



## Great Lent: A Time for Morality or a Time for the Heart

By Hieromonk Alexios Karakallinos

There is certainly nothing wrong with people trying to do the right thing and to be moral and upstanding citizens.

The problem is that salvation and transfiguration are not a matter of morality.

The publican and the prodigal were not moral people. They did all the wrong things, but yet they came to themselves, they discovered their hearts, and in so doing found the way, not just to moral goodness, but to holiness, to righteousness, and to feasting in the Father’s household.

In the West, many speak about Lent as a period of struggle whose goal is for Christians to become better people. For the ancient fathers, however, it is not just about *the good being preserved in their goodness and the crafty becoming good* (*anaphora* of Saint Basil the Great), although these are things to be prayed for. Rather, it is about Discovering the heart, being honest about oneself, being humble before God, and in repentance beginning an incredible journey in which the soul seeks to be clothed in Christ, to that thoughts, desires, the will, all become holy, all become bent on salvation, all become an expression of His forgiveness and His love. No frail human morality can ever hope to contain the overflowing fullness of life with which Christ desires to rejuvenate the faithful.

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### How to Return to Church

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# St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Phone: 253-272-0466

Parish Website: [stnicholastacoma.org](http://stnicholastacoma.org)

E-Mail: [mail@stnicholastacoma.org](mailto:mail@stnicholastacoma.org)

Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm



## Sunday Services

8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Please join us for Social/Coffee Hour in our downstairs hall, following the Divine Liturgy (Due to Covid-19, Social/Coffee Hour is temporarily suspended)



## Fr. Seraphim Majmudar, Our Presiding Priest

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

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

Office Hours at St Nicholas  
Thursdays 9:00am - 12:00 noon  
Email: [frseraphimm@gmail.com](mailto:frseraphimm@gmail.com)

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

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# St. Nicholas Ministries

**AHEPA**  
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**  
Maria Koumantaros

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

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

**Coffee Hour**  
Zach Karanasos

**IT, etc.**  
Bill Samaras

**Philia**  
Diane Pirotis

**Pro Life**  
Genevieve Eagle

**Vitos Scholarship**  
Ronnie Sue Johnson

**Flowers & Church Decorating**  
Kathy Rowley

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

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

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

**Sunday School**  
Sheila Auter, Director

**Greek School**  
George Pirotis

**Lazarus Group**  
Dean Hamos

**Pilgrimage**  
Zach Karanasos

**Prosphora Baking**  
Deborah Talbot

**Welcome**  
Ronnie Sue Johnson

## Parish Council

Parish Council meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month.  
March 9, 2021

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	<b>1</b> David of Wales Evdokia of Heliopolis 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 7:00am-8:30pm Vespers: St Nicholas Planas 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: St Nicholas Planas	<b>2</b> Nicholas Planas 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-7:00pm Beginning Greek: Zoom 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers w/ Blessing of Waters	<b>3</b> STRICT FAST Shio Myvime of Georgia 3:00pm-4:00pm Pro Life Vigil: Cedar River Clinic 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis	<b>4</b> Gerasimos of the Jordan 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm-7:00pm Modern Greek (call office for zoom link) 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	<b>5</b> Konon the Gardener	<b>6</b> 1st SATURDAY OF SOULS 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy w/ Memorial 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers	
<b>7</b> Sun of Last Judgment 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>8</b> FAST: no meat; dairy ok every day Theophylact 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 7:00pm-7:45pm Vespers: 40 Martyrs of Sebaste 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: 40 Martyrs	<b>9</b> 40 Martyrs of Sebaste FAST: no meat; dairy ok every day 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-7:00pm Beginning Greek: Zoom 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-10:00pm Parish Council	<b>10</b> FAST: no meat; dairy ok every day Quadratos 3:00pm-4:00pm Pro Life Vigil: Cedar River Clinic 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis	<b>11</b> FAST: no meat; dairy ok every day Sophronios, Pat. of Jerusalem 5:30pm-7:00pm Modern Greek (call office for zoom link)	<b>12</b> FAST: no meat; dairy ok every day Gregory the Great, Pope of Rome 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	<b>13</b> 2nd SATURDAY OF SOULS FAST: no meat; dairy ok every day 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy w/ Memorial 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers	
<b>14</b> Benedict of Nursia Expulsion from Paradise/Forgiveness Sunday 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>15</b> CLEAN MONDAY GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 7:00pm-8:30pm Great Compline w/Canon of St Andrew	<b>16</b> CLEAN TUESDAY GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK 5:30pm-7:00pm Beginning Greek: Zoom 7:00pm-8:00pm Great Compline & Canon of St Andrew	<b>17</b> CLEAN WEDNESDAY GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends Patrick of Ireland Patrick of Ireland 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 3:00pm-4:00pm Pro Life Vigil: Cedar River Clinic 5:30pm-7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00pm-7:30pm Small Compline w/ Canon of St Andrew	<b>18</b> CLEAN THURSDAY GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends Martyr Edward of England Nikolai Velimirovic of Pennislvania 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek (call office for zoom link) 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy: St Nikolai 7:00pm-8:00pm Small Compline w/ Canon of St Andrew	<b>19</b> CLEAN FRIDAY GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Salutations to the Theotokos	<b>20</b> 3rd SATURDAY OF SOULS GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends Miracle of the Kollyva: St Theodore Saturday 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy w/ Memorial 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers	
<b>21</b> GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends Sunday of Orthodoxy 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>22</b> Basil of Ankyra GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy	<b>23</b> Fast: Wine & Oil ok GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends Tikhon, Pat. of Moscow 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Beginning Greek: Zoom 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy: St Tikhon	<b>24</b> Fast: Wine & Oil ok GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends Prefeast of Annunciation Theonas of Thessaloniki Theonas of Thessaloniki 3:00pm-4:00pm Pro Life Vigil: Cedar River Clinic 7:00pm-8:00pm Great Vespers	<b>25</b> ANNUNCIATION Fast: Fish, Wine & Oil ok GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends 8:45am-9:45am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>26</b> Fast: Wine & Oil ok GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Salutations to the Theotokos	<b>27</b> GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends Matrona of Thessaloniki 9:00am-10:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers	
<b>28</b> GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends Sunday of St Gregory Palamas 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-12:30pm Chrysoula Vaichis 40 day memorial	<b>29</b> GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends Mark of Arethusa 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy	<b>30</b> GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends John of the Ladder 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-7:00pm Beginning Greek: Zoom 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers & Orthros: St Innocent	<b>31</b> FAST: Wine & Oil ok GREAT LENT FASTING: no meat/dairy/fish. Wine & oil ok on weekends Innocent of Alaska 3:00pm-4:00pm Pro Life Vigil: Cedar River Clinic 5:30pm-6:30pm Presanctified Liturgy	<b>Notes:</b>			

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

# News and Announcements

## SNOW WEEKEND

*Our parish council president, Ronnie-Sue Johnson shovels the sidewalk so parishioners can access St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church during the February snowstorm*



### Parish Council:

President: **Ronnie-Sue Johnson**

Vice President: **David Frisk**

Secretary: **Christina Leinneweber**

Treasurer: **Mark Robinson**

Members:

**Maria Koumantaros, Alan (John) Means, David Orriss, Despina Kipelidis, Kathy Johnson,**

**Klaudia Cedeno, Sheila (Monica) Auter and Zach Karanasos**

## News and Announcements

### Misplaced Medical Chair

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

### Returning to Church

Parishioners are once again attending services in person at St. Nicholas and able to receive Holy Communion. Church gatherings are limited to a maximum of 50 people while maintaining social distancing and the wearing of masks. To facilitate adhering to the 50 person guidance, parishioners are asked to sign up in advance for Saturday and Sunday services on the church [website](#). Sign up in advance for up to two Sundays per month. After that, you can sign up for any open slots beginning 10am on Saturday mornings. No reservations are needed for weekday services. Please remember masks are required, stay home if you are not feeling well. Also, if you are at risk, please stay home. Contact Fr. Seraphim to make special arrangements for Communion or other special needs.

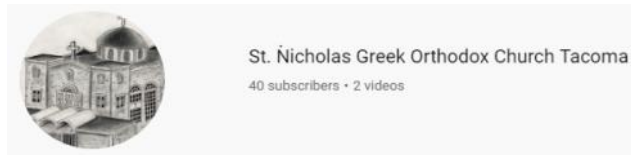
Live TV Streaming of church services continues. If you are unable to attend services in person, you can participate by watching most services live at home. See instructions below.

