



CHRIST IS RISEN!

Χριστός Ανέστη!

We wish you a most joyous celebration of the Lord's triumph over death. Keep the feast! Set your heart on the Kingdom to come! ALL WILL BE WELL.

Below, please enjoy some images that express the joy of Pascha in the hearts of the faithful around the world.

After that, we include the Paschal greeting in many languages. Try memorizing a few!

Cover story continues on page 16...

Inside Messenger

Calendar	Page 4
News and Announcements	Page 5-6
Christos Anesti	Page 7-8
Parish Council	Page 9
Building Committee Report	Page 10-12
Military Ministry	Page 13-15
Cover Story Cont.	Page 16-21
Stewardship	Page 22-23
Bible Study	Page 24-26
Pro-Life	Page 27-28
Akathis	Page 29
Flower Ministry	Page 30
Greek Language School	Page 31-32
Prospora	Page 33-35
Philoptochos	Page 36
Donations and Pledges	Page 37-38



How to Return to Church

See article on page 5

St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Phone: 253-272-0466

Parish Website: stnicholastacoma.org

E-Mail: mail@stnicholastacoma.org

Office Hours: Tuesday–Friday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm



Sunday Services

8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Please join us for Social/Coffee Hour in our downstairs hall, following the Divine Liturgy (Due to Covid-19, Social/Coffee Hour is temporarily suspended)



Fr. Seraphim Majmudar, Our Presiding Priest

For appointments, questions or urgent needs, Fr. Seraphim is available 24/7 on his cell phone.

Fr. Seraphim’s Cell phone: 253-365-5817

Office Hours at St Nicholas
Thursdays 9:00am - 12:00 noon
Email: frseraphimm@gmail.com

Saint Nicholas Messenger is the official monthly newsletter of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Tacoma Washington

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Submit content, comments, or corrections, addressed to the Editor at mail@stnicholastacoma.org

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St. Nicholas Ministries

AHEPA
George Pirotis

Akathist Group Prayer
Kathy Rowley

Altar Servers
Dr Nick Themelis

Bible Study
Genevieve Eagle

Book Store
Dr. Nick Themelis

Building Committee
Bill Acker

Building, Grounds & Maintenance
Richard Heidal, John Pangis

Choir
Rebecca Primis

Hands of Love
Merrilee Pangis

Military Service
LTC Gus Chamales

Premarital Education
George Pirotis, Diane Pirotis

Stewardship
Maria Koumantaros

2021 Parish Council
Ronnie-Sue Johnson—President
David Frisk—Vice-President
Mark Robinson—Treasurer
Christina Leinneweber—Secretary
Maria Koumantaros, Alan (John) Means, David Orriss Jr., Despina Kipelidis, Kathy Johnson, Klaudia Cedeno, Sheila (Monica) Auter, Zach Karanasos

Greek Folk Dance
Evy Kontos — Chair & Intermediate dancers
Dr. Anastasia Fyntrilakis—Treasurer & Teen dancers

Krisann Firth — Costume Director
Julie Kotsali — Board Member
Presbytera Sophie Majmudar — Board Member

Kelly Rosati — Beginner dancers

George Pirotis — Adult Group Instructor

Coffee Hour
Zach Karanasos

IT, etc.
Bill Samaras

Philia
Diane Pirotis

Pro Life
Genevieve Eagle

Vitos Scholarship
Ronnie Sue Johnson

Flowers & Church Decorating
Kathy Rowley

Daughters of Penelope
Karen Samaras — President
Olga Manos— Vice President
Fenia Mavromichali— Secretary
Helen McClure— Treasurer

Maids of Athena
Zoe Matteson-President
Isabell Mastras-Vice President
Elena Apostle-Treasurer
Ingrid Chamalas—Advisor
Helen McClure — Advisor

Philoptochos Society
Jane Evancho - President
Hoddi Motz - Vice-President
Marian Palas - Secretary
Joyce Kalivas- Griffin - Treasurer

Sunday School
Sheila Auter, Director

Greek School
George Pirotis

Lazarus Group
Dean Hamos

Pilgrimage
Zach Karanasos

Prospora Baking
Deborah Talbot

Welcome
Ronnie Sue Johnson

Parish Council

Parish Council meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month.
May 11, 2021

May 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish, Wine & oil ok on weekends HOLY SATURDAY 10:00am-11:00am Vespers Liturgy of St Basil 11:30pm-12:00am Anastasis & Divine Liturgy
2 12:00am-12:30am Anastasis & Divine Liturgy PASCCHA 1:00pm-2:00pm Agapa Vespers	3 BRIGHT MONDAY 9:15am-10:15am Paschal Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm-6:30pm Paschal Vespers & Orthros	4 BRIGHT TUESDAY Nicholas, Raphael & Irene of Lesbos 6:00am-7:00am Divine Liturgy: NOTE TIME CHANGE! 10:00am-12:00pm No Bible Study This Week 7:00pm-8:00pm Building Committee	5 BRIGHT WEDNESDAY Ephraim the New Ephraim the New 6:00pm-7:00pm Paschal Vespers & Orthros 7:00pm-8:00pm Divine Liturgy	6 BRIGHT THURSDAY Fr S Away Righteous Job 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek	7 BRIGHT FRIDAY Fr S Away Life Giving Spring Theologian 6:00pm-7:00pm No Vespers Tonight	8 BRIGHT SATURDAY Fr S Away Join the Apostle, Evangelist, & Theologian 6:00pm-7:00pm No Vespers Tonight
9 Martyr Christopher THOMAS SUNDAY 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	10 Apostle Simon the Zealot PROJECT 2020 CONSTRUCTION BEGINS! 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-8:00pm Parish Council	11 Cyril and Methodius, Illuminators of the Slavs 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-8:00pm Parish Council	12 Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus Fast: Wine & Oil ok 3:00pm-4:00pm Akathist for the Unborn 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: St Ignatii Brianchaninov 6:45pm-7:45pm Evening Liturgy: St Ignatii	13 Ignatii Brianchaninov Martyr Glykeria 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek	14 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Isidore the Martyr of Chios 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	15 Matushka Theodosia the Paralyzed ~2011 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers
16 Brendan the Navigator MYRRHBEARER SUNDAY 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 1:00pm-2:00pm Eremo Baptism	17 Andronikos & Junia 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 1:00pm-2:00pm Eremo Baptism	18 Julian the Martyr 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	19 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Memnon the Wonderworker 6:00pm-7:00pm Paraklesis Helen	20 Mark the Hermit 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: Ss Constantine & Helen	21 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Ss Constantine & Helen 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	22 Basilikos, Bp of Comana 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers
23 Eugeniy of Chechnya SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	24 Symeon the Stylite 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: Mid Pentecost 6:45pm-7:45pm Evening Liturgy: Mid Pentecost	25 Third Finding of Head of St John the Baptist 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: Mid Pentecost 6:45pm-7:45pm Evening Liturgy: Mid Pentecost	26 Fast: Wine & Oil ok MID PENTECOST 3:00pm-4:00pm Akathist for the Unborn 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: St John the Russian 6:45pm-7:45pm Evening Liturgy: St John the Russian	27 Fr S Away John the Russian John the Russian of Evia 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek	28 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Fr S Away Nikitas, Bp of Chalcedon	29 Fr S Away Theodosia of Tyre 6:00pm-7:00pm No Vespers tonight
30 Fr S Away SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	31 Fr S Away MEMORIAL DAY 11:00am-12:00pm No Cemetery Blessing (Fr Away)	Notes:				

The most up to date calendar is always found at the St. Nicholas web page: www.stnicholastacoma.org

News and Announcements

Misplaced Medical Chair

The medical chair that has been in the upper hall has been misplaced. If anyone knows of its whereabouts please contact the church office at 253-272-0466

Returning to Church

Parishioners are once again attending services in person at St. Nicholas and able to receive Holy Communion. Church gatherings are limited to a maximum of 50 people while maintaining social distancing and the wearing of masks. To facilitate adhering to the 50 person guidance, parishioners are asked to sign up in advance for Saturday and Sunday services on the church [website](#). Sign up in advance for up to two Sundays per month. After that, you can sign up for any open slots beginning 10am on Saturday mornings. No reservations are needed for weekday services. Please remember masks are required, stay home if you are not feeling well. Also, if you are at risk, please stay home. Contact Fr. Seraphim to make special arrangements for Communion or other special needs.

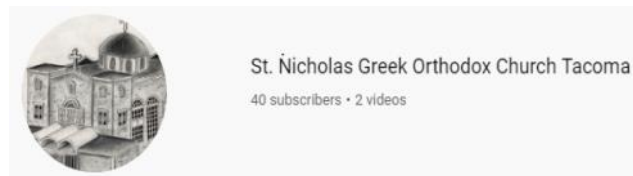
Live TV Streaming of church services continues. If you are unable to attend services in person, you can participate by watching most services live at home. See instructions below.

Watch Services From Home, Live

Although you might not be able to be at St. Nicholas in person, you can watch services at home from any device capable of connecting to YouTube. This is free and is available for most services. Here's how to do it:

1. First, find the schedule when a service is being broadcast. This is called Live Streaming. Look at the calendar on the previous page, or better, look at the calendar on the St. Nicholas Web page. www.StNicholasTacoma.org. There is a Live Streaming link at the church calendar.
2. You can simply click [here](#). If there is a service underway, press the button. You will see and hear the service.
3. Watch on any device. Open **YouTube** (you may have to start a browser like Chrome). In the *YouTube search bar*, type; *St Nicholas Tacoma*

Click on this selection;



If a service is being broadcast, click the **LIVE NOW** button.

