

**Renewal Friday: Theotokos of the Lifegiving Font
(Zoodochos Peghee)**

Outside of Constantinople, towards the district of the Seven Towers, there was in ancient times a very large and most beautiful church named in honour of the Theotokos; it had been built about the middle of the fifth century by the Emperor Leo the Great (also called "Leo of Thrace," he is commemorated on Jan. 20). Before he became Emperor, he had encountered there a blind man, who being tormented with thirst asked him to help him find water. Leo felt compassion for him and went in search of a source of water but found none. As he became downcast, he heard a voice telling him there was water nearby. He looked again, and found none. Then he heard the voice again, this time calling him "Emperor" and telling him that he would find muddy water in the densely wooded place nearby; he was to take some water and anoint the blind man's eyes with it. When he had done this, the blind man received his sight. After Leo became Emperor as the most holy Theotokos had prophesied, he raised up a church over the spring, whose waters worked many healings and cured maladies by the grace of the Theotokos; from this, it came to be called the "Life-giving Spring." The Church of Christ celebrates the consecration of this church on this day.

Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

O Lady graced by God, you reward me by letting gush forth, beyond reason, the ever-flowing waters of your grace from your perpetual Spring. I entreat you, who bore the Logos, in a manner beyond comprehension, to refresh me in your grace that I may cry out, "Hail redemptive waters."

Reading and Kontakion courtesy of Narthex Press; taken from: www.goarch.org

Lost from the coat room on March 15th: 30" tall and very slim glass vase used to hold up *baptismal and wedding candles during services*. Please return to the church office or call Kate if you know where this could be. Thank you.

Lost at the Church on Palm Sunday

White gold baptismal cross on a white gold chain with diamonds going down the cross. If you find the cross, please call the office, 332-8200. Thank you.



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 **today** during the luncheon, at the **YA'SSOO WORKER SIGN UP TABLE**. 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. **We are counting on YOU to help make this a very successful festival.**

Ya'ssoo Greek Festival Raffle Tickets are available. We need your support to sell 7,000 tickets for our debt reduction. Unbelievable prizes: One week in Greece for 2 or a week in Paradise, a villa in the Cayman Islands that accommodates 6, plus \$600.00.

To buy tickets or to pick up some to sell, please see Dr. K., Andreas Stathopoulos, any Parish Council Member or Kate.

G.O.Y.A. 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.

Baking for St. Nick's Festival

Please call the chairperson if you can help with the baking. We need YOUR help!!

April 28 & 29—10:00 a.m. —Paximathakia: Chairperson, Presvytera Eva Paul—663-0821

May 4, 5 & 6—10:00 a.m. —Koulourakia: Chairperson Lynn Papalambros—996-2846

May 11 & 12—10:00 a.m.—Kourambietes: Chairpersons: Yianna Boputsikakis —944-9012 & Katerina Roumanis—665-3254

May 18, 19 & 20—10:00 a.m.—Baklava: Chairperson: Toula Prokos—668-7379

May 21 & 22—8:00 a.m.—Greek Yogurt: Chairperson: Vaso Panagoulas—662-8075

May 27—10:00 a.m.—Karithopita: Chairperson: Eleni Banos—662-7855

May 28—8:00 a.m.—Rice Pudding: Chairpersons: Maria Smyrnis—995-2806 & Dena Petropoulos—761-4509

**THE SUNDAY BULLETIN
April 26, 2009**

Orthros
9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy
10:00 AM

Church School
After Holy Communion

Epistle Reading
Acts 5:12-20

Gospel Reading
John 20:19-31

Creed
English



THOMAS SUNDAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, April 28

10:00 a.m. Paximadia Baking
7:00 p.m. Festival Meeting
7:30 p.m. Y.A.L.

