



## Connect, Invite & Inspire

# Becoming a Member of the Orthodox Church

By Rev. Fr. Andrew Barakos

If someone asked how one becomes a member of the Greek Orthodox church, what would you tell them? Our first inclination may be to refer them to the priest, that sounds like his job. The truth is however, that you were asked and are now an important person in their process of joining the church. Our connections with individuals serve as bridges between those outside the church and those inside. These attachments are significant because they place us at the crossroads in a persons' journey to Orthodoxy.

In the book, "The Rise of Christianity" we find that relationships formed the foundation of growth in the early church. Between 40 AD and 350 AD the church expanded at a phenomenal rate of 40% every ten years! These new Christians became witnesses to those with whom they shared a connection and the radically new faith of Christianity expanded exponentially. Saint Elizabeth and the Virgin Mary were cousins. Jesus called upon his cousin James (Iakovos) as one of his disciples. Three pairs of the disciples were brothers. Personal connections are the foundation of church growth.

We can see the same phenomena of church growth in our communities as well. It is primarily relationships which provide a necessary connection which makes the next step through the doors of one of our churches possible. Once someone comes and sees how they are made to be felt welcomed becomes one of the most influential determining factors in their decision to actually stay convert and join.

If you are the type of person who when they see an unfamiliar face or family and are inclined to introduce yourself and welcome them, you play a very important role in their final decision. The power that comes from extending a heartfelt welcome has proven over the years to be what keeps people from leaving. People with a heart for connecting with others take the next step with them and introduces them to other parishioners helping them make new connections.

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# St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave  
Tacoma, WA 98405  
Phone: 253-272-0466

Parish Website: [stnicholastacoma.org](http://stnicholastacoma.org)  
E-Mail: [mail@stnicholastacoma.org](mailto: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](mailto:frseraphimm@gmail.com)

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



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Submit content, comments, or corrections, addressed to the Editor at [mail@stnicholastacoma.org](mailto: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**  
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**  
LTC Gus Chamales

**2020 Parish Council**  
George Pirotis—President  
Gus Chamales—Vice-President  
Mark Robinson—Treasurer  
Christina Leinneweber—Secretary  
Sheila Auter, Genevieve Eagle, David Frisk,  
Ronnie-Sue Johnson, Zach Karanasos, Despina  
Kipelidis, Anna Marie Oakes-Joudy,  
Deborah Talbot

**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**  
Alexandria Samaras— President  
Zoe Matteson—Vice President  
Elena Apostle— Treasurer  
Isabella Mastras- 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 February Parish Council meeting is Tuesday February 11 at 7PM in the upper hall.

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>The most up to date calendar is always found at the St. Nicholas web page: <a href="http://www.stnicholastacoma.org">www.stnicholastacoma.org</a></b></p>						
<p><b>2</b> PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><b>3</b> Symeon &amp; Anna 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><b>4</b> Isidore of Pelusium 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-8:00pm Building Committee</p>	<p><b>5</b> Mary Agatha STRICT FAST 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek Class 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklisis 8:00pm-9:00pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p><b>6</b> Photios the Great 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p><b>7</b> Luke the Righteous STRICT FAST</p>	<p><b>8</b> Theodore the General 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers</p>
<p><b>9</b> FAST FREE WEEK PUBLICAN &amp; PHARISEE: Tricon Begins 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm-1:00pm Philoptochos Pie Sale for Autism</p>	<p><b>10</b> FAST FREE WEEK Priest Martyr Haralambos 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:30am-8:30am Paraklisis to St Haralambos</p>	<p><b>11</b> Empress Theodora FAST FREE WEEK Martyr Blaise of Sebaste 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-10:00pm Parish Council</p>	<p><b>12</b> FAST FREE WEEK Meletios, Abp of Antioch 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek Class 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklisis 8:00pm-9:00pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p><b>13</b> FAST FREE WEEK Priscilla &amp; Aquilla 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Paraklisis to St Nikephoros the Leper</p>	<p><b>14</b> FAST FREE WEEK Martyr Valentine Theodore the Soldier 10:00am-11:00am Philoptochos Valentine Bags for Homebound</p>	<p><b>15</b> Anthimos of Chios FAST FREE WEEK 10:00am-11:00am Philoptochos Mtg (no meal) 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers</p>
<p><b>16</b> Nikolai of Japan PRODIGAL SON 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 2:00pm-3:00pm Screening of "Nat'l Geo, Secrets of Christ's Tomb"</p>	<p><b>17</b> Mariamne, Sister of Philip</p>	<p><b>18</b> Pope Leo of Rome 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 11:00am-12:00pm Fr S at Clergy Koinonia Group 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p><b>19</b> Philothei of Athens STRICT FAST 6:00pm-7:00pm No Greek Class Tonight 6:00pm-9:00pm Strategic Plan Leadership Mtg 8:00pm-9:00pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p><b>20</b> Leo of Catania 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p><b>21</b> John III, Pat. of C'nople STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p><b>22</b> 1st Sat. of Souls 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy w/ Memorial 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers</p>
<p><b>23</b> LAST JUDGMENT: Meatfare Polycarp of Smyrna 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><b>24</b> 1st &amp; 2nd Finding of Head of St John the Baptist FAST: no meat; dairy, fish, wine, oil OK Fr S at Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly</p>	<p><b>25</b> FAST: no meat; dairy, fish, wine, oil OK Fr S at Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly Tarasios, Pat. of C'nople</p>	<p><b>26</b> FAST: no meat; dairy, fish, wine, oil OK Fr S at Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly Porphyrios of Gaza 3:00pm-4:00pm Pro Life Vigil: Cedar River 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek Class 7:00pm-8:00pm NO PARAKLISIS THIS WEEK 8:00pm-9:00pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p><b>27</b> FAST: no meat; dairy, fish, wine, oil OK Fr S at Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly Prokopios the Confessor</p>	<p><b>28</b> FAST: no meat; dairy, fish, wine, oil OK Kyr-Anna of Thessaloniki</p>	<p><b>29</b> 2nd Sat. of Souls FAST: no meat; dairy, fish, wine, oil OK John Cassian 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers</p>



## News and Announcements

### The 2020 Parish Council.



*Left to right:* Genevieve Eagle, Sheila Auter, David Frisk, Mark Robinson—Treasurer, Zach Karanasos, Fr. Seraphim, George Pirotis—President, Christina Leinneweber—Secretary, Anna Marie Oakes-Joudy, Despina Kipelidis, Gus Chamales—Vice-President. *Not shown:* Ronnie-Sue Johnson, Deborah Talbot.

