

### A.H.E.P.A. Scholarship

**Attention High School Seniors and College Students:** If you are interested in a scholarship from A.H.E.P.A., the local chapter or the district, please try to meet with Dr. Kleanthous in the board room after services on Sunday or get in touch with him at 475-2034 or email: c.kleanthousmd@sbcglobal.net.

### G.O.Y.A. 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

### The Saint Nicholas 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.

### Sunday After the Nativity

On the Sunday that falls on or immediately after the twenty-sixth of this month, we make commemoration of Saints Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin; David, the Prophet and King; and James, the Brother of God. When there is no Sunday within this period, we celebrate this commemoration on the 26th. Saint Joseph (whose name means "one who increases") was the son of Jacob, and the son-in-law - and hence, as it were, the son - of Eli (who was also called Eliakim or Joachim), who was the father of Mary the Virgin (Matt. 1:16; Luke 3:23). He was of the tribe of Judah, of the family of David, an inhabitant of Nazareth, a carpenter by Trade, and advanced in age when he was betrothed to the Virgin, that he might minister to the great mystery of God's dispensation in the flesh by protecting her, providing for her, and being known as her husband so that she, being a virgin, would not suffer reproach when she was found to be with child.

Joseph had been married before his betrothal to our Lady; they who are called Jesus' "brethren and sisters" (Matt. 13:55-56) are the children of Joseph by his first marriage. From Scripture, we know that Saint Joseph lived at least until the Twelfth year after the birth of Christ (Luke 2:41-52); according to the tradition of the Fathers, he reposed before the beginning of the public ministry of Christ. The child of God and ancestor of God, David, the great Prophet after Moses, sprang from the tribe of Judah. He was the son of Jesse, and was born in Bethlehem (whence it is called the City of David), in the year 1085 before Christ. While yet a youth, at the command of God he was anointed secretly by the Prophet Samuel to be the second King of the Israelites, while Saul - who had already been deprived of divine grace - was yet living. In the thirtieth year of his life, when Saul had been slain in battle, David was raised to the dignity of King, first, by his own tribe, and then by all the Israelite people, and he reigned for forty years. Having lived seventy years, he reposed in 1015 before Christ, having proclaimed beforehand that his son Solomon was to be the successor to the throne. The sacred history has recorded not only the grace of the Spirit that dwelt in him from his youth, his heroic exploits in war, and his great piety towards God, but also his transgressions and failings as a man. Yet his repentance was greater than his transgressions, and his love for God fervent and exemplary; so highly did God honour this man, that when his son Solomon sinned, the Lord told him that He would not rend the kingdom in his lifetime "for David thy father's sake" (III Kings 12:12). Of The Kings of Israel, Jesus the Son of Sirach testifies, "All, except David and Hezekias and Josias, were defective" (Ecclus. 49:4). The name David means "beloved." His melodious Psalter is the foundation of all the services of the Church.

*Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery*

**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.



*Happy New Year!  
God Bless Us All!*

## THE SUNDAY BULLETIN December 28, 2008

**Orthros**  
9:00 AM

**Divine Liturgy**  
10:00 AM

**Church School**  
No Church School Today

**Epistle Reading**  
Gal. 1:11-19

**Gospel Reading**  
Matthew 2:13-23

**Creed**  
English



SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

**Psaltis**  
Zannis Res

**Prosforo**  
Diane Geczi

**Fellowship Hour**  
Elizabeth Mitropoulos &  
Mitropoulos-Rundus Family

**Artoklasia Service**  
Demetra Mitropoulos-  
Rundus

### UP-COMING EVENTS

**Monday, Dec. 29** 10:30 a.m. Bible Study  
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

**Wednesday, Dec. 31** 6:30 p.m. Vespertal Divine Liturgy  
9:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Dance

*A Blessed, Peaceful and Happy New Year  
God Bless you!*

**MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE: [www.stnickaa.org](http://www.stnickaa.org)**  
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**  
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 28, 2008*

**Epistle Reading** BRETHREN, we give thanks to Col. 1:12-18 the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the

saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

**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.

**Apolytikion for the Afterfeast of the Nativity**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

**Apolytikion for Sunday After Nativity**

O Joseph, proclaim the wonders to David, the ancestor of God. Thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; thou hast given glory with the shepherds; thou hast worshipped with the Magi; and thou hast been instructed through an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

**Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Nativity**

Your birth O Christ our God did shine upon the world and through the light of wisdom illumined the universe and to those who held the stars in worship did through a star learn to worship You Worship You the sun of righteousness and came to know You the Light from on high. Glory to You O Lord.

**Gospel Reading** When the wise men departed, behold, Matt. 2:13-23 an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take

the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

**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 Virgin bears Him who is transcendent, and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach. Angels, along with shepherds glorify Him. The Magi make their way to Him by a star. For a new child has been born for us, the God before all ages.

**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 Sundays, February 15 and 22.

**Fellowship Hour** sponsor needed for Sunday, January 4, 18, Feb. 1, 15, 22.

**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.

**Thought for the Week**

Virtues are formed by prayer. Prayer preserves temperance, suppresses anger, restrains pride and envy, draws down the Holy Spirit into the soul and raises man to heaven.

**St. Ephraim the Syrian, Unknown 4th century**

**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.

**"Coins for St. Basil Academy"**

During the month of December, the children have been collecting coins to help Philoptochos raise funds for St. Basil's Academy. The last day to turn in the coins they earned for this project is January 11th.

**No church school Sunday Dec. 28 classes will resume Sunday Jan. 4th**

**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.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

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

**2009 Church Calendars** are available in the hallway as well as the pocket calendars for 2009. **PLEASE TAKE ONE CHURCH CALENDAR PER FAMILY.** Thank you.

**Saint Nicholas G.O.Y.A. Brunch**

The G.O.Y.A.s annual fundraiser brunch will be on Sunday January 11th. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults (12 and up) and \$5.00 for children under 12.

**A.H.E.P.A. New Year's Eve Dance**

The annual A.H.E.P.A. New Year's Eve Dance/Fundraiser will take place on Wednesday, December 31 at 9:00 p.m. Cost is \$30.00. Food, including three roast lambs, will be served; music will be provided by Jimmy Michos and his band.



**Oath of Office**

The 2009 Saint Nicholas Parish Council will have their swearing-in ceremony today at the end of Church Services. May God bless our Council people and give them the strength and wisdom to guide our Saint Nicholas Parish. Let us all do what we can to support their efforts done for the benefit of us all!