

Official Publication of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit

The Shepherd's Staff

Issue 2 | Volume XI | Pascha 2019



Metropolitan's Message

Beloved Family in Christ,

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Once again, the Church of Christ has celebrated with joy and thanksgiving the truth of the empty tomb. We had the unique opportunity of joining in spirit with those women who long ago went to remember Jesus at His burial place. But what they found instead was very different from what they expected.

What happened long ago with the empty tomb is something that changed the world forever. But what is so important about this event is not simply the idea that the tomb of Jesus was empty – but rather that those who loved him witnessed the reality of the empty tomb.



His Eminence and Fr. Teodor Petrutju serving the Agape Vespers at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Westland, Michigan.

Sometimes when we are trying to understand our Christian faith, we forget that the truth of our belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God is based on fact. It is not simply an interesting idea – but in truth the women went to see “the place where they laid Him.” And when they got to the tomb of burial, they realized that in truth it is a place of Resurrection.

And so we must ask ourselves on what basis do we proclaim the Gospel message of Jesus to the world? Do we think it is just a “nice” way of living – or have we understood that the Empty Tomb is the single fact that has turned the world upside down?

Beloved family of the Church, the question we must ask ourselves is this: Do we understand that the Tomb of Christ is indeed empty? Because if we recognize this fact from two thousand years ago, then we must also strive to change our own behavior to acknowledge that this is the call to a resurrection in our own life. We cannot continue to think about the meaning of life as the world would have us think – rather we are called upon to understand our whole personal reality as being changed by the Empty Tomb.

The Empty Tomb means that all of us will be called before the Throne of Christ at the general resurrection.

The Empty Tomb means that Jesus died for all of us – regardless of where we live or what we think.

The Empty Tomb means that physical nature is dependent on the reality of Christ the King.

The Empty Tomb means that once we approach with those women of long ago to see “where they laid Him,” we will never be the same.

The Empty Tomb means that God the Father has offered us salvation through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Come to the tomb and see...and go, changed forever.

METROPOLITAN NICHOLAS OF DETROIT

Metropolis News

- ❖ Detroit's own Hellenic Museum of Michigan was recently featured in *Windy City Greek*, a Chicago-based publication. The Spring issue centered around "Preserving Greek Heritage in the U.S." and our downtown gem was chosen as the museum spotlight.

The article is on page nine of the Spring issue, which can be found at:

<https://windycitygreek.com>

- ❖ His Eminence and a very dedicated crowd of Greeks and Philhellenes were joined by Michigan's Lieutenant Governor, Garlin Gilchrist, for the 18th annual Detroit Greek Independence Day Parade in historic Greektown Detroit on April 14.



Metropolis Schedule

NOTICE: Metropolitan Nicholas' schedule is subject to change. Please visit our website for updates: www.detroit.goarch.org/calendar.

May

4	Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Spring Luncheon	The Henry Ford Lovett Hall, Dearborn, MI
5	Parish Visit	Sts. Constantine and Helen Church, Westland, MI
9-10	Archdiocesan Council Meetings	Atlanta, GA
12	Parish Visit	St. George Church, Southgate, MI
17-19	Graduation Weekend	Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA
19	Parish Visit	TBD
26	Parish Visit	Assumption Church, Grand Blanc, MI

June

2	Parish Visit	TBD
6	Holy Ascension	TBD
9	Parish Visit	TBD
16	Holy Pentecost	TBD
23	Parish Visit	TBD
29	Sts. Peter and Paul	TBD
30	Parish Visit	TBD

Youth News

BY EVA KONSTANTAKOS

METROPOLIS REGIONAL LENTEN RETREATS BRING YOUTH TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY TO PASCHA

We had another wonderful Lenten Retreat season in the Metropolis of Detroit. The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries partners with area parishes to offer FREE regional youth retreats – bringing youth together to worship, serve, and learn on the journey to Pascha. This year’s **Michigan area GOYA Retreat** was hosted on Saturday, March 23, 2019 by Holy Trinity Cathedral in Toledo, OH. The theme of the retreat was based on Romans 12:2. “Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed...” Four workshops were offered for both the GOYAnS and for parents and advisors in attendance - led by clergy, lay leaders, and students from Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology. GOYAnS assembled water bottle care packages for the Believe Center, INC – an organization that provides sports and other activities for at-risk youth in the Toledo area.

