



Epiphany of Our Lord

The Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on January 6. The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the Feast is Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God.

Biblical Story

The Biblical story of the Baptism of Christ is recorded in all four of the Gospels: Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-9, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:31-34.

John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and the one chosen by God to proclaim His coming, was preaching in the wilderness and was baptizing all who would respond to his message calling for repentance. As he was doing this, John was directing the people toward the one who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).



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The Scriptures tell us that Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. Initially, John would not do this, saying that Jesus should baptize him. Jesus said to John, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness (3:15). John consented and baptized Jesus.

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St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

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

Parish Website: stnicholastacoma.org
E-Mail: mail@stnicholastacoma.org



Sunday Services

8:45 am Orthros
10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Please join us for Social/Coffee Hour in our downstairs hall, following the Divine Liturgy



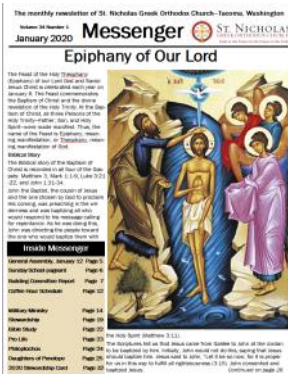
Fr. Seraphim Majmudar, Our Presiding Priest

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

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

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

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
George Pirotis

Akathist Group Prayer
Sandy Dutton

Altar Servers
Dr Nick Themelis

Bible Study
Genevieve Eagle

Book Store
Dr. Nick Themelis

Building Committee
Bill Acker

Building, Grounds & Maintenance
Richard Heidal, John Pangis

Choir
Rebecca Philips

Hands of Love
Merrilee Pangis

Military Service
LTC Gus Chamales

Premarital Education
George Pirotis, Diane Pirotis

Stewardship
LTC Gus Chamales

2019 Parish Council
George Pirotis—President
David Frisk—Vice-President
Mark Robinson—Treasurer
Anna Marie Oakes-Joudy —Secretary
Sheila Auter, Gus Chamales, Genevieve Eagle,
Ronnie-Sue Johnson, Zach Karanasos,
Christina Leinneweber, Fenia Mavromichali, Bill Samaras

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

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

Kelly Rosati — Beginner dancers

George Pirotis — Adult Group Instructor

Coffee Hour
Zach Karanasos

IT, etc.
Bill Samaras

Philia
Diane Pirotis

Pro Life
Genevieve Eagle

Vitos Scholarship
Ronnie Sue Johnson

Flowers & Church Decorating
Kathy Rowley

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

Maids of Athena
Alexandria Samaras— President
Zoe Matteson—Vice President
Elena Apostle— Treasurer
Isabella Mastras- Secretary
Ingrid Chamalas—Advisor
Helen McClure — Advisor

Philoptochos Society
Hariklia (Hoddi) Motz President
Diane Pirotis- Vice-President
Marian Palas- Secretary
Joyce Kalivas- Griffin - Treasurer

Sunday School
Sheila Auter, Director

Greek School
George Pirotis

Lazarus Group
Dean Hamos

Pilgrimage
Zach Karanasos

Prosphora Baking
Deborah Talbot

Welcome
Ronnie Sue Johnson

Parish Council

The January Parish Council meeting is Tuesday January 14 at 7PM in the upper hall.

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>The most up to date calendar is always found at the St. Nicholas web page: www.stnicholastacoma.org</p>						
<p>5 Eve of Theophany 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy w/ Blessing of Waters 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers: THEOPHANY</p>	<p>6 THEOPHANY 9:00am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-12:00pm Divine Liturgy w/ Blessing of Waters</p>	<p>7 Synaxis of St John the Baptist 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-8:00pm Building Committee</p>	<p>8 George the Chozebite STRICT FAST 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek Class 7:00pm-8:00pm NO PARAKLESIS TONIGH 8:00pm-9:00pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>9 Eustratios</p>	<p>10 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Gregory of Nyssa & Theophan the Recluse 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p>11 Theodosios the Cenobiarch 5:00pm-6:00pm Philoptochos After Christmas Christmas Party 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers</p>
<p>12 General Assembly: Budget Martyr Tatiana Vasilopeta Cutting 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>13 Ascetic Martyrs of Sinai & Raithu</p>	<p>14 Leavetaking of Theophany 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-10:00pm Parish Council</p>	<p>15 John the Hut Dweller STRICT FAST 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek Class 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis 8:00pm-9:00pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>16 Chains of Ap Peter 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 9:30am-10:30am WOCA Uction Service: Mountlake Terrace 11:00am-12:00pm WOCA: Three Hierarchs, Milk Terr 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: St Anthony 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: St Anthony</p>	<p>17 Anthony the Great Fr S in Tri Cities? (Tent)</p>	<p>18 Athansios the Great Fr S in Tri Cities? (Tent) 10:00am-11:00am Philoptochos Mtg (no meal) 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers</p>
<p>19 Makarios the Great Mark of Ephesus SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-12:30pm Fr Seraphim with Sun School 12:00pm-1:00pm Philoptochos Soup for Cancer Research</p>	<p>20 Euthymios the Great Fr S at National Pastoral Challenges Conf & Vicariate Retreat</p>	<p>21 Fr S at National Pastoral Challenges Conf & Vicariate Retreat Maximos the Confessor This Week 10:00am-11:00am No Bible Study 12:00pm-1:00pm March For Life, Olympia</p>	<p>22 Apostle Timothy Fast: Wine & Oil ok Fr S at National Pastoral Challenges Conf & Vicariate Retreat 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek Class 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis 8:00pm-9:00pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>23 Clement Fr S at National Pastoral Challenges Conf & Vicariate Retreat</p>	<p>24 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Fr S at National Pastoral Challenges Conf & Vicariate Retreat Xenia of St Petersburg</p>	<p>25 Gregory the Theologian 9:00am-10:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am-11:00am Orthros 5:30pm-7:30pm All Saints Camp Fundraiser Dinner (St Demetrios Greek Orthodox), 2100 Boyer Ave E, Seattle, WA 9811) 7:00pm-8:00pm No Vespers Tonight</p>
<p>26 Xenophon 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>27 Return of Relics of St John Chrys.</p>	<p>28 Ephraim & Isaac of Syria 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 11:00am-12:00pm Fr at Vicariate Clergy Koinonia Group 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p>29 Lawrence of the Kiev Caves STRICT FAST 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek Class 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: Three Holy Hierarchs 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: Three Holy Hierarchs</p>	<p>30 Three Holy Hierarchs 5:30pm-6:30pm Paraklesis to St Nikephoros the Leper</p>	<p>31 Cyrus & John STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers: St Brigid</p>	<p>Notes:</p>

News and Announcements

January 12: Cutting of the Vasillopita, and the General Assembly to ratify the 2020 Parish budget.