### Watch Services From Home, Live

Although you might not be able to be at St. Nicholas in person, you can watch services at home from any device capable of connecting to YouTube. This is free and is available for most services. Here's how to do it:

1. First, find the schedule when a service is being broadcast. This is called Live Streaming. Look at the calendar on the previous page, or better, look at the calendar on the St. Nicholas Web page. [www.StNicholasTacoma.org](http://www.StNicholasTacoma.org). There is a Live Streaming link at the church calendar.
2. You can simply click [here](#). If there is a service underway, press the button. You will see and hear the service.
3. Watch on any device. Open **YouTube** (you may have to start a browser like Chrome). In the *YouTube search bar*, type; *St Nicholas Tacoma*

Click on this selection;



If a service is being broadcast, click the **LIVE NOW** button.

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

*Bill Samaras—*

# Thy BLESSED Holy Tradition...

## Thy BLESSED Holy Tradition

By: Mark L. Robinson

--And Seeing the multitudes--

Catechumens Depart, Catechumens Depart,  
Separated from God by a condition of sin,  
Brokenness prevents our completeness within,  
We long for the Unity of Thy Holy Tradition.

The Doors, The Doors,  
In Wisdom Let Us Be Attentive,  
The Lord's call is a divine incentive,  
To return to his protected Holy Tradition.

--He went upon a mountain--

Arise, Arise,  
Wisdom of God, Sophia, Arise,  
We lift our heads to eternal skies,  
The Priest Raises the Scripture of Thy Holy Tradition.

Believe, Believe,  
The Ancient Words Written as Creed,  
The Word made flesh fills our Need,  
From lofty heights stands Thy Holy Tradition.

--And When He Was Seated--

Repent, Repent,  
Turn to face the great I AM,  
The Shepherd's voice calls lost lamb,  
Back, toward Thy Holy Tradition.

Mercy, Mercy,  
Become our constant refrain,  
Joined to Thy Blessed Holy Name,  
We Pray to Thee In Thy Holy Tradition.

--His Disciples Came Unto Him--

Listen, Listen,  
Disciples recognize the Master's Voice,  
They come to him and rejoice,  
To be trained in Thy Holy Tradition.

Hear, Hear--  
The Golden Voice of the Trinity  
The call to perfect Peaceful Serenity  
Fulfillment through Thy Holy Tradition.

--And He opened his mouth and taught them--Saying

**"BLESSED——"**

## Building Committee



### **NARTHEX RENOVATION WORK IS BUT A FEW MONTHS AWAY**

Field construction on the Narthex Renovation starts on Monday May 10th, one week and a day after Pascha, and is scheduled to be completed in mid-September. During that time frame of just over four months the main church entrance, the Narthex, and Father Seraphim's office will be closed off for construction purposes.

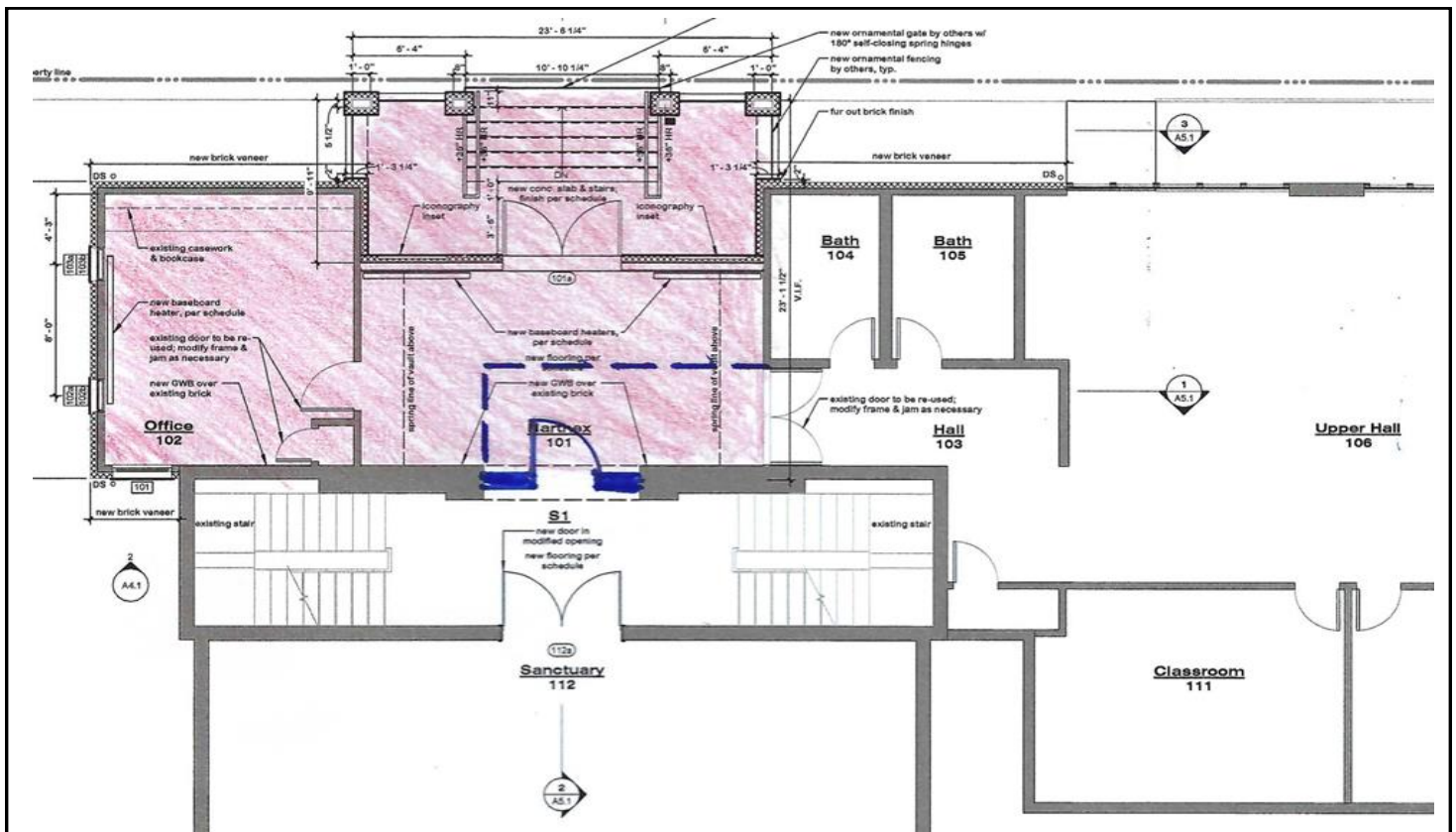
With the closing of the Narthex area, access to the Sanctuary and the Upper Hall spaces, which includes upper floor restrooms, will be restricted through the exterior Upper Hall door that faces Yakima Avenue, and two interior stairwells from the Lower Hall. In addition, access will be provided between the interior stairwells and Upper Hall during non-construction hours with temporary barriers used to create a passage way that the general contractor will install and remove between working shifts. A layout of this is illustrated on the following page.

With Father Seraphim's office being shutdown, a temporary office will be set up for him, possibly in the church book store, but still to be determined. Also, Rush Construction, the general contractor, will be allocated a roughly 10' x 10' space in a Lower Hall area adjacent to one of the stairwells, which they will use as a temporary construction office for the duration of the project. All other spaces within the church beyond the Narthex construction zone will remain open and unaffected by the renovation work.

*(Continued on the next page.)*



# Building Committee



(Continued from the previous page.)

Above is a partial floor plan of the upper church level. The shaded area represents the immediate construction zone that will be off-limits to the Parish during working hours. Colored in blue is a temporary wall and door the contractor will construct to act as a barrier between the construction zone and church areas to the Sanctuary that remain in use. Dashed blue lines depict temporary portable barriers the contractor will have in place during non-working hours that will allow Parish access from the interior stairwell areas to the Upper Hall and vice versa.

There is some finish work that will take place in the unshaded space between the stairwells, namely mosaic tile flooring, a new drywall ceiling and painting. Access in that area will be restricted for the equivalent of perhaps about two weeks during weekdays. However, at least one stairwell will remain open during the restricted access weeks, and both stairwells and the space in-between will be available for use on weekends.

In other news, the Parish Council approved the installation of a new electronic door lock, bell ringer, camera and intercom at the Upper Hall exterior entrance door facing Yakima Avenue that will provide remote control access. This will allow Carol, the church Office Administrator, to screen and grant or deny access through that door from her desk during the week when she is working, or for anyone else who happens to be in the church office. An access control station will also be installed in Father Seraphim's office. In addition, phone APP control will be available for up to eight users, which will allow anyone with the APP control from virtually anywhere on the church grounds. The system should be in place and in full operation around the time this issue of the Messenger is distributed.

Contributed by: Bill Acker

# Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

**Help us honor your family members who served!** The purpose of this ministry is to honor St. Nicholas parishioners or their family members who have served their country either in the military, in federal intelligence services, or in any branch of Federal, State or local law enforcement. If you or any of your family members served in any of these organizations, please provide this ministry a picture in service uniform accompanied by the name, branch of service, years of service if known, and any medals or honors the individual may have received. *Please email the picture and information to [gleafops@gmail.com](mailto:gleafops@gmail.com).* During the year we will display their photo in the Messenger whenever there was a significant date in history that relates to their service, and we will also use it as part of our St. Nicholas Memorial and Veterans Day presentations. The men and women who served in these organizations did so at great risk, and sadly, some paid the ultimate sacrifice. They've protected the freedoms that we enjoy and have done their best to keep our homes and towns safe. Their service benefits every American and it should neither be taken for granted, nor should their sacrifices ever be forgotten!

This month we are honored to add three more veterans to our ministry. The first is Mr. Chris Pamboukas who many people know from the Monastery booth at past St. Nicholas Greek Festivals. Chris served in the Royal Hellenic Army in the early 70's. He served part of his tour as a parachute rigger where he was



**Chris Pamboukas**  
**Royal Hellenic Army**  
 1968-1970  
*Served as a parachute rigger and General's staff assistant*

responsible for packing the parachutes that soldiers would use to parachute from airplanes at altitudes of 450 - 1500 feet. The attention to detail required of people serving in those positions requires nothing less than total perfection, for even the slightest mistake can make the difference between life and death. After his tour as a parachute rigger he served on the personal staff for one of the Hellenic Army's general officers, another position that required total discipline and absolute professionalism.

We are honored to add Chris Pamboukas to this ministry and grateful for his service to the country that many of us proudly call the home of our ancestors.

Our other two additions to this ministry this month are Bill and Ernest Evans, brothers to Mrs. Ethel Barbas of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, and the father (Bill) and uncle (Ernest) to our fellow parishioner, Katie Mason. Katie's father, Bill, was a member of the XXIVth Army Corps and served in the Pacific during WWII. His unit participated in the invasion of Leyte in the Philippine islands, and later in the invasion of Okinawa. After Japan's surrender the XXIV Corps moved to Korea where it remained on occupation duty until its inactivation in 1949.



**Bill Louis Evans**  
**U.S. Army**  
 WWII  
**Ethel Barbas' Brother and Katie Mason's father**



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

Katie's Uncle Ernest enlisted in the United States Navy and served on the USS Delta during the Korean War. The USS Delta had been a repair ship during WWII, and was reactivated for service with the Pacific Fleet just prior to the Korean War. Ernest served on the ship during the Korean War and participated in the Korean Defense Summer-Fall 1952 campaign.

*Continued on next page....*

# Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

Katie Mason and Ethal Barbas have several other relatives who also served in the military. Katie's uncle (Ethel's brother) Richard served in the U.S. Army during WWII. Ethel's cousin, Peter, served in WWII and the Korean War as a combat medic and earned two Bronze Star Medals, one for rendering aid to wounded soldiers while under fire. Ethel's uncle, (Peter's father) served in the United States Army during WWI. They will be included in the St. Nicholas Military Ministry upon receipt of their photos. Until then we thank the Barbas and Mason families for their outstanding service to our great nation.

## March 25, 1821. The Greek Revolution of 1821 also known as Greek Independence Day.

March 25th is celebrated in Greece, Cyprus, and anywhere else that Greeks gather. It is sometimes referred to as Greece's Independence Day, but more appropriately it is the day that was selected to mark the start of the Greek Revolution. The day coincides with the feast day of the Annunciation, the day the archangel Gabriel visited Panagia, and told her that she would be the mother of the son of God. This feast day was chosen as the day of the start of the Greek Revolution against the Ottoman Empire, by the "FILIKI ETERIA" or the "Society of Friends", which at the time was led by Alexander Ypsilantis.



The Filiki Eteria was a secret society that was formed in 1814 with the goal of liberating Greece from the Ottoman Turks. The group planned the insurrection to occur on the feast day of the Annunciation, but in



some parts of Greece the fighting actually started sooner. On March 25 Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the flag of revolution over the Monastery of Agia Lavra in the Peloponese. The cry "Freedom or death" became the motto of the revolution and in 1829 success was finally achieved, and Greece gained its independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Over the course of the last 200 years the country of Greece has had to fight several wars to maintain its freedom, and to support the cause of freedom with allies as a part of NATO. The men and women of the Greek armed forces have fought in World War I, the Greco-Turkish War, World War II, the Greek Civil War, the Korean War, the Cold War, and most recently in support of NATO forces during Operation Enduring Freedom, the war in Afghanistan.

Freedom is not free and those in uniform have paid for that freedom in blood. Many of our parishioners have family members who have served in the armed forces of Greece. We are extremely grateful for their service and their support of the United States, and freedom loving countries around the world.



**Theofanis Abatzis**  
Royal Hellenic Army  
Cold War  
George & Despina Abatzis' son



**SGT Sam G. Bulldis**  
World War I  
Served in both the Royal Hellenic Army and the United States Army  
Steve Bulldis' Grandfather



**COL(R) Avram Demetriades**  
Royal Hellenic Army  
Recipient of the Royal Hellenic Order of the Phoenix w/Golden Cross. It is equivalent to the American Legion of Merit Medal.  
Despina Kipelidis' father

Continued on next page...

# Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News



**Antonios D. Georgantzis**  
Royal Hellenic Army  
*WWII*  
**Wounded while fighting the Italians and Germans early in the war.**  
Hoddi Motz's father



**Ionnis Kiosses**  
Royal Hellenic Army  
*WWII*  
**Fought against the Italians but was later captured by the Albanians early in the war.**  
Chrysanthe Barnes' father



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



**Lieutenant Costas Kouklis**  
Royal Hellenic Army  
*WWII*  
**John & Maro Kouklis' father & Parish Priest, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church/Tacoma 1952-57**



**Panos Koumantaros**  
Royal Hellenic Army  
Mary Koumantaros' Husband



**George Markakis**  
Royal Hellenic Army  
**Killed in Action during the Italian Invasion of Greece at the beginning of WWII.**  
Mary Leonard's grandfather



**James Michalareas**  
Hellenic Army  
Greco-Turkish War & WWII  
**Killed by communist guerillas during WWII**  
Gus Chamales' great uncle



**Chris Pamboukas**  
Royal Hellenic Army  
*1968-1970*  
**Served as a parachute rigger and General's staff assistant**



**2LT Efthimios S. Pirotis**  
Royal Hellenic Army  
*2nd Paratrooper Squadron, 1st Special Forces Group*  
*1967-1968*  
George Pirotis' brother



**Efthimios G. Pirotis**  
Royal Hellenic Army  
**Served in the 5th Moira Special Forces**  
*1972-1974*  
George Pirotis' cousin



## Cover Story...

Unfortunately, an emphasis on morality apart from Christ, apart from repentance, apart from humility can lead to conditions like the Pharisee or the elder son, conditions that are ultimately foreign to the spirit of Lent. This is the problem with morality that Father John Romanides points out with trenchant clarity:

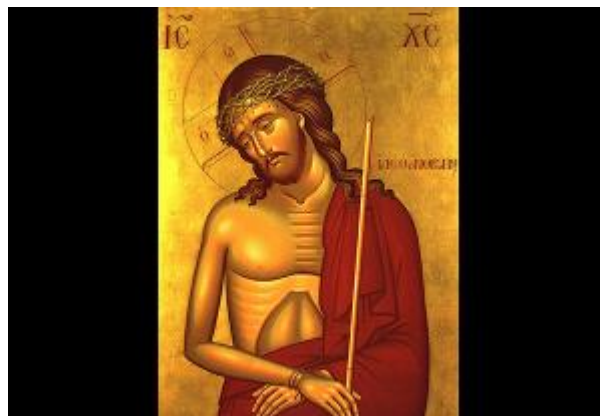
“The biblical tradition as preserved by the Fathers cannot be identified with or reduced to a system of moral precepts or Christian ethics. It is rather a therapeutical asceticism which is not daunted by any degree of malady of the heart or noetic faculty short of its complete hardening. To take the shape of this asceticism without its heart and core and to apply it to a system of moral precepts for personal and social ethics is to produce **a society of puritanical hypocrites who believe they have a special claim on God’s love** because of their morality, or predestination, or both. The commandments of Christ cannot be fulfilled by any simple decision to do so or by any confidence in having been elected.”

