

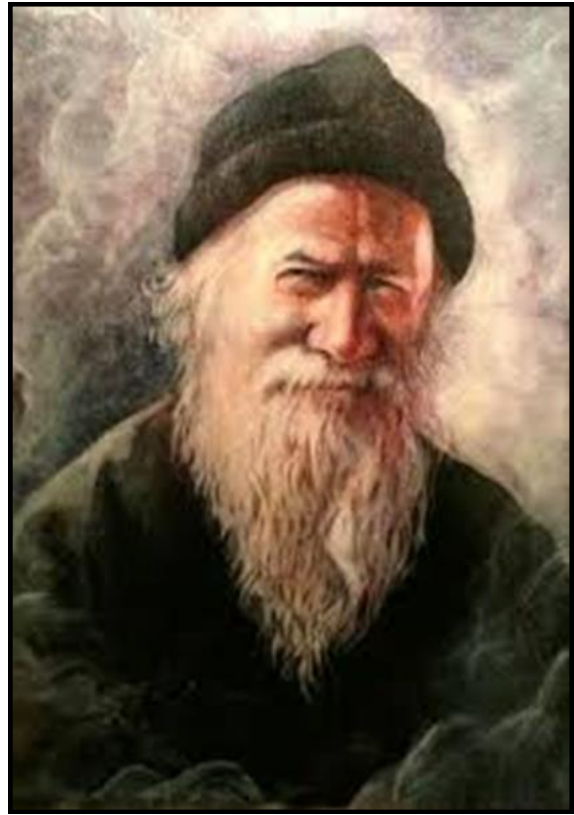


## “They Have Committed Every Sin Of The Flesh, But I Love Them”

*From the book “Hieromonk Elder*

*Porphyrios:*

*An Anthology of Advice.”*



*St Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia +1991*

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Elder Porphyrios once spoke about teenagers and their struggles in the Church life: “Boys and girls come to me sometimes. Those poor children, and what haven’t they done. They have committed every sin of the flesh, but I love them.” The Elder did not justify the actions of the youth, which he characterized as carnal sins, but at the same time he loved them as precious souls “for whom Christ died”. By his love he attracted them like a magnet and gradually they were healed of their worship of the flesh. This patristic attitude of the Elder was misunderstood by conservative puritans, who mourned, and some irresponsible progressives, who rejoiced, for the same reason: that supposedly the Elder “tolerated” carnal sins. They did not understand that sin cannot be combated with an intolerant condemnation of the sinner, nor through guilty legalism of the fall. The Elder effectively fought sin by *loving the sinner* and helping them *become aware of their responsibility for their fall*, and the possibility in Christ of them

*Cover story continued page 23*

## How to Return to Church

See article on page 5

# 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)

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](mailto:frseraphimm@gmail.com)

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

**Editors:** Carol MartinOki/Bill Samaras

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

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

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# St. Nicholas Ministries

**AHEPA**  
Paul Apostle

**Akathist Group Prayer**  
Kathy Rowley

**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 Primis

**Hands of Love**  
Merrilee Pangis

**Military Service**  
LTC Gus Chamales

**Premarital Education**  
George Pirotis, Diane Pirotis

**Stewardship**  
Maria Koumantaros  
Gus Chamales

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

**Greek Folk Dance**  
Evy Kontos — Chair & Intermediate dancers  
Dr. Anastasia Fyntrilakis—Treasurer & Teen dancers  
  
Krisann Firth — Costume Director  
Julie Kotsali — Board Member  
Presbytera Sophie Majmudar — Board Member  
  
Kelly Rosati — Beginner dancers  
  
George Pirotis — Adult Group Instructor

**Coffee Hour**  
Zach Karanasos

**IT, etc.**  
Bill Samaras

**Philia**  
Diane Pirotis

**Pro Life**  
Genevieve Eagle

**Vitos Scholarship**  
Ronnie Sue Johnson

**Flowers & Church Decorating**  
Kathy Rowley

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

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

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

**Sunday School**  
Sheila Auter, Director

**Greek School**  
George Pirotis

**Lazarus Group**  
Dean Hamos

**Pilgrimage**  
Zach Karanasos

**Prospora Baking**  
Deborah Talbot

**Welcome**  
Ronnie Sue Johnson

## Parish Council

Parish Council meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month.  
July 13, 2021

July 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>4</b> Independence Day Tsar Nicholas &amp; Royal Martyrs of Russia 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><b>5</b> Athanasios of Athos</p>	<p><b>6</b> Sisoes the Great 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-8:00pm Building Committee</p>	<p><b>7</b> Fast: Wine &amp; Oil ok Great Martyr Kyriake 3:00pm-4:00pm Akathist for the Unborn 6:00pm-7:00pm NO PARAKLESIS TONIGHT</p>	<p><b>8</b> Icon of Theotokos of Sitka 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek</p>	<p><b>9</b> Pankratos of Sicily STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p><b>10</b> 45 Martyrs of Nicopolis 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers</p>
<p><b>11</b> Olga, Princess of Kiev St. Sophrony of Essex 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><b>12</b> St Paisios of Mt Athos St Paisios the Athonite 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p><b>13</b> Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-8:00pm Parish Council</p>	<p><b>14</b> Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain STRICT FAST 6:00pm-7:00pm Paraklesis</p>	<p><b>15</b> Vladimir, Enlightener of Russia 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek</p>	<p><b>16</b> Julia of Carthage 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: St Marina 6:45pm-7:45pm Evening Liturgy: St Marina</p>	<p><b>17</b> Great Martyr Marina 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers</p>
<p><b>18</b> Grand Duchess Elizabeth 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><b>19</b> Makrina 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: St Makrina &amp; Prophet Elijah 6:45pm-7:45pm Evening Liturgy: St Makrina &amp; Prophet Elijah</p>	<p><b>20</b> Prophet Elijah 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p><b>21</b> STRICT FAST Symeon the Fool for Christ 3:00pm-4:00pm Akathist for the Unborn 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers w/ life of St Markella</p>	<p><b>22</b> Martyr Markella Mary Magdalene 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek</p>	<p><b>23</b> Prophet Ezekiel STRICT FAST</p>	<p><b>24</b> Great Martyr Christina 6:00pm-7:00pm No Vespers Tonight</p>
<p><b>25</b> Dormition of St Anna Eupraxia of Tabenna Olympia 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><b>26</b> Martyr Paraskevi Moses the Hungarian of the Kiev Caves</p>	<p><b>27</b> Liliosa of Cordova Panteleimon 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy: St Paraskevi &amp; St Panteleimon 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers &amp; Orthros: St Irene</p>	<p><b>28</b> Irene Chrysovalantou Irene Chrysovalantou 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm-7:00pm Paraklesis</p>	<p><b>29</b> Theodote &amp; her children 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek</p>	<p><b>30</b> Apostles Silas &amp; Silvanus STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p><b>31</b> Joseph of Arimathea 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers</p>

The most up to date calendar is always found at the St. Nicholas web page: [www.stnicholastacomma.org](http://www.stnicholastacomma.org)

## News and Announcements

### Misplaced Medical Chair

*The medical chair that has been in the upper hall has been misplaced. If anyone knows of its whereabouts please contact the church office at 253-272-0466*

### 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.

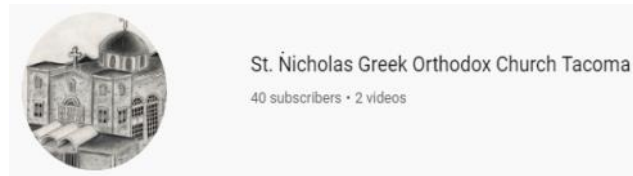
Live TV Streaming of church services continues. If you are unable to attend services in person, you can participate by watching most services live at home. See instructions below.

### 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](http://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—*

# Metropolis News and Announcements



## Metropolis News *Bulletin Announcements*

### Keep Them Connected!



Help Our Graduates from the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Stay Connected to the Church

### Help Our Graduates Stay Connected to the Church

Thousands of our Orthodox youth graduate from High School and go away to schools across our country. While blessed with unprecedented educational opportunities, at the same time, many face difficult challenges in the environment of the college campus. The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco wants to help maintain their connection to the Church! Complete the [Online Form](#) or visit [www.gosfyouth.org](http://www.gosfyouth.org). The Metropolis will make sure that an Orthodox Priest and community near your student's college connects with your loved one.

# Metropolis News and Announcements



## CONNECTING COLLEGE STUDENTS TO THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Do you have a son, daughter, or grandchild graduating from High School who will be leaving home for the first time to attend college, or are they already in college living away from home?

Thousands of our Orthodox youth graduate from High School every year and go away to schools across our country. Our college students are blessed with unprecedented educational opportunities, but, at the same time, they face many difficult challenges in the environment of the college campus. Would you like to keep your loved ones connected to the Church while they study?

Please visit <https://forms.gle/XXkXuJKkzF9DfJCM8> to submit information .  
The Metropolis of San Francisco Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries will make sure that an Orthodox Priest and community near your student's college connects with your loved one.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Home Parish, City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Address while at school \_\_\_\_\_

Will your student have a car while at school? \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Patron Saint \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know which parish your student will attend while at school? If so, which one? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Your relationship to Student \_\_\_\_\_

Your Home Parish, City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Your Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Your Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Rev. Fr. Gary Kyriacou - Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Ministries ([frgary@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:frgary@sanfran.goarch.org))  
Johanna Duterte Carter - Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries ([JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org))  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries  
Phone: (415) 753-3075 Fax: (415) 753-1185 Website: [www.gosfyouth.org](http://www.gosfyouth.org)



YOUTH &  
YOUNG ADULT  
MINISTRIES

**PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM BACK TO:**  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco  
Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries  
245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Or complete this form online at  
<https://forms.gle/XXkXuJKkzF9DfJCM8>

# Metropolis News and Announcements



## What Are You Doing This Summer?

### Metropolis of San Francisco Summer Camp

There is still time to register for the Metropolis Virtual Summer Camp! Youth ages 8 – 18 can enjoy virtual Summer Camp with daily worship, cabin talks, arts and crafts, evening activities, and more! The program will be held July 19 – 30, 2021, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., and Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Register online at [www.gosfyouth.org](http://www.gosfyouth.org).