4. Some TV's allow direct connection to YouTube. You can connect as above.

Bill Samaras—

News and Announcements

Classroom Teachers Needed

St. John of Kronstadt Orthodox Christian School is looking to hire teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. We have openings for a K-1st grade classroom teacher and a general elementary/middle school classroom teacher. We are looking for candidates with a love for children, a love for learning, and a committed Christian who supports Orthodox Christian education.

The candidate will be expected to effectively teach all subjects using a variety of curricula and have an understanding of the year-end goals for the grades being taught. The candidate will be expected to accurately assess students as they progress towards meeting or exceeding these goals.

Job Requirements

- Candidate to be available by August 2, 2021
- Prior work experience in a school environment preferred
- Teaching certification preferred, but not required
- Candidate must be able to demonstrate flexibility, organization, and the ability to work well with others
- Design and follow a complete teaching plan
- Organize learning material and resources
- Maintain an open line of communication with parents and provide appropriate information
- Assess students' performance and progress to ensure they are mastering the skills on a regular basis
- Monitor children's interactions and nurture cooperation and sharing
- Use a variety of activities and instructional methods (songs, stories, media, structured games, art, outdoor activities etc.), to motivate and stimulate children's abilities
- Teach Alphabet and numeracy along with personal, social, and emotional skills (K-1 teacher)
- Follow and comply with teaching standards and safety regulations
- Cooperate with administration staff
- Excellent attendance required
- Must be legally authorized to work in the United States

We ask that interested candidates submit their resume and completed application by **May 15, 2021**.

St. John's School serves grades K-8 in four multi-age-level classrooms and is located in Yakima, WA. For more information, or for an application, please email Jennifer Maher at jen@stjohnkronstadt.org.

Christos Anesti

KALO PASCHA; KALI ANASTASI; CHRISTOS ANESTI; ALITHOS ANESTI

from

Fr. Seraphim and the St. Nicholas Parish Council

What Does “Christos Anesti” Mean?

Written by GreekBoston.com in [Greek Easter Traditions](#)



During Easter, there are some typical greetings that Greek Orthodox Christians say to one another. These greetings are said after the Saturday evening and early Sunday morning church service. During the Holy Saturday service, we essentially mourn Christ’s death. During the portion of the service that takes place early on Sunday morning, we celebrate His resurrection. The greetings we say to one other reflect this celebration.

Typical Greek Easter Greetings

Easter, or Pascha, is a time for us to celebrate Christ’s resurrection. There are a few typical things that we say to each other during this time, and we typically say them not only during Pascha, but also for forty days after it.

- **Kalo Pascha (Καλό Πάσχα!)** – This is the Greek equivalent of “Happy Easter”. Literally translated it means “Good Pascha” or “Good Easter”.
- **Kali Anastasi (Καλή Ανάσταση)** – This is what Greeks say to each other to express their joy about Christ’s resurrection. Literally translated, it means “Good Resurrection.”
- **Christos Anesti (Χριστός Ανέστη)** – Greeks greet each other with this starting after midnight on Easter Sunday. This phrase means, “Christ is Risen.”
- **Alithos Anesti (Αληθώς ανέστη!)** – This is the response to the phrase, Christos Anesti. It means, “Truly, He is Risen.” You only say this to someone who has just said, “Christos Anesti” to you.

Christos Anesti Cont.

Paschal Greetings Originate in the Bible

There isn't much information available as to the history of these phrases other than the fact that they are mentioned in the Bible. Most Christian cultures have these phrases translated into their native languages and the phrases can be traced to various books in the New Testament. Here's a look:

Matthew 27:64:

⁶⁴Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first."

Matthew 28:6-7 ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

Mark 16:6 ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.

Luke 24:34 ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!"

Christos Anesti Hymn Finally, there is a traditional hymn that is sung in the Orthodox Church just after midnight. It is the first thing that we do in order to celebrate His resurrection. Here are the words to the hymn as they were written in Greek, and then translated to English:

Greek

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν: θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας
καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι: ζωὴν χαρισάμενος.

Phonetic Greek

*Christos anesti ek nekron; Thanato Thanaton patisas
Kai tis en tis mnimasi; Zoin charisamenos.*

English

*Christ is risen: from the dead,
and by His death He has trampled down death.
and to those in the tomb he gave eternal life.*

This hymn is sung not only during the church services on Sunday, starting in the early hours of Sunday morning, but for forty days after Pascha.

Sources: [Pascha – OrthodoxWiki](#); [Paschal Greeting – Wikipedia](#); Categorized in: [Greek Easter Traditions](#);
This post was written by [GreekBoston.com](#)

Contributed by: Maria Koumantaros

Parish Council News

Parish Council—Message From the President

Kalo Pascha, beloved St. Nicholas family! As we approach the joyful celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, I am filled with gratitude that **this** year, we can celebrate it together in person, even if we cannot yet fully restore all of our cherished traditions. Being together in community for this most important celebration in our faith is a particularly meaningful reminder of the unity found in the faith and the gift that the Lord has given us through His Holy Communion.

As the Parish Council has been thinking about *community*, and the important issues facing us this year, three themes have emerged for our 2021 priorities: **Reconnecting, Rebuilding, and Revitalizing**. Here is some of the work we are undertaking in each of these areas.

Reconnecting: as the state begins to emerge from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we anticipate the progressive lifting of restrictions, the Council is committed to helping the Parish family reconnect with each other, and with the life of the Church. Examples of some of the Council's initiatives to assist with this include the Parish Family Game Night activities, developing the Parish Directory, and working toward restoration of in-person activities such as in-person classes and Coffee Hours when allowed.

Rebuilding: this month, thanks to the Lord and all who donated time, talent, and resources to Project 2020, we break ground on the Narthex reconstruction project, which is a most visible and directly impactful example of rebuilding! We are also working on other important "rebuilt" such as revising our outdated Parish Bylaws to align with the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese, modernizing our technology systems in the office, and other behind-the-scenes important tasks to support the operations of the Parish. It also involves considering our opportunity to have some form of Greek Festival this year.

Revitalizing: we continue to work with city services, the police, and other organizations to try to resolve the homeless camp situation in the vicinity of our church. We are also working on direct revitalization of our campus and facility in a variety of ways, including working closely with our janitorial service to improve the cleanliness of our interior spaces, and supporting a new team called the Beautification Team as they clean, paint, and bring their creative ideas for making our campus inviting and attractive. Revitalization also includes our ministries and programs, as we learn more about the resources and ministry focuses of the Metropolis and consider how to re-engage the Parish at large in more aspects of the life of the Church as restrictions are lifted, and consider how to reach out to the larger community in service and with the love of Christ.

Each month I will share a bit about our progress in one or more of these areas. Please feel free to reach out to me or to any Parish Council member with your questions and thoughts.

May your Pascha be blessed and filled with the joy of the Lord and the warmth of faith, family and friends.

Your servant in Christ,
Ronnie-Sue

Building Committee



COUNTING DOWN TO MAY 10TH

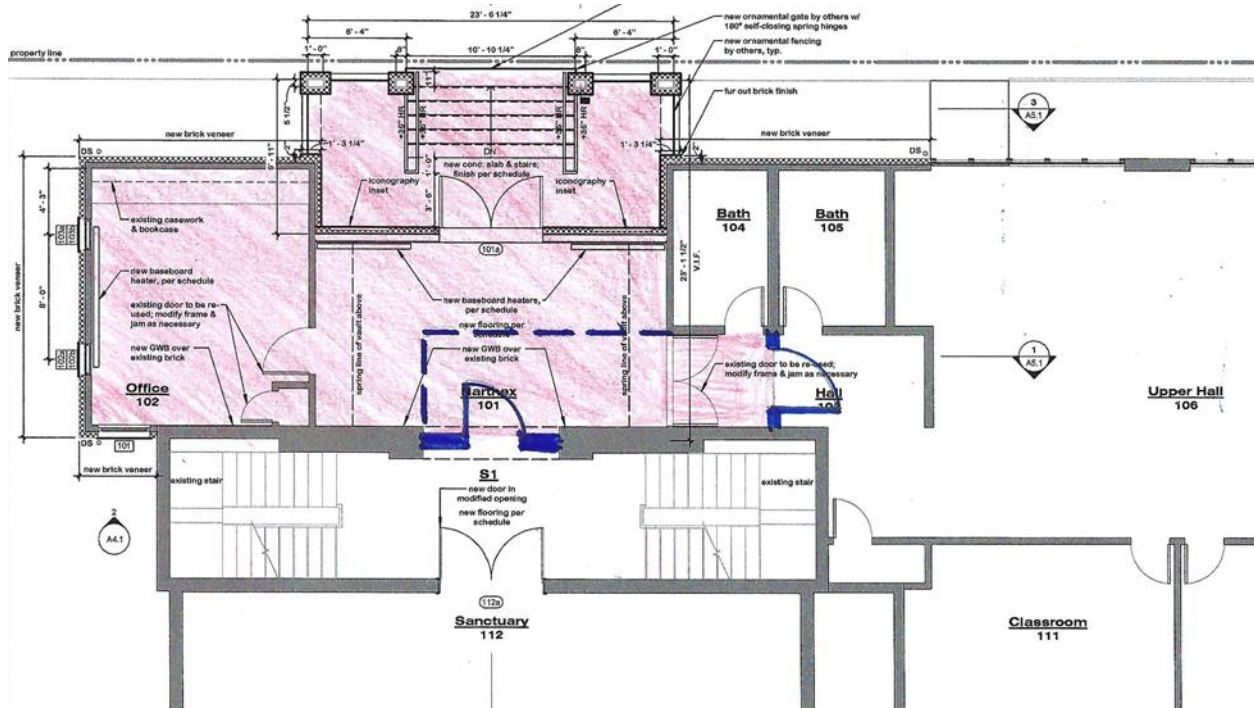
Field construction on the Narthex Renovation begins Monday May 10th, a week after Pascha. Substantial completion, and the turning over of the Narthex area to the church for full use and operations is scheduled to take place in mid-September, a few weeks before the Greek Festival would take place if there ends up being one this year.

