



WELCOME 2021



The Power of the Gospel Dwarfs the Evil Spirit

The evil spirit of fear really seems to have been unleashed upon us. Many of our brothers and sisters here at St Nicholas, as well as friends and faithful elsewhere have reported to me that they are feeling anxious, trapped and increasingly angry. The cumulative effects of almost a year of pandemic restrictions and the accompanying concern for our health—no one can go this long without beginning to crack a little bit!

Looking at the situation through the lens of the spirit—and not through the visible world—we can discern the presence and activity of the evil spirit of fear and his underlings. Think of it like a pressure cooker—the more the pressure and heat increases, the more everything inside starts to break down. This explains why so many of us are feeling the weight of anxiety, fear and anger so often.

The good news is that our forefathers experienced this so many times before. Think of the early Christians in the catacombs...the secret liturgies and schools in Turkish-occupied Greece...the incredible forbearance and martyric sufferings of the faithful in Communist Russia and eastern Europe. We triumphed over all of those, and we will triumph again. The Lord said two things about this in the Gospel of John:

1. *“In the world you will have tribulation, but do not fear—I have overcome the world”*
2. *“The world will hate you, for it hated Me before it hated you”*

We can turn this to our advantage: the more the “pressure cooker” intensifies, the more we become “broken in spirit”. King David says in the fiftieth Psalm: “You do not desire sacrifices and burnt offerings...but a broken and contrite heart, these O God, You will not despise.”

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St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Phone: 253-272-0466

Parish Website: stnicholastacoma.org

E-Mail: mail@stnicholastacoma.org

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



Sunday Services

8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

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



Fr. Seraphim Majmudar, Our Presiding Priest

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

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

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

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

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

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St. Nicholas Ministries

AHEPA
George Pirotis

Akathist Group Prayer
Kathy 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
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,

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

January parish council meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month.
January 12, 2021

January 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 FESTAL PERIOD: NO FASTING 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 2:30pm-3:30pm General Assembly (zoom)	4 FESTAL PERIOD: NO FASTING Nikheforos the Leper 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:30am-8:30am Akathist to St Nikheforos 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	5 Eve of Theophany STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am 1st & 3rd Royal Hours 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 1:00pm-2:00pm Sixth Royal Hour 5:10pm-6:10pm Ninth Royal Hour 5:30pm-6:30pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy w/ Blessing of Waters	6 FAST FREE THEOPHANY 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy w/ Blessing of Waters 7:00pm-8:00pm NO EVENING SERVICE	7 Synaxis of St John the Baptist 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:30am-8:30am Akathist to St John the Baptist 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek (call office for zoom link)	8 George the Chozabite STRICT FAST	9 Evstratios 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers
10 Gregory of Nyssa Gregory of Nyssa & Theophan the Recluse Theophan the Recluse 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	11 Theodosios the Cenobiarch 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	12 Martyr Tatiana 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-10:00pm Parish Council	13 Ascetic Martyrs of Sinai & Raihu STRICT FAST 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis	14 Leavetaking of Theophany 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek (call office for zoom link)	15 John the Hut Dweller STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: Chains of Ap Peter 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: Chains of Ap Peter	16 Chains of Ap Peter 2:00pm-3:00pm Gorham-Yoder Wedding 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers
17 Anthony the Great 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	18 Athanasios the Great 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:30am-8:30am Selected Readings from St Athanasios 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	19 Makaros the Great Mark of Ephesus 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	20 Euthymios the Great Fast: Wine & Oil ok 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 3:00pm-4:00pm Akathist for the Unborn 7:00pm-8:00pm Great Vespers: St Maximos the Confessor	21 Maximos the Confessor 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek (call office for zoom link) 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: Ap Timothy & St Maximos 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: Ap Timothy & St Maximos	22 Apostle Timothy Fast: Wine & Oil ok	23 Clement 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers
24 Xenia of St Petersburg 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-12:00pm Bob Leonard Memorial & Coffee Hour	25 Gregory the Theologian 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	26 Xenophon 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	27 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Return of Relics of St John Chrys. Ephraim of Syria 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: Ss Isaac & Ephraim of Syria	28 Ephraim & Isaac of Syria 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:30am-8:30am Reading of Selections from St Isaac 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek (call office for zoom link)	29 Lawrence of the Kiev Caves STRICT FAST 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: Three Holy Hierarchs 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: Three Holy Hierarchs	30 Three Holy Hierarchs 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers
31 Cyrus & John 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	Notes:					

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

News and Announcements

“2021 Budget General Assembly”

The 2021 Budget General Assembly Teleconference (Zoom), will take place on Sunday, January 3, 2021 at 2:30pm. The Zoom information will be sent to the parishioners via an email before the teleconference day.

George Pirotis-

Baklava Sales

Many of you know that we are selling phyllo and nuts that we purchased for making baklava before the State’s Covid-19 restrictions prevented us from doing so. We are also selling phyllo and nuts as kits or in bulk. If you want to purchase those items contact **Joseph Johnson at either (360) 941-9972 or sgtjcj@msm.com** to coordinate for payment and pickup.

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.

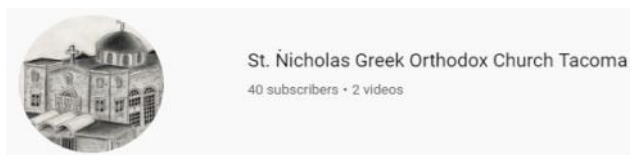
Live TV Streaming of church services continues. If you are unable to attend services in person, you can participate by watching most services live at home. See instructions below.

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



PLANNING FOR A MORE ACTIVE 2021

One of the Building Committee end-of-the-years tasks is to propose a budget for the upcoming church year. Besides COVID19, safety & security concerns and how best to address them were a common theme during 2020. Hopefully COVID will start to dissipate in the near future and we'll be able to see more of each other in person rather than on a computer screen. However, safety & security around the church property is likely to remain a high priority issue through at least the next year, and the proposed 2021 Building Committee budget is reflective of those concerns.

