



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God.

JOHN 1: 9-12

Contents

Bishop's Schedule	2
Youth News	3
Philoptochos News	4
MEFGOX News	5
Featured Article	6
Friends of the Metropolis	7

Upcoming Events

- ▶ April 9, 2013
Papyrus Collection
Exhibit & Presentation
- ▶ April 13, 2013
Hellenic Museum of Michigan
Grand Opening
- ▶ April 14, 2013
12th Annual Greek
Independence
Day Parade
- ▶ September 25-28, 2013
Metropolis Clergy-Laity
Conference

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DETROIT

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

VOLUME V, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2013



Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!

Metropolitan Nicholas' Message

Beloved in the Lord,
Do we really believe it?
Is He truly risen??

In but a few short weeks the Orthodox world will proclaim with every sound of its soul the ancient message of victory over death — "Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!"

We will begin proclaiming the Good News of the triumph of God over any and every evil as we receive the Light of Christ on our Paschal candles. Orthodox churches throughout the world will be suddenly changed from a temporary lightless interior state of darkness to the full glory and light of the truth of the Resurrection. Together as

the one body of the Church we will proclaim to each other near and far that the victory is won, death is vanquished, and the power of evil is put to rest.

And while this light and joy will fill our hearts and faces at the service of the Resurrection, I must ask how long will it last?

Certainly we will all leave our parishes that night with the lighted paschal candle as a tangible symbol of the truth of the Resurrection. And moreover, we will all find our way to a meal of lamb and other delicacies prepared to help us break the fast. And after a few repetitions of "Christ is Risen" we might stop saying

it because it will seem as if we have said it enough.

So again, "Do we really believe?"

My beloved family in Christ, I pray that the light of the Truth of Christ's Resurrection will stay on our hearts and minds; I pray that you and I will be emboldened by the audacity of God's love for us, and that we will proclaim again and again that ancient truth of God's love for us: Christ is Risen! Truly He is risen! And I believe it to be true!

May the light of the Resurrected Christ be our Light of life and love,

With paternal prayers,

+ Metropolitan Nicholas

Bishop's Schedule

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

April

7	Sunday of the Holy Cross	Holy Cross Church—Farmington Hills, MI
9	Papyrus Collection Exhibit & Presentation	St. Nicholas Church—Ann Arbor, MI
13	Hellenic Museum of Michigan Grand Opening	Detroit, MI
14	Detroit Annual Greek Independence Day Parade	Detroit, MI
15—17	Holy Eparchial Synod Meeting	Archdiocesan Center—New York, NY
18	Holy Eparchial Synod Visit to the White House	Washington D.C.
19—27	American Bible Society Trip to the Balkans	Albania, Serbia—Europe
28	AM Palm Sunday	St. John Church—Sterling Heights, MI
	PM Bridegroom Service	Holy Cross Church—Farmington Hills, MI
29	PM Bridegroom Service	Assumption Church—Grand Blanc, MI
30	PM Bridegroom Service	St. George Church—Bloomfield Hills, MI

May

1	PM Holy Unction Service	Sts. Constantine & Helen Church—Westland, MI
	PM Holy Unction Service	Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church—Plymouth, MI
2	AM Holy Thursday Divine Liturgy	St. Spyridon Chapel—Metropolis Center, Troy, MI
	PM Gospels of the Passion of Christ Service	Assumption Church—St. Clair Shores, MI
3	AM Good Friday Epitaphio Visitations	Parishes in the Metro Detroit Area
	PM Service of Lamentations	Annunciation Cathedral—Detroit, MI
4	Vesperal Divine Liturgy—Proti Anastasi	St. Nicholas Church—Ann Arbor, MI
5	Great and Holy Pascha	Holy Trinity Cathedral—Toledo, OH
	Agape Service	Sts. Constantine & Helen Church—Westland, MI

