

St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Phone: 253-272-0466

Parish Website: stnicholastacoma.org

E-Mail: mail@stnicholastacoma.org

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



Sunday Services

8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

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



Fr. Seraphim Majmudar, Our Presiding Priest

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

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

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

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

Editors: Carol MartinOki/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
Kathy Rawley

Altar Servers
Dr Nick Themelis

Bible Study
Genevieve Eagle

Book Store
Dr. Nick Themelis

Building Committee
Bill Acker

Building, Grounds & Maintenance
Richard Heidal, John Pangis

Choir
Rebecca Philips

Hands of Love
Merrilee Pangis

Military Service
LTC Gus Chamales

Premarital Education
George Pirotis, Diane Pirotis

Stewardship
Maria Koumantaros

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

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

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

Kelly Rosati – Beginner dancers

George Pirotis – Adult Group Instructor

Coffee Hour
Zach Karanasos

IT, etc.
Bill Samaras

Philia
Diane Pirotis

Pro Life
Genevieve Eagle

Vitos Scholarship
Ronnie Sue Johnson

Flowers & Church Decorating
Kathy Rowley

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

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

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

Sunday School
Sheila Auter, Director

Greek School
George Pirotis

Lazarus Group
Dean Hamos

Pilgrimage
Zach Karanasos

Prosphora Baking
Deborah Talbot

Welcome
Ronnie Sue Johnson

Parish Council

Parish council meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month.
February 9, 2021

February 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Brigid of Ireland 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: St Brigid & Presentation of Lord 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: St Brigid & Presentation of the Lord	2 Presentation of the Lord in the Temple 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-8:30pm Vespers & Orthros	3 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Symeon & Anna 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 3:00pm-4:00pm Akathist for the Unborn 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis	4 Isidore of Pelusium 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek (call office for zoom link)	5 Martyr Agatha STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	6 Phoebes the Great 8:45am-9:00am Pre Communion Prayers 9:00am-10:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers
7 Luke the Righteous 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	8 Theodore the General 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	9 Leavetaking of Presentation of the Lord 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-10:00pm Parish Council	10 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Priest martyr Haralambos 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis	11 Empress Theodora 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek (call office for zoom link)	12 Meletios, Abp of Antioch STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	13 Priscilla & Aquila 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers
14 Canaanite Woman Martyr Valentine 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	15 Anthonios of Chios Fr S Away	16 Fr S Away Nikolai of Japan 10:00am-11:00am No Bible Study	17 Fr S Away Mariamne, Sister of Ap Philip STRICT FAST 3:00pm-4:00pm Akathist for the Unborn 7:00pm-8:00pm No Services Tonight	18 Fr S Away Pope St Leo of Rome 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek (call office for zoom link)	19 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Fr S Away Philothoi of Athens	20 Fr S Away Leo of Catania 7:00pm-8:00pm No Vespers Tonight
21 Beginning of Tridion Publican & Pharisee 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	22 Elwin of Cornwall FAST FREE WEEK! 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: St Polycarp of Smyrna 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: St Polycarp	23 FAST FREE WEEK! Polycarp of Smyrna 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-8:30pm Vespers	24 FAST FREE WEEK! Finding of the Head of St John the Baptist 3:00pm-4:00pm Pro Life Vigil: Cedar River Clinic 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis	25 FAST FREE WEEK! Tarasios, Patriarch of C'nople 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek (call office for zoom link)	26 FAST FREE WEEK! Porphyrios of Gaza 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	27 FAST FREE WEEK! Prokopios the Confessor 5:00pm-8:15pm Parish Game Night (Zoom) 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers
28 Prodigal Son 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-12:30pm Memorial: Fr Matthew Baker	Notes:					

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

News and Announcements

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 NEW PARISH COUNCIL!



All of us are grateful for your leadership and service to the Lord.

President: Ronnie-Sue Johnson

Vice President: David Frisk

Secretary: Christina Leineweber

Treasurer: Mark Robinson

Members:

Maria Koumantaros, Alan (John) Means, David Orriss, Despina Kipelidis, Kathy Johnson,

Klaudia Cedeno, Sheila (Monica) Auter and Zach Karanasos

News and Announcements

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution statements have been mailed. Please contact the church office (253-272-0466), if you do not receive your 2020 donation statement or have some issue with your statement. Thank you for your generosity to the church during a difficult and tumultuous year. Your contributions have made an impact on the financial health of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and the community it serves.

Mark Robinson,

Treasurer

Returning to Church

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

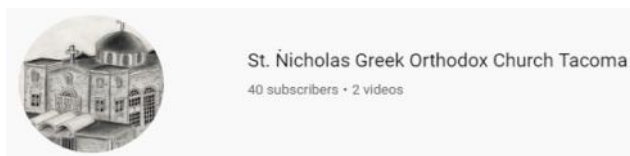
Live TV Streaming of church services continues. If you are unable to attend services in person, you can participate by watching most services live at home. See instructions below.

Watch Services From Home, Live

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

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

Click on this selection;



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

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

Bill Samaras—

Building Committee



BUILDING COMMITTEE NEWS

A 2021 Church Budget that passed at a January Virtual General Assembly was based on the assumption the upcoming year may be lean, given the ongoing Covid-19 and its uncertainties, and there being no guarantee yet if the holding of the annual Greek Festival will be allowed or feasible this coming October. As such, a long list of proposed church building and security upgrades was deferred in the budget that passed. Some of the items not passed could possibly end up being proposed and brought up for approval in a future General Assembly if more certainty becomes established with the passing of time.

One item presently being proposed to the Parish Council for which there appears to be funding for is the installation of an electronic door lock, bell ringer, camera and intercom with remote controls at the Upper Hall exterior entrance door facing Yakima Avenue. This would allow Carol, the church Office Administrator to screen and grant or deny access through that door from her desk during the week when she is working, or for anyone else who happens to be in the church office. Also, with phone APP capability, it would allow others, including Father when he is often by himself in church during the week days, remote access control from virtually anywhere within the church grounds.

In the meantime, obtaining submittals and permits, coordinating with vendors, and getting set-up for a May 10th ground breaking start continues on the Narthex Renovation.

Contributed by: Bill Acker

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

TOGETHER WE SERVED. Ever think about some of the men and women with whom you served and wonder how you might be able to track them down? Together We Served is a forum that may be able to assist you with that process. This website (togetherweserved.com) is available to all who served at any time in any military branch. It is sort of like a combination of Facebook and Ancestry.com, and anyone can access the “free” version, or elect to purchase a subscription version for a nominal fee.



Once you’ve logged onto the website you simply input your military service history and in no time at all it begins to list the names of others who served in the same unit, and during the same time frame that you did. You can then reach out to any of them via email through the Together

We Served website and reconnect with old friends, or they may reach out to you once they see you’ve joined.

My personal experience has very positive. I have been contacted by soldiers with whom I served when I was a young 2nd Lieutenant patrolling the East/West German border in 1976, when I was a captain in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in 1983, and by soldiers with whom I served in Germany when I was a Division Cavalry Squadron Commander from 1993 - 1995. It has been very rewarding to reconnect with great guys and to be reminded of some of the humorous, and exhilarating moments we shared, and that I had long forgotten.

The services this website has to offer are too numerous for me to mention here. Nevertheless, it only takes a little bit of your time to log on and give it a try. Who knows, you may find an old comrade in arms who will remind you about the time....!

February 8, 1943. Japanese troops evacuate

Guadalcanal. The World War II Battle of Guadalcanal was the first major offensive and a decisive victory for the Allies in the Pacific theater. With Japanese troops stationed in this section of the Solomon Islands, U.S. marines launched a surprise attack in August 1942 and took control of an air base under construction. Reinforcements were funneled to the island as a series of land and sea clashes unfolded, and both sides endured heavy losses to their warship contingents. However, the Japanese suffered a far greater toll of casualties, forcing their withdrawal from Guadalcanal by February 1943. Almost 20,000 Japanese soldiers were killed during the fight for Guadalcanal, while U.S. marines and soldiers suffered approximately 2000 men killed. One of the marines fighting on that island, Marine Bill Zorzakis, would survive the battle and in recognition of his unit’s courageous action, all were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. Bill would go on to fight with his unit on Bougainville, and Guam, and survived the war. Years later he married and had two children, one son and a daughter, who is Helen McClure.



Bill Zorzakis
U.S. Marine Corps
WWII
Fought on the islands
of Guadalcanal,
Bougainville, & Guam.
Helen McClure’s father

Continued next page....

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

February 19, 1945. The Battle for Iwo Jima begins. Two years after the battle for Guadalcanal ended, American Marines from the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions continued their island hopping campaign in the Pacific and landed on the shores of Iwo Jima. The island of Iwo Jima was key to the war in the Pacific because capturing that island would put U.S. bombers within a 750 mile strike range of Japan. For eight months prior to the invasion Army Air Force and Navy aircraft bombed and strafed the island. Despite the heavy and sustained bombardment of the island, the Japanese had their own defensive plans which included about 11 miles of tunnels and underground rooms for command and control, and other functions.

