But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings, and you will go out and skip and jump like calf's fresh out of their stall. (Malachi 4:2)

Beloved Parishioners,

How joyful is the feast of Christmas? It is a holiday that fills our darkest winter days with light and joy and hope. Those who believe in our Loving God and those who do not, both share in the joy of the feast of Christ’s Nativity (Christmas!) and that is HOW IT SHOULD BE!

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ became what He was not (a created being) to join us, each and all, to that which He was before all time, GOD! He, our sweetest Savior, became Man so that He could save each man! He came for the salvation, healing, and sanctification of the entire world! We should know that He did not come only for those who love his appearing but for all!

But as the scripture above, taken from the prophetic book of Malachi, so beautifully states, for those who fear His name He came in a SPECIAL WAY! For those of us humans who love and fear His Holy Name, He comes to us rising like a Sun filling us with the radiant light of His Righteousness! He comes with HEALING IN HIS WINGS! He comes to shelter us and cover us like a winged angel, like a powerful eagle, like a mother bird, and beneath His wings we find HEALING.

Our lives may be full of much pain, but God’s love so fills us that this pain, no matter how strong, seems like a light and easy burden. The closer we draw near to Him, the more the wounds that afflict us from the outside are transfigured and become, in the Hands of the Great Physician, medicine! Medicine that heals the wounds of our self-centeredness, our selfishness, our obsessive self-justification, our tiring self-righteousness, our sorrow-filled jealousy, and black anger and blacker hatred and darkest bitterness's of so many kinds.

For those who FEAR HIS NAME, that is for all those WHO LOVE HIM MORE THAN ANY OTHER LOVE He is coming to us! He is coming with HEALING in His wings and He comes to shelter YOU, dear one. Please remember ALWAYS how dear you are to God! That he became man FOR YOU! Even if you were the only person who ever stayed or erred, He would still have come for YOU. Rejoice! Skip about and leap and jump like that proverbial calf set loose from his stall! Kick up your heals, and smile knowing that our loving Savior has come FOR YOU!

Wishing You the Deepest Joy of the Christmas Feast and sending you this epistle full of love and tenderness and concern for you and for yours, I remain,

Yours in the New-Born Savior,

Fr. Paul A. Patitsas, Proistamenos
Council Report

Council Calendar 2020

Coronavirus Containment Actions, Including Catering
For Divine Liturgy and other services, the check-in remains present at the admin area entry in order to be able to attend in person. The protocol of temperature check, masks and social distancing in the Church also stays in place. Catered events are managed separately from Church events by Ernie’s Catering and are subject to the State of Michigan executive orders plus any Oakland County orders. All catered events require masks and social distancing. The facility remains closed to all ministries at this time, per direction of the Metropolis. Ministries are to continue to meet virtually as needed.

Council Elections for 2021-2022 Term
The current Parish Council term ends December 31, 2020 and Nomination Forms for parishioners to join the next Council have been mailed out. Please consider giving your time and effort to join Council for the next term.
Nomination Forms must be postmarked or submitted to the church office in person by November 29. Our parish Bylaws call for a Council of between 15-25 parishioners. Elections will be held December 13.

Fr Paul Incardination
Permanent assignment to our parish by His Eminence is now complete. Congratulations and Welcome Fr Paul!

Facilities Update
Recently Parish Council approved the replacement of two HVAC units in our facility. Both units dated back to the mid-1990s are were the last of the original units. All sixteen HVAC units throughout our facility, from Church thru classrooms, offices and Event Center, are now up to date.
Our next areas of attention will be retention pond maintenance as well as roof repairs and updates. The ponds contain some overgrown vegetation which puts complete drainage away from the structure at risk. Getting the work done is important because without it, we could see flooding back into parts of our facility. Regarding the roof, look for a report this Winter in line with an upcoming Spring 2021 General Assembly for expenditure request.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUNERALS
Dorothy Dellas + (October 17)
Mary A. DeTomaso + (November 2)
Mary T. Poulos + (November 5)

BAPTISM
November 7, 2020 Nicholas Andrew Son of Andrew Constantine and Kathryn Marie Psilis
Godparents are Melina Mili And Christopher Ketchum

WEDDINGS
October 23, 2020 Constantine Boulos and Paige Ksatt
Kumbara is Vasiliki Gikas

October 24, 2020 Mauricio Perez and Eleni Catherine Lionas
Kumbara and Kumbaro is Katie and Nicholas Parks

Congratulations!