### REGIONAL YOUTH EVENTS

#### *Central Valley*

#### Central Valley GOYA Floating Down the American River

Central Valley GOYA Floating Down the American River – Thursday, July 8, 2021, hosted by the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Sacramento. Join with other Central Valley GOYAN's for a water adventure – floating down the picturesque American River. The fun continues back at the church with fellowship, games, and dinner, concluding with the beautiful service of Paraklesis. [Register online today!](#) For more information, contact Demetri Dogias ([dtdogias@hchc.edu](mailto:dtdogias@hchc.edu)).



## Metropolis News and Announcements

### Central Valley GOYA – A Day at St. Nicholas Ranch

Central Valley GOYA – A Day at Saint Nicholas Ranch – Wednesday, August 4, being organized by Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Fresno. There will be a bus picking up GOYAN's at 6:30 a.m. at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Sacramento, then making a stop at 7:30 a.m. at Saint Basil Greek Orthodox Church in Stockton, then heading to Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center. This event is for youth in the 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades. After a fun-filled day at the Ranch, the bus will depart and will drop off GOYAN's at 9:30 p.m. at Saint Basil Greek Orthodox Church in Stockton, and at 10:45 p.m. at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Sacramento. Register online at [www.gosfyouth.org](http://www.gosfyouth.org). For more information, contact John Strzelecki ([john.j.strzelecki@gmail.com](mailto:john.j.strzelecki@gmail.com)).



### **Bay Area**

#### Bay Area Family Beach Day Santa Cruz

Bay Area Family Beach Day – Saturday, July 10, 2021, hosted by the Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church in Santa Cruz. Join us for an afternoon at Seacliff State Beach, enjoy a variety of games and activities, and even get some surfing lessons from Father Milutin Janjic. As the sun sets, everyone will gather in prayer for Great Vespers at the Prophet Elias Church prior to departing for home. [Click here for more information](#), or contact Rev. Father Milutin Janjic at [fr.milutin@propheteliassc.org](mailto:fr.milutin@propheteliassc.org)

#### Bay Area Family Day of Service – San Francisco

Bay Area Family Day of Service – Saturday, July 24, 2021 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in San Francisco. Join with Bay Area GOYA members and their families for a day of service, helping others by distributing food to those in need. [Register online today!](#) For more information, contact Christina Dushel, [scdushel@gmail.com](mailto:scdushel@gmail.com).

#### Bay Area GOYA End of Summer Celebration

Bay Area GOYA End of Summer Celebration – Saturday, August 21, 2021, hosted by the Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church in Novato, CA. Youth in the 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to participate in an afternoon hike, and then after returning to the church, families can join for the Paraklesis Service and dinner. [Register online today!](#) For more information, contact Mary Mellas [ministries@nativityofchrist.org](mailto:ministries@nativityofchrist.org).

## Metropolis News and Announcements

### Ready. Set. EXCLAIM!

Are you ready to Exclaim your faith? Then the Young Adult League (YAL) Conference over Labor Day Weekend 2021 in Phoenix, AZ is where you need to be! Conference attendees will enjoy a weekend of events, workshops, worship and relaxation from September 2 - 6, 2021 at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa in Phoenix, AZ. Highlights of the weekend include engaging workshops, daily worship, dances, a Grand Banquet, and a special western-themed event "YeeHaw YAL". [Online registration for the conference is now open!](https://www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL) **Take advantage of the discounted rate from now through June 30.** This is your chance to reunite in person with young adults from across the country. Visit [www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL](https://www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL) for more registration and hotel details.

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

# YAL Conference



**September 2-6, 2021**

JW Marriott Desert Ridge  
Resort & Spa | Phoenix, AZ

**Don't miss out!**

Enjoy a weekend of  
Fellowship, Service,  
Witness and Worship!

**EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30**

[www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL](https://www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL)

**Ready. Set. EXCLAIM!**

## Metropolis News and Announcements



### Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle

New Section  
on Metropolis Website



### Archons Support Ecumenical Patriarchate

The Archons in the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle are selected from a group of dedicated laymen who are defenders of our faith and work diligently to protect the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Established in 1955 this ministry has grown over the past 66 years which have included hundreds of dedicated Archons who have given their time, talent and treasure as supporters and advocates for our Mother Church. In the Metropolis of San Francisco, we are blessed with nearly 70 dedicated Archons who continue to defend our faith and the religious freedom of our Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Learn more about the efforts of the Archons in the Metropolis of San Francisco at [www.sanfran.goarch.org/archons](http://www.sanfran.goarch.org/archons).



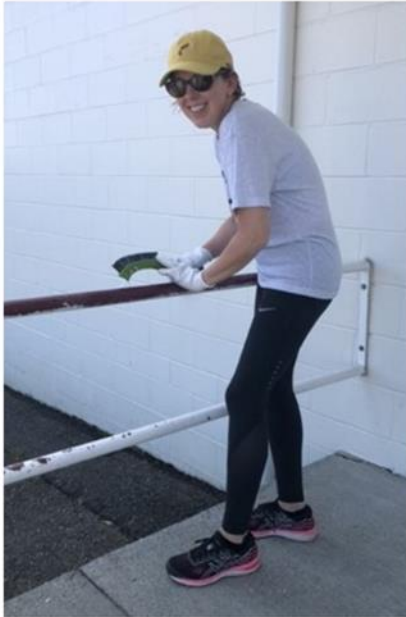
### METROPOLIS CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRY **Offers Scholarships for 2021**

### Music Scholarships Available

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Church Music Federation Ministry is pleased to once again offer eight (8) Frank Desby and Xenia Anton Desby Memorial Music Scholarships of up to \$500 each for Metropolis church musicians in 2021. Funds can be used to obtain education and training in singing, chanting, and conducting. Applications and information can be found online at [www.sfchurchmusic.org](http://www.sfchurchmusic.org). Deadline: August 15, 2021. For more information, please contact: [sfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:sfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.org).

# Parking Lot Beautification Project

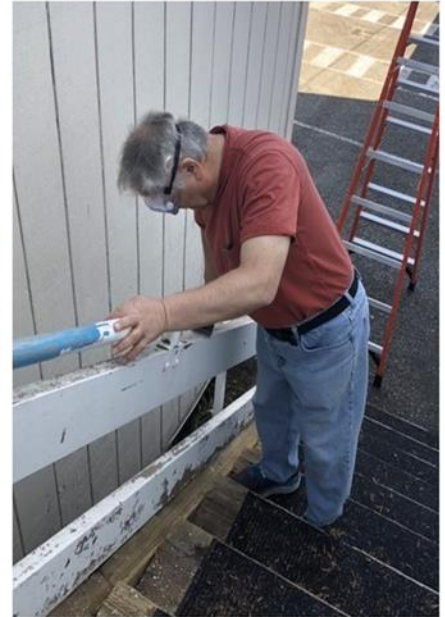
## Our Scraping and Sanding Team



Sheila-Monica working on the ramp railing



Alex Misiewicz enduring a hot tar roof on a very sunny day scraping away old paint from the fascia.



Gus Chamales scraping the staircase hand railing

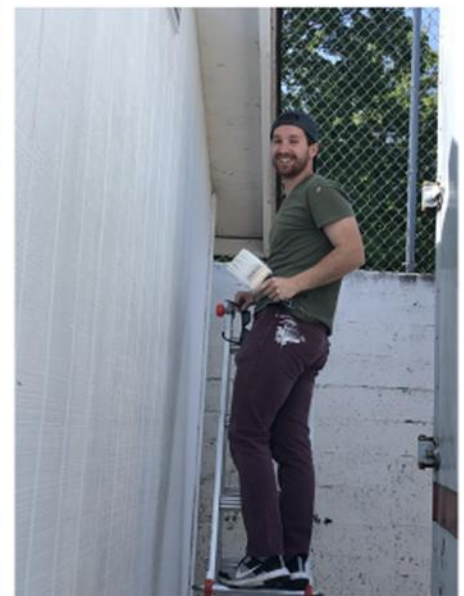
## MAKING THE KOTA HOUSE LOOK LIKE NEW



Genevieve sanding



Gus puttying holes and gouges



Yianni Charitou painting

# Parking Lot Beautification Project

## Painting the Church Walls



Kathy Rowley getting to the bottom of everything



Who says you can't have fun and work hard at the same time? Genevieve, Sheila-Monica & Kathy having some laughs and getting some painting done too.



Kathy and Sheila rolling and brushing the paint on.



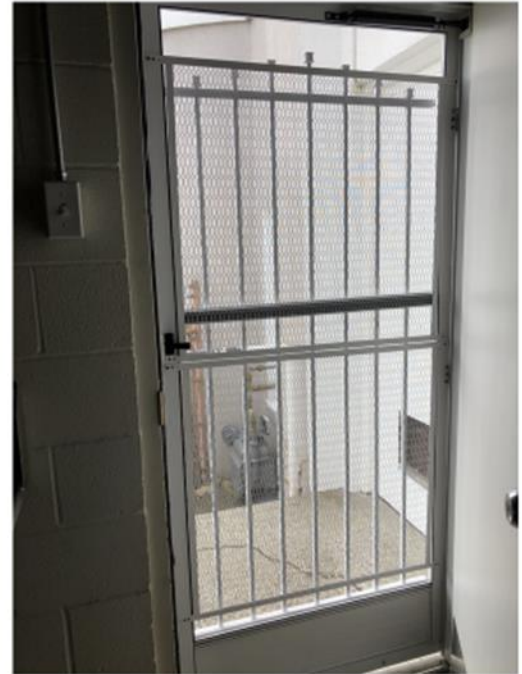
At first glance it looks like nothing can touch the blackened retaining walls or the moss covered curbing; but a lot of elbow grease and water and a powerful pressure washer can make all the difference!



## Parking Lot Beautification Project



The kitchen screen door was falling apart, dirty and greasy. Now with a facelift it is clean, pretty and stable!



I want to thank the Work Party team again: Father Seraphim, Gus Chamales, Sheila-Monica Auter, Jim Misiewicz, Yianni Charitou, Kathy Johnson, Kathy Rowley and Fran Hall for all their hard work, taking time from their busy schedules and giving up their free time and days off!

