Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Χριστός Γεννάται! Doξάσατε!
Beloved Family in Christ,

HERE WE ARE AGAIN – AT THE SEASON OF THE GIFT.  And we all know how hard it can be to find that perfect gift for that special someone on our Christmas list.  We have made our list and keep searching through the ads in the newspapers and Internet to find that perfect gift.  And of course, we never buy the same thing for everyone.  We have tried to figure out exactly what everyone needs and wants:  for some it’s toys and video games; for others we will find a sweater or coat; for certain family and friends we might find a bottle of wine; and for others there is always a gift card.  It takes some thinking on our part….but the perfect gift is always what we want to offer.  Wrapped in Christmas paper and ribbons, we are sure to make everyone happy!

But how is it then that at this sacred time of year, after we have spent so much time on planning and strategizing on what to buy everyone on our list, the Christmas gift from the Church is always the same:  it is always the baby Jesus, the Son of God, born in the flesh for our salvation.  What is God thinking?

My friends, stop and think what has been given to us:  it is God’s most precious gift – for it is the gift of God Himself in the person of His Son.  We give gifts that are used for a while then thrown or given away.  God has given to us the reality of Life Incarnate through the infant in the manger.  It is this Child who witnesses to us the boundless love of God for His creation; it is through Jesus that we see the reality of forgiveness of sins and a chance to start again on our journey to God’s Kingdom; it is through our God Who loves us so much that He would accept death so that we might live that we understand true love.  Yes….it is the one and same gift of the Christ Child for each of us that God gives us at Christmas.  He didn’t shop around for ideas about what to give – because He has given the most precious gift of Himself.

Let us receive the Christ Child in our hearts this Christmas, knowing that through this unique gift to us, the Kingdom of Heaven is being opened for all.  May His mercy be with us forever.  Amen!

†NICHOLAS
Metropolitan of Detroit
YOUTH NEWS

Metropolis Youth Worker Training Seminars

By Eva Konstantakos (Director)

THE METROPOLIS OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES held two youth worker training workshops – one in September and one in October – to help better equip the incredible volunteers committed to parish youth ministries. The seminars were offered at no cost to the participants thanks to the Friends of the Metropolis and to the generous hospitality of the host parishes. Each parish offered their beautiful facilities and provided delicious meals for all those in attendance.

THE CENTRAL DISTRICT YOUTH WORKER TRAINING SEMINAR was held on September 24, 2016 at Holy Trinity Church in Carmel, IN. Fr. James Honeycutt, Priest at Annunciation Church in Muskegon, MI and Licensed Therapist, spoke about teenagers and how to better understand the stages of their development. Luke Beecham, Director of FOCUS Indianapolis/FOCUS North America, discussed outreach, philanthropy, and ways that youth can encounter Christ through serving others. Eva Konstantakos, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries of our Metropolis, offered a presentation on youth protection and practical ways to provide a safe and healthy environment for youth to grow in Christ.

THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT YOUTH WORKER TRAINING SEMINAR AND GOYA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT was held on October 1, 2016 at St. George Church in Southgate, MI. His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas spoke about understanding WHY we believe as Orthodox Christians. Fr. Larry Legakis, Priest at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Toledo, OH, spoke about keeping focused on Christ and the importance of Family Ministry. Eva Konstantakos, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries of our Metropolis, led a group discussion and brainstorm session for improving/expanding youth and young adult ministries in the Michigan area.

Next year, the Metropolis Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries plans to expand these seminars to more areas of the Metropolis. In addition, webinars (online video seminars) are being developed to reach more parishes and youth workers.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (OCF) COLLEGE CONFERENCE 2016

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS! You still have time to register for OCF – College Conference! CC East is full. There are a few spaces left at CC West (St. Nicholas Ranch) and the NEW CC Midwest (St. Iakovos Retreat Center). Limited partial scholarships are available. Visit www.ocf.net for more information!

