The Patron of Koliva

St. Theodore the Tyron is celebrated each year on February 24th. This great fourth-century saint was born in Pontus by the Black Sea and served as a soldier and legionary in the Roman army during the time that Christians suffered a ghastly persecution under the emperor Maximian. In the first years of his military career, Theodore kept his faith quiet, waiting for God to show him the best time at which to make his witness. At some point, while the army was stationed near Helenopontus, Theodore successfully slayed a wild beast that had been tormenting the people of the city. Understanding this event to be a sign that God now wanted him to fight the beast of idolatry, Theodore began to make his public confession of faith.

One night, Theodore’s military cohort was ordered to sacrifice to the Roman gods. Theodore refused in staunch simplicity, stating that: “I adore only Christ, He is the King whom I serve, and to Him only am I willing to sacrifice!” As word of Theodore’s faith spread throughout the army, he was thrown into jail, tortured, and eventually burned in a great fire. All throughout these horrible sufferings, Theodore’s faith remained not simply unwavering, but joyful. With his final breath, St. Theodore was heard to be thanking God!

Not long after his repose, St. Theodore performed a miracle which we celebrate—knowingly or not—even to this day. In the year 361, the Roman Empire was ruled by a man named Julian the Apostate, who labored maniacally to reverse the Christianization of the Empire and to return Rome to its pagan roots. During the first week of Lent in 361, the emperor Julian commanded that all the food in the markets of the Roman capital (Constantinople) be sprinkled with the blood of animals sacrificed to the pagan pantheon. He did this because he knew that the Christians of Constantinople, tired and hungry from their first week of lenten fasting, would go to the market to fill their homes with food. Wishing to preserve the Christians from Julian’s ill-spirited plan, St. Theodore appeared to the Patriarch of Constantinople in a dream, telling him to instruct the Christians to avoid the market and instead to boil the wheat in their pantries for food. St. Theodore’s miraculous appearance and aid is remembered even today, when, on the first Saturday of Lent, Orthodox Christians boil wheat and prepare koliva to bring to the church, where it is offered in memory of their departed loved ones. May we have St. Theodore’s intercessions, both for our salvation and for the repose of our departed family and friends!

Fr. Michael Manos
Council Report

Ernie’s Catering Update
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 with respect to the pandemic. All catered events require masks and social distancing. Catering remains available, including take-out/pick-up orders for events. Please consider Ernie’s if you have a catered event coming up. Ernie’s can be reached at (586) 286-8435 or via email at sales2@erniesmi.com. Remember that a portion of all sales from all catered events contributes to our parish finances.

Stewardship 2021
A committee consisting of Father Paul and Father Michael along with parishioners Niko Parks, Katie Chaka, George Mortis, Terry Zangkas and Tina Souphis as well as Council members Nick Kaltsounis, Stephen Karniotis, Pat Crosson, Kaethe Economos, Paula Kalevas and Pete Michalakis has been formed. Initiatives are being rolled out this Winter to strengthen our Stewardship efforts and broaden our parish community events and activity.

Budget 2021
The Council recently developed and approved a 2021 General Fund budget consisting of Income of $623,500 and Expense of $704,694 for a Net Loss of -$81,194. The net loss is primarily driven by the Coronavirus pandemic causing declining contributions which are expected to continue into the first half of 2021. A fundraiser will be required to help offset the decline.

Parish Council 2021-2022
The new Council consists of the following 18 parishioners.

- Katina Cloutier
- Karen Cosmos
- Pat Crosson
- Kaethe Economos
- Nick Feles
- Kessie Kaltsounis
- Nick Kaltsounis
- Stephen Karniotis
- Steve Katsaros
- Paula Kalevas
- Mary Lafter
- George Manolias
- Pete Michalakis
- Guss Pappas
- Ted Souphis
- Maria Spounias
- Ray Tonelli
- Greg Zotos

Announcements

Funerals
James Collias + ( Dec 12)
Michael Fiotakis + ( Dec 16)
Nickolaos Spanos + ( Dec19)
Tony Phillip DeTomaso + (Dec 21)
Katina Matsios + ( Dec 23)
Penelope Teknos + ( Jan 5)
Haralambos Bobby Floros + (Jan 15)

Baptism
December 19, 2020
Domenico Goulas son of Markos Goulas & Christina Polychronou
Godparent is Lena Drake

Weddings
December 12, 2020
Hunter James and Chelsea Chambos
Koumbara is Ashley Tengler
Congratulations!

YAL
The St. Nicholas Young Adults League (YAL) will be making COVID kits on Saturday, February 13 for distribution to church members after liturgy on February 14! If you or someone you know may be interested in joining the group or coming to help make kits, please reach out to Fotini Michalakis or Nicole Souphis at YAL@StNicholasTroy.org.

