Beloved Parishioners,

Every day of our lives is a blessing. The Sun is shining, the Earth is turning, and God continues to lovingly direct. Ουέ και αλίμονο! We especially feel this is so on days that we understand to be days of New Beginnings. We know it very well at the birth of a child, or grandchild (or great-grandchild!). We recognize it on a Wedding day or Graduation day or on the day of a child’s Baptism. We recognize it even for more mundane things like when we get our driver’s license for the first time, or when we go on our first date, or our first time to the Prom.

All these days are worthy of our remembrance, some more than others, and those remembrances shape the flow of our lives. We have a personal calendar of commemorations in our hearts and minds and the sentiments of those days enrich our lives.

The Church, too, has such a calendar. It has its days of joy and of sorrow, its feasts and fasts, its commemorations of the life of our Savior, and the life of His Holy Saints, Births and Deaths, even days when precious relics are recovered or a holy church is consecrated. This we call our Hmerologion. (our Calendar of Days, if you will).

For Orthodox the World over, the beginning of the new year is September 1st. We call that day the Indiction and it is the day when our Ecclesiastical New Year begins. Indictus, as it is called in Latin, was the day of the beginning of a 15-year fiscal cycle in the Roman Empire when property values were reassessed, and taxations levied. It has come to mean in our Byzantine (Roman) Orthodox Church the first day of the New Year.

Our Christian Church continues to mark its years in this way and even its feasts and fasts flow according to this ancient order. One striking example of this is the Feast of the Virgin Mary’s birth, which we commemorate on 8 September, and the Dormition of the Theotokos which bookends the Ecclesiastical year on 15 August (as well as the Beheading of St. John the Baptist on 29th August).

So, we have arrived at another New Year of Salvation. This year will be the arena of our struggles against sin, apathy, cynicism, suspicion, fears from the whisperings of conspiracy, anger, frustration, and temptations of every kind. As long as the election looms and the Coronavirus lingers we will hear the clanging and clattering voices continuously haranguing us so that in every way, if possible, we become convinced that our civilization itself is in peril from complete and utter destruction and descent into dissolution if we fail to elect the party and the path prescribed to us by these thought leaders and opinion setters. Οικονομεί!

WE ARE CHRISTIANS! We build our homes not on the shifting sands of opinion, fanaticism and political fads; we build our lives upon the solid Rock of Christ. When we read the now 2000 year history of our Church through the lives of her saints and heroes, which the Ecclesiastical Year will once again share with us, we TAKE COMFORT knowing that our beloved Church, our beloved World, have endured wave after wave of persecutions and struggles and doubts and fears and deceptions of many kinds, perhaps every kind, and yet we endure.

We endure because OUR FOUNDATIONS ARE STRONG. We are built upon the life, teaching and ultimate sacrifice of our Savior, the God-man Jesus Christ! We are built upon the lives of the saints who endured and triumphed over every assault and danger. We are built upon the blood of martyrs who gave their lives up, not in fear or despair, but in hope and in love, even for those who persecuted them but especially in love and hope for us! that we should live in the light of Christ and the hope of His Kingdom.

Take heart, dear ones, take heart!

With love in our Savior Christ, Who Is, and Was, and Is to Come,

Fr. Paul A. Patitsas
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISMS

July 26, 2020 Sophia Petraz Godparents are Cynthia and Joseph Orlando

August 22, 2020 Gregory Pericles Lopez Godparent is Kurt Rosenthal

August 22, 2020 Maximus Vasili Smith Godparent is Amber Laessle

August 23, 2020 Stephanos Michael Manos Godparent is Kostas Stavropoulos

August 30, 2020 Evangeline Eleni Xydas Godparent is Eugenia Economos

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

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. Let’s keep in mind those who may need help during these difficult times. Please feel free to contact us at argonauts@stnicholastroy.org. We are in process of updating our mailing list. Stay Healthy

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 will also be invited to join. This will also be a good method for those to stay connected with our culture.

Council Calendar 2020

Oct 16-18 Metropolis Hellenic Dance Festival

Nov 8 or 15 General Assembly

Nov 22 Feather Party/Catechism Bake Sale

REMEMBER OUR CHURCH IS OPEN EVEN THROUGH THIS COVID CRISIS!!!
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 Greek Orthodox Church
760 W. Wattles RD
Troy, MI 48098-4500.

Hello there! Welcome back to the monthly echo for G.O.Y.A.! We have continued to coordinate plans under the COVID-19 circumstances. We have many fun and exciting ideas so far! Please continue to be on the lookout for upcoming announcements regarding G.O.Y.A.. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any board members, or our board supervisor, via email (underlined email found below)! If any G.O.Y.A. members have not yet been added into the “group me”, please join the group chat as soon as possible, so that you are updated on all texts and decisions. You can email Stephanie at goya@stnicholastroy.org and we will add you into the “group me”.

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.

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760 W. Wattles RD
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We know this is a unprecedented time and we, the staff of the Catechism program and our priests, are trying to provide our children with the continuing word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and sacraments of our church. We ask that you have patience with us as we are in a learning process and want our children to be safe and still stay connected to the church.

We are scheduling classes at the present time. As classes will not be offered during church services, you will be able to attend church with your children. Most likely the classes will be in the very late afternoon or early evening. Which days are still in the works and we will advise you as soon as we know. Some classes will be combined to make it easier for the parents, students ,and teachers.

Our Catechism always participates and a frontrunner in the OCMC coin box program each year. Your children were given the Mission container prior to Covid-19. We had asked the 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.
Faith And Fun Week 2020
Zoomed in!