### Welcome Carol MartinOki St. Nicholas's New Office Manager

After a rigorous recruitment process, the Parish Council is pleased to introduce to you our new Office Manager, Carol MartinOki. Carol started her new position with us on January 14, and is quickly learning about the Parish and picking up her responsibilities in the office.

Carol is a Tacoma native, born in Tacoma, raised in Lakewood, and as a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Washingtonian, has lived in Washington all her life. She graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in English Literature, and has worked in a variety of positions for both local and international organizations, including the Annie Wright School here in Tacoma. She lives close to the church and is very familiar with our neighborhood's residents and history, and of course our Greek Festival! Carol is also an avid gardener in her spare time.

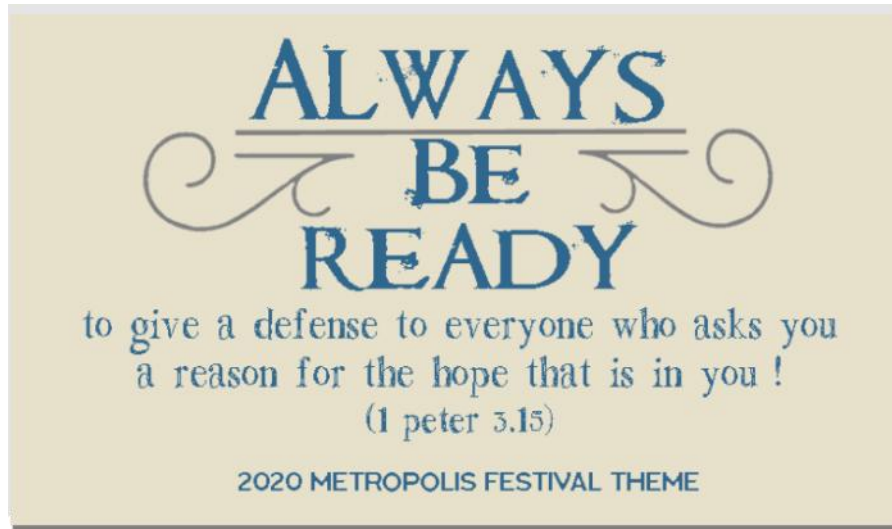
The Church will now have regular office hours, generally Tuesday –Friday, 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. and Carol can be reached at the church number, 253-272-0466 or by e-mail at [mail@stnicholastacoma.org](mailto:mail@stnicholastacoma.org)

Please join us in welcoming Carol to St. Nicholas!

–Parish Council Hiring Committee

## News and Announcements

### St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Dates



We're excited to announce our upcoming Local Oratorical Festival on Sunday, **March 15**, immediately following Divine Liturgy.

The theme this year: Always Be Ready.

All students in grades 3 - 12 are encouraged to participate whether or not they choose to compete. However, let us remember what Colonel Chamales always says about our students at St. Nicholas - that *"the children are above average."* He's right!

We have such fine, intelligent children and youth who are capable of performing very well in this competition. We are in the process of setting up some "help sessions" for students who'd like to learn helpful public speaking tips or get some editorial advice on their speech.

Student Information Packets will be handed out on Sunday, Feb 2. Extra copies will then be placed on the counter outside Mrs. Auter's classroom in the upper hall.

Please see Mrs. Auter or Mrs. Ranae Rice if you have questions.

#### Other Important Oratorical Festival Dates:

Pacific Northwest District Festival: Assumption, Seattle, WA - April 5, 2020

Metropolis Oratorical Festival: St. Nicholas Ranch, Dunlap, CA - May 8-9, 2020

National Oratorical Festival: Hosted by the Metropolis of Denver and St. Spyridon Church in Loveland, CO on June 12-14, 2020.

Sheila Auter –

## Ministry News

### BUILDING COMMITTEE

Beyond the Narthex Renovation and exploring other long term improvements to the church, the Building Committee has been on the look out for leaks at the Upper Hall and Dining Hall roofs which are living on borrowed time. Also, a structural engineer came to St. Nich's last month to assess the Sanctuary floor structure, and its viability to support and accommodate new mosaic tile flooring in the pew areas. A report was just received from the engineer which will be reviewed by the Building Committee and then presented at the next Parish Council with advisements and recommendations.



### PROJECT 2020, NARTHEX RENOVATION UPDATE

Plans were formally submitted to the City of Tacoma last month for permit review, and are expected to come back with comments by mid-February. Review comments from the City should address any further revisions and requirements that have not already been stipulated or resolved, and act as one of the final steps towards getting the current set of permit drawings and specifications detailed and ready enough for bidding purposes.

The next significant Narthex Renovation scheduling target dates are:

- 1) Having bid-ready plans and specs ready and available around the third week of February.
- 2) Obtaining bids and a final firm number by mid-March.
- 3) Actual ground breaking to start Monday April 27, a week and a day after Pascha.

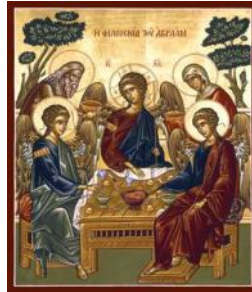
While there is some limited scheduling flexibility with bid-ready plans & specs and obtaining a finalized bid number, the April 27 ground-breaking date is firm in order to maximize the amount of wiggle room and construction days available between Pascha and the Greek Festival.

*Bill Acker—*



# Ministry News

## COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY



### 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 FOR FEBRUARY

#### TEAMS:

**Team Karanasos:** Daphne Karanasos, Leader; Anna Karanasos, Zach Karanasos, Angie Wilen, Ann Koopman, John

2/2/2020 Team Chamales

2/9/2020 Philiptohos Pie Sale for Autism

2/16/2020 Team Johnson

2/23/2020 Tachopoulou/Stafford Post Wedding Coffee Hour

Kouklis, Mary Matherine and Pres Maria Armatas

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

**Team Kipelidis:** Despina Kipelidis, Leader; Dana Robinson, Sandra Ciarochi, Anastasia Bouzinekis, Yvonne Brandvold, Maro Kouklis and Fenia Mavromichali.

**Team Chamales:** Dr Ingrid Chamales, Leader; Karen Samaras; Marion Palas, Sally Hallis, Jane Evancho, Kathy Heiser, Anastasia Scopelitis, Krysanthos Barnes and Rikky Kapes.

**Team Pres Sophie:** Pres Sophie Majmudar, Leader; Evy Kontos, Irene Misiewicz, Gloria Brown, Deborah Talbot, Anna Marie Oakes Joudy, Savina Frisk and Claudia Ceden.

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

#### New Team Leaders:

Ed Winskill is the new team leader for the Men's Team, and Dr Ingrid Chamales is the new team leader for Team Chamales. A special thank you goes to Dr Fred Ehret and Karen Samaras for their years of hard work and dedication as team leaders. We are able to have the Coffee Hour Ministry because of the dedicated work of the team leaders & team members.

