Beloved Faithful,

"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming." Matthew 24:42

The People of God live by nature in a state of excited anticipation for the day when the Lord will return and the Kingdom of God will be forever and everywhere seen.

This state of anticipation is reflected in the words of the Lord as quoted above, reminding us to always "watch" for the time and hour when Jesus is to return.

Likewise, we know that it is not possible for any of us to know the mind of God so as to anticipate the date of His exact return. For this reason, we are always held in anticipation of the Second Coming of the Lord.

So how is it that we cope with this period of waiting? In the life of the Church, we are taught that it is our goal to be united with God — to become by grace what He is by nature — and to make this possible through our love and faith in Him.

But love and faith in God are not barren objects. They are signs of the reality of the faith which we possess. It is for this reason that while the Church proclaims that we saved by God’s grace alone, we also know that in order to be saved we must choose to be saved: God has no desire to force us into His Kingdom against our will.

And in choosing to be saved, we are confident that certain outward signs of our faith are tangible reflections of our earnest desire.

During this period of great prayer and fasting, let us remember to share our blessings with those less fortunate, to pray without ceasing for those in need, to fast from the temptations of this world and to feast at the Table which the Lord prepares for us. Let us bless without cursing, give without receiving, and help without expecting anything in return.

For we do not know when the Lord is coming, but come He shall ... and to those who know His voice and have labored in His vineyard on earth, the doors of His heavenly Kingdom shall be opened.

A blessed Pascha to all of You!

Metropolitan Nicholas

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE METROPOLITAN’S SCHEDULE

JANUARY, 2005

6-7 American Bible Society - Translations Committee, New York City
9 St. John the Baptist Church, Sterling Heights, MI - Pastoral Visitation
10 Clergy Synodesmos Meeting, Troy, MI
13 Metropolitan of Detroit Council Meeting - Conference Call
16 Ordination to Priesthood of Rev. Deacon Peter Bistolarides
St. George Church - Southgate, MI
28-30 St. Photios National Shrine Pilgrimage, St. Augustine, FL

FEBRUARY, 2005

9 Funeral of Fr. Steve Yankopoulos, Annunciation Church
Muskogon, MI

15 Clergy Synodesmos Meeting, Troy, MI
16 - 18 SYNOD Meeting, New York City
20 Assumption Church-Springfield, OH - Hierarchical Liturgy
27 Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Church, Cincinnati, OH - Pastoral Visit

MARCH, 2005

4 - 5 Archdiocese Finance Committee Meeting, Metropolis Center - Troy, MI
8 - 11 Meeting of Bishops and Leadership 100 Conference, Phoenix, AZ
19 Great Vespers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy,

Sts. Constantine and Helen Church-Westland MI
20 Sunday of Orthodoxy, Annunciation Church - Muskegon, MI
20 Sunday of Orthodoxy - Pan Orthodox Vespers, Holy Trinity Church - Grand Rapids, MI
24 Great Vespers for the Annunciation, Annunciation Cathedral - Detroit, MI
25 Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation, Annunciation Cathedral - Detroit, MI
27 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas, Annunciation Church - Kalamazoo, MI
29 Parish Council Meeting, Sts. Constantine and Helen - Battle Creek, MI
Schedule for His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas
(Through May 2005)

March 29  Parish Council Meeting - Sts. Constantine and Helen, Battle Creek, MI
March 31  Parish Council Meeting - Assumption, Louisville, KY
April 1    3rd Salutations - Holy Trinity, Nashville, TN
April 2    National Clergy-Laity 2006 Meetings - Holy Trinity, Nashville, TN
April 3    3rd Sunday of Lent  Veneration of the Cross - Holy Trinity, Nashville, TN
April 8    4th Salutations - Holy Cross, Farmington Hills, MI
April 10   4th Sunday of Lent  St. John of the Ladder - St. Nicholas, Troy, MI
April 10   Greek Independence Day Parade - Downtown Detroit
April 14   Funeral Services for Archbishop Iakovos - New York City, NY
April 15   Funeral Services for Archbishop Iakovos - Boston, MA
April 17   5th Sunday of Lent St. Mary of Egypt - Sts. Constantine and Helen, Westland, MI
April 20   Pre-sanctified Liturgy - Metropolis Chapel, Troy, MI
April 23   Saturday of Lazarus - Holy Trinity Cathedral, Toledo, OH
April 24   Palm Sunday - Holy Trinity, Grand Rapids, MI
April 24   1st Bridegroom - St. Demetrios, Saginaw, MI
April 25   Holy Monday  2nd Bridegroom - Assumption, Flint, MI
April 26   Holy Tuesday  3rd Bridegroom - Sts. Constantine and Helen, Westland, MI
April 27   Holy Wednesday Holy Unction/Youth Retreat - St. Nicholas, Ann Arbor, MI
April 28   Holy Thursday Institution of the Eucharist - Metropolis Chapel, Troy, MI
April 28   Holy Thursday  Twelve Gospels - St. John, Sterling Heights, MI
April 29   Good Friday/Descent From the Cross - Visitation to Area Parishes, MI
April 29   Good Friday Epitaphios - Annunciation Cathedral, Detroit, MI
April 30   Holy Saturday, First Resurrection - Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Plymouth, MI
April 30   Orthros and Liturgy of Holy Pascha - St. George, Bloomfield Hills, MI
May 1     Pascha - Vespers of Agape - Assumption, St. Clair Shores, MI
May 2     Vesperal Divine Liturgy for St. George - St. George Church, Bloomfield Hills, MI
May 8     Sunday of St. Thomas - Annunciation Cathedral, Detroit, MI
May 10-14 Eparchial Synod and Archdiocesan Council Archdiocese - New York City
May 15    Sunday of the Myrrhbearers - St. George, Southgate, MI
May 18-19 American Bible Society, Board of Trustees Meeting - New York City
May 20    Parish Assembly - Holy Trinity, Indianapolis, IN
May 21-22 Sts. Constantine and Helen - Sts. Constantine and Helen, Middletown, OH
May 23-25 National Presbyters Council - Metropolis Offices, Troy, MI
Youth News
By Eva Kokinos - Youth Director

SHEPHERD'S STAFF – NEWS FROM THE YOUTH OFFICE
Eva Kokinos, Metropolis Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

JOY PRE-LENTEN RETREAT

If you look around, you will notice an increasing number of younger children in your churches in 3rd-6th grade. Many of our teens are moving on past high school and into college. So we need to provide more programs and youth ministry activities to keep these younger people involved and learning.

On March 4, 2005, St. Nicholas Church in Troy, MI hosted a JOY Pre-Lenten Retreat. For one evening, JOY groups from throughout the Michigan area gathered to learn about Orthodoxy, share their artistic talent, and have a good time! The theme of the retreat was "The Colors and Symbols of Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha". Participants learned about different colors and symbols used during this important time of the year for Orthodox Christians. Each of the participants made a mini-kouvoukliion (the bier symbolizing the tomb of Christ that is prominent during Holy Week). The whole evening was a great success, with all of our participants making important connections between what we see and do during Lent and Holy Week.

LENTEN RETREATS IN KEEP ROLLING!

How does one steer away from the March Madness and Spring Insanity? Our GOYAnes have an opportunity to stop their busy schedules and focus on their Lenten journey at our Annual GOYA Lenten Lock-Ins and Retreats! At these Lenten Retreats, youth learn different facts about our faith and have an opportunity to discuss current issues in their lives. For example, we discussed the importance of the Panagia as our humble hero and role model at this year's Central District Lock-In. These Lock-Ins and Retreats have been a great success so far this year, as they have in the past.

Our Central, Southern, and NY Districts have already held their Lenten Lock-In events for this year. Our final GOYA Lock-In will be April 15-16, 2005 at Assumption Church in St. Clair Shores, MI. It is FREE for all GOYAnes in Michigan and Toledo, OH. If you would like more information about this Lenten Lock-In, please contact Andria Kiriazis at andrianak@comcast.net or call Assumption Church at 586-779-6111.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL NEWS

Part of the focus of Youth Ministry is not only to educate our youth about Orthodox Christianity, but to encourage them to witness their knowledge and faith to others. The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival offers youth an opportunity to learn about an aspect of the Orthodox Christian faith, research it, and to present their information through the art of public speaking.

Most parishes have already completed their local parish level festivals. This means most of this year’s participants have already been chosen. But, this does not mean you have to miss these amazing presentations. You may attend the Oratorical Festival in your District or attend the Metropolis Oratorical Festival at St. Nicholas Church in Ann Arbor, MI on May 14, 2005. Our Metropolis Festival will produce two finalists who will represent the Metropolis of Detroit at the National St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. This year’s festival will be held from June 3-5, 2005 in Camp Hill, PA. Please check the Metropolis Youth Calendar or email Eva Kokinos at youth@detroit.goarch.org for District Festival locations, dates, and other information.
MEFOGX News
By Chris Zervos, President

The Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians is in full preparations as it prepares for its 58th annual convention, July 14-17, in Greater Pittsburgh. The Executive Board has been at work planning convention details. A regional rehearsal schedule is in place as singers begin learning the new bilingual liturgical setting arranged by Federation President, Chris Zervos of the Holy Trinity Cathedral parish in Toledo, Ohio.

Rev. Fr. John Chakos and the Holy Cross parish, Mount Lebanon, PA, have offered their facilities to the Federation for rehearsals and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Convention business site is the Radisson Greentree Hotel, a short distance from Pittsburgh’s sports and cultural center. Andriana Koledkianos of Santa Barbara, CA (formerly of Flint, MI) will be our Guest Director. Andriana is a well respected professional musician and music educator who has guided several Federations in convention liturgies, including the 2002 Archdiocesan Clergy Laity Congress in LA. In 2004, the Metropolis of San Francisco Church Musicians awarded her its highest honor, the St. Cosmas the Melodist and St. John Damascene medallion for significant contribution to her Diocese. MEGOX is pleased to have the charming Andriana Koledkianos in Pittsburgh July 14-17.

Regional rehearsals have already begun. The schedule of rehearsals in the Metropolis of Detroit follows. Other regional rehearsals will occur in Columbus Ohio and Mt Lebanon, PA.

Metro Detroit Area - Contact: Barbara Minton (313) 383-0466

Philoptochos News
By Katherine Kotsis, President

In December, 2004, the world witnessed a historical catastrophe. The devastation and destruction caused by an earthquake and the tsunami was incomprehensible as it left hundreds of thousands of victims homeless and in despair. As of April 1, 2005, the National Philoptochos has received a total of $103,805 in relief targeted monies from chapters throughout the country. The following three chapters topped the list with very commendable donations: Koimisis tis Theotokou, Brooklyn, New York, - $5,000; Sts. Constantine and Helen, Annapolis, Maryland, - $4,500 and St. John, Sterling Heights, Michigan, - $2,700. Over 11,000 “Gifts of the Heart” health kits were received to help relieve the pain and distress of those afflicted from this tragedy.

Annunciation, Dayton, Ohio
Sharing the Faith - Greek Orthodox Materials Gifted to Public Libraries
The public libraries of Montgomery County, Ohio, (Dayton region) were pleased to receive a substantial addition to their selections of Greek Orthodox materials thanks to the Philoptochos Society of the Annunciation parish.

The parishioners responded with generous donations when the idea of gifting a substantial variety of books and videos regarding the faith was introduced by Philoptochos chairwomen Evanthia Vlassiades and Chris Makartis.

After researching the current holdings of the main library and its branches, a list of materials was compiled by the committee with the assistance of Rev. Father Mark Enroll. Library selection managers chose titles they thought would be of interest to their patrons. Multiple copies of basic books insured that every branch had at least the basic information regarding Greek Orthodoxy. The interest and wide range titles selected by the managers were most heartwarming.

The library acknowledged the generous gift by issuing a bookplate for each donated item acknowledging the Philoptochos Society of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Dayton, Ohio.

St. Sophia, Syracuse, New York

(Continued on page 5)
Philoptochos News, continued

The CNY Children’s Hospital at the Upstate Medical University in Syracuse was the recipient of three gifts totaling $10,900 from the St. Sophia parish in Syracuse. The gift was made through the efforts of the Ladies Philoptochos Society, the Sophia Players and the parish council under the leadership of Rev. Father Thomas Zafieres.

A St. Sophia parish theater group donated $5,100 from profits from a musical presentation directed by William M. Harmand, M.D.; St. Sophia parish council’s gift of $2,500 resulted from profits from their 2004 Greek Festival. In addition, St. Sophia Ladies Philoptochos Society raised $3,300 through an art auction held last October. Through several years of vigorous fund raising, the Philoptochos Society raised an additional $5,000 for a Children’s Hospital family sleep room.

Annunciation, Little Rock, Arkansas –

MEFGOX News, continued

Poser, Kevin Lawrence, as clinician. The parish recently dedicated its iconostasis to the memory of George Georgantas, of blessed memory. The Annunciation parish in Rochester, NY hosted a March 5-6 workshop of Anna Gallos music. Presbytera Anna was guest clinician.

The St. Nicholas parish in Ann Arbor, MI welcomed its new priest, Rev. Fr. Nikolaos Kotsis, in January. He has established a “full service” church music program under the direction of Dr. Jon Wardner. We wish Fr. Nick and Dr. Wardner the very best as they embark on an ambitious endeavor.

MEFGOX is committed to preparing the next generation of church musicians. To that end it offers scholarships to worthy high school graduates pursuing music education at the college level. Please encourage those in your parish who qualify to apply for one of our scholarships. And remember to make a donation to the MEFGOX Memorial Scholarship Fund.

2004-2005 Friends
(a/o 3/31/05)

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

Ann Arbor, MI: St. Nicholas Philoptochos, Fr. John & Presbytera Eva Paul, Louis & Marguerite Chialatas, Costas Kleanthous, Dr. Sem & Katherine Phan, Pauline Skinner, Bloomfield Hills, MI: James & Esther Pamel, Buffalo, NY: Paul & Kelly Scouras, Chattanooga, TN: Annunciation Parish, Annunciation Sunday School, Annunciation Junior GOYA, Dr. George & Maria Andros, Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Agrafiotis, Mrs. Connie Atchley, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Atchley, Mrs. Elleni Bean, Mrs. Maria Bougdanos, Carol G. Caldwell, Mr.& Mrs. Sam Darras, Mrs. Danny Demetry, Mrs. Elleni Dimopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Dimopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. George Dimopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Spiros Dolos, Mrs. Venetia Doster, George & Betty Ellis, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Etherton, Mrs. Frances Ford, Mr. & Mrs. Nick Fotiadis, Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence Fox, Mr. & Mrs. William Gates, Mrs. Anastasia Gulas, Ani & Pete Gulas, Mrs. Gus Gulas, Mrs. Marion Gulas, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Gulas, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Gulas, Jennifer Hixson, Dr. Richard & Chrisi Hopper, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas S. Kalanzis, Mr. & Mrs. George Kouris, Constance & Ronald Lee, Lea McIntyre, Dr. Michael & Vicky Mena, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Mossidus, John & Donna Mousourakis, Voula Nicolou, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Pagnani, Fannie Petros, Kathy Petros, Mr. & Mrs. John Petros, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Rambalakos, Mr.
Michael & Karen Ramsey, Drs. Adam & Nickie Soufleris, Mrs. Alicia Sullivan, Mrs. Mary Swansbrough, Elias & Sharon Tigiros, Mr. & Mrs. William Trohanis, Mr. Andrew & Mrs. Eugenia Tsioubkas, Mrs. Lena Tzavaras, James & Connie Vavalides, Yvonne & Matt Vischetti, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Ware, Mr. & Mrs. John Xoinis, Mrs. Alexandra Yaxley, **Cincinnati, OH:** Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Philopecthos, Christos & Asimina De-makes, William & Marie Tsacalis, Mr.& Mrs. Wallace C. Wilson, **Dayton, OH:** Annunciation Philopecthos, Dr. & Mrs. John Valassiades, **Farmington Hills, MI:** Fr. Dean & Presvytera Olga Hountalas, **Flint, MI:** Assumption GOYA, Fr. Stavros & Presvytera Thea Ballas, John & Linda Chinonis, Ms. Alexandria Takis **Fort Wayne, IN:** Dr. & Mrs. Keith Danckaert, Gregory M. Doublas, Nikos Nakos, **Grand Rapids, MI:** Holy Trinity Parish, Fr. James & Presvytera Joan Bogdan, Chris & Phyllis Afendoulis, James & Georgia Nicholas, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Petricevic, Leonard & Emili Slott, **Indianapolis, IN:** Holy Trinity Parish, Philopecthos, and GOYA, Ahepa Chapter-James Whitcomb Riley#232, Daughters of Penelope-Laertes #212, Dr. Dennis Dickos, Harry E. Douvis **Ithaca, NY:** St. Catherine Parish, George & Ann Bantuvanis, **Kalamazoo, MI:** Annunciation Parish, Fr. Evangelos & Presvytera Susan Pepps **Lansing, MI:** Holy Trinity Philopecthos, Anonymous, **Lexington, KY:** Fr. George & Presvytera Harriet Wilson, Rodica Petruta Bunaciu, George Ducas, Ken & Kate Kiriacopoulos, Dr. Peter Sawaya **Little Rock, AR:** Annunciation Parish, Essa & Grace Alley, Haitham & Tina Alley, Dr. Ned & Nataleeen Alley, Sam & Janet Alley, Wayne & Clair Allely, Dr. Harold & Linda Chakales, Dr. Steve & Anna Clift, Mike & Darla Harb, Ron & Joyce Harb, Raouf Kassissieh, Terry & Becka Masching, Philip & Janet Miron, David & Eva Sargent, Gus & Irene Vratsinas, Kevin & Stephanie Wilcox, **Louisville, KY:** Assumption Parish, Ourania Stephanides, **Marquette, MI:** Assumption Parish, **Middletown, OH:** Fr. Christos & Presvytera Lisa Christakis, M. & Mrs. John Raab, **Memphis, TN:** Annunciation Parish, Annunciation Philopecthos, **Muskegon, MI:** Annunciation Parish, Christine Dault Encelewski **Nashville, TN:** Fr. George & Presvytera Kalliopi Vaporis, George & Lee Ann Anderson, Vasili Bellos, Angelia Duncan, Michael & Kathy Katsaitis, Mr.& Mrs. Lambert Lamberson, Mr. John M. Miller, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. James N. Mitchell, Tom Nicholson, Bill & Jackie Phillips, Helen Rogers & Larry Kamm, David Taber, **Plymouth, MI:** Dr. & Mrs. Francis Kelly, Gerald & Mary Takis, **Rochester, NY** (Annunciation): Gus & Florence Stefanou, **Southgate, MI:** Anonymous, Sam J. Galanis, Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Kircos, George & Maria Golematis, John & Violet Kircos, Louis & Paula Kircos, Panormitis Makarounas, Charles & Voula Minton, Nicholas Minton, Vasiliki Nanos, **Springfield, OH:** Assumption Parish, Alex & Terri Anderson, Pauline Chakeres, James Lagos, Thomas Lagos **St. Clair Shores, MI:** Thomas G. Jordan, Mr. & Mrs. William Genematas, Christo & Marsha Zingas, **Sterling Heights, MI:** St. John Parish, St. John Philopecthos, Senior Citizens, and GOYA, Fr. Nicholas Kyritses, Dr. Mike & Betty Raphtis, **Syracuse, NY:** St. Sophia Parish, Maria N. Kane, **Toledo, OH:** Holy Trinity Parish, **Troy, MI:** St. Nicholas Parish, Demetrios Bakalis, Tom & Beck Demery, Gust & Anne Feles, Paul Feles, Ingmar Korstanje, Mr. & Mrs. John Lavrakas, Chris & Lambrini Liakonis, George & Toula Vlahakis, **Watertown, NY:** Chris J. Calender **Westland, MI:** Dorthie Balaskas, Tassos & Carol Buzadzis, Demetrios Livanos, Mark & Helen Stavropoulos, Michael & Anastasia Stavropoulos, Nicholas & Konstantina Stavropoulos.

**Various Friends:** Daughters of Penelope – Thamyris Chapter, Patrice Payiavlas Kouvas, Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Choirs, Harold Peponis.

**Metropolitan’s Discretionary Fund:** Peter & Julie Stamos, George & Venus Tzangas.

"...but I have called you friends..."  
*John 15:15*