

STAY FOCUSED, STAY BALANCED

Mountain goats are among the animal world’s most sure-footed creatures. They can scale cliffs hundreds of feet above a valley floor with only inches of hold on the edge of the cliff face. They do this to escape predators and to reach feeding areas inaccessible to almost any other animal.

Ravens, among nature’s most clever birds, have developed a method to attack and prey upon these majestic creatures. When an unkindness of ravens (the proper term for a group of the birds!) spots a mountain goat on a particularly precipitous precipice, they have a plan of attack.



No one raven, or even a large unkindness of ravens, has the ability to successfully dislodge a mountain goat by direct attack, such as dive bombing or biting. The goats are too sure footed, and their coats are too thick for a raven’s

beak to puncture. Rather, they will encircle the goat’s head, squawking and screeching, attempting to disorient the goat. The foolish goat keeps his eyes open, watching the ravens in a growing panic. He will

Continued on page 16



The 2020 Greek Festival is Canceled

The Festival Committee with guidance from the Parish Council have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Tacoma Greek Festival. The Committee was proceeding optimistically hoping safety conditions concerning COVID-19 would improve significantly by October. Unfortunately, it is now apparent it will be impossible to provide a safe environment for Festival guests, volunteers, and parishioners at a large densely populated event. Instead, the Festival Committee is considering alternative fundraising ideas. We are thankful for the privilege of operating the Festival consecutively for the past 58 years. There will be more news about Festival alternatives in the next issue of Messenger.

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Returning to Church

COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings have eased allowing attendance at church services once again. To maximize the safety of parishioners, there are attendance conditions set forth by the Governor of Washington, Pierce County, and the Archdiocese. 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 signup in advance for Saturday and Sunday services on the church [website](#). Sign up in advance for up 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 Streaming of church services continues. If you are unable to attend services in person, you can participate by watching the service live at home. See instructions 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



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



Editors: Carol MartinOki/Bill Samaras

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

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

AHEPA
George Pirotis

Akathist Group Prayer
Kathy Rawley

Altar Servers
Dr Nick Themelis

Bible Study
Genevieve Eagle

Book Store
Dr. Nick Themelis

Building Committee
Bill Acker

Building, Grounds & Maintenance
Richard Heidal, John Pangis

Choir
Rebecca Philips

Hands of Love
Merrilee Pangis

Military Service
LTC Gus Chamales

Premarital Education
George Pirotis, Diane Pirotis

Stewardship
LTC Gus Chamales

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

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

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

Kelly Rosati – Beginner dancers

George Pirotis – Adult Group Instructor

Coffee Hour
Zach Karanasos

IT, etc.
Bill Samaras

Philia
Diane Pirotis

Pro Life
Genevieve Eagle

Vitos Scholarship
Ronnie Sue Johnson

Flowers & Church Decorating
Kathy Rowley

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

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

Philoptochos Society
Jane Evancho - 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

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

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1 Cosmas & Damian FAST: Wine & Oil ok John of SF 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: St John of SF</p>	<p>2 St John of San Francisco</p>	<p>3 Hyacinth of Caesarea STRICT FAST</p>	<p>4 Independence Day Royal Martyrs of Russia 8:00am-9:00am Orthros 9:00am-10:00am Divine Liturgy w/ Litany of Thanksgiving for our Nation 7:00pm-8:00pm NO VESPERS TONIGHT</p>
			<p>8 Great Martyr Prokopios STRICT FAST 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis</p>	<p>9 Pankratios of Sicily</p>	<p>10 45 Martyrs of Nicopolis STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: St Sophroniy of Essex 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: St Sophroniy of Essex</p>	<p>11 St Sophroniy of Essex 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers</p>
			<p>15 FAST: Wine & Oil ok Vladimir, Enlightener of Russia 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis</p>	<p>16 Julia of Carthage 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: St Marina 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: St Marina</p>	<p>17 FAST: Wine & Oil ok Great Martyr Marina</p>	<p>18 Grand Duchess Elizabeth 7:00pm-8:00pm NO VESPERS TONIGHT</p>
			<p>22 FAST: Wine & Oil ok Markella of Chios Mary Magdalene 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis</p>	<p>23 Prophet Ezekiel</p>	<p>24 Great Martyr Christina 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p>25 Dormition of St Anna Evpraxia of Tabenna Olympia 8:00am-9:00am Orthros 9:00am-10:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers</p>
			<p>29 Fr S Vacation Martyr Theodote & Her Children STRICT FAST 7:00pm-8:00pm NO PARAKLESIS TONIGHT</p>	<p>30 Apostles Silas & Silvanus of the 70 Fr S Vacation</p>	<p>31 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Fr S Vacation Joseph of Arimathea</p>	<p>Notes:</p>
			<p>6 Sisois the Great 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p>7 Great Martyr Kyriake 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p>13 Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p>14 Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-10:00pm Parish Council</p>
			<p>20 Prophet Elijah 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: Prophet Elijah 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: Prophet Elijah</p>	<p>21 Symeon the Fool for Christ 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p>27 Fr S Vacation St Panteleimon 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy: St Panteleimon & St Irene 7:30am-8:30am Akathist to St Panteleimon</p>	<p>28 Fr S Vacation Irene Chrysovalantou Irene Chrysovalantou</p>
			<p>5 Athanasios of Athos 8:45am-10:00am Livestream: Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Livestream: Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>12 St Paisios of Mt Athos St Paisios the Athonite 8:45am-10:00am Livestream: Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Livestream: Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>19 Makrina 8:45am-10:00am Livestream: Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Livestream: Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>26 Martyr Paraskevi Moses the Hungarian 8:45am-10:00am Livestream: Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy w/ Blessing of St Irene's Apples 12:00pm-1:00pm Vespers: St Panteleimon & St Irene</p>

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

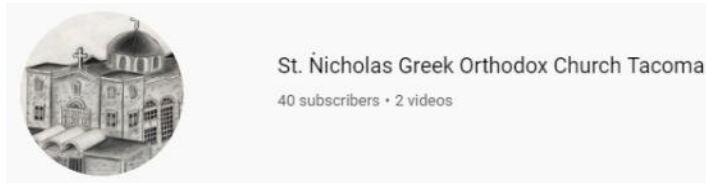
News and Announcements

Watch Live Services From Home

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 completely free of charge 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 **LIVE NOW** 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.

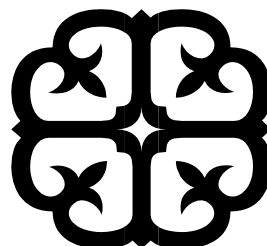
3. Some TV's allow direct connection to YouTube. You can connect as above.

Note: Typically, live services are not recorded. To see a live service, you have to watch while the service is happening.

Bill Samaras—

Next 2020 Festival Meeting Monday, July 13





Although the regular Festival is canceled, the Festival Committee will continue to meet. The next Festival Committee will be Monday, July 13 at 7:00 PM. This will be a teleconference and will not take place at the church. Feel free to call in if you are already part of the Festival Team, or if you're just interested in helping. Simply call this number from any phone: (605) 313-5942. When asked for an access code, type in 767419.



News and Announcements

WASHINGTON'S PHASED APPROACH

Reopening Business and Modifying Physical Distancing Measures

	 Phase 1	 Phase 2	 Phase 3	 Phase 4
High-Risk Populations*	Continue to Stay Home, Stay Healthy	Continue to Stay Home, Stay Healthy	Continue to Stay Home, Stay Healthy	Resume public interactions, with physical distancing
Recreation	Some outdoor recreation (hunting, fishing, golf, boating, hiking)	All outdoor recreation involving fewer than 5 people outside your household (camping, beaches, etc.)	- Outdoor group rec. sports activities (5-50 people) - Recreational facilities at <50% capacity (public pools, etc.)	Resume all recreational activity
Gatherings (social, spiritual)	- None - Drive in spiritual service with one household per vehicle	Gather with no more than 5 people outside your household per week	Allow gatherings with no more than 50 people	Allow gatherings with >50 people
Travel	Only essential travel	Limited non-essential travel within proximity of your home	Resume non-essential travel	Continue non-essential travel
Business/Employers	- Essential businesses open - Existing construction that meet agreed upon criteria - Landscaping - Automobile sales - Retail (curb-side pick-up orders only) - Car washes - Pet walkers	- Remaining manufacturing - New construction - In-home/domestic services (nannies, housecleaning, etc.) - Retail (in-store purchases allowed with restrictions) - Real estate - Professional services/office-based businesses (telework remains strongly encouraged) - Hair and nail salons/Barbers - Housecleaning - Restaurants <50% capacity table size no larger than 5	- Restaurants <75% capacity/ table size no larger than 10 - Bars at <25% capacity - Indoor gyms at <50% capacity - Movie theaters at <50% capacity - Government (telework remains strongly encouraged) - Libraries - Museums - All other business activities not yet listed except for nightclubs and events with greater than 50 people	- Nightclubs - Concert venues - Large sporting events - Resume unrestricted staffing of worksites, but continue to practice physical distancing and good hygiene

* High-risk populations are currently defined by CDC as: persons 65 years of age and older; people of all ages with underlying medical conditions (particularly not well controlled) including people with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, people who have serious heart conditions, people who are immunocompromised, people with severe obesity, people with diabetes, people with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, and people with liver disease; people who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility.

