



The Nativity



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October 2018, parishioners of St. Nicholas accompanied by Fr. Seraphim, traveled to the Holy Land. Especially appropriate for Christmas time are the accounts of their visit to the Church of the Nativity and the very spot where Jesus was born (depicted at the silver star in the photo above). The accounts and photographs in this article were contributed by Gus Chamles. *[the Editor]*.

Nativity story continues on page 21

55 Maxims of the Christian Life

by Fr. Thomas Hopko

1. Be always with Christ and trust God in everything.
2. Pray as you can, not as you think you must.
3. Have a keepable rule of prayer done by discipline.
4. Say the Lord's Prayer several times each day.
5. Repeat a short prayer when your mind is not occupied.
6. Make some prostrations when you pray.
7. Eat good foods in moderation and fast on fasting days.
8. Practice silence, inner and outer.
9. Sit in silence 20 to 30 minutes each day.
10. Do acts of mercy in secret.
11. Go to liturgical services regularly.
12. Go to confession and holy communion regularly.

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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



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

Akathist Group Prayer
Sandy Dutton

Altar Servers
Dr Nick Themelis

Bible Study
Kathy Bouzinekis

Book Store
Dr. Nick Themelis

Building Committee
Bill Acker

Building, Grounds & Maintenance
John Pangis

Choir
Rebecca Philips

Hands of Love
Merrilee Pangis

Military Service
LTC Gus Chamles

Premarital Education
George Pirotis, Diane Pirotis

Stewardship
Becky Themelis

2018 Parish Council
Andrew Primis –President
David Frisk–Vice-President
Mark Robinson–Treasurer
Fenia Mavromichali –Secretary
Morgan Blackmore, Anthony Ciarochi,
Genevieve Eagle, Dr. Fred Ehret,
Zach Karanasos, Christina Leinneweber,
Bill Samaras, Roxanne Vallantine

Greek Folk Dance
Evy Kontos – Chair & Intermediate dancers
Dr. Anastasia Fyntrilakis–Treasurer & Teen dancers
Krisann Firth – Costume Director
Julie Kotsali – Board Member
Presbyteria 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
George Pirotis

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

Maids of Athena
Anna-Eleni Frisk – President
Alexandria Samaras–Vice President
Elena Apostle– Treasurer
Virginia McClure– Secretary
Ingrid Chamalas–Advisor
Helen McClure – Advisor

Philoptochos Society
Hariklia (Hoddi) Motz President
Diane Pirotis- 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

Prosphora Baking
Deborah Talbot

Welcome
Ronnie Sue Johnson

Parish Council

The December Parish Council meeting is Tuesday December 11 at 7PM in the upper hall.

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Parish Nominations St. Porphyrios 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm-1:00pm St. Nicholas Fish Dinner 1:00pm-2:00pm FDF Dance Practice	3 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Prophet Zephaniah 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: St. Barbara & St. John of Damascus 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: St. Barbara & St. John of Damascus	4 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Greatmartyr Barbara John of Damascus 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers: St. Sabbas 7:00pm-8:00pm Building Committee	5 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Fast: Wine & Oil ok Sabbas the Sanctified 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: St. Nicholas	6 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy ST NICHOLAS 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:30pm FDF Dance Practice	7 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Ambrose of Milan FAST: Wine & Oil ok 6:30pm-7:30pm Retreat in Yakima: Fr Josiah	8 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Retreat in Yakima: Fr Josiah 7:00pm-8:00pm 7p NO VESPERS: RETREAT IN YAKIMA
9 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Conception of Theotokos 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 1:00pm-2:00pm FDF Dance Practice	10 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Thomas of Bethynia 6:30pm-7:30pm Camp Agape Board Mtg	11 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Daniel the Stylite 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am WOCA: St. Spyridon's 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers: St. Spyridon 7:00pm-10:00pm Parish Council: Budget Mtg	12 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Fast: wine & oil ok Spyridon of Tremithous 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers w/ life of St Herman of Alaska 8:00pm-9:00pm Choir rehearsal	13 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Herman of Alaska 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:30pm FDF Dance Practice	14 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Thyrsus of Bethynia 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: St. Eleutherios 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: St. Eleutherios	15 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Eleutherios 7:00pm-8:00pm Reader's Vespers
16 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Forefathers: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Deborah, Judith, Rebecca, Rachel Parish Elections 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 1:00pm-2:00pm FDF Dance Practice 5:30pm-6:30pm Majmudar Christmas Caroling Party	17 ADVENT FAST: No meat/dairy Daniel & Three Young Men Dionysios of Zakynthos 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:30am-8:30am Paraklessis to St Dionysios 11:00am-12:00pm Philoptochos Christmas Party	18 Martyr Sebastian STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study	19 Martyr Boniface STRICT FAST 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklessis 8:00pm-9:00pm Choir rehearsal	20 Fast: Wine & oil ok Ignatius of Antioch 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:30pm FDF Dance Practice	21 Juliana of Nicomedia STRICT FAST	22 Anastasia Pharmakolitra (altar relics) Fast: Wine & Oil ok 7:40am-9:40am Precommunion Prayers 8:00am-9:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers
23 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Sunday Before Christmas 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 1:00pm-2:00pm FDF Dance Practice	24 CHRISTMAS EVE STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros & 1st Royal Hour 9:00am-10:00am Third Royal Hour 12:00pm-1:00pm Sixth Royal Hour 3:00pm-4:00pm Ninth Royal Hour 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers Liturgy of St Basil	25 CHRISTMAS FAST FREE PERIOD 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	26 FAST FREE PERIOD Synaxis of Theotokos 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 8:00pm-9:00pm Choir rehearsal	27 FAST FREE PERIOD Protomartyr Stephen 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:30pm FDF Dance Practice	28 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia FAST FREE PERIOD	29 FAST FREE PERIOD Holy Innocents Slain By Herod 7:00pm-8:00pm NO VESPERS TO-NIGHT
30 Anyxia FAST FREE PERIOD 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 1:00pm-2:00pm FDF Dance Practice	31 FAST FREE PERIOD 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: St Basil the Great 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy of St Basil the Great	Notes:				

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

News and Announcements

Financial Update

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church - Treasurer's Report
For the Ten Months Ending October 31, 2018

	YTD Oct. 2018		YTD Oct. 2018		October 2018		October 2018		Variance	
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Percent	Actual	Budget	Difference	Percent	Difference	Percent
Steward and Non-Steward	\$ 207,496	\$ 207,900	\$ (404)	-0.2%	\$ 11,562	\$ 20,700	\$ (9,138)	-44.1%		
Festival	303,372	258,000	45,372	18%	282,209	258,000	24,209	9%		
Building, incl. Proj. 2020	66,712	125,000	(58,288)	-47%	3,603	12,500	(8,897)	-71%		
Other	3,471	12,150	(8,679)	-71%	3	875	(872)	-100%		
Pass Through Donations	30,415	16,667	13,748	n/a	20	1,667	(1,647)	n/a		
Pass Through Transfers	(22,629)	(16,667)	(5,962)	n/a	-	(1,667)	1,667	n/a		
Total Revenue	\$ 588,837	\$ 603,050	\$ (14,213)	-2.4%	\$ 297,397	\$ 292,075	\$ 5,322	1.8%		
Salaries and Employment	\$ 119,226	\$ 148,403	\$ (29,177)	-19.7%	\$ 12,392	\$ 15,716	\$ (3,324)	-21.2%		
Archdiocese Assessments	32,139	33,750	(1,611)	-4.8%	3,615	3,975	(360)	-9.1%		
Administrative Expenses	19,559	34,500	(14,941)	-43.3%	1,078	1,445	(368)	-25.4%		
Ministry Expenses	13,107	19,958	(6,852)	-34.3%	84	1,133	(1,050)	-92.6%		
Festival Expenses	146,776	115,000	31,776	28%	96,771	55,000	41,771	75.9%		
Building & Utilities	54,420	81,203	(26,783)	-33.0%	2,768	5,008	(2,240)	-44.7%		
Other	791	1,500	(709)	-47%	-	500	(500)	-100%		
Total Expense	\$ 386,017	\$ 434,315	\$ (48,298)	-11%	\$ 116,708	\$ 82,778	\$ 33,930	41%		
NET INCOME	\$ 202,820	\$ 168,735	\$ 34,085	20%	\$ 180,689	\$ 209,297	\$ (28,608)	-14%		

Net Income Amount Dedicated to Project 2020

Fund Balances as of October 31, 2018

General Operations	\$ 79,529
General Building	67,836
Greek Festival	462,734
Project 2020 (Restricted)	322,134
Library Fund (Restricted)	16,727
Elevator Funds (Restricted)	60,481
Vitos (Restricted)	33,947
Special Fund Pass Through	27,766
Total Fund Balances (Equity)	\$ 1,071,154

Mark Robinson—
Parish Council Treasurer

Upcoming Events

December 2^t	Parish Council Nominations. St. Nicholas Day
December 15^h	Philia Christmas Party
December 16^h	Parish Council Elections. Majmudar Christmas Party
January 5	Swearing In of the new Parish Council
January 13	Vasilopita Cutting, General Assembly to ratify the budget

News and Announcements

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

The Sunday School children of St. Nicholas cordially invite you to this year's Christmas Pageant.

