

The Saint Nicholas Parish Bookstore thanks A.H.E.P.A. for the beautiful new display cases. They contain icons and gift items and a selection of cook-books, including the classic *Lenten Cookbook*. Also available are Bibles for all ages, music CDs, pamphlets exploring all aspects of the faith and books for children and adults on Church history, beliefs, saints, liturgy and worship, journeys to Orthodoxy, Greek language, history and culture.

Recommended this week: Frederical Mathewes-Green, *The Illuminated Heart*, beautifully underscores the importance of following the precedent of the earliest Christians and incorporate their spiritual practices of continuous prayer, spiritual direction, fasting and communal worship.

SAVE THE DATE for this special U-M Modern Greek program event: "Rebetiki Istoria," a group of the finest rebetika musicians in Athens, will perform a free concert on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. at the Stamps Auditorium, Walgreen Drama Center, 1226 Murfin Avenue, North Campus in Ann Arbor. This is an evening not to be missed. For more information call 734.936.6099.

Orthodox Traditions & Church Etiquette

In the Orthodox Church there are many customs and traditions that are an important part of our worship. Sometimes we need to address these etiquette issues.

Lighting Candles

Lighting candles is an important part of Orthodox worship. Candles are typically lit when coming into church. It is not proper to light candles during the Epistle and Gospel readings, during the Little or great Entrances, the sermon and most of the time when the faithful are standing.

Punctuality

The time to arrive at Church is before the service starts. If you arrive after the Divine Liturgy begins enter quietly. If the Epistle or Gospel is being read or the Little or Great Entrance is taking place, wait until it is finished to quickly find a seat. If Father is giving the sermon, stay in the back until he has concluded. Try not to interrupt the Liturgy by your entrance. The best way to avoid this situation is to arrive on time.

From SS Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Palos Hills, IL.

Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)

The foregoing two parables -- especially that of the Prodigal Son -- have presented to us God's extreme goodness and love for man. But lest certain persons, putting their confidence in this alone, live carelessly, squandering upon sin the time given them to work out their salvation, and death suddenly snatch them away, the most divine Fathers have appointed this day's feast commemorating Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds.

It is the aim of the holy Fathers, through bringing to mind that fearful day, to rouse us from the slumber of carelessness unto the work of virtue, and to move us to love and compassion for our brethren. Besides this, even as on the coming Sunday of Cheese-fare we commemorate Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight -- which exile is the beginning of life as we know it now -- it is clear that today's is reckoned the last of all feasts, because on the last day of judgment, truly, everything of this world will come to an end. All foods, except meat and meat products, are allowed during the week that follows this Sunday.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

February 23

Polycarp the Holy Martyr & Bishop of Smyrna

This apostolic and prophetic man, and model of faith and truth, was a disciple of John the Evangelist, successor of Bucolus and teacher of Irenaeus. He was an old man and full of days when the fifth persecution was raised against the Christians under Marcus Aurelius. When his pursuers, found Polycarp, he commanded that they be given something to eat and drink, then asked them to give him an hour to pray; he stood and prayed two hours, so that his captors repented that they had come against so venerable a man. He was brought by the Proconsul of Smyrna into the stadium and was told to, "Swear by the fortune of Caesar; repent, and say, 'Away with the atheists.'" By atheists, the Proconsul meant the Christians. Polycarp, gazing at the heathen in the stadium, waved his hand towards them and said, "Away with the atheists." When the Proconsul urged him to blaspheme against Christ, he said: "I have been serving Christ for eighty-six years, and He has wronged me in nothing; how can I blaspheme my King Who has saved me?" The tyrant became enraged at these words and commanded that he be cast into the fire. He gloriously expired about the year 163.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

February 22, 2009

Orthros

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

10:00 AM

Church School

After Holy Communion

Epistle Reading

I Cor. 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Gospel Reading

Matt. 25:31-46

Creed

English

Greeters March 1

Diane Geczi

Betty Lardas



JUDGMENT SUNDAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Feb. 22

G.O.Y.A. Game Night

Monday, Feb. 23

10:00 a.m. Bible Study
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Tuesday, Feb. 24

7:30 p.m. Y.A.L.

Wednesday, Feb. 2

7:00 p.m. Parish Council Stewardship Committee

Thursday, Feb. 26

7:00 p.m. Physical Plant & Maintenance

Friday, Feb. 27

11:00 a.m. Exercise Class
6:30 p.m. J.O.Y. Game Night

Saturday, Feb. 28

Second Saturday of Souls

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
Choir
Dr. Jon Wardner
Prosforo
Ioannou Family
Fellowship Hour
Parish Council
Greeters Feb. 22
Sylvia Kleanthous
Demetra

Epistle Reading Brethren, food will not commend I Cor. 8:8-13; 9:1-2 us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades He delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy.

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

O God, when You come upon the earth in glory, the whole world will tremble. A river of fire will bring all before Your Judgment Seat and the books will be opened, and everything in secret will become public. At that time, deliver me from the fire which never dies, and enable me to stand by Your right hand, O Judge most just.

Gospel Reading The Lord said, "When the Son of man Matt. 25:31-46 comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Wisdom from the Fathers

For when one has pity on the poor, he lends to God; and he who gives to the least gives to God--sacrifices spiritually to God an odour of a sweet smell.

St. Cyprian of Carthage, *The Lord's Prayer*, 33. B#41, p.102 3rd century

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family of Helene Reader, who passed away on February 17 and was buried from our church on February 19th. May her memory be eternal.

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 is needed for March 15 and 22.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for March 1 and 29.

Greeters Needed "The Welcoming Program is in need of Greeters" for this important ministry. Greeters 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 Bekiaries — 662-6606 or Chris Kerry — 665-6273.

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 for 2009, please call the office.

"Let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ Our God". If not YOU...WHO? If not NOW...WHEN?

A.H.E.P.A. Scholarship

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.

Thought for the Week

"Christian love is the 'possible impossibility' to see Christ in another man, whoever he is..."

Alexander Schmemmann, *Great Lent* 20th Century

Saint Nicholas Church School Notes

As part of the Church school curriculum, it is important and required that all children be present for the Divine Liturgy (10:00 a.m.) and attend class instruction after Communion.

Oratorical Festival Reminders: Preschool to 5th grade will work on their papers for in-class assignments only which will be due on Sun. Feb. 22nd. Please see their teachers with any questions or for information. **7th to 12th grade** students will be participating in the Parish Oratorical festival which is scheduled for **Sun. March 15, 2009**. Fr. Nick is looking forward to reading each and every paper. The children in the 6th grade will sit in and observe the actual event and will practice writing a paper with the 7th graders so that they will understand and become familiar with the process.

PLEASE NOTE: ON SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH ALL 7TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE STUDENTS MUST BE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL BY 9:45 A.M. SHARP SO WE CAN START AT 10:00 A.M.

Reminders: 1) Attendance Pin (Must have 3 or less absences and make up dates are available to help erase missed classes.) **2) Honor Pin** (Must learn material from their grade level for the test). All this information can be found in the packet you received at registration, a copy can also be obtained from the teachers or visit the Church website.

H.O.P.E.

Hellenic Orthodox Primary Education welcomes children 4 years of age to those in second grad for fun and fellowship while learning about our Orthodox Faith. Our next meeting is

Sunday, March 8th
12:30-2:00

We will be discussing our Faith in God.
Lunch will be provided.

For more information contact:
Sophia Grias-Radwanski-sgrias@mhsi.us
OR

Vasilia Tsilimingras-vtsilimingras@yahoo.com

We look forward to seeing you there.