Zach—



# Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News


**February 4: The Bronze Star Medal** established by executive order in 1944 is awarded for her heroic action, heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone. If you know of a St. Nicholas family member that was awarded a Bronze Star Medal, please pass their information to Gus Chamales or email it to [gleafops@gmail.com](mailto:gleafops@gmail.com)




**Anthony L. Adams**  
U.S. Army  
*WWII*  
**Recipient of the Bronze Star Medal while serving with Merrill's Marauders.**  
Gus Chamales' uncle



**SFC(R) Wiley Barnes**  
U.S. Army  
*Vietnam War*  
**Recipient of the Bronze Star Medal**  
Chrysanthe Barnes' husband



**CPT Tom T. Chamales**  
U.S. Army  
*WWII*  
**Served w/Merrill's Marauders and OSS.**  
**Recipient of the Bronze Star Medal.**  
Gus Chamales' uncle



**COL(R) Leon Spirito**  
U.S. Army  
*WWII, Korea & Vietnam*  
**Recipient of the Bronze Star for Valor w/30c's & Purple Heart w/30c's!**  
Anthony Ciarochi's uncle



**LTC & Mrs. Michael Koukles**  
U.S. Army  
*WWII*  
**Recipient of the Bronze Star Medal**  
Vonnie Brandvold's Parents



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

The **Scholarships for Military Children Program** is now in its 20th year. Applications must be submitted online by February 24, 2020. Through the generosity of Defense Commissary Agency business partners and others, scholarships are awarded military family students who possess a US Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 173), and whose parent(s) serve or served in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard. Recipients must be enrolled or planning to enroll full-time in a four-year undergraduate college or university, accredited in the U.S. or a two-year community college. They must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 basis. For more information go to [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org).



**COMMISSARY PRIVELGES FOR DISABLED VETERANS.** After months of planning, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Defense Department have worked out several of the challenges involved in letting these newly eligible customers on base to shop in 2020. **Who is eligible? When and where can I shop?** Commissaries, exchanges and some morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) facilities will be open to Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, veterans with any service-connected disability and caregivers registered with the VA's Comprehensive Assistance for Family caregivers program beginning Jan 1, 2020. Reserve members who fit this description will also have access.

**As an eligible veteran, how will I shop?** The DOD and VA have approved two ways for newly eligible

*Continued on next page...*

## Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

Veterans to get on bases to use their benefits in person: the VA's Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) or a letter from the VA along with an acceptable REAL ID-compliant identification, which includes passports and some state driver's licenses.

The VHIC must show the veterans eligibility status - Purple Heart, Former POW or Service Connected - on the front, under the photo, to be accepted. More information about VHICs can be found on the VA's website.

Access to bases will not be granted to ne customers who qualify for VA health care, but are not enrolled in it and thus do not have a VHIC, according to the latest Military One Source news release.

"If they choose not to apply for enrollment to obtain a VHIC, they will not have access," a DoD spokeswoman said via email, adding that only the VA can verify the eligibility of veterans and caregivers.

A Veteran Identification Card will not be accepted.

For more information call the VA at 1-877-222-VETS or go MILITARY.COM website.

**SECURITY AROUND OUR CHURCH.** Last September Fr. Seraphim, George Pirotis and Gus Chamales attended a safety and security seminar sponsored by Church Mutual Insurance, the company with which St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Tacoma is insured. The seminar was attended by approximately 150 -200 people representing churches from western Washington, and addressed topics ranging from basic safety and security improvements, to emergency evacuation drills, and even actions in the event of a hostile or armed intruder. Given the growing number of incidents involving houses of worship across the country, including the shooting in November 2017 at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas (which incidentally was a Church Mutual Insurance Company client), and more recently the shooting at the West Freeway Church of Christ on December 29th in White Settlement, Texas, many Church Mutual insurance clients have begun implementing enhanced security measures.

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!** One of the enhanced security measures shared by our insurance representative was the need to compile information on incidents that occur at our church so that a record can be established, and patterns of concern can be identified. Several of our parishioners have shared with members of the Parish Council personal experiences ranging from discovering drug paraphernalia on church property, to people loitering on the church steps in various levels of drug or alcohol intoxication, and even encounters with people asking for food, money, or other services. Individually these incidents may be perceived as part of everyday life in Tacoma, but combined and assessed they might be worthy of reporting to the police in order to gain more frequent patrolling of our area, or lead to the identification of habitual offenders and troublemakers in this neighborhood.

On any given Sunday we have between 125-200 people in church. It is unreasonable to expect one person to absorb the myriad reports that parishioners wish to share verbally. What is needed is for people to take just two minutes to write it down and stick it in the desk slot in the Narthex. There the information can be retrieved, logged, and better evaluated.

*Continued on next page....*

## Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

The military has a system for compiling information to facilitate analyzing and incorporating it into the planning process for any type of mission. Soldiers are trained to render "Spot Reports" of unusual sightings using a simple format known by the acronym SALUTE. SALUTE stands for Size, Activity, Location, Uniform, Time, and Equipment. A few examples of spot reports using the acronym SALUTE are found below:

**SIZE:** Two middle aged men.

**ACTIVITY:** Approached me and asked for money. I ignored them and entered the church.

**LOCATION:** On the 16th Street side of the church.

**UNIFORM:** One was wearing a black stocking cap, a red jacket, and black pants. The other was wearing a Seahawks cap, black jacket and blue jeans.

**TIME:** 3:35 pm on Thursday

**EQUIPMENT:** One man had a black backpack.

Another example:

**SIZE:** Two drug needles

**ACTIVITY:** Discarded on the grass with trash

**LOCATION:** By the bus stop on Yakima Street

**UNIFORM:** One had an orange cap on it. The other did not.

**TIME:** Prior to Liturgy on Sunday

**EQUIPMENT:** They were laying on the ground intermixed with trash. I secured them in a plastic juice bottle

A third example:

**SIZE:** One short gray haired man, with stubble beard, early 60's

**ACTIVITY:** Asking David F. for water and a sandwich. Said his name was God and he was a Green Beret veteran.

**LOCATION:** First observed in the Narthex. I escorted him out the front of the church. Last seen walking the direction of the Nativity House.

**UNIFORM:** Wearing black sweat pants half-way down with no underwear revealing his backside. Also wearing a white t-shirt.

**TIME:** Approximately 1010 during Sunday Liturgy

**EQUIPMENT:** Carrying a black jacket.

If you would report incidents using this simple Spot Report format it might very well aid in preventing a serious event, or help to identify a person who continually creates problems or discomfort for our parishioners. Obviously the more detailed the description you can provide when making a report, the better, and if possible take a photograph of what you see or encounter.

