



Saint Nicholas Seniors

Join us for our Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 16th at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$8.00.

Please RSVP to Diane Geczi-747-9619; Penny Bekiaries-662-6606 or Joan Raphael—483-0923 by Sunday, December 14th.. If you need a ride please call one of the ladies above.



Toys for Tots

The Saint Nicholas Young Adult League (Y.A.L.) is again collecting toys for the Toys for Tots program sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. Please donate a

new toy for a needy child this Christmas season. Just drop off your toy in the collection boxes that will be in the exo-narthex. You will definitely make a child's Christmas a merrier one.

The Saint Nicholas Parish Bookstore recommends *Ella's Story*, biography of St. Elizabeth the New Martyr brings to life the amazing journey of Princess Elizabeth, from privileged childhood to eventual martyrdom. *Father Arseny*, the scholar of church art who became Prisoner No. 18736 in the brutal "special sector" of the Soviet prison camp system. In the darkness of systematic degradation of body and soul he shone with the light of Christ's peace and compassion. His sights set on God and his life grounded in the Church, Father Arseny lived by the injunction to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2). This carries a universal impact certain to be felt by readers today.

Commemorative Trees. . . . are still available to be sponsored in "memory of" or "for the health of" a loved one. If interested, please contact Michael Challis, 734-971-6186 or mdchallis@aol.com or Christopher A. Bekiaries.



Saint Nicholas Junior Choir will practice on Wednesday December 3 at 6:30 p.m. until 7:15. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please call Anna Chapekis, 429-7181.

Saint Nicholas Senior Choir will practice Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Saint Nicholas G.O.Y.A. Calendar

Parents and children, email stnickaagoya@gmail.com if you are interested in receiving periodic G.O.Y.A. emails.

November

Sunday, Nov. 23

5-7 pm Game Night

Thursday, Nov. 27

12-2 Volunteer at Cottage Inn for Thanksgiving meals

Sunday, Nov. 30

3-5 pm Tree Cutting & Decorating

Daughters of Penelope are celebrating their Annual Founder's Day Artoklasia and Fellowship Hour today.

They are also sponsoring a Christmas turkey raffle. Tickets are 6 for \$5.00. The drawing will be held on Sunday, December 14th

The Daughters are continuing to accept clothing donations for the Ypsilanti Public Schools Clothes Closet. Please bring to the church clothing for infants to adults both men's and women's gently used and clean. This is an on-going project and will continue through the winter months. Your support is greatly appreciated. Co-chairs are Joanne Savas—761-2529 and Vicki Kiningham— 429-8127.

G.O.Y.A.ns come and prepare for the Christmas season **Sunday, November 30th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** We'll be cutting a live Christmas Tree at Urquharts Tree Farm in Dexter and returning back to the church to decorate it. Cookies, hot chocolate and music included! **Meet at church at 2:00 p.m. as we will depart at 2:10 p.m. YOU MUST HAVE A SIGNED PERMISSION SLIP WITH YOU.**



Wisdom from the Ancient Fathers

Abba Markos once asked the holy Arsenios why it is that the most pious and virtuous people pass through the world with numerous sorrows and in privation.

"Sorrows, for those who accept them with forbearance," the holy one answered, "are the salt which prevents putrefaction by sins and allows the soul to approach heaven cleansed."

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

November 23, 2008

Orthros

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

10:00 AM

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel Reading

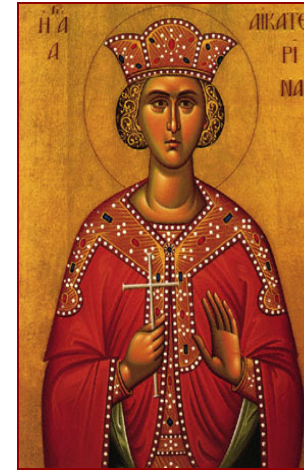
Luke 12:16-21

Creed

English

Greeters 11/30

Bill Ziegler, Connie Ziegler, Penny Bekiaries



NINTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

UP-COMING EVENTS

Sunday, Nov. 23

Greek School P.T.O. Meeting after Church School
5:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Game Night

Monday, Nov. 24

10:00 a.m. Weekly Bible Study

Tuesday, Nov. 25

St. Katherine

10:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy
7:30 p.m. Saint Nicholas Young Adult League (Y.A.L.)

Thursday, Nov. 27

Thanksgiving Day — Office Closed
12 Noon-2:00 p.m. GOYAnS Volunteer at Cottage Inn

Saturday, Nov. 29

AHEPA District #10
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Mid Year Conference

Happy Thanksgiving

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.

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

3109 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

Web: www.stnickaa.org E-Mail: kate@stnickaa.org

Proistamenos: Rev. Father Nicolaos H. Kotsis (nhkotsis@hotmail.com)

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

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
November 23, 2008

Epistle Reading BRETHREN, God who is rich in Eph. 2:4-10 mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

November 25

Katherine the Great Martyr of Alexandria
Saint Katherine, who was from Alexandria, was the daughter of Constat (or Cestus). She was an exceedingly beautiful maiden, most chaste, and illustrious in wealth, lineage, and learning. By her steadfast understanding, she utterly vanquished the passionate and unbridled soul of Maximinus, the tyrant of Alexandria; and by her eloquence, she stopped the mouths of the so-called philosophers who had been gathered to dispute with her. She was crowned with the crown of martyrdom in the year 305. Her holy relics were taken by Angels to the holy mountain of Sinai, where they were discovered many years later; the famous monastery of Saint Katherine was originally dedicated to the Holy Transfiguration of the Lord and the Burning Bush, but later was dedicated to Saint Katherine. According to the ancient usage, Saints Katherine and Mercurius were celebrated on the 24th of this month, whereas the holy Hieromartyrs Clement of Rome and Peter of Alexandria were celebrated on the 25th. The dates of the feasts of these Saints were interchanged at the request of the Church and Monastery of Mount Sinai, so that the festival of Saint Katherine, their patron, might be celebrated more festively together with the Apodosis of the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos. The Slavic Churches, however, commemorate these Saints on their original dates.

Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery



Gospel Reading The Lord said this parable: "The Luke 12:16-21 land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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 for Afterfeast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple

Today is the prelude of God's pleasure and the proclamation of man's salvation. The Virgin is clearly manifested in the temple of God and foretells Christ to all. Let us also cry out to her with mighty voice, "Hail, fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

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

Today, the most pure temple of the Savior, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of God, enters the house of the Lord, bringing the grace of the Divine Spirit. The Angels of God praise her. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

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 Sunday, December 28.

Fellowship Hour sponsor needed for Sunday, December 14, 21 & 28.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP: Everyone's Responsibility!

If you have not made your pledge for 2008, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a pledge card, please call the office.

"From those to whom much is given, much will be required." Luke 12:48

Did You Know that you can receive email messages from Rev. Fatherr Nick? These messages are sent approximately every 10 days and include a variety of things such as: upcoming events and dates, special announcements and projects, spiritual messages and much more.

If you wish to be included in this list, please do the following:

1. go to the website www.stnickaa.org and go to the drop down menu
2. from the drop down menu buttons select 'Contact Us'
3. select the 'E-Mail Subscribe' option
4. enter your e-mail address

There is no cost or obligation in doing this. If you wish to unsubscribe, you may do so. It is our hope to keep you better informed, and perhaps, to save some expense for our Saint Nicholas Parish.

Need Gifts for Special Occasions or Birthdays?

Support "Shopping for Saint 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 Saint Nicholas" desk during the fellowship hour after the Divine Liturgy.

Philoptochos Notes

Wreath Order—Christmas wreaths can be picked up Sunday, 12/7 between noon and 2 p.m.



Bell Ringers Needed We are ringing the bells for the Salvation Army on Wednesday, December 3rd from 12 Noon to 9:00 p.m. We need several more people to sign up. Please call Helen Garris if you can help—663-0270.

Christmas Cookie Bake Sale — December 14th

Orders are now being taken for the Christmas Cookie bake sale to be held on December 14th. All proceeds will go to the church. Please pick up an order form in the social hall after the Divine Liturgy or call Koula Pliakas at 528-0920 or Ioanna Ioannou at 996-0481 to place your order.

Saint Nicholas Church School Notes

As part of the Church school curriculum, it is required that all children be present for the Divine Liturgy (10:00 a.m.) and attend class instruction after Communion.

NO CHURCH SCHOOL NOV. 30th

Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 14th. Information will be available via e-mail and the teacher. Please volunteer to help

During the month of December, the children will be involved with Philoptochos to help raise funds for St. Basil's Academy. More information to follow.

Oratorical Festival It is time to start preparing for the Parish Oratorical Festival. Vicki Kiningham will distribute the 2008-09 topics to students in grades 7-12. Children in preschool-6th grade will do something in their class with topics chosen by their teacher.

Stewardship Sunday will take place on Sunday December 14th in the Social Hall.

"Each one should give, then as he has decided, not with regret or out of sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly." Cor. 9:7

Congratulations to Dennis Serras who wone the 50/50 raffle at the Saint Nicholas Dance Fundraiser.