



Christ is the Swallow, Leading Us to His Father’s Right Hand A REFLECTION BY ST NIKOLAI OF PENNSYLVANIA ON THE ASCENSION



St Nikolai Velimirovich of Pennsylvania Reposed in 1956 at St Tikhon’s Seminary, PA

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When swallows run short of food and the cold weather is coming, they set off to warm climates, where there is plenty of sun and food. One swallow flies ahead, testing the air and showing the way, while the rest of the flock follows after. When our souls run short of food in the material world, and when the cold of death draws near — ah, is there a swallow like that one, to take us to a warm place, where there is plenty of spiritual warmth and food? Is there such a place? Is there, oh, is there such a swallow? Outside the Christian Church, there is no one who can give any sort of reliable answer to this. The Church alone knows, and knows with certainty. It has seen that part of Paradise for which our souls yearn in the frozen twilight of this earthly existence. It has also seen this blessed swallow, the first to fly to that yearned-for place, dispersing the darkness and cutting through the heavy atmosphere between earth and Heaven with its powerful wings, opening the way to the flock behind it. Apart from this, the Church on earth can tell one of innumerable flocks of swallows that have followed the first Swallow and flown off with it to that blessed land, a land abounding with all good things — the land of eternal Spring.

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

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

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

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St. Nicholas Ministries

AHEPA
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

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.
June 8, 2021

June 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Fr: S Away Martyr: Justin the Philosopher 10:00am-12:00pm No Bible Study This Week 7:00pm-8:00pm Building Committee	2 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Fr: S Away New Martyr: Constantine 6:00pm-7:00pm NO PARAKLESIS TONIGHT	3 Fr: S Away Martyrs Lucillian & Paula 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek	4 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Fr: S Away John of Monagri, Cyprus	5 Boniface, Enlightener of Germany 6:00pm-7:00pm No Vespers Tonight
6 Sunday of the Blind Man 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-12:30pm Larry Crenshaw Memorial	7 Panagis Basias	8 Glorification of St. John of Kronstadt 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am WOCA, St Katherine's 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers w/ life of St Columba 7:00pm-8:00pm Parish Council 11:00pm-12:00am Paschal Orthros 11:30pm-12:00am Paschal Liturgy	9 Columba of Iona Cyril of Alexandria Fast: Wine & Oil ok Leave taking of Pascha 12:00am-12:30am Paschal Liturgy 3:00pm-4:00pm Akathist for the Unborn 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: Ascension 6:45pm-7:45pm Evening Liturgy: Ascension	10 ASCENSION OF CHRIST 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: Ap Bartholomew & Barnabas 6:45pm-7:45pm Evening Liturgy	11 Ap Bartholomew & Barnabas Fast: Wine & Oil ok Luke, the Blessed Surgeon 6:30am-7:30am Akathist to St Luke, the Blessed Surgeon 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	12 Onuphrios of Egypt 5:30pm-6:00pm Supplication to St Xenia for Homeless 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers
13 Sunday of the Holy Fathers 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	14 Justin Popovic 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	15 Augustine of Hippo 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	16 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Tychonias of Limassol 6:00pm-7:00pm Paraklesis to the Mother of God	17 Bede of Hexham 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek	18 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Martyr: Leontios & Companions 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	19 Ap Jude-Thaddeus 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy w/ Memorial 6:00pm-7:00pm No Vespers Tonight
20 PENTECOST 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	21 FAST FREE WEEK Monday of the Holy Spirit 10:00am-11:00am Services at Holy Trinity, Wilkeson	22 Alban, First Martyr of Britain FAST FREE WEEK 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	23 Athanasios Parios, Teacher of the Nation FAST FREE WEEK Fast: Wine & Oil ok Monastery Feast Day, Goldendale 3:00pm-4:00pm Akathist for the Unborn 6:00pm-7:00pm No Paraklesis tonight	24 FAST FREE WEEK Monastery Feast Day, Goldendale Nativity of St John the Baptist 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek	25 FAST FREE WEEK Fast: Wine & Oil ok Virgin Martyr Febronia	26 David of Thessaloniki FAST FREE WEEK 6:00pm-7:00pm No Vespers Tonight
27 Miracle of St Menas at El Alamein 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	28 Icon of "Three Hands" ⁽¹⁾	29 SS PETER & PAUL 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study	30 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Synaxis of 12 Apostles	Notes:		

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

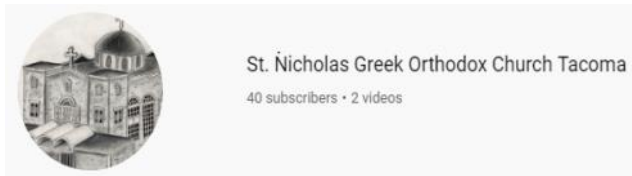
Live TV Streaming of church services continues. If you are unable to attend services in person, you can participate by watching most services live at home. See instructions below.

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. 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—

News and Announcements

Classroom Teachers Needed

St. John of Kronstadt Orthodox Christian School is looking to hire teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. We have openings for a K-1st grade classroom teacher and a general elementary/middle school classroom teacher. We are looking for candidates with a love for children, a love for learning, and a committed Christian who supports Orthodox Christian education.

The candidate will be expected to effectively teach all subjects using a variety of curricula and have an understanding of the year-end goals for the grades being taught. The candidate will be expected to accurately assess students as they progress towards meeting or exceeding these goals.

Job Requirements

- Candidate to be available by August 2, 2021
- Prior work experience in a school environment preferred
- Teaching certification preferred, but not required
- Candidate must be able to demonstrate flexibility, organization, and the ability to work well with others
- Design and follow a complete teaching plan
- Organize learning material and resources
- Maintain an open line of communication with parents and provide appropriate information
- Assess students' performance and progress to ensure they are mastering the skills on a regular basis
- Monitor children's interactions and nurture cooperation and sharing
- Use a variety of activities and instructional methods (songs, stories, media, structured games, art, outdoor activities etc.), to motivate and stimulate children's abilities
- Teach Alphabet and numeracy along with personal, social, and emotional skills (K-1 teacher)
- Follow and comply with teaching standards and safety regulations
- Cooperate with administration staff
- Excellent attendance required
- Must be legally authorized to work in the United States

We ask that interested candidates submit their resume and completed application by **May 15, 2021**.

St. John's School serves grades K-8 in four multi-age-level classrooms and is located in Yakima, WA. For more information, or for an application, please email Jennifer Maher at jen@stjohnkronstadt.org.

Parish Council News

Greetings, beloved St. Nicholas Family. I hope your Pascha was blessed.

This month your Parish Council has been focused on Rebuilding, as construction of the new Narthex has begun, and the beautification team has been revitalizing the parking lot area. A huge **Thank You** to all the folks who cleaned, painted, planted, and otherwise contributed to making the storage buildings and lower hall entries look so nice! And thanks to Bill Acker and the building committee for the continuing communication and work to ensure Project 2020 proceeds as expected.

We are also reviewing Metropolis resources available for strategic planning and keeping connected to Metropolis guidelines as full reopening appears to be on the horizon.

We look forward with hope and joy to being able to reconnect and gather again in community in the near future. Whether that is for coffee hours, classes, or special events, it will be with great thanks to God that we will fellowship in His name together again. Watch for update emails throughout the next couple of months as we follow Metropolis guidance on these activities.

Seeing the potential on the horizon, we have asked the Festival Committee to consider feasibility of any sort of festival this fall. Many of you may have already been asked about your ability to participate. We look forward to the Committee's recommendations at the June Parish Council meeting.

May the Lord bless you and your families through June. And we hope to see you all again very soon.

