

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
July 12, 2009

Epistle

BRETHREN, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and had rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world.

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

At that time, when Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

Wisdom from the Fathers

Now, should any one say, "And wherefore did Christ fulfill the devils' request, suffering them to depart into the herd of swine?" this would be our reply, that He did so, not as yielding to them, but as providing for many objects thereby.

One, to teach them that are delivered from those wicked tyrants, how great the malice of their insidious enemies: another, that all might learn, how not even against swine are they bold, except He allow them; a third, that they would have treated those men more grievously than the swine, unless even in their calamity they had enjoyed much of God's providential care. For that they hate us more than the brutes is surely evident to every man.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 28 on Matthew 8 4th C

Prayer List

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



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 16, 30, Sept. 6, 13 and 27.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sunday August 9, 16, 23 and 30.

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.

It is not our own wealth that we distribute, but Christ's; therefore let us dispense it as He wishes. St. John the Almsgiver 7th century

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 Bookstore Recommends these readings on interfaith understanding: *Thirsting for God in the Land of Shallow Wells* expresses struggles a Protestant will encounter in coming face to face with Orthodoxy's sacramental path to God, emphasis on Tradition, and icons. An outstanding book that will help Orthodox readers more deeply appreciate their faith and will give Protestant readers a more thorough understanding of the Church. In *Orthodoxy and Catholicism* a former Roman Catholic Examines the critical issues that influenced his decision to join the Orthodox Church.

Tickets are being sold for the luncheon following the MEFGOX Liturgy on Sunday, July 19th. Tickets are \$20.00/adult and \$10.00 for children 7 and under. Please see Fr. Nick if you would like to purchase a ticket.

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

GOYA Summer Calendar

JULY

July 12 4:00 p.m. GOYA Meeting/Activity at Fr. Nick's house

AUGUST

Aug. 2 4:00 p.m. GOYA Meeting/Activity

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



St. Nicholas Seniors

Today is the last day to sign up for the trip to visit the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, MI on July 14th. 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.

Food Drive

St. 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.

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 Bekiaries-662-6606 or Chris Kerry-665-6273.

Prayer for Peace

Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. Guide, I pray, all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise. Amen.

From Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church Prayer Book, Lowell, MA, compiled by Fr. Peter Gregory, January 1995.

The Wellness Community—Your place for Free Cancer Support

The Mission of the Wellness Community is to help people with cancer and their loved ones enhance their health and well-being through participation in professional programs of emotional support, education and hope. We have cancer-specific and age-specific networking groups, including children and teen groups. The Wellness Community of Southeast Michigan is located at 2010 Hogback Road, Suite 3 Ann Arbor, MI 48105. **Phone: 734-975-2500. All services and programs are free of charge.**

For more information on The Wellness Community, go to their website www.thewellnesscommunity.org/semich.

Program Highlights for July

July 15, 6-7 p.m. Healing Touch, presenter Becky Bail, RN. Learn simple energy techniques to renew, relieve, and relax yourself or others. Please RSVP.

Brochures with July/August 09 Calendar of Events are available on the table in the hallway.

Program Highlights for August

August 5, 4- 6 pm Cooking for Wellness, presenter, Linn Storch, RD. Learn nutritional information of benefit to people with cancer while experimenting with new recipes. This month’s topic: *Farm Fresh Cooking*. Sponsored by Whole Foods. Please RSVP

August 8, 11:30 am-1:30 pm Potluck Picnic Enjoy some sun and fun! Connect with old friends and make some new ones at our first annual potluck picnic. Bring your family and friends of all ages and a dish to share. Please RSVP.

August 12, 6-7:30 pm What is Chemo Brain? Dealing with the side effects of chemotherapy, presenter Bernadine Cimprich, RN, PhD, FAAN, Associate Professor, University of Michigan. Learn about the concept of chemo brain—a side effect thought to impact the ability to think related to chemotherapy. Join us to learn about current research and ways to help improve memory and cognitive function. Please RSVP.

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.

Thought for the Week

Prayer is a conversation directly with God, being always with God, having one's soul united with Him and one's mind inseparable. A person becomes one with the angels and unites with them in perpetual praise and longing for God. -*St. Symeon of Thessaloniki*

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN July 12, 2009

Orthros
9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy
10:00 AM

Epistle Reading
Romans 10:1-10

Gospel Reading
Matt. 8:28-34; 9:1

Creed
Greek

Greeters, July 26
Sylvia Kleanthous



Psaltis
Zannis Res

Choir
Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo
Panagiotis Apostolou

Fellowship Hour
Parish Council

Greeters, July 12
Chris Kerry
Demetra M –Rundus

FIFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

UP-COMING EVENTS

Sunday, July 12

4:00 p.m. GOYA Meeting and Activity
at Fr. Nick’s house

Monday, July 13

10:00 a.m. Bible Study
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Tuesday, July 14

9:30 a.m. Seniors Bus Trip to Fredrick Meijer Gardens
7:30 p.m. YAL

Wednesday, July 15

7:00 p.m. Philoptochos Board Meeting

*Fr. Nick will be at the Metropolis Summer Camp July 19th through the 25th.
In case of emergency, please call the office.*

62nd Annual Choir Convention July 16-19
SS Constantine & Helen in Westland will host
the 62nd annual MEFGOX choir convention.

Therefore, based on permission from Metropolitan Nicholas and Approval of Parish Council, there will be no Liturgy here on Sunday, July 19th.

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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