Philoptochos

Sunshine Committee: During the month of November and December Philoptochos is asking for monetary donations for our Sunshine Committee, which helps those in need by providing donations to Troy People Concerned, Focus Detroit, The Salvation Army Bed and Bread Program of Detroit and the Forget-Me-Not holiday packages to our St. Nicholas Parishioners who are confined to a nursing home, hospital, or their home. Checks should be made out to ST NICHOLAS PHILOPTOCHOS with SUNSHINE in the memo and mailed to St. Nicholas Philoptochos at 760 W Wattles Rd, Troy, MI 48098.

Parish Council Calendar

Dec 2 Parish Council Meeting 7:00pm
Dec 6 St Nicholas Feast Day
Breakfast/Brunch – cancelled
Dec 13 Parish Council Elections 2021-2022
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Reception– cancelled
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!

St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
Income/Expense Statement
11/5/2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YTD 2020</td>
<td>Current Budget</td>
<td>YTD 2019</td>
<td>Annual Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CONTRIBUTIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stewardship-Collects</td>
<td>$238,876.65</td>
<td>$291,000.00</td>
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<td>In Memorial Contributions</td>
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<td>Misc. Donations</td>
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<td>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</td>
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<td>MISC INCOME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissions/Caterer</td>
<td>$5,909.84</td>
<td>$35,000.00</td>
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<td>Festival</td>
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<td>Feather Party</td>
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<td>$290.00</td>
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<td>X-mas Card</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$550.00</td>
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<td>Books for Re-Sale</td>
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<td>$6,530.00</td>
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<td>Altar Flowers</td>
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<td>Coffee Social</td>
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<th>Beginning Balance</th>
<th>End Balance</th>
<th>Return</th>
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<td>$1,300,382.00</td>
<td>8.40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>Endowment Fund</td>
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<td>Sunday School</td>
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<td>$33,054.00</td>
<td>6.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$6,254,109.00</td>
<td>$7,010,345.00</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Hulk, princesses, snowman and an ear of corn to name a few invaded the St. Nicholas parking on October 31 for the first Annual Trunk & Treat. Costumed children and adults braved the cold and windy day, but all enjoyed the decorated trunks of Noah’s Ark, Wild 4 Jesus & God’s Light Shines Pumpkins. Candy, Thanksgiving projects, cider and donuts and pumpkins were given out to everyone young and old. The children were given religious designs to decorate their pumpkins. We asked them to take pictures of their work, which you can see in this newsletter and more on our web site. We received many positive comments that we are starting to work on next years event.

We would like to thank Kaethe Economos, Nicoletta & Fotini Michalakis, Cindy & Pat Crosson, Angie, Sophia & Nicolette Lisnek, Lexie & Kate Hazen, Maive Bellios & Marie Luhring who braved the wind and cold to help with their donation of candy. One big thank you to Anne Feles who donated a basket full of spooky hands filled with candy.

Again, this year we are participating along with Philoptochos in our CSP- Mitten, Gloves, Hats & Scarves Tree as one of our projects. Please stop by the administration office and pick up a mitten, with age and gender on the back and return to the church along with the mittens in a gift bag (please do not wrap) so we can distribute to the appropriate age and gender.

The other CSP is the Giving Tree, also located in the administration lobby. We ask that you take and ornament and provide what is listed on the back. Watch your email for more information. If you are participating in either of these projects, please make sure you advise the office so we can credit the children for their award pins. Watch your emails for further information.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we will not be holding our annual Christmas program and breakfast.

We look forward to a better 2021 with the return of all our events.

The St Nicholas Catechism Staff wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Healthy and Happy New Year!
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.

G.O.Y.A.

This past month has consisted of many new ideas and plans for the upcoming year. With everything going on with COVID-19, we have been wanting to follow the protocol, as best as we can, to ensure that we can have G.O.Y.A. throughout the entire year. This November, we plan to have our annual sandwich making (COVID safe). We also plan to have our next meeting, November 15, 2020. As always, please be on the Lookout for emails!
Nativity Depicted

In the icon of the Nativity we see people relating to Christ in three ways: knowing him, looking for him, and doubting him.

