

The Saint Nicholas Parish Bookstore recommends:
For Lenten cooking there is the classic *Lenten Cookbook* and Diane Kochilas' *Greek Vegetarian*.

For Lenten reading Alexander Schmemmann's *Great Lent: Journey to Pascha*, a study of the treasures of Lenten worship. According to Rev. Schmemmann, the Lenten season is meant to kindle a "bright sadness" within our hearts—a remembrance of Christ and longing for God. The darkness of Lent allows the flame of the Holy Spirit to burn within us until we are led to the brilliance of the Resurrection.

Saint Nicholas Seniors

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 \$30.00. If you are interested, please contact Diane, Joan or Penny.

Modern Greek Program

The University of Michigan-Modern Greek Program welcomes acclaimed author, David Mason, Professor at Colorado College, for a signing and reading from *Ludlow*, a book on Greek miners' struggles in Colorado in the 1910s. Join us on Thursday, March 19th at 5:00 p.m. in the Residential College Auditorium of East Quad located at 701 E. University, Ann Arbor, Central Campus, U-M. This event is FREE and open to the public. Please call 734-936-6099 for further information.

How did European painters support the Greek War of Independence? The University of Michigan-Modern Greek Program presents a lecture on Painting and Politics in Romantic Hellenism by Dr. Fani-Maria Tsigakou, Curator at the Benaki Museum in Athens. Join us for the 7th Annual Dimitris & Irma Pallas Modern Greek Lecture on Tuesday, March 31 at 7 p.m. in the Michigan League, Vandenberg Room, located at 911 N. University, Ann Arbor, Central Campus, U-M. This event is FREE and open to the public. Please call 734-936-6099 for further information.

Preview Dinner Dance & Hellenic Heritage Awards 8th Annual Greek Independence Day Parade

Dinner Dance on Saturday 3/28 at the Royalty House. For reservations please call Olga Cardasis at 586-779-6111 ext. 3.

The parade is Sunday, 3/29 at 3:00 p.m. in Greektown. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios will attend both events.

Help Wanted



The Ya'ssoo Greek Festival is fast approaching and we need all the help we can get. Please contact Pericles Chiatas by phone at 734-673-6969 or email pericles@comcast.net or George Kokales by phone 734-216-6037 or email at gjk2159@aol.com to volunteer, or sign up on **Sunday April 5th**, during the coffee hour, when we will have **YA'SSOO WORKER SIGN UP**. Let's work together to make this year's festival even better than last year's.

The Committee is asking for your help in raising money through soliciting sponsorships for the festival. In the past, one person has done this and it is a huge undertaking for one person. Therefore, we are asking you to pitch in and help with this most crucial area. Packets are available to help you with this task. They are located in the hallway outside the social hall. **We are counting on YOU to help make this a very successful festival.**

You are cordially invited to a Piano Recital

On Saturday, April 4th at 8:00 p.m. our parishioner, Pantelis Polychronidis, will present his recital at Britton Hall, U of M School of Music on North Campus. This will be an all French piano recital featuring the composers Debussy and Poulenc.

The first half of the recital, Pantelis will accompany an excellent voice professor here at the UM! The second half he will accompany an outstanding violinist and a cellist who won a very prestigious international competition some months ago!

Pantelis Polychronidis was born in 1980 in Greece and was raised in Volos. He is presently pursuing his doctoral degree at the University of Michigan and is here on an Onassis Scholarship. In the past, Mr. Polychronidis was also awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for further study.

Greek Folk Dance Workshop — presented by the Makrigiannis Dance Group Arta, Greece and hosted by the Greek Parade Committee, will be held at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 760 Wattles Road, Troy, MI on Friday, March 27, 2009 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free but pre-registration is required via email at tsouphis@twmi.rr.com.

Annual Tsoureki Sale

The Daughters of Penelope are having their annual Tsoureki sale. Order forms are on the table in the hallway. Cost is \$10.00 for a one pound loaf. Orders must be submitted by April 5th and can be picked up on April 12th after the Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy.