When the Marines began landing on Iwo Jima the Japanese directed artillery, small arms and mortar fire from cave openings downward on U.S. troops landing on the beaches. The Marine Divisions consisted of approximately 70,000 men but over the course of the five weeks of fierce fighting, the Marines suffered more than 25,000 casualties, including nearly 7000 dead. Caring for the injured and wounded Marines during the battle was a young Navy Corpsman who was a long time member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. After the war he remained in the Navy and retired after 25 years of service as a Chief Petty Officer.



**CPO(R) John
Pantelis
U.S. Navy
WWII**
***Fought on the island
of Iwo Jima.***
**Greg Pantelis'
father**

The Japanese soldiers fought hard to maintain control of the island and again suffered devastating losses with around 18,000 killed. Despite efforts to get the Japanese to surrender, only 216 were taken prisoner. The rest were listed as missing and presumed dead.

Sporadic fighting continued on the island until the war ended on August 15, 1945, but even with that two Japanese holdouts hid in the island's caves and tunnels until they finally surrendered in 1949.



The flag raisings on Iwo Jima. One of the most iconic images of World War II (left image) was taken by the associated press photographer, Joe Rosenthal. His photograph captured six Americans raising the U.S. flag on Mt. Suribachi on February 23, 1945. This was actually the second flag raised on Mount Suribachi, and the story of the first flag and the men who raised it is truly a story of extreme courage and sacrifice. It is also of particular interest because the third man on top of Mount Suribachi, a member of the platoon tasked with the mission to raise the flag, was a relative of one of our parishioners.

On February 19, 1945, forty-six men of the 3rd Platoon of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines scanned the island apprehensively from their Navy transport. The highest point on Mount Suribachi, an extinct volcano that made up the island's southwestern tip, was their Regiment's first objective. The men of 3rd Platoon boarded two landing craft and sailed toward the island, receiving sporadic machine-gun fire along the way. Shortly after they landed on the beach they lost their first two men to

Continued on next page....

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

mortar fire from the enemy. Their designated sector was only 700 yards wide with half the distance being barren sand, while the remainder held tropical brush and maze of enemy bunkers, pillboxes, and other emplacements.

The Platoon leader, 1LT John Wells, issued the command to "Move out!", and the platoon began to move inland. Enemy resistance was increasing and as they moved forward, around them lay a growing number of torn and bleeding bodies. Soon the platoon was pinned down by machine-gun fire from a pillbox and they were unable to move until two American Sherman tanks blasted the diehard crew. As they began to move forward again swooping groups of Navy and Marine planes were smashing the volcano with bombs, rockets, and machine-gun bullets. Naval destroyers and gunboats lying offshore contributed more heavy shelling and Marine artillery batteries on the island added to the earthshaking barrage. The platoon received orders to head for Suribachi at 1600 hrs and they could spot enemy movement in the brush covering its approaches. They halted their movement as nightfall approached, a scant 200 yards from the volcano's first Japanese emplacements.

As they set up their perimeter the Japanese hit them with the most intensive mortar barrage they had experienced up to that time and the marines could do nothing but hunker down in their fox holes and pray that they would be missed. Surprisingly only one man was hit and he was evacuated to the rear. The Japanese attempted to mass in order to attack the platoon's positions but a Navy destroyer switched on its searchlight, and thwarted the attack with a concentration of shells and tracers.

On their second dawn on the island they prepared to make a frontal assault across a 200 yard stretch into the volcano's main base defenses. A pre-attack bombardment was initiated and when the shelling was lifted, the platoon launched its first attack into what many believed was their certain death. For the first few moments the volcano was unresponsive but then it erupted with rifle and machine-gun fire. Marines started to fall and the entreating cry, "Corpsman! Corpsman!" became a part of the action's jumble of sounds.

The Marines pressed the attack and soon they reached the enemy's first line of trenches firing point blank and using bayonets after rifles expended all of their rounds. A demolition charge was thrown at a group of Marines and one of them, PFC Ruhl dived on it to absorb its full blast. He sacrificed himself to save a comrade and was later posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The battle raged back and forth for hours during which the platoon had lost seventeen men. LT Wells was badly wounded but continued to direct his men in the fight. He directed their small arms and machine-gun fire in a lengthy exchange that was only overcome once two marines with flamethrowers entered the fray with dramatic results. As the tide of the battle finally switched in the Marines favor, some of the men later stated that the circumstances made the odor from the flamethrowers "the sweetest they had ever smelled." By this time the Lieutenant's wounds were full of sand and he was groggy from two morphine injections. He turned command over to his second in command, 20 year old Platoon Sergeant Thomas, and crawled painfully to the rear. For his leadership that morning 1LT Wells was awarded the Navy Cross, the Navy's second highest award for valor. The remnants of the platoon established their perimeter and hunkered down for the night.

Continued on next page....

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

The next morning the Company's Executive Officer First Lieutenant Schrier, gathered men from the platoon and took them to the Battalion Headquarters. There, they were issued rations and ammunition and joined by a radioman, two teams of stretcher-bearers, and a photographer, Staff Sergeant Louis Lowery from *Leatherneck Magazine*, the Marine Corps' official publication. The Battalion Commander handed 1LT Schrier a folded American flag and the Colonel's orders were simple: The patrol was to climb to the summit, secure the crater, and if possible, raise the flag.

The patrol headed for the volcano's base and began to climb the steep slopes. Far below, the Marines posted in a semicircle around the northeast base observed the patrol's laborious ascent. Also watching through binoculars, were numerous men of the U.S. fleet off shore. The patrol struggled laboriously up the volcano at times on their hands and knees because of the steepness, or because of the caves nearby that housed the enemy positions. After what seemed like an eternity to all, the men of the patrol reached the summit. The caves and the crater remained silent, so LT Schrier ordered the men to start moving over the rim. Howard Snyder took the lead, Harold Keller was second, and James "Chick" Robeson (nicknamed Chick because he joined the Marines at age 17) carrying a 20lb Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) was third. Then came 1LT. Schrier, his radioman, Leo Rozek, and Robert Leader. The men fanned out and took up positions just inside the rim while the rest of the men in the patrol, along with the photographer, continued their climb to the top. They began to probe the bomb craters and look for something that might serve as flagpole, but as they did, Japanese soldiers began to emerge from the caves and craters. At first the Japanese soldiers were unaware that the Marines were up there. A small firefight ensued as both sides slowly added to their numbers with more Marines cresting the top, and more Japanese emerging from the caves. Both sides were firing and throwing grenades at each other, and while these duels were being fought, Leader and Rozek discovered a long piece of drain pipe that could be used as a flagpole.

It was about 1030 A.M when the pole was planted and the Stars and Stripes of the first flag to be planted on Mount Suribachi was seized by the wind, and began to wave proudly. Staff Sergeant Lowery from *Leatherneck Magazine* took this picture of the first flag raising by the 3rd Platoon that had a unique significance. Mount Suribachi was the first piece of Japanese-owned territory, not counting mandates like Saipan, to be captured by American forces during World War II.



The planting of the colors brought a great swell of pride and exultation among Iwo Jima's combat-weary Marines. Those watching below raised a cry, "**There goes the flag!**" Those on board the Navy ships off shore began to blow the ships' horns in recognition of the historic moment. For the Americans there was a sense of exhilaration but all the noise from the ship's horns alerted the Japanese in the caves, and they began to emerge in larger numbers from the caves to see what was happening.

Continued on next page....

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

Several more caves now came to life and grenades were again being hurled by both sides. A grenade landed near Lowery and he was forced to leap down the side of the volcano tumbling 50 feet before he could stop his fall, and breaking his camera in the process.



On Top of Suribachi
Robeson, second from left, one of the first up during famed battle.

The battle continued to rage and as more Marines arrived they assaulted the caves with flame throwers and satchel charges that either blew the entrances shut, or collapsed the caves. The cave from which the rifleman and officer charged Chick Robeson was later dug open and no less than 150 enemy were found buried within. Many of them died by detonating grenades held to their chests choosing suicide rather than suffocation.

The flag was barely up before it was challenged. A Japanese rifleman stepped out of a cave and fired at photographer Louis Lowery and Chick Robeson. He missed, but Chick didn't. Chick swung his BAR up for a long burst, and the man dropped heavily. The body was quickly seized by the feet and dragged back into the cave by fellow Japanese soldiers, and then a Japanese officer brandishing a sword emerged charging at the Marines. By this time more Marines were alerted to the cave threat and a volley of fire turned the one-man charge into a headlong tumble.

