

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

MARCH 9, 2008

Epistle Reading

Heb. 12:1-10

BRETHREN, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside

every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by him. For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the pas-sions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be 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 Master, Prudence, Guide of Wisdom, Instruction to the foolish and Defender of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it discernment. Give me words, Word of the Father, for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying out to You, "O Merciful One, have mercy on me who has fallen."

Gospel Reading

Matt. 6:14-21

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you

do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Wisdom of the Fathers

Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. A fast without mutual love is the fast of demons. . . We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family. *His Grace Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia, 20th Century*

One must in every way flee from judging, and pray in secret for those who have sinned. "This form of love is pleasing to God." Judging is bound up with impudence and is incompatible with true repentance: "To judge is to impudently appropriate to oneself the rank of God." **St. John Climacus,**

From the Bible

"Yet even now," says the Lord, "Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments."

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

Joel 2:12-13

NOTE: MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME AFTER EASTER.



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.

Presentation on the History of the Iconostasios

Following the Divine Liturgy today, in the social hall, Michael Kapetan will present a history of the Iconostasios as we begin to think about the completion of the interior of our church. It is for all parishioners!

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.

The Oratorical Festival will take place today for all 7th through 12 grade students between 10:00 a.m. and 12 Noon. Please be prompt. All essays must be handed in today so that Fr. Nick can read each one and then return it to the student. Thank you to Vicky Kiningham for her hard work chairing this event.

Great Lent— Each child will have an O.C.M.C. coin box to help raise money for the missions which need our support to continue their activities. Please encourage your child(ren) to donate, on a daily basis, any loose change to the Orthodox Christian Missions. Through their generosity, missionaries will be able to bear witness to Christ all over the world. Please be generous!!

Philoptochos Notes

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.

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

CLEAN MONDAY—TOMORROW MARCH 10

The Holy Period of Lent starts tomorrow. Again, this year, we'll have Great Compline and a Forgiveness Service at 6:30 p.m. Followed by the Strict Fast Lenten Supper. Please join together on this First Day of Great Lent so we can begin this period as one Parish Family. We ask that you bring a dish to serve at **least 8 (eight) people** for the Lenten Supper. **Please—no oil is to be used.**

A through D—Fruit, Halvah, Desserts
E through G—Sliced Vegetables and Relishes
H through N—Bean or Lentil Soup
O through Q—Lenten Vegetable Dishes
R through Z—Pasta Dishes

Bread, peanut butter and jams will be provided.

Lent is a period of fasting not only from foods but also from our personal iniquities. During the Lenten period we should make a special attempt to evaluate our calling as Christians, listen to the voice of the Gospel, heed its commandments and accept the constant invitation to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

The First Sunday of Great Lent is the Sunday of Orthodoxy. On this day, we come together to honor the Holy Icons, rededicate ourselves to Orthodoxy and proclaim our Faith. During the Procession of the Icons, we pray for the souls of our deceased Parish Priests, Teachers, Parish and Philoptochos Presidents and the souls of the men and women who made the Supreme Sacrifice for our country.

On the first five Fridays of Great Lent we will honor the Virgin Mary, the Blessed Mother of God with the Salutation (Hairetismoi) Services and the Akathist Hymn. On the first five Wednesdays we will participate in the Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy and on the first five Mondays we will have Great Compline. Discussions will follow most of the services..

Donations are being accepted for flowers that will decorate our church and icons during Great Lent and Holy Week . Please call the office if you wish to donate flowers. We are also accepting donations for flowers that will adorn the Kouvouklion (Eptaphion) on Good Friday.

I pray the our Lord will bless you and your loved ones and that you will walk with Him throughout Great Lent in all the Church Services. In Christ,

Rev. Father Nick

Choir Notes
Senior Choir



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

The 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. We also have the CD of Fr. John Paul's arrangement of the Divine Liturgy sung by the Mens' Hellenic Chorus of St. Nicholas Parish. Price is \$10.00.

U of M Modern Greek Studies presents:

"The Journey: The Greek American Dream"

Filmmaker Maria Illiou Film Screening today, March 9, 3:00 p.m. Auditorium B, Angell 435 South State Street, Ann Arbor.

"An Almost Pure Empty Walking"


Author Tryfon Tolides Poetry Reading

Tuesday, March 18 at 7 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookstore 311-315 South State Street.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP:

Everyone's Responsibility!

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

 **"Take meee out to the ball game..."** - Next Sunday, March 16, there will be a volunteer sign-up session for this year's Tiger Baseball concessions project. Please sign up to participate in this project, help the church earn extra funds to reduce our mortgage balance, get to know your fellow church members on a whole new level and take pride in your St. Nicholas community. See Dennis Cvercko or Nick Roumel in the social hall to answer questions and sign-up for a great fellowship experience. Our spring training begins soon!



Forgiveness Sunday

The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery

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 chris-katsikas@yahoo.com.

Spanakopita will be for sale today during the fellowship hour. See Margaret Yates or Diane Geczi if you wish to buy some.

"Christian love is the 'possible impossibility' to see Christ in another man, whoever he is..."

Alexander Schmemann, Great Lent

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN
March 9, 2008

Orthros 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Church School
Following Communion

Epistle Reading
Heb. 12:1-10

Gospel Reading
Matt. 6:14-21

Creed
English



Psaltis
Zannis Res

Choir
Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo
Rebekah Olechnowicz

Fellowship Hour
Church School

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

UP-COMING EVENTS

10:00 a.m.— **Oratorical Festival**

1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.— H.O.P.E..

3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.— J.O.Y.

5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.— G.O.Y.A.

Clean Monday— Lent begins

6:30 p.m. Great Compline & Forgiveness Service

Strict Fast Lenten Supper

7:30 p.m.— Y.A.L.

6:30 p.m.— Presanctified Divine Liturgy

6:30 p.m.— Junior Choir

Lenten Discussion

7:00 p.m.— Senior Choir

7:30 p.m. — Philoptochos

8:00 p.m.— Byzantine Music

7:00 p.m. — Parish Council

7:30 p.m. — First Stanza Salutations to the Virgin Mary

Lenten Discussion

Third Saturday of Souls

10:00 a.m. — Orthros & Divine Liturgy

Memorial Service

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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