



THE LOGOS †

Nativity of The Virgin Mary

December 2017, Volume 1, No. 9

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Christ is Born, Glorify Him...

My beloved in Christ,



We have come to a most precious time of year, especially for Christians. We have come to that period where we prepare to receive our Savior into the world - Jesus Christ. For most of us the holidays begin with Thanksgiving, a time of family and friends being together, including our nation, giving thanks to the Lord for the many blessings that we have received. When I was young, it was my family's tradition to put up the tree right after Thanksgiving and prepare the house festively for the Nativity of Christ. How magical it was as a child to witness a change happening, not only in our house, but also all around us. Going to the mall, seeing all the Christmas lights and decorations, receiving Christmas cards, going to Christmas parties, drinking Eggnog and eating Christmas cookies, and

of course dreaming about the special gifts I would get from St. Nicholas. It was, and still is, a very special time of the year.

As a priest, I am always reminded of how special and important Christmas is, or what is liturgically called the Nativity of our Lord. Every time the Divine Liturgy is celebrated, the Nativity is remembered at the Offering table or the Table of Preparation in the Altar. The icon of the Nativity is depicted behind every Offering Table in every Altar. The disc, or Paten, that holds the bread, the Lamb of God, which will become His sacred body in the Liturgy, is the manger in Bethlehem. The Asteriscos placed over the Paten is the star that led the Magi to the cave and the various coverings are like swaddling cloths that clothed our Savior. (I will be speaking more in depth about this and what happens at the Offering Table in an upcoming Orthodox Faith class.)

(Continued on page 12)

Our Unsung Hero: Vasilios Palazis

Interview on Page 3

Congrats Junior Girls Basketball!

Holiday Hoops Tournament Champs! See Page 11

St. Theophan the Recluse - On Prayer

Part 4 in the Series of 4. See Page 7



Parish Priest

Rev. Father Nick Marcus

Cell (616) 328-3143

frnickmarcus@gmail.com

Pastoral Assistant

William Smith, M.DIV

Cell (586) 942-6625

ws147135@gmail.com

Services

Sunday

8:45am Orthros

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday

7:00pm Paraklesis

Office

Kathy Kyriacou, Admin

Office (734) 420-0131

secretary@nativitygochurch.com

Monday - Friday, 10am to 2pm

Nativity Bookstore & Fr. George Vaporis Library Hours

Tuesday - Saturday, 10am to 2pm

Tuesday & Thursday, 6pm to 8pm

Sunday, 12noon to 2pm

Closed Monday

**NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

39851 West Five Mile Road

Plymouth, Michigan

www.nativitygochurch.org

Parish Council News

By Louis Poulos
Council President

The parish council has been working hard all year behind the scenes to complete projects and tasks that not only keep the church operating, but functional and beautiful as well. Much time is spent planning, organizing, getting bids, and seeing projects through to completion and this council has proven up to the task all year.

As I write this article, we are waiting on two more quotes for replacing the twenty-five-year-old ten ton heating and cooling unit in the fellowship hall. We are also getting quotes for replacing the failed church windows and repaving the North parking lot. The lot has incurred much damage over the

years from large trucks turning around and festival tent wear and tear. We are also getting quotes to build a pole barn on the property which would house the festival equipment and replace the aging trailer now being used.

The parish council has determined these items need immediate attention but beyond that, the vision for the future of this parish has also been taking shape and needs finalizing. It began earlier this year with the strategic planning retreat held at Mama Mia's in April and continues currently with the creation of a Nativity Road Map (by council member Pete Tsaprazis, see page 6). The road map attempts to put on paper how this vision and plan for the future could be implemented. But more input is needed and difficult decisions need to be made if we are to collectively move forward with a viable growth plan.

God only knows what the future holds for our parish, but we must seriously consider securing additional funding while mortgage rates are low to prepare for the next phase of development. Doing so could mean laying the foundation for growth to the glory of the Lord, and secure Nativity's future for the generations to come.



Fr. Nick introduced new altar servers this month. (From left) Aristides and Nicholas Kyritses, and William Floros.



Congratulations to Nicole Caracostas and Kostas Ekonomopoulos and family at the baptism of son Theodoros. Godparents Konstantina Janis and Soti Michalos.



Congratulations to parish council member Dean and Katina Stavrou and family at the baptism of daughter Paraskevi Amalia. Godparents Menas Houstoulakis and Maria Kefallinos.

Our Unsung Heroes: An Interview with Mr. Vasilios Palazis

by Irene Melabiotis



It was a glorious Sunday morning when, replenishing the beeswax candles as an usher, I heard someone call my name. Looking up, I saw Mr. Vasilios Palazis's smiling face, handing me pages of handwritten notes in Greek. As I looked through them, he explained that they were his life's story in a nutshell that, as writer of the Unsung Heroes column, he wished to share with me. He felt compelled to tell his story after reading the interview article about Mr. George Stefanakis's experiences serving in the Hellenic Navy as a marine engineer (see the July 2017 issue of *The Logos*). He went on to explain that his experiences paralleled those of his compatriot; He began training at the same Naval Academy for Petty Officers (Υπαξιωματικούς) on the same Greek island of Poros just two years prior to Mr. Stefanakis. To accompany his notes, he handed me a black and white photo of his younger self, explaining that it was taken while he was in the Academy. Gratefully, I accepted Mr. Palazis's notes and picture and promised to share his story with our Nativity community in a forthcoming issue of *The Logos*. I am humbled by the opportunity to share with you his story here, in Mr. Palazis's own words, which reads much like a brief personal memoir:

My name is Vasilios Palazis [Βασίλειος Παλάζης]. I come from the village of Apollona [Απόλλωνα] in Rhodes. When I was 17 years old, I was going to high school in Rhodes, and I was in Grade 8 [Δευτέρα Γυμνασίου]. My father loved the sea a lot because he was a sponge diver as his profession, so he wanted to send me to the Navy and sent me to the island of Poros so that I would become, some day, a Petty Officer [Υπαξιωματικός] and, later, an Officer. And, indeed, that's what happened! Because I was a good student, and because I spoke the Italian language, I got in without difficulty to the Academy.