To learn more about these and other youth and young adult ministry events in the Metropolis, please visit the METROPOLIS YOUTH CALENDAR or subscribe to the YOUTH OFFICE E-NEWSLETTER.
From the President

By Margaret Yates (President)

OUR METROPOLIS PHILOPTOCOS BOARD will be hosting receptions on December 11 and 12 following the ST. SPYRIDON VESPERS AND DIVINE LITURGY. We hope you will consider attending one or both of these services at the Metropolis in Troy.

Philoptochos does not take a summer vacation. Our philanthropic work continued through the summer and went into high gear in September with the beginning of the Ecclesiastical year. We are celebrating our 85th Anniversary this year, a remarkable eighty-five years of philanthropy!

We wish to congratulate His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of his enthronement, celebrated on November 2, 2016.

For several years, as part of our literacy initiative, Philoptochos has collaborated with Nick Katsoris, author of the Loukoumi books. Several years ago Mr. Katsoris initiated the MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY. This initiative was embraced by several national organizations and Philoptochos joined the movement in 2015. This is the nation’s largest day of volunteering. The goal of the Make a Difference Day is to encourage our youth to do good deeds in honor of Archbishop Demetrios’ Nameday on October 26. It is a cross-generational initiative, partnering Philoptochos members with other ministries in our parishes such as Sunday School and Greek School, GOYA, HOPE and JOY. This year, every METROPOLIS PARTICIPATED AND COMPLETED OVER 10,000 GOOD DEEDS, SURPASSING THE GOAL OF 8,500. Our Philoptochos chapter in Buffalo partnered with GOYA and baked cookies to serve guests in their Soup Kitchen. Other projects included making cards for US Veterans, making hygiene kits for the homeless and donating food and toys for shelter animals at the Humane Society. I am pleased that several chapters in our Metropolis participated, as it is important to show our younger generation the joy of giving.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are always a busy time for us as we hope to make the holidays a little happier for those in need by adopting families, taking kids shopping, giving food certificates, cooking food for the homeless and sharing our time by visiting those in nursing homes or assisted living facilities.

Plans are proceeding for our SPRING LUNCHEON to be held on APRIL 29, 2017 at the St. Nicholas Church in Troy, Michigan. Our special GUEST SPEAKER IS MISS AMERICA 2016, BETTY CANTRELL. More information is forthcoming.

We want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy 2017. We also want to thank everyone for the support you give to your Philoptochos Chapters.

MEFGOX NEWS

MEFGOX Wishes all of You the Blessings of the Feast of the Nativity!

By Vicki Pappas (President)

AS THE BEAUTIFUL FEAST OF THE HOLY NATIVITY draws near, the choirs and chanters members of the Mid-Eastern Federation of Church Musicians extend their heartfelt good wishes to Metropolitan Nicholas, our Priests and Deacons, and all the parishioners of the Metropolis of Detroit.

During this joyful season, you will hear us singing and chanting the beautiful hymns that are sung for the Feast – they mark they feast, they instruct us in our faith, and they fill us with joy as we raise our voices to praise the birth of our Lord!

During the Divine Liturgy, there are several significant changes to the hymns you regularly hear on Sundays. During the Forefeast of the Nativity (November 26th until December 24th), the KONTAKION changes to “Today, the Virgin” (Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον), signaling the forthcoming celebration:

Today, the Virgin comes unto the cave to give birth there to the Word before all time: beyond all words is this wonder! Dance with joy, all of creation, hearing these tidings. Along with the angels and the shepherds, glorify Him who willingly appears as a newborn baby, yet he is God before time.

On the actual Feast of the Nativity until the Leave-taking of the Feast (December 31st), the text of the KONTAKION alters again, now reflecting the Divine Birth:

Today, the Virgin bears Him who is transcendent, and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach. Angels, along with shepherds, glorify Him. The Magi make their way to Him by a star. For a new child has been born for us, the God before all ages.