If you have other ideas that may enhance security around our parish or if you would like to be part of a future security team or program, please contact Gus Chamales. Safety and security are always a concern. With your help and support, we can enhance both.

Gus—



## Ministry News

### Stewardship Ministry

“We have much for which to be thankful, and we truly are!”

I have said it before and I will say it again, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church is blessed with so many wonderful people! Because of your contributions of time and talent we have many different ministries/organizations that have contributed so much to the success of our church! **DOXA TO THEO!**

Participation in these ministries and organizations provides many personal rewards! Foremost among them is an opportunity to worship God in a loving church while at the same time cultivating new friendships, and stronger bonds with fellow parishioners. If you would like to become more involved with helping St. Nicholas grow, please don't be bashful! Our church has much to offer but the addition of new talent greatly aids in our never ending quest for improvement. Help with Sunday School! Come to Bible Study! Join Philoptochos! Bake Prosphoro! The opportunities to get involved are many so if you haven't already done so, please join us.

Our stewardship pledges for this year's operating budget continue to come in but because the suspense for this month's Messenger is earlier than normal, I was remiss in requesting an updated stewardship pledge status. Nevertheless, all of us at St. Nicholas are extremely grateful to all who have submitted their pledge cards or enrolled in electronic withdrawals/periodic contributions through the web site. And speaking of electronic withdrawals, enrollment in those transactions is increasing! Electronic withdrawals greatly facilitate accounting, planning, and budgeting. If that is something that you would be interested in doing please go to our church's web site and follow the step by step process to completion. It is pretty simple and only takes a couple minutes. **THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR RESPONSE TO OUR STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR CHURCH!** **DOXA TO THEO!**

Gus—

### Festival Meeting, Sunday February 2

The Festival Core Group, (and anyone interested in contributing) will meet after the Liturgy on Sunday February 2.



## Ministry News

### LIFE AS LITURGY

#### The Commandments, The Beattitudes, Repentance & Confession

This last October I visited St. Anthony's Monastery in Arizona, and while there I purchased a book titled *The Field, Cultivating Salvation*. This book is Volume I in the collected works of St. Ignatius Brianchaninov. I also have *The Arena, Guidelines for Spiritual and Monastic Life*, which is Volume V in this saint's collected works, which I bought a year earlier because I had read a review recommending *The Arena* over *The Field*. But more than a year later I haven't read very much of *The Arena*, I think because it is so far beyond me that I have great difficulty understanding how to apply it to my life. Stretching and reaching is good, but *The Field* teaches me about a foundation that *The Arena* assumes I know already. For instance, both books start out talking about the study of the Gospels, but *The Arena* assumes one can already articulate the particulars presented in *The Field*.

Consequently, I am reading *The Field*, and this article is a short synopsis of a couple of chapters that seem to be the base of the rest of the book. The book is about cultivating the salvation of one's soul in the mirror of the Gospels and the light of the Beatitudes. I had to write the synopsis to assist my thinking and direct my understanding. One of the parts of scripture that always makes me fearful and uncertain has to do with the judgment seat when Christ says to the people either, "Come, stand at my right hand," or "Depart from me, I never knew you [*despite all the good works you did in my name*]". These things have something to do with that moment.

**The Synopsis:** *The Field* advises in what manner to read the Gospels, that when you read the Gospels you do not seek enjoyment or exalted feelings or brilliant thoughts, but that you seek to perfectly see holy Truth. It advises that you read the Gospels with deeds, that they are the book of life, and you must read that book with your own life, remembering when you read the Gospels that you will be judged by them, depending on how you have lived in accordance to them. It advises that as you read about the lepers, the paralyzed, the blind, the lame, and the possessed that the Lord healed in the Gospels, you remember that your soul is like these sick men, spotted with leprosy, paralyzed, blind, lame, and possessed by passions, and that He will heal you as well if you continually ask Him for this healing. It advises that you ask for the gift of the realization of your own sinfulness, which is an acknowledgement of the fall in which the entire human race exists, and that you try to live in the Gospel, integrating it into your whole heart and mind. *The Field* goes on to list the commandments of the Gospels, emphasizing the first commandment of repentance, the danger of anger which is akin to murder, and how the commandments are summed up in loving God and loving your neighbor, which includes loving your enemy. It makes this statement: "When the disciple of Christ becomes healed of his hatred for his neighbor, and through the prayer of his mind and heart directs all the powers of his soul and body toward God, then he will come to love God."

*The Field* goes on to describe the Gospel Beatitudes, or the Blessings. It tells me that the Beatitudes are senses which are contrary to our fallen nature and which appear in our souls as we keep the commandments of the Gospels, which commandments are summed up in love. That would be sacrificial love, not self-indulgent love. Sacrificial, by the way, has a meaning of "to make holy," and comes from the Latin root sacer, meaning holy or sacred.

The first Beatitude is poverty of spirit, which is described as becoming aware of your own damaged nature which rebels against God, recognizing in yourself the fall of humanity and realizing it is not just a story about other people but is extremely personal, thereby enabling each of us to gain a humble self-assessment. The blessing that goes with the sense of poverty of spirit is possessing the Kingdom of God.

The second beatitude is mourning, expressed as tears of repentance that come when you look at yourself in the mirror of the Gospels through your poverty of spirit. As you read these Gospels with your life (which is recommended), you find yourself so busy crying over your own condition that you don't have time to judge your neighbor.

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## Ministry News

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The blessing that goes with this kind of mourning is that you will be comforted.

Third is Meekness. Your soul becomes meek in its mourning. The meek are blessed with inheriting the earth. We *are* dust and earth, and I no longer have authority over *my* earth because various passions have stolen the authority from me, especially the passion of anger. The Beatitude of meekness returns to me this authority over my inheritance, my earth: my self, my body, my blood, and my passions.

The fourth Beatitude is the hunger and thirst for righteousness. Having gained power over myself once again by meekness, I begin to desire heaven, which is the righteousness of God. The blessing for this desire for righteousness is that one is filled.

The fifth Beatitude is mercy. The righteousness of God, Jesus Christ, appeared to man through divine mercy. Mercy judges no man, loves its enemies, lays down its life for its neighbor. It is through mercy that we become like God. The blessing for mercy is obtaining mercy.

The sixth Beatitude or sense is a pure heart. A pure heart is a heart filled with mercy, in which state it can have no thought of evil, but only thoughts of goodness itself. This heart is moved by a boundless feeling of mercy for all the creation, as is God, and its blessing is that it sees God.

The seventh sense or Beatitude is peace. The peace of God descends into a pure heart and unites the long-separated mind, soul, and body. This man is re-created and spiritual, a descendant of the New Adam, Christ. Through this peace, a Christian, having completed his repentance, makes peace with God, with all his earthly circumstances, with his neighbors, and with himself. He has become a son of God by grace, and this is his blessing.

