

*And it shall come to pass in the last days, that I shall pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy"*

*(Joel 2:28)*



## Pentecost

June 3

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## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DETROIT

# THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Volume IV, Issue III

June 2012

### METROPOLITAN NICHOLAS' MESSAGE

*B*eloved in the Lord,

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.... " (1 Peter 3:15)

In a world where there are so many talented people, sometimes we like to leave the work and the answers to the experts. After all, no one really needs to know how a watch functions in order to wear it and tell time. And if it breaks — we take it to the jeweler for repair...or we just buy a new one. We don't have to be an expert on watches.

The same is true for medicine and law. We generally know the basics of when to take an aspirin or when to call a lawyer after an accident — and so we recognize that being experts in these areas may be nice for some, but it is not necessary in order for

us to live healthy and productive lives.

At times, we have come to feel similarly regarding our faith. If there is a question that is difficult or needs to be answered, we call the expert: our priest.

We expect the clergy to be fully trained in order to answer the questions of what we believe, why we believe it, and how we practice our faith. At times, it seems that every aspect of this most sacred relationship between people and God is also left to the experts.

Yet in terms of the Church, just as the First Letter of Peter indicates, we are all called upon to know what we believe and why.

This is why we were so blessed to witness our young people speak with Christian conviction during the recent Metropolis Oratorical Festival held at the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Westland, MI.

Our young people proved to us that every Christian has the privilege to heed the encouragement of the Apostle Peter and to explain what it means to be a faithful Orthodox Christian. Congratulations to all the participants in the Oratorical festival. Your words are a living testimony to the "hope that is in you."

ΑΕΙΟΙ!

+ *Metropolitan Nicholas*



## BISHOP'S SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

For calendar updates, please visit our website at: [www.detroit.goarch.org/news/calendar](http://www.detroit.goarch.org/news/calendar)

### JUNE

2	<i>Baptism of Nicholas &amp; Aristides Kyritses</i>	St. John Church—Sterling Heights, MI
3	<i>Holy Pentecost—Guest of Archbishop + NICOLAE</i>	Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church—Troy, MI
9	<i>Wedding of Alex Radulescu &amp; Silvana Totan</i>	St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral—Southfield, MI
10	<i>Parish Visitation</i>	Metropolitan Detroit
17	<i>Parish Visitation</i>	Metropolitan Detroit
24	<i>Parish Visitation &amp; 5 Yr. Memorial Fr. John Paul</i>	St. Nicholas Church—Ann Arbor, MI
28-29	<i>American Bible Society Board Meeting</i>	New-York, NY

### JULY

June 30-5	<i>41st Biennial Clergy Laity Congress</i>	Phoenix, AZ
6-8	<i>Parish Visitation &amp; Baptism of Ana Streza</i>	Archangel Gabriel Church—Traverse City, MI
21	<i>Spiro—Doyle Wedding</i>	St. George Church—Southgate, MI
22	<i>Pastoral Visit</i>	Sts. Constantine & Helen Church—Westland, MI
23-24	<i>Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp Visitation</i>	Rose City, MI
25	<i>Ecumenical Visit</i>	Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Cathedral—Detroit, MI
26-27	<i>MEFGOX Conference</i>	St. Demetrios Church—Rocky River, OH
29	<i>Parish Visitation</i>	TBD
30-31	<i>Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp Visitation</i>	Rose City, MI

## MEFGOX NEWS

*By Irene Georgantas*  
President



I hope that you all had a spiritually (and musically) fulfilling rest of Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha. We have already passed Mid-Pentecost and are fast ap-

proaching Ascension. Our church musicians certainly are challenged during these months to be fully prepared and carry out these services as correctly and properly as possible. Your work does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Thank you for all your dedication to the enhancement of our services.

MEFGOX did hold its general meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Demetrios in

Rocky River, Ohio, which is a suburb of Cleveland. We were graciously hosted by its choir, which will also host us for the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention the last weekend in July. Plans were confirmed at the meeting and all of the registration material will soon be mailed out. As has become the tradition the last few years, we will have three educational tracts or workshops for

the benefit of our singers, directors, and chanters. Our Education Committee, along with the Host Choir and Executive Board, plan Church Music Institutes to carry out our basic mission as an organization, i.e. to promote the learning of our Orthodox faith and musical tradition. For example there will be opportunities to learn more about our Byzantine

*(Continued on page 5)*

## YOUTH NEWS *by Eva Kokinos*

### St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival—Metropolis Finals

Sts. Constantine and Helen Church—Westland, MI  
Saturday, May 12, 2012

On Saturday, May 12, 2012, speakers from all across the Metropolis joined to participate in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Metropolis Finals. This year's Metropolis Finals hosted Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Westland, Michigan. His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas was in attendance, offering words of inspiration and congratulations to all of the speakers.

