



# THE LOGOS

## Nativity of The Virgin Mary

March 2017, Volume 1, No. 1

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The new parish council poses for a photo with Fr. Nick after being sworn in on January 8th

### Visit our Website:

[www.nativitygochurch.org](http://www.nativitygochurch.org)  
For announcements, scheduled events, photos and more!

### Trouble Hearing During Service?

Use the Hearing Aid Loop!  
See PAGE 6 for more info.

**St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival**  
Parish Event Scheduled for **March 15th**, See PAGE 8 for festival topics.

## Lenten Message from Fr. Nick

My beloved in Christ,



Every year during the Lenten Season we ask “What are you giving up for Lent”? Orthodox Christians know that fasting and prayer are a very basic element of this time period. This giving up of something is a personal and voluntary sacrifice that we make to help become more perfect in Christ. So often we hear in response to this question a negative attitude or resignation. We hear people making plans to eat a lot of meat, dairy or to participate in a particular activity before they have to give it up for some 50 days. They want to get as much in as possible before they have to give it up. Such a spirit exhibits defeat even before you start. Fasting is reduced to an act of doing something they don't like. This spirit robs the participant of the joy that is possible, the joy of being with Christ.

To help remove the feelings of negative attitude and defeat during Great Lent maybe we should, in addition to fasting, take an alternative approach, one that will provide the participant in the Lenten Journey with a more positive outlook of this sacred time of the year. The approach is based on the idea that when we help or visit, bring good cheer to others, we are offering it to Jesus Himself (“Love your neighbor as yourself” /Matthew 22:39; “...Amen I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”/ Matthew 25:40). By following this path, a path of blessings to others, we begin to receive joy in our lives. This joy is multiplied to all, giver and receiver alike. Make your Lenten journey more meaningful by trying to do the following:

(Continued on page 3)



## Parish Priest

**Rev. Father Nick Marcus**

Cell (616) 328-3143  
frnickmarcus@gmail.com

## Services

Sunday  
8:45am Orthros  
10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday  
7:00pm Paraklesis

## Office

**Kathy Kyriacou, Admin**

Office (734) 420-0131  
secretarynm@yahoo.com  
Monday - Friday, 10am to 2pm

## Nativity Bookstore & Fr. George Vaporis Library Hours

Tues - Sat, 10am to 2pm  
Tuesday, 6pm to 8pm  
Thursday, 5pm to 8pm  
Sunday, 12noon to 2pm

## NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

39851 West Five Mile Road  
Plymouth, Michigan  
www.nativitygochurch.org

The Logos - Volume 1, No. 1

# Welcome to *The Logos*, Nativity's new monthly publication

You may or may not have noticed, but it has been nearly a year since the last monthly newsletter of our parish was published. If you go to our website ([www.nativitygochurch.org](http://www.nativitygochurch.org)) under the publications tab, you will find the last edition of the Nativity Epistle was from April 2016.

At first, it seemed a good idea to stop producing the monthly. From the perspective of those of producing it, it appeared only a handful of people were reading it and for quite some time, Kathy Kyriacou our office administrator, graphic designer, and printer, was having difficulties getting content by deadline, making her job of producing the publication very difficult. Further, with the heightened use of all things digital, it seemed the need for the monthly was waning.

Considering very few people mentioned the loss, complained, or even noticed we had stopped producing it, I thought we made the right decision by letting it be put to rest for the time being.

However, as I was thumbing through our Nativity By-Laws in preparation for the new parish council this year, I came across Article X, Sec 3 - Communication. It states, "The Parish Council, under the auspices of the Priest, shall prepare and deliver to all Parishioners a monthly Parish newsletter or bulletin." Oops-y daisies.

Therefore, as council president, on behalf of Fr. Nick and the parish council, I apologize for the lapse in bringing you a monthly newsletter, and am pleased to introduce Nativity's new newsletter, *The Logos*.

We all know there is much power in the written word, whether it be used with intentions of good or evil. However, there is infinite power in the Word of God - The Logos - our Lord Jesus Christ, whom we proclaim and serve together as one local Body here at Nativity. With this inspiration in mind, *The Logos* was born as the new name of our monthly newsletter.

Furthermore, if we are going to produce something, why not do it to the best of our ability, even more so when Christ is the subject matter? This newsletter is a parish ministry, and as such, intends to glorify God to the fullest. And if part of it's purpose is to keep every parishioner informed, then just like days of old, we need to send a hard copy in the mail to be held in hand when desiring.

Since you are holding one, we hope you like it, and encourage your feedback and support. Also, in keeping with the times, the following mission statement was drafted to sharpen the focus of this parish ministry, which if done properly, may have a positive impact for our community:

"To creatively communicate and report parish news, services, sacraments, and ministry events to all Nativity faithful; to advance the understanding of our Orthodox Faith and sacramental life while recording the history of our parish; to promote stewardship, fellowship, charity, and love in Christ our God, who is *The Logos* and sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17)."

