Volume 31 Number 12

December 2017

Messenger



Καλά Χριστούγεννα

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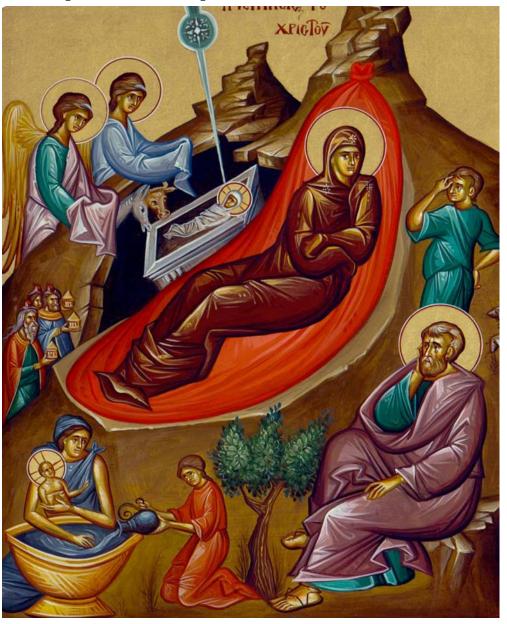
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God Becomes Human To Show Us the Way

by Father Thomas Fitzgerald

What shall we offer you, O Christ?

Who for our sake appeared on earth as a human?

Every creature made by you offers you thanksgiving.

The angels offer you a hymn,

The heavens, a star,

The magi, gifts,

The shepherds, their wonder,

The earth, its cave,

The wilderness, a manger,

And we offer to you, a Virgin Mother.

- Vesper Hymn

Continued on page 23

St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave Tacoma, WA 98405

Phone: 253-272-0466

Parish Website: <u>stnicholastacoma.org</u> E-Mail: mail@stnicholastacoma.org



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



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



Editor: Bill Samaras

Media team: Paula Karanasos, Rebecca Primis, Fr. Seraphim, Roxanne Vallantine
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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

Altar Servers

Dr Nick Themelis

Bible Study

Kathy Bouzinekis

Building Committee

Bill Acker

Choir

Rebecca Philips

Philia

Diane Pirotis

Hands of Love

Merrilee Pangis

Military Service

Col. Gus Chamles

Premarital Education

George Pirotis, Diane Pirotis

Welcome

Diane Pirotis

2017 Parish Council

Andrew Primis —President
David Frisk—Vice-President
Christina Leinneweber—Treasurer
Fenia Mavromichali —Secretary
Morgan Blackmore, Anthony Ciarochi,
George Delyanis, Genevieve Eagle,
Zach Karanasos, Mark Robinson, Kelly Rossi
Roxanne Vallantine

Greek Folk Dance

Evy Kontos — Chair & Intermediate dancers

Anastasia Fyntrilakis - Treasurer & Teen dancers

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

Kelly Rossi — Beginner dancers

George Pirotis - Adult Group Instructor

Greek School

George Pirotis

Pilgrimage

Zach Karanasos

Akathist Group Prayer

Sandy Dutton

Lazzarus Group

Dean Hamos

Daughters of Penelope

Helen McClure — Co-President
I. Chamales — Co-President
Karen Samaras— Vice President
Helen McClure— Secretary
Debby Lord— Treasurer

Maids of Athena

Alexandra Lord— President
Anna-Eleni Frisk — Vice President
Elena Apostle- Treasurer
Alexandria Samaras – Secretary
Debby Lord—Advisor
Helen McClure—Advisor

Philoptochos Society

Hariklia (Hoddi) Motz President Diane Pirotis- Vice-President Marian Palas- Secretary Joyce Kalivas- Griffin - Treasurer

Sunday School

Presbytera Sophie Majmudar-Director

Pro Life

Genevieve Eagle

Coffee Hour

Fenia Mavromichali

IT, etc.

Bill Samaras

News and Announcements

Council Meeting

The Parish Council will meet Tuesday December 12 at 7PM in the upper hall.



			December 2017	2		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	ĒſĬ	Sat
					ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy STRICT FAST 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: St Porphyrios 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: St Porphyrios	2 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy St Porphyrios 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers
ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Prophet Zephaniah St Nicholas Fish Dinner & Election 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	4 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy St Barbara & St John of Damascus 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:30am-8:30am Akathist to St Barbara	5 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Sabbas 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 10:00am-11:00am Bible study 7:00pm-8:00pm Great Vespers: St	ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy FAST: Fish, Wine & Oil OK ST NICHOLAS 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm NO PARAKLESIS OR CATECHISM	ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Ambrose of Milan 6:30pm-7:30pm Lazarus Group (Grief Ministry)	ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Fr S at Mission in Tri Cities (Mission in Tri Cities) Patapios of Thebes STRICT FAST	4DVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Conception of the Theotokos Fr S at Mission in Tri Cities (Mission in Tri Cities)
ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Thomas of Bithynia 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-1:00pm Divine Liturgy 12:00pm-1:00pm Giving Tree Gift Deliveries 2:00pm-3:00pm Marzwick baptism	11 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Daniel the Stylite 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy for St Spyridon	12 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Spyridon the Wonderworker 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers: St Herman of Alaska 7:00pm-10:00pm Parish Council	13 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Herman of Alaska 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:30am-8:30am Akathist to St Herman 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis	14. ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Thyrsus of Bithynia 11:00am-12:00pm Hands of Love	45 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Eleftherios FAST: Wine & Oil ok 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 10:00am-1:00am Bible study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	16 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Prophet Haggai 11:00am-12:00pm Philia Christmas Party 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers
ر	18 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Martyr Sebastian	19 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Martyr Boniface 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	20 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Fast: Wine & Oil ok John of Kronstadt 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis 8:00pm-9:00pm Catechism	21 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Juliana of Nicomedia 10:30am-11:30am three month planning 6:30pm-7:30pm Lazarus Group (Grief Ministry)	ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Anastasia Pharmakolitria (altar relics) FAST: Wine & Oil ok 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:30am-8:30am 1st Royal Hour 10:00am-11:00am 3rd,6th, 9th Royal Hours	23 40 Martyrs of Crete ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Fr at mission, Tri Cities 7:00am-8:00am Orthros 8:00am-9:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm No Vespers Tonight: Fr at Mission (Mission)
	25 CHRISTMAS FAST-FREE PERIOD! 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy of St Basil	26 FAST-FREE PERIOD! Synaxis of Theotokos 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:30am-8:30am Akathist to Theoto- kos	FAST-FREE PERIOD! FAST-FREE PERIOD! Protomartyr Stephen 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm NO PARAKLESIS OR CATECHISM 8:00pm-9:00pm NO CHOIR TO- NIGHT	28,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia FAST-FREE PERIOD! 11:00am-12:00pm Hands of Love	29 FAST-FREE PERIODI Holy Innocents Martyred by Herod	30 Anysia FAST-FREE PERIOD! 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers
31 FAST-FREE PERIOD! 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 11:00am-12:00pm Karanasos (Daley) Memorial	Notes: Acc	Access latest content at: www.stnicholastacoma.o	content at: stacoma.org			

News and Announcements

COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY

	November
5-Nov	Philoptohos Gift Cert
3-1100	Breakfast Kickoff
12-Nov	Philoptohos Veteran's Day
12 1101	Program & Luncheon
19-Nov	Stewardship Sunday /
	Ministry Fair
26-Nov	Fenia Mavromichali

	December
3-Dec	St. Nicholas Feast Day Luncheon
10-Dec	Dr. Fred Ehret
17-Dec	Presbytera Sophie
24-Dec	Sandra Ciarochi
31-Dec	Zachary Karanasos



Coffee Hour Teams

Team 1: Presbytera Sophie Majmudar, Evy Kontos, Irene Misiewicz, Chrysanthe Barnes, Gloria Brown, Deborah Talbot Dr. Ingrid Chamales, Anna Marie Oakes-Joudy

Team 2: Zachary Karanasos, Daphne Karanasos, Anna Karanasos, Angie Willen, Anne Havens, Helena Shelley, Ann Koopmen

Team 3: Fenia Mavromichali, Ronnie-Sue Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Katrina Orriss, David Orriss, Kathy Hermick, Marie Bell

Team 4: **Sandra Ciarochi**, Despina Kipelides, Dana Robinson, Julie Kotsali, Roxanne Vallantine, Fenia Mavromichali

Team 5: **Mary Leonard**, Mary Koumantaros, Dr. Anastasia Fyntrilakis-Ehret, Karen Samaras, Maria Cook, Deena Fotinopoulos, Rikky Kapes

Team 6: **The Frisks/Brandvold**: David, Savina, Anna-Eleni, Sokratis, Stavros, Savas and Yvonne Brandvold

Team 7: **Dr. Fred Ehret**, Bill Samaras, John Cook, Jacob Cook, Ed Winskill, Hugh Winskill, Jason Heiser, Alex Misiewicz, Kieth Rogge

Beloved Ministry Leaders and Team Members,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your kindness and generosity seems too little to convey the depth of my gratitude to you for contributing your resources, time and energy to the Coffee Hour Ministry. Thank you for advancing our parish's mission by extending hospitality, promoting fellowship and practicing the principles of our Faith.

WISHING YOU AND YOURS

A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS SEASON

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

With many and sincere thanks for your engagement and offerings throughout the year.

FENIA

DECEMBER 2017 Messenger

Announcements

Prosphora Bakers

December 2017



December 10 and the week that follows: Deborah Talbot December 17 and the week that follows: Despina Ampatzis

December 3 and the week that follows: Mark Robinson

December 24 and the week that follows: Kelly Rossi

Kelly--

MINISTRY FAIR COMING IN FEBRUARY!

The Ministry Fair is a wonderful way for you to meet and gather information about various Ministries at St. Nicholas. The Fair serves to educate while helping us grow in our relationship with the Lord. Ask questions, discern gifts and talents, and learn how to share your gifts. We have an opportunity to recommit our time and talent in order to carry out our mission statement - our baptismal call to be followers of Jesus Christ. There will be activities for all ages! Please look for the January "Messenger" for more information and specifics of the "Ministry Fair". Please see Sandy Dutton for any questions you may have.

Sunday School

This year we will be incorporating Sunday school students from grades 7 and 8 into the "Fire on Father" sessions with Fr. Seraphim.

For parents new to Fire on Father, I want to explain how these sessions work. Once a month, kids in grades 7-12 have a chance to meet, as a group, with Fr. Seraphim. The sessions are held in Fr. Seraphim's office during coffee hour. They can ask questions and discuss any topics they feel are important. The sessions will begin in November. Below are the dates for Fire on Father sessions for the year. Please mark these on your calendars because I will definitely forget to send out reminders.

Nov. 26

Dec. 10

Jan.21

Feb. 11

Mar. 18

Apr. 22

May 20

June 3

Looking forward to another great Sun. School year!

Presbytera Sophie—

Ministry News

INQUIRERS CLASS

Fr Seraphim invites all who are exploring the Orthodox Christian faith to the upcoming Inquirers Classes. (Please note this is not for parishioners, but for those interested in the Church, and those who are preparing to become Catechumens in the coming months.)

Topic: Book of Genesis: the Creation & Fall (Genesis 1-3) The beginning of the universe; the Holy Trinity; Adam & Eve; effects of the Fall; preparation for incarnation of Christ

Schedule: Wednesday evenings in November & December. <u>Evening begins with a service in the church</u> at 7pm; class begins at 8pm, and ends promptly at 9pm.

11/8: <u>Pre-Session</u>. **Vespers & a slideshow on my trip to Greece**. While not technically a part of the class, I am hoping all of you will join us, as it will be a good opportunity to absorb a bit of the "ethos" of Orthodoxy.

11/15: Session 1: The creation. (God is Trinity; the six days; Uncreated-Created distinction)

11/29: Session 2: Creation, continued. (Six days, continued; creation of Adam & Eve)

12/13: <u>Session 3</u>: **Image & Likeness** (incorruptibility of Adam & Eve; harmony in creation; no death or entropy)

12/20: <u>Session 4</u>: **The Fall** (freedom; temptation by devil; disharmony in creation; spiritual illness as fallen condition of all)

Fr Seraphim—

Hands of Love

Our members will meet on December 14 and December 28, Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. in the downstairs hall. Please join us for fellowship. You may bring your WIP (work in progress) knitting, crocheting or needlework. There is an inventory of yarn available to begin a handmade item. Our members are already discussing new ideas for the Greek Festival. Thank you to all who made and brought handmade items for the Greek Festival. All proceeds went to the church. Please contact Krisann Firth or Merrilee Pangis for information.





Merrilee-

Ministry News

BUILDING COMMITTEE NEWS ROLLING OUT THE CARPET IN 2018

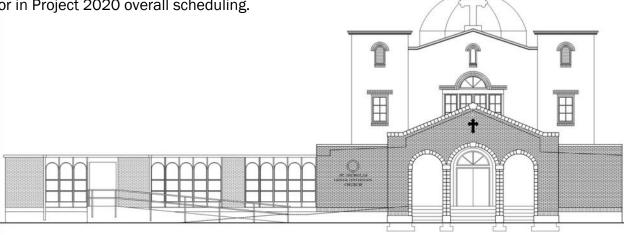
Carpet in the Upper Hall, Narthex and adjoining corridors is scheduled to be replaced during the week of January 8th through the 12th, after Christmas and the first full week after New Year's. The new carpet will be a near match in terms of color and pattern to what's already there, but heavier duty, and of course new and fresh smelling rather than worn, torn and stained. Actual work should take about three days to complete, allowing an additional two days of wiggle room during the course of a five day work week, with the primary intent being to not disrupt Sunday Liturgies. People participating in weekday and/or week night activities during that time frame that would normally take place in the Upper Hall are asked to consider instead holding them in the Lower Hall for this one time only. Specific dates for the carpet replacement work will be confirmed in the upcoming January Messenger.

Other small 2018 projects & repairs to focus on in the upcoming Spring:

- Temporary repairs and maintenance over the Dining and Upper Hall roofs.
- Widening an existing north property line fence gate well before the next Greek Festival.
- Re-stripe the north parking lot.
- Explore opportunities to insulate the attic space over the Sanctuary.

Looking Ahead At Project 2020:

This is one of many reminders that vetting, design, permitting and soliciting of the Narthex Renovation; prerequisite activities needed to be done before the project can be bid, is going to take much longer than the field construction itself. This is why full funding is needed well in advance of actual ground breaking, and has been taken account for in Project 2020 overall scheduling.



Bill Acker-

Ministry News

Philoptochos News

Merry Christmas everyone!

Another year has passed and many of us are fortunate to be around, in relatively good health, able to enjoy our participation in church services and functions and on occasion give a helping hand.

Our Philoptochos organization does just that, participates in church services and events and gives a helping hand to fellow parishioners and the community at large, whenever possible.

This past year our Philoptochos catered 6+ Makaria and Memorial events, a Palm Sunday Luncheon, a Veteran's Luncheon.

We also catered our annual Ladies Spring Luncheon (formerly known as Mother's Day Tea) and raffle, making it our major fundraiser for the year. We held events such as the Soup and the Pie Sundays collecting money for the Metropolis cancer and autism funds, the Harvest Breakfast Kickoff where we collect money (you can still donate till Dec 10) for holiday gift certificates for needy families. We honor our house bound and present them on Valentine's Day with goodie bags and at Easter with Easter baskets. Then there is the Giving Tree process where our parishioners purchase Christmas gifts for children whose age and sex are defined in tags they (parishioners) take off the tree. Learn more about this from Marian Palas, who has been leading this process for many years. Thanks to Marian, her helpers, and to all of

We participate and assist our Puget Sound Philoptochos sisters with Camp Agape fund raising efforts and the camp functions in July.

These are some of the events where we participate as a team but not all. We have fun doing all of these things and we learn from each other as we always strive to do things better and more efficiently. We have leaders at each section of meal prep who know exactly what/how much to purchase and how to prep. For example we have a couple of ladies who are experts in the fish we normally use for the Makaria services. They know how much we need, what kind, how to prep it how long to cook it, a couple experts on sauce making with the right herbs etc etc. we have a couple of ladies who always make the most unbelievably delicious manestra. Folks who can make the awesome desserts even for large quantities. Our Philoptochos is an unbelievable team!!!

We also watch the bottom line minimizing expenses so more funds can be available for our philanthropic work.

This year (2017) we were able to purchase and donate to our church a wonderful stand up mixer (over \$8,000 cost). This mixer is of great help for festival baking prep (mixing tsoureki, cookie/pastry dough etc. etc).

So why am I telling you all this? Well, I am trying to illustrate how great and satisfying it is to belong to this organization. Come join us, and participate in any/all these activities that interest you. Be a hostess and decorate your Ladies Spring Luncheon table in the theme of your choice or be the leader in charge of one of our functions or be a helper. Come join. If you pay your dues now (\$30 regular or \$25 for seniors over 65) then we will apply them for 2018 starting in Jan.

This is our calendar for December:

you for your support.

Dec 5. St. Nicholas Vespers (Philoptochos will prepare a Lenten meal)

Dec 6. St. Nicholas Feast Day

Dec 10 Giving Tree Gifts must be delivered

Dec 16 Philia Christmas party

Merry Christmas and Good Tidings to you and yours

Hoddi-

Ministry News

Philoptochos News

PHILOPTOCHOS NEEDS YOU!

