

And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

LUKE 24: 5



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GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DETROIT

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Volume IV, Issue II

Easter 2012

Great and Holy Pascha

Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!

*B*eloved in the Lord,

Every year during this period of Great Lent and Holy Week, the Church offers us another opportunity to become eyewitnesses of the events that occurred 2,000 years ago in Jerusalem and which changed the world.

The Orthodox Church has continued to live and proclaim the very message of grace, love, and salvation which the first believers received from Jesus. And just as those early Christians were able to confirm the truth of the proclamation that "Christ is Risen" because they were themselves eyewitnesses of those events, we too continue to have this experience through the liturgical services, hymns, and prayers which are repeated for us at this sacred time.

My friends, the Church continues to offer this cycle of repetition to us because the heart of the Christian message has always been centered around those events in Jerusalem — especially as remembered during Holy Week and Pascha.

St. Paul has made it abundantly clear to us that unless this one unique event occurred, i.e., the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, then our faith and our message is futile (cf I Cor 15:14-17).

This is why the Church encourages us to be eyewitnesses of these events: because in seeing the patient suffering of our Lord we will come to love Him for His great sacrifice; and in witnessing the truth, power, and strength of His resurrection, we will have no fear in proclaiming Him to be the King of Glory

and in making Him the King of our lives.

And then, if we are truly able to proclaim Jesus as Lord and King, our lives can never be the same.

Inviting you to join me during this Holy Week and Pascha as we see with our own eyes the truth of the Resurrection of Christ, I extend to you my prayers and best wishes, and greet you with the ancient proclamation of our Church:

Christ is Risen!
Truly He is Risen!

+ Metropolitan Nicholas



BISHOP'S SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

For calendar updates, please visit our website at: www.detroit.goarch.org/news/calendar

APRIL

17	<i>Parish Council Meeting</i>	Holy Trinity Church—Fort Wayne, IN
21	<i>9am - SJC Oratorical Festival Michigan District Finals</i>	Holy Cross Church—Farmington Hills, MI
	<i>11am - Metropolis Philoptochos Spring Luncheon</i>	Annunciation Cathedral—Detroit, MI
22	<i>Parish Visitation</i>	St. George Church—Bloomfield Hills, MI
23-26	<i>Holy Eparchial Synod Meeting</i>	Archdiocesan Center—New York, NY
28	<i>SJC Oratorical Festival Central District Finals</i>	Assumption Church—Louisville, KY
28-29	<i>Fr. William Cassis 20 Year Anniversary</i>	Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Church—Cincinnati, OH

MAY

6	<i>Parish Visitation</i>	Holy Trinity Church—Lansing, MI
9-11	<i>American Bible Society Meeting</i>	New York, NY
12	<i>SJC Oratorical Festival Metropolis Finals</i>	Sts. Constantine & Helen Church—Westland, MI
13	<i>Parish Visitation</i>	St. George Church—Southgate, MI
15	<i>Clergy Synodesmos Meeting</i>	Metropolis Center—Troy, MI
20	<i>Parish Visitation</i>	Sts. Constantine & Helen Church—Westland, MI
	<i>Vougiouklakis Baptism</i>	St. George Church—Southgate, MI
	<i>Sts. Constantine & Helen Great Vespers</i>	Sts. Constantine & Helen Church—Westland, MI
21	<i>Sts. Constantine & Helen Hierarchical Divine Liturgy</i>	Sts. Constantine & Helen Church—Westland, MI
31-1 June	<i>American Bible Society Committee Meeting</i>	New-York, NY

MEFGOX NEWS



By Irene Georgantas

President

On March 12th-14th, the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians convened a meeting of the Council of Presidents in Indianapolis for a

meeting of the minds. As President of the Mid-Eastern Federation of Church Musicians, I was pleased to attend. This Council is comprised of the presidents of the Church Music Federations from the Metropolises across the county, eight of us, plus the National Chairman of the National Forum, our own Vicki Pappas from Holy Trinity in Indianapolis. We come together annually in early

spring to receive updates on the work of the National Forum, discuss mutual concerns, and brainstorm about this important music ministry. This year, there was also discussion in preparation for the biennial Clergy-Laity Congress that will be held this year in Phoenix, and in which the National Forum participates. During the meeting, I was able to share the work of "MEFGOX" and in turn,

heard many good ideas about furthering our church music ministry from the other Metropolises.

