

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM
THE DEAD, TRAMPLING
DEATH BY DEATH, AND
BESTOWING LIFE ON
THOSE IN THE GRAVES.

APOLYTIKION OF RESURRECTION



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GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DETROIT

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Volume III, Issue II

April 2011

Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!

Beloved Family in Christ,

It seems unbelievable that our journey to Pascha is almost over. In but a few weeks we will hear the shouts of that most ancient Christian truth that "Christ is Risen!" Just as the light of our paschal candles will fill our churches with the true light of the resurrection of Christ, even so will our homes once again be filled with the laughter and parties that have been distinctly absent during Great Lent.

And because this fundamental proclamation of the Christian faith is so essential to our lives, it will be our common greeting to each other for the 40 days following the resurrection of our Lord. Wherever Orthodox Christians meet, our first words will not be in greeting each other as friends, but rather in sharing our common witness of God's plan of salvation for us: Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

My beloved family in Christ, it is this cornerstone of our faith which makes all

good things possible. Consider for a moment what life would be like if we lived in an eternal night – covered by the darkness of the world without the ability to see each other clearly as children of God. What would life be like if its ultimate purpose was death alone – and with no hope of the eternal joy



God has prepared for us with Him. What would happen if we could only allow ourselves to be subjected to the tempest tossed storm of life with no Guide to take us to the safe harbor of salvation.

The importance of the resurrection of Christ for us is truly in the eternal hope that it affirms for us: hope in Love for God and His mercy; hope in the reality of Love to right a fallen world; hope in the fact that we shall never be lost from those whom we love, but that one day again,

we shall sit at table with God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Pascha is the sacred proclamation of the depth of God's love for us. And it is a love so deep and so wide that God Himself would send His Only-Begotten Son to earth in the form of a servant to lead us back to the Light from our wandering in hopelessness and isolation; and it is a love so precious that God would also send His Holy Spirit to encourage us to call out to Him as Father, and thus, to raise us from death to life.

May this blessed Pascha be for each of us a time of great joy and light. May our burdens be lessened, our hope increased, and our souls made light by Christ our Lord.

Extending to you and to your families my deepest prayers and hope that the Resurrected Christ will fill us with every joy, I remain,

Paternally,

+ Metropolitan Nicholas

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL

10	<i>Pastoral Visit</i>	Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church - Plymouth, MI
10 - 15	<i>Patriarchal Entourage</i>	Paris, France
16	<i>Saturday of Lazarus Divine Liturgy</i>	St. Nicholas Church - Troy, MI
17	<i>Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy</i> <i>Bridegroom Service</i>	St. John the Baptist Church - Sterling Heights, MI Assumption Church - St. Clair Shores, MI
18	<i>7:30pm Bridegroom Service</i>	St. Nicholas Church - Ann Arbor, MI
19	<i>7:00pm Bridegroom Service</i>	Holy Trinity Cathedral - Toledo, OH
20	<i>4:00pm Holy Unction Service</i> <i>6:30pm Holy Unction Service</i>	Sts. Constantine & Helen Church - Westland, MI Nativity of the Virgin Mary - Plymouth, MI
21	<i>Holy Thursday Divine Liturgy</i> <i>6:30pm Gospels of the Passion of Christ Service</i>	St. Spyridon Chapel - Metropolis Center - Troy, MI St. George Church - Southgate, MI
22	<i>Good Friday Epitaphio Visitations</i> <i>7:00pm Service of Lamentations</i>	Parishes in the Metro Detroit Area Annunciation Cathedral - Detroit, MI
23	<i>Vesperal Divine Liturgy - Proti Anastasi</i>	St. George Church - Bloomfield Hills, MI
24	<i>Midnight: Great and Holy Pascha</i> <i>11:00am Agape Service</i>	Holy Cross Church - Farmington Hills, MI Sts. Constantine & Helen Church - Westland, MI

MAY

5	<i>Ordination of Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishops</i>	Blessed Sacrament Cathedral - Detroit, MI
11 - 13	<i>American Bible Society Board Meeting</i>	NYC
14 - 15	<i>75th Parish Anniversary Weekend</i> <i>With Archbishop Demetrios of America</i>	St. Nicholas Church - Troy, MI
20 - 21	<i>Feast of Sts. Constantine & Helen Services</i>	Sts. Constantine & Helen Church - Westland, MI
22 - 23	<i>Military Retirement - Fr. William Bartz</i>	Washington, DC
24 - 27	<i>Episcopal Assembly</i>	Chicago, IL

AN AFTERNOON WITH VEFA ALEXIADOU

Kyrria Vefa Alexiadou and daughter, Alexia, impressed the 400 women and men attending the Philoptochos fundraiser for the National Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy with their enthusiasm and love for Greek cuisine. The Easter dishes they demonstrated put a new twist on the classic Easter family celebrations. Each person received the recipes demonstrated by Kyria Vefa and Alexia.

Approximately 225 cook books were sold and personalized by Kyria Vefa prior to and after the event ■



Kyria Vefa and her daughter Alexia

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS *by Eva Kokinos*

2011 GOYA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT - DAYTON, OH

Annunciation Church in Dayton, OH hosted another successful GOYA Basketball Tournament. The tournament was held February 18-20, 2011. Teams came from Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, and Upstate New York. The weekend began with Vespers and fellowship, as well as a Coaches' Meeting. On Saturday, the games were played to determine who would compete in the finals. After the conclusion of the games, all the teams gathered Saturday evening for a beautiful Tournament Dinner/Dance.

The weekend concluded with Divine Liturgy. Due to poor weather conditions, the Division A games were postponed. The final games were played on March 26, 2011 in Michigan.

Sportsmanship Award	Annunciation Church—Buffalo, NY
Boys' Division A Champions	Assumption Church—St. Clair Shores, MI
Boys' Division B Champions	St. John the Baptist Church—Sterling Heights, MI
Girls' Division A Champions	Assumption Church—St. Clair Shores, MI

CONGRATS to all teams on a job well done!

SUMMER CAMPS IN THE METROPOLIS OF DETROIT

The Metropolis of Detroit is blessed with three summer camp programs! 2011 Camp Registration has begun for MDSC and St. Nicholas Summer Camp. Registration for St. Timothy Camp will begin soon... For information about the programs we have in our Metropolis and registration information, check the official camp websites or email youth@detroit.goarch.org for information.



MDSC (Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp) — <i>Rose City, MI</i>	www.gomdsc.org
St. Nicholas Summer Camp — <i>Pleasantville, TN</i>	www.southerncamp.com
St. Timothy Summer Camp — <i>Croghan, NY</i>	www.sttimothycamp.org

SAVE THE DATE!!! UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUTH!!!

April 1-3, 2011	Fall Creek Falls GOYA Lenten Retreat Holy Trinity Church—Nashville, TN
April 9, 2011	St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival—Central District Finals Holy Trinity Church—Carmel, IN
April 30, 2011	St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival—Michigan District Finals St. John the Baptist Church—Sterling Heights, MI
April 30, 2011	St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival—Southern District Finals Annunciation Church—Memphis, TN
May 1, 2011	St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival—Upstate NY District Finals Annunciation Church—Buffalo, NY
May 14, 2011	St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival—Metropolis Finals Assumption Church—Grand Blanc, MI
June 10-12, 2011	St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival—Archdiocese Finals Annunciation Cathedral—Houston, TX

DID YOU KNOW??

SCHOLARSHIPS

Visit www.goarch.org to learn more about scholarship opportunities offered through the Archdiocese Office of the Chancellor. There are scholarships for college bound students, as well as those who are pursuing graduate studies!

IONIAN VILLAGE



Visit the official website, www.ionianvillage.org, for details about registration, and two new travel programs for young adults ages 19-28.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL



Download this year's topics, tips, and list of recommended resources for the elementary, junior, and senior divisions. Visit <http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religious/sjcof>

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

By Eleni Zaferes

Kali Sarakosti! As we journey through the Lenten season, Philoptochos chapters are busy hosting Lenten events. These events will help to sponsor the National commitment for March to benefit Holy Cross/ Hellenic College.

Holy Trinity Philoptochos in Carmel, IN hosted a Lenten Retreat on March 12th following the Saturday of the Souls service with Metropolitan Nikitas as the guest speaker. On March 19th St. Nicholas Philoptochos of Troy, MI hosted a Lenten Retreat for the Metro Detroit area chapters.

Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Philoptochos of Cincinnati, OH will host a Metropolitan area Lenten Retreat with Father Gregory Hohnholt of Nashville, TN as the speaker. Area chapters from the Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky

Metropolis sponsored fundraiser for the new National Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy on Saturday, April 2nd "An Afternoon with Vefa". A dinner for the National Board was jointly hosted by the Metropolis Board

Center of Philanthropy was a huge success and we thank everyone for your continued support to the mission of Philoptochos. This center will enable Philoptochos to have a place of its own for offices and better serve those in need. We thank Maria Stavropoulos and her committee in making the event a success.