Building Committee



PROJECT 2020, WORKING TO SET UP A GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

To reiterate from the previous month's Messenger, the bids on the Narthex Renovation ended up coming in about \$220,000 over budget. Several virtual meetings have been held over the last few months with the Project 2020 Committee, the Parish Council and Father Seraphim. A general consensus has emerged that while the significant budget overrun is a bitter pill to swallow, which would require taking out more money from the church's general fund than desired, the Narthex continues to deteriorate and the renovation work needs to be done; the sooner the better, as there is a growing urgency factor, and the construction market could very well be more expensive next year than now. It is for this reason a General Assembly is still in the works to bring forth an updated Narthex Renovation cost to the Parish at large, with the ultimate purpose to vote for approval to continue with construction.

It was also agreed in the virtual meetings that the General Assembly must be held in person, not online or by phone. However, while Coronavirus restrictions are slowly loosening up, they continue to be a big hurdle to clear in terms of holding a large gathering of people. Between the projected further loosening of restrictions and implementing creative but safe logistics if necessary, it is the goal to hold a General Assembly by or around the first part of August.

There will be more specifics in the next Messenger as to a time, place and date, along with a comprehensive review of the Narthex Renovation bids, budget, and details of how we got to the point where we currently are, as it is the intent to inform and prep those concerned and who would be attending as well as feasible beforehand.

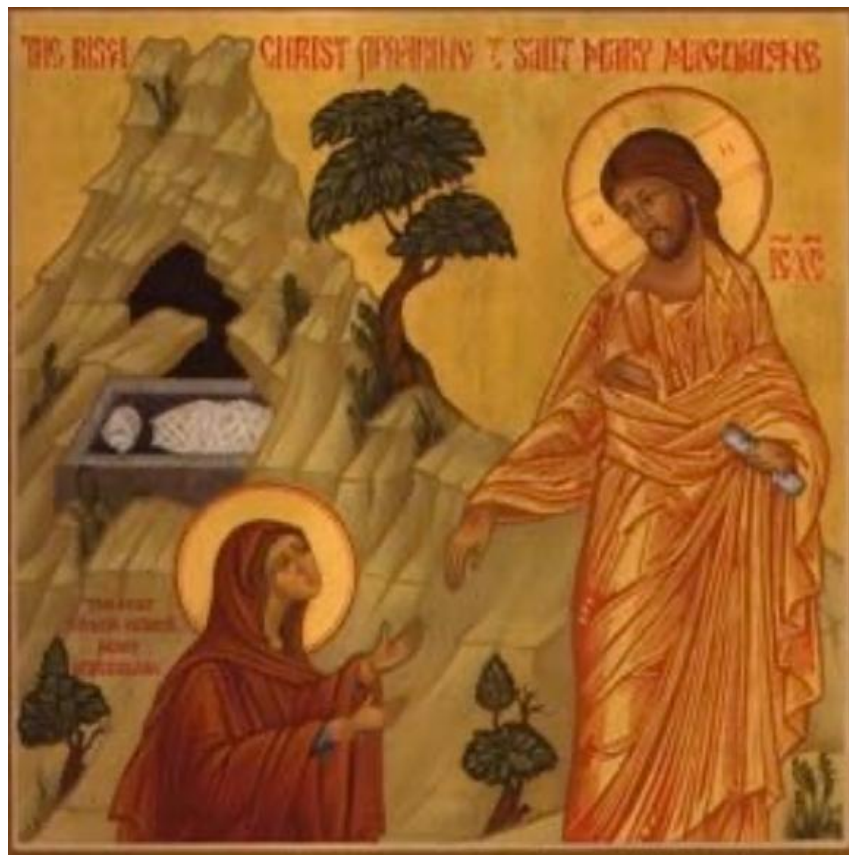
Submitted by: Bill Acker



COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY

Coffee Hour is suspended until further notice.

Contributed by: Zach



Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

The world is constantly experiencing turbulent times and America as a superpower seems to always be in the middle of it. At present, we have troops stationed around the world with large numbers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Little by little, their participation in the fight is limited to a “ready support role” of the host country’s forces, and our numbers of military personnel are slowly drawing down. America’s participation in its longest war will end, and nobody prays for that day more than the families of those who are serving. If anyone doubts that, just ask any family that has relatives currently serving around the world.



Cassandra & Tim Allen
U.S. Navy
MSGT(R) Joseph & Ronnie-Sue Johnson's niece and her husband



MAJ Kristoffer C. Chamales
U.S. Army
Operation Iraqi Freedom
Dr. Ingrid & Gus' son



G/SGT James E. Glendening
U.S. Marine Corps
Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom
Recipient of the Bronze Star Medal and Marine Commendation Medal for Valor in Combat
Kathy Hermick's son



SSG Ayrlée Rogers
U.S. Air Force
MAJ Jeff & Lexi Rogers' daughter



MAJ Jeff Rogers
U.S. Army N.G.
Operation Iraqi Freedom & Operation Enduring Freedom
Lexi Rogers' husband



SGT Richard Schutt
U.S. Army National Guard
Operation Enduring Freedom
Anthony & Sandy Ciarochi's son-in-law



SGT Rick Stahl
U.S. Army
Operation Iraqi Freedom
Presently serving at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma



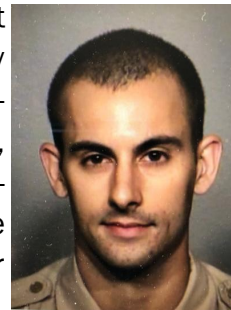
LTC Theo Vouidoiris
LTC Jennifer Clark
Recipient of the Legion of Merit
U.S. Army
Presently serving in the Republic of Korea

Our country was experiencing the greatest economy in our history when suddenly we were affected by the spread of Covid-19; and our economy was brought to a screeching halt. Dedicated people such as Dr. Olympia and many others in medical and other professions across our nation have courageously fought on the front lines to combat this deadly virus. Additionally, St. Nicholas’ own Deputy Sheriff Nick Jenkins, and the many other men and women of law enforcement, our National Guard, and our active military have also joined in support of this action. Americans everywhere were grateful for the courage of all who were fighting the virus, while most of us did our part to stop its spread by sheltering in place.



Deputy Sheriff Nick Jenkins
Pierce County Sheriff's Department

As businesses were reopening and our economy was moving down the road to recovery, suddenly our country was set ablaze by the tragedy in Minneapolis, MN, and the murder of George Floyd by a heartless police officer. This in turn led to the murder and serious injury of many professional law enforcement officers who were trying to do their duty to “protect and serve.” Among those shot and injured is Officer Shay Mikolonis, a member of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Las Vegas, Nevada. “Officer Shay Mikolonis was shot in the head on June 1, 2020 while breaking up rioters in front of Circus Circus in Las Vegas, Nevada”, according to Michael Hawk, a retired officer with the Las Vegas Metro Police Department. As of this writing (11 June) he is still in the Intensive Care Unit at University Medical Center hospital in Las Vegas on a respirator, fighting for his life.



Officer Shay Mikolonis
Las Vegas Police Department
Wounded in the line of duty
Member of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, Nevada

Continued on next page....

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

Continued from previous page...

Many espouse to know the best course of action for our country at this time, but only time will tell. Personally, I pray for the leaders of our country, I pray for Officer Shay Mikalonis, I pray for all who have suffered during this unrest, and I pray for the good men and women of law enforcement, the National Guard, and the armed forces of the United States who will play an instrumental role in leading our country out of this. It is the people of these professions on whom our country has relied in the past to protect the peace and defend us from evil; with God’s help they will do it again and lead us into a “more perfect union.” May God bless the United States of America!

