

Welcome Visitors!

Please fill out the form on the notepads in the pews and put it in our collection tray so we may welcome you to our Parish. Please note, Holy Communion is reserved for prepared Orthodox Christians. Visitors are welcome to receive the Antidoro (Blessed Bread), which is distributed at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Creed: English

Psaltis: Zannis Res, George Smyrnis

Choir: Dr. Jon Wardner

Prosforo: Elaine Spiliopoulos

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Constantine Evangelinos, Toni Kovalcheck, Angelica Stageman, Katina Eleni Hoffman, Helen Camp, Bridget Smith, Rosaleen Baldwin, Brian Melzian, Leo Ortino, Paul Contos, Larry Gregg, Sophia Kappas, Janet Christ, Evan Arhangelos, Katerina Stavros, Katherine Sakaly Brown, Nick & Mary Prepouses, Pamela Kiningham, Panagiota Zarkadoulas, Christian, Nikki Afendulis, Angela Anagnos Koustoumbardis, Katina Retakes, Natalie Arhangelos, Andriana Banos, Kim Petras, Maria Konstantine, Gus Fernimos, Christine Kerry, Kara Kontos, Anna Chapekis, Andrew Green, Robert Coffin, Kelly Pescnell, Evelyn Commings, Helen Damascus Cazepis, Rick Dekeon, Terrance Lucas, Brian Brubaker, Judy Ickes, Nicholas Contaxes, Luke Varkas, David Rakovich, Erica Arnold, Joseph Hochendoner, Katina Apostolous Kendall, Christina Prezlowski.

Reminders—Church Etiquette

It is important for everyone to follow the direction of the ushers.

Seniors —if you are unable to stand or kneel for a period of time, please remain seated

No one is to enter the church when 1) the priest is facing the people, 2) censuring, 3) preaching, 4) when the Epistle and Gospel are being read. Please make every effort to arrive ON TIME.

Talking During Services It is inappropriate to greet people and converse with them during services. Not only is it disrespectful towards God, it is rude towards others who are trying to worship.

Young Children If a child is restless, take him or her quickly and quietly out of the church, just long enough to settle them down, then return to the Liturgy.

Please, modest clothing for both men and women. No sport attire or anything with slogans of any kind, clothing that is revealing, and flip flops or sport sandals permitted.

Our sincerest condolences to the family of **Mary Malacos** who passed away last Wednesday. Visitation Thursday Dec. 29—Trisagion 7 PM. Funeral Friday, Dec. 30—11 AM. May her memory be eternal!

Stewardship

It is our duty and responsibility as Orthodox Christians to support our St. Nicholas parish and its ministries. The only proper, responsible and appropriate way in which we can function is when each of us participates in stewardship. Our stewardship must cover all our operational costs. Our festival income has only been used to help reduce our mortgage. It is improper to think that our festival should support our church.

To all the families that have offered their stewardship in full, thank you for your diligent and faithful work. To those who have made their stewardship pledge and have a balance to pay, thank you, and we hope you are able to finish the balance by the end of the year. To those who have not yet pledged, we need your support as soon as possible. It is not our neighbor's responsibility to support our portion of the work. Each individual is responsible for helping to carry a part of load.

At the parish council meeting this past Thursday, we were informed that our mortgage now stands at \$499,000. That's great news! However, there are still nearly 150 families who have not pledged this year (who have in the past) and about 25% of those who did pledge this year still need to fulfill that pledge. Please, let's get that commitment to our faith and community completed as soon as possible. Thank you!

House Blessings

Fr. Nick will begin house blessings Mon., Jan. 9th. Please call the church office to schedule a visit.

Prosforo needed for Jan. 1. **Fellowship Hour** sponsors needed for Jan. 22, 29. Call the office if interested.

Church School

The Coin Collection for St. Basil has begun and will continue through Jan. Students are asked to participate by collecting change and putting it in the designated box in their classroom. The money collected will go to St. Basil Academy which serves children in need.

Parish News & Events!

GOYA News

Jan. 8: GOYA brunch! Purchase your tickets in advance from the church office to eliminate long lines at the door.

Jan. 14: Retreat 10:00 a.m. The theme is Sanctity of Life, Body and Marriage. Sign up today with Demetra Mitropoulos-Rundus at dm-r@hotmail.com.

Jan. 15: 4:00 p.m. Bible Study, meeting, potluck dinner.