*Email the editor, Louis Poulos at [navitymvoice@gmail.com](mailto:nativitymvoice@gmail.com)*



(Fr. Nick, continued from page 1)

**Week 1:** Share your love for Christ by writing at least 2 notes or cards telling a person how much you appreciate them; include someone you might not normally think to say this to. Example: Sunday school teacher, boss, your children or spouse, etc. (Please no emails or texting)

**Week 2:** Telephone or visit (no emails or texting make it personal) with two or three people just to chat. Tell them what they mean to you and say "Thank you", or "I'm sorry" if needed. Make an effort to include someone you wanted to contact in the past few months (or longer) but never got around to it. Read: 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 on Love.

**Week 3:** Take a small gift to a neighbor or a shut-in. It can be as simple as a pie, a flower, or a trinket, even *Andithoro* (Αντιδώρο/blessed bread passed out after Divine Liturgy). Or, do an errand for an elderly person. The important thing is to offer yourself with joy.

**Week 4:** Make a list of 10 people to pray for each day. Include people you don't get along with very well. Forgive them if they have wronged you and ask forgiveness if you've wronged them. Read: 1 John Chapter 4:7-21

**Week 5:** Pray for God to help you this week. Ask God to search your heart and mind to reveal a change you need to make in your life. Be silent after your prayer; let God speak to your heart. Read: the daily bible passage. If you have not gotten into the habit begin to read the daily bible readings. You can always pick up a Daily Bible Reading Guide at the candle stand.

**Week 6:** Do something special with your family. Instead of watching TV after dinner read Small Compline from your prayer book as a family. It takes about 7 or 8 minutes to read. You can get a prayer book from church or the book store, you can also go on line at goarch.org and download Small Compline. Find another activity you can do together maybe help a ministry or clean-up at church getting it ready for Holy Week. Do something together; it's all about the fellowship. Live an abundant life of love in Christ and Lent will never seem like a chore. Lent will become a harbor of peace and joy to you and you will look forward to it, even the fasting!

*May our God, Jesus Christ bring you strength, peace and joy.*

*A blessed Lent! Καλή Σαρακοστή,*

*Fr. Nick*



## Hope/Joy Ministry News

Hope/Joy has had a busy and fun year so far! In November, our group collected items for and made fleece scarves for FOCUS Detroit. We provided approximately 50 grocery bags with food for Detroit kids in need.

In December we had our Christmas party. Fr Nick talked about the Nativity of Christ. Each child made an ornament to take home. We also made Christmas cards. We took them to visit Fr. Charles and others at his residence, where we also sang Christmas carols.

In January Fr Nick taught the kids how to make Proshpora. All 19 proshpora turned out great and the seals were perfect. Fr Nick used them in the Divine Liturgy. The kids especially enjoyed playing outside in the fresh snow!

In February, we learned about Great Lent. Fr Nick discussed fasting, prayer and other ways we prepare ourselves for Great Lent. The kids were given the prayer of St. Ephraim.

We will not have a meeting in March. In April we have Saturday of Lazarus Liturgy and we will be making palm crosses for Palm Sunday. Also in April, the Good Friday retreat with Sunday School will be on Friday April 14.

Please join us at the next Family Night in May for fellowship and our meeting. Thank you to Fr Nick who teaches us so much about our faith and has fun with us!

**As a reminder, JOY age kids are 8-12 and HOPE are 4-7 years old. Family night is usually the 3rd Friday of every month. For more info email Presbytera Liza at lizamarcus@hotmail.com**

## Parish News Reel

- A hearing aid loop was installed under the carpet, which allows those with hearing aids to clearly hear the services and sermon. See Fr. Nick or parish council to learn how.
- On Sunday January 8th, the new parish council took their oath of office and The Panagia won the Vasilopita coin for the parish.
- On Theophany, Metropolitan Nicholas presided over the Divine Liturgy along with Deacon Alex.
- On Sunday January 15th, the Three Hierarchs Greek School held their New Years program at St. Cons, enjoying a wonderful complimentary lunch.
- Hope/Joy spent Family Night Jan. 20th learning to make Prosfora .
- Nativity Dancers held their cake fund-raiser on Sunday Jan 22nd.
- The parish council conducted a new council member training meeting on Tuesday, Jan 24th.
- The parish council allocated funds to upgrade the office computer and purchase a lap top. The total cost was \$1600 and the project is being spearheaded by new council member Dean Stavrou.
- Attempts to introduce wifi to the Ed Center are under way.
- Elaine Hamilton, Nativity's Missions Director has reserved 15 spots for Goyans to go to Project Mexico this August. Contact her at Lanney909@gmail.com for more info.
- Sandy Snyder has been rehired to provide cleaning services for the church, effective January 1st.
- GOYA Apokriatiko Glendi on Feb. 4th - DJ Yianni Petrou, great food, dancing, and fun had by all.
- Many parishioners gathered in fellowship to watch the Super Bowl on the big screen in the hall. What a comeback!
- The Philtochos Love Luncheon on Feb 12th was a huge success, lovingly feeding over 150 guests with food donated by George's Senate. Theodora Bageris was honored for her many years of dedication to the Ladies Society (Photos in next months edition).
- Please recycle your paper in the green and yellow "paper retriever" next to the Ed Center.
- The Greek Independence Day Parade is on Sunday, March 26th at 3pm.

### FINANCE CENTER as of February 1st, 2017

2017 Budget: \$360,000

Monthly Budget: \$30,000

#### Parish Offerings

January: \$30,255

#### Stewardship

Pledged: \$151,707

Pledges: 109

Families 256

Members: 537

#### Roof Project

Pledged: \$55,000

Received: \$46,272

#### Mortgage (4% APR)

Paid Monthly: \$1557

(\$1057 + \$500 principal)

Balance: \$117,000

## The Blessing of Homes at Epiphany

By Fr. Nick

Following the days of the Epiphany feast, the priest visits the homes of parishioners to perform the Agiasmo and bless the family. If you wish to have your home blessed, please visit Kathy in the office to fill out a form to schedule the visit. Visits can be scheduled Tuesday through Saturday any time.

### Getting Ready for a Home Blessing:

When Christ entered the Jordan River, he sanctified the waters and all of creation. An important sign of God's sanctification of all things through the feast of Theophany is the act of blessing the homes of faithful Christians. The priest visits the members of the church to pray with them in their homes, and to bless their surroundings with Holy Water. He asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing.

### What to Prepare

- Make a list of the first names of family members you wish to pray for when the priest arrives.
- On your dining room table or family altar, place a lighted candle, incense burner, a family icon, a wide bowl to hold water, some fresh basil, and the prayer list.
- Turn off TV's, stereos, and computers.
- A visit typically lasts 30 minutes.

When the priest arrives, everyone in the house should gather around the table and join in singing the litany responses and troparia. The family will then lead the priest throughout the house for the blessing.

## THE LOGOS

Nativity of The Virgin Mary

Next Deadline: March 15

Please submit all schedules, events, information and photos by **March 15, 2017**

for April edition to:

nativityvmvoice@gmail.com

## ~ Tuesday Group Invitation ~

We invite you to please consider joining the *Tuesday Group*. Following Bible Study the group enjoys lunch, fellowship, fun, and 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**

## Memory Eternal



### Stephanie Christine Holstad

*October 9, 1965 - January 13, 2017*

Stephanie Christine Holstad, a resident of Northville, passed from this life on January 13, 2017, at the age of 51. Stephanie was the beloved wife of Jeffrey and the devoted mother to Zachary and Jake. She was the loving daughter of Evans and Diane Bageris and wonderful sister to Michael, John and Andrew. She was the fun-loving aunt to Nicholas, Jennifer, Luke, Elaine, Matthew, Alec, Aidan and Keenan. Stephanie was a Senior Marketing Representative for Freemont Insurance from 2011 until present. She enjoyed both playing hockey and watching her sons play as well. She was deeply devoted to her Greek Orthodox faith, loved photography, golf, and fitness/nutrition. Stephanie was a cancer survivor advocate, who left no stone unturned fighting her own battle. She was always willing to help anyone else fighting the disease.

## Wisdom of the Saints

“Fasting is wonderful because it tramples our sins like a dirty weed, while it cultivates and raises truth like a flower.”

*St. Basil the Great*

“Repentance is the beginning, middle and end of the Christian way of life, so it is both sought and required before holy baptism, in holy baptism, and after holy baptism.”

*St. Gregory Palamas*

“What we gain by fasting is not so great as the damage done by anger; nor is the profit from reading as great as the harm done when we scorn or grieve a brother.”

*St. John Cassian*

“Do not allow human respect to get in your way when you hear someone slandering his neighbor. Instead, say to him, ‘Brother, stop it! I do worse things every day, so how can I criticize him?’ You accomplish two things when you say this. You heal yourself and you heal your neighbor with the one bandage.”

*St. John Climacus*

“Many of us are talkers, few are doers.”

*St. Maximos the Confessor*

“Afflictions for God’s sake are dearer to him than any prayer or sacrifice.”

*St. Isaac the Syrian*

From the **Daily Lives, Miracles and Wisdom of the Saints Calendar**  
The Orthodox Calendar Company, [www.livesofthesaintscalendar.com](http://www.livesofthesaintscalendar.com)

### Lenten Prayer

**St. Ephraim the Syrian**

O Lord and Master of my life, remove from me the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust of power and vain talk (prostration).

But give rather the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love to your servant (prostration).

Yea, O Lord and King, grant that I may see my own sins and not judge my brother, for you are blessed unto the ages of ages. Amen. (prostration)

Lord have mercy (twelve times)

*Then the prayer of St. Ephraim is repeated with only one prostration at the end.*

### Daily Prayer

**Met. Philaret of Moscow**

O Lord, grant me to greet this coming day in peace. Help me in all things to rely upon your holy will. In every hour of the day reveal your will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the day with peace of soul, and with the firm conviction that your will governs all. In all my deeds and words guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events help me to remember that all are sent by you. Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering or embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of the coming day with all that it shall bring. Direct my will, teach me to pray, pray you yourself in me. Amen.

