



### 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.

We look forward to seeing you there

### 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. God Bless you!

### The Bookstore

Vasilopita coins are now available! There is also a good selection of Christmas books for children, including beautiful books on the real St. Nicholas; Byzantine Christmas CD with book by the Romeiko Ensemble offers an anthology of orations, icons, chanted hymns and carols. There is also a wide selection of icons. For teens, *Hear Me: A Prayerbook for Orthodox Teens* is a book that will challenge their faith and help them on the road to making that faith their own.

**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.



### Church Music Ministry

**Junior Choir** will practice on Wednesday December 17 at 6:30 p.m. until 7:15. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please call Anna Chapekis, 429-7181.



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

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING.**

### Saint Nicholas G.O.Y.A. Calendar

#### December 2008 Calendar

Sun. Dec. 7	4-5 p.m. Bible Study
	5-7 p.m. Meeting
Sun. Dec. 14	4-5 p.m. Bible Study
	5-7 p.m. Game Night
Fri. Dec. 19	5-7 p.m. Christmas Caroling with YAL
Sun. Dec. 28	5-7 p.m. Game Night

#### January 2009 Calendar

Sun. Jan. 4	4-5 p.m. Bible Study
	5-7 p.m. Meeting
Sun. Jan. 11	12 Noon Annual Brunch/Fundraiser
	5-7 p.m. Game Night
Fri. Jan. 16	6:00 p.m. Lock-In Retreat
Sat. Jan. 17	10:00 a.m. Lock-In Retreat Ends
Sun. Jan. 18	5-7 p.m. Game Night
Sun. Jan. 25	8:45 a.m. Ushering
	4-5 p.m. Bible Study
	5-7 p.m. Game Night

**Daughters of Penelope** are 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.

**Philoptochos thanks** the 96 volunteers and the G.O.Y.A.ans who gave of their time to "Ring the Bell" for the Salvation Army. We, and the Salvation Army, appreciate your generosity.

### Thought for the Week

It is only when in the darkness of this world we discern that Christ has already "filled all things with Himself" that these things, whatever they may be, are revealed and given to us full of meaning and beauty. A Christian is one who, wherever he looks, finds Christ and rejoices in Him.

**Fr. Alexander Schmemmann**, *For the Life of the World*, p. 113 20th century

## THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

December 7, 2008



TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

### Orthros

9:00 AM

### Divine Liturgy

10:00 AM

### Epistle Reading

Ephesians 4:1-7

### Gospel Reading

Luke 13:10-17

### Creed

Greek

### Greeters 12/14

Diane Geczi, Vasilios Pliakas, Connie Ziegler

### Psaltis

Zannis Res

### Prosforo

Panagioti Apostolou

### Fellowship Hour

Tatiana Efthyvoulou  
Nicholas Stamos Family

### Memorial Service

40 Days Leonides Efthyvoulou

### Greeters 12/07

Mary Price, Diane Geczi, Tula Prokos

### UP-COMING EVENTS

#### Sunday, Dec. 7

**1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. Metropolis of Detroit Open House**  
(see **Metropolis Events on inside of bulletin**)

4:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Bible Study  
5:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Meeting & Fellowship Dinner

#### Monday, Dec. 8

10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

#### Tuesday, Dec. 9

7:30 p.m. Saint Nicholas Young Adult League (Y.A.L.)

#### Wednesday, Dec. 10

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir  
**7:00 p.m.** Philoptochos Christmas Party

#### Thursday, Dec. 11

7:00 p.m. Great Vespers Feast of St. Spyridon at Metropolis  
7:00 p.m. Parish Council

#### Friday, Dec. 12

**Feast of St. Spyridon—Metropolis Chapel**  
**9:00 a.m. Orthros**  
**10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**  
11:00 a.m. Exercise Class  
7:30 p.m. Paraklesis

#### Sunday, Dec. 14

Christmas Pageant  
Christmas Cookie Bake Sale

### SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

3109 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

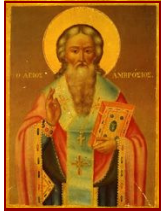
Web: [www.stnickaa.org](http://www.stnickaa.org) E-Mail: [kate@stnickaa.org](mailto:kate@stnickaa.org)

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

*Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church*  
*December 7, 2008*

**Epistle Reading** BRETHREN, I, a prisoner for the Ephesians 4:1-7 Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.



**December 7**  
**Ambrose, Bishop of Milan**

This Saint was born in Gaul in 340, and was a member of the Roman Senate. After the death of Auxentius, the Arian Bishop of Milan, a violent dispute arose among the Orthodox and Arians about who would succeed him. Ambrose, desiring as Governor of the province to restore the peace, attempted to mediate between them. As he spoke to the people, eloquently persuading them to elect a new bishop without tumult and disorder, a young child, inspired from on high, suddenly cried out "Ambrose, bishop!" To his astonishment and dismay, the people immediately took up this cry themselves, and over his many protests, he was raised to the episcopal throne of Milan on December 7, 374. A great Father of the Church, he wrote many works in Latin, and was both an unwearied opponent of Arianism, and a fearless accuser of emperors when they transgressed the law of God. Having lived fifty-seven years, he reposed on April 4, on the eve of Pascha, in the year 397.

*Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery*  
*Icon Courtesy of St. Isaac Skete*

**Wisdom from the Fathers**

Take heed, then, often to come together to give thanks to God, and show forth His praise. For when ye assemble frequently in the same place, the powers of Satan are destroyed, and the destruction at which he aims is prevented by the unity of your faith.

**St. Ignatius of Antioch**, *Epistle to the Ephesians* Ch. 13 2nd century

**Gospel Reading** Luke 13:10-17 At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

**Resurrectional Apolytikion**

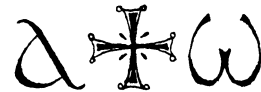
You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You.

**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**

On this day the Virgin cometh to a cave to give birth to God the Word ineffable, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.



**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.

**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. Father 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](http://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.

**Friends of the Metropolis**—Please consider helping the Metropolis of Detroit and Metropolitan Nicholas with the ministries of the Church by donating to the Friends of the Metropolis program. Brochures are in the hallway.

**Philoptochos Notes**

**Christmas wreaths** can be picked up today between noon and 2 p.m.

**Our annual Christmas Party and meeting** will be at **7:00 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10th.** Please bring one or more pairs of pajamas and an age appropriate book to the meeting. These items will be donated to the Michigan Chapter of the Pajama Program, which is our charitable contribution this year, and distributed to children in homeless shelters. **Please note time change for this meeting and for all future meetings.**

Philoptochos will host the reception following the St. Nicholas Vespers on December 5th

**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.

**ATTENTION PARENTS: TODAY, AFTER CHURCH SCHOOL THERE WILL BE A FINAL REHEARSAL FOR THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT. PLEASE WAIT IN THE SOCIAL HALL FOR YOUR CHILDREN TO FINISH REHEARSAL.**

**Christmas Pageant** is scheduled for Sunday, December 14th.

**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.

**METROPOLIS EVENTS**

On Sunday, Dec. 7th, from 1-6 PM, there will be an Open House at the Metropolis of Detroit Center in honor of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas' Name-day. Everyone is welcome to come.

On Thursday, Dec. 11th, there will be Great Vespers for the Feastday of St. Spyridon at the Metropolis Chapel at 7 PM followed by a reception. On Friday, Dec. 12th, there will be Orthros and Divine Liturgy at the Metropolis Chapel at 9 & 10 AM respectively.

The Metropolis of Detroit Center and the Chapel are located at 2560 Crooks Road, Troy, Michigan 48084.

