

PHILOPTOCHOS CORNER

April 2018

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
3109 Scio Church Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

*Χριστός Ἀνέστη!
Ἀληθῶς Ἀνέστη!*



*Hristos a Inviat!
Adeverat a Inviat!*

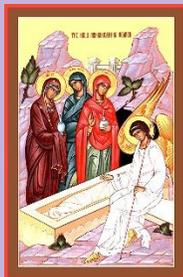


*Christ is Risen!
Truly He is Risen!*



Christ is Risen! This month we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Then the angel spoke to the women. "Do not be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here. He is risen from the dead just as He said would happen. Come, see where His body was lying."--Matthew 28:56



Both the hymn and the expression "Christos Anesti" remind us that all believers will one day be raised to eternal life. This is the joy-filled promise of our Easter celebration.

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH (see last page)

Wednesday, April 11

Dinner and Monthly Meeting. Prizes!
6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 27

Baby Shower for Presvytera Silvana
7 p.m.

Saturday, May 5

Women's Expo and Spring Plant Pickup
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Wednesday, May 9

"Philoptochos Birthday" Dinner Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Information to follow



Wednesday, June 13

Annual Meeting—Information to follow

FROM VANGIE . . .

Many blessings this Easter season.

We thank our many parishioners who attended our Palm Sunday Luncheon to begin Holy Week as a St. Nicholas family and who contributed to its success.

We received many compliments not only about the meal but on the overall presentation of the luncheon.

And now a huge “thank you” to . . .

- ❖ Carol Chaconas, Chairperson for our Palm Sunday Luncheon. Thanks also to Carol, Thano and Vicky Masters, Theanne Ballios, and Katerina Roumanis who prepared our delicious luncheon and to the ladies who helped to set up on Saturday and served at the luncheon
- ❖ Everyone who helped to clear tables afterward
- ❖ Dena Petropoulos and her committee for boiling and dyeing the eggs on Thursday, and thanks to everyone who came and wrapped the Easter eggs on Friday
- ❖ Perry Katsikas who coordinated the beautiful Easter baskets for the Forget-Me-Nots



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Coconut Macaroons



These are so easy to make!

- 1 can (14 oz.) condensed milk
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 5 1/2 cups sweetened, flaked coconut
- Stir together ingredients
- Shape into rounded teaspoonfuls or use an ice cream scoop
- Bake on parchment paper for 10-12 minutes at 325 degrees
- Remove from pan IMMEDIATELY or they will stick!
- When cooled and hardened, store in airtight container in refrigerator



***Happiness keeps you SWEET
Trials keeps you STRONG
Sorrows keeps you HUMAN
Failures keeps you HUMBLE
And GOD
keeps you GOING***

SYMBOLS AT EASTER

Have you ever wondered about the different symbols that are used at Easter? Let's take a look!

Eggs and Chicks. Like rabbits and hares, eggs and chicks are often associated with Easter because, in Pagan times, they were signs of fertility and new life. The early Christians took over the meaning of new life with the Resurrection of Christ and having new life through His Resurrection

Eggs were used by the ancient Persians and Egyptians to celebrate New Year which, for them, happened in the springtime. The eggs were colored and eaten during the celebrations and were also used to celebrate Easter as house decorations.



Bunnies, Rabbits, and Lambs are often associated with Easter because most babies of the animals are born in the Spring around Easter time. In Pagan times, bunnies, rabbits, and lambs were signs of good luck and new life. The lamb is the symbol of Christ as He was called "The Lamb of God."

According to some sources, the Easter bunny first arrived in American in the 1700's with German immigrants who transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase." Their children made nests in which the hare could lay its colored eggs.

Eventually, the custom spread across the U.S. and the fabled rabbit's Easter morning deliveries expanded to include chocolate and other types of candy. Children left carrots for the bunny in case he got hungry from all of his hopping!



Spring is far more than just a changing of seasons. It is a rebirth of the spirit

EASTER BASKETS FOR KIDS



Our Philoptochos provided Saline Social Services with 113 Easter Baskets serving kids ages 0-12. Your generosity has surely made some children very happy.

Thank you to all of the parishioners who donated and gave of their time to assemble and deliver the baskets. We would also like to thank the following corporations for their donations: A2Idea; Anthony Kahn, DDS; Eleni Res; and Ann Arbor Kindermusik by Jeanna Hoyt.

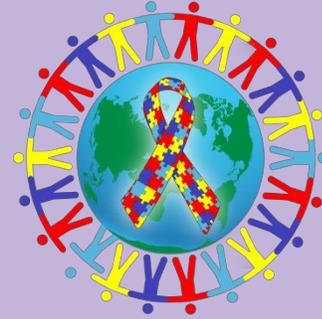
Thank you also to committee members Elaine Karam, Teddy Sotiropoulos, Anastasia Yocum, Andrea Kahn, Robin Michos, Sandra Kotsis, Stasi Webber, Athena Papageorgiou, Elizabeth Bairactaris, and Kerri Dixon.

A special thanks to Diana Rooks for coordinating this project.



Pictured are Vangie Kolokithas, Diana Rooks, and Elaine Karam





As you know, our two-year challenge has been focused on helping to build a playground for the children at the “Creating Brighter Futures” autistic center here in Ann Arbor. It is a center for children ages 3-18 and is located at 4201 Varsity Dr.

We hear of autism yet we are not always familiar with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). A brief overview is presented below to familiarize you with the spectrum of autism. The term “spectrum” reflects the wide variation in challenges and strengths possessed by each person with autism.

What is autism? Autism refers to a range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication as well as by unique strengths and differences. We now know that there is not one autism but many types caused by different combinations of genetic and environmental influences.

Behaviors. Autism’s most obvious signs tend to appear between 2 and 3 years of age. In some cases, it can be diagnosed as early as 18 months. Some developmental delays associated with autism can be identified and addressed even earlier. “Autism Speak” urges parents with concerns to seek evaluation without delay, as early intervention can improve outcomes.

Some of the behaviors associated with autism include:

- Delayed learning of language
- Difficulty making eye contact or holding a conversation
- Difficulty with “executive functioning” which relates to reasoning and planning
- Narrow, intense interests
- Poor motor skills and sensory sensitivities
- Persistent fixations on part of objects

A person on the spectrum might follow many of these behaviors or just a few or many others. The diagnosis of ASD disorder is applied based on analysis of all behaviors and their severity.

For additional information, go to . . .

www.autismspeaks.org or www.autism-society.org