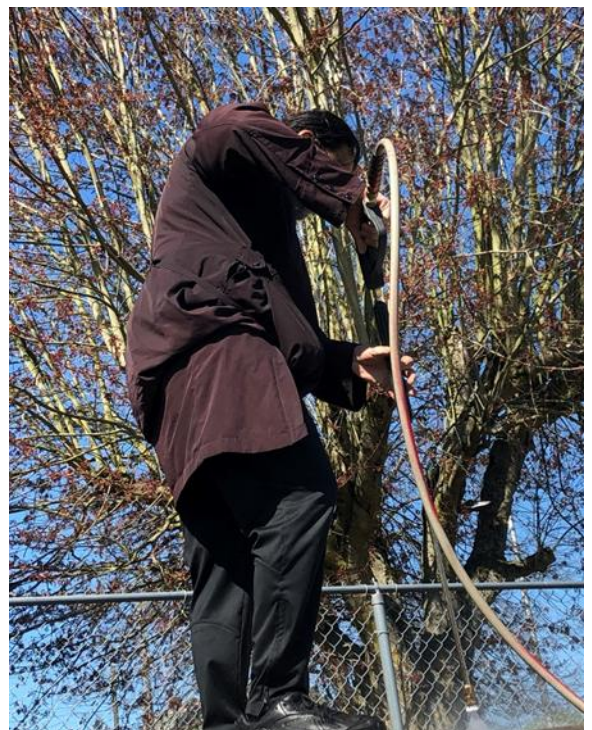
In Christ,
Ronnie-Sue Johnson
PC President



Parking Lot Beautification Project

PARKING LOT BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT (PHASE 1)

Please take a look at the before and after photos of our Phase 1 Parking Lot Beautification Project and the people who helped make the transformation possible. We are in the painting phase of the project now and welcome volunteers who are willing to lend a helping hand. Contact Genevieve at stnicholaszoom@gmail.com if you would like to join us.



Father Seraphim is a man of many talents! Multi-tasking is just one of them. Here he pressure washes huge clumps of moss off the κόρα house while attending a Zoom meeting (check out the headphones).

Parking Lot Beautification Project

The Other Members of the Pressure Washing Team



Gus Chamales (when not performing duties on the Security team) pressure washing the Church walls.



Genevieve Eagle (aka PigPen) pressuring washing the moss, dandelions, weeds & grass from the asphalt. It's a dirty job!



Before pressure washing it looked like the wood on the steps between the κότα house and the Church was rotting away!



The tread on the right is covered with slimy moss and was discolored. The tread on the left is actually safe to walk on now.



Vehicle exhaust, residue and corrosion on the storage trailer.



The storage trailer after a good washing – almost like new! Wait to see what we do with this trailer in Phase II !!

Parking Lot Beautification Project



Out with the old brittle and dead trees & plants



Kathy Johnson, member of our Parish Council, removing soil from dead roots.



The finished product!



Ever-faithful and hardworking Fran who shows up on a regular basis (without being asked) to weed and tidy up around the Church



Dandelions, grass, weeds and moss growing on the asphalt and up through the cracks. Not anymore!



Fran making sure the dandelions, grass, weeds and moss don't come back.

I want to express my gratitude to Father Seraphim, Gus Chamales, Kathy Johnson, Fran Hall, Sheila Autter, Alex Misiewicz and Yianni Charitou for coming out to help bring new life to our Church parking lot. A lot of the work was hard and dirty but they worked through it all to make our parking lot look fresh and (almost) new. Look for more photos and updates in next month's newsletter.

Submitted by: Genevieve

Building Committee



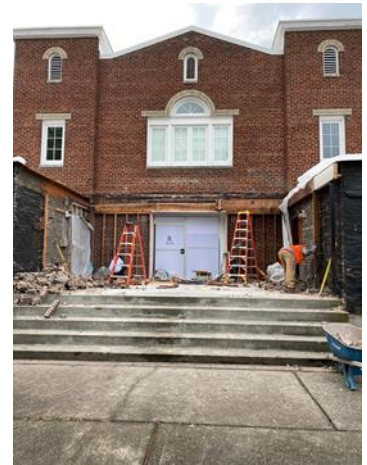
MAKING THE TRANSITION

The boat has officially left the dock, and at the time of this writing field construction has been underway for the last 2-1/2 weeks. Hazardous material abatement and the bulk of building demolition has been completed. Currently site preparation for new foundations at the main building entrance is under way, and by the time the next Messenger issue comes out framing and new roof structure construction will have been started. This is a tightly scheduled project, targeted for completion before the October Greek Festival if there ends up being one this year. Rush Commercial Construction, the general contractor, has gotten off to a running start and has been on top of things. This project will continue to be quickly paced.



(Continued on the next page.)

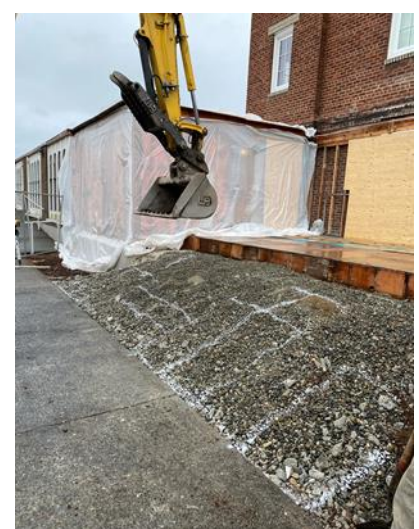
Building Committee



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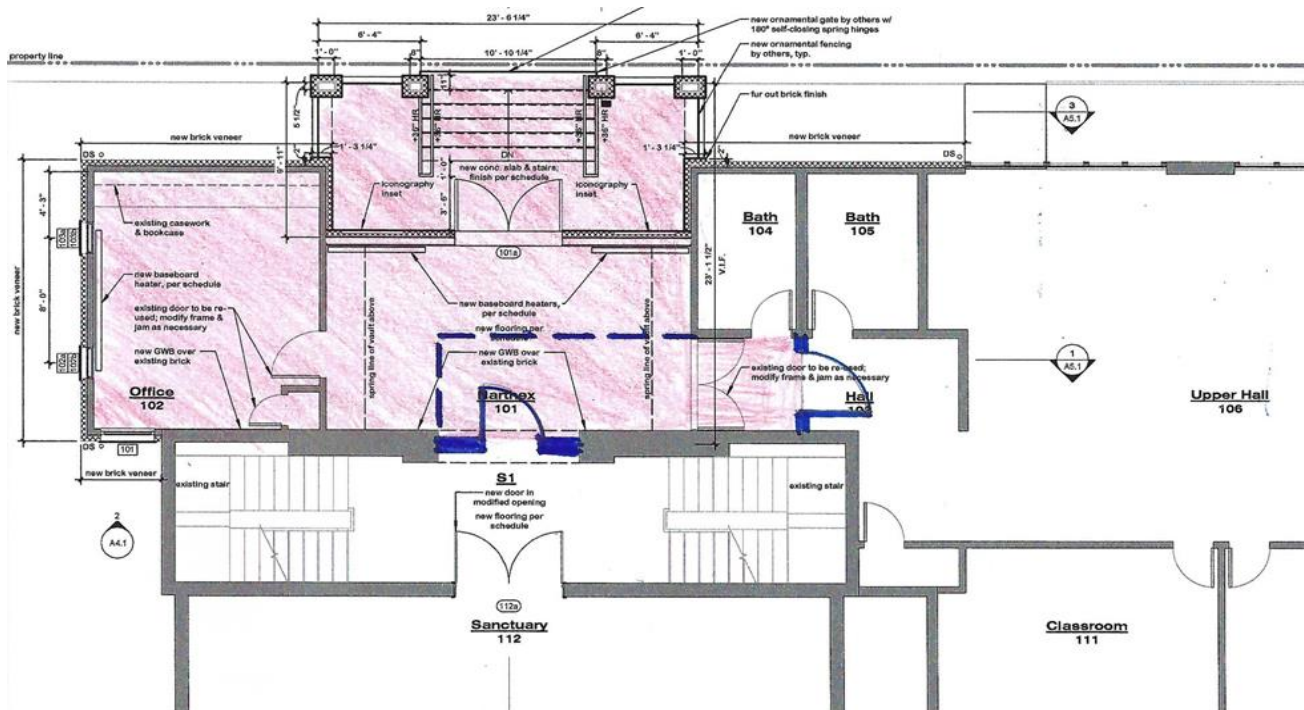
Above and below are some photos of what has been going on for the last few weeks at Saint Nicholas. The upper left photo is looking from the Narthex to the Sanctuary doors, with drywall finishes removed from furred framing. The upper middle photo is from the Narthex looking into Father Seraphim's office door opening. His office will be closed throughout most of the project. The upper right shows the front Narthex area completely gutted before clean-up, with the barrel roof structures removed. Note that a temporary door and wall has been installed at a large wall opening that leads to the stairwell area. The wall opening has since been field framed and boarded over at its exterior side, and fenced off from the street, as is shown in the bottom photo on the previous page, acting as further layers of protection.