Fyodor Dostoevsky takes up this theme in many of his novels and concludes that the humanism derived from a moral code on its own cannot serve as man’s ultimate salvation. The world will not be saved by optimistic humanism that believes human progress and morality will eventually save the world. For Dostoevsky and the church fathers, man’s deepest problems are not moral, nor even psychological, but ultimately existential and ontological. It’s not about following the rules or feeling balanced. It is a matter of choice and it is a matter of human nature being touched by the hand of God Himself. Only by daring to leap towards God in spite of the good and evil that exist in the heart can the believer hope to get beyond the contradiction of the human condition.

In order to avoid descending into nihilism, Dostoevsky offers his readers another path: the acceptance of suffering and affliction in the context of a relationship with God. It is only in this context that man is able to recognize a path out of his fallen condition. It is only this Love that is able to transform suffering into salvific joy.

This is the goal of Great Lent, a journey through the acceptance of ascetical toil and struggle culminating in the joyous feast of Pascha where we celebrate the Risen Lord as *One Who trampled down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestoweth Life*. The journey of Great Lent is not about “doing this” or “avoiding that,” but about cleansing our hearts in repentance by reaching out to touch the Lord Jesus. Then, we will do what is truly good, forgiving and loving, then we will avoid what is truly bad, pride, judging, and hatred, not because of a moral precept, but because we will feel Christ’s mercy in our heart, so that with Saint Paul, each one of us might say, **yet not I, but Christ that liveth in me**. Amen.

Contributed by: Father Seraphim



## Stewardship Ministry News

### Dear Parishioners of St. Nicholas:

The past year was an unprecedented and challenging time for many of us, yet through the grace of God, WE were able to support St. Nicholas through our stewardships and recurring donations. The Parish Council of St. Nicholas wants to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our St. Nicholas Family Members who have supported the church in 2020.

As was reported at the January General Assembly, even though times were difficult in 2020, we thank you for making a difference in so many ways:

- We were able to maintain our stewardship goal, even though we had fewer stewards in 2020 than we had in 2019.
- Non-festival expenses were down by 9.4% from the 2020 budget.
- We reduced programs, yet operations continued.
- Average giving in 2020 was approximately \$300 higher than in 2019.

The Parish Council was truly inspired by your personal commitment, support, and generosity and WE  
THANK YOU!

In addition we want to sincerely thank those who have completed and submitted their 2021 stewardship card. For those of you, who have not; please do so as soon as possible. We are going to be publishing the list of names of those who have turned in their 2021 stewardship card or are making recurring donations in the months of April, July, and October 2021. We want to give every one the opportunity to get their stewardship card submitted.

As a reminder: information for the Messenger must be submitted to the church office by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month. Please keep this date in mind, since we want to recognize all the family members that support St. Nicholas.

Should anyone have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the church office at 253-272-0466.

Thank you,

Maria Koumantaros

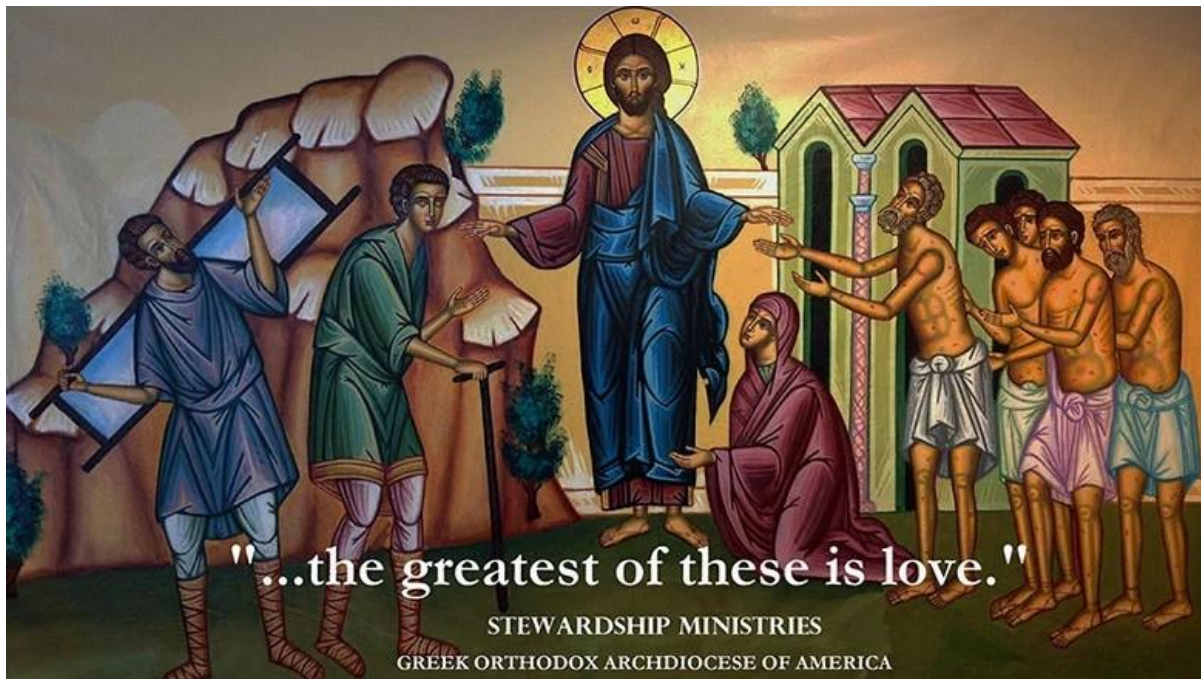


## Stewardship Ministry

...but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Cor 13:13)

“Stewardship is the offering to God as children of faith rather than as hired servants. Children of God make offerings to God as expression of authentic love, whereas, hired servants simply fulfill legalistic duty. Christian stewardship is a manifestation of our love for God through the holistic offering of time, talent, and treasure to Him, through Christ’s Holy Church. By this offering of love to our Father in heaven, He further extends the healing experience of His Church to His children, through Her ministry.”

Father Luke Palumbis St. Basil the Great Church, Houston, TX



Stewardship as an expression of Love for God is the theme of the 2021 Stewardship Ministry in the Orthodox Archdiocese. There is no doubt that love is important in one’s life. One can have many gifts, but without love these gifts are useless. In 1 Corinthians 13 1-8, Apostle Paul writes love is “patient”, “kind”, “does not act rudely”, “thinks no evil”, and “endures all things”. Love is “humble”, “respectful” and “Love never fails”.

A different reading emphasizes “Let us not love with words, but with actions”. So our goal this year is to reach out to all of you, especially those who have been members of St. Nicholas in prior years. We encourage you to attend our church services (online or in person as COVID 19 eases) and commit to become a steward. If you would like to share the name(s) of family members who were once members but are no longer, please either call the church office at 253-272-0466 or email me at: [maria\\_koumantaros@hotmail.com](mailto:maria_koumantaros@hotmail.com). The Ministry’s mission for 2021 is to try to get as many of the past members of our parish back to St. Nicholas. With God’s assistance this mission will come true.

## Bible Study

# ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY THE REVELATION



## Holy Prophet Ezekiel

### Jewish Tradition:

- Possibly the son of the Prophet Jeremiah.
- Possibly the elder with whom the 3 young men in Babylon consulted.
- He lived during the time of King Josiah's reforms during the Babylonian Captivity (verse 2 – King Jehoiachin's captivity).

Ezekiel is not only the one who had visions that are paralleled in Revelation. He is, himself, a prophet who lived at this momentous time of exile and longing to return to Jerusalem just as we, as the Apostle John by extension is saying, are living in the Babylonian exile that is life and our entire life is that exodus journey to the New Jerusalem on high which is depicted here in the Book of Revelation. After the Israelites were led to the Promised Land by God, they were eventually conquered and taken into captivity. Ezekiel is addressing the issue of God's imminent act of restoration. King Josiah returned the people of Israel to the Laws of God. This passage from Ezekiel is very similar in language to that of the Book of Revelation.