AHEPA SCHOLARSHIP
Applications for graduating high school seniors and university level (sophomore through professional graduate school) are available online www.ahepadistrict10.org and then select Educational Foundation. The AHEPA Scholarship deadline is April 1, 2021. Anyone who needs assistance please call Milton Gust at 248-689-4156.
ARGONAULTS
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.

G.O.Y.A.
Happy New Year! This past month, our G.O.Y.A. members met up in Downtown Rochester to see the lights (socially distanced, following COVID protocol, and wearing masks of course). We also collaborated with St. Nick’s Young Adults group in writing cards to send out for the Nativity Season. This January, we will be making tie blankets from home! Each family will sign up to make as many as they desire! As always, please keep a look out for upcoming events and messages!

OPA DANCING 2021......As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, we are cautiously optimistic about moving forward with hope and safety that we will be able to have OPA Dancing 2021, not sure what the format will be, but working on a backup plan should our circumstances need to change. Please stay tuned in the next few weeks for more details...

G.O.Y.A.
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DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

DOP Winter Fundraiser

Shop with Maple Craft Foods and help us achieve our goal of raising $2,500 for our chapter student scholarship, presented at the District Convention in May.

SHOP ONLINE! HELP A STUDENT

- Visit the Maple Foods online store: https://maplecraftfoods.com/pages/daughters-of-penelope
- Click “SHOP NOW”
- Choose your items
- Check out and enter “DOP” as the fundraiser code

AHEPA NEWS
2020 was a very difficult year but, The AHEPA local organizations were active, promoting Hellenism, Christian Faith, Greek Culture and History. AHEPA Aegean Chapter 506 was active in doing many Philanthropic deeds, helping local families in need, donating food, supporting local churches with donations, supporting cultural events (Hellenic Museum-Greek Parade) by getting our youth involved organizing events: fishing, golf, picnics, church events, Greek Parade with Evzones, and supporting Academic Scholarship Awards for our students. The AHEPA organization wishes you a Happy and Healthy year. Join your local AHEPA group in your area!!! For more information call Milton Gust at 248-689-4156.

Fraternity Vasilios Vouharas President Aegean Chapter 506
Dear Philoptochos Members,

We hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

The past year has been one most of us have never experienced before, and one none of us will ever forget. We hope and pray Covid-19 has avoided your families, knowing all too well we have all been affected in many ways, most noticeably not seeing one another at church on Sundays or at monthly meetings.

This year, more than ever, Philoptochos has been called to help those in need. So many in our community: our city, the Metro area, and the state of Michigan, have found themselves in situations beyond their control. Thankfully, we have been able to answer their requests for help. That is because of you. We are blessed with a chapter that is full with members who care. You give of your time, your talents and your treasures.

Because we have not been able to see one another in person, it has been more difficult to keep up to date with our donations and stewardship. Now is the time to renew your membership with Philoptochos. It is also the time to invite others to come join us! Parishioners over the age of 18 years old, and members of the church in good standing, are eligible to join.

When completing your stewardship, please remember the first $15 is sent to the National Philoptochos office and the next $6 is sent to our Metropolis Philoptochos. Any amount beyond $21 stays with our chapter to aid our local donations and commitments.

Please complete the attached membership form today and return it with your payment, payable to: St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society. Please mail to:

Paula Kalevas
Attn: Philoptochos Membership
2284 Devonshire Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

If you have any questions, of course, feel free to contact me: 248-227-9343. If you prefer, you may also renew your stewardship online through the St. Nicholas website at:

http://www.stnicholastroy.org/ministries_and_organizations/philoptochos/index.php

With Sisterly Love,

Paula
Philoptochos Membership Form for 2021

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Please make your check or send cash to St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society and write “2021 Membership” on the check memo line.

Remember, any amount beyond $21 stays with our chapter to help us meet our commitments and aid to those in need.

Send your payment along with this form to:

Paula Kalevas  
Attention: Philoptochos Membership  
2284 Devonshire Road  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
Collection Drive for Sanctum House

Philoptochos is collecting items for Sanctum House’s residential facility in Michigan, which provides a safe space for survivors of human trafficking. Sanctum House’s 2-year residential program offers education, counseling, therapy, medical treatment, job training, and support to transform the lives of the resident survivors.

NEW ITEMS WE ARE COLLECTING:

- Multi-vitamin gummies
- Laundry detergent
- Dryer sheets
- Dishwasher pods
- Dish soap
- Clorox wipes
- Lysol spray
- Toilet paper
- Facial tissues
- Trash bags (13- and 30-gallon bags)
- Paper plates and paper bowls
- Plastic silverware and plastic cups
- Paper towels
- Coffee (regular)
- Variety of teas
- Large Ziplock bags
- Aluminum foil

Please bring all items to the Church and leave them by the office. **ALL ITEMS MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH BY 11AM ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021.**
YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING: The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, is requiring and mandating that all youth workers will have access to Praesidium’s online abuse prevention training and screening packages using the Armatus® Learn to Protect System. The training session/videos needs to be completed every year and the background check every two years. You will be receiving reminder emails from them indicating their records show that you have previously completed training in the past and are due for additional abuse prevention training in Praesidium’s Armatus Learn to Protect System. You will need to log in at http://praesidiuminc.com/login to see your updated requirements. If you cannot remember your password, please click the link on the login screen to reset your password. The Praesidium Support Team is also available help you log in or connect with your organization. Please feel free to reach out to them at support@praesidiuminc.com. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to a safe environment!