The bottom left photo shows the existing outside entrance before demolition, the middle photo the start of its removal, and the right photo afterwards, with the placement of gravel fill material in preparation for a new entry foundation. The white lines on top of the gravel act as markers for new footing excavation.



(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. At present, the outside entry, steps, columns and front exterior wall facing Yakima Avenue shown in the plan have yet to be constructed and put in place.

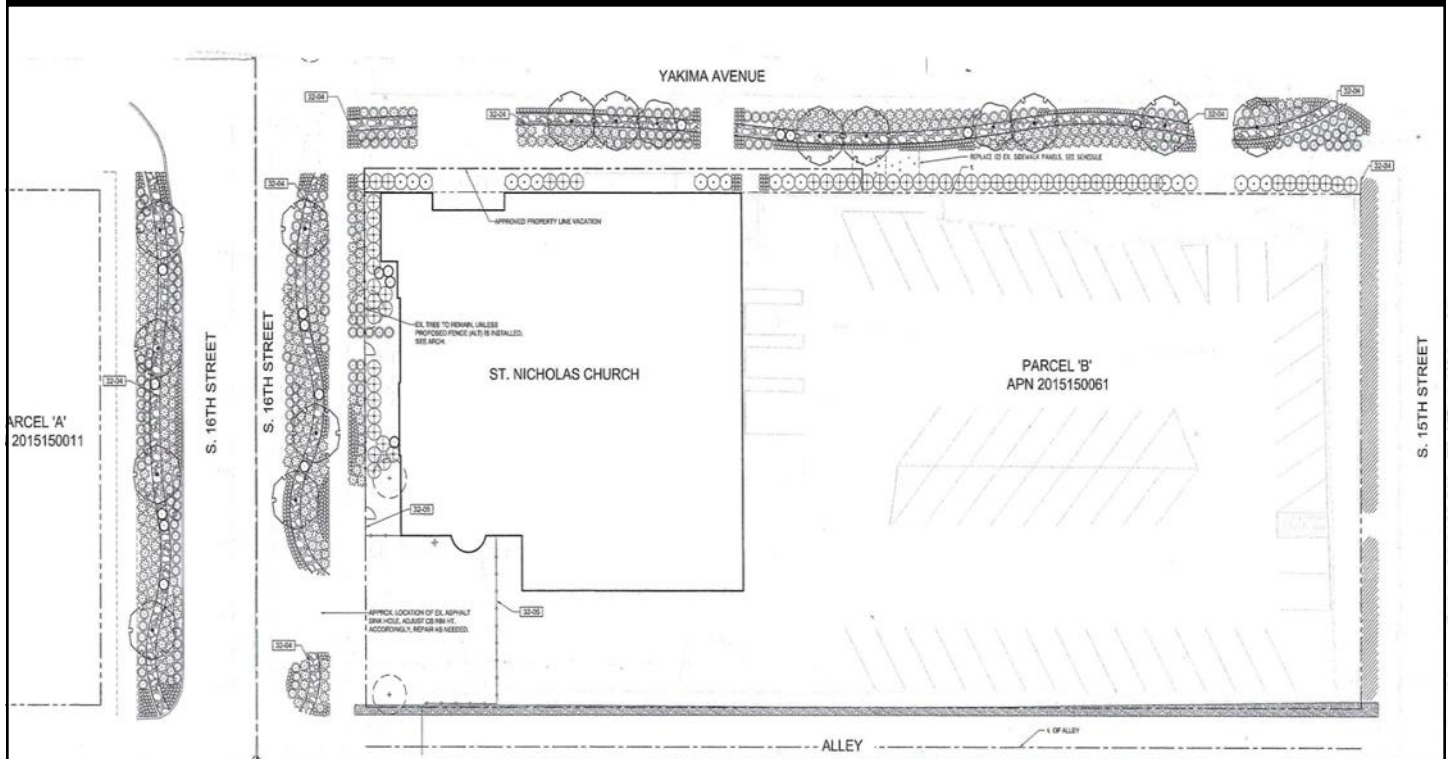
Two solid temporary walls with lockable doors, colored in blue, are now in place and will act as a barrier between the construction zone and Upper Hall, and Sanctuary / interior stairwell areas. In the interest of safety and providing as much protection as feasible to the church, those two openings have been boarded up at their outside faces and are not accessible at this time.

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 mid-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.

(Continued on the next page.)

Building Committee



NEW LANDSCAPING THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT

A reminder, as shown in the above permit plan sheet, that landscaping around the Yakima Avenue and S. 16th Street sides of the church get replaced with a combination of new rockeries, planting strips, and less expansive trees, with the intent to enhance the outside grounds appearance, while reducing blind spots and potential hiding places, and making it more difficult to set up tents. In addition, the new landscaping areas should be more maintenance friendly.

The opposite side of South 16th Street also receives new landscaping, plus a strip of gravel paving will be provided at the east alley to help clean things up and make it less convenient for tents. The landscaping work will be done near the end of the project, starting the second half of August. While an asphalt strip along the church side of 16th Street that was used as supplemental parking will be gone as a permitting requirement from the City of Tacoma, an existing bay leaf tree in that area will remain.

Submitted by: 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

It is with great sadness that this month's article begins with a tribute to one of our members who passed away on May 3, 2021. **Larry Crenshaw** was a much loved member of our church. He served his country as a soldier in the United States Army during a period when military service was not popular, and was even distained by a segment of our population. Nevertheless, Larry served his country honorably and he served our beloved St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in much the same way.

As a loyal parishioner and steward of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Larry attended Sunday liturgies and other church services on a regular basis. He was an active supporter of our annual festivals providing assistance to whatever booth or activity was most in need. He was an active participant in Father Seraphim's Bible Study Class, an active participant in the Pro-Life Ministry, and a helpful supporter of just about every church event that had something to do with our church.

Father Seraphim performed funeral rights for Larry on May 11th, and present at the funeral were his brother, Bobby, and two of his sisters. All three shared some comments about their beloved sibling and I thought it appropriate to include some of those comments along with his obituary in this month's article, for the benefit of all who were unable to attend.

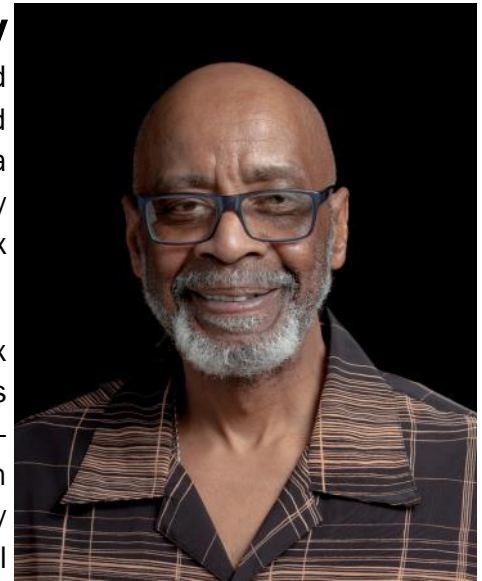
OBITUARY

Larry Fred Crenshaw, Sr was born in Birmingham, Alabama on June 3, 1953. He was the eldest son of seven children to the late Mr. Fred James and Mrs. Artheldia Danzy Crenshaw.

He confessed Christ at a young age at Sixth Avenue Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama and was an active member until his enlistment in the United States Army in 1972. Larry later converted to Orthodox Christianity and became a devoted member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox church in Tacoma, Washington.