The Icon of the Nativity: Telling the Story of Christ's Birth
Sunday, December 16
Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

Come and celebrate with the children as they retell the story of Christ's birth through the Holy Icon of the Nativity.

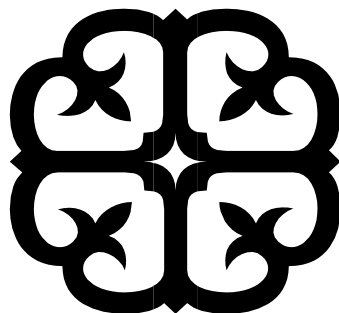


Sunday School

A word of thanks to our parishioners for letting the teachers, children and their families go first for Communion so that they can get to their classrooms and begin lessons immediately.

Families ~ please be sure to use both sides of the church when coming up for Communion so that you can quickly get the children to their rooms for the beginning of the lesson.

Sheila Auter—



Ministry News



Coffee Hour Ministry

SEEKING NEW VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN TEAMS

MISSION

- To extend the Holy Eucharist to social/coffee hour
- To express and manifest our faith by extending the hospitality we proclaim and by acknowledging the grace we have received during the Divine Liturgy
- To promote fellowship
- To connect with fellow parishioners, to welcome guests and to invite new faith seekers to our Church

REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN THE MINISTRY

A servant's heart and a sense of love and care that is penetrating, engaging and inspiring.

TEAM SCHEDULE DECEMBER

12/2/2018 St Nicholas Luncheon
 12/9/2018 Team Samaras
 12/16/2018 Team Johnson
 12/23/2018 Team Kipelidis
 12/30/2018 Team Sophie

TEAMS:

Team Karanasos: Daphne Karanasos, Leader; Anna Karanasos, Zach Karanasos, Angie Wilen, Anne Havens, Helena Shelley, Ann Koopman and Mary Matherine.

Team Johnson: Joseph Johnson, Leader; Ronie-Sue Johnson, Fenia Mavromichali, Katrina Orriss, David Orriss, Marie Bell, Kathy Hermick and Barbara Phillips.

Team Kipelidis: Despina Kipelidis, Leader; Dana Robinson, Julie Kotsali, Sandra Ciarochi, Anastasia Bouzinekis, Sophia Schies-Jansan and Fenia Mavromichali.

Team Samaras: Karen Samaras, Leader; Marion Palas, Sally Hallis, Jane Evancho, Kathy Heiser, Anastasia Scopelitis, Krysanthes Barnes, Olena Randisi, Rikky Kapes and Fenia Mavromichali.

Team Frisk: Savina Frisk, Leader; David Frisk, Pres Maria Armatas, Yvonne Brandvold & Maro Koulkis.

Team Pres Sophie: Pres Sophie Majmudar, Leader; Evy Kontos, Irene Misiewicz, Gloria Brown, Deborah Talbot, Anna Marie Oakes Joudy, Ingrid Chamales and Christiana Hillier.

Men's Team: Dr Fred Ehret, Leader; Bill Samaras, John Cook, Ed Winskill, Hugh Winskill, Jason Heiser, Andrew Phillips and Alex Misiewicz.

If the Holy Spirit plants you the desire to join the Coffee Hour Ministry, please contact Zach Karanasos
 Zach—

Ministry News

Building Committee

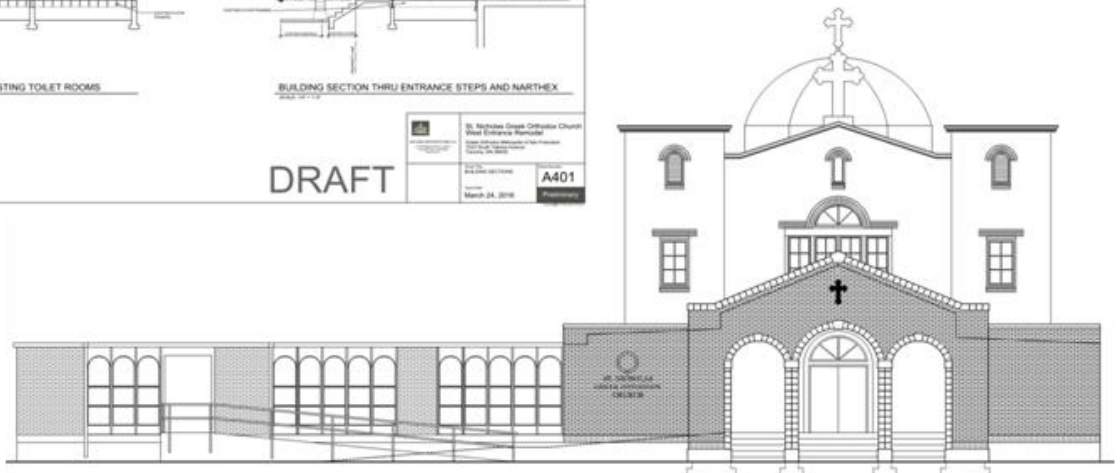
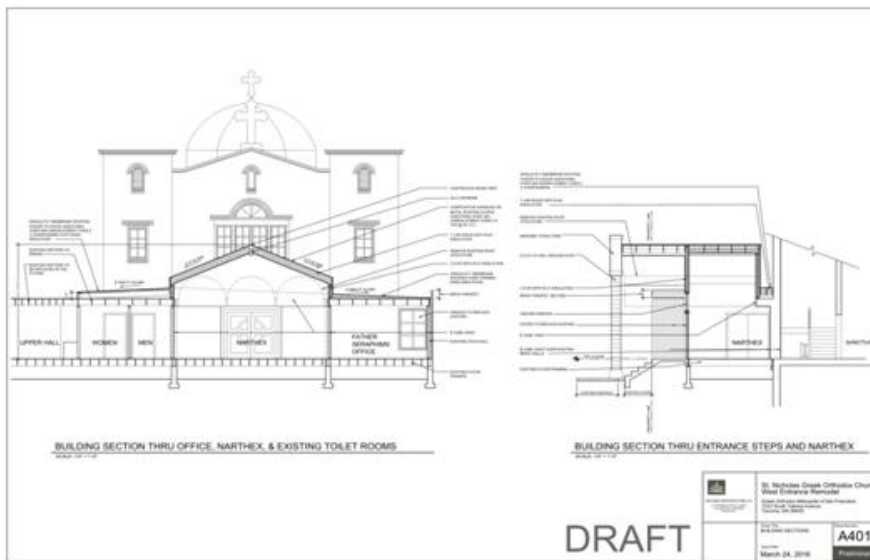
Some unforeseen breakdown events occurred just before and during the Greek Festival. First, as mentioned in the previous Messenger, there was back-up in a sewer line that serves the Lower Hall rest-rooms, which at least in the short-term got fixed and is currently under control. Second, aging refrigeration systems that serve the kitchen walk-in cooler and freezer are at the point of being unreliable and should at least be repaired if not replaced altogether. Third, a reach-in bar cooler in the Lower Hall quit working near the end of the Greek Festival and should be replaced.

It will probably be early next year when a long-term fix will be implemented to the Lower Hall sewer line, but cost proposals are currently being sought to fix the kitchen walk-in cooler and freezer, and replace the Lower Hall bar cooler. We are fortunate that only a small portion of the 2018 Building Projects budget has been spent to date. It is the intent to present cost proposals on cooler fixes at the next Building Committee meeting to pass onto the Parish Council for approval the following week without the need for further funding, as they are considered high-priority items to get taken care of in a timely manner.