During the four plus month period that construction takes place, the Narthex area and its exterior entrance will be closed to the Parish and public. Also, no church activities will be allowed in the Sanctuary and Upper Hall during construction working hours, which will typically be Monday through Friday, from 6:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Church activities will be allowed however in the Sanctuary and Upper Hall during after construction working hours, which for practical purposes translates to weekends and evenings.

Father Seraphim's office is in the construction zone, and will therefore be put out of commission for the duration of the project. A temporary office will be set up, most likely in an Upper Hall area classroom. Also, Rush Commercial Construction, the general contractor, will be allocated a roughly 10' x 10' space in the Lower Hall area adjacent to a south stairwell, which they will use as a temporary construction office and small storage area. Beyond Rush's allocated space, the Lower Hall and Dining & Kitchen areas will remain available and open to the church during the course of construction.

(Continued on the next page.)

Building Committee



(Continued from the previous page.)

Above is a partial floor plan of the upper church level. The shaded area represents the construction zone that will be off-limits to the Parish for most of the duration of the project. The construction zone has expanded slightly into a portion of the Upper Hall corridor, plus a temporary wall and door has been added in that area.

Two solid temporary walls with lockable doors are shown, colored in blue, which will act as a barrier between the construction zone and Upper Hall, and Sanctuary / interior stairwell areas. Dashed blue lines depict temporary portable barriers the contractor will put in place at the end of each working shift, which will allow the Parish passage from the interior stairwell areas to the Upper Hall and vice versa during non-working hours. Upper Hall restrooms will be available for use when the temporary passage way is open as well.

It should be emphasized that the temporary passage way when available is intended to be a means of access and egress only, and not a place to linger around. Parents are strongly urged to keep their young kids under strict supervision when passing through this area.

Generally, the interior stairwells and the space in-between will remain open to the church. Two exceptions however are first, during the week of May 10th hazardous material abatement will take place and that area will likely be closed off. The other exception is when painting, new ceiling finishes and mosaic tile flooring takes place in that area during a portion of August. In both case full access should be still available for weekend services and other activities, just not during some weekdays.

(Continued on the next page.)

Building Committee

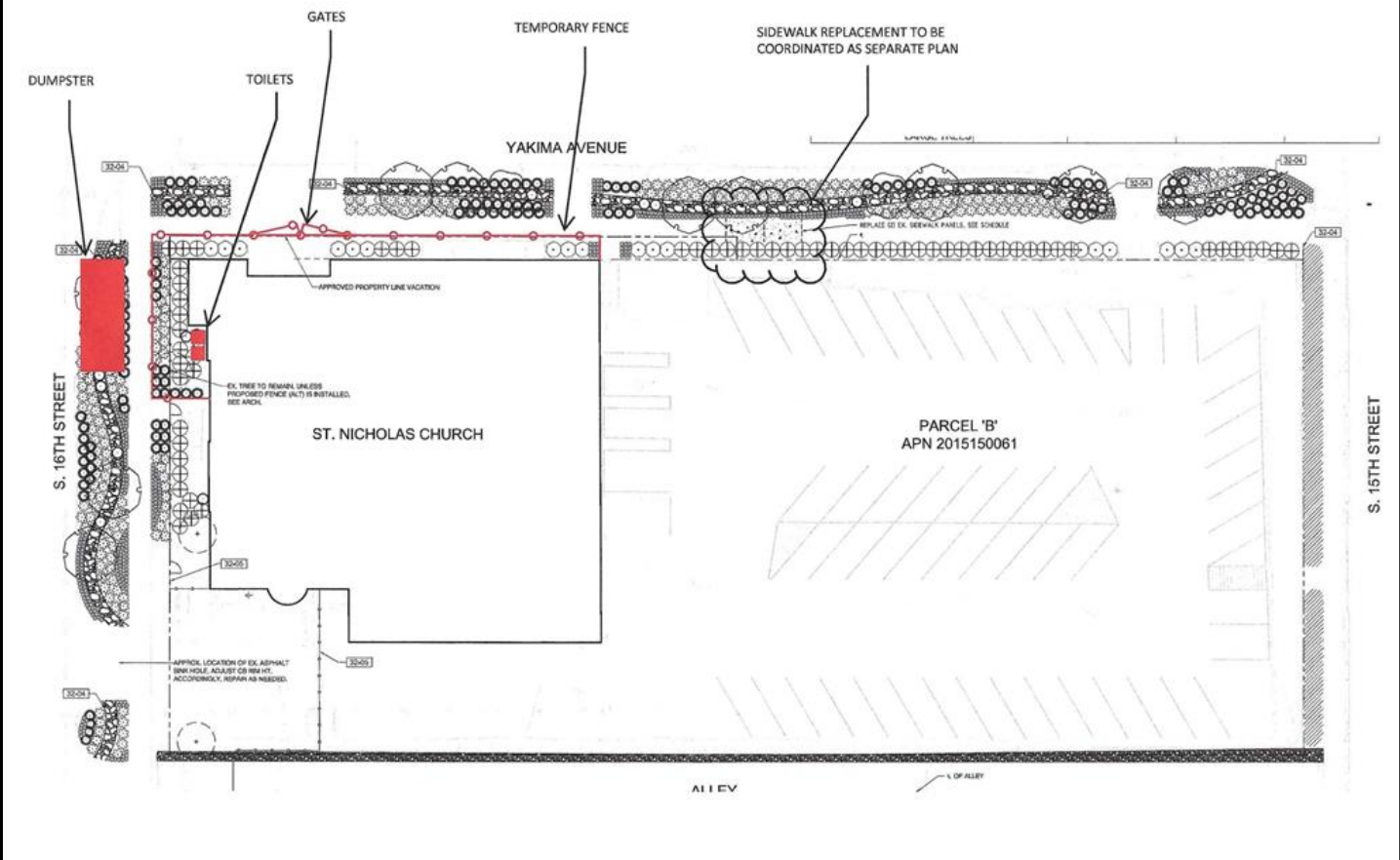
(Continued from the previous page.)

Below is a site logistics and layout plan as submitted by Rush Commercial Construction. They will be providing temporary construction fencing around the Yakima Avenue and 16th Street sides of the Narthex area to close off the construction zone, and prevent vandals and vagrants from coming in. One minor variation to what is shown on the current plan is temporary fencing at the Yakima Avenue side will stop short of an existing concrete ramp that leads to the Upper Hall exterior door in order to maintain church access there.

A paved asphalt strip between 16th Street curbing and a sidewalk, which has been used as supplementary church parking, will no longer be available as it will be inside the fenced construction zone area. Also, near the end of the project, the paved strip will be removed and be replaced with new landscaping, as mandated by the City of Tacoma.

Rush Commercial Construction plans to use the south side of the site as their primary staging and storage area during the project. A dumpster will be placed in that area as well. Also, few parking places in the main north church parking lot may end up being used off and on to act as supplementary material storage as needs dictate.

With just over four months available to complete the project, the construction schedule will be tight, and it is our intent to be working with the contractor, acting as team players, and avoid holding them up. Coordination updates will be provided to the church after construction starts and proceeds into action.



Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR (OR YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS) PHOTOS! This ministry strives to recognize the men and women who have served honorably in the defense and security of our city, our State, and our nation. If you or a family member have served in any branch of the military, the CIA, or law enforcement, please email to gleafops@gmail.com a picture of yourself/them uniform along with the following information: The person's name, their relationship to you, the period of service (as best you can), and any awards that you know they may have earned. If you need or would like assistance with obtaining information about a family member's service, or an explanation of any military documents or awards you may have inherited from them, please let me know. I would be happy to assist you in researching those items or obtaining additional records through various government and veteran sources.



Richard Louis Evans
U.S. Army
WWII
Ethel Barbas'
Brother and
Katie Mason's uncle

Our most recent addition to this ministry's collection of photos is from Mrs. Ethel Barbas. The picture is of her brother, Richard Louis Evans, who enlisted in the Army and served during World War II. Mrs. Barbas had several siblings that served in the military during that war, Bill (Army), Ernest (Navy) and Richard (Army) and has been kind enough to provide photos of all three. All three men survived the war and later settled in the Tacoma/Seattle area and attended St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

VA Pensions for spouses of deceased veterans. If you or a family member are the spouse of a deceased veteran who served in the military during a war time period, you/they may be eligible for a VA Survivors Pension. A survivor's pension is income based and not everybody will qualify, but it is worth the time to investigate to see if you or they may qualify. You can seek information by going to VA.Gov and typing in survivors pension, or if you don't have access to a computer or the internet, contact me at gleafops@gmail.com. I will be happy to assist you in navigating the process. Anyone who served our country honorably is eligible to inquire and possibly qualify for these benefits! Our grateful nation stands waiting to help and thanks you for your service!