The speakers who won 1st place in this year's Metropolis Finals each won a \$500 scholarship, provided by the Metropolis of Detroit and generous donors. They will represent the Metropolis of Detroit at the Archdiocese Finals, June 8-10, 2012 in Bethesda, MD.

#### METROPOLIS FINALISTS

##### Junior Division

##### **Athena Chapekis**

St. Nicholas Church—Ann Arbor, MI

##### Senior Division

##### **George Gemelas**

Holy Trinity Church—Carmel, IN

Best Wishes to Athena and George as they travel to the Finals in Maryland!



Here is a complete list of all the talented speakers who participated in this year's festival (listed in alphabetical order):

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL SPEAKERS!

#### JUNIOR DIVISION

Athena Chapekis  
*St. Nicholas Church—Ann Arbor, MI*

Christian Eveleigh  
*Annunciation Church—Buffalo, NY*

Jordan George  
*St. John the Baptist Church - Sterling Heights, MI*

Evan Hoover  
*Annunciation Church—Memphis, TN*

Maria Makarounas  
*St. George Church—Southgate, MI*

Juliana Schlabig  
*Annunciation Church—Buffalo, NY*

John Tsatalis  
*Annunciation Church—Dayton, OH*

George Valcarcel  
*Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Church—Cincinnati, OH*

Madeline Wiggins  
*Annunciation Church—Memphis, TN*

#### SENIOR DIVISION

Patricia Bajis  
*Assumption Church—St. Clair Shores, MI*

Iordanis Ekimogloy  
*Holy Trinity Church—Nashville, TN*

Brianne Evevsky  
*Holy Spirit Church - Rochester, NY*

George Gemelas  
*Holy Trinity Church—Carmel, IN*

Leah Joynt  
*Assumption Church—Grand Blanc, MI*

Theodore Monk  
*Annunciation Church—Chattanooga, TN*

Alexander Przeslawski  
*St. Nicholas Church—Troy, MI*

Andrea Tsatalis  
*Annunciation Church—Dayton, OH*

Dora Turner  
*St. Nicholas Church—Jamestown, NY*



#### ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

We would like to thank the following parishes, groups, and individuals who generously donated to this worthwhile youth ministry program:

Annunciation Church  
*Little Rock, AR*

Annunciation Cathedral  
*Detroit, MI*

Annunciation Church  
*Muskegon, MI*

Annunciation Church  
*Rochester, NY*

Annunciation Church  
*Vestal, NY*

Annunciation Church  
*Chattanooga, TN*

Assumption Church  
*St. Clair Shores, MI*

Assumption Church GOYA  
*Grand Blanc, MI*

Dr. Gregory Zotos  
*Livonia, MI*

Holy Apostles Church  
*Indianapolis, IN*

Holy Cross Church  
*Farmington Hills, MI*

Holy Trinity Church  
*Grand Rapids, MI*

Holy Trinity Church  
*Lansing, MI*

St. Catherine Church  
*Ithaca, NY*

St. George Church  
*Southgate, MI*

St. John Chrysostom Church  
*Nashville, TN*

St. John the Baptist Church  
*Sterling Heights, MI*

St. Nicholas Church  
*Ann Arbor, MI*

St. Nicholas Church  
*Troy, MI*

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

*By Margaret Yates*  
President



**W**e had a wonderful time at the Metropolitan luncheon, "Sounds of Spring", held at the Annunciation Cathedral in Detroit on April 21. Nearly two hundred men and women were in attendance at this biennial fundraiser, chaired by Katherine Kotsis, Mary Kotsis Gaggos and Cindy Crosson. We wish to thank the generosity of the sponsors and those who attended and supported our raffle. The raffle prizes, donated by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas and the Metropolitan Board, were beautiful and varied. Thank you to Anne Feles who chaired this activity.

We were entertained by the Detroit International Academy Gospel Choir and dancers from an inner city public school of choice in Detroit with between 95-97% graduation rates. What a wonderful testa-

ment to the hard working students and dedicated faculty. A monetary contribution was given by the Philoptochos Board and a gift of \$1,000 was given by the Metropolitan Council. Metropolitan Nicholas spoke eloquently in support of staff and students, impressed by the high standards and impressive graduation rate.