Another high-priority item to get done before the year is out is some targeted roof repairs and maintenance. A lower priority item is to check on two ceiling fans over the Sanctuary balcony area which currently don't seem to be circulating as much air as they should.

Looking into 2019, which at the time of this printing is not much more than a month away, two early specific tasks are to explore the cost and feasibility of insulating the attic space over the Sanctuary, and to implement a long term fix to the Lower Hall sewer line previously mentioned after further investigation.

Also, if all stays on its general projected course, 2019 will be the year when design, pre-construction planning, permitting and approvals will be starting on the Narthex Renovation.



Bill Acker—

Project 2020



ST. NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
Faith in Our Future for the Future of Our Faith

GALA 2019 – A Time for Reflections

We are a little more than three months away from our inaugural event and sub-Committee Chairs and volunteers are working tirelessly and ceaselessly to connect with potential sponsors, procure items for our live and silent auctions and organize an amazing and memorable experience for our attendees.

Quite a heavy load by any standard given the short timeframe we have at our avail to pull this off amidst the hassle and bustle of getting ready for the holiday season. There are days I wake up fearful of the enormity and complexity of the task ahead of us, scared we will not amass all the human capital and talent this project requires, worried we may not be able to fill our hall with attendees and petrified we will not get enough sponsors. Answers from the Heavens are far and few between and are delivered telegraphic style: Believe STOP Pray STOP Pray Harder STOP (...perhaps I imagined the last one – really, how does one pray harder?). And then, I receive emails from volunteers sharing profound ideas and their progress toward goals; and when I come to church on Sunday, I am met with smiles, hugs and hand squeezes and I am circled by inspired parishioners who bring me their \$25.00 Amazon cards for our raffle (some ARE paying attention). And I am reminded that this Gala, an untraveled path for some of us, is an opportunity to reach out a little further, to grow closer together, to strengthen our bond with one another and to use our energy and drive to make a difference NOW.

I am grateful to be surrounded and working alongside a small team of all-stars, for now. And I am extremely thankful to be guided and supported by a mentor who tells me how proud she is of me even when and, especially when, I give her no reason for such encouragement (i.e. when I screw up, over think or I am tempted to rush things). Looking back and evaluating our progress to project GALA, there are a few lessons I learned from working with our superb team of committed volunteers:

- The restoration of our Narthex is **PERSONAL**. St. Nicholas is OUR church. It was built almost 100 years ago by Greek immigrants putting down roots in the Tacoma community. It was their house of worship, much the same way it is ours today. This church also served as a cultural center that preserved and upheld Greek traditions and values while helping those early immigrants to assimilate smoothly into the community of Tacoma and the American culture.
- Almost all I contacted and everyone I am working with to organize and stage our Gala, accepted an **INVITATION** to help and contribute. They answered the call not out of guilt, obligation or to show off their riches and talents. They are engaged because it matters to them for reasons that are known to them and our Creator. They are committed without expecting our admiration for their good deeds. They are engaged as an opportunity to express their gratitude for their blessings and to honor the memories of their loved ones who passed away, some founders of this church.
- All who are actively engaged in the *production* of the Gala **BELIEVE** and **TRUST** it is a noble and novel project they will do their best to advance.

Thank you ALL for your desire to help, your commitment, your authentic love and your optimism we can make a difference for the future of our Faith TOGETHER.

Fenia Mavromichali, Gala Chair—

Continued on next page

Project 2020

Continued from previous page

GALA 2019 GET INVOLVED AND BRING IDEAS!

Sponsorships

For ease of use by potential sponsors, our sponsorship Booklet is now also available as a fillable PDF form that can be filled out on one's computer and emailed back. Since the last report, we are pleased to

\$500	Friend	2 seats to the Gala/Named Table, Name listing, Gift bag: one per sponsor	2 Committed 6 Available
\$1,000	Supporter	2 seats to the Gala/Named Table, Name listing, Gift bag: one per sponsor	4 Available
\$2,500	Silver	4 seats to the Gala/Named Table, Name Listing, Gift bag: one per guest	1 Committed 1 Available
\$5,000	Gold	8 seats to the Gala/Named Table, Name Listing, Gift bag: one per guest	1 Available

announce we have two additional Sponsors at the Friend level. Please consider supporting our Fundraising effort by becoming a sponsor. Our sponsorship levels and remaining available opportunities are listed below:

Raffle Gift Cards

THANK YOU to everyone who answered the call to donate a \$25.00 Gift card for our Raffle. So far, we have collected \$100.00 worth of Amazon Gift Cards and \$25.00 worth of Target Cards. Step up and add a gift card for our Raffle to your Christmas shopping list. Your support *IS* greatly appreciated.



GIVE BACK TO ST. NICHOLAS ON #GIVING TUESDAY!

Make a one-time donation to our Church or fill-out a pledge card in support of Project 2020 and help shape the future of our Faith!

Your support will ensure our 98-year-old Church and timeless Greek culture and spirit are preserved and shared with the community of Tacoma for years to come.

Life *IS* unpredictable. Auction dessert *FIRST*

I eat dessert first (...and last) and I am immensely grateful most in my acquaintance do not share my sweet tooth philosophy for I get to savor the best first. But I digress. Wait! If You knew what a difference you can make for Project 2020 indulging in a decadently delicious cake or delighting in the sound of the crisp buttery layers of phyllo dough as you sink your teeth in a piece of baklava or Galaktobourekos, wouldn't you start with dessert first?

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Project 2020

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GALA 2019

Come Gala time, the bidding should be fierce. To date, a cadre of eight dessert artistes from our parish (all amateur bakers with decades of experience and countless testimonials from grateful tasters) have stepped up to donate their mouth-watering creations for our Dessert Extravaganza Auction. Peruse the list of desserts confirmed so far (drooling IS allowed) and be inspired to show off your talents and donate one of the remaining six desserts still required. Here are 12 (for now) mouthwatering reasons why you should purchase your ticket as soon as our event registration opens mid-December:

Baklava, *Marion Palas*

Kadaifi Ekmek, *Mary Leonard/Karen Samaras*

Galaktoboureko, *Mary Leonard*

Variety platter of Melonakarona, Kourambiedes and Koulourakia, *Despina Ampatzis*

Luscious NY Cheesecake, *Karen Samaras*

Knock your socks off Chocolate Peanut Butter Cake, *Sally Hallis*

Greek Flag Cake, *Helen McClure*

Saragli, *Chrysanthe Barnes*

Ambrosial Pineapple Bliss, *Chrysanthe Barnes*

Luscious Raspberry Tart, *Rebecca Primis*

La Bête Noire, *Fenia Mavromichali*

Tiramisu, *Fenia Mavromichali*

Our very own Renaissance woman Ourania Koukousoula has accepted the challenge to make our dessert tables Instagram worthy and channel her artistry, craftsmanship and amazing scientific mind into creating a vision for our décor that will delight and enchant.

This Holiday Season Give the Gift of GALA!

You will be remembered for being Savvy and Original.



Gift a memorable Greece-infused cultural experience and turn your friends and colleagues into Philhellenics!

Silent and Live Auction Items – BEE BUZZ

Taking a cue from Mother Nature, members of our Procurement Committee aided by seasoned fundraising professionals and/or spouses experienced in the art of Asking are working behind the scenes to acquire desirable donated items our attendees cannot walk away from. Without giving too much away, the latest addition to our Silent Auction list is a 2-night, 3-day get-away package at South lake Union in Seattle with dinners for two and Museum tickets. Stay tuned and...SHARE THE BUZZ!

Volunteer Opportunities

Thank you to all P2020 Steering Committee members and all parishioners who answered the call to support the Gala. More than 750 hours were committed to this effort since its inception. If you would like to get involved and help the P2020 Committee and Sub-Committee Chairs carry out the Gala's mission, we would love to have you! For more information and volunteer opportunities, please contact Kathy Heiser at gala@stnicholastacoma.org. Check back next month for information on specific volunteer positions.

Fenia—

Ministry News

Philoptochos

President's Message

Christmas Greetings

Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving spent with family and friends and have lots of blessings for which to be thankful. Many people are thankful for having YOU in their life (I am one of those people). You have been helping people quietly and with a lot of dignity despite what you may have been going through in your personal life. Thank you Philoptochos team!!!