The following page represents a proposed budget that was submitted to the Church Treasurer, Secretary, President and Vice President, with some comments and a minor adjustment added. The budget items are listed in order of priority and necessity as perceived by yours truly, and meant to be all-inclusive, with sales tax and other required premiums covered in order to present a "full" cost.

Of the \$150,000 proposed bottom-line listed on the next page, \$100,000 of it is for ornamental security fencing around the south site perimeter, and a new electronic controlled parking lot gate with keypad access. The format of the budget proposal is intended to act as a pick-and-choose request list that can easily be edited and adjusted as desired. Again, providing supplemental safety & security has become a growing issue that is meant to be addressed in the budget.

Continued on the next page...

Building Committee

PROPOSED BUILDING COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR 2021

. Budget for wear-and-tear roof leak repairs and maintenance in 2021.	\$5,000.00
. Budget for other wear-and-tear repairs and maintenance beyond roofing.	\$5,000.00
. Electronic door lock, bell ringer, camera, and 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.	\$4,000.00
. Electronic door lock, bell ringer, camera, and remote controls at the exterior main entrance to the Narthex. This would allow Father Seraphim to control access through main church entry via his Smart Phone when just himself and/or a few other people are in the church. The electronic lock and other devices at this location would likely be installed during, and coordinated with the upcoming Narthex Renovation work.	\$4,500.00
. Electronic door lock, bell ringer, camera, and remote operation at the Dining Hall exterior entrance facing the church parking lot. This would allow a Parish member with a loaded Smart Phone App to remotely screen and allow access through the Dining Hall entrance when there few or no other people in church.	\$4,000.00
. Provide ornamental fencing around the south side of the church property, and replace the existing chainlink parking lot gate with an electronic operated ornamental gate that has keycard access. This would be similar in scope to an Alternate that was bid in the Narthex Renovation project, but had been declined due to its expense. Since then, supplemental security and safety enhancements around the church property have become a higher pressing priority. If approved, this work would likely be independent of the Narthex Renovation work and under a separate contract.	\$100,000.00
. Replace an existing exterior door and sidelite assembly that leads into the Lower Hall from the South 16th Street side of the church.	\$5,000.00
. Install some lattice and/or provide other screening onto a semi-trailer storage in the church parking lot, with the intent to lessen a mild eye sore image it currently presents.	\$2,500.00
. Fill in floor recesses where Sanctuary pews are placed, and then finish with a quality laminate type flooring. This was previously proposed to the Parish Council in early 2020, but deferred due to other pressing priorities.	\$20,000.00
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET IF ALL IS APPROVED:	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> \$150,000.00

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

Help us honor your family members who served! The purpose of this ministry is to honor St. Nicholas parishioners or their family members who have served their country either in the military, in federal intelligence services, or in any branch of Federal, State or local law enforcement. If you or any of your family members served in any of these organizations, would you please provide a picture of yourself or them in service uniform accompanied by the name, branch of service, years of service if known, and any medals or honors the individual may have received. Please email the picture and information to gleafops@gmail.com. During the year we will display their photo in the Messenger whenever there was a significant date in history that relates to their service, and we will also use it as part of our St. Nicholas Memorial and Veterans Day presentations. The men and women who served in these organizations did so at much risk, and sadly some paid the ultimate sacrifice. They've protected the freedoms that we enjoy and have done their best to keep our homes and towns safe. Their service benefits every American and it should neither be taken for granted, nor should their sacrifices ever be forgotten!

1 January. HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR



9 January. National Law Enforcement Day. Across the country on January 9th each year, citizens take the lead to show support on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

Law Enforcement Officers of every rank and file have chosen a profession that puts their life on the line every day for their communities. They've answered a call to public service that is very demanding and these days it seems far too unappreciated. Their duties command dedication and require great courage. Rarely do they know what their days have in store for them. Often law enforcement are the only paid emergency resource available to a community, and they work in coordination with other local, state, and federal organizations to make communities safer.

On National Law Enforcement Day we have an opportunity to thank them for their service, and offer a token of our respect. Our St. Nicholas church is particularly proud to recognize the service of one of our own, Deputy Sheriff Nick Jankens, who serves with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. If there are other family members who have served in law enforcement, please send their information to gleafops@gmail.com.



Nick Jankens
Deputy Sheriff
Pierce County
Sheriff's
Department



Peter J. Kelly
Master Sergeant
Illinois State Police
Gus' cousin



Peter A. Kelly
Chicago Police Dept.
Recipient of the
Superintendent's
Award for Heroism
& Police Medal for
critical wounds in
the line of duty
Gus' cousin

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

16 January 1991. Operation Desert Storm begins with the air war. In the last months of 1990, the United States participated in the defense of Saudi Arabia in a deployment known as Operation Desert Shield. Over 500,000 American troops were placed in Saudi Arabia in case of an Iraqi attack on the Saudis. The U.S. further sought multilateral support in the United Nations Security Council. Traditionally, Iraq was an ally of the Soviet Union, who held a veto power over any potential UN military action. Looking westward for support for their dramatic internal changes, the USSR did not block the American plan. The UN condemned Iraq and helped form a coalition to fight Iraq militarily.

President Bush, remembering the lessons of Vietnam, sought public support as well. Although there were scant opponents of the conflict, the vast majority of Americans and a narrow majority of the Congress supported the President's actions. When all the forces were in place, the United States issued an ultimatum to Saddam Hussein: leave Kuwait by January 15, 1991 or face a full attack by the multinational force. January 15 came and went with no response from the Iraqis. The next night, Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm.

Bombing sorties pummeled Iraq's military targets for the next several weeks. On many days there were over 2500 such missions. Iraq responded by launching Scud missiles at American military barracks in Saudi Arabia and Israel. Attacking Israel was a stratagem to persuade all the neighboring Arab nations to join the Iraqi cause. After intense diplomatic pressure and negotiation, the Arab nations remained in opposition to Iraq.

Two relatives of St. Nicholas parishioners fought as part of the air war during Operation Desert Storm. Their achievements were extremely noteworthy and contributed significantly to its success. (Source: USHistory.org)



MAJ(R) Bill Koukourikos
 U.S. Air Force
*Opns Desert Shield/
 Storm, Iraqi Freedom &
 Enduring Freedom*
**Recipient of Air Medal for
 Valor as a B-52 Pilot in
 Desert Storm**
 Godfather to
 Stavros Frisk



LTC Tony Rocco
 U.S. Air Force
Operation Desert Storm
**Recipient of Defense
 Meritorious Svc. Medal
 and Air Medal w/50lc's**
 Mary Leonard's
 Son-In-Law

22 January 1946. President Truman establishes the Central Intelligence Group.

Central Intelligence Group (CIG). Established January 1946, Duration: 1 year, 6 months. CIG was responsible for coordinating, planning, evaluating and disseminating intelligence. CIG also acquired a clandestine collection capability as well as authority to conduct independent research and analysis. This was key as CIG was no longer just coordinating the intelligence it received from government agencies, but was now producing intelligence on its own. This enlarged CIG's personnel strength considerably.

Continued next page...

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

The new organization spied overseas with employees lent to it from the Army, Navy and Department of State. CIG functioned under the National Intelligence Authority, which was composed of a presidential representative and the secretaries of State, War and Navy. Within months of its creation, CIG became the nation's primary agency for strategic warning and management of clandestine activities abroad. Yet, it was shackled to the constraints and resistance of the Department of State and the armed services. And so, to free itself, CIG became an independent department and was renamed the Central Intelligence Agency in September 1947. *(Source: History of the CIA)*



Andy Evancho
Central Intelligence Agency
Cold War
 Jane Evancho's husband

One of our parishioners, Andy Evancho, would serve in the CIA as an analyst, approximately 25 years later.



26 January 1994. Romania Joins NATO's Partnership for Peace.

Romania, a country whose primary religion is Romanian Orthodox, became the first Cold War Soviet Bloc country to join NATO's Partnership for Peace program, following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Partnership for Peace was intended to be a stepping stone for consideration of membership into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for countries that were either non-aligned, or former members of the Warsaw Pact. The concept was to build relationships with partners through military-to-military cooperation on training, exercises, disaster planning and response, science and environmental issues, professionalization, policy planning, and relations with civilian government. The Partnership for Peace proved to be a very successful program and eventually fourteen members of the PFP eventually joined NATO. *(Source: Wikipedia)*



28 January 1915. US Coast Guard created by act of Congress. On 28 January 1915, the United States Revenue Cutter Service and the United States Lifesaving Service were merged by act of Congress to form the United States Coast Guard. The Coast Guard had on the day of its creation approximately 255 officers, 3900 warrant officers and enlisted men, one headquarters, 17 regional commands, 4 depots, an academy, 25 cruising cutters, 20 harbor cutters and 280 lifeboat stations. One family member of St. Nicholas had a relative that served in the United States Coast Guard. Ricky Angelus' uncle, Thomas Angelos, was a member of the United States Coast Guard during WWII. Sadly, he died in the line of duty while serving at sea during training maneuvers. May his memory be eternal.



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

Contributed by: Gus

Stewardship Ministry News



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the year 2020 ends and 2021 begins, we on the Parish Council would like to express our very sincere appreciation for the support you have provided to our beloved St. Nicholas Church. Despite the challenges of COVID and the burden it has been for many, you have generously tithed your time, talent, and treasure, and together the Parish Council stands in awe of your generosity and kindness!

The remarkable time contributions of ministries such as Philoptochos, Project 2020, and the Reopening Committee have provided a wide range of services. They have fed the needy in our community, they have enabled the raising of funds and gained the approval of the narthex project, and they have opened the doors of our church for services during the COVID pandemic. **Δόξα τῷ Θεῷ!**

The monumental support of individuals gifted with unique talents enables the success of our day-to-day operation! Thankfully we have John Pangis whose mechanical talent keeps our facility in a fully mission capable status. Genevieve Eagle's mastery of Zoom facilitates Bible Study, Parish Council, and General Assembly meetings that are critical to our spiritual growth and our decision making. Also, our Prosforo bakers! They are seldom recognized, but without their talents, our liturgy would be incomplete. It is the talents of these parishioners and numerous others without whom our day-to-day operations would be dysfunctional at best.

Creating a culture of true stewardship is not an easy objective to attain; but you, the parishioners of St. Nicholas, continue to press forward. The empirical data shows that congregations with engaged members are spiritually healthier. It shows that they are better able to carry out their missions, attract new people, and fund new ventures. Because of your extraordinary efforts, that defines St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church is truly blessed to have so many loving and dedicated parishioners! Some of you helped make the first "COVID Camp Agape" a tremendous success, and in doing so greatly touched the lives of many families in true medical need! Several of you work tirelessly behind the scenes to clean the church to "COVID standards" prior to services, while others serve as deacons, chanters, and greeters. Because of your efforts and Father Seraphim's devotion to duty, attendance at Sunday Divine Liturgy almost always achieves the maximum participation allowable by "COVID standards," while dozens of others watch through live streaming. Thankfully, weekday liturgies are also available for those who wish to minimize exposure to others.