The clergy and church musicians of your parish are continually kept abreast of the activities of the National Forum from Vicki and the Archdiocese. But you should be aware that the monies sent to the National Forum for

(Continued on page 5)

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS *by Eva Kokinos*

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

REMEMBERING THE RESURRECTION... EVERYDAY!

Take a moment to think about a joyous occasion in your life. Some of those moments happen only once in a lifetime. So we do a lot of things to remember those special events. We take pictures, we hold on to souvenirs, we reunite with people from that special day, or we return to the location of that special event to reminisce. Ultimately, we never want the memory of that joyous event or moment to fade in our minds and hearts.

On April 15th, 2012, Orthodox Christians around the world celebrate the most joyous event of the year... the glorious Resurrection of our Lord! With a powerful voice, each one of us proclaims "Christ is Risen" to announce the Good News that Jesus Christ "trampled death by death... bestowing life to those in the tombs." Unfortunately, Bright Week comes along and we are ALREADY back to "life as usual." We get back to work, school, sending emails, text messages, posting on Facebook, gossip, jealousy, arguments... If Pascha is the most joyous event of our lives as Orthodox Christians, how are we keeping that joy in our hearts and minds? How can we remember the Resurrection EVERYDAY? Here are just a few simple ways that we can remember this feast throughout the year and keep the joy of the Resurrection alive in our hearts.

REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION... by Attending Divine Liturgy

Sometimes we forget that we have an opportunity to celebrate and remember the Resurrection of Christ every week through the Divine Liturgy in our Churches. What better way to remember the joyous Resurrection by going back weekly to the place where we celebrate it every year! From beginning to end, the prayers, hymns, and Holy Scriptures guide our hearts and minds toward the Resurrection.

REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION... by Keeping an Icon of the Resurrection

We often have pictures of those special moments in our lives. We keep photo albums and framed photos to remind us of those occasions. An excellent way to remember the Resurrection of our Lord is to keep an icon of the Resurrection with you. Start by having an icon of the Resurrection in your room... at your desk, on your wall, or on your nightstand. You will begin and end your day by seeing an icon that reminds us of Pascha. You might also choose to keep a laminated icon in your school bag, locker, or your car. In times of joy or sorrow, you will always have the joyous Resurrection with you.

REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION... by Serving and Loving Your Neighbor

We know that Christ gave His life willingly, so that we may be free and we can inherit eternal life. The Resurrection of our Lord is a result of His selflessness and unconditional love for every single person in the world. One way that we can remember the Resurrection every day is to love our neighbor and to give to those in need. We can donate food, clothing, monetary assistance to the poor, donate our time at school and church, help out a friend by listening to their concerns, and much more. Ultimately, giving of our time and our resources in even the smallest ways for our friends AND foes honors the sacrifice that God made for all mankind.



2012 SJCOF DATES AND LOCATIONS

DISTRICT FESTIVALS

Central District:

Saturday, April 28, 2012
Assumption —Louisville, KY

Michigan District:

Saturday, April 21, 2012
Holy Cross - Farmington Hills, MI

NY District:

Sunday, April 22, 2012
Annunciation —Buffalo, NY

Southern District:

Sunday, April 29, 2012
Holy Trinity —Nashville, TN

METROPOLIS FESTIVAL

May 11-12, 2012
Sts. Constantine and Helen
Westland, MI

ARCHDIOCESE FESTIVAL

June 8-10, 2012
Bethesda, Maryland

2012 METROPOLIS OF DETROIT—SUMMER CAMP DATES



MDSC—Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp

June 24—August 4, 2012

Contact: 248-909-MDSC (6372)/gomdsc@gmail.com/www.gomdsc.org

St. Nicholas Summer Camp

July 7—13, 2012

Contact: (248) 823-2411/snsc@detroit.goarch.org/www.southerncamp.com

St. Timothy Summer Camp

August 11-17, 2012

Contact: (315) 446-5222/www.sttimothycamp.org

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



By Margaret Yates

President

By the time this goes to press, several of our Metropolis Board Members will have attended the National Board Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, held in conjunction with an "Opening of the Doors" luncheon to benefit the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy. At the last National Board Meeting held in Old Greenwich, CT. in early December, our board members presented the final installment from our "An Afternoon with Vefa" lunch. In all, our Metropolis raised \$42,525 for the Center.

Briefly mentioned in the last issue of "The Shepherd's Staff", the Detroit area Philoptochos chapters gathered at St. George Church in Bloomfield Hills for a Christmas celebration of dinner and fellowship with two hundred in attendance. In addition to fellowship, the focus of

this event was philanthropy, and the designated charity was The Lighthouse of Oakland County, which provides services to low-income families. Guests were asked to bring donations of clothing, linens or household items. In addition, \$1800 was raised and donated to The Lighthouse and that amount was matched by the Ford Motor Company. The guest speaker that evening was Priscilla Perkins from The Lighthouse.

An exciting event occurred in the lives of long time Philoptochos member Natalia Challis and her husband, Michael, past president of the St. Nicholas Parish Council in Ann Arbor. Michael was able to travel to Stockholm, Sweden to see their son Peter and his team from the Harvard University Department of Astronomy receive the **Nobel Prize**. What an amazing feat! Those of us who watched Peter and brother Alex grow up in the church attending Sunday School and serving in the altar, are bursting with pride.

The Philoptochos luncheon, "Sounds of Spring", is fast approach-

ing. Mark your calendars for April 21 at the Annunciation Cathedral in Detroit. We are very excited about the program and encourage everyone able to attend if at all possible. There will be tables of both eight and ten, and men are most welcome! If you are unable to attend, please consider becoming a sponsor.

Some of our smaller chapters continue their outreach to the community in addition to meeting their National and Metropolis commitments. **St. Catherine Philoptochos of Ithaca, NY** has donated to the local Loaves & Fishes, Cancer Resource Center,

Holy Protection Monastery and Hospiscare, to name a few. **Nativity of the Virgin Mary in Plymouth, MI** has participated in the Meals on Wheels for the Homebound, made visits to hospitals and nursing homes, the Tree of Love and assembled Forty Day Blessing Bags. **The Assumption Philoptochos in Springfield, OH** recently held their annual Soup, Salad and Dessert luncheon to raise money for The Rocking Horse Center, a free medical clinic, and are also a major sponsor of the Empty Bowls event in Springfield to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank ■

Outreach Projects:

- ⇒ National Philoptochos disbursed \$1,479,825 in 2011.
- ⇒ Metropolis Philoptochos Board - \$1500 for Greek relief.
- ⇒ St. Catherine in Ithaca, NY - \$500 to Loaves and Fishes.
- ⇒ Nativity in Plymouth, MI - \$200 toward mission trip, \$425 to Breast Cancer Research.

LENTEN SEASON



*By Fr. Larry Legakis**

As I write this short note the Lenten season is upon us and quickly coming to a close. Shortly we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. As I continue this journey my mind is drawn to a prayer found in the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, “Enable us also, O good One, to fight the good fight, to complete the course of the fast, to preserve inviolate the faith, to

crush under foot the heads of invisible serpents, to be accounted victorious over sin, and, uncondemned, to attain unto and worship the Holy Resurrection.”