We are almost done with painting (the white). There are a few spots that can only be reached with an extension ladder and metal and plastic parts need to be spray painted with white. After that, some of the trim, the handrails and flashing along the roof will be painted a brick color. The Kota House ramp will be scraped and painted and the old tread will be replaced with new.

Stay tuned for the “finishing touches” next month.

Submitted by: Genevieve

## Building Committee



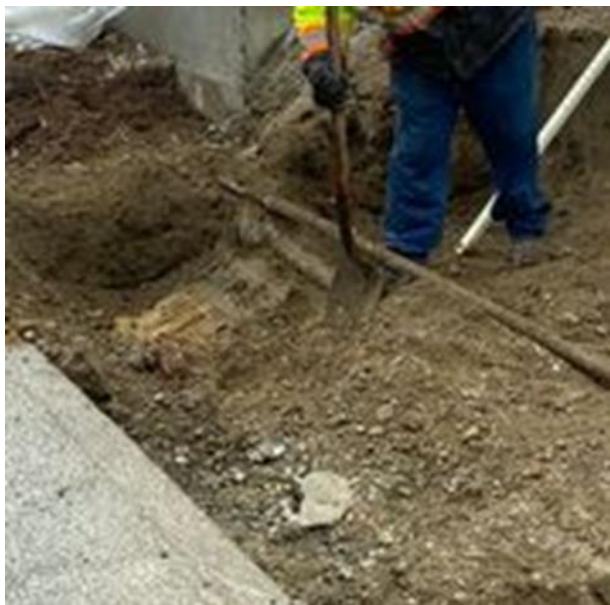
### THIS PICTURE SHOULD LOOK MUCH DIFFERENT NEXT MONTH

Narthex Renovation work during the past month of June has mainly focused on concrete work at the replaced exterior main entrance. While the area it entails is small, its new foundations, slabs and steps are cut up, requiring multiple concrete set-ups and pours, all of which takes time. But it is work that must be done before the much more noticeable construction above the new foundations can start.

Building framing and structural steel support work should be starting around the time this issue of the Messenger comes out, with roofing and other weather enclosure work following. While new brick work may not be in next month's Messenger's photo, it should be starting around that time, and regardless, the overall new building shape and form will be much more apparent by then. To date the project schedule is still on track for a mid-September completion, as Rush Commercial Construction, the general contractor, has been keeping on top of things.

*(See the next page for some additional photos.)*

# Building Committee



*(Continued from the previous page.)*

The first picture to the left shows an existing underground water line that had to be removed and replaced to a different location as it was in the way of new entry footings—an unknown existing condition that had to be taken care of after it was exposed. So far, we've been fortunate that unknown existing conditions that have emerged have been limited and relatively easy to fix.



The second photo shows some of the cut-up nature of the new exterior main entrance. The concrete foundation walls shown and footings below required two separate concrete pours. New steps to the left of the foundation wall and slabs above will require at least two more separate sequences of forming, set-up and pours.

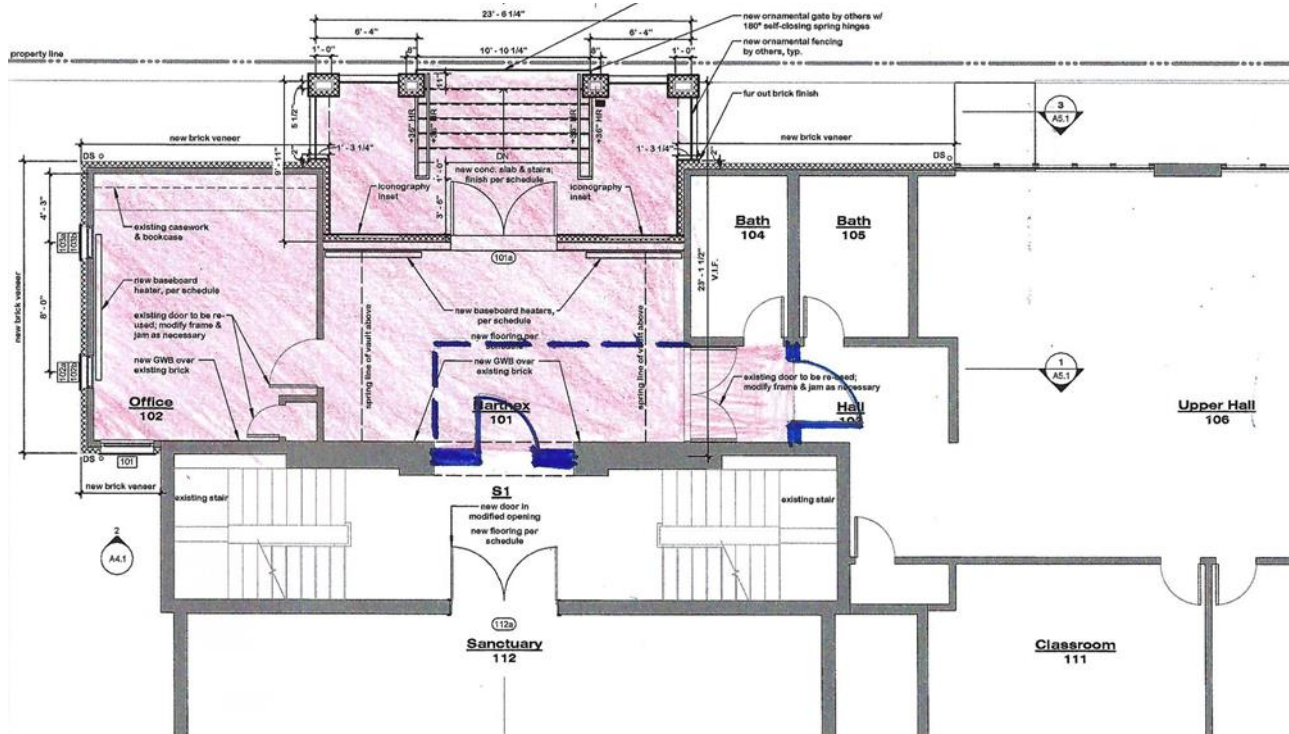
The bottom two photos show a previous dip or sink hole at the South 16th Street entrance to the church parking lot that has been cut out, filled, leveled, and paved over. New landscaping along 16th Street and the rest of the church site perimeter is scheduled to take place in August.

*(Continued on the next page.)*





# Building Committee



*(Continued from the previous page.)*

Above is a partial floor plan of the upper church level. The shaded area represents the Narthex construction zone that will be off-limits to the Parish for most of the project. Existing wall openings at both 1) between the stairwell area and Narthex construction zone, and 2) between the Narthex and Upper Hall corridor, each shown as thick blue lines with a door opening, have been temporarily framed over and boarded up. This is in the interest of safety and providing as much protection as feasible to the church, which for the time being will deny the Parish access through the construction zone.

What this means for now is that for one to get from the Lower Hall or Sanctuary to the Upper Hall and vice versa, they will have to do so from outside the building rather than inside through the Narthex construction zone. This will be a temporary inconvenience until around the second half of July, when the new exterior wall and roof structure over the front Narthex area should be far enough along to act as its own additional protection layer to outside elements.

When that point is reached, a temporary passage will be put in place at the end of each working shift, as depicted in dashed blue lines in the above plan, which will allow Parish members access from the interior stairwell areas to the Upper Hall and vice versa during non-working hours. Regardless, the Lower Hall will remain open at all times, and stairwell passage to the Sanctuary will be accessible as well, except when the contractor is doing finish work in that area.

Bill Acker

## Sunday School Ministry



The Metropolis of San Francisco Summer Camp is going **VIRTUAL** again this year - making it **EASY** and **FUN** for children and youth to participate!  
**July 19-30, 2021**

### WHAT WILL VIRTUAL CAMP BE LIKE?

Campers will be assigned to a “cabin” with counselors who will offer some of the favorite camp activities like daily services, arts & crafts, faith & culture, cabin discussions & devotionals, Orthodox life, a virtual camp dance, and more!

The program will include both morning activities (10:00am-12:30pm) and evening activities (6:30pm - 8:00pm).

The morning will begin with Orthros followed by a short sermon from the Priest on the Orthodox Life topic of the day and continue with Time with God, Cabin Talk an activity session like arts & crafts or cooking class, or faith & culture.

The evening program will begin with either Vespers or Paraklesis and conclude with either a cabin devotional or an evening activity.

### WHO CAN ATTEND VIRTUAL CAMP?

Campers must be at least 8 years old **or** entering 3rd grade in Fall 2021 and may be as old as 18 **or** will be graduating High School in Spring 2021.

### HOW MUCH IS VIRTUAL CAMP?

\$100 Per Camper - to cover cost for the camper box packed FULL of everything needed for the camp experience, which will be shipped to each registered participant

### HOW DO I REGISTER?

Go to <https://gosfyouth.org/summer-camp#/virtual-camp-2021>

*Submitted by: Sheila Auter*

# Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

**The month of July** is always a favorite because the cooler weather is normally behind us, and summer is finally here. BBQs of all sorts are raging over the holiday period and everyone enjoys family, friends, and fireworks, although much to the chagrin of many pets. This July brings much for which we should all be thankful. As of this writing on June 9, Governor Inslee is scheduled to “open up” the State on June 30th. If that occurs, the 1st of July will be a great day indeed. Many have worked hard in a variety of ways to bring this to fruition but ranking high among them are the dedicated medical, Red Cross, and law enforcement professionals that serve our country and our community. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all who served in the previously mentioned professions during these past 16 months, but in particular, those who are also a part of this ministry. Thank you so much for all you have done to support the fight against COVID.



**Stamatie Christodoulou**  
U.S. Air force



**Nick Jankens**  
*Deputy Sheriff*  
Pierce County  
Sheriff's  
Department



**COL(R) George McClure**  
U.S. Army  
*Operation Desert Storm*  
**Recipient of the Legion of Merit w/OLC**  
Helen McClure's  
Husband



**Charles Plunkett**  
U.S. Air Force  
*Viet Nam War*  
Lena Plunkett's  
husband



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



**Dr. Nick Themelis**  
U.S. Army  
*Cold War*  
Becky Themelis' husband

**July 4, 1776 Independence Day. 245 years but still going strong!** On this day it seems always appropriate to recognize the service of Sergeant Richard Motz who served with the 4th Company, 7th Battalion, of the Pennsylvania Militia. He served with General George Washington and was even at the crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas Day, and participated in the victorious attack on the Hessian troops in Trenton, New Jersey. Our own, Richard Motz, Heidi Motz's husband, is a direct descendant of Richard Motz who served and fought in our war for independence!



One of America's original Veterans,  
Sergeant Richard Motz  
4<sup>th</sup> Co, 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. PA  
Militia  
**Served with General George Washington at the crossing of the Delaware River!**  
**1776 - 1778**

Continued on next page....

## Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

### July 6, 1943 USS Helena (CL-50) sunk in

**Kula Bay.** The USS Helena was a Brooklyn -Class light cruiser built for the United States Navy in the late 1930s. It was launched in 1939 and after two years of peacetime training she found herself moored in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii along with many other ships on December 7th, 1941. That morning the Japanese Navy conducted a sneak attack on American forces located on Oahu and in Pearl Harbor, and the USS Helena was one of many ships torpedoed, bombed, and strafed by Japanese aircraft.



During the attack the crew of the Helena fought valiantly that day! They fired 375 shells from her 5-inch guns, around 3000 rounds from her 1.1 inch guns, and about 5000 rounds from her .50-caliber guns. Additionally, the ship was credited with shooting down six Japanese aircraft, out of a total of twenty-nine downed in the raid. Although damage to the Helena was significant it was able to be repaired and modernized in early 1942, and set sail to take the fight back to the Japanese.

The Helena participated in the Guadalcanal campaign and took part in two major night battles with Japanese vessels in October and November of 1942. On October 11-12, with the help of the Helena's rapid-fire 6-inch battery the Navy was able to sink a Japanese heavy cruiser and a destroyer. On 13 November, a similar defeat was imposed on the Japanese Navy when once again, Helena's fast shooting helped to overwhelm a Japanese task force that included two fast battleships, one of which was disabled and sunk the next day. Helena sank a destroyer and damaged several others in the action while emerging relatively unscathed.

Following the American victory on Guadalcanal in early 1943, Helena took part in a series of preparatory attacks on New Georgia that culminated with an amphibious assault in the Kula Gulf on 5 July. The next night while attempting to intercept a Japanese reinforcement squadron, Helena was torpedoed and sunk in the Battle of Kula Gulf. Two Japanese destroyers simultaneously fired a salvo of eight torpedoes and three torpedoes struck the Helena on the port side. The first torpedo caused a major explosion that may have been the result of a magazine detonation. Despite the damage, the aft guns continued to fire and the ship had not been fatally damaged. Two minutes after the first torpedo, the second and third torpedoes struck in quick succession and flooding began to occur. The Commander gave the order to abandon ship. Out of the ship's crew of almost 1200 men, 168 were killed either during the battle, or while the men were adrift. Among those killed were Machinists Mate Johnny Bennak, Deborah Talbot's uncle, and his friend George Humphrey, shown in the picture to the right.



Johnny Bennak & George Humphrey  
U.S. Navy, WWII  
Both were Killed  
In Action on the  
USS Helena in July  
1943 in the Pacific.  
Recipient of the  
Purple Heart  
Deborah  
Talbot's uncle.

*Continued on next page....*

# Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

**July 27, 1953 Korean War ends.** The Korean War began in June 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea. The war lasted three years and initially the North Korean forces pushed the South Korean and allied forces to the southern most point of the peninsula known as the Pusan Perimeter. When the war was becoming desperate for the allies, GEN MacArther conducted a seaborne invasion at Inchon which at the time was significantly behind North Korean lines. This forced the North Korean Army to retreat back into North Korea, where the allies then pushed them back to the Yellow River, the border between North Korea and China. China at that point attacked into North Korea catching the allies by surprise, and pushed the allies back to approximately the original borders. When the armistice was signed in July 1953, the countries involved agreed to a border that ran roughly along the 38th parallel. That armistice and border remain in effect today.

Many St. Nicholas family members and parishioners served in the armed forces during the Korean War. Their pictures are shown below but one that deserves special recognition was George Velias, a young man who at the time was a member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. George enlisted in the Army and served with the 1st Cavalry Division during much of the war. That Division was stationed in Korea when the North invaded and fought the withdrawal action back to the Pusan Perimeter. It then participated in the counter-attack that pushed the North Korean forces up to the Yellow River, and again in the withdrawal action that forced the allies back to the 38th parallel. Because the Division had fought in every action of the war since the very beginning, the 1st Cavalry Division was going to be pulled out of the front lines, and sent back to Japan as the Pacific Theatre Reserve. Up to that point, the Company to which George had been assigned had lost sixty-three men killed in action. Less than ten days before the Division was withdrawn K Company lost one more man, George Velias. Of the sixty-four men that were killed in K Company during the entire war, George Velias was the last man to die. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**



Paul Armatas  
*Korean War*  
U.S. Air Force  
Roxanne &  
Fr. Daniel's  
father



Lester Beecher  
USMC  
*WWII & KOREA*  
Chrisann Firth's  
father



LTC(R) James Brown  
U.S. Army  
*Korean War*  
Peter Brown's  
father



James L. Cook  
U.S. Air Force  
*Korean War*  
John Cook's  
father



Robert C. Derby  
U.S. Navy  
*WWII & Korean War*  
Genevieve Eagle's  
father



CWO(R) Andrew  
Evancho Sr.  
U.S. Army  
*WWII & Korean War*  
Andy Evancho's  
father

Continued on next page....

# Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News



**Ernest Louis Evans**  
U.S. Navy  
*Korean War*  
Ethel Barbas'  
Brother and  
Katie Mason's uncle



**TSGT(R) Tom Jackson**  
U.S. Air Force  
*Korean, Vietnam, & Cold War*  
Helga Jackson's husband



**John Karanasos**  
U.S. Army  
*Korean War*  
Anna Karanasos'  
husband



**Robert Latz**  
U.S. Army  
*Korea & Cold War*  
Mrs. Anne Latz's husband



**Steve Maritakis**  
U.S. Air Force  
*Korean War*  
Mary Mather's brother



**Elias Natziopoulos**  
U.S. Army  
*Korean War*



**Angelo Sarantinos**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
*Korean War*  
Fr. Daniel & Roxanne's uncle



**COL(R) Leon Spirito**  
U.S. Army  
*WWII, Korea & Vietnam*  
Recipient of the Bronze Star for Valor w/3olc's & Purple Heart w/2olc's!  
Anthony Ciarochi's uncle



**LTC(R) Fred Stahl**  
*Korean War*  
U.S. Army  
Rick Stahl's father



**Remember our Heroes!**

**CPL George Velias**

**U.S. Army, *Korean War***

***Killed in Action***

***November 19, 1951.***

**Recipient of the Purple Heart.**

**Killed less than 10 days before his unit was pulled out of the front.**

**There were 64 men killed in his unit, K Co, 3-7 Cavalry.**

**George Velias was the last man to die.**

Contributed by: Gus

## Cover Story Continued...

being freed from it and guilt through repentance and forgiveness and the life in Christ. He wanted to guide them to a new life, and not trouble their soul with the past. The saint often advised his spiritual children that love, unity and cooperation of parents and good understanding between them and their children gives a sense of security and confidence to their children. Otherwise, the children become unsafe and insecure. Often the insecure children can lead to the “safety” of a gang and/or violent behavior as a reaction to a dysfunctional family. The behavior of the children is related to the situations they experienced in their family. The negative attitude of parents creates wounds in the hearts of the children and leaves scars of injury in their souls that they keep during their whole life. These psychological scars are affecting their behavior and their relationship with others, during the rest of their lives. In other words, the experiences the children carry from their childhood affect their lives and their behavior in relation to others (family, sexual relationship, friends). Children, Saint Porphyrios said, become older, educated, but do not really change. This is obvious even from the most minor events of their life.

### Spirit Filled Wisdom: Raising Christian Children

*Blessed Elder Philotheos of Paros +1980*

*Parents must teach their children from their earliest days. They must teach them the fear of God, must cut their bad impulses and faults, and they must not fawn upon them or satisfy their bad desires or appetites.*

*The small child is like the soft candle that you shape as you like, and which accepts whatever seal you put upon it.*

*The good Father Confessor’s manner, the cheerfulness of his face, the fatherly affection with which he receives the sinner, the sweet language of his teaching, the courage which he gives to the shy, the consolation which he offers to those who have committed many sins and are in despair, citing the example of any who repented and were saved—all these are conducive to sincere repentance and confession of the sinner. It is to such spiritual fathers and physicians of the soul that the sinner ought to entrust the therapy of his soul.*

*Whatever letters you write on a clean sheet of paper will remain imprinted. In the same way, whatever the small child learns when he is small will remain imprinted until old age.*

## Cover Story Continued...

*When the tree is small, if the wind blows, it bends. If we put a pole next to it, then it becomes straight. If we don't put up a pole, and it becomes bent, it will always remain bent. If, when it is grown up and well rooted, we want to straighten it, it breaks and is cut down. It is the same with our children.*

*Let us support them in the Faith and in the fear of God when they are small. Let us fence them in and surround them with walls of instruction and good examples, until they get rooted in virtue—when they won't fear any danger*





# Stewardship Ministry News

## Stewardship

Offering Our Time, Talent and Treasure To God

***“That the end of our lives may be Christian, without pain, blameless and peaceful, and for the GOOD ACCOUNT BEFORE THE AWESOME JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.” 2 Corinthians 5:10***

It has been far too long since many of us have seen or visited with each other, and it appears Governor Inslee will lift some of the restrictions due to COVID19 by June 30, 2021. We have all made adjustments over the past 16 months and many have established new routines. Nevertheless, your family and friends at St. Nicholas have not forgotten you. We are anxious to worship with you during services and we look forward to visiting and enjoying with you, that famous St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox fellowship we have all enjoyed in the past. We at St. Nicholas look forward to seeing all of you again!

Our Parish continues to be blessed with the love and support from you, our Parishioners. Through your financial commitments and generous donations we have been able to keep our doors open and our services operating. Our Stewardship numbers continue to rise and we are in a positive position so far this year. THANK YOU TO THE MANY PARISHIONERS who have submitted their stewardship card, increased their pledge, and for those that have fulfilled, or are paying monthly, towards their pledge amount for 2021.