Stewardship Ministry News

The St. Nicholas parish council is extremely grateful for all that you have done to foster a spirit of true fellowship and cooperation during these COVID times. St. Nicholas is a wonderful home in which to celebrate Divine Liturgy and to do God's work. We look forward to working and worshiping together with you in the coming months and God willing, in the total reopening of our church. Until then, we hope you all had a very **Merry Christmas/Καλά Χριστούγεννα** as we celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ, and we wish you all the best for a happy and prosperous New Year! **-Ευτυχία και Ευημερία για τον Καινούργιο Χρόνο!**

Very respectfully,

George Pirotis

George Pirotis
Parish Council President



Father Seraphim



Stewardship Ministry News

This is my final issue of the “Stewardship Ministry News.” My “tour of duty” on the parish council is ending this month and with it my membership on the Stewardship Ministry.

The last two years have been a very rewarding experience. I learned a lot about the different organizations that make up our wonderful St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, and I had the distinct privilege of working with an extremely dedicated group of people in the process. I have said it before and I will continue to say it for years to come, “St. Nicholas is truly blessed with wonderful and remarkable people.” **DOXA TO THEO!**

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to a few people that I consider representative of what makes St. Nicholas the wonderful place that it is to worship God. First and foremost is Father Seraphim! What a blessing he is for our church! In my opinion he is second to none as a parish priest, and he is an inspirational spiritual leader. I will forever be grateful for his kindness, compassion, and spiritual guidance, as well as the love and friendship of his remarkable family. **Thank you Father, for all you do for all of us!**

Next is George Pirotis. George is a man of absolute dedication, conviction, and integrity, and a person with whom it has been a distinct honor to serve on the Parish Council. St. Nicholas has been blessed with many great presidents throughout our church’s history, and George Pirotis has certainly upheld that tradition. **Thank you George, for all you do for all of us!**

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation for the work that Christina Leineweber and Mark Robinson provided to our church as our Parish Treasurers, and for their support of the Stewardship Ministry. Their ability to budget, manage the books, pay the bills and keep our financial operations running is truly admirable, and we should all be grateful for the work and the talent they tithe toward that end. **Thank you both, for all you do for all of us!**

Finally, I would like to thank a group of people who do so much for our church all the time, the women (and a few men) who are the proud members of Philoptochos. What a remarkable organization that works tirelessly to support our church, and is always there to help us in our time of need. They support our baptisms, they support our weddings, they support our festivals, they provide us with fantastic support on many things throughout any given year, and then when it comes time to bid us farewell, they are there to support our funeral dinner, and assist our families as they grieve. The women of this organization provide all of us what all great mothers always do; unconditional love and total support. **Thank you Ladies, for what you do for all of us!**

May God bless and watch over our beloved St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, and may God always bless and watch over all of you, who do so much for all of us. **DOXA TO THEO!**

And if you haven’t already done so, please turn in your 2021 Stewardship Card, or enroll in autopay!

Gus



Cover Story Continued...

The evil spirit of fear and his minions are turning up the pressure. This is actually good for us: like a hard lentil inside the cooker, heat and pressure will soften it and make it life giving. So do not despair or become angry. Let the pressure soften and “break” your heart! This is the secret our forefathers understood so well. An increasingly darkened world desperately needs us to not be angry or fearful, but to be broken in spirit. Our hearts should melt with love and pain for the suffering of others. When that begins to happen, hardness turns to life giving softness—and like the lentil in the pressure cooker, we become, as our Lord Himself, food for the whole world.

I here include a most edifying tale from Russia—the story of how decades of murderous communism transformed the Orthodox faithful into living icons of the living Christ.

*May this new year be dedicated to transforming our hearts into softness and food for the whole world!
Fr Seraphim*

The Most Beautiful Service of My Life

Source: “Everyday Saints and Other Stories,” by Archimandrite Tikhon (Shevkunov), translated by Julian Henry Lowefield, Pokrov Publications (2012), pp. 217-221.

During Soviet times there perhaps was no more horrificsymbol of the devastation of the Russian Orthodox Church by Communist rule than the Diveyevo Monastery. The monastery had been founded by St. Seraphim of Sarov, yet it had been turned into a frightful ruin. The gutted remains of what was left towered over the pathetic Soviet “regional center” into which the once glorious and Flourishing town of Diveyevo had been transformed. The authorities did not bother destroying the monastery completely. Instead they deliberately left the ruins standing there as a memorial of their triumph, as a trophy of their perpetual enslavement of the Church. By the holy gates of the monastery, they put up a monument to the leader of the Revolution—Lenin—whose arm was raised to the sky in mocking greeting of anyone who came to the devastated monastery.

Everything about the scene said convincingly that there would never be any return to the past. The prophecies of St. Seraphim about the grand destiny of Diveyevo Monastery, which had been so beloved in all of Russian Orthodoxy, seemed to have been forever profaned and destroyed. Nowhere in Diveyevo, neither within the town, not in its surroundings, was there a single working church, not even the memory of a church—all had been utterly destroyed. And in the once renowned Monastery of Sarov, and in the towns around it, instead of a holy site, now one of the most top-secret and heavily guarded constructions of the Soviet Union was housed instead—a project known as Arzamas-16. Here nuclear weapons were made. If any priests ever made a secret pilgrimage to Diveyevo, they carefully hid their intentions, always dressing in secular clothes. It was to no avail. The secret police would somehow find them out anyway. In the year when I first visited the devastated monastery, two monks who came to pray and express their reverence for the holy relics of Diveyevo were arrested, cruelly beaten by the police, and then kept imprisoned for over fifteen days in a jail cell, sleeping on a frozen floor.

That winter, Archimandrite Boniface, a wonderful and extremely kind monk from the famous Holy Trinity Monastery, asked me to accompany him on a trip to Diveyevo.