UofM Papyrus Collection Exhibit

On April 9, 2013, Metropolitan Nicholas attended an Early Christians Texts Exhibit from the University of Michigan Papyrus Collection presented by Dr. Arthur Verhoogt at the St. Nicholas Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The University of Michigan Papyrus collection is the largest in the United States and the fifth largest in the world. With texts in Egyptian, Greek, Latin, Coptic and Arabic, the collection

dates from the 11th century B.C. to the 10th century A.D., incorporating a vast array of types of texts of great interest to scholars in fields as diverse as history, classical studies, religion, science and law. The 7 papyri (5 Greek and 2 Coptic) brought for display are fragments from the oldest manuscript of the Epistles of St. Paul, the Gospel according to St. Matthew and a document from the Decian persecution in the mid-third century A.D. ■



VIEW PICTURES FROM THIS EXHIBIT HERE: www.detroit.goarch.org/photo-gallery/2013/papyrus-exhibit-040913

Youth News

SUMMER CAMP — A Transformative Experience

If you talk to any young person who has attended an Orthodox Christian summer camp, chances are they will tell you that there is nowhere else they would rather be this summer.

Ultimately, summer camp can be a transformative experience in the life of a young person. Orthodox Christian summer camps offer young people the unique opportunity to live in an Orthodox Christian community of their peers... worshipping, learning, sharing, and having a great time!

Here are a few reasons why it

can be a positive, transformative, and life-changing experience:

Campers learn about worship. More importantly, campers actively participate in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church.

Campers learn how to confidently and effectively express their faith as an Orthodox Christian.

Campers learn how to serve God, serve each other, and to serve all of their “neighbors.”

Campers are able to live in an Orthodox Christian

community of peers and HAVE FUN.

The Metropolis of Detroit is blessed with three exceptional Orthodox Christian summer camping ministry programs to serve the youth. Each one has its own character, its own fun camp traditions, and its own unique charm.

For information about the programs we have in our Metropolis, scholarship opportunities, and registration information, check the official camp websites or contact the Metropolis Youth Office at youth@detroit.goarch.org.

MDSC

Rose City, MI

www.gomdsc.org

St. Nicholas Summer Camp

Pleasantville, TN

www.southerncamp.com

St. Timothy Summer Camp

Croghan, NY

www.sttimothycamp.org

“Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am in the midst of them.”

Matthew 18:20

Fort Wayne Hosts 2nd Annual GOYA Pre-Lenten Retreat



GOYANs from Indiana and Ohio gathered for the 2nd Annual Pre-Lenten Retreat,

sponsored by the Holy Trinity parish of Fort Wayne, IN.

The retreat was held Saturday, March 16, 2013. Eva Kokinos, the Metropolis Youth Director, was in attendance. She was joined by Niko and Ivey Tzetzis, and Nick and Amanda Lionas.

Niko and Nick are currently seniors at Holy Cross School of Theology and were the discussion leaders for this year’s retreat. They not only led the group in Lenten discussions, but also

led a variety of icebreakers and games throughout the day.

After the retreat, everyone was invited to attend the Pre-Lenten Glendi with dinner and dancing. The wonderful weekend concluded with Divine Liturgy and brunch on Sunday.

Thank you to the Holy Trinity/Fort Wayne parish and all those who volunteered their time for making it a wonderful weekend of faith and fellowship!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 12-14, 2013
Fall Creek Falls GOYA Lenten Retreat
 Fall Creek Falls State Park—TN
 Hosted by Holy Trinity/Nashville, TN

APRIL 13, 2013
Upstate NY GOYA Lenten Retreat
 YMCA Camp Arrowhead—Pittsford, NY
 Hosted by Holy Spirit/Rochester, NY

APRIL 20, 2013
St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival
 Central District Finals
 Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Church—Cincinnati, OH

APRIL 20, 2013
St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival
 Michigan District Finals
 St. John the Baptist Church—Sterling Heights, MI

APRIL 21, 2013
St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival
 Southern District Finals
 Holy Trinity Church—Nashville, TN

APRIL 21, 2013
St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival
 Upstate NY District Finals
 Annunciation Church—Rochester, NY

Philoptochos News



**MARGARET
YATES**

**Philoptochos
President**

A few weeks ago the first issue of “Philanthropy Witness” was sent electronically to Philoptochos stewards throughout the country. As stated by National President Aphrodite Skeadas, “It merges efforts to be both green and efficient when communicating among Philoptochos Stewards and friends, and meant to compliment our Philoptochos Blog, Facebook Page and all our traditional communication”.

