

***Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church***  
***December 27, 2009***

**Epistle** IN THOSE DAYS, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who

belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

And the high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child.

"But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?'"

"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and

did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Gospel** When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

## 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

### 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 Jan. 24 and all the Sundays of February

**Fellowship Hour Sponsors** needed Sunday, Jan. 3, 17.

### UP-COMING EVENTS

**Calendars for 2010 are available in the Social Hall**

<b>Sun. Dec. 27</b>	<b>NO CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY</b> 4:00 p.m. GOYA Bible Study
<b>Mon. Dec. 28</b>	10:00 a.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Bible Study
<b>Tue. Dec. 29</b>	7:00 p.m. Philoptochos Board Meeting
<b>Wed. Dec. 30</b>	11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Vasilopita Pickup 7:00 p.m. 75th Anniversary Committee Meeting
<b>Thur. Dec. 31</b>	<b>New Year's Eve</b> 6:00 p.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy 9:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Dance

### 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 for Sunday after Nativity

O Joseph, proclaim the wonders to David, the ancestor of God. Thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; thou hast given glory with the shepherds; thou hast worshipped with the Magi; and thou hast been instructed through an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

### 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

Today, the Virgin bears Him who is transcendent, and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach. Angels, along with shepherds glorify Him. The Magi make their way to Him by a star. For a new child has been born for us, the God before all ages.

### Prayer List

Please remember the following people in your prayers: Gabriella and Viroel Andrews, Constantine Evangelinos, Faye Sekaros, Patrick Gutierrez, Toni Kovalcheck, Angelica Stageman, Katina Eleni Hoffman, Robert Ashley, Sr., Priscilla Pardon, Pat Ricaldi, Deryl Deveau, Fotica George, Lucia Gagalis, Kevin Kling, Helen Camp, Bridget Smith, Rosaleen Baldwin, Marie Lyons, Diane Hackett, John Underhill

### Church School Notes

#### Coins for St. Basil

Please help your children support the work of St. Basil Academy as they donate any loose change to put in their classroom bank. This money will be given to Philoptochos our partner in this endeavor. They will send a check to the Academy.

### Philoptochos

There will be a Philoptochos Board meeting on Tuesday, December 29th at 7:00 p.m.

All the baklava has been sold but we still have spanakopita for sale. Thank you for your love and support of St. Nicholas Philoptochos. We could not have given funds to so many worthy charities this year without your help.

### GOYA

#### Dates to Remember

Dec. 27	4:00 p.m. Bible Study
Jan. 3	4:00 p.m. Bible Study/Meeting/Fellowship
Jan. 10	12:30 p.m. GOYA Brunch

### AHEPA NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Thursday, December 31, 9:00 p.m.  
\$25.00/Adults; Children 13 and under free  
Appetizers, cash bar  
Music with DJ George Smyrnis

**Greek School Notes****St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Traditional Greek Christmas Cookies and Bread**

Pick up date for **Vasilopita, Wednesday, Dec. 30th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Greek school will add a pre/kindergarten class, for 4 and 5 year olds in January. The class will meet on Fridays, from 4:30 to 6:00 and the first class will be on Friday, January 8.

Please fill out a registration form as soon as possible. Forms are available at the church office and website. An orientation meeting will take place on Sunday, January 3, after church in the Greek school classroom. For questions, please e-mail or call Joanna Ioannou, e-mail: [joannou@gmail.com](mailto:joannou@gmail.com), telephone 734-996-0481.

**SAVE THE DATE** for the annual Greek School Mardi Gras dance which will take place **Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**. Further information will be forthcoming.

**The Bookstore** has wonderful Christmas gifts: CD books, *Prince of Peace* and *Byzantine Christmas*. Christmas books and coloring books for children, including *The Legend of St. Nicholas* and *The Miraculous Child*. Cookbooks: *How To Roast A Lamb*, the much anticipated book by the rising star of Greek cooking in America, Michael Psilakis; Sophia Skouras's *Against the Grain: 150 Good Carb Mediterranean Recipes* and other books by Diana Kochilas. For the history lover: *Inside Hitler's Greece; My Detroit; Short History of Byzantium; Smyrna, 1922 Destruction; The Balkans and Lost to the West: The Forgotten Byzantine Empire That Rescued Western Civilization*. For spiritual guidance, the inspiring story of *Father Arseny, 1893-1973* and *Mountain of Silence*. Don't forget your vasilopita coins.

**FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS**

The Friends of the Metropolis program is designed to help raise much-needed funds for the operation of the Metropolis of Detroit. Funds raised help pay for the operations of the Metropolis, the Metropolitan's travel expenses and the ministries of the Metropolis. Forms are available in the hallway and any amount of a donation is welcomed. Please do your best, at any giving level, to help support the ministries of Metropolitan Nicholas and the Metropolis of Detroit. God bless you!

**How to Recognize A Stroke**

If a stroke is recognized and treated within 3 hours it can be reversed

**S.T.R.**

**S.** Ask the individual to **SMILE**

**T.** Ask the person to **TALK A SIMPLE SENTENCE** (coherently)

**R.** Ask him/her to **RAISE BOTH HANDS**

If he/she has trouble with any one of these tasks call 911.

**NEW SIGN OF STROKE**

Stick out your tongue and if it is crooked it is a stroke.

**Be A Part of The Welcoming Program**

This ministry is important and 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. We are in need of people to sign up for this ministry so please consider taking part in it. Sign up sheets are in the exo-narthex. Thank you for participating.

**AHEPA SCHOLARSHIPS**

To qualify for the AHEPA District College Scholarship **you have to be a member of the AHEPA family** (sons of Pericles, Maids of Athena, AHEPA or Daughters). If your college does not have chapters of the Sons or Maids, I encourage you to join the AHEPA or Daughters. For an application, please contact Dr. Kleanthous at [c.kleanthousmd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:c.kleanthousmd@sbcglobal.net). To Join the Daughters, call Perry Katsikas 734-995-4766 for information.

**Modern Greek Program**

The U-M Modern Greek Program is proud to present the **8th Annual Dimitri and Irmgard Pallas Modern Greek Lecture on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 7:00pm** in the **Michigan League's Vandenberg Room**, located at 911 N. University on Central Campus. A lecture entitled **"On Greek Friendship"** will be given by **Gregory Jusdanis**, Arts & Humanities Distinguished Professor of Greek and Latin, Ohio State University. For more information: [berlykim@umich.edu](mailto:berlykim@umich.edu) or [lsa.umich.edu/modgreek](http://lsa.umich.edu/modgreek)

**Outreach and Evangelism**

The Mission of the Outreach & Evangelism Ministry is to renew and share the Orthodox Christian Faith by nurturing a deeper commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ within His Church. Please consider joining this important ministry by contacting Chris Kerry or the Church office.

**THE SUNDAY BULLETIN**

**December 27, 2009**

**Orthros**

9:00 AM

**Divine Liturgy**

10:00 AM

**Church School**

After Holy Communion

**Epistle Reading**

Acts 6:8-15; 7:5, 47-60

**Gospel**

Matt. 12:13-23

**SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY**

He who without separation and corruption  
Was born ineffably as the Word of the Father,  
Who is God from God in the changeless Godhead,  
Undergoes circumcision in the flesh.

He who is above the law  
Delivers all from the curse of the law  
By becoming Himself under the law  
And giving us blessings from on high.

Therefore we praise His infinitely gracious condescension,

We sing His praises,  
And we glorify Him with thanksgiving,  
Entreating Him that our souls may be saved.



*Happy New Year*



**SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**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**

**Psaltis**

Zannis Res

**Choir**

Jon Wardner

**Prosforo**

Pliakas Family

**Fellowship Hour**

Parish Council

**Greeter**

Penny Bekiaries

**Memorial Service**

40 Days Sofia Karageorge  
10 years—Spiros Milonas