**Ezekiel 1:6** "Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings." **Ezekiel 1:11** "...Their wings stretched upward; two wings of each one touched one another, and two covered their bodies."

Notice the "quadriform" description of the four living creatures in Ezekiel. In the symbolic visions of Ezekiel and the Apostle John, we are meant to take away these archetypal images. **Ezekiel 1:26-28** "And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. 27) Also, from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. 28) Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. So, when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking."

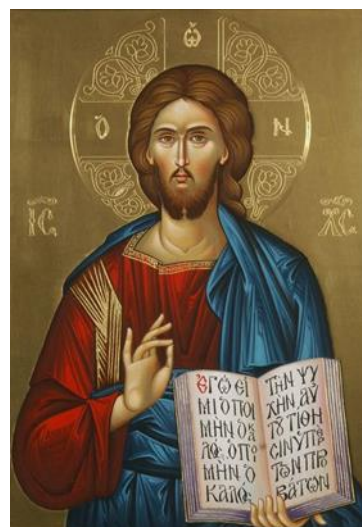
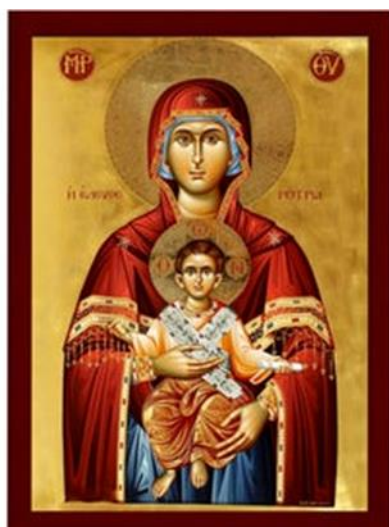
The Holy Fathers in their comments on this passage (the fiery and almost fearsome imagery) say that Ezekiel is describing the Pre-Incarnate Christ. The One Who is truly going to bring His people out of exile, not just Babylonian exile, but exile from the eternal life of God through death and corruption.



# Bible Study, the Revelation, Cont.



The Holy Fathers interpret the description of “like a sapphire stone” and “appearance of His waist...the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around it” as Christ’s Incarnation from the Most Pure and Holy Virgin.



In the Orthodox icons of Christ and Panagia, you will notice that the Theotokos wears blue for her inner clothing and red for her outer garment. Christ wears red on the inside and blue on the outside. Red represents Panagia’s flesh and blue represents divinity. There are two ways of looking at this. Within the flesh of the Virgin, the blue undergarment shows that she had God in her womb. The other way, looking at it iconographically, is that blue represents her virginity and perfection and the red the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. The Fathers are going to interpret the issue of the blue and red and the fire of divinity as the throne upon which He sits, which is the Most Holy Theotokos, herself. All of this has to do with things to come and that’s why the Book of Revelation recalls the

## Bible Study, the Revelation, Cont.

imagery from this vision of the Prophet Ezekiel to demonstrate the continuity that has always existed and that the intention of Christ is to bring about redemption in the context of Ezekiel; specifically, to return the faithful from exile in Babylon back to the Promised Land through the miraculous intervention of this enthroned figure. In the case of the Revelation of the Apostle John, to be taken from the ultimate point of view of Babylon being symbolic of death and corruption itself and the Promised Land, what we call the land of Jerusalem is referred to, later on, as the New Jerusalem. There are direct parallels between the Prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah and the Book of Revelation. Ezekiel, the prophet, is very relevant to the Book of Revelation. It's not interpretive because Revelation, literally, repeats some of the passages of Ezekiel for the same purpose. God provides continuity throughout Scripture.

**Isaiah 6:3** *"And one cried to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!' "*

Again we have a prophet who is granted a vision of things that have always been there and are revealed, or uncovered (αποκάλυψη) showing continuity that the Lord has maintained throughout His Plan of Salvation.

If we didn't have the accountability of the Cross, we could open up the question to whether God is being arbitrary or brutal or violent but when we have the Cross, that effects even the past, and the ministers of violence themselves die violent deaths which helps put things into context and to accept forms of violence against ourselves physically and spiritually.



### Revelation 5:6

*"And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth."*

**Revelation 5: 1-5** *"And I saw in the right hand of Him Who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2) Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?' 3) An no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. 4) So, I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5) But one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.' "*

Submitted by: Genevieve Eagle

# ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY



Care Net of Puget Sound is excited to announce that their 2021 Light and Life Celebration will be an interactive, virtual event this year held on March 13th, 2021 from 6pm-7pm. Rebekah Hagen will be speaking regarding her experience with the abortion reversal pill and how she's seen God's restorative and redemptive work in her own life. She is one of today's youngest speakers on the issues of teenage pregnancy, abortion, and abortion-pill-reversal. A passionate advocate for grace-centered outreach, Rebekah Hagen uses her story to unravel the mindset of women in unplanned pregnancies to equip and encourage others to lead with hope and compassion.

They will be sharing highlights from their ministry, client stories and will be making time for worship.

You can watch this event at home or watch with others at several churches that are hosting this event. All hosting churches will ensure that current regulations regarding COVID-19 are carefully followed. Host churches will open their doors at 5:30, as dinner will be provided before the event. St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church will not be able to participate in the hosting.

This event is a fundraiser for Care Net of Puget Sound to continue their ministry of supporting men and women throughout our community.

**To register for this event, please go to:**

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/light-life-2021-tickets-137836628065?](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/light-life-2021-tickets-137836628065?aff=odeieiconstantcontact&ctct_id=e1973ade-a293-4f5e-9f56-f3e1cfcb806a_p2&ctct_c=YNp5fNpTtlinPfsYw5eSbC_GWoXgnrxDZYAT-RVHVnNL8RAWJirm8Q==)

[aff=odeieiconstantcontact&ctct\\_id=e1973ade-a293-4f5e-9f56-](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/light-life-2021-tickets-137836628065?aff=odeieiconstantcontact&ctct_id=e1973ade-a293-4f5e-9f56-f3e1cfcb806a_p2&ctct_c=YNp5fNpTtlinPfsYw5eSbC_GWoXgnrxDZYAT-RVHVnNL8RAWJirm8Q==)

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**Need some help?**

If you have any questions or problems, please call **Chelsie Compton** at 253.336.5781 or email [ccompton@carenetps.org](mailto:ccompton@carenetps.org).

## Pro-Life Ministry

I would like to share an email from Papa Demetrios Carrella:

On January 23 ... I sent you a request to help me develop a special prayer list of Orthodox Christian women who have had abortions, and to provide only their first names, Baptismal ones if known. It was also requested to encourage them to seek confession, if they had not already done so, and to seek the assistance of a priest if the wound was still deep and needed the healing Grace of God's ineffable love. On March 13th, the day before the Sunday of Forgiveness, I will send out the list to all of you, so that you can remember them in your daily prayers during the Great Fast and Holy Week, and please give a copy of the list to your parish priest for remembrance in the Holy Liturgies. The next update will be on March 1st, God willing.

In addition, I provided my encrypted e-mail address, papademetrius@protonmail.com, in case any of these dear, wounded daughters of Jesus wanted to get immediate help. And I was blessed to hear from three beloved women, each of whom now have received - or will soon receive - Holy Confession from priests in their respective areas. As of February 9th, the list contains 51 of our precious sisters in Christ: 45 still with us in this life and 6 departed into eternity. Please, Brothers and Sisters, keep asking your friends and family to give you the first names of Orthodox women who have had abortions, so that - through our daily combined prayers for them - we can help them to heal, and mystically show them God's love!

Your unworthy servant in Christ Jesus,

+Papa Demetri

P. S. - Later on, we may prepare a list of the accomplices to the abortions (doctors, nurses, fathers, grandparents, friends, etc.). Now, however, our efforts are directed to our sisters in Christ, who had the abortions.

