Beloved Family in Christ,

Christmas should be a time for celebration, and yet we often experience confusion instead. Wherever we turn, Christmas festivities have been commercialized and secularized so that our reason for joy is diluted past recognition. We no longer attend Christmas parties, but Holiday gatherings; what was formerly “Christmas Vacation” is now “Winter Break.” The quiet tenderness of the Nativity Scene has been banished from our city squares in favor of pastel trees, blinking lights, and mechanical Santas. What was once a season of melodic joy has become a cacophonous gauntlet of soulless mirth and garish artificiality.

In most of life—and even more in this sacred season—it is the small things that really matter. Often unnoticed but everywhere around us, little glimpses into life’s deeper meaning can be found. It happens in that simple smile we give to passing strangers in the mad shopping rush, acknowledging the camaraderie of our December anxieties and joys. It happens in the heartfelt greetings we exchange with family and friends, in words and gestures oft repeated yet made new by the Season. It happens in our parish at the familiar worship services that echo for us the ancient refrain of “Christ is Born!” That secret grace comes upon us when we sit in our homes on a cold winter’s night and reflect on our own Christmas experience of joy as children, young adults, parents, and grandparents.

These moments are small windows into the almost unnoticed event that occurred two thousand years ago, the birth of our Savior. Our hymnology indicates this same mystery: almost as if hidden and unknown, Christ was born in cave. It was the greatest event in history, as the Creator entered into Creation. And yet in the wisdom of God, divine grace was manifested in the smallest way—in the form of a little child, in the person of a baby boy.

May our eyes be enlightened in this Christmas season to notice those small things in which God reveals His presence and love. In December’s noise and commotion, may we experience for ourselves the peace and goodwill proclaimed by the angels. And so may we truly rejoice as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Metropolitan Nicholas
## Bishop’s Schedule Highlights

### December 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/27 - 4</td>
<td>Meeting of the Holy &amp; Sacred Synod</td>
<td>Ecumenical Patriarchate, Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pastoral Visit</td>
<td>Assumption Church - St. Clair Shores, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Nicholas Great Vespers (6:00pm)</td>
<td>St. Nicholas - Troy, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>St. Nicholas Hierarchical Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>St. Nicholas Church - Ann Arbor, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Greater Detroit Philoptochos Christmas Party</td>
<td>Assumption Church - St. Clair Shores, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>St. Spyridon Great Vespers &amp; Reception</td>
<td>Metropolis Center Chapel - Troy, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Hierarchical Divine Liturgy &amp; Open House</td>
<td>Metropolis Center Chapel - Troy, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ordination to Diaconate of Mr. Pericles Kallis</td>
<td>Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church - Plymouth, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pastoral Visit</td>
<td>Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church - Plymouth, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Nativity of Christ Vesperal Divine Liturgy (6:00pm)</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Cathedral - Toledo, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Nativity of Christ Hierarchical Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Annunciation Cathedral - Detroit, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pastoral Visit</td>
<td>Sts. Constantine &amp; Helen - Westland, MI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### January 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Epiphany of the Lord Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Metropolitan Detroit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. John the Baptist Great Vespers</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist Church - Sterling Heights, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist Hierarchical Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist Church - Sterling Heights, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - 19</td>
<td>Meeting of the Holy &amp; Sacred Synod</td>
<td>Ecumenical Patriarchate, Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 - 23</td>
<td>Pastoral Visit - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Church - Grand Rapids, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 - 30</td>
<td>Pastoral Visit - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Church - Cincinnati, OH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 2010 St. Nicholas Great Vespers

Troy, MI - His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas has announced that His Excellency Archbishop Allen Vigneron of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit will be a special guest at the celebration of the Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Nicholas this year in Troy, Michigan. Archbishop Vigneron will be the featured homilist at the evening service. Refreshments will be offered by the St. Nicholas community following the service.
Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), campus ministry organization for Orthodox Christian college students. OCF has announced new information regarding two major events!

OCF has opened registration for their annual College Conference. Each year, during Christmas break, the OCF College Conferences are held in four areas of the U.S. These conferences gather hundreds of young adults in a spirit of faith, fellowship, service and prayer. Registration is now OPEN! For more information regarding the Conference, visit www.ocf.net.