July 1, 1943 Women’s Army Corps established. Once that occurred the “auxiliary” status of the “Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps” was dropped and women were allowed to serve overseas in order to “free a man to fight.” This gave women all the rank, privileges, and benefits of their male counterparts. The Women’s Army Corps was disbanded in 1978 and all WAC units were integrated in all but the combat arms branches of the Army. Many years later women were allowed to serve in the Field Artillery, Aviation, and Combat Engineer branches, but it is only in the last couple of years that women have now been allowed to serve in infantry and in armor/cavalry units.

There are several St. Nicholas parishioners whose Mothers served in the WAC during World War II. They led the way for some of our parishioners who served in later years, and who continue to serve today.



Angela Brown
Women’s Army
Auxiliary Corps
WWII
Peter Brown’s
mother



Marian Ciarochi
Women’s Auxiliary
Army Corps
WWII
Anthony Ciarochi’s
mother



Inez Reeves
Women’s Army
Auxiliary Corps
WWII
Genevieve Eagle’s
Mother

Congratulations go out to Jennifer Clark, Theo Voudouris, and their beautiful daughters who were parishioners of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church until they were reassigned about two years ago from JBLM to Korea. Jennifer is preparing to retire from the United States Army after over 23 years of active service! During that time she served in a variety of assignments in the Judge Advocate General Corps, both stateside and overseas. Prior to her retirement from active duty she was awarded the United States Armed Force’s **Legion of Merit Medal**, for exceptional military service to the 8th Army in Korea, and for her outstanding record of service to the United States Army. Those who enjoyed Jennifer’s friendship when she and her family were parishioners at St. Nicholas are extremely proud of her, and we all should be very grateful for her service to our nation!



Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

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July 20, 1942. An act of congress established the Legion of Merit. The Legion of Merit is awarded for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. The decoration is issued to members of the uniformed services of the United States as well as to military and political figures of foreign governments. The first American member of the armed forces to be awarded the Legion of Merit in October 1942 was Lieutenant Junior Grade Ann A. Bernatitus, a U.S. Navy Nurse Corps officer who was one of the “Angels of Bataan” and the only U.S. Navy nurse to escape from Bataan and Corregidor at the beginning of World War II. She received the award for her service during the defense of the Philippines. General Dwight D. Eisenhower was presented the Legion of Merit by President Roosevelt while he was enroute to the Tehran Conference in November 1943.



COL(R) George McClure was awarded this extremely prestigious award on two different occasions during his 30 years of active service, and now LTC Jenifer Clark joins this prestigious group. If you know of any other parishioners or their family members who received this award, please send their information to gleafops@gmail.com.



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

July 4, 1776. Independence Day! 244 years and still going strong!!!



One of the Original Veterans
Sargent Richard Motz
 4th Co, 7th Bat. PA Militia
 Was with Washington at the crossing of the Delaware River

1776 - 1778



July 26, 1947. The Central Intelligence Agency was created under the National Security Act of 1947, which President Truman signed on July 26, 1947. The 1947 Act loosely defined CIA’s mission and while the Act did not alter the functions of its preceding organization, it did add four broad tasks: (1) advise the National Security Council (NSC) on matters related to national security; (2) make recommendations to the NSC regarding the coordination of intelligence activities of the Departments; (3) correlate and evaluate intelligence and provide for its appropriate dissemination and (4) “perform such other functions...as the NSC will from time to time direct...” The CIA has continued to adjust and adapt to the emerging trends of an ever-changing global landscape. Today the CIA is America’s and the world’s premier foreign intelligence agency, shaped by its resilient past. It accomplishes what others cannot accomplish and goes where others dare not go. It is our Nation’s eyes and ears, and sometimes, its hidden hand. It will continue its mission of collecting, analyzing, evaluating, and disseminating foreign intelligence to assist the President and senior government policy makers in making decisions relating to national security now and into the future.

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

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St. Nicholas has one active parishioner, Andy Evancho, who served in the CIA. If you know of any other parishioner or family member who has also served in this agency, please email gleafops@gmail.com.



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

Just a reminder: Commissary Benefits extended to certain Veterans. As of Jan 1, 2020 commissary benefits were extended to certain military Veterans. Newly eligible customers include all veterans with VA service-connected disability ratings; Purple Heart recipients; veterans who are former prisoners of war; and primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the VA caregiver program. Previously only those with a 100 percent service-connected disability rating, and Medal of Honor recipients were allowed these benefits, but now eligibility has expanded. Benefits have also been extended to military exchanges, and to the use of certain morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) programs. There are several commissaries, exchanges, and MWR facilities (golf courses, ranges, etc) in the Bremerton, Gig Harbor, and Tacoma area. Savings at commissaries are significant with the overall savings level for U.S. stores was 22.3 percent for fiscal year 2019. If you have questions about this program log onto military.com or commissary.com for more information.

IN CLOSING, this ministry seeks to honor the St. Nicholas parishioners and their family members who swore an oath to serve in the defense of the Constitution of the United States and the people of this nation. If you have family members who served in either the military, CIA, or any branch of law enforcement, please pass their information along with a photo to gleafops@gmail.com.



Stewardship Ministry

TIME—TALENT—TREASURE

All too often we go without thanking people who do so much for St. Nicholas but through this ministry's news articles we have tried to express our thanks on a regular basis. When it comes to time and talent St. Nicholas is blessed with many people who work in support of our daily operations and activities. I dare say if we had a dollar for every hour of time and talent devoted to our church by our parishioners over the years, we could be building a replica of Agia Sophia instead of hoping to simply repair the narthex!



A couple of weeks ago Fr. Seraphim celebrated Sunday liturgy at the church with parishioners present in the church. The requirements that he and several others had to meet in order to make it happen were many and time consuming. Fortunately, Dr. Olympia, Ronnie-Sue and George P., and several others drafted the plan of action that was required by the governor's office and approved by the Metropolis, and approval was granted. Special thanks go out to all who participated in the opening effort. Next time you see them, please let them know how much you appreciate what they've done.



The requirement to sign up for services appears to be working well and for the last two consecutive Sundays we have either maxed out attendance or come very close. If you are not able to sign up for Sunday liturgy, it is still possible to attend services during the week and receive communion. The weekday services have plenty of vacancies so if you are looking for an opportunity to avoid a crowd, that is the time to do it.

Although visits to St. Nicholas were severely restricted for almost 100 days, there was still a lot happening. The Project 2020 committee met frequently in order to move the project forward. After three years and countless hours in meetings, they have brought the project to the point where the General Assembly must vote to approve the expenditure of the required funds. With the good Lord's blessing and the open hearts of our parishioners, we will soon host a General Assembly to gain approval for the expenditure of the required funds to initiate the project.

Just about all of our ministries have been keeping the wheels of St. Nicholas turning for the last several months, and our sincere thanks go out to all of them! The St. Nicholas Festival committee for 2020 has



continued to discuss plans for a festival in October. Recently Bill Samaras, George Piroitis and I participated in a Metropolis-wide Zoom meeting to discuss ideas other churches are considering to meet the challenges of public health and safety. Many churches rely significantly on the festival to subsidize their operations and without a festival they will struggle to make ends meet.

Stewardship Ministry

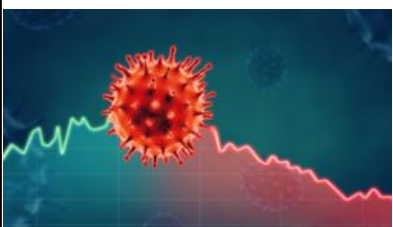
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Most of the Greek churches in our immediate area have cancelled their festival for this year. Others within our Metropolis are looking for ways to modify their event in order to keep the festival alive in their community and raise funds for their church. It was clear to me that thanks to Bill's leadership, our St. Nicholas church was ahead of most in planning and preparation. It is still too soon to tell just what our festival will look like in October but all who read this ministry article in the Messenger every month know that we are planning to have several Saturday "baklava preparation events" in the very near future. The first was scheduled for June 27th and two more are scheduled to occur on the 18th and 25th of July. If you are under the age of 66 please watch your email or listen for your phone to ring with an invitation to participate and support the baklava effort.

We fully understand that we will have to modify our festival due to narthex construction (assuming it is approved by the General Assembly) or Covid-19 if no vaccine has been developed. We are trying hard to do the best we can and request all who are under 66 to **PLEASE** give generously of your time and talent by volunteering when asked, and by praying for a rapid end to the Covid-19 virus.