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Bake Sale and Vasilopita lunches to-go!
A special thank you to:

Melanie Feles
Andrea Feles-Katsimbaris
Anne Feles
Cindy and Pat Crosson
Steve Karniotis
Vasiliki Michalakis
Brittany Mouzourakis

And the many helping hands that made these two events a success!

Upcoming Events and how to JOIN!

You are invited to join St. Nicholas Philoptochos and help us spread kindness. Below are some easy ways to get involved!

• We will be collecting items for Sanctum House this month. Sanctum House is a safe house for women who have been human trafficked. They provide 24/7 housing, healthcare, dental care, education and so much more. More information will come in the weekly bulletin.

• Join us for our ZOOM meetings held the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00.

• Email us! Let us know you want to get involved at Philoptochos@StNicholasTroy.org.

• Make a monetary donation! Mail a check to the Church office, attention Philoptochos or make an online donation at http://www.stnicholastroy.org/ on the Philoptochos page.

◊ Sunshine Committee – 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!

◊ St. Basil’s Academy – bury the indigent immigrants and continues to help those in need

• Make prayer blankets.
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

BOOKSTORE

Way of the Ascetics

*Tito Calliander*

Way of the Ascetics is a rich, compact introduction for modern readers to the Eastern Christian spiritual tradition that has been an inspiration to millions for centuries. These compassionate and insightful reflections on self-control and inner peace are meant to lead the readers to fuller union with God. The author makes a generous selection of succinct yet profound extracts from the spiritual Fathers and provides an illuminating commentary and practical applications for daily devotion. He tempers austerity with common sense, warmth, and even humor, as he urges us on our journey toward God. Written for laypersons living fully in the world as much as for clergy, Way of the Ascetics is an excellent resource for daily meditation, authentic spiritual guidance, and a revitalized religious life.

Paperback. 110 pages. Size 5 X 7.25 $15.00

To reserve your copy of these books or any bookstore item please contact Maria Kokkinakis at 248-362-9575 or by Email at bookstore@stnicholastroy.org
ORDER OF AHEPA DISTRICT #10
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

High School Graduate Scholarship Application

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:
The AHEPA Educational Foundation offers financial support to qualified high school students in any academic discipline, applying and accepted by an accredited college or university. This scholarship award can only be used for educational use, tuition and/or books.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (MUST MEET at least ONE of the following conditions):
Check any that apply ONLY typed applications will be accepted.

☐ A. Be of Greek descent.
☐ B. Parent(s) are currently members of the Order of AHEPA or Daughters of Penelope.
☐ C. The applicant is either a Son of Pericles or a Maid of Athena.
☐ D. Is a grandchild of a current member of the Order of AHEPA or Daughters of Penelope.

➢ This scholarship is intended ONLY for graduating High School senior students that are continuing higher education.
➢ The scholarship will be awarded with special emphasis on character and intelligence, capacity in chosen field as reflected in school work, scope of interest as reflected in extra-curricular activities, evidence in leadership, and some financial need.
➢ The applications will be reviewed by the members of the District #10 Educational Foundation and their decision will be final.
➢ The awards will be presented at the time designated for the awards banquet planned for **Saturday, May 22nd 2021** . Please save the day in your calendar.
➢ The recipient will be notified immediately after the selection process so that he or she can make arrangements to attend. (If the recipient is unable to attend the awards presentation, a representative MUST be present in order to receive the award on his or her behalf.)
➢ Applicants MUST USE the scholarship application that indicates the current year on the cover. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

DEADLINE: All required materials must be included with your application and be received no later than **APRIL 1st** on the year applying via US Mail and email to Milton A. Gust.

**Applicants must send their color wallet size photo in JPG format to: imgust@yahoo.com**

**DUE DATE: APRIL 1st, 5:00pm Eastern Time.**

**ONLY applications received by the due date will be considered.**

Anyone interested or wishing to get an application, please contact:

Mr. Milton A. Gust
Executive Secretary
AHEPA District #10 Educational Foundation
Telephone: 248.689.4156
imgust@yahoo.com

OR

Download from the website below:
www.AHEPAdistrict10.org/educational-foundation
ORDER OF AHEPA DISTRICT #10
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

College Scholarship Application
(Sophomore through Professional Graduate School)

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:
The AHEPA Educational Foundation offers financial support to qualified students in any academic discipline at an accredited college or university. This scholarship award can only be used for educational use, tuition and/or books.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (MUST MEET ALL): ONLY typed applications will be accepted.