Three schools in depressed areas of Michigan with special needs students were chosen to receive books and school supplies (beautiful and colorful centerpieces made by Anne Feles), and a donation of \$500 each. Those schools were the Kennedy Elementary School in Ferndale, The Marquette Elementary School in Detroit, and The Craig School for the Emotionally Impaired in Muskegon.

The Philoptochos in **Cincinnati** held a Palm Sunday luncheon co-sponsored by the St. Sophia Mother's Club. Following the luncheon an Easter egg hunt was held for the children and they had an opportunity to have pictures taken with the Easter bunny. From proceeds, Philoptochos made a donation to the St. Sophia Mother's Club

to assist in purchasing Bibles for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday Church School students.

On May 5, the **Cincinnati** Philoptochos hosted a luncheon/fashion show, "A Festival of Fashions, Flowers and Flavors", celebrating the generations of women in the community. The event will benefit Dress for Success in Cincinnati. A wonderful day of fellowship was celebrated with over 200 women in attendance. An added attraction was showing a DVD paying tribute to Philoptochos members working on various projects throughout the year.

The Philoptochos members in **Buffalo, NY**

are busy helping to plan the church community's centennial celebration, which will be celebrated throughout 2012. Many exciting events and activities are being planned, which I will share in the next issue of the Shepherd's Staff. In addition, the chapter held a May Day Victorian Tea as a fundraiser. With two sittings, they served over 80 guests and raised approximately \$2,000.

We're looking forward to seeing Philoptochos members from across our Metropolitan in Phoenix where we will share ideas and get to know each other. What a dynamic group of women! ■

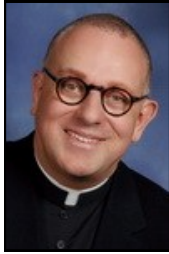
## OUTREACH PROJECTS:

### Donations:

- ⇒ St. Catherine Church, Ithaca, NY—Food Net: \$500; Village of Ithaca: \$1,000;
- ⇒ Holy Trinity Cathedral, Toledo, OH—Scholarships: \$3,000; Aurora House: \$220 for car seat;
- ⇒ St. George Church, Bloomfield Hills, MI—National Commitments: \$3,313
- ⇒ St. George Church, Southgate, MI—Financial Assistance to Families: \$3,500.

## STAYN' ALIVE

By Fr. Anastasios Gounaris\*



**T**he recent passing of “Bee Gee” Robin Gibb reminds me I am getting older.

Another reminder is the 27 years since I left my first parish, Saint Spyridon.

By the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios and encouragement of Metropolitan Nicholas I now stand poised to walk on stage for my “second New York act” – as Dean of our Archdiocesan Cathedral.

I am humbled as I look forward to my installation by Archbishop

Demetrios on Pentecost Sunday.

It seems like just yesterday I was a 26 year old priest in Washington Heights. As we celebrate Pentecost it likewise seems like yesterday that I heard bells pealing joyfully as I thrust my Paschal flame heavenward and proclaimed “Christ is Risen!”

Things change. People come and go. But one constant assures us of *truly* “stayin’ alive” – Christ’s Resurrection.

“Stayin’ Alive” was a signature song of the Bee Gees. Today the song also *literally* helps people stay alive – its 104 beats per minute being the optimal range for applying CPR chest compressions!

Successfully “stayin’ alive” as a Christian family is achieved by also keeping the “beat” of our

Lord’s Resurrection going *throughout* the year – and not only during the post-Paschal period.

To that end, let us teach and cherish the words of St. John the Theologian: ***“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*** (Revelation 21:2-4)■

\*Rev. Fr. Anastasios Gounaris is the former Proistamemos of Holy Trinity Church in Carmel, IN who was recently reassigned by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York City.

## MEFGOX NEWS *continued...*

(Continued from page 2)

Chant tradition, our feast days, religious meaning of our hymns, and enhancing our choral performance. More recently a greater emphasis has also been placed on attracting new and younger members to our ranks. In 2011 we had a banner year with almost 20 young adults who participated and we hope that we will not be disappoint-

ed this year Cleveland. Since Cleveland is a more central location and since many of us grew up singing the music of Frank Desby, we expect a wonderful turnout. I know that there will be choir members from all over the country who are coming to help celebrate the momentous 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cleveland’s first church.

