

# Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

**FEBRUARY 24, 2008**

**Epistle Reading** Brethren, it is the God who said, II Cor. 4:6-15 "Let light shine out of darkness,"

who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

## Resurrectional Apolytikion

When the angelic powers appeared at Your grave, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary who was seeking Your immaculate body. You devastated Hades, not afflicted by it. You went to meet the virgin, and granted eternal life. You resurrected from the dead. O Lord, glory to You.

## Apolytikion of the Church

The truth of your manner of life manifested you to your 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

O Father, foolishly I ran away from Your glory, and in sin, squandered the riches You gave me. Wherefore, I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal, "I have sinned before You Compassionate Father. Receive me in repentance and take me as one of Your hired servants."

## Proverbs 18:20

You will have to live with the consequences of everything you say. What you say can preserve life or destroy it; so you must accept the consequences of your words.

**Gospel Reading** Luke 15:11-32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"



# 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.

## CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP:

Everyone's Responsibility!

If you have not completed your pledge for 2007, please try and do so as soon as possible.

**Fellowship Hour** sponsor needed for Sunday February 24, March, 16, 23 and 30.

## Saint Nicholas Church School

**The Church School curriculum for the children begins at 10:00 a.m. by attending the Divine Liturgy and classes immediately following Communion.**

A reminder to **ALL 7th-12th grade students** to work on their Oratorical essays that are due on Sunday, March 9, the same time the Parish Oratorical Festival will take place. We would appreciate the parents help and encouragement to support their child to participate in the St. Nicholas Parish Oratorical Festival by reading their essay. Vicki Kiningham is this year's chairperson, assisted by the 7th-12th grade teachers. We thank them for their time and dedication and to the parents for their support.

Children will be receiving the OCMC coin boxes for lent. This is part of our Lenten program and more information will follow.

**St. Nicholas Seniors** Join us for a "Fish Pre-Lenten Lunch" at noon on Tuesday, March 4th. We will enjoy a presentation by Fr. Nick concerning "Lenten Services". Cost: \$5.00. Please reserve by Sunday March 2nd. Call Diane, Joan or Penny to reserve and/or if you need a ride.

**Saint Nicholas Library Committee** will meet on Monday, March 3rd at 7:30 p.m. Leaders of the various parish organizations will be invited and any one else interested is welcome and encouraged to attend.

## Saint Nicholas Philoptochos Notes

Our March Community Care is furniture donations to Friends in Deed. To make a donation of furniture and arrange for pick up from now through March, call 734-484-7607 Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Furniture must be in good condition, no stains, rips or pet hair. Please see the flyer on the table in the hallway.

The Annual Philoptochos sponsored Lenten Dinner for College Students will take place on Wednesday, March 19th. There will be a Presanctified Liturgy at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Parishioners are reminded that the Student Dinner was initiated so that we could meet the students and welcome them to our Parish and they, in turn, could meet the parishioners. Please join us that evening with your family and bring a Lenten dish to pass, enough to serve 8. If you know any students who would like to come, please invite them. For more information, if you can help, or need a ride, please call Pres. Eva Paul — 663-0821.

## Daughters of Penelope

Our Tsoureki Sale is a St. Nicholas Easter tradition. To order your loaves, please fill out the order form located on the table in the hallway. Loaves are \$10.00 per one pound loaf. There is no egg. Orders must be submitted by April 13, 2008 for pick up on April 20th.

The Daughters are preparing a Fr. John Paul Memory Book which is a collection of favorite stories about Fr. John. We ask everyone to write a one-page narration of your favorite story or experience you would like to share with all of us. One book will be given to Pres. Eva and one will be given to the church archives. Please mail your story to the church in care of the Daughters of Penelope or e-mail your one page contribution to [chriskatsikas@yahoo.com](mailto:chriskatsikas@yahoo.com).

## Mardi Gras — Presented by the Greek School PTO

When: Saturday, March 8th, 6:00 p.m.

Where: St. Nicholas Social Hall

Cost: Adults: \$35.00; Kids over 6 \$20.00; Kids under 6 Free.