During the past 16 months, St. Nicholas has welcomed many new parishioners into our church! Some are parishioners who have renewed their association with our church, some are Orthodox Christians who have recently moved into our area, some are recently chrismated parishioners, while others are people who are looking for a new spiritual home and exploring the Orthodox faith. When you come back to church please welcome the new parishioners, who just like you, have, and are finding comfort and peace in our faith.

It has been said many times in the past, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church is extremely blessed with many outstanding people who give generously of their time, their talent, and their treasure. These people make our church a wonderful place to worship. We want to recognize some of the gifts to the church above and beyond financial contributions: the Parish Council for welcoming and greeting people into God's house; the Prosforo bakers who contribute bread throughout the year; the singers and chanters; those who help Father Seraphim behind the altar; the Flower and Prayer Ministries; Pro-Life and Love Ministries; and the many different organizations that keep our church alive and thriving. There are many other ministries, committees, and groups that will be recognized at a later date.

UPDATES: The Building Committee has put an extraordinary amount of time into planning, preparing, and now executing the Project 2020 mission that is in full swing. Access to our church for the next few months will only be through the parking lot/dining hall doors, but once construction is finished, the doors to the narthex will swing wide open.

# Stewardship Ministry News

## Stewardship

Offering Our Time, Talent and Treasure To God

Festival Committee – Yes, we are “planning” to hold a festival this October, but just what that will entail is yet to be determined. We are planning to begin baking in July, because even if all we are able to execute in October is a bake sale, we still have product to sell. **WE WILL NEED EVERYONE’S HELP AND SUPPORT!!!** Volunteering for the Festival is an excellent way you can give your time, talent, and treasure back to the church.



# Stewardship Ministry News

## Stewardship

Offering Our Time, Talent and Treasure To God

### Dear Parishioners of St. Nicholas

Since our last issue of the Messenger we are very happy to report 161 households have made contributions to St. Nicholas. This includes 91 stewards plus 2 organizations. Once a contributor signs the 2021 stewardship card, they become a steward. If your name does NOT have a dot after it, this means we do not have a 2021 stewardship card on file. A 2021 stewardship card can be found at the end of the Messenger, it can also be found on the church's website, [www.stnicholas.org](http://www.stnicholas.org), at the church or you can request one be mailed to you via the church office. Below is our most current list of contributors and stewards. On behalf of the Parish Council we THANK each and every one of you for your generous contributions. If you haven't submitted a stewardship pledge card for 2021 please do so. May God Bless you and your family with good health and much happiness!

William & Mary Acker •	Barry & Deborah Middleton	Stephan & Claire Gorham •
Nicholas Afeiche	Cassidy	John Gregory
Leonidas & Despina Alatsis •	Klaudia Cedenó •	Christina Gretty •
Patra Alatsis •	C.G. and Ingrid Chamales •	Robin & Joyce Kalivas-Griffin •
Kacoulou Andreas	Yianni Charitou	Sally Hallis •
Anna Andrey	Reagan & Reanne Charuhas	Dean & Carol Hamos •
Sonny & Irene Angelos	Elena Chen	Michael & Kristine Hanberg •
Rick & Marlene Angelus •	Chris A. Cherbas	Daniel & Ekaterini Hanson •
Paul & Dolores Apostle •	Anthony & Sandra Ciarochi	Natalya Harpe
Tony and Lori Apostle •	Courtney Cole-Faso •	Brent & Evangelia Hassel
Andrew & Sheila Auter •	Sharmarie & Troy Dares •	Magdaline Hatzikazakis •
Tina Ayers	Dina Deliyianides •	Richard & Kathleen Heidal
George Ballasiotes	Gretchen Eagle •	Christopher & Cheryl Hunt
Tyler & Lexi Balser •	Timothy & Sunny Edgren •	Thomas & Helga Jackson •
E. Anthe Barbas	Frederick & Anastasia Ehret	Joseph & Ronnie-Sue Johnson •
Harry & Sheri Basil •	Amber Lynn Eramo •	Kathy Johnson •
Sophia Elizabeth Berg •	Salvatore Eramo	"Rikki" Hariklia Kapes •
T.L. Berg	Mary Erickson	Anna Karanasos •
Theodora Bessinas •	Andrew & Jane Evancho •	Paula Karanasos •
Tatiana Bilibin	James & Deena Fotinopoulos	Zachary & Daphne Karanasos •
Dean & Anna Bolaris	David & Savina Frisk •	
Andrew & Kathy Bouzinekis	Dayle Sokratis Frisk •	
Yvonne Brandvold •	Mary Georgopolos •	
Dora Brown	Christina Ginosatis	
Cheryl Burack •	Alla Glagoleva	
Scott & Marcia Cairns •	John & Judy Godulas •	
William and Bonnie Caress •	Eliza Gooler	
Cash Donations - Anonymous Donors		

# Stewardship Ministry News

## Stewardship

Offering Our Time, Talent and Treasure To God

Evangelos & Despina Kipelidis •  
 Anna Kiraki  
 Anna Koopman  
 Steve Koukles •  
 John C. Kouklis  
 Mary Kouklis •  
 Ourania Koukousoula & Ronald Ayume  
 Maria Koumantaros •  
 Peter and Margaret Laketa  
 Deanne Langevin  
 Vernon Larson  
 Robert & Anne Latz •  
 Christina Leineweber •  
 Mary Leonard •  
 L. Likos  
 Svetlana Lukianova  
 George and Bess Lurker •  
 Jeff & Laura Macaluso  
 John Basil Majmudar •  
 Fr. Seraphim & Pres. Sophie  
 Majmudar •  
 Sara & Costas Makariou •  
 Olga Lynn Manos •  
 Chris & Susan Manthou •  
 Mathew John Manthou •  
 Natalia Marberg  
 Katherine Mason •  
 Dean & Julie Mastras •  
 Iphigenia Mavromichali •  
 Helen & George McClure •  
 Alan (John) & Sheilagh Means •  
 Tatyana Mikeladze •  
 Cassie & Paul Moeller •  
 Tom Mollas  
 Nina & John Morrison •  
 Hariklia & Dick Motz •  
 Michael & Rodica Murphy •  
 Order of AHEPA - Olympic Chapter  
 David & Katrina Orriss •  
 Evangelos Pamboukas

Niko & Sonia Pamboukas •  
 Anthony Panagiotu  
 George Panagiotu  
 Alexis Pangis •  
 John & Merrilee Pangis •  
 Stathis & JoAnna Papanicolaou  
 Audrey Pasion  
 Andrew Phillips •  
 George and Diane Pirotis •  
 Stavros Pirotis •  
 Lena & Charles Plunkett  
 Joaquin & Shanna Poirot  
 Martha Politakis  
 Steve & Kathleen Politakis •  
 Andrew and Rebecca Primis •  
 Emmanuel Psilovikos  
 Sammy Ramzi  
 Martin J. Reiter III & Lorissa  
 Catherine Reiter •  
 Aaron T. & Renae C. Rice  
 Mark & Dana Robinson •  
 Katherine Rowley •  
 Lilia Rusu  
 Katherine Salatas  
 Alexandra and Richard Schutt  
 St. Nicholas Philoptochos Soci-  
 ety  
 Alexandru\* & Victoria Stefan •  
 Denise and Richard Stahl •  
 Andy & Joanne Stergachis •  
 James & Jenise Sweeney  
 Olympia and John Stafford •  
 Deborah Talbot •  
 The Matherne Family  
 Nicholas and Becky Themelis •  
 Roxanne Vallantine •

Dee Varca •  
 Georgia & Peter Vlahas  
 John Volkert •  
 Michael Jane White •  
 Jeffrey and Janice Williams  
 Edward Winskill •  
 Hugh Winskill  
 Marcela Wirth  
 Kalitsa & John Xitco •  
 Tasso & Sarah Zambaras  
 John Zaoutsos  
 Luai Zureikat

- 2021 Stewardship card on file

\* Deceased

**Organization:** Order of AHEPA

St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society

Submitted by: Maria Koumantaros

## Bible Study

# ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY

## THE REVELATION

### Revelation 6: 4<sup>th</sup> Seal and the Elements



Human relationship with God had come to a breaking point resulting in the use of one of the four “elements” to alleviate the situation, the Great Flood. God made a Covenant with man, promising never to destroy the earth by water and sealing this promise with the sign of the rainbow. The next element that will be used as a tool of destruction will be fire as written in St. Peter’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Epistle.

**2 Peter 3:10** “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

Greek text: “Ἡξει δὲ ἡ ἡμέρα κυρίου ὡς κλέπτῃς ἐν νυκτὶ ἐν ἣ οἱ οὐρανοὶ ῥοιζηδὸν παρελεύσονται στοιχεῖα δὲ καυσούμενα λυθήσονται, καὶ γῆ καὶ τὰ ἐν αὐτῇ ἔργα κατακαήσεται”.

1) στοιχεῖα (pl.) στοιχεῖον (sing) (stoikeia & stoikeon): elements; any “first thing”, letters of alphabet (the sounds); material causes of the universe; smallest particle or molecule of material or spiritual or energy. Ἄτομο (atomo): atom, basic unit of a chemical element.

2) καυσούμενα (kafsoumena): with fervent heat

3) λυθήσονται (verb future tense) λύω (verb present tense) (lithisontai/leo): melt, loosen, unbind, untie, to solve, dissolve. The Greek word λύω is used in the following verses from Revelation: **Revelation 5:2** “...loose its seals?” **Revelation 9:14** “...’Release the four angels...’ “. Here’s three scripture verses where the original Greek word is λύω, but the English translation has used three different words. The core concept is that things are held together by a higher power. The Lamb (Christ) has the power to “turn off” the attraction that held these things in place.

## Bible Study

Explanation by our Greek Teacher, George Pirotis:

λυθήσονται and λύω: In architecture & construction: designing & building something to withstand the elements. In chemistry: something that cannot be divided down to a smaller unit, brought down to the smallest molecule. George thinks that, in other words, everything would disappear and the earth would be like a desert with nothing.

