

# *Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church*

## *August 16, 2009*

### **Epistle**

I Cor. 4:9-16

BRETHREN, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

### **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 for Afterfeast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary**

In giving birth you retained your virginity, and in dormition you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated unto life, being the Mother of Life. And thus by virtue of your intercessions you deliver our souls from death.

### **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**

Matthew 17:14-23

At that time, a man came up to Him and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."

### **Kontakion**

Neither the grave nor death could contain the Theotokos, the unshakable hope, ever vigilant in intercession and protection. As Mother of life, He who dwelt in the ever-virginal womb transposed her to life.

### **Wisdom from the Fathers**

For a man to have such faith appears simple, but it is, on the contrary, something very lofty, not easily attained by many. Such faith is born of boldness before God; but such boldness comes (only) from pleasing God. Beloved, great labour is needed to acquire, through pleasing God, such boldness before Him that one firmly believes that he will grant all that one asks; as it is written, Ask, and it shall be given to you.

**St. John Chrysostom**, *The Gospel Commentary: edited by Hieromonk German Ciuba, 2002. 4th 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, Angelica Stageman, Katina Eleni Hoffman, Robert Ashley, Sr.

# Parish News and Events ([www.stnickaa.org](http://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 30, Sept. 6 and 27

**Fellowship Hour** sponsor needed for Sunday August 23, 30 and all the Sundays of September.

### **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.*

### **An Afternoon of Greek Songs, with Mezzo-soprano Penelope Bitzas and Pianist Pantelis Polychronidis**

Songs by 19th and 20th century Greek composers including Greek Art Songs, modern arrangements of folk songs, "Aria Greca" and selections from Greek operetta and familiar favorites. This special recital will take place at the Stamps Auditorium, North Campus on Saturday, October 4 at 3:00 PM. This event is FREE and open to the public. Details to come in early September. For more information on either of these presentations contact: berlykim@umich.edu.

### **Modern Greek Studies**

#### **8th Annual Platsis Symposium on the Greek Legacy**

This year's Symposium on "Honor and Shame" will be held at the Biomedical Science Research Building on Central Campus, Sunday, September 13 at 2:00 PM. Dr. Jill Dubisch, Regent's Professor of Anthropology at Northern Arizona University and Douglas Cairns, Professor of Classics and Archaeology in the School of History at the University of Edinburgh. This event is FREE and open to the public. Details to come in mid August.

### **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.

Please remember that the Community Care Ministry of Philoptochos for June, July and August is the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). If you are interested in helping this philanthropic organization, information is available on the table in the hallway.

**Please remember, Sunday, September 20th will be the annual Ya'ssoo Golf Outing. Save the date! Shotgun Start at 1:00 PM at Stonebridge Golf Club.**

**Golf Package \$100 Dinner Only: \$32**

**Children's Menu: \$12 Hole Sponsors: \$100**

**5:30 PM Cash Bar—6:00 (approx.) dinner**

**Make golf or dinner reservations by Sept. 15th**

### **PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT FOOD GATHERERS**

**For info please call Margaret Yates: 663-0131**

Also, Food Gatherers needs food. They serve, on average, 8,000 meals a day in Washtenaw County. That means 6-7 tons of food is received and distributed on a daily basis. The need has been great this year and they can surely use the help.

### **The Saint Nicholas Parish Bookstore Recommends**

*Close to Home: One Orthodox Mother's Quest for Patience, Peace and Perseverance*, for every young mother who has ever wished children came with an instruction manual and who has ever longed for just one quiet minute to finish a thought or utter a prayer; *Fitting Together the Pieces of Your Life*: The world says, Nothing works out, nothing makes sense, nothing hangs together: life is just an insoluble puzzle, and to live is to be the victim of capricious fate. Saint Paul response to this pessimistic outlook with Romans 8:23, "We know that in all things God works for good to those who love Him. . ." Inspiring messages of hope based on Romans,

## 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

## 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 dm-r@hotmail.com for distribution arrangements.

## August 16 Translation of the Image of Our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ

When the fame of our Lord Jesus Christ came to Abgar, the ruler of Edessa, who was suffering from leprosy, Abgar sent a messenger named Ananias, through him asking the Savior to heal him of his disease, while bidding Ananias bring back a depiction of Him. When Ananias came to Jerusalem, and was unable to capture the likeness of our Lord, He, the Knower of hearts, asked for water, and having washed His immaculate and divine face, wiped it dry with a certain cloth, which He gave to Ananias to take to Abgar; the form of the Lord's face had been wondrously printed upon the cloth. As soon as Abgar received the cloth, which is called the Holy Napkin (Mandylion), he revered it with joy, and was healed of his leprosy; only his forehead remained afflicted. After the Lord's Death, Resurrection, and Ascension, the Apostle Thaddaeus came to Edessa, and when he had baptized Abgar and all his men, Abgar's remaining leprosy also was healed. Abgar had the holy image of our Savior fixed to a board and placed at the city gate, commanding that all who entered the city reverence it as they passed through. Abgar's grandson, however, returned to the worship of the idols, and the Bishop of Edessa learned of his intention to replace the Holy Napkin with an idol. Since the place where it stood above the city gate was a rounded hollow, he set a burning lamp before the Holy Napkin, put a tile facing it, then bricked up the place and smoothed it over, so that the holy icon made without hands was no longer to be seen, and the ungodly ruler gave no further thought to it.

With the passage of time, the hidden icon was forgotten, until the year 615, when Chosroes II, King of Persia, was assaulting the cities of Asia, and besieged Edessa. The Bishop of Edessa, Eulabius, instructed by a divine revelation, opened the sealed chamber above the city gate and found the Holy Napkin complete and incorrupt, the lamp burning, and the tile bearing upon itself an identical copy of the image that was on the Holy Napkin. The Persians had built a huge fire outside the city wall; when the Bishop approached with the Holy Napkin, a violent wind fell upon the fire, turning it back upon the Persians, who fled in defeat. The Holy Napkin remained in Edessa, even after the Arabs conquered it, until the year 944, when it was brought with honor and triumph to Constantinople in the reign of Romanus I, when Theophylact was Ecumenical Patriarch. The Holy Napkin was enshrined in the Church of the most holy Theotokos called the Pharos. This is the translation that is celebrated today.

*Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery*

## THE SUNDAY BULLETIN August 16, 2009

**Orthros**  
9:00 AM

**Divine Liturgy**  
10:00 AM

**Epistle Reading**  
I Cor. 3:9-17

**Gospel Reading**  
Matt. 14:22-34

**Creed**  
English

**Greeters, August 23**  
Sylvia Kleanthous



**NINTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

**Psaltis**  
Zannis Res

**Proforo**  
Panagioti Apostolou

**Fellowship Hour**  
Batianis Family

**Trisagion**  
Michael Papadopoulos  
—23 years  
Eugenia Foreol

**Greeters, August 16**  
Robert Ashley

## UP-COMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, August 18** 7:30 PM—Y.A.L. (Young Adult League)

**Thursday, August 20** 9:00 AM—5:00 PM—Senior Trip down the Grand River

*Rev. Father Nick will be on vacation August 16 through August 29. He will be back for the Sunday Liturgy. In case of emergency, please call the office. Thank you.*

**OUR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 13 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!**

**MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE: [www.stnickaa.org](http://www.stnickaa.org)**

**Submissions for the Sunday bulletin must be sent to:**

**[kate@stnickaa.org](mailto:kate@stnickaa.org) by 10 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to publication.**

**SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**3109 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103**

**Web: [www.stnickaa.org](http://www.stnickaa.org) E-Mail: [kate@stnickaa.org](mailto:kate@stnickaa.org)**

**Proistamenos: Father Nicolaos H. Kotsis ([nhkotsis@hotmail.com](mailto:nhkotsis@hotmail.com))**

**Church office: 734/332-8200 Home: 734/677-7891 Cell: 734/604-3214**