

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

MARCH 16, 2008

Epistle Reading Brethren, by faith Moses, when he Heb. 11:24-26, 32-33 was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, grant-ing life unto the world. For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; glory to Your eternal rule; glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind.

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

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

Gospel Reading At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and John 1:43-51 said to him, "Follow me." Now

Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

Wisdom of the Fathers

Moses... was himself saved by means of wood and water before the Law was given, when he was exposed to the Nile's currents, hidden away in an Ark (Exod. 2:3-10). And by means of wood and water he saved the people of Israel, revealing the Cross by the wood, Holy Baptism by water (Exod. 14:15-31). Paul, who had looked upon the mysteries, says openly, 'They were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud' (I Cor. 10:2). He also bears witness that, even before the events concerning the sea and his staff, Moses willingly endured Christ's Cross, 'Esteeming', he says, 'the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt' (Heb. 11:26). For the Cross is the reproach of Christ from the standpoint of foolish men. As Paul himself says of Christ, 'He endured the cross, despising the shame' (Heb. 12:2).

St. Gregory Palamas, *Homilies Vol. 1, Homily Eleven para. 14; Saint Tikhon's Seminary Press pg. 123*
14th century

Byzantine Music Classes

This is the second "semester" for the Byzantine Music classes taught by Peter Hasiakos. Anyone interested in learning more about Byzantine Music and chanting should attend. There is only a minimal cost for the price of the coursepack. The class meets every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

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.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sunday March 23 and 30.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP:

Everyone's Responsibility!

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

Church School

Thank you to all the 7 to 12 grades students who participated in the St. Nicholas Parish Oratorical festival. **Our Junior finalist is Erica Theros and our Senior finalist is Anastasia Metropoulos-Rundus.** Congratulations and best of luck to you both at the Districts which will take place on Saturday, May 3 at Holy Cross in Farmington Hills. Thank you to our chair person, Vicki Kiningham for organizing the event, to the judges, to the teachers who assisted and helped the children with their essays, Mia Donoghue for coordinating the fellowship hour and to the parents for your guidance and support.

Reminder: All students from 7-12 grade MUST submit an Oratorical essay to their teacher by Sunday March 23. This will count towards receiving their honor pin. Please see your teacher if you have any questions.

Great Lent—

All church school children attending any services during Great Lent should sign the attendance book in the Narthex. This will count toward any missed classes.

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 this Wednesday, after the Presanctified Liturgy at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. 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.

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.

Spanakopita is available for sale today during the fellowship hour. \$15.00 per tray. See Margaret Yates or Diane Geczi.

THANK YOU The Greek School Committee and PTO would like to thank all Parishioners and nonn Parishioners who supported our Raffle for the Benevolent/Emergency Fund, especially Costas Boutsikakis and the Uptown Coney Island Restaurant for selling a great number of tickets. The Winners was JOYCE BURMEISTER a non-parishioner.

GOYA Notes

Luminaries The GOYAns will be selling luminaries again this year to light the path of the Epitaphio procession. The sale begins today and will end on Sunday, April 20th. The luminaries are \$5.00 per bag and only TWO (2) names per bag.

Dance Practices in preparation for the Greek Independence Parade, April 6 and the Y'assoo Festival June 6 and 7th, will be held on the following dates: Saturday, March 22 from 11-1; Saturday, April 5 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 18 from 6 p.m.—8 p.m. Saturdays May 3, 10, and 31 from 11—1 and Wednesday, June 4 from 6 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Sandwiches will be provided during the 30 minute break at this practice.

Bible Study today at 4:00 p.m. and March 30 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Alexander Schmemmann, *Great Lent* 20th Century

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. The DVDs of the 2007 Y'asso are also available at the bookstore. Cost is \$15.00.

U of M Modern Greek Studies presents: "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.

🎵 **"Take mee out with the crowwwd..."** - Today, 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. Spring training begins soon!

Help Wanted—U of M Professor is seeking a part time nanny, 2 to 3 days per week — 8 to 10 hours per day for 13 month old girl. Salary negotiable. If interested, please call Maria at 734-929-4130 or 415-624-9097.

LOST—5 Red Sashes for the G.O.Y.A. Greek Costumes. We need the sashes returned ASAP. Please call Katerina Roumanis at 665-3254. Thanks for your help.

Sunday of Orthodoxy

For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy, that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.

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 will 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.



Greek Independence Day—Next Saturday, March 22, 2006, 2:00 p.m., Ann Arbor A.H.E.P.A. and the Greek School will have a short ceremony and Trisagion at the Statue of Ypsilanti to commemorate Greek Independence Day. Please join us in the celebration of this very important day in Greek History.

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN March 16, 2008

Orthros 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Church School
Following Communion

Epistle Reading
Heb. 11:24-26, 32-40

Gospel Reading
John 1:43-51

Creed
English



SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

UP-COMING EVENTS

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, March 16 | 4:00 p.m.— G.O.Y.A.. Bible Study |
| Monday, March 17 | 7:30 p.m. Great Compline
<i>Lenten Discussion—Alisha Serras speaking on Depression</i> |
| Tuesday, March 18 | 7:30 p.m.— Young Adult League (Y..A.L.) |
| Wednesday, March 19 | 5:30 p.m.— Presanctified Divine Liturgy
6:30 p.m.— Orthodox Students Lenten Dinner
7:00 p.m.— Senior Choir
8:00 p.m.— Byzantine Music |
| Friday, March 20 | 11:00 a.m. Exercise Class — Open to all
7:30 p.m. — 2nd Stanza Salutations to the Virgin Mary
<i>Bible Study — The Psalms</i> |

Submissions for the Sunday bulletin must be sent to:
kate@stnickaa.org by 10 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to publication.

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Psaltis
Zannis Res

Choir
Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo
Pliakas Family

Fellowship Hour
Parish Council