On behalf of the Philoptochos Leadership Team, I wish you a very **Merry and Blessed Christmas**

Philoptochos Treasurer's Report

It is time for the 2019 Dues.

Please send your check (made out to Philoptochos) to our treasurer Joyce Kalivas-Griffin, 6039 So Lawrence, Tacoma, WA 98409. The cost is \$30 & \$25 for Seniors.

Save the Date Jan 12

Our **"After Christmas Party"** is scheduled for January 12 at the Fir Crest Country Club. Please look for additional information on the Sunday bulletin and let Marian Palas, Joyce Griffin or Katy Mason know if you plan to attend. We need to know early so we can plan accordingly.

Upcoming Events:

Dec 5 -St. Nicholas Vespers. Dr Nick and Becky Themelis will once again prepare their awesome Lenten Clam Chowder and Artoclasia and the Philoptochos team will set up and will provide some additional meal items and clean up. Please let Diane Pirotis know if you can help.

December 15 Philia Christmas Party Please look for details in Sunday bulletin. Joyce Kalivas Griffin and Katy Mason are the leaders for this event.

No meetings in December!

"Merry Christmas"

Hoddi (XAPH) Motz—

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Ministry News

Philoptochos Schedule

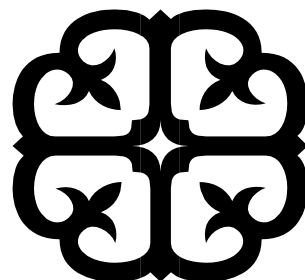
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2018

Date	Event	Notes	Chair
DEC 5	ST NICHOLAS VESPERS		Becky? Diane will check
DEC 15	PHILIA CHRISTMAS PARTY	@11:00	Joyce and Katy

2019

Date	Event	Notes	Chair
	JANUARY		
JAN 13?	VASILOPETA	VASILOPETA CUTTING	Elly
JAN 12	"AFTER CHRISTMAS PARTY"	@5:00 Fircrest Country Club	
JAN 16	MEETING	NO MEAL @3:30	
JAN 27	SOUP	BENEFITS CANCER RESEARCH	Hoddi/Merrilee
FEB 3	PIE SALE	BENEFITS AUTISM	Sandy/Diane/Marian
FEB 14	VALENTINE BAGS	FOR HOMEBOUND	Karen
FEB 20	MEETING	NO MEAL @3:30	
MAR/APR	LENTEN MEALS		Presbytera Sophie
MAR 10	LADIES LUNCHEON PLANNING	Poodle Dog 11:30	Hoddi
MAR 20	MEETING –	NO MEAL @3:30	
APR 20	PALM TYING LUNCH		Presbytera Sophie
APR 21	PALM SUNDAY DINNER		Hoddi
APR 21	PASCHA BAGS	FOR HOMEBOUND	Karen
MAY 12	MOTHERS DAY FLOWERS		Sally
MAY 18	LADIES SPRING LUNCHEON		Committee
MAY 22	MEETING and ELECTION		
MAY 26	MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM	GUS CHAMALES	Merrilee/Diane/Hoddi
JUNE 9	GRADUATES COFFEE		Marian
JUNE 16	FATHERS DAY	No breakfast from Philoptochos	
JUN 19	FINAL MEETING	Dinner mtg Grassi's 5:00 ?	Marian, Katy, Joyce
JULY	CAMP AGAPE	July 21 – July 27	
JULY 20	CAMP AGAPE	CANW Training Session at St. Nicholas Breakfast and Lunch	Hoddi Merrilee Jane Marian Yvonne



Ministry News

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE - ICARIA CHAPTER #D175

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY

On November 10, I had the pleasure of attending the AHEPA-DOP District 22 Fall Conference at the Church of Assumption in Seattle. Having been recruited, mentored and plugged in by former President Helen McClure after several months of relationship building encounters, I wanted an opportunity to observe proceedings at the district level and find out more about what our sisterhood is all about. The few meetings we had since I joined the Daughters early this year were meekly attended, and member engagement appeared fatigued. Did I join a coffee and tea society I pondered?



At the conference, I had the opportunity to meet our District Governor, Robbie Jackson, a dynamic and commanding figure, a results-driven leader to be reckoned with, quick of wit and very approachable. I found myself seated next to Grand Lodge Liaison, Grand Governor Demi Cross, who gave an informative presentation on Etiquette and Protocol befitting her gentle aristocratic demeanor.

“Protocol is part of the art of establishing and maintaining relationships,” she asserted, and “...promises continuity of tradition...Etiquette refers to the customary code of social behavior or rather, a system of accepted rules, conventions, and norms governing polite behavior and interactions among society”

Our youth chapters, the Maids of Athena and the Sons of Pericles would have greatly benefited from Governor Cross’ workshop. In a culture where important communication takes place electronically, sometimes in haste and carelessly, and other times circumventing process and layers of authority (most everyone is accessible by email nowadays), a didactic refresher on protocol and etiquette can re-energize our respect toward one another, promote good will and foster responsible and respectful communication.

Case in point, at the conference we had the pleasure of bearing witness to the installation of Holly Poullos to the office of District Treasurer and the presentation of the District Penelope of the year Pin to Mrs. Terry Long. What a treat for a DOP neophyte such as myself to observe the formal components of Mrs. Poullos’ and Mrs. Long’s rites of passage and measure of progress and accomplishments within the DOP organizational structure.

Also, attendees had the opportunity to hear our very own Helen McClure, our Chapter’s Treasurer and the District’s MOA Advisor, report on the Maids of Athena and the Sons of Pericles. I have yet to encounter a more passionate advocate and champion for the AHEPA family Youth Chapters and a Sister more committed to strengthening bonds within and between chapters, growing membership and expanding the Daughters’ mission than Helen. She is our Chapter’s dedicated banner-waver and a most excellent mentor; it was her ceaseless energy that ignited the interest in me about this organization and I am pleased to report the DOP is much more than a coffee and tea society.

With enthusiasm and imagination for everything we can achieve, I offer my unconditional support to Helen for tirelessly trying to encourage the young ladies in our parish and our greater community to join the MOA. The organization is a learning-rich environment that provides superb character-building opportunities for our future female leaders and fosters experiences that will enable them to author their lives.

My appreciation also goes to our Vice President Olga Manos, a true maestro of tactfulness and diplomacy, and to our President Karen Samaras for her fundraising ideas and noteworthy growth efforts. May you steer us to new heights of accomplishment and achievement.

Ministry News

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE - ICARIA CHAPTER #D175

Continued from previous page



District 22 Members and Grand Lodge Members

Picture Info Left to right:
 Mary Pazeotopoulos -PDG, Neena Blackwell-PDG, Holly Poullos- District Treasurer, Demi Cross- Grand Governor Zone III, Robbie Jackson- District Governor, Hellen McClure- District MOA Advisor, Marrianthi Treppiedi- Grand Governor Zone IV, PDG: Past District Governor

Calendar of Events

(for joint activities with the Daughters and Maids)

December 1st	The Northwest AHEPA Family Educational Foundation will have the 2019 Scholarship info posted on their FB page. The deadline for applications is March 31st, 2019. Students in good academic standing are encouraged to apply.
December 6th	Preview night at Tacoma Little Theater 7PM - Scrooge the Musical
December 9th	After Liturgy we will be filling holiday bags for our community members who are infirmed
December 27th	Tentative) The SPARTA maids will hold their annual brunch at 10:00AM. Members of the ICARIA DOP are also invited. Location TBD - Secretary Ginny McClure will send out FB and Instagram notifications)
December 30th	Membership Dues are Due! Please mail or hand deliver your membership payment to Helen McClure before the December 30th deadline. Dues are \$35.00 for the DOP and \$30.00 for the Sparta Maids.

WELCOME

The Daughters of Penelope Icaria Chapter #D175 extends a warm welcome to our new members,
Presbytera Maria Armatas
Kathy Heiser
 and is very pleased to announce the reinstatement to Sisterhood of
Kalitsa Xitco

Ministry News

Bible Study

There are two basic approaches to Christ's death on the Cross.

Punishment: Some Christian denominations believe that since Christ bore our sins on the Cross, God the Father couldn't bear to look upon Him since He was steeped or clothed in sin. This is a legalistic look: a debt or punishment for which God the Father requires payment. Christ is the substitutionary payment. *Mark 15: 34 "And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which is translated, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' "*

Liturgical love offering: This shows Christ's immense love for mankind when He cries out on behalf of Adam (and mankind) "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" He became man to defeat death, not to pay an imagined debt.

Flaws in Option 1: The Holy Trinity is temporarily out of communion with each other. Christ's human nature gets excised from His Personhood until after the Resurrection when they come back together. It boils down to Jesus no longer being God.

Points in Option 2: Adam's Lament is man's incorrect way of thinking that God deserted him. God never leaves us, we turn our backs on Him when we sin. There is no formula that neatly explains this. St. Gregory the Theologian puts it perfectly, "...it was on account of the Incarnation, and because humanity must be sanctified by the humanity of God, that He might deliver us Himself, and overcome the tyrant, and draw us to Himself by the mediation of His Son, Who also arranged this to the honor of the Father, Whom it is manifest that He obeys in all things. This is as much we will say of Christ: the greater part we shall reverence with silence." There are some things that cannot be explained or formulated. Over processing or breaking something apart to find its secret takes away the higher meaning. The Holy Mysteries in the Eucharist are the best example. God never meant for us to be privy to everything in this life. Christ's Resurrection is the atonement. The closer we get to the mystery of our salvation, the more joyful we should be.

Amartia – Greek word for sin - αμαρτια

A – shows negative martia – witness, true sight, missing the mark

Sin is like osteoporosis which is basically holes in one's bones. It is lacking substance. Sin is the absence of obedience, which means disobedience. For sin to be a substance it would mean that God the Father is the author of sin, which is impossible. Adam and Eve chose to embrace, in their hearts, non-life. It's this embrace that is the issue.

Created beings are subject to change and have an innate nature that seeks to perpetuate one's existence. Even before the Fall, Adam and Eve were subject to change. The Uncreated (Trinity) is unchangeable and immovable and is not subject to death. Christ, as man, chose to accept the changeability that is inherent in human nature and the passion which led to His death on the Cross.

<u>DIVINITY</u>	<u>HUMANITY</u>
DID NOT SUFFER	DID SUFFER

The Theopaschite Formula: GOD SUFFERED IN THE FLESH

The Theopaschite Formula is the uniting factor. To say the Divinity suffered would be blasphemous. It is more precise to say that Christ is One Personhood Who, simultaneously, expresses Divine Nature and human nature, Who suffers in the flesh. Jesus Christ, the Son, is the only Being Who expresses two natures. The following is dogmatic: Man will never lose human nature even in the Kingdom. By grace, we will be divinized, but we will never lose our human nature, nor gain divine nature. We will be clothed with Christ's divine glory.

Submitted by: Genevieve—

Ministry News

ST. NICHOLAS' PRO-LIFE MINISTRY



Part 1: ABORTION, OIKONOMIA AND "THE HARD CASES" {A Study} by Valerie H. Protopapas

THE REASON FOR THIS STUDY: This examination of the issue of abortion, the Orthodox concept of oikonomia and certain individual situations used to support and promote the "right" to an abortion has been undertaken primarily because there is a legally and culturally perceived "right to an abortion" in America. Young people growing up today cannot remember a time before the Supreme Court decision *Roe vs. Wade* in 1973 legalized abortion on demand throughout all nine months of pregnancy. Should *Roe* be reversed by the High Court, legislative initiatives guaranteeing access to abortion presently exist in many states and at the federal level, strongly suggesting that the procedure has become institutionalized in our present culture and will not be either easily or quickly abolished whatever the efforts made toward that end? For that reason, it is becoming ever more difficult for the Orthodox Church to assert among the Faithful as well as witness outside the Faith to Her doctrines on the sanctity of innocent human life - doctrines which clearly state that no such "right" to an abortion exists in the Church and further, that no one can claim to be an Orthodox Christian while utilizing, promoting, providing, supporting or condoning abortion. Yet, even with a complete understanding of the Orthodox doctrine on abortion, some consideration must be given to the so-called "hard cases" which, though few in number, present a far more complex situation than that of an abortion performed for social or economic convenience. In point of fact, these "hard cases" are presented as reasons for having or performing an abortion in less than 3% of the 1.5 million abortions performed annually in our nation since 1974. This fact makes them relatively unique instances of pastoral consideration and as such, possible candidates for the application of oikonomia. This small study will, hopefully, provide some information for those with the weighty responsibility of interpreting the Faith and at the same time, comforting and guiding those who have turned to them in their hour of need. It is with the hope that

the material herein presented will be of use and in humble recognition of the limitations of the author that this study has been undertaken. [About the term "oikonomia" (economy): This Scripturally-based concept is explained in more detail later in this article. However, for those encountering the term for the first time - and in order, hopefully, to maintain their interest in the subject under discussion - oikonomia is a pastoral function permitting what may or may appear to be the violation of the letter of canon law and/or pious practice without violating the spirit of either. In the West, the concept degenerated into the practice of "dispensation;" that is, a pope, bishop or priest "dispenses" with a particular point of Church law under appropriate (grants "dispensation") circumstances at the behest of the supplicant. Of course, owing to the fallen nature of all human beings, the same type of thing can happen in the Orthodox Church with the practice of oikonomia (who can forget Jackie Kennedy Onassis's "Greek Orthodox" wedding?) but, in its proper understanding, oikonomia is always practiced with the intention of furthering God's Plan of Salvation. Thus, a soldier going to war may be permitted to marry during Great Lent when all such festivities are usually forbidden. Likewise, a guest may eat meat on a Friday (a violation of the rules of fasting) in order to avoid the greater fault of offending his host. However, it must be absolutely understood that oikonomia can never permit, excuse or justify the commission of a sin. If a bishop or priest does so, he has exceeded his authority and fallen into sin. (Part 2 - Definition of the term "Hard Cases" and "The Position of the Church on Abortion" continues in next month's newsletter)

Submitted by: Genevieve—

Ministry News

Military Ministry

I need your assistance! Our Military Ministry has a growing video presentation that we show on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, but it could be even nicer if we could get more pictures! The beautiful lady and handsome young fellas pictured below are some of our more recent additions. Won't you please help us by including photos of your family members?



Frank Ciarochi, U.S Army Air Corps, Anthony Ciarochi's father



Marian Ciarochi, W.A.A.C. Anthony Ciarochi's mother



COL@ Leon Spirito, U.S. Army Anthony Ciarochi's uncle



Tom Jackson, U.S, Airforce Helga Jackson's husband



Bob Leonard U.S. Airforce Mary Leonard's husband

We'd love to have pictures from these people:



George Ballasiotes U.S. Army Kathy Rowley's father



Walter R. Motz U.S. Navy Walter Motz' father

- Raul Ancira
- Chrysanthe Barnes - Byron
- Vonnie Brandvold - John
- Maria Cook - John R. Cook
- Dr. Fred Ehret - Ralph Richards
- Joyce Griffin - Jack Tsapralis
- Anne Havens - Hiram Havens
- Joseph Johnson - Diana Johnson
- Daphne Karanasos - Peter Vaichis
- Nathaniel Lubliner
- Irene Misiewicz - Alexander
- Lena Plunkett - Charles
- Richard Schutt
- Bryan Stiles
- Katherine Turlis - Steve Turlis

- Paul Apostle - Paul Apostle Sr.
- Theodore Bessinas
- John Cook - James Cook Sr.
- Maria Cook - James Cook Jr.
- Joyce Griffin - Robin
- Brent Hassel
- Anne Havens - Greg Havens
- Joseph Johnson - Ashley Johnson
- Marina Kelaidas - Trey Cox
- Mary Ann Mahern - Steve G. Maritakis
- George Panagiotu
- Bill Samaras - Socrates Samaras
- Daniel Sevigny
- Becky Themelis - Dr. Nick
- Michael Jane White

December 7: Pearl Harbor Day!

If you have a family member who was a Pearl harbor survivor, please send his/her information to gleafops@gmail.com.



December 13: National Guard Birthday! On this date in 1636, the first militia regiments in North America were organized in Massachusetts. St. Nicholas members of the Washington National Guard include MAJ Jeff Rogers, Lexi Roger's husband.

Ministry News

Military Ministry

Continued from previous page

December 22: America's OXI Day! "NUTS!"