And lastly, blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. He who is able to withstand these persecutions with patient suffering and joy is he who has obtained the peace of God. The blessing for being thus persecuted is obtaining the Kingdom of Heaven, the same blessing as the first Beatitude, poverty of spirit.

The first virtue of poverty of spirit is the one we are encouraged to seek as the foundation and giver of all the other Beatitudes, and as the foundation it must be strong and well-placed. Poverty of spirit is found by the study of the Gospels and by keeping the commandments of the Gospels.

**My Comment on the Synopsis:** I think that our part in this cultivation of our souls can be a little tricky. Obviously, we have to take ourselves in hand and do something. The question is where do we place our efforts of doing? Take that first virtue, poverty of spirit. Can we just decide we are going to obtain this virtue for ourselves of our own will by reading the Gospels and following the law of the commandments? Wouldn't that very decision itself would run contrary to poverty of spirit? In order to acquire poverty of spirit, one would need to hear God, to be in communion with God. *The effort that we make, the thing that we do, is to seek God. What we desire above all things must be God Himself.*

That is, as applied to the commandments, if I am seeking God, I will love my neighbor. But if I am willing myself to "love" my neighbor according to my own wisdom, then I am not seeking God, I am seeking my own righteous acts, and not only will I fail to love my neighbor, neither will I be in communion with God. It comes down to that dividing line in our own hearts. There is good, and there is evil. How do I evaluate those things that arise from my heart? By looking at them in the mirror of the Gospels and light of the Beatitudes.

On the back cover of *The Field* it says, "The spiritual harvest requires a heart that is harrowed [*keenly disturbed*] by repentance, softened by compunction [*acknowledgement of your sin and of the Lord's forgiveness*], and irrigated [*washed, helped to healing*] by tears." I submit that only if we work diligently on these things will we be able to persevere in the arena of battle and "build in our hearts Jerusalem, the city of peace and unity," as it says on the back cover of *The Arena*. *Continued on next page*

## Ministry News

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**An Observation on Confession:** I have struggled and continue to struggle with confession. I'm pretty sure I am not alone in this and hope others will find this paragraph helpful. Before my baptism, for months and months I read books and articles and listened to podcasts on confession, I asked people what it is supposed to be and how they did it, yet I remained completely frustrated and without understanding. Then after one particular podcast which talked about going deeper and understanding why I did the things I did by thinking about what I failed to do, something clicked. What I only just realized as I was writing this article is that it was what this article is about. That is, I began to see myself in the mirror of the Gospels and the light of the Beatitudes, and in this way I discovered something meaningful to confess. Confession, I think, is about recognizing that I fail to access God who has made Himself accessible to me, and in this failure I contribute to the illness and misery of the world; I contribute to sin. I fail to access Him because I forget Him, all the time, and that is a grievous sin. As I become more and more aware of this forgetfulness in all its depth and seek His assistance day-by-day in correcting it, I will obtain healing; and as I am healed, so is the world around me. So then, using the commandments and Beatitudes of the Gospels as standards to guide me in battle, I can confess to not loving God and my neighbor as manifested by these traits and actions ...(fill in the blank). I can confess to not being poor in spirit but instead being arrogant, to not being meek...but proud, merciful...but legalistic (in specifically identified ways or incidents), etcetera. And as I examine those things I can ask the Lord to enlighten me what would have been more in line with love, what would have been more in line with humility, with meekness, with mercy, etcetera, and ask His assistance in actually expressing these virtues in future encounters. This would be true Eucharistia, true Liturgy, true Worship, would it not?

*Deborah Talbot—*

## Cover Story

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What if you are introverted, is there no evangelism for you? On the contrary, if you are the type of person who attends liturgy consistently, is engaged in living your faith, spending time in prayer you are a different type of evangelist – you are a “Living Light” of faith. It is a living active faith which empowers the Grace of God to permeate worship. By simply worshipping faithfully in our gatherings together, we make Christ present on earth!

Creating a welcoming experience must also take into consideration how the services are conducted. Taking into consideration the demographics of each community; there is no reason why many should not be offering the liturgy primarily in English. Secondly, encouraging parishioners to engage in the singing of the responses create a participatory experience which is more engaging than being a spectator of worship. I cannot count the number of non-Orthodox spouses over the years who after having attended services for twenty, thirty or even forty years made the decision to join the Church because they felt part of the worship experience.

Finally, how do we speak about our church to people outside? When we speak good things about our church communities we create a connection for them. A man was getting his haircut and the barber (who was not the member of an Orthodox Church) was sharing his own experience of having visited an Orthodox Church. That was enough for the man to come and visit the local Orthodox Church only to embrace the faith and become an active member. Just speaking good things about the church is enough to connect and inspire someone to visit, think on the blessings you experience and share them with others and watch the church grow by the Grace of God.

# Ministry News

## ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY

### BOOK OF HEBREWS

**St. Maximos the Confessor and the Five Dualities.** Not oppositions, but dualities. Male – female; created – Uncreated; heaven – earth; paradise – universe; sensible – intelligible. The thing that is driving it all is these dualities. So what was the point of the dualities in the first place? Love is the essence of the matter. One cannot truly love unless there is dissimilarity; complimentary, but dissimilar. The space between the dualities provides sovereignty to each. In the example of the male-female duality, it is only when one sovereign being and another sovereign being give his/her life to the other, without compulsion, that the result is love. God did not create opposition. He created dualities. Any opposition within these dualities came about as a result of the “Fall”. What’s the inevitable outcome of an opposition? War! St. Sophrony of Essex said that war is the worst sin of all. He’s saying that one sovereign being is turning the space between another sovereign being (which is supposed to be the space over which love bridges) into destruction. The philosophy that drives transgenderism, homosexuality, communism, reincarnationism, evolutionism is an assault on the essence of reality itself. We have distinctions. Each being is a sovereign being and there is an existential space between them and that space is what provides the lift (so to speak) to love one another. The ultimate duality is the created and Uncreated. The Incarnation would still have been necessary even without the Fall, to bring about the resolution of the dualities into complete harmony. Man does not need conflict to thrive. God did not create a reality where our distinction was dependent on inherent conflict, otherwise, God would be the author of evil. There is a dividing line that dissects the world and everything that is in it. But only the holy ones, with true discernment, realize that it also cuts through our hearts, resulting in a divided heart. King David says in **Psalm 85 (86):11** “*Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth: Unite my heart to fear Your Name.*” Each of us is bearing this conflict and opposition within ourselves.

Father Alexander Schmemmann was an influential Orthodox priest, teacher and writer who said that we are doxological beings. He argues that divine worship is the actualization and fulfillment of the homo adorans (man as a worshipping agent – a servant of God).