According to our ecclesiastical rules, a priest who sets out on a journey with the Sacred Gifts of the Eu-

Cover Story Continued...

charist—the Body and Blood of Christ—must always be accompanied by someone, so as to help defend and protect the great Holy Gifts in the event of any emergency that might arise. And Father Boniface was on his way to Diveyevo in order to give Communion to a few old nuns still living in the area around the monastery—some of the last few still living in our time of the thousand who once inhabited the pre-Revolutionary convent.

To get there we had to take a train through Nizhny Novgorod, then called Gorky, and next drive by car to Diveyevo. In the train, all night long, Archimandrite Boniface could not sleep. Hung around his neck by a silken cord was a small sacred receptacle for the Holy Gifts. I was sleeping on a neighboring bunk, but from time to time would wake up at the sound of the wheels and see Father Boniface seated at table reading the New Testament in the dim night light of our train wagon.

We made it to Nizhny Novgorod, which was his hometown, and stayed in his parents' house. Father Boniface gave me a seriously transformative book to read—the first volume of the works of Holy Hierarch Ignatii Brianchaninov—and all night long I could not sleep a wink, as I first discovered for myself that amazing Christian writer.

Next morning we set off for Diveyevo. We faced a drive of about eighty kilometers. Father Boniface tried to dress in a way so that no one would ever suspect him to be a priest: carefully tucking away the pleats and folds of his cassock beneath his coat, and hiding away his very long beard into his thick scarf and upturned collar.

It was already getting dark by the time we reached our destination. Looking out of our car window through the snowflakes whirling in a February storm, I was distressed to see the tall watchtower, wrecked dome and ruined shells of the desecrated churches. Despite this mournful scene, I was still struck by the unusual power and secret energy of this great monastery. What's more, I had a sense that the Monastery of Diveyevo was not yet dead, but still alive with some ineffable spiritual life, well past the comprehension of this uncaring material world.

And so it turned out to be! In a ramshackle little hut, on the outskirts of Diveyevo, I saw something that I could have never imagined even in my most radiant dreams. I saw alive the Church Radiant, invincible and indefatigable, youthful and joyful in the consciousness of Her God, our Shepherd and Savior. It was then that I was struck by a great verse of the apostle Paul: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth! (Phil 4:13).

And what's more, the most beautiful and unforgettable church service in my life took place then—not in some magnificent grand cathedral, not in some glorious ancient church hallowed with age, but in a nondescript building in the community center of Diveyevo, on Number 16, Lesnaya Street. It was not even a church at all, but an old bathhouse somehow vaguely converted into communal housing.

When I first arrived with Father Boniface, I saw a dingy little room crowded by about a dozen elderly women, the youngest of whom could not have been younger than eighty, while the oldest were definitely more than 100 years old. All of them were dressed in simple old country maids' clothes and wearing peasant kerchiefs. None of them was wearing a habit or any kind of monastic or ecclesiastical clothing. Of course, these weren't nuns—just simple old ladies; that's what anyone would have thought, including me, if I had not known that these old women were in fact some of the most courageous modern-day confessors of our faith, true heroines who had suffered tortures and decades in prisons and concentration camps for their beliefs. And yet despite all their ordeals, their spiritual loyalty and unshakable faith in God had grown.

Cover Story Continued...



I was amazed to see how before my very eyes the venerable Father Boniface, an archimandrite and rector of the churches in the Patriarchal quarters of the Holy Trinity Monastery, a respected and well-known father confessor in Moscow, got down on his knees before blessing these old women, and bowed low to the floor! To be honest, I could not believe my eyes. However, after lifting himself up from the floor, this priest fervently began to bless those old women who were hobbling up awkwardly to him, each in their turn. It was clear how truly delighted they were by his visit.

As Father Boniface and the old women were exchanging greetings, I looked around. Icons in ancient ceremonial frames, dimly lit by flickering lamps, were hung on the walls. One of them particularly attracted my attention. It was a large and beautiful icon of St. Seraphim of Sarov. The elder's face exuded such kindness and warmth that I could not tear my eyes away from him. As I found out later, that image had been painted right before the Revolution for the new Cathedral of Diveyevo, which they had never even had time to consecrate, and which only by miracle had been spared from complete desecration.

Meanwhile, I started to prepare myself for the Vigil service. It took my breath away as the nuns started to take out of their secret hiding places and set down on the crudely put together wooden table genuine artifacts belonging to St. Seraphim himself. Here was the Stole of his ecclesiastical vestment; there was his

Cover Story Continued...

heavy iron cross on thick chains, worn for the mortification of the flesh, a leather glove, and the old-fashioned cast iron pot in which the saint had cooked his food. After the Revolution, when the monastery was pillaged and destroyed, the nuns of the Monastery of Diveyevo had passed down these holy relics from sister to sister.

Having put on his vestments, Father Boniface gave the priest's pronouncement that begins the Vigil service. The nuns immediately perked up and began to chant. What a divine and utterly amazing choir they were!

In the sixth tone! Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me! sang out one of the voices quivering with age; it was the canonarch nun, who was now 102 years old. She had been imprisoned and exiled for over twenty years. And all those wonderful sisters sang out together with her: Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me! Harken unto me, O Lord!

There is no way to capture the sublimity of this service in words. Candles flickered, and the limitlessly kind and wise face of St. Seraphim looked down from his icon upon us...These incredible nuns chanted the entire service virtually by heart. Only very rarely did one of them glance at the thick old books, for which they needed to use not just eyeglasses but gigantic magnifying glasses with wooden handles. They had risked death or punishment saying this service in concentration camps and prisons and places of exile. They said it even now after all their sufferings, here in Diveyevo, settling into their wretched hovels on the outskirts of the town. For them it was nothing unusual, and yet for me, I could scarcely understand whether I was in Heaven or on Earth.

These aged nuns were possessed of such incredible spiritual strength, such prayer, such courage, such modesty, goodness, and love, and they were full of such faith! It was then, at that wonderful service, that I understood that they with their faith would triumph over everything—over our godless government despite all its power, over the faithlessness of this world, and over death itself, of which they had absolutely no fear...