MEMORIAL DAY. Memorial Day 2021 will occur on Monday, May 31. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. It is an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

**REMEMBERING
 OUR HEROES ON
 MEMORIAL DAY!**

While the first commemorative Memorial Day events weren't held in the United States until the late 19th century, the practice of honoring those who have fallen in battle dates back thousands of years. The ancient Greeks and Romans held annual days of remembrance for loved ones (including soldiers) each year, festooning their graves with flowers and holding public festivals and feasts in their honor. In Athens, public funerals for fallen soldiers were held after each battle, with the remains of the dead on display for public mourning before a funeral procession took them to their internment in the Kerameikos, one of the city's most prestigious cemeteries. One of the first known public tributes to war

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News



dead was in 431 B.C., when the Athenian general and statesman Pericles delivered a funeral oration praising the sacrifice and valor of those killed in the Peloponnesian War—a speech that some have compared in tone to President Abraham Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address.” (Source: history.com)



Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church is fortunate to have a priest like Father Seraphim who makes a point of recognizing this holiday. Before COVID-19 drastically limited the activities of our church, a Memorial Day luncheon sponsored by this ministry was provided on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day. The salmon dinner was graciously prepared by the women of Philoptochos and was served following the liturgy downstairs in the main dining hall. Following the luncheon, a presentation was provided in honor of the St. Nicholas parishioners, and the family members of our parishioners who died while in service to our country. The presentation would focus on one of those servicemen and provide the story behind that person’s life, their service, and the circumstances surrounding their death. Recent presentations highlighted the stories of the following:

Private First Class Denny Langounaris. A former St. Nicholas parishioner who in his youth served as an altar boy at our church. He enlisted in the Army during World War II, and fought as a soldier in the 104th Infantry Division. He was killed when his unit was attacked during the Battle of the Bulge in Europe in 1944.



Remember our Heroes!
PFC Denny Lagounaris
U.S. Army, WWII
Killed in Action at the
Battle of the Bulge
1944
Recipient of the
Purple Heart

Corporal George Velias. George Velias was another St. Nicholas parishioner who as a young boy grew up in awe of the handsome and athletic Denny Langounaris, and admired his courage when he went off to fight in WWII. Consequently, when America found itself embroiled in the Korean War, George joined the Army to serve his country. George Velias was part of the 1st Cavalry Division and served with that Division when it went on the offensive during the breakout from the Pusan perimeter. He was killed in action less than ten days before the Division was pulled out of the front lines, and sent back to Japan as the Theatre Reserve. Of the 64 men in K Company, 3-7 Cavalry, who were killed during that war, George Velias was the 64th and last man to die. Today there are family members of George residing in the Seattle and Roy areas.



Remember our Heroes!
CPL George Velias
U.S. Army, Korean War
Killed in Action
November 19, 1951
Recipient of the Purple Heart.
 Killed less than 10 days before his unit was pulled out of the front.
 There were 64 men killed in his unit, K Co, 3-7 Cavalry.
 George Velias was the last man to die.

Captain Earl Rogers. Captain Rogers was Jeff Rogers’ father, and Kieven and Stellen Rogers’ grandfather. He joined the Marine Corps and went to flight school, and later flew OV-10 reconnaissance aircraft. He was killed in 1978 in a non-combat flying accident that was attributed to faulty equipment



Capt. Earl Rogers
U.S. Marine Corps
Died in the line of duty
while conducting aerial
reconnaissance
of the North/South
Korean border.
July 1978
Jeff Rogers’ father

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

Captain Rogers volunteered to take the place of a younger, less experienced officer who was scheduled to conduct the reconnaissance mission along the North/South Korean borders. The weather was very bad with strong winds and heavy rains that would make flying the OV-10 more difficult. Captain Rogers saw that the junior and less experienced officer was apprehensive about the mission, so Captain Rogers and his co-pilot decided to fly the mission instead. Today Captain Rogers' grandchildren, Kieven and Stellan, are regular attending parishioners at St. Nicholas.

Private First Class Mike Mihalakis. Mike Mihalakis grew up in southern California and served as an altar boy at _____ Greek Orthodox Church. He was a very popular young man in High School and decided to enlist in the Army in order to earn G.I. Bill benefits, so that his parents would not have to pay for his college education. He became a Military Policeman and before he deployed to Iraq he wrote a letter that was given to his Aunt, along with instructions that it was to be given to his parents in the event of his death. Mike was killed in a vehicle accident when his HMMV flipped over while patrolling the airfield at which he was stationed just a few weeks before his tour of duty was due to end, and his unit was scheduled to return home. A copy of that letter was read during the St. Nicholas Memorial Day presentation and it was clear to all that Mike was a loving son, and he died while serving the country that he loved. Mike Mihalakis was Daphne Karanasos' nephew.



Remember our Heroes!
PFC Mike Mihalakis
U.S. Army
Died in a non-combat vehicle accident in Baghdad, Iraq,
26 December 2003
Bronze Star recipient
 Daphne Karanasos' nephew

It is unlikely that we will be able to return to luncheons following Sunday liturgies in time to host a Memorial Day luncheon on May 31st of this year. Nevertheless, eventually things will return to normal and when they do, with the support of Fr. Seraphim, Philoptochos and this Ministry, we shall resume our Memorial luncheon/presentations. There are family members of several other St. Nicholas parishioners who were killed in action or died while serving their country as a member of the armed forces. God willing, their stories shall be the focus of future presentations. Until then we shall honor and recognize their service through ministry articles such as this one, and say prayers for their families for the sacrifice and heartache they have had to endure. **MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL.**



Thomas Angelos
WWII
U.S. Coast Guard
Died in line of duty at sea during training maneuvers
 Ricky Angelus' uncle



Johnny Bennak & George Humphrey
U.S. Navy, WWII
Both were Killed in Action on the USS Helena in July 1943 in the Pacific
Recipient of the Purple Heart
 Deborah Talbot's uncle.



CPT Jeremy Clark
U.S. Army
Operation Iraqi Freedom
Recipient of the Air Medal
Died in a non-combat OH-58 helicopter accident
 14 December 2010
 LTC(R) Jennifer Clark's husband



George Markakis
Royal Hellenic Army
Killed in Action during the Italian Invasion of Greece at the beginning of WWII.
 Mary Leonard's grandfather

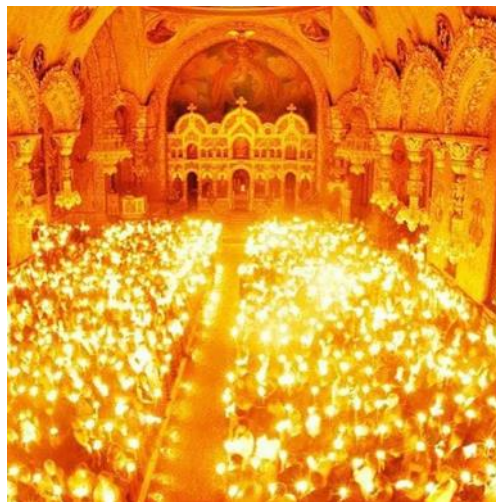


Shianne Taylor Soles
U.S. Navy
Killed in a non-combat incident while serving on active duty, May 2019
 Genevieve Eagle's niece

Cover Story...



His All Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew embraces a baby on Pascha



Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St Sophia, London



The incredible beauty of Romanian Pascha eggs

Cover Story...



The holy Paschal fire in Jerusalem: miraculously does not burn!



A Paschal Communion in Greece



A Paschal anointing of holy oil

Cover Story...



Faithful young people from around the world at the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem receive the miraculous holy fire



In Greece, they get to light off fireworks at church!



A young boy in Russia celebrates Pascha...one of many to come!

Cover Story...



A monk on Mt Athos offering Paschal hospitality to the birds of the air

Paschal Greetings from Around the World

Albanian: Khrishti unjal! Vertet unjal!

Aleut: Khristus anahgrecum! Alhecum anahgrecum!

Alutuq: Khris-tusaq ung-uixtuq! Pijii-nuq ung-uixtuq!

Amharic: Kristos tenestwal! Bergit tenestwal!

Anglo-Saxon: Crist aras! Crist sodhlice aras!

Arabic: El Messieh kahm! Hakken kahm!

Armenian: Kristos haryav ee merelotz! Orhnial eh harootyunuh kristosee!

Aroman: Hristolu unghia! Daleehira unghia!

Athabaskan: Xristosi banuytashtch'ey! Gheli banuytashtch'ey!

Bulgarian: Hristos voskrese! Vo istina voskrese!

Byelorussian: Khrystos uvaskros! Sapraudy uvaskros!

Chinese: Helisituosi fuhuole! Qeshi fuhuole!

Cover Story...

Paschal greetings cont....

Coptic: Christos aftonf khen omethmi aftonf .

Czech: Kristus vstal a mrtvych! Opravdi vstoupil!

Danish: Kristus er opstanden! I sandhed Han er Opstanden!

(or Sandelig Han er Opstanden!)

Dutch: Christus is opgestaan! Ja, hij is waarlijk opgestaan!

English: Christ is Risen! Indeed He is risen!

