



The Struggle of Great Lent

By Elder Ephraim of Arizona (portions from a transcribed homily)



We have instances from Church history of many people “in the world” (not monastics, that is), who pleased God and became great. Abba Paphnutius of Thebes, an ascetic of great gifts (and disciple of St. Antony the Great), once prayed to God:

— God, who have You placed me with? With whom do I share the same measure of virtue?

And he heard a voice, saying to him:

— Down in Alexandria there is a poor man, a cobbler, down in a basement. You have the same amount of virtue as he does

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The 2020 Parish Council



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



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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

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

The March Parish Council meeting is Tuesday March 10 at 7PM in the upper hall.

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 EXPULSION FROM PARADISE: Cheesefare FORGIVENESS SUNDAY 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-12:30pm Steve Martakis 1st Memorial 12:00pm-1:00pm Camp Agape Information Presentation</p>	<p>2 CLEAN MONDAY Nicholas Planas STRICT FAST 6:30pm-7:30pm Orthros Canon of St Andrew: Holy Resurrection Parish</p>	<p>3 CLEAN TUESDAY STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-7:00pm Small Compline w/ Canon of St Andrew 7:00pm-8:00pm Building Committee</p>	<p>4 CLEAN WEDNESDAY Gerasimos of the Jordan STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 3:00pm-4:00pm Pro Life Vigil: Cedar River 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Small Compline w/ Canon of St Andrew 8:00pm-9:00pm No Choir</p>	<p>5 CLEAN THURSDAY STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 7:00pm-8:00pm Great Compline w/ Canon of St Andrew</p>	<p>6 CLEAN FRIDAY STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm 1st Salutations to the Theotokos</p>	<p>7 Fast: Wine & Oil ok St. Theodore Saturday 9:40am-10:00am PreCommunion Prayers 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy w/ Memorial 10:00am-11:00am Ladies Luncheon Planning Mtg (BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse), 4502 S Steele St Ste 1500, Tacoma.) 7:00pm-8:00pm No Vespers Tonight: (Chocolate Ball)</p>
<p>8 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Sunday of Orthodoxy 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-12:30pm Children's Icon Procession 12:00pm-1:00pm Short Presentation: Jamaica Mission 5:00pm-6:00pm WOCA Vespers: Three Hierarchs Mountlake Terrace</p>	<p>9 40 Martyrs of Sebaste Fast: wine & oil ok 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy 6:30pm-8:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10 Quadratos STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-10:00pm Parish Council</p>	<p>11 STRICT FAST Theodora the Righteous 3:00pm-4:00pm Pro Life Vigil: Cedar River 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Lenten Study (TBD)</p>	<p>12 STRICT FAST Symeon the New Theologian 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p>13 Nikiphoros STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Second Salutations to the Theotokos</p>	<p>14 Benedict of Nursia Fast: Wine & Oil ok 7:40am-8:40am Pre Communion Prayers 8:00am-9:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers</p>
<p>15 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Oratorical Festival (Tent) Sun of St Gregory Palamas 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-12:30pm Oratorical Festival 5:00pm-6:00pm WOCA Vespers: Brief</p>	<p>16 STRICT FAST Sabine of Egypt 6:30pm-8:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17 Alexis, the Man of God Patrick of Ireland STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p>18 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Martyr Edward of England Nikolai Velimirovic of Pennsylvania 3:00pm-4:00pm Pro Life Vigil: Cedar River 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Lenten Study (TBD)</p>	<p>19 Chrysanthos & Daria STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers</p>	<p>20 Cuthbert of Lindisfame Martyrs of St Sabbas Monastery STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Third Salutations to the Theotokos</p>	<p>21 Fast: Wine & Oil ok James the Confessor 7:40am-8:40am Pre Communion Prayers 8:00am-9:00am Divine Liturgy (no meal) 10:00am-11:00am Philoptochos Mtg Banquet: Care Net Pregnancy Ctr (Greater Tacoma Convention Center), 1500 Commerce St, Tacoma, WA) 7:00pm-8:00pm No Vespers Tonight (Care Net Banquet)</p>
<p>22 Fast: Wine & Oil ok GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Project 2020 Veneration of the Cross 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 5:00pm-6:00pm WOCA Vespers: Kirkland</p>	<p>23 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Martyr Lydia of Illyria Tikhon, Pat. of Moscow 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy 6:30pm-8:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Theonas of Thessaloniki 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm Great Vespers</p>	<p>25 ANNUNCIATION Fast: Fish, Wine & Oil ok 9:00am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 3:00pm-4:00pm Pro Life Vigil: Cedar River</p>	<p>26 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy</p>	<p>27 Matrona of Thessaloniki STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Fourth Salutations to the Theotokos</p>	<p>28 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Hilarion the New 7:40am-8:40am Pre Communion Prayers 8:00am-9:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers</p>
<p>29 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Sun of St John of the Ladder 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 5:00pm-6:00pm WOCA Vespers: Assumption</p>	<p>30 John of the Ladder 6:30pm-8:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>31 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Innocent of Alaska 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 11:00am-12:00pm Fr at Vicariate Clergy Kolonia Group 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy</p>	Notes:			

News and Announcements

PROJECT 2020

A General Assembly will take place on March 22, 2020, at the church, after the Divine Liturgy, to discuss and hopefully approve the "South Site Ornamental Fencing" as an amendment to the P2020. George Pirotis

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Dates



This year's St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival will be held on Sunday, **March 15**, immediately following Divine Liturgy. All students in grades 1 - 12 are encouraged to participate whether or not they choose to compete. Please see Mrs. Auter or Mrs. Ranae Rice if you have questions.

Other Important Oratorical Festival Dates:

Pacific Northwest District Festival: Assumption, Seattle, WA - April 5, 2020

Metropolis Oratorical Festival: St. Nicholas Ranch, Dunlap, CA - May 8-9, 2020

National Oratorical Festival: Hosted by the Metropolis of Denver and St. Spyridon Church in Loveland, CO on June 12-14, 2020.

Sheila Auter —

News and Announcements

4 GOSPELS IN 40 DAYS

There are a total of 89 chapters in the four Gospels, some shorter and some longer. For those so inspired, below is a schedule to fully read the Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John during the 40 days of Great Lent, with the intent to roughly balance out the amount of reading there would be each day. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Lower Hall for those who would like to receive the daily Gospel reading via e-mail. **YOU CAN DO IT!** You will feel so good knowing that you have read all four Gospels!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	March 2 Day 1 Matthew 1 thru 4	March 3 Day 2 Matthew 5 & 6	March 4 Day 3 Matthew 7 thru 9	March 5 Day 4 Matthew 10 & 11	March 6 Day 5 Matthew 12 & 13	March 7 Day 6 Matthew 14 thru 17
March 8 Day 7 Matthew 18 thru 20	March 9 Day 8 Matthew 21 thru 23	March 10 Day 9 Matthew 24 & 25	March 11 Day 10 Matthew 26	March 12 Day 11 Matthew 27 & 28	March 13 Day 12 Mark 1 & 2	March 14 Day 13 Mark 3 & 4
March 15 Day 14 Mark 5 & 6	March 16 Day 15 Mark 7 & 8	March 17 Day 16 Mark 9 & 10	March 18 Day 17 Mark 11 & 12	March 19 Day 18 Mark 13 & 14	March 20 Day 19 Mark 15 & 16	March 21 Day 20 Luke 1
March 22 Day 21 Luke 2 & 3	March 23 Day 22 Luke 4 & 5	March 24 Day 23 Luke 6 & 7	March 25 Day 24 Luke 8 & 9	March 26 Day 25 Luke 10 & 11	March 27 Day 26 Luke 12 & 13	March 28 Day 27 Luke 14 thru 16
March 29 Day 28 Luke 17 & 18	March 30 Day 29 Luke 19 & 20	March 31 Day 30 Luke 21 & 22	April 1 Day 31 Luke 23 & 24	April 2 Day 32 John 1 thru 3	April 3 Day 33 John 4 & 5	April 4 Day 34 John 6
April 5 Day 35 John 7 & 8	April 6 Day 36 John 9 & 10	April 7 Day 37 John 11 & 12	April 8 Day 38 John 13 thru 15	April 9 Day 39 John 16 thru 18	April 10 Day 40 John 19 & 21	