The Philanthropy Witness is the official newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society; however, to receive the newsletter and other electronic communication, we need your email addresses, both at the Metropolis and National levels. As per

capita for both the Metropolis and National is due by the end of April, we ask that when submitting membership lists you PLEASE include an email address for members. It helps tremendously when trying to communicate quickly.

Vasilopita celebrations took place throughout the Metropolis in January with monies earmarked to benefit St. Basil Academy. Distributions to the Academy are made once a month in the amount of \$25,000.

February was dedicated to educating women about heart disease, a number one killer. On Go Red Sunday Philoptochos members were encouraged to wear red. Some chapters passed out red carnations to all women attending church on that day, as they did in Buffalo NY. They also sold paper hearts throughout the month, pinning them on a board. All proceeds went to the American Heart Association. At Holy Cross Church in Farmington Hills, MI, a beau-

tiful luncheon was held where the menu consisted of “heart smart” food. The food, prepared by Chef George Rapis, was delicious. Chef George encouraged all in attendance to become familiar with the Mediterranean Diet and encouraged women to exercise as well as eat healthy.

Space in the last issue did not allow for the inclusion of all Christmas celebrations. In Syracuse NY over 1,000 items were donated for an “Operation Shoebox for Our Troops” charity and sent to our troops. At Holy Spirit in Rochester NY one tradition is their Christmas Tree Angel Project where they search out and adopt families in need. Wishes are attached to angels and hung on the Christmas tree and then selected by parishioners for purchase and distribution. They also sell wreaths and poinsettias to parishioners to raise funds for the chapter. In Memphis TN they focus on a local charity, usually child oriented. This

(Continued on page 5)

Philoptochos Donations

- ◆ DAYTON OH - \$5,673.33 TO ST. BASIL FROM VASILOPITA
- ◆ TROY MI - \$5,000 TO ST. BASIL FROM VASILOPITA
- ◆ BUFFALO NY - \$1,000 TO ST. BASIL FROM VASILOPITA AND APPROXIMATELY \$27,000 (2012 DONATIONS)
- ◆ ANN ARBOR, MI - \$35,432.92 (2012 DONATIONS)

(Continued from page 4)

year they collected funds to donate to the Forrest Spence Fund, an organization established by his parents after their newborn son died from a serious infection in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis. All monies raised provide families of critically ill children with care baskets, meal and bus tickets and even financial aid up to \$5,000.

Ann Arbor's St. Nicholas Philoptochos recently prepared and served a "Greek Dinner" to the residents of Ronald McDonald House. This has become an annual event and residents enjoyed a full course meal rather than the casseroles they usually receive. To usher in the Easter season one hundred thirty one baskets were prepared and distributed to the Saline MI Social Services Department.

We were all saddened recently by the death of two of our former Metropolis Philoptochos Presidents, Irene Barbas (1983-1987) and Dolores Revelos (1987-1991). Each was a dedicated Philoptochos member who served her church, chapter, Metropolis and community for many, many years. Their dedication to the mission of Philoptochos was boundless, and they will be greatly missed by all who knew and admired them ■

MEFGOX News



**THEODORE
NIFOROS**
MEFGOX
President

One of the most important and rewarding programs of MEFGOX is the annual granting of college scholarships to deserving Greek Orthodox senior high school students from active parishes of the Detroit and Pittsburgh Metropolises.

The scholarships come from the Federation's Memorial Scholarship Fund. In providing these funds to students from parishes who are stewards of the Federation, we recognize the importance of education and training to our

church musicians. Education develops a higher level of musical expertise in music theory and composition, voice, choral music, Byzantine chant, choral conducting, piano and organ accompaniment and music education. Scholarships are to be used for private lessons, classroom instruction, tuition, books, and instrumental materials in these areas of music.

Since the beginning of the Fund, the Memorial Scholarship Committee of MEFGOX has granted many scholarships to deserving young people of our parishes. At our recent convention in July 2012, as reported in an earlier article, three scholarships were awarded. Many of the past recipients of the scholarships have gone on to become valued church musicians in their own parishes and others

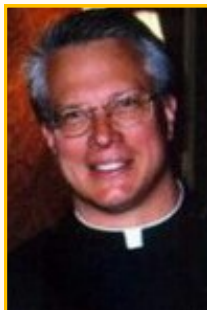
have achieved recognition in various areas of music in our country.

The scholarship application form can be found on our web site, MEFGOX.org, under the Forms and Files tab. As noted there, completed applications should be submitted to Committee Chair Dan Packis, whose mailing and email addresses appear on the form.

As the name suggests, many of the donations for the Scholarship Fund have been made to honor beloved family and friends who have joined the Lord in the heavens. Donations also can be sent to Mr. Packis, for the MEFGOX Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Kali Sarakosti and Kali Anastasi, to come ■

At Ease at the *Anastasi*



FR.
MARK
SIETSEMA*

Did you ever catch that odd detail in the icon of the Myrrhbearing Women? We read about it in the Gospel of Matthew (28:2): “... for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat upon it.”

Since when do angels sit? Angels are messengers, helpers, warriors. They stand! They don't sit! Angels are ministering spirits, ever on duty, speeding to and fro in the service of the Lord.

But this heavenly servant, having rolled away a rock, takes a load off, and parks it ... right on the stone itself! Why? Warriors should stand and fight until the battle is done. If a soldier is sitting down, that can only mean one thing: *the war is over.*

And so it was. The mission was accomplished, the victory complete. By his death, Christ vanquished Death. The Grave and its ally, Corruption, had lost their power. Hades the captor was made a captive. The last little task was to roll away a stone—not so that Jesus could exit!—but simply so the truth of Christ's rising could be witnessed by mankind.

With this task done, our angel takes a seat. But not just anywhere! He sits on the stone itself, that ominous, onerous seal, the symbol of the tomb's finality and irreversibility. The message to Death is: “You aren't going to need this anymore. For the grave is no longer an end, but a beginning.”

We speak this same sentiment in every funeral and memorial. “O God of the spirits and of all flesh, who has trampled down Death and abolished the power of the Devil, granting Life to Your world ...” In a world of uncertainty and insecurity, the warrior-angel at his ease tells us: “Christ always wins! In fact, He already won! Be not afraid! Our God reigns!” For all that we behold around us is simply the working out of His gracious and invincible will.

With that angel who sits, we will stand at Pascha and triumphantly tell one another: *Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti! Christ is Risen! Truly the Lord is Risen! Amen!* ■

*Fr. Mark Sietsema is the Presiding Priest at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lansing, Michigan.



Friends of the Metropolis (as of 3-31-13)

+ His Eminence

Metropolitan Nicholas

Ann Arbor, MI - St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas Parish
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
St. Nicholas GOYA
Daniels, Tony and Clevie

Carmel, IN - Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Pappas, Victoria

Detroit, MI – Annunciation Cathedral

Annunciation Pioneers
Gaggos, James and Mary

Farmington Hills, MI – Holy Cross

Hountalas, Fr. Dean and
Presbytera Olga
Boudouris, Constantino

Fort Wayne, IN - Holy Trinity

Gogos, George and Eleftheria
Spirou, Arthur and Mary

Grand Blanc, MI - Assumption

Hountalas, John

Grand Rapids, MI - Holy Trinity

Gray, Mark and Alexis
Nicholas, James and Georgia

Indianapolis, IN – Holy Apostles

Holy Apostles Parish

Ithaca, NY - St. Catherine

Bezirgianian, John

Lansing, MI – Holy Trinity

Evanoff-Joseph, Yvonne
Gavrildes, Nick and Dana
Rahib, Margaret

Lexington, KY –

Panagia Pantovasilissa

Sawaya, Peter and Kallie

Little Rock, AR – Annunciation

Verdaris, Fr. Nicholas and
Presbytera Maria
Delfos, Fr. Pierre and
Presbytera Harriet

Huckabay, Christopher

Louisville, KY – Assumption

Wingenbach, Fr. Gregory
Digenis, Emily

Marquette, MI – Assumption

Butler, Michele

Memphis, TN – Annunciation

Berends, Fr. James and Anne
Anonymous

Muskegon, MI – Annunciation

Anton, Ted and Francine
Ladas, Paul and Patricia

Nashville, TN - Holy Trinity

Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and
Presbytera Sofia
Billo, John and Kassiani
Brown, Michael and Laurie Kerhoulas
Harman, Todd and Dawn
Jabbour, Kareem
Vaughn, James and Debby

Nashville, TN -

St. John Chrysostom Mission

Courington, Christopher and Shelley
Dozier, Matthew
Marchetti, John and Linda

Plymouth, MI –

Nativity of the Virgin Mary

Sarelis, Fr. Charles –
In Memory of Presbytera Angela
Demetriou, Cleo
Randall, Michael and Anne

Rochester, NY – Annunciation

Vasho, George and Maria

Rochester, NY – Holy Spirit

Gesell, Melody

Saginaw, MI - St. Demetrios

St. Demetrios Parish
Bazakis, Andrew and Ann
Caldwell, Larry and Peggy

Southgate, MI - St. George

St. George Parish
Cook, Fr. Anthony and

Presbytera Elizabeth
Kircos, Angelo and Sophia
Kircos, Louis and Paula
Kontos, John and Marika
Makarounas, Panormitis and Koula

St. Clair Shores, MI – Assumption

Callas, Kalliopy
Genematas, Toula
Thomas, Tom J. and Lynn

Sterling Heights, MI - St. John

St. John Choir
Kotsis, Harry and Kathy
Lionas, Jim and Helene
Raptis, E. Mike and Betty

Toledo, OH – Holy Trinity Cathedral

Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Damaskos, Fr. Aristotle and
Presbytera Debbie
Biernacki, Gerald and Pauline

Troy, MI - St. Nicholas

Chalker, Jess and Patricia
Demery, Beck
Malis, Alexis
Karniotis, Stephen P.
Patches, John and Angeliki
Zotos, Gregory

Vestal, NY – Annunciation

Gianakouros, Harry and Katerina

Watertown, NY – St. Vasilios

St. Vasilios Parish

Westland, MI –

Sts. Constantine and Helen

Livanos, Demetrios and Connie

Other Friends

Bartz, Fr. William and Presbytera Emily
Demetris, Olga (Dolly)
Sisterhood of Presbyteres—
In Memory of Presbytera Angela Sarelis
Constantine Georgountzos—
In Memory of Presbytera Angela Sarelis
Radulescu, Alexandru & Silvana

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
METROPOLIS OF DETROIT



2560 CROOKS ROAD
 TROY, MI 48084

Phone: (248) 823-2400

Fax: (248) 823-2401

E-mail: office@detroit.goarch.org

Web: www.detroit.goarch.org

FOLLOW US ONLINE

user:

"metropolisofdetroit"



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Editor: Alex Radulescu

Phone: (248) 823-2414

Fax: (248) 823-2401

E-mail: editor@detroit.goarch.org

Subscribe: detroit.goarch.org/subscribe

Friends of the Metropolis Program



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

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.



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 _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check Enclosed (payable to the Metropolis of Detroit)

Please Charge My Credit Card Visa MasterCard

Account # _____ Exp. _____ Signature _____ Date _____