Eritrean-Tigre: Christos tensiou! Bahake tensiou!

Estonian: Kristus on oolestoosunt! Toayestee on oolestoosunt!

Ethiopian: Christos t'ensah em' muhtan! Exai' ab-her eokala!

Finnish: Kristus nousi kuolleista! Totisesti nousi!

French: Le Christ est ressuscite! En verite il est ressuscite!

Gaelic: Kriost eirgim! Eirgim!

Georgian: Kriste ahzdkhah! Chezdmарidet!

German: Christus ist erstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig erstanden!

Greek: Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!

Hawaiian: Ua ala hou `o Kristo! Ua ala `I `o no `oia!

Hebrew: Ha Masheeha houh kam! A ken kam! (or Be emet quam!)

Icelandic: Kristur er upprisinn! Hann er vissulega upprisinn!

Indonesian: Kristus telah bangkit! Benar dia telah bangkit!

Irish Tá Críost aiséirithe! Aiséirithe go fíor!

(Tah Kreest ash-AY-ree-heh! Ash-AY-ree-heh go FEER!)

Italian: Cristo e' risorto! Veramente e' risorto!

Japanese: Harisutosu Fukkatsu! Jitsu ni Fukkatsu!

Javanese: Kristus sampun wungu! Saesto panjene ganipun

sampun wungu!

Korean: Kristo gesso! Buhar ha sho nay!

Cover Story...

Latin: Christus resurrexit! Vere resurrexit!

Latvian: Kristus ir augšāmcēlies! tiešām viņš ir augšāmcēlies!_____

Lugandan: Kristo ajukkide! Amajim ajukkide!

Malayalam (Indian): Christu uyirthezhunnettu! Theerchayayum uyirthezhunnettu!

Nigerian: Jesu Kristi ebiliwo! Ezia o' biliwo!

Norwegian: Kristus er oppstanden! Han er sannelig oppstanden!

Polish: Khristus zmartvikstau! Zaiste zmartvikstau!

Portugese: Cristo ressuscitou! Em verdade ressuscitou!

Romanian: Cristos a inviat! Adevarat a inviat!

Russian: Khristos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!

Sanskrit: Kristo'pastitaha! Satvam upastitaha!

Serbian: Hristos vaskres! Vaistinu vaskres!

Slovak: Kristus vstal zmr'tvych! Skutoc ne vstal!

Spanish: Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad ha resucitado!

Swahili: Kristo amefufukka! Kweli Amefufukka!

Swedish: Christus ar uppstanden! Han ar verkligen uppstanden!

Syriac: M'shee ho dkom! Ha koo qam!

Tlingit: Xristos Kuxwoo-digoot! Xegaa-kux Kuxwoo-digoot!

Turkish: Hristos diril-di! Hakikaten diril-di!

Ugandan: Kristo ajukkide! Kweli ajukkide!

Ukranian: Khristos voskres! Voistinu voskres!

Father Seraphim

Stewardship Ministry News

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **John 3:17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

We are starting our message this month from the Book of John verses 3:16-3:17 which expresses God's great love for the world. God did not send His Son to condemn the world but to save us. We all have many things to be grateful and one way to show our thanks and appreciation is to say our prayers and give back some of the treasures that have been given to us. We are very happy to report as of April 20, 2021 we currently have 135 households plus 1 organization who have contributed to our church this year. This is 15 more households than we had last month. On behalf of the Parish Council, we THANK each and every one of you for your generous contributions. Below are the names of those who have given and/or pledged some of their treasures to the church as of April 20, 2021. If you haven't submitted a stewardship pledge card for 2021, please do so. May God always Bless you with good health and much happiness each and every day.

William & Mary Acker	Leonidas & Despina Alatsis	Patra Alatsis
Kacoulou Andreas	Sonny & Irene Angelos	Rick & Marlene Angelus
Paul & Dolores Apostle	Tony and Lori Apostle	Andrew & Sheila Auter
George Ballasiotes	Tyler & Lexi Blaser	E. Anthe Barbas
Harry & Sheri Basil	T. L. Berg	Theodora Bessinas
Tatiana Bilibin	Yvonne Brandvold	Dora Brown
Cheryl Burak	Scott & Marcia Cairns	William and Bonnie Caress
Barry & Deborah Middleton Cassidy	Klaudia Cedeno	C.G. and Ingrid Chamales
Yianni Charitou	Elena Chen	Anthony & Sandra Ciarochi
Courtney Cole-Faso	Sharmarie & Troy Dares	Dina Deliyianides
Gretchen Eagle	Timothy & Sunny Edgren	Salvatore Eramo
Andrew & Jane Evancho	James & Deena Fotinopoulos	David & Savina Frisk
Dayle Sokratis Frisk	Mary Georgopolos	Alla Glagoleva
John & Judy Godulas	Eliza Gooler	Stephen and Claire Gorham
John Gregory	Christina Gretty	Robin & Joyce Kalivas Griffin
Sally Hallis	Dean and Carol Hamos	Michael & Kristine Hanberg
Daniel and Ekaterini Hanson	Natalya Harpe	Brent & Evangelia Hassel
Magdaline Hatzikazakis	Richard & Kathleen Heidal	Christopher & Cheryl Hunt
Thomas and Helga Jackson	Joseph & Ronnie-Sue Johnson	Kathy Johnson
'Rikki' Hariklia Kapes	Anna Karanasos	Paula Karanasos
Zachary and Daphne Karanasos	Naser & Catalina Khalaj	Claudia Kieszling

Stewardship Ministry News

Evangelos & Despina Kipelidis	Anna Kiraki	Anna Koopman
Steves Koukles	John C. Kouklis	Mary Kouklis
Ourania Koukousoula and Ronald Ayume	Maria Koumantaros	Deanne Langevin
Vernon Larson	Robert and Anne Latz	Christina Leinneweber
Mary Leonard	L. Likos	Svetlana Lukianova
George and Bess Lurker	Jeff & Laura Macaluso	Fr. Seraphim & Pres. Sophie Majmudar
John Majmudar	Olga Lynn Manos	Chris and Susan Manthou
Mathew Manthou	Natalia Marberg	Dean and Julie Mastras
Iphigenia Mavromichali	Helen and George McClure	Alan (John) and Sheilagh Means
Tatyana Mikeladze	Cassie & Paul Moeller	Tom Mollas
Hariklia & Dick Motz	Michael & Rodica Murphy	David & Katrina Orriss
Evangelos Pamboukas	Nikos and Sonia Pamboukas	Anthony Panagiotu
George Panagiotu	Alexis Pangis	John and Merrilee Pangis
Stathis & JoAnna Papanicolaou	Audrey Pasion	Andrew Phillips
George and Diane Pirotis	Stavros Pirotis	Lena and Charles Plunkett
Joaquin & Shanna Piorot	Martha Politakis	Steve and Kathleen Politakis
Andrew and Rebecca Primis	Emmanuel Psilovikos	MartinJ. Reiter III and Lorissa Catherine Reiter
Aaron T. and Renae C. Rice	Mark & Dana Robinson	Katherine Rowley
Lilia Rusu	Alexandra and Richard Schutt	Denise and Richard Stahl
Alexandru* and Victoria Stefan	Andy and Joanne Stergachis	James and Jenise Sweeney
Deborah Talbot	The Mathern Family	Nicholas and Becky Themelis
Roxanne Vallantine	Dee Varca	Michael Jane White
Jeffrey and Janice Williams	Edward Winskill	Marcela Wirth
Kalitsa and John Xitco	Tasso and Sarah Zambaras	John Zaoutsos

*deceased

Organization : Order of Ahepa

Contributed by: Maria Koumantaros

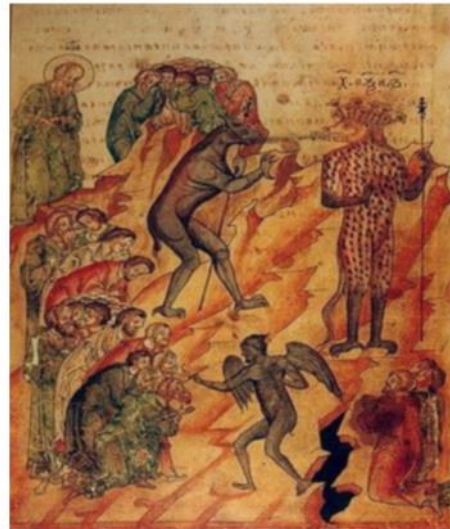


Bible Study

ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY THE REVELATION

SPECIAL FOCUS:

Antichrist and the sequence of history



Bishop Alexander Mileant: The Antichrist.

*In Holy Scripture the term antichrist has a twofold meaning. In a broad and general sense this word indicates every person hostile to Christ's teaching (the Greek prefix anti- signifies against). This is the meaning St. John the Theologian used to speak of many antichrists in his epistles. In a particular sense the name Antichrist signifies a definite person – the leading adversary of Christ who is to appear before the end of the world. The appearance of this definite Antichrist on the world scene constitutes the final and decisive sign that the Second Coming of Christ is at hand. All the growing aversion towards God on the part of mankind close to the end of the world will become, so to speak, concentrated in this definite man of sin, who will lead the final desperate battle against Christianity. Of the characteristics and actions of this Antichrist, we read in **St. Paul's second epistle to the Thessalonians:***

"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God ... And now you know what is restraining (Divine Grace and Providence), which does not allow his appearance. That he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason, God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thes. 2:3-11).