## 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  
Aristoile Zarkin  
Vasiliki Biselas  
Eva Kocoves Fink  
Taylor Zembylas  
Anastasia Kyriazako  
Evangelos Bourouris  
Maria Espinosa  
Maria Kalas  
Eleni Vrahnos  
Theodora Bageris  
Nick Kyriacou  
Michali Malafis  
Angeliki Dellas  
Andrula Loisides  
Jody Stockdale  
Bessie Shell  
Nick Morakeas  
Mia Grace Zembylas  
Christine Droz  
Catherine Dillon  
Panagiotis Korellis  
Catherine Vardouniotis  
Carlo Nichoff  
Gail Koumariotis  
Anna Kyriacou  
Helen Photsios  
Maria Rifat  
Parthena Papadopoulou  
Project Mexico Team  
Metropolitan Paul  
Archbishop John  
(call the office to be added)

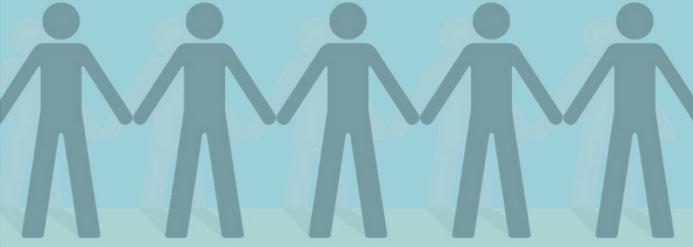


METROPOLIS OF DETROIT

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# Hearing is Believing! New Hearing Aid Loop Proves Beneficial

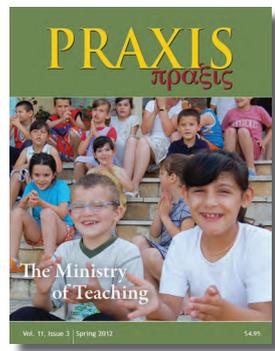
## Parish News Source

Through the generous donation of funds by parishioner Larry Stassinis, a new hearing induction loop was purchased and installed under the new carpet. Signs posted in the narthex notify those with hearing aids to switch their hearing aid to “T” upon entering.

The loop allows anyone with a hearing aid to clearly hear all sound going through the church sound system through their hearing aid. Many parishioners were complaining they could not hear Fr. Nick very well during services, but that problem has been solved for those with hearing aids now that the loop is installed. The loop creates a harmless magnetic field that transmits church audio directly into the hearing aid. Those with a hearing aid should take advantage of this wonderful new technology.

If your hearing aid does not have a switch, please see Fr. Nick for information on how to get a “T-coil” installed in your hearing aid for free. Furthermore, if you are using it and hear a buzzing sound, please move to a different location in the church to solve the problem. There are a few locations next to certain light fixtures that cause buzzing in the hearing aid.

Additionally, the church owns two sets of portable head phones which access the loop and act as hearing aids. If you are having trouble hearing and would like to try one, please ask a parish council member or usher at the candle stand to help you.



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## Meet William Smith



William Smith was raised in Livonia Michigan and grew up attending St. Nicks in Troy. While there, William or Bill as he is also known, served in the altar for many years and was involved in various other activities. Serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ weekly in the altar inspired William’s calling to learn more about God and pursue a seminary degree to possibly be ordained a priest.

William graduated Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in 2014 receiving a Master of Divinity degree. He also has a BA in music from Wayne State University in Detroit. His love of music is expressed through playing the violin, clarinet, saxophone and chanting with the Nativity Byzantine Choir. He has also performed locally with the Novi Concert Band and Southern Great Lakes Symphony Orchestra. Currently Bill is attending the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Plymouth, Michigan. He enjoys assisting Fr. Nick Marcus while chanting services, leading the altar boys, and assisting wherever help is needed.

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## Parish Ministry Spot Light

### *Byzantinge Choir*

The Nativity choir is unique in the Detroit Metropolitan. Nativity works hard to retain the type of choir that has been found in Orthodox churches for centuries. The choir has the sacred task of chanting the Divine Liturgy and other special services. The hymns of Byzantine chant that you hear, have their roots in the early church of the Apostles. Music is read from the Byzantine script. The choir forms an integral part of the worship service of the holy Church, a responsibility which must be fulfilled with devotion, commitment and reverence. The Choir of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary strives to be exemplary in this regard.

Recognizing that chanting is an art, it is understood that choir members will be able to sing on-pitch with the accompanying singers. While ability to read music is not required, it is desirable. Most of our hymns are chanted in Greek but work continues on chanting in English. If you have musical aptitude and are interested in joining the choir, please contact Demetri Tzelepis (586) 489-7978.

### *Ladies Philoptochos*

Our mission is to minister to the needy of our community. As our name indicates (Philo-Ptochos), our purpose is to be the friend of the poor. As the church's main philanthropic arm, you are welcome to join us in our ministry, attend meetings, and make new friends. Each year we sponsor and run fundraising events such as "The Love Luncheon" and charitable drives like "The Giving Tree" for those less fortunate. Our ladies are involved with collecting and distributing food to needy families in the metropolitan Detroit area. At the Metropolitan level, our Philoptochos contributes to the success of the various ministries of the Metropolitan.

