Pray for the Holy & Great Council of the Orthodox Church at the Orthodox Academy, Crete, 16-27 June 2016
**METROPOLITAN’S MESSAGE**

**BELOVED FAITHFUL IN THE LORD,**

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Our Paschal greeting is so simple: the words are few and easy to understand. Yet these brief utterances are the cornerstone of our Faith. The Lord has conquered Death, and in this victory all Creation is renewed, and every facet of our life is transformed and transfused with Light and Grace, as we are changed from glory to glory (2 Cor. 3:18).

It is a paradox of Orthodoxy that the Church which never changes is always undergoing change in Christ. Indeed, a great change is imminent. This summer—aftter some 13 centuries apart—the fullness of the Orthodox Church will gather together in Crete for the convening of the Great and Holy Council. It is a day long hoped for in the hearts of the faithful.

Think for a moment: can you imagine what it would be like if you hadn’t been together with your family and friends for five, ten, or fifteen years? Consider then how momentous this Great and Holy Council is. After more than a millennium, the Orthodox family of faith will come together in Crete for an official meeting as the representatives of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. While it is true that in the early history of the Church, every bishop could attend the Council, today there will be a maximum of 24 bishops from every universally recognized autocephalous Church at the gathering in Crete. From our Archdiocese, the official members of the Great Council include: Archbishop Demetrios of America, Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, and myself.

A family gathering ... what could be more simple and ordinary? And yet, like our Paschal greeting, this meeting is at the same time also something profound and precious. As we travel to Crete to assemble with the family of the Church, we ask for your prayers and your support. Please keep current with the events in Crete at www.orthodoxcouncil.org.

Rejoice! For the Orthodox family is together again after over a thousand years without a reunion. And again I say, Rejoice! For Christ is Risen! Truly the Lord is Risen!

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**METROPOLITAN’S CALENDAR**

**JUNE**

| MAY 26 | Ecumenical Patriarchate Synod Meeting | Ecumenical Patriarchate Istanbul, Turkey |
| JUN 3 |  |  |
| 5 | • Hierarchical Divine Liturgy • Leadership 100 Dinner | • St. Nicholas, Ann Arbor, MI • Troy, MI |
| 9 | Holy Ascension | St. Spyridon Metropolis Chapel |
| 11-28 | Holy & Great Council of the Orthodox Church | Crete, Greece |

**JULY**

| JUN 30 | 43rd Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress | Nashville, TN |
| JUL 8 |  |  |
| 9-16 | Ecumenical Patriarchate Synod Meeting | Ecumenical Patriarchate Istanbul, Turkey |
| 17 | Divine Liturgy | Metro Detroit Area |
| 21 | Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp Visitation | Rose City, MI |
| 24 | Pastoral Visitation | St. Nicholas, Jamestown, NY |
| 27-28 | St. Nicholas Summer Camp Visitation | NaCoMe Camp, Pleasantville, TN |
| 30-31 | Pastoral Visitation | • St. George, Sault Ste. Marie, MI • Archangel Gabriel, Traverse City, MI |

**AUGUST**

| AUG 25 | Ecumenical Patriarchate Synod Meeting | Ecumenical Patriarchate Istanbul, Turkey |
| SEP 3 |  |  |

Calendar Updates: www.detroit.goarch.org/calendar
His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas had recently been appointed by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to represent him in Russia for the Nameday celebration of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia.

On Tuesday, May 24, 2016, after co-celebrating the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius (May 11 in the old calendar), His Holiness Patriarch Kirill met with Metropolitan Nicholas at the Patriarchal chambers of the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow. Metropolitan Nicholas was accompanied by Fr. Teodor Petrutiu, Protopesbyter of the Ecumenical Throne and Priest of the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Westland, Michigan.

Metropolitan Nicholas delivered the congratulatory Message of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Patriarch Kirill. Also discussed at the meeting was the forthcoming Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church to be held this year in Crete.

Photos from the Liturgy: www.mospat.ru/en/2016/05/24/news131979

Video clip from the Liturgy: https://youtu.be/sqfpOdl_J5I

WE HAVE ALL LOST MEMBERS of our immediate families. To my knowledge, this was the first time we have lost a sitting President of our Metropolis Board. Florence Stefanou was a member of our Philoptochos family and a dear friend. Many of us had never attended a Board Meeting, Metropolis Conference or National Philoptochos Conference without Florence at our side...we miss her.

Many of you are not aware that a Metropolis Philoptochos President is appointed to the National Philoptochos Board and serves during her tenure. As immediate past president of our Metropolis I had the privilege of serving on the National Board for four years. Unfortunately, Florence was only able to attend one National Board Meeting before becoming ill. Also unfortunate is the fact that most National Board Members did not have the opportunity to get to know her, nor were they able to learn what a very conscientious Philoptochos member she was.

During this time of transition and because our Metropolis is hosting the National Clergy-Laity Philoptochos Conference in Nashville, I have been appointed interim President of the Philoptochos Board. In this capacity I have encouraged chapters to send at least one delegate to the conference, especially since our Metropolis is the host. Unfortunately, many chapters will not be represented. Every two years the National Office encourages participation by underwriting the expenses of one small chapter in each Metropolis meeting all obligations. This year Muskegon, MI was chosen. The previous chapter attendees were from Chattanooga and Middletown, OH.

Highlights of the conference, where we will celebrate the 85th Anniversary of Philoptochos include a 4th of July Riverboat Cruise on the Cumberland River, a Metropolis Philoptochos Breakfast, an Inaugural Leadership Institute, an AGAPE Breakfast where one woman from each Metropolis is honored for perpetuating the mission of Philoptochos and where chapter awards will be presented. Addressing the assembly will be Ms. Ann Betty Cantrell, our very own Greek Orthodox Miss America. Interactive workshops include Philoptochos in Our Changing World, Membership and Social Services.

The challenge from National President Maria Logus to serve at least 250,000 meals to the hungry by July has been substantially surpassed. Our Metropolis chapters jumped on the bandwagon and some have decided to continue this initiative into the future. This is in addition to the food pantries and gift cards routinely given to those in need.

Another statistic being collected is how much money chapters have given to charitable causes over the past ten years. I think we would all be astounded.

We continue to raise money for the Saint Nicholas Church and National Shrine. For those who have been unable to raise funds in the past, it is not too late.

Please SAVE THE DATE and support the METROPOLIS LUNCHEON to be held on October 29. This is the primary fundraising activity to support Metropolis ministries. If unable to attend because of distance, sponsorships will be welcome. More information will be forthcoming.

DONATIONS

- 13 chapters reported serving 13,147 meals from January thru March
- 20 chapters reported 10-year donations to charities of $1,580,403
- Metropolis Philoptochos 10-year donations totaled $442,082
EVERY TWO YEARS, our National Church gathers its clergy and lay people to convene a Clergy-Laity Congress. This year, we will experience the 43rd biennial gathering of faithful from across our Archdiocese. The Mid-Eastern Federation feels very privileged to provide the bulk of the choir that will sing at the Opening Divine Liturgy, joined by other National Forum singers from all the Metropolises. The choir will be conducted by Archon Dean Limberakis of Boston, who also is the composer of the music.

This will be a significant Congress, because for the first time at a national gathering, the newly-approved English text for the Divine Liturgy will be used, and the choir will sing hymns using them. Another highlight of the Liturgy, an event rarely seen by many of us, is the participation of all eight of our Metropolitans, with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios as chief celebrant of a beautiful Archierarchical Divine Liturgy. And last, the Liturgy will actually occur inside the Grand Ole Opry House, likely the first such event in their history!

MEFGOX will also be convening its 69th Annual Conference in Nashville just prior to the start of the Congress. We moved our normal July date in order to be able to support Metropolitan Nicholas and our Metropolis in hosting the Nashville Congress, much as we did 10 years ago. While much of participants' time will be spent rehearsing for the Liturgy, they will also attend educational workshops, based on a slight variation of the theme Archbishop Demetrios has chosen for the Congress: “You are the Voice(s) of Christ in a Changing World.” For church musicians, this means learning to improve ourselves as tools for delivering the message of our faith, our prayers sent forth through our hymns. It also means the changing world our Orthodox worship is encountering: using more English, learning new music, working with congregational singing, encouraging youth involvement in church music, rejuvenating aging choirs, expanding chanter training, increased participation in all the services of our Church, etc.

Other Convention events will include a Grand Banquet where MEFGOX scholarships will be awarded and recipients of the Patriarch Athenagoras Medal for Distinguished Metropolis Service will be announced. A poignant activity at each MEFGOX Convention is the memorializing of all the church musicians who have fallen asleep in the Lord. “Fun” events will include a tour of the Parthenon and a “Nashville by Night” tour and BBQ dinner. We’re hoping to see representatives from all our parishes in Nashville for a rewarding and uplifting weekend.

MORE NEWS: ORDINATIONS

March 27

LUCAS CHRISTENSEN

Lucas was ordained a Deacon by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas on March 27, 2016 at the St. Nicholas Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Axios!

April 24

SCOTT O’ROURKE

Scott was ordained a Deacon by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas on April 24, 2016 at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Toledo, Ohio.

Axios!
ON SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016, fifteen exceptional speakers from throughout the Metropolis gathered at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in St. Clair Shores, MI for the 2016 St. John Chrysostom Metropolis Oratorical Festival.

Introduced in 1983, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides Greek Orthodox teenagers the opportunity to write and talk about their faith. The top speakers in the Junior and Senior Divisions from each parish advance to the district level. Two finalists in each district division represent the district at the Metropolis Oratorical Festival.

Many of the speakers arrived Friday, May 13th for food, fellowship, and a brief speaker orientation. The speakers and their families were invited for a pasta buffet and a wonderful concert hosted at the Assumption Cultural Center. Phenomenal soloists from throughout Michigan gathered to perform a show filled with incredible songs from Broadway.

The top speaker in each metropolis division is then selected to participate in the Archdiocese Finals, which is hosted by a different metropolis each year. Each participant received an icon, a “Made in Michigan” gift bag, and a Certificate of Participation to recognize their hard work. The top Junior and top Senior Division speakers are each awarded $500, thanks to the generosity of our Metropolis parishes and the Friends of the Metropolis program.

We thank Fr. Michael Varlamos and the Assumption parish community for hosting a beautiful fellowship evening on Friday and such a wonderful Festival on Saturday. We would especially like to thank Brenda and Ted Kotsis (Festival Chairs) and Olga Cardasis (Festival Committee) for coordinating the entire event. We thank Fr. Christopher Abell (Judges’ Foreman) and all of the judges who willingly took on the difficult task of evaluating the speakers and their presentations. Last, but certainly not least, we congratulate all of the speakers and offer our best wishes to Peter Tsatalis and Alexis Shahine at the Archdiocese Finals!

For photos of this event, please visit: http://photos.detroit.goarch.org/2016/Oratorical-Metropolis-Finals

FINALISTS:

JUNIOR DIVISION SPEAKERS:
- First Place: Peter Tsatalis – Annunciation/Dayton, OH
- Second Place: Stephen Hohnholt - Holy Trinity/Nashville, TN
Honorable Mention (alphabetical order):
- Amanda Dowd – St. John the Baptist/Sterling Heights, MI
- Ana Eveleigh - Annunciation/Rochester, NY
- Vasiliki Gargasoulas – St. George/Southgate, MI
- Katherine Hoover – Annunciation/Memphis, TN
- Sotirios Kiritsis – St. Sophia/Syracuse, NY
- Nathaniel Martine – Holy Trinity/Carmel, IN

SENIOR DIVISION SPEAKERS:
- First Place: Alexis Shahine – St. Sophia/Syracuse, NY
- Second Place: Victoria Martine - Holy Trinity/Carmel, IN
Honorable Mention (alphabetical order):
- Emmalyn Espinosa – Holy Trinity/Grand Rapids, MI
- Carrie Langendorf – Annunciation/Dayton, OH
- Evangelia Lianos – Annunciation/Detroit, MI
- Mia Obradovic - Annunciation/Memphis, TN
- Julianna Schlabig - Annunciation/ Buffalo, NY

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

THE FIRST FORTY DAYS: HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE TRANSITION

Research has shown that many college students form the habits and social groups that they will maintain for the entirety of their college career in the first six weeks of their freshman year. Thus, OCF knows it is critical to personally contact every first-year Orthodox college student so that they know that an Orthodox family awaits them on campus during these crucial formative weeks. Through OCF’s First Forty Days Initiative, the local OCF student leaders, spiritual advisors, and lay coordinators introduce themselves to all new incoming students, making sure that they know about Orthodoxy on campus and nearby Orthodox parishes. These students also receive a summer mailing directly from the North American Office with information and materials to help them navigate their freshman year of college as Orthodox college students. It is the hope that through this personal connection, young college students will not only stay connected but deepen their faith during their years in post-secondary education and graduate to be faithful stewards of parishes across the continent.

By submitting your incoming freshmen’s information by JULY 15th, you ensure that your students will receive the full benefits of the First Forty Days Initiative. Visit www.ocf.net/firstfortydays or email firstfortydays@ocf.net for more information.
“WHEN THE DAY OF PENTECOST had fully come, they were all with one accord and one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4

From fearfully huddled in the upper room, they now departed with immeasurable faith, love, courage, and dedication spreading the message of salvation through Jesus Christ, the Son of God to the whole world. On that day of Pentecost, fifty days after our Lord’s resurrection, Peter spoke with such great spiritual conviction and knowledge that over 3000 were baptized into Christ and His salvation. Following, as the Scripture writes, they continued steadfastly in doctrine, prayer, and the breaking of the bread (The Holy Eucharist).

Guided and directed by the Holy Spirit, the message of salvation in Christ Jesus permeated the Roman Empire and beyond. The fervent zeal of the Apostles and the truth of their message would be witnessed by many, and bring about their transformation and embracement of the Truth. The Church would grow despite the hideous and barbaric centuries of persecution and sufferings of the saintly martyrs, followed by an age of dogmatic and patristic growth, drawing the world into the net of salvation. The fire and zeal of the Church guided by Holy Spirit was and is a **continuous Pentecost** to the present day.

What is this continuous Pentecost? It is the deep spiritual reality of the Church and our deep relationship with Christ and one another. At every Divine Liturgy, we gather together in one accord, to break bread and receive the Holy and Sacred Mystery of the Holy Eucharist, the body and blood of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. At the consecration of the Holy gifts, the celebrant prays that the Holy Spirit will descend upon us, as it did with the Apostles individually and in unity, and upon the gifts offered.

Being filled with the fullness of Christ, sharing in the fire and zeal of the Apostles, we have the potential and ability to share in the joy of their sufferings and blessings, to be faithful examples to draw people to the fountain of salvation, through the sharing of the knowledge of the Scriptures and Fathers, to bring them to the knowledge and truth in Jesus Christ and the promise of everlasting life in His Kingdom. May our Church, parish, and faithful be nurtured and guided to the promise and zeal of A Continuous Pentecost!

*Fr. Stratton is the Parish Priest of the St. Nicholas Church in Troy, Michigan.*
FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS 2016
JANUARY 1 - MAY 31

+His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

Ann Arbor, MI – St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Plikas, Fr. Vasilios and Presbytera Kyriakoula
Apostolou, Panagiota and Patricia
Baldwin, James and Mary Suzanne
Daniels, Tony and Clevie
Yates, Billy and Marguerita

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

Buffalo, NY – Annunciation
Sakellarion, Fr. John and Presbytera Pavlina
Kuvshinoff, Boris and Barbara
Jousma, Thomas and Ellene Phufas

Carmel, IN – Holy Trinity
Holy Trinity Parish
Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Bartz, Fr. William and Presbytera Emily
Russell, Fr. John Jarrod
Andros, Cheryl
Christoff, William and Karen
Dervenis, Nicholas and Sharon
Dunbar, David and Lea
Eaton, Joe and Florie
Freudenberg, Jim and Cindy
Gibson, Karen
Hostetter, Duane and Eleny
Johnson, Ron and Sunday
Kollias, Stephen and Gail
Mudis, Ernie and Wendy
Oberlies, Toula
Pappas, Leon and Andrea
Pappas, Nicholas and Tracy
Pappas, Victoria
Pavlakos, Elias and Maria
Payne, Martha
Pease, John and Maria
Sofianopoulos, Nick and Vickie
Waterbury, Anthony and Kristen
Woodruff, Jim and Cindy
Young, Michael and Helen

Chattanooga, TN – Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Ballas, Fr. Stavros and Presbytera Thea
Albu, Titus and Jisook Kim
Berkley, Joseph
Bougdanos, Maria
Boulouchos, Dino and Maria
Dimopoulos, Dennis and Barbara
Etherton, Wayne and Yolanda
Fotiadi, Nicky and Lilly
Fox, Ann F.
Kouri, George
Mena, 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
Anagnostou, Helen
Assaley, Lewis and Patricia
Stringas, Emanuel

Dayton, OH – Annunciation
Emroll, Fr. Mark and Presbytera Virginia
Nakos, George
Retzios, Thomas

Detroit, MI – Annunciation Cathedral
Bennert, Constance
Politis, Dean
Tapazoglou, Nicolaos

Farmington Hills, MI – Holy Cross
Holy Cross GOYA
Hountalas, Fr. Dean and Presbytera Olga

Fort Wayne, IN – Holy Trinity
Maggos, El and Voula

Grand Blanc, MI – Assumption
Assumption Parish
Assumption Philoptochos – In Memory of Florence Stefanou
Daughters of Penelope, Iris Chapter #242
Delbridge, Ray and Carol
Greenberg, Robert and Camelia
Hountalas, John and Tasia
Kalatzis, Athena
Kallis, Agape C.
Photiou, Lucas and Lori
Schultze, Joanne
Yeotis, Catherine

Grand Rapids, MI – Holy Trinity
Bogdan, Fr. James and Presbytera Joan
Cassis, Deacon E. George and Diaconissa Vicki
Georgeson, Menas and Frosene
Monoyios, Terry and Akrivi
Nicholas, James and Georgia
Sinas, Thomas and Michelle

Indianapolis, IN – Holy Apostles
Holy Apostles Parish

Ithaca, NY – St. Catherine
St. Catherine Philoptochos – In Memory of Florence Stefanou
Bantuvanis, Ann
Beizirganian, John

 Jamestown, NY – St. Nicholas
Cheronis, James and Christine

Kalamazoo, MI – Annunciation
Annunciation Parish

(Continued on page 9)
(Continued from page 8)

Theoharis, Fr. Theoharis
Ingalls, Robert and Andriana
Stamos, Steve and Tasia

**Lansing, MI – Holy Trinity**
Holy Trinity Parish
Sietsema, Fr. Mark and Presbytera Katherine

**Lexington, KY – Panagia Pantovasillisa**
Sicoe, Fr. Cosmin and Presbytera Mihaela
Arimes, Vickie
Minor, Thomas and Delores

**Little Rock, AR – Announcement**
Delfos, Fr. Pierre and Presbytera Harriet

**Louisville, KY – Assumption**
Boukis, Fr. Jon and Presbytera Doreece
Assumption Philoptochos
Blackford, Charles and Patricia
Makris, Mary

**Marquette, MI – Assumption**
Wainio, Paul and Katherine

**Memphis, TN – Annunciation**
Annunciation Philoptochos - In Memory of Florence Stefanou
Kay, John and Nancy
Morrison, Robert and Kathryn

**Muskegon, MI – Annunciation**
Encelewis, Christine Danigelis
Ladas, Paul and Patricia
Oravitan, Andre
Oravitan, Ionut
Oravitan, Philip

**Nashville, TN – Holy Trinity**
Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and Presbytera Katherine
Gaddis, Jim and Tasoula
Harman, Todd and Dawn
Lamberson, Lambert and Helen
Miller, John M.

**Nashville, TN – St. John Chrysostom**
Courington, Christopher and Shelley
Derryberry, Paul
Dozier, Matthew
Marchetti, John and Linda
Tickle, Jeffrey and Jackie

**Rochester, NY – Annunciation**
Aslani-Breit, Maria
Stefanou, Gus

**Rochester, NY – Holy Spirit**
Gesell, Melody
Palis, James and Elizabeth

**Saginaw, MI – St. Demetrios**
Cook, Fr. Timothy and Presbytera Katherine
Bazakis, Andrew and Ann
Chisholm, Micah and Stephanie
Economou, Lou and Soula
Houpis, Evan
Metropoulos, Pete and Maria
Ostler, Dennis and Soula
Rouman, Frances
Ulmer, George and Virginia

**Southgate, MI – St. George**
St. George Parish
St. George Philoptochos
Cook, Fr. Anthony and Presbytera Elizabeth
Colovos, Bill and Julie
Dionyssopoulos, Stavros and Eleni
Kircos, Angelo and Sophia
Kircos, Lazaros and Paula
Kontos, Chris and Frances
Kontos, John and Marika
Minton, Nicholas
Vougiouklakis, Peter and Christina

**Springfield, OH – Assumption**
Assumption Parish

**St. Clair Shores, MI – Assumption**
Varlamos, Fr. Michael and Presbytera Tina
Andoni, Paul and Roxanne

**Sterling Heights, MI – St. John**
St. John Choir
Kotsis, Harry and Katherine
Lionas, Jim and Helene
Tangalos, Theodore and Mary

**Syracuse, NY – St. Sophia**
Smith, Fr. David and Presbytera Donna

**Toledo, OH – Holy Trinity Cathedral**
Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Biernacki, Gerald and Pauline

**Traverse City, MI – Archangel Gabriel**
Underwood, Robert and Theresa Stamos

**Troy, MI – St. Nicholas**
Chalker, Jess and Patricia
Hazen, Brian and Tina
Mortis, George and Hionia

**Vestal, NY – Annunciation**
Gianakouros, Harry and Katie

**Westland, MI – Sts. Constantine and Helen**
Ochadleus, William and Georgene
Zotos, Gregory

**Other Friends**
Radulescu, Deacon Alexandru and Diaconissa Silvana
Gabriel, Gerald and Kate
Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Musicians (MEFGOX)
FEAST OF PENTECOST:  JUNE 19
Pray for the Unity of our Church!

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