Bible Study

Taking out the Christian faith aspect, Antichrist will exhibit qualities such as generosity, politeness, self-effacing, witty, friendly, solution-oriented and non-judgmental in a way that no one will have seen before. He's going to be the most popular guy in the room (so to speak). The difference will be, he won't be child-like; he will lack innocence. This is why we will be hated because as disempowered off-scouring of the nations, as St. Paul calls the Apostles, that's where the trajectory leads when everything starts to break down because of human sin and hardness of heart. If you have innocence of heart, you prick the conscience of the guilty and they can't help but have a negative reaction to you. It's an involuntary response to innocence. We are going to become increasingly disempowered because that is the way of the Cross. This is one of the ways that frees us from the "Culture War" anxiety because part of the Culture War is over power. Power, in our case, to prevent wickedness and perversion from being taught in schools; or to be disempowered as we pray in front of the Cedar River Abortuary because we are exposed to the elements and the rude gestures and remarks of passers-by. We can't stop someone from getting an abortion or convince them to change their minds and consider the option of adoption. We are out there to be witnesses to someone with an innocence of heart, this is the power of the Gospel.

Christ will not come again before someone, claiming to be Him, is prominent in the world. The Holy Fathers teach us on how to approach the times. Absence of these clear teachings makes us anxious and when we get anxious, we become inaccurate. By accessing the Holy Fathers' teachings, we become precise, confident and calm when faced with the world's current events. Their teachings are training materials so that when we are faced with the "End Times" we are prepared and knowledgeable. We have to train ourselves, spiritually, through our daily prayer rule, confession, fasting, the Sacraments and all the things that make up the regimen of our faith. If we don't train, we won't be ready when the time comes and instead, we will react hysterically to something of which we are ignorant. This leads to panic and then we end up running to anyone for solutions and this panic will lead to the embrace of the Antichrist. It's the true Christians who will be the only ones who won't panic. The Coronavirus, the lockdown and government regulations have caused many people to become anxious. We need to step back and acknowledge that this is not the correct response. This is an opportunity for training to say "no". The response through all of this is to step back and take a breath so that we can face anything. **Ephesians 6: 10-20** *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13) Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14) Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15) and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16) above all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; 18) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints - 19) and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20) for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."* By exuding calm, confidence and joyfulness, there will be souls ripe for the harvest who will draw on our composure seeking answers that will lead them to Christ. If spiritual turbulence gets wicked, then it's our composure not our panic that will supply what people need.

This idea that the evil one is going to slip the "mark of the beast" onto our foreheads, without our knowledge, is unfounded. A person has to consciously deny Christ to become a servant of darkness.

Bible Study

A number of external factors will have to play a significant role in strengthening the power of the coming Antichrist. Possibly, during his time the threat of nuclear and biological warfare, or the specter of a horrible political and economic crisis will hang over mankind. Governments will be on the verge of collapse, and nations in turmoil and revolt. Then, on the murky waters of a global cataclysm, a "brilliant" leader will surface as the sole savior of mankind. Backing him will be a formidable organization with the goal of global domination. With its support the Antichrist will emerge with a prepared program of socio-economic reforms, which will be actively supported and advocated by the mass media. What will be the secret of the Antichrist's persuasive power and his ability to direct world events? We can envision him as a gifted and inflammatory orator, like Lenin or Hitler. His ideas and propositions will be readily accepted because they will express the thoughts and feelings of the masses of his materialistic epoch.

One would think that many Jews, opposed to Christianity, will see in the Antichrist their long-awaited Messiah, while the majority of people will be inspired by hopes that he will put an end to wars and crises and will bring about a general prosperity. Having in mind such a blindness among people who fail to see the catastrophe hanging over their heads, St. Paul wrote: "For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape" (1 Thes. 5:1-6).

We need to remember (from our Hebrews study) that the Jews (before the veil is lifted) concept of a messiah is not someone Who is God Incarnate or will defeat death through Resurrection. The notions of Messiah as we understand are not the same anticipations of the Jews. To them, messiah is a political leader who accomplishes key things; one being the restoration of Temple worship in Jerusalem; another will be the free exercise of the full Jewish Law as outlined by Moses; and the ability of all Jews to return to Israel. On the Gentile side, there is going to be general recognition of this man's unique ability to muster the forces of good (so to speak) throughout the world. With the expectation that he will accomplish things like leading us back from the brink of thermonuclear war; dealing with the effects of some kind of environmental catastrophe, such as saving mankind from the effects of "Wormwood" (**Revelation 8:10-11** "Then the third angel sounded; and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11) The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.") and providing a solution for that and amaze the world. Antichrist will so intoxicate the world population, that's already in a position of great desperation, that they will basically hail him as a living god. After he attains power, the world will organize itself under a single "world" government run by him and authority will reside with him. This will be the beginning of the final phase of world history and will be a very desperate time. There will be a lot of martyrdoms, including Enoch and Elijah (who didn't die but were taken up into heaven). God will send them both back as prophets and they will expose the lies of Antichrist. Many will believe in the true Gospel, including many Jews, recognizing Antichrist for the fraud that he is resulting in catastrophic conflict where the peak will last two and half years and then the end will come. (**Father Seraphim's reading suggestion:** "Father Elijah" by Michael O'Brien. He's done a beautiful job of painting a picture of the personality and methodology of the Antichrist.) There will be a general panic that precedes Antichrist's emergence. This will motivate people to accept him. One of the key things that we need to remember is to **NOT** panic. Antichrist will be in a constant, profound and conscience communion with the devil. It will be the evil and totally opposite communion that God the Father has with God the Son. Remember the devil is a copier, a deceiver and a mocker and can't create anything. The devil is not going to be incarnate as Antichrist. The devil is a spirit and Antichrist will be a man who will have a unique and unprecedented communion with the devil.

Look for the continuation of our study on Antichrist in June's newsletter.

ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

I want to share the following article sent to me, by Kim Triller, Executive Director of Care Net of Puget Sound:



An online appointment request appeared on our screen. “Aliyah” had just been to an abortion clinic the day before but wanted an ultrasound at Care Net before making a final decision.

As our client advocate and Aliyah texted back and forth, the conversation became lengthy, and they switched to a phone call.

In an hour-long call, Aliyah explained she was pro-choice, but she wasn’t sure if abortion was the right decision for her. However, she was receiving a lot of pressure from her boyfriend to have a medical abortion. Aliyah was less than 8 weeks pregnant, and she said her boyfriend wanted the “problem” to go away.

During the consultation at the abortion clinic, any time she suggested a way the pregnancy might work, she was always encouraged by the clinic staff and her boyfriend to get an abortion. Aliyah stated, “To have both of them putting such pressure on me...Every argument I stated they had a response, and it always ended with an abortion.”

It came to a point where she thought, “They are right...why am I even fighting this? I just need to have an abortion.”

Aliyah told her boyfriend and staff at the clinic that she needed time, and she walked out. He was furious, and they had been fighting ever since.

We scheduled Aliyah for an ultrasound, and she tried to encourage her boyfriend to come with her, but he wouldn’t. However, when Aliyah saw the little heartbeat on the screen, she saw the truth of what was growing inside her.

She was overjoyed and empowered to carry to term, stating “that’s a life, not a bunch of cells.”

Aliyah is hoping her boyfriend will change his mind and support her choice to carry, but even if he doesn’t, she says she’s not going to get an abortion.

We know, by the grace of God, even if her boyfriend fails to help raise this child, Aliyah will never be alone. Care Net is going to be there to love, support pray for, equip and empower her in her pregnancy and parenting journey.

Today, there is a tiny life being knit together in Aliyah’s womb because our God still changes hearts through the revelation of truth, many times through an ultrasound screen.

Today, both Aliyah and her baby have been rescued and redeemed from the heartache and death of abortion to a new life as mother and child.

ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

Aliyah and thousands of women like her need your support. Please help us continue to share truth and hope with women, men and families by make a donation today. Text CARENET to 91999 to make a tax-deductible gift today or visit our website.

Thank you for your support.

In His strength,
Kim Triller, Executive Director



**Planned Parenthood closes
Kent, Shelton and First Hill
Seattle locations!!!**

Funding troubles are cited.

March 17, 2021 at 11:31 am PDT by [Deedee Sun, KIRO 7 News](#)

SEATTLE — Planned Parenthood says funding challenges have forced it to close three locations in Western Washington this year in Seattle, Kent, and Shelton. The closures impact about 7,000 clients.

The organization says the biggest reason for the closure is because Washington State has fallen behind neighboring states when it comes to funding – specifically when it comes to Medicaid reimbursements. They say Washington is behind neighbor states on Medicaid reimbursements, & COVID lowered revenue too. They're calling lawmakers to act before more closures.

The 2021 spring campaign for the 40 Days for Life ended with a rally on March 27 held in front of the Cedar River Abortion Clinic. Father Seraphim led us in prayer from the Orthodox Prayer Book. It was so wonderful to have this wonderful group of Pro-Lifers join us in Orthodox prayer. The announcement of the closure of three abortion clinics in the area was met with resounding applause! It's easy to become disheartened during these vigils when passers-by scream obscenities and try and distract us from our vigil. To hear that God answered our prayers with three local closures of abortion clinics was truly a blessing.