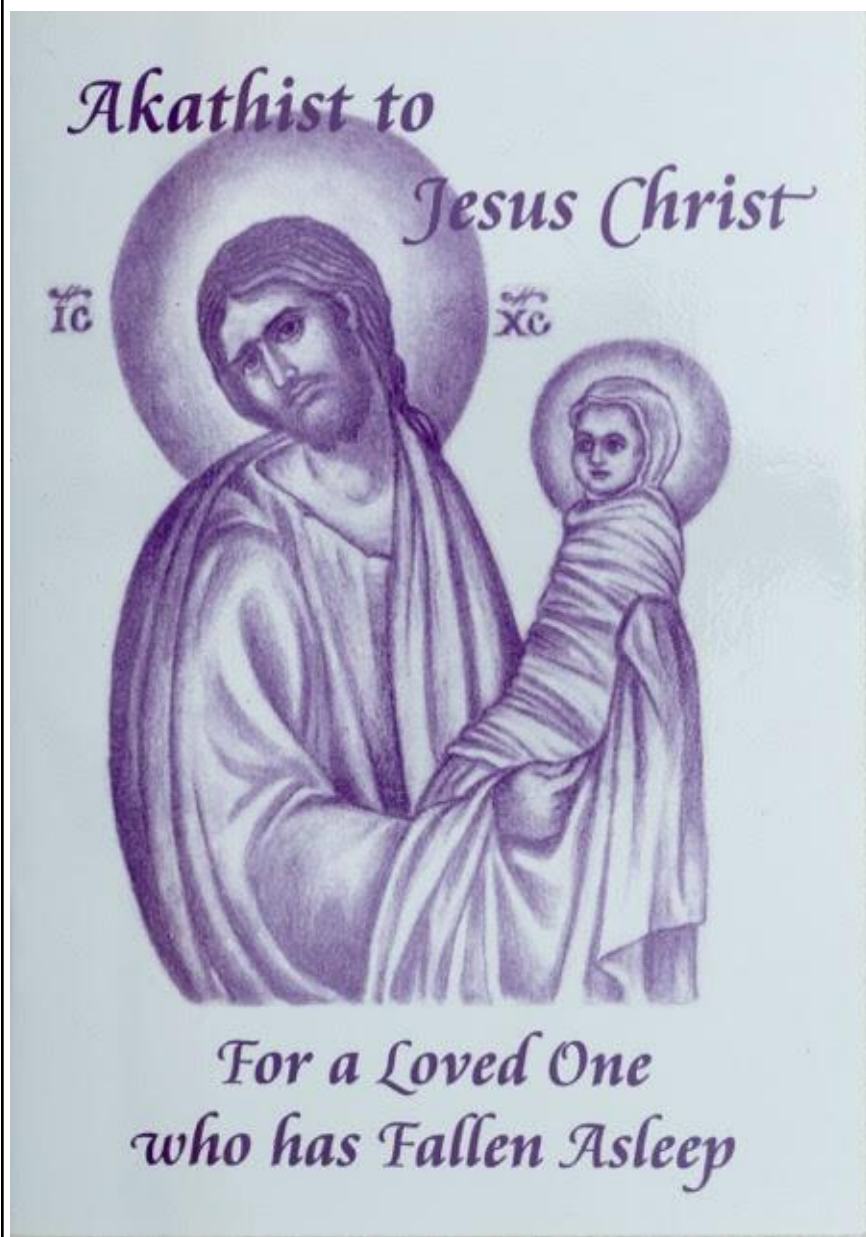


ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

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. We currently have openings for a few people who may be interested in joining, as some have left the group.

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 [the prayer below] making a continuous offering of prayer for the departed brother or sister at Saint Nicholas.

I have assumed everyone on my list is current information. When I contact everyone, about 50% of the time there is an acknowledgment or response. If you are still a part of the Akathist Ministry, and your number has changed in the past two years, its possible I don't have your new number.

If you would like to make a change, or aren't sure, please contact me with an update.

Thank you again for your gift of prayer for the departed, in our Orthodox family. May God bless your gift of prayer.

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 206-841-5705.

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:

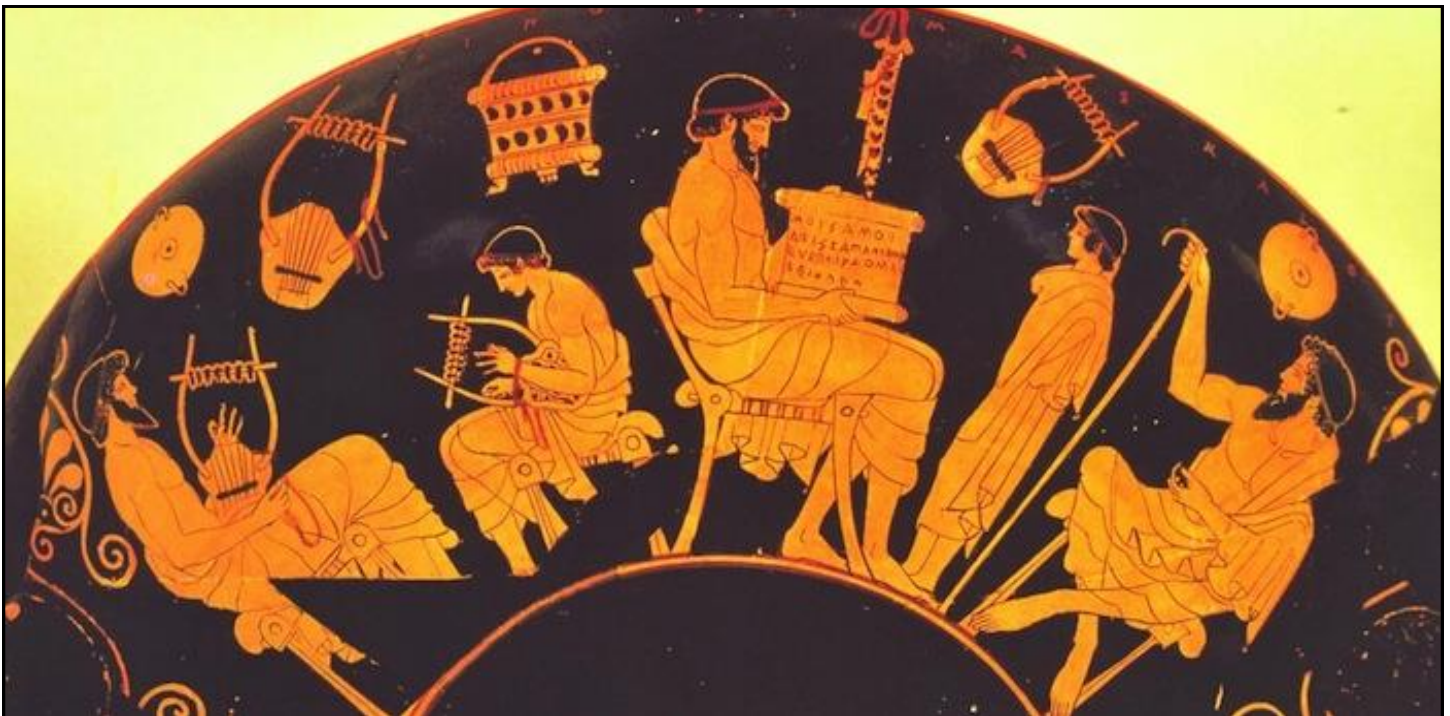
Αγιασμὸς (Blessing) of the class in the beginning of the School year.

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 prospora in particular.



LECHEM-ARTOS-BREAD

Following the Word Through Scripture

In December we were with Moses on Mount Sinai as God was showing him how to consecrate the priests. This is during Moses' first forty days alone with God on the mountain, and you will find the story recorded in Exodus 25-31. In Exodus 32 God sent Moses down the mountain because the people had turned aside from the covenant they confirmed three times in Exodus 24 just before Moses went up the mountain. They had made and were worshipping a golden calf, and were beginning the "banquet of wine." At the Lord's instruction, the sons of Levi slew about 3000 men, and Moses went to the Lord to intercede for the people. When Moses came back from interceding, he took his tent and pitched it far away from the camp and called it the tabernacle of testimony. Anyone who sought the Lord had to go outside the camp. Whenever Moses entered the tabernacle, God descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle and talked with Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend, and the men in the camp stood at their tent doors and worshipped. Moses went back and forth from the camp to the tabernacle, but his servant, Joshua, the son of Nun, did not depart from this tabernacle, which was Moses' own tent.

In Exodus Chapter 34 God instructs Moses to cut two more tablets of stone and come back up the mountain. These tablets were to replace the ones Moses broke when he came down the mountain and found the people in idolatry. God renewed the covenant with the Israelites during Moses' second forty-day period alone with Him on the mountain.

*Exodus 34:28: So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate **bread** nor drank water. He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.* Back in Chapter 24, the first time Moses was called up the mountain, several people went part of the way with him; they all saw the place where God stood, and they ate and drank there. Only after that were Moses and Joshua called further up the mountain to God. This time in Chapter 34 Moses is called back up the mountain, and the scripture explicitly says he neither ate bread nor drank water all that time. This time when Moses came back down the mountain the skin of his face was shining, and all the children of Israel, even Aaron his brother, were afraid to come near him. Also, this time Joshua the son of Nun did not go with Moses up the mountain but stayed before the Lord outside the camp in the tabernacle of testimony (Moses' tent) for those forty days.

PROSPHORA

I am wondering if this was so he would be a visible, physical, material reminder of God's presence to the people, to prevent another golden calf.

The rest of Exodus, chapters 35-40, record Moses telling the people what God had instructed him up there on the mountain, and the people's response and craftsmanship in building the tabernacle, making its furnishings, and putting it all together.

*Exodus 40:21: He also set the **bread** of the offering upon it before the Lord, in the manner the Lord commanded Moses.* In Chapter 40, the tabernacle is set up, the priests are brought to the door of testimony and consecrated as described last month. After the ark is brought into the Holy of Holies and the veil is hung, the table of offering (Exodus 25:23-30) is put outside the veil on the north side of the tabernacle of testimony, and the bread is set upon it. Then the lampstand and lamps are put on the south side, and the gold altar of incense is put before the veil. After Moses finished all the work, the Lord descended on the tabernacle and filled it with His glory, and He remained before all Israel throughout all their journeys. This is the end of the Book of Exodus.

To be continued...

Deborah Talbot-



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 JANUARY

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS AND MERRY CHRISTMAS



PHILOPTOCHOS

PHILOPTOCHOS

President's Message

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

Holiday Food Certificate Drive- Every year Philoptochos has spearheaded a project to donate food certificates to families in the community for Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year we assisted eight families at four schools, Boze, Blix, Downing and McCarver elementary schools. Gift cards have already been distributed to the families for both holidays.

Our goal was to raise \$2,000 for this project. As of December 3, 2020, we had raised \$2,605, surpassing this goal. Thank you to all members of our community who donated towards this project. Letters from these families are attached separately in this bulletin. Additional funds will be applied towards parishioner and/or local community needs.

Philoptochos Food Drive- The critical need for non-perishable food was addressed by our chapter. Food donations were collected during September-October at the church to assist an existing organization, Families United Network, located in University Place. Funds of \$1,000 and 5+cases of canned foods were collected for this food drive.

Philoptochos Member Meetings-The chapter member meetings will continue to be held monthly by Zoom. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 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

Continued next page...