Building Committee

PROJECT 2020, NARTHEX RENOVATION UPDATE



The next six weeks are going to be active in preparing for field construction on the Narthex Renovation, scheduled to start one week after Pascha. At present, general contractors are being selected to bid the project, with the intent to end up with four vetted, well-qualified and interested bidders before March. Permit review comments have just come back from the City of Tacoma without any significant changes or problems. In short, it's full steam ahead.

Upcoming significant Narthex Renovation target dates are:

- 1) Bid-ready plans and specs to be available to bidding contractors around February 24th.
- 2) Bids from selected General Contractors are due by 4:30 PM, Thursday March 19.
- 3) General Assembly on March 22 to go over bid results and bid alternates.
- 4) Actual ground breaking to start Monday April 27, a week and a day after Pascha.
- 5) Narthex Renovation to be Substantially Complete by the end of Friday, September 4.
- 6) Narthex Renovation to be 100% complete by the end of Friday, September 18.

The overriding factor in the project scheduling is there is a little over a four month time window between Pascha and the Greek Festival for field construction, and to make the best use of it, both before in preparation, and during actual onsite work. For those interested in seeing what the project scope entails, a final set of drawings and specifications should be available to look at in the Lower Hall by the end of February. In addition, Project 2020 and Narthex Renovation information, both general and specific, is posted on the Saint Nicholas website.

Continued on next page

Building Committee

Building Committee News Continued

A more ideal long term plan would be to beef up the existing Sanctuary floor structure from the under-side, which would require removing and replacing existing plaster ceilings in the Lower Hall below in order to provide adequate access. Then mosaic tile could be installed in the pew areas, plus there would be the benefit of a more firm floor structure. However, this would be messy and expensive to implement, and likely delay more pressing and urgent repair and improvement needs at the church. So this plan is being shelved for the foreseeable future, while the laminate flooring infill proposal is intended to act as a much less expensive, long-term temporary fix and immediate appearance upgrade.

In other news, there have been a few recent roof leaks in the Upper Hall and one in the Dining Hall. While band-aid patches continue, the drips are reminders of the borrowed time these areas are living on, and act as an incentive to be working on a long-term fix sooner rather than later.



A photo of the north set of pews as they presently sit in the Sanctuary space



The existing flooring in the pew area is recessed about 2/4" below mosaic tile aisles. New laminate flooring with a plywood filler underneath would make it flush.

BUILDING COMMITTEE NEWS

A structural engineer's report was received last month in regards to the floor structure in the Saint Nicholas Sanctuary, helping to determine the viability of adding the loads of mosaic tile flooring in the pew areas. The floor is supported by three spans of joists that run in a north to south direction. The shorter spans at the sides of the Sanctuary are more than adequately sized, while the longer center span just marginally meets current code requirements. Because the center span joists are close to the current code threshold, it was recommended not to finish the pew spaces areas with mosaic tile.

However, a Plan 'B' has been proposed to instead install a high quality laminate type flooring over a layer of plywood filler. Not only would this act as an immediate appearance upgrade in the Sanctuary, but it would also eliminate a potential tripping hazard at existing mosaic tile aisle edges. A suggested flooring manufacturer and color is planned to be presented at the next Parish Council meeting, and if approved, will be proposed and put up for a vote at the upcoming March 23 General Assembly to be held after Liturgy.

Submitted by: 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 MARCH:

3/1/2020	Team Karanasos
3/8/2020	Team Kipelidis
3/15/2020	Team Pres Sophie
3/22/2020	Team Johnson
3/29/2020	March 25th Pot Luck

TEAMS:

Team Karanasos: Daphne Karanasos, Leader; Anna Karanasos, Zach Karanasos, Angie Wilen, Ann Koopman, John Kouklis, Mary Matherine and Pres Maria Armatas

Team Johnson: Joseph Johnson, Leader; Ronie-Sue Johnson, Fenia Mavromichali, Katrina Orriss, David Orriss, Marie Bell, Barbara Phillips, Ranae Rice and Kathy Hermick.

Team Kipelidis: Despina Kipelidis, Leader; Dana Robinson, Sandra Ciarochi, Anastasia Bouzinekis, Yvonne Brandvold, Maro Kouklis and Fenia Mavromichali.

Team Chamales: Dr Ingrid Chamales, Leader; Karen Samaras; Marion Palas, Sally Hallis, Jane Evancho, Kathy Heiser, Anastasia Scopelitis, Krysanthos Barnes and Rikky Kapes.

Team Pres Sophie: Pres Sophie Majmudar, Leader; Evy Kontos, Irene Misiewicz, Gloria Brown, Deborah Talbot, Anna Marie Oakes Joudy, Savina Frisk and Claudia Cedeno.

Men's Team: Ed Winskill, Leader; Dr Fred Ehret, Bill Samaras, John Cook, Hugh Winskill, Jason Heiser, Andrew Phillips and Alex Misiewicz

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

March has all the prospects of being a great month primarily because if all goes well, Major Jeff Rogers will be returning home from Afghanistan!!! As of this writing on 9 February, Jeff just recently departed Camp Morehead and is now at Bagram AFB. He will remain there for about seven days at which time he is scheduled to fly to Qatar. He will remain there for approximately seven more days before flying back to the United States of America and Ft. Bragg, NC. He will remain in NC until around the middle of March and then will fly back Washington.

Jeff has been on a one year deployment and during that time Lexi has been keeping the home fires burning and raising their three boys. They are blessed with wonderful sons who are exceptional students, excellent athletes, and outstanding young men. We are so fortunate to have them as fellow parishioners and we are blessed to have them as brothers and sisters in Christ.



MAJ Jeff Rogers
U.S. Army National Guard
Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan
Lexi Rogers’ husband

NEW MINISTRY PICTURES. In the last couple of months we have added several new pictures to our collection of Military/CIA/Law Enforcement family members. **Major General Kostandinos Kiosses is Chrysanthe Barnes’ brother.** He is a retired General in the Royal Hellenic Air Force. I do believe he is the highest ranking family member of any of the photos we have received so far. Thank you Chrysanthe!



MG(R) Kostandinos Kiosses
Royal Hellenic Air Force
Chrysanthe Barnes’ brother



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

“Gunny” James Glendening is Kathy Hermick’s son and is still serving on active duty with the United States Marine Corps. He is a very highly decorated Marine and has received recognition for valorous action in combat during multiple tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Continued on next page....

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

SEAN HERMICK is Kathy’s husband who retired from the United States Army a few years ago. The photo below was taken during his final tour in Afghanistan while he served with the American Army’s Special Forces. The young fella in the photo with him is actually an Afghan Army two star general! Senior Afghan Army officers live a very hazardous life which is why this fella is so very young. Contrast that with a typical American two star general who is generally in his early



Sean Hermick
U.S. Army
Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom
Recipient of the Bronze Star Medal
Kathy Hermick’s husband

I know there are still more family members who served in the Military, the CIA, or the various branches of law enforcement and whose pictures we have not yet collected. During your spare time between midnight and 4 AM, please locate the family photos of these men and women in uniform, scan or snap a photo of them, and email them to me at gleafops@gmail.com. Help us to honor those who have given so much toward the defense and safety of our great country.

MARCH 3: NAVY RESERVE BIRTHDAY! The United States Navy Reserve was established on this day in 1915. It was originally the effort of former Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels and his assistant, Franklin D. Roosevelt. That same year the 1915 Naval Appropriations act established the United States Navy Reserve.



March 5: United States Navy Construction Battalions, better known as “SeeBees” were established in 1941 following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and form the U.S. Navy Construction Force. The SeeBee nickname is a heterograph of the first letters “CB” from the words Construction Battalion. Depending upon how the word is used, “SeeBee” can stand for one of three things: All the enlisted personnel in the USN’s occupational field 7 (OF-7), all officers and enlisted men assigned to of the Naval Construction Force, or



Lieutenant John C. Kouklis
U.S. Navy
Cold War
Andrew Kouklis’ father

MARCH 13: K-9 Veterans Day, the official birthday of the United States K9 Corps. Military working dogs (MWD) hold a special place in the hearts of troops who work with them. In a practical sense, they’re treated with the same honor and respect as any other soldier. They have a ceremony when they receive awards and are buried with military honors. They hold a rank, and as “tradition dictates”, one higher than their handler. It’s a tongue-in-cheek custom to ensure the handler

Continued on next page.....

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

Treats them properly while giving the working dog some leeway to be a dog if they ever disobey an order. They have very specific skills tailored to each mission. The role of mwd can range from a mercy dog, assisting in locating wounded on the front lines, military police K-9s sniffing out narcotics, and Explosive Ordinance Detection dogs, sniffing out explosives. Even fighting dogs join troops on raids, scouting missions, and as sentries in guard posts. Recently a MWD named Conan was instrumental in the assault that resulted in the killing of one of the world's leading ISIS terrorists, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. Although wounded in the assault he recovered from his wounds and was honored by a ceremony hosted by President Trump, Vice-President Pence, and the First Lady, Melania.



President Trump, Vice President Pence and first lady Melania Trump present Conan, the military working dog injured in the successful operation targeting Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, before the media in the Rose Garden at the White House on Monday.

MARCH 25: GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY! Several decades before the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Empire in 1453, most of Greece had come under Ottoman rule. During this time there were several revolt attempts by Greeks to gain independence from Ottoman control. In 1814, a secret organization called the "Filiki Eteria" was founded with the aim of liberating Greece. The Filiki Eteria planned to launch revolts in the Peloponnese, the Danubian Principalities (Wallachia and Moldavia), and in Constantinople and its surrounding areas. By late 1821, the insurrection had been planned for

March 25, 1821, on the Feast of the Annunciation for the Orthodox Christians. However, as the plans of Filiki Eteria had been discovered by the Ottoman authorities, the revolutionary action started earlier. The first of these revolts began on March 6, 1821 in the Danubian Principalities, but it was soon put down by the Ottomans. The events in the north urged the Greeks in the Peloponnese into action and on 17 March 1821, the Maniots (inhabitants of the Mani Peninsula, Laconia, and described as descendants of



the ancient "Dorian" population of the Peloponnese, and as such related to the ancient Spartans.) declared war on the Ottomans. This declaration was the start of a spring of revolutionary actions from other controlled states against the Ottoman Empire. On March 25 the revolution was officially declared and by the end of the month, the Peloponnese was in open revolt against the Turks. Theodoros Kolokotronis was a Greek general and the pre-eminent leader of the Greek War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire. Kolokotronis's greatest success was the defeat of the Ottoman army under Mahmud Dramali Pasha at the Battle of Dervenakia in 1822. The war raged for several years but Greece was finally recognized as an independent nation in the Treaty of Constantinople in May of 1832.

Continued on next page

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

MARCH 29: VIETNAM VETERANS DAY! Beginning in 1950, American military advisors arrived in what was then French Indochina. U.S. involvement escalated in the early 1960's with troop levels tripling in 1961 and again in 1962. U.S. involvement escalated further following the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident in which a U.S. destroyer clashed with North Vietnamese fast attack craft. That was followed by the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution which gave the President the authority to increase U.S. military presence. Regular combat units were deployed beginning in 1965. American involvement in the war peaked in 1968, the same year that the communist side launched the Tet Offensive. The Tet Offensive failed in its goal of overthrowing the South Vietnamese government, but became the turning point in the war, as it persuaded a large segment of the U.S. population that its government's claims of progress toward winning the war were illusory despite many years of massive aid to South Vietnam. Gradual withdrawal of U.S. ground forces began as part of "Vietnamization", which aimed to end American involvement. Direct U.S. military involvement ended on 15 August 1973.

Many Americans served honorably and fought bravely during the lengthy war and 29 March, Vietnam Veterans Day, is intended to honor their service and sacrifices. Next time you see Tom Jackson, John Pangis, or Charles Plunkett in church, please thank them for their honorable service during the Viet Nam War. And next time you see Chrysanthe Barnes, Krisann Firth, Fran Hall, or members of the Orriss, Rogers or Ciarochi families, please thank them as well for relative's service in the Vietnam.



SFC(R) Wiley Barnes
U.S. Army
Vietnam War
Recipient of the Bronze Star Medal
Chrysanthe Barnes' husband



CDR(R) Jimmy Bragdon
U.S. Navy
Vietnam War
Krisann Firth's brother-in-law



Chris (Tykie) Drikakis
U.S. Army
Vietnam War
Gus Chamales' cousin



Michael J. Hall
U.S. Navy
Corpsman, Khe San, Vietnam & Cold War
Fran Hall's brother



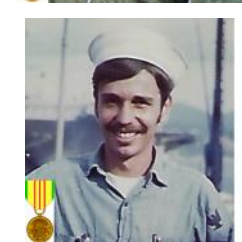
TSGT(R) Tom Jackson
U.S. Air Force
Korean, Vietnam, & Cold War
Helga Jackson's husband



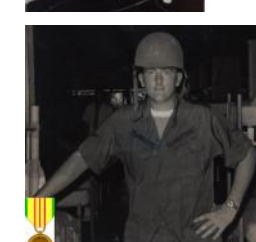
Peter Kelly
United States Marine Corps
Vietnam & Cold War
Gus Chamales' cousin's husband



CDR David A. Orriss
U.S. Navy
Vietnam War
Commander, USS Impervious
David Orriss' father



John Pangis
U.S. Navy
Vietnam War
Merilee Pangis' husband



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



CPT Rogers
U.S. Army
Viet Nam War
Recipient of the Purple Heart Medal for wounds in combat.
Jeff Rogers' uncle



COL(R) Leon Spirito
U.S. Army
WWII, Korea & Vietnam
Recipient of the Bronze Star for Valor w/30lc's & Purple Heart w/20lc's!
Anthony Ciarochi's uncle

Stewardship Ministry

I would like to begin this month's article by sharing with you another great daily reading from Father Stavros of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church of Tampa, Florida. Staci Bouzinekis introduced me to his articles about 18 months ago. I enjoy reading them because they offer me peace and time to pray during what are often hectic days, and occasionally they also provide a little advance insight into what Father Seraphim will be speaking about during his Sunday Liturgy Sermon. I took the liberty to edit this reading slightly to accommodate my article. If you would like to subscribe to his daily readings let me know and I will forward one of his articles to you. Once you have it you will be able to click on the button at the bottom that will enable you to subscribe. Below is Father Stavros' article. Enjoy!