Starting in January I will be collecting dues for 2018 membership. Remember our year starts in January and runs through December. The membership is \$25 for seniors and \$30 for the rest of us. The amount hasn't changed for years. Do you see your name on our membership list, it might be time to consider joining or re-joining. Please ask any member about Philoptochoas (* follow officer names) – it's the Women's Ministry.

Irene Angelos-Felker, Marlene Angelos, Yvonne Brandvold*, Serma Charuhas, Maria Cook, Georgia, Dapping, Sandra Dutton*, Jane Evancho*, Krisann Firth, Maria Georgopolos, Joyce Kalivas-Griffin*, Sally Hallis*, Kathleen Heidal*, Hariklia Kapes, Anna Karanasos, Daphne Karanasos, Sharon Kennedy, Claudia Kiezling, Anna Koopman*, Milinda Kouklis, Maria Koumantaros, Mary Leonard, Pres. Sophie Majmudar*, Susan Manthou, Katy Mason*, MaryAnn Matherne, Hariklia Motz*, Deanne O'Connell, Marian Palas, Elly Pangis, Merrilee Pangis*, Diane Pirotis*, Jeannie Rangles, Karen Samaras*, Jane Micheal White, Kalitsa Xitco.

Chocolate Ball

The Camp Agape NW board hosted the 9th annual Chocolate & Wine Ball in Seattle on November 12, 2017. More than 200 attendees gathered to support the Camp Agape NW ministry with fine dining, tasting local chocolates and wines, bidding on a variety of silent auction items and donating through an oral appeal. The program highlight was an inspiring talk by Dryden Nelson, a Camp Agape NW camper and cancer survivor.

Camp Agape NW is a Philoptochos ministry locally operated by a board with members from Assumption, Holy Apostles, St. Demetrios, and St. Nicholas churches.



Guest speaker Dryden Nelson with Presbytera Pat Psagalakis



Attendees from St. Nicholas: (upper level) Marian Palas, Deborah Middleton, Sofie Kenny(St. Demetrios), Olga Manos, Gina Panagiotu, & Pres. Sophie Majmudar; (lower level) Kathleen Heidel, Sally Hallis, Mary Koumantaros & Yvonne Brandvold.

Ministry News

Philoptochos Activities for the 2017-2018 season

2017

Date	Event	Notes	Chair
SEPT	NO SEPTEMBER MEETING		
SEPT 10	Tray for HOLY CROSS	Tray for seminary	Anne, Joyce, Katy
OCT 18	MEETING	NO MEAL @3:30 (3rd Wed of the month)	
NOV 5	ST KOSMAS AND DAMIAN	Tray for Patriarchate Charities	
Nov 5	HARVEST GIFT CERT	Breakfast kick off	Joyce and Katy
NOV 12	VETERANS LUNCHEON	Program by Gus Chamales	Merrilee and Diane
NOV 12	CHOCOLATE BALL	For Camp Agape	
NOV 15	MEETING	NO MEAL @3:30	
NOV 19	GIVING TREE & TAGS GO UP		Marian
DEC	NO DECEMBER MEETING		
DEC 5	ST NICHOLAS VESPERS		Becky
DEC 10	ALL GIVING TREE GIFTS MUST BE DELIVERED		
DEC 16	PHILIA CHRISTMAS PARTY	@11:00	Diane, Joyce and Katy

2018

Date	Event	Notes	Chair
JAN 7	VASILOPETA	VASILOPETA CUTTING	Elly agreed
JAN 13	"AFTER CHRISTMAS PARTY"	@5:00 Johnny's Dock (Joyce reserved)	
JAN 17	MEETING	NO MEAL @3:30	
JAN 21	POTLUCK SOUP COFFEE HOUR	BENEFITING SOCIAL SERVICES/CANCER FUND	Karen
FEB 4	PIE SALE	BENEFITS AUTISM	Sandy and Diane
FEB 14	VALENTINE BAGS FOR HOME- BOUND		Karen and Anastasia?
FEB 21	MEETING	NO MEAL @3:30	
MAR	LENTEN MEALS	?	Presbytera Sophie
MAR 10	LADIES LUNCHEON MTG	@12:00(BJ'S Restaurant) Planning Committee (Hostesses, chairs etc)	
MAR 21	MEETING -	NO MEAL @3:30	
MAR 31	PALM TYING/LUNCH		Presbytera Sophie
	NO APRIL MEETING		
APR 1	PALM SUNDAY DINNER		
APR 1	PASCHA BAGS FOR HOME- BOUND		Karen, Anastasia?
MAY 13	MOTHERS DAY FLOWERS		Sally
MAY 19	LADIES SPRING LUNCHEON		
MAY 23	FINAL MEETING	Jeannie's @5:00 or later	Anne
JUNE 10	GRADUATES COFFEE		Marian
JUNE 17	FATHERS DAY BREAKFAST	(and Fr. Seraphim's birthday)	Joyce and Katy
JULY	CAMP AGAPE	July 22 – July 28	

Ministry News

ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY



Icon of the Gathering of the Bodiless Powers

St. Nicholas Bible Study is studying the Gospel of Mark and we just read Chapter 5 regarding the Gadarene demoniac. Father Seraphim said to better understand demons, we needed to study and understand angels. Angels have always fascinated me, so I would like to share some of the information we discussed.

The following contains excerpts from St. John of Damascus' "Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith", concerning angels and demons:

"An angel is an intelligent essence, in perpetual motion, with free-will, incorporeal, ministering to God, having obtained by grace an immortal nature: and the Creator alone knows the form and limitation of its essence. But all that we can understand is, that it is incorporeal and immaterial. For all that is compared with God Who alone is incomparable, we find to be dense and material. For in reality only the Deity is immaterial and incorporeal."