It was about three hours after the flag was planted that COL Johnson made the decision to replace it. The 3rd Platoon's flag measured only 54" x 28" and was hard to see from a distance without binoculars. Since the sight of the flag was important to the morale of all the American forces who still had a lot of fighting to do before Iwo Jima was secured, Johnson felt a larger flag was needed. He got a larger flag from another navy ship that was beached near Suribachi's eastern base and directed Marines to take it up the volcano. As the new flag was being carried up the volcano, Joe Rosenthal, a civilian photographer covering the Iwo operation from the Associated Press, spotted the movement and decided to follow. This resulted in the now-famous photograph.

Some of the members of 3rd Platoon were present at the second raising and it was originally thought that one of them, the corpsman John Bradley, was in Rosenthal's famous picture. Many years later a commission was formed to verify the identities of the men who raised the flag in Rosenthal's picture and it was determined that Bradley had been mistaken for another man.

By the time Suribachi was finally secured the 28th Marines had lost more than 900 men. But the grimest part of the story is that the Regiment's ordeal was just beginning. On February 28th, it was ordered to Iwo Jima's northern front where it continued to fight for several more weeks. As for the 3rd Platoon, it was virtually wiped out. Only four of the original forty-six men got through the battle unscathed. Among the dead were two of the original flag raisers, Ernest Thomas and Hank Hansen.

Continued next page—

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

In later fighting on the island, Chick Robeson was wounded in the act of saving a corpsman's life. The Navy Corpsman (nicknamed Doc) ran into the open to treat a wounded marine. He called for covering fire and Chick and several others stood up, exposing themselves in full view, and raked the ridge as Doc scurried toward them. A Japanese bullet blew Chick's BAR out of his hand shredding his little finger, and causing severe damage to another finger and his wrist. Chick would later say that he spent more time in Army hospitals undergoing surgeries for his wounds than he did on active duty with the Marine Corps.

Chick returned to his home in Chewelah, WA where he was employed with the Dept. of Agriculture. At the twenty year anniversary of the flag raising he joined other American and Japanese soldiers who fought on the island in a reunion on Iwo Jima.

Chick Robeson was one of the many heroes who fought on Iwo Jima. We are honored that he joins the St. Nicholas Military Ministry's list of family members who served our nation because you see, Chick was Mark Robinson's 2nd cousin.



PFC James (Chick) Robeson
U.S.M.C.

WWII

The third Marine on top of Mount Suribachi and a member of the platoon that raised the first flag during the battle for Iwo Jima.

Mark Robinson's 2nd cousin

It is hard to do justice to this story in the few pages allowed for this article. There have been many books and articles about this story that go into far more interesting and fascinating detail than I have written here. To get a real sense of the heroism involved with this remarkable accomplishment, I encourage you to read them.



As for the flag that Chick Robeson and these brave Marines raised, amazingly, the U.S. Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal was present at the Battle of Iwo Jima and witnessed from a distance the first flag-raising atop Mount Suribachi. Forrestal was so inspired by the sight of Marines erecting a flag atop a contested Japanese position that he requested the flag be returned to him as a memento of the historic event. COL Smith flat-out refused Forrestal's request, considering the first flag raised over Iwo Jima to be the property of his Marine Battalion. He then ordered the first flag lowered and returned to his staff, and a second flag raised atop Mount Suribachi so that the substitute flag could be sent to Secretary Forrestal.

Thus, Forrestal never got his souvenir — the Iwo Jima flag was too famous for even a cabinet secretary to keep. Both the first flag, and the second flag from Rosenthal's famous photo were turned over to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and are preserved as artifacts of military courage, and U.S. history.

And now you know, the rest of the story. (Multiple sources were used for this article including Wikipedia, The Spokesman Review, Live Science, American Heritage, and several others.)

And now you know, the rest of the story. (Multiple sources were used for this article including Wikipedia, The Spokesman Review, Live Science, American Heritage, and several others.)

Contributed by: Gus

Stewardship Ministry News

HAPPY NEW YEAR ST. NICHOLAS PARISHIONERS

Thank you to all the Stewards who joined the General Assembly via Zoom on January 10, 2021 (the "Assembly"). The purpose for the General Assembly was to present and pass the 2021 budget. As we reported then, our Parish ended 2020 with a surplus of approximately \$86,000. The principal reason for this surplus was because we maintained our stewardship levels. THANK YOU TO ALL PARISHIONERS WHO SUPPORTED ST. NICHOLAS LAST YEAR. We could not have achieved this result during a pandemic year, without the help and everyone's support. Once again, MANY THANKS for your generous support.

For the 2021 calendar year, the Parish Council reduced many line items in the budget. The budget was presented to the Assembly without Festival proceeds. Our proposed 2021 budget reflected a deficit of approximately \$19,000. The Parish Council proposed we finance the deficit from the 2020 calendar year surplus. The budget was submitted to the Assembly for approval and the vote carried. From the Parish Council to every Parishioner – thank you for your support.

Now that the 2021 budget is approved, our next step is to see how we can generate the income to offset the expenses. We all have many blessings and gifts from God. One way we can show our appreciation is to share our God given gifts of our Time, Talents and Treasures. Each of us does this in his or her own way. Yet the one universal approach is to support the church by filling out a Stewardship card. If you have already done so, THANK YOU! If not, Stewardship cards are available in the Messenger, the Church website or the office of the church. If you know of someone who needs a printed Stewardship card, please call either the office (253) 272-0466 and speak with our church secretary, Carol or let me know. We will be happy to mail stewardship cards to anyone who needs one.

THE PRINCIPLES OF PLENTY (PROV. 3:9-10)

"Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine."

In the March edition of The Messenger, we will publish the names of those who have returned their 2021 stewardship cards. Please join me in submitting your pledge. The information for the Messenger is due by the 15th of each month, so please ensure your pledge card is submitted to the church office by the 14th of February. May God bless each of you with good health and much happiness.

Maria (Mary) Koumantaros
Parish Council Member
2021 Stewardship Committee Chair



Bible Study

ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY THE REVELATION

SEEKING COMPLETION & FULFILLMENT WITHOUT THE CORRECT CHANNELING THROUGH THE CHURCH



Jim Jones – demented and simultaneously charismatic



Waco Texas – David Koresh and the Branch Davidians Cult



Jehovah's Witness – The Watchtower

Before The Deluge
Some of them were dreamers
And some of them were fools
Who were making plans and thinking of the future
With the energy of the innocent
They were gathering the tools
They would need to make their journey back to nature
While the sand slipped through the opening
And their hands reached for the golden ring
With their hearts they turned to each other's heart for refuge
In the troubled years that came before the deluge

Some of them knew pleasure
And some of them knew pain
And for some of them it was only the moment that mattered
And on the brave and crazy wings of youth
They went flying around in the rain
And their feathers, once so fine, grew torn and tattered
And in the end they traded their tired wings
For the resignation that living brings
And exchanged love's bright and fragile glow
For the glitter and the rouge
And in the moment they were swept before the deluge



Native Americans: The Ghost Dance – A Promise of Fulfillment



Vladimir Lenin – The Communist Revolution

Now let the music keep our spirits high
And let the buildings keep our children dry
Let creation reveal it's secrets by and by
By and by...
When the light that's lost within us reaches the sky

Some of them were angry
At the way the earth was abused
By the men who learned how to forge her beauty into power
And they struggled to protect her from them
Only to be confounded
By the magnitude of her fury is the final hour
And when the sand was gone and the time arrived
In the naked dawn only a few survived
And in attempts to understand a thing so simple and so huge
Believed that they were meant to live after the deluge

Now let the music keep our spirits high
And let the buildings keep our children dry
Let creation reveal it's secrets by and by
By and by...
When the light that's lost within us reaches the sky

Before the Deluge –by Jackson Browne

Jim Jones and The Peoples Temple: An American cult leader, preacher and self-professed “faith healer” who orchestrated a mass murder-suicide of himself and his followers in his jungle commune at Jonestown, Guyana on November 18, 1978. A demented and simultaneously charismatic man.

David Koresh (born Vernon W. Howell) & The Branch Davidians: An American cult leader who played a central role in the Waco siege of 1993. As head of the Branch Davidians sect, an offshoot of the Davidian Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Koresh claimed to be its final prophet. Like The Peoples Temple, The Branch Davidians were a movement that promised, in one way or another, a definitive completion to all things, to the point of mass suicide.