Those who know Christ are those who are closest to him. They are the Theotokos, the donkey, and the ox. The Theotokos represents all people who have known God. She reclines next to Christ, tired from the demands of his birth, yet resting in the peace of his presence. The animals represent Creation, which is quick to recognize its Creator. The donkey and ox, looking with dumb serenity on Christ, allude to an Old Testament prophecy: “The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master’s crib.”

Those who are looking for Christ are a little farther from him. They are depicted slightly higher in the icon, to the left and the right of the cave. These seekers are the shepherds and wise men. Each is guided by an angel, who reflects the promise of God’s glory but does not comprise its entirety. The wise men see something true in the arrangement of the stars, and the shepherds are captivated by the brilliance of the starlight. Both groups of people have traveled far, have left their homes and pastures, and have wearied themselves on a worthwhile journey.

Those who are doubting Christ sit towards the bottom of the icon, in the left corner. Here we see Joseph talking with an “old man,” who is planting seeds of deceit in his head. Joseph, who had himself witnessed the miraculous virgin birth, is listening to the devil in his ear: maybe this birth wasn’t so miraculous, so virgin, after all. Mary looks with compassion towards her betrothed, saddened to see him doubt what she knows to be true.

Each of us, at different times in our lives, will read ourselves into the different people depicted in this icon. Sometimes we are looking for God like the wise men and shepherds: we see a glimpse of beauty, we hear a note of truth, and we set off on a journey to find its origin. Other times we know God: like the Theotokos and the animals, our journey has led us to sit in profound silence as we contemplate the mystery of His light in a dark world. And finally, and perhaps most often, we are like Joseph—we doubt God. We have lived moments of great faith, but we have forgotten what those moments felt like. We are sitting on a stone and rubbing our head, tired as we bounce between belief and unbelief. Was it real? Is it real?

In all cases, the key is to be as close as we can to the center of the icon, to sit as closely as we can to Christ. When we’re looking for God we encounter Him in His Church, and the words of the gospel prove to be what we’ve been waiting for. When we know Christ all we do is try not to leave, we sit in a cave of grateful prayer and silence as we behold his glory. And, when we doubt, we try to take just one step back towards God. We get off of the rock and into the pew: we come to an extra service, we do someone an extra service, and as we step back towards Christ the voice of temptation fades into a whisper. It is easy to doubt God from a distance, but impossible to deny him when we see him up close. May this Nativity bring Christ’s birth not just to our minds, but into our hearts as well.

1 Isaiah 1.3

Fr. Michael Manos
GIVING TREE

Making Wishes Come True
in Our Community

Christmas Wishes For

FOCUS DETROIT

- CHOOSE a Child’s TAG from the Giving Tree
- PURCHASE the Gifts
- RETURN the gifts, with the TAG

JUDSON CENTER

- TAKE a TAG from the Giving Tree
- PURCHASE the Gifts
- RETURN the gifts, unwrapped, in a gift bag with the TAG

The Judson Center provides expert, comprehensive services in Southeastern Michigan that strengthen children, adults and families impacted by abuse and neglect, autism, developmental disabilities and mental health challenges so that they are successful in their communities.

GIVING TREES are located in the Administrative Lobby

Monetary donations will also be accepted. Please make your check payable to:
St. Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos with GIVING TREE in the memo line.
Checks may be mailed to St. Nicholas Philoptochos, 760 W. Wattles Road, Troy MI 48098
Sunshine Committee

October marks the 45th year of the Philoptochos Sunshine Committee, bringing SUNSHINE to those in need. We provide meals to families in our community for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Pascha/Easter. The Sunshine Committee helps those in need throughout the year including donations made to Troy People Concerned, The Salvation Army Bed and Bread Program of Detroit and Forget-Me-Not holiday packages to our St. Nicholas Parishioners who are confined to a nursing home, hospital, or their own home.

Our aim is to provide the same this year and more!

Together, with your generosity and love, we can help fight hunger and help bring SUNSHINE into the lives of others.

The Holidays are quickly approaching and many are relying on our assistance. We are asking for your help again this year.