Complete Greek Dinner, Cash Bar, Dancing to Greek and American Music by DJ Jimmy Michos; Raffle and Door Prizes. Plan to come and enjoy!

**NOTE: MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME AFTER EASTER.**

**Saint Nicholas Choir Notes  
Senior Choir**



Any interested parishioner, ages 12 and up, is encouraged to join the Senior Choir. Our next choir rehearsals are: Feb. 20; March 5, 12, 19 & 26; April 2, 9 & 16. We begin at 7:00 p.m. Please join us!

**The Saint Nicholas Bookstore Recommends:** *Treasured Traditions and Customs of the Orthodox Churches* by Mary Paloumpis Hallick, Ed. D., presents the meaningful customs of various Orthodox jurisdictions relating to Feast Days, Sacraments, Liturgy, Architecture, Icons, Vestments, Name Days, Cultural Observances. This book will fascinate you with the richness of living Orthodoxy through the ages. For our young people *Holy Week and Pascha*, a children's book presenting the services of Holy Week with gorgeous illustrations by the author, who has studied Iconography in Greece. Your children will treasure this book.

**Shopping for St. Nicholas**

Support "Shopping for St. Nicholas" by buying Scrip Gift cards. We have a variety of cards on hand including Borders, Kohls, Macys, Star Bucks, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Olive Garden and more. These make great gifts. If we don't have the cards you want, we'll place an order for you. Visit the "Shopping for St. Nicholas" desk during the fellowship hour after the Divine Liturgy.

**Thought for the Week**

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love. According to Thy abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" (Ps. 51.1-2).



**A.H.E.P.A. News**

Attention College/University Students — anyone interested in applying for a scholarship, please contact Costas Boutsikakis at 604-8737 for an application.

**Summer Programs for Our Youth  
CrossRoad**

Attention High School Juniors and Seniors— *Take the Challenge of Your Life!!* CrossRoad is a ten-day Orthodox Christian summer program where you focus on Christ and His calling for your life. As a CrossRoad participant, you'll explore your vocation with: 1) mini-classes taught by Orthodox Christian professors; 2) visits to Orthodox Churches in the Boston area; 3) community outreach projects; 4) field trips exploring the Boston area; 5) spiritual reflection. There are two sessions: June 21-July 1, 2008 or July 5-15, 2008. Application deadline is March 1, 2008. If interested, please download the application at [www.crossroad.hchc.edu](http://www.crossroad.hchc.edu). Expenses, except travel to Boston, are covered.

**Ionian Village Orthodox Summer Camp in Greece**

Please visit [www.IONIANNVILLAGE.org](http://www.IONIANNVILLAGE.org) to register!

**Register before March 7th to receive the Early Bird discount rate!**

*Summer Travel Camp:* June 27th through July 17th

*Byzantine Venture:* July 26th through August 14th.

Both sessions open to campers who have completed 7th through 12th grade.

**Parish Chocorama** sponsored by Y.E.R.A.C. on Thursday, March 6—7:00 p.m. Join us for our second annual Chocorama and bring your favorite chocolate pie, cake, cookies, brownies, candy to be taste-tested by all participants.

*"The Fear of the Lord Is the beginning of Wisdom."*

**THE SUNDAY BULLETIN  
February 24, 2008**



**SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON**

**Orthros** 9:00 AM  
**Divine Liturgy** 10:00 AM  
**Church School**  
Following Communion  
**Epistle Reading**  
II Cor. 4:6-15  
**Gospel Reading**  
Luke 15:11-32  
**Creed**  
English

**Psaltis**  
Zannis Res  
**Choir**  
Dr. Jon Wardner  
**Prosforo**  
Rebekah Olechnowicz  
**Fellowship Hour**  
Parish Council

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday, Feb. 26**

Saint Nicholas Y'assoo 2008 Greek Festival —7:00 p.m.  
Saint Nicholas Young Adult League (Y.A.L.) - 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Feb. 27**

Saint Nicholas Senior Choir—7:00 p.m.  
Saint Nicholas Byzantine Music—8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 28**

Saint Nicholas Physical Plant & Maintenance—7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, March 1**

**Saturday of Souls**  
Orthros & Divine Liturgy—10:00 a.m.

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

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