

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
JUNE 21, 2009

Epistle

Romans 2:10-16

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the

Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; glory to Your eternal rule; glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind.

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 Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Gospel

Matt. 4:18-23

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

Wisdom from the Fathers

Prayer, fasting, vigil and all other Christian practices, however good they may be in themselves, do not constitute the aim of our Christian life, although they serve as the indispensable means of reaching this end. The true aim of our Christian life consists in the acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God.

St. Seraphim of Sarov, *The Acquisition of the Holy Spirit: Chapter 3, The Little Russian Philokalia Vol. 1; Saint Herman of Alaska Brotherhood pg. 79, 19th century*

Prayer List

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

Thought for the Week

Happy the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gets understanding, for the gain from it is better than gain from silver and its profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. *Proverbs 3:13-15*



YA'SSOUGreek Festival Town Hall Meeting has been postponed to Tuesday, June 30th at 7:00 p.m. All are invited and encouraged to attend to share their thoughts and ideas on how we can improve the festival for next year.

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 August 2, 9, 16 and 30th

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sunday July 12, and all the Sundays of August..

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 for summer reading: Patrick Leigh Fermor's books on *Mani* and *Roumeli*, based on his travels through Greece, have been called two of the best travel books of the century and *A Time of Gifts*, journey on foot from Holland to Constantinople is "among the most beautiful travel books in the language." Sofka Zinovieff's *Eurydice Street*, on the author's move to Greece, goes beneath the surface to convey not just customs, practices and descriptions of Greece but the psychological and feeling aspects of life in the Greek culture. These are just a few of our books on Greek history and culture.

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 at the Papaefthymiou's

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

Saint Nicholas Seniors

Today is the last day to sign up for the "5th Annual" Taverna. The sign up sheet and all information is posted in the social hall.



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

Today, following Divine Liturgy we'll bless our Faith and Food Garden.

Lodi Township Celebrates its 175th Anniversary

Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4 at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. Volunteers are needed for both days. If you would like to volunteer please call 734-665-7583 or visit the website: <http://twp-lodi.org/> and click "Anniversary Volunteers Needed." or email Elaine Masters at masterse@washtenaw.org.

When God Created Fathers

by Erma Bombeck

When the good Lord was creating fathers He started with a tall frame.

And a female angel nearby said, "What kind of father is that? If You're going to make children so close to the ground, why have You put fathers up so high? He won't be able to shoot marbles without kneeling, tuck a child in bed without bending, or even kiss a child without a lot of stooping."

And God smiled and said, "Yes, but if I make him child-size, whom would children have to look up to?"

And when God made a father's hands, they were large and sinewy.

And the angel shook her head sadly and said, "Do You know what You're doing?" Large hands are clumsy. They can't manage diaper pins, small buttons, rubber bands on ponytails or even remove splinters caused by baseball bats."

And God smiled and said, "I know, but they're large enough to hold everything a small boy empties from his pockets at the end of a day ... yet small enough to cup a child's face in his hands."

And then God molded long slim legs and broad shoulders.

And the angel nearby had a heart attack. "Boy, this is the end of the week, all right," she clucked, "Do You realize You just made a father without a lap? How is he going to pull a child close to him without the kid falling between his legs?"

And God smiled and said, "A mother needs a lap. A father needs strong shoulders to pull a sled, balance a boy on a bicycle, or hold a sleepy head on the way home from the circus."

God was in the middle of creating two of the largest feet anyone had ever seen when the angel could contain herself no longer. "That's not fair. Do You honestly think those large boats are going to dig out of bed early in the morning when the baby cries? Or walk through a small birthday party without crushing at least three of the guests?"

And God smiled and said. "They'll work. You'll see. They'll support a small child who wants to 'ride a horse to Banbury Cross,' or scare off mice at the summer cabin, or display shoes that will be a challenge to fill."

God worked throughout the night, giving the father few words, but a firm, authoritative voice; eyes that saw everything, but remained calm and tolerant.

Finally, almost as an afterthought, He added tears. Then He turned to the Angel and said, "Now are you satisfied that he can love as much as a mother?"

The angel shuteth up.

Happy Father's Day

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

June 21, 2009

Orthros

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

10:00 AM

Epistle Reading

Romans 2:10-16

Gospel Reading

Matt. 4:18-25

Creed

Greek

Greeters, June 28

Jack Fry



SECOND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

UP-COMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 21

Blessing of Faith and Food Garden—after Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, June 23

4:30 p.m. Annual Saint Nicholas Seniors Taverna

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

Wednesday, June 24

7:00 p.m. Monthly Stewardship Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 25

7:00 p.m. Monthly Physical Plant & Maintenance Meeting

Friday, June 26

11:00 a.m. Weekly Exercise Class — Open to All!

7:30 p.m. Paraklesis Service

Happy Father's Day

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

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Psaltis

Zannis Res

Men's Choir

Alex Kales

Prosforo

Anonymous

Fellowship Hour

G.O.Y.A.

Greeters, June 21

Diane Geczi, Betty Lardas