Prayer Team

PART EIGHT

GIVE THANKS

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Part VI—Generosity with Money

And He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. And He called His disciples to Him, and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury."

Mark 12:41-43

Good morning Prayer Team!

Imagine if someone "gave" you \$100 a week, just because. Every week, you'd get \$100. Would you keep it all to yourself? Would you share a portion of it with anyone else? What if, after a while, the person who gave you the money said "I'm going to give you the same \$100 a week but I want you to give \$10 of it back"? Would you be angry with him? Would you think "hey, once you've given me the hundred dollars its mine to do what I want with it."

Everything we have that is good ultimately has God as its source. That means that even every dollar we "earn" is actually a gift. Because if I have a job that nets me a salary, I have the job because I have a talent and I have a talent because I was given that talent by God. God gives some the talent to be doctors, others teachers, others architects, others athletes. Every person has a gift. And God expects each of us to use our gifts to His glory, and whatever we derive materially from our gifts, He expects that a certain amount will be given back. This is the concept of the tithe and the tithe is ten percent.

In Leviticus 27:32, we read "**And all the tithe of herds and flocks, every tenth animal of all that pass under the herdsman's staff, shall be holy to the Lord.**" What a beautiful image that paints! All of the people of Israel passing under the staff of Moses, receiving a blessing, as they joyfully offered a tenth of their property each year in thanksgiving to the Lord.

have we see as an earning, rather than as a gift. This is why it is hard for many to part with their earnings, rather than joyfully offering gifts.

Continued on next page

Stewardship Ministry

The story of the widow's penny quoted on the previous page shows how God views joyful and sacrificial giving. It is not how much you give compared to anyone else. It is how much you give back in comparison to how much you have been given.

Acts 20:35 says *"In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"* So giving brings blessing as well as joy.

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* The heart of the widow in today's scripture message was such that she gave everything she had back to the Lord. That is the ideal. Before we can reach 100%, let's try for 10% and before we get to even 10%, let us give what we give rather than exchange. And let us give with joy. After all, we're not really giving at all. We're giving back a portion of what He first gave us.

Lord, thank You for the many gifts and talents with which You have blessed me (name them). Thank You that I can provide sustenance for myself and my family. Help me to be a grateful steward of my treasures, seeing my treasure as a gift from You, and joyfully sharing it with the church and with charity. Help me to also be a trusting steward, trusting that even as I divest myself of material things, I not only gain spiritual treasures, but that You will continue to provide for my well-being.

Give today without expecting anything in return!

+Fr. Stavros

Since I am part of the Stewardship Ministry my articles generally center around the stewardship of our time, our talent, and our treasure. Perhaps someday that will change but for now that remains my focus.

TIME AND TALENT: Like many of you I am involved in more than one Ministry. Recently the Festival Ministry held its first ST. NICHOLAS FESTIVAL planning meeting for 2020. **The festival dates are October 2,3, and 4** so please put them on your calendar now and if it's at all possible, block those days from any other commitments. The meeting was attended by Sally, Krisann, Merilee and John, Joseph, Christina, Mark, George, Bill and Karen. Most of these folks have planned and directed the festival for many, many years, **DOXA TO THEO!** The meeting discussed a variety of topics but of particular interest to me was staffing.



Five minutes before we opened last years festival on Friday afternoon, Bill did not know who was going to be staffing the various booths or stations, and he wasn't even certain some of the booths would be open for business!!! Put yourself in his shoes and just try to imagine the angst and concern that he had at that moment! Imagine how you would have felt if you had been the festival chairperson? We did not support Bill the way we should have in this regard and we must never let that happen again.

In case there was any doubt in your mind, if you are a member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church your time and talent are necessary to make the festival a success. Many years ago there was a commercial on TV that used the saying "Own a piece of the rock!" Ladies and Gentlemen, if you are a member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, you "OWN A PIECE OF THE ST. NICHOLAS ROCK!" By default, you also own a piece of the Festival.

Continued on next page

Stewardship Ministry

If you are physically able please do not doubt for a moment that your presence is required to assist with preparation activities that occur prior to the festival. **During the Festival on October 2,3,and 4, your presence is desperately needed to help make the festival a success!!!**



Last year several of our booths were staffed by friends and family members of parishioners. Kathleen Hiedal's family members provided the lion's share of the staffing for the deli which happens to be part of our festival's greatest moneymaker! Mary Leonard's daughter, Evgenia, ran the Loukamades booth which was staffed mostly by people I had never seen before, and I still



have no idea where they came from! The inside bar was run by Ricky and Marlene's family, the serving line was staffed by a variety of friends and family members, and the same can be said for other booths and stations. We are extremely grateful to all who enlisted their family and friends to make the festival a success, but **WE NEED BETTER COMMITMENT FROM OUR OWN PARISHIONERS** to participate during both the Preparation Phase of the festival, and the Execution Phase as well.



In the past there has been a core group of ladies that have done the baking in preparation for the festival. That group has gotten smaller over the years. If you are not employed during the months of August and September and can spare six hours a few days during those weeks/months, **we need your help!** Male or female, young or old, please plan to come to the church on the weekdays that we are

baking and plan to work from 0900–1500, or whatever hours you can spare in between. At the recent planning meeting we discussed the need to hold some Saturday baking events so that others can participate and relieve some of the pressure off the ladies that work regularly during the week. No final decision has been made on that but I would ask everyone to be thinking about that possibly, and prepare yourselves in the event it is asked.

Continued on next page...

Stewardship Ministry

Another key aspect of the festival that needs to change is the breakdown after the festival closes. In the past John, Rich, and a couple of Rich's relatives have been responsible for cleaning up the area, storing all the equipment in the trailer, disassembling the booths, throwing out the trash, removing the electrical lights from the tent, and other tasks to numerous to mention. That has to change!!! During the next festival every booth is going to have to support John and Rich by assuming some of these tasks and responsibilities. As of this writing the plan is to assign booth leaders or chairpersons some of these tasks and they in turn will have to organize and task the members of their group accordingly. The teardown requirements will not take long to accomplish if every booth does their fair share. Prepare yourselves now and plan for some of your people to stay an extra hour longer than you and they have in the past so that this critical work can be accomplished, without injuring Rich and John in the process.

Okay, enough on Festival stuff for this month and the stewardship of time and talent. Please bear with me a little longer while I talk about the stewardship of treasure.