A Spiritual Pearl from the Psalms of King David

"In God will I praise His word, in the Lord will I praise His speech; in God have I put my hope, I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

[Psalm 55(56):10]

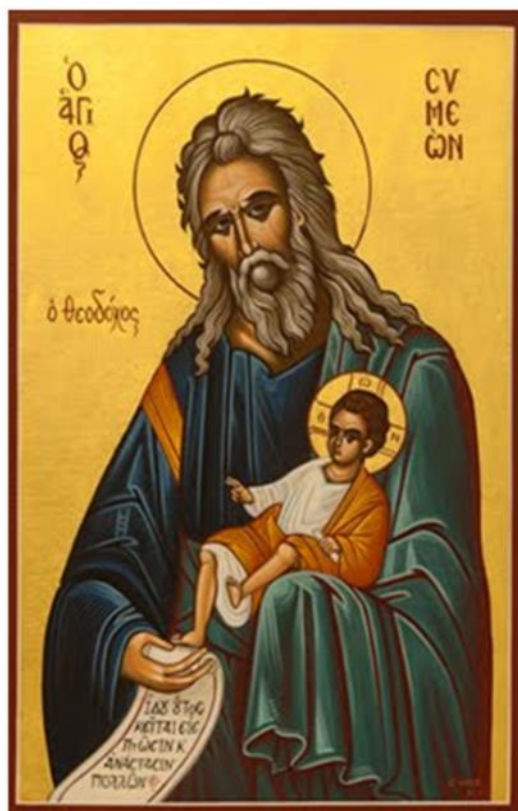
If you would like to add names to his prayer list please contact him at:

[papademetrius3@gmail.com](mailto:papademetrius3@gmail.com)

# Pro-Life Ministry



## 40 DAY INFANT BLESSING



The Forty Day Blessing takes place at the conclusion of regular Sunday Divine Liturgy and essentially consists of prayers of joyful thanks for the safe delivery of mother and child. The service blesses the mother who has been absent from the sacramental life of the Church for forty days and formally presents the newborn child to the Church family for the first time as the priest formally brings the infant into the Sanctuary.

During the 40 days between the birth of the child, the mother and newborn should refrain from regular sacramental life/attending church services.

The blessing may be done exactly on the fortieth day of the child's birth or on the Sunday nearest to the fortieth day. Both the father and the mother along with the newborn must be present for the forty day blessing. If the Godparent(s) have been selected this is also a time to be present.

In imitation of Christ's forty day blessing (Luke 2:22-38), the parents of the newborn bring the baby to the church in order for the child to be dedicated to the Lord.

This beautiful tradition is practiced throughout the Orthodox world. The parents become a symbol of the Virgin Mary and Joseph, while the priest symbolizes St. Symeon (in the at left) who held Christ in his arms at the time of the presentation.

## Pro-Life Ministry



### BAPTISM / CHRISMATION

The Sacrament of Baptism is one of the sacred mysteries of the Church. Baptism which incorporates human beings into the Body of Christ and the Church. Through Baptism men and women of all ages and walks of life are introduced to the life of the Holy Trinity at the Annunciation. A child is generally baptized between the ages of three and ten months. Age, however, is not a barrier to baptism.

Baptisms may not be performed from Christmas Day through the Feast of Theophany (December 25-January 6), during Holy Week, or on any of the Great Feast days of the Lord.

### GODPARENT REQUIREMENTS

In the case of a an infant or child, parents are encouraged to carefully select the sponsor (Godparent, Nouna, Nouno) for their child. In the eyes of the Church, a Godparent shares with the parents the responsibility for the spiritual growth of the child and becomes an indissoluble spiritual member of the family. The sponsor is *more than a ceremonial position* as they serve as an important role in the life of the child as they do in the celebration of the sacrament. Ultimately, the sponsor should be an individual whom the parents are confident will provide their child with a dynamic model of the Orthodox Christian way of life outside of their immediate family.

**Note:** If the Godparent is from another parish, a letter of good standing from their parish priest is required 2 weeks prior to the date of the baptism.

- ◆ A prospective sponsor must be an Orthodox Christian over the age of twelve, who is in good standing with the Orthodox Church, and a steward of their local parish.
- ◆ A prospective sponsor who is from another parish must provide a letter of “Good Standing” from their Orthodox parish well in advance of the scheduled date of the sacrament.
- ◆ If a prospective sponsor is:
  - • Married; he or she must have been married in the Orthodox Church submit evidence thereof.

## Pro-Life Ministry

- • Unmarried & "Living Together", Married in another faith, Civil Union, or Currently Separated; he or she is ineligible to sponsor a baptism.
- • Divorced; he or she must have received an Ecclesiastical Divorce and submit evidence thereof.

- ◆ Typically, a prospective sponsor should be able to attend the Divine Liturgy with the newly-baptized for three consecutive Sundays thereafter in order to receive Holy Communion together.

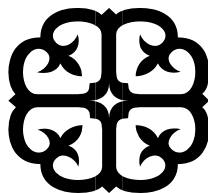
It is typically the responsibility of the Godparent to provide the list of liturgical items for use in the sacrament.

- *A new white dress or suit to be worn by the child after baptism*
- *An adult-sized cross (This is recommended as this cross is worn at all future sacraments including marriage and ultimately burial)*
- *An icon of their patron saint*
- *One white sheet (to wrap the baby in)*
- *One large white towel (to place on top of the sheet)*
- *One small white hand towel*
- *One bar white soap (i.e., Dove or Ivory)*
- *One bottle of olive oil*
- *White undergarment or equivalent*
- *Diapers (just in case)*
- *Three white or beeswax candles\*\**
- *Martyrika+*

\*\*Candles that are appropriate and reflect the dignity of a church service are preferred. Large three foot "lampades" decorated with excessive tulle, teddy bears or other infant paraphernalia are not appropriate. They detract/distract from the service. Plain, nicely decorated tapers are best suited.

+Martyrika or "witness pins" are small decorative lapel pins or crosses that are passed out to guests who witness a Greek Orthodox baptism. This tradition began long before computers and was the way of record-keeping so witnesses would not only remember the baptism of an individual but have an artifact from it. While record-keeping has come a long way, the tradition is still carried out today.

Submitted by: Genevieve Eagle



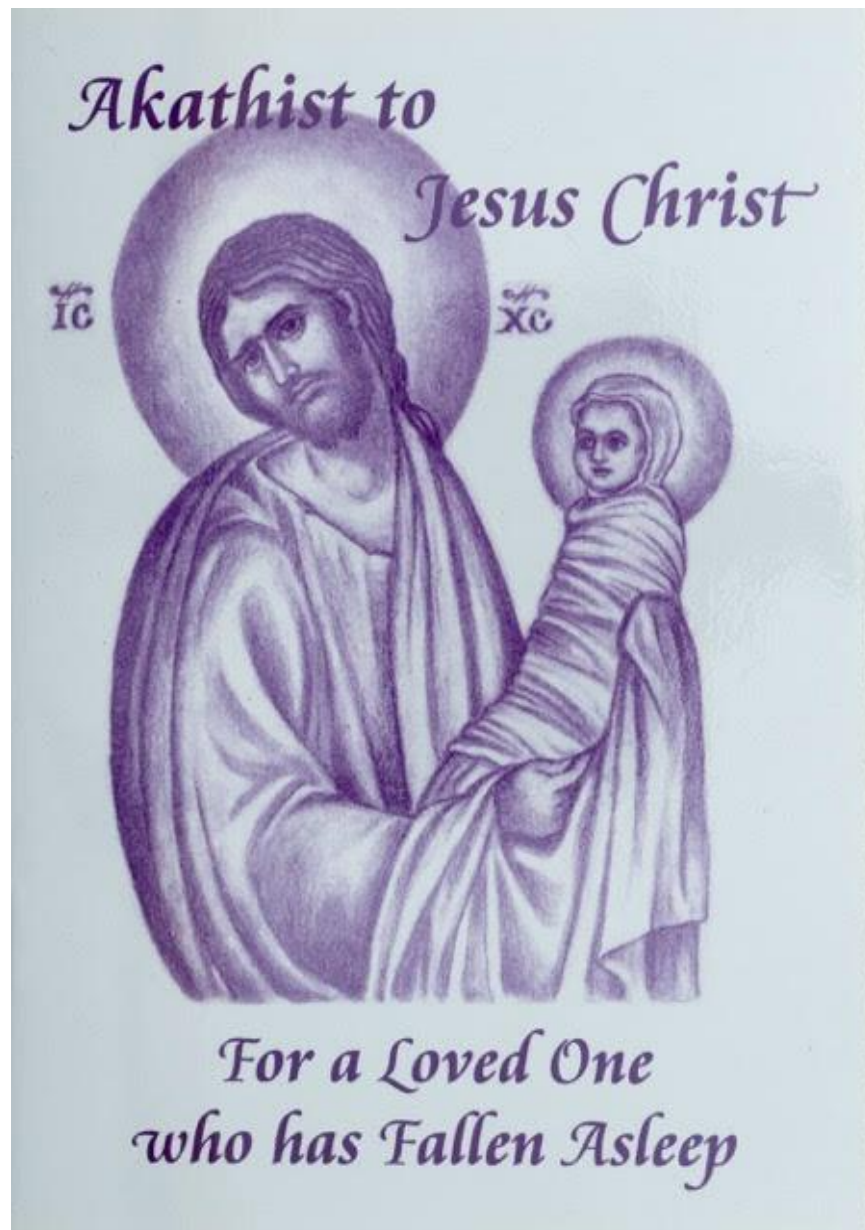
**ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY****Ministry of Akathist Prayers for the Departed**

Thank you to all who are a part of this wonderful ministry of offering prayers for the departed.