Upcoming events for Philoptochos includes a luncheon/lecture by renowned author Robert Krantz, Sophia, sponsored by the Philoptochos chapter of St. Nicholas Church in Ann Arbor, MI. Reservations are due by April 16th ■

- Spring commitments for chapters are the Metropolis Summer Camps and the Scholarship Fund.
- Last year donations of \$7,275 went to Summer Camps and \$3,800 to the Scholarship Fund.
- \$2,500 was given to the new Center of Philanthropy by the Metropolis Board.

areas have been invited to attend.

The Metropolis of Detroit was honored to host the National Philoptochos Board for its spring meeting on Friday, April 1st in conjunction with the Me-

and the Philoptochos chapter of St. John's Church in Sterling Heights on Friday, April 1st following Salutation to the Virgin Mary services.

The fundraiser for the National Philoptochos

MEFGOX NEWS

By Barbara Minton

Our liturgies, vespers, sacraments, and the many other services of our Holy Orthodox Faith are chanted, sung, or intoned rather than spoken. The hymns are not songs; rather, they are prayers. "Music" is an integral part of our worship. There-



fore, it is imperative that we recruit, encourage and train people to be the future chanters, choir directors, organists, singers, music arrangers, and teachers of hymnology.

Through the Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians offers scholarships to those students who will study music or

take music lessons. Our fervent hope is that these students will then offer their talents and knowledge to the Church.

The Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in memory of church musicians who have passed away. The Memorial Fund was started with Federation treasury monies that were budgeted each year.

(Continued on page 5)

A FISH TALE

By Fr. Nicholas Verdaris*

It is said that when a glass divider is placed into an aquarium so that fish can only swim in one half of the aquarium, the fish will bump into it only a few times before they “learn” that they are confined to one side of the aquarium. From then on, the glass divider can be removed, but the fish will continue to swim in only one half of the aquarium. The fish have been conditioned to limits that in fact do not exist. More like fish in an aquarium than most would care to admit, many people today choose to be bound to a ‘small world’ of their own creation, than embrace the limitless new life in Christ.

Case in point, researchers can project with a high degree of certainty that the average American

will spend 32.9% or 23 years of their life sleeping, 11.4% or 8 years watching TV, 8.6 % or 6 years eating, 6.55% or 4.5 years in leisure activities, and 2.8% or 2 years getting dressed. The data also shows that the average man and woman will spend a mere 0.7% or *half of one year* on all things religious or spiritual.

This is the limited aquarium our society says we are in. And yet, these confines are no less a choice. We must decide whether we will be lemmings or instead embrace this Lenten season to pursue the new life in Christ. Because by His love and grace, we are in actuality free to live a transcendent life in Him. It may be said that we in fact live in an “aquarium” that with our Orthodox Christian faith in action, can be so much



greater than what the secular world can possibly imagine or calculate. Great Lent is an opportunity for us to embrace the boundless Orthodox Christian way of life through a renewed commitment to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Preparing for the feast of His Resurrection, we must not bind ourselves to parameters that

give us a false sense of order at the expense of new life in Him.

We must be mindful of the fact that anything that inhibits the triumvirate of prayer, fasting and almsgiving is in reality hindering our ability to recognize the presence of God in our life, and the very real freedom that flows from Him. We must embrace this Lenten season NOT as a burdensome obligation, but as a blessed opportunity to break

through a mundane and finite kind of life; and commit ourselves to the freedom that only comes from following the way of the Lord.

Through the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and an active Orthodox Christian way of life, we can very well look beyond the imposed “fish bowl” to behold the presence of the living God in our midst. If we will choose to break familiar routines and seek out the way of the Lord this Lenten season with prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can indeed “swim upstream” and discover a new life. A limitless life in the Risen Christ ■

*Fr. Nicholas Verdaris is the Presiding Priest at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Little Rock, AR.

MEFGOX NEWS *continued...*

(Continued from page 4)

An endowment from Charles Michaels, Dayton Ohio, and donations in memory of loved ones from friends, families, and fellow church musicians allowed the Memorial Scholarship Fund to become self-sustaining. Each

year at the Annual Convention we encourage and offer support to students who are developing their musical talents by awarding scholarships at the banquet. Also at the Convention, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy during a memorial service at

which the nearly 300 names of blessed memory are read, we remember those church musicians who served the Church for many years.

