

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
August 23, 2009

Epistle

I Cor. 9:2-12

BRETHREN, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

This is my defense to those

who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

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 for Apodosis 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.

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.

Gospel

Matthew 18:23-35

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailors, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Wisdom from the Fathers

Do we forgive our neighbors their trespasses? God also forgives us in His mercy. Do we refuse to forgive? God, too, will refuse to forgive us. As we treat our neighbors, so also does God treat us. The forgiveness, then, of your sins or unforgiveness, and hence also your salvation or destruction, depend on you yourself, man. For without forgiveness of sins there is no salvation.

St. Tikhon of Zadonsk, Unknown 18th 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)

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 Sunday, October 18.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sunday August 30, September 6, 13 and 27.

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.

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 **Sunday, October 4 at 2:00 p.m. (Please note time change)** 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 take place at the U of M Rackham Auditorium, **Sunday, Sept. 13, at 2 p.m.** Guest Lecturers are Dr. Jill Dubisch, Regents' Professor of Anthropology of Northern Arizona University and Douglas Cairns, Professor of Classics and Archaeology in the School of History, University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Guest Respondents will be Despina Margomenou Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Georgia State University and Dr. Jake MacPhail, Lecturer of Classical Studies at the University of Michigan. The event is FREE and open to the Public. A light reception will follow. For more information call, 734.936.6099 or visit our web site, Isa.umich.edu/classics. Supported by the Arthur and Mary Platsis Fund and organized by the U of M Department of Classical Studies.

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, 8000 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 Bookstore has ordered 20 copies of the 2009-10 Greek Orthodox Planner. Use the Planner to keep track of all your schedules. Keep a daily focus on Christ with Scriptural readings, fast days, prayers, saints of the day and inspiration from the Fathers. The Planner follows the Ecclesiastical (church) year beginning in September and ending in August. Spiral bound. Also recommended for readers of all ages, *Keeper of the Light: Saint Macrina the Elder, Grandmother of Saints* by Bev Cooke, the story of the grandmother of St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory of Nyssa and St. Macrina the Younger. She is truly a great confessor of the Orthodox Faith.

Church School—IMPORTANT REMINDER

Registration for the 2009-10 St. Nicholas Church School year will take place on Sunday, September 13, 2009. More information will follow.

St. Nicholas Seniors: The Fall Kick-Off meeting is Thursday, Sept. 3rd at 1:00 p.m. Come for dessert, a presentation of Antartica and bring your ideas to share regarding programs and events for the coming year. Sign up at the coffee hour.



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.

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 exonarthex.

Greek School

Information for the Greek School can be found in the church website www.stnickaa.org. Go to the “Ministries” tab and scroll down to “Greek School”, then click on “Orientation”. Tuition rate, class times, and registration forms are available there.

Greek School Orientation will be Sunday, Sept. 13, after church. Parents are urged to attend. Classes begin Monday, Sept. 14. **PLEASE register all students for 2009-2010, new and returning, as soon as possible.** Forms can be downloaded and printed from the website and either mailed to or dropped off at the church office.

August 23 Apodosis of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary

Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at once to the house of the Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction as was meet, and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God.

With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulchre, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. But one Jew, moved by malice, audaciously stretched forth his hand upon the bed and immediately received from divine judgment the wages of his audacity. Those daring hands were severed by an invisible blow. But when he repented and asked forgiveness, his hands were restored. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens.

These things has the Church received from the traditions of the Fathers, who have composed many hymns out of reverence, to the glory of the Mother of our God (see Oct. 3 and 4).

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery



THE SUNDAY BULLETIN August 23, 2009

Orthros
9:00 AM

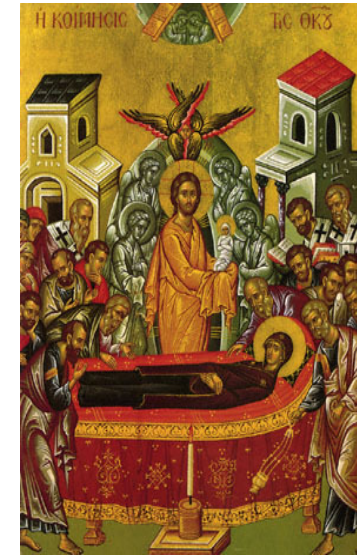
Divine Liturgy
10:00 AM

Epistle Reading
I Cor. 9:2-12

Gospel Reading
Matt. 18:23-35

Creed
English

Greeters, August 30
Vasilios Pliakas



Psaltis
Zannis Res

Choir
Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo
Pliakas Family

Fellowship Hour
Parish Council

Greeters, August 23
Sylvia Kleanthous

11TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

UP-COMING EVENTS

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, August 25 | 7:30 p.m. YAL |
| Wednesday, August 26 | 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting |
| Thursday, August 27 | 7:00 p.m. Physical Plant & Maintenance |

Fr. Nick will be on vacation until August 29. He will be back for the Sunday Liturgy. In case of emergency, please call the office. Thank you.

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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