



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF Η ΠΑΒΛΟΣ



Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Detroit

February-March 2001

A Message From Our Bishop...

Dear Friends,

I greet you all in the name of our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we begin our journey through
Great and Holy Lent I once again
stress to all of you the importance
of prayer.

During this time we are called to
focus on three aspects of Great
Lent; prayer, fasting, and
almsgiving. Often we tend to
focus on the food restrictions
associated with Lent. However,
we must realize that fasting
without prayer and almsgiving is
incomplete. The full experience
of Lent includes all three parts.
As I have mentioned before,
prayer is important. As parents,
grandparents, godparents, and
examples to our youth we must
pray with our young people.

Wishing all of you a blessed and
spirit-filled Great and Holy Lent,
I remain,

In the Service of our Lord,

+ Bishop Nicholas



Greek Independence Day Celebration...

On Sunday, March 25, 2001
His Grace Bishop Nicholas of
Detroit along with the Detroit
Independence Day Committee are
planning a Celebration of Greek
Independence. A procession will
begin at the Annunciation
Cathedral at 2:30 p.m. and
proceed down Monroe Street.

A Doxology will be celebrated
by the Bishop followed by a
speech on the importance of the
day to Orthodoxy and Hellenism.
The commemoration will
conclude with the State of
Michigan and the City of Detroit
proclaiming March 25th Greek
Independence Day.

Everyone is encouraged to
attend this historic event and
dress your children in Greek
national costumes if possible.

Bishop's Holy Week Schedule...

His Grace Bishop Nicholas of
Detroit will make the following
visits during Holy Week:

Saturday of Lazarus (4/7)

Divine Liturgy-St. Sophia
Syracuse, NY

Palm Sunday (4/8)

Divine Liturgy-Annunciation
Rochester, NY

Bridegroom-Holy Spirit
Rochester, NY

Holy Monday (4/9)

Bridegroom-Annunciation
Buffalo, NY

Holy Tuesday (4/10)

Bridegroom-Nativity of the
Virgin Mary, Plymouth, MI

Holy Wednesday (4/11)

Holy Uction-St. George
Southgate, MI

Holy Thursday (4/12)

Divine Liturgy-St. Spyridon
Diocese Home

12 Gospels-Sts. Constantine
&Helen, Westland, MI

Good Friday (4/13)

Royal Hours-Pastoral Visit

Apokathilosis-St. George
Bloomfield Hills, MI

Epitaphios-Annunciation
Cathedral, Detroit, MI

Holy Saturday (4/14)

Divine Liturgy-St. John
Sterling Heights, MI

Holy Pascha (4/15)

Anastasis
Assumption
St. Clair Shores, MI

Agape
St. Nicholas
Troy, MI

**Diocese Youth Office...**

By Nick Kotsis

From the Youth Office. . .

Good news for campers! We have located a camp site for the young people in the southern areas of the Diocese. The camp is called Cedar Ridge and it is in Louisville, KY. It has facilities for arts and crafts and for holding church services. It also has a swimming pool, miles of trails, cabins, volleyball and basketball courts, open areas for field games and camp-outs, fire pits, and much, much more. They also offer horseback riding, archery, and low and high ropes courses at the request of renters. We are all very excited about this new opportunity for the southern areas of the Diocese and an information packet will be sent to each parish very soon. We have reserved the week of July 29 - August 4 for our group. We can't wait to see you there!

For the Metro Detroit area . . . our Lenten Retreat for GOYANS will be on Saturday, March 17 from 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at St. George Church in Southgate, MI. The topic is "Pure Body and Soul: Understanding relationships and sexuality through the Orthodox Church." A film crew from GOTELECOM and the National Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries will also be there to film the retreat and some of the participants for their new video in the "Orthodox

Christian Teen Video Series." We're sure this will be an interesting, informative, and important retreat for our spiritual and social well-being. See you there!

In January, the Upstate New York region had a ski-retreat weekend in Syracuse. On Friday, we discussed being created in the image of God and its implications with regard to racism and sexism. We also spent a lot of time in fellowship and fun in the gymnasium before everyone hit the sack in the lock-in. After a few measly hours of sleep, all of Saturday was spent on the slopes skiing or tubing. The weekend culminated on Sunday morning with the Divine Liturgy. We all had an awesome time and are looking forward to next year's retreat!

27th Dayton Basketball Tournament...

By Nick Kotsis

On the weekend of Feb. 16-18, the Annunciation Church in Dayton, Ohio hosted the 27th annual basketball tournament. From start to finish the weekend was filled with fellowship, love, sportsmanship and fun. Aside from the basketball games, there were the reception night activities (including volleyball, food and music), hospitality room at the hotel each night, and the dance-which all served to bring the young people together with

enthusiasm and enjoyment. The church was packed for both the Great Vespers on Saturday night and for the Divine Liturgy Sunday morning as everyone came together in love to worship and pray. Congratulations to all of the teams that participated, and special congratulations to the boys and girls teams from Dayton who won their respective tournaments and to the boys and girls teams from Lansing, MI who took home the sportsmanship trophy. Well over 250 people participated in the tournament, and many were from outside of Dayton as well. Teams came from Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan, and other areas of Ohio. The entire parish of the Annunciation church, Fr. Stratton Dorozenski, Mr. Elias Spyrou, and everyone else involved with tournament put in a lot of hard work to prepare for that weekend and they truly did an outstanding job. Thanks to everyone in Dayton and to all of the participants for an excellent and memorable tournament!