Representatives from MEFGOX will also be attending the National Forum meeting in Phoenix, Arizona which occurs simultaneously with the Clergy-Laity meeting. It is a unique opportunity for us to learn from each other about the music ministries from all the Metropolises. We work tirelessly and are graced with visits from our clergy, hier-

archs, and other interested participants. The week begins with an opening Liturgy celebrated by our Archbishop, Metropolitans, and clergy and a combined choir comprised of all the Federations...it is a rare and beautiful experience.

I wish you all a happy and healthy spring!■

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

### + His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

#### Ann Arbor, MI - St. Nicholas

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

#### Buffalo, NY - Annunciation

Christakis, Fr. Christos and Presbyteria Lisa  
Kallis, Fr. Perikles and Presbyteria 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 Presbyteria Ginny  
Heisey, Jeffery and Chrisanne

#### Detroit, MI - Annunciation Cathedral

Papas, John G.

#### Farmington Hills, MI - Holy Cross

Ganas, James S.

#### Fort Wayne, IN - Holy Trinity

Douglas, Gregory  
Koulianos, Dionysios and Maria  
Turner, Christian M.

#### Grand Blanc, MI - Assumption

Chinonis, Nancy and Jeff Lauster

Kallis, Agape and Family – In Memory of Harold

#### Grand Rapids, MI - Holy Trinity

Bogdan, Fr. James and Presbyteria Joan  
Cassis, Deacon George and Diaconissa Vicki  
Monoyios, Terry  
Nicholas, Jim and Georgia

#### Indianapolis, IN - Holy Apostles

Holy Apostles Parish

#### Ithaca, NY - St. Catherine

Bantuvanias, Ann  
Bezirgianian, John

#### Lansing, MI - Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Philoptochos

#### Little Rock, AR - Annunciation

Verdaris, Fr. Nicholas and Presbyteria Maria

#### 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  
Yankopoulos, Presbyteria Ann  
Encelewski, Christine  
Ladas, Paul M. and Patricia

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

### Nashville, TN - Holy Trinity

Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and Presbyteria Sofia  
 Billo, John and Kassiani  
 Gore, Jim and Stacy  
 Hayes, Litsa  
 Lamberson, Lambert and Helen  
 Rogers, Helen and Lawrence Kamm

### Nashville, TN - St. John Chrysostom Mission

Turner, Fr. Parthenios and Presbyteria 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  
 Lepeniotis, Christos and Anastasia  
 Litznerski, Robert and Mariann

### Plymouth, MI – Nativity of the Virgin Mary

Govostes, Fr. Sean and Presbyteria Pamela  
 Sarelis, Fr. Charles and Presbyteria Angela  
 Randall, Michael and Anne  
 Zervos, George and Lisa

### Rochester, NY - Annunciation

Gines, George and Maria  
 Stathopoulos, Demetrios and Doris  
 Stefanou, Gus and Florence

### Saginaw, MI - St. Demetrios

Cox, Fr. Irenaeus and Presbyteria Alexandra

Bazakis, Andrew and Ann

### Southgate, MI - St. George

Kontos, John and Marika

### Springfield, OH - Assumption

Haby, Fr. John and Presbyteria Kandice

### St. Clair Shores, MI – Assumption

Genematas, Toula

### Sterling Heights, MI - St. John

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

### Toledo, OH – Holy Trinity Cathedral

Damaskos, Fr. Aristotle and Presbyteria Debbie  
 Biernacki, Gerald and Pauline

### Traverse City, MI – Archangel Gabriel

Streza, Fr. Ciprian and Presbyteria Sinziana

### Troy, MI - St. Nicholas

Demery, Beck  
 Zotos, Gregory

### Vestal, NY – Annunciation

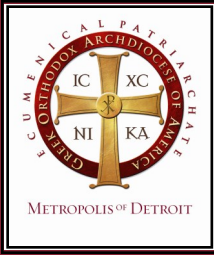
Gianakouros, Harry D.  
 Yacalis, Vasili G.

### Westland, MI – Sts. Constantine and Helen

Petrutiu, Fr. Teodor and Presbyteria Roxana  
 Balaskas, Dorthe

### Other Friends

Bartz, Fr. William and Presbyteria Emily  
 Demetris, Olga (Dolly)  
 In Memory of Iakovos (Jack) Demetris  
 In Memory of Tess Gakis  
 Radulescu, Alexandru  
 Totan, Silvana  
 Walsh, Andrew and Catherine



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Prophet Elijah

JULY 20

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_