TREASURE. Everyone recognizes the financial difficulty that Covid-19 has placed on every aspect of our economy. We at St. Nicholas understand that everyone has been impacted financially, and we pray



that conditions will soon improve. Anyone who has pledged money for the year 2020 but is finding it difficult to fulfill their pledge should rest assured that all that is expected is that you do your best, and graciously provide whatever your situation allows. Pledging stewardship is simply your best acknowledgement of what you expect to be able to provide in order to enable our parish council to prepare a budget, and plan for the upcoming

year.

Thanks to the generosity and devotion of many people we have experienced only a slight drop in stewardship contributions, and we are only slightly behind our budget projection for the year to date. Everyone is extremely grateful for the stewardship offerings that all of you have made to date, and we sincerely appreciate any financial support that will enable St. Nicholas Church to fulfill its mission and obligations. Ultimately, what you contribute is between you and God, but please know that your generosity is felt far and wide.

Recently I visited with one of our wonderful parishioners about something I had written in the Messenger a few months ago. The issue had to do with my encouragement for people to switch stewardship contributions from cash and checks, to automatic payment options available through our parish website. Automatic payment options available through our website enhance budget planning, reduce the risk of bank deposit errors, and reduce the risk of the spread of covid-19. Despite these benefits there are still many valid reasons why people may not want to use any of these electronic options, and that is absolutely okay and understandable! The important point is that everyone understands that **cash and checks will still be accepted by St. Nicholas**. You choose the option that is most appropriate for you.

Stewardship Ministry News

Continued from previous page

One additional comment. Officer Shay Mikolonis, a member of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Las Vegas, Nevada was shot on June 1, 2020 “while breaking up rioters in front of Circus Circus in Las Vegas, Nevada”, according to Michael Hawk, a retired officer with the Las Vegas Metro Police Department. As of this writing (17 June) he is paralyzed from the neck down and unable to speak. Reports are that he is awake and seems to recognize his family members. He has been accepted into one of the best spine rehabilitation centers in the country and will soon be transferred from the University Medical Center hospital in Las Vegas.

A go fund me page has been established for Shay to cover the cost of his medical expenses. If you can find it in your heart to contribute please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/officer-shay-mikolonis-fund>, and please pray for this outstanding young man’s recovery.



**Officer Shay Mikolonis
Las Vegas Police
Department**

***Wounded in the line of
duty***

**Member of St. John the
Baptist Greek Orthodox
Church, Las Vegas, Nevada**

Cover Story

then lose his balance and fall from the dizzying heights to his death on the rocks far below, where the ravens will then pick his body apart through the lacerations from the impact.

The wise goat, on the other hand, keeps his eyes shut. No matter how much screeching, squawking and pandemonium the ravens create around his head, *Continued from front page*

he simply holds his position, knowing they don't actually have the power to dislodge him. When the ravens realize they are dealing with a wise goat, they fly away, not wanting to waste any more of their precious energy. When they leave, he continues his ascent to the green pastures and still waters in the meadows above, safe from every predator.

This is the time to do as the wise mountain goats. There is an unkindness of ravens, so to speak, encircling each of us, squawking and screeching and trying to create pandemonium inside our souls.

Therefore, I suggest you make a list of your "ravens." What is really eating at you? Here are some of the things I am hearing from folks:

- ◆ There are corrupt government officials who are leveraging the Covid crisis for their own political ends"
- "We have cowardly church leaders unwilling to stand up to corrupt governors at the expense of the faithful"
- "The church is sending mixed messages and I'm confused"
- "This country is falling apart...statues down, occupied zones, antifa terrorists trying to establish a Marxist state in America"
- "Our president is incompetent and evil and our country will never recover"
- "Our governor is incompetent and evil and our state will never recover"
- "I hate being forced to wear masks everywhere; wearing one in church is even worse"
- "I hate it when people refuse to wear masks or social distance; don't they know they are taking people's lives in their hands with such recklessness?"
- "My privacy is being violated with contact tracing or sign up reservation systems"

I admit I have some of these "ravens" flying around my head as well. I too am concerned and deeply bothered by some of the above, as many of you know.

The question, however, is whether we will be disoriented by them or not. All of the above are genuine, heartfelt concerns expressed by many in our community as well as across the country. Things are tense, and the taste in our mouths is often bitter. People of good will are lining up on completely opposite sides of these issues.

But will we allow these ravens to disorient us or not? None of them have to; they don't have the power to do so, unless we let them. Taking appropriate, heart centered action on one or more of these issues is one thing, but allowing them to create a dizzying mix of anger, depression, anxiety or contentiousness is quite another.

The answer, I believe, is given by the wise goat. He always keeps his attention focused on the goal: the still waters and green pastures above. The way is steep and the dangers real. He is not closing his eyes and pretending the unkindness of ravens isn't attacking him; he closes his eyes and renews his focus on his goal. He firms up his grip on the ledge; he distributes his weight to ensure he is perfectly balanced; he reminds himself that his attackers are ultimately powerless to stop him. He pauses to let their own madness exhaust itself, and continues in peace to the pastures above.

If you are deeply bothered by any of these "ravens", I ask you to do a few things:

Cover Story

1. Pray deeply about it and offer it to God.
2. Discuss it with me or your spiritual father, if he is somewhere else
3. Ask yourself what is actionable in your life, and to what action you feel called to carry out specifically
4. Know what is not actionable on your part, and simply treat those as would the wise goat
5. Remind yourself that “this too shall pass” and that our only focus is the still waters of Paradise—nothing on this earth can be our goal. Our inheritance is the Kingdom of Heaven
6. Be at peace with everyone around you, regardless of how they are dealing with the same ravens

During these perilous times, let us stay balanced on the precipice of life, and focused on Jesus Christ and His Kingdom!

With love in Christ,

Fr Seraphim—



ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

MESSAGE FROM THE AKATHIST MINISTRY

Thank you for your devotion to the souls of our Orthodox family. Our St. Nicholas Akathist Ministry continues to comfort the family and loved ones of those who have fallen asleep.

I pray you have been blessed and felt the love that surrounds this ministry.

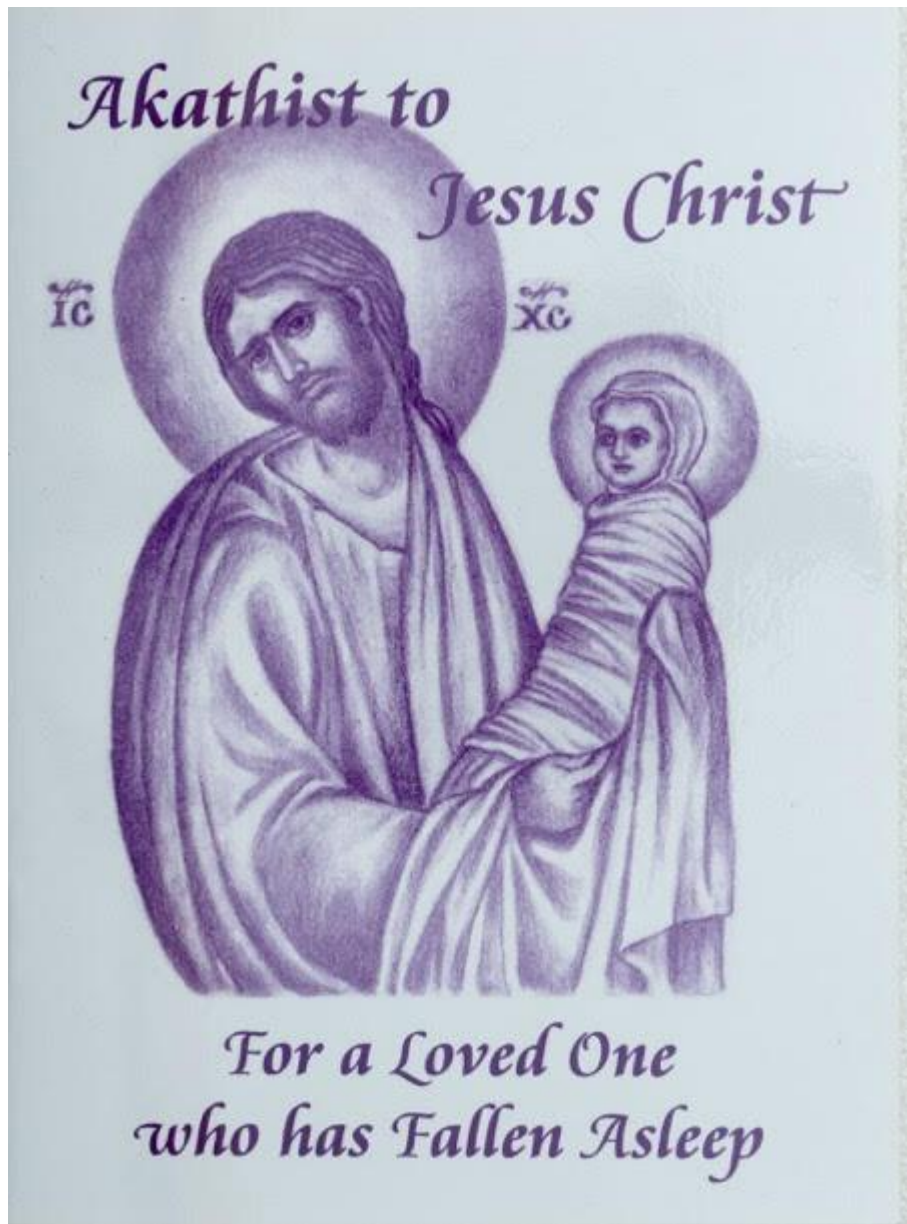
If you are interested in knowing more or would like to participate, please contact me.