The first year as a first-year student passed, and I was the top student in the class, and as a second-year student I became the leader of my class and, in this way, my second year continued. During this [second] year, however, I left the Academy and I went back to the village in Rhodes where my father did not accept me well because I ruined his dreams! And in this way, I left and came to Athens, and I worked until I became 22 years old, when they called me again to serve! And, in this way, I returned to the Navy for a second time, where I served for another two years. When I



1 -
 'Ονομαζομαι Βασίλειος Παλάζης,
 Καθηγόμην από το χωριό της Ρόδου
 Απολλωνα.
 'Όταν ήμουν 17 χρονών ήμουν ναύτης
 στο λιμάνιο της Ρόδου και πήγα να
 στούθω στην Αμερική.
 'Ο πατέρας μου έπαιζε αργασίες στη Θεσσαλονίκη
 όπου ήτο δούλος σε κάποιον κρημ, ήθελε να με
 στείλει στη Ναυτική, και με έστειλε
 στο Ναύτιο του Πόρου για να γίνω κάποιος
 υπαξιωματικός και αργότερα αξιωμα-
 τικός. και έτσι και έγινε!
 Έσπούδι ήμουν καλός μαθητής, και έσπού-
 δι αγγλικά στη Γαλλική μου σε μερικά
 χωρίς ιδιαίτερη, έτσι σπούδι -
 ή πρώτη χρονιά ως πρώτος, πήρα 1,
 και έτσι ήμουν ο πρώτος φρονιμός,

2 -
 όταν ταξίδευα ως Βασίλειος της Αθήνας
 άρχισα της Β2 τάξης και έτσι συνέ-
 ζηκε μια ή δύο χρόνια -
 Αύτη την χρονιά ήμουν επί έμφαση
 την Σχολή, και ήρθα στο χωριό της
 Ρόδου, όπου ή πατέρας μου δούλει έδωκε
 με κατό, όλοι τα κάμαρα τα ήνοριστα!
 και έτσι ήμουν επί έμφαση και ήκομα στην
 Αθήνα, και έργαστομαι, πως ήμουν
 22 χρονών, όπου και με ξανά καμω-
 νη ή απορροή, και έτσι κατατάχθηκε
 πήγα στο Ναυτικό για δεύτερη φορά -
 όπου ήμουν επί έμφαση δύο χρόνια -
 όταν αειώθηκε, Μπαράρα με ένα
 ήμουν επί έμφαση, και ταξίδευα δια 7
 μηνών, Αγγλία, Κούβα, Ιαπωνία, Καναδά,
 στο Καναδά ήμουν, ήμουν μαθητής και σπού-
 δι επί έμφαση εώς το Βασιλικό

3 -
 στο Windsor Ont. όπου ήμουν ναύτης
 κρημ, και ναύτης κρημ, και ναύτης
 ήμουν, και ναύτης κρημ, και ναύτης
 στην Αμερική, και ναύτης κρημ, και ναύτης
 Αμερική το 1960 και έμεινα στην Αμερική
 μες τις ήμουν κρημ. Μπαράρα και ναύτης
 25 χρόνια όπου και ήμουν κρημ, και ναύτης
 διά - τον Πάου, και ναύτης κρημ, και ναύτης
 κρημ, και ναύτης κρημ, και ναύτης
 Βασιλικό. ήμουν κρημ, και ναύτης
 ήμουν, και ναύτης κρημ,
 Αύτη ήμουν ήμουν κρημ, και ναύτης.
 (Χώρκα όπου κρημ, όπου κρημ, και ναύτης
 κρημ, και ναύτης κρημ, και ναύτης κρημ)
 Γεωργίου Στεφανάκη,
 Σας ευχαριστώ
 Βασίλειος Παλάζης

was discharged, I boarded a cargo ship, and I traveled for 7 months to England, Cuba, Japan, Canada. In Canada, however, I got off craftily in Vancouver, and slowly, slowly, I made it to Windsor, Ontario, [because there were about 60 families there from my village. I left everything on the ship. I had no passport. I had nothing. I lived for two years in Windsor.] I began to work secretly and to go to school to learn the [English] language. [I lived fearfully because immigration was looking to find me. They knew that I had left the cargo ship illegally. At that time, ships were charged \$2,000 for each person who jumped ship.]

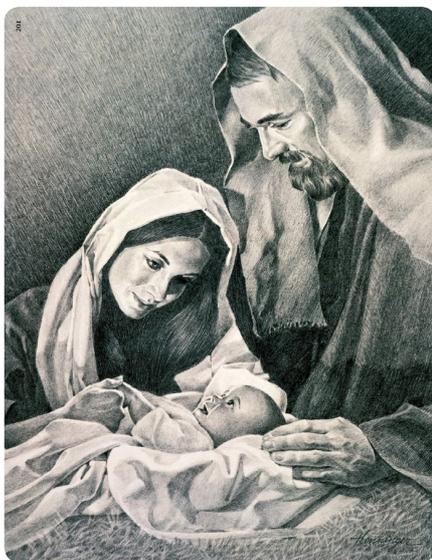
When I met my wife, we got married, and I got accepted to study in America in 1960, and slowly, slowly, I received my diploma as an electrician. I got into Ford, where I worked 25 years [at the Wixom assembly plant] until I retired [in 1994]. We have two children – John and Evgenia. John has 3 daughters, Samantha, Aphrodite, and Vasilia. Evgenia has two children, Angela and Demetri.

In short, this is my story. I was very happy when I read in your newsletter [in the July 2017 issue of *The Logos*] the story of my colleague, George Stefanakis.

Thank you,
 Vasilios Palazis [Βασίλειος Παλάζης]

Parish News Reel

- Volunteers are needed to take on festival chair positions as preparations for the 2018 festival are set to begin early next year. Volunteers for the following committees are needed: Festival Co-Chairs, Set Up and Tear Down, 50/50 Raffle, & Signs. Please contact the church office to help. Many improvements and much assistance are needed to secure the future success of our festival!
- Orthodox Faith class went on a field trip to Detroit Cinema on Thursday, Nov 9th to see the movie *Becoming Truly Human*. DVD's are now available at <http://store.ancientfaith.com/becoming-truly-human-film/>.
- Our community needs more volunteers for the sacred task of baking Proskhoron. The bread is our offering to God which along with the offered wine mystically transforms into the Body of Christ every Sunday. Please see Fr. Nick for recipe and instructions if needed.
- Nativity is participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Register online today using your Kroger plus card.
- December is Stewardship month! Listen for Fr. Nick to speak about the importance of giving and please fill out your 2018 stewardship form prior to the end of the year.
- Sunday School is sponsoring a holiday food and clothing drive for the Northville Civic Concern through the end of the year. All food must be non-perishable and gently used clothing for all ages. Drop off items in



- the fellowship hall or Ed Center.
- Nativity's 26th annual Christmas Auction is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 8th at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall. Bring your friends and family for an evening of fun, fellowship and get some Christmas shopping done early!
- Mama Mia's sponsored a GOYA Guys and Gals Glendi on Nov 25th in honor of St. Michael. All proceeds were donated to the Church.
- Greek Dance Ministry sponsored the film *El Greco* on Dec 1st in the fellowship hall for Mezethes and a Movie.
- The Ellinomatheia certificates were presented on Sunday, Nov. 19th along with a wonderful luncheon and speech by Fr. Philemon on the importance of learning Greek. The event was sponsored by Larry Stassinis and family.
- The Men's Club met for dinner at Big Tommy's Parthenon to plan their 2nd annual wild game dinner. It will be held on Friday, Feb. 2nd with a ticket price of \$75.
- Congratulations to Panos Papadakos for being named All-Star for the boys team at the Holiday Hoops basketball tournament.

FINANCE CENTER as of November 1st, 2017

2017 Budget: \$360,000
Monthly Budget: \$30,000

Parish Offerings*

June: \$19,532
YTD: \$239,559

Stewardship

Pledged: \$194,128
Pledges: 165
Families 269
Members: 551

Mortgage (4% APR)

Paid Monthly: \$1557
(\$1057 + \$500 principal)
Balance: \$107,007

*includes candle offerings

Additional Services

9am Orthros
10am Divine Liturgy

- Wed, Dec 6th.....St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
Tues, Dec 12th.....St. Spyridon the Wonderworker
Sun, Dec 24th.....7pm Vespers Liturgy
Mon, Dec 25th.....Nativity of Christ
Wed, Dec 27th.....St. Stephen the First Martyr
Mon, Jan 1st.....St. Basil the Great
Sat, Jan 6th.....Holy Theophany

Small Paraklesis

Wed, Dec 13th.....7pm
Wed, Dec 20th.....7pm

Upcoming Events

- General Assembly.....noon Sun, Dec 3
Metropolis Open House - 2pm Sun, Dec 3
Philoptochos Xmas Party..6pm Mon, Dec 4
St. Nick's Vespers, Troy - 7pm Tues, Dec 5
Christmas Auction.....6:30pm Fri, Dec 8
REVMA Secret Santa...7pm Sat, Dec 9
St. Spyridon Vespers, Troy.....Mon, Dec 11
GOYA Focus Detroit.....6pm Wed, Dec 13
Family Night.....6pm Fri, Dec 15
GOYA Caroling.....6:30pm Thu, Dec 21
Christmas Pageant.....noon Sun, Dec 24

Please call the church office for more information.

~ Tuesday Group Invitation ~

We invite you to please consider joining the *Tuesday Group*. Following Bible study the group enjoys lunch, fellowship, fun, and playing cards. This gathering is for and about fellowship. There is no cost to you! Stop in for as long as you are able. We have a lot of laughs and this is a great opportunity to get to know each-other better. We look forward to seeing you there! God Bless you!

