

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
JUNE 28, 2009

Epistle

BRETHREN, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You.

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. 6:22-33 The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

Wisdom from the Fathers

We advance toward humility by means of trials. He who rests on his virtue without suffering tribulation has the door of pride open before him.

St. Isaac of Syria, *Homily 57, in Ascetical Homilies*, p. 283 7th 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



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 26, August 9, 16 and 30th.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sunday July 12 and 26, and August 9, 16 and 30th.

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. Contact Demetra Mitropoulous-Rundus at dmr@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

G.O.Y.A. BIBLE STUDY FOR TODAY, JUNE 28, HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

JULY

July 12 4:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Meeting/Activity

AUGUST

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

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



Ya'ssoo Greek Festival Town Hall Meeting 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.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Come join us for the 4th Annual Saint Nicholas Ice Cream Social, Thursday, July 2nd at 7:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Young Adult League (Y.A.L.).

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.

Fourth of July

The Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. This date marked the colonies' separation from Great Britain.

Philadelphians marked the first anniversary of American independence with a spontaneous celebration, which John Adams described to his wife, Abigail Adams in a letter to her.

"The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

Observing Independence Day did not become commonplace until after the War of 1812.

By the 1870s, the Fourth of July was the most important secular holiday on the calendar. On June 28, 1870, Congress passed a law making Independence Day a federal holiday.

From: *memory.loc.gov Today in History and Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia.*

Galatians 5:1

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

June 28

Synaxis of the Icon of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos

The great defender of the Orthodox Faith against the Iconoclasts, our righteous Father John of Damascus (See Dec. 4), was slandered to the Caliph of Damascus by the Iconoclast Emperor Leo the Isaurian (reigned 717-741). Saint John was accused of sedition and his right hand was cut off. Having asked for the severed hand, Saint John passed the night in great pain, praying for the aid of the most holy Theotokos. Awaking from sleep, he found that his hand had been miraculously restored, with only a red scar about the wrist where it had been severed, as a testimony to the wonderous healing. In thanksgiving, he had a silver hand attached to the icon to commemorate this great miracle. On becoming a monk in the lavra of Saint Sabbas the Sanctified in the Holy Land, John brought the icon with him. There it remained until the thirteenth century, when it was given to Saint Sabbas of Serbia (see Jan. 14), who brought it to Serbia, where it remained for a time. Later, it was miraculously transported by an unguided donkey that carried it to the Serbian Monastery of Hilandar on the Holy Mountain, Athos, where it remains to this day.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

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.

Great Food for the Summer

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



Saint Nicholas Seniors will visit the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, MI. We'll leave at 9 a.m. and be home by 5 p.m. Cost is \$25.00. Please sign up in the Social Hall by July 12th. Questions? Call Penny, Diane or Joan.

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

June 28, 3009

Orthros
9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy
10:00 AM

Epistle Reading
Romans 5:1-11

Gospel Reading
Matt. 6:22-33

Creed
English

Greeters, July 5
Lambrini Lagos
Fofie Pappas



THIRD SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

UP-COMING EVENTS

Monday, June 29

Feast of SS Peter & Paul

10:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy
Bible Study after the Divine Liturgy
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Tuesday, June 30

7:00 p.m. Ya'ssoo Greek Festival Town Hall Meeting
7:30 p.m. Young Adult League (Y.A.L.)

Thursday, July 2

7:00 p.m. Annual Ice Cream Social

Friday, July 3

NO EXERCISE CLASS
OFFICE CLOSED FOR 4TH OF JULY



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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