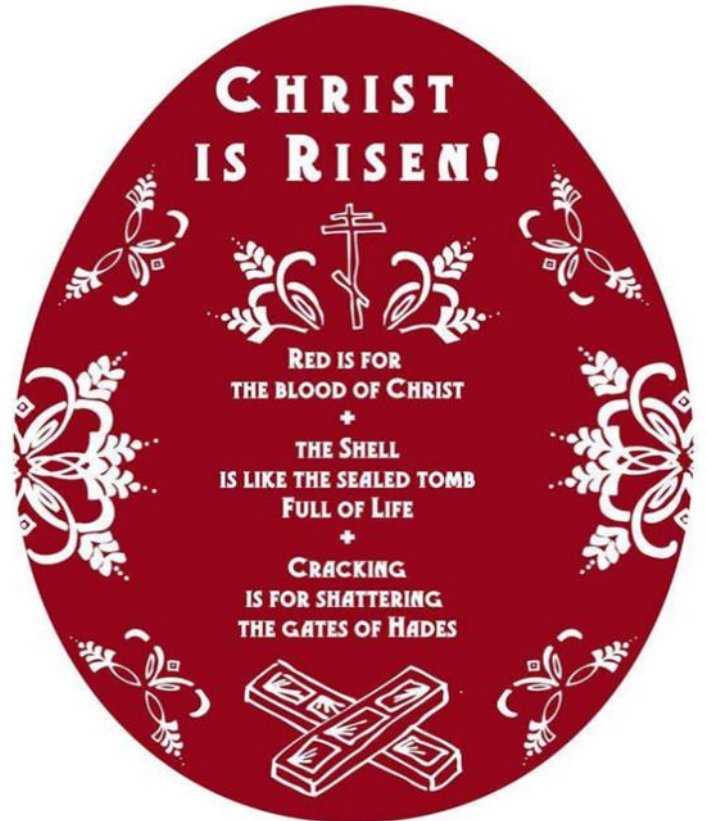




How could we have Pascha, the Resurrection of Christ, without the red eggs? Here's why we have been dyeing eggs red in our Church for two thousand years during these most sacred and radiant days.

St. Mary Magdalene, after the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, went on long missionary journeys around the empire, preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ. Not only an able missionary, she was also a woman of high social status. She was in Rome, and testified at the trial of Pontius Pilate before the Emperor Tiberias. Because of her lofty social status, she also gained an invitation to a banquet given by the Emperor.



Arriving at the banquet, she was greeted by the Emperor. As was her custom, she presented him with a white egg, which she often used as a kind of visual aid to explain the power of Christ's Resurrection. Handing it to the Emperor, St. Mary Magdalene exclaimed "Christ is risen!" Emperor Tiberius laughed at her, and said that this Christ rising from the dead was about as likely as the egg in her hand turning red.

Before he finished speaking, St Mary prayed to the Lord, and He miraculously changed the egg into a deep red, with the words "Christ is risen, for Jesus has burst forth from the tomb" inscribed on it. The Emperor was astonished, and she began proclaiming the Gospel to the entire imperial house. This miracle turned many of them to Christ at that time. Although the Emperor ultimately did not come to

Cover Story Continued Page 19...

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Return to Church Policies

See news on page 5

St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Phone: 253-272-0466

Parish Website: stnicholastacoma.org

E-Mail: mail@stnicholastacoma.org

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



Sunday Services

8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

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



Fr. Seraphim Majmudar, Our Presiding Priest

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

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

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

Saint Nicholas Messenger is the official monthly newsletter of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Tacoma Washington

Editors: Carol MartinOki/Bill Samaras

Media team: Paula Karanasos, Fr. Seraphim

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

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St. Nicholas Ministries

AHEPA
Paul Apostle

Akathist Group Prayer
Kathy Rowley

Altar Servers
Dr Nick Themelis

Bible Study
Genevieve Eagle

Book Store
Dr. Nick Themelis

Building Committee
Bill Acker

Building, Grounds & Maintenance
Richard Heidal, John Pangis

Choir
Rebecca Primis

Hands of Love
Merrilee Pangis

Military Service
LTC Gus Chamales

Premarital Education
George Pirotis, Diane Pirotis

Stewardship
Maria Koumantaros
Gus Chamales

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., Kathy Johnson, Klaudia Cedeno, Zach Karanasos, Fenia Mavromichali, Tony Panagiotu

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
Fenia Mavromichali — President
Olga Manos— Vice President
Evy Kontos - Treasurer
D. Lord/H. McClure - Secretary

Maids of Athena
Zoe Matteson-President
Alexandra Lord -Vice President
Katie McClure -Treasurer
N. Serhan/A. Matteson - Secretary
Ingrid Chamalas - Advisor
Virginia McClure - Advisor

Philoptochos Society
Jane Evancho - President
Hoddi Motz - Vice-President
Merrilee Pangis - Secretary
Ingrid Chamales - 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