~ EVERY TUESDAY ~
11am..... Bible Study
Noon.....Fellowship Lunch

Fr. Nick and Presbytera Liza

THE LOGOS

Nativity of The Virgin Mary

Next Deadline: Dec. 15

Please submit all schedules, events, information and photos by **December 15, 2017** for January 2018 edition to: nativitymvoice@gmail.com

Καταβασίαι τῆς Χριστοῦ Γεννήσεως Α'

*Katavasia of Christmas I

ᾠδὴ α'. Ἦχος α'.

Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, δοξάσατε, Χριστὸς ἐξ οὐρανῶν, ἀπαντήσατε, Χριστὸς ἐπὶ γῆς, ὑψώθητε, ἕσατε τῷ Κυρίῳ πάσα ἡ γῆ, καὶ ἐν εὐφροσύνῃ, ἀνυμνήσατε λαοί, ὅτι δεδόξασται.

ᾠδὴ γ'.

Τῷ πρὸ τῶν αἰώνων, ἐκ Πατρὸς γεννηθέντι ἀρρεύστως Υἱῷ, καὶ ἐπ' ἐσχάτων ἐκ Παρθένου, σαρκωθέντι ἀσπόρως, Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ βοήσωμεν· Ὁ ἀνωψώσας τὸ κέρας ἡμῶν, Ἄγιο εἰ Κύριε.

ᾠδὴ δ'.

Ῥάβδος ἐκ τῆς ρίζης Ἰεσσαί, καὶ ἄνθος ἐξ αὐτῆς Χριστέ, ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου ἀνεβλάστησας, ἐξ ὄρου ὁ αἰνετός, κατασκίου δασέος, ἤλθες σαρκωθείς ἐξ ἀπειράνδρου, ὁ ἄυλος καὶ Θεός, Δόξα τῇ δυνάμει σου, Κύριε.

ᾠδὴ ε'.

Θεὸς ὦν εἰρήνης, Πατὴρ οἰκτιρῶν, τῆς μεγάλης Βουλῆς σου τὸν Ἄγγελον, εἰρήνην παρεχόμενον, ἀπέστειλας ἡμῖν· ὅθεν θεογνωσίας, πρὸς φῶς ὀδηγηθέντες, ἐκ νυκτὸς ὀρριζίζοντες, δοξολογοῦμέν σε, Φιλάνθρωπε.

ᾠδὴ ς'.

Σπλάγγων Ἰωάν, ἔμβρυον ἀπίμμεσεν, ἐνάλιος θήρ, οἷον ἐδέξατο, τῇ Παρθένῳ δέ, ἐνοκήσας ὁ Λόγος καὶ σάρκα λαβών, διελήλυθε φυλάζας ἀδιάφθορον· ἡς γάρ, οὐχ ὑπέστη ρεύσεως, τὴν τεκοῦσαν, κατέσχευ ἀπίμαντον.

ᾠδὴ ζ'.

Οἱ Παῖδες εὐσεβεία συντραφέντες, δυσσεβοδὸς προστάγματος καταφρονήσαντες, πυρὸς ἀπειλὴν οὐκ ἐπτοήθησαν, ἀλλ' ἐν μέσῳ τῆς φλογὸς ἐστῶτες ἔψαλλον, ὁ τῶν Πατέρων Θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰ.

ᾠδὴ η'.

Αἰνοῦμεν, εὐλογοῦμεν καὶ προσκυνοῦμεν τὸν Κύριον. Θαύματος ὑπερφουδὸς ἡ δροσοβόλος, ἐξεικόνισε κάμινος τύπον· οὐ γὰρ οὐδὲ ἐδέξατο φλέγει Νέους, ὡς οὐδὲ πῦρ τῆς Θεότητος, Παρθένου ἦν ὑπέδου νηδὸν· διὸ ἀνυμνοῦντες ἀναμέλψωμεν· Ἐδλογοίτω ἡ Κτίσις πάσα τὸν Κύριον, καὶ ὑπερυψούτω εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.

ᾠδὴ θ'.

Μεγάλυνον ψυχὴ μου, τὴν τιμιωτέραν καὶ ἐνδοξοτέραν, τῶν ἄνω στρατευμάτων. Μυστήριον ζένον, ὀρῶ καὶ παράδοξον! οὐρανὸν τὸ Σπήλαιον, θρόνον Χερουβικόν, τὴν Παρθένον, τὴν φάτνην χωρίον, ἐν ᾧ ἀνεκλήθη ὁ ἀχώρητος, Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, ὃν ἀνυμνοῦντες μεγαλύνομεν.

Ode i. Mode 1.

Christ is born; glorify Him! Christ is come from heaven; go and meet Him. Christ is on earth; arise to Him. Sing to the Lord, all you who dwell on the earth; and in merry spirits, O you peoples, praise His birth. For He is glorified.

Ode iii.

To the Son, begotten without flux, of the Father, before the ages, and who was lately made incarnate of the Virgin without seed; to Christ God now let us cry aloud: You have exalted the horn of our strength. Only You are holy, O Lord.

Ode iv.

Jesse's root produced a branch, O Christ, and You its flower blossomed forth, from the Virgin who by Habakkuk prophetically once was called overshadowed, dense mountain. From her who knew not man You came incarnate, the immaterial God. Glory to Your power, O Lord.

Ode v.

God of peace and Father of mercies, Your Son You have sent unto us as Your messenger, the Angel of great counsel who is granting peace. Therefore having been guided to the light of godly knowledge, waking from the night to dawn, we sing Your glory, O Lover of man.

Ode vi.