AHEPA NEWS

If you plan to apply for a scholarship from the Ann Arbor AHEPA CHAPTER #195 or the AHEPA DISTRICT #10, your father must be a member of the AHEPA before Dec. 31, 2011. Applications in the Church office or call President Costas Boutsikakis 734-604-8737.

The **Panhellenic Scholarship Foundation** is offering scholarships to college undergraduates. Go to www.panhellenicscholarships.org for more information. Enjoy mezethakia, roast lamb, delicious sweets and breads at the **AHEPA New Years Eve Party**, this Saturday at 9:00 p.m. Music provided by George Smyrnis. For tickets and table reservations, call Costas Boutsikakis or Christos Philippou.

Compass

Beginning February, the Compass goes on-line and you'll be able to download it from our website. To those who do not have internet or prefer a hard copy, call the office and we will continue to mail the Compass to your home. Please know this transition will save the church money on printing and postage.

White lawn crosses, made by a St. Nicholas family, are available for \$7 a piece. All proceeds benefit our church. Drop off your check in the office if you are interested.

The 2011 Parish directories and 2012 Parish calendars have arrived! Please pick up a copy (one per family) in the hall by the office.

Flower Committee

If you are interested in donating funds for the purchase of flowers for the icons on Theophany, please contact Lambrini Lagos or the church office.

Saint Nicholas Ushers

We are in need of ushers. With 4 rotating groups, you serve once every 4 weeks! Couples are welcome! Email webmaster@stnickaa.org if you are interested. The ushering calendar runs Jan.- Dec. Visit our website at <http://www.stnickaa.org> for more information.

Events this Week

Mon., Dec. 26	Office closed
Tues., Dec. 27	Office closed
Thurs., Dec. 29	9:00 a.m. Orthros and Divine Liturgy Holy Innocents (14,000 infants)
Sat., Dec. 31	9:00 p.m. AHEPA New Year's Eve Dance
Sun., Jan. 1	9:00 a.m. Orthros and Divine Liturgy St. Basil the Great
Mon, Jan. 2	Office closed

Philoptochos

We have extra spanakopita's and a limited amount of baklava left over. Please see Diane Geczi. Thank you to all the St. Nicholas children for making Christmas cards for our 'forget me nots'. They brought joy to everyone!

75th Anniversary Commemorative Album & Souvenir are here! The album is a nostalgic 750-page pictorial and written history of St. Nicholas, featuring the evolution of our various ministries and activities over the past 75 years. The cost is \$45.00. Please stop by the church office and pick up your book from Penny Bekiares or Helen Garris today. Also, commemorative souvenirs from our 75th Anniversary are now available for \$20 at the bookstore.

St. Nicholas' Strategic Planning

All parishioners will have an opportunity to participate in our Strategic Planning process by completing a Parish Assessment and Planning Survey. This anonymous survey will provide us with your feedback about how the church is meeting your needs, and help with planning for our future. Available in paper format and on line through the end of January.

Bookstore Notes

Come browse our church bookstore for our wide selection of books on all aspects of the Greek Orthodox faith, history, as well as Greek cookbooks. There are many titles for children. You can also select from our variety of bibles and prayer books. We also carry, The Greeks Of Newport, New Hampshire, by our very own Helen Stamos. We have a large selection of icons, home altar goods, greeting cards for all occasions, and Vasilopita coins! Come browse our selection for your gift and personal needs. We also have gift certificates available.

✠ Wisdom from the Church Fathers ✠

I too will proclaim the greatness of this day: the Immaterial become incarnate, the Word is made flesh, the invisible makes itself seen, the intangible can be touched, the timeless has a beginning, the Son of God becomes the Son of Man, Jesus Christ, always the same, yesterday, today and forever. . . This is the solemnity we are celebrating today: the arrival of God among us, so that we might go to God, or more precisely, return to Him. . . Revere the nativity which releases you from the chains of evil. Honor this tiny Bethlehem which restores Paradise to you. Venerate this crib; because of it you who were deprived of meaning (logos) are fed by the divine Meaning, the divine Logos Himself.

St. Gregory the Theologian, Oration 38, For Christmas (Patrologia Graeca, 36, 664-5) found in The Roots of Christian Mysticism by Olivier Clement, New City Press, NY, p. 41



SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

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MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE: www.stnickaa.org
Submissions for the Sunday bulletin must be sent to:
secretary@stnickaa.org by 10 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to publication.

Holy Nativity



Saints and Feasts Commemorated today:

The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, & Balthasar
The Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks and came to see the Lord