Our Pro-Life Ministry has decided to continue our prayer vigils at St. Nicholas every other Wednesday from 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm, starting April 14. We hope you can join us. Please check the on-line calendar at stnicholastacoma.org for vigil dates. Due to security reasons and Narthex construction, please use the stairs on the 16th St. side of the Church to enter the Sanctuary. Please knock if the door is not left ajar. If you have any questions or need more information please contact me at the Zoom email address: stnicholaszoom@gmail.com

Submitted by: Genevieve Eagle



ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

Ministry of Akathist, Prayers for the Departed

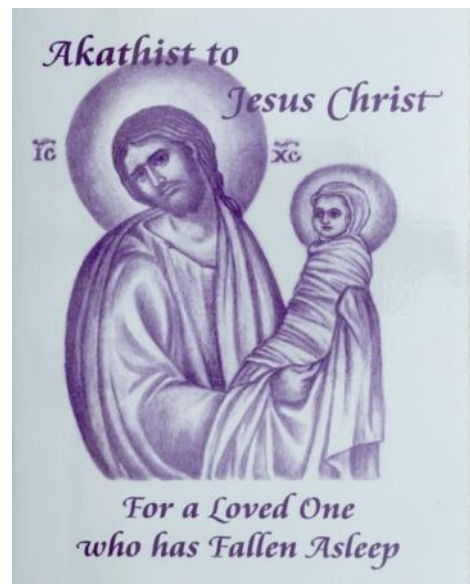


Thank you to all who are involved in this wonderful ministry at Saint Nicholas. In offering the gift of praying the Akathist to Jesus Christ for a Loved One who Has Fallen Asleep, it is a great comfort to family and friends of the departed ones.

When we offer these prayers for the newly departed, it also helps us in many ways. **May God bless your gift of prayer.**

If you are interested in knowing more about this ministry, or would like to be involved, please contact the church office.

Thank you again,
Kathy Rowley



ST. NICHOLAS FLOWER MINISTRY

The Appreciation of Flowers



St. Nicholas Flower Ministry wants to thank those who made donations for **Ephitaios** flowers. In the Orthodox Church it is customary to honor special days with either flowers or **Prospora**. There are many days throughout the year that this applies to, for example Beloved Names Day or Feast Day. Please consider making a donation to the Flower Ministry on behalf of a special holiday that has significant meaning to you and your family.

Schedule for Holy Week:

(Due to Covid regulations, we must schedule in two separate shifts)

Wednesday, April 28: pre-flower arranging for the **Kouvouklion** after and before services...between 10am and 3pm.

Shift 1: 10:00—Noon

Shift 2: 12:30—2:30

Thursday, April 29: Gathering and cutting bay leaves from the tree...after morning liturgy about noon.

Friday, April 30: Decorating the **Kouvouklion** and the church after and before services...between 10am and 3pm.

Shift 1: 10:00—Noon

Shift 2: 12:30—2:30

Please contact **Kathy Rowley** for the shift you would be available for.

Thank you!

Greek Language School

Modern Greek Language School/Classes



“Advanced Class” - Student Picture of 04-15-2021



“Pictures of previous years”

Greek Language School

Pictures of previous years continued...



Modern Greek Language School / Classes:

The 2020 - 2021 Modern Greek Language School "Advanced Class - Εκτη Τάξη" resumed on Thursday, October 8, 2020 and will continue to Jun. 25, 2021" every Thursday, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions on "Gathering" all classes are virtual via "Zoom Teleconferencing", for more information please contact Genevieve Eagle or George Pirotis.

General Information: **The classes are open to everyone** that is interested to learn the Greek Language, History and Culture!

Teacher - George Pirotis

Contact Church Office - 253-272-0466

Purpose: The purpose of the Greek School is to promote the Greek letters, language, culture, and Hellenic Civilization. **The classes are open to all parishioners.**

Students will learn Grammar, Modern Conversational Greek and some of the Biblical - Ancient Greek Terminology.

To the satisfaction of the teacher, there is lots of energy, interest, and curiosity of the class in learning the **great influence of the "Greek Language and the Hellenism"** to the "Western Civilization" and to the whole world!

Yearly events and possible student involvement:

Αγιασμός (Blessing) of the class at the beginning of the School year.

Sunday, October 31st - **OXI Day Celebration.**

Thursday, March 28th, 2021 **Celebration, commemorating the March 25th, 1821 Revolution for the Greek Independence from the Ottoman Empire!**

Cost: The classes are provided free of charge!

George Pirotis-

PROSPHORA

PROVIDING PROSFORO

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord Sabaoth

Your own of your own we offer unto You, on behalf of all and for all.

Despina Ampatzis brings the offering for the first Sunday of every month.



Thank you, Despina.

LECHEM-ARTOS-BREAD

Following the Word Through Scripture

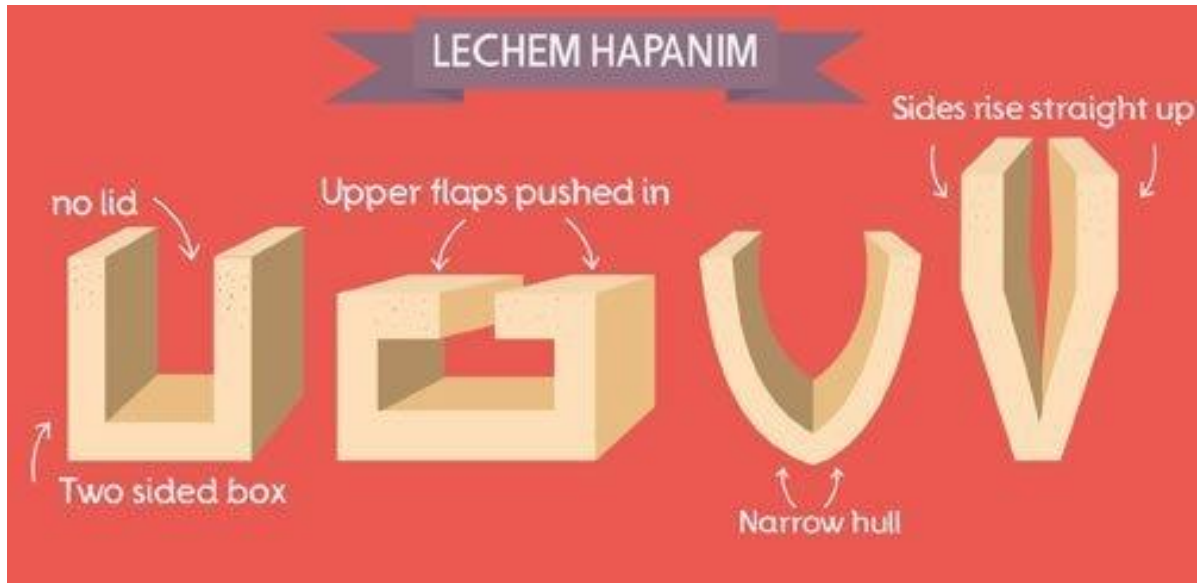
*Leviticus 24:5-9: You shall also take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it. Two-tenths of an ephah shall be in each cake. You shall set them as two deposits, six loaves in each deposit, on the pure table before the Lord. Then you shall put pure frankincense and salt on each deposit, that it may be on the **bread** for a **memorial** offering to the Lord. **Every Sabbath day** it shall be placed **before** the Lord continually, in the presence of the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. It shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat these things in a holy place; for this is most holy to him from the things sacrificed to the Lord, as a perpetual ordinance.*

We call this bread the “bread of the presence,” and I was wondering why. According to Jewish sources this bread is called lechem ha-panim, or the bread of the face. In using Blue Letter Bible and Strongs Concordance, I discovered the word “before” in our Leviticus passage is Hebrew word 6440, panim, with a meaning of face, as at the face of, in front of, in the presence of. It is used, for instance, in Genesis in the creation story, *upon the **face** of the deep, fly above the earth in the **open** firmament of heaven, a mist from the earth watered the whole **face** of the ground, Adam and his wife hid themselves from the **presence** of the Lord;* face, open, and presence are all translations of panim. The Greek word for “before” here in Leviticus is enanti, #1725, with a meaning of before, or in the presence of.

In some other Bible verses this bread is referred to as “the bread of the arrangement” because of the instructions to arrange it in two deposits of six loaves each, on this table, in this place, every Sabbath.

PROSPHORA

The Jewish Talmud claims these loaves were baked in a very specific shape and that it was called lechem ha-panim because it had many faces, or many sides. (Image from https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/2974301/jewish/The-Showbread-The-How-and-Why-of-the-Temple-Bread-Offering.htm)



This bread of the presence is what King David and his men ate one time when they were fleeing from Saul and were hungry, even though it is said to be only for certain of the priests. The story is in 1 Samuel 21, or in our Orthodox Bible 1 Kingdoms 21. It was the priest in the Temple who gave this “holy bread” to the future king David (whose descendant is the Theotokos) and his men, but only after determining that the men were ritually clean and had been keeping themselves from women. And when accepting the bread, David said that the expedition itself that he and his men were on was unclean, but that it would be “sanctified this day.” In the Gospels when Jesus was questioned as to why his disciples “broke the law” by picking and eating grain on the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-28), He responded “Have you not read what David did...” and, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath: therefore, the Son of Man is Lord also of the Sabbath.”

