Beloved Parishioners,

The Challenge which is COVID-19 continues and we see that, whether we like it or not, its appearance on the world stage has changed our lives in ways we had thought were impossible.

As a priest, I hear the stories of families separated by this pandemic. Grandparents who can’t hold their grandchildren because the parents are afraid that the grandparents may be carriers of the disease. We here of grandparents who are choosing to stay away from their own children and grandchildren because they have been advised that this is the safest course of action. People who are immunocompromised suffer the most as they are cut off often from everyone whom they know and love and are only able to speak to friends and family over the internet, through a tablet or screen.

In the life of the Church we see similar challenges. The Church perhaps more than many institutions is one where the human touch is paramount. One receives the priest’s blessing as he gently touches your head in the sign of the cross; one kisses the priest’s hand to receive his blessing in this age-old gesture of respect and love. Confession in the Orthodox Church is normally done in close proximity between the priest and the penitent, where our words of hurt and pain are transfigured into healing and gladness, often through the gentle voice of the priest, his hand placed upon the Epitrahileion which is put over the bowed head of the penitent.

We are shown from our infancy that ours is a faith that engages the five senses and our present situation limits us greatly. Masks not only diminish our ability to be seen and to see the expressions and smiles of our parishioners and clergy, but it even limits our senses of smell and touch. We are limited even from kissing the priest’s hand or the sacred icons, to closing our mouth upon the sacred lavida upon receiving Holy Communion!

All of these challenges are ones that it seems few if any anticipated. But if we take a deep breath and reflect upon the present situation “philosophically”, meaning with a love for words and insights full of wisdom, and in the Church’s mind, words and insights that connect us to HE WHO IS, THE VERY ALPHA AND OMEGA, CHRIST, THE WISDOM OF GOD then we may begin to see even here God’s hand of love and healing.

Think for a moment, has there ever been a time in your life where you appreciated your family MORE? Or even your Church, can you remember a time when you valued the Church and its Holy Services MORE? They say absence makes the heart grow fonder; I am admitting to you that I have never given Holy Communion to people more filled with holy ἱλαρότητα with the fear of God that makes you want to draw NEAR TO HIM! That wonderful paradoxical fear that leads us to Holy Communion (not makes us want to run from it!).

We are being given a very precious opportunity to deepen our faith and our connection to God. We need to mourn the things we are losing and to weep to God that He extend His mercy and return to us those things which we are losing. Let it not, I beg of you, be your posture to consider these changes the new normal. “God became man to bring us the Chalice” St. Gregory Palamas said nearly 650 years ago during the height of the historic Hesychast controversy. God became man, in other words, so that we could not only think about Him, but to feel Him! Not only to speak about Him but to hear Him. To taste Him, to touch Him and in this very intimate way to KNOW Him in the depth of our being as the God-man, the Savior of all humankind and of the healer of the entire cosmos!

Father Paul Patitsas
PARISH COUNCIL

CORONAVIRUS CONTAINMENT ACTION

Current guidelines remain in place for Divine Liturgy and other Services. Please continue to follow the directions which were mailed to all parishioners in June. An additional copy is contained within this month’s Echo.

CLERGY-LAITY CONFERENCE

The 45th Clergy– Laity National Conference will be held September 9-10 and will be Virtual only. Fr. Paul, Council President Pete Michalakis and Karen Cosmos will be attending.

TREASURY/ FINANCES

Income for the month of June 2020 to the General Fund totaled $21,459.00, compared to $27,114.00 in June 2019. This total includes all monies given towards Stewardship, altar flowers, candles, memorials, and other miscellaneous donations, as well as all monies received for Church activities such as the Bookstore, OPA Dancers, catering, Greek School, etc.

Expenses for June 2020 were $49,764.44, compared to $52,093.37 in June 2019 resulting in an operating loss for June 2020 of $28,305.44. Year to Date. The Church is operating at a loss of $14,652.98. The Church is down approximately 100 Stewards as compared to this time last year: 421 v. 524.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 27 tentative – Bring a Friend to Church Sunday
October 9 tentative – Family Night
October 16-18 Metropolis Hellenic Dance Festival
November 8 or 15 General Assembly
November 22 Feather Party
Dec 6 St. Nicholas Feast Day Breakfast/ Brunch

GREEK ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE

Recently the Parish Council passed a Motion to recognize a Greek Orthodox Young Adult League group to be reformed under the auspices of our St. Nicholas Troy Parish. We had this organization many years ago in the parish. Other communities would be invited to join too. This will also be a good method for those to stay connected with our culture.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISMS

July 18, 2020 Emily Elizabeth Orosco
daughter of Jordan Alexander Orosco and Melissa Marie Orosco
Godparent is Andrea Grace Schulte

July 19, 2020 Matthew Joseph Kirschner
Godparent is Konstantina Joannidis

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

FUNERALS

William John Eliopoulos (+July 4, 2020)

May their memory be eternal!

