

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
January 3, 2010

Epistle TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Gospel The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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 Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

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

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

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, Christinel Dima

January 3

Malachi the Prophet

The Prophet Malachias ("messenger of God") is the last of the twelve minor Prophets, and also of all the Prophets of the Old Testament. He prophesied in the days of Nehemias, a wise man among the Jews, who also held a high and powerful position in the court of Artaxerxes the Long-armed, King of the Persians, who reigned from 465 to 424 B.C. Malachias' book of prophecy is divided into four chapters; he foretold the coming of Christ as the Sun of Righteousness (4:2)

Wisdom from the Fathers

Everyone that preaches true faith and good works, what does he do but prepare the way of the Lord so that He may come into the hearts of his hearers, and may make straight the path for God, forming right dispositions within them by the words of his exhortations? **St. Gregory the Great, On the Mystical Church, P. G. 76 (cols 1159-1170) in Toal, I:89** Sixth Century



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 all the Sundays of February

Fellowship Hour Sponsors needed Sunday, Jan. 17 and Feb. 28.

UP-COMING EVENTS

- Sun. Jan. 3** Swearing in of Parish Council Officers
4:00 p.m. GOYA Bible Study
5:00 p.m. GOYA Meeting
- Mon. Jan. 4** 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
7:30 p.m. Bible Study
- Tue. Jan. 5** **Eve of Theophany**
9:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy
12:30 p.m. Seniors Planning Meeting
- Wed. Jan. 6** **Theophany**
9:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy
7:30 p.m. YAL
- Thur. Jan. 7** **St. John the Baptist**
9:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy
7:00 p.m. YERAC
- Fri. Jan. 8** 11:00 a.m. Exercise Class
6:30 p.m. JOY Game Night
7:30 p.m. Paraklesis
- Sun. Jan. 10** **Special Collection St. Basil Academy**
Vasilopita Cutting
GOYA Brunch
12:30—2:00 HOPE

GOYA

Dates to Remember

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

H.O.P.E.

HOPE will meet on Sunday, January 10 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. We will discuss Joshua.

Philoptochos

Next Sunday, **January 10**, the Philoptochos will have a **Special Collection to benefit St. Basil's Academy. The Vasilopita celebration will also take place on that day.**

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.

St. Nicholas Seniors: Sign up in the Social Hall to visit the Ypsilanti Heritage Museum on Thursday, Jan. 14th. We will car-pool over, leaving church at 10:30 am. and go to lunch following the visit. The Demetrius Ypsilanti Archives (and other important info) will be shared with us. Also, sign up to carpool to the Ann Arbor Concert Band performance at the Michigan Theatre following Church on Sunday, January 17th.

Church School Notes

The first half of the Church school curriculum has been completed.

This month we continue to collect coins to celebrate and honor St. Basil. This is just one small way our children help and support St. Basil's Academy. They will also receive a Vasilopita loaf with a hidden coin to continue and remember his works and traditions.

The children will help Philoptochos during the month of February with Forget-me-nots by making hand-made cards for the shut-ins; they will also participate in the "Sunday of Orthodoxy". Extra services scheduled during Great Lent will help those who have absences make up their time. OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Center) coin boxes will be given out and with the help of our children and families, the mission can continue their programs in the poorest areas of the world.

March will be a busy month for our children preparing for the St. Nicholas Parish Oratorical Festival (7th to 12th grade students); the Saturday of Lazarus Church School Communion Breakfast and our annual Holy Unction Retreat for all the children.

Please watch the bulletin for further information and updates.

Greek School Notes

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: jioannou@gmail.com, telephone 734-996-0481.

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

The Bookstore Recommends:

January is a time to curl up with a good book. *Way of the Ascetics* by Tito Colliander is a simple, profound exposition of the Orthodox spiritual life; *A Time of Gifts* by Patrick Leigh Fermor reflects on the author's journey at age eighteen from London to Constantinople on foot just as Hitler came into power. *Salonica, City of Ghost* by Mark Mazower is an epic tale of the sublime and tragic city of Thessaloniki after the fall of the Byzantine Empire.

We have beautiful, imported, ceramic Holy Water bowls.

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!

HOUSE BLESSINGS

If you would like Fr. Nick to come and bless your home or business during this period of Theophany, please call the Kate at the office to set an appointment. Please try to call before January 15th.

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. 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 or 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 January 3, 2010



SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

The Word, therefore, that became man is, as it appears, God, and the fruit of the Father's substance ...Yes! We too affirm, without fear of contradiction, that the Word being God as of His own fullness bestows the Holy Spirit on such as are worthy; ...

... but this He still wrought, even when He was made man, as being the One Son with the flesh united to Him in an ineffable and incomprehensible manner.

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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Psaltis

Zannis Res

Choir

Jon Wardner

Prosforo

The Kitromelides Family

Fellowship Hour

Parish Council