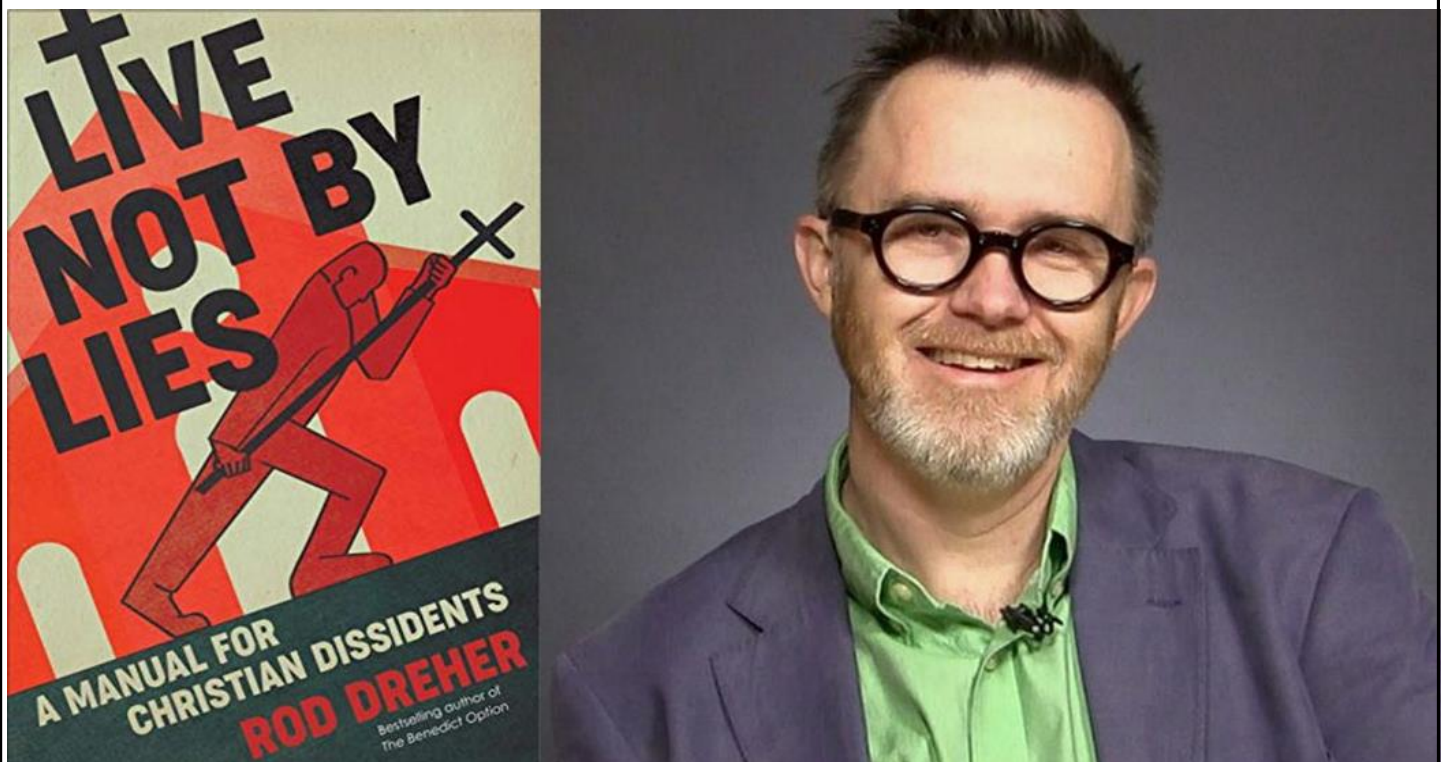
Jehovah’s Witness: Is a millenarian restorationist Christian denomination with nontrinitarian beliefs distinct from mainstream Christianity. They believe that the destruction of the present world system at Armageddon is imminent, and that the establishment of God’s Kingdom over the earth is the only solution for all problems faced by humanity.

The Ghost Dance: Nanissaanah, also called the Ghost Dance of 1890, was a new religious movement incorporated into numerous Native American belief systems. According to the teachings of the Northern Paiute spiritual leader Wovoka (Jack Wilson), proper practice of the dance would reunite the living with spirits of the dead, bring the spirits to fight on their behalf, end westward expansion, and bring peace, prosperity, and unity to Native American people throughout the region.

Bible Study

Vladimir Lenin: A Russian revolutionary, politician and political theorist. He embraced revolutionary socialist politics following his brother's 1887 execution. Following Russia's failed Revolution of 1905, he campaigned for the First World War to be transformed into a Europe-wide proletarian revolution, which as a Marxist he believed would cause the overthrow of capitalism and its replacement with socialism. Opponents were suppressed in the Red Terror, a violent campaign administered by the state security services; tens of thousands were killed or interned in concentration camps. Critics on both the left and right emphasize his role as founder and leader of an authoritarian regime responsible for political repression and mass killings. He agreed with Marx that "religion is the opium of the people (masses)." Lenin, essentially, preached his own religion.

Jackson Browne – Before the Deluge: The message in this song (written in 1977) is apocalyptic.



Live not by Lies: A Manual for Christians Dissidents, by Rod Dreher.

For classical liberal devotees of the Myth of Progress, the ideal society is one in which everyone has equal freedom of choice. For radicals, it is one in which everyone is living with equality of outcome. Belief that one's circumstances can be improved by collective human effort, though, is a powerful political motivator. It is difficult to see this from the perspective of the twenty-first century, but to believe that poverty, sickness, and oppression are not destined to be one's fate was a revolutionary concept in human history. It gave people whose ancestors had scarcely known anything but want and suffering hope for the future.

Marx likened religion to a drug because it blunted the pain of life for the masses, and in his view, took away from them the consciousness that they had the power to overturn the social order that immiserated them. Unlike progressives in the classical liberal tradition, Marx and his fellow radicals promised that radical politics, harnessing the power of science and technology, really could establish heaven on earth. They were atheists who believed that man could become like a god.

Bible Study

As a perversion of religion, Progress as an ideology speaks appealingly to hungry human hearts. As Milosz and other dissidents testify, communism answered an essentially religious longing in the souls of restless young intellectuals. Progressivism in all its forms appeals to the same desire in intelligent young people today – both secular and those within churches who are alienated from authoritative ecclesial traditions. This is why Christians today must understand that, fundamentally, they aren't resisting a different politics but rather what is effectively a rival religion.

This is how it was for young Russians of the late nineteenth century, who embraced Marxism with the fervor of religious converts. It gave its devotees a narrative that helped them understand why things are the way they are, and what they, as Marxists, should do to bring about a more just world. It was an optimistic philosophy, one that promised relief and bounty for all the peoples of the world.

To create utopia, Marxists first had to rout Christianity, which they saw as a false religion that sanctified the ruling class and kept the poor superstitious and easy to control.

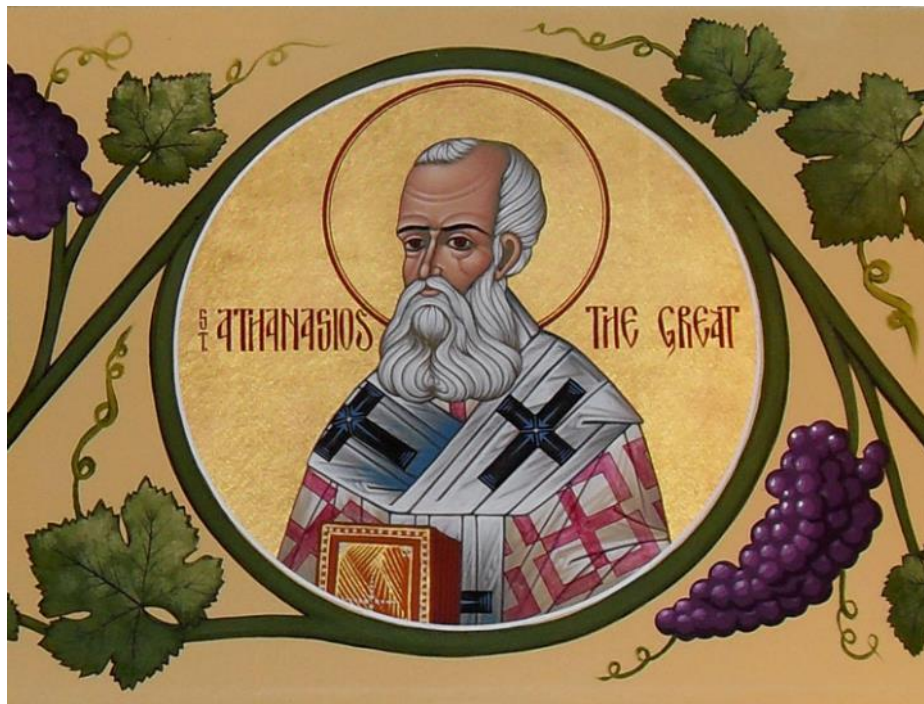
Mr. Dreher addresses what Christians are facing in this country today and why. It goes beyond politics into a much deeper level. We are facing a new gathering of waters going in a certain direction which equals the Myth of Progress. When you peel the mask away, many social groups have hidden agendas, i.e. Black Lives Matter and Margaret Sanger and Planned Parenthood. What it is, theologically, is that longing for this “dawning new day” of perfect justice. The perfect day of justice will dawn when Christ comes again. The Orthodox Church hasn't swayed from this course for two thousand years, hence, the false teachings of the rapture. Even non-Christian movements will be preaching the dawn of the day of justice. This frees us from the conservative/liberal dialectic that is part of the trap. This is the penetrating view of what has gone on and what is going on today. It's a perversion of religion and a Myth of Progress with ideology that speaks appealingly to hungry human hearts. The language that we have been using “river of longing” decidedly diverted against God. Marx and his fellow radicals promised that radical politics, harnessing the power of science and technology, really could establish heaven on earth. This is a very important observation. Going back to the Daniel and Ezekiel passages and the Jewish expectation of a messiah coming to re-establish the Kingdom of David, etc. – their vision was earthbound. At the end of day, we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual powers of wickedness in high places. It's these high priests and priestesses who are living at that very high membrane where they are downloading spiritual evil in a profound way that we don't understand and manifesting that evil in the earth. It's the evil one doing something theological. This is what frees us from the trap of looking at this politically. The devil is trying, through diversions, to lead us away from God. Satan is not trying to stop that river of longing, because he knows that God made us that way; but he can divert it so the people can feel that that flow is happening and get a sense of fulfillment but it's going to be a false one. Combined with their lack of repentance and their desire to remain in sinfulness, he will be able to control the majority of human beings who are unbaptized and not living in Christ. In fact, it would work to the evil one's advantage. Not only would he have people expressing their longing in a perverse manner, they will actually think that they are fulfilling their God-given longing correctly. Marxism is a perfect inverse of the Gospel. If we pursue justice in the absence of Christ, it isn't true justice. Christ expressed true justice on the Cross. The world, unfortunately, wants “an eye for an eye” justice. Going the other way, you can say, “all we need is Christ and we have no role to play in bringing about earthly justice.” To do this denies the life of St. John Chrysostom who railed on injustice in every form, especially when it came to the rich exploiting the poor; St. Nicholas who interceded for the generals who were sentenced to death; St. John of San Francisco who walked through the streets of Shanghai at night collecting abandoned babies from dumpsters who were left to die from exposure or the savagery of hungry stray dogs; St. Herman of Alaska who stood up for the natives in Alaska who were being exploited by his own countrymen (the Russian fur traders). They all stood up for justice, not in a secular way, but because they were bringing Jesus Christ and the power of His Cross in each of the situations just mentioned.