ARGONAUTS

The Officers and Membership of the Argonauts, hope that you are well. Hopefully, we can soon see you in Church, pray together, and resume our monthly luncheons. We have to follow the directions of His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas. Lets keep in mind those who may need help during these difficult times. Please feel free to contact us. We are in process of updating our mailing list. Stay Healthy
2020-2021 Catechism Registration is now open.
Register on the St. Nicholas web site, under Announcements & Updates.
Registration cost will increase on August 1, so register early.

Catechism staff is working on the upcoming year. We are not sure just how we will hold classes. The office staff and teachers along with Fr. Paul & Fr. Michael met on July 18 to discuss our procedures as well as cleaning out all the classroom of items from the previous year. Our priority is the health and safety of our students and staff. We are going to totally clean all classrooms of all old papers and projects of the students. In addition, we will be supplying all students (as needed) with their own individual books for their safety.

We will be offering classes via Zoom, but we are proceeding with both in-person and Zoom class options. The logistics are still undetermined. We want to be prepared for a smooth opening. Once we have the logistics confirmed we will advise via email. For this reason, we need to have a correct email for all families.

Our Catechism, always participates and leads our church in the OCMC coin box program each year. Your children were given the Mission container prior to Covid-19. We had for all children to bring in the filled boxes after Easter. Since we were unable to be present all together, we ask you to please drop off your filled coin boxes to the Church Office (or leave in the Narthex on Sunday with one of the Council members).

We look forward to personally seeing everyone soon but until then we will see you via Zoom.

Correction to the June/July Echo.

High School graduates

Daphne Agapiou
Daphne graduated from Rochester High School. She will be attending University of Michigan – Ann Arbor

Athena Samson
Athena graduated from Troy High School. She will attend Albion College, Major in Biology/Psychology
Welcome to G.O.Y.A. 2020-2021! We are so excited for this year! We have many fun and new things planned for this year. Due to COVID-19 we have had many setbacks, but none-the-less, we as a community are ready to emerge from these difficult times knowing how blessed we have been to stay safe, healthy, and maintain contact with church, and various organizations via. Zoom, group chats, and Facebook live streams. Without further ado, I would like to introduce you to the 2020-2021 G.O.Y.A. Board.

President: Nikoletta Michalakis  
Vice President: Elyssa George  
Treasurer: Lexi Hazen  
Corresponding Secretary: Nina Bologna  
Recording Secretary: Kate Hazen

Our goals for this year’s Goya activities are to participate in as many fun and exciting events, while still taking necessary and required safety precautions. Keep an eye out for future dates, meetings, and information. We look forward to seeing you soon!

AHEPA Educational Foundation

On June 20th, the AHEPA Educational Foundation awarded scholarships of $1,000 to $3,000 to 45 high school and college students for a total of $61,500. The recipients were all very deserving students, with high grades, a variety of community services, and strong beliefs to the mission and ideals of AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope. We wish each of them success in their future endeavors. Please congratulate the following recipients from the St. Nicholas parish:

- Daphne Agapiou  
- Nicholas Haddad  
- Chrysoula Kondyles  
- Loukas Kondyles  
- Christopher Ley  
- Maria Manolias  
- Vasilios Tsaprailis  
- Nicolas Valentino  
- Nicholas Zesses

The scholarships come from generous donors that have established endowment perpetual funds in their name or the name of a loved one. The awards are offered only from the dividends of the invested funds thus maintaining the perpetuity of the fund.

If you are interested for more information, please contact the Executive Secretary Milton Gust at 248 689-4156 or email at imgust@yahoo.com.

Thank you.  
George Mortis
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

Thank you 2020 OPAFEST Sponsors

Even though our OPAfest 2020 has been postponed until 2021 we are very fortunate to have wonderful and generous sponsors. Our 2020 sponsors of OPAfest have graciously offered to keep this year’s sponsorship donation on our books for 2021. We thank them all for their continued support and friendship.