"They are circumscribed: for when they are in the Heaven they are not on the earth: and when they are sent by God down to the earth they do not remain in the Heaven. They are not hemmed in by walls and doors, and bars and seals, for they are quite unlimited. Unlimited, I repeat, for it is not as they really are that they reveal themselves to the worthy men to whom God wishes them to appear, but in a changed form which the beholders are capable of seeing. For that alone is naturally and strictly unlimited which is un-created. For every created tiring is limited by God Who created it."

"He (Lucifer) who from among these angelic powers was set over the earthly realm, and into whose hands God committed the guardianship of the earth, was not made wicked in nature but was good, and made for good ends, and received from his Creator no trace whatever of evil in himself. But he did not sustain the brightness and the honour which the Creator had bestowed on him, and of his free choice was changed from what was in harmony to what was at variance with his nature, and became roused against God Who created him, and determined to rise in rebellion against Him: and he was the first to depart from good and become evil. For evil is nothing else than absence of goodness, just as darkness also is absence of light. For goodness is the light of the mind, and, similarly, evil is the darkness of the mind. Light, therefore, being the work of the Creator and being made good (for God saw all that He made, and behold they were exceeding good) produced darkness at His free-will. But along with him an innumerable host of angels subject to him were torn away and followed him and shared in his fall. Wherefore, being of the same nature as the angels, they became wicked, turning away at their own free choice from good to evil."

"Note, further, that what in the case of man is death is a fall in the case of angels. For after the fall there is no possibility of repentance for them, just as after death there is for men no repentance."

Submitted by: Genevieve

Ministry News

ST. NICHOLAS' PRO-LIFE MINISTRY



We had a busy, but successful fall, by volunteering at the Washington Alliance for Life at the State Fair in September. I am thankful for my dear friend, Andrea Little, (pictured above) for helping me man the booth during the last weekend of the fair.

During the month of October (and the first week of November) we held Orthodox prayer vigils on Fridays at 2 p.m. with 40 Days for Life. Again, our numbers were few, but those who attended braved cold and stormy weather to pray for the most defenseless and vulnerable - the unborn. I want to thank Father Seraphim, Kathy Rowley, Roxanne Vallantine, Stacey Bouzinekis, and John Payne (from Holy Resurrection) who came out to pray with us. But I especially want to thank Larry Crenshaw for coming out every Friday to pray with me and show support to this great cause. We also prayed for those who have been deceived by the evil one by seeking abortion as a solution to (what they think of as) their troubles; and the doctors and assistants who commit these evil actions.

St. Nicholas hosted a potluck on Sunday, November 12, for the 40 Days for Life volunteers. It was a real blessing to gather together as a community and meet those who prayed together outside the Cedar River Abortuary Clinic to end abortion.

Father Seraphim and I met with Mike Sandberg with the Care Net of Puget Sound, this month and were pleased to find such a wonderful organization that, not only, champions the unborn; but also the mothers and fathers who feel they have no other option than abortion.

Care Net offers hope by providing compassionate practical care, accurate information and life-affirming resources related to pregnancy, sexual integrity and abortion recover.

Some of the things they offer are earlybird pregnancy classes, childbirth education classes, parenting classes, maternity & baby supplies, pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, medical consults, abortion recovery (support groups and retreats, abstinence programs and perinatal hospice support. Their services are always confidential and provided at no cost to the client.

Care Net accepts disposable diapers, new and gently used baby clothes, certified car seats, cribs, cradles, etc. which parents purchase with credits obtained by attending parenting and other educational classes.

Please contact Genevieve at 907-347-1340 (phone or text) or goobahoo@gmail.com if you wish to become involved in this wonderful ministry or would like additional information.

Submitted by: Genevieve

Ministry News

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE AND MAIDS OF ATHENA

Icaria# 175 and Sparta #1 would like to wish everyone a blessed holiday and also to announce the following events.

- Nov 30th is Seussical the Musical at the Tacoma Little Theater 7 pm -210 N I St. Tacoma.
 This event is free!! Meet at the theater by 7:15 PM. *Those interested in finding out more about the DOP or MOA are also invited Dec. 3rd. Please contact Helen McClure at 253- 589-3279 or helenzmc@aol.com for location.
- 2. Dec. 3rd --coffee and treats at 3 pm -- Helen McClure's home. We will assemble gift bags for those in our community who are not able to get out. We will also have introductions and information on the AHEPA Family. Members will have a short meeting and any new maids or daughters will be initiated at this time as well.

Items needed for gift bags - 1 dozen each:

- Gift bags- lunch sack size
- Kleenex/tissues
- Chocolates
- Dried fruit/nut packets
- Pens/ note paper
- Hand Sanitizer -small
- Hand Lotion small
- Nail Files
- Wrapped Decaf Tea bags or Cocoa Packets

Any other small items you can think of that fit nicely into gift bags



Please **RSVP** if you can make the above events. (Helen or Debby)

Contact either Helen or Debby to let us know what you are bringing for gift bag donations.

Do not hesitate to call or email for any questions.

Debby Lord - Treasurer 253-973-1559 cell dklord01@yahoo.com



Ministry News

Military Ministry

December 7: Pearl Harbor Day

December 13: National Guard Birthday! Members of the National Guard include:

MAJ Jeff Rogers

December 25: Christmas Day!

Family members who want to learn more about their relative's service may request their military records. Visit the National Archives website to learn the basics. Many requests can be filed electronically; be sure to have a Social Security number, service number, dates of service and other basic information at the ready.

Some service members were entitled to honors and awards that came after the recipients took off their uniform. Some examples include:

- The Silver Star didn't exist as a medal until 1932. Prior to 1932, distinguished service members received "Citation Stars" from their commanding general to denote their accomplishments. Those awards are upgradable to Silver Stars.
- Soldiers who earned the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medic Badge during World War II
 are eligible for a Bronze Star Medal thanks to a directive from Gen. George C. Marshall...in 1947.
 Troops or next of kin can request issuance of the award and request their military records be updated.
- The Prisoner of War Medal established in 1985, targeted Vietnam War-era POWs but any service member who spent time in captivity back to WWI was retroactively eligible. Family members of deceased POWs may request the honor for their relative.

Generally, the next of kin may request military records of deceased family members. Congressional offices also may offer assistance when it comes to third party requests, those involving distant relatives, or others that aren't as easily processed through the NPRC's online portal.



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DEPLOYED TROOPS!

Gus Chamales-

Ministry News

Veteran's Day Celebration at St. Nicholas

On Sunday November 19th, Col. Gus Chamales hosted a fantastic tribute to the armed forces. All branches of the military were honored as Doug assembled an incredible picture show of many past and present St. Nicholas veterans and enlisted folk. All of us present were honored to participate in a touching show of song and prayer.







Ministry News

Update from Jesse Brandow In Guatamala

Greetings from the mountains of Guatemala! I am continuing to work here with the thousands of Mayan indigenous people who have converted to Orthodoxy. God willing, I plan to stay in Guatemala until at least 2019. This year I have been teaching many groups of people: I prepare courses for our five Guatemalan seminarians at the St. Andrew Seminary; I give workshops at our retreat center for the lay parish leaders from across Guatemala; and I travel (often in the back of pickup trucks!) to give talks in our far-flung parishes. Can you imagine if your trip to the Divine Liturgy required traveling three hours in a pickup truck over unpaved mountain roads? Many people here go to such great lengths to participate in church services because of their love for Christ.

I saw this love in a special way on Holy Friday as I watched twenty Mayan girls participate in Holy Week as myrrh bearers. They were so excited to be involved that they arrived an hour early with flowers in hand! As they circled around the tomb, showering flowers upon Christ, I felt a sense of awe come over me; I could see Mary Magdalene become incarnate in the faces of these young Mayan girls. Glory to God!

I am so grateful for your prayers and financial support as I continue here. You are the ones who make it possible for me to serve among these beautiful people. Thank you!



Above: young Mayan girls serve as myrrhbearers on Holy Friday in Aguacate, Guatemala



Above: traveling to the Divine Liturgy in a pick up truck with local acolytes and with fellow OCMC missionary Jennifer Rice

Ministry News



LAZARUS GROUP



The Lazarus Group is designed to help parishioners at St. Nicholas and other Orthodox churches in the area that have experienced the death of a loved one and are needing support in the grieving process. The group will draw from both Orthodoxy and a mental health perspective since it is important to address both in the grieving process. The topics that will be addressed in the sessions will be guilt, living with grief, effects of grief (emotional/spiritual), why, opinions of grief, being stuck in grief, and life after grief. We will meet for 8 sessions that will take us from September through the holidays which can be very difficult times for those who are grieving.

Session Dates

Thursday 10/12/17 6:30 -8:00 pm Thursday 10/26/17 6:30 -8:00 pm Thursday 11/9/17 6:30 -8:00 pm Tuesday 11/21/17 6:30 -8:00 pm (change in day this week) Thursday 12/7/17 6:30 -8:00 pm Thursday 12/21/17 6:30 -8:00 pm

The leaders of the Lazarus Group are Dean Hamos, Kula Andreas, and Kelly Rossi. All of the leaders bring unique backgrounds to the group and have been in the fields of psychology or nursing for years. If you have any questions or would like more information on the group please contact:

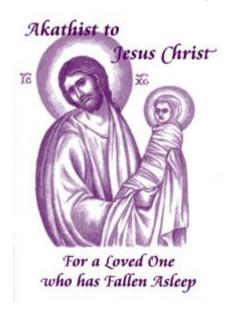
Dean Hamos (253) 797-5821 Kula Andreas (253) 906-1746 Kelly Rossi (253) 592-8376

*Sessions will be held in the upper hall at: St. Nicholas, 1523 S. Yakima Ave, Tacoma, WA 98405.



Ministry News

Akathist Group Prayer

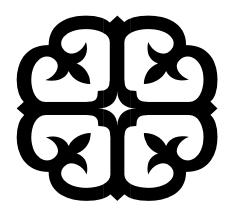


Purpose: To help anyone who is grieving at the loss of a loved one, to find comfort in praying. Prayers for the departed are of great value, not only for the soul that has left this world, but also for the grieving. The Akathist is a prayer to be said that the soul will be received into Christ's heavenly kingdom.

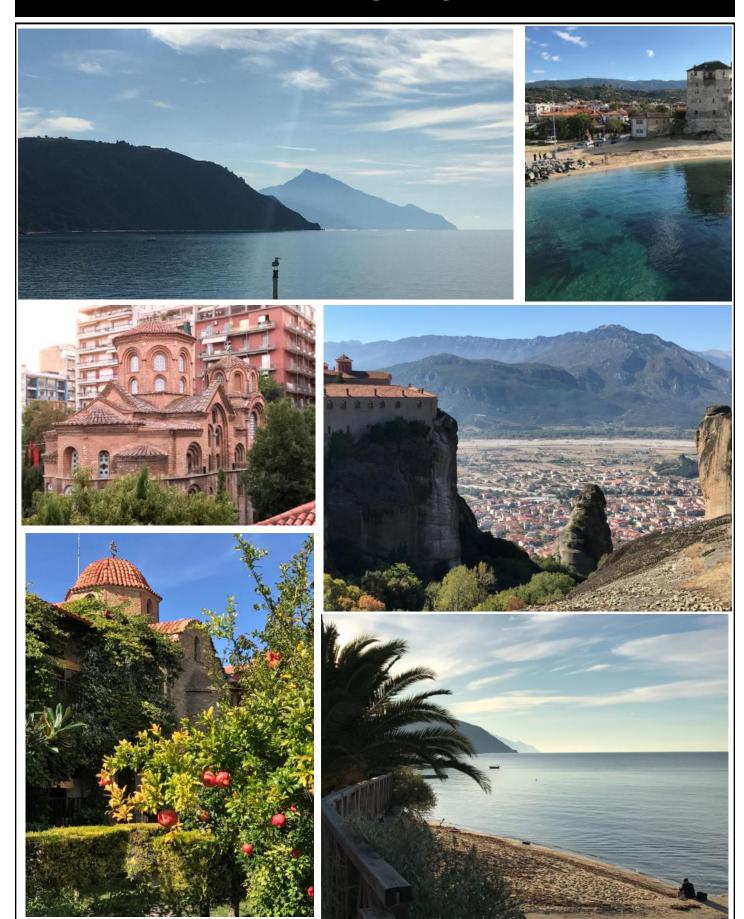
Prayer Books: There are forty (40) available "Akathist Prayer" books - Property of the Church.