Thanks to the remarkable and outstanding support of so many people Project 2020 (not to be confused with Year 2020 stewardship) has been a success and the renovation of the Narthex will begin in just a few months, **DOXA TO THEO!** **Thank you so much to all who have contributed so generously** and have already fulfilled their pledges.

If you have not yet fulfilled your pledge please do your best to complete it as soon as possible. We would like to receive all the funds that were pledged prior to the commencement of construction.

If you have fulfilled your pledge, if God has blessed you with many advances during this strong economy, and you can still find it within your heart to provide a little more toward the project, please, please, please do so! We are approximately \$50,000.00 shy of our goal and it would truly be a blessing if we could complete the construction without dipping into the festival funds that are earmarked for our next project which will likely be the upper hall.

As the author of this article it is essential that I also keep you informed of our pledge status for the year 2020, and the money that covers our day to day operational expenses. Since that is a key part of what enables St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church to fulfill its daily mission in a comfortable environment, I'm certain that you would like to know how we're doing in that regard. Stewardship pledge card submissions for the year 2020 (not to be confused with PROJECT 2020 pledges) are ahead of where we were last year at this time with approximately 50% of our parish having either submitted a pledge card, or committed to making monthly or annual contributions. Many people do an annual contribution and that is greatly appreciated, but we still need to have a pledge card on file. Some folks have opted to do regular contributions through the parish website established by our treasurers so we use that data as representation of your pledge card. Automatic contributions are greatly appreciated and we strongly encourage everyone to consider doing them. Between pledge cards and automatic contributions we are almost 2/3rds of the way toward our goal of \$300,000.00, the amount that will get us through the year 2020 without the support of festival funds.

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Stewardship Ministry

The Parish Council and I cannot thank you enough for your contributions to date, and the pledges you have submitted! Often times we fail to express our appreciation to those who do so much for our parish so I use this article as an opportunity to speak on behalf of the Parish Council, and let our thanks be known. The good Lord has blessed you in many different ways and in doing so, you have chosen to return some of those gifts to him. Because of your generosity many of the wonderful things that happen around our church on a daily basis are possible.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the following people who have answered our call and pledged their support!

William & Mary Acker	Dr. Patra Alatsis	George & Despina Ampatsis
Sonny & Irene Angelos	Ricky & Marlene Angelus	Tony & Lori Apostle
Andrew & Monica Auter	George Ballasiotes	Chrysanthe & Wiley Barne
Francis & Oksana Barnes	Harry & Sheri Basil	Vasilakis H. Basil
Theodora Bessinas	Morgan Blackmore	James Brailey
Yvonne Brandvold	Dora Brown	Cheryl Burack
Barry Cassidy/Deborah Middleton	Klaudia Cedeno	Dr. Ingrid & LTC(R) C.G. Chamales
MA(R) Russell & Staci Chappell	Chris A. Cherbas	Anthony & Sandy Ciarochi
Courtney Cole-Faso	SFC(R) John & Maria Cook	Dr. & Mrs. George Dellyanis
Jackie Dionas	Anne Dykstra	Genevieve Eagle
Dr. Fred Ehret/Dr. Anastasia Fintrilakis	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
Anonymous	Alex & Anna Marie Joudy	Joyce Kalivas-Griffin
Hariklia & Pod Krapes	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 Leinneweber	Mary Leonard	Fr. Seraphim & Pres. Sophie
Katherine Mason	Dr. Dean & Julie Mastras	
Mary Ann Mathern	Fenia Mavromichali	COL(R) George & Helen McClure
Cassie & Paul Moeller	Mark O'Neil	Michael & Rodica Murphy
Marian Palas	Anthony Panagiotu	George & Carol Panagiotu
Mike & Gina Panagiotu	Alex Pangis & Miss Elly	John & Merilee Pangis
John Payne	George & Diane Pirotis	Stavros Pirotis
Joaquin & Shanna Poirot	Steve, Kathleen & Martha Politakis	Andrew & Rebecca Primis
Emmanuel Psilovikos	Aaron & Ranae Rice	Mark & Dana Robinson
Katherine Rowley	James Saatas	Katherine Salatas
Bill & Karen Samaras	Alexandra & SSG Richard Schutt	SGT Richard & Denise Stahl
Dr. Andy & JoAnne Stergachis	Nathan & Kristine Stevens	James & Jenise Sweeney
Dr. Olympia Tachopoulou	Deborah Talbot	Dr. Nick & Becky Themelis
Roxanne Vallantine	Dee Varca	Mark & Katerina Warns
Michael Jane White	Ed & Deborah Winskill	Leisa Ann Wood
Kalitsa & John Xitco	Tasso & Sarah Zambaras	Mathew & Leigh Ann Zehnder

This Stewardship Ministry article began with a writing from Fr. Stavros in Florida entitled **GENEROSITY WITH MONEY**. I would like to conclude it by repeating a few lines from his writing and ask that you ponder this thought as you worship God, and thank him for his blessings.

In Mathew 6:21 Jesus says **"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."**

....And let us give with joy. After all, we're not really giving at all. We're giving back a portion of what he gave us first.

Gus —

Ministry News

Cover Story

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He responded:

— But I have been a hermit in the desert from childhood and I am equal in virtue with a lay person, a married man?

God responded:

— Yes, you are equal to him.

Next day, the saint picked up his bag, put in some dry rusks, and set off for Alexandria. He went down into the city, found the layman and said to him:

— What do you do here, friend?

The layman responded:

— What should I do, father? I am a sinner, the worst person in the world.

— Can we talk?

— Certainly

— What is the virtue that you're working on acquiring?

— Virtue, me? I live "in the world" and am completely mixed up. Now you, you have got virtues.

— No, you are doing something.

— I am not doing anything.

— God showed me, so you cannot tell me lies. I prayed and He told me that we share the same measure of virtue. There must be something about you.

— Sorry, Father. If what I do can be considered something, I'll tell you. I married, and from the moment I put on the crown, I said to my wife: "If you love me, we'll live apart, like brother and sister and work for the sanctification of our souls. Do you agree?" She responded "I agree". And since then we have lived in purity and virginity.

In the desert, Blessed Paphnutius tried to cleanse himself through the ascetic life, and restraint, in which he was greatly assisted by the condition of his way of life. The other man lived "in the world," with a wife, with all the challenges of secular life and, with God's help, he had reached the stature of a saint. And his struggle was greater than that of the hermit. Proof that he was indeed great in the eyes of God.

After that, something else happened which has to do with this cobbler. One day a Christian went to the Blessed Paphnutius and said:

— Father, I quarreled with a priest and I do not know how he reacted, whether he cursed me or swore at me, but he is now departed this life and we were not reconciled. What do I do now?

— There is nothing I can do in this case, but there is a holy man to whom I shall send you to and he will help you. Go down to Alexandria, to a basement where there is this cobbler. Tell him I sent you, mention the problem and he will help. The Christian said to himself: "For goodness' sake. A hermit cannot help and a layman can?" Nevertheless, out of obedience to the hermit, he did as he was told. The cobbler told him to wait until night fell and then took him to a church in the city. After again telling him to wait, the cobbler went up to the large door made the sign of the cross and it opened. The inside of the church was bathed in light and there was heavenly music. The cobbler told the man:

— Go in there and look at the choirs on the left and right. You'll see the priest there.