Akathist Group Prayer

*Akathist to
Jesus Christ*



*For a Loved One
who has Fallen Asleep*

Our St. Nicholas Akathist Ministry has been busy since the beginning of the year.

Thank you for your devotion to the souls of our Orthodox family. I pray you have been blessed and felt the love that surrounds this ministry.

In Christ Love, Sandy.

Sandy Dutton—

Ministry News

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Christmas Pageant Enjoyed by All

Thanks to all who helped make the children's Christmas Pageant a joyous celebration of Christ's birth

- the children who sang, read, twirled and clapped their way through the carols
- the parents, grandparents and godparents who diligently practiced the lyrics with their kids
- the church family who delightfully joined in the singing
- Sunday school teachers Presbytera Sophie, Savina Fisk and Joseph Johnson for being such wonderful models of patience and grace
- Dana Robinson for accompanying us on the piano and providing beautiful music before and after the pageant
- Anna Karanasos for enthusiastically donating her time and talent to help build the set and add to the costumes
- Genevieve Eagle for showing up whenever she was needed to offer a helping hand, tool or sewing kit
- and Fr. Daniel and Fr. Seraphim for their loving support of our children



Sheila Auter—

Ministry News

BUILDING COMMITTEE



BEYOND THE NARTHEX RENOVATION, A REVISIT OF LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS AT ST. NICHOLAS

I was recently asked by the Parish Council to budget for Building Committee activities in 2020, and advise what the next major capital expenditure would be to plan for after the Narthex Renovation. I deferred the on last question, as there is not a simple answer to it. To help explain, let me first digress into some history and provide some background perspective.

Back in 2012 - 2013 an in-depth cost study was commenced to explore and create a list of long overdue major repairs and improvements at Saint Nicholas Church, plus an addition with an elevator in it. A licensed architect was hired, and the process took several mouths to complete. What resulted was a preliminary set of plans and a detailed estimate & scoping report which has since acted as a general long-term road map for renovating the church.

However, priorities, programming and needs tend to change over the course of time. The scope of the 2020 Narthex Renovation stops at a convenient breaking point where the existing Upper Hall north of it can either eventually be renovated as was part of the 2013 plan, or be completely replaced with a new building. The same can be said for the lower level Kitchen and Dining Hall areas.

In short, the church is at a strategic cross-roads point in deciding where its next major long-term dollars, commitment and efforts are to be spent. The Sanctuary and Narthex, areas that are figuratively speaking intended to last for the ages of ages, or at least the next several generations, will have for the most part been taken care of. It's the rest of the church which is poor physical shape that is still to be spoken for. At present, four big-picture Options have been brought forth to my ears, some of which are admittedly seemingly more far-fetched than others, at least from today's pragmatic standpoint. They are listed on the next page.

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BUILDING COMMITTEE

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Option #1: *Continue with the 2013 Improvements plan in full.* If so, the suggested next two logical steps would be to replace the Kitchen and Dining Hall area roofing, of which there currently is enough general funding to do if proposed and approved by a General Assembly, and then later extensively renovate the Upper Hall, which would be more expensive than the Narthex Renovation and require additional funding beyond what is currently available in the general church account. The total estimated cost at this point to complete the 2013 Plan list, which includes an attached north addition and elevator, would be just shy of \$3 million.

Option #2: *Re-roof the Kitchen and Dining Hall area roofs within the next year* because they in such poor shape, and decide within the next 1 to 2 years whether to continue to renovate according to the 2013 plan, either fully or partially, or take a different path. A potential draw-back with this Option is a substantial money spent to re-roof the Kitchen and Dining Hall area roofs, around \$170,000, may or may not end up fitting in with a different long-term plan that could ultimately be decided upon.

Option #3: *Hold off on further major renovation work after the Narthex* in order to commit focused time, efforts and resources towards a new building that would be unconstrained by existing locations, foot-prints, and marginal construction quality of the existing Kitchen/Dining Hall and Upper Hall wings. The total cost to construct a new building on the Saint Nicholas property that would replace the Upper Hall, Kitchen and Dining Areas, plus create some additional floor space, would likely be at least \$5 million, and could easily be more depending upon how expanded and elaborate the new building ended up being.

Option #4: *Build a new church on a different site.* The cost, including a real estate purchase, would likely be at least \$10 million to construct something of similar or slightly larger size. This is assuming the cost of a new property and required site development wouldn't get too out of hand. In theory, the net cost could eventually be partially offset with the sale of the current church property after the new church is constructed and moved into.

From this exercise, it should be clear that whatever Option ultimately ends up getting implemented, whether it be from this list, another list, or a combination of both, it won't be decided by any one person or group, but by the Parish at large after developing a well-thought out, community generated and coherent long-term plan that is able to reach a general consensus. This is a formable task that won't be done overnight.

In response, the Parish Council at their last monthly meeting authorized approval to set in motion a Parish Strategic Planning program, to be facilitated by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco as our first updated big-picture step. The Strategic Planning would entail a series of focused sessions to be held at our church, with the intent to bring out a long list of ideas, visions and desires from the Parish community at large, and funnel the most compelling inspirations into a coordinated, common-goal, working-together approach. More should be coming out on the tentative Strategic Planning as dates eventually get firmed up.

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BUILDING COMMITTEE

Below is a list of repair, renovation and addition components from a 2013 study and what has been completed to date. The items are listed in a general chronological order of what was initially planned in 2013. Costs listed in the 2013 column were based on an overly optimistic assumption that all work, starting in 2014, would eventually all be completed by the end of 2019. This means that apples-to-apples, outstanding work left to be done is going to be more expensive due to extended cost escalation (inflation) and stricter code requirements.

ST. NICHOLAS PROPOSED 2013 IMPROVEMENTS:		
Scope Item	Projected Cost From 2013	Status In 2020 Dollars
<u>SANCTUARY IMPROVEMENTS:</u>		
Re-Roof Upper Sanctuary Roof.	\$88,490	Done
Insulate Sanctuary Attic Space.	\$15,925	Done
Replace Sanctuary Windows.	\$210,665	Done
Apply Water Repellents to Existing Masonry.	\$19,661	Done
Brick Tuckpoint & Restoration.	\$34,079	Done
New Flooring & Fills at Sanctuary Pews.	\$13,238	\$20,000
Surface Repairs at Lower South Wall.	\$31,195	\$35,000
Work at Southeast Entry Canopy.	\$8,651	Done
Sanctuary Improvements Subtotal:	\$421,904	\$55,000
<u>DINING HALL AREA IMPROVEMENTS:</u>		
Re-Roof Upper Lower Dining & Kitchen Roofs.	\$140,116	\$170,000
Provide a New Ducted Furnace Heat System.	\$74,809	\$100,000
Replace Dining Area Ceiling & Lighting.	\$17,203	\$30,000
Dining Hall Area Improvements Subtotal:	\$232,128	\$300,000
<u>UPPER HALL IMPROVEMENTS:</u>		
<i>(2013 Costs include Narthex; 2020 Costs Do Not.)</i>		
Replace Upper Hall Roof Structure.	\$246,448	\$300,000
Replace Main Entry Roof Structure.	\$166,855	Narthex Work
New Upper Hall Exterior Finishes.	\$212,091	\$180,000
Street Perimeter Sidewalk Repairs, Upper Hall Portion.	\$4,096	\$50,000
Modified Entry Stairs & Ramps.	\$74,334	\$55,000
New Upper Hall Interiors.	\$302,006	\$270,000
Insulate Crawl Spaces.	\$6,177	\$5,000
Provide a New Ducted Furnace Heat System.	\$64,225	\$75,000
Premium to Provide Air Conditioning.	\$25,887	\$32,000
Upper Hall & Main Entry Subtotal:	\$1,102,119	\$967,000
PROPOSED 2013 IMPROVEMENTS LIST CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE:		