☐ Must be a paid member of a District #10 AHEPA, Daughters of Penelope, Sons of Pericles or Maids of Athena by December 31st 2020 and by March 31st for the year 2021.
☐ U.S. Citizen, National or Legally residing in the U.S.A.
☐ Must be a full-time student (12 + credits)
☐ A cumulative G.P.A. of 3.00 or better.
☐ Provide an official university or college transcript.
☐ Provide two letters of recommendation on official letterhead: (1) from your current educational institution; and (2) from the applicant’s AHEPA family chapter which must demonstrate active participation and certified membership as stated in the 1st eligibility criterion.

☐ NEED-BASED APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE A COPY OF THEIR INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AWARD LETTER AND/OR 1040 WITH W-2.

☐ Provide a 500 word essay as required in the application
☐ The applications will be reviewed by the members of the District #10 Educational Foundation and their decision will be final.
☐ The awards will be presented at the time designated for the awards banquet planned for Saturday, May 22nd 2021. Please save the day in your calendar.
☐ The recipient will be notified immediately after the selection process so that he or she can make arrangements to attend. (If the recipient is unable to attend the awards presentation, a representative MUST be present in order to receive the award on his or her behalf.)
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AHEPA District #10 Educational Foundation
Telephone: 248.689.4156
imngust@yahoo.com

OR

Download from the website below:
www.AHEPAdistrict10.org/educational-foundation
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.

| How can I attend church on 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 9:30AM 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.  
  - Central trays will be provided in the Narthex for your candles and 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.  
  - Please do not alter or remove any of the social distancing material in the pews or aisles. |
| How will my family be seated at church? | • 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.  
  • Please follow the guidance of our ushers so we adhere to the social distancing guidelines. |
| Can I receive communion? | • 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. |
| What happens after divine liturgy? | • 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 Michaels’ 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*
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 is 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. Bulletins will be provided at the end of the service. The church’s website also has the bulletin available at www.stnicholastroy.org.

Please be patient, kind and respectful and we’ll get through this together as our St. Nicholas family.

General information:

- The broadcasts will continue and are available via our website: www.stnicholastroy.org.
- The Event Center is available for parishioner events. Please contact Sam Backos, our caterer, for information on how to use the Event Center.
- You can also virtually light a vigil candle for $5.00. Please visit our website OR call the church office and a donation check can also be mailed, writing vigil candle on memo line. A Parish Council member will light the vigil candle at the next Divine Liturgy, after the request is received.

Important Contact Information: Church Office Hours 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Fr Paul Pattitsas FrPaul@stnicholastroy.org (248) 525-0711
Fr Michael Manos FrMichael@stnicholastroy.org (313) 590-0354
Office Administrator: Maggie office@stnicholastroy.org. (248) 362-9575
Finance Office: Nicole finance@stnicholastroy.org (248) 362-9575
Caterer: Sam Backos sales2@erniesmi.com (586) 286-8435

Please continue praying to our Lord during these challenging times.
Your patience and continued understanding are greatly appreciated.
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<td><strong>PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 9:00am/ 10:00am&lt;br&gt;Bible Study 7:00pm</td>
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<td>St. PHOTIOS&lt;br&gt;Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/ 9:30am&lt;br&gt;Saturday Vespers 5:00pm</td>
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<td>Book Study 11:00am</td>
<td>Bible Study 7:00pm</td>
<td>Philoptochos Meeting 7:00pm</td>
<td>St. VLASSIOS&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy 9:00am&lt;br&gt;Catechism&lt;br&gt;Grades 7-8 6:30pm&lt;br&gt;Book Club 7:30pm</td>
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<td>Catechism&lt;br&gt;Grades P-K 9:30am&lt;br&gt;1-2 10:00am&lt;br&gt;3 11:00am&lt;br&gt;Saturday Vespers 5:00pm</td>
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<td>Bible Study 7:00pm&lt;br&gt;AHEPA Meeting 7:00pm</td>
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<td>Book Study 11:00am</td>
<td>Bible Study 7:00pm</td>
<td>St. JOHN the BAPTIST&lt;br&gt;Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 8:30am/ 9:30am</td>
<td>Catechism&lt;br&gt;Grades 7-8 6:30pm&lt;br&gt;Book Club 7:30pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Catechism&lt;br&gt;Grades P-K 9:30am&lt;br&gt;1-2 10:00am&lt;br&gt;3 11:00am&lt;br&gt;Saturday Vespers 5:00pm</td>
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ST. NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
760 West Wattles Rd
Troy, Michigan 48098-4500

Christ is Risen!