Together with various fund-raising activities to support Metropolitan and Archdiocesan charities and institutions, our Philoptochos plays a vital role in the local Church: monthly meetings, coffee hour, co-hosting events with other parish ministries, distributing Bibles, prayer books, icons, etc. to parishioners, decorating church during various holidays, luncheons and many other activities. Please contact Theodora Bageris for more information (248) 471-3662.

## National Ministry Spot Light

### *Department of Religious Education*

50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445  
Phone (646) 519-6300 | Toll-free (800) 566-1088  
Fax (617) 850-1489 | E-mail [religioused@goarch.org](mailto:religioused@goarch.org)

Providing many resources for parents, teachers, and all Orthodox Christians including:

- PRAXIS Magazine
- Church School Curriculum
- Orthodox Christian Resource Catalogue
- The Planner - A Orthodox Daily Scheduler
- Conducts Adult Retreats, Religious Education Teacher Workshops, and Leadership Training Seminars throughout the Archdiocese.

- Organizes the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, now in it's 31st year. It is an annual speech competition open to Orthodox youth in junior or senior high school.

#### THEIR MISSION

The mission of the Department of Religious Education is to serve the parishes and dioceses of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America by providing materials and services that will advance their programs of religious education.

The Department also serves individuals, organizations, military bases, ecumenical groups, and overseas parishes with catechetical resources that advance the spiritual admonition to:

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18)

*Above info and more at their website:*

*[www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religioused](http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religioused)*

# Nativity's Project Mexico Team

**Hello Fellow Parishioners,**

As you may know, I will be leading a mission trip to Mexico with some of the older Goyans and others who are interested. Throughout this letter, I answer questions and concerns I had last year, and I am sure many of you have this year.

**What is Project Mexico?**

Project Mexico builds secure, safe, and weather-proof homes for families in need, strictly on volunteer work. During the week, we spend four days building this house for an amazing family, whom we will be able to meet and interact with throughout the building process, go to church, meet the orphanage boys, and so, so much more.

• Learn more at their website: [www.projectmexico.org/homebuilding/](http://www.projectmexico.org/homebuilding/)

**Where do you stay? Is it safe?**

Quoted from the Project Mexico website:

“The safety of our boys, staff members, and volunteers is our highest priority. For the past 27 years, we have worked diligently to ensure the safety of all individuals involved with our ministry. Perhaps the strongest endorsement for our commitment to safety is the fact that we have not experienced a single safety incident in our 27 year history, which spans over 11,000 volunteers and 289 homes built.”

When I went last year, there was never a point in time where I felt unsafe, even as I crossed the border into or out of Mexico. There are volunteers who work at the camp year round, and more that work all summer; who make sure everybody knows



where they are going, what they are doing, and who they are with.

**How many people can go?**

The dream will be to eventually take all of you! For now though, Father Nick, Presbyter Liza, Irini and Anna Marcus, Thomas Dalton, Carlos Randall, Zoe Homyak, Fotini Michalakis and myself are going for sure.

**How much does it cost?**

Last year, my total trip cost was around \$900. This included the donations to Project Mexico, my transportation (airfare and on ground), and spending money. This year, I estimate total costs should be around \$1,000 per person. The increase in costs is due to the increase in amount of donations Project Mexico needs per person.

**How did I fundraise?**

Through my fundraising last year, I was able to pay for my whole trip, and have leftover donations for future missions.

I started a GoFundMe page, and shared it on Facebook so all of my friends and family could see it. Every week or so, I would post an update on my fundraising endeavors, and pray that more people would donate. Also, prior to me going on the trip, I talked in front of the parish, and asked for prayers and donations.

This year, my idea was that each individual will fundraise by themselves. However, anything done through the church will be split between all of us. So, if we decide to hold a bake sale, pass a basket, or anything else, the whole missionary team would benefit from the money received.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who has donated so far this year, your gift is greatly appreciated. If you would like to further contribute to this cause, please look for our Project Mexico donation box in the narthex or contact the church office. Also, please keep the Nativity Project Mexico Team in your prayers.

If you have any other questions, don't hesitate to email me!

**Elaine Hamilton**  
 Nativity Missions Director  
[lanney909@gmail.com](mailto:lanney909@gmail.com)



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**2017 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Topics**

**Junior Division (Grades 7-9)**

1. The opening petition of the Divine Liturgy is "In peace let us pray to the Lord." What is this peace, and why do we need it to begin our prayers?
2. St. John Chrysostom said, "Our alms are judged not by the measure of our gifts, but by the largeness of our mind" (Homily 52 on the Gospel of Matthew). Discuss how even small acts of kindness and generosity can make a difference.
3. Discuss the role of bread and its symbolism in the Bible and the life of the Church.
4. The Orthodox Church venerates saints and martyrs every day. Talk about a saint whose life inspires you to be a better Orthodox Christian.
5. Explain why the Orthodox Church focuses more on the resurrection than it does on the passion and suffering of Christ.