Such as it received Jonah as an embryo, the sea beast disgorged him from its bowels intact. With the Virgin, though, when the Logos had dwelt in her taking on flesh, He came forth from her preserving her yet incorrupt. For from her no fluxion suffered He, and He kept her unaltered in childbirth.

Ode vii.

The Servants nurtured piously together, with contempt regarding the impious king's decree, intrepidly faced the threat of holocaust, and while standing in the midst of flames they chanted thus, saying: O God of the fathers, You are blessed.

Ode viii.

We praise and we bless and we worship the Lord. Babylon's bedewing furnace bore the image of an extraordinary wonder. For it did not burn the youths it accepted, nor did the fire of Divinity consume the Virgin's womb wherein it went. So let us melodiously chant in praise: Let all creation bless and extol the Lord, and let it exalt Him supremely to the ages.

*From Digital Chant Stand at www.agesinitiatives.com

Wisdom of the Saints

"Parents should love their children as their children and not as their idols. That is to say, they should love their children as they are and not how they would like them to be - to be like them."

Elder Epiphanius Theodoropoulos

"For he who is praying as he ought, and fasting, has not many wants, and he who has not many wants is not covetous. He who fasts is light, and winged, and prays with wakefulness, and quenches his wicked lusts, and propitiates God, and humbles his soul when lifted up. Nothing is mightier than the man who prays sincerely."

St. John Chrysostom

"There is a sin which is always 'unto death' (1Jn 5:16), the sin for which we do not repent. For this sin, even a saint's prayers will not be heard."

St. Mark the Ascetic

"If you notice that your mind constantly wanders off to the various chores you must do [when praying], you must realize that you are not doing well spiritually, and this should alarm you because you have distanced yourself from God."

St. Paisios the Athonite

"The rich man is not one who possesses much, but one who gives much"

St. John Chrysostom

NATIVITY PRAYER LIST

Please Pray for:

Fr. George Vaporis
Soula Metropoulos
Sandy Zembylas
Nick Zembylas
Georgia Theophelis
Jacob Espinosa
Elaine Galbraith
Katherine Beeny
Cleo Demetriou
Alexander Nichoff
Steve Kaplantzes
Gus Photsios
Sheri Wilkins
Aristotle Zarkin
Vasiliki Biselas
Eva Kocoves Fink
Taylor Zembylas
Anastasia Kyriazako
Evangelos Bourouris
Maria Espinosa
Maria Kalas
Eleni Vrahnos
Theodora Bageris
Nick Kyriakou
Michali Malfis
Angeliki Dellas
Andrula Loisides
Jody Stockdale
Bessie Shell
Nick Morakeas
Mia Grace Zembylas
Catherine Dillon
Panagiotis Korellis
Catherine Vardouniotis
Carlo Nichoff
Gail Koumariotis
Anna Kyriakou
Helen Photsios
Maria Rifat
Freda Nicozisis
Parthena Papadopoulou
William Fitzgerald
Frank Maroudis
Presbytera Jenny Newlin
Metropolitan Paul
Archbishop John
(call the office to be added)

Nativity Growth Roadmap – current state October 28

Completed Actions (2016-2017)

- New roof
- Marble
- New carpeting
- Exterior cleaning
- Many maintenance actions inside church
- Tree trimming
- Ed Center Upgrades: carpet, front door, awning, vinyl siding
- New book store
- New reception office
- Hearing aid loop
- Cry room remodeling
- Clergy microphone upgrade

Phase 1 (2017-2018) maintenance and preparation for expansion – seeking estimates

- Pay-off current mortgage (appx. 105k)
- Re-pave parking lot north of office (pursuing quotes)
- Build a pole barn for storage and remove trailer (tbd cost)
- Replace leaking windows – need UV protection for iconography (tbd cost)
- Rough in construction for Pantocrator in ceiling (tbd cost)
- Make-up air upgrade for kitchen (tbd cost)
- Obtain directional cost estimates for phase 2/3
- Determine financing phase 2
- Select iconographer and design

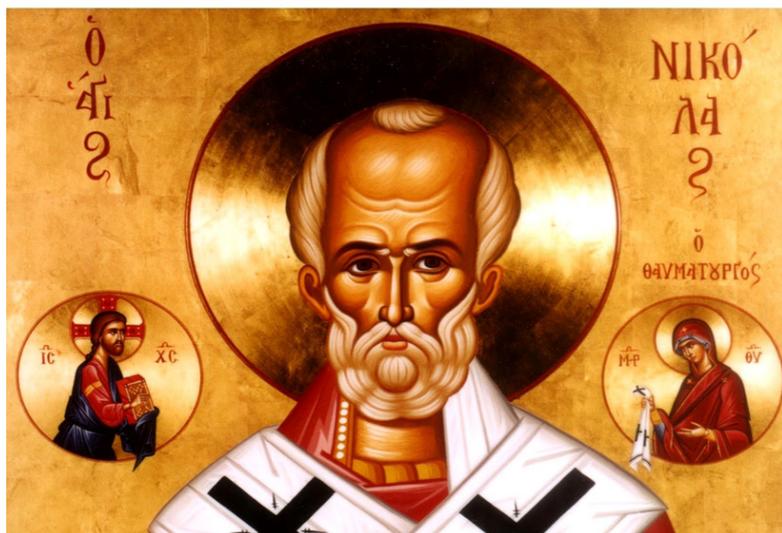
Phase 2 (2019+) expand the church hall including commercial kitchen capability with timing, cost and scope in development). Includes reconfiguration of grounds to incorporate new building (e.g. changes in parking south of current hall). This expands our ability to support the festival and other fundraising.