Thank you again,

In Christ Love,

Kathy.

Submitted by Kathy Rowley



ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY

ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY
BOOK OF HEBREWS

St. Maximos the Confessor – “4th Century on Various Texts” Philokalia Vol II p. 251

62. If a person's will is not directed towards what is good, it is inevitably directed towards evil; for it cannot be stationary with regard to both. Because it implies obduracy with regard to virtue Scripture describes the soul's sluggishness in pursuing what is good as 'stones'; while it describes as 'timber' the soul's readiness to commit evil (cf. Zech. 5:4). But sense perception allied with the activity of the intellect produces virtue with spiritual knowledge.

63. By 'dividing wall' (Eph. 2:14) Scripture means the natural law of the body, and by 'barrier' (ibid.) that attachment to the passions according to the law of the flesh which constitutes sin. For attachment to shameful passions is a barrier set up by the law of nature – of the passable aspect of nature – walling off soul from body, and preventing a person from practicing the virtues in such a way that by means of the soul their principle passes into the flesh. Once their principle has passed into the flesh and has overthrown the law of nature – of the passable aspect of nature – it destroys the attachment to unnatural passions which that law imposes.

64. When through his guile the devil pillages the knowledge of God inherent in nature and arrogates it to himself, he is a thief, because he is attempting to transfer devotion from God to himself.

[1] The first virtue, yea the whole of virtue, is to be a stranger to this world, and a sojourner, and to have nothing in common with things here, but to hang loose from them, as from things strange to us; As those blessed disciples did, of whom he says, "They wandered about in sheepskins; and in goat-skins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented: of whom the world was not worthy (c.xi.37,38)

They called themselves therefore "strangers"; but Paul said somewhat much beyond this: for not merely did he call himself a stranger, but said that he was dead to the world, and that the world was dead to him. "For the world" (he says) "has been crucified to me and I to the world." (Gal. vi.14.) But we, both citizens and quite alive, busy ourselves about everything here as citizens. And what righteous men were to the world, "strangers" and "dead", that we are to Heaven. And what they were to Heaven, alive and acting as citizens, that we are to the world. Wherefore we are dead, because we have refused that which is truly life, and have chosen this which is but for a time.

[4] The saints were "strangers and sojourners." How and in what way? And where does Abraham confess himself "a stranger and a sojourner"? Probably indeed he even himself confess it: but David both confessed "I am a stranger" and what? "As all my fathers were." (Ps. xxxix. 12) For they who dwell in tents, they who purchase even burial places for money, evidently were in some sense strangers, as they had not even where to bury their dead.

What then? Did they mean that they were "strangers" from the land that is in Palestine? By no means: but in respect of the whole world: and with reason; for they saw therein none of the things which they wished for, but everything foreign and strange. They indeed wished to practice virtue: but here there was much wickedness, and things were quite foreign to them. They had no friend, no familiar acquaintance, save only some few.

But how were they "strangers"? They had no care for things here. And this they showed not by words, but by their deeds. In what way?

He said to Abraham, "Leave that which seems thy country and come to one that is foreign": And he did not cleave to his kindred, but gave it up as unconcernedly as if here were about to leave a foreign land. He said to him, "offer up thy son," and he offered him up as if he had no son; as if he divested himself of his nature, so he offered him up. The wealth which he had acquired was common to all passers-by, and this he accounted as nothing. He yielded the first places to others: he threw himself into dangers; he suffered troubles innumerable. He built no splendid houses, he enjoyed no luxuries, he had no care

ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY

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about dress, which all are things of this world; but lived in all respects as belonging to the City yonder; he showed hospitality, brotherly love, mercifulness, forbearance, contempt for wealth and for present glory, and for all else.

And his son too was such as himself: when he was driven away, when war was made on him, he yielded and gave way, as being in a foreign land. For foreigners, whatever they suffer, endure it, as not being in their own country. Even when his wife was taken from him, he endured this also as being in a strange land: and lived in all respects as one whose home was above, showing sobermindedness and a well-ordered life. For after he had begotten a son, he had no more commerce with his wife, and it was when the flower of his youth had passed that he married her, showing that he did it not from passion, but in subservience to the promise of that he did it not from passion, but in subservience to the promise of God.

And what did Jacob? Did he not seek bread only and raiment, which are asked for by those who are truly strangers; by those who have come to great poverty? When he was driven out, did he not as a stranger give place? Did he not serve for hire? Did he not suffer afflictions innumerable, everywhere, as a stranger?

[5.] And these things (he says) they said, "seeking" their "own country." Ah! how great is the difference! They indeed were in travail-pains each day, wishing to be released from this world, and to return to their country. But we, on the contrary, if a fever attack us, neglecting everything, weeping like little children, are frightened at death.

Not without reason we are thus affected. For since we do not live here like strangers, nor as if hastening to our country, but are like persons who are going away to punishment, therefore we grieve, because we have not used circumstances as we ought, but have turned order upside down. Hence we grieve when we ought to rejoice: hence we shudder, like murderers or robber chiefs, when they are going to be brought before the judgment-seat, and are thinking over all the things they have done, and therefore are fearful and trembling.

They however, were not such, but pressed on. And Paul even groaned; "And we" (he says) "who are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened." (2 Cor. v.4.) Such were they who were with Abraham; "strangers," he says, they were in respect of the whole world, and "they sought a country."

What sort of "country" was this? Was it that which they had left? By no means. For what hindered them if they wished, from returning again, and becoming citizens? but they sought that which is in Heaven? Thus they desired their departure hence, and so they pleased God; for "God was not ashamed to be called their God."

The difference between the Jews understanding of the "Exodus" and Orthodox Christians' understanding is that they thought it was a completed matter and we understand it as a key moment in describing the entirety of God's "Plan of Salvation", which renders each of us on our own "Exodus" and the Church on Exodus to His own Second Coming. With the help of St. John Chrysostom we can see how important it is to NOT have a static view of the Exodus in the Old Testament and to see that it is not an event that just happened, but an event that is ongoing from the moment of the Fall until the time He comes again. So: "The Exodus was ongoing until Christ. It didn't end with the construction of the Temple."

Faith is not static and it is not a commodity. Faith grows or shrinks in its relationship with affliction. In reading the Gospel we see that sometimes the Lord heals the soul first and then the body of the afflicted person and other times He heals the body first and then the person's soul. In the case of the paralytic, Christ doesn't ask him for a statement of faith first. He commands him to rise and the faith as that command is issued arises inside the soul of the paralyzed man and expresses itself in the form of healing.

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Another example is the blind man after the Lord heals him said he saw men like trees walking so the Lord put His hands on the man's eyes again and made him look up and then his sight was completely restored. It didn't happen this way because there was deficiency in the Lord's grace, but it had to do with the level of the blind man's faith. It took a couple of stages of spiritual growth for his faith to reach the appropriate level. It's the concept of the progression of faith.

Affliction with sinlessness (or near sinlessness) becomes a great catalyst and accelerates faith to great heights. The best example of this is Panagia. Her sinlessness was achieved with such speed as a child that she received theosis at a very young age. She still experienced affliction, but not the affliction that stems from sin in one's life because her heart was so pure.