**Senior Division (Grades 10-12)**

1. The gap between the rich and the poor in the United States and worldwide is arguably wider than it has ever been. How should we as Orthodox Christians address such terrible financial inequality?
2. Although many people diet for health or vanity, the discipline of fasting is found in many religious traditions. What is the difference between dieting and fasting, and why is it important?
3. Psalms are an integral part of matins, vespers, and many other Church services. Talk about a psalm that impacts or influences your life.
4. The Lord commanded us not to create idols (Exodus 20:4), yet people continue to do so. Discuss the kinds of idols people make or worship today and the response that an Orthodox Christian should have when confronted by them.
5. Jesus said, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21). When no political party represents genuine Christian teaching, how does an Orthodox Christian navigate political conversations and make political judgments?

For Topics, Tips, and Resources, goto:

[www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religioused/sjcof/sjcof\\_2017\\_topics\\_tips.pdf](http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religioused/sjcof/sjcof_2017_topics_tips.pdf)

Join thousands of teens across the nation &  
**#ShareOrthodoxy!**  
 2017 ORATORICAL FESTIVAL



**EXPLORE** a deeper knowledge of your Orthodox faith  
**THINK** critically about current issues  
**SPEAK** to a gentle and loving audience

**Share Your FAITH** Junior Division for Grades 7-9  
 Senior Division for Grades 10-12

**AWARDS** - The Chrysostom Scholarship for Hellenic College  
 The 2016 finalists are eligible to receive a Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College. This scholarship provides awards ranging from \$2,500 up to \$30,000 per year.

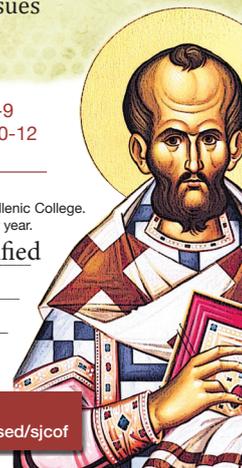
Parish Festival Date **Wed March 15, after Presanctified**

Parish Chairperson **See Fr. Nick**

Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is a Ministry of the Department of Religious Education from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

Find the topics, rules, and prize information at  
<http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religioused/sjcof>



# Share a Recipe



## Prosporon

By Fr. Nick

- 5 cups flour (sifted)
- 2 tsp dry active yeast
- 1.5 to 1.75 cups warm water (depends on flour)
- 1 tsp salt
- Prosporon Seal

1. Before you begin, make the sign of the cross in the flour saying: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
2. Dissolve yeast in warm water (water should be 105 deg F, no more than 110 deg F) let stand for about 10 minutes. It will start to bubble.
3. Place yeast water in mixing bowl and place flour on top and do not mix. Sprinkle salt on top of flour. Let stand for 10 minutes.
4. Begin mixing (in mixer) or kneading by hand. You will want a tecture that is smooth, firm and only a little sticky. Mix about 10 minutes in mixer and 15 minutes by hand.
5. Once it is at the consistency you want, take out and separate evenly into two portions. Knead each portion to form a ball - flatten ball.
6. Make the sign of the cross on top of the dough saying: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Press with Seal.
7. On the outside circle of the seal place periodic toothpick holes, also on the inner cross, and the sides.
8. Set loaves covered with a towel or plastic in a warm over to rise approximately 30 minutes (Note: It will rise more in oven during baking)
9. Bake at 350 deg. F for 30 minutes, more/less time if needed. The temperature of the Prosporon should be 160 to 190 deg F (check w/ thermometer)
10. Make a list of names that you want the priest to pray for - living and dead. (Please Submit a Lenten recipe for next month's edition @ nativitymvoice@gmail.com)

# Coffee Hour

- February 26th.....Hope/Joy
- March 5th ..... Project Mexico Bake Sale
- March 12th .....Philoptochos
- March 19th .....Gale & Dennis Ford
- April 2nd .....Nativity Dancers Bake Sale
- April 9th .....Palm Sunday Luncheon
- April 16th .....Pascha

## Volunteers Needed

Consider volunteering at THE LOGOS if you have any experience or desire to help with this ministry. Please email: nativitymvoice@gmail.com

- **Advertising Sales Representative-** direct the sale of advertising.
- **Graphic Designer-** assist in creating sales ads, flyers, layout.
- **Journalist-** To interview parishioners and write a monthly column that highlights their life story.
- **Photographer-** capture photos of ministry events and services.
- **Research Assistant-** Research the internet for current, usable content.



## MICHIGAN AREA GOYA LENTEN RETREAT

WHY ORTHODOXY?