Twenty-two St. Nicholas students enjoyed a week of religious education, crafts, and fun at 2020 Faith and Fun Week. This year was challenging by not having the children in person but we did manage to complete a wonderful project on “God’s Beautiful World”. Each child received a tee shirt and a backpack which included the items for the craft project. Father Michael had videos and a little friend visit named Mr. Ramfos Papagalopoulos.

The children made dioramas of “God’s Beautiful World” from day 1 to day 7. They were also given some seeds and a small flower pot to plant the seeds and to see how God’s Beautiful World grow. As the plants grow we will keep you up to date on the progress. Lessons were from Monday to Wednesday with a pizza party and water balloon fight on Thursday with the kids choosing to throw balloons at each other or at the priests. Well, I am sure you can guess which they choose. Yup!!! Father Michael and Father Paul were the recipients of many water balloons. Oh yes, they were in street clothes and were two very soaked priests. I can say that the kids enjoyed every one that hit its mark.

We are looking forward to have everyone back next year for in person Faith & Fun Week. Please enjoy the pictures from the week.
See more pictures on back page.
Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14th

In the year 326, the Roman Emperor Constantine sent his mother Helen to Jerusalem, beseeching her not simply to enter the Holy City as a pilgrim but to search for the site of Christ’s Tomb as well as for His Cross, which had been buried under the rubble of emperor Hadrian’s building project. In her wisdom, St. Helen turned first to the local faithful of Jerusalem, who had been living in and around the city since the time of Christ. These people were the direct descendants of those crowds that had heard Jesus preach to his crowds that had heard Jesus preach his sermon on the mount, who had watched him heal so many of their neighbors, and who themselves may have followed him to Golgotha and beheld him hanging on the Cross. The Christians that Helen encountered in Jerusalem would have heard from their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, of Christ and His disciples. They would have been shown the places where He worked His great miracles; they would have known the homes He’d stayed in; they would have swam in the waters on which He walked. St. Helen turned to these sons and daughters of the Holy Land and, with their help, discovered not just Christ’s cross but also the two that had stood aside it on that day the day that our Lord was crucified.

Though she must have been moved to see three crosses instead of one, St. Helen must have also sensed her predicament. No one knew which cross was which, and it felt impossible to tell what blessed timber had held the body of our Lord. In response to the crisis, St. Helen turned to God in prayer, eventually receiving her answer through the local patriarch, Macarius of Jerusalem. A dying woman had just approached the saintly patriarch and begged that he heal her. Having been shown the three crosses that Helen held in her company, Patriarch Macarius took wood from each, touching the woman with the three different pieces in turn. It was only when the wood of the true Cross came into contact with the suffering lady that she was healed, giving Helen and her cohort the answer they’d been waiting for. Imagine St. Helen’s joy not only at finally knowing which was the real Cross of Christ, but at having been led to it by a miracle in which Christ once again became present through His power, saving one woman from death as He saves us all from sin. St. Helen fell down at the patriarch’s feet and kissed the Cross with sincere devotion, watching as the holy Macarius took the Cross and ascended the ambon of the church, raising it for all to see and thereby celebrating, for the first time, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This year, as we celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross on September 14th, let us remember the story of its first exaltation, where God not only revealed the Holy Wood but showed its perpetual strength by saving a woman from death.

Follow 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*
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. |
### Can I take communion?

Father Paul and Father Michael will provide direction on how communion will be distributed following guidelines offered by His Eminence and Archbishop.

### What happens after divine liturgy?

- Antidoron will be distributed by our Priests in individual plastic bags.
- Please do not kiss Father Paul or Father Michael’s hand.
- Upon exiting, please follow the directions of our ushers maintaining proper social distancing guidelines while respectfully exiting church.

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**Additional information for attendees:**

- At risk persons (those with pre-existing health conditions and those over the age of 65) are strongly encouraged to stay at home.
- Anyone who is currently experiencing any symptoms of illness must stay at home or will be refused entry into church.
- The cry room will only be available for the use of the restroom, which will be the only one available. If it is occupied, please wait in the Narthex area.
- The choral duties will continue to be performed by chanTERS singing on opposite sides of the Church.
- Until further notice, coffee hour will be suspended.
- We will continue cleaning and sanitizing our Church after every service.
- Until further notice, all printed materials and liturgical books will not be used.

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**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.**

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**Important Contact Information:**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th><a href="mailto:FrPaul@stnicholastroy.org">FrPaul@stnicholastroy.org</a></th>
<th>(248)525-0711</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fr Paul Patitsas</td>
<td><a href="mailto:FrMichael@stnicholastroy.org">FrMichael@stnicholastroy.org</a></td>
<td>(313) 590-0354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fr Michael Manos</td>
<td>Maggie <a href="mailto:office@stnicholastroy.org">office@stnicholastroy.org</a></td>
<td>(248)362-9575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Administrator: Maggie</td>
<td><a href="mailto:office@stnicholastroy.org">office@stnicholastroy.org</a>.</td>
<td>(248)362-9575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Office:  Nicole <a href="mailto:finance@stnicholastroy.org">finance@stnicholastroy.org</a></td>
<td>(248)362-9575</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caterer:         Sam <a href="mailto:sam@erniesmi.com.com">sam@erniesmi.com.com</a></td>
<td>(586)286-8435</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookstore:       Maria <a href="mailto:bookstore@stnicholastroy.org">bookstore@stnicholastroy.org</a></td>
<td>(248)362-9575</td>
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Please continue praying to our Lord during these challenging times.

Your patience and continued understanding are greatly appreciated.
### September 2020

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COFFEE HOUR CANCELLED. ALL SERVICES WILL BE HELD ONLINE. PLEASE GO TO WWW.STNICHOLASTROY.ORG.
ST. NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
760 West Wattles Rd
Troy, Michigan 48098-4500

Christ is Risen!

Faith and FUN 2020

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