Phase 3 (2019+) build a gym complex with timing, cost and scope to be determined). New complex to include gym, classrooms, bookstore & library. This will also involve a reconfiguration of our current parking lot.

New Iconography and preservation of existing iconography is dependent on replacement of current windows and sponsorship from parishioners

OPEN HOUSE AND RECEPTION FOR THE FEAST OF

SAINT NICHOLAS



The Metropolis of Detroit Council and the Metropolis of Detroit Ladies Philoptochos invite you to an open house and reception celebrating the Feast of Saint Nicholas and the Nameday of HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN NICHOLAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM



METROPOLIS OFFICES - 2560 CROOKS ROAD - TROY, MI 48084
248.823.2400 · OFFICE@DETROIT.GOARCH.ORG



SAINT SPYRIDON

FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, along with the Metropolis Council and Metropolis Philoptochos, invite you to join us for the Feast of Saint Spyridon, patron saint of the chapel at the Metropolis Offices.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017
6:30PM

Hierarchical Great Vespers and Reception to Follow

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017
10:00AM

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Reception to Follow



2560 CROOKS ROAD - TROY, MI 48084
248-823-2400

St. Theophan the Recluse: On prayer, Homily 4

Delivered 20 December, 1864

Three times I have spoken to you about prayer. (See the preceding homilies: 1, 2, and 3 in previous 3 editions of *The Logos*). About how to read prayers with attention, about how to ascend to God mentally and in your heart, and how to stand constantly before God with a burning spirit. The Lord instructed us in various degrees and types of prayer, so that each, according to his strength, could be a partaker in the goodness of prayer. For the work of prayer is a great work. It is, as I have said, the testimony of the spiritual life, and also the food of the spiritual life. Therefore one must work towards perfection in prayer more than all other things.

I have reminded you how to succeed in each type of prayer. Now I want to remind you, as a warning, that it is difficult, if not impossible, to succeed in prayer, if we do not at the same time work on other virtues.

If we compare prayer to a perfume, and the soul to a bottle for perfume, then we will understand that as perfume does not keep its fragrance in a container full of holes, also the soul cannot continue to pray if there is a lack of virtue. If we compare someone who prays to the whole body, then we see the following lesson: as it is impossible for a man without legs to walk, even if the rest of his body is healthy, so it is impossible to approach God, or reach God in prayer, without active virtue. Look in the apostolic teachings, and you will see that in them prayer does not stand alone, but together with a whole host of virtues. For example, the apostle Paul arms a Christian in spiritual battle and dresses him in the full armor of God. Look at what this is: The belt is truth, the armor is righteousness, the shoes are the gospel of peace, the shield is faith, the helmet is hope, the sword is the word of God (Eph 6.14-17). Such weapons! After all of this he places his warrior in prayer as if in some sort of fortress: “pray at all times in the spirit with all sorts of prayer and petition” (Eph 6.18). It is, of course, possible for prayer alone to defeat all enemies, but in order to be strong in prayer, one must be successful in faith, hope, truth, righteousness,



and all the rest. In another place, the same apostle adorns the soul with bridal clothing as the bride of Christ, saying, “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing

one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Col 3.12-16). In many other places in the word of God, prayer is bound up tightly with all the other virtues, as their queen, after which they all strive, and which draws all of them after itself, or even better, as their fragrant flower. As it is necessary for a flower to be covered with leaves as well as having a stem, branches and root, in order to attract attention, it is also necessary for prayer to be accompanied by other good spiritual inclinations and labors in order to blossom like a flower in the soul; faith is the root, active love is like a stem and branches, and labors of a spiritual-physical nature are like leaves. When such a holy tree is planted in the soul, then in the morning, and in the evening, and during the course of the day, according to its state, the flowers of prayer will freely blossom and fill all of our inner chambers with fragrance.

I remind you of all of this, so that no one would think: “I labor in prayer, and that is enough”. No - one must work and be zealous for all things together, both praying and working at all the virtues. It is true that it is impossible to succeed in virtues without prayer, but it is also necessary to work at the virtues while praying, so that the prayer can show its cooperation in these virtues. In order to succeed in prayer, one must pray, but the labor of prayer should be used as the means to virtues. One must be concerned

about all things, and always strive to be on the right side. The same thing happens in a clock. A clock works properly and shows the correct time only when all of the gears and other parts inside are complete and in their correct place, and joined together properly. This is the same in our inner spiritual mechanism: the striving of the soul will be true like an arrow, directed straight toward God, when all other parts of the soul are whole and are established in their correct places, so to speak, put in place by virtue.

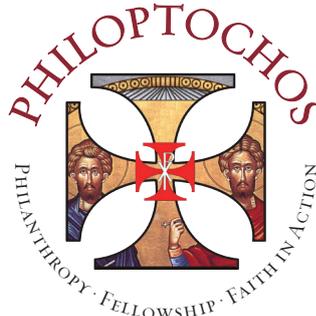
I will teach you what sort of virtues should surround your prayer, or what sort of prayerful, virtuous life a Christian should plant in himself, not in my own words, but in the words of the holy hierarch Dimitri of Rostov, who briefly lists these things in the following instructions (from *Christian Spiritual Instruction*, part 1, p. 288):

1. When you wake up, let your first thought be about God, your first word be a prayer to God your creator and keeper of your life, Who is always able to give life or destroy it, who can strike with illness and heal, and who can save or destroy.
2. Bow and give thanks to God Who raised you from sleep, and Who did not allow you to perish in your sins, but with long-suffering awaited your repentance.
3. Make a start for better things, saying with the Psalmist: “I said, now I have made a beginning” (Ps. 76.11) For no one completes the path to heaven except he who makes a good beginning everyday.
4. From the morning pray like the Seraphim, act like the Cherubim, and be surrounded with angels.
5. Do not waste time any longer. Do only those things which are necessary.
6. In all deeds and words, keep your mind in God; do not write anything in your mind except Christ, and let no image touch your pure heart except the pure image of Christ our God and Savior.
7. Awaken yourself to the love of God in all things, whenever you are able, especially say to yourself with the Psalmist: “in my meditation a fire was kindled” (Ps. 38.4).
8. You desire to love God, Whose visitation you always see and gaze upon with your interior eyes, therefore turn away from all evil deeds, words, and thoughts.

(Continued on page 9)



Photos By Cleanthe Milojevic



Soup Sunday
November 5th





Nativity of the Virgin Mary
Greek Orthodox Church
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26th Annual Christmas Auction

Friday, December 8, 2017

6:30pm

Church Fellowship Hall

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Hors D'oeuvres
Cash Bar



Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit



Orthodox churches to sponsor Christmas
concert Dec. 10

DETROIT—The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) will sponsor its third annual “Christ is Born! Glorify Him! A Detroit Orthodox Christmas Concert” on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. at St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 21931 Evergreen Road (between Eight and Nine Mile roads), Southfield, 48075.

The first part of the concert will feature Nativity hymns and carols from Greece, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine and other lands sung by selected choirs from local Orthodox churches, including St. Mary the Protectress; St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, Southfield; and St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, Detroit. An oratorio-style narration will connect the performances in the concert.

The second part will feature English-language hymns sung by the participating choristers with members of the Orthodox Choir of Metropolitan Detroit and a sing-a-long of popular carols. An afterglow reception will follow.

A freewill offering will be collected during the concert, and attendees are invited to bring canned and non-perishable food for donation to Orthodox Detroit Outreach Community Pantry at Gilbert and Clayton streets.

The public is invited to attend the concert. For further information, contact Olga Liss at (248) 252-8184 or Olgaliss0910@gmail.com.

(St. Theophan from page 7)

Do, say, and think all things honorably, humbly, and with the fear of a son.

9. Let meekness with praise and humility with honor be together.
10. Let your words be quiet, humble, honorable, and useful. Let silence decide the words that you say. From henceforth, let no empty or rotten word escape your lips.
11. If something funny happens, allow yourself only a smile, and this not often.
12. You will fall into prodigality through anger, wrath, and arguing: keep yourself moderate in anger.
13. Always observe moderation in eating and drinking.
14. Be condescending in all things, and God will bless you, and people will praise you.
15. You must pray about your death, which is the end of all things.

See what sort of wonderful life is taught to the praying Christian. It is true that in one place we have spoken more about prayer, that is, of mental and heart-felt turning to God, but in another place, other virtues have been mentioned, and yet without all of them together, it is impossible to get a foothold in prayer. Let everyone strive in knowledge: standing in prayer and exercising is according to your instruction. How can you stand to pray if you are weighed down with intemperance, or carried away with anger, or if you do not stand in peace, or you are distracted by work and lack of attention and so on? If we are to avoid these things, then we are to strive to attain the opposite: that is, virtue. For this reason, St. John of the Ladder speaks of prayer, saying that it is the mother and the daughter of virtues.

Hearing this, some might say, “what great demands! What a heavy burden! Where can I ever find time and the strength?” But be strong, brethren! Very little is necessary, and one must only take up one thing: zeal for God and salvation in Him in your soul. By its nature, the soul has much good in it and it is only misdirected into all evil things. As soon as zeal for salvation and the pleasing of God is born in one’s soul, all of the goodness gathers around this zeal, and immediately no small amount of good appears in the soul. Then zeal, strengthened by the grace of God, with the help of this initial good, begins to find more goodness, and enriches itself with it, and all begins to grow by degrees. Zeal itself has the beginnings of prayer already. It is fed at first by natural virtue, and then begins to feed on the works of virtue that it engendered, and grows and becomes strong, and blossoms and begins to sing and hymn God with a harmonious and prayerful song in the heart.

May the Lord help you succeed in this. Amen.

Troparion of St. Theophan

O guide of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and purity,
ascetic of Vysha, divinely wise and holy hierarch Theophan:
By thy writings thou didst explain the Word of God,
and hast shown the way to salvation unto all the faithful.
Entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

This homily was reprinted from Monachos.net, a web site dedicated to the study of Orthodox Christianity through its patristic, monastic and liturgical heritage.

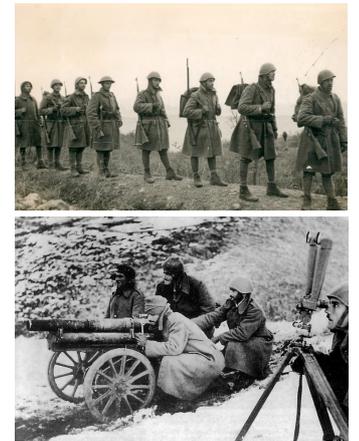
Greek School OXI Day Program ~ Oct. 29th



The Story of OXI Day

The free world watched as one by one countries across Europe surrendered to Hitler's Axis forces. At 3:00 a.m. on October 28, 1940, a representative of the Axis forces arrived at the Greek prime minister's residence and demanded Greece's surrender. The prime minister replied with one single word - Oxi - No.