**WHEN**  
Saturday,  
March 11, 2017  
11:30am - 7:30pm

**WHERE**  
Assumption Church  
21800 Marter Road  
St. Clair Shores, MI

**COST**  
FREE. Please bring non-perishable food items to be donated.

**REGISTER**  
ALL Youth/chaperones must register online by MARCH 1st

REGISTER ONLINE @ [www.detroit.goarch.org/migoya](http://www.detroit.goarch.org/migoya)

248 823 2411 | [youth@detroit.goarch.org](mailto:youth@detroit.goarch.org) | [detroit.goarch.org](http://detroit.goarch.org)



## LENTEN APPEAL

Looking for a way to get involved with FOCUS? Here are some ways you can help this LENT:

- o Sign-up to **tutor** or read to kids during the school day at these schools:
  - o Greenfield Union (7 mile & Woodward)
  - o Edmonson Academy (Midtown)
  - o Ann Visger (River Rouge)
  - o Escuela Avancemos (Southwest Detroit)
- o Conduct a **food donation drive** at your church, neighborhood, or workplace for:
  - o Granola or cereal bars, fruit snacks
  - o Pop-top: soup, Chef-boyardee or tuna
  - o Cup of soup, ramen noodles, mac n cheese cups
  - o Cereal bowls, small boxes, or oatmeal packets
  - o Small snack bags or fruit cups
- o Financial donation earmarked "food for hungry children"

**FOCUSDetroit.org + Detroit@focusna.org + 248-671-4483**  
1300 W. Canfield St. Detroit, MI 48201

*"A Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve"*

## Lenten Services

### February

18th..... 8:45am, Saturday of Souls  
 25th..... 8:45am, Saturday of Souls  
 26th..... **Forgiveness Sunday**  
 6pm, Forgiveness Service  
 27th..... Lent Begins  
 27th..... 7pm, Great Compline w/Meal  
 28th..... 7pm, Great Compline

### March

1st..... 6pm, Presanctified Liturgy  
 2nd..... 7pm, Great Compline  
 3rd..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy  
 7pm, Salutations to the Theotokos  
 4th..... 8:45am, Saturday of Souls  
 5th..... **Sunday of Orthodoxy**  
 7th..... 7pm, Great Compline  
 8th..... 6pm, Presanctified Liturgy  
 9th..... 7pm, Great Compline  
 10th..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy  
 7pm, Salutations to the Theotokos  
 12th..... **Sunday St. Gregory Palamas**  
 14th..... 7pm, Great Compline  
 15th..... 6pm, Presanctified Liturgy  
 16th..... 7pm, Great Compline  
 17th..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy  
 7pm, Salutations to the Theotokos  
 19th..... **Sunday of the Holy Cross**  
 21st..... 7pm, Great Compline  
 22nd..... 6pm, Presanctified Liturgy  
 23rd..... 7pm, Great Compline  
 24th..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy  
 7pm, Vespers Annuciation Detroit  
 25th..... 8:45am, Annuciation  
 26th..... **Sunday of St. John Climacus**  
 28th..... 7pm, Great Compline  
 29th..... 6pm, Presanctified Liturgy  
 30th..... 7pm, Great Compline  
 Reading of Canon & Life of St. Mary of Egypt  
 31st..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy  
 7pm, Akathist Hymn

### April

2nd..... **Sunday St. Mary of Egypt**  
 4th..... 7pm, Great Compline  
 5th..... 6pm, Presanctified Liturgy  
 6th..... 7pm, Great Compline  
 7th..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy  
 8th..... 8:45am, Saturday of Lazarus



## Holy Week & Pascha

### April 9th-16th

Sunday..... **Palm Sunday**  
 7pm, **Bridegroom Matins**  
 Monday..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy  
 7pm, **Bridegroom Matins**  
 Tuesday..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy  
 7pm, **Bridegroom Matins**  
 Wednesday..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy  
 7pm, **Holy Unction Service**  
 Thursday..... 7:30am-8:30am, Communion  
 9am, **Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil**  
 6pm, **12 Gospels of the Crucifixion**  
 Friday..... 10am, Holy Hours  
 12:30pm Holy Friday Youth Retreat  
 3pm, **Vespers of the Apokathelosis**  
 6:30pm, **Lamentation Services**  
 Saturday..... 10am, The Protoanastasis  
 11pm, **Resurrection Service**  
 Sunday of Pascha..... 11am, **Agape Service**



## Lenten and Paschal Events

### Sunday of Orthodoxy & Scouts Sunday, March 5th

All Scouts are asked to come to Liturgy in uniform and meet Mrs. Mary Takis at 10am in the Narthex. Bring a Lenten baked good to raise money for Project Mexico and Missions.

### Lenten Pot Luck & Speaker Following Presanctified Liturgy

Immediately following all 6pm Wednesday night Presanctified Liturgies, a Lenten pot luck fellowship meal is shared and Fr. Nick or a guest will give a presentation. Bring your favorite Lenten dish to pass and enjoy the speaker.

- **Wed, March 15th**, the youth participating in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival will be reading their speeches.

### Pancakes & Palm Crosses Lazarus Saturday, following Liturgy

Join in making palm crosses and a pancake breakfast buffet. Also, the church and grounds will be cleaned up, please bring a change of clothes if you are able to stay and help.