Father Seraphim: The things that hold the elements together get “loosed” and return to their constituent parts. There is a core concept here when the Lamb takes the scroll and “looses” the seals. Things are held together by a type of power. When speaking of the elements (**Revelation 5**), the seals were held together and that someone, namely The Lamb, will have the power to turn off whatever that power of attraction is that keeps atoms together to form molecules. Λύω is the word. We can see this “breaking apart” in the world today. The division and separation of our country because of political, racial, religious and social differences. The separation of marriages, families and friends because of the same issues. What provides that peace of mind and sense of wellness hinges on everything being held together. Religion is based on a Latin word (religo) meaning: bind, tie, fasten, tether. Man has a distinct aversion to disintegration (integration: state of combination or process of combining into completeness and harmony; dis: apart, asunder, reversing force). Gravity didn’t exist until God created it. There’s this inexplicable force in the universe pulling things together. That’s why the word “religion” was applied to the different faith expressions. There are four basic forces of nature: gravitational, electrical, magnetic and nuclear. They are all forces created by God and kept in place by God. As Orthodox theologians, we know that whatever togetherness we have is because of God’s providence. Water cannot flow downhill without God’s providence because He created gravity. Nothing comes together on its own, it comes together because God made it come together. Therefore, if things are breaking apart, it’s because of our desire to be separated from one another and God. In His mercy, He is allowing us to experience what that means in a small way so that we will repent from our selfish and wicked ways and come back to Him and re-integrate. Approaching the strain that is going on in America, theologically, results in a far different thing than if you don’t approach it theologically. Looking at it from a non-theological view, we think that everything is being held together on its own and when things start tearing and falling apart, we get anxious and panic. It’s comforting to know that God is always in charge. We need to beseech Him to bring us back to our senses and to each other and back to Him. This is what we are doing during Great Lent. We’re addressing our own spiritual breakdown first and then we can approach God, after Pascha, to restore our community and our society. In **2 Peter 3**, he is not just talking about the physical elements, but by the basic principle that by God’s providence He is keeping everything together and then will let everything collapse and then He will renew it. Without Christ’s Incarnation, we would be just little particles of DNA code falling into the abyss. When God turns off the “electromagnet” which is what we are calling the end of history, which is what the point of the Book of Revelation is, there is something that recapitulates everything. We don’t just drop into the never-ending abyss. There is so much hope and there is no reason to be anxious. No matter how much things break down, the Book of Revelation is pushing us to go to the final conclusion of everything breaking down to the ultimate end result which is entropy. We are being given a picture of a rescue and a complete re-fashioning and recapitulation for glory.

Dr. Ingrid Chamales: Don’t think of the delusion of these elements as destruction because matter that is created by God is not destroyed – it is still there. It’s not in its original form, it’s loosened but still there.

## Bible Study

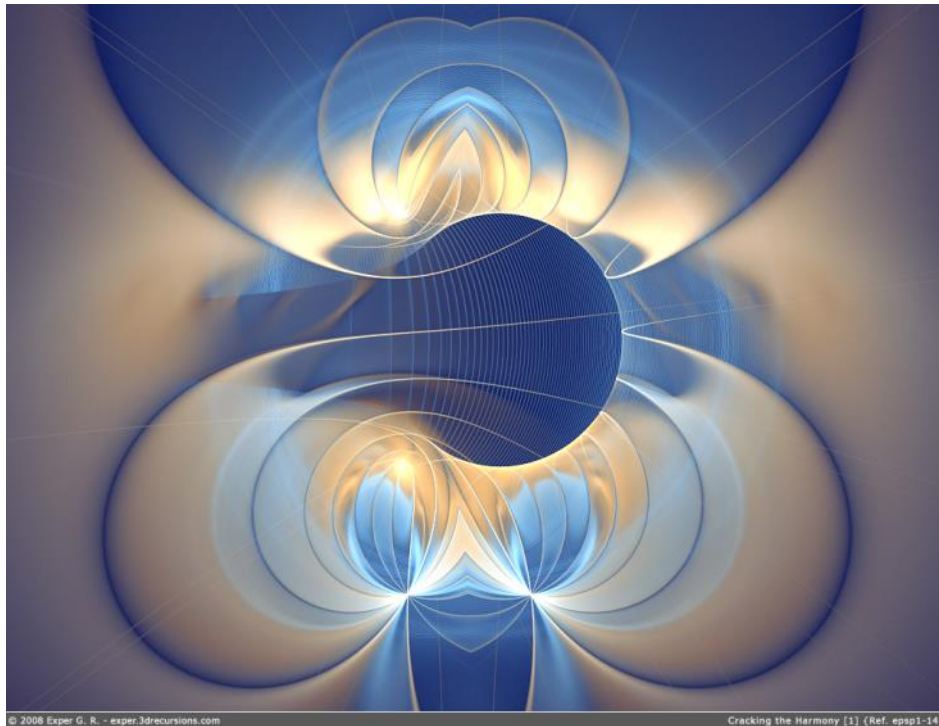
St. Peter is describing, in his second Epistle, the effect of the Lord's Coming on the elements, themselves. We can look at different aspects, in light of the opening of the Seals, and as we progress into Chapter 8 and the sequence of Antichrist and the other prophecies, that's leading up to Second Coming of Christ and everything changing; there is one part of that has to do with the elements of creation. The other part has to do with individual human beings. We want to know how to prepare for this and be a good and faithful servant. We need to know what to do and what not to do with our bodies, i.e., cremation, desecration, fornication, in light of the question of salvation. These anthropologic concerns deal with the outcome of human beings. The other side of this has to do with the elements of creation. As we remember from Genesis, the elements of creation came first: the light, the waters above the firmament, the earth, the heavens, the sea and all the living creatures. If St. Peter's passage is understood incorrectly, and we look at the Revelation text through that lens, we can conclude that everything in this world will burn up and be gone, including our bodies. This results in the question of cremation. At the end of the day, people's vision of the created elements will result in what they decide to do with their body when they die or what to do with your body when you die or how they will treat the material creation while they are still alive or how they will treat their body while they are still alive. All of these questions have real import because, for example, if we believe that all the elements of creation are ultimately meaningless because they will eventually get burned up, then we would feel perfectly free to pollute our rivers and streams and our bodies through immoral living and feel free to destroy our bodies when we die. Our reasoning would be that nothing that is currently in existence will exist after Christ comes again. That's the Christian version of the elements disappearing. That theology of the Creation, where basically the Kingdom of Heaven has no materiality. That kind of mindset leads to a couple of things. One leads to a degraded sense of the importance of the event of Christ's Second Coming, the event to which all human history is drawing. It's common to hear after a loved one's death, "but it's okay because they're in the Kingdom of Heaven". If this is true, what is the role of the body which was just buried? It's relatively inconsequential. From the viewpoint of the departed one, what is the conclusion about the rest of creation and the rest of history that is unfolding after death? Inconsequential! It gives a message to those left behind that ultimately their bodies are a prison, human history doesn't matter and creation doesn't matter. That theological distortion leads to its mirror image of human fulfillment on this side where no one has continuity of existence and all that matters is "right now". You see the subtraction of the transcendent view of creation and life as it's unfolding in the body. It results in the scary misery of Marxism, and the like, that are characterized above all by their utter denial of transcendence in human life. Marxism is the daughter of a Christian heresy that denies the role of continuity of creation and the body after the resurrection. Our vision of the body and the created elements are crucial because it is what provides the continuity of our vision of transcendence. Everything we see and experience in our daily lives matters because there is something transcendent shining through them of eternal significance. If we believe that a loved one who passes goes to live with Christ in Heaven, why is Christ's Second Coming of any importance? His Second Coming is to judge the living and the dead. We have already made ourselves the judge of those who have departed. Charles Manson has to be in hell because we are aware of the atrocities he committed in this life. Mother Teresa has to be in Heaven because of the wonderful things she did in this life. We do not know what is in anyone's heart or what their last thoughts were before they left this life. Christ is the only one who has the right to be the Judge of the living and the dead. When you hear someone say "they are in a better place", "they have no worries nor cares anymore", it's what is not said that's disturbing, which is the loss of the urgency of Christ's Second Coming, when hu-

## Bible Study

man history is fulfilled. The core vision of the Church is eschatological—"maranatha" - Come Lord Jesus. The early Church was very focused on this and lived in a constant tension.

The Book of Revelation is presenting God's interaction with human history in a sequential way. We shouldn't look at history unfolding around us with fear (like Coronavirus, One World Government, Marxism), or be indifferent and view it as inconsequential. Neither of these is the vision of the Church. We're called to live in that tension as the early Church did because it gives us that sense of urgency. Part of that, in our exploration of the elements, has to do with what happens to the material creation when Christ comes again. What happens to our bodies when He comes again? What happens to the Puget Sound when He comes again? What happens to our houses when He comes again? What happens to Old Tacoma Cemetery when He comes again? All of these things have relevance when He comes again, and therefore, how we treat all of these things has significance when history is fulfilled.

Submitted by: Genevieve Eagle





## ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY



### Why don't pro-life and disability rights groups work together more often?

Article by: Matthew P. Schneider, L.C., May 28, 2019

Matthew P. Schneider, L.C., is a priest with the Legionaries of Christ, based in the Washington, D.C. area. He currently studies graduate moral theology, planning on completing a doctorate in 2021.

When I read about disability rights advocates who accept or silently condone abortion, or when I look at pro-life materials and find almost nothing on the disabled, I cringe. Both disability rights and pro-life groups adhere to the same basic principle—that humans have inherent dignity based on who they are, not what they can do—yet they too often disagree.

The two groups should be wayfarers on a common path. I say this not only because of their common principles but also based on my own experience. A few years ago, I was diagnosed with autism while in my 30s, finally understanding why I had struggled in certain areas. Reading up on the topic, I realized that one challenge for adults with autism is overcoming discrimination. Autistics are thus part of the disability rights community, working to protect their rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

*Continued next page...*

## ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

But abortion (and even euthanasia) is becoming more targeted toward the disabled. And this is the greatest way the disabled can be discriminated against. Killing someone due to a disability is akin to participating in an attempt to erase the disabled community. Not only is this far worse than, say, refusing to build a wheelchair ramp or to provide signage for the sight-impaired, it works toward removing the disabled community from society's consciousness and thus makes it more difficult to build support for disabled rights.

