"Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him; yesterday I died with Him; today I am quickened with Him; yesterday I was buried with Him; today I rise with Him."
-St. Gregory the Theologian

The Resurrection seems to shine more brightly on some days than others. Not because it wavers in brilliance, but because we waver in our ability to perceive it. Some years, Pascha breaks our heart with its fragrance and truth, and other years it’s as if it is passing by from a distance. Some years our faith winds down so deeply into our souls that we don’t know where it stops and where we begin; other years, we are so full of doubt and questions that we feel almost suspended in the air. Some years we shout “Christ has Risen!”: other years, we strain just to hear it said.

And it’s not just year by year that our faith changes. It can change month by month, week by week, day by day. We’re made for life and live amongst death, we’re made for wholeness and live amongst brokenness. It’s a hard place to be. We cannot, however, let this entirely discourage us. Even in the darkest night, we must remember the promise of the day. The disciples, gathered in hiding after their teacher was crucified, certainly began to doubt, but Christ rose nonetheless.

The words of St. Gregory show us a way to survive the ups and downs of our spiritual lives. When the darkness of the world overwhelms us, we simply say: “I was crucified with Him.” When we see things clearly, and the world seems full of light and peace, we say: “I am glorified with Him.” When we’re in pain, we say: “I died with Him,” and when we’re joyful, we say: “I am quickened with Him.”

Whatever we are experiencing, whether the nails of the Cross or the freshness of the empty tomb, the point is to experience it with Him— never afraid to offer our “broken and humbled hearts” to God. If we walk with Him through both the ups and the downs, one day we will look back on our lives and join St. Gregory in saying “yesterday I was buried with Him; today I rise with Him.”
GOLF LEAGUE
The St. Nicholas Golf League will begin play at the end of April at Sylvan Glen Golf Club in Troy. We tee off at 3:00 on Mondays. If you are interested in joining us as a regular player or as a sub please email or call Joann Kefalas, jmkgreek@gmail.com or call at 248-766-9492.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISMS

February 22 Penelope Elaine daughter of John and Eva Charboneau
Godparents are Trisha and Andrew Rood

February 29 Alexandra Rose daughter of Peter and Christina Mellos
Godparent is Alexa O’Toole

Congratulations to the newly illumined servants of God, to their families and Godparents!

WEDDINGS

February 22 Dimitri Balcoff & Ashley Marie Hukkala
Koumbaro is Michael Pervolarakis

Congratulations to the newlyweds!

FUNERALS

Peter Strumbos (†February 23)
Charles Pappas (†February 26)
Priscilla Katsaros Orosco (†March 2)

May their memory be eternal!

PHILOPTOCHOS

Philoptochos is thinking of and praying for everyone during this time. Please join us in the observance of Great Lent services and the services of Holy Week along with Anastasi/Resurrection of Christ by watching all services on-line. We hope to resume our normal activities as soon as possible. We will get through this together!

If you would like to get involved, please complete the membership form and mail it to the Church office. To stay connected, follow our Facebook page (Philoptochos St. Nicholas Troy) or submit your email address to Philoptochos@StNicholasTroy.org to receive the monthly newsletter.

PARISH COUNCIL

Presiding Priest Update
Assignment of a permanent long-term presiding priest to our St Nicholas parish remains open to His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas. Our Council President, Pete Michalakis, is in regular contact while the search continues.

Facility Improvements Planning
The Parish Council will be reviewing a series of building and ground improvements involving the parking lot and the kitchen in the Spring.

ARGONAUTS

Following the directives of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the State of Michigan, the April 9 Argonauts Luncheon has been cancelled. As of now, we hope to see everyone happy and healthy at our May 14 Luncheon. Please continue to watch for updates as things change daily. You can always go to www.stnicholastroy.org then click on Events and Activities and click on the calendar for the most up to date events. As always, feel free to call the Parish Office with any questions at 248-362-9575.
From the time of Father Stratton Dorozenski’s retirement on December 15, 2019 until Father Bill Bartz’s arrival on February 1, 2020, the pastoral needs of our parish were met by Father Michael Manos. From February 1 through March 31, Father Bill Bartz has served as the Interim Presiding Priest of our Parish. Effective April 1, 2020, Father Michael will return to serving the Parish on a part-time basis, while the generous assistance of our Metropolis will cover the additional needs of our Parish, as we prayerfully await the arrival of a new Presiding Priest.

Effective 1 April 2020, Metropolis assistance will include:

1. **Sacraments.** Deacon Bryce Buffenbarger will ensure that the paperwork and coordination of Sacraments are completed in a timely manner, and that a clergyman is assigned for each Sacrament.
2. **Pastoral Calls.** Deacon Bryce Buffenbarger will manage the pastoral calls that are received either at the Parish Office or by Father Michael.
3. **Funerals.** Deacon Bryce Buffenbarger will coordinate the funeral arrangements and ensure that a Priest will officiate at a funeral.