In December 1944, the German army launched the surprise attack that became the Battle of the Bulge. Major General Maxwell D. Taylor, commander of the 101st Airborne Division, was attending a staff conference in the United States at the time. During Taylor's absence, McAuliffe commanded the 101st and its attached troops. At Bastogne, the 101st was besieged by a far larger force of Germans under the command of General Heinrich Freiherr von Lüttwitz.

On December 22, 1944, von Lüttwitz dispatched a party, consisting of a major, a lieutenant, and two enlisted men under a flag of truce to deliver an ultimatum. Entering the American lines southeast of Bastogne (occupied by Company F, 2nd Battalion, 327th Glider Infantry), the German party delivered the following to Gen. McAuliffe:

To the U.S.A. Commander of the encircled town of Bastogne.

The fortune of war is changing. This time the U.S.A. forces in and near Bastogne have been encircled by strong German armored units. More German armored units have crossed the river Our near Ortheuville, have taken Marche and reached St. Hubert by passing through Hompre-Sibret-Tillet. Libramont is in German hands.

There is only one possibility to save the encircled U.S.A. troops from total annihilation: that is the honorable surrender of the encircled town. In order to think it over a term of two hours will be granted beginning with the presentation of this note.

If this proposal should be rejected one German Artillery Corps and six heavy A. A. Battalions are ready to annihilate the U.S.A. troops in and near Bastogne. The order for firing will be given immediately after this two hours term.

All the serious civilian losses caused by this artillery fire would not correspond with the well-known American humanity.

The German Commander.

Brigadier General Anthony McAuliffe and his staff gathered inside Bastogne's Heintz Barracks for Christmas dinner December 25th, 1944. This military barracks served as the Division Main Command Post during the siege of Bastogne, Belgium during World War II.

According to those present when McAuliffe received the German message, he read it, crumpled it into a ball, threw it in a wastepaper basket, and muttered, "Aw, nuts". The officers in McAuliffe's command post were trying to find suitable language for an official reply when Lt. Col. Harry Kinnard suggested that McAuliffe's first response summed up the situation pretty well, and the others agreed. The official reply was typed and delivered by Colonel Joseph Harper, commanding the 327th Glider Infantry, to the German delegation. It was as follows:

To the German Commander.

NUTS!

The American Commander.

The German major appeared confused and asked Harper what the message meant. Harper said, "In plain English? Go to hell." The choice of "Nuts!" rather than something earthier was typical for McAuliffe.

Vincent Vicari, his personal aide at the time, recalled that "General Mac was the only general I ever knew who did not use profane language. 'Nuts' was part of his normal vocabulary."



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Ministry News

Military Ministry

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR RELATIVE'S MILITARY SERVICE?

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 as far 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!

A Visit to the Church of the Nativity

Continued from page 1

The Church of the Nativity was being visited by thousands of people from all over the world while we were there. We cued up in airport security line fashion, but with no separation rails between rows. We cued in line for over two hours before arriving at the entrance to the cave where Jesus was born, a small price to pay to visit this Holiest of Holy sites!

Joseph and Mary travelled from Nazerath to Bethlehem (approximately 90miles) in order to register in Joseph's homeland for a census as required/directed by Harrod. The journey must have taken a week or longer with Mary approximately 9 months pregnant. She rode upon a donkey over rough terrain in the winter where temperatures regularly drop to the 30's, and rain was very common. The area around Bethlehem was mostly desert with very few trees so homes were often constructed of stone in front of caves, and the caves were used to secure livestock.



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Ministry News

A Visit to the Church of the Nativity

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When Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem there was no room at the Inn so they were allowed to stay in the cave used to secure livestock.

In 326 Constantine and his mother St. Helena commissioned a church to be built over the cave believed to be the site of Jesus' birth. Through the years the church was damaged/destroyed and reconstructed several times. The inside was adorned by Mosaics dating back to the 600s, several of which are still in existence to this day.



The actual site of Jesus. George & Dianne entering the cave where Jesus was born.



Contributed by Gus & Ingrid Chamles—

Today the church is owned by the Palestinian Authority but mainly controlled by the Greek Orthodox Church, the Armenian Orthodox Church, and the Catholic Church. The Greek Orthodox Church occupies the front where there is an iconoclast, and it also controls the cave believed to be the birthplace of Jesus. It is visited by thousands of pilgrims and people from around the world each day.



Icon hanging in the Church of the Nativity above the entrance to the cave where Jesus was born.



Icons adorning the wall by the entrance to Jesus' tomb



Fr. Seraphim doing a selfie by the entrance to the birthplace of Jesus.



Ministry News

Prospora

Make ready, Bethlehem, Eden has been opened to all. Prepare Ephratha, for the Tree of Life has blossomed in the cave from the Virgin. Her womb was a spiritual paradise whence came the Divine Plant. If we eat it we shall live and not die like Adam. Christ is born to raise up the image that of old had fallen.

The physical gifts used in anamnesis at each Divine Liturgy are prepared by the priest behind the iconostasis before the Liturgy begins. There is a special table, called the table of oblation, where this preparation takes place. It is to the left of, or on the north side of, the altar.

Standing before this table, the priest elevates the prosphoron and says: *You have redeemed us from the curse of the law by your precious Blood. By being nailed to the Cross and pierced with a lance, You have become a fountain of immortality for all people. Glory to You, our Savior. Blessed is our God, always, now and forever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.* The celebrant makes the sign of the cross over the seal of the prosphoron: *In remembrance of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ.* The prosphoron is cut around the Lamb (Christ Victor), right, left, top, and bottom: *As a sheep He was led to the slaughter. And as a spotless lamb dumb before its shearer, He opens not his mouth. In His humiliation, justice was denied Him. Who shall declare his generation?* The Lamb is lifted from the loaf: *For His life is raised up from the earth.* The Lamb is placed upon the paten, and a deep crosswise cut is made on the back of the seal: *Sacrificed is the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world, for the life of the world and for its salvation.* The Lamb is turned seal up, and the lance pierces the side marked NI/Victor: *One of the soldiers pierced His side with a lance and immediately there came out blood and water. And he who saw it bore witness, and his witness is true. Wine and water are poured into the chalice: Blessed is the union of your holy gifts, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

On the prosphoron on the Lamb's right is a portion for the Mother of God, which is cut and placed on the paten: *The Queen stood at your right hand, clothed in a garment wrought with gold and arrayed in diverse colors.* On the propshoron on the Lamb's left are nine triangles; these are cut and placed on the paten, commemorating nine orders of saints and the angels. Then from two more portions of bread the priest scrapes small portions onto the paten while praying for the dead and for the living. And the last portion is for the priest, who prays for his own salvation.



At left is a prepared paten in which you can see the Lamb, Christ Victor, in the center. On His right is the large triangular portion for the Mother of God. On His left are the nine triangles. In this picture they were cut in one block, in other pictures they were cut individually and placed individually on the paten. In front of the lamb you see two piles of small portions of bread, one for the living and one for the dead. At St. Nicholas these represent all the members of the parish and all the orthodox people for whom we have requested prayer. We see assembled on the paten the Church of God with Christ at its center.

Continued on next page

Ministry News

Prospora

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Pictured at right is a chalice, a paten or discos on which sits an asterisk, and a lance or spear, and a spoon. The chalice symbolizes the cup at the Last Supper that Jesus took and gave to his disciples, saying, "Drink from it all of you. For this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." The lance or spear represents the one that pierced Jesus' side when he was on the cross. The spoon represents the tongs with which one of the seraphim (which seraphim were surrounding the throne of God and singing, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord Sabaoth, heaven and earth are filled with your glory") took a live coal from the altar and touched the coal to the lips of Isaiah, saying, "Behold, this has touched your lips. Your lawlessness is taken away, and your sin is cleansed." The paten symbolizes many things: the manger in Bethlehem, the Lord's deathbed, the heavens and the earth. The asterisk is in remembrance of the star of Bethlehem which led the Magi to the Christ child. It also represents the vault of the sky. The Asterisk has a distinctive role in the Divine Liturgy. During the Anaphora prayer after "...even though thousands of archangels and tens of thousands of angels stand around You, the Cherubim and Seraphim, six-winged, many-eyed, soaring aloft upon their wings, singing the victory hymn, exclaiming, proclaiming, and saying..." there is a moment of silence in which the Asterisk is hammered onto the Paten and then the choir sings, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are filled with your glory."