A few hours later, the Axis forces descended on Greece, expecting that it would quickly fall, but the Greek resistance forced Hitler to change his plans. News of Greece's victory flooded the radio airwaves and covered the front pages of newspapers around the globe. A grateful world celebrated - no one expected such a small nation to derail the seemingly unstoppable Axis forces.



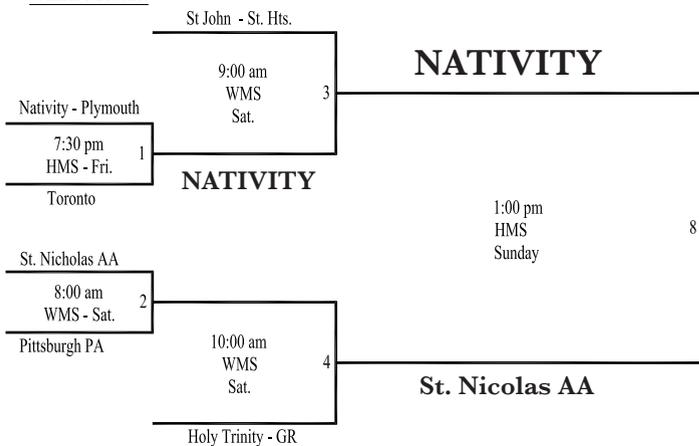
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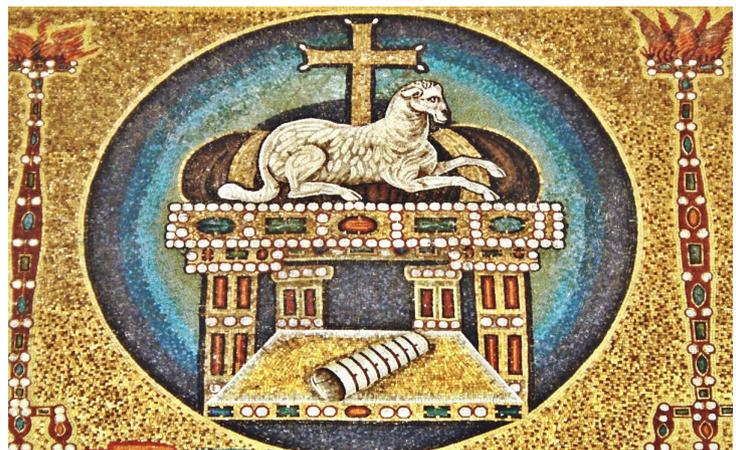
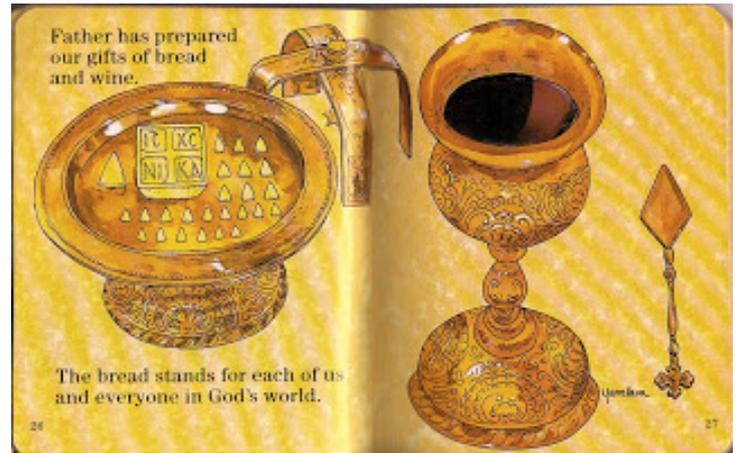
(Fr. Nick from page 1)

This time period truly reminds us that we must prepare our lives to receive the newborn King. We must prepare our lives to become truly the Lord's sons and daughters. Galatians 4:4-7: "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son, into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

Our hearts cry out to God "Abba, Father!" We are His sons and daughters. We are being called to be born again through adoption. Through adoption, we can become everything that God is through the process of Theosis. St. John of Kronstadt in My Life in Christ, beautifully speaks of this. "And so, my brothers, the feast of the Nativity of Christ reminds us that we are born of God, that we are sons of God (1John 3:1), that we have been saved from sin (Matt 1:21) and that we must live for God and not sin; not for flesh and blood, not for the world which lies in evil (1John 5:19). What does the incarnation of God require of us? It requires of us to remember and hold in sacred honor the fact that we are born of God; and if we have sullied or trampled upon this birthright, with our sins, we must restore it by washing it with tears of repentance..."

May we prepare this Nativity to receive the Lord, the King of all!

Many blessings and a very Merry Christmas to all,
Fr. Nick



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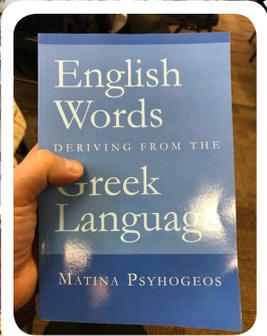
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