*His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas is permitting the Deacon of the Metropolis, Deacon Bryce Buffenbarger, to oversee and coordinate these responsibilities.*

Also, effective 1 April 2020, Father Michael's duties will include:

1. **Sunday Divine Liturgies**
2. **Holy Week and Easter Divine Services**
3. **Week Three at Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp**
4. **Maintaining the Registry Books and reviewing the Sunday bulletin & monthly Echo.**
5. **Youth (JOY & GOYA) programs**

*Father Michael will NOT officiate in Sacraments and funerals. He will not make pastoral calls, hospital calls, or emergency calls.*
Prayer of Protection from the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Prayer of Protection from the Coronavirus (COVID-19)
(Prayer by Grace Bishop Alexis (Trader) of Bethesda)

O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible, in Your ineffable goodness, look down upon Your people gathered in Your name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction. You know our weakness. You hear our cry in repentance and contrition of heart. O Lord who loves mankind, deliver us from the impending threat of the coronavirus. Send your Angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians, and preserve those who are healthy that we may continue to serve You in peace and glorify Your most honorable and majestic Name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Amen.
ALL DIVINE SERVICES WILL BE STREAMED ONLINE.
PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE AT WWW.STNICHOLASTROY.ORG.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>SATURDAY OF LAZARUS</td>
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<td>Orthros</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>PALM SUNDAY</td>
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<td>Orthros</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>Bridegroom Service</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>HOLY MONDAY</td>
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<td>Bridegroom Service</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>HOLY TUESDAY</td>
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<td>Bridegroom Service</td>
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<td>HOLY WEDNESDAY</td>
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<td>Sacrament of Holy Unction</td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>HOLY THURSDAY</td>
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<td>Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil (Celebration of the Mystical Supper)</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>The Passion of Christ (Reading of the Twelve Gospels)</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>HOLY FRIDAY</td>
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<td>Reading of the Royal Hours</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Vespers of the Descent from the Cross</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>The Lamentations (Commemoration of those who have fallen asleep in the lord)</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>HOLY SATURDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Resurrection Vigil</td>
<td>11:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Resurrection Service followed by Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Midnight</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Agape Vespers</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
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CHRIST IS RISEN!
LIGHT A VIGIL CANDLE REMOTELY

Following the directives of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the State of Michigan in response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), the Saint Nicholas complex is closed to both parishioners and visitors. ALL Divine Services will be broadcast and can be viewed online at www.stnicholastroy.org.

Everyone is adjusting to these challenging circumstances and are seeking ways to maintain some normalcy. With this understanding and intent, the Parish Council can accommodate the requests of people who want to light a vigil candle or candles at Saint Nicholas Church. Please visit the Parish’s website, www.stnicholastroy.org, and click on “Candles Online” to make the request and complete your donation of $5 (USD five dollars) per candle. OR, a donation check can also be mailed, writing vigil candle on memo line, again for $5 (USD five dollars) per candle.

A Parish Council member will light the vigil candle at the next Divine Liturgy, after the request is received.

Again, let us all continue to offer our prayers for those who are sick, for those medical personnel, for our government leaders, and for the health and salvation of people throughout the world.

*I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12*
March 23, 2020

Dear Reverend Fathers,

Based on the latest Executive Order by the Governor Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, but applying to all the priests and parishes of the Metropolis of Detroit from now through April 13th:

1. Priests should not make any pastoral visits. If there is a case of a dire emergency and the priest is able to be present without violating local orders, and if there is not threat to the health of the priest, the priest may decide to make a visit. All other visits are prohibited. This includes offering any sacraments in people’s homes or places of residence. Furthermore, no parishioners are allowed to come to the church to receive the sacraments or counsel from the priest. Counsel can be offered on the phone or electronically.

2. Based on Section 10 of the Executive Order, online services may continue to be offered while the church doors remained locked to the parishioners. However, only the bare number of people should be employed to assist. Chanters should not be forced to come, and if they do want to come, only one to a chant stand. Social distancing practices are to remain in place, of course, and thorough cleaning of all areas used should be done afterwards. Moreover, a priest may use his discretion not to hold services during this period for the protection of those around him.

3. If there are any other situations that are not covered, please contact Fr. Teodor or Fr. Nick Kotsis for instruction.

4. If your locality has placed restrictions stricter than these, you are to follow them. I know these are difficult and unusual times for all of us. We will do our best to play our part to help mitigate the spread of the virus.

With Paternal Prayer and Love,

+Nicholas
Metropolitan of Detroit
When you support the Friends of the Metropolis campaign, you are part of a greater outreach that proclaims with one universal voice that God is truly our hope and our rock of salvation. Because of your devotion to the Friends program, ministries and programs are implemented on a Metropolis-wide basis which strengthen and enhance our faith and our joint ministry of service. I would like to invite you to join forces with the faithful throughout the Metropolis of Detroit in support of the ministries which are part of the Office of the Metropolitan.