The Real Break program provides alternatives to the “traditional” Spring Break for college students. Each Spring, over 100 students attend trips, both domestic and international, to give to those less fortunate. Past and current trips include: Mexico, Guatemala, Jerusalem, Constantinople, Raphael House, St. Basil Academy, Greece, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Romania, Buenos Aires, Alaska, and more. Registration is open! Visit www.ocf.net today!

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL
Download this year’s topics, tips, and list of recommended resources for the elementary, junior, and senior divisions. Visit http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religioused/sjcof

SAVE THE DATE!!! UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUTH!!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 27-29, 2010</td>
<td>“Holiday Hoops” GOYA Basketball Tournament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 8, 2011</td>
<td>Assumption GOYA Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 14-16, 2011</td>
<td>St. Nicholas Summer Camp Reunion and Retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 5, 2011</td>
<td>Greek Folk Dance Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 18-20, 2011</td>
<td>Dayton GOYA Basketball Tournament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5, 2011</td>
<td>MI Area GOYA Lenten Retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12, 2011</td>
<td>NY Area GOYA Lenten Retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1-3, 2011</td>
<td>Fall Creek Falls GOYA Lenten Retreat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit www.detroit.goarch.org for the most up-to-date event listing.

To add events to the Metropolis Youth Calendar, please email youth@detroit.goarch.org.
The Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos invites everyone to join them in the celebration of St. Spyridon on December 11th for Vespers and Divine Liturgy on December 12th at the Metropolis Chapel of St. Spyridon. Philoptochos will host receptions following each service. We will also celebrate the Name Day of our beloved Metropolitan Nicholas on Sunday, December 12th from 1-5 pm.

Chapters held many celebrations for the Patron Saints of Philoptochos, St. Cosmas and Damianos, on November 1st. St. John’s chapter in Sterling Heights had a bake sale and the president spoke about the mission of Philoptochos. Brochures were also distributed and health kits were passed out for the parishioners to complete for the needy. At Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas in Cincinnati, Philoptochos took part in Outreach Sunday by hosting a chili cook off and displaying their work for Philoptochos. The Syracuse chapter of St. Sophia’s has an ongoing “Great Closet Cleanout”. This project has been a tremendous success and serviced several agencies and charities on the Syracuse area.

Philoptochos supports many charities and mission trips of our youth. Both Eva Kokinos and Alexandra Crosson have received support. Alexandra is currently in Kayafungo, Kenya. Her mission has been to educate the women on cleanliness to reduce the spread of disease. She established a soap making company whereby the women learn to make soap. This endeavor has expanded into the school system. It is rewarding to know that our young adults are actively helping others to have a better life, a life we take for granted. A $4,000 annual donation is made to the Detroit Rescue Mission and $2,000 annually is given to the Friends of the Metropolis Program.

The Metropolis Philoptochos Board will host an exciting afternoon with the famous First Lady of Greek Cuisine, Vefa on Saturday, April 2nd at the Sommerset Inn in Troy, Michigan. Mark your calendars not to miss this fabulous afternoon. More information will be coming soon.

We thank everyone for their continued support of the mission of Philoptochos. May God always bless you and your families. On behalf of the Metropolis Philoptochos Board and all Philoptochos chapters, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and the very best in the New Year 2011!

The Shepherd’s Staff

Philoptochos News

By Eleni Zaferes

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A Defense of the Feast of Christmas

By Fr. Irenaeus Cox*

The feast of the Lord’s nativity is a much maligned yet time-honored commemoration of the Church. The attack on the purity of this celebration is based upon partial truths and misinformation. Some say we are perpetuating a pagan holiday that has been handed down to us from ancient cultures that were hostile to the Old Testament faithful. Further they claim that the Church has become impure by accepting these non-Christian elements, but they fail to recognize that the very earliest fathers who celebrated Christmas also declared Church laws that excommunicated any of the faithful who celebrated pagan holidays.

To answer these hostile accusations we must turn our attention to the calendars of antiquity. These calendars were primarily lunar, and so according to our calendar their seasonal commemorations seem moveable. Consequently there was no equivalent date on their calendar for the winter solstice on 25 December. And although the sun might determine the change in seasons, a feast of the sun more often occurred in the summer when the sun was brightest and the sun god was thought to be more powerful. This was also true in Rome where the feast of the sun was celebrated in the month of August. It was not until the year 274 A.D. when Emperor Aurelius dedicated a temple to the sun-god on 25 December, that this day became an official holiday on the pagan calendar.