ALZHEIMER WALK POSTPONED

The annual Alzheimer’s Walk to raise funds for the Alzheimer’s Association has been postponed from August 22 to September 26. This year the Walk will be a virtual walk because of the Coronavirus Pandemic. You may make your donation on line by going to act.alz.org / Go To/ teamstnicholas or you may send your check made out to the Alzheimer's Association to Mary Lafter at the Church.

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
760 W. Wattles RD
Troy, MI 48098-4500.

LET'S BEAT THIS HORRIBLE DISEASE.

(Donation Form pg. 6.)
Donation Form

Donor Information
First Name: ____________________________ Last Name: ____________________________
Billing Address: ________________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________
Phone number: ______________ Email Address: ________________________________

Donation Information
I would like to make a donation in the amount of:
$1000 $500 $250 $120 $60 $35 Other Amount: $____________

Please display my name on the participant’s public donor wall as: ____________________________
☐ Please do not display my name on the donor wall.

Payment Method
Enclosed is my check payable to the Alzheimer’s Association®
-OR-
Please charge my: ___________Visa ___________MasterCard ___________American Express ___________Discover
Credit card number: ____________________________________________________________
Expiration date: ___________
Signature: ______________________________
Today’s date: ____________________________

Participant Information (donation on behalf of)
Event Name: 2020 Walk - Detroit, MI Event ID: 13512
Participant’s Name: Ms. Mary Lafter Participant ID: 5518778
Team Name: Team St. Nicholas Team ID: 611717

Mail this form and contribution to:
Alzheimer’s Association - Michigan Chapter
Walk to End Alzheimer's - Metro Detroit Gift Processing
25200 Telegraph Rd., Suite 100
Southfield MI 48033

Thank you for your contribution!
RE-OPENING of our Beloved St Nicholas Church

Please refer to our Church website for the latest information and links associated with this pandemic.

Dear Saint Nicholas Family,

His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas, has provided us with guidelines for the 1st Phase in the reopening of our Church. They are within the guidelines offered by our Archdiocese, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of Michigan directives. The continued safety of you, your loved ones, and our staff is of paramount importance. We ask that you share the link with anyone who may not receive our Eblasts.

### Phase 1 Reopening - June 21st

| **How can I attend church on June 21st in person?** | **Once you arrive at church, we will have mini health stations led by licensed health care professionals to scan your temperature and ask you a few COVID-19 health questions.**  
**Wearing a mask in church is MANDATORY (except for medical reasons, i.e. COPD which then must be accompanied by a note from a licensed healthcare provider, MD/DO, NP, PA)**  
Please try and arrive promptly by 10 AM to limit disruptions to the Liturgy |
| **What will church look like when I arrive?** | **Once you arrive at church and pass the COVID-19 mini health assessment, you will proceed to the Narthex.**  
A central tray will be provided in the Narthex for your offering, as no basket will be passed in church.  
Please light your candle, Venerate the icon, please do not kiss the icons.  
Our ushers will guide you to a designated seating area based on our social distancing policies and the number of members in your family.  
Please follow posted entry points, aisles and designated seating areas. |
| **How will my family be seated at church?** | **A family can be seated together if they have been quarantining together. Special care must be made to ensure that the family is 6 feet from other parishioners. Please follow the guidance of our ushers so we adhere to the social distancing guidelines.** |
For those of you in attendance, you acknowledge that while the Church has taken the necessary safety measures, we cannot guarantee the safety of everyone present. Please be patient, kind and respectful and we’ll get through this together as our St. Nicholas family.

Important Contact Information: Church Office Hours 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fr Paul Patitsas FrPaul@stnicholsatroy.org (248)525-0711
Fr Michael Manos FrMichael@stnicholsatroy.org (313) 590-0354
Office Administrator: Maggie office@stnicholsatroy.org. (248)362-9575
Finance Office: Nicole finance@stnicholsatroy.org. (248)362-9575
Caterer: Sam sales@ernie.com (586)286-8435
May 2020

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

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>3 Sunday of the Myrrh— Bearing Women</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>8 St John the Theologian</td>
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<td>8:45am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>13 Mid-Pentecost</td>
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<td>17 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</td>
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<td>21 Constantine and Helen Equal-to-the Apostles</td>
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<td>24 Sunday of the Blind Man 325 A.D.</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>27 Apodosis of Pascha</td>
<td>28 Ascension</td>
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Christ is Risen!