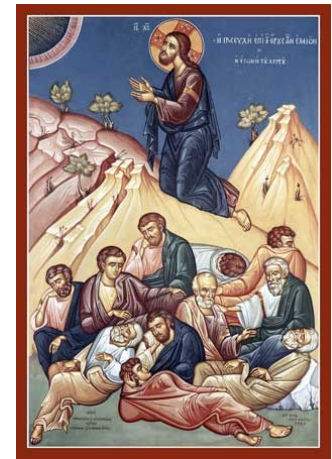
This is our goal during Lent, to receive the Holy Resurrection which is Christ victorious over death and corruption. As Archbishop Demetrios once wrote, “It is also a time of reflection when we examine our entire being—mind, body, and soul—and seek spiritual victory through the power and grace of God over anything that separates us from Him.” Our reflection must be one where we look inwards in an honest way considering what it is

that we need to fight. Our process of reflection is aided through fasting, prayer, giving alms, and ultimately repentance. When we struggle through Lent and arrive at the celebration of Pascha and sing the triumphant hymn of “Christ is Risen” we realize its true meaning and power. We have fought the good fight and completed the course of the fast. We have crushed under foot the heads of invisible serpents. We do more than just break the fast; we celebrate Christ’s victory which is also our victory if we join ourselves to Him.

As we continue with our Lenten journey and ap-

proach the Resurrection let us remember that in order to truly meet our risen Lord our fast must be one where we examine our entire being, praying for victory over anything that keeps us from Christ ■

**Fr. Larry Legakis is the Presiding Priest of the Assumption Church in Louisville, KY.*



MEFGOX NEWS (continued)

Church Music Sunday in October from many parishes support its ministries and mission. In return for this support, the Forum makes a wealth of resources available to parishes, clergy, choirs, and chanters: instructional materials for your Church School hymnology programs; Lenten Retreat materials for youth; resources for choirs; books and articles about Byzantine chant; and handbooks on congregational singing.

And one of the Forum’s most important resources for choir directors, chanters, and clergy is the Liturgical Guidebook, produced annually to indicate the changes in the hymns and readings for Sundays and feast days. Further, the monies collected from each Metropolis yield a 20% return for each of our Federations.

Check out the National Forum website for further information on the soon-

to-be-published or recently published books by Frank Desby on Byzantine Chant and the Anastasimatarion or Collected Works of Protosaltis John Velon: www.churchmusic.goarch.org.

The next meeting of the Mid-Eastern Federation of Church Musicians will be taking place in Cleveland at the Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral on March 31st. All are invited to attend even though it is technically an Executive Board meeting. A meeting

of the entire Federation Council will be on May 5th, also in Cleveland hosted by St. Demetrios. Each parish should send a representative. District rehearsals are continuing in anticipation of our annual convention this July.

But now I hope you are all engaged in the great beauty of the special services of Great Lent that will lead us to our final destination of Pascha.

Kali Anastasi!

2012 DETROIT GREEK INDEPENDENCE PARADE



During the weekend of March 23-25, 2012, the Greek community of Detroit celebrated its Independence Day in honor of the legacy of Hellenism and for the preservation of the Greek culture. This year commemorated the 191st anniversary (March 25, 1821) of Greece's independence after 400 years of Ottoman rule. On Saturday morning, Metropolitan Nicholas and his staff welcomed the honored guests from Greece at the Metropolis Center. The group included leaders of the local community joined by Metropolitan Ambrosios of Kalavryta and Aigialeia and the famous dancers Horeftikos Omilos from Aigiou, Peloponnesos, Greece. In the evening, the Detroit Greek Independence Day Dinner Dance and the Hellenic Heritage Awards was held at the Royalty House in Warren, MI featuring the performance of the dancers from Aigiou. Sunday, following the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, the traditional Greek Parade started downtown Detroit with members of the Greek community from Metro Detroit marching down on Monroe Street.