Ministry Team Members: Thanks to all the parishioners who became members of this very important ministry! However we need nine (9) more to have a complete team of 40 members. If you can please join us.

Ministry Lead: Sandra Dutton - Please see me if you have any questions, or need more information.



Fr. Seraphim's Pilgrimage to Greece



Fr. Seraphim's Pilgrimage to Greece



Cover Story

Continued from page 1

The simplicity of the story of Christ's birth reveals the depth of God's love and the mystery of His actions in our life. As we celebrate Christmas anew this year, once again Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and wise men, the angels and animals direct our attention to the Lord Jesus. He who is truly the 'way, the truth and the life" (Jn. 14:1) who reveals Himself in the humble circumstances of a cave in Bethlehem. All of time is centered upon his coming. All of creation surrounds Him who fashioned the creation!

The Expression of Divine Love

The story of the birth of Christ is a vivid reminder of the depth of God's love for us. He loves us so much that he has entered into life in this world in the person of Christ. The infinite God mysteriously accepted the limitations of our humanity. It was not enough for God to act through signs and wonders of the physical world. It was not enough for God to guide us through the prophets and teachers of old. No, this was not enough for our God. To express his boundless love for us, the Living God appeared among us in the person of Christ Our Lord. By fully identifying himself with us, Christ has come to teach us, to heal us and to lead us back to the Father. He has come to remind us that we are the Father's precious daughters and sons. As St. John the Evangelist says: "God so loved the world that he sent His Only begotten Son so that all who believe in him will not be lost but will have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16).

Many years before the Beatitudes were taught and many years before His glorious Resurrection, Christ revealed God's love for us through the simple events of his birth. The Lord of Glory demonstrated his love for us simply be entering into our life and by sharing in all that is truly human. St. Basil the great reminds us of this saying: "Every act and every word of our Savior is a guide for holiness and virtue. For this reason he became human, so that in images he may depict both holiness and virtue for us...For this reason he bears a body so that we may imitate His life" (Ascetical Principles, 1)

Through His birth in Bethlehem, Our Lord reveals to us the breath and depth of God's love for us. Whether we see him as the child in Bethlehem, the teacher in Galilee, or the Risen Lord in Jerusalem; Christ is truly the greatest gift of the Father 'for us and for our salvation.'

A Sense of Wonder

The story of Christ's birth speaks to us about the mysterious ways of God. The Triune God acts in ways that we do not always expect! His ways are truly wonder-filled. For centuries, the Ancient Israelites had expected the Messiah. The prophets, especially Isaiah and Jeremiah, called the people to readiness and openness to God's actions. Their message provided the people with indications about the coming Messiah.

Yet, when 'the fullness of time had come' (Gal. 4:4), the Messiah did not arrive as a conquering hero in a golden chariot with pomp and splendor. He was not robed in expensive clothing. He did not appear in the capital city. Throngs of adoring followers did not accompany him.

When the Messiah finally arrived, he came first as a baby. He was born to a young girl who was not formally married. The event occurred in the simple village of Bethlehem. He was sheltered in a place reserved for animals because the inn was full. There, in such simple circumstances, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth..." (Jn.1: 14). This is the mysterious way of God!

Through the Christmas story, Our Lord reveals that God acts in ways that we do not always expect. We cannot shape the mighty acts of God to our limited understanding. The Triune God is greater than our limited perceptions of Him. He acts in mysterious and wondrous ways to draw us to Him and to one another in love.

Continued on next page

Cover Story

Continued from previous page

An Open Heart

The persons who are involved in the story of Christ's birth were all quite different. Mary and Joseph were humble travelers seeking a place of shelter. The shepherds were simple men of the land tending their flocks. The wise men were wealthy and aristocratic foreigners wandering in a strange land.

Yet, each of them shared a common characteristic. They opened their hearts to the actions of the Lord who mysteriously led them to the village of Bethlehem. Each of them permitted God to act in their lives.

Mary and Joseph were willing to change their whole life to nurture and protect the child Jesus. The shepherds were willing to hear the words of the angels. The wise men were willing to follow the star. We remember them to this day because they opened their hearts and trusted in the Lord.

Through His birth in Bethlehem, Jesus reveals that we too must open our hearts to his presence and actions. God wants us to share in His work of reconciliation. Like the participants in the first Christmas, we too are called to be person whose hearts are open to the divine presence and actions.

Centering the Season on Christ

The story of the birth of Christ and its true significance is often clouded by the commercialism of the season. There is a very frenzied pace to these days which can so easily depersonalize us and dampen the true joy of the season. The stores tempt us for weeks on end to buy this thing or by that thing. Some of us prefer to speak of the 'Holiday Season' rather than of Christmas. Many schools have forbidden the remembrance of Christ's birth in the classroom. Yes, throughout our society, many fail to remember that the coming of Christ is truly at the heart of the Christmas celebrations.

What can we do? Let us remember that the season celebrates the love of God revealed in the coming of Christ. For those with faith, the colored lights, the green trees, the wreaths and the flowers are the symbols of the joy of Christmas. Let us celebrate the joy of Christ's coming!

