

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

MAY 31, 2009

Epistle Reading IN THOSE DAYS, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When the angelic powers appeared at Your grave, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary who was seeking Your immaculate body. You devastated Hades, not afflicted by it. You went to meet the virgin, and granted eternal life. You resurrected from the dead. O Lord, glory to You.

Apolytikion for 6th Thursday after Pascha/Ascension

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

Apolytikion for Fathers of the 1st Council

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast established our Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, and through them didst guide us all to the true Faith. O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.

Gospel Reading At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made.

"I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

Apolytikion of the Church

The truth of your manner of life manifested you to our 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 Christ our God, upon fulfilling Your dispensation for our sake, You ascended in Glory, uniting the earthly with the heavenly. You were never separate but remained inseparable, and cried out to those who love You, "I am with you and no one is against you."

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 June 7, 14, 21.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sunday July 5, 12, 19.

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, please call the office.

Prayer List

Please remember the following people in your prayers: Gabriella and Viroel Andrews, Isabelle Lucas, Constantine Evangelinos, Faye Sekaros, Patrick Gutierrez, Mike Kapetan, Annette Kovalcheck

Food Drive

Our Saint Nicholas Parish is sponsoring an on-going Food Drive to help those who are struggling in these hard economic times. Let us reach out to those who need our help. We ask that you bring only **non-perishable** food items and place them on the cart in the exo-narthex.

Wisdom from the Fathers

For there is One God, and One Mediator between God and Man, the Man Christ Jesus. For He still pleads even now as Man for my salvation; ...

... for He continues to wear the Body which He assumed, until He make me God by the power of His Incarnation; although He is no longer known after the flesh -- I mean, the passions of the flesh, the same, except sin, as ours.

St. Gregory the Theologian, 4th Theological Oration
4th Century

Philoptochos Notes

Sheets Needed for bed pad sewing for Hospice. We are in desperate need for clean, used sheets, preferably flat and pillow cases. Please bring them to the Parish Office.

Church School Notes

Reminders:

Sun. June 14

Church School Graduation

Mon-Fri. June 15-19

Vacation Bible School — 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Vacation Bible School begins on Monday, June 15 and ends on Friday, June 19. Hours 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. All registrations are due on Monday, June 8th. Open to all boys and girls preschool through 6th grade. Cost \$30.00 per child. Scholarships available. Questions call Maria Papaefthymiou at 747-6854.

Saint Nicholas Seniors

St. Nicholas Seniors planning meeting will be held Tuesday, June 2nd. At 12:30 p.m. Come and help us plan for the 5th Annual Taverna. We need all the help we can get. Please be generous with your time.

The Saint Nicholas Parish Bookstore Recommends

Hear Me, a prayer book designed for teenagers and their unique challenges and experiences. Give your teens the gift that will challenge their faith and help them on the road to making that faith their own. *The Orthodox Study Bible* with New Testament, Psalms, and an original translation of the Old Testament from the Septuagint, is the first ever full-length Orthodox Study Bible in English. Our selection of booklets and brochures are an inexpensive way to share the teachings of the Orthodox Christian faith with family and friends.

SAT Prep:

Summer is the best time to prepare for the SAT. If you are currently a sophomore and planning to take the SAT next year, here's a great opportunity to get a jump start on your studying. Thanks to the generosity of the Three Hierarchs Scholarship program of Drs. Anthony and Joyce Kales, we have available SAT study materials for your use. Please contact Demetra Mitropoulous-Rundus at dm-r@hotmail.com for distribution arrangements.

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.

Our first Community Service project is called Faith and Food, a project sponsored by Food Gatherers and Growing Hope. This project grows fresh food for the hungry in Washtenaw County. The food is distributed by Food Gatherers to a variety of agencies and churches who feed the hungry throughout the year.

If you are interested in learning more about the project, 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.

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.

G.O.Y.A. Summer Calendar

JUNE

June 7 4:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Meeting/Activity
At the Hays’ Home

June 21 Swearing in of Officers after Divine Liturgy
4:00 p.m. Bible Study & Game Night

JULY

July 12 4:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Meeting/Activity
Fr. Nick’s House

AUGUST

Aug. 2 4:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Meeting/Activity

Aug. 9 4:00 p.m. Bible Study

Fathers of the 1st Council

The heresiarch Arius was a Libyan by race and a proto-presbyter of the Church of Alexandria. In 315, he began to blaspheme against the Son and Word of God, saying that He is not true God, consubstantial with the Father, but is rather a work and creation, alien to the essence and glory of the Father, and that there was a time when He was not. This frightful blasphemy shook the faithful of Alexandria. Alexander, his Archbishop, after trying in vain to correct him through admonitions, cut him off from communion and finally in a local council deposed him in the year 321. Yet neither did the blasphemer wish to be corrected, nor did he cease sowing the deadly tares of his heretical teachings; but writing to the bishops of other cities, Arius and his followers requested that his doctrine be examined, and if it were unsound, that the correct teaching be declared to him. By this means, his heresy became universally known and won many supporters, so that the whole Church was soon in an uproar.

Therefore, moved by divine zeal, the first Christian Sovereign, Saint Constantine the Great, the equal to the Apostles, summoned the renowned First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was there that the shepherds and teachers of the Church of Christ gathered from all regions in the year 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God, and they composed the holy Symbol of Faith up to the seventh article (since the remainder, beginning with "And in the Holy Spirit," was completed by the Second Ecumenical Council). Thus they anathematized the impious Arius of evil belief and those of like mind with him, and cut them off as rotten members from the whole body of the faithful.

Therefore, recognizing the divine Fathers as heralds of the Faith after the divine Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honour, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

May 31, 2009

Orthros

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

10:00 AM

Church School

After Holy Communion

Epistle Reading

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel Reading

John 17:1-13

Creed

English



Psaltis

Zannis Res

Choir

Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo

Fellowship Hour

Family of Fannie Kambas

Memorial Services

40 Days Fannie Kambas

1 Year Nick Valavanis

Veteran Recognition

Day

Chrismation

Marc Lucien Cassier

FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

TODAY WE HONOR OUR VETERANS AND SERVICE PERSONNEL

UP-COMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 31

Ya'ssoo Greek Festival Ends at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 2

9:30 a.m. Bed pad sewing for Hospice

12:30 p.m. Seniors Planning Meeting for Taverna

Saturday, June 6

Saturday of Souls

10:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy

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.

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