The man went in, saw the priest in the left choir and knelt down and received his forgiveness...

Do you see what a true ascetic effort can achieve? What the soul's true and honest struggle can do?

What did that layman do to purify his soul? When he told the girl he had married that they should live like brother and sister, was that an end to it? No, they fasted and kept vigil together, they made prostrations and read the gospel. They read Patristic books, went to church, confessed, took Holy Communion, chased away evil thoughts and struggled assiduously. And that is how they became saints "in the world."

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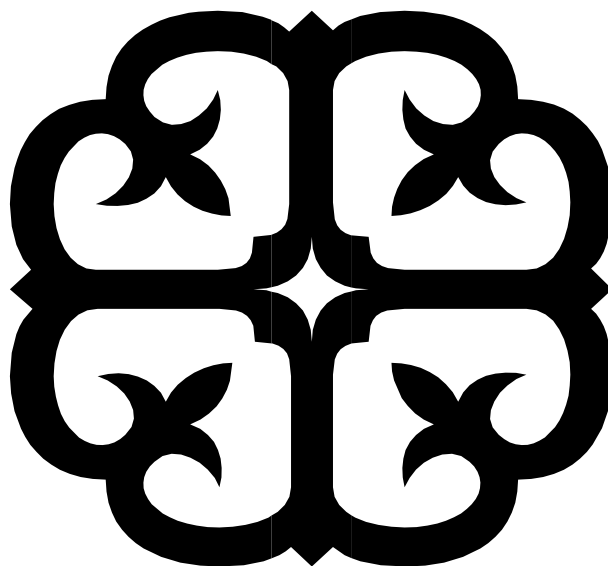
Ministry News

Cover Story

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So here is proof that even “in the world,” when Christians take on the struggle with good will, the grace of God does not exclude anyone. But we all make excuses for ourselves and say that because we are “in the world,” we cannot. Desires and passions get the best of us. What do we need to do? Fight in the body and in the soul. In other words, control our thoughts. Thoughts come, sinful fantasies, images, faces, idols and scenes. We must get rid of them immediately with Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy upon me. When the mind is careful not to accept all of that and has the divine weapon ready to use, the name of Christ, then every enemy of our soul is slain, whether it be the devil, sordid fantasies or repulsive thoughts. Then, if we guard our soul, mind and heart in this manner, our inner self will remain clean and pure.

Let us struggle now, and the rewards shall be great. Nobody finds grace unless they make the effort. If a farmer does not tend his crops, he will not see any yield. When our fast is accompanied, reinforced and flanked by prayer, study, vigilance, church attendance, Confession, Communion, good works—especially almsgiving—then the beauty of the preparation of the soul for the reception of Holy Week is complete. Then we shall truly experience the Holy and Sacred Passion of Christ more intensely, because our heart will soften, it will alter and it will realize how great God’s love for mankind is. Then, within us, we shall experience very forcibly the Holy Resurrection, we shall celebrate it in a way befitting to God and we shall celebrate Holy Pascha together with the angels. Amen.



Ministry News

Philoptochos

President's Message

Greetings everyone and hoping for an early spring and some sunshine!

Significant activities since the first of the year included:

February 9 Pie Sale-A variety of pies were be served at the coffee hour. Funds from this event will benefit the Archdiocese Children's Autism fund. Approximately \$600 was raised.

January 12 Vasilopeta - Five special loaves of bread were cut and served to representatives of the St. Nicholas ministries and parishioners. \$892 was raised from this event and goes directly to St. Basil's Academy, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese residential home for children in need in New York. Currently 25 children are living at this facility with a staff of 32 counselors and housekeeper to assist.



January 19 Potluck Soup Sale-On January 19, a variety of homemade soups and rolls were served at the coffee hour. Funds for this event, \$448, will benefit the Archdiocese Social Services and Cancer/Other Major Illnesses funds.

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

February 14-Valentine bags will be distributed to homebound members of the parish. Marian Palas is coordinating this event. Please check with her if you wish to help with distributing the bags

February 15-Philoptochos meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the upper hall.

February 29-Planning meeting for the Lady's Spring luncheon, Elmer's Restaurant, 11:00 a.m.

March 1-Andrea Gray, Camp Agape NW chairperson, will brief interested parishioners on this ministry, and opportunities to volunteer at camp. Information discussion after coffee hour.

Mar 7-Camp Agape NW gala fund raising event at Melrose Market, Seattle

May 16 Ladies Spring Luncheon-Enjoy a delicious lunch, incredible desserts, exciting raffle items and festive decorations as the lower hall is transformed for this event.

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--

Ministry News

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

Saturday of Souls Commemoration of the Departed



ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY

BOOK OF HEBREWS

“Feasts of the Lord” by Metropolitan Hierotheos:

So by the Feast of the Ascension we are celebrating the enthronement of our nature in heaven. By the Resurrection and Ascension of human nature we are, at the same time, also celebrating the beginning of the resurrection and ascension of every believer. Therefore, when a person takes part in Christ's Ascension, he is no longer a man of the earth like the first man, but a man of Heaven like the Second Man, Christ (St. Gregory Palamas). The phrase that Christ, because He ascended into Heaven, “sat down at the right Hand of God” (Mk.16,19) comes from symbolic theology and means to show the divinity of the Word of God, that Christ, as God was always consubstantial with His Father, but also as Godman raised human nature to Heaven and made it identically God. According to St. John of Damascus, the phrase, “at the Right Hand of the Father”, means the glory and honor of the Godhead. In other words, the Son has the glory of divinity which the Father also has, but after the incarnation of the Son and the ascension of human nature, this human



nature, too, partakes of the glory and divinity and Christ is worshipped as Godman by all creation. Thus, the Right Hand of the Father is essentially unity of Father and Son because the Son has the same essence, or nature, as the Father. The verb that is used, “sat down”, has great significance. This verb which denotes stability and settledness, means, as Basil the Great says, the firmness of the nature and its fixity. In other words, Christ has the same nature as the Father without undergoing any change or alteration. He remains God forever. Thus “sat down at the right hand of the Father” means “equivalence in value”. The essence and meaning of the feast is immensely great and high. If the power of death and the devil was overcome by the Resurrection, our nature ascended to the throne of God by the Ascension and we ourselves were given the possibility of attaining the experience of the Ascension, which is deification.

Christ's Ascension deifies human nature. Thus, He is a perpetual High Priest in His deified human nature. The Old Testament priests were unable to provide that ministry (perpetual intercessor) because of one stubborn reality, death. When Christ dies and rises from the dead and ascends into Heaven, He provides that ministry of priestly intercession permanently. Will Christ retract from His role as Perpetual Intercessor (High Priest) after the Second Coming? No, because He will always be that “membrane” between divinity and humanity. That's why baptism matters. The molecules of our flesh are transformed on a physical level by death and resurrection in Christ. Cremation is not compatible with the theology of the Ascension, because the body has been transformed into the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Dumitru Staniloae: The Experience of God (Orthodox Dogmatic Theology) Volume 6: The Fulfillment of Creation

Matter, says Lossky, became thick, impenetrable, only after the Fall into sin, only to serve egotistic exclusiveness. Once sin ceases, the state of impenetrability of bodies will also cease. But the interpenetration of resurrected bodies will have no trace of the earthly interpenetration's shortcomings. “It is directly the opposite of any kind of licentiousness. It is as pure and fresh as the innocent kiss of a child.” The idea of this universal penetration of resurrected bodies allows Lossky to speak of a “universal body” after the resurrection. Through interpenetration the members of the Kingdom of God, “having attained concrete consubstantiality, i.e. accepting each other's strivings and the counsels of the Divine Wisdom, ...collectively create the Kingdom of perfect Beauty and every Good. They even build their own bodies in such a way that being interpenetrable, they are not in their exclusive possession, but serve all, complementing each other and forming individual totalities, which are organs of the all-embracing whole of the Kingdom of God.” In this way we all “become one body of Christ,” according to St. Gregory of Nyssa.

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ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY

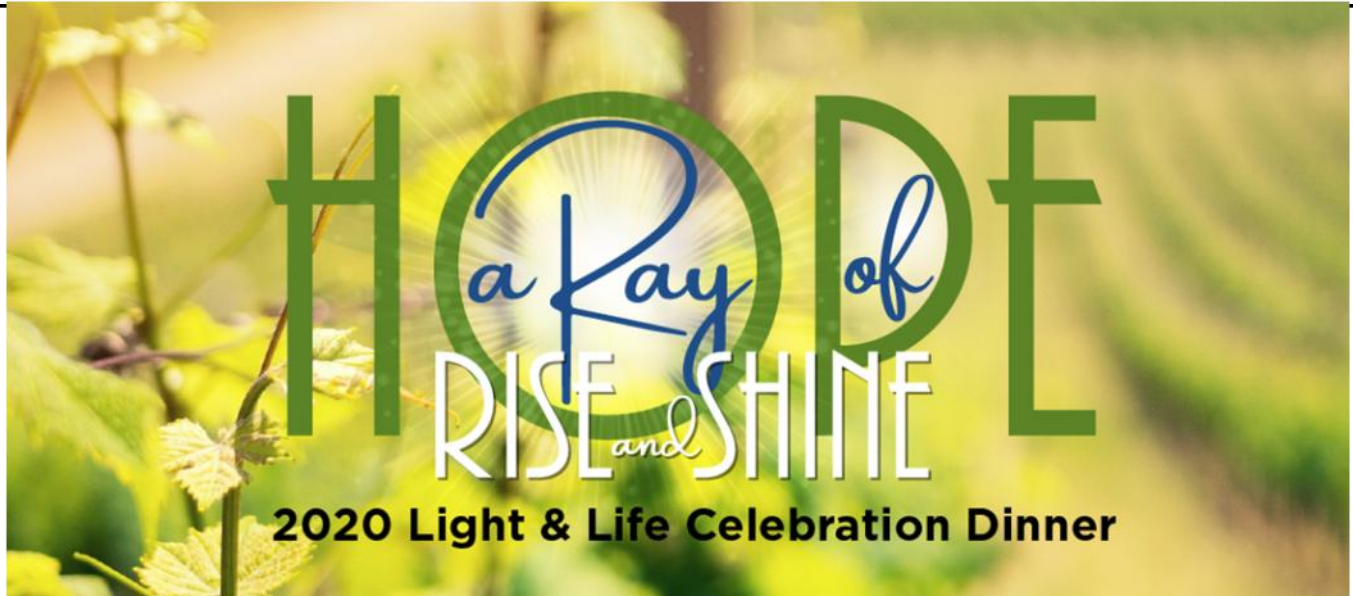
More specifically, Lossky affirms that each person's body will be universal like that of Christ; it will somehow be the bearer of the bodies of all men and of the entire world. With this theory Lossky can explain two things. First, everything that passed through someone's body in life will again be in this universal body, "but not in egotistic exclusiveness." Second, each person shares in the entire happiness of all and partakes of the entire life of the heavenly Kingdom. "Being in the state of communion with the life of God, they possess the all-embracing power of attention, memory, etc., and take part in the life of the whole world, so that the whole world, in so far as there is some good preserved in it, serves them as a body." "In the Kingdom of God death in the wide sense of the word, that is death in the form of oblivion, conditioned by disruptions which are characteristic of the kingdom of the psychophysical being, is also overcome. A member of the Kingdom of God, being closely connected with the whole world, stands above its disruptions. Hence in his memory there occurs the resurrection of all the past in its wholeness, and consequently he understands its absolute positive value. This re-establishment of the continuity of connection is an even more profound resurrection than the re-establishment of the body and its immortality.

We are all longing to have interpenetration with another. Only Christ can fulfill this interpenetration. The greatest perversity is sexual immorality, but sadly many seek a licentious path to achieve interpenetration. In the Kingdom of Heaven, we are essentially going to share flesh. Because of the "Fall from Grace" that Adam and Eve initiated, there was estrangement between man and God, man and nature, and between Adam and Eve. The Great Recapitulation that occurs, especially at the Incarnation of Christ and is fulfilled at His Ascension is everything coming back together. The Recapitulation Theory of Atonement sees the atonement of Christ as reversing the course of mankind from disobedience to obedience. Christ's life recapitulated all the stages of human life and in doing so reversed the course of disobedience initiated by Adam. There is a large, but finite number of people in the Kingdom of Heaven. Each individual member of that "finite" number, who will constitute Christ's eternal body in the Kingdom of Heaven, is personally fulfilling the return, in love, to one another. That is why St. John, in his Epistle, said "love one another". We can't confuse this theology with "pre-destination". St. Gregory of Nyssa said that if there had not been a fall, then God would have created the entire human race simultaneously. Because of the Fall, the fulfillment of each individual's purpose in the salvation of all had to play itself out in sequences. The personal restoration of each individual, as a result of the Fall, was now rendered across time. Had there been no fall, God would have created the entire human race (His entire perfect body) the exact number of those who will constitute His eternal Bride in the Kingdom of Heaven all at once. We would have instantly, with great expediency, fulfilled the high calling that God envisioned for each member of that Body. Father Demetrius says you can't love infinity, you love specificity. The powerful thing that Staniloae summarized in the Patristic teaching regarding a "Finite" number of souls constituting His Body, and therefore, combining that with St. Simeon's teaching, each person who is born has a vision of salvation. Every single person has his/her specific time to be born, a uniqueness they add to the total fullness of that "Oneness" that will come in the Kingdom filling up the fullness of the measure of their love for Christ and one another. It has become a sequential thing resulting in generations of people.

Christ's deified human nature interpenetrates all who share in Him through His Flesh: The EUCHARIST. God intended for us all to be united in "One Flesh" (Christ's Flesh). All of our molecules are being slowly transformed into that Body through all the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. He is not transforming Himself into us when we take the Body and Blood of Christ, He is transforming the molecules of our body into His limitless and ascended Body. It's no accident that God arranged it so that the way every human comes into existence is the product of the closest earthly counterpart to that heavenly interpenetration of flesh - the marital union. The result is a baby conceived from two into one flesh, separate from his parents. Gestation in utero is the most concrete manifestation of the Kingdom to come - interpenetration. That's why abortion is the greatest sin against the Kingdom of God. It is the ultimate theological blasphemy that violently tears apart the interpenetration that is the product of love.

Submitted by: Genevieve

Pro-Life Ministry



March 21st, 2020

5:15 pm Check-in and reception

6-8 pm Dinner and program

Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center

1500 Commerce St., Tacoma, WA 98402

Please join us for an evening with friends and partners of the ministry. Enjoy dinner and dessert while experiencing an inspirational message, client testimonies, and ministry updates. We want to share with you God's plan for Care Net of Puget Sound and how you can join us in bringing families to LIFE in the Puget Sound.