Let us share the love of God with others. Christ has come to bear witness to the Father's love for us. We too can share this love with others, especially with the poor and less fortunate among us. We can be sensitive to those who cannot easily celebrate because of a loss in their lives. Let us be the ambassadors of God who share His care and philanthropy.

Let us seek the Lord with an open heart as the shepherds and wise men did. This means that we find opportunities for prayer and meditation, for reading the Scriptures related to Christ's coming. This means that we can make Christmas a special day by participating in the Divine Liturgy and by receiving Holy Communion with reverence for God, with faith and with love.

To Christ Our Lord be glory, now and forever and unto the ages of ages.

Amen.

Fr. Thomas FitzGerald is Professor of Church History at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Mass. He is also the pastor of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Manchester, NH. A graduate of Holy Cross and the University of Thessaloniki, he is the author of numerous articles and books on Church History and ecumenical relations. Together with his wife, Dr. Kyriaki FitzGerald, they are the authors of Happy in the Lord: The Beatitudes for Everyday.

Reprinted from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America



HAPPY 88TH ANNIVERSARY

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE ICARIA #175- TACOMA

Daughters of Penelope Supreme Headquarters

1909 Q Street, NW, Ste. 500 Washington, DC 20009

Tel: 202.234.9741 Fax: 202.483.6983

E-mail: elena@ahepa.org

The Daughters of Penelope was the realization of Alexandra Apostolides Sonenfelds' dream. Her desire was to create a woman's organization and because of her perseverance and the encouragement of her husband Dr. Emanuel Apostolides, a devoted Ahepan, she formed EOS Chapter#1 with 25 charter members on November 16, 1929 in San Francisco, California, She was elected the first Grand President in 1931.



The objectives of the Daughters of Penelope are to promote Heltenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family & Individual Excellence. The Daughters of Penelope encourages and promotes loyalty to the country in which they live; cultivates the ideals and traditions of Heltenism; promotes opportunities of education; and promotes the spirit of cooperation



CONTACT INFORMATION

DOP Website: www.daughtersofpenelope.usy

Facebook: www.facebook.com/daughtersofpenelope

AHEPA Website: www.shepa.org

MOA Website: www.maidsofathena.org

SOP Website: www.sonsofpericles.com

Canada Website: www.ahepacanada.org

Greece/Cyprus Website: www.ahcpa.gr

Australasia Website: www.ahepu.org.au

PHILOPTOCHOS AFTER CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS PARTY



AFTER THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE
OF CHRISTMAS,
YOU ARE INVITED TO THE THIRD ANNUAL

AFTER CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS PARTY AT

JOHNNY'S DOCK JANUARY 13TH 5:30

BRING YOUR ORNANMENT, DECORATION, OR GIFT
IF YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE PIRATE EXCHANGE

YOU WILL HAVE A GRAND TIME

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME,
RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 7TH

PLEASE CONTACT SALLY HALLIS
DIANE PIROTIS, HODDI MOTZ, JOYCE KALIVAS-GRIFFIN

THE HOLY LAND



ST NICHOLAS PILGRIMAGE

OCTOBER 2018

OCTOBER 11-20, 2018

Cyprus Extension: October 20-25

With faith in our future for the future of our faith, I/we hereby pledge: Faith in Our (total over a two-year pledge period—September 2017 to September 2019) Future for the Future of Our I/We will make contributions of \$ per Faith Quarter Month Other (specify): Year First Contribution Date (MM/YY): Project 2020 Full pledged amount must be paid in full by September 2019. ☐ To help kick-start the project toward its \$650,000 fundraising goal, I/we will make a total initial contribution of \$ by August 31, 2017. Signature: Date: Personal Information (Please Print): Name (First/Last): Faith in Our Future for the **Future of Our** City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ Faith Telephone: _____ Email: _____ Project 2020 Thank you for your support of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law. Please make checks payable to: St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave Tacoma, WA 98405

P: 253-272-0466

E: stnicholastacoma@gmail.com

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ured back to you.

STEWARDSHIP CARD-

- regarding number of stewards 1. We must refresh information and projected stewardship income.
- The Church is moving ahead with our plan for renovation. based on the ability to meet We must set funding plans operational expenses from stewardship income alone. 5
- We must create a 2017 Budget based on accurate projected stewardship income.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR CARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

St. Nicholas continues to cover all of our operat-

ing expenses with stewardship and other collec-

Please return to:

1523 South Yakima Avenue Tacoma, WA 98405-4460 Greek Orthodox Church St. Nicholas

253-272-0466



worship, the Divine Liturgy, and the other Sacraproclaiming the Gospel in accordance with the sanctifying the faithful through God's grace in Orthodox Faith,

The mission of our parish is:

enhancing our spiritual life,

ments and Services,

- instructing others and receiving them into the Church through Baptism and/or Chrismation, and
 - · catechizing in the Orthodox Faith and in the ethos of the Church.

We do this through the establishment of programs, schools, philanthropic activities, and other Christian ministries



would need to contribute roughly \$2,000 per year. For St. Nicholas to continue to operate without dependence on Festival revenue, each family

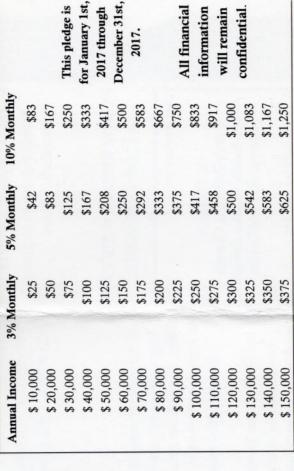
beautiful new windows and brickwork.

2017 STEWARDSHIP CARD



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= \$/week

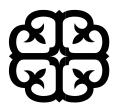
= \$/month

Family Name:

Saint Nicholas Messenger

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

Address Service Requested





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