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BUILDING COMMITTEE

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ST. NICHOLAS PROPOSED 2013 IMPROVEMENTS:

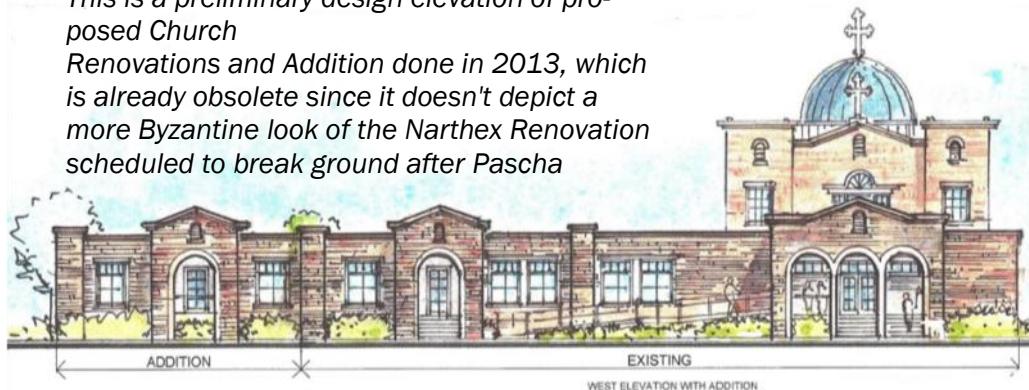
Scope Item	Projected Cost From 2013	Status In 2020 Dollars
(Continued from the previous page.)		
MISCELLANEOUS IMPROVEMENTS & CONTINGENCY:		
Provide a Commercial Fire Alarm System.	\$39,322	\$50,000
Possible Haz-Mat Abatement Premium.	\$25,600	\$30,000
Design & Change of Conditions Contingency.	\$128,000	\$120,000
Misc. Improvements & Contingency Subtotal:	\$192,922	\$200,000
BUILDING ADDITIONS:		
North Classroom Addition.	\$652,589	\$860,000
Elevator Addition.	\$349,314	\$380,000
New Power Service, Fire Code Separation & Site Upgrades.	\$0	\$100,000
Design & Change of Conditions Contingency.	\$64,000	\$70,000
Misc. Improvements & Contingency Subtotal:	\$1,065,903	\$1,410,000
ROUGH-ORDER-OF MAGNITUDE TOTAL:	\$3,015,983	\$2,932,000

Note: the "Status in 2020 Dollars" do NOT include the following:

- 1) Construction cost escalation beyond the year of 2020.
- 2) Premiums for stricter code requirements that are likely to occur in the future.

**THE ABOVE COSTS, WITHOUT AN UPDATED DESIGN,
ARE ROUGH-ORDER-OF MAGNITUDE ONLY AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH**

This is a preliminary design elevation of proposed Church Renovations and Addition done in 2013, which is already obsolete since it doesn't depict a more Byzantine look of the Narthex Renovation scheduled to break ground after Pascha



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Ministry News

BUILDING COMMITTEE

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THE STATUS OF EXISTING DINING HALL / KITCHEN AND UPPER HALL ROOFS:

Both the Dining Hall / Kitchen and Upper Hall roofs are in poor shape and well past their dependable life expectancy. They are living on borrowed time, and the continuation of applying band-aid type patches on a reactive basis are to be expected until the roofs get replaced.

WHY TAKING CARE OF THE DINING HALL / KITCHEN IS MORE THAN JUST A SIMPLE RE-ROOF:

- 1) Local building codes allow a total of two roofing assemblies over a roof structure. The Dining Hall / Kitchen roof has three.
- 2) This means all existing roofing has to be removed, which will require a building permit.
- 3) Given the numerous roof leaks that have occurred, there is likely to be some rotted roof sheathing and framing to replace once exposed.
- 4) A building permit will require among other things, new R-49 rigid insulation to meet current energy code.

WHY RE-ROOFING THE UPPER HALL ROOF IS MORE THAN JUST A SIMPLE RE-ROOF:

- 1) Local building codes allow a total of two roofing assemblies over a roof structure. The Upper Hall roof has four.
- 2) This means all existing roofing has to be removed, which will require a building permit.
- 3) Because the Upper Hall roof structure has no drainage slope to it, and is not constructed per current code, it will have to be replaced as well.
- 4) Replacing the roof structure has a ripple affect, which for code, cost and logistics purposes, will require the replacement and/or renovation of just about everything else underneath it. In essence, the only thing that wouldn't get replaced is the existing floor structure.

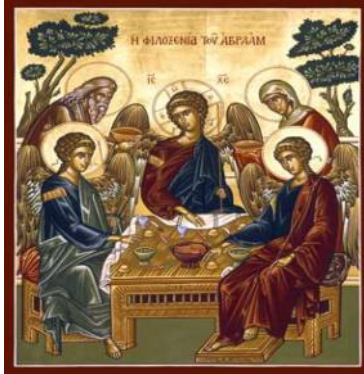
REASONS TO BE OPTIMISTIC IN THE FACE OF DAUNTING COSTS & SCOPE:

- 1) Unlike the situation in 2013, Stewardship now pays for entire general Church operations.
- 2) Based on track record, the Greek Festival can reliably be counted upon to raise over \$100,000 of profits each year.
- 2) \$100,000's was independently raised for the Narthex Renovation in a little over a one year time frame. With an inspired vision, one might presume this could be repeated again.
- 3) Long-term fixes for the heart and soul of the church, the Sanctuary and the Narthex, will have already been taken care of by the time the Greek Festival of 2020 starts. There will still be iconography and other cosmetic improvements to do in those spaces, but its basic architecture and infrastructure will be or is already in place for generations to come.
- 4) With money and efforts currently focused on the Narthex Renovation, 2020 provides at least a year of respite for the church to decide in an intelligent and take-the-time-to-really-think-it-through approach of what the next major undertaking should be.