On the Nativity, there is a special APOLYTIKION for the Nativity, which you will hear during the Small Entrance:

Your birth, O Christ our God, dawned the light of knowledge upon the earth. For by Your birth those who adored stars, were taught by a star, to worship You, the Sun of Justice and to know You, Orient from on High. (Ἡ Γέννησή Σου)
FEATURED ARTICLE

Someday is Not a Day of the Week

By Fr. William Cassis*

SO THE SAYING GOES. Nothing could be more true. Especially for those of us who are engaged in the spiritual struggles of Christian life. Too often in this life an individual or a Parish will choose to put off what they know needs to be done. Procrastination can be a most destructive force to the individual and the Parish. We all must strive to see the value and significance we possess and do the things that are beneficial to our spiritual health and the vitality of our local church. It means that each and every one of us must not wait until tomorrow, or next week, or some distant date in the future to do the necessary things for our salvation and for the welfare of Christ’s Church. We must always be conscious that the only reality we possess is the present. All our yesterdays have passed into history and we possess no guarantees of a tomorrow. For every difficult decision and effort that life presents there is a great reward waiting if we act in a timely and responsible fashion. Our Church is a precious gift and each person should be committed to improve it, sustain it and protect it. There is no time better than this day, this hour, and this moment. St. Herman of Alaska says: “From this day forward, from this hour, from this very minute let us love God and fulfill His holy will.” There are benefits and blessings waiting for each individual and parish that chooses to act now and not wait for “someday” to arrive. David, the author of the Old Testament Psalms, writes: “This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.” Remember, there is no time like the present to address the myriad of challenges, issues or opportunities that life presents to us as individual Christians and as a fellowship of believers. In the end the blessings and rewards will be abundantly evident and will provide a more blessed and brighter tomorrow for all. Therefore, let us stand up, make the sign of the Cross in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and make a new beginning each and every day.

*Fr. William Cassis is the retiring Parish Priest of the Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE

FEAST OF SAINT SPYRIDON

St. Spyridon Chapel at the Metropolis Center
2560 Crooks Road, Troy, MI 48084

Sunday, December 11, 2016
5:00 pm  Great Vespers Service; Reception to follow

Monday, December 12, 2016
10:00 am  Hierarchical Divine Liturgy; Reception to follow

VIEW FLYER
FRIENDS OF THE METropolis 2016
January 1 - November 30

+His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

Ann Arbor, MI – St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas Parish
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Kotsis, Fr. Nicolaos and
Presbytera Sandra
Plakaas, Fr. Vasilios and
Presbytera Kyriakoula
Apostolou, Panagioti and Patricia
Baldwin, James and Mary Suzanne
Daniels, Tony and Cleo
Yates, Billy and Marguerita

Binghamton, NY – Holy Trinity
Holy Trinity Parish

Bloomfield Hills, MI – St. George
Gingrich, Fr. Joseph
Abell, Fr. Christopher and
Presbytera Alice
Pamel, Esther

Buffalo, NY – Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Philoptochos
Christakis, Fr. Christos and
Presbytera Lisa
Sakellariou, Fr. John and
Presbytera Pavlina
Blakeslee, Ronald and Maria
Carsi, Brian and Lea
Couvoutsakis, Paul and Linda
Getska, Thomas
Hiczewski, Peter and Michele
Jousma, Thomas and Ellene Phufas
Kouvoutsakis, Paul and Donna
Kuxshinoff, Boris and Barbara
McDaniels, Joyce
Tassy, Dean
Veanes, Angelo

Carmel, IN – Holy Trinity
Holy Trinity Parish
Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Holy Trinity Choir
Holy Trinity GOYA
Bartz, Fr. William and Presbytera Emily
Christensen, Fr. Lucas and
Presbytera Stacey
Maramis, Presbytera Janet
Ahang, Vaino and Nancy
Andros, Cheryl
Antonopoulos, Anthony
Baker, Dan J. and Sylvia
Bagios, Jim and Marika
BeMiller, Ryan and Kathy
Brochhagen, Renee
Calicotte, Angela
Chekouras, R. H.
Christoff, William and Karen
Cortese, Thomas and Nia
DeHart, Susan
Dervenis, Nicholas and Sharon
Dervenis, Ted and Julia
Dickos, Theodore
Dunbar, David and Lea
Eaton, Joe and Florie
Eleftheri, Lawrence and Beth
Emmanouelides, Demetrios, Melinda and
Maria
Filis, Anthony
Freudenberg, Jim and Cindy
Gibson, Karen
Hostettler, Duane and Elenny
Johnson, Ron and Sunday
Julovich, Angelo and Christine
Kirages, George and Susan
Kollias, Stephen and Gail
Kokinos, Pete and Argie
Lisch, Michael and Jean
Maniakas, Constantine
Martine, Gary and Niki
Metzger, William
Mudis, Ernie and Wendy
Nicholas, Sam and Dawn
Oberlies, Toulia
Pappaoaianou, George and Marjorie
Pappas, Leon and Andrea
Pappas, Nicholas and Tracy
Pappas, Victoria
Pavlakos, Elias and Maria
Payne, Martha
Pasyanos, John and Liberty
Pavia, Joseph
Payne, Martha J.
Pease, John and Maria
Rowlas, Julie
Saran, Nicholas
Sarris, Irene
Softanopoulos, Nick and Vickie
Tridico, Kristina
Vitsas, C. J.
Vitsas, James, Jonathan, and Vanessa
Vitsas, Sondra
Watery, Anthony and Kristen
Woodruff, Jim and Cindy
Young, Michael and Helen
Zekheralis, Gail

Chattanooga, TN – Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Philoptochos
Ballas, Fr. Stavros and Presbytera Thea
Albu, Titus and Jiook Kim
Berkeley, Joseph
Bougdanos, Maria
Bounoukas, Dino and Maria
Dimopoulos, Dennis and Barbara
Etherton, Wayne and Yolanda
Fotiadis, Nicky and Lidy
Fox, Ann F.
Hopper, Richard and Chrisi
Kazemersky, Phil and Judy
Kouris, George
Men, Michael
Mousourakis, John and Donna
Pagnani, Katie
Petros, John and Voula
Petros, Tommy
Ramsey, Karen
Tolbert, John and Janice

Cincinnati, OH – Holy Trinity – St. Nicholas
Holy Trinity – St. Nicholas Parish
Redmon, Fr. William and
Presbytera Elizabeth
Anagnostou, Helen
Apostolides, Vasso
Assaley, Lewis and Patricia
Raptis, James and Maria
Stringas, Emanuel

Dayton, OH – Annunciation
Annunciation Philoptochos
Emroll, Fr. Mark and Presbytera Virginia
Nakis, George
Retzius, Thomas

Detroit, MI – Annunciation Cathedral
Annunciation Parish
Bennett, Constance
Lianos, Ethel
Lianos, William and Kim
Politis, Dean
Tapazoglou, Nicolaos

Elmira, NY – St. Athanasios
Scott, Fr. Richard

Farmington Hills, MI – Holy Cross
Holy Cross Philoptochos
Holy Cross GOYA
Hountalas, Fr. Dean and
Presbytera Olga
Casoglos, Thomas and Mary
Hountalas, Chris
Shukla, Margarita

Fort Wayne, IN – Holy Trinity
Flotos, Bill
Maggos, El and Voula
Mattingly, Joe and Thomas

Grand Blanc, MI – Assumption
Assumption Parish
Assumption Philoptochos – In Memory of Florence Stefanou
Daughters of Penelope,
Iris Chapter #242
Maggos, Fr. Angelo and Presbytera Teri
Chinonis, John and Linda
Delbridge, Ray and Carol
Greenberg, Robert and Camelia
Hountalas, Dimitri and Brittany
Hountalas, John and Tasia
Hountalas, Yanni
Kalatzis, Athena
Kallis, Agape C.
Photoi, Lucas and Lori
Politis, George and Rita
Potso, Mike
Schultze, Joanne
Yeotis, Catherine

Grand Rapids, MI – Holy Trinity
Berends, Fr. James and
Presbytera Anne
Bogdan, Fr. James and Presbytera Joan
Cassis, Deacon E. George and
Diaconisca Voula
Anastos, Ana
Georgeos, Menas and Frosene
Monoyios, Terry and Akri
Nicholas, James and Georgia
Sinas, Thomas and Michelle

Indiana, IN – Holy Apostles
Holy Apostles Parish

Ithaca, NY – St. Catherine
St. Catherine Philoptochos – In Memory of Florence Stefanou
Parthenakis, Fr. Thomas and
Presbytera Cathy
Banthaviris, Ann
Bezirganian, John

Jamestown, NY – St. Nicholas
Russell, Fr. Jarrod
Cheronis, James and Christine
Turner, Angie

Kalamazoo, MI – Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Theoharis, Fr. Theoharis
Doe, Joseph and Alice
Ingalis, Robert and Andriana
Stamos, Steve and Tasia

Lexington, KY – Panagia Pantosvassilis
Panagia Pantosvassilisa Philoptochos
Sicoe, Fr. Cosmin and
Presbytera Michaela
Armes, Vickie
Frangadakis, Elefni
Karounis, Dennis and Chrisi
Minor, Thomas and Detore

Little Rock, AR – Annunciation
Verdans, Fr. Nicholas and
Presbytera Mary
Delfos, Fr. Pierre and Presbytera Harriet
Pappas, James and Eva
Vratsinas, Gus and Irene

Louisville, KY – Assumption
Assumption Philoptochos
Boukis, Fr. Jon and Presbytera Doreene
Wingenbach, Fr. Gregory
Blackford, Charles and Patricia
Makris, Mary
Speliotis, Evarhana
Taylor, Robert and Linda Shapiro

Marquette, MI – Assumption
Warrin, Pads and Katherine

Memphis, TN – Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Philoptochos
Annunciation Philoptochos – In Memory of Florence Stefanou
Thomas, Fr. Simon and
Presbytera Stephanie
Kay, John and Nancy
Morrison, Robert and Kathyn

Muskegon, MI – Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Honeycutt, Fr. James and
Presbytera Julie
Ercelwek, Christine Danigeli
Ladas, Paul and Patricia
Oravitan, Andre
Gravitan, Ionut
Gravitan, Philip

Nashville, TN – Holy Trinity
Hohrhold, Fr. Gregory and
Presbytera Sofia
Gadds, Jim and Tassola
Gore, James and Stacy
Harmann, Todd and Dawn
Lamberson, Lambert and Helen
Miller, John M.
Taber, David and Carol

Nashville, TN – St. John Chrysostom
St. John Chrysostom Parish
Turner, Fr. Parthenios and
Presbytera Marion
Courington, Christopher and Shelley
Demmas, Constance
Derryberry, Paul
Dozier, Matthew
Marchetti, John and Linda
Mattei-Weiland, Marie
Pappas, Thomas S.
Thomas, Gordon E.
Tickle, Jeffrey and Jackie
White, Mark

New Buffalo, MI – Annunciation – St. Paraskevi
Mann, Fr. Paul and Presbytera Nikki
Anton, Gust
Kerhoulas, Mike and Louisa
Kerhoulas, Ted and Sherri
FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS

We are, once again, nearing the end of a prosperous year. We would like to thank all those who have faithfully supported the Friends of the Metropolis program. Much has already been accomplished through the generosity of the Friends of the Metropolis.

Friends have provided textbooks for our Hellenic College/Holy Cross students. Friends have supported our summer camps and provided free youth worker training seminars. Friends also made it possible for His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas to participate in the historic Great Council convened in Crete this year.

WHY BECOME A FRIEND OF THE METROPOLIS AND HOW IS YOUR STEWARDSHIP UTILIZED? Although the Metropolis does receive funding from the Archdiocese, support is still required for the daily operations of the Metropolis offices. In addition to daily operations, the stewardship from the Friends of the Metropolis program provides:

- Continued funding for His Eminence to travel throughout the Metropolis.
- Resources for youth worker training and continued development of youth/young adult ministries.
- Financial support for small parishes, philanthropic endeavors, and educational development.

As this year comes to a close, please consider joining the Friends of the Metropolis program by making a contribution to the ministries of our Metropolis. All donations are tax-exempt, and are accepted online or via US Mail. See the Friends of the Metropolis flyer for more information or contact office@detroit.goarch.org.
CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST: JANUARY 1