PHILOPTOCHOS

PHILOPTOCHOS

Thank you notes and cards

Church office mail:

Thank you so much for supporting Blix students and families during the holiday season. Your generosity is very appreciated. Have a restful holiday. Blix Administration Team

Thank you notes were received: Thank you for your recent gift to Families Unlimited Network. Because of your support, we have been able to expand our services and have added a third food distribution day, Saturdays. Families and clients can now get groceries because of the love of Pierce County. You are being the hands of Jesus for our neighbors. Sincerely, Kathryn.

Thank you for your kindness in helping our family during this special holiday time. It has not been an easy year, but you have given us a little bit of hope and joy. Many blessings to you and your church. Happy Thanksgiving.

Thank you for giving and blessings. Much appreciation to you.

Contributed by: Merrilee Pangis

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School News

“But seek first the kingdom of God and all his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

I recently listened to an episode of Hannah Vazquez’ podcast, *All These Things: Seeking the Kingdom as an Orthodox Christian Mother*. I was greatly inspired by her reflections on creating a Christ-centered home that I chose to pay for the transcript so I could share some of her thoughts with you.

Whether you’re a parent or not, you are called by Christ to seek Him and His righteousness first, putting Him at the center of your life. When you do that, He naturally becomes the center of your home, and *that* will affect all who live in or enter it.

May you be blessed by Hannah’s thoughts, too:

“To me, the Christ-centered home means a home where those living in it are striving to live as true Christians. It’s a home where every decision, action, routine, and tradition centers around Christ and the Church. It’s a home where praying, seeking the kingdom of God, and loving and serving others are always a goal and at the forefront of our minds and hearts. It is also a home filled with grace and forgiveness.

Of course, that is easier said than done, and it’s something that will never fully be realized. There will always be room for improvement. But there are ways we can take steps toward centering our homes on Christ.

One way to have a Christ-centered home is by observing the Church year as much as possible. The fullest way, of course, is to attend all the services and observe all the fasts and feasts, but that is not always possible with work or school schedules or health or energy levels. Still, the Saints’ days, Fasts and Feasts can be observed at home.

To what degree these are observed can be from simply acknowledging them to reading and having discussions about them, to going to the services. Remember, that this is a process. It takes time to add on the layers of fully incorporating this. But in a Christ-centered home there is always a striving to make the Church year more and more a part of everyday life.

Another way to center our lives (and our homes) on Christ is to intentionally be part of an Orthodox Christian community. This doesn’t mean we can’t have important relationships outside of that, but it does mean that our church community is at the same level as family. They are our Christ family. They should be the ones who give us spiritual support and direction. And we are to be caring for those in our church as well. We cannot live isolated Christian lives. We must be in community together, loving and caring for each other.”

If you would like more podcast, website, or book recommendations to help you and your family learn and grow in the Orthodox faith, email me or talk to Fr. Seraphim. We are truly in this together!

~ Sheila Auter

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.

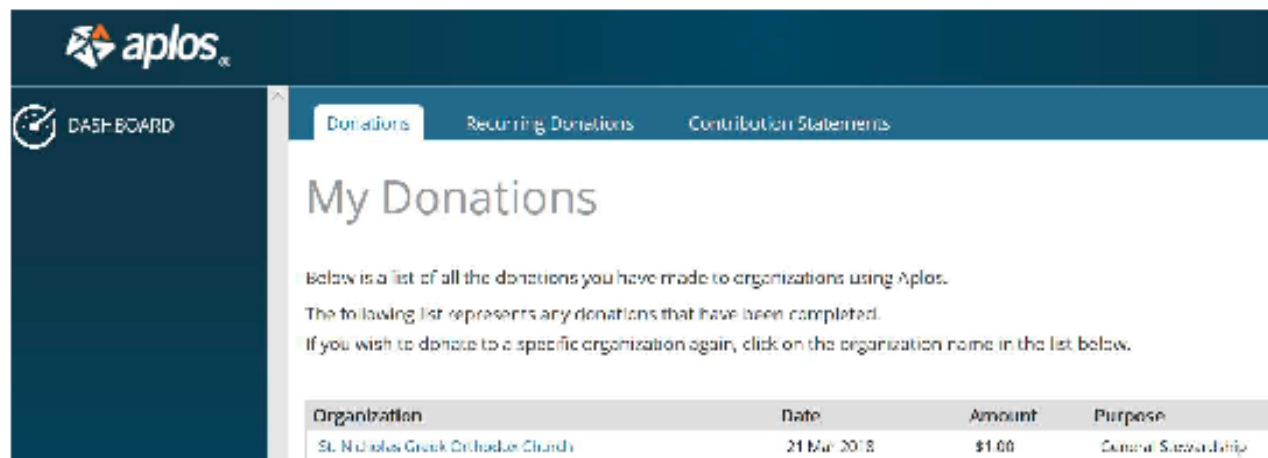
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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

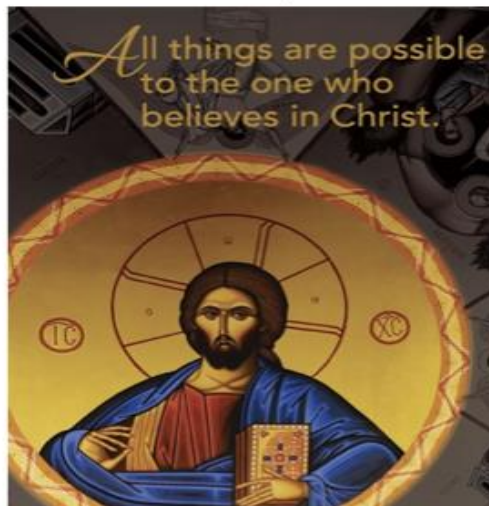
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
Attn: Church Treasurer
1523 S. Yakima Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98405

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

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