Next Parish Council Meeting will be May 10, 2022

| May 2022 | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 1 THOMAS SUNDAY 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 2:00pm-3:00pm Zoom GENERAL ASSEMBLY: approval for festival | 2 Zoe the Righteous 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers w/ blessing of waters | 3 Timothy & Mavra 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-8:00pm Building Committee | 4 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Pelagia 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: St Ephraim the New 6:45pm-7:45pm Evening Liturgy: St Ephraim the New | 5 Ephraim the New Ephraim the New 5:00pm-6:00pm WOCA BBQ: Brier 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek | 6 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Righteous Job 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers | 7 Commemoration of the Precious Cross that appeared in the sky over Jerusalem in 351 A.D. 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers |
| 8 John the Apostle, Evangelist, & Theologian MOTHERS' DAY MYRRHBEARERS' SUNDAY 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-12:30pm Andonios (Randy) Sampson memorial | 9 Martyr Christopher Prophet Isaiah 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers | 10 Apostle Simon the Zealot 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-8:00pm Parish Council | 11 Cyril and Methodius, Illuminators of the Slavs Fast: Wine & Oil ok 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy | 12 Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek | 13 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Martyr Glykeria | 14 Isidore the Martyr of Chios 11:30am-12:30pm Philoptochos Ladies' Spring Luncheon 6:00pm-7:00pm No Vespers Tonight |
| 15 Matushka Theodosia the Paralyzed +2011 SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy | 16 Brendan the Navigator 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers | 17 Andronikos & Junia 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:30am-1:00pm Fr. S at Vicariate Clergy Group 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: Mid Pentecost 6:45pm-7:45pm Evening Liturgy: Mid Pentecost | 18 Fast: Wine & Oil ok MID PENTECOST 6:00pm-7:00pm Paraklesis | 19 Memnon the Wonderworker 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek | 20 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Thalleteos & Companions 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: Ss Constantine & Helen | 21 Constantine & Helen, Equal to the Apostles 9:00am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Sophronia Ramos Baptism 11:00am-12:00pm Divine Liturgy 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers |
| 22 SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy | 23 Evgeny of Chechnya Michael of Synnada | 24 Symeon the Stylite Vincent of Lerins 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers | 25 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Third Finding of the Head of St John the Baptist 6:00pm-7:00pm Paraklesis | 26 Alexandros of Thessaloniki 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: St John the Russian 6:45pm-7:45pm Evening Liturgy: St John the Russian | 27 Fast: Wine & Oil ok John the Russian John the Russian of Evia 6:30am-7:30am Akathist to St John the Russian 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers | 28 Nikitas, Bp of Chalcedon 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers |
| 29 SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm-1:00pm Military Ministry Memorial Day Presentation 2:00pm-3:00pm Baptism: Anna Mathea Ionita | 30 Emmelia, Mother of St Basil Memorial Day 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm-1:00pm Blessing of Old Tacoma Cemetery | 31 | Notes: | | | |

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

News and Announcements

Returning to Church

St. Nicholas is fully open and we look forward to seeing you all! Here is the current status:

1. No sign up is necessary. We are able to fill to full capacity.
2. Sit wherever you like. All pews are available.
3. Coffee hour has resumed!
4. We will continue live streaming.
5. The Metropolis is asking parishioners to please consider wearing a mask while attending services until the COVID disease rates decline to low levels of transmission as defined by the CDC.

Although this directive is voluntary, we are strongly encouraging our parishioners to wear masks while at Church. Also, please note, this is only an indoor directive and does not apply to outdoor places.

We will not be re-establishing social distancing and the sign-up reservation system for attending services.

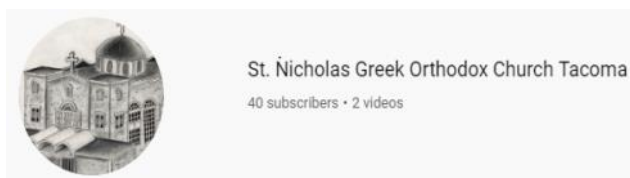
Per His Eminence's guidance, we will not ask anyone about their vaccination status.

Watch Services From Home, Live

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

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

Click on this selection;



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

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

Bill Samaras—

News and Announcements

Update to our Parishes – Camp Agape Northwest



November 2021

Dear parishioners of St. Demetrios, Assumption, St. Nicholas, and Holy Apostles,

It is with Agape that we reach out to everyone in our Philoptochos and Orthodox Christian circles about this past year's developments regarding Camp Agape Northwest and our continued mission to serve families walking the journey of childhood cancer.

This past summer, Camp Agape Northwest was again able to serve families through our successful virtual summer camp, delivering meals and coffee drinks, boxes filled with art, activities, and games for each family. Our amazing staff of over 100 volunteers continue to bring AGAPE to our families through driveway dance parties and online interactive programming.

This wonderful ministry was inspired by Bishop Anthony and Fr. John Backus 25 years ago, and the mission of Camp Agape ignited within the Philoptochos chapters of our Metropolis. Under the vision of our first Philoptochos chair, Peggy Tramountanas (of blessed memory), Camp Agape Northwest started fulfilling this Mission in its own special way with the commitment of dedicated volunteers from our four Orthodox churches working in harmony together. It became clear that our program was unique from the other Metropolis Philoptochos camps.

In the past, Camp Agape Northwest has not only been run and supported by our Philoptochos members, but also with the collaboration of extraordinary teens and young adults who volunteer year after year. Young adult involvement and volunteer leadership has played a key role in the tremendous success of our program.

All of our volunteers go through extensive training, follow national standards for "best practices" and work diligently to provide the safest and best camp experience for all involved. