Beloved Parishioners,

We now enter the month of October, 2020.

And we have experienced a year like none other. The virus, the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, or COVID-19 as we have come to come to know it by now, has lingered on longer than any of us could have expected, nine months till now.*

It has added to our vocabulary. We now speak of social distancing, PPE and zooming. We now greet each other with bows and elbow bumps, instead of our customary handshakes and embraces, so familiar to our Orthodox Christian tradition.

At our Church of St. Nicholas, we have seen our pews marked with blue tape and now gold cords to designate “safe distancing”. We have seen our priests wearing masks to distribute Holy Communion and Antidoron. We have been instructed not to kiss our icons or even each other, the living icon in our midst! and other measures, of lesser significance, that have impacted us all.

But as you are reading this, let us focus on those things that have NOT changed. Our Church is STILL OPEN. The Divine Liturgy has continued to be offered in an unbroken chain of Sundays and Weekday Liturgies throughout the COVID-19 Crisis. Your two priests continue to offer sacraments and sacred services both in Church and in the homes of our faithful.

We continue to be available to all of you for Euchelaion (blessing of Healing Oil (Unction)), Aghiasmos (Blessing of your homes and businesses), Exomologisis (the Sacrament of Holy Confession), Paraklesis (Prayers for your health and especially prayers for deliverance from this COVID-19 virus!), and any other pastoral need that you may have.

Our Youth Ministry continues unimpeded! Our Catechism is meeting regularly! Our teachers are actively utilizing the latest technologies to teach our children--from the youngest to the oldest--our precious Orthodox Faith! Our Greek School has also shifted to a ZOOM based classroom and continues as well. Our JOY and GOYA continue with their plans, meetings and outreach. Our Young Adults have actually INITIATED a ministry.

Our Priests have been active restarting our Parish Book Club which will be focused on reading spiritual books to enhance our faith and our walk with our Lord. It will meet in two sections, Mondays at 10 am and Thursdays at 7:30 pm. We also have now begun a weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. which will be led by both of our priests, Fathers Paul and Michael.

These are things to celebrate and to be thankful for to God! We thank all of you for persevering during this crisis, for sticking together, for remembering at all times and at every hour that we are still the Church of Christ!

Greeting you all with love and appreciation,

+Fr. Paul Patitsas

www.npr.org
then go to sections coronavirus-live-updates
Council Report

Council Calendar 2020

Coronavirus Containment Actions
For Divine Liturgy and other services, the check-in remains at the admin area entry. The protocol of temperature check, masks and social distancing in the church also stays in place. Currently the building remains closed for large group meetings currently. These are directives from the State of Michigan as well as the Metropolis of Detroit.

Fr Paul’s Assignment Status
We still await the final papers from New York adding Fr Paul to the clergy of the Archdiocese of America, at which point he will become our permanent presiding priest. His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas has already made the assignment. Fr Paul has been with us on an interim basis since April and we thank him and Presbytera for their patience as the process drives to completion. Fr Paul has met all the Archdiocese requirements, including a health review and enrollment in the pension plan.

Treasurer’s Report
Overall, income for the month of August, 2020 to the General Fund totaled $16,998.00 (compared to $46,626.28 in August 2019). Expenses for August 2020 were $52,921.84 (compared to $44,505.42 in August 2019) resulting in an operating loss for June 2020 of $35,923.84.
Year to Date, the Church is operating at a loss of $160,499.02. When applying the $67,000.00 received as a PPP Loan, the net operating loss YTD is $93,499.02.
The Church is down approximately 126 Stewards as compared to this time last year (440 v. 566), a decrease of approximately 22%.
Please understand, St. Nicholas Church is not in imminent financial danger. We continue to pay our staff and bills and to receive income from pledges and donations. We appreciate your financial support of the Church during these unprecedented times. If possible, please consider fulfilling your entire 2020 stewardship pledge.

General Assembly – November 8
Our Parish Council will be holding a General Assembly meeting inside the church Nave immediately following Divine Liturgy. Please watch your mailbox for a copy of the agenda.

Parish Council (continued)
Welcome Maggie!
Our office administrator Maggie has been offered part time employment directly with our parish and she has accepted the position. We are in the process of converting her from the office staffing agency to becoming a church employee.

Council Calendar 2020
Oct 16-18 Metropolis Hellenic Dance Festival – cancelled
Nov 8 General Assembly
Nov 22 Feather Party – cancelled
Dec 6 St. Nicholas Feast Day Breakfast/ Brunch TBD
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Reception

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISM

September 4, 2020 Anthony Thomas, son of Pete and Gayanae Karnaros
Godparent is Karine Frangulyan

WEDDINGS

August 21, 2020 Lafi Saba Khalil & Anastasia Maria Costopoulos
Kumabra is Samantha Bageris

September 11, 2020 Bryan Macek & Stephanie Founteas
Kumbara is Anastasia Krentz

Congratulations!
Catechism Zoom

As we start the new year the Catechism office staff would like to thank the parents and teachers for their patience and understanding while we worked on this year’s program and schedules. We also want to acknowledge Father Bill Bartz for his generous donation of the “I am an Orthodox Christian” charms that the children received in their class material. Thank you Father Bill!!

We understand that this is a challenging year for everyone! We hope you are doing well now that the school year has started, whether lessons are in person or virtually.

St. Nicholas Catechism School opened on September 13, with ZOOM virtual classes starting at 2:00pm for a quick orientation and meeting your teachers. Backpacks for the younger grades and gift bags for the older grades were distributed to all registered students.

After a long and hard discussion and review with the priests and teachers, a schedule was agreed upon which we will follow until we are able to come together in person for classes.

The following will be the schedule for virtual classes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P4/ K</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9:30am (schedule subject to change by teachers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/8</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Schoolers</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All classes will approximately run for 30 minutes except for the High Schoolers which will run 45 minutes. This year all students are to attend the 1st Sunday of each month in person in church participating in the Divine Liturgy with a 15-20 minute lesson with Fr. Paul and Fr. Michael, or a guest speaker. The first Sunday for this in person church class started on October 4th and will continue until we receive notice from the Metropolis and the state that we can resume in person classes. We ask that you watch your email for updates and information from your child’s teacher. (Make sure the Catechism office has your correct email.)

The teachers are excited this year and were looking forward to seeing their students even if it is on the computer screen. We love to see their little faces. At times classes will interact with guest speakers and/or activities.

We are following the CDC and Metropolis guidelines. Due to these guidelines many of our events have been cancelled. But we continue to look for options to keep the children connected with the church and the St. Nicholas family. When we are giving the ok to resume in person classes, we will return to our regular schedule.

St. Nicholas Catechism Team

GREEK ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE YAL

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
THE HERESY OF PUSILLANIMITY

Now there’s a word for you. Pusillanimity is defined as the quality of cowardice, timidity, the absence of courage and a cowering from risk. St. Symeon the New Theologian, whom the Church commemorates on October 12th each year, said that such gutlessness is in fact the greatest and most dangerous false-teaching to infiltrate the minds of Christian men and women. The men of whom I speak and whom I call heretics are those who say that there is no one in our times and in our midst who is able to keep the Gospel commandments and become like the holy Fathers… Those who say that this is impossible have not fallen into one particular heresy, but rather into all of them [!]… Those who make these claims shut up the heaven that Christ opened up for us and cut off the way to it that he inaugurated for us. (Discourse 29)

St. Symeon spent most of his life in the monastery of St. Mamas in Constantinople, to which he was elected superior at the ripe age of 30. Because his monastery was situated within the city walls, close to the hustle and bustle of everyday life, St. Symeon was constantly wresting his monastics from the comfortable appeal of urban living, encouraging them to take seriously their high-calling as Christians. Even within his monastery, St. Symeon had to help his disciples to keep their eyes on the prize, reminding them that they are to strive in accordance with the standards of Christ rather than with those of the world. As evidenced in the sermon quoted above, St. Symeon had to confront a false notion that had whispered in the ear of his spiritual children: “do your best, but all that talk of the saints is nothing more than wishful thinking.”

For St. Symeon, the idea that the “age of saints” had ended was worse than any other heresy in the world. The thought alone sucked the Gospel of its power, cancelled the work of Christ, locked the gates of heaven and threw away the key. Himself a man of great holiness, St. Symeon knew that the power and presence of God was just as alive and real in his own time as it was in the days of the Apostles and Prophets. He knew that to tell Christians to simply “be good people” instead of to “be like Christ” was a rejection of the very essence of Christian life. St. Symeon did not want his disciples to be cowards, daring only to imitate those whose example was easy to attain; instead, he begged them to take the grace that they received at baptism and let it fill them, transform them, make them into flames and vessels of God’s awesome, otherworldly, illimitable power.

If Christianity leaves you as you are, or perhaps improved in proportion to whatever strength is your own, there’s not much need for it. If Christianity leaves you as you are, or perhaps improved in proportion to whatever strength is your own, there’s not much need for it. That sort of religion is simply self-help with dusty phrasing. If, however, Christianity transforms you in proportion to God’s power, and to God’s will for you, then St. Symeon is correct in warning us not to limit the height of our call. God came to earth to bring you to heaven, He became man to make you like God. We will never know how miraculously God might transform us, how high He might raise us, how beautiful He might make us, unless, of course, we ask Him to do so.

Fr. Michael Manos
This month, we had a board meeting, discussing our hopes and possible ideas for G.O.Y.A. this year. With that being said, we still need to have some of these ideas approved, ensuring that it is possible to be done safely, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Nonetheless, we look forward to being a part of/hosting events. Please be on the lookout for emails regarding future events, emails, and information. We have decided that we will host all G.O.Y.A. meetings via zoom. While this is something we have never done before, we are confident that we can still have just as much fun! More information will be sent out regarding meetings, zoom links, and planned events so far.