Chanting CD Now Available...

The Diocese of Detroit proudly announces the release of "Lazarus Come Forth," a musical CD and book (with musicological commentary) featuring the Byzantine chanters Yioryos and Konstantinos Bilalis (both of which chanted during the Patriarchal visit). This CD features hymns from the Saturday of Lazarus. CDs can be

purchased for \$30 plus \$5 shipping and handling by contacting the Diocese at (313)864-5433.

Clergy Syndesmos and Presbyteres' Sisterhood...

By Fr. Mark Emroll

On Sunday, January 28, 2001, our Diocese Clergy Families came together to enjoy a fun Vasilopita Potluck Dinner as a family at Ss. Constantine and Helen Church, Westland, Michigan. We thank Fr. and Pres. James Stathakios for opening their parish for this event.

Oratorical Festival News...

By Fr. Dean Nastos

Our four district and one Diocesan Oratorical Festival sites and dates have been confirmed. I am pleased to report that the Chairmen are now starting to plan for another excellent year of speeches from our young people. The Oratorical Festival is a great program within our Diocese and needs everyone's support. Please encourage the young people to write and offer their speeches. This year's theme is: "The Holy Fathers." At this year's Diocese Festival, the Senior and Junior winners will receive a \$250 prize and \$250 towards the airfare to attend the Archdiocese Festival which will take place in Oak

Lawn, IL (just outside Chicago) from June 8th- 10th. The time is now for our young people to speak with their Parish Oratorical Festival Chairperson and get the topics and tips to offer a great speech. Here are the Diocese Festival sites and dates:

Central District - Annunciation
Dayton, OH April 28th
Metro District - Annunciation
Muskegon, MI April 28th
Southern District - Holy Trinity
Nashville, TN April 28th
UpStateNY District-Annunciation
Buffalo, NY April 28th
Diocese Oratorical Festival-
Holy Cross
Farmington Hills, MI
May 19th

Diocese Golf Outing...

The Diocese of Detroit is pleased to announce the Inaugural Diocese of Detroit Charity Golf Classic. This event will take place on July 9, 2001 at the Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club in Flint, MI. Warwick Hills is the home of the PGA Buick Open. More details will follow.

Diocese Summer Camp News...

By Dean Niforos

Its not too early to start thinking about the upcoming summer at the Detroit Diocese Summer Camp!

Camper pre-applications will be available by mid-March from your church office, or you can go to the Camp web page in mid-March and download a form to complete and mail it in to register campers for the summer.

Staff are also needed for this summer. Please spread the word to any interested young adults you may know, particularly those age 18 and over. Counselors, certified lifeguards and nurses are needed during all five weeks. Staff pre-applications will also be available by mid-March, and a new on-line pre-application will be available on the website at the same time. Instead of completing the form and mailing it in, interested staff candidates can complete the form on-line and e-mail it to receive a full staff application packet.

For more information about the camp, please see our website at <http://detroit.goarch.org/ddsc>.

Greek Language and Culture Committee

Moves Greek School Toward Accreditation

At the 1999 Diocese of Detroit Clergy Laity Conference, a committee was established by His Grace Bishop Nicholas to

direct attention to our parish programs in Greek language.

Our churches continue to be the religious and cultural centers of the Greek Orthodox community in America. The committee revealed that culture, such as history, the arts, literature etc., was not emphasized.

In addition, the committee discussed the importance of teaching the Greek language to those who have never attended Greek School, including a pre-school level in our programs. Most importantly, they discussed developing a state-certified accreditation program benefitting our students by allowing them to fulfill high school foreign language requirements.

The committee has convened regularly since 1999 under the leadership of Fr. Michael Varlamos. "His Grace formed this committee in hopes of pooling our God-given talents, expertise and resources to bring about a renaissance of teaching the Greek language and culture to children and adults and to those of non-Greek as well as Greek descent," said Fr. Michael.

Dedicated members are: Dr. Gus Demas, Ph.D., Mrs. Joan DeRonne, Katherine Kittides Ph.D., Mr. Vasilios Kosmidis, Mr. Christ Petrouleas, Mr. George Reganis, Mike Syropoulos Ph.D., Art Vrettas Ph.D. and teacher representative, Mrs. Elli Patouhas.

The focus over the last two years has been the curriculum development subcommittee under the direction of Drs. Demas and Kittides. Parishes and Greek School teachers were surveyed, and with their assistance they developed the first draft of a standard curriculum for language, history and culture for levels pre-K to 6.

Teachers will be certified according to standards established by the State of Michigan and North Central Accreditation. Drs. Syropoulos and Vrettas will report accreditation requirements in the near future.

A seminar is planned in June for clergy, Greek school teachers, parents and parish councils which will cover all the materials for the Diocese standards for curriculum and methods of teaching. The date and location will be announced soon.

The project has come to this point without any funding. In the coming months the committee will need to raise funds in order to complete the process of program development, teacher seminars, and special events.

Everyone is invited to participate in the March 25th Greek Independence Day Rally in Greektown. The event is chaired by the Cultural Outreach Subcommittee, Mr. Kosmidis and Mr. Reganis.