This year’s **Upstate NY GOYA Retreat** was hosted on Saturday, March 30, 2019 St. Sophia Church in Syracuse, NY. The theme of the Retreat focused on the Lenten Prayer of Saint Ephraim and its application to our everyday lives. While GOYAnS were in their discussion groups, parents and youth workers met with Eva Konstantakos (the Metropolis Y2AM Director) to discuss youth ministries and the upcoming Parish Youth Safety Policies. GOYAnS finished the day with Orthodox Jeopardy and worshipped together at Vespers before departing to their homes.

This year’s **Central District GOYA Retreat** was hosted on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Church in Cincinnati, OH. The theme of the Retreat focused on how we can get caught up in “hype” versus understanding and experiencing true joy. In addition to the discussions, two students from Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, MA led a workshop about Christian joy. They also shared information about the undergraduate and graduate programs of Hellenic College/Holy Cross.

We thank all those who are *Friends of the Metropolis*. Their generous stewardship assists the Metropolis in offering these free retreats. We also thank all those who made the retreats possible through their hard work, resources, and financial generosity – the clergy, host parishes and organizers, workshop leaders, youth workers, parents, and of course... all of the GOYAnS who were in attendance! CHRIST IS RISEN!



The Metropolis Finals are just around the corner (May 18, 2019 at St. Nicholas Church/Troy, MI) www.detroit.goarch.org/MetropolisSJCOF.

We want to thank the following parishes and individuals who, as of MAY 2, 2019, have donated to the Metropolis Oratorical Festival Scholarship Fund. If you would like to make a contribution to the SJCOF Scholarship Fund, please email youth@detroit.goarch.org.

Summer Camp News

MDSC NEEDS YOU!

Looking for licensed medical professionals to help us this summer at MDSC!

You can spend a couple days or a whole week with us!

(tuition discounts offered for campers of parents who are licensed medical professionals and offer their time with us)

Please consider joining us at MDSC!

For more information, please contact Tina Souphis, tsouphis@twmi.fr.com

WWW.STNICHOLASCAMP.ORG

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| Panagia Pantovasilissa - Lexington, KY | St. Nicholas - Jamestown, NY |
| Assumption - Louisville, KY | Annunciation - Rochester, NY |
| St. Nicholas - Ann Arbor, MI | St. Sophia - Syracuse, NY |
| St. George - Bloomfield Hills, MI | Annunciation - Dayton, OH |
| Annunciation - Detroit, MI | Thomas Photos - Toledo, OH |
| Holy Cross - Farmington Hills, MI | Annunciation - Chattanooga, TN |
| Assumption - Grand Blanc, MI | Annunciation - Memphis, TN |
| Nativity of the Virgin Mary - Plymouth, MI | Holy Trinity - Nashville, TN |
| St. George - Southgate, MI | |

Philoptochos News

BY THEONE DICKOS

Christos Anesti! Alethos Anesti! May the blessings of Pascha be with you always.



The Lenten Season was busy for our Philoptochos Chapters. The ladies prepared for Palm Sunday Luncheons, and the proceeds benefitted Hellenic College Holy Cross. Many chapters baked tsourekia and koulourakia which were distributed to the homebound. The ladies also dyed the Easter eggs which were distributed after the Resurrection and Agape Services.

Two chapters in the Metropolis of Detroit acted quickly to the challenge by the National Philoptochos to identify underprivileged schools in their communities where they could offer something. The Holy Trinity Chapter of Toledo, Ohio was featured in the last edition of the Shepherd's Staff. The entire St. Nicholas Parish of Ann Arbor, Michigan joined the Philoptochos Chapter and collected items for teachers at a local elementary school. Tissues, paper towels, hand sanitizers and disinfectant wipes were collected and donated to the teachers. The teachers requested stress balls for the students. One Philoptochos member made the stress balls, and another member's knitting group made 100 colorful hats for the children. The items were presented at a February staff meeting, and the teachers were thrilled.

The St. Nicholas Chapter of Troy, Michigan is working on a charity project to furnish two tiny homes in Detroit. It is a great project which offers housing and eventual home ownership to the underprivileged. One of the members of the Philoptochos and her office helped design the interiors and created two registries of housewares for each home. The chapter members assisted in acquiring the needs of each residence. The St. Nicholas Troy Chapter also had a very successful Vasilopita Luncheon in January raising \$6000 for St. Basil Academy.

The National Philoptochos Board recently met on March 29-31 at St. Basil Academy in Garrison, NY. The Academy provides a comfortable home for the students, and brings the light of Christ to many young people's lives. The ladies of the National Board along with the children of St. Basil's participated in the "Rise Against Hunger Program." In two hours, over 10,000 meals were packaged for the needy. St. Basil Academy will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary on Saturday, September 21, 2019. Congratulations to the Academy, and mark your calendars for this wonderful event.

The final details are being made for the biennial Spring Luncheon, "Philanthropy in Motion" on May 4, 2019. It will take place at the Henry Ford Museum Lovett Hall in Dearborn, Michigan. The guest speaker, Joanne Ewald is a jewelry artist and Founder/Executive Director of Mend on the Move, a 501c3 nonprofit. As a survivor of child sexual abuse, her passion is to help other women who have been victims of abusive pasts. The event has a dynamic speaker, a beautiful venue, great food, fabulous prizes, and wonderful fellowship. Looking forward to seeing many of you there.

We are in the beginning stages of planning the Metropolis Clergy Laity/Philoptochos Conference which will take place on Thursday, September 26 – Saturday, September 28, 2019. It will be held at the Somerset Inn, Troy, Michigan. By now, you should have received the packet with all the information and the delegate registration. It is my hope that we will have 100% participation from our Philoptochos Chapters. By being together, we strive to grow our mission of serving the poor and less fortunate. As we do this, the friendships formed are cherished. Be sure to mark your calendars, and make plans to attend.

CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2018, National Philoptochos disbursed \$1.3 Million to Ministry Commitments and Special Projects. This figure does not include the hundreds of thousands of dollars that were donated directly by metropolises and chapters across the country to their local philanthropic ministries and projects.

Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos -
1/2019 - 4/2019

Partners in Philanthropy Fund -
Total of \$2,000 This fund is used for those in the Metropolis who have short term needs.
\$1,000 for Hospice Care
\$1,000 for Burial Expenses

Benevolence for a Philoptochos Sister in Need -
\$800

MEFGOX News

By Dr. Vicki Pappas
President, Mid-Eastern Federation of
Greek Orthodox Church Musicians

*“It is the day of Resurrection, let us be radiant, O ye peoples: Pascha, the Lord's Pascha; for Christ God hath brought us from death to life, and from earth unto Heaven as we sing the triumphal hymn.”
First Ode of the Canon of Pascha (First Tone)*



*The clergy, choir members, and chanters of our Metropolises' church music ministry bring you greetings as we all celebrate the joy of Pascha!
Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!*

We are also pleased to announce that our 72nd Annual Convention will take place this year in the Detroit area! The parish and choir of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Troy, Michigan will be our host during the weekend of July 25th through 28th. The weekend will consist of many workshops, both musical and theological, along with rehearsals in preparation for singing and chanting the hymns of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. There will also be social events and plenty of time for networking.

Sunday's choir will premier the new liturgical music of Nicholas Bodle, one of the Federations' former scholarship winners. Constantina Tsolainou, recently retired Distinguished Professor of the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University in Georgia and one of the country's foremost professional choral directors, will serve as the Guest Director, with Nicholas as Guest Organist. We hope parishes will send their church musicians to this event for an unforgettable learning experience. Non-singers are also welcome to attend any of the workshops and social events, and especially the Divine Liturgy on Sunday! Keep updated about the convention via the MEFGOX website: www.mefgox.org. We hope to welcome you at St. Nick's!