Larry attended W.C. Davis Elementary, A.G. Junior High School, and was a graduate of Wenonah High School. He had a great love for the visual and performing arts, and he had a natural talent for theatre. As a teen, Larry created and designed comic books filled with exciting stories and detailed hand sketched illustrations that brought his comic books to life. When Larry was not working on his comic books that were sold to the kids in his neighborhood, he was creating and directing plays that were performed by his siblings, or rehearsing dance steps with his singing group in his the family's basement. In the words of one of his siblings at the funeral, "Larry was very strict and demanding, almost like a drill sergeant, and he made all of us tow the line."

Larry's mother got in on the act and transformed their basement into the "Black Box Theatre." Larry marketed his plays which were often takeoffs of sitcoms from that era throughout the community,



Continued on next page....

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

and neighbors were eager to purchase tickets, and enjoy watching the funny and great entertainment.

Larry enlisted in United States Army in 1972 as America's participation in the Vietnam War was ending, so he did not deploy to that combat zone. His military occupational specialty (MOS) was in the field of logistics and supply, and he worked hard to ensure his unit, fellow soldiers, and their equipment were properly maintained. He also continued to use his artistic talents and participated in many



activities that the Army conducted to entertain the troops, and maintain/boost their morale. He gained much popularity for his performances in entertainment events and was given the nickname "Richard Pryor #2", for his performance in stand-up comedy shows. Noteworthy



however is that in addition to being a beloved entertainer he was also a good soldier, and he earned the United States Army's National Defense Service Ribbon, and was awarded the Good Conduct Medal.

During his tour in the military, Larry married Vicki P. Crenshaw-Henderson and from this union was born Larry Crenshaw Jr., who currently resides in Columbus, Georgia. After a tour of duty at Ft. Lewis, Washington, and the successful fulfillment of his military obligation, Larry decided to end his military service and pursue a civilian career.

In 1985 Larry married Donatela (Gina) Ipong-Crenshaw and they moved to south Tacoma. They lived together in their home on Lorraine Avenue in Lakewood, until her death on May 9, 2017. Larry's love for Gina never faltered and his home remained exactly the same as Gina had it during their life together. The two are buried together at the Tahoma National Cemetery.

Larry was blessed with many great friends at St. Nicholas but a few in particular deserve mentioning. George and Elanor Ballisiotes were Larry's sponsors into Orthodoxy and he was cherished and loved by the entire family. Larry, George and Kathy (Ballasiotes) Rowley were often together during church services, afterward during luncheons in the dining hall, and George and Larry frequently dined for lunch at many of the restaurants in area.

Another great friend of Larry's from St. Nicholas was John Payne. John and Larry cultivated a strong friendship bond over the last couple of years and after Larry became ill and was frequently in the hospital, it was John who regularly checked up on him, retrieved his mail, took care of his home, and maintained regular communications with his family in Alabama. At Larry's funeral, Larry's brother and sisters were very anxious to meet John. Larry spoke almost daily with his siblings by phone and

Continued on next page....

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

frequently talked about his many friends at St. Nicholas, but the man who received regular mention in their frequent conversations was John Payne. Thank you, John, for being such a true friend!

Larry leaves to cherish his memories his loving 88 year old Queen Mother, Artheldia Danzy Crenshaw of Birmingham, AL; his son Larry Crenshaw Jr, and his 7 year old grandson, Larry Crenshaw III of Columbus, GA; his three sisters of Birmingham, AL, Brenda Crenshaw-Hodo, Angela Crenshaw, Jacqueline Crenshaw-Lockhart; three brothers of Birmingham, AL., Reginald Crenshaw, Robert Charles Crenshaw, Sr., and Mal-lory Emanuel Crenshaw; his three only remaining uncles; Edward, Alvin, and John Crenshaw of Birmingham, AL; a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, friends, neighbors, and parishioners of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

At Larry's funeral, his three attending siblings all mentioned how they were constantly trying to get Larry to return to Alabama where he would be close to his large family, and they could help him. Larry loved his family very much but he would always tell them that he was also blessed with a large family at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, this was where he wanted to live out his life, and when the good Lord was ready to take him he wanted to be buried with his beloved Gina. *MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!!!*

HOW ST. NICHOLAS CAME DOWN TO THE SOLDIERS IN THE TRENCHES, A TRUE STORY FROM

1944. There are many notable events related to this ministry that occurred in the month of June. Two years ago, in June of 2019, Father Seraphim shared the following article that was written by Monk Barsanuphius (Kuznetsov). It was a powerful article so with Father Seraphim's permission, I am reprinting it here.

This story was recounted by grandfather who was a participant in the events described below. My grandfather Fyodor Sidorovich went to the front in 1941. He was assigned to the 282th Infantry Regiment of the 19th Infantry Division. In the first months of the war there was very fierce and violent fighting on the Western Front, and as early as August 1941 he was badly wounded in the head, both legs and the right arm.



After he had recovered he was sent to the Baltic Front. My grandfather received the joyful news of victory while in a hospital because shortly before, in February 1945, he had again been seriously wounded by a mortar shell splinter during contact reconnaissance near Libava [the modern name: Liepāja—a port in western Latvia on the Baltic Sea.—Trans.]. For merit in battle my grandfather Fyodor Sidorovich was awarded the Order of the Red Star and other orders and medals. He was not particularly enthusiastic about recalling the war years and preferred not to answer his relatives' questions on this subject. However, grandfather would readily share one episode from his military past, which was so dear to his heart.

Continued on next page....

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

Grandfather considered himself to be a religious man, though he never paraded his religious feelings for people to see. The flame of faith that he carried through the crucible of the Great Patriotic War [World War II] had been kindled in him by his parents. And when my grandfather would remember his mother, he would relate this miraculous story with tears in his eyes.

It was in 1944. There was an air of impending victory everywhere, but nevertheless death had not lost its sway. A blanket of haze covered the battlefield, which was dotted with unexploded shells, and there was the smell of burning. There was silence, interrupted by occasional bursts of submachine-gun fire. Three Soviet soldiers—Sidor, Vasily and Fyodor—were sitting in a trench. They were smoking silently and thinking their own thoughts. Sidor was from a peasant family. Orphaned in his early childhood, he had gotten used to honorably enduring the hardships of life. Having learned to operate a combine, he had become one of the best hard workers on the collective farm of his native village. War entered Vasily's harmonious and happy life by storm, like a rock thrown through a window. His loving wife and six children were left at home.



Fyodor, my grandfather, was thinking about his mother at that moment. The war found her seriously ill, while Fyodor was taking care of her. So his sick mother needed tending. There were no other relatives left, but his beloved motherland needed even greater filial care. Fyodor would often recall the moment of their parting, when his mother kissed him on his forehead, blessed him with a cross in a sweeping manner and said at parting: "May God keep you, my dear son!"

At the moment when the three soldiers were immersed deep in their thoughts, an old man came down into their trench. He had kind eyes, a high forehead, and wore a linen shirt...It seemed as if they had already seen him somewhere but couldn't make out where exactly—so many paths had been trodden and so many boots worn out. At that moment nobody asked the old man where he had appeared from, though it was absolutely impossible to understand how this man had managed to walk through the minefield, and through the whistle of stray bullets.

No one is surprised by miracles at war. The very fact that you are alive alone is considered a miracle. And suddenly Sidor recollected that he had seen this little old man at home! There, in the icon corner of his hut, there stood a full-height icon of St. Nicholas, and his late mother would often offer up her prayers in front of it.

"Grandpa, when will this accursed war end?" Fyodor asked timidly.



Continued on next page....

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

“Soon, soon, my sons!” the good-natured old man replied and went out mysteriously: “But this war is not the last one. Four horses will fight as well, and the red horse will win!”

Their conversation was interrupted by the drone of an enemy plane. The commander’s order was heard: “To arms!” The little old man walked up quietly and left.

Fyodor wanted to shout to the stranger to wait till the enemy attack was over, but nobody could be seen around them. And then he figured out that St. Nicholas himself had visited them. It was a pity that their meeting had been so brief because Fyodor wanted to ask him how his mother was feeling. And at the same instance it dawned on him that St. Nicholas had come to them not without a reason—it meant that somebody had been tearfully praying in front of an icon of the holy hierarch, and not only for her own son but also for every single Russian soldier—whether he was living or dead—who laid down their lives for their friends on the battlefield.

