“OUT OF EGYPT I HAVE CALLED MY SON”

The early years of Our Saviour’s earthly life were perilous ones, for not everyone rejoiced at the birth of the new-born King. The Gospel of St. Matthew chronicles the adverse reaction that Herod had to the news of the coming of the Messiah that the Wise Men brought to him. The Magi disobeyed his devious request to “… bring back word of Him to me so that I may go and worship Him also.” Joseph, warned in a dream that Herod sought to destroy the young Child, fled with his family to Egypt in the dead of night.

The Gospel narratives tell us nothing else about the period that Joseph, Mary and the Christ-Child spent in Egypt. Even the exact location where they settled remains a mystery to us. We can surmise, however, that the journey there must have been a long, arduous one, for even the extreme border of this vast country was nearly 100 miles from Bethlehem. It is, indeed, ironic that this frightened Hebrew family found safety and solace in the land where their ancestors had been forced into slavery centuries before.

It is probable that Joseph, Mary and Jesus did not remain in Egypt for long. After the death of Herod, Joseph again was instructed by an angel of the Lord to “Arise, and take the young Child and His Mother and go into the land of Israel, for those who sought His life are now dead.” Afraid to return to Judea, Joseph took his family to the northern province of Galilee, settling in the small town of Nazareth. It was in this obscure village that Jesus, according to the Gospel of St. Luke, “grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom.”
CAREFUL IN THE NARTHEX! Though we might be all tired of COVID safety measures, it is still important ESPECIALLY IN THE NARTHEX that we maintain social distancing, wear our masks, and keep our conversation to a minimum. Please arrange to socialize outside the church whether in the parking lot or your homes, but in church please respect safety measures that are in place. ~Thank you for your support and cooperation.

SAINT NICHOLAS BOOKSTORE: Christmas gift ideas from our parish bookstore: icons, prayer books, icon tree ornaments, prayer ropes, tapestry bookmarks, children’s puzzles, activity books, greeting cards, mini prayer pillows and more! Contact Maria at bookstore@stnicholastroy.org or 248-362-9575.

RECEIVING COMMUNICATIONS VIA EMAIL - KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CHURCH! Interested in receiving the Weekly Church Bulletin and other communications from the church via email? Please contact the church office at (248) 362-9575 or email the office at Office@StNicholasTroy.org so we can add you to our email distribution list. It’s that simple! Once set up, you can receive the Church Sunday Bulletin the Friday before as well as any other electronic communications. HOWEVER: If you unsubscribe for any reason, your email address IS removed and you will need to SUBSCRIBE through the Church office.

PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING: The next Philoptochos meeting is Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 7PM via Zoom.

BIBLE STUDY HAS CONCLUDED FOR THE YEAR! Bible Study will resume on January 12.

January 3, 2021
Sunday before Theophany
Orthro 8:30am/ Divine Liturgy 9:30am

Vasilopita Lunch
TO-GO
Sunday, January 10, 2021

$15
Greek Style Roast Chicken
Salad, Rice Pilaf, Vegetable Vasilopita, and Dessert

$10
Loaf of Vasilopita

PLACE YOUR ORDER ON THE ST. NICHOLAS WEBSITE
www.stnicholastroy.org
OR Send order with your check to:
St. Nicholas Church
c/o Cindy Crosson
35292 Curtis
Livonia, MI 48152

DRIVE-THRU pick-up on January 10
following the Divine Liturgy,
under the overhang at the Cultural Center Doors

No orders taken after January 2, 2021

All of this is subject to change depending on the Governor’s restrictions regarding COVID-19

CONTACT:
Cindy Crosson (248) 217-2987
Vasiliki Michalakis (248) 842-4194
**January Service Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Orthros</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy: St. Basil the Great &amp; Circumcision of Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Orthros</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy: Prophet Malachi</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy: Synaxis of the 70 Apostles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/5</td>
<td>8:00-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Orthros &amp; Royal Hours Vesperal Divine Liturgy &amp; Blessing of Water: Theophany</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Orthros</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy &amp; Great Blessing of Water: Theophany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/7</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Services at St. John’s in Sterling Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Orthros</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy: Sunday After Theophany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WEEKLY BULLETIN DEADLINES:**

Please remember to submit weekly bulletin items for the following Sunday. Please email requests to: office@stnicholastroy.org by Tuesday, January 5 for the following Sunday January 10 bulletin and Eblast.