Donations to the Memorial Scholarship Fund can be sent to Dan Packis, MEFGOX Scholarship

Trustee Chairman, 4651 Greenview Court, Avon, Ohio 44011. Please include the name of the church musician in whose memory the contribution is made ■

FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS (AS OF MARCH 31, 2011)

His Eminence
+Metropolitan Nicholas

Ann Arbor, MI - St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Bekiares, Christopher and Margarita

Buffalo, NY - Annunciation

Kallis, Fr. Perry and
Presbyteria Cassandra
Phufas, Ellene

Carmel, IN - Holy Trinity

Karas, Gus and Maritsa
Lafter, Chris and Toni
Kyriakopoulos, Chris
Pappas, Vicki
Zeheralis, Gail

Chattanooga, TN - Annunciation

Mousourakis, John and Donna

Cincinnati, OH

Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas

HTSN Philoptochos
HTSN GOYA
Streza, Fr. Ciprian and
Presbyteria Sinziana

Dayton, OH- Annunciation

Kakas, Berdi

Elmira, NY - St. Athanasios

Vardakis, Paul and Thea

Fort Wayne, IN - Holy Trinity

Doublas, Gregory
Rongos, Christopher and Katherine

Grand Rapids, MI - Holy Trinity

Afendoulis, Chris and Phyllis
Monoyios, Terry
Nicholas, Jim and Georgia

Ithaca, NY - St. Catherine

Bezirgianian, John

Lexington, KY

Panagia Pantovasillisa

Delvizis, Thomas

Memphis, TN - Annunciation

Bagatelas, Todd and Cyndi

Muskegon, MI - Annunciation

Mot, Fr. Catalin and
Presbyteria Felicia
Yankopoulos, Presbyteria Ann
Afendoulis, Alexander
Afendulis, Ted
Anton, Ted and Francine
Bati, John
Bouth, Michael and Sharon
Encelewski, Christine
Karis, Tom and Kristi
Ladas, Paul M. and Patricia
Lutz, Helen
Micheil, Rich and Teresa
Oravitan, Andre and Philip
Soimar, Michael and Corina

Nashville, TN - Holy Trinity

Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and
Presbyteria Sofia
Harman, Todd
Miles, Eric and Scarlett

Nashville, TN

St. John Chrysostom Mission

Turner, Fr. Parthenios and
Presbyteria Marion
Derrybery, Paul
Dozier, Matthew
Tickle, Jeffrey and Jackie

New Buffalo, MI

Annunciation/St.Paraskevi

Lepeniotis, Anastasia
Litznerski, Robert and Mariann

Plymouth, MI

Nativity of the Virgin Mary

Sarelis, Fr. Charles and
Presbyteria Angela

Randall, Michael and Anne

Saginaw, MI - St. Demetrios

Cox, Fr. Irenaeus and
Presbyteria Alexandra

Sault Ste Marie, MI - St. George

Gianakura, Peter and Georgia

Southgate, MI - St. George

Kircos, Angelo and Sophia
Kircos, John and Violet
Kircos, Lou and Paula
Kontos, John and Marika

St. Clair Shores, MI

Assumption

Callas, Kalliopy

Sterling Heights, MI - St. John

Kotsonis, Steve and Angela

Syracuse, NY - St. Sophia

Boucounis, Andrew
Kazakis, Elaine
Paul, James

Toledo, OH

Holy Trinity Cathedral

Damaskos, Fr. Aristotle and
Presbyteria Debbie

Traverse City, MI

Archangel Gabriel

Bemis, Steve and Pam
Dalbo, Helen A.

Troy, MI - St. Nicholas

Demery, Beck

Other Friends

Demetris, Jack and Dolly
Kyriakopoulos, Chris
Radulescu, Alexandru ■

METROPOLIS NEWS



THE DETROIT GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE WEEKEND FESTIVITIES

The Detroit Greek Independence Day was celebrated this year on the weekend of March 25 - 27. The festivities started Friday with a preview of the New Hellenic Museum of Michigan, located on 67 E. Kirby Street in Detroit, which is scheduled to open later this year. The evening was highlighted by the performance of the Evzones and Amalia Dance Ensembles of Pylos and Messinia, Greece.