For example, those diagnosed with Down syndrome prenatally are aborted at alarming rates. In the United States, two-thirds of such babies are killed in the womb. That may seem high, but it is low among developed countries: England aborts 77 percent of these babies, Denmark 90 percent and Iceland 98 percent.

Down syndrome is easy to diagnose, as it is an extra chromosome. However, soon we will be able to detect the probabilities of many other conditions in utero. A company called Genomic Prediction already offers tests for "mental disability" among in vitro fertilization embryos, and it claims that it can detect other intelligence "outliers." It is easy to imagine that this technology could lead to parents wanting to "discard"—what a euphemism for kill—those who are predicted to have low I.Q. scores. Also, a current study is investigating the genes of 50,000 families to discover autism genetics, and I can imagine this leading to the search for a prenatal autism test.

Referring to selective abortions in these conditions, Pope Francis stated last year, "We do the same as the Nazis to maintain the purity of the race, but with white gloves."

When Jeff Sessions was nominated as U.S. attorney general in 2017, eight disability rights organizations signed a letter from more than 200 groups opposing his nomination, which is understandable given his record on disabilities. However, the same letter criticized Mr. Sessions for opposing "women's access to reproductive health services" (understood to be a reference to access to abortion, especially given that the letter's signatories included NARAL Pro-Choice America) and for voting to defund the abortion provider Planned Parenthood. It also criticized him for voting against a bill to "fix the Hobby Lobby decision" by requiring all employers to provide abortifacient birth control to employees.

At least one disability rights group, the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, went further and mentioned Sessions' opposition to "reproductive rights" in one of their statements against him. I can understand looking at how he treated marginalized groups, but aren't the unborn one of the most marginalized populations? Aren't abortions often specifically targeted at disabled infants?

Likewise, the Center for Public Representation, another disability rights group, includes the Center for Reproductive Rights on its list of disability rights organizations. And many disability rights organizations ask people to sign on to the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but that convention asks for "reproductive health" programs to be provided to persons with disabilities (and subsequent statements from U.N. officials make it clear this phrase refers to access to abortion).

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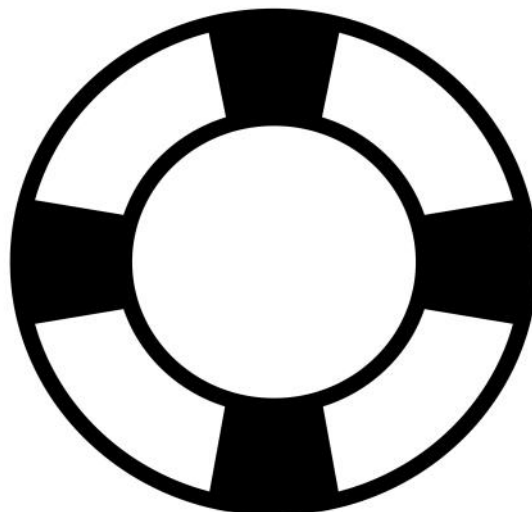
## ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

In recent years, the pro-life movement has put a lot of effort into keeping alive Down syndrome babies, but we need to highlight other disabilities. For the last four years I have gone through the whole March for Life looking for the best signs to make this point but have found few. Maybe next year, I will carry a “Pro-Life Autistic” sign. I have also looked through the archives of the top pro-life news sites and organizations for references to the Americans with Disabilities Act and the rights of the disabled, but except for cases of the disabled being euthanized, they are almost non-existent. Given that the devaluing of the disabled will likely lead to selective abortions, focusing on how to improve our lives needs to be a priority if we want to help people choose life. Devoting more attention to the rights of the disabled would also help counter the argument that pro-life groups are merely “pro-birth.”

I am focusing here on official organizations in both the pro-life and disability rights movements that do not always recognize their common ground, but I have often found individual activists to be even less understanding. Unfortunately, the alignment of each of these movements with opposing political parties (pro-life with the Republicans, disability rights with the Democrats) does not help us work together.

We are seeing some hope with groups like the human rights group Rehumanize International, which last year published a blog post about a pro-life activist’s love for her blind brother. Rehumanize has consistently promoted a whole-life vision, but they are only a small group in the grand scheme of pro-life and disability rights activism.

The pro-life and disability-rights movements have the same basic principle of inherent human dignity. Right now, there are many cases where their fights overlap: where the disabled are threatened with abortion or assisted suicide or euthanasia. However, we have only worked together in a limited way. I hope that both movements improve their outreach to each other—for example, by making an effort to include disability rights groups in the March for Life—so that we can work together more coherently going forward.



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**ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY**

Elin, Christopher and Pastor Paul Tyler – Christopher's 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday

I met a family in Fairbanks, Alaska, who became very dear to my heart: Pastor Paul Tyler, his wife, Elin, and son, Christopher. I was in the choir at Fairbanks Lutheran Church in Fairbanks, where Paul Tyler was pastor, and I had an unrestricted view of Elin and Christopher during each service. I'm ashamed to admit that the first time I saw them, I felt sorry for Elin and Paul for having been burdened with a severely mentally disabled child. Over the next couple of years, God helped me to see the truth as I sat and sang in the choir loft. I never saw Christopher unhappy, angry, bitter, anxious, unkind or unloved. His mother would wrap her arms around him and he would lay his head on her shoulder quite often during a Church service. I've never felt more welcomed than when Christopher would smile (wide-mouthed as in the photo above) and frantically wave his hand in greeting me when I came into the Church. I don't remember exactly when God enlightened me with the knowledge that Christopher and his family weren't the ones to be pitied, but it is us who live in ignorance and prejudice who are to be pitied. Coming to the Orthodox Church and being involved with the Pro-Life Ministry and the Bible Study Ministry, here at St. Nicholas; I have learned that just because someone has a learning and/or communicative disability doesn't mean they are not in communion with God. Someone who has a disability isn't imperfect or "something" to be eliminated.

Submitted by: Genevieve

## ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

### Ministry of Akathist, Prayers for the Departed

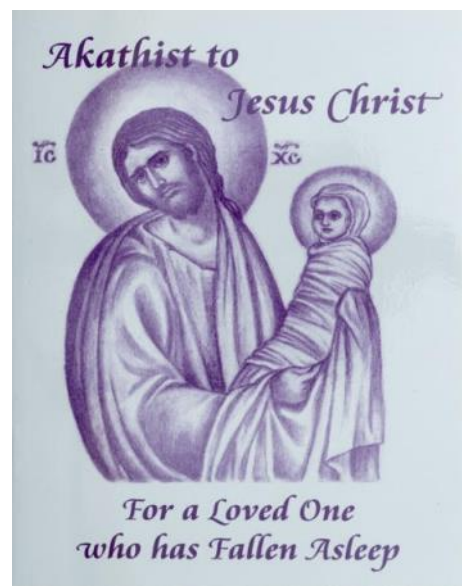


Thank you to all who are involved in this wonderful ministry at Saint Nicholas. In offering the gift of praying the Akathist to Jesus Christ for a Loved One who Has Fallen Asleep, it is a great comfort to family and friends of the departed ones.

When we offer these prayers for the newly departed, it also helps us in many ways. **May God bless your gift of prayer.**

If you are interested in knowing more about this ministry, or would like to be involved, please contact the church office.

Thank you again,  
Kathy Rowley



## ST. NICHOLAS FLOWER MINISTRY



### Flower Ministry

Thank you to Mrs. Georgeopolis and Anna Bolaris for the beautiful mock orange plants, and other greenery they donated to the flower ministry for use in Pentacost flowers.

They were so beautiful and a great blessing to us all! Also thank you to Genevieve for help in installation and inspiration! Your generous gifts of time and love are greatly appreciated! Thank you again!

Kathy Rowley

# Greek Language School

## Modern Greek Language School/Classes

### “Advanced Class” - Student Picture of 04-15-2021



### “Pictures of previous years”



## Greek Language School

Pictures of previous years continued...

**Modern Greek Language School / Classes:**



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

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

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

**Teacher - George Pirotis**

Contact Church Office - 253-272-0466

**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.**

**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:**

**Αγιασμός** (Blessing) of the class at 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

### PROVIDING PROSFORO

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

Despina Ampatzis brings the offering for the first Sunday of every month.

Stephen Gorham will be bringing the offering the third Sunday of every month.

Thank you, Despina and Stephen.

Just a reminder that people are welcome to bring the prospora (and artoklasia) for special days, name days, etcetera. The procedure would be to contact Father Seraphim and discuss it with him before the actual day, and to have the offering there in time.

We also have a need for people desiring to participate in the Liturgy in this way to commit to providing the offering on one Sunday every month. The second, fourth, (and fifth when it occurs) Sundays of every month are available. You can bring in your bread for Sunday at Saturday evening Vespers, or you can bring it in at 8:30 Sunday morning. Any extra loaves will be frozen and used during the weekday liturgies.

*Contributed by: Deborah Talbot*



# PROSPHORA

## LECHEM-ARTOS-BREAD

### Following the Word through Scripture

We are beginning the book of Numbers, the fourth book of the Pentateuch, Pentateuch referring to the five books of Moses which are the first five books of the Bible. To review:

In Genesis we learned about the beginning of the history of man and the beginning of the history of Israel. In Genesis—or in the beginning—the word bread first appears after Adam and Eve sin and is associated with effort on our part (Genesis 3:19). And then the very next time we find the word bread, it is being brought out with wine as a Eucharist by Melchizedek, the King of Salem (King of Peace) and Priest of the Most High God (Genesis 14:18). As we continued through Genesis we saw bread as an offering of hospitality, as a provision sustaining life (one of the most important provisions for life), as a peace offering, as a blessing, and once (Genesis 37:25) being eaten by Joseph's brothers after they had conspired to kill him, and during which meal they instead sold him to the Ishmaelite's headed down to Egypt.

In Exodus we followed the Israelites in their journey out of Egypt and learned about God's covenant with Israel and the building of the tabernacle. In Exodus we go from unleavened bread, to having no bread, to having manna raining down like dew from heaven, to unleavened bread that seems to become leavened bread during consecration of priests, and arrive at bread being placed on the table of offering just outside the veil on the north side of the tabernacle of testimony, a special bread that is to always be there in the presence of God.