Bible Study

Revelation: The Seven Golden Lampstands by Archimandrite Athanasios Mitilinaios

It is not enough just to talk about the Bible. I do not benefit when talk about Scripture is outside the liturgical environment and outside the blessing of the Church. This is why the word of God must be connected, prayerfully, within the liturgical space. Simply put, sermons must take place in the Church. We are not saying that it is forbidden to speak somewhere else, like the street or the mountain. That is fine, but it must be connected with the liturgical place, after the Divine Liturgy, for instance, or after a vespers service. The word of God during or after these services has a different effect in the hearts of the people.

Submitted by: Genevieve Eagle



Pro-Life Ministry



Pregnancy & Newborns

Pregnancy

One of the greatest gifts God has given us is to become co-creators with Him. When a husband and wife are ready and God wills, the fruit of their love brings forth life—another human being—a baby. From the moment of conception, we honor this life with caring and nurturance. In addition to physical and emotional support, the couple and the baby need spiritual support primarily through prayer. Please inform Father Seraphim of your pregnancy so he may include you and your unborn child in the preparation prayers (Proskomide) before the Divine Liturgy. Pregnant women are encouraged to attend the liturgical services and to receive the sacraments.

Some couples may have difficulty becoming pregnant. Several therapies exist to assist pregnancy. However, not all are in accordance with Orthodox Christian ethical teaching. Please consult Father Seraphim for guidance and special prayers for conceiving a child. Birth control is generally accepted among the Orthodox except when it aborts a fetus after conception such as "the pill."

Birth

By God's grace, soon the time will come for your baby to be born. Amongst all the excitement, remember to call Father Seraphim when the baby is born. He can come and visit you in the hospital or at home to offer special prayers for the mother and child. In the event of a miscarriage, Father can visit you for counseling and offer special prayers for healing.

Naming

One of the beautiful traditions lost in antiquity is the naming of the child on the eighth day after birth. This practice was based on the Jewish rite that Jesus Himself experienced with His parents (as recorded in Luke 2:21). Recently, priests and parents have resurrected this prayer service. For convenience, it can be done with birthing prayers or at another time. Much care and thought should go into naming your

Pro-Life Ministry

child. Giving him/her the name of a saint is a noble tradition. This connects them to a spiritual patron who will pray for them and also provides a concrete example of the Christian life. Some families name children after grandparents. Some will not name their child until baptism. Others have the godparents name the child. Although these are also noble, there is no basis for these practices in the church canons. Some children are given a family name and a saint's name. This is perfectly acceptable.

40 Day Churching

On the fortieth day after birth, the mother and child are invited to the church temple for a prayer service to reunite the mother and unite the child to the faith community. This practice is also based on the ancient Jewish rite and experienced by Jesus and His mother, Mary (recorded in Luke 2:22-40). Ages ago it took nearly six weeks for a mother to recover from giving birth. This time was also spent bonding with the newborn child. Mother and child did not travel outside the home until both were strong enough. The first place they went was to the temple/church. Today, a mother can recover much more quickly. If she is able, she is encouraged to attend church services but should refrain from receiving Holy Communion until after the 40 Day Churching. This 10-minute service should be scheduled ahead of time on either a Sunday or weekday near the 40th day. Please consult Father Seraphim for further details.

Adoption

Whether or not parents are able to conceive children of their own, adoption is an acceptable and noble practice for Orthodox Christians. There is a service of adoption for parents and children which can be prayed privately or publicly depending on the family's wishes.

Miscarriage or Stillbirth

In the unfortunate event of miscarriage, much grief and emotion can result for parents especially the mother of the child. The priest can be called to provide spiritual comfort and to read a special prayer for the parents and the deceased child. Great care should be taken, if possible, to inter the remains of the child. The mother is still encouraged to come to the temple for the 40 Day Churching so she may be prayerfully reunited with the community of faith.

Crisis Pregnancy

A child is a gift of God to a husband and wife and should be received with great care and thankfulness. Unmarried men and women should not fornicate (sexual foreplay and intercourse) as it is clearly condemned in Mosaic Law and the letters of St. Paul. However, if a woman becomes pregnant unexpectedly, at this time, both the father and the mother must take responsibility for the nurturance and care of their child. Abortion, the deliberate and willful actions taken to end the life of a baby in the womb of the mother, is sinful and wrong. The Orthodox Church has always condemned this practice. If circumstances exist that make carrying the baby to term difficult, the priest and numerous agencies are ready to help the mother.

Submitted by: Genevieve Eagle

Cover Story Continued...

By the time we got to “Blessed is the Kingdom”, everything had changed. Joy was now streaming from my heart, it was easy to pray, and the beautiful hymns of the Liturgy—AND YOUR VOICES—flowed over me like a warm, fragrant breeze. Once we had all received the Body and Blood of Christ, trumpets boomed in my soul, announcing, once again, the victory of Christ over darkness. Hope and joy once again filled my heart, making the swampy morning a small, forgettable memory.

Brothers and sisters, when we come together for the Liturgy, as well as all the other services, we become greater than the sum of our parts. This is because we are not just co-existing in the same time and place for a while, but are becoming the Church in her fullness. “Where two or three are gathered, there I am in the midst of them” says the Lord.

The Divine Liturgy is that gathering! The presence of Christ amid the gathered faithful makes us much more than an individual collection of believers. This is the difference between the Church at worship and individual Christians praying “in the closet of the heart.” The fervent, consistent application of the prayer “in the closet of heart” prepares us to come together AS Church—where we now become something impossible individually.

This is why I experienced such a change that morning. It was when we transitioned from individuals—and our private battles—to the gathered Body of Christ, and invited Him to enter our midst. There is nothing like it! I have experienced this phenomenon many times, as I am sure many of you have as well.

Practically speaking, this means a few things:

- **Prepare!** Keep the weekday fasts; do your daily prayer rule; go to confession regularly; read the Pre-Communion prayers prior to receiving; come to Vespers the evening before, if you can; read the Gospel & Epistle readings ahead of time; know which saint or feast we are commemorating that day
- **Engage!** Pay attention to the hymns being chanted. They are either holy Scripture or the compositions of the saints. They are pretty high value!
- **Sing!** When the chanters begin a hymn that we can all sing, DO IT! There is nothing so beautiful as when the gathered church sings with “one voice and one heart” as we say in the Liturgy.
- **Pray!** Sometimes, your heart may prompt you to enter the silence of your heart and meet the souls of the gathered church in that way. If so, do it!
- **Receive!** Unless you have spiritual issues requiring confession and/or a period of abstinence from Communion, you should receive Holy Communion. Just remember to be fully prepared...haphazardly coming to the Chalice can actually reverse spiritual growth in Christ, but fervent preparation, even if we feel unworthy, frees the soul and grants it the joy of the Lord. Just make sure you are doing whatever your priest confessor has outlined for you
- **Invite!** Afterwards, try and spend a moment with others. Show them you love them by giving them your attention. If you can, invite them over or suggest doing something together. We are all receiving the same Eucharist—the closeness, trust, warmth and love between us at all other times makes that Eucharistic unity so much more radiant and a true reflection of the Kingdom, where we will all chant and rejoice together in Christ for all eternity

Cover Story Continued...