**Father Alexander Schmemmann:** *“The Orthodox liturgy begins with the solemn doxology: “Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.” From the beginning the destination is announced: the journey is to the Kingdom. This is where we are going- and not symbolically, but really. In the language of the Bible, which is the language of the Church, to bless the Kingdom is not simply to acclaim it. It is to declare it to be the goal, the end of all our desires and interests, of our whole life, the supreme and ultimate value of all that exists. To bless is to accept it. This acceptance is expressed in the solemn answer to the doxology: Amen.”*

*“In everything that I preach, or teach, or write, I want this...answer to appear, hopefully to shine through...It is simply a vision of life, and what comes from that vision is the light, the transparency, the referral of everything to the “Other,” the eschatological character of life itself and all that is in it. The source of that eschatological light, the lifting up of all life, is the sacrament of the Eucharist. It is in worship that the Church communicates to humanity [his/her] true identity as homo adorans, created in God’s image as pleasing in His sight.”*

**Fr. Alexander Schmemmann’s “For The Life of the World”:** *“...in the Bible to bless God is not a “religious” or “cultic” act, but the very way of life. ...All rational, spiritual and other qualities of man, distinguishing him from other creatures, have their focus and ultimate fulfillment in this capacity to bless God, to know, so to speak, the meaning of the thirst and hunger that constitutes his life. “Homo sapiens”, “homo faber”... yes, but first of all, “homo adorans”. The first and basic definition of man is that he is the priest. He stands at the center of the world and unifies it in his act of blessing God, of both receiving the world from God and offering it to God...” Taken broadly this means that the entire human life should be the embodiment of the worshipping spirit, and that we should “walk in the Lord”, so that our every action, every deed is the expression of our communion with God, the response of creation to the Creator being a self-less response of Abel. In this context “the good works” fulfill the task of actualizing our Christian life to serve the needs of the other, and of being a means of denying oneself for the other.*

Just as there is no human life without breathing, there is no life without worshipping. The impulse to wor-



## Ministry News

ship is the same impulse to recapitulate and unify because we are inherently fragmented after the Fall. Even before the Fall man was a doxological being because of the duality of Uncreated and created. Man was longing for union with Someone Whom they did not have perfect union. Even in the Kingdom of Heaven and the perfection of time we will still be doxological beings because we will never be able to apprehend the essence of God.

Just as there is a law of physics that governs everything in the physical world, there is a law of existence that governs everything. The law of existence (which is a spiritual law) is that we are beings who desire union with one another and with God (dualities seeking union). That law would have played out a lot differently if the Fall had never happened. The law would have been the same, dualities seeking union. What that looks like as it is being played out in the “after the Fall scenario” is described in the Book of Hebrews, Chapter 9. This is God’s way of setting up the architecture on an earthly level to facilitate that reconstituting (or coming together). This is what it will, inevitably, look like when estranged beings are seeking union once again. This is not limited to just one religion. Even though the architecture is the same; when it comes to the content, there is no comparison. Only in the Orthodox Christian faith is the Offerer and the Offering the same, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God.

Why was it necessary for the Jews to have a tabernacle? To separate that which is of the world and that which is of God. To make it holy. The definition of holy is “set apart for the service of God or for sacred uses, consecrated; hallowed.” It is “definition”. Even though there may be a conflict between two individuals, when they enter a holy place they are in the same reality and that gulf starts to diminish. The building of the tabernacle was essential to begin the process of union from estrangement. There has to be room for each person to be sovereign but at the same time to be within a larger encapsulating reality. God addresses the problem of estrangement or fragmentation, by commanding the institution of the tabernacle in Exodus to unify us with each other and with Him. There is an inclusive effect on those coming from the outside world and entering the tabernacle. They now have something in common. This is the first step in overcoming the estrangement. Once inside the tabernacle, there is a veil which signifies another form of separation. This veil separates the created from the Uncreated. God is treating every level of estrangement that comes from the Fall and each person’s own sins. Behind that veil is the Ark of the Covenant, which is the visible sign of God changing the estrangement from His end. The feast that demonstrates the uniting of created and Uncreated in the Jewish faith is Yom Kippur, when the high priest makes atonement with blood. This is the preparatory stage of union because mankind was not ready for the ultimate union that was to come.

To perpetuate life after the Fall, it was necessary to take the life of another being which resulted in the shedding of blood. A blood sacrifice means one is giving up life to be in the life giving presence of God. The essence of receiving life is by taking life. This sacrifice was just a stepping stone. God set this up so that man would habituate the pattern. If the Jews had internalized this, they would have recognized Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross for what it truly was, the union of the created and Uncreated.



Submitted by: Genevieve

The last point to make here is the Mercy Seat, which points to the Theotokos. Panagia is the Mercy Seat.

# Ministry News

## Pro-Life Ministry



Father Seraphim and the combined St. Nicholas Sunday School classes discuss the importance of human life and how it is a precious gift from God. Father definitely met his match with this group! Kids say the “darndest” things!! Balloons and 12 week fetus models were handed out. Thanks to our Sunday School leader & teacher, Sheila (Monica) Auter and teachers, Presvytera Sophie Majmudar and Savina Frisk for welcoming Father and the Pro-Life Ministry into their classroom for this Sanctity of Life presentation.

## MARCH FOR LIFE 2020



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## Ministry News

### Pro-Life Ministry

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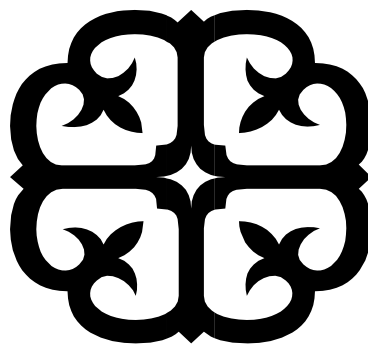
The March for Life celebrated its 42<sup>nd</sup> gathering on January 21, 2020, in Olympia Washington, to hear several Washington state legislators speak and inform over 5,000 pro-life supporters of the current legislation bills that are in “the works”. Some shared their own personal life experience with the threat of abortion and thanked their mothers for choosing life. The mention of a pro-life legislation bill that peaked my interest was the “Women’s Right to Know Act”. Several states, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Minnesota (to mention a few), have passed this bill into law. The Act requires that women who seek abortions be fully informed about relevant issues such as: medical risks of abortion, abortion methods & associated medical risks, the possible detrimental psychological effects, medical risks of carrying a pregnancy to term, probable gestational age of the fetus at the time the abortion is to be performed, father’s responsibility, medical assistance benefits may be available to prenatal care, childbirth, and neonatal care and information on free ultrasounds. It’s wishful imagining, but I would like to see the requirement that every woman considering abortion be shown the filming of an abortion so that she can witness the reality of this atrocity.

It seemed that the turnout for this event was even greater than the past 5 marches that I have attended since moving to Tacoma. The rain that came pouring down in huge fat drops was also greater this year, but it certainly didn’t discourage the faithful Pro Life supporters. It was wonderful to see returning members and clergy of western Washington Orthodox parishes and to meet several members of the Orthodox mission Church in Ellensburg who made the long trip to our state capitol.

I want to thank Russ Chappell and Rachel Breland and her little guy, Simeon, for coming out to help represent and support St. Nicholas’ Pro-Life Ministry.

Please consider joining us next year for this wonderful and enlightening event. Even though I was cold and soaking wet, the elation that I felt from this gathering warmed my heart all the way back to Tacoma.

Submitted by: *Genevieve—*





# Ministry News

## Philoptochos

### President's Message

Greetings everyone and Happy New Year!

Significant activities in January included:

After Christmas Party-Members of the parish community gathered on January 11, 2020, at the Fircrest County Club for a festive meal, fellowship and good company. Brendan Tuohy, tenor, and his accompanist treated the group to a variety of songs from his repertoire.

Vasilopeta -On January 12, five special loaves of bread were cut and served to representatives of the St. Nicholas ministries and parishioners. An additional loaf was auctioned off. Funds from this event went to St. Basil's Academy, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese home for children in need in New York.



Potluck Soup Coffee Hour-On January 19, a variety of homemade soups and rolls were served at the coffee hour. Funds for this event benefited the Archdiocese Social Services fund.

February planned activities to further our mission of helping those less fortunate and to promote participation in the Philoptochos Society:

February 9 Pie Sale-On February 9 a variety of pies will be served at the coffee hour. Funds from this event will benefit the Archdiocese Children's Autism fund.

February 14-Valentine bags will be distributed to homebound members of the parish. Marian Palas is coordinating this event. Please check with her if you wish to help

with distributing the bags.

February 15-Philoptochos meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the upper hall.

Membership-Our year starts in January and runs through December. The membership is \$30 for the year. Please ask any member about Philoptochos-it is the Orthodox Church's Women's Ministry. Please see Jane Evancho for membership payment. We encourage our Greek Orthodox friends to join us. They can be involved as much or as little as they wish. We welcome you all to our group. There is a lot of satisfaction in doing things for the common good and helping our church and the less fortunate among us...



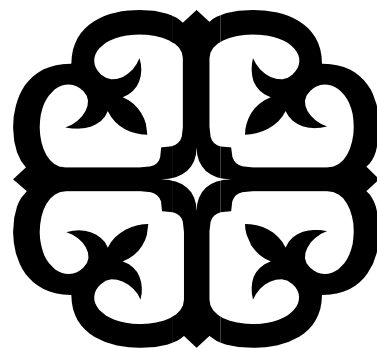
Jane--



# Ministry News

## Philoptochos Calendar 2020

Date	Event	Notes	Chair
JAN 11	"AFTER CHRISTMAS PARTY"	At the Country Club???	Committee/Marian?
JAN 12	VASILOPETA	VASILOPETA CUTTING	Elly?
JAN 18	MEETING	NO MEAL @ 10:00	
JAN 19	POTLUCK SOUP COFFEE HOUR	BENEFITING SOCIAL SERVICES/CANCER FUND	Hoddi
FEB 8	PIE SALE	BENEFITS AUTISM	Sally
FEB 14	VALENTINE BAGS FOR HOMEBOUND		All
FEB 15	MEETING	NO MEAL @ 10:00 am	
		Place holder for membership meeting	Jane
MAR	LENTEN MEALS	?	Presbytera Sophie
MAR 7	LADIES LUNCHEON MTG	@12:00(BJ'S Restaurant) Planning Committee(Hostesses, chairs etc)	
MAR 21	MEETING –	NO MEAL @ 10:00 am	
APR 11	PALM TYING/LUNCH		Presbytera Sophie
APR 12	PALM SUNDAY DINNER		Hoddi
APR 12	PASCHA BAGS FOR HOMEBOUND		All
APR 19	PASCHA		
MAY 9	MOTHERS DAY FLOWERS		Sally
MAY 16	LADIES SPRING LUNCHEON		Committee
MAY 23	MEETING	Celebration Dinner - Need committee	
MAY 24	VETERANS LUNCHEON	VETERANS PROGRAM by Gus Chamales	Merrilee, Diane, Hoddi
JUNE 13	GRADUATES COFFEE		Marian
JUNE 20	FATHERS DAY BREAKFAST	Notify Zach to take over this coffee hour	
JULY 18	CAMP AGAPE	Training for camp July 18-25	
JULY 21	CANW <u>Kafeneion</u>	Provide Appetizers from St. Nicholas Philoptochos	Hoddi, Jane, Marian and Yvonne



## Ministry News

### PROSPHORA BAKING SCHEDULE

Despina Ampatzis:	The first Sunday of every month
Deborah Talbot:	The second Sunday of every month
Mark Robinson	The third Sunday of every month
Anne Dykstra:	The fourth Sunday of every month
Freezer Stock:	The fifth Sunday of every month

Anyone wanting to bring this offering on a particular day should make the arrangements with Father Seraphim. Every Orthodox Christian in good standing (talk to your priest about what that means) is welcome to make the offering.

The purpose of the Divine Liturgy is to make this Thanksgiving Offering to God and receive it back from Him, transformed by Him, for our own transformation.

A recipe and tutorial for making moist, dense prospora is available to anyone interested. Once you have practiced making prospora a time or two, you may find you have the courage to bring this Thanksgiving Offering to the Liturgy for your name day or any day and more fully experience your Orthodox faith. I would also be happy to bake one time with anyone interested in learning about making prospora. For more information leave a message for Deborah Talbot at 360-593-2831.