Why then do we celebrate Christmas? Again we must look to the Hebrew Calendar and the theology of our faith. Jesus was crucified on the eve of the Passover. This occurred near the Vernal Equinox, calculated to be 25 March of that year. This is an important date to remember as we shall soon see. We believe that Christ is perfect man and perfect God. As perfect, we should expect His life to be a perfect round of the seasons, so that the day of His crucifixion was also the same Calendar date as His conception. So if Christ was conceived on 25 March, we should expect Him to be born exactly nine months later, that is, 25 December. This observation was written 31 years before the proclamation of Emperor Aurelius as mentioned earlier. Rather than being an impurity to our Church, the feast of Christmas is an annual reminder of the perfection of our Savior as both God and man, unifying His ministry from conception to resurrection. Amen

*Rev. Fr. Irenaeus Cox serves as the Presiding Priest at the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Saginaw, MI.

St. Romanos the Melodist continued...

(Continued from page 4)

poorly that another reader had to take his place. Some of the lesser clergy ridiculed Romanos for this, and being humiliated he sat down in one of the choir stalls. Overcome by weariness and sorrow, he soon fell asleep. As he slept, the Theotokos appeared to him with a scroll in her hand. She commanded him to eat the scroll, and as soon as he did so, he awoke. He immediately received a blessing from the Patriarch, mounted the ambo and chanted extemporaneously his famous Kontakion of the Nativity, "Today the Virgin gives birth to Him Who is above all being..." (Ἡ Παρθένος Ἐμερον). The emperor, the patriarch, the clergy, and the entire congregation were amazed at both the profound theology of the hymn and Romanos’ clear, sonorous voice as he sang. According to tradition, this was the very first kontakion ever sung. The Greek word "kontakion" (ΚΟΝΤΑΚΙΟΝ) refers to the shaft on which a scroll is wound, hence the significance of the command of the Theotokos for him to swallow a scroll, indicating that his compositions were by divine inspiration.

Saint Romanos the Melodist or the Hymnographer is the patron saint of all who sing for the Church.
### Friends of the Metropolis (as of November 30, 2010)

#### His Eminence
**Metropolitan Nicholas**

#### Ann Arbor, MI
**St. Nicholas**
St. Nicholas Parish
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
St. Nicholas GOYA
Kotsis, Fr. Nikolaos and Presbytera Sandra
Paul, Presbytera Sandra
Baldwin, James
Bekiaris, Penelope A.
Chiatas, Louis and Marguerite Daniels, Tony and Clevie Fry, Jack D.
Grias-Radwanskim Sophia
Kales, Anthony and Joyce Kapetan, Michael and Karen Munson
Kleanthous, Costas and Sylvia Plakas, Vasilios and Kyriakoulou Raphael, Joan
Vlahadmis, Kosta
Yates, Bill and Margaret

#### Bloomfield Hills, MI
**St. George**
St. George Parish
Pathenos, Fr. Nicholas
Iakovides, Dimitri

#### Buffalo, NY
**Annunciation**
Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Philoptochos
Annunciation GOYA
Annunciation Youth Council
Christakis, Fr. Christos and Presbytera Lisa
Alethea’s Chocolates
Blakeslee, Ronald and Maria Cervi, Vassilia
Danakas, George T.
Gikas, Sam
Kalambukas, Andrew and Colecen
King’s Court, Inc.
Kovoutsakis, Paul and Donna Kuvshinoff, Boris and Barbara Pavlakis, Peter and Elizabeth

#### Carmel, IN - Holy Trinity
Holy Trinity Parish
Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Gounaris, Fr. Anastasios and Presbytera Maria
Dickos, Theone
Douvis, Harry
Eaton, Joseph and Florie Hersherberger, Dawn
Pappas, Vicki
Payne, Martha

#### Chattanooga, TN
**Annunciation**
Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Choir
Annunciation GOYA
Ballas, Fr. Stavros and Presbytera Thea
Andrews, George
Berros, James and Susan Bougdanos, Maria
Bouloukos, Dino
Campa, Pedro
Cornea, Paul and Ana Dimopoulos, Barbara Ellis, George and Betty Fairbanks, Bobby and Voula
Fotiadiis, Nicky
Gulas, Ani
Gulas, Marion
Gulas, Venetia
Hopper, Richard and Chrisi Kosmidis, Alex and Cheryl Mousourakis, John and Donna Petros, John and Voula
Souferis, Adam and Nickie Swansbrough, Robert and Mary Tingirou, Eleon
Trohanis, Jean
Zotos, Alex and Jennifer

#### Dayton, OH
**Annunciation**
Annunciation Philoptochos
Emroll. Fr. Mark and Presbytera Ginny
Jannides, Michael
Sempelos, Leigh
Stathopoulos, Alex

#### Dayn, OH
**Holy Cross**
Holy Cross Parish
Holy Cross Philoptochos
Holy Cross GOYA
Hountalas, Fr. Dean and Presbytera Olga
Alexander, Milton and Helen Barr, Anthony
Blough, Michael and Catherine Boudouris, Tino and Mary Jo Casoglos, Thomas and Mary Collias, Rosemary
Fekaris, Steve and Bettie

#### Dayton, OH
**Holy Trinity**
Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Gaggos, George and Anna Gaggos, James and Mary Inempolidis, Evelyn Papas, John and Rebecca

#### Dayton, OH
**St. Athanasios**
Greven, Peter and Georgia Vardakis, Paul

#### Detroit, MI
**Annunciation Cathedral**
Annunciation Philoptochos
Gaggos, George and Anna Gaggos, James and Mary Inempolidis, Evelyn Papas, John and Rebecca

#### Elmira, NY
**St. Athanasios**
Greven, Peter and Georgia Vardakis, Paul

#### Farmington Hills, MI
**Holy Cross**
Holy Cross Parish
Holy Cross Philoptochos
Holy Cross GOYA
Hountalas, Fr. Dean and Presbytera Olga
Alexander, Milton and Helen Barr, Anthony
Blough, Michael and Catherine Boudouris, Tino and Mary Jo Casoglos, Thomas and Mary Collias, Rosemary
Fekaris, Steve and Bettie

#### Fort Wayne, IN
**Holy Trinity**
Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Doublas, Gregory
Gogos, George
Hanewald, Thomas & Smaragtha Katsis, Maria
Koulianos, Dionisis and Maria Maggos, El and Voula
Spirou, Arthur and Mary Turner, Christian

#### Grand Blanc, MI
**Assumption**
Assumption Parish
Chinonis, John and Linda Kaloydis, John and Karen Politis, George and Rita

#### Grand Rapids, MI
**Holy Trinity**
Bogdan, Fr. James and Presbytera Joan Afendoulis, Chris and Phyllis Afendoulis, Clark and Katherine Christopoulos, Peter and Maria Georgeson, Menas and Fronsene Gray, Mark and Alexis Kalyvas, Tim and Lina Koukios, Constantine Monoyios, Terry Neil, Chad Dimopolous Nicholas, Jim and Georgia Sarafis, Elizabeth Schel, Connie Sellas, Deno
Friends of the Metropolis (as of November 30, 2010)

Zarafonetis, Stratton

**Hot Springs, AR**
Zoodochos Peghe
Delfos, Fr. Pierre and Presbytera Harriet
Fotiios, Peter
McCrary, Stella

**Indianapolis, IN**
Holy Apostles
Holy Apostles Parish
Karozos, Gus
Stevens, Georgia

**Ithaca, NY - St. Catherine**
Bantuvanis, George and Ann
Bezirganian, John
Stratakos - In Memory of Fr. Efstathios Metallinos

**Jamestown, NY**
St. Nicholas
Zervos, Fr. James and Presbytera Anne

**Lexington, KY**

**Sts. Constantine and Helen**
Sts. Constantine and Helen

**Zarafonetis, Stratton**

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Delfos, Fr. Pierre and Presbytera Harriet
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Karozos, Gus
Stevens, Georgia

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Bezirganian, John
Stratakos - In Memory of Fr. Efstathios Metallinos

**Jamestown, NY**
St. Nicholas
Zervos, Fr. James and Presbytera Anne

**Lexington, KY**

**Sts. Constantine and Helen**
Sts. Constantine and Helen

**Friends of the Metropolis (as of November 30, 2010)**

**Panagia PANTOVAIALISSA**
Panagia Pantovasilsia Parish
Hostetter, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas
Kiriacopoulos, Ken and Kate
Pandaru, Andronica

