“NOTHING” IN THE BIBLE

During Church every Sunday there is a sermon. Each sermon has a subject which allows the priest to say “SOMETHING”... words and thoughts for us to ponder and reflect upon. However, today we will explore the idea of “NOTHING” and how it relates to the Holy Scriptures.

“Let NOTHING be done through selfish ambition or conceit...” (Philippians 2:3) Conceit is a common vice that gets in the way of our spiritual growth. It causes us to despise those who have a different way of life. It makes us think that we are better than our fellow man. To be conceited is a form of idolatry and exposes those who seek to please others more than God.

So how do we overcome this strife? Ponder for a moment, the humility displayed by Christ our God. He voluntarily took on our human shape and experienced our human condition. He showed the fullness of His humility by experiencing death, which enslaves mankind. He brutally died on a cross, the penalty of a common criminal, to save us from sin. And by doing so, His death and resurrection bring life to all who follow Him.

Another NOTHING is written by St. Paul in Philippians 4:6. “Be anxious for NOTHING...” How do we handle the pressures of our daily lives? We know that anxiety can destroy our health, homes and dreams. It does nothing to help us cope with tomorrow and only drains our strength today. Have FAITH that the Lord is present, guiding us through our times of trouble. This is the secret to contentment.

As you can see, there are several “NOTHINGS” in the Bible. But what we can conclude from them is that NOTHING should hold us back from our full commitment to Jesus Christ.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin, Yosel, Cliffwood, New Jersey, Issue in U.S.A.
January 24, 2021
14th Sunday of Luke
Orthros 8:30am / Divine Liturgy 9:30am

MEMORIALS
Mary (Maro) DeTomaso + 80 Days
Tony P DeTomaso + 40 Days
Constantine Carson + 15 Years
Sophia Carson Spiliadis + 25 Years
Chris Bournias + 1 Year
Mihail Fiotakis + 40 Days

FLOWERS & CANDLES
From her loving Family of Mary DeTomaso
From his loving Family of Tony DeTomaso
From his loving Family of Constantine Carson
From her loving Family of Sophia Carson Spiliadis
From his loving Family of Chris Bournias
From his loving Family of Mihail Fiotakis

CAREFUL IN THE NARTHEX! Though we might be all tired of COVID-19 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. For more information related to our COVID-19 protocols and procedures please visit our website.

~Thank you for your support and cooperation.

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 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.

BOOKSTORE: Visit our parish bookstore for a wide selection of icons, prayer books, prayer ropes, children’s books, Orthodox Study bible, Καρβουνάκια/kourvounakia/censer charcoal and more! Contact Maria at bookstore@stnicholastroy.org or 248-362-9575. The bookstore opens immediately after and not during Divine Liturgy until 12:30 p.m. to shop. Thank you for supporting our church bookstore.

BIBLE & BOOK STUDIES: Our studies are back in session. Please see flyers in the back of this bulletin for details.
THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Bake Sale and Vasilopita lunches to-go!  
A special thank you to:

Melanie Feles  
Andrea Feles-Katsimbaris  
Anne Feles  
Cindy and Pat Crosson  
Steve Karniotis  
Vasiliki Michalakis  
Brittany Mouzourakis  

And the many helping hands that made these two events a success!

Upcoming Events and how to JOIN!

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

• We will be collecting items for Sanctum House this month. Sanctum House is a safe house for women who have been human trafficked. They provide 24/7 housing, healthcare, dental care, education and so much more. More information will come in the weekly bulletin.

• Join us for our ZOOM meetings held the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm.

• Email us! Let us know you want to get involved at Philoptochos@StNicholasTroy.org.

• 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.
WEEKLY BULLETIN DEADLINES:
Please remember to submit weekly bulletin items for the following Sunday. Please email requests to: office@stnicholastroy.org by Tuesday, January 26 for the following Sunday January 31 bulletin and Eblast.

ECHO DEADLINE:
Please have all ECHO items submitted 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

YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING: The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, is requiring and mandating that all individuals who interact with the youth will have access to Praesidium's online abuse prevention training and screening packages using the Armatus® Learn to Protect System. The training session/videos needs to be completed every year and the background check every two years. You will be receiving reminder emails from them indicating their records show that you have previously completed training in the past and are due for additional abuse prevention training in Praesidium’s Armatus Learn to Protect System. You will need to log in at http://praesidiuminc.com/login to see your updated requirements. If you cannot remember your password, please click the link on the login screen to reset your password. The Praesidium Support Team is also available help you log in or connect with your organization. Please feel free to reach out to them at support@praesidiuminc.com. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to a safe environment!

AHEPA SCHOLARSHIP: Applications for graduating high school seniors and university level (sophomore through professional graduate school) are available online at www.ahepadistrict10.org and then select Educational Foundation. The AHEPA Scholarship deadline is April 1, 2021. Anyone who needs assistance please call Milton Gust at 248-689-4156.