When a loved one has fallen asleep, the family [or the priest] may request the Akathist Ministry to begin 40 days of prayer for the departed person.

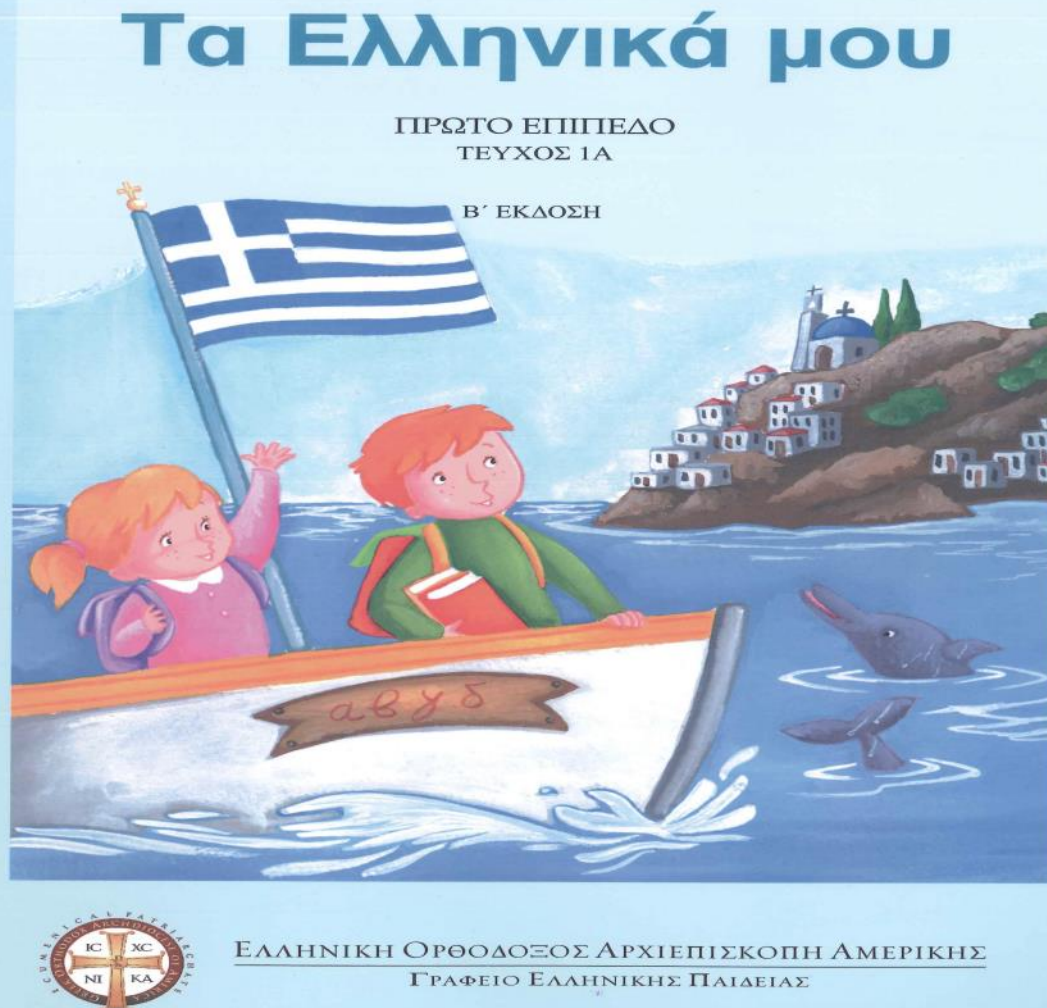
In this ministry, each day for 40 days, one different person will independently pray making a continuous offering of prayer for the departed brother or sister at Saint Nicholas.

*Kathy Rawley*





# Greek Language School



## Modern Greek Language School / Classes:

The 2020 - 2021 Modern Greek Language School "**Advanced Class**" resumed on Thursday, October 8, 2020 and will continue to Jun. 25, 2021, every Thursday, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. The 2021 Modern Greek Language School "**Beginners Class**" started on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021 and will continue to Jun. 25, 2021, every Tuesday, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

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

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

Teacher - George Pirotis  
Contact Church Office - 253-272-0466

# Greek Language School

Purpose: The purpose of the Greek School is to promote the Greek letters, language, culture, and Hellenic Civilization. The classes are open to all parishioners independently of age (this may change if it is needed). Students will learn Grammar, Modern Conversational Greek and some of the Biblical - Ancient Greek Terminology.

To the satisfaction of the teacher, there is lots of energy, interest, and curiosity of the class in learning the great influence of the "Greek Language and the Hellenism" to the "Western Civilization" and to the whole world!

Yearly events and possible student involvement:

Αγίασμα (Blessing) of the class at the beginning of the School year.

Sunday, October 31st - OXI Day Celebration.

Thursday, March 28th, 2021 Celebration, commemorating the March 25th, 1821 Revolution for the Greek Independence from the Ottoman Empire!

Cost: The classes are provided free of charge!

George Pirotis-

Greek Class of 2021 Photo.



# PROSPHORA

## 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

The Divine Liturgy, otherwise known as the Holy Eucharist, the Leitourgia of the Church, is the supper at which Christ offers his body and blood before his crucifixion, and which continues to be offered after his resurrection.

He has instructed us to do this in remembrance of Him. 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. Deborah Talbot would be happy to work with anyone wanting to learn to bake bread in general or prospora in particular.



## LECHEM-ARTOS-BREAD

### Following the Word Through Scripture

Last month we began the book of Leviticus, a worship manual for the levitical priesthood. In the laws governing the sacrifices we encountered for the first time bread specifically identified as leavened, which bread was to be offered with the peace offering. Then in the law of holiness we see how the priests who are offering (chapter 21) and the things being offered (chapter 22) are types of Christ, the ultimate offerer to come. In looking at chapter 22 this month, a study note from page 150 of our Orthodox Study Bible says, *“In these levitical regulations, the people are being tutored ultimately to recognize the Messiah...when he would come to be both the offerer and the offered.”* Chapter 22 is about the animal sacrifices and how they must not have blemishes but be perfect; corrupted or defective animals are not accepted as offerings.

*Leviticus 22:25: ‘Nor from a foreigner’s hand shall you offer any of these as the bread/gifts of your God, because their corruption is in them, and defects are in them. They shall not be accepted on your behalf.’”*

The point of the verse is that from neither an Israelite nor a foreigner will God accept a sacrifice that does not meet the requirements laid out. Once again, as in chapter 21, lechem (bread) is used in the Hebrew Masoretic text, but artos (bread) is not used in the Greek in the Septuagint text. In the Greek, δῶρον (doron) is used. If you look this verse up in our study bible, you will see the word gifts, and you will not see the word bread.

**Note this:** When Jesus Christ incarnate instituted the Mystical Supper, He named the bread as His own body. He is referring to his coming crucifixion and to Leviticus and the animal sacrifices, or flesh and blood sacrifices. In the Hebrew scriptures this sacrifice of flesh and blood was called bread. But remember, the Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures, had been made by Jewish scholars about 200 years before Christ was incarnate, and there this same flesh and blood sacrifice is called gifts. God’s gift to the creation, the bread that came down from heaven, His only Son, a lamb who was slain...