**Little Rock, AR**
**Annunciation**
Annunciation GOYA
Verdis, Fr. Nicholas and Presbytera Maria
Alley, Sam and Janet
Roy, Frederick
Sargent, David and Eva
Tylor, Gordon and Martha
Verdis, John and Marlene
Vratsinas, Gus and Irene

**Louisville, KY**
**Assumption**
Wingenbach, Fr. Gregory
Adams, Sam and Thelma
Geromes, Nancy
Vonallmen, Penny

**Memphis, TN**
**Annunciation**
Annunciation Philoptochos
Order of Ahepa - Memphis
Christy, Fr. Paul and Presbytera Mary
Anaston, Zoe
Buring, Jacob and Michele
Farrell, Richard and Linda
Gallagher, Evangelia
Graves, William and Renee
Grayes, Theodore
Meng, James and Susan
Morrison, Robert and Kathryn
Obradovic, Milan
Poplos, Theodore and Stephanie Storjung
Semos, Vassil and Liane
Sinis, Harry and Magda
Taras, Dimitri and Mary Katherine
Taras, Kosta and Loretta

**Nashville, TN**
**Holy Trinity**
Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and Presbytera Sofia
Vaporis, Fr. George and Presbytera Kalliopi
Slikas, Presbytera Stella
Andrews, Chris and Julia
Billo, John and Jennie

**Botsaris, Chris**
Carden, Kathryn
Demetry, Willodene
Duncan, Angela
Harman, Todd and Dawn
Kirk, Benedict
Lamerson, Lambert and Helen
Mooney, Sonny
Rogers, Helen and Lawrence Kamm
Taras, Nick and Donna

**Nashville, TN - St. John Chrysostom Mission**
Turner, Fr. Parthenios and Presbytera Marion
Demmas, Constance
Marchetti, John and Linda
Wagner, Charles and Edith
Williams, Heath

**New Buffalo, MI**
**Annunciation/St. Paraskevi**
Martin, Fr. Paul and Presbytera Nikki
Anton, Gust
Govatos, Patsy
Hahn, Herbert and Elizabeth
Polymeris, Spiros and Donna

**Plymouth, MI**
**Nativity of the Virgin Mary**
Nativity of the Virgin Mary Parish
Govostes, Fr. Scan and Presbytera Pamela
Sarelis, Fr. Charles and Presbytera Angela
Estate of Fr. Efsthios Metallinos
Bazakis, James and Maria
Demetriou, Cleo
Kheir, Angela
Zervos, George and Lisa

**Rochester, NY**
**Annunciation**
Gines, George Family
Markakis, Kathryn
Stefanou, Gus and Florence

**Lexington, KY**

**Sts. Constantine and Helen**
Sts. Constantine and Helen

**Friends of the Metropolis (as of November 30, 2010)**

**Panagia PANTOVAIALISSA**
Panagia Pantovasilsia Parish
Hostetter, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas
Kiriacopoulos, Ken and Kate
Pandaru, Andronica

**Little Rock, AR**
**Annunciation**
Annunciation GOYA
Verdis, Fr. Nicholas and Presbytera Maria
Alley, Sam and Janet
Roy, Frederick
Sargent, David and Eva
Tylor, Gordon and Martha
Verdis, John and Marlene
Vratsinas, Gus and Irene

**Louisville, KY**
**Assumption**
Wingenbach, Fr. Gregory
Adams, Sam and Thelma
Geromes, Nancy
Vonallmen, Penny

**Memphis, TN**
**Annunciation**
Annunciation Philoptochos
Order of Ahepa - Memphis
Christy, Fr. Paul and Presbytera Mary
Anaston, Zoe
Buring, Jacob and Michele
Farrell, Richard and Linda
Gallagher, Evangelia
Graves, William and Renee
Grayes, Theodore
Meng, James and Susan
Morrison, Robert and Kathryn
Obradovic, Milan
Poplos, Theodore and Stephanie Storjung
Semos, Vassil and Liane
Sinis, Harry and Magda
Taras, Dimitri and Mary Katherine
Taras, Kosta and Loretta

**Nashville, TN**
**Holy Trinity**
Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and Presbytera Sofia
Vaporis, Fr. George and Presbytera Kalliopi
Slikas, Presbytera Stella
Andrews, Chris and Julia
Billo, John and Jennie

**Botsaris, Chris**
Carden, Kathryn
Demetry, Willodene
Duncan, Angela
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Kirk, Benedict
Lamerson, Lambert and Helen
Mooney, Sonny
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Taras, Nick and Donna

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Zervos, George and Lisa

**Rochester, NY**
**Annunciation**
Gines, George Family
Markakis, Kathryn
Stefanou, Gus and Florence
## Friends of the Metropolis (as of November 30, 2010)

(Continued from page 7)

**Rochester, NY**

**Holy Spirit**
Holy Spirit Philoptochos
Cowles, Fr. Patrick and Presbytera Mary
Chilas, Diane
Gesell, Melody
Ginis, Panos
Kouides, Peter and Ruth
Sexton, Katherine L.

**Saginaw, MI**

**St. Demetrios**
St. Demetrios Philoptochos
Cox, Fr. Irenaeus and Presbytera Alexandra
Ahejew, Petro and Samdra
Bazakis, Andrew and Ann
Caldwell, Larry and Peggy
Kookootsedes, Gust and Mary
Ostler, Dennis and Soula

**Sault Ste. Marie, MI**

**St. George**
Gianakura, Peter and Georgia

**Southgate, MI - St. George**
St. George Philoptochos
Karananos, Fr. Philomen and Presbytera Helen
Anonymous
Bass, John and Panagiota
Constantakis, Clarence
Cranford, Joanne
Galanis, Sam
Karananos, Peter and Mary
Kircos, Angelo and Sophia
Kircos, John and Violet
Kircos, Louis and Paula
Kontos, Chris and Francis
Kontos, John and Marika
Kozaitis, Mina
Minton, Barbara
Minton, Charles
Minton, Nicholas
Nanos, Vasiliki
Papalas, Mary
Pappas, Barbara
Tassis, James

**Springfield, OH**

**Assumption**
Assumption Parish

**St. Clair Shores, MI**

**Assumption**
Varlamos, Fr. Michael and Presbytera Tina
Bournias, James and Evangeline
Campbell, Delphine
Christopher, John and Alethea
Gaggos, George and Anna
Genematas, Toula
Gianopoulos, Georgia
Gifos, James and Patricia
Gust, George and Georgiana
Harlafis, Panagioti
Niiforos, Theodore and Anna
Pangalos, Despo
Petroules, George
Phillips, Peter and Toula
Ribble, Ellie
Samaras, Robert and Marietta
Vlahantones, Louis
Yanoulaki, Katherine

**Southfield, MI**

**St. Nicholas**
St. Nicholas Parish
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Dorozenksi, Fr. Stratton and Presbytera Denise
Asher, Mike and Joyce
Athans, John and Arietta
Carson, James and Paula
Crosson, Patrick and Cindy
Deliganis, Leo
Deliganis, William
Demery, Beck
Feles, Gust and Anne
Feles, Paul
Hourdakis, Andreas
Korstanje, Ingmar and Marlo
Lafter, Mary
Lavrakas, John and Catherine
Lianonis, Chris and Labrini
Papp, Gregory and Martha
Pervolarakis, Calliope
Simon, Basil and Evey
Smith, William
Spounias, Christopher and Maria
Tsiatalas, George
Xydas, Spiros

**Syracuse, NY**

**St. Sophia**
St. Sophia Parish
Smith, Fr. David and Presbytera Donna
Anagnost, Basil
Nicholas, James

**Toledo, OH**

**Holy Trinity Cathedral**
Damaskos, Fr. Aristotle and Presbytera Debbie
Anaginos, Joyce
Ballas, Constantine
Melonakos, Anthony and Paula
Proestou, Maria
Sieben, Paul

** Traverse City, MI**

**Archangel Gabriel**
Olechnowicz, Fr. Iakovos and Presbytera Joleen
Ealy, Ray and Martha
Kaly, Anthony and Barbara
Olechnowicz, Rebekah
Psaros, John and Donna
Underwood, Robert & Theresa

**Troy, MI**

**St. Nicholas**
St. Nicholas Parish
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Dorozenksi, Fr. Stratton and Presbytera Denise
Asher, Mike and Joyce
Athans, John and Arietta
Carson, James and Paula
Crosson, Patrick and Cindy
Deliganis, Leo
Deliganis, William
Demery, Beck
Feles, Gust and Anne
Feles, Paul
Hourdakis, Andreas
Korstanje, Ingmar and Marlo
Lafter, Mary
Lavrakas, John and Catherine
Lianonis, Chris and Labrini
Papp, Gregory and Martha
Pervolarakis, Calliope
Simon, Basil and Evey
Smith, William
Spounias, Christopher and Maria
Tsiatalas, George
Xydas, Spiros

**Watertown, NY**

**St. Vasilios**
St. Vasilios Parish

**Westland, MI**

**Sts. Constantine & Helen**
Sts. Constantine and Helen Parish
Sts. Constantine and Helen Choir
Balaskas, Dorthoe
Charalambopoulos, Elaine
Chuey, Mark and Jean
Kasotakis, Paul and Nanette
Katsarelas, Sophie
Skouberdas, John
Stavropoulos, Gus and Maria
Stavropoulos, Peter and Marie

**Other Friends**
Ahepa – Chapter #374
Northville, MI
Ban, Alice
Bartz, Fr. Bill and Presbytera Emily, Dumfries, VA
Bartz, Presbytera Zafera
Metropolis of Detroit
Philoptochos ♦
The Importance of the Greek Language and Culture Schools

By Kathryn Z. Kittides, Ed.D

The Greek Language and Culture, as foundations of Western Culture and Civilization, verify the institutions important for Democratic societies; illuminate the English Language and academic curricula; improve student learning potential across disciplines; and transmit the Holy Words and Rituals of the Greek Orthodox Church. It is important for the Greek Language and Culture to be fully valued and preserved so that their historic achievements will be learned and carried by the Youth, who will contribute the beauty and wisdom of Greek Language and Culture to the World and American Culture.

Metropolitan Nicholas called upon the Greek Educational Community to develop a Committee to address the structure and needs of the Greek Schools, Teachers and Students. This was established by Father Varlamos to address specific aspects of Greek-American Education/Culture. Dr. Gus Demas, Dr. Kathryn Z. Kittides, as Education Co-directors, assisted by Teacher Elli Patouhas, developed programs and materials from 1999 to 2010; they include:

- Creation of an in depth Greek Language/Culture Book; Preschool-Grade 8 Greek Language/Culture Curriculum;
- Comprehensive Teacher Surveys to address: Teacher Background/Interests/Needs/Education; Teaching Methods; Texts/Materials; Student Needs; School Structure Harmonization; Community/Marketing Involvement
- University-level Professional Development Seminars included: History of Language/Learning; Teaching/Learning Methods; Classroom Texts and Materials; Teacher Presentations/Classroom Methods; Educational Opportunities.

- Meetings and Updates for ongoing plans to address all elements of the Greek School Structure for Teachers, Students/Texts/Materials - with Parents, Church Hierarchy, Community, Marketing/PR efforts;
- Future Plans for 2011 to be developed by Dr. Demas and Dr. Kittides include:
  - To develop Technology/Professional Development Seminars for Greek Language/Culture Teachers;
  - To link with High Schools/Universities for Greek School Students to receive High School/University credit;
  - To develop with a University - the Master of Arts in Teaching-MAT-Degree program for Teachers of Greek who have a Bachelor of Arts/Science/Education Degree, pass the University Greek Proficiency Test, complete the target Education Courses for the degree, and acquire the Michigan Teacher Certification in Greek Language for the Public Schools of Michigan.

Pillows to Help Flood Victims

The Greek Orthodox communities of the Holy Trinity and St. John Chrysostom of Nashville, TN collected more than 150 pillows that were donated through the Catholic Charities Flood Relief Center in Bellevue, TN to the local flood victims. Fr. Gregory Hohnholt and Presbytera Sofia, Donna Bacon, Nashville Philoptochos President and Russell Massey from the Catholic Charities were pictured in an article appeared in the local newspaper the Tennessean.
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,

+NICOLAS
Metropolitan Of Detroit

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Send this card in an envelope to:
The Metropolis of Detroit
2560 Crooks Road, Troy, MI 48084

☐ I am pleased to support the work of Metropolitan Nicholas and the Metropolis through the Annual Metropolis Stewardship “Friends” Program

☐ $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__________

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The Shepherd’s Staff

Editor:
Alex Radulescu
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St. Nicholas
December 6