

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

JUNE 14, 2009

Epistle

Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2
BRETHREN, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You.

Apolytikion for All Saints

Adorned in the blood of Thy Martyrs throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church, though them, doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassions upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy commonwealth, and great mercy to our souls.

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.

Gospel

Matt. 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundred-fold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

Kontakion

As the first-fruits of our nature to the Planter of created things, the world presenteth the God-bearing martyred Saints in offering unto Thee, O Lord. Through their earnest entreaties, keep Thy Church in deep peace and divine tranquillity, through the pure Theotokos, O Thou Who art greatly merciful.

Wisdom from the Fathers

For in a contest there is much labor needed--and after the contest victory falls to some, to others disgrace. Is the palm ever given or the crown granted before the course is finished? ... Therefore no one can receive a reward, unless he has striven lawfully; nor is the victory a glorious one, unless the contest also has been toilsome.

St. Ambrose of Milan, *Chapter 15, Three Books on the Duties of the Clergy* 4th century

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



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 July 5, 12.

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.

Food Drive

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.

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.

The Saint Nicholas Parish Bookstore Recommends: *A Weft of Memory: A Greek Mother's Recollection of Songs and Poems*. This is a bilingual (Greek and English) collection of traditional Greek Verse as recalled by 100-year-old Vasiliki Scotos, an immigrant from a Greek mountain village who settled in Pennsylvania in 1931. It's a remarkable book, a real treasure. Bring this bulletin with you and we'll share a \$5.00 discount. *A Pure Empty Walking* by Tryfon Tolides, a much younger immigrant, is a collection of original verse reflecting on the pain of immigration, separation, and a mother's death.

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.

IOCC-June, July & August Community Care

The mission of IOCC is to respond to the call of our Lord Jesus Christ to minister to people in need throughout the world, sharing with them God's gifts of food, shelter, economic self-sufficiency and hope.

We in Ann Arbor have helped to make a significant difference in the lives of others. Through IOCC our donations reach those in need around the world. Once again we ask for your generous support in bringing hope to others. **Please make checks payable to Philoptochos, memo—IOCC and mail your donation to our church attention: Philoptochos.**

Your donation will be used to help people in 33 countries. The services provided by IOCC are: community development and mobilization programs; agriculture and food production; refugee return and assistance; disaster and emergency relief; business development; youth development and services; education and training; social welfare.

Humanitarian aid is the responsibility of all of us. Let us do our part. Thank you

G.O.Y.A. Summer Calendar

JUNE

June 28 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
Rev. Father Nick's House

AUGUST

Aug. 2 4:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Meeting/Activity
Aug. 9 4:00 p.m. Bible Study

St. Nicholas Seniors

Sign up in the social hall to attend the "5th Annual" Taverna. All information is posted in the social hall.

Greek Festival Town Hall Meeting Sunday, June 28th after the Divine Liturgy and during Fellowship Hour. Please come and share your thoughts and ideas with us as we strive to make our festival better each year. All are welcome.

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.

Great Food for the Summer

There is a small surplus of food left over from the festival which is for sale. Please see one of the festival leaders for more information.

Faith and Food Garden

June 21 following Divine Liturgy we’ll bless our Faith and Food Garden.



June 14

All Saints

This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood.

Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we the pious honor all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honor the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Saviour" (Sunday of All Saints, Doxasticon of Vespers).

In this celebration, then, we reverently honor and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honor today, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

June 14, 3009

Orthros

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

10:00 AM

Church School

After Holy Communion

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 11:33-40;
12:1-2

Gospel Reading

Matt. 10:32-33, 37-38;
19: 27-30

Creed

English

Greeters

C. Kerry, L. Lagos



ALL SAINTS

UP-COMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 14

Church School Graduation

Tuesday, June 16

7:00 p.m. Festival Wrap Up Meeting

7:30 p.m. Saint Nicholas Young Adult League (Y.A.L.)

Thursday, June 18

7:00 p.m. Men’s Choir Rehearsal

Friday, June 19

11:00 a.m. Exercise Class

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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