# PROSPHORA

**Note this also:** Christ in His incarnation fulfilled all this levitical law. It has not been discarded; it has been fulfilled and transcended. Should anyone think they cannot make the offering because they cannot make it perfect and flawless, which Leviticus seems to be saying is necessary, it would be wise to think again. Christ has come and is the one offered as well as the one offering; He is the perfect sacrifice and the perfect priest who offers it. That we have the flour, the water, the yeast, and the salt, the source of heat, the hands, and the heart to make this bread offering is a great gift from Him to us. Yet, it is as impossible for me to make perfect (or worthy) bread as it is impossible for me to make myself perfect. Since this is the way things are, when I make the bread offering this is what I do: I buy the best flour I can buy, pray the best prayers I can pray that day, and make the best effort I can make in sincerity, like St. Basil. I prepare my heart (see articles from July, August, and November of 2018, February, July, and September of 2019, and possibly others), confessing my sins and inadequacies, and then I offer Him my imperfections (this is me Lord, here we are again - you see the sin I still refuse to consider or admit; neither can I seem to do anything about the sins I am aware of). I ask Him to take all these things and make them whole, drawing me and all the people into Himself, into perfection. *Becoming* holy or perfect in theosis, in union with God, is the goal toward which we strive, and the Eucharist, the Thanksgiving Offering, which offering is the entire Divine Liturgy, is a very essential part in this *becoming*, a part given to us by God Himself.

*To be continued...*

*Deborah Talbot-*



# PHILOPTOCHOS

## PHILOPTOCHOS

### President's Message

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

**Donations to St. Basil's Academy**-Our church's tradition in January is to have the cutting of the vasilopita. This is a fund raiser for St. Basil's Academy, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese home for children in need, in New York. Due to Covid restrictions Philoptochos was unable to serve the vasilopita. A request for donations was sent out to parish members through the weekly bulletin and to date we have receive \$470 towards this cause. Donations will be received until the end of the month for this worthy charity.

**Adopt-A-Seminarian**- Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos chapters are encouraged to adopt a student attending Holy Cross/Hellenic College on their path to their calling to the holy priesthood. St. Nicholas chapter has adopted Emmanuel Aspiotis, a Master of Divinity student whose home parish is St. Demetrios, Tucson, AZ. Philoptochos members held a lively Zoom discussion with Emmanuel and his wife Alyssa at their February 18 meeting on a wide range of topics.

**Philoptochos Member Meetings**-The chapter member meetings will continue to be held monthly by Zoom. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2021, at 5:00 P.M. Please call Merrilee Pangis at 253-759-1026 for the Zoom information. Topics will include outreach for potential community and parishioner needs. We invite members and interested parishioners to join these meetings and share their thoughts. The calendar of events will be posted in the Messenger when we can resume our activities.

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

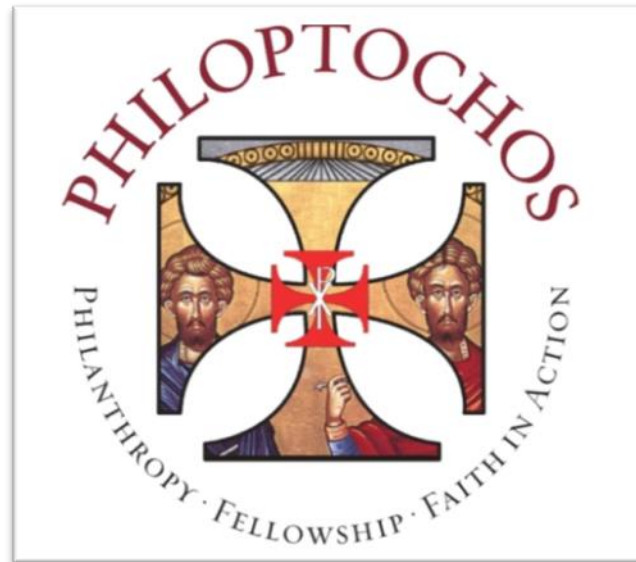
**Outreach to others**-Please take a few minutes to call and support the older members of our community during the pandemic. Human contact and interaction is so important during these trying COVID-19 times.

*Thanks for your Support!*

*Jane Evancho*

*Philoptochos continued next page...*

# PHILOPTOCHOS



Saint Basil's Academy is the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese home for children in need. The academy provides a loving Christian environment where resident children are nurtured to adulthood. Their mission is to be a home offering shelter, protection, love and education for our young people so they can become well-rounded Orthodox Christians.

Every year in the month of January, our Philoptochos supports Saint Basil's Academy through the cutting of the Vasilopita. The Vasilopita is a cake or bread made for the first day of the New Year which contains a hidden coin which gives good luck to the receiver. It is associated with the Feast Day of Saint Basil's day January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Unfortunately, this year, we were not able to have the cutting of the Vasilopita in church due to the rules and regulations mandated by our State. Therefore we are asking you to kindly see it in your heart to make a monetary donation for Saint Basil's Academy.

Please make your checks payable to **PHILOPTOCHOS** and indicate **St. Basil's Academy** on the memo.

**Mail your check to:**

Philoptochos  
c/o St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church  
1523 South Yakima Avenue  
Tacoma, WA 98405

On behalf of all the Members of the St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society, **THANK YOU** for your donation to this worthy cause.

# 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.

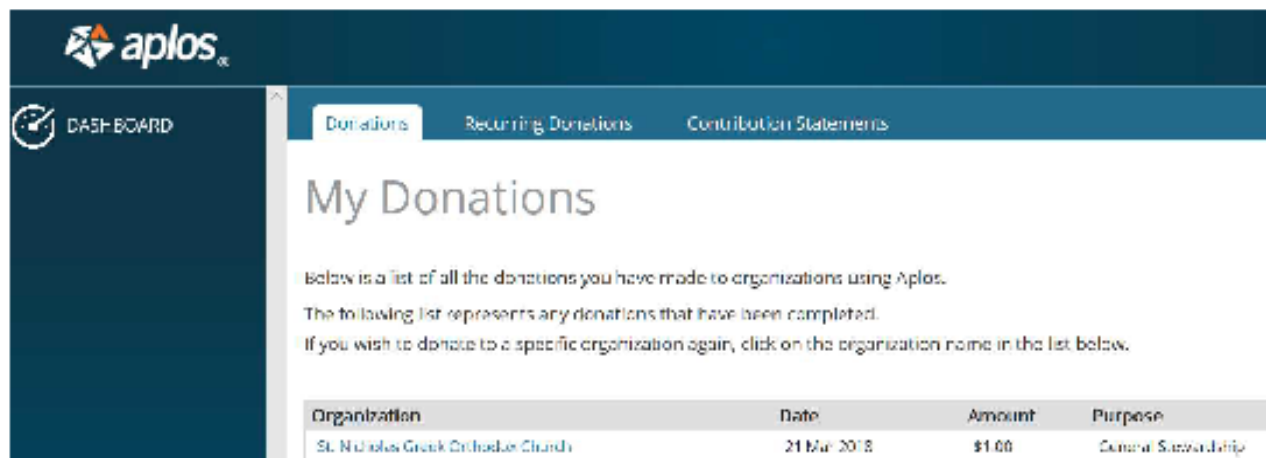
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality. 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](http://www.stnicholastacoma.org)
- 2) Select the  button. This takes you to the Church’s donate page!
- 3) Select the gold colored donate  button at the bottom of the page.
- 4) You will now be taken to the page to make your donation. Simply complete the form.
- 5) From the contributions email you receive, select the link to setup your own Aplos account. An account history page will be available. The first tab will show only on-line donations, the second tab allows accounting for recurring donations, and the third is for contribution statements listing on-line, check, and cash donations.



**OUR MISSION**

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

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

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

**HOW TO RETURN THIS CARD**

**BY MAIL:**

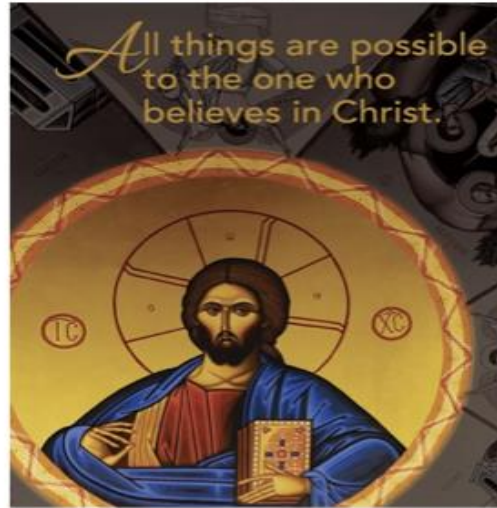
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church  
 Attn: Church Treasurer  
 1523 S. Yakima Ave.  
 Tacoma, WA 98405

**AT CHURCH:**

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

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

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



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

Please PRINT your information clearly

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

**Household Information**

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

**Dependent Children**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SIGNATURE.....

Click Here to Email Completed Form To Treasurer

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



Saint Nicholas Messenger

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

*Address Service Requested*