In Leviticus, the first ever book of worship, for the first time we come across bread that is specifically identified as leavened bread. We learn about bread as an offering to God and about bread as the gift of God to His creation.

This brings us to Numbers. The Children are still in the Sinai Desert with Moses, and the tabernacle has been set up. The first thing recorded in Numbers is a census (hence the name of the book). First there is a census of the men twenty years old and above who can form an army. The total number from all the tribes except Levi was 603,550. This number does not include younger men, or females of any age. Then there is a census of the tribe of Levi, who are to serve in and protect the tabernacle, to break it down and move it when the people move, and to set it up again. The total number of Levite males one month and older was 22,000, but the number of men twenty-five to fifty years of age who could do the work was 8,500. Every tribe was assigned its place in the camp, on the east side, the south side, the west side and the north side. Then the levites were broken down into three smaller tribes, each one being assigned specific liturgical duties and a specific side of the tabernacle to camp on, the west side, the south side, the north side. On the east side of the tabernacle were Moses, Aaron, and Aaron's sons performing guard duty of the holy place.

This census began in the second month of the second year since coming out of Egypt—just over one year since coming out of Egypt. However, when we get to chapter 9 of Numbers, we see that in the first month of the second year, or almost one full year after coming out of Egypt, God tells them to keep the passover at the appointed time, on the fourteenth day of that month. The first passover was the slaying of the firstborn of Egypt (the tenth plague), immediately following which the children came out of Egypt, beginning their exodus journey in the middle of the night. The second passover is observed one year later in the Sinai Desert, and immediately after that, the census takes place.

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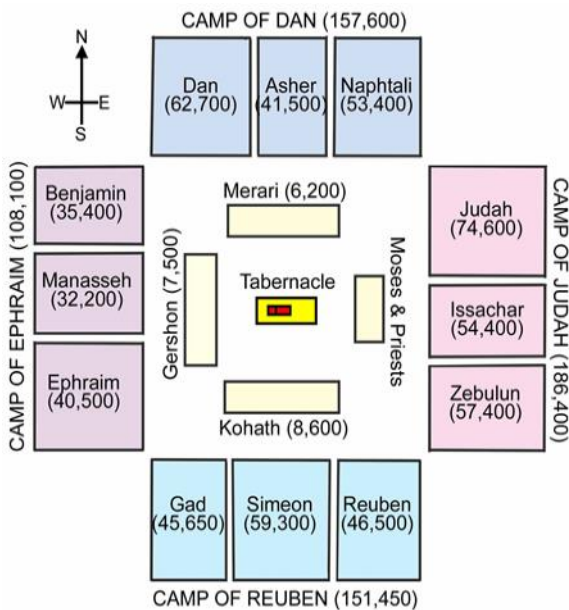
# PROSPHORA

Then on the twentieth day of the second month in the second year, which would be after passover and firstfruits but still in those fifty days leading up to Pentecost, the cloud ascended from the tabernacle (God rose up), and the people, having been counted and ordered, broke camp and journeyed for three days; *“and the ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them...to search out a resting place for them.”* When they broke camp with the ark, Moses said, *“Rise up, O Lord! Let Your enemies be scattered, and let all who hate You flee.”* And when the ark rested he said, *“Return, O Lord, to the many thousands in Israel!”* Numbers 10:34-35. In the study notes in the Orthodox Bible “rise up” is related to the resurrection of Christ and “Return, O Lord,” to His second coming.

The first mention of bread in the Book of Numbers is found in Numbers 4:7: *On the table of presentation they shall spread a cloth all of purple and put on it the dishes, the censers, the cups, and the bowls for pouring the drink offerings, and the perpetual bread (lechem/artos) shall be on it.*

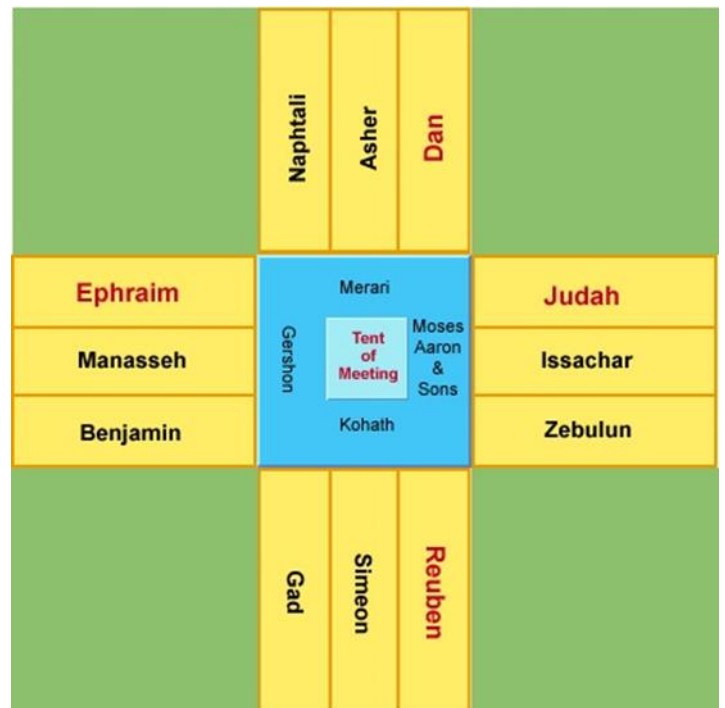
The bread here referred to is the bread of presence found in Exodus 40:21 and which was featured also in the May Messenger article on Leviticus. It is the bread that was placed in anamnesis every Sabbath day before the Lord in the temple, meant only for Aaron and his descendants to consume at the end of the week when the new bread was placed. It is the bread that one of Aaron’s descendants gave to David and his men on a Sabbath day, which incident Jesus referred to in Mark 2:23-28. Here in Numbers it is found among specific instructions to the Levites on how to break down the tabernacle for moving it when the camp moves. The table is moved with the loaves on it, placed on a purple cloth and covered with a scarlet cloth and then a blue leather covering. The holy things are not touched by anyone except Aaron and his sons. Carrying poles are inserted into the table, and the sons of Kohath, who are charged with moving it, touch only the poles.

Below are two illustrations of the camp arrangement, one chosen for its references, the other chosen to emphasize the cross shape of the camp, which some believe was how it looked from above.



Arrangement of the Camp of Israel  
 Numbers 2:1-3:39

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To be continued....Deborah Talbot—

# PHILOPTOCHOS

## President's Message

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

**Camp Agape Northwest Virtual Camp-** For the last 25 years the Philoptochos chapters of St. Demetrius, Assumption, St. Nicholas and Holy Apostles have worked together to hold a 6 day camp for kids with cancer and their families. This camp is held at All Saint's Camp on Raft Island in Gig Harbor. Due to Covid 19 restrictions planning is underway for a virtual camp to be held July 24-28, 2021. This virtual camp is open to kids with cancer and their families. Please direct interested families to the CANW website- [campagapenw.net](http://campagapenw.net), where applications can be found.

### **Philoptochos Meeting Schedule-**

Regular monthly meetings will resume in September. Please call Merrilee Pangis at 253-759-1026 for the Zoom information. Topics will include Philoptochos programs and ministry commitments 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.

**Philoptochos Membership-**Annual membership renewal requests have been mailed to all current members. Please consider renewing your membership. We welcome new members as well. Annual dues are \$30/year. Please contact Jane Evancho at 253-565-9744 if you would like the membership form.

**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*

# Donations and Pledges

## 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.

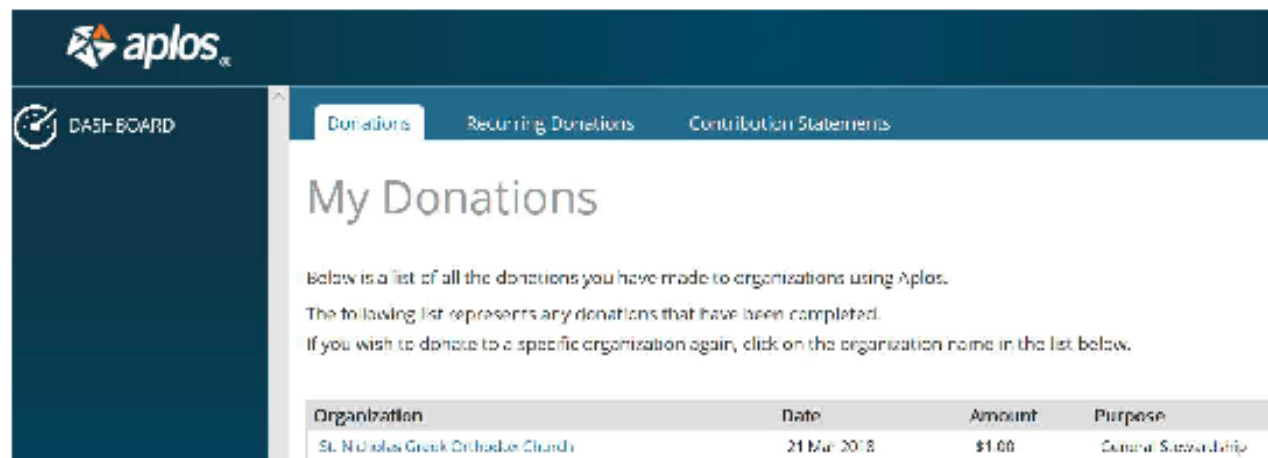
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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



The screenshot shows the Aplos software interface. At the top left is the Aplos logo. Below it is a navigation menu with 'DASH BOARD' and three tabs: 'Donations', 'Recurring Donations', and 'Contribution Statements'. The main heading is 'My Donations'. Below the heading is a paragraph of text: 'Below is a list of all the donations you have made to organizations using Aplos. The following list represents any donations that have been completed. If you wish to donate to a specific organization again, click on the organization name in the list below.' Below this text is a table with the following data:

Organization	Date	Amount	Purpose
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church	21 Mar 2018	\$1.00	General Stewardship

**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).

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



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

Please PRINT your information clearly

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

**Household Information**

Address .....  
 City/St/Zip .....

**Dependent Children**

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

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

**Christ's Possible Question to You:**

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

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

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

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

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

SIGNATURE.....

Click Here to Email Completed Form To Treasurer

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

Saint Nicholas Messenger

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

*Address Service Requested*