St. John Chrysostom

[3] Having thus stated the general, he afterwards tests it by individuals. For a man of note is equivalent to the world. This at all events he afterwards hinted. For when he had matched it against one or two hundred persons, and then saw the smallness of the number, he afterwards says, "by whom the world was outweighed in worth."

And observe whom he puts first, him who was ill-treated, and that by a brother. It was their own affliction, "For you also" (he says) "have suffered like things of your own countrymen." (1 Thess. ii. 14) And by a brother who had been nothing wronged, but who envied him on God's account; showing that they also are looked on with an evil eye and envied. He honored God, and died because he honored Him: and has not yet attained to a resurrection. But his readiness is manifest, and his part has been done, but God's part has not yet been carried out towards him.

And by a "more excellent sacrifice" in this place, he means that which is more honorable, more splendid, more necessary.

And he who is worthy of so great honor, what does he suffer? He is put to death. And how too was he otherwise "testified of that he was righteous"? It is said, that fire came down and consumed the sacrifices. For instead of ["And the Lord] had respect to Abel and to his sacrifices" (Gen. iv. 4), the Syriac said, "And He set them on fire." He therefore who both by word and deed bear witness to the righteous man and sees him slain for His sake, did not avenge him, but left him to suffer.

But your case is not such: for how could it be? You who have both prophets and examples, and encouragements innumerable, and signs and miracles accomplished? Hence that was faith indeed. For what miracles did he see, that he might believe he should have any recompense of good things? Did he not choose virtue from Faith alone?

[4] (Ver. 5) "By faith Enoch was translated, that he should not see death, and was not found, because God had translated him." This man displayed greater faith than Abel. How (you ask?) Because, although he came after him, yet what befell [Abel] was sufficient to guide him back. How? God foreknew that [Abel] would be killed. For He said to Cain: "Thou hast sinned: do not add thereto." Honored by him, He did not protect him. And yet neither did this throw him [Enoch] into indifference. He said not to himself, 'What need of toils and dangers? Abel honored God, yet He did not protect him. For what advantage had he that was departed, from the punishment of his brother? And what benefit could he reap therefrom? Let us allow that he suffers severe punishment: what is that to him who has been slain?' He neither said nor thought anything of this kind, but passing beyond all these things, he knew that if there is a God, certainly there is a Rewarder also: although as yet they knew nothing of a resurrection. But if they who as yet know nothing of a resurrection, and see contradictory things here, thus pleased [God], how much more should we? For they neither knew of a resurrection, nor had they any examples to look to.

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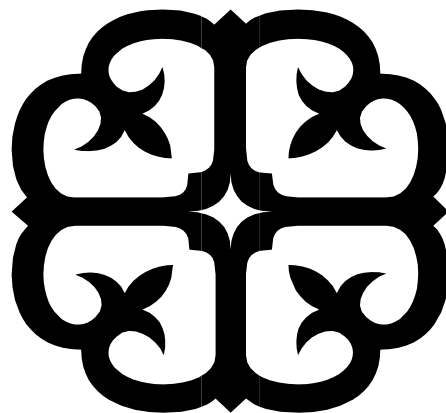
ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY

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Abel's Faith and Enoch's Faith: St. John is speaking about Abel's pure and righteous offering. Abel dies due to the jealousy of Cain, but that does not change the fact that Abel offered a pure and righteous offering. We can only assume that Abel's faithfulness to God didn't come out of a vacuum, but was building and culminated in that offering. In the same sense, Cain's faithlessness to God and hatred for his brother also didn't come out of a vacuum. His relationship with God and his brother, Abel, had the effects of sin in them. Abel could have built up righteousness and Cain could have built up the effects of sin that culminated in the moment of the righteous and not so righteous offerings. St. John is celebrating the moment of Abel. At this time in history, these men didn't have a clear picture of what was to come (the Kingdom, the Resurrection, destruction of death, joy eternal, the oneness of the Saints, etc). We can hardly place ourselves in the state of mind and soul of these Biblical figures knowing what we know and what they didn't. Abel and Enoch didn't have the concept of the Resurrection as a reward. That's why their faith (without expectation) is celebrated by St. Paul in Hebrews 11. It should be easier for us to stay steadfast in faith than it was for these Old Testament Saints. St. Paul is identifying Abel and Enoch as examples of faith because they had great faith without the hope of the benefits that accompany faith.

The more we understand that God has a "Plan of Salvation" (as opposed to a random series of events that we, sort of, string together in a personal narrative) to bring humanity from its condition of sin (after The Fall) to the glorious resurrection and ascension of human nature and the Kingdom that has no end, in other words, an Exodus from death to life.

Submitted by: Genevieve



Pro-Life Ministry

ST. NICHOLAS PRO LIFE MINISTRY

Roe v. Wade Has Resulted in the Deaths of Over 20 Million Black Babies in Abortion

OPINION of CHRISTINA BENNETT (Life News.com) JUN 15, 2020 | 10:13AM WASHINGTON, DC



The following is testimony from black pro-life advocate Christina Bennett to the House Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, on June 4, 2019 about the issue of abortion in America.

Dear Chairman Nadler, Chairman Cohen, Ranking Member Johnson and members of the committee: My name is Christina Bennett and I'm submitting this testimony in hopes that my personal story will shed light on the issue of abortion in America. In 1981 my mother scheduled to abort me at Mount Sinai Hospital in Hartford, CT. She was pressured by my father to abort and rejected by a mentor in her church who told her she wasn't welcome anymore because she was pregnant out of wedlock. She met with a counselor at the hospital who only assured her she was making the right decision and did not offer counsel on available alternatives.

A black elderly janitor approached my mother after seeing her crying in the hospital hallway. She asked her if she wanted to have her baby and when she said yes. She told her God would give her the strength to have me. When she went to leave my mother was called into the doctor's office where she could see he hadn't cleaned up the blood from the last abortion which disgusted her.

He insisted she stay and when she said she wanted to keep me he said, "You've already paid for this. You're just nervous." She repeated her desire to keep me and he yelled at her screaming "Don't leave this room," but she walked out.

My mother's experience in that hospital is being repeated every day that abortion is performed in this nation. Women are facing the same coercion, the same shunning, the same lack of counseling and disgusting facility conditions. Unfortunately, many women lack a compassionate advocate to offer them the support and resources they need. This is why I spent four years working at a non-profit pregnancy

Pro-Life Ministry

resource center, practically serving hundreds of women and their children.

Two years ago, I had a profound experience while visiting the National Museum of African American History. I was reminded of the ways Black Americans were denied the right to equal protection and due process, treated as property and dehumanized because of the color of our skin. The museum memorialized the many ways Black Americans have been unjustly targeted and killed for centuries.

While they showcased examples of the progress Black Americans have made, an ache remains in my heart because of the denial of equal protection and due process to another class of people – the baby in the womb. The sacrifices my ancestors suffered to achieve the freedom and civil rights I enjoy today are not able to protect future generations from a decision made just 8 years before my birth. The Roe v Wade decision rendered 60,000,000 lives unworthy of legal protection and has led to the deaths of over 20 million black babies since 1973.

Babies conceived just a decade prior did not experience the threat of death through legalized abortion. Their lives were not weighed in the balance of whether or not they were wanted. The value of their lives was not measured in terms of their parents' challenging circumstances or convenience.

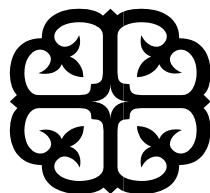
The dark history of Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger's philosophy on Eugenics and population control was documented by Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas' concurring opinion in *Box v. Planned Parenthood in Indiana and Kentucky*. Today, an increasing number of Black Americans recognize this eugenic and population control philosophy that is having a genocidal impact.

Recently close to a hundred black women of influence gathered in Charlotte, NC to protest the stealth opening of a Planned Parenthood in the city's oldest Black neighborhood. Along with my testimony I've attached a statement from Lesley Monet, International Director of The Church of God in Christ's Family Life Campaign. Lesley explains the largest Black denomination with over 6 million members' opposition to the abortion industry's targeting of Black babies and the Church's program to protest abortion and encourage adoption.

Many of us are tired of the targeting. 78% of Planned Parenthood's surgical facilities are located in Black and Latino neighborhoods. Black women such as Cree Erwin, Lakisha Wilson, and Tonya Reaves have lost their lives at the hands of an abortion industry that offers substandard medical care as increasingly women are leaving abortion centers by ambulance.

Taking the lives of our children through abortion doesn't empower or strengthen our communities. Abortion has left behind countless wounded women and men as it silenced millions of children who otherwise would have had a voice and lived out the purpose for their life.