Pictured left is an aer and a set of veils. Once the paten is prepared, the priest sets the asterisk on the paten and covers it with a veil. The chalice is covered with another veil, and the aer, representing the burial shroud of our Lord, is placed over both. Each of these things is blessed with incense before being set in place.

To summarize, we started at the Table of Oblation, which signifies both the cave or stable in Bethlehem where Jesus was born and the place of Calvary where he was offered up to God. The Lamb is lifted up from the earth and placed on the paten, which is the Manger in Bethlehem, the Lord's deathbed, and the heavens and the earth. After His side is pierced, wine and water are poured into the Chalice, representing the blood and water that poured from His side. Then He is joined on the paten by the Theotokos, the saints and angels, the living and the dead

from creation to the present day. He is covered by the Star, which is covered by a veil, just as his face was covered by a veil after His death. The chalice also is covered by a veil, and both the chalice and the paten are covered by the Aer - the burial shroud - and all have been scented as with myrrh.

Christ in the flesh, rejoice with trembling and with joy; with trembling because of your sins, and with joy because of your hope....Who does not worship Him who is from the beginning? Who does not glorify Him who is also the End?...Let us not set ourselves against Him. —St. Gregory the Theologian

The Divine Liturgy, the sacrament of sacraments, both reveals God to us and makes us receptive to God. But first we must make ready and prepare, that the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness may shine in our hearts and that we may not be destroyed in unpreparedness. For the place of reconciliation where we meet our Lord is both the Cross and the Mercy Seat, a place of trembling and of joy.

A blessed Nativity season of preparation and καλά Χριστούγεννα (Merry Christmas) to all.

Deborah Talbot—

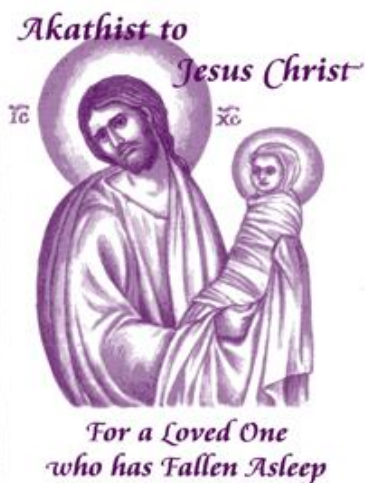
Cover Story

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13. Do not engage intrusive thoughts and feelings.
14. Reveal all your thoughts and feelings to a trusted person regularly.
15. Read the scriptures regularly.
16. Read good books, a little at a time.
17. Cultivate communion with the saints.
18. Be an ordinary person, one of the human race.
19. Be polite with everyone, first of all family members.
20. Maintain cleanliness and order in your home.
21. Have a healthy, wholesome hobby.
22. Exercise regularly.
23. Live a day, even a part of a day, at a time.
24. Be totally honest, first of all with yourself.
25. Be faithful in little things.
26. Do your work, then forget it.
27. Do the most difficult and painful things first.
28. Face reality.
29. Be grateful.
30. Be cheerful.
31. Be simple, hidden, quiet and small.
32. Never bring attention to yourself.
33. Listen when people talk to you.
34. Be awake and attentive, fully present where you are.
35. Think and talk about things no more than necessary.

36. Speak simply, clearly, firmly, directly.
37. Flee imagination, fantasy, analysis, figuring things out.
38. Flee carnal, sexual things at their first appearance.
39. Don't complain, grumble, murmur or whine.
40. Don't seek or expect pity or praise.
41. Don't compare yourself with anyone.
42. Don't judge anyone for anything.
43. Don't try to convince anyone of anything.
44. Don't defend or justify yourself.
45. Be defined and bound by God, not people.
46. Accept criticism gracefully and test it carefully.
47. Give advice only when asked or when it is your duty.
48. Do nothing for people that they can and should do for themselves.
49. Have a daily schedule of activities, avoiding whim and caprice.
50. Be merciful with yourself and others.
51. Have no expectations except to be fiercely tempted to your last breath.
52. Focus exclusively on God and light, and never on darkness, temptation and sin.
53. Endure the trial of yourself and your faults serenely, under God's mercy.
54. When you fall, get up immediately and start over.
55. Get help when you need it, without fear or shame.

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 everyone that signed up at the "Ministry Fair". Now we have complete team of 40 members, for the 40 days of prayer!

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

News and Announcements

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.

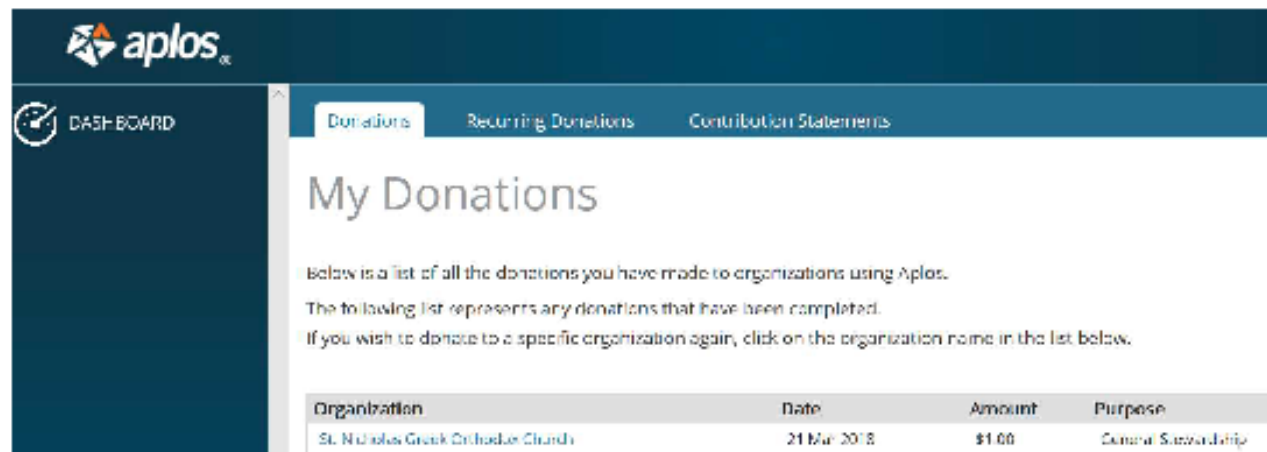
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality. 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.



SURVIVING & THRIVING!

HOW TO BE A CHRISTIAN TEEN IN 2019

Orthodox Winter Youth Retreat
January 19-21, 2019

This retreat is coordinated by the Orthodox Christian Youth Ministry (OCYM) Team from the Antiochian Archdiocese under the arch-pastoral oversight of Metropolitan JOSEPH