We will be accepting monetary donations from October through December 2020

My Contribution to the Philoptochos Sunshine Committee to help those in need is

☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ $25 ☐ _______

Name __________________________________________
Address _________________________________________
City & State ___________________________________

Please make checks payable to St. Nicholas Philoptochos with SUNSHINE on the memo line

...spread a little Sunshine today!
St. Nicholas Catechism
Focus Detroit
“Mittens, Scarves & Hats”

We are asking the children of the St. Nicholas Catechism to participate in our Community Service Project

“Children Reaching Out“ .... Bringing Warmth to Children

Once again this year we will have our “Mitten, Scarf, & Hats” drive for Focus Detroit.

Please stop by our Christmas “Mitten Tree” in the Administration Lobby and take a mitten on or after November 9th. Attached is the age & gender of the child. Take the mitten off the tree and return it in a gift bag with the mitten attached so we may distribute them to the correct children. Return your mittens gifts to the Catechism office and we will record that your child did participate in the project for credit toward their award pin.

We thank you in advance for your support and kindness in keeping these children warm during the winter.
ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Would like your help in decorating our Church!

2020 POINSETTIA DONATIONS ARE $25.00
PLEASE ADD MY FAMILY TO THE LIST

Deadline: Friday, December 11, 2020

POINSETTIAS DONATIONS

Return this portion to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church | 760 W. Wattles RD. | Troy, Mi 48098 | 248-362-9575

How would you like name listed?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

YOUR NAME WILL APPEAR IN THE CHRISTMAS EVE BULLETIN!

PLEASE PRINT ALL CHARACTERS

The cost is $25.00 to participate to Participate. Please make checks payable to:
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church please write in the memo “Poinsettia Donation”

Your First & Last Name: __________________________________________________Stewardship #_____

Your Address: ____________________________________________________________

For any questions, please contact Maggie in the Administration office at 248-362-9573
Or Email office@stnicholastroy.org
PHASE 2: Ongoing COVID-19 Safety Protocols Update for our St. Nicholas Church

Dear Saint Nicholas Family,

His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas, has provided us with guidelines for the 2nd 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How can I attend church on in person?</th>
<th>How will my family be seated at church?</th>
<th>What will church look like when I arrive?</th>
<th>Can I receive communion?</th>
<th>What happens after divine liturgy?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • 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. | • A family unit 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. | • Once you arrive at church and pass the COVID-19 mini health assessment, you will proceed to the Narthex.  
  o Central trays will be provided in the Narthex for your candles and offering, as no basket will be passed in church,  
  o 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.  
  • Please do not alter or remove any of the social distancing material in the pews or aisles. | • Father Paul and Father Michael will provide direction on how communion will be distributed following guidelines offered by His Eminence and Archbishop.  
  • Communion will start at the back of the church and proceed forward. Please follow the direction of our ushers so that the church maintains social distancing and safety for our parishioners. | • Antidoron will be blessed by our Priests and distributed via plastic bags in the aisles. This is to prevent congregating around the Priests during distribution.  
  • Please do not kiss Father Paul or Father Michael’s hand  
  • Upon exiting the Nave, please exit the church immediately; do not congregate in the Narthex. Please keep your mask on until you fully exit the church building.  
  • Upon exiting, please follow the directions of our ushers maintaining proper social distancing guidelines while respectfully exiting church. |

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

November 13th, 2020
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!

DAUGHTERS OF PENELLOPE

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

Stay Well and Keep Healthy!
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bible Study 7:00pm</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:00am</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:00am Parish Council Meeting 7:00pm</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Book Club 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10th Sunday of Luke Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/ 9:30am (Catechism) All Grades Classes after Divine Liturgy Philoptochos Meeting 11:00am YAL Meeting 7:00pm</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:00am</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bible Study 7:00pm</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11th Sunday of Luke Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/ 9:30am (Catechism) Grades 4/5 12:00pm Grade 6 1:00pm High School 2:00pm</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:00am</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>St. Eleutherios Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm AHEPA Meeting 7:00pm D of P Meeting 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sunday before Nativity Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/ 9:30am (Catechism) Grades 4/5 12:00pm Grade 6 1:00pm High School 2:00pm</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:00am</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 9:00am</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Sunday after Nativity Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/ 9:30am</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1ST ANNUAL   TRUNK & TREAT