YAL: The St. Nicholas Young Adults League (YAL) will be making COVID kits on Saturday, February 13 for distribution to church members after liturgy on February 14! If you or someone you know may be interested in joining the group or coming to help make kits, please reach out to Fotini Michalakis or Nicole Souphis at YAL@StNicholasTroy.org.

OPA DANCING 2021…..As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, we are cautiously optimistic about moving forward with hope and safety that we will be able to have OPA Dancing 2021, not sure what the format will be, but working on a backup plan should our circumstances need to change. Please stay tuned in the next few weeks for more details...
High School Graduate Scholarship Application

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:
The AHEPA Educational Foundation offers financial support to qualified high school students in any academic discipline, applying and accepted by an accredited college or university. This scholarship award can only be used for educational, tuition and/or books.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (MUST MEET AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS):

☐ A. Be of Greek descent.
☐ B. Parent(s) are currently members of the Order of AHEPA or Daughters of Penelope.
☐ C. The applicant is either a Son of Pericles or a Maid of Athena.
☐ D. Is a grandchild of a current member of the Order of AHEPA or Daughters of Penelope.

This scholarship is intended ONLY for graduating High School senior students that are continuing higher education.

The scholarship will be awarded with special emphasis on character and intelligence, capacity in chosen field as reflected in school work, scope of interest as reflected in extra-curricular activities, evidence in leadership, and some financial need.

The applications will be reviewed by the members of the District #10 Educational Foundation and their decision will be final.

The awards will be presented at the time designated for the awards banquet planned for Sunday, May 22nd, 2021. Please save the day in your calendar.

The recipient will be notified immediately after the selection process so that he or she can make arrangements to attend. (If the recipient is unable to attend the awards presentation, a representative MUST be present to receive the award on his or her behalf.)

Applicants MUST USE the scholarship application that indicates the current year on the cover. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

DEADLINE: All required materials must be included with your application and be received no later than APRIL 1st on the year applying via US Mail and email to Milton A. Gust.

Applicants must send their color wallet size photo in JPG format to: ingust@yahoo.com

DUE DATE: APRIL 1st, 5:00pm Eastern Time.

ONLY applications received by the due date will be considered.

Anyone interested or wishing to get an application, please contact:

Mr. Milton A. Gust
Executive Secretary
AHEPA District #10 Educational Foundation
Telephone: 248.689.4156
ingust@yahoo.com

OR

Download from the website below:
www.AHEPAdistrict10.org/educational-foundation

Collection Drive for Sanctum House

Philoptochos is collecting items for Sanctum House’s residential facility in Michigan, which provides a safe space for survivors of human trafficking. Sanctum House’s 2-year residential program offers education, counseling, therapy, medical treatment, job training, and support to transform the lives of the resident survivors.

NEW ITEMS WE ARE COLLECTING:

- Multi-vitamin gummies
- Laundry detergent
- Dryer sheets
- Dishwasher pods
- Dish soap
- Clorox wipes
- Lysol spray
- Toilet paper
- Facial tissues
- Trash bags (13- and 30-gallon bags)
- Paper plates and paper bowls
- Plastic silverware and plastic cups
- Paper towels
- Coffee (regular)
- Variety of teas
- Large Ziploc bags
- Aluminum foil

Please bring all items to the Church and leave them by the office. ALL ITEMS MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH BY 3:00PM ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021.
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

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.

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

You sanctified the virginal womb by Your birth, O Lord, and blessed the hands of Symeon fittingly, O Christ God; and even now You came and saved us. Now, give peace to our Nation in time of war, and empower our Leaders, so loved by You, the only one who loves humanity.
Η ΜΙΚΡΑ ΕΙΣΟΔΟΣ

Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωµεν καὶ προσπέσωµεν Χριστῷ. Σῶσον ἡµᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστάς ἐκ νεκρῶν, ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλούϊα.

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΑ

Ἐξ ὕψους κατῆλθες ὁ εὐσπλάγχνος, ταφὴν κατεδέξω τριήµερον, ἵνα ἡµᾶς ἐλευθερώσῃ τῶν παθῶν. Ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ Ἀνάστασις ἡ ὑψηλῆς, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

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

ΚΟΝΤΑΚΙΟΝ

Ὁ μήτραν παρθενικὴν ἁγιάσας τῷ τόκῳ σου, καὶ χέιρας τοῦ Συμεὼν εὐλογήσας ὡς ἔπρεπε, προφθάσας καὶ νῦν ἔσωσας ἡµᾶς Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός. Ἀλλ’ εἰρήνευσον ἐν πολέμις τὸ πολίτευμα, καὶ κρατάωσον Βασιλεῖς οὓς ἤγάπησας, ὁ μόνος φιλάνθρωπος.
Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.
Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

Timothy 1:15-17
At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Luke 18:35-43
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