---

**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.

*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*

---

**G.O.Y.A. 2020-2021**

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

IPHTHIME #66
The annual Daughter’s November Pita sale has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Stay Well and Keep Healthy!

---

SUNDAY SERVICES REMAIN THE SAME!

Orthos 8:30 am | Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

---

Stay Well and Keep Healthy!
As we continue to try to find our new normal, one thing remains constant...KINDNESS COUNTS.
What does this mean? Simply stated: Living the Golden Rule and putting into action all those fundamental values we learned as children. St. Nicholas Philoptochos invites everyone to join us in spreading kindness and 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 meetings held the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00

Donate food to local food pantries virtually through Amazon by ordering and sending items from their wish list.

Open Hands food pantry wish list https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/2XQWHB081ZXEW/ref=em_sw_em_r_z_g__wb

Lighthouse of Oakland County wish list https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/313DFQNBQP90?type=wishlist&filter=all&sort=priority&viewType=list

Blessings in a Backpack
We are the Godmother to this wonderful organization that feeds local children over the weekend. If you would like to participate in packing backpacks with us, please email for additional dates and details. All backpacks are packed at Meadows Learning Center located in Rochester Hills.

Sunshine Committee
This program 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!

Make prayer blankets.

Monetary donations that will support all these initiatives and more can be mailed to the Church office, attention Philoptochos or made online at http://www.stnicholastroy.org on the Philoptochos page.

In addition to the initiatives above, the nutritional, social outreach and financial assistance task forces are still available to provide parishioners with the resources needed during these challenging times. Please contact Philoptochos@StNicholasTroy.org or call the Church office at 248-362-9575 if you need assistance or would like to help.

Impact

You never really know the true impact you have on those around you. You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone’s entire life around. You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk. So, don’t wait to be kind. Don’t wait for someone else to be kind first. Don’t wait for better circumstances or for someone to change. Just be kind, because you never know how much someone needs it.

~Nikki Banas
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 users 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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church Office</td>
<td>Maggie</td>
<td><a href="mailto:office@stnicholastroy.org">office@stnicholastroy.org</a></td>
<td>(248)362-9575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>Maggie</td>
<td><a href="mailto:office@stnicholastroy.org">office@stnicholastroy.org</a></td>
<td>(248)362-9575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Office</td>
<td>Nicole</td>
<td><a href="mailto:finance@stnicholastroy.org">finance@stnicholastroy.org</a></td>
<td>(248)362-9575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caterer</td>
<td>Sam</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sam@erniesmi.com.com">sam@erniesmi.com.com</a></td>
<td>(586)286-8435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookstore</td>
<td>Maria</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bookstore@stnicholastroy.org">bookstore@stnicholastroy.org</a></td>
<td>(248)362-9575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fr Paul Patitsas</td>
<td><a href="mailto:FrPaul@stnicholastroy.org">FrPaul@stnicholastroy.org</a></td>
<td>(248)525-0711</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fr Michael Manos</td>
<td><a href="mailto:FrMichael@stnicholastroy.org">FrMichael@stnicholastroy.org</a></td>
<td>(313) 590-0354</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please continue praying to our Lord during these challenging times. Your patience and continued understanding are greatly appreciated.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orthros 8:30am</td>
<td>Orthros 8:30am</td>
<td>Orthros 8:30am</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</td>
<td>9:00am Bible Study</td>
<td>9:00am Bible Study</td>
<td>9:00am Bible Study</td>
<td>9:00am Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Council Meeting 7:00pm</td>
<td>Parish Council Meeting 7:00pm</td>
<td>Parish Council Meeting 7:00pm</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Study 7:30pm</td>
<td>Book Study 7:30pm</td>
<td>Book Study 7:30pm</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th Sunday of the Ecumenical Council</td>
<td>11th Sunday of the Ecumenical Council</td>
<td>11th Sunday of the Ecumenical Council</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Study 7:30pm</td>
<td>Book Study 7:30pm</td>
<td>Book Study 7:30pm</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th St. Symeon the New Theologian</td>
<td>12th St. Symeon the New Theologian</td>
<td>12th St. Symeon the New Theologian</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthros 8:30am</td>
<td>Orthros 8:30am</td>
<td>Orthros 8:30am</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</td>
<td>9:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>9:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>9:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>9:30am Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th Luke the Evangelist</td>
<td>18th Luke the Evangelist</td>
<td>18th Luke the Evangelist</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Study 7:30pm</td>
<td>Book Study 7:30pm</td>
<td>Book Study 7:30pm</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th St. Demetrius the Myrrh-Streamer</td>
<td>25th St. Demetrius the Myrrh-Streamer</td>
<td>25th St. Demetrius the Myrrh-Streamer</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthros 8:30am</td>
<td>Orthros 8:30am</td>
<td>Orthros 8:30am</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</td>
<td>9:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>9:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>9:30am Bible Study</td>
<td>9:30am Bible Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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!