

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
September 13, 2009

Epistle BRETHREN, see with what large Gal. 6:11-18 letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and not only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. For in His goodness He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, and to raise up those who had died, by His glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion for Forefeast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

We offer Thee in mediation the life-giving Cross which, of Thy goodness, Thou hast given unto us, the unworthy, O Lord. Save Thy hierarchs and Thy flock, and grant Thou peace through the Theotokos, O only friend of man.

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

The Church is shown to be a many-lighted heaven that doth shine a guiding light upon all them that do believe; wherein while standing we cry aloud: Do Thou Thyself now establish this house, O Lord.

Gospel The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

Wisdom from the Fathers

"He gave His Only-begotten Son," not a servant, not an Angel, not an Archangel. And yet no one would show such anxiety for his own child, as God did for His ungrateful servants ... He who giveth life to others, much more to Himself doth He well forth life ... For He calls the Cross the fountain of life; which reason cannot easily allow, as the heathens now by their mocking testify. But faith which goes beyond the weakness of reasoning, may easily receive and retain it.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 27 on John 3 4th Century

Prayer List

Please remember the following people in your prayers: Gabriella and Viroel Andrews, Constantine Evangelinos, Faye Sekaros, Patrick Gutierrez, Mike Annette Kovalcheck, Angelica Stageman, Katina Eleni Hoffman, Robert Ashley, Sr.

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 Orthodox Prayer Book
Compiled from various sources by Fr. Peter Gregory*

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 Sundays of September 20, 27, October 4, 11, and 18.

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.

Vesper Services

On Sunday, September 13th we will leave the church parking lot at 6:00 p.m. to attend Vespers at Holy Cross Church in Farmington Hills. Please be at the church parking lot by 5:45 p.m.

Sign up sheet is in the social hall if you plan to attend.

Modern Greek Studies

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.** 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.

St. Nicholas Seniors

Sign up in the social hall for the wonderful Greek Concert on Sunday October 4th. There is no charge and we will carpool to the Stamps Auditorium on U of M North Campus.

Philoptochos Notes

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 today, September 13, 2009.

Registration forms are available on the website: www.stnickaa.org. You can download the form by clicking on the ministries tab, then church school tab then the registration form or you may pick up a form from the table in the hallway. Registrations will be accepted through October. Scholarships are also available. Please check with Fr. Nick.

Classes will begin on September 20th after Holy Communion.

If you have any other questions or concerns regarding Church School or registration, please contact either Fr. Nick or Sue Pagalos.

Outreach and Evangelism

Today is Outreach Sunday, a day set aside to welcome back to the Church our brothers and sisters who have been inactive. In the words of St. John Chrysostom in 369 AD *"Each of us has an apostolic mission to arouse the fervor of the Spirit in our brothers and sisters."*

The Mission of the Outreach & Evangelism Ministry is to renew and share the Orthodox Christian Faith in America by nurturing a deeper commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ within His Church, by reaching out to inactive Orthodox Christians by making them aware of the need for Christ in their everyday life and their importance as individual members of the body of Christ. As St. James says in his Epistle: *"...if any one among you wanders from the truth and some one bring him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins."* James 5:19-20.

We also reach out and try to meet the needs of those inquiring about the Orthodox faith. Archbishop Demetrios has said, *"It is the Parish, it is the local community which has been, is, and will forever be the central, indispensable agent for offering our Orthodox faith to contemporary America."*

Be A Part of The Welcoming Program

This fall we are starting our 2nd year of our Welcoming Program. This important ministry ensures 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, we 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 important ministry. Sign up sheets are in the exo-narthex. Thank you for participating .

GOYA Update

Next meeting for GOYA will be September 27th at 4:00 p.m. We'll welcome the 7th graders at this meeting. Please make every effort to attend.

Daughters of Penelope are sponsoring a Winter Clothing Drive for the Ypsilanti Public Schools Clothes Closet. They need **gently** used winter clothing for ages infant to adult, both male and female. Baby and children clothing are most needed. Please watch the bulletin for further updates.

September 13

Cornelius the Centurion & Martyr

Saint Cornelius was a Roman by race, a pagan by religion, a centurion in rank, an inhabitant of Caesarea of Palestine, a man pious and God-fearing who gave many alms to the people and prayed continually unto God. In accordance with an angelic vision granted to him, he sent to Joppa that they might bring the Apostle Peter. Saint Peter catechized him in the Faith of Christ and baptized all his household (Acts, ch.10). This became the beginning and the first fruits of the calling of the nations. It is said that, after this, he became a bishop, as some say, of Caesarea; but others say of Scepsis, which is not far from Troas; and that he died as a martyr.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

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.

Classes will meet as follows:

Monday:	4:30-6:00—Level 1 6:15-7:45—Level 2
Tuesday:	4:30-6:00—Level 3 6:15-7:45—Adult Intermediate
Wednesday:	4:30-6:00—Level 4 6:15-7:45—Adult Beginner
Thursday:	4:30-6:00—Level 5 6:15-7:45—Level 6

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.

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.

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN September 13, 2009

Orthros

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

10:00 AM

Epistle Reading

Gal. 6:11-18

Gospel Reading

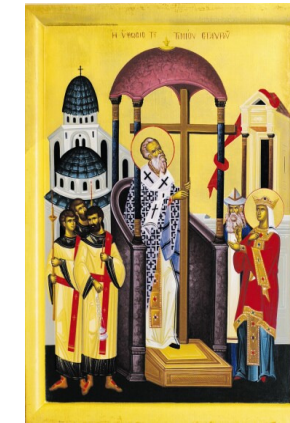
John 3:13-17

Creed

English

Greeters

Demetra Mitropoulos-
Rundus



Psaltis

Zannis Res

Choir

Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo

Panagioti Apostolou

Fellowship Hour

Parish Council

Memorial Service

8 Years Glykeria
Mitropoulos

9 Months Irene Stylianidou
40 Days Arthur Rendziperes

SUNDAY BEFORE THE HOLY CROSS

UP-COMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 13

PARISH PICNIC AFTER DIVINE LITURGY

Church School Registration

Greek School Orientation

5:30 VAN LEAVES FOR VESPERS AT NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY, PLYMOUTH

Monday, September 14

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:30 a.m. Golf Meeting

4:30 p.m. Greek School Level 1

6:15 p.m. Greek School Level 2

Tuesday, September 15

4:30 p.m. Greek School Level 3

6:15 p.m. Greek School Adult Intermediate

7:30 p.m. YAL

Wednesday, September 16

4:30 p.m. Greek School Level 4

6:15 p.m. Greek School Adult Beginner

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, September 18

11:00 a.m. Exercise Class

6:30 p.m. JOY Game Night

NOTE: ALL WEEKDAY LITURGIES, INCLUDING SATURDAY, WILL START AT 9:00 A.M.

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Proistamenos: Father Nicolaos H. Kotsis (nhkotsis@hotmail.com)

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