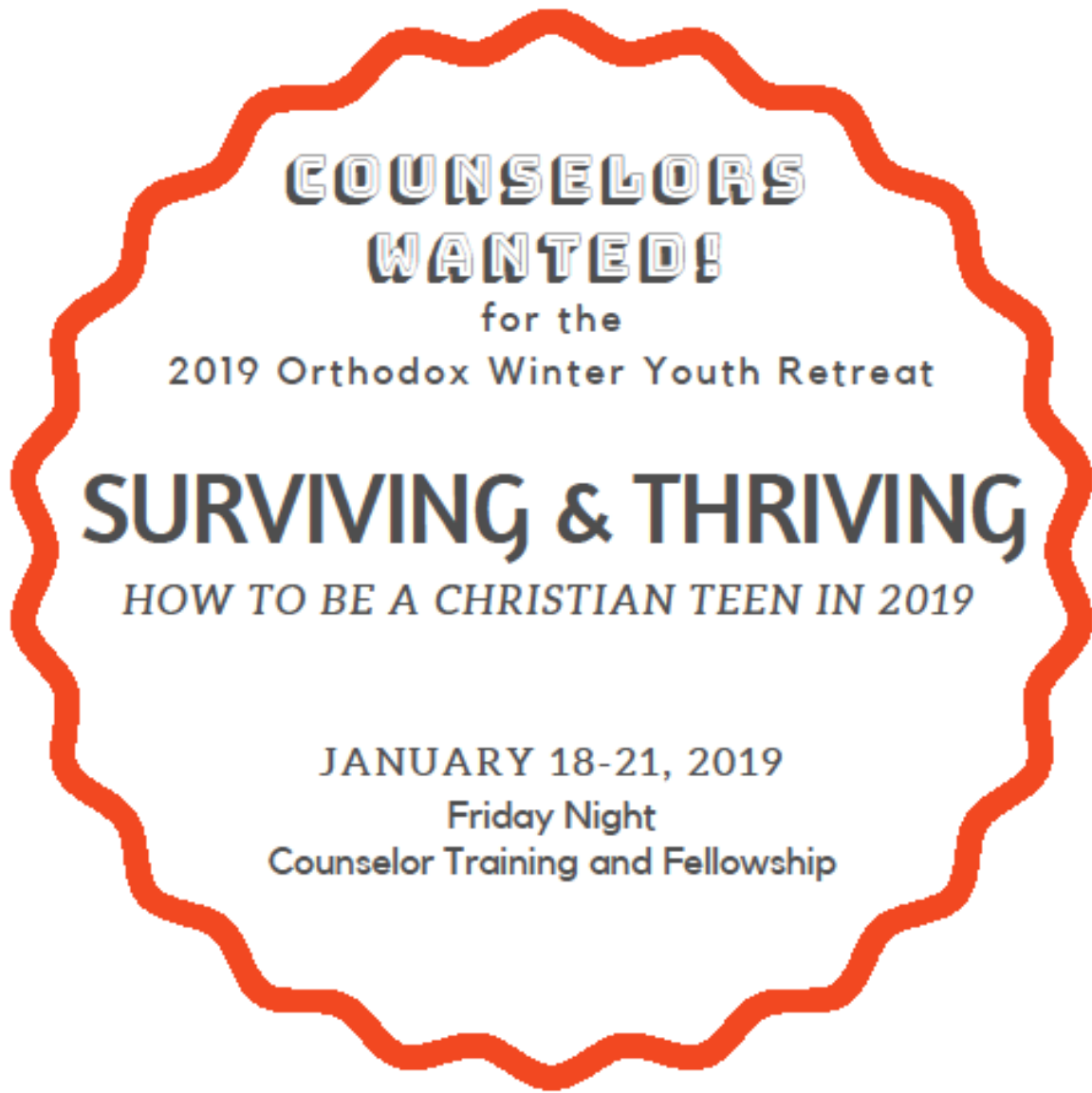
Please join Father Michael Gillis, pastor of Holy Nativity Orthodox Church, and Chris Hawthorne, Youth Worker and Sunday School teacher, for the 2019 Orthodox Winter Youth Retreat!

We welcome Orthodox Junior High and High School Youth and their friends to an opportunity for growth in spirit through worship, prayer, good food and games!

Registration October 20 - December 12, 2018
www.tinyurl.com/orthodoxretreat
Cost \$130 (subsidized by a generous donation!)

Questions? Contact us! orthodoxretreat@gmail.com

Cedar Springs Camp
Lake Stevens, WA



This retreat is coordinated by the Orthodox Christian Youth Ministry (OCYM) Team from the Antiochian Archdiocese under the arch-pastoral oversight of Metropolitan JOSEPH

**Cedar
Springs
Camp**

**Lake Stevens,
Washington**

Volunteer to be a counselor and team with Father Michael Gillis, pastor of Holy Nativity Orthodox Church, and Chris Hawthorne, Youth Worker and Sunday School teacher, for the 2019 Orthodox Winter Youth Retreat

Be a mentor, lead discussions and games for Junior High and High School youth & connect with fellow counselors! Visit www.tinyurl.com/pnworthodoxvolunteers to sign-up starting October 20, 2018!

Questions? Contact us!
pnworthodoxvolunteers@gmail.com

Faith in Our Future for the Future of Our Faith

Project 2020



With faith in our future for the future of our faith, I/we hereby pledge: \$ _____ (total over a two-year pledge period—September 2017 to September 2019)

I/We will make contributions of \$ _____ per [] Year [] Quarter [] Month [] Other (specify): _____

First Contribution Date (MM/YY): _____

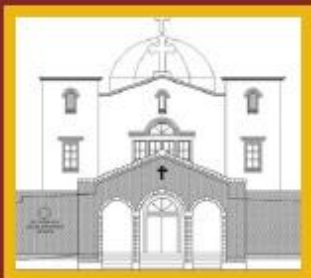
Full pledged amount must be paid in full by September 2019.

[] 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: _____

Faith in Our Future for the Future of Our Faith

Project 2020



Personal Information (Please Print):

Name (First/Last): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

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

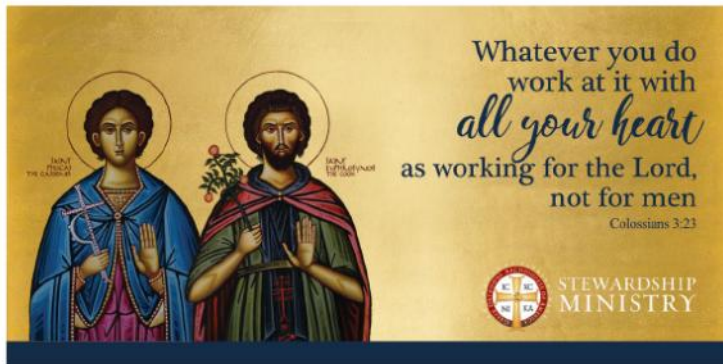


ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Stewardship

2018 Stewardship Card

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
Tacoma, WA



“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



ST. NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

stnicholastacoma.org
mail@stnicholastacoma.org | (253) 272-0466

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.

Form on opposite page

Please PRINT your information clearly

Steward Info

<i>Primary</i>	<i>Spouse if Applicable</i>
Given Name (First/Last)	
Orthodox Christian (Yes/No)	
Baptism/Chrismation Date & Location	
Mobile Phone	
Best Email	
Birth Date	
Wedding Date (or marriage blessed in Orthodox Church)	
Wedding Location	

Household Info

Residence Address	
City	State Zip
Home Phone	

Dependent Children

Name	Birth Date	Orthodox (Yes/No)
Name	Birth Date	Orthodox (Yes/No)
Name	Birth Date	Orthodox (Yes/No)
Name	Birth Date	Orthodox (Yes/No)

"Those who seek the Lord shall never want for any good thing." (Psalm 34:10)

Our donations are in thanksgiving to God for His continued blessings bestowed to us. The amount of our donations reflects how much we are blessed and how thankful we are; however, we are aware that God expects us to give sacrificially to His work. What we pledge to give to His work is between God and us; however, we are providing a realistic estimate of our financial support to enable the parish to fiscally manage the resources that God mercifully and lovingly grants to our community.

2018 Stewardship Commitment

Stewardship contributions cover all of our parish operating expenses. To continue meeting these operational expenses--without depending on Festival revenue--each household would need to contribute approximately \$2,000/year.

Steward Name (First/Last): _____

I/We expect to give at least the following stewardship amount in 2018 to support God's work:

\$ _____/year = \$/month _____ = \$/week _____

Suggested Stewardship Pledges

Annual Income	3% Monthly	5% Monthly	10% Monthly	
\$ 10,000	\$25	\$42	\$83	
\$ 20,000	\$50	\$83	\$167	
\$ 30,000	\$75	\$125	\$250	This pledge is
\$ 40,000	\$100	\$167	\$333	for January 1,
\$ 50,000	\$125	\$208	\$417	2018 through
\$ 60,000	\$150	\$250	\$500	December 31,
\$ 70,000	\$175	\$292	\$583	2018.
\$ 80,000	\$200	\$333	\$667	
\$ 90,000	\$225	\$375	\$750	All financial
\$ 100,000	\$250	\$417	\$833	information
\$ 110,000	\$275	\$458	\$917	will remain
\$ 120,000	\$300	\$500	\$1,000	confidential.
\$ 130,000	\$325	\$542	\$1,083	
\$ 140,000	\$350	\$583	\$1,167	
\$ 150,000	\$375	\$625	\$1,250	

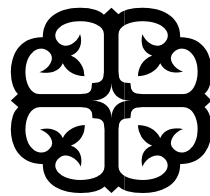
I/We understand that by participating in supporting this parish financially and by committing my/our Time and Talents on the back portion of this stewardship form, I/we shall be a member(s) in good standing at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church during 2018.

Saint Nicholas Messenger

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave
Tacoma, WA 98405

Address Service Requested



www.stnicholastacoma.org