Bill Acker—

Ministry News

COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY



MISSION

- To extend the Holy Eucharist to social/coffee hour
- To express and manifest our faith by extending the hospitality we proclaim and by acknowledging the grace we have received during the Divine Liturgy
- To promote fellowship
- To connect with fellow parishioners, to welcome guests and to invite new faith seekers to our Church

REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN THE MINISTRY

A servant's heart and a sense of love and care that is penetrating, engaging and inspiring.

TEAM SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

1/5/2020	Men's Team
1/12/2020	Vasilopita Cutting
1/19/2020	Philoptohos Soup for Cancer Research
1/26/2020	Welcome Ministry

CHANGES TO COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY FOR 2020

As stated in the mission statement, the purpose of the Coffee Hour is to extend the Holy Eucharist experience to the social/coffee hour by extending hospitality to not our fellow parishioners, but to everyone. We do this out of our love for God in which we cannot love God without showing love & hospitality to our fellow human beings (who are created in the image & likeness of God). Even though most social/coffee hours are administered by the dedicated coffee hour team members, hospitality (philoxenia in Greek) is a chief virtue of an Orthodox Christian. In order to cultivate and reinforce this virtue, several social/coffee hours will be set aside as Parish Potluck social/coffee hours in which the parishioners will bring in a dish to share. To make it easier, all Parish Potlucks (except for the Greek Independence Day celebration Potluck) will be on a non-fasting day so that you can bring in any dish that you would like. The dates for 2020 are February 23, May 3, July 26 and November 1.

If the Holy Spirit plants you the desire to join the Coffee Hour Ministry, please contact Zach Karanasos

Zach—

Ministry News

HANDS OF LOVE



The Hands of Love Ministry group will meet on January 9, 2020, Thursday at 11:00 am. The group will meet on January 23, 2020 Thursday at 11:00 am. We look forward to the New Year with faith, peace and good health for all.

Merrilee—

PHILIA CHRISTMAS PARTY

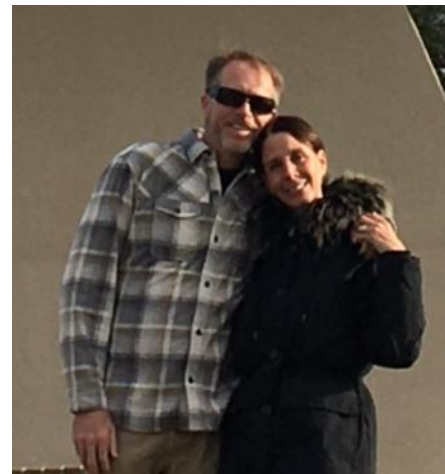


Ministry News

MILITARY/FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MINISTRY



ROGERS FAMILY UPDATE: Jeff was on his mid-tour leave and flew to New York to be with Lexi and their boys for the Christmas holiday. They spent time together in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania touring different sites and enjoying being together again as a family. Jeff will return to his assignment in Afghanistan when his leave is finished where he is serving as a logistical officer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He has a few more months before his tour of duty is completed and his unit returns to Tacoma.



Please continue to pray for Jeff and his family as they undergo the ordeal of deployment in their service to our nation.

STAHL FAMILY UPDATE FROM FT. SILL, OKLAHOMA: Many of you remember Rick and Denise Stahl who were active members of our parish while they were stationed at JBLM. They are still active with St. Nicholas via Facetime with George Pirotis' Greek language class, and they listen to Fr. Seraphim's Bible Study classes because Genevieve sends them the recordings. Recently Denise was kind enough to write us a short email with an update on their current situation at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. This is her transcribed message.

It is so nice to see all of you during Greek class but it makes me homesick. We miss all of you so much!

Our church services here are held in a small chapel located inside the Ft. Sill hospital. We do have a Greek Orthodox military chaplain. His name is Father Chris Moody. It is a rather unusual ministry compared to St. Nicholas. We have about 10-15 regular Orthodox members and the rest are young soldiers attending basic training. At one time we had as many as 90 Basic Trainees attending our services but after we discovered that most were coming so they could have access to vending machines, coffee, and church luncheon food which they are not supposed to have access to while in Basic Training, the numbers dwindled to about 15.



Rick is the only keyboard player here at Ft. Sill which services an active and military dependent community of approximately 53,000 personnel.

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MILITARY/FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MINISTRY

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He serves primarily with the jazz band at this installation. There is a possibility he will switch Military Occupational Specialties and begin working in Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology Contracting.

Rick's parents spent Thanksgiving with us and witnessed first hand the temperature extremes with heavy rain, thunder, and 50mph winds. Nevertheless, it was a wonderful visit.

We have wonderful neighbors. They have a 3 year old who loves to play with Nica, our Hungarian sheep herding dog, and Nica loves playing with her. I help out and babysit for them occasionally because he serves as a Drill Sergeant and works 18 hour days on a regular basis.

Our priest here is schedule to serve Pascha in Wichita Falls, TX, about an hour away. I asked him why and he said because he does not have a Kouvouklion. I am working with some others and we are going to try to build him a folding Kouvouklion so he can do Pascha here.

We hope you all are well and wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We miss St. Nicholas so much and particularly Fr. Seraphim's sermons. St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Tacoma is blessed to have all of you!

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

Denise and Rick Stahl

Voudouris family update from South Korea:

Merry Christmas to all our wonderful friends at St. Nicholas! We miss you all and we sincerely hope you are all doing well.

We wish you all the best of health and happiness in the New Year!

Xronia Polla,

Theo & Jen



Continued on next page....

Ministry News

MILITARY/FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MINISTRY

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Pierce County Law Enforcement Tragedy:



One of our fellow parishioners, Nick Jenkins, serves as a Deputy Sheriff with the Pierce County Sheriff's De-partment. Sadly, one of his colleagues, Deputy Sheriff Cooper Dyson was killed in the line of duty on Saturday, December 21, 2019. Deputy Cooper was re- sponding to a call for help from two other deputies who were engaged in an altercation with a man sus- pected of assaulting a 6 year old child. Dep- uly Dyson was driving to the scene of the altercation when he crested a rise in the road. It is suspected that due to the extremely wet road conditions at that particular point he lost control of his vehicle as it slid off the road, and the vehicle then rolled and caught

fire. Deputy Dyson died at the scene of the accident. He leaves behind a loving wife who is expected to soon give birth to their daughter, and a two year old son.

Saturday also marked the 10 year anniversary of another domestic violence call that turned fatal for the department, which resulted in the death of Deputy Kent Mundell seven days after he and Sergeant Nick Hausner were shot while responding to a call near Eatonville.

Deputy Cooper Dyson's funeral will be Monday, December 30th at 1:00 PM at the Tacoma Dome. The funeral will be open to the public.

