

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: Frederica 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 Istoría," 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.

Saint Nicholas Seniors Notes

Saint Nicholas Seniors please come to the Senior Lenten Luncheon on Tuesday, March 17th (St. Patrick's Day) at 1:00 p.m. Rev. Father Nick will share with us "The Likes and Differences of the Celtic and Orthodox Churches". Cost is \$5.00. Please sign up no later than Sunday, March 15th. Questions? See Diane, Joan or Penny.

The Seniors are attending the live performance of "Jesus Christ, Super Star" at the Crosswell Theatre in Adrian, Michigan. We must purchase tickets as soon as possible. The performance is Friday, April 10th at 8:00 p.m. Transportation will be provided. Cost is \$45.00. If you are interested, please contact Diane, Joan or Penny. know.

Saint Ephraim's Prayer

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. Grant me to see my own errors and not to judge my brother; For thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen

Forgiveness Sunday

The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

Orthodox Students Lenten Dinner

We apologize for the mistake on the Lenten Religious calendar that was mailed to you this last week. The date for the Orthodox student dinner is **Wednesday, March 18th**. The Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy is at **5:30 p.m.** followed by the dinner. All students are cordially invited to attend.

Ladies, if you can help, please call Athena Papageorgiou at 368-4668.

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

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN March 1, 2009



FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

Orthros
9:00 AM
Divine Liturgy
10:00 AM
Church School
After Holy Communion
Epistle Reading
Rom. 13:11-14; 14:1-4
Gospel Reading
Matt. 6:14-21
Creed
English
Greeters March 8
Nellie Guibert
Anna Bairactaris

Psaltis
Zannis Res
Choir
Dr. Jon Wardner
Prosforo
Pliakas Family
Fellowship Hour
Parish Council
Greeters March 1
Diane Geczi
Betty Lardas

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 1 4:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Bible Study followed by G.O.Y.A. Meeting
Monday, March 2 **Clean Monday—First Day of Great Lent**
6:30 p.m. Great Compline & Forgiveness Service
Strict Fast Supper
Tuesday, March 3 9:30 a.m. Bed Pad Sewing for Hospice
12:30 p.m. Senior Planning Meeting
7:30 p.m. Saint Nicholas Young Adult League (Y.A.L.)
Wednesday, March 4 6:30 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy
Lenten Discussion
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 5 7:00 p.m. Y.E.R.A.C
Friday, March 6 11:00 a.m. Exercise Class
7:30 p.m. 1st Stanza Salutations
Lenten Discussion
Saturday, March 7 **Third Saturday of Souls**
10:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy
7:00 p.m. Vespers for Sunday of Orthodoxy

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
March 1, 2009

Epistle Reading Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

Gospel Reading The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

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 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 Master, Prudence, Guide of Wisdom, Instruction to the foolish and Defender of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it discernment. Give me words, Word of the Father, for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying out to You, "O Merciful One, have mercy on me who has fallen."

Wisdom from the Fathers

Do we forgive our neighbors their trespasses? God also forgives us in His mercy. Do we refuse to forgive? God, too, will refuse to forgive us. As we treat our neighbors, so also does God treat us. The forgiveness, then, of your sins or unforgiveness, and hence also your salvation or destruction, depend on you yourself, man. For without forgiveness of sins there is no salvation.
St. Tikhon of Zadonsk, Unknown 18th century

Thought for the Week

Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. A fast without mutual love is the fast of demons. . . We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family.
His Grace Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia, 20th Century

Reminder

Tomorrow, March 2nd, is Clean Monday, the First Day of Great Lent. We shall begin our Lenten journey with Great Compline and Forgiveness Service at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Strict Fast Lenten Supper.

*Let us walk with Him together throughout
Great Lent in all the Church Services*

We offer our deepest sympathy to Perry Katsikas and her family on the death of their father, Evangelos Anastasiou, who passed away February 27th. His funeral will be Monday, March 2 at 11:00 a.m. here at St. Nicholas. May his memory be eternal.

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 March 15 and 22 .

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 2009, 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?

**FIRST DAY OF GREAT LENT
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009**

**GREAT COMPLINE AND FORGIVENESS SERVICE 6:30 P.M.
STRICT FAST LENTEN SUPPER**

All parishioners are asked to join together on this First Day of Great Lent so we can begin this period as one Parish Family.

Please bring a dish to pass for our Lenten Supper – enough to serve eight (8) people.

NO OIL IS TO BE USED

**A THROUGH D FRUIT, HALVAH, DESSERTS
E THROUGH G SLICED VEGETABLES AND RELISHES
H THROUGH N BEAN OR LENTIL SOUP
O THROUGH Q LENTEN VEGETABLE DISHES
R THROUGH Z PASTA DISHES**

BREAD, PEANUT BUTTER AND JAMS WILL BE PROVIDED

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.

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 Vasilina Tsilimingras-vtsilimingras@yahoo.com We look forward to seeing you there.

G.O.Y.A. Calendar for March

March 1	4:00 p.m. Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Meeting/Fellowship
March 13-14	G.O.Y.A. Lenten Lock-in; Grand Rapids
March 22	5:00 p.m. Game Night