Wednesday, April 29

10:00 a.m. Paximadia Baking

Thursday, April 30

7:00 p.m. Physical Plant and Maintenance Committee

Friday, May 1

11:00 a.m. Exercise Class

Saturday, May 2

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

Sunday, May 3

A.H.E.P.A. Lamb Luncheon
Senior Recognition

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

3109 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

Web: www.stnickaa.org E-Mail: kate@stnickaa.org

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

Church office: 734/332-8200 Home: 734/677-7891 Cell: 734/604-3214

Psaltis
Zannis Res

Choir
Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo
Betty Manolakis

Fellowship Hour
Parish Council

Greeters
Betty Manolakis
Martha Theros

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

April 26, 2009

Epistle Reading IN THOSE DAYS, many signs and wonders were done among the apostles. Acts 5:12-20

and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

Apolytikion for Thomas Sunday

Through closed doors You came to the Apostles. You are the Resurrection of all. And, You renewed us through them with an upright spirit, according to Your 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

In Heaven, He is seated upon a Throne and on earth He rides upon a foal. O Christ our God, accept the praise of the Angels and the hymn of the Children who cry out to You, "Blessed are You who comes to recall Adam."

Prayer List

Please remember the following people in your prayers: Gabriella and Viroel Andrews, Isabelle Lucas and Faye Sekaros..

Gospel Reading On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for

fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to Him: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Wisdom from the Fathers

For great is the dignity of the priests. ... And hold them very exceedingly in honor; for you indeed care about your own affairs, and if you order them well, you give no account for others; ...

... but the priest even if he rightly order his own life, if he have not an anxious care for yours and that of all those around him, will depart with the wicked into hell; and often when not betrayed by his own conduct, he perishes by yours, if he have not rightly performed all his part.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 86 4th Century

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family of Fannie Kambas who passed away April 22nd. Her funeral is tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. May her memory be eternal.

Thought for the Week

Listen to advice and accept instruction that you may gain wisdom for the future. *Proverbs 19:20*

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 May 10, 17 and 31.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for May 17, 24 and 31.

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.

Outreach and Evangelism

We are in the first stage of forming a new ministry for our church, the Outreach and Evangelism Ministry. This ministry will first focus on two activities: 1) reaching out to all Orthodox Christians in the Ann Arbor area who are not attending church or participating in activities sponsored by the church, and 2) increasing our Community Service activities. If you are interested in learning more about this important ministry, please call or see Chris Kerry (734) 678-4138, Nick Chapekis, Jr. (734) 368-2671, Rob Ashley, (734)904-4197 or George Michos, (734) 216-6840

Ya'ssoo Greek Festival Flyers are available for parishioners to take. We ask that parishioners take some and distribute them in your neighborhood, stores etc. Thanks for your help.

Saint Nicholas Church School Notes

Thank you to all for a successful Holy Unction Church School Retreat and to Presvytera Sandra and Elizabeth Bairactaris for hosting the St. Nicholas Children's Easter Egg Hunt.

Reminders:

Sunday, April 26th (today) O.C.M.C. Lenten boxes are due.

Sunday, May 3rd Senior Recognition Day and Godparent Sunday

Sunday, May 17th Church School Testing for requirements.

Philoptochos News

Annual Flower Sale of hanging baskets and flats going on now. Please keep this in mind for your homes. Pick up dates are May 16th and 17th. This is a presale so make your orders now. Order forms are available in the hallway or contact Perry Katsikas at 995-4766.

Meeting May 13th

Join us we discover the secrets of "Los Dias de los Muertos" at our meeting May 13th. Our guest speaker will be Kathy Raphael.

We will also be joined by Eleni Zaferes, president of the Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos.

Please make every effort to attend.

Philoptochos Hits the Streets May 16th. Join our nationwide 5K HIV/AIDS walkathon at Olson Park in Ann Arbor. Registration is at 9:00 a.m. and there will be a fee of \$10.00. Children 12 and under are free. Walk begins at 10:00 a.m. For further information please call Christina Vlahopoulos at 734-944-0504 or Katherine Yates at 734-424-0653.

G.O.Y.A. Notes

Our next G.O.Y.A. meeting and get together will be hosted by the Pliakas and Kitromelides families at the home of Irene Kitromelides, 6360 Edgewood Drive, Ann Arbor on Sunday, May 3 beginning at 4:00 p.m. To R.S.V.P. please e-mail our G.O.Y.A. President Maria Pliakas at Maria.pliakas@gmail.com or Irene Kitromelides at rkeintar@comcast.net.