There is something incredibly powerful when a group of Christians, prepared and ready, enter the Lord's house and worship TOGETHER: singing together, praying together, receiving the sacraments together, and making the holy texts we hear and read the things that bind us together. Let us work against a privatized, individualistic mindset, and strive towards the true, ecclesial mindset of being "one voice and one heart" in the Lord's Temple! We suffer those arrows in private, but we become joyous and one with each other and Christ when we come to His Temple.

O LORD, I HAVE LOVED THE BEAUTY OF YOUR HOUSE, AND THE PLACE WHERE YOUR GLORY DWELLS!

Fr Seraphim--

THE FEAST OF FAITH



LITURGY IS LIFE!

ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

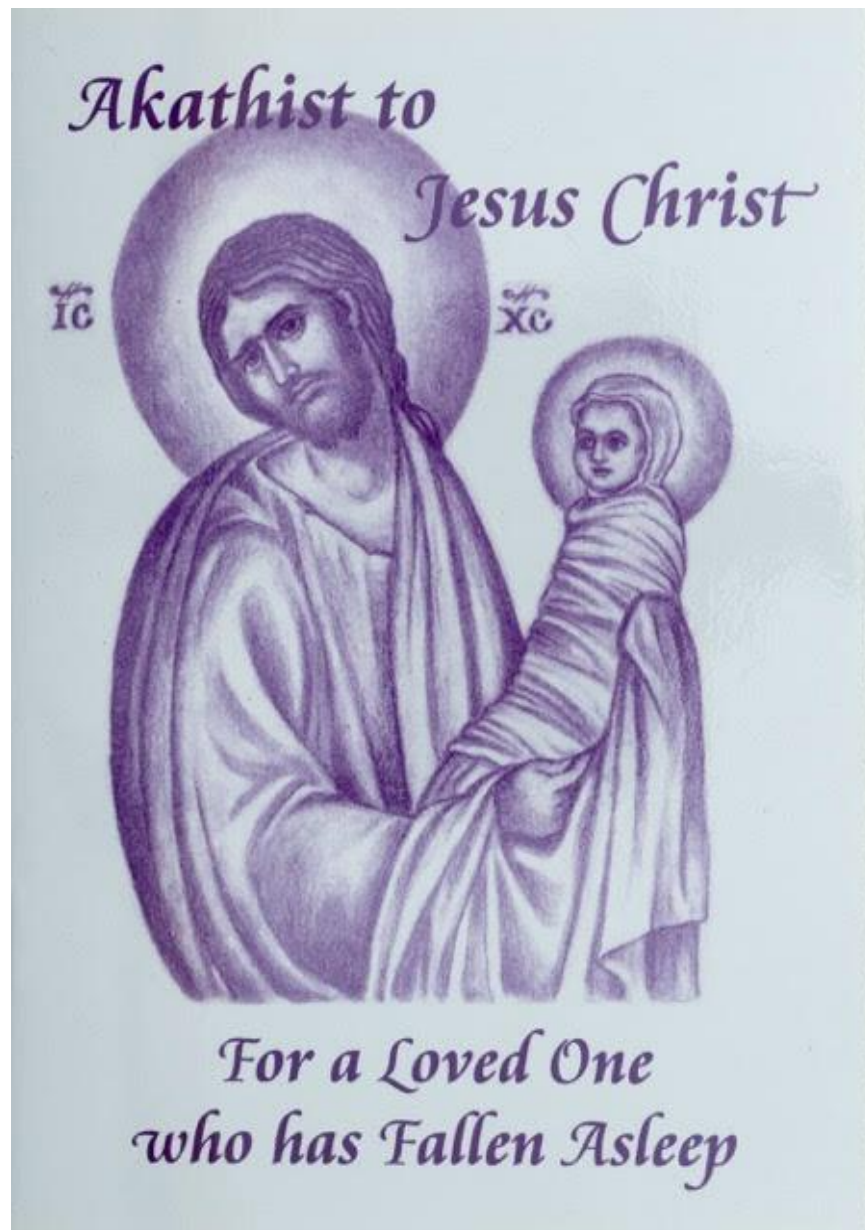
Ministry of Akathist Prayers for the Departed

Thank you to all who are a part of this wonderful ministry of offering prayers for the departed.

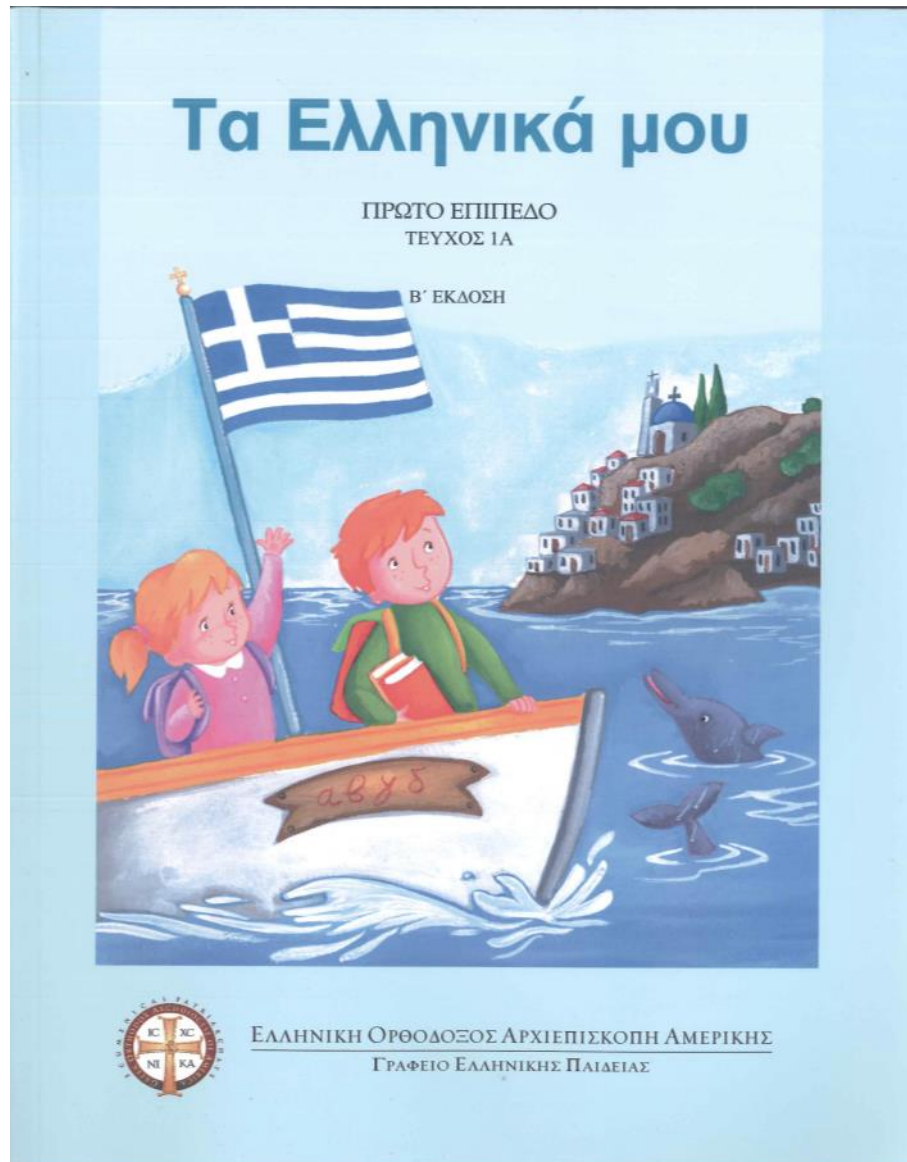
When a loved one has fallen asleep, the family [or the priest] may request the Akathist Ministry to begin 40 days of prayer for the departed person.

In this ministry, each day for 40 days, one different person will independently pray making a continuous offering of prayer for the departed brother or sister at Saint Nicholas.

Kathy Rawley



Greek Language School



Modern Greek Language School / Classes:

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

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

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

Teacher - George Pirotis

Contact Church Office - 253-272-0466

Continued next page...

Greek Language School

Purpose: The purpose of the Greek School is to promote the Greek letters, language, culture, and Hellenic Civilization. The classes are **open to all parishioners** independently of age (this may change if it is needed). Students will learn Grammar, Modern Conversational Greek and some of the Biblical - Ancient Greek Terminology.

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

Yearly events and possible student involvement:

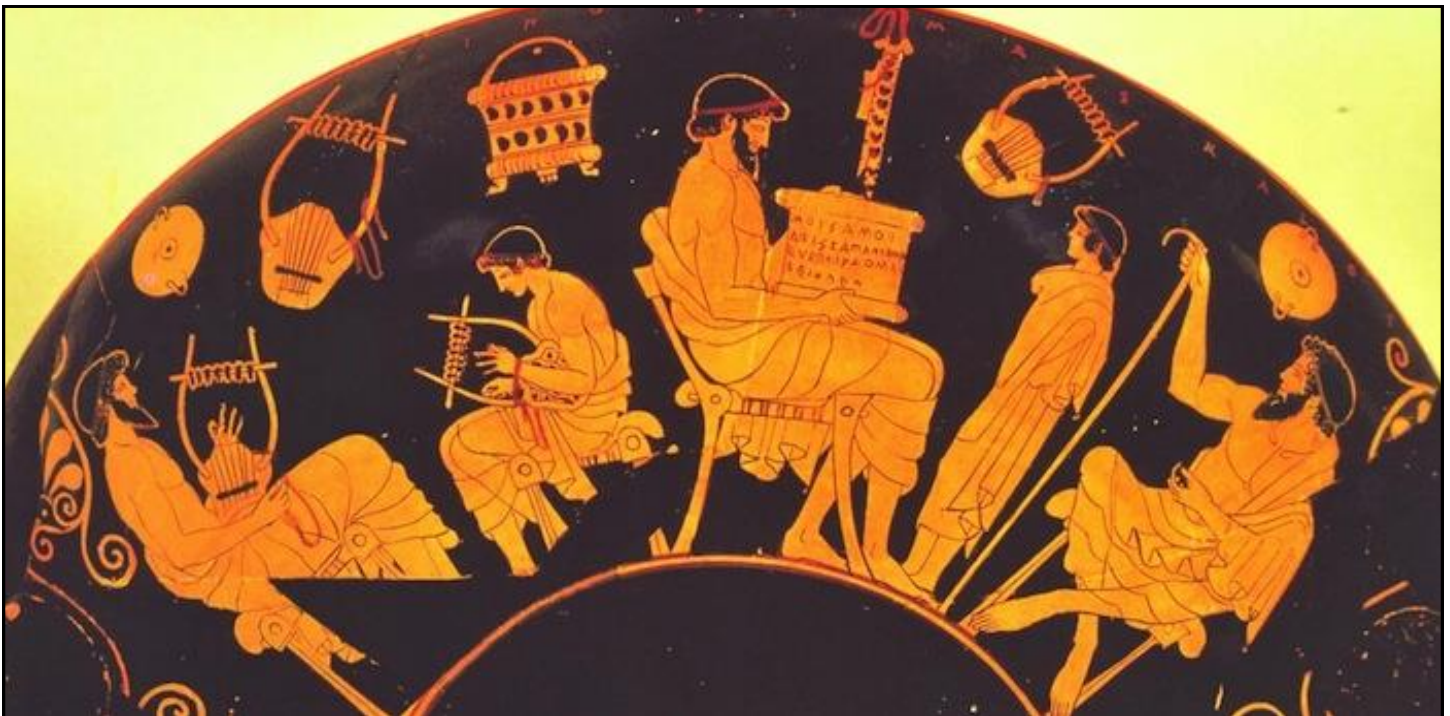
Αγιασμὸς (Blessing) of the class in the beginning of the School year.

Sunday, October 31st - OXI Day Celebration.

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

Cost: The classes are provided free of charge!

George Pirotis.



PROSPHORA

PROSPHORA BAKING SCHEDULE

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

Despina Ampatzis: The first Sunday of every month

Deborah Talbot: The second Sunday of every month

The Divine Liturgy, otherwise known as the Holy Eucharist, the Leitourgia of the Church, is the supper at which Christ offers his body and blood before his crucifixion, and which continues to be offered after his resurrection.

He has instructed us to do this in remembrance of Him. Anyone wanting to bring this offering on a particular day should make the arrangements with Father

Seraphim. Every Orthodox Christian in good standing is welcome to make the

offering. Deborah Talbot would be happy to work with anyone wanting to learn to bake bread in general or prosphora in particular.



LECHEM-ARTOS-BREAD

Following the Word Through Scripture

This month we begin following bread through the Book of Leviticus. Our Orthodox Study Bible says that Leviticus is the first ever book of worship, that its major theme is how to worship God, and that it was written for the priests to teach the Israelites right worship. The first seven chapters are laws governing the sacrifices, and this is where we encounter the first mention of leavened bread in Leviticus, under the law of the peace offering in chapter 7, verse 13: *Besides the cakes, he shall offer with his gifts **leavened bread** with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offering.* This is instruction to the priests on how the people should bring their offerings. The peace offering (an animal sacrifice) could be offered for two different reasons, as a thanksgiving or as a vow or a voluntary offering. In this verse, the instruction is specifically to offer leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving. And that is our Divine Liturgy, synonymous with the Eucharist, leavened bread, an offering of thanksgiving, a mercy of peace, a sacrifice of praise.

In Leviticus chapters 8 through 10 we learn about the ordination of Aaron and his sons into the Levitical priesthood, also discussed in Exodus in the December 2020 article. In this section, unleavened bread (matstzah/azymos) is introduced in 8:2: *Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, the anointing oil, a young bull as the sin offering, two rams, and a basket of **unleavened** (bread).* In verse 2, in the original languages the word for bread (lechem/artos) is not used; the stuff in the basket is identified only as unleavened. But when this same unleavened is spoken of in verse 26, the word bread (lechem/artos) is added to the word unleavened; here it is called unleavened bread. 8:26: *and from the basket of **unleavened bread** that was before the Lord, he took one unleavened cake, a cake anointed with oil, and one wafer and put them on the fat and on the right thigh;...* And then when we come to verses 31-32, this same unleavened bread is not identified as unleavened, it is called simply lechem/artos/bread. 8:31-32: *After this, Moses said to Aaron and his sons, "boil the flesh in the court of the tabernacle of testimony, in a holy place, and eat it there with the **bread** in the basket of consecration as I was commanded, saying 'Aaron and his sons shall eat it.' What remains of the flesh and the **bread** shall be burned with fire..."*

PROSPHORA

Continuing in the book of Leviticus, the next time bread comes up per my Strong's Concordance is way down in chapter 21 under the section of Leviticus that is on the law of holiness.

Chapter 21 relates various rules for the Levitical Priesthood. The priests are types of Christ and held to a higher standard than people who are not levitical priests. See Orthodox Study Bible study notes for more information. In all of these verses from chapter 21, lechem (bread) is used in the Hebrew Masoretic text, but artos (bread) is not used in the Septuagint text, and you will not find the word bread in our Orthodox Study Bible in these verses, as it is a translation of the Septuagint text. The word used is δῶρον (doron), **gifts**. Chapter 21 is about the priests themselves. In their function as priests they are to be holy, honored, and without defect. They prefigure the Christ who is to come.

*Leviticus 21:6: They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the Lord made by fire, and the **bread/gifts** of their God, they do offer: therefore they shall be holy.*

*Leviticus 21:8: You shall consecrate him, for he offers the **bread/gifts** of your God. He shall be holy to you, for I the Lord, who sanctify you, am holy.*

*Leviticus 21:17: "Speak to Aaron, saying: 'No man of your descendants in succeeding generations, who has any defect, may approach to offer the **bread/gifts** of his God.'*

*Leviticus 21:21-22: 'No man of the descendants of Aaron the priest, who has a defect, shall come near to offer the offerings made by fire to the Lord. He has a defect; he shall not come near to offer the **bread/gifts** of his God. He may eat the **bread/gifts** of his God, both the most holy and the holy;...*

To be continued...

Deborah Talbot-



PROSPHORA

VASILOPITA

Looking to the Saints

As someone who enjoys making breads, since becoming orthodox I have considered making a St. Basil's bread, or vasilopita. This year I was feeling very inspired to make one, and towards the end of December I began combing the internet and a couple of Greek cookbooks that I have, comparing recipes and reading about the traditions. I found, as always, that there are traditions within traditions and variations on them. Many people make a cake, not an actual bread. But I love bread, which has less fat and sugar in it than a cake, and I decided I wanted to make a sweet, cake-like bread.

My inspiration to bake a vasilopita this year was strengthened when I read the reflection of our Metropolitan Gerasimos on St. Basil the Great and the new year, which arrived in my inbox early on the morning of December 31, and which can be read online in its entirety here: <https://sanfran.goarch.org/news/reflection-for-feast-of-saint-basil-and-new-year> . In this reflection our Metropolitan says that we can turn to the saints of our church as models in reassessing our lives and making commitments to new ways of living as Christians. He directs us to St. Basil the Great as one of the three holy hierarchs of the Church and one of the finest models for us. Besides his many charitable and philanthropic acts, St. Basil was one of the greatest theologians of our faith, ultimately teaching us “to worship and adore the holy trinity correctly” —from the hymn of the day for St. Basil. Then the Metropolitan asks what can we hope to imitate from so great a saint, and answers his question with this: “To paraphrase a hymn of Vespers for his feast, his way of life **‘radiated sincerity.’**” We can unite our words and our deeds so that they conform to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Like this great saint did in his life, we can cultivate faith and learning, worship and prayer, charity and philanthropy in our lives.”