**ECHO DEADLINE:**

Please have all ECHO items turned in NO LATER than the 10th of every month. Please send information to Maggie at echo@stnicholastroy.org, in the subject please type ECHO ITEMS. Please make sure all submissions have been spell-checked and grammar-checked before submitting to the parish office.

For any other information please contact the office: Office@stnicholastroy.org

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*2021 - 2022 Parish Council*

St. Nicholas wishes to thank the following individuals for volunteering to become part of the 2021-2022 Parish Council. Because less than the maximum of 25 names were submitted, there is no need for an election process.

Pending Seminar completion, ratification by His Eminence, and an oath of office in January 2021, the 2021-2022 Council will consist of the following 18 people:

Katina Cloutier
Karen Cosmos
Patrick Crosson
Kaethe Economos
Nick Feles
Paula Kalevas
Kessie Kaltsounis
Nick Kaltsounis
Stephen Karniotis
Steve Katsaros
Mary Lafter
George Manolias
Pete Michalakis
Guss Pappas
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Maria Spounias
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SMALL ENTRANCE
(WITH THE BOOK OF THE HOLY GOSPELS)

Come, let us worship and bow before Christ. Save us, O Son of God who rose from the dead, as we sing to you: Alleluia.

APOLYTIKIA

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate * with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born * for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. * For in His goodness He was pleased * to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, * and to raise up those who had died, * by His glorious Resurrection.

O Zabulon, prepare, and be ready, Nephthalim. * Jordan River, hold your course, and exultantly receive * the Master who is coming to be baptized. * Adam leap for joy with Eve the Foremother. * No longer hide yourselves, as once in Paradise; * for having seen you naked He has appeared * to clothe you in your former vesture. * The Christ has appeared, wishing to renew * the entire creation.

A standard of firm belief and an icon of gentleness, of self-control an instructor, you were revealed to your sacred flock, by the reality of your deeds, for this reason you acquired by humility heaven’s heights, and by poverty riches, Father and Great Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God, to sanctify and save our souls.

KONTAKION

To the flowing streams today * of River Jordan * comes the Lord and cries aloud * to John the Baptist, and He says, * "Be not afraid to baptize me now; * for I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

PHILOPTOCHOS

Kali Xronia! Happy New Year!!!

THANK YOU for a great year and let us make 2021 even better!

Although 2020 was a difficult year for many reasons, it is important to reflect on some of our accomplishments and celebrate!

Prepared and distributed over 1,440 lunches through FOCUS Detroit
Collected and donated over 500 pounds of food to local food pantries
Made monetary donations to support the Metropolis Camp, Autism, Hellenic College Holy Cross, International Orthodox Christian Charities, retired clergy and widowed Presvyteres, Empty Bowls and St. Basil Academy to name a few!
Supported local families in our community through the Sunshine Fund
Organized nutritional, social and financial task forces to aid during COVID-19
Made and distributed masks. Giving trees benefiting Judson Center and FOCUS Detroit.

Looking forward into 2021…KINDNESS COUNTS!

You are invited to join St. Nicholas Philoptochos and help us spread kindness. Below are some easy ways to get involved! How can I help?

Email us! Let us know you want to get involved at Philoptochos@StNicholasTroy.org
Join us for our ZOOM meetings held the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00
Make a monetary donation! Mail a check to the Church office, attention Philoptochos or make an online donation at http://www.stnicholastroy.org on the Philoptochos page.

Sunshine Committee – supports the following two main initiatives:
Troy People Concerned which is a referral agency that assists Troy residents who find themselves in a crisis,
Forget-Me-Not Baskets that are delivered at Christmas, Valentine’s Day and Easter to our parishioners who are not able to join us in person and spread a little sunshine!

St. Basil’s Academy – bury the indigent immigrants and continues to help those in need
Make prayer blankets.

LOOK FOR THE 2021 COOKBOOK OR SUBMIT YOUR RECEIPES!!!
Prayer of Protection from the Coronavirus

Blessed is our God, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.
O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth: You are everywhere filling all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)
Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.
All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins.
Master, pardon our transgressions.
Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name’s sake.
Lord, have mercy. (3)
Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Come, let us worship and bow before Christ. Save us, O Son of God who rose from the dead, as we sing to you: Alleluia.

ἈΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΑ

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυνήσω εἰς πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσω εἰς, ὅτι ηὐδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑποεῖναι, καὶ ἐγεῖραι τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

Ἐτοιμάζου Ζαβουλών, καὶ εὐτρεπίζου Νεφθαλεί. Ἰορδάνη ποταμέ, στήθι ὑπόδεξαι σκιρτῶν, τοῦ βαπτισθῆναι ἐρον τοῦ Δεσπότη. Ἀγάλλου ὁ Αδὰς σὺν τῇ Προήτορι· ἡ κρύπτετε ἑαυτούς, ὡς ἐν Παραδείσῳ τὸ πρὶν καὶ γὰρ γυνοὺς ἰδὼς ἐπέφανε, ἵνα ἐνδύσῃ τὴν πρώτην στολήν. Χριστὸς ἐφάνη, τὴν πᾶσαν κτίσιν, θέλων ἀνακαινίσαι.

Κανόνα πίστεως και εἰκόνα πραότητος, ἐγκρατείας Διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῇ ποίμνῃ σου, ἡ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια· διὰ τοῦτο ἐκτήσω τὰ ὑψηλά, τῇ πτωχείᾳ τὰ πλούσια, Πάτερ Ἱεράρχα Νικόλαε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

ΚΟΝΤΑΚΙΟΝ

Ἐν τοῖς ῥείθροι σήμερον τῷ Ἰορδάνῳ, γεγονός ὁ Κύριος, τῷ Ἰωάννῃ ἐκβοῆ· Μὴ δειλιάς ἔχεις βαπτίσας με· σώσαι γὰρ ἡκὼ, Ἀδὰμ τὸν πρωτοπλαστὸν.
Epistle Reading
Sunday before Theophany

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.
Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Timothy 4:5-8
The Gospel According to Mark

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Jan</td>
<td>Sunday Before Theophany&lt;br&gt;Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/9:30am&lt;br&gt;YAL Meeting 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Jan</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:00am</td>
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<td>5 Jan</td>
<td>Eve of Theophany&lt;br&gt;Orthros &amp; Royal Hours 8:10-30am&lt;br&gt;Vesperal Divine Liturgy/ Blessing of water 5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Jan</td>
<td>Holy Theophany&lt;br&gt;Parish Council Meeting 7:00pm&lt;br&gt;Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/9:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Jan</td>
<td>Synaxis of John the Baptist&lt;br&gt;Liturgy at St. John's</td>
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<td>8 Jan</td>
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<td>9 Jan</td>
<td>Saturday Vespers 5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Jan</td>
<td>Sunday After Theophany&lt;br&gt;Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/9:30am&lt;br&gt;Vasilopita Lunch to Go!</td>
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<td>11 Jan</td>
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<td>12 Jan</td>
<td>Bible Study 7:00pm</td>
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<td>13 Jan</td>
<td>Philochochos Meeting 7:00pm</td>
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<td>14 Jan</td>
<td>Adosis of Theophany&lt;br&gt;Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/9:30am</td>
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<td>15 Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Jan</td>
<td>Saturday Vespers 5:00pm</td>
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<td>17 Jan</td>
<td>12th Sunday of Luke&lt;br&gt;Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/9:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Jan</td>
<td>Athanasius &amp; Cyril&lt;br&gt;Martin Luther King Jr. Day&lt;br&gt;Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/9:30am</td>
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<td>19 Jan</td>
<td>St. Makarios the Great Mark of Ephesus&lt;br&gt;Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/9:30am&lt;br&gt;Bible Study 7:00pm&lt;br&gt;AHEPA Meeting 7:00pm</td>
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<td>20 Jan</td>
<td>St. Euthymios&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy 9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Jan</td>
<td>St. Maximos&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy 9:00am&lt;br&gt;Book Club 7:30pm&lt;br&gt;D of P Zoom Meeting 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Jan</td>
<td>Apostle Timothy of the 70&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy 9:00am</td>
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<td>23 Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Jan</td>
<td>14th Sunday of Luke&lt;br&gt;Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/9:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Jan</td>
<td>Gregory the Theologian&lt;br&gt;Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/9:30am</td>
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<td>26 Jan</td>
<td>Bible Study 7:00pm</td>
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<td>30 Jan</td>
<td>Three Hierarchs&lt;br&gt;Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/9:30am&lt;br&gt;Saturday Vespers 5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Jan</td>
<td>Sunday of Zacchaeus&lt;br&gt;Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/9:30am</td>
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