Submitted by: Genevieve



Ministry News



PROSPHORA BAKING SCHEDULE

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

Despina Ampatzis:	The first Sunday of every month
Deborah Talbot:	The second Sunday of every month
Mark Robinson :	The third Sunday of every month
Anne Dykstra:	The last 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 is welcome to make the offering.

LECHEM-ARTOS-BREAD

Following the Word Through Scripture

We have seen that after the fall, Adam (man) was told by God that with effort he would eat bread until he returned to the ground. We have looked at bread as recorded in the lives of the Old Testament Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Now we come to Joseph, the favorite son of Jacob, the son of his old age, the first son by Rachel, but probably the eleventh son in order of birth. In the story of Joseph, sheaves, grain, and bread figure plentifully, and there is even a little wine. Joseph's story is found in Genesis, chapters 37-50. I want to tell it all at once, which makes the article two pages this month.

When Joseph was 17 he was hated by his brothers and favored by his father who gave him a tunic of many colors. And then he had a dream: he and his brothers were binding sheaves in the field when Joseph's sheaf stood upright and his brother's sheaves stood all around and bowed down to his. And he had another dream in which the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to him. Then one day Jacob sent Joseph off to Shechem where his brothers had gone with the sheep. Some of the fathers of the church say that Joseph sent him with food (bread) for his brothers. The brothers saw Joseph coming from afar and said to one another, *"Look, this dreamer is coming. ...let us now kill him...and we shall say some wild beast has devoured him. We shall see what will become of his dreams."* When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his tunic, cast him into a pit, and *They then sat down to eat bread, and lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelite wayfarers coming from Gilead with their camels bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt* (Genesis 37:25). The brothers sold Joseph to the traders, who took him to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

Genesis chapter 39 tells us that the Lord was with Joseph and he was a successful man because the Lord made all he did to prosper. Potiphar, who had bought Joseph, saw this, and *Thus he left all he had in Joseph's hand, and did not know what he had except for the bread he ate* (Genesis 39:6). But Potiphar's wife, frustrated in her attempts to seduce Joseph, lied about him so that Potiphar shut him up with the King's prisoners, but there too he was put in a position of authority and prospered. Two other men in prison were Pharaoh's chief cupbearer and chief baker (hey, bread and wine again), who had been put there because Pharaoh was angry with them. They each had a dream one night, which Joseph interpreted, and his interpretations came to pass. In three days, the baker was killed, but the cupbearer was restored to his position. A full two years later Pharaoh had a dream about fat cows and skinny cows coming up out of the river. He had a

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second dream about seven ears of corn, fat and plump, and seven ears of corn thin and blighted. These dreams disturbed Pharaoh's spirit, and none of the wise men in all Egypt could interpret the dreams for Pharaoh. It was then that his cupbearer remembered Joseph in prison and spoke to Pharaoh about him. Joseph was called before Pharaoh and told him, "*The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do...*" There would be seven years of great plenty followed by seven years of severe famine, and Joseph also gave Pharaoh the advice to gather and store grain in the seven good years as a reserve to be used in the coming famine. And Pharaoh responded, "*Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as sensible and intelligent as you...See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.*" Pharaoh put his signet ring on Joseph and set him as governor over all the land of Egypt. Joseph was 30 years old. He was given fine clothes, gold jewelry, a chariot and runners to go before him crying out, "*Bow the knee!*" He was given a wife who bore him two sons before the famine came. And he was given an Egyptian name.

Genesis 41:54, 55: *...and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph said. The famine was in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was **bread**. So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for **bread**. Then Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do."* When the famine came, Joseph opened the storehouses he had in all the cities in Egypt and sold to the Egyptians and all the countries who came to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all the earth. Back in Canaan, Jacob heard there was grain in Egypt, and he sent Joseph's ten brothers to buy grain "*that we may live and not die.*" Joseph was the one who "*sold to all the people of the land. So Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the ground.*" Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not know him, and he did not speak to them in their language. He accused them of being spies and put them in prison for three days. And on the third day he said to them that he would keep one of them and send the others to their families with grain, and they would prove they were not spies by bringing their youngest brother Benjamin back to Joseph, so he would know they were speaking the truth. Then the brothers said to one another, "*We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us.*" Reuben then answered them, saying, "*Did I not speak to you, saying, "Do not sin against the boy, but you would not listen? Therefore, behold, his blood is now required of us."* But they did not know Joseph understood them...Joseph took Simeon from them and bound him. Simeon was the second born, Reuben was the firstborn. Then he gave the command to fill their sacks with grain, to restore their money in their sacks, and to give them provisions for the journey. They returned to their father Jacob, told him what happened, found their money in their sacks, and all of them were afraid. No matter, the famine being severe, they ate the grain and had to go back for more. They persuaded Jacob to allow Benjamin to go with them, for they said, "*The man said to us, you shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.* So Jacob said to take with them a present, a little balm, a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds, and double money, and to take back the money that was returned to them, that Simeon and Benjamin may be released. When Joseph saw his brothers and Benjamin with them, he told the steward of his house to take them to his home, to slaughter an animal and make ready, "*for these men will dine with me at noon.*" At Joseph's house they were given water to wash their feet, and their donkeys were fed.

Genesis 43:25: *Then they made the present ready for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard he would eat **bread** there. Thus when Joseph came home, they brought the present in their hand to him in the house and bowed down before him to the earth.* Joseph spoke with his brothers without revealing himself, asked after his father, asked God's blessing on his brother Benjamin, then he had to go to his inner chamber and weep. Genesis 43:31: *He then washed his face and came out, and he composed himself and said, "Serve the **bread**."* Joseph sat his brothers before him in order of their birth, which astonished his brothers. Then he served them, but Benjamin's serving was five times as much as the

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others. And they drank and were merry.

Genesis chapters 44-45 tell you what happened next. It's a sitting-on-the-edge-of-your-seat suspense story that ends with Joseph revealing himself to his brothers. He tells them not to fear, that it was all God's doing. *For God sent me before you to preserve you...and to sustain you...it was not you who sent me here, but God...* He told them five more years of famine remained and sent them home to Jacob with these words: *Thus says your son Joseph, "God made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry."* Genesis 45:23: *He also sent to his father these things: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten mules loaded with grain, **bread**, and food for his father for the journey.* As Israel/Jacob journeyed down to Egypt, he stopped at the Well of Oath (where Hagar had thought Ishmael would die), and there God spoke to Jacob, saying He would make a great nation of Israel in Egypt, He would go down with Israel, and He would bring him up again. Jacob and his sons were settled in the best of the land, in Goshen, and *then Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with **bread**, according to the number of individual persons (Genesis 47:12).*

To be continued...

Deborah Talbot—



Ministry News

Philoptochos St. Nicholas 2020 Graduates

This year there are three high school graduates:

Dayle Sokrates Frisk: Gig Harbor High School

Zoe Matteson: Bellarmine Prep

Lexie Samaras: Bellarmine Prep

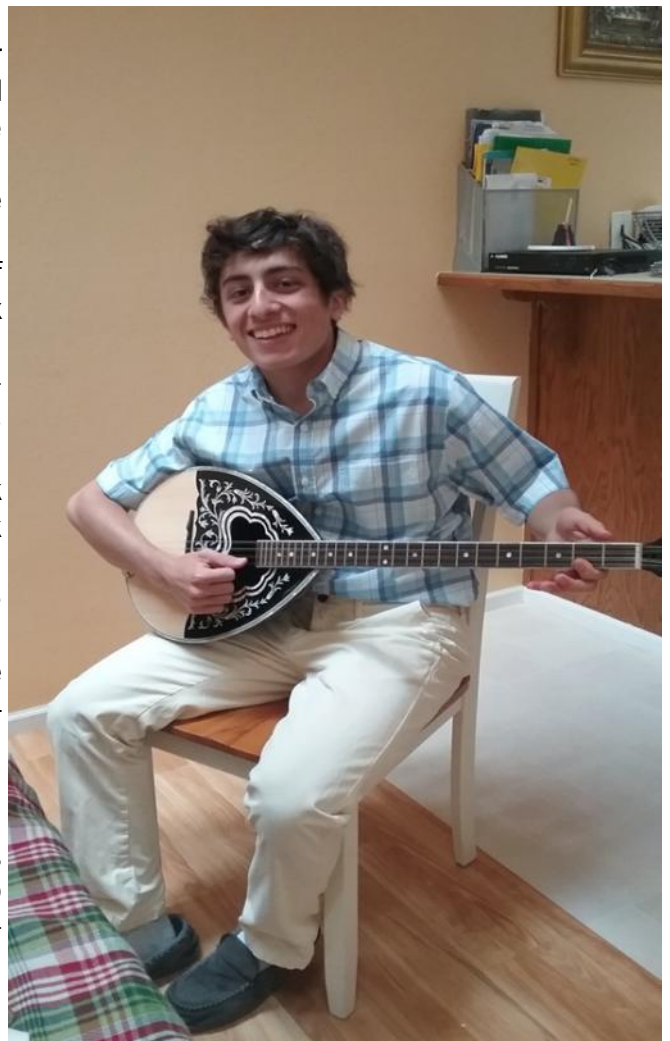
College graduates are:

Brigid Majmudar: Hillsdale College—BA in English

Emily Robinson: Pierce College—BA in Science/History

St. Nicholas Parish salutes all of you for your achievement in education.