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN **March 22, 2009**

Orthros
9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy
10:00 AM

Church School
After Holy Communion

Epistle Reading
Heb. 4:14-16; 5:1-6

Gospel Reading
Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Creed
Greek



SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 22

Greek Independence Day Program
Walk in the Light—G.O.Y.A. Lenten Discussion immediately following the Divine Liturgy
4:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Bible Study
5:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Game Night

Monday, March 23

7:30 p.m. Great Compline
Lenten Discussion

Tuesday, March 24

7:30 p.m. Great Vespers at
Annunciation Cathedral, Detroit

Wednesday, March 25

Feast of the Annunciation
10:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy

Thursday, March 26

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Physical Plant & Maintenance Meeting

Friday, March 27

12:00 Noon Exercise Class
7:30 p.m. 4th Stanza Salutations
Lenten Discussion

Saturday, March 28

11:30 a.m. G.O.Y.A. Dance Practice

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Proistamenos: Rev. Father Nicolaos H. Kotsis (nhkotsis@hotmail.com)

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Psaltis
Zannis Res

Choir
Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo
Diane Geczi

Fellowship Hour
Greek School

Greeters March 22
Sylvia Kleanthous
Amira Sabbagh

Epistle Reading BRETHREN, since we have a Heb. 4:14-16; 5:1-6 high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel Reading The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to Mark 8:34-38; 9:1 come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Wisdom from the Fathers

A Christian's . . . duty is to "take up his cross." The word cross means sufferings, sorrows and adversities. To take up one's cross means to bear without grumbings everything unpleasant, painful, sad, difficult and oppressive that may happen to us in life. . . without expecting any earthly reward in return, but bear it all with love, with joy and with courageous strength. **St. Innocent of Alaska**, *The Lenten Spring*, SVS Press, p. 147 19th Century

Resurrectional Apolytikion

By means of Your Cross, O Lord, You abolished death. To the robber You opened Paradise. The lamentation of the myrrhbearing women You transformed, and You gave Your Apostles the order to proclaim to all that You had risen, O Christ our God, and granted the world Your great mercy.

Apolytikion for the Sunday of the Holy Cross

Save, O Lord, Thy people and bless Thine inheritance; grant Thou unto the faithful victory over adversaries. And by the power of Thy Cross do Thou preserve Thy commonwealth.

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

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

Prayer List

Please remember the following people in your prayers: Gabriella and Viroel Andrews.

Great Vespers

On Tuesday, March 24th, a van will be leaving at 5:30 p.m. to go Annunciation Cathedral, in Detroit, for the Great Vespers Service. If you wish to attend the service and go in the van, please call the office. Cost is \$10.00.

Thought for the Week

He who belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent. *Proverbs 11:12*



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 needed for April 26,

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 Bekiares-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?**

Luminaries for Good Friday

Our GOYAns will be selling Luminaries for the Good Friday Service at the entrance to the Social Hall every Sunday until Palm Sunday, April 12th. The cost is \$5.00 per bag; two loved ones' names per bag. Please place your orders soon. April 12th is the last day to order. Our GOYAns thank you very much for your kind support.

G.O.Y.A. News

On Sunday April 5th the G.O.Y.A. meeting will occur after Liturgy and *Walk in the Light*. We will be visiting shut-ins and lunch will be provided ahead of time. Permission slips are required.

Festival Dance Practices Saturdays May 2, 9 and 23 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Thursday, May 28 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Saint Nicholas Church School Notes

Children should attend the Lenten Services in order to make up for any absences they may have. We strongly encourage the families to attend these services with their children. These are the makeup dates for the students: **March 23, 25 (feast of the Annunciation morning only), 27 and 30.** Please make sure students sign the attendance book in the Narthex.

OCMC Boxes

The Church School students have received their OCMC boxes. We ask that the students help raise money by thinking of others during this Lenten season and placing their spare coins in these boxes. Through this effort, the students will help the mission program in countries around the world to further the growth of Christ's Church. We ask that the coin boxes be returned no later than Sunday, April 26th.

Oratorical Festival Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival: Junior Division—7th-9th grade: **Yan Theros** followed by Olivia Roumel and Christopher Mitropoulos-Rundus. Senior Division—10th-12th grade: **Nick Theros** followed by Katina Donoghue and Maria Pliakas.

Thank you to all students who participated; the judges: Mr. Michael Karagoulis, Mr. George Vlahos and Mrs. Katherine Kotsis; the timekeeper, Nick Chapekis, Jr.; photography; Steve Garris; video, Demetra Mitropoulos-Rundus and a special thanks to Vicky Kiningham for chairing the St. Nicholas Parish Oratorical Festival.

Philoptochos News

Palm Sunday Luncheon is **April 12th** following the Divine Liturgy. Tickets are available from Philoptochos members and are \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 10 and under. Proceeds to benefit Philoptochos charities.

Philoptochos Hits the Streets May 16th. Join our 5K walkathon benefitting the HIV/AIDS care and prevention services of the International Orthodox Christian Charities and the National AIDS Fund. Further information will be available. If interested please call Christina Vlahopoulos at 734-944-0504 or Katherine Yates at 734-424-0653.