Returning to the Empty Tomb

FR. JARROD RUSSELL

Χριστός ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

The four Gospels preserve a respectful silence regarding the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The actual moment of Christ physically leaving the tomb is not described in the Bible. Various dramatic recreations of the Resurrection fail to observe this silence. Often, these accounts will add to the Biblical narrative a scene of the ground quaking, the stone rolling away from the tomb, and Jesus stepping forward with a light shining behind Him. It can be a moving scene that will produce tears for the viewer. This dramatic scene, however, is not found in the Biblical text or in the teaching of the Church.

Instead, all four Evangelists report the Resurrection through the witness of the Myrrhbearing women who visit the tomb early on the first Pascha morning. “Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb” is the question pondered by the Myrrhbearing women on their way to anoint the body of Jesus Christ. (Mark 16:3) This was a reasonable question because they lacked the physical strength to move the stone. Also, would the soldiers guarding the tomb allow the women to anoint the body of the Lord?

Upon their arrival at the sepulcher, “there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.” (Matthew 28:2-4) The concerns of the women were miraculously addressed by the Lord. He had already left the tomb without disturbing the stone, and an angel comes afterwards to roll away the stone for the women and to invite them to see the empty tomb. This is further reflected in the Church’s hymn for Thomas Sunday: “O Life, You rose from the sepulcher, even though the tomb was secured with a seal, O Christ God.” (Apolytikion for Thomas Sunday) Contrary to the various dramatic depictions, Christ does not have the stone rolled away to allow him to leave the tomb. The stone is rolled away, rather, to allow the Myrrhbearing women and through them, all of us, to witness the empty tomb.

The Church brings us back to the empty tomb two weeks after Pascha on the Sunday of the Myrrhbearers to remind us of the necessity of indwelling the Resurrected Christ everyday of our life, not only on the day of Resurrection. We accomplish this in a profound way when we return mystically to the empty tomb with the Myrrhbearing women and contemplate the Lord’s work of salvation, His Resurrection and defeat of death. We do not simply worship an abstract, bodiless God. Rather, we worship the Risen Lord, the One who trampled down death and brought life to the world. As we stand once again at the empty tomb with the Myrrhbearing women, may we proclaim with them that Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

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Friends of the Metropolis

www.detroit.goarch.org/friends



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Friends of the Metropolis 2019

List of Donors January 1 - March 31

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Presbytera Kyriakoula
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Daniels, Tony and Clevie
Yates, Margaret

Bloomfield Hills, MI – St. George

Romley, Nicholas

Buffalo, NY – Annunciation

Anas, Alexandros
Danakas, George
Pappas, Angeline
Pappas, Victoria
Watson, David and Niki

Carmel, IN - Holy Trinity Cathedral

Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Bartz, Fr. William and
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Presbytera Stacey
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Gounaris, George and Sarina
Hostetler, Duane and Eleny
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Dayton, OH - Annunciation

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Zalants, Anthony and Irene

Detroit, MI - Annunciation Cathedral

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Holy Cross Philoptochos
Hountalas, Fr. Dean and
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Artemas, Fr. John and
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Fort Wayne, IN - Holy Trinity

Ryman, Benjamin
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Assumption Parish
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Chinonis, Nancy

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Kalatzis, Athena
Kaloydis, John and Karen
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Stamatis, Thomas and Sandra
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Grand Rapids, MI - Holy Trinity

Afendoulis, Angelynn
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Monoyios, Terry and Akrivi

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St. Catherine Parish

Jamestown, NY – St. Nicholas

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Theofilactidis, George and Kathy

Lexington, KY - Panagia Pantovasilissa

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Sawaya, Peter and Kallie

Louisville, KY – Assumption

Wingenbach, Fr. Gregory

Memphis, TN - Annunciation

Thomas, Fr. Simon and
 Presbytera Stephanie
Kallas, William
Kay, John and Nancy

Muskegon, MI – Annunciation

Ladas, Paul and Patricia

Nashville, TN - Holy Trinity

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 Presbytera Sofia
Botsaris, Chris
Harman, Todd and Dawn
Miller, John M.

Plymouth, MI - Nativity of the Virgin Mary

Nativity of the Virgin Mary Parish
Nativity of the Virgin Mary Parish Council
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Stassinis, Larry and Helen

Rochester, NY - Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit Philoptochos
Mickles, James and Jane

Saginaw, MI - St. Demetrios

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Ulmer, George and Virginia
Zubulake, George R.

