Beloved Parishioners,

We have now entered the month of May and we have entered it in the most wonderful of ways—we have entered it by celebrating the joyous Feast of Pascha. With the Feast of Pascha, we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ from the dead—but do we believe?

The human mind, utilizing the limits of its logical thinking cannot comprehend what is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ nor its significance. How can we know that there even is a Christ? Or that He truly died, or that He rose from the dead? Where is He now if He is still living?

The simple and direct answer is that the human mind can only perceive those things that the senses can perceive, taste, smell, sight, hearing, touch. But the human being is not only mind, he is also heart and soul and spirit. If we limit our definition of reality to only what our senses can perceive we will be limiting ourselves egregiously.

The Resurrected Christ was seen by His disciples, but Thomas didn’t believe their report. He was touched by the Apostles, and still some disbelieved. In the Resurrection He ate with His disciples, and they tasted and smelled the food they ate, and still some doubted; they heard His most tender voice and we, two thousand years later question whether or not they were telling us the truth. How sad for our disbelief!

Our hearts are very perceptive. They know, for instance, when someone is honest, and when someone is lying. They can tell when someone loves us and when they do not. When God is near and when evil is near. The Resurrection of Christ is something that we can KNOW through our own heart!

Our heart can know what the mind cannot. We need to cultivate more, and more, not less and less, our ability to “know” in this other way. It is through the heart that we know that miracles happen, that the saints still visit us and encourage us, that angels protect us, that the dead are raised, that God is loving and just and true, that we can live forever with Him in heaven if we but believe.

Beloved, we have faced and are still facing an unprecedented crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic; but, let it not ALSO lead to a crisis of belief. If we have learned nothing from this crisis, we must certainly have learned that science alone does not have all the answers. Often in this crisis scientists have contradicted each other and even contradicted themselves. Science is blessed from God; when applied ethically and morally it can give us many answers to difficult questions, but science has its limits.

Science can’t tell us how we should behave towards each other—when to forgive and when to apologize, when to give and when to receive, when to listen and when to speak. Science can’t teach us to love our enemies, or to live for the Kingdom of God, or to trust the Holy Scriptures or to “await the resurrection of the dead”. For those answers and so many other very important answers we need to listen to our hearts.

Let us work to cultivate and deepen and purify our hearts so that in the joy of the Resurrection we might behold Christ, He “who Is and Was and Is to come”.

Χριστός Ανέστη!
Fr. Paul A. Patitsas
Proistamenos
Council Report

Coronavirus Containment Actions

The Metropolis of Detroit guidelines for Coronavirus procedures and directives remain in effect. Please continue to maintain social distancing and to stick with wearing a mask while in church – both actions are mandatory.

Youth Safety Renewal/Training

The Parish Council reminds everyone who completed the Archdiocese Youth Safety Training program in 2019 that it is time for renewal. It is a requirement every two years for all parish workers who work with children to stay compliant. New parishioners who will be working with children will also need to apply. Please contact the church office for details.

Meal Delivery Program

A huge Thank You to Pat and Cindy Crosson for kicking off the Helping Hands / Caring Hearts meal delivery program as an outreach ministry of our parish. A grant from the Endowment Fund helped to establish this program.

Staying In Touch

Our parish maintains a detailed website at stnicholastroy.org where information on events can be located. The link to our live weekly Sunday Divine Liturgy broadcast can also be found there. We also keep a Facebook page as well as a weekly e-mail communication program of the Sunday Bulletin. Feel free to contact the church office for details.

Save The Date – General Assembly

Our next General Assembly meeting will take place on May 23. Please plan to attend. There will be important updates on a Stewardship program, our parish finances as well as upcoming capital improvements being considered.

Announcements

FUNERALS

Haralabos Floros + January 10
Herbert Heinrich Hampel + March 31

BAPTISMS

January 31, 2021
Maurice Richard Coden, son of David & Christine Coden Harlan
Godparent is Gerard Markovitch

February 13, 2021
Athina Irene Papasifakis, daughter of Nicholas E. & Sarah Papasifakis
Godparents are Nick & Amanda Lionas

March 21, 2021
Kaliopi Ciraulo daughter of Keishone Alexander & Alexandria Ciraulo
Godparents are Katherine Bougatsos & Matthew Kirschner

WEDDINGS

March 13, 2021
Alex Palmer & Nicole White
Koumbaro is Zachary Weaver

Congratulations!

Y.A.L.

The St. Nicholas Young Adult League had a busy April! We had a great time at our Fellowship Dinner at Buddy's Pizza on April 9! We would also like to extend a special thank you to Fr. Demetrios Andrews for speaking at the Y.A.L. sponsored Lenten Lecture on April 14. In addition, we continued our Saints & Feast Days Series on Instagram. If you or someone you know may be interested in joining the group, please reach out to YAL@stnicholastroy.org!
METROPOLIS of DETROIT SUMMER CAMP (MDSC)
Camper registration opens on March 15! We are moving forward with hope and a mission to gather safely in Rose City for the 2021 camp season, but also working on a backup plan should our circumstances change. We welcome registration for campers entering grades 3-11 for Weeks 1-5 and entering grade 12 or first year of college for Week Zero. Note, our capacity will be adjusted this season, so don’t wait to register! Staff positions are also available for ages 17 and older. Please visit www.gomdsc.org to register and learn more about our camp programs or call us at 248-909-6372 for more information. See page 6 for the flyer.

ARGONAUTS
The Saint Nicholas Argonauts hope you are healthy and safe. We are still going through difficult times, but Vaccinations are easier to get, and we hope that all of you will be able to get them soon.

We miss seeing you in Church, and getting together for our monthly luncheons. We have to follow the directions of our Metropolitan. If you need assistance for anything, please let us know.

Wishing you Blessed Pascha!

Sincerely, The Officers of Saint Nicholas Argonauts.

CAREFUL IN THE NARThEx!
Though we might be tired of COVID-19 safety measures, it is still important ESPECIALLY IN THE NARThEx that we maintain social distancing, wear our masks correctly, and keep our conversation to a minimum.

Please arrange to socialize outside the church whether in the parking lot or your homes, but in church please respect safety measures that are in place. For more information related to our COVID-19 protocols and procedures please visit our website.

~Thank you for your support and cooperation.

GOLF LEAGUE
Calling all golfers! The St. Nicholas Golf League will be starting soon. We play on Monday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. at Sylvan Glen Golf Course in Troy. If you are interested in joining our league please call or e-mail:

Joann Kefalas 248-766-9492
golfleague@stnicholastroy.org

G.O.Y.A.
This month, our board members had multiple meetings with various members of our church, discussing/planning possible upcoming activities and retreats. We have finalized a retreat coming up that will be held soon after Pascha! Please look for emails and messages from Stephanie George and our board members regarding the specific dates and what we plan to do! We hope to see you soon!

Receiving Communications via Email - Keeping in Touch With Your Church!
Interested in receiving the Weekly Church Bulletin and other communications from the church via email? We have a solution! Please contact the church office at (248) 362-9575 or email the office at Office@StNicholasTroy.org and we will add you to our email distribution list. It’s that simple. Once set up, you can receive the Church Bulletin the Friday before as well as any communication the church sends out electronically.

But please note: If you unsubscribe for any reason, your email address will be removed and will need to contact the church to add your email address again.

Philoptochos
Christ is Risen! Truly He is risen! Our Saint Nicholas Philoptochos Chapter wishes all you a very blessed Pascha filled with a renewed spirit which Jesus made possible for us all. We want to thank the Parish for its support of our Philoptochos activities in April and for the spiritual guidance from Father Paul and Father Michael.
Y.A.L. Partnership with FOCUS DETROIT

St. Nicholas Y.A.L. has partnered with FOCUS Detroit to help create and shape a new outreach initiative called "Outfitted for Good" (OFG). OFG serves as a food pantry and clothing closet out of a shipping container on the property of Oasis of Hope in downtown Detroit.

We will be creating a “spot” for those in need in the downtown Detroit region serving as a one-stop shop. It offers access to basic necessities, such as food, clean and presentable clothing, and hygiene products, as well as serving as a neighborhood staple, focused on cultivating, enriching, and positively shaping the local community and youth.

We hope to have workshops for the youth, neighborhood block parties in the summer, and to overall create a centralized place of hope and support. Our purpose is to serve existing needs and fill the gaps that exist while collaborating with existing outreach ministries, community partners, and existing nonprofit agencies. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the need even greater and access to these ministries more difficult.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact Fotini Michalakis YAL@stnicholastroy.org

BOOKSTORE

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen!

Mother’s Day Gift Ideas

The Ascetic Lives of MOTHERS
A Prayer Book for Orthodox Moms
by Annalisa Boyd

Annalisa Boyd knows motherhood—its challenges, its joys, and its potential for spiritual growth. In this prayer book she offers a wide selection of prayers mothers can use to intercede for their families as well as to grow in virtue themselves. Paperback, Dimensions: 5 X 8 inches 176 pages $13.00

A Mother's Prayer
by Megan Elizabeth Gilbert

This small gift book for mothers contains a selection of brief prayers a mother may wish to pray for her children, along with charming illustrations by the artist of Beautiful Things and When God Made You. A perfect gift for Mother's Day, a birthday or anniversary, or to celebrate a new pregnancy. Hardcover, Dimensions: 7.5 X 4.5 inches 24 pages $15.00

Philoptochos Apron

Adjustable neck full length apron with 2 section patch pocket. Easy care polycotton twill. Embroidered with the National logo that combines the Orthodox cross and the Philoptochos Patron Saints Cosmas and Damianos. $23.00

To reserve your copy of these books or for other book or icon inquiries please contact Maria Kokkinakis at 248-362-9575 or by Email at bookstore@stnicholastroy.org ~ Thank you for supporting our parish bookstore ~

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 to 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!
1453. Will We Be Saved?

Ἄνω σχῶμεν τὰς καρδίας! Sursum corda! Let us lift up our hearts!

Petitions ring out to God in Greek and Latin, floating from the center of the huge, marbled space to its furthest lofts and corners. Hagia Sophia, the Church of Holy Wisdom, is full beyond capacity. The date is May 28th, 1453, and the great cathedral of Constantinople celebrates its last liturgy before the fall of the Roman capital. Emperors, clerics, merchants, and farmers stand on feet worn from walking, praying as equals for the mercy of God. In the back of the church, near the entrance, a woman stands with her four dusty children, the smallest asleep in her arms. The family had walked to Hagia Sophia from their parish of St. Theodosia on the peninsula’s northern shore, joining their fellow Christians in a procession of hope from one end of the city to the other. She looks across the aisle and catches her husband’s eye and, as she does, her gaze asks a question: Will we be saved?

Outside the city’s fifth-century walls, the Ottoman sultan Mehmet II prepares for battle. The 21-year-old conqueror has been patient enough, and tomorrow he will end his seven-week siege and launch the final assault on Constantinople. His fleet of ships, built over the previous months in the Gulf of Spain, are stationed like hawks at the Golden Horn. On land, 80,000 Ottoman troops rest confidently outside the city, undaunted by the 7,000-man resistance within its walls. Orban, a Hungarian engineer hired by Mehmet three months earlier, laughs as his famous canon hurls 600-pound stones at the city walls. On the night of the last liturgy, 5,000 stones are thrown, and 55,000 pounds gunpowder spent.

Midnight passes, an end begins. May 29, 1453.

Ottoman soldiers storm the walls, and Roman defenses begin to collapse under the pressure. The first opening occurs near the station of General Giovanni Giustiniani, a Genoese commander whose retreat brings in a flood of enemy soldiers. The Romans fight on, and their Emperor Constantine XI stands the final defense. Casting off the royal purple robes of the Palaiologan Dynasty, he leads his troops into battle and is vanquished therein.

That woman from the church is with her family again, frenzied as she gathers her children and ushers them out of the house. Her voice is anxious as she and her husband decide whether to run north or south. Fleeing north, they might manage to slip through some quiet spot in the city walls, making it out of the city and trying their luck in open fields. There, they could surrender themselves to the Ottoman camp, hoping that the soldiers not so directly engaged in battle would be more willing to heed their cries for mercy. Of course, there would be no escaping conversion, as a denial of Christ and an acceptance of Islam would most certainly set the conditions of their surrender. Fleeing south, they would have no hope but God. Going deeper into the city, the family would almost certainly be caught and treated cruelly, marked as resistant and rebellious, unwilling to bow to the Sultan’s scepter. Their one hope lay in the church of Holy Wisdom, where they had prayed the night before. Perhaps there, at the heart of the empire, a successful resistance would be staged…

She’s in the church again, but this time the doors are barred shut. It’s dark, and the prayers she hears don’t ring from the mouths of deacons but rather buzz through the mass of bodies around her, possessing the throng of people who had chosen, as she had, to set their final hope on God. The doors groan and, suddenly, just feet away, the woman hears wood begin to crack. The splintering continues, piercing her heart as light break into the narthex and a horde of raging soldiers destroy the one barrier that had held them off from her family. As she stands with her husband and children, waiting to be sorted and sold off to slavery, her eyes ask him once again: Will we be saved?

In the centuries that followed, millions of Christians made the same decision that this mother made. Knowing that they could live freely if they renounced their faith, they chose instead to be sold into slavery, tortured, and even to die instead of to turn their back on God. Christians under Ottoman rule were taxed, persecuted, tortured, and killed for refusing to convert to Islam. Christians under Soviet rule made the same decision and were locked out of institutions, dragged into court, and sent to death camps because of their unwillingness to abandon the “silly,” “superstitious,” and “dangerous” teaching that Christ is God and died for the world. Christians today, threatened by terrorist ideologues or atheist governments, show the same uncompromising and costly love for Christ that has watered the Church since the time of the Apostles.

So, was that woman saved? Was her family saved? God can make hell on earth into heaven, and without God even heaven on earth feels like hell. You decide.

Fr. Michael Manos
Stewardship Report Out
March 2021

Number of Pledges YTD: 257
Average Pledge: $800
YTD Total: $205,710
2021 Stewardship Goal: $500,000

New pledges this period: 19 (March)
Number of new Stewards: 0

# of non pledging contributors: 90
Total donated by Non Pledging Contributors $23,650

Expenses: Planned Budget $704,894
YTD spent $176,233

Daily Cost to run our Church: $1,931

Did you Know:
Our new Stewardship committee is working hard to improve the way we communicate throughout the Church.
In the next couple of months you will see improvements to the way we communicate to our parishioners.
If you have any recommendations please contact the Church office and let us know.
Following the directives of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the State of Michigan in response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Saint Nicholas church is open for Divine Liturgy adhering to these specific procedures and measures. COVID-19 seating restrictions apply. ALL Divine Services can be viewed online at www.stnicholastroy.org.

While everyone may not be able to attend Divine Liturgy in person, but wish to continue the custom of lighting a candle and offering a prayer upon entry to the church, we invite you to continue to do so remotely. The Parish Council will assist in your request to light a vigil candle or candles for you and your family. Please visit the Parish 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 if you prefer 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

AHEPA District #10 Educational Foundation Golf Outing

Event Details
Friday, June 4th, 2021
Cherry Creek Golf Club
52000 Cherry Creek Dr., Shelby Twp., MI 48316
Registration & Breakfast 9:00 am
Shooting Start 11:00 am
Dinner & Awards Banquet 4:00 pm

Contest & Course Games
• $10,000 Hole-in-One
• Longest Drive
• Closest to the Pin

AHEPA District #10 Educational Foundation Golf Outing
1st Annual Educational Foundation Golf Outing
Honoring Michael Just
Sponsorship Opportunities
Bronze-$150 Silver-$350 Gold-$500
Platinum-$8750 Opportunity to play in Supreme President’s foursome
Benefactor $1,000 Opportunity to partner with Supreme President-18 holes
Grand Benefactor $2,000 - Funding the cost of golf for all District #10 youth high school seniors and college students
$125 Registration Includes:
• Continental Breakfast-9am
• 18 Hole Shotgun Start-11 am
• Goodie Bag
• Awards
• Plated NY Steak Dinner Dinner Only $50

Ceremonial Tee Off with AHEPA Supreme President George Horiates!
Longest Drive & Closest to the Pin Prizes
Raffle Prizes
Tee Sponsorships
• Bronze-$150
• Silver-$350
• Gold-$500
Goodie Bag Sponsorship:
$500-$1,000 Welcome Bag Includes:
• Your business card
• Golf balls
• Snack & Water

Sponsorship Levels & Opportunities
Grand Benefactor-$2,000+
• Funding golf fee for all District #10 High School & College Students
• Banner recognition
Benefactor-$1,000
• Opportunity to partner with Supreme President for 18 holes
Platinum-$750
• Opportunity to play in Supreme President’s foursome

Registration
Number of Players X $125=
Player #1 (Contact Person)
Player #1 Phone Number & Email

DINNER ONLY $50:

Total Donation:

Foursome Player #2
Foursome Player #3
Foursome Player #4

Dino Stathis 313-727-8877 | Dr. Evans Farres 313-590-4868
Tax deductible checks made payable to AHEPA District 10 Educational Foundation
1628 Crimson Dr, Troy, MI 48083

Dino Stathis Chairman
Dr. Evans Farres Golf Co-Chairman
313-590-4868
Seventy Years of Memories

Metropolis of Detroit
Greek Orthodox Summer Camp
Register Campers and Staff at GOMDSC.ORG

Campers Entering Grade 12/First Year of College
Week 0 June 27 - July 3

Campers entering Grades 3-11
Week 1 July 4 - July 10
Week 2 July 11 - July 17
Week 3 July 18 - July 24
Week 4 July 25 - July 31
Week 5 August 1 - August 7

Ages 19-35
Young Adult September 3 - September 6

MDSC

We are moving forward with hope and a mission to gather safely in Rose City for the 2021 camp season, but preparing a backup plan should our circumstances change.