Please pray for Deputy Dyson's loving family, friends, and for his colleagues with the Pierce County Sheriff's department. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL.**



Ministry News

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Fr. Stavros from St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa, Florida writes an article almost every day entitled "PRAYER TEAM." If you have a few moments I would encourage you to log on and subscribe to his site at frstav@gmail.com. His articles provide me with a little peace and tranquility during what usually seems to be a busy and hectic day and I encourage you to give it a try! His words may very likely reinvigorate your spiritual well-being.

Below is an article he wrote last month. Please take a few minutes to read it? I know I benefited from the article and sincerely hope you may as we begin the new year.

ARE YOU RICH TOWARDS GOD?

The Lord said this parable: *"The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."* As He said these things, He cried out, *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

Luke 12:16-21 (Gospel of the 9th Sunday of Luke)

Good morning Prayer Team!

Today's Gospel reading is one of the most sobering passages in the entirety of scripture. A man spends many years amassing lots of material goods. Along the way, he continues to upsize his property, tearing down barns and building larger ones. He rejoices in his sense of security—He has built up a lot of stuff over many years, he has earned the opportunity to relax. He is living the "dream." And then God comes to him, as he is relaxing, and delivers a harsh truth, "This very night, your soul is required of you, and all those things you have, whose will they be?"

We are encouraged to be like the rich man from the youngest age. Work hard in school, so that we can get a good job, so that we can make a lot of money, so that we can enjoy the good life, and so we can have some sense of financial security in our old age. This is the "American dream." I guess you could say it was the American dream. We aren't so much into saving and security anymore but we are into stockpiling up goods for ourselves.

At the end of life, the only thing that riches can buy is a more expensive casket and a nicer headstone. Our material goods will not follow us into eternal life. You can't wire money there. The goal in life is to be rich towards God. If we achieve material wealth, that is a blessing. But if we do not achieve wealth, at the end of life, it really doesn't matter. In our services, we pray that we will have sufficiency for ourselves and to share. The one who has amassed a lot of wealth is not just supposed to get bigger and bigger and

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Ministry News

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

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and acquire more and more. He is supposed to help those who have nothing. This is not a political statement, nor should we wait for a government mandate in order to do that. Becoming rich towards God is seeing the need in one's own life, and finding room in one's own heart to share with those in need.

Many people, including me, are putting away for retirement. I hope there will be a day that I don't have to work, that I can relax and enjoy retirement from my life of labor. I contribute to an Individual Retirement Account, or an IRA. Every month, I put some of my material riches away, hoping they will accumulate to the point that I will be able to retire from work.

All people, whether we acknowledge it or think about it, are eventually going to die. We are going to stand before God for judgment of whether we are worthy to enter the Kingdom of heaven or not. And our judgment is going to be based on our spiritual riches (being rich towards God), not our material ones. It is therefore incumbent on us to put away **spiritual treasures—love, kindness, charity, prayer, worship**—into an **Eternal Retirement Account (ERA)**. So that at the point we are going to die, we can look forward to an eternity of blessedness in God's Kingdom.

Because we don't know when our souls will be required of us, we should be motivated to put into the **ERA** on a daily basis, so that if our soul is required of us tonight, that we will have made a deposit today.

There are sadly, a lot of foolish people out there who are not concerned with being rich towards God. They are doing exactly what Jesus says in the Parable today. They spend years collecting and collecting, putting more and more treasure away for personal use, hesitant to share their treasure with charitable causes for fear that there won't be enough treasure left. They acquire more and more, seeking the elusive security. There is no sense of a ceiling as far as riches and security. And there are lots of people, who at the moment that their soul is required, realize far too late that they may be materially rich but are spiritually poor.

There is nothing wrong with attaining material riches. There is nothing wrong with putting away for retirement. But along with possessions and retirements accounts, we need to be putting in our **Eternal Retirement Account** on a daily basis.

One more thought—having experienced Hurricane Irma a few years ago, it was a reminder that all of our material things can be wiped out by a disaster at any time. Therefore it is not the material things that should be of utmost concern, but the spiritual things that cannot be wiped out by disaster, and that will be the determinant of whether we are rich towards God.

The violators of the Law had You crucified amid the convicts. Furthermore, they pierced Your side with a lance, O Lord of mercy. You accepted burial, You destroyed the gates of Hades, and on the third day You resurrected. The Women ran to see You, and they announced the resurrection to the Apostles. Supremely exalted Savior, whom the Angels

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Ministry News

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

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extol, O blessed Lord, glory to You. (Second Resurrectional Kathisma of the second set, Plagal 1st Tone, Trans. by Fr. Seraphim Dedes)

Make a spiritual deposit into your ERA on a daily basis!

+Fr. Stavros

Do you want to share the Prayer Team with your friends and family? Forward the link or add them yourself so they can sign up and grow in their faith like you have. Thanks for sharing.

St John the Baptist Greek Orthodox | 2418 W Swann Ave, Tampa, FL 33609

As 2019 comes to an end we have much for which we should be thankful and as the New Year of 2020 arrives, we have much to which we can look forward! Thanks to the blessings of St. Nicholas and your remarkable efforts over the course of the last few years, the construction of our new Narthex will begin following Pascha! That will be the first step in upgrading our church and God willing, there will be more to come in future years. **DOXA TO THEO!**

We are blessed with many great people here at St. Nicholas! Many of you are busy doing things to help others and to improve things around our church, and I sincerely apologize for not doing a better job of telling you how much your hard work and dedication is truly appreciated. I'm not a big fan of New Year resolutions but I will strive to do a better job of expressing my sincere appreciation for the Spiritual Treasure that you share with all of us; your love, your kindness, your charity, your prayer, and your worship.

That being said, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to those who regularly contribute and have graciously stepped forward to support our 2020 stewardship drive! To date you have pledged over \$200,000.00! That is significantly more than what we had pledged at this time last year and it is 2/3rds of the way toward our stewardship goal for the year 2020. If you haven't yet submitted a pledge card or logged onto the website that will allow you to pledge digitally, please do so as soon as possible! Through your caring you make St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church a wonderful place to worship our Lord.