Metropolis Center



Horeftikos Omilos from Aigiou, Peloponnesos, Greece



Hellenic Heritage Awards - The Royalty House in Warren, MI



11th Annual Detroit Greek Independence Day Parade - Detroit, MI



FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS *(as of March 31, 2012)*

+ His Eminence

Metropolitan Nicholas

Ann Arbor, MI - St. Nicholas

Kotsis, Fr. Nicolaos and Presbyterera Sandra
Baldwin, James and Mary Suzanne
Daniels, Tony and Cleve

Buffalo, NY - Annunciation

Kallis, Fr. Perikles and
Presbyterera Cassandra
Cervi, Brian and Vassilia

Carmel, IN - Holy Trinity

Karas, Gus and Maritsa
Kazmierski, Maria Hristova
Pappas, Vicki

Chattanooga, TN - Annunciation

Moore, James and Fannie
Mousourakis, John and Donna

Cincinnati, OH

Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas

HTSN Parish
Assaley, Lewis and Patricia
Stringas, Emanuel

Dayton, OH - Annunciation

Emroll, Fr. Mark and Presbyterera Ginny
Heisey, Jeffery and Chrisanne

Farmington Hills, MI - Holy Cross

Ganas, James S.

Fort Wayne, IN - Holy Trinity

Doublas, Gregory
Turner, Christian M.

Grand Rapids, MI - Holy Trinity

Monoyios, Terry
Nicholas, Jim and Georgia

Indianapolis, IN - Holy Apostles

Holy Apostles Parish

Ithaca, NY - St. Catherine

Bezirgianian, John

Lansing, MI - Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Philoptochos

Middletown, OH

Sts. Constantine and Helen

Anagnostou, Elias
Canada, William
Comminos, Steve and Beth
Formakes, George
Formakes, John
Gordon, Kiki Demetriou
Hasselbusch, Aaron
Mathews, Mike
McNeely, Ed
McNeely, Nestor and Niki
Revelos, George
Revelos, Mike
Ververis, Chris
Ververis, Nicholas

Muskegon, MI - Annunciation

Annunciation Philoptochos
Ladas, Paul M. and Patricia

Nashville, TN - Holy Trinity

Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and
Presbyterera Sofia
Billo, John and Kassiani
Gore, Jim and Stacy
Hayes, Litsa
Lamberson, Lambert and Helen

Nashville, TN

St. John Chrysostom Mission

Turner, Fr. Parthenios and
Presbyterera Marion
Barber, Jill
Calvert, Patrick
Courington, Christopher and Shelley
Derryberry, Paul
Dozier, Matthew
Duke, Naomi
Dunn, Robert and Laura
Gharavi, Parissa
Knox, David
Stein, Matt and Dana
Thomas, Gordon
Tickle, Jackie
Williams, Nina
Winter, Lindsey

New Buffalo, MI

Annunciation/St. Paraskevi

Hahn, Elizabeth
Lepeniotes, Christos and Anastasia

Litznerski, Robert and Mariann

Plymouth, MI

Nativity of the Virgin Mary

Govostes, Fr. Sean and Presbyterera Pamela
Zervos, George and Lisa

Saginaw, MI - St. Demetrios

Cox, Fr. Irenaeus and
Presbyterera Alexandra
Bazakis, Andrew and Ann

Southgate, MI - St. George

Kontos, John and Marika

Springfield, OH - Assumption

Haby, Fr. John and Presbyterera Kandice

St. Clair Shores, MI - Assumption

Genematas, Toula

Sterling Heights, MI - St. John

St. John Choir
Kotsis, Harry and Katherine
Raphitis, Mike and Betty

Toledo, OH - Holy Trinity Cathedral

Damaskos, Fr. Aristotle and
Presbyterera Lisa

Troy, MI - St. Nicholas

Demery, Beck
Zotos, Gregory

Vestal, NY - Annunciation

Gianakouros, Harry D.
Yacalis, Vasili G.

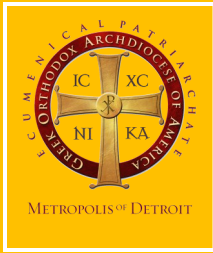
Westland, MI

Sts. Constantine and Helen

Petrutiu, Fr. Teodor and
Presbyterera Roxana
Balaskas, Dortha

Other Friends

Bartz, Fr. William and Presbyterera Emily
In Memory of Iakovos (Jack) Demetris
Radulescu, Alexandru
Totan, Silvana



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Annunciation
of the
Theotokos
MARCH 25

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 _____