On Saturday morning, Metropolitan Nicholas and his staff welcomed the dancers at the Metropolis Center. Later in the evening, The Hellenic Heritage Award Banquet was held at the Atheneum Suite Hotel

recognizing those individuals who have distinguished themselves for their faith and the promotion of Hellenic culture in American society. The 2011 recipients are: Dr. Harry Kotsis, Dr. Mike Syropoulos, George Raptis, Ernest Zachary and Tula Georgeson. The proceeds from this Banquet were committed to the Hellenic Museum of Michigan.

The weekend festivities culminated with the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday, followed by the traditional Greek Independence Day Parade through downtown Detroit.

Among the special guests from Greece who graciously honored us with their presence were Rev. Archimandrite Theoklitos Lambrina-

kos, Mr. Demitrios Kafandaros (Mayor of Pylos) and Vefa Alexiadou (The First Lady of Greek Cuisine).

The festivities ended with a final performance of the Greek dancers from the Metropolitan Detroit area and Greece.

Since its reactivation in 2001, after an absence of more than 30 years, the Detroit Greek Independence Day Parade has continued to increase the cultural awareness of Metropolitan Detroit and showcase our Orthodox Faith, our large Greek community, and our Hellenic heritage for generations to come ■



Metropolitan Nicholas welcoming the Greek Dancers at the Metropolis Center.



Metropolitan Nicholas celebrating the Sunday of the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy with Rev. Archim. Theoklitos Lambrinakos from Greece (left) and Fr. Tom George (Proistamemos) at the Annunciation Cathedral in Detroit, MI.



Metropolitan Nicholas welcoming guests from Greece as Mr. Demitrios Kafandaros (Mayor of Pylos) speaks to the congregants.



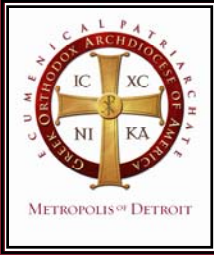
The Sunday Parade started at 3pm on Monroe/ Woodward Streets with dignitaries and a police escort leading the march.



Metropolitan Nicholas and clergy sing the Kontakion "Te Ypermahō" as His Eminence blesses the beginning of the ceremony from the dignitaries' stage mounted at Monroe/ Beaubien Streets.



Metropolitan Nicholas and dignitaries greeting the Parade participants.



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STS. CONSTANTINE
AND HELEN

MAY 21

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS

What Does Friends of the Metropolis Support?

General: Fully fund the expenses of the Metropolis offices, programs and travels.

Education: Enhance scholarships and adult education programs, as well as support the Metropolis students at Hellenic College/Holy Cross.

Support: Develop and provide educational and instructional seminars and services to clergy and parishes.

Youth: Maintain and support the youth office and activities of a full-time Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director.

Outreach/Missions: Create opportunities to introduce our faith to society, participate in inter-Christian and inter-faith activities as well as provide quick responses to national disasters.

Hellenism: Develop programs for Hellenic Cultural Outreach, including language, history and arts.

Leadership: Organize Metropolis Clergy-Laity Conferences, Oratorical Festivals, Christmas Pageants and Adult Education Programs.

Special Programs: Website development, hospitality to visiting dignitaries and guests, Charity and Philanthropy.

Dear Friends of the Metropolis:

Dear Friends of the Metropolis:

God has called us to do mighty deeds for the glory of His name and for the love of His people.

You are called upon to join in this reality of "faith working through love" as we continue to manifest the love of God for His Church and His people.

When you support the Friends of the Metropolis campaign, you are part of a greater outreach that proclaims with one universal voice that God is truly our hope and our rock of salvation.

Because of your devotion and help to the Friends

program, ministries and programs are implemented on a Metropolis-wide basis which strengthen and enhance our faith and our joint ministry of service.

If you have not yet become part of the Metropolis-wide effort, I would like to invite you to join forces with the faithful throughout our Metropolis in support of the ministries which are part of the Office of the Metropolitan.

Thanking you for your kind and generous response, I remain, with paternal blessing and prayers,

+NICHOLAS
Metropolitan Of Detroit



I am pleased to support the work of Metropolitan Nicholas and the Metropolis through the Annual Metropolis Stewardship "Friends" Program

Send this card in an envelope to:
The Metropolis of Detroit
2560 Crooks Road, Troy, MI 48084

 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other

Name _____ Parish Affiliation: _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check Enclosed (payable to the Metropolis of Detroit)

Please Charge My Credit Card Visa MasterCard

Account # _____ Exp. _____ Signature _____ Date _____