

# Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

MARCH 30, 2008

**Epistle Reading** Heb. 4:14-16; 5:1-6 .BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

## Apolytikion for the Sunday of the Cross

Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting our rulers to prevail over adversaries, and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross.

## 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

Mark 8:34-38; 9:1 The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

## Resurrectional Apolytikion

Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades He delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy.

## Wisdom of the Fathers

A Christian's . . . duty is to "take up his cross." The word cross means sufferings, sorrows and adversities. To take up one's cross means to bear without grumblings everything unpleasant, painful, sad, difficult and oppressive that ay happen to us in life. . .without expecting any earthly reward in return, but bear it all with love, with joy and with courageous strength.

Interior crosses can found at all times, and more easily than exterior ones. You have only to direct your attention to yourself and examine yourself with a sense of repentance, and a thousand interior crosses will at once present themselves to you. . . Interior crosses are sometimes so burdensome that the sufferer can find no consolation whatever in anything.

All this can happen to you too! But in whatever position you may be, and whatever sufferings of the soul you may feel, do not despair and do not think that the Lord has abandoned you. NO! God will always be with you and will invisibly strengthen you even when it seems to you that you are on the very brink of perdition. **St. Innocent of Alaska, *The Lenten Spring*, SVS Press, p. 148**

# 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.

**Fellowship Hour** sponsor needed for Sunday, April 6.

## 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

**Great Lent**— Please encourage your child to donate their loose change on a daily basis to O.C.M.C. Through their generosity, missionaries will be able to bear witness to Christ all over the world. Please be generous!! If you do not have a coin box, please see the teacher or pick one up from the table in the hallway.

All children are reminded that when attending any services during Great Lent, to sign the attendance book in the Narthex located next to the candles. This will count toward any missed classes.

## Upcoming Events

**Sat., April 19** Saturday of Lazarus Church School Communion Breakfast

**Wed., April 23** Holy Unction Service and Retreat (4:00 p.m.)

**Sun., April 27** PASCHA No Church School Easter Egg Hunt (grades preschool through 3rd grade)

**Sun., May 11** Testing Date for requirements

**Sun., May 18** Godparent Sunday and Senior Recognition Day

## Youth Notes

H.O.P.E. welcomes children 4 years of age to second grade for fun and fellowship while learning about our Orthodox Faith. We'll meet Sunday, April 13 from 1:00 - 2:30. Lunch will be provided.

## Philoptochos Notes

The **Palm Sunday Luncheon** will be on April 20th following the Divine Liturgy. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 10 and under. For tickets, please see Vicky Masters, Katerina Roumanis or Ioanna Boutsikakis after the Divine Liturgy today and any Sunday until April 20th.

Our **March/April 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.

**"Cell Phones for Soldiers"** is the Philoptochos Community Care project between NOW and July 2008. We will be collecting old cell phones and accessories which will be redeemable toward calling cards for our troops abroad. Please drop off your cell phones in the box located outside the social hall. For further information, contact Jarnis Gutierrez, 677-2581 or email [jogs@umich.edu](mailto:jogs@umich.edu) or Joan Raphael, 483-0923 or [jraphael810@comcast.net](mailto:jraphael810@comcast.net).

## 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'asoo Festival June 6 and 7th, will be held on the following dates: 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.

## Schedule of Events:

**Sun., April 6** Dance at Greektown Parade

**Sun., April 13** GOYA Meeting (3:00-5:00)

**Game Night**—During Lent the Game Night for Grades 4 through 7 will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:15 p.m.



**Choir Notes**  
**Senior Choir**



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

**The Bookstore Recommends:** Holy Week books, sold exclusively at the bookstore this year. These will not be available in the Narthex this year. You can also purchase red Easter egg dye. We recommend Diane Kochilas', *The Greek Vegetarian*, a cookbook with wonderful recipes for Lent. For our young people: *Holy Week and Pascha* is a children's book presenting the services of Holy Week with gorgeous illustrations by the author, who has studied Iconography in Greece. *Song of Talanton*, a book and CD about Christ's call to worship. A CD with "The Hymns and Responses of the Divine Liturgy" arranged by Reverend Protopresbyter Father John Paul and sung by the Men's Hellenic Chorus is now available at the bookstore.

 **"I don't care if I never get back..."**

It's time to sign-up for this year's Tiger Baseball concessions project. Please sign up with your fellow parishioners 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 May 18th.

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

**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.

**Two Greek professors** seeking help at home with either cooking or childcare or both. Our daughter, Selene, is almost one year old and is learning Greek as her first language. Days and hours are flexible. We would be happy to accommodate any schedule. Please call Barbara Koremenos' cell.: 310-613-6544 if you are interested.

**Lenten Prayer Of St. Ephrem The Syrian**

O Lord and Master of my life!  
Take from me the spirit of sloth,  
faint-heartedness, lust of power, and idle talk.  
But give rather the spirit of chastity,  
humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.  
Yea, Lord and King! Grant me to see my own errors  
and not to judge my brother,  
for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

**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.

**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.

**Detroit's 7th Annual Greek Independence Day Parade—from Woodward to Greektown**

**Sunday, April 6th, 2008 —  
Begins at 3:00 p.m. Sharp**

**Featuring the Evzones and Amalies of Mesologgi,  
Greece**

**Greek Dancers and Live Music following the parade.  
Come rain or shine and make this year's parade  
another great success!!**



**THE SUNDAY BULLETIN**

**March 30, 2008**



**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS**

**Orthros** 9:00 AM

**Divine Liturgy** 10:00 AM

**Church School**  
Following Communion

**Epistle Reading**  
Heb. 4:14-16; 5:1-6

**Gospel Reading**  
Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

**Creed**  
English

**Psaltis**  
Zannis Res

**Choir**  
Dr. Jon Wardner

**Prosforo**  
Rebekah Olecnowicz

**Fellowship Hour**  
Parish Council

**UP-COMING EVENTS**

**Monday, March 31**

**7:30 p.m. —Great Compline  
Lenten Discussion**

**Tuesday, April 1**

9:30 a.m. Bed pad Sewing  
12:30 p.m. Seniors Planning Meeting  
7:30 p.m. Iconography Meeting  
7:30 p.m.— Y.A.L.

**Wednesday, April 2**

**6:30 p.m.— Presanctified Divine Liturgy  
Lenten Discussion**  
7:00 p.m.— Senior Choir  
8:00 p.m.— Byzantine Music

**Thursday, April 3**

7:00 p.m. Y.E.R.A.C.

**Friday, April 4**

11:00 a.m. Exercise Class — Open to all  
6:00 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Game Night Grades 4-7  
**7:30 p.m. — 4th Stanza Salutations to the Virgin Mary  
Bible Study — The Psalms**

**Saturday, April 5**

9:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. GOYA Dance Practice

**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**

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

**Church office: 734/332-8200 Home: 734/677-7891 Cell: 734/604-3214**