

**Memop Epistle:** BRETHREN, I would have you know that Gal 1: 11-19 the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

**Gospel:** 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."

**Resurrectional Apolytikion—Plagal of the 2nd Tone**  
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. -Translation by Fr. Seraphim Dedes

**Apolytikion for Sunday after 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. - Translation from Green Hymnal

**Apolytikion of the Church**  
The truth of thy deeds has led thy flock to believe in thee, as a canon of faith and as a holy image of gentleness and as a teacher of temperance. Thou hast therefore acquired through thy humility the greatest heights and riches through poverty. Father and hierarch Nicholas intercede with Christ our God entreating that our souls be saved.

**For the Memorial**  
“O Lord, rest the souls of your servants. Forgive whatever wrong they have committed in life. There is no one sinless, except you. Give rest to those who have fallen asleep.”

**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. - Translation by Narthex Press

**Please remember the following people in your prayers:** Gabriella & Viroel Andrews, Constantine Evangelinos, Toni Kovalcheck, Angelica Stageman, Katina Eleni Hoffman, Deryl Deveau, Helen Camp, Bridget Smith, Rosaleen Baldwin, John Underhill, Cristinel Dima, Jackson Bafile, Brian Melzian, Constantine Vintzel, Ryan Roberts, Charles Hall, Leo Ortino, Nicholas Vourlitis, Paul Contos, Larry Gregg, Sophia Kappas, Janet Christ, Alice Litinas, Thelma Steers, Evan Arhangelos, Katerina Stavros, Alex Brooks, Katherine Sakaly Brown, Dr. Costa Kleanthous, Nick & Mary Prepouses, Pamela Kiningham, Joanne Savas, Panagiota Zarkadoulas, Christian, Nikki Afendulis, Christopher Mitropoulos-Rundus, Richard Ladouceur.

## Parish News & Events

**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.

**Stewardship**  
Stewardship is our response to God’s grace and moves us from grace to gratitude. Just as we love because God first loved us (I John 4:14), we give because God first gave to us. The question of the Psalmist “What shall I give to the Lord in return for all His benefits towards me?” (Ps 116:2), is answered in every liturgy when the celebrant calls us to “offer ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.”

Stewardship is not about calculations or portions or percentages. It can’t be reduced to a number of hours of service or dollars offered. Stewardship is a way of life.

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to a new way of seeing things – a new way of life. Our stewardship is obedience to the greatest commandment to “love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.” We are called to bring others to commit their lives to Jesus Christ in such a way that leads to the joy of knowing Him personally and profoundly. Stay tuned for more...

**House Blessings**  
As always, following the feastday of Epiphany, Fr. Nick will be able to bless your homes or businesses. Please call the office around the beginning of the New Year to make your appointment to have your home or business blessed.

**Wisdom of the Fathers:** At His birth [He] is laid in a manger, and abides in an inn, and takes a mother of low estate; teaching us to think no such thing a disgrace, and from the first outset trampling under foot the haughtiness of man, and bidding us give ourselves up to virtue only. For why do you pride yourself on your country, when I am commanding thee to be a stranger to the whole world?

**St. John Chrysostom, Homily 9 on Matthew 2**  
4th Century

**Philoptochos**  
Thank you for your support of our bake sale. We have more Spanakopita for sale. Contact Diane Geczi or Toula Prokos, if you are interested.

	Events this Week
Sun., Dec. 26	No Church School
Mon. Dec. 27	7:30 p.m. Bible Study
Tues. Dec. 28	U of M Basketball—GOYA
Wed. Dec. 29	Holy Innocents 9:00 a.m. Orthros and Divine Liturgy 7:30 p.m. YAL
Fri. Dec. 31	Vesperal Divine Liturgy—6:00 p.m. New Years Eve Dance After Vesperal Liturgy
Sun. Jan. 2	4:00 p.m. GOYA Bible study, Meeting and fellowship

**14,000 INFANTS (HOLY INNOCENTS) SLAIN BY HEROD IN BETHLEHEM**  
We commemorate, on this day, Dec.29, the 14,000 innocent infants, slain by Herod, who ruled at the time of Christ’s Nativity. Herod, troubled when he heard the Magi were seeking the King of the Jews “for we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him,” sent his men to slay all the infants of Bethlehem, from 2 years and under. These innocent infants became the first Martyrs slain in behalf of Christ. Herod, persecutor of Christ, came down with dropsy after a short time, with his members rotting and being eaten by worms.

**Flower Committee**  
To ensure consistency in the decoration of our icons, a flower committee has been formed to assist in the purchase and decoration. Anyone interested in decorating the icons for Theophany is encouraged to call the Church office or contact Lambrini Lagos.

**Calendars Available**  
Our 2011 Calendars are now available, along with the “AMNOS” Bible guides, in the hallway. Please pick up one per household.

**Greeters**  
To ensure everyone passing through our doors and entering Christ’s Church are welcomed and made to feel comfortable as being created in the image and likeness of God, we need Greeters. Please sign up for this important ministry. Currently, we do not have any volunteers.