Motivated by our Metropolitan's reflection, I took the recipe idea I had written down and made my bread. It came out well (pictured above). It was my own tiny but sincere effort to cultivate faith and learning, worship and prayer, charity and philanthropy in my life and the lives of those around me. Then I sent my priest a picture and a text saying I wanted to bring my bread to the Liturgy for a blessing. At that same Liturgy another family in the parish brought a vasilopita cake to be blessed, which this family has done in previous years also, and their tradition is probably what was behind my inspiration to offer my bread at the evening Liturgy for St. Basil as a blessing for everyone. And I am so glad that during the litany of the blessing of this bread made in honor of St. Basil, a great leader of the Church during troubled times, Father prayed for the leaders of our Greek Archdiocese now during these troubled times. St. Basil, intercede for us.

On the Feast of St. Basil the Great
January 1, 2021

Deborah Talbot-



PHILOPTOCHOS

PHILOPTOCHOS

President's Message

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

Donations to Community-Members held a special meeting in December to recommend allocation of a large donation to community charities and individuals in need. Funds will be provided to local Food Banks, the Boys and Girls Club, Hope Sparks, Salvation Army and the Philoptochos discretionary fund to assist community families.

Adopt-A-Seminarian-Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos chapters are encouraged to adopt a student attending Holy Cross/Hellenic College on their path to their calling to the holy priesthood. St. Nicholas chapter has adopted Emmanuel Aspiotis, a Master of Divinity student whose home parish is St. Demetrios, Tucson, AZ. We hope to schedule a Zoom discussion with Emmanuel in February or March. Please let Merrilee or Jane know if you would like to know when that is scheduled.

Philoptochos Member Meetings-The chapter member meetings will continue to be held monthly by Zoom. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2021, at 5:00 P.M. Please call Merrilee Pangis at 253-759-1026 for the Zoom information. Topics will include outreach for potential community and parishioner needs. We invite members and interested parishioners to join these meetings and share their thoughts. The calendar of events will be posted in the Messenger when we can resume our activities.

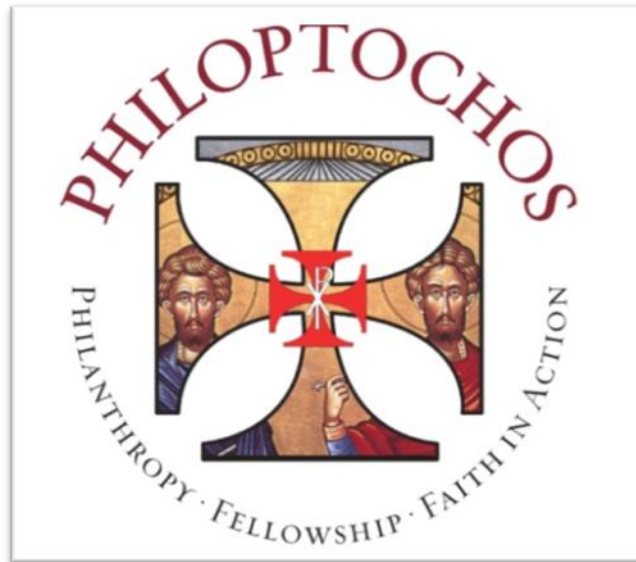
Outreach to others-Please take a few minutes to call and support the older members of our community during the pandemic. Human contact and interaction is so important during these trying COVID-19 times.

Thanks for your Support!

Jane Evancho

Philoptochos ministry continued next page...

PHILOPTOCHOS



Saint Basil's Academy is the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese home for children in need. The academy provides a loving Christian environment where resident children are nurtured to adulthood. Their mission is to be a home offering shelter, protection, love and education for our young people so they can become well-rounded Orthodox Christians.

Every year in the month of January, our Philoptochos supports Saint Basil's Academy through the cutting of the Vasilopita. The Vasilopita is a cake or bread made for the first day of the New Year which contains a hidden coin which gives good luck to the receiver. It is associated with the Feast Day of Saint Basil's day January 1st.

Unfortunately, this year, we were not able to have the cutting of the Vasilopita in church due to the rules and regulations mandated by our State. Therefore we are asking you to kindly see it in your heart to make a monetary donation for Saint Basil's Academy.

Please make your checks payable to **PHILOPTOCHOS** and indicate **St. Basil's Academy** on the memo.

Mail your check to:

Philoptochos
c/o St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
1523 South Yakima Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98405

On behalf of all the Members of the St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society, **THANK YOU** for your donation to this worthy cause.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

Daughters of Penelope Clothing Drive



DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

SPONSORING

A

DRIVE FOR TACOMA STUDENTS IN NEED

PLEASE DONATE

NEW HATS, SCARVES AND GLOVES AND SOCKS

ANY SIZES WILL BE ACCEPTED

PLEASE DROP OFF AT CHURCH

NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 15TH

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS



PLEASE HELP IN THIS VERY IMPORTANT CLOTHING DRIVE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN IN NEED. MONETARY DONATIONS ARE WELCOME! MAIL IN YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHURCH OR MAKE A DONATION ONLINE. BE SURE TO MEMO IT 'DOP' CLOTHING DRIVE.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Parish Family Game Night!

Saturday, February 27, 5:00-6:15pm

Mark your calendars for a night of FUN, FELLOWSHIP and FRIENDLY competition amongst your church family as we play a trivia-based game called “Who’s the Apostle?”

EVERYONE of **ALL AGES** is invited to play along!

To register,* please do one of the following:

- 1) Go to this link to complete the registration form. Only 1 form is needed per household.
<https://rb.gy/mrtus5>
- 2) Email stnicholastacoma@gmail.com or
- 3) Call the Church Office - (253) 272-0466

* Helpful Reminder - register **before** Sunday, February 21, to receive game night instructions, materials and zoom link in time for the event!



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Parish Family Game Night via ZOOM



Who's the Apostle?

A trivia-based game for kids ages 8- 98!*

*Kids younger than 8 can easily partner with a parent to play along.

When: Saturday, Feb 27, 5:00-6:15pm

Where: On zoom - link will be emailed

How to Register: Email stnicholastacoma@gmail.com or
Call the Church Office 253-272-0466

~ By registering, you'll receive the event's zoom link and necessary game materials

Ministry News

On line Donations now possible

ON-LINE DONATIONS

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



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

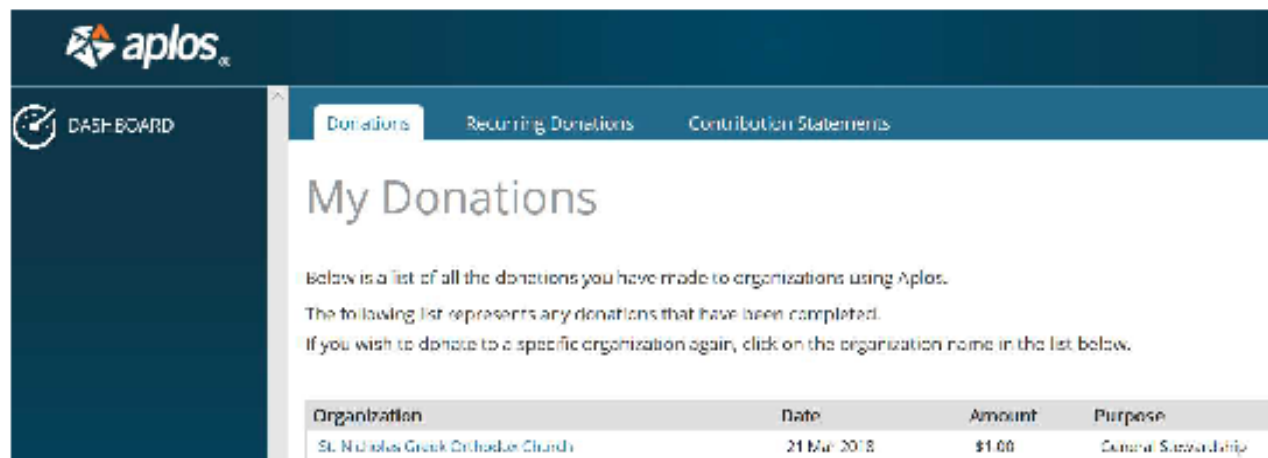
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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

In Christ,

Mark Robinson

On-Line Contribution Instructions:

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



OUR MISSION

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

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

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

HOW TO RETURN THIS CARD

BY MAIL:

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

AT CHURCH:

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

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

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



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

Please PRINT your information clearly

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

Household Information

Address
 City/St/Zip

Dependent Children

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

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

Christ's Possible Question to You:

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

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

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

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

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

SIGNATURE.....

Click Here to Email Completed Form To Treasurer

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

Saint Nicholas Messenger

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Address Service Requested