Sokratis (Dayle) Fisk: Graduated from Gig Harbor High School where he served as ASB President. In his junior year he served as School Treasurer. He was General Secretary of the Sailing Club, founding member of the Diversity Club and Varsity member of the Speech and Debate Team during his freshman and sophomore years. Competed in Cross Country and Track and Field. Sokratis has been an altar server from the age of seven. Represented St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at the Pacific Northwest Semi-Finals St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival 2016-2018 and the District finals in 2015 in Dunlap California. Attended Cross Road ten-day seminar at Holy Cross/Hellenic College in the summer of 2019. Sons of Pericles president. Greek danced and volunteered at Annual St. Nicholas Greek Festival 2010-2019. He has held a part-time job at a local fast food restaurant from the age of fifteen. He recently learned how to make Greek coffee, bougatsa and has become an amateur bouzouki player. At the age of eight, he began learning Greek and is now fluent, earning four credits on the ALTA language test in writing skills and speaking/listening. He also completed two college level Spanish classes while still in high school. Sokratis has been accepted to Hellenic College, University of Arizona Honors College, Hillsdale, but to the joy of his family, glory to God, he has chosen to attend UW Tacoma.



Continued next Page...

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Philoptochos

St. Nicholas 2020 Graduates

Lexie Samaras:

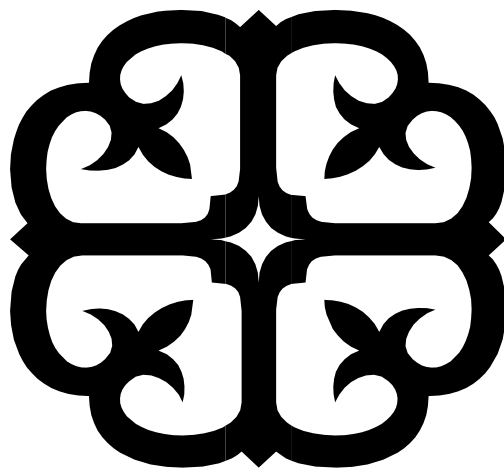
Lexie (Alexandria) Samaras graduated from Bellarmine Preparatory School in Tacoma. She will attend Seattle Pacific University in downtown Seattle to pursue her ambition of becoming a nurse and eventually cater to children. Lexie was a team member of the woman's varsity softball team at Bellarmine.

Besides her academic accomplishments, Lexie has a long history of volunteer work helping others.

At St. Nicholas, Lexie was President of Maids of Athena and a Festival dancer every year since she was a young child. We wish Lexie great success as she takes the next big step in her life.



Brigid Majmudar: Brigid graduated from Hillsdale College with a degree in English. She will be staying in Hillsdale to teach at a charter school.



Philoptochos

Philoptochos Calendar 2020

Date	Event	Notes	Chair
FEB 14	VALENTINE BAGS FOR HOMEBOUND		Marian Palas
FEB 15	MEETING	NO MEAL @ 10:00 am	Jane
FEB 29	LADIES LUNCHEON MTG	ELMERS 11:00 am Planning Committee (Hostesses, chairs etc.)	
MAR	LENTEN MEALS		Presbytera Sophie
MAR 21	MEETING --	NO MEAL @ 10:00 am	Jane
APR 11	PALM TYING/LUNCH		Presbytera Sophie
APR 12	PALM SUNDAY DINNER		Hoddi/Marrilee
APR 12	PASCHA BAGS FOR HOMEBOUND		All
APR 19	PASCHA		
MAY 9	MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS		Sally
MAY 16	LADIES SPRING LUNCHEON		Committee
MAY 23	MEETING	Celebration Dinner - Need committee	
MAY 24	VETERAN'S LUNCHEON	VETERANS PROGRAM by Gus Chamales	Merrilee, Diane, Hoddi
JUNE 20	FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST		
JULY 18	CAMP AGAPE	Training for camp July 18-25	
JULY 21	CANW Kafeneion	Provide Appetizers from St. Nicholas Philoptochos	Hoddi, Jan, Marian and Yvonne

Meetings at the church suspended, for now

Commemorating Saturday of Souls





**Now Hiring a Classroom Teacher at
Saint John of Kronstadt Orthodox Christian School**

St. John of Kronstadt Orthodox Christian School is a parochial Christian school associated with Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Yakima, WA. St. John's School serves grades K-8 in four multi-grade classrooms. Our mission is to provide a high-quality education in a nurturing Christian environment. The school has an opening for a full-time teaching position for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. We are looking for a candidate who has a love for children, a passion for learning, and is a committed Christian who supports Orthodox Christian education.

Job Requirements:

- Candidate must be able to demonstrate flexibility, organization, and the ability to work well with others
- Prior work experience in a school environment preferred
- Teaching certification preferred, but not required
- Must be legally authorized to work in the United States
- Position begins August 1, 2020

Interested candidates please contact Principal Jennifer Maher: jen@stjohnkronstadt.org

For more information about St. John's School, please visit our website at:
www.stjohnkronstadt.org

Ministry News

On line Donations now possible

ON-LINE DONATIONS

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



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

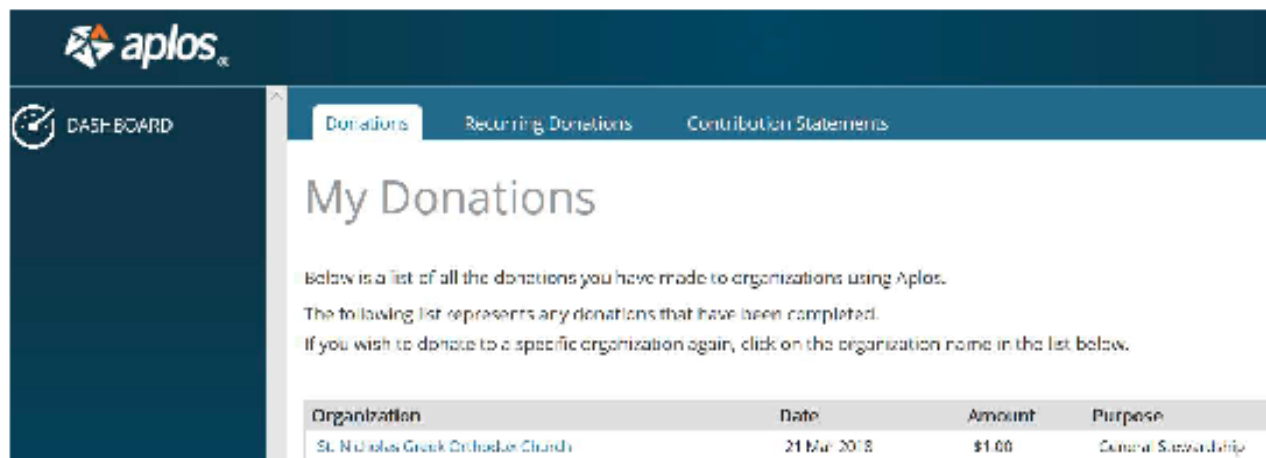
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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

In Christ,

Mark Robinson

On-Line Contribution Instructions:

- 1) On a computer or mobile device, go to the Church’s website – www.stnicholastacoma.org
- 2) Select the  button. This takes you to the Church’s donate page!
- 3) Select the gold colored donate  button at the bottom of the page.
- 4) You will now be taken to the page to make your donation. Simply complete the form.
- 5) From the contributions email you receive, select the link to setup your own Aplos account. An account history page will be available. The first tab will show only on-line donations, the second tab allows accounting for recurring donations, and the third is for contribution statements listing on-line, check, and cash donations.



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