*Deborah Talbot—*

# 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.

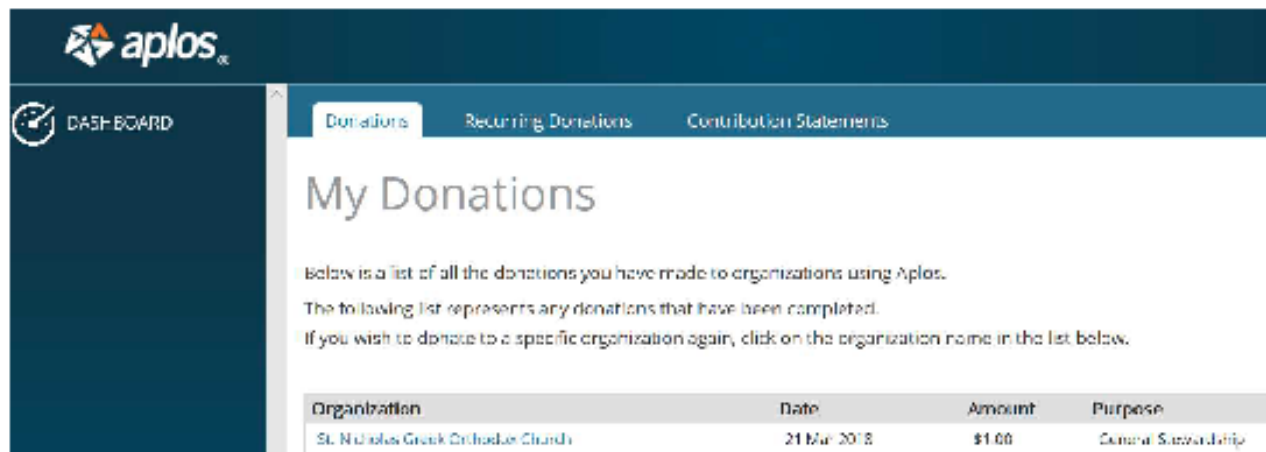
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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



Ministry News

TACOMA  
**AHEPA Annual Crab Feed**

**Saturday, March 21, 2020**

**5:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.**



Music Provided

**McGavick Center BLDG 23  
4500 Steilacoom Blvd SW  
Lakewood WA 98499**

**\$60.00 Per Person**

**Sponsor: Mountain Moving & Storage  
Benefits: Camp Agape Northwest  
and AHEPA Scholarships**

**For Tickets, Contact:**

**Alex Pangis (253) 841-7013**





# Heritage Greece

## HERITAGE GREECE PROGRAM 2020

Session I: June 4 - 21, 2020

Session II: July 9 – 26, 2020

Heritage Internship Program: June 22- July 5, 2020

Athens, Greece



The American College of Greece (ACG) is now accepting applications for the 2020 Heritage Greece Program, an educational and cultural immersion program for enrolled North American college students of Hellenic descent aged 18-26. Heritage Greece is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity developed by the National Hellenic Society (NHS) and hosted by the ACG. The Program benefits Greek American and Canadian students wishing to explore their Hellenic heritage, culture, roots and identity in a shared experience with a peer group of students from the American College of Greece in Athens.

Student participants meet in Washington, DC for an exciting orientation with high level receptions and meetings before leaving for Greece as a group. The Heritage Greece Session I will take place from June 4-26, 2020, and Session II from July 9-26, 2020. Students bear \$1,000 expense towards airfare and all other expenses including Orientation costs, travel to/from Greece, meals, lodging and transportation (excluding domestic travel) are borne by the National Hellenic Society.

The application process is online, ACG is now accepting applications due by **March 18, 2020**. To be considered for early-bird admissions, full applications (online & supplementary applications) should be submitted to ACG by **January 24, 2020**.



# Heritage Greece

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Participants must be enrolled in an undergraduate/graduate program

- Participants must be of Greek descent\* & sustain a minimum GPA of 3.0 and aged between 18-26

First time visitors to Greece provided preference

\* Greek descent is established if at least one of the student's parent/grandparent/great grandparents are from Greece and/or Cyprus. Siblings/1<sup>st</sup> Cousins of past and/or current participant may be considered, and/or sponsored by parents/other organizations.

## ADDITIONAL HERITAGE GREECE SCHOLARSHIPS

*American Hellenic Council of California Scholars:* preference for students from Southern California

- *Elios Foundation Scholars:* preference for students from the west coast
- *Evrytanian Association of America Heritage Greece Scholars:* preference for students who are descendants of Evrytanian (Karpenisi) forbears

*Hellenic Heritage Foundation Scholars:* limited to Greek Canadian student candidates

## NHS HERITAGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Program Dates: **June 22- July 5, 2020**

Heritage Greece Participants interested in participating in a short-term internship opportunity in Greece aligned with their major/career track may apply through the online application process. Candidates must apply by the early bird deadline, January 24, 2020 for the first Heritage Greece session. Internships ARE NOT available for the Heritage Greece second session.

## GOING VIRAL

NHS and NHS' partnering organizations will sponsor 100 student participants in the Heritage Greece Program, 65 for Session I and 35 for Session II. Help us spread the word through social media, message boards, your Church and through your network of contacts.

Follow us on: [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#) and share our posts to family & friends!

[For Further Information and to apply. Click Here!](#)

Program Dates:

- **Session I: June 4 - 21, 2020**
- **Session II: July 9-26, 2020**
- 

Heritage Internship Program Dates: **June 22- July 5, 2020**

Early Bird Admissions Deadline: **January 24, 2020**

Regular Application Deadline: **March 18, 2020**

**Please forward this email and contact us for additional promotional materials, suggestions/comments and/or questions: [heritagegreece@acg.edu](mailto:heritagegreece@acg.edu).**

**The Heritage Greece Admissions Team**

Office of International Student Services

# Philoptochos



Support Kids with Cancer

## CAMP AGAPE NORTHWEST GALA

Join us for dinner, drinks & dancing

Saturday, March 7, 2020 @ 5:30pm  
Melrose Market Studios  
1532 Minor Ave, Seattle, WA

Tickets @ [tinyurl.com/canwgala](http://tinyurl.com/canwgala)  
\$125/person | \$1,125/table

SUPPORT KIDS  
WITH CANCER

## CAMP AGAPE NORTHWEST GALA

Tickets @ [tinyurl.com/canwgala](http://tinyurl.com/canwgala)  
March 7 | 5:30 pm  
Melrose Market Studios





# 2020 STEWARDSHIP CARD

## ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH TACOMA, WASHINGTON



### 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](http://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](http://stnicholastacoma.org/donate). For more information, please visit:

[stnicholastacoma.org/stewardship](http://stnicholastacoma.org/stewardship).

*"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 Majumdar*

Please PRINT your information clearly

*"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 GIVEN TO US. OUR DONATION 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.**

**2020 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT**

Stewardship contributions cover all of our parish operating expenses. An average contribution of approximately \$2000/year from each family would enable our parish to meet its operational expenses without depending on Festival revenue.

I/We offer a minimum stewardship pledge of \$...../year or \$...../

month in 2020 to support God's work.

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

SIGNATURE.....

Name (F/M/L): .....  
 DOB (M/D/Y): .....  
 Email: .....  
 Telephone: .....  
 Spouse: .....  
 DOB (M/D/Y): .....  
 Email: .....  
 Telephone: .....  
 Address .....  
 City/St/Zip .....

**Household Information**

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



Saint Nicholas Messenger

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave  
Tacoma, WA 98405

*Address Service Requested*