Once again, we wish to express our sincere thanks to the following who have responded to our request for financial stewardship for the 2020 calendar year! **EFXARISTO POLI KAI DOXA TO THEO!**

William & Mary Acker
Sonny & Irene Angelos
Andrew & Monica Auter
Francis & Oksana Barnes
Theodora Bessinas
Yvonne Brandvold
Barry Cassidy/Deborah Middleton

Dr. Patra Alatsis
Rick & Marlene Angelus
George Ballasiotes
Harry & Sheri Basil
Morgan Blackmore
Dora Brown
Klaudia Cedeno

George & Despina Ampatsis
Tony & Lori Apostle
Chrysanthe and Wiley Barnes
Vasilakis H. Basil
James Brailey
Cheryl Burack
Dr. Ingrid & LTC(R) C.G. Chamales

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Ministry News

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

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MA(R) Russell & Staci Chappell	Chris A. Cherbus	Anthony & Sandy Ciarochi
Courtney Cole-Faso	SFC(R) John & Maria Cook	Dr. & Mrs. George Dellyanis
Jackie Dionas	Anne Dykstra	Genevieve Eagle
Dr. Fred & Dr. Anastasia Ehret	Andy & Jane Evancho	Krisann & Pete Firth
David & Savina Frisk	John & Judy Godulas	Christina Gretty
Sally Hallis	Michael & Kristina Hanberg	Daniel & Ekaterini Hanson
Natalya Harpe	MSG(R) Thomas & Helga Jackson	Ioanna Jimenez
MSG(R) Joseph & Ronnie-Sue Johnson	Alex & Anna Marie Joudy	Joyce Kalivas-Griffin
Hariklia & Pod Kapes	Anna Karanasos	Paula Karanasos
Zachary & Daphne Karanasos	Sharon Kennedy	Naser & Catalina Khalaj
Claudia Kieszling	Evan & Despina Kipelidis	Anna Koopman
Steven Koukles	Mary Kouklis	Maria Koumantaros
Peter & Margaret Laketa	Robert & Ann Latz	Jeffery LeCates
Christina Leineweber	Mary Leonard	Fr. Seraphim & Pres. Sophie
Katherine Mason	Dr. Dean & Julie Mastras	Mary Ann Matherne
Fenia Mavromichali	COL(R) George & Helen McClure	Cassie & Paul Moeller
Mark O'Neil	Michael & Rodica Murphy	Marian Palas
Anthony Panagiotu	George Panagiotu	Mike & Gina Panagiotu
Alex Pangis & Miss Elly	John & Merrilee Pangis	John Payne
George & Diane Pirotis	Stavros Pirotis	Joaquin & Shanna Piroit
Steve, Kathleen, & Martha Politakis	Andrew & Rebecca Primis	Emmanuel Psilovikos
Mark & Dana Robinson	Katherine Rowley	James Salatas
Katherine Salatas	Alexandra & SSG Richard Schutt	SGT Richard & Denise Stahl
James & Jenise Sweeney	Dr. Andy & JoAnne Stergachis	Nathan & Kristine Stevens
Aaron T. & Ranae C. Rice	Dr. Olympia Tachopoulou	Deborah Talbot
Dr. Nick & Becky Themelis	Roxanne Vallantine	Dee Varca
Mark & Katerina Warns	Michael Jane White	Ed & Winskill
Leisa Ann /Wood	Kalitsa & John Xitco	Tasso & Sarah Zambaras
Mathew & Leigh Ann Zehnder		

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Gus—



Ministry News

ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY

BOOK OF HEBREWS

Hebrews 9

The first few verses of Hebrew 9 are read during the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Holy of Holies. Why is this feast of such importance? Because this when Panagia first said “yes” to God. At this moment we now have a “Holy of Holies”.

From The Life of the Virgin Mary, The Theotokos – The Holy Apostles Convent:

“Zacharias then set her down upon the third step of the altar, and the Lord God sent grace upon her; and she danced with her feet, and all the house of Israel loved her. The Virgin of the Lord then went up all the steps one after another, without the help of any to lead or lift her. It was evident from henceforth that she was of perfect age because she walked with a step so mature and she spoke so perfectly. *Three years old in the flesh and many years old in spirit. Therefore, let us praise in hymns the child by nature who was shown forth as a mother beyond nature.* The parents then, after offering up their sacrifice (according to the custom of the Law) left the Virgin with other maidens in the apartments of the temple to be brought up therein. Mary’s parents then went down marveling and praising the Lord God, because the child did not turn back. They then returned to their home. And Mary was in the temple of the Lord, as if she were a dove that dwelt there.”

Zacharias, father of St. John the Baptist, was high priest at the time of the Theotokos’ entry into the temple. He did something that no other priest had done – allow a child (especially a female) into the Holy of Holies. This is, in itself, a prophesy. The Holy Spirit came down upon Zachariah. Another high priest’s prophecy is in the following scripture verses:

John 11:49-52: *“And one of them, Caiaphas being high priest that year, said to them, ‘You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish. Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.*”

Girard's main contribution to philosophy, and in turn to other disciplines, was in the field of epistemologi-

Rene Girard
1923 – 2015
Mimetic
Desire &
Scapegoating



cal and ethical systems of desire.

Girard believed that human development occurs initially through a process of observational mimicry, where the infant develops desire through a process of learning to copy adult behavior, fundamentally linking acquisition of identity, knowledge and material wealth to the development of a desire to have something others possess

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Ministry News

Bible Study

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All conflict, competition and rivalry therefore originate in mimetic desire (mimetic rivalry), which eventually reaches destructive stages of conflict both between individuals and social groups that requires them to blame someone or something in order to diffuse conflict through the scapegoat mechanism. Unable to assume responsibility or engage in self-reflection to recognize their own part in the conflict, humans individually and cross-tribally unite, or diffuse conflict, by murdering the king or whoever appears to have the least support in the conflict, and then recognizing when the person died how much less stress they have, and the unification leads to them eventually thinking of the deposed dead king as god, i.e. deification or sanctification. Or, guilt is ascribed to an innocent third-party, whose murder permits the creation of a common unifying mythological underlay necessary for the foundation of human culture.

For Girard, religion and mythology were therefore necessary steps in human evolution to control the violence that arises from mimetic rivalry and unequal distribution of desirable things. Religion directed the scapegoat impulse on imaginary concepts, such as Satan or demons, the absence of which would see an increase in human conflict, according to Girard. His ideas ran sharply contrary to the post-modernism in vogue through most of his life, and his views of human nature were pessimistic in contrast with the mainstream currents of his time. Girard saw religion as an essential instrument of cohesion, believing that the primary purpose of sacred texts was to end the practice of human sacrifice through ritualistically surrogating for the behavior triggered by scapegoat mechanism, adopting and expanding many of Nietzsche's ideas.

The definition and core principle of what it is to be a created being is survivability – the desire to perpetuate one's existence and reproduction. The consequence of that is:

- Organization
- Leadership structure
- Diversify tasks – organization
- Working together in community for a greater survivability
- Rules for management
- Police force

Then, there is the messy impulse of passions, where everything gets out of whack as time progresses and the system works. When those sinful impulses become unavoidable, how do we understand human behavior? The community becomes complacent when everything is working smoothly and their needs are being met, so they allow their passions to overrule their instincts to stay together.