### Palm Sunday Luncheon April 9th, Following Liturgy

Enjoy a delicious fish dinner sponsored and served by the Nativity Parish Council. Tickets are \$15 per adult and \$5 per child age 12 and under. Purchase tickets in advance from any parish council member or from the Church office. Limited seating available.

### Holy Friday Youth Retreat April 14th, 12:30pm-3pm

Religious Ed's annual retreat for all Church School youth of all ages. An important experience learning the theology, symbols, and hymns of Holy Week. Followed by the Apokathelosis (Taking Down from the Cross Service). Please register your child today in the Church office.

### Calling all Myrrh-bearers April 14th, Lamentations Service

Inviting all daughters and young ladies to represent the faithful and holy women who went to the tomb to dress Jesus's body with sweet herbs and spices. It is a position of honor and love. To participate:

- Girls must arrive at church by 5:15pm.
  - Wear all white modest, appropriate dresses.
  - No unduly tight fitting or revealing clothing.
- Please call **Mary Takis** before Palm Sunday at (734) 459-9311.

### Paschal Fellowship Meal

**April 15th, Following Paschal Liturgy**  
 Enjoy a complimentary meal and Paschal egg cracking tournament for the kids.

### Easter Egg Hunt

**April 16th, after Agape Service**  
 Hunt for candy filled eggs on the church grounds after Agape service.

**Paschal Troparion: CHRIST IS RISEN – Χριστός ανέστη**  
 From the Holy Eparchial Synod, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, 2013 Revised version

Plagal of the First Mode – D

Christ is ris - en from the dead, by death,  
 tram - pling down up - on death, and to  
 those in the tombs He has grant - ed life.

Plagal of the First Mode – D

Christ\_ is ri - sen\_ from\_ the\_ dead, by death\_  
 tram - pling down up - on\_\_\_\_\_ death\_\_\_\_\_ and to\_  
 those\_\_\_\_\_ in the tombs he has grant - ed life.

Ἦχος πλ. α'. Πα.

Χρι - στός ἀ - νέ - στη ἐκ νε - κρῶν, θα - νά - τω  
 Chri - stos a - ne - sti ek ne - kron, tha - na - to  
 θά - να - τον πα - τή - σας, και τοῖς  
 tha - na - ton pa - ti - sas, ke tis  
 ἐν τοῖς μνη - μα - σι, ζω - ἦν χα - ρι - σά - με - νος.  
 en tis mni - ma - si, zo - in cha - ri - sa - me - nos.

Ἦχος πλ. α'. Πα.

Χρι - στος\_ α - νε - στη\_ εκ\_ νε - κρων, θα - να - τω  
 Chri - stos\_ a - ne - sti\_ ek\_ ne - kron, tha - na - to  
 θα - να - τον πα - τη - σας, και τοις\_  
 tha - na - ton pa - ti - sas, ke tis\_  
 εν\_ τοις μνη - μα - σι, ζω - ην χα - ρι - σα - με - νος.  
 en\_ tis mni - ma - si, zo - in cha - ri - sa - me - nos.



**Paschal Fellowship Meal Following Liturgy**



Join Us for a Complimentary Meal Following the Paschal Liturgy on Saturday Night, April 15th

**Menu: Lamb Magiritsa Soup, Dolmathes, Tsoureki, Cheeses, Olives, Beer and Wine.**

**Egg Cracking Tournament for the Kids!**

**Nativity Pascha Card**

Help the Nativity GOYA raise funds while sharing a Paschal greeting card with all Nativity families. The cost is \$10, please fill out a form and pay in the office by:

**Sunday, April 2nd**

**The BOOK STORE**

at the Nativity Ed Center has all your Lenten needs! Books, icons, crosses, home altar goods.

Bookstore Hours

Tues - Sat, 10am to 2pm

Tuesday, 6pm to 8pm

Thursday, 5pm to 8pm

Sunday, 12noon to 2pm

**10% off**  
 any purchase during lent  
 with this coupon

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### Rev. Fr. Charles Sarelis

Retired

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Office Administrator

### William Smith

Holy Cross Seminary, M.DIV

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Charles Hunsinger, Co-Treasurer  
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(616) 214-9724  
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Gale Ford  
(248) 348-9043  
Mary Takis  
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#### Ladies Philoptochos

Theodora Bageris  
(248) 471-3662

#### Missions

Elaine Hamilton  
Lanney909@gmail.com

#### Nativity Kiss

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Anne Randall  
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#### Beautification

Thekla Szlinis  
Diane Michalakis

#### Fellowship

#### Festival

Thekla Szlinis  
Angela Kheir

#### Historical

#### Iconography

Diane Michalakis  
Dr. Angelos Katramados

#### Men's Club

George Zervos

#### Photography

#### Stewardship

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# Pascha from the Past - 2006



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fax. 734-420-0602  
[www.nativitygochurch.org](http://www.nativitygochurch.org)



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To creatively communicate and report parish news, services, sacraments, and ministry events to all Nativity faithful; to advance the understanding of our Orthodox Faith and sacramental life while recording the history of our parish; to promote stewardship, fellowship, charity, and love in Christ our God, who is *The Logos* and sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17).

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