Thanking you for your kind and generous response,
I remain, with paternal blessings and prayers,

+NICHOLAS
Metropolitan of Detroit

MORE INFO AT: WWW.DETROIT.GOARCH.ORG/FRIENDS

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GENERAL SUPPORT
Fully fund the general expenses of the Metropolis office, including programs and travels.

OUTREACH/MISSIONS
Create opportunities to introduce our faith to society. Participate in inter-Christian and interfaith activities. Provide quick responses to national and international disasters.

EDUCATION
Enhance various scholarship opportunities, adult education programs, and support Metropolis students at Hellenic College/Holy Cross.

HELENISM
Develop programs for Hellenic Cultural Outreach, including language, history, and arts.

CLERGY/PARISH SUPPORT
Develop and provide instructional seminars and services for clergy and parishes.

YOUTH MINISTRIES
Support the youth & young adult ministries, including our summer camps, as well as the activities of a full-time Metropolis Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

LEADERSHIP
Organize Clergy-Laity Conferences, Oratorical Festivals, Youth Worker and Religious Education Training, and Adult Education Seminars.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
Continued website development, hospitality to visiting dignitaries, charity and philanthropy.

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Name __________________________

Address __________________________

City ___________________ State _______ Zip _______

Email __________________________ Mobile No. __________________________

Parish Name ___________________ City/State ___________________

Credit Card ☒ Check ☐ Money Order ☐

Credit Card No. __________________________

Exp. Date __________________________ CVC No. __________________________

Total in $ __________________________

Signature __________________________

Make checks payable to Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit. Fill out this card and send it with payment to Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit 2560 Crooks Road Troy, MI 48084
# April 2020 Schedule

**St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church | 760 W Wattles Rd | Troy, MI 48098 | 248-362-9575**

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<th>Saturday</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5 Sunday of St Mary of Egypt</strong>&lt;br&gt;9:00am Orthros&lt;br&gt;10:00am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;12:00pm Choir Practice—CANCELLED</td>
<td>6&lt;br&gt;No Greek School</td>
<td>7&lt;br&gt;7:00pm OPAI Fest Meeting</td>
<td>April 1&lt;br&gt;7:00pm Parish Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;No Greek School</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3&lt;br&gt;7:00pm Akathist Hymn</td>
<td>4&lt;br&gt;11:00am Baptism</td>
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<td><strong>12 Palm Sunday</strong>&lt;br&gt;9:00am Orthros&lt;br&gt;10:00am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;7:00pm Bridegroom Service</td>
<td>13 Holy Monday&lt;br&gt;7:00pm Bridegroom Service&lt;br&gt;No Greek School</td>
<td>14 Holy Tuesday&lt;br&gt;7:00pm Bridegroom Service</td>
<td>15 Holy Wednesday&lt;br&gt;5:00pm Sacrament of Holy Unction&lt;br&gt;No Greek School</td>
<td>16 Holy Thursday&lt;br&gt;8:00am Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil&lt;br&gt;7:00pm The Passion of Christ</td>
<td>17 Holy Friday&lt;br&gt;8:30am Reading of the Royal Hours&lt;br&gt;3:00pm Vespers of the Descent from the Cross&lt;br&gt;7:00pm The Lamentations</td>
<td>18 Holy Saturday&lt;br&gt;10:00am Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil&lt;br&gt;11:00pm Resurrection Vigil&lt;br&gt;Midnight Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td><strong>19 Great &amp; Holy PASCHA</strong>&lt;br&gt;Easter Egg Hunt—CANCELLED&lt;br&gt;11:00am Agape Vespers/Youth Choir—CANCELLED</td>
<td>20 Office Closed&lt;br&gt;No Greek School</td>
<td>21&lt;br&gt;7:00pm OPAI Fest Committee Meeting</td>
<td>22&lt;br&gt;No Greek School</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25&lt;br&gt;12:00pm Baptism</td>
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<td><strong>26 Thomas Sunday</strong>&lt;br&gt;9:00am Orthros&lt;br&gt;10:00am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;10:30am Catechism—CANCELLED&lt;br&gt;12:00pm Choir Practice—CANCELLED</td>
<td>27&lt;br&gt;No Greek School</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29&lt;br&gt;No Greek School</td>
<td>30</td>
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Coffee hour cancelled. All services will be held online. Please go to [www.stnicholastroy.org](http://www.stnicholastroy.org).
Dear Father Bartz,

On behalf of the entire St. Nicholas community, we thank you for your faith, strength, and dedication to this parish during the past few months. Your leadership during these unprecedented times has been an inspiration to us all. Thank you for your faithful words and actions which have helped uplift our entire St. Nicholas family.

We wish you and your family continued health and happiness in the years to come.

The St. Nicholas Parish Council