Keynote Speaker: Rebekah Hagan, one of today's youngest speakers on the issues of teenage pregnancy, abortion, and abortion-pill-reversal.

Rebekah's career in the pro-life movement was unplanned and fueled by firsthand experience. She became pregnant at seventeen with her son, Eli, and again with a second child at age eighteen, while in her first year of college. At just over seven weeks pregnant, she began a medication abortion. However, minutes after leaving the clinic, she experienced a radical change of heart and searched the internet for a way out. Determined to reverse her mistake, Rebekah underwent what most thought would be an impossible attempt to save her baby. At age twenty, she began speaking across the United States and sharing her own story of hope and redemption, which has caught the attention of both local and national media, as well as religious and secular organizations. A passionate advocate for grace-centered outreach, Rebekah Hagan uses her story to unravel the mindset of women in unplanned pregnancies to equip and encourage others to lead with hope and compassion. Rebekah is a graduate of William Jessup University, and she and her family reside in California, where she works for Senator Jean Fuller as well as her local pregnancy center.

Parking: While there are spots available in the garage and adjacent lots, this year they are limited due to construction in the area. Please allow extra time for offsite parking.

Please email Genevieve, goobahoo@gmail.com, for reservations (limited seats available). Please indicate your entrée choice: **Grilled Ambassador Chicken** or **Butternut Squash Ravioli** (Reminder: Lenten fast day).

Continued on next page

Pro-Life Ministry

*While there is NO cost to attend the banquet, there will be a financial ask given toward the end of the evening.



Please join Father Seraphim and St. Nicholas' Pro-Life Ministry and 40 Days for Life for the Spring Vigil Campaign each Wednesday, from February 26 through April 1. Father Seraphim will lead us in an Orthodox Christian Service of Supplication for the victims of abortion in front of the Cedar River Abortion Clinic, 1401 MLK Jr. Way (corner of 14th Ave. and MLK Jr. Way).

40 Days for Life is dedicated to promoting a culture of life through prayer, public witness, and community education. Without a doubt, prayer is the single most important action we can take in putting an end to abortion. For those contemplating abortion our presence during these prayer vigils sends a message of hope that choosing life is the better alternative.

Please contact Genevieve, 253-359-0455 (text or phone) or goobahoo@gmail.com for more information.

If you are unable to attend, please consider adding the following prayer to your prayer rule during this time period

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Who - at the 6th hour of the day - did shed Thy precious Blood upon the Cross for the salvation of all mankind; receive the souls of all the innocent pre-born babies, who have been, are being, or will be slaughtered today in the hospitals and abortion chambers throughout our nation. And as their untimely deaths have prevented them from receiving the grace of Holy Baptism, I entreat Thee to accept their innocent blood as their Baptism (as Thou did with the early Martyrs), so that they can share eternity with Thee. To the doctors, nurses, parents and hosts of accomplices responsible for this infanticide, grant tears of repentance, so that they can run to Thee for forgiveness and healing, and thus avoid the eternal death of their souls. I believe that all things are possible with Thee, O Lord. Therefore, I entreat Thee on this day, through Thy divine grace, to convince at least one mother in every state to cancel her abortion and bring her child to full term; and to convince one doctor in every state to repent of his/her actions and never again kill a child in the womb. Receive my prayer, O Lord, even though it is offered to Thee from such a sinful and unworthy servant; and unite my entreaty with those of all the brothers and sisters who are crying out today on behalf of all Thy little ones, who are now being formed in the wombs of their mothers. Deliver us and our nation, O Lord, from this shedding of innocent blood! Forgive us! Heal us! Save us! Amen

Submitted by: Genevieve

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 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 (talk to your priest about what that means) is welcome to make the



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.

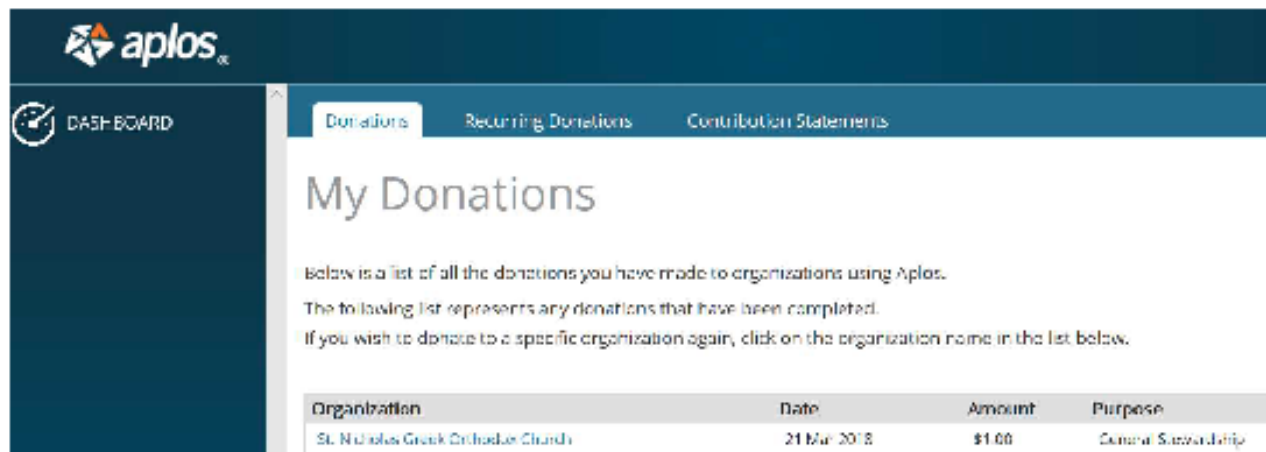
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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



Annunciation of the Theotokos
&
Greek Independence Day Celebration
March 22, 2020
Sunday, following Divine Liturgy

Lenten Potluck

*Please **bring your favorite Lenten dish** to share for Coffee Hour.*

*Please contact **Diane Pirotis**: (206) 293-0055 to confirm your participation.*

***A program will also be presented by George Pirotis** and individuals of our parish.*

*Donations are encouraged! **Proceeds will benefit the church's "PROJECT 2020"**.*

Ministry News

TACOMA
AHEPA Annual Crab Feed

Saturday, March 21, 2020

5:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

Music Provided

**McGavick Center BLDG 23
4500 Steilacoom Blvd SW
Lakewood WA 98499**

\$60.00 Per Person

**Sponsor: Mountain Moving & Storage
Benefits: Camp Agape Northwest
and AHEPA Scholarships**

For Tickets, Contact:

Alex Pangis (253) 841-



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

Philoptochos



Support Kids with Cancer

CAMP AGAPE NORTHWEST GALA

Join us for dinner, drinks & dancing

Saturday, March 7, 2020 @ 5:30pm
Melrose Market Studios
1532 Minor Ave, Seattle, WA

Tickets @ tinyurl.com/canwgala
\$125/person | \$1,125/table

SUPPORT KIDS
WITH CANCER

CAMP AGAPE NORTHWEST GALA

Tickets @ tinyurl.com/canwgala
March 7 | 5:30 pm
Melrose Market Studios



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