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2021 St. Nicholas
Greek Orthodox Church

Scholarships

Each year St. Nicholas presents scholarships to graduating high school students.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicant must be a high school senior student, graduating in the Spring/Summer of 2021.
- Applicant must be accepted or on a wait-list by an institution of higher learning for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- Applicant must be baptized or chrismated an Orthodox Christian.
- Applicant must have parents that have been members for at least one year and are in good standing with St. Nicholas.
- The applicant must have at least a 3.0 G.P.A. to qualify.

- Applicant must complete and submit all of the following:
  - Scholarship application
  - Official High School Transcript
  - Official transcript of A.C.T. & S.A.T. Scores (if applicable)
  - Essay completed on application
  - A letter of recommendation from any one of the following:
    - A high school teacher or counselor or employer or a person unrelated to the applicant, who is a member in good-standing of any Greek Orthodox Church.

Applications are available on our website at www.snticholasstroy.org.

Please email completed applications to Office@snticholasstroy.org or mail to the church office by May 7, 2021.
NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

God Bless, our graduates!
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| **2 GREAT AND**   |        |         |           |          |        | **SUNDAY SERVICES THE SAME** Orthros 8:30 am | Divine Liturgy 9:30 am | **COFFEE HOUR CANCELLED. ALL SERVICES WILL BE HELD ONLINE.**  
| HOLY PASCHA       |        |         |           |          |        | PLEASE GO TO WWW.STNICHOLASTROY.ORG.        |
| Agape Vespers 11:00 a.m. |        |         |           |          |        | **1. HOLY SATURDAY** Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil | Resurrection Vigil 11:00 p.m. |
| Paschal 12:00 a.m. |        |         |           |          |        | **Orthros** 8:30 a.m. | Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. | Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. |
| Orthros/ Divine Liturgy | 12: 30 a.m. |         |           |          |        | **Orthros** 9:00 a.m. | Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. | **Panagia of the Life-Giving Fountain** Orthros 9:00 a.m. | Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. | **St. John the Theologian** Orthros 9:00 a.m. | Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. | Saturday Vespers 5:00 p.m. |
| 3 **St. George the Great Martyr** |        |         |           |          |        | **Thomas Sunday (Mother's Day)** Orthros 8:30 a.m. | Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. | Y.A.E. Meeting 7:00 p.m. | **Orthros** 8:30 a.m. | Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. | **St. Isidore of Chios** Orthros 8:30 a.m. | Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. | **Saturday Vespers 5:00 p.m.** |
| 4                |        |         |           |          |        | **10 Zoom Book Club 11:00 a.m.** | **11 Zoom Bible Study 7:00 p.m.** | **12 Zoom Philoptochos Meeting 7:00 p.m.** | **13 Zoom Book Club 7:00 p.m.** | **14 St. Constantine and Helen** Orthros 8:30 a.m. | Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. | **22 Saturday Vespers 5:00 p.m.** |
| 5 **St. Irene**   |        |         |           |          |        | **17 Zoom Book Club 11:00 a.m.** | **18 Zoom Bible Study 7:00 p.m.** | **19** | **20 Zoom Book Club 7:00 p.m.** | **21 Mid-Pentecost** Orthros 8:30 a.m. | Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. | **27 Zoom Book Club 7:00 p.m.** | **28** | **29 Saturday Vespers 5:00 p.m.** |
| 6                |        |         |           |          |        | **23 Sunday of the Paralytic** Orthros 8:30 a.m. | Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. | **Parish General Assembly Meeting Following D.L.** | **24 Zoom Book Club 11:00 a.m.** | **25 Zoom Bible Study 7:00 p.m.** | **26 Mid-Pentecost** Orthros 8:30 a.m. | Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. | **28** | **29 Saturday Vespers 5:00 p.m.** |
| 7 **Panagia of the Life-Giving Fountain** |        |         |           |          |        | **30 Sunday of the Samaritan Women** Orthros 8:30 a.m. | Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. | | **31** | | | | | |
Christ is Risen!