Southgate, MI - St. George

St. George Parish
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Cook, Fr. Anthony and
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Danckaert, Seraphim and Anne
Kontos, John and Marika
Minton, Nicholas
Tougas, Christian and Lauren

St. Clair Shores, MI - Assumption

Varlamos, Fr. Michael and
Presbyteria Tina
Abell, Fr. Christopher and
Presbyteria Alice
Harlaftis, Panagiotis

Sterling Heights, MI - St. John

St. John GOYA
St. John Choir
Kotsis, Andrew and Irene
Kotsis, Damian and Anastasia
Kotsis, Katherine
Raphtis, E. Mike and Betty

Syracuse, NY – St. Sophia

Ficchi, Diana M.

Toledo, OH – Holy Trinity Cathedral

Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Legakis, Fr. Larry and
Presbyteria Jennifer
Biernacki, Gerald and Pauline

Traverse City, MI - Archangel Gabriel

Underwood, Robert and Theresa Stamos

Troy, MI - St. Nicholas

Hazen, Brian and Tina
Mickey, Cynthia
Romley, Nicholas
Zotos, Gregory

Vestal, NY – Annunciation

Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Philoptochos
Yacalis, Deacon Vasili and Diakonissa
Pamela
Gianakouros, Harry and Katie

Westland, MI - Sts. Constantine and Helen

Sts. Constantine and Helen Parish
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Petrutiu, Fr. Teodor and
Presbyteria Roxana
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In Memory of Constantine (Gus) Stefanou

Thank You!

Photo Highlights



Proti Anastasi
Assumption Church, St. Clair Shores, MI
April 27



Palm Sunday
St. John Church, Sterling Heights, MI
April 21



Lazarus Saturday
St. Nicholas Church, Ann Arbor, MI
April 20



Annunciation Vespers
Annunciation Cathedral, Detroit, MI
March 24



Sunday of Orthodoxy
Holy Trinity Cathedral, Carmel, IN
March 17



Ordination to the Diaconate
Benjamin Rossiter
Annunciation Church, Buffalo, NY
March 10

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Metropolis of Detroit

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Dear Friends of the Metropolis,

You made a tremendous impact in our Metropolis of Detroit for the year 2018. Because of your love and support for the Friends of the Metropolis program, we have been able to fully fund the continued operation and ministries of our Metropolis. Please know that the Metropolis of Detroit has always had an open financial accounting of our income and expenses.

Every gift to our Metropolis has been spent in accordance with the needs, work, and ministry of our Office for the benefit of our Parishes, our Clergy, our Faithful, and all of our individual ministries

If you are getting ready to give a donation for the 2019 Friends of the Metropolis program, please remember how your donations are used:

- ❖ YOU made it possible for Metropolitan Nicholas to accept Archbishop Demetrios' request for him to be the Metropolitan Locum Tenens of Chicago;
- ❖ YOU have helped us to pay all the normative operational expenses of the Metropolis Office including: building maintenance and repair; heat; lights; postage; technology; and supplies;
- ❖ YOU have made it possible to cover the travel expenses incurred during our pastoral visitations to the Metropolis parishes;
- ❖ YOU helped make certain that we are able to contribute to student loan payments for our clergy and church workers who graduated from the Hellenic College/Holy Cross and serve in our Metropolis parishes;

- ❖ YOU have assured that there is a summer youth camp available to all of our young people;
- ❖ YOU helped support the annual regional youth lenten retreats;
- ❖ YOU have been the helping hands who gave through our office to those in need of shelter, clothing, food, and medical supplies;
- ❖ YOU helped us upgrade our technology systems so that live video conference calls can include clergy and faithful from Arkansas to New York;
- ❖ YOU have made it possible for us at the Metropolis to repair the water leaks in the basement of our Metropolis Office;
- ❖ YOU helped Metropolitan Nicholas assist people in emergency situations in need of financial support;

Thank you for your great stewardship!

God be praised!

Thank You!

Friends Donation

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