Girard identified that there will not be a specific desire until a group knows what's available to all. Some may base their choice on what they perceive to be another's preference - to mime what is another's desire. These desires will, inevitably, cause conflict. Eventually, when the conflict gets out of control, there is a need to bring order back to the relationship system so they start looking for someone to whom they can transfer the personal responsibility of causing the problems. When that person takes on the responsibility, ultimately before God as our own sin, then order can be restored to the system. This is scapegoating. The Patristic theology of what makes a human being a human being is the 3 energies of the soul. One of those energies is the "desiring" energy. Before the Fall, God created Adam and Eve with an innate desire to seek God. God did not remove that "desiring" energy from the soul, but because of our brokenness it twisted away from God into itself resulting in selfish and passion-motivated desires. Because the desired goal is God, acquiring anything else comes up short leaving us un-fulfilled. We can't keep our disappointment internally for an extended period of time, so to vent and release the pent-up frustration, we seek a reason or explanation that resulted in the disappointment and lay blame.

Seeking and focusing on God reduces the mimetic desire to mimic and rival everyone else. The mimetic desire shifts for us to be like Christ.

Submitted by: Genevieve

Ministry News

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Pro-Life Ministry Article from
lifeneews.com MICAH BILGER NOV 18, 2019 | 3:54PM WASHINGTON, DC



The image of an 18-week unborn baby from Life magazine's stunning 1965 photo-spread is being hailed as the photograph of the century. The description comes as a surprise from The Guardian, a left-wing British publication that supports abortion on demand. [Its article celebrating the photograph](#) tried to make excuses for abortion even as the images openly displayed the inherent humanity of babies in the womb. The celebrated photograph was taken by Swedish photojournalist Lennart Nilsson and published in the April 1965 edition of Life under the title "Drama of Life Before Birth." That issue became the "fastest-selling copy" of the magazine in the history of its publication, according to the report. "In full color and crystal clear detail, the picture showed a fetus in its amniotic sac, with its umbilical cord winding off to the placenta. The unborn child, floating in a seemingly cosmic backdrop, appears vulnerable yet serene. Its eyes are closed and its tiny, perfectly formed fists are clutched to its chest," the report described. The photo is one of several showing unborn babies in the famous magazine layout. They were published at a time when the abortion debate was beginning to boil and ultrasound technology was still extremely limited. Most of the babies who Nilsson photographed had been miscarried or aborted. According to the report: "Nilsson was only able to photograph one living fetus, though, using an endoscopic camera that travelled into a womb. This picture was included in Life and is distinct from the others – being taken inside the uterus means it can't capture the fetus in its entirety." His photos captured the humanity of unborn babies in amazing detail, in both black and white and color. Another photo of a 20-week unborn baby shows vivid details of the baby's face, including the tiny veins in his/her eyelids and feathery hair growing across the forehead. Another photo of a 13-week unborn baby shows the amniotic sac and placenta surrounding a tiny baby with already distinguishable fingers and toes, eyes, ears and ribs. The celebrated photographer died in 2017 at age 94. According to the report, he began limiting the use of his photos after seeing one of his images on a pro-life poster in the 1980s because he did not want them to be political. Recently, however, the Paris Photo art fair began displaying Nilsson's famous photos again, and other venues in Europe may follow, according to the report. "The images caused a stir in Paris and it's easy to see why: their quiet beauty has a powerful emotional pull," the report described. Though The Guardian still tried to justify abortion, its commentary seemed so hypocritical when juxtaposed with the photos of babies in the womb. Nilsson may not have wanted his photos to be political, but they became so because of the abortion industry's attempts to deny the humanity of the unborn. His photos left an immense legacy because they show the powerful truth: Unborn babies are unique, living, valuable human beings, and the pro-life movement is on the side of science and truth.

Submitted by: Genevieve—

Ministry News

Philoptochos

President's Message

Greetings everyone and Happy New Year!

Significant activities in December included:

The Giving Tree effort, which is a cooperative effort with the Daughters of Penelope: With funds from the Harvest Breakfast and an AHEPA donation, 12 families with 31 children were gifted over the holidays. Gift cards for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and wrapped gifts were distributed to these families from five schools in the Tacoma community.

Serma Charuhas 40 day Memorial Coffee Hour: A variety of salads were prepared by Philoptochos members to serve 125 at this memorial for a cherished member of our community.

Philia Christmas Party: Approximately 25 members of the parish community gathered to dine on a spaghetti meal and play several rounds of Bingo.

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

After Christmas Party-January 11, 2020, members of the parish community will gather for a festive meal at the Fircrest Country Club, for fellowship and good company. Tickets can be obtained from Sally Hallis or Marian Palas. See flyer on page 33.

Vasilopeta -On January 12, special loaves of bread will be cut and served to representatives of the St. Nicholas ministries. Funds from this event will go to the St. Basil's Academy, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese home for children in need in New York.

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

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

Jane--

UPDATE ON THE PHILOPTOCHOS AFTER CHRISTMAS, CHRISTMAS PARTY

Brendan Tuohy will be our singer at this year's After Christmas Christmas Party. Brendan was baptized at St. Nicholas and calls Tacoma his home. Brendan served in the altar, was part of the dance group, and recently has helped his parents, Ed and Marilyn Tuohy, in the kitchen during our Festival. Brendan has been praised by *The Cincinnati Post* for his "big bold tenor edged with silver". Brendan will be singing some Christmas carols, and who knows, might throw in an aria from one of his recent operas. Brendan has performed in France, Germany, and China and was a member of the Houston Grand Opera Studio. In 2008 he had the honor of singing and competing in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Semi Finals in New York.

See flyer on page 33

Ministry News

Philoptochos Calendar 2020

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

Daughters of Penelope – Maids of Athena

Maids of Athena Sparta #1 and Daughters of Penelope Icaria #175

The Maids of Athena and Daughters of Penelope will host a scholarship workshop. Each year the North-west AHEPA Family Educational Foundation gives academic scholarships to the AHEPA Family of District 22. This includes Oregon and Washington. All Maids of Athena and Sons of Pericles as well as children of AHEPANS and DAUGHTERS are welcome to this free event. District MOA Advisor and Educator Helen McClure will conduct this informative workshop to include the various requirements of the scholarship, how to write a personal letter and time management when gathering pertinent information for scholarships. Also included in this workshop will be the review of documents prepared for this particular scholarship,

For more information Contact Helen McClure: hmcclure@pierce.ctc.edu

Date: Jan 6th, 2020. Time 6 PM

Location: St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church - upper hall

Cover Story

Continued from page 1

When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Bible records that the Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on him. When this happened, a voice came from heaven and said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." This was the voice of God the Father.

Christ's baptism in the Jordan was "theophany," a manifestation of God to the world, because it was the beginning of our Lord's public ministry. It was also a "theophany" in that the world was granted a revelation of the Holy Trinity. All three Persons were made manifest together: the Father testified from on high to the divine Sonship of Jesus; the Son received His Father's testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son.