The reference to putting salt on the bread of the presence is found only in the Greek manuscript, not in the Hebrew, but it refers back to Leviticus 2:13, the firstfruits offerings. *Now every gift of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the salt of the Lord’s covenant to be lacking from your grain offerings. With every gift, you shall offer salt to the Lord your God.*

Finally we come to the last references to bread in the Book of Leviticus, found in chapter 26:

Among the blessings for obedience to God’s instruction on how to live or how to be is that your needs will be fully met. *Leviticus 26:5: Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; and you shall eat your **bread** to the full, and dwell in your land safely.*

PROSPHORA

Among corrections for disobedience there is *Leviticus 26:26*: *When you are afflicted by want of **bread**, ten women shall bake your **bread** in one oven; and they shall dole out your **bread** by measure, and you shall eat and still be hungry.* I think the idea is that finding ourselves in such a position we, like the prodigal son, come to ourselves and humbly turn back to our Father.

To be continued...

Deborah Talbot--



PHILOPTOCHOS

President's Message

The Philoptochos recent and upcoming projects to give back to our community are described below.

Camp Agape Northwest Virtual Camp- For the last 25 years the Philoptochos chapters of St. Demetrios, Assumption, St. Nicholas and Holy Apostles have worked together to hold a 6 day camp for kids with cancer and their families. This camp is held at All Saint's Camp on Raft Island in Gig Harbor. Due to Covid 19 restrictions planning is underway for a virtual camp to be held July 24-28, 2021. Volunteers are needed to help with welcoming delivery parades, meal delivery, and others program assistance. Volunteer applications are now available on the CANW website- campagapenw.net

Philoptochos Member Meetings-The chapter member meetings continue to be held monthly by Zoom. At the April meeting donations were authorized for the biennial Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon and for the Easter Flower ministry. The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2021, at 5:00 P.M. Please call Merrilee Pangis at 253-759-1026 for the Zoom information. Topics will include Philoptochos programs and ministry commitments and the 2021 chapter election. We invite members and interested parishioners to join these meetings and share their thoughts. The calendar of events will be posted in the Messenger when we can resume our activities.

Philoptochos Membership-Annual membership renewal requests have been mailed to all current members. Please consider renewing your membership. We welcome new members as well. Annual dues are \$30/year. Please contact Jane Evancho at 253-565-9744 if you would like the membership form.

Outreach to others-Please take a few minutes to call and support the older members of our community during the pandemic. Human contact and interaction is so important during these trying COVID-19 times.

Thanks for your Support!

Jane Evancho

Donations and Pledges

On line Donations now possible

ON-LINE DONATIONS

The donation section of the Church’s website has been revamped to include a link to a new on-line donation form. The form allows one-time donations, setup for automatic recurring donations, and selection of donation purpose. There is also a note section to inform Church accounting of special handling needs, such as memorial donations or address changes. Church on-line donations are directed to the Church through WePay (a Chase Bank Affiliate) and Aplos Software, LLC. Donors contributing on-line receive an email thanking them for their donation. In addition, through a link in the donation notification, each donor can setup their own Aplos account to view a list of on-line donations, manage recurring donations, and to view and print a contributions statement.



Please be aware that in converting to this software I noticed multiple duplicative account names. In some instances, I will need to merge duplicate accounts so the contribution statement accurately combines into one statement both the on-line donations and check and cash donations. The unique identifier for this purpose is a valid email address.

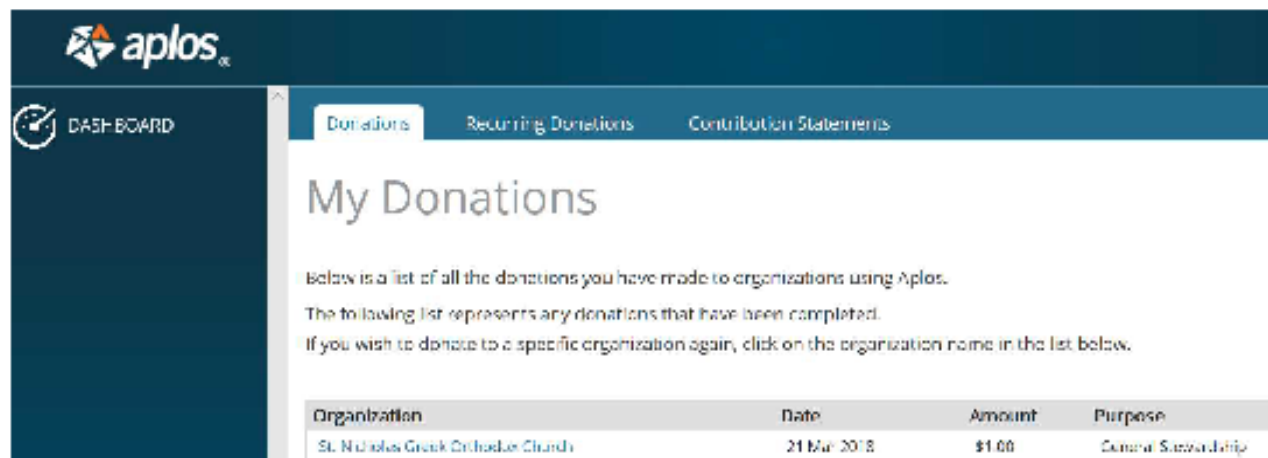
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality. If you have any problems or questions with this new service, please let me know. As your treasurer, I am here to serve you!

In Christ,

Mark Robinson

On-Line Contribution Instructions:

- 1) On a computer or mobile device, go to the Church’s website – www.stnicholastacoma.org
- 2) Select the  button. This takes you to the Church’s donate page!
- 3) Select the gold colored donate  button at the bottom of the page.
- 4) You will now be taken to the page to make your donation. Simply complete the form.
- 5) From the contributions email you receive, select the link to setup your own Aplos account. An account history page will be available. The first tab will show only on-line donations, the second tab allows accounting for recurring donations, and the third is for contribution statements listing on-line, check, and cash donations.



OUR MISSION

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church proclaims and teaches the Gospel in accordance with the Orthodox Faith; sanctifies the faithful through God's grace in worship, the Divine Liturgy, and other sacraments; enhances parishioners' spiritual life; and adds to the faithful by receiving individuals into the Church through instruction, baptism, and/or chrismation.

COMMIT YOUR TIME AND TALENT TO ASSIST WITH GOD'S WORK

St. Nicholas has several ministries that exist to fulfill our parish mission and serve our community. Giving of our time and talent through these ministries is just as much an act of stewardship as giving financially. If you would like to contribute your time and talent through one of our ministries, please visit our website to see a list of active ministries: stnicholastacoma.org/ministry-center.

HOW TO RETURN THIS CARD

BY MAIL:

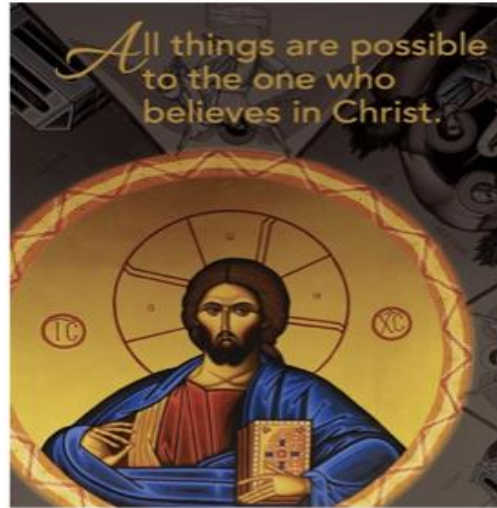
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
 Attn: Church Treasurer
 1523 S. Yakima Ave.
 Tacoma, WA 98405

AT CHURCH:

Drop your completed card into the secured dropbox on the stewardship table in the downstairs hall.

Stewardship contributions can be fulfilled with cash, check, credit card, or through online donations at stnicholastacoma.org/donate. For more information, please visit: stnicholastacoma.org/stewardship.

**2021 STEWARDSHIP CARD
 ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
 TACOMA, WASHINGTON**



"Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves, and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God. Giving is not a substitute for commitment - it is an expression of our commitment."
Fr. Seraphim Majmudar

Please PRINT your information clearly

Name (F/M/L):
 DOB (M/D/Y):
 Email:
 Telephone:
 Spouse:
 DOB (M/D/Y):
 Email:
 Telephone:

Household Information

Address
 City/St/Zip

Dependent Children

Name (F/MI/L)	DOB (m/d/y)	Orthodox
.....	(Y/N)
.....	(Y/N)
.....	(Y/N)
.....	(Y/N)

Are we living our calling and preparing: "... a good account before the awesome judgment seat of Christ?"
 Is our stewardship the healthiest and the most effective it can be?

Christ's Possible Question to You:

"What did you do with MY Church under Your watch given all of the gifts I gave you?"

..... 2021 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT.....

Tithing a minimum of 10% of the blessings God has bestowed upon us is what we as Orthodox Christians are asked to do. If you are unable to tithe 10% of God's blessings at this time, please consider tithing a percentage amount equal to what you gave last year, but rounded up to the next whole number.

I/We offer a minimum stewardship pledge of \$...../year or \$...../month in 2021 to support God's work.

I/We understand that by participating in supporting our parish financially and by committing my/our Time and Tal-ents, I/we shall be a member(s) in good standing at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

SIGNATURE.....

Click Here to Email Completed Form To Treasurer

Note: To email - the PDF must be open in Adobe Acrobat or a Comparable PDF Reader

Saint Nicholas Messenger

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Address Service Requested

