by calling Penny Bekiares—662-6606 or Chris Kerry—665-6273.

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

January 4, 2009



Orthros

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

10:00 AM

Church School

After Holy Communion

Epistle Reading

II Tim. 4:5-8

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

Creed

Psaltis
Zannis Res

Prosforo
Pliakas Family

Fellowship Hour
Parish Council

Greeters Jan. 4
Mary Price/Amira Sabbagh

Greeters Jan. 11
Jack Fry/Anna Bairactaris

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

UP-COMING EVENTS

Sunday, Jan. 4

4:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Bible Study
5:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Bowling

Monday, Jan. 5

10:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy
Bible Study after Divine Liturgy
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Tuesday, Jan. 6

10:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy
7:30 p.m. Saint Nicholas Young Adult League (Y.A.L.)

Wednesday, Jan. 7

10:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy
7:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 8

7:00 p. m. Parish Council
7:00 p.m. Y.E.R.A.C.

Friday, Jan. 9

6:00 p.m. Greek School Christmas Party

Saturday, Jan. 10

9:00 a.m. Greek School P.T.O. Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 11

Vasilopita Cutting after Divine Liturgy
G.O.Y.A. Brunch
12:30 p.m. H.O.P.E.

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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Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
January 4, 2009

Epistle Reading TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Gospel Reading The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy

Wisdom from the Fathers

'And He is the expectation of the nations' ... Therefore it is said to Moses, 'Remove the sandals from your feet' (Exo. 3:5). Otherwise Moses, who was chosen as leader of the people, might be thought to be the bridegroom of the Church.

It was for that reason that Joshua, son of Nun, removed his sandals (Cf. Jos. 5:15), in order that he also could preserve the gift of so great a function for Him who was to come. It is for that reason that John says, 'A man is coming after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to loose,' ... **St. Ambrose of Milan, *Seven Exegetical Works*, 4.22 4th Century**

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and had rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion for Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

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

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

Thought for the Week

Repentance is the renewal of baptism and is a contract with God for a fresh start in life.

St. John Climacus, *Ladder of Divine Ascent* Step 5: On Penitence, Paulist Press pg. 121 6th century



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 is needed for the Sundays of February 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.

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.

H.O.P.E. will meet on **Sunday, January 11th from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.** We'll be discussing what it means to be humble. Lunch will be provided.

All children 4 years of age to second grade are welcome to come for fun and fellowship while learning about our Orthodox Faith.

For more information please contact Sophia Grias-Radwanski at sgrias@mhsi.us of Vasilia Tsilimingras at vtsilimingras@yahoo.com.

Saint Nicholas Church School Notes—Classes resume today.

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.

“Coins for St. Basil Academy”

During the month of December, the children have been collecting coins to help Philoptochos raise funds for St. Basil's Academy. The last day to turn in the coins they earned for this project is January 11th.

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.

Philoptochos Notes

Because of the Feast of the Theophany, **bed pad sewing will be moved from Jan. 6 to the following Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 9:30 a.m.**

A special tray for St. Basil's Academy will be passed on Sunday, Jan. 11 along with the cutting of the Vasilopita following the Divine Liturgy.

The Philoptochos meeting on January 14 will begin at **7:00 p.m.** in the social hall. We will have a guest speaker from the VFW. Please plan to attend.

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.



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

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY JANUARY 11TH IN THE SOCIAL HALL

“Each one should give, then as he has decided, not with regret or out of sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly.” Cor. 9:7