Icon of the Feast

The Icon of the Feast of Theophany tells the story from the Gospels in images and color. On the left side of the icon we see John the Baptist (1) who is dressed in camel's hair and has the appearance of one who lives in the wilderness. His arms are outstretched, showing an attitude of prayer and reverence, but also directing others to Christ. With his right hand he is conducting the baptism.



1. *Saint John the Baptist conducts the Baptism of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (detail).*



2. *The Heavens open, the voice of the Father is heard, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descends upon Christ (detail).*

Continued on next page

Cover Story

Continued from previous page



3. Angels of the Lord gathered on the shore of the Jordan River give praises to Christ (detail).



4. An angel of the Lord receives Christ as He comes out of the water (detail).



Copied from The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Ministry News

PROSPHORA BAKING SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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



Deborah Talbot—

Ministry News

On line Donations now possible

ON-LINE DONATIONS

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



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

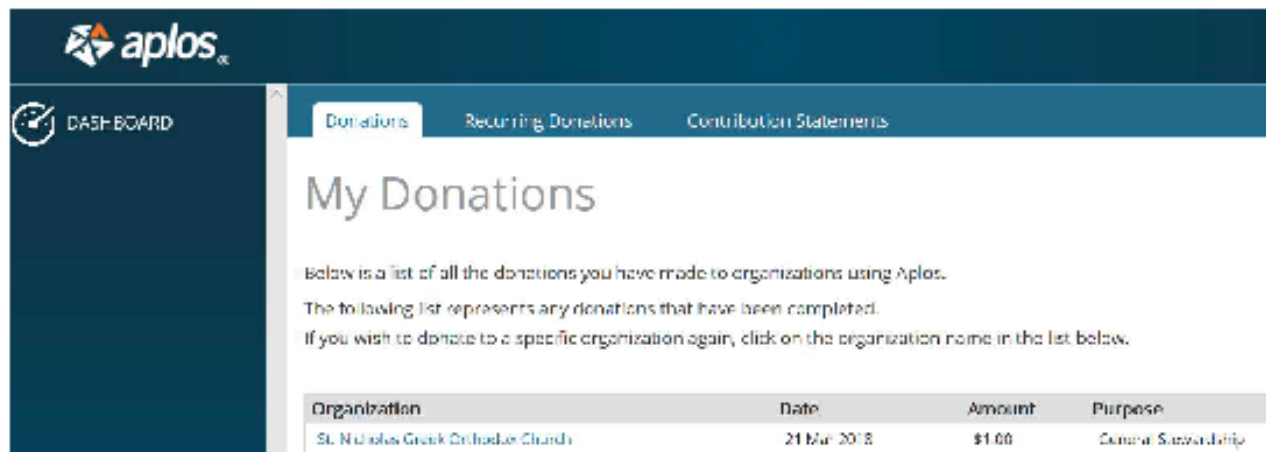
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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

In Christ,

Mark Robinson

On-Line Contribution Instructions:

- 1) On a computer or mobile device, go to the Church’s website – www.stnicholastacom.org
- 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, there is explanatory 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

Heritage Greece

HERITAGE GREECE PROGRAM 2020

Session I: June 4 - 21, 2020

Session II: July 9 – 26, 2020

Heritage Internship Program: June 22- July 5, 2020

Athens, Greece



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

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

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

Heritage Greece

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Participants must be enrolled in an undergraduate/graduate program

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

First time visitors to Greece provided preference

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

ADDITIONAL HERITAGE GREECE SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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

Hellenic Heritage Foundation Scholars: limited to Greek Canadian student candidates

NHS HERITAGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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

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

GOING VIRAL

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

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

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

Program Dates:

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

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

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

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

Please forward this email and contact us for additional promotional materials, suggestions/comments and/or questions: heritagegreece@acg.edu.

The Heritage Greece Admissions Team
Office of International Student Services

THE SONS OF PERICLES AND
MAIDS OF ATHENA PRESENT

GREEKS IN SEATTLE

**JANUARY
17-20**

SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY

MEET AND GREET | 8PM

SATURDAY

SOP BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT | 9AM

MOA WOSKSHOP | 11AM


GREEK NIGHT @ ST DEMETRIOS GREEK

ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY

SOP BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT | 12PM

SOP MOA NIGHT TIME EVENT



The St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society
Cordially Invites You to Our

*Annual After
Christmas Social*

January 11, 2020 at 5:30
Fircrest Golf and Country Club
1500 Regents Blvd, Fircrest, WA 98466

Reservations Appreciated by December 15th
Tickets are \$60.00

Menu: Entrees are Top Sirloin or Chicken Marsala, plus
Sides and Desserts with No-Host Open Bar

PLEASE CONTACT CHAIRPERSONS:

Sally Hallis - 253-651-9097

Yvonne Brandvold - 253-206-1621

Kathy Johnson - 253-278-5787

Marian Palas - 253-224-8432

GREEKS IN SEATTLE 2020

Sons and Maids Present

Bouzoukia Night

Ft. Takis and the Mad Greeks

\$35 ticket (\$25 pre-sale) includes one free drink ticket

Light Meze, Cash Bar

Register now at sonsofpericles.org/events

January 18 at 8pm

St Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

2100 E Boyer Ave, Seattle, WA

CALLING ALL SUPERHEROS!
SAVE THE DATE

ALL SAINTS CAMP ANNUAL FUNDRAISER DINNER




DATE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH

LOCATION: ST. DEMETRIOS

TIME: 5:30 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE STARTING IN DECEMBER



ORTHODOX WINTER YOUTH RETREAT

Save the Date!
January 18-20, 2020

This retreat is coordinated by the Orthodox Christian Youth Ministry (OCYM) Team from the Antiochian Archdiocese under the arch-pastoral oversight of Metropolitan JOSEPH

Cedar Springs Camp Lake Stevens, WA

Open to all Orthodox Junior High and High School Youth and their friends!

An opportunity for youth to grow in spirit through worship, prayer, good food and games!

Registration begins October 1, 2019
\$160 early bird pricing!
www.tinyurl.com/orthodoxretreat

2020 STEWARDSHIP CARD

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH TACOMA, WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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.



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

Fr. Seraphim Majumdar

Please PRINT your information clearly

"Those who seek the Lord shall never want for any good thing."

(Psalm 34:10)

OUR DONATIONS ARE IN THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR HIS CONTINUED BLESSINGS GIVEN TO US. OUR DONATION REFLECTS HOW MUCH WE ARE BLESSED AND HOW THANKFUL WE ARE; HOWEVER, WE ARE AWARE THAT GOD EXPECTS US TO GIVE SACRIFICIALLY TO HIS WORK.

2020 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

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

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

month in 2020 to support God's work.

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

SIGNATURE.....

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

Email:
Telephone:

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)

Saint Nicholas Messenger

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Address Service Requested