If you have not yet turned in their ads for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Album, the deadline has been extended.

**Church School News:**

Our annual Coins for St. Basil's Academy is underway. Each classroom will have its own box. Please support this worthwhile charity by sending coins with your child.

Oratorical Festival topics are available on the website or by contacting Dr. Vicki Kiningham at 734 429 8127 or rkiingh@umich.edu

**Bookstore Notes**

At the St. Nicholas Bookstore: Please stop by to order coins VASILOPITA COINS. Look for our beautiful blue and white reusable shopping bags with our church's name. We have Christmas cards, books and pamphlets on all aspects of the Greek Orthodox faith, icons and home altar goods; and many new and old titles for adults, including St. John Climacus"; "Sailing from Byzantium: How a Lost Empire Shaped the World," a book that shows the lasting legacies of Byzantium; "The Lost Capital of Byzantium: The History of Mistra and the Peloponnese"; "The Hidden Centuries: Turkish Rule from the Fall of Constantinople to Greek Independence"; and "Vefa's Kitchen" is the first authoritative and all-encompassing Greek recipe book in English. There are lovely Christmas activity and illustrated books for children.

**AHEPA New Years Eve Dance**

AHEPA Chapter #195 will host a New Years Eve Dance. There will be live music by ELLAS band, plenty of finger food (mezedakia), vegetables, roasted lambs, and sweets. Also, soup in the morning. \$35.00/person, kids under 12 free. First come first seated, we reserve entire tables only. We would like your support. For information call Costas Boutsikakis 604-8737 or Christos Philippou 309-3032. Proceeds will go towards scholarships and the church. It's always a great time!

**Tax Aides Needed**

Catholic Social Services seeks volunteers to assist lower income older adults obtain Michigan tax credits and to help complete basic income tax forms. We provide the training and the opportunity to apply the knowledge on a flexible schedule. If you are interested, please contact Sue or Joe at Older Adults Services (734) 712-3625.

**GOYA News**

The GOYA will be attending the U of M Mens basketball game against Purdue this Tuesday, Dec. 28 at 2:00 p.m. After the game, we will walk to Cottage Inn for dinner. Permission slips are required. Please contact Laura Kokkales or Demetra M-R for more information. Also, please mark your calendars! The GOYA Brunch is on Sunday, Jan. 9. This is our only fundraiser and it supports all GOYA activities. Please purchase tickets in advance, so we can prepare adequately. Thank you.

**Thank you**

We are sincerely grateful for the great time, talent and treasure that the Booras, Wendt, and Deveau families (owners of Uproar Communications) have offered towards the beautiful publication of the *Compass* for our St. Nicholas community. Every month they put together the entire compass (graphics, collecting articles, and printing in full color) as an offering to our parish. May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless them for their kindness and generosity. Thank you!

**KYKLOS HELLENIC SOCIETY**

KYKLOS will be celebrating its 5th anniversary by presenting the unique program, "Niko and Eleni's Wedding," showcasing the music, dances and traditions from the areas of Epiros, Thessaly and Roumeli. The event will be held January 15, 2011 at St. Constantine and Helen GOC in Westland. Tickets are \$25-\$45. For more information, visit www.kykloshs.org

**Reminders—Church Etiquette**

*It is important for everyone to follow the direction of the ushers.*

**Seniors** —if you are unable to stand or kneel for a period of time, please remain seated

**No one is to enter the church when** 1) the priest is facing the people, 2) censing, 3) preaching, 4) when the Epistle and Gospel are being read. Please make every effort to arrive ON TIME.

**Talking During Services** It is inappropriate to greet people and converse with them during services. Not only is it disrespectful towards God, it is rude towards others who are trying to worship.

**No chewing gum in church**—it is rude and disrespectful to Christ and His Church to chew gum during the service—and for goodness sake do not take your gum out and stick it under the pew. There are trash baskets in the exonarthex and hallway off the narthex near the drinking fountain. We are finding gum stuck under the pews. *We* are all responsible for taking care of *our* church.

**Orthros**

9:00 AM

**Divine Liturgy**

10:00 AM

**Epistle Reading**

Gal 1: 11-19

**Gospel**

Matthew 2:13-23

**Creed**

Greek

**Psaltis**

Zannis Res

George Smyrnis

**Choir**

Jon Wardner

**Prosforo**

Elaine Spiliopoulos

**Memorial Service**

Faye Sekaros One year

Konstantino Rousonelas

Fifty years

**Fellowship Hour**

Evelyn Commings

**SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY**



**Saints and Feasts commemorated today-**

Synaxis of the Theotokos,  
Euthemios, Bishop of Sardis,  
The Holy Righteous Ones,  
Joseph the Betrothed, David the King,  
And James, the Brother of the Lord

**Holy Innocents Orthros and Divine Liturgy Wed., Dec. 29, 9:00 am**

**St. Basil the Great Vespertine Divine Liturgy**

Friday, Dec., 31 6:00 p.m.

**New Years Eve Dance 8:00 p.m.**

**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**

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