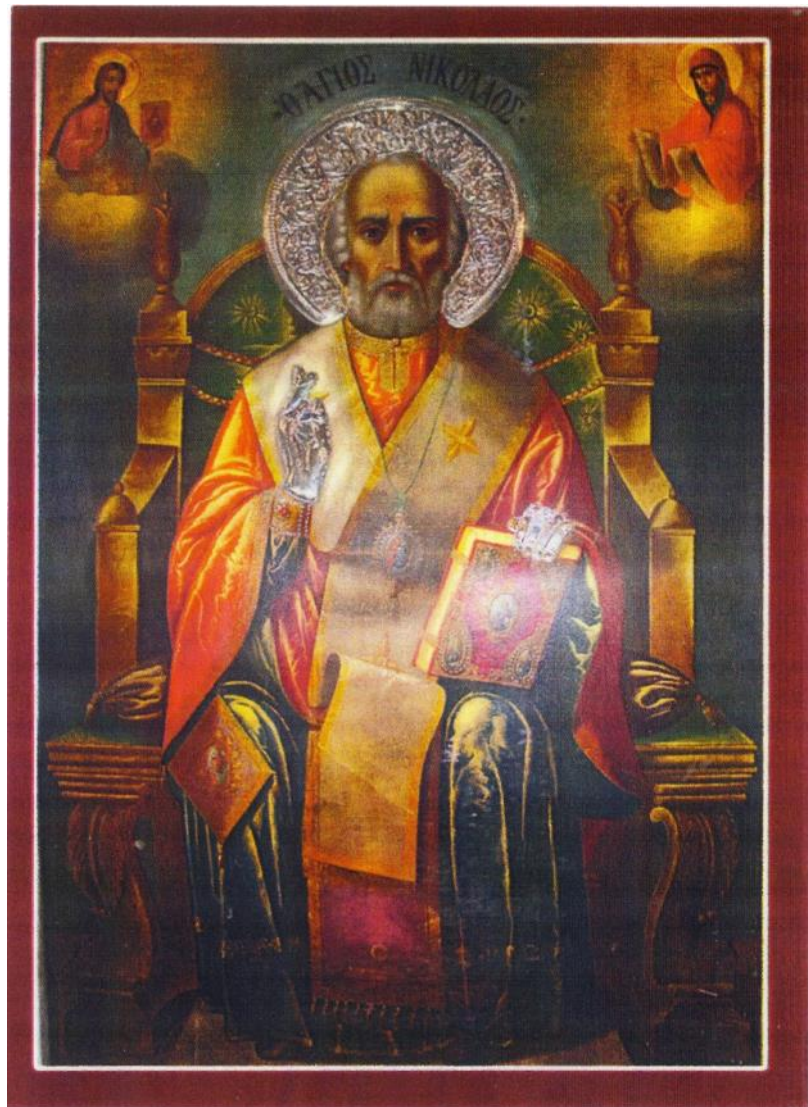


Monk Barsanuphius (Kuznetsov)

Translated by Dmitry Lapa

Pravoslavie.ru

5/22/2019



Cover Story...



You will see from this that, by this saving Swallow, I am thinking of the ascended Lord Jesus Christ. Has He not said of Himself that He is the Way? Did He not Himself say to His Apostles: “I go to prepare a place for you...and if I go...I will receive you unto Myself” (St. John 14:2-3)? And did He not say to them before this: “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me” (St. John 12:32)? This that He Himself said began to be fulfilled a few weeks later, and has continued to be fulfilled right down to our own day, and shall be to the end of time. That is, being the beginning of the first creation of the world, He became also the beginning of the second creation, or the blessed renewing of the old. Sin clipped Adam’s wings and those of all his descendants, and they all fell away from God, went off, and were blinded with the dust from which their bodies were created. Christ, as the New Adam, the first Man, the Firstborn among men, was the first to rise up to Heaven on spiritual wings, to the throne of Eternal Glory and power, thus cleaving the way to Heaven and opening all Heaven’s gates to His followers, with their spiritual wings — as an eagle cleaves the way for its eaglets, as the swallow which goes ahead, showing the flock the way and breaking the air’s heavy resistance. “O that I had wings like a dove; for then would I flee away and be at rest” (Psalm 54 [55]:6), the Psalmist cried in distress before Christ’s coming.

Contributed by: Father Seraphim

Stewardship Ministry News

Stewardship

Offering Our Time, Talent and Treasure To God

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of stewardship at St. Nicholas is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen our faith. Becoming a steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed. (*Source: Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North America*)

As a steward of St. Nicholas, your time, talent, and treasure enable St. Nicholas to fulfill **its mission** through divine services, programs and events, philanthropic activities, and other Christian ministries. By the grace of God and the generosity of our community, the operating budget of St. Nicholas is completely supported through the stewardship of our parishioners.

Thank you for your love and support of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. The 2021 stewardship card is now available for parishioners to complete and return.

Quoting Father Seraphim Majmudar

“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.”

HOW TO BECOME A ST. NICHOLAS STEWARD

To become a steward of St. Nicholas, each household **must** fill out and submit a stewardship card on an annual basis. Stewardship cards enable us to keep a more accurate record of the number of members and projected support for budgeting and reporting purposes. For parishioners, a stewardship card enables you to participate in parish ministry organizations and vote on important parish matters at General Assembly meetings.

HOW TO RETURN YOUR STEWARDSHIP CARD

By Mail

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
Attn: Church Treasurer
1523 South Yakima Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98405

Stewardship Ministry News

Stewardship

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At Church

Stewardship cards may also be turned in at the Stewardship Table in the lower hall. Please place your completed stewardship card in the gray lock box. You are also welcome to hand deliver your completed card to any Parish Council member.

HOW TO FULFILL YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

Cash or Checks

Envelopes for remitting stewardship gifts are available at the candle table in the narthex. St. Nicholas stewards may use these envelopes to give a check or cash. Please place envelopes in the basket marked for stewardship gifts.

Credit Card

You may also pay with a credit card in the church office. To do so, please contact Mark Robinson, parish treasurer.

Online

Go to the church's website: www.stnicholastacoma.org

Press the DONATE button at the upper right

You will then be directed to: Set Up Your 2021 Stewardship Pledge

Click that button; fill in the information under DONOR: and you are all set!

You will receive acknowledgement of your donation.

Recurring payments are also an option.

The above information was taken from our St. Nicholas' website. We encourage all members worshipping at St. Nicholas to please fill out a 2021 stewardship card. In the previous issues of the Messenger, we acknowledged all those who have contributed to our church this year. In this issue we will once again acknowledge those who contributed as well as those whose 2021 stewardship card is on file.

In addition, we would like to THANK EVERYONE who contributed time, talent or treasures to our church during Lent and Holy Week. It is with the cooperation, love, and unity of this parish where we can Glorify God and give Him THANKS for everything He has given us. God Bless You.

Contributed by: Maria Koumantaros

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 19 more households and 1 more organization have given and/or pledged some of their treasurer's to our church. This list is as of May 15, 2021. Below is a list of those households and organizations. We have also noted the parishioners who have submitted a 2021 stewardship card. IF you have any questions regarding the notations, please contact the church office. 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 as soon as possible. May God Bless you and your family with good health and much happiness!

William & Mary Acker •	Anthony & Sandra Ciarochi	Kathy Johnson •
Nicholas Afeiche	Courtney Cole-Faso •	"Rikki" Hariklia Kapes •
Leonidas & Despina Alatsis •	Sharmarie & Troy Dares •	Anna Karanasos •
Patra Alatsis •	Dina Deliyianides •	Paula Karanasos •
Kacoulou Andreas	Gretchen Eagle •	Zachary & Daphne Karanasos •
Sonny & Irene Angelos	Timothy & Sunny Edgren •	Naser & Catalina Khalaj •
Rick & Marlene Angelus •	Frederick & Anastasia Ehret	Claudia Sargent Kieszling •
Paul & Dolores Apostle •	Amber Lynn Eramo •	Evangelos & Despina Kipelidis •
Tony and Lori Apostle •	Salvatore Eramo	Anna Kiraki
Andrew & Sheila Auter •	Mary Erickson	Anna Koopman
Tina Ayers	Andrew & Jane Evancho •	Steve Koukles •
George Ballasiotes	James & Deena Fotinopoulos	John C. Kouklis
Tyler & Lexi Balsler •	David & Savina Frisk •	Mary Kouklis •
E. Anthe Barbas	Dayle Sokratis Frisk •	Ourania Koukousoula & Ronald
Harry & Sheri Basil •	Mary Georgopolos •	Ayume
Sophia Elizabeth Berg •	Christina Ginosatis	Maria Koumantaros •
T.L. Berg	Alla Glagoleva	Peter and Margaret Laketa
Theodora Bessinas •	John & Judy Godulas •	Deanne Langevin
Tatiana Bilibin	Eliza Gooler	Vernon Larson
Dean & Anna Bolaris	Stephan & Claire Gorham •	Robert & Anne Latz •
Andrew & Kathy Bouzinekis	John Gregory	Christina Leinneweber •
Yvonne Brandvold •	Christina Gretty •	Mary Leonard •
Dora Brown	Robin & Joyce Kalivas-Griffin •	L. Likos
Cheryl Burack •	Sally Hallis •	Svetlana Lukianova
Scott & Marcia Cairns •	Dean & Carol Hamos •	George and Bess Lurker •
William and Bonnie Caress •	Michael & Kristine Hanberg •	Jeff & Laura Macaluso
Cash Donations - Anonymous Do-	Daniel & Ekaterini Hanson •	John Basil Majmudar •
nors	Natalya Harpe	Fr. Seraphim & Pres. Sophie
Barry & Deborah Middleton	Brent & Evangelia Hassel	Majmudar •
Cassidy	Magdaline Hatzikazakis •	Sara & Costas Makariou •
Klaudia Cedeno •	Richard & Kathleen Heidal	Olga Lynn Manos •
C.G. and Ingrid Chamales •	Christopher & Cheryl Hunt	Chris & Susan Manthou •
Yianni Charitou	Thomas & Helga Jackson •	Mathew John Manthou •
Reagan & Reanne Charuhas	Joseph & Ronnie-Sue Johnson •	Natalia Marberg
Elena Chen		
Chris A. Cherbas		

Stewardship Ministry News

Stewardship

Offering Our Time, Talent and Treasure To God

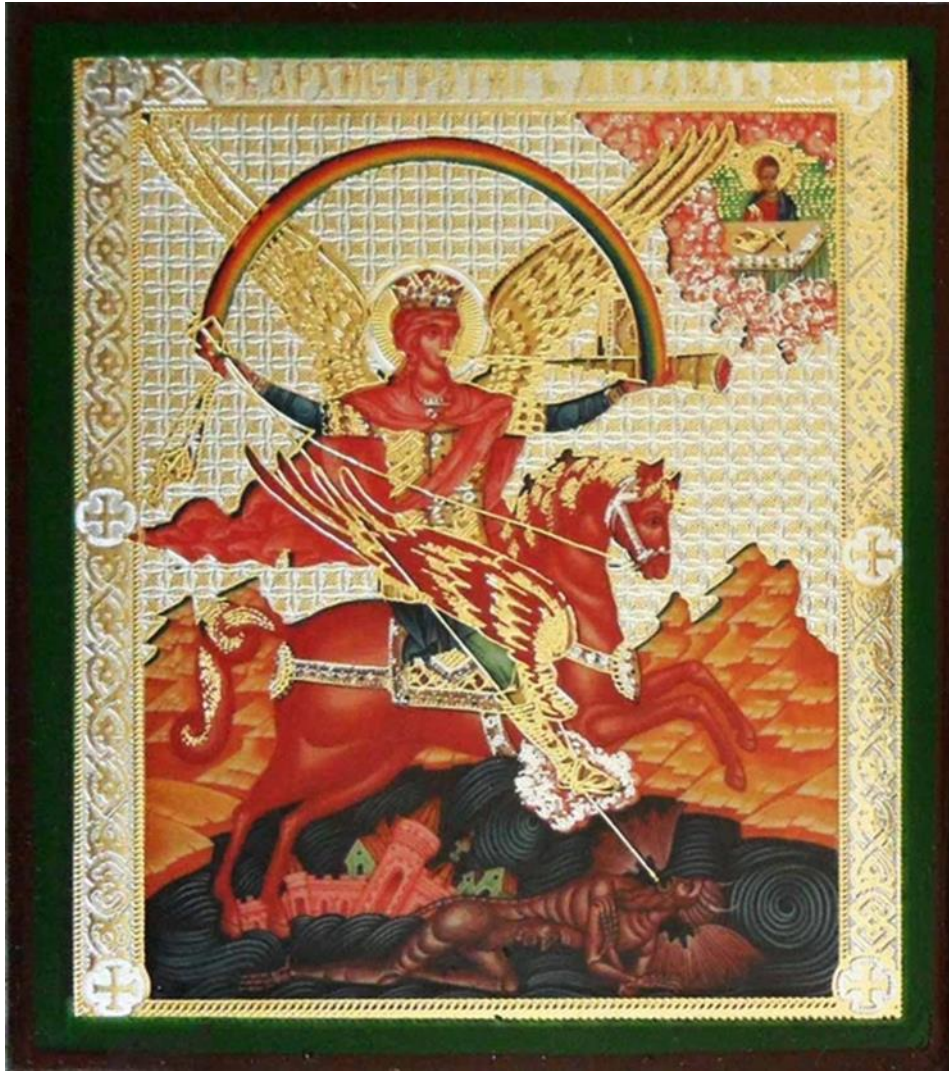
Katherine Mason •	Alexandru* & Victoria Stefan •
Dean & Julie Mastras •	Denise and Richard Stahl •
Iphigenia Mavromichali •	Andy & Joanne Stergachis •
Helen & George McClure •	James & Jenise Sweeney
Alan (John) & Sheilagh Means •	Deborah Talbot •
Tatyana Mikeladze •	The Matherne Family
Cassie & Paul Moeller •	Nicholas and Becky Themelis •
Tom Mollas	Roxanne Vallantine •
Nina & John Morrison •	Dee Varca •
Hariklia & Dick Motz •	John Volkert •
Michael & Rodica Murphy •	Michael Jane White •
Order of AHEPA - Olympic Chapter	Jeffrey and Janice Williams
David & Katrina Orriss •	Edward Winskill •
Evangelos Pamboukas	Hugh Winskill
Niko & Sonia Pamboukas •	Marcela Wirth
Anthony Panagiotu	Kalitsa & John Xitco •
George Panagiotu	Tasso & Sarah Zambaras
Alexis Pangis •	John Zaoutsos
John & Merrilee Pangis •	Luai Zureikat
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 Society	

• 2021 Stewardship card on file * Deceased

Organization: Order of AHEPA, St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society

Bible Study

ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY THE REVELATION



Archangel Michael slaying Antichrist

Bishop Alexander Mileant: The Antichrist. (continuing from May's newsletter):

The Antichrist will not be content with mere political authority and outward transformations. Praised by all, he will become so conceited that he will regard himself as a superhuman endowed with divine power. He will proclaim a new world-view – a new religion and new morality in place of "outmoded" and "unsuccessful" Christian teaching. Possessed by delusions of grandeur, he will present himself as God and sit in the temple, (possibly in Jerusalem's temple rebuilt where the King Solomon's temple used to be demanding divine worship).

Bible Study

*According to St. Paul, the activities of the Antichrist will be extremely successful, being supported by Satan, and accompanied by lying signs, false miracles, and all kinds of unrighteous deception of the perishing. By signs and miracles of the Antichrist we should understand not only the deceptive tricks aimed to delight the crowd but also the highest accomplishments of science, which will be exploited to strengthen his rule (According to **Rev. 13:15**, the false prophet had the "power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.") The most sophisticated form of surveillance on people will be used to control their activities. Those wishing to buy or to sell anything will have to present official permission to do so (According to **Rev. 13:17**, "no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.") Radio, TV programs, and the press will strive to shape the most favorable image of the world Leader in order to strengthen his political power and admiration among people. Any person daring to question the genius of this Leader, or disagreeing with his measures, will be ridiculed, persecuted, and ultimately destroyed as a public enemy.*

*An image of the coming Antichrist is portrayed by the prophet Daniel in the appearance of a minor horn. Here the prophet describes the characteristics of the Syrian King Antiochus IV Epiphanous – the cruel persecutor of the faithful Jews about 175-164 BC – as a prototype of the Antichrist. In the book of Revelation, the Antichrist is depicted as a beast, coming out of the sea. Some of the characteristics of this monster remind us of the Roman emperors Nero and Domitian, fierce persecutors of Christians in the first century AD. These emperors were contemporaries of St. John who wrote the book of Revelation. To avoid confusion, one should bear in mind that in the book of Revelation the term beast applies not only to the personal Antichrist but also to the whole governmental machine of his anti-Christian empire (**Daniel 7:11 and the first 2 books of Maccabees; Rev. Ch. 13, 19:19-21**).*

The distinctive features, personality and mode of operation of the Antichrist are described by St. Cyril of Jerusalem in his Catechetical Letters (4 and 15) and by St. Ephraim the Syrian in his Homily on the Coming of the Lord and the Antichrist. The famous Russian philosopher Vladimir S. Soloviev attempted to depict the coming of the Antichrist in his Tale of the Antichrist, but his representation and occasionally joking style do not convey all the horror and utter gloom which will threaten mankind in its final period of existence. His tale is a naive idyll when compared to the horror which will dominate people who have lost God. Studying the historical prototypes of the coming Antichrist, like the king Antioch Epiphanos, emperors Nero and Domitian, Lenin and similar "genius" rulers, certain general traits come to mind. All of them in general were worthless people, both in the intellectual and the governmental arena. They came to power not because of their exceptional talents or achievements but because of favorable circumstances. They were more conspirators than governors. All of them suffered from disproportionate delusions of grandeur; in their personal lives they were liars, immoral and cruel. One may speculate that the final world Leader will be distinguished by similar traits.

Bible Study commentary:

Does this mean that Christians are going to have to go without the necessities of this life (medicines, food, heat, etc.) if they don't accept the ways of the world? Will we have to create a parallel society sequestered away from modern society to have the freedom necessary to worship and live according to God's way and grow our own food and medicines necessary to survive? Some already have broken off or are preparing to live this kind of life without government interference or persecution from the secular world. Author, media pundit and Orthodox Christian, Rod Dreher, has a book entitled "The Benedict Option" and he argues that society is going to degenerate at an increasingly rapid rate and Christians are going to be left high and dry; and now is the time to develop networks of Christian society that we can live in, basically, a parallel society. In his later book, "Live Not by Lies", he argues that we are not

Bible Study

going to be living in persecution or being drug out in the woods to be murdered, but we will be left behind (no commercial transactions, no jobs unless we agree to sign a diversity oath resulting in apostasy). Some Christians are looking to other countries where freedom of worship is still honored.

Father Athanasios continues:

If we take literally the time indicated by Holy Scripture regarding the rule of the beast, the activity of the Antichrist will last for about 3 1/2 years. It will end with the Second Coming of Christ, the General Resurrection of the Dead, and the Last Judgment (Daniel 7:25; Rev. 11:2-3, 12:13, 13:5). The Revelation of St. John mentions the appearance of two witnesses, who will proclaim the truth, perform miracles, and, upon completion of their witness, be killed by the Antichrist. These witnesses have been foreseen by some Fathers of the Church to be the two righteous of the Old Testament period – the patriarch Enoch (Gen. 5:23) and the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 2:11) – because only these two men did not die but were taken alive to Heaven. Presumably they will have to return to earth to complete their earthly mission, to suffer for the Word of God and to die as all mortals should.

In summary, such is the teaching of the Word of God about the approaching times, and the behavior and sentiments of the people prior to the Second Coming of Christ. Although these signs are overt and clear, the ability to see and realize them nevertheless will depend on a person's spiritual keenness. Most people, preoccupied with their material well-being, will be incapable of understanding what is happening before their eyes, or the point toward which the world is headed. For this reason, the Savior warned His disciples: "Take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth" (Lk. 21:34-36).

Bible Study commentary:

“Anti” – in Greek – ΑΝΤΙ: In lieu of; instead of; opposite; against. Antichrist is not just against Christ; he is pretending to be Christ. The devil will have to use a “fake” Christ to deceive people because the faith of Christ will still be present. He cannot eradicate the place of the Cross, which is the archetype of all reality. It speaks to the reality that a lot of people want a Christ. Christ is the Seal of which we are the image, and therefore, we long to be united with this Seal. The real question is, do they want the real Christ; or because they are rebelling against Him, that innate desire for Christ will take form of an “instead of Christ”. In lieu of Christ is where the deception begins. In **Matthew 24:4-5** “And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My Name, saying “I am the Christ,” and will deceive many.’ “ **Matthew 24:11** “Then false prophets will rise up and deceive many. **Matthew 24:23-31**” Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. **24)** For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. **25)** See, I have told you beforehand. **26)** Therefore, if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it. **27)** For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. **28)** For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. **29)** Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **30)** Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. **31)** And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” **Mark 13:21-23** “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘Look, He is there!’ do not believe it.

Bible Study

22) For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. **23)** But take heed; see I have told you all things beforehand. **24)** But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; **25)** the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. **26)** Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. **27)** And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of heaven.” (False christs: ψευδόχριστος pseudóchristos, psyoo-dokh'-ris-tos). The best lies are 99% truth. Father Alexander is trying to express the need for discernment and to be well informed so that we can separate the truth from the lies that the evil one tries to perpetrate. Prior to the Lord bringing the Jewish people through the veil to see the true Christ they will initially believe this is His First Coming because they rejected the First “true” Coming. But the veil will be lifted and this is where Enoch and Elijah will come in.

Submitted by: Genevieve Eagle



ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

I met my son-in-law's sister, Tanya and her husband Gale, over twenty-five years ago. At that time, they had a daughter and two sons. During the following ten years they adopted seven children after fostering them. Tanya had told me she felt her calling was to provide a home for children who were born into homes with disadvantages. Her only daughter met and married a man who became a Protestant pastor. They were not able to have children and made the decision to foster and adopt nine children (so far). These are just two cases with happy endings for sixteen children. There are alternatives to abortion – adoption and foster care are just two of them. For those who are considering becoming a foster parent, this article might help you decide.

MOTHER'S DAY AND FOSTER CARE



“A child born to another woman calls me Mom. The magnitude of that tragedy and the depth of that privilege is not lost on me.” - Jody Landers

My favorite day of the year is [Mother's Day](#). I love being a mom. When I was just a little girl, I knew God's calling for my life was to be a Mother. I didn't know that His plan for me was to love and nurture and welcome children into my home who were not mine. I have three boys of my own and two who were mine but for a moment. One was in my care on Mother's Day. My first time with foster care and Mother's Day. The other came to me in June.

ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

Our First Placement



Our first placement was an adorable 4-year-old boy with the biggest, softest brown eyes you can imagine. Doe eyes, my mom called them. Eyes that dared you not to fall in love with him, yet eyes that you knew instantly had seen and known too much pain. From the moment I met him, I knew he was meant to be a part of my family.

But nothing, absolutely nothing prepared me for how quickly my heart was broken wide open. What do you say? How do you respond when a child you have known for exactly two minutes looks into your eyes and asks if he can stay forever? He knew nothing about me or my home, and he wanted to stay? Forever? Or when, after less than two months of being in my home, decided to tell me that from now on, “you are my mommy.”

How do you respond when you know that you are not his permanent home? He did not understand the difference between adoption and fostering. All he knew is that for the first time, he felt safe, he felt loved, and he felt seen. And when their heart is so hungry for those things, they attach to you without question, without reason. And in those moments, you are tempted to close your heart; to not get attached because the pain when he leaves will hurt too much.

Love and Let Go

I know you are wondering how do I love a child so freely who isn't mine and won't be mine? I get it. It is something I ask myself every single time the phone rings. The thought of loving and becoming attached to a child who isn't yours for a week, a few months, or even a year and then letting them go? Who would knowingly sign up for that?

But I'll tell you a secret: I can't do it. Most times, I don't want to. I am afraid every single day for my heart and the hearts of my family. The uncertainty is crippling, and the fears and doubts are overwhelming at times. But to be able to love a child, to give them the safety and security, and to teach them that they are WORTHY? That is what drives me forward, makes me brave, and keeps me coming back for more.

ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

Saying Goodbye vs Being Alone

Saying goodbye hurts. More than you can possibly imagine. But it is not the worst thing. The worst thing is a child taken from their home holding only a small trash bag with their belongings inside. A teenager is sleeping at the DHS building, waiting for a family to say yes. A baby, alone in a hospital nursery without a mother to hold her. Siblings separated and driven, alone, to different homes for the first time.

These are [very real scenarios](#) that happen every day in every city in this country. These kids need us to say yes because they are living in a situation, not of their choosing. They need a mother who is willing to sign herself up for heartbreak, say yes, and love those babies with everything she's got.

Foster Care is for Those Who Will Get Attached



You see, being a Christian is about more than going to church on Sunday, paying your tithe, doing your best, and going to heaven when we die. That's not what Jesus wants from us. I believe we are to live out the Gospel NOW.

It will hurt. You will get too attached. But dare I say, you MUST. THAT IS THE WHOLE POINT. Foster care isn't for those who won't get too attached - it is for those who WILL. These kids need love far more than you need to protect your heart.

"So how do you, as a Mother, love a child who isn't your own" you may ask. [Especially on Mother's Day](#), when your child in foster care wants nothing more than to be yours forever? My answer is, you love them exactly the same as if they were your own. Sounds difficult? Darn near impossible? It is, but it CAN be done.

So, on this Mother's Day and in [this month of Foster Care Awareness](#), I humbly ask you to prayerfully consider giving your heart to a child who so desperately needs it. You won't be sorry. Not for a moment. The love you will get back in return will far outweigh the temporary heartbreak.

"Anyone who ever wondered how they could love a child who did not spring from their loins, know this: it is the same. The feeling of love is so profound, it is incredible and surprising." -Nia Vardalos

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Submitted by: Genevieve

ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

Ministry of Akathist, Prayers for the Departed

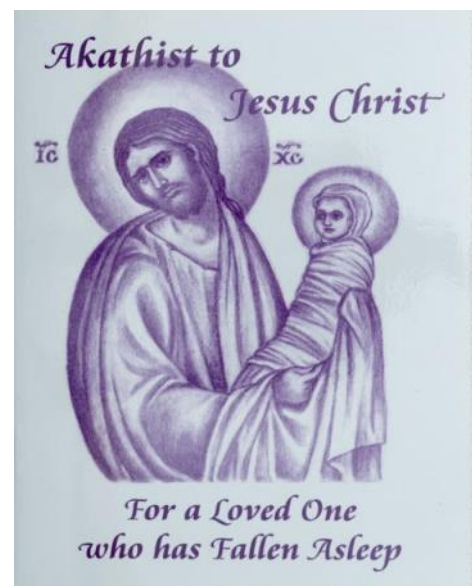


Thank you to all who are involved in this wonderful ministry at Saint Nicholas. In offering the gift of praying the Akathist to Jesus Christ for a Loved One who Has Fallen Asleep, it is a great comfort to family and friends of the departed ones.

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



ST. NICHOLAS FLOWER MINISTRY

The Flower Ministry would like to say **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU**, to all the helping hands, and everyone who contributed this year to the flowers for Pascha.

Thank you to all the donors who made financial gifts, which helped make this year bright and beautiful. You are very generous and kind. It was greatly appreciated, and we were very fortunate to have so many beautiful flowers as a result of your offerings.

Thank you to the many helping hands who helped transport the flowers, clean the buckets, trim the flowers and prepare them for the arrangements.

Thank you to those who helped hang the garlands, and wire everything together!

Thank you to everyone who created the arrangements, and help decorate the kouvouklion.

Thank you to those who picked bay leaves, cleaned and dried them, made bushels of rose petals and bay leaves for the Saturday morning service.

Thank you to all the helpers who kept the areas cleaned up, and minimized the messes! Everyone who helped made the process smooth and seamless. It was a blessing to be a part of such a wonderful group of people! And it was so much fun!

Everyone helped make this time a precious and blessed Holy Week.

I am humbled and very touched by the love in our parish. And so grateful to be a part of the wonderful family here at St Nicholas!

Thank you all, for helping make our church beautiful and a holy place.

With much love,

Kathy Rowley
Flower Ministry lead



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



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. Demetrios, 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, where applications can be found.

Philoptochos Chapter Board Election-The election of the board of directors for the chapter for September 2021-August 2023 was conducted by mail. Katy Mason, Election Chair, reported the results at the May meeting. The following were elected:

President-Jane Evancho

Vice President-Hariklia Motz

Secretary-Merrilee Pangis

Treasurer-Ingrid Chamales

Advisor-Sally Hallis

Board members-Joyce Kalivas Griffin, Maria Koumantaros, Olga Manos, Diane Pirotis, and Kalitsa Xitco.

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.

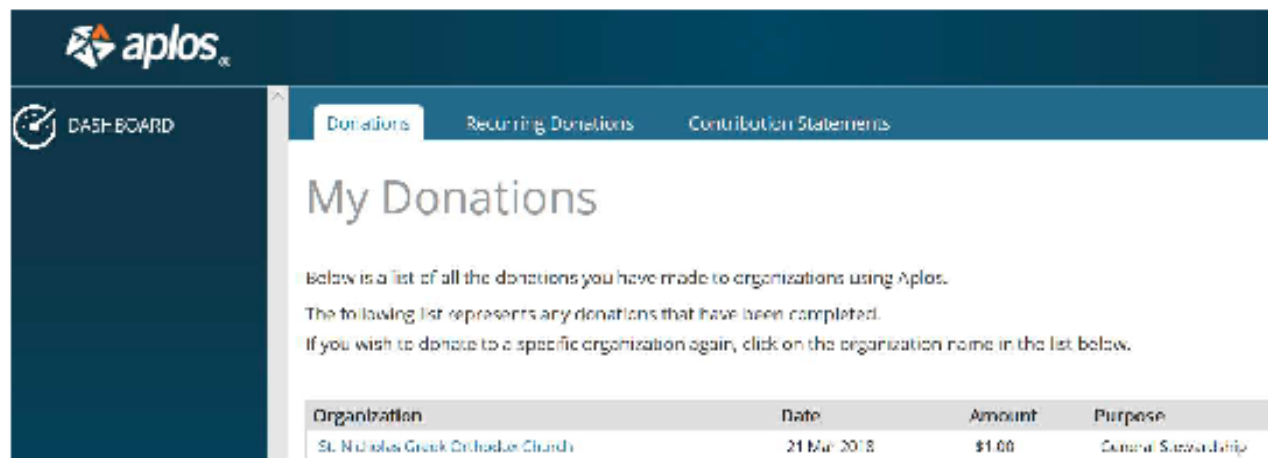
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality. 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
- 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 dashboard interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with a 'DASH-BOARD' menu item. The main content area has a top navigation bar with 'Donations', 'Recurring Donations', and 'Contribution Statements'. Below this is the heading 'My Donations'. A paragraph of text explains that the list below shows all donations made to organizations using Aplos, and that the list only includes completed donations. It also notes that clicking on an organization name in the list will allow for another donation to that organization.

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.

HOW TO RETURN THIS CARD

BY MAIL:

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

AT CHURCH:

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

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

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



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

Please PRINT your information clearly

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

Household Information

Address
 City/St/Zip

Dependent Children

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

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

Christ's Possible Question to You:

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

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

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

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

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

SIGNATURE.....

Click Here to Email Completed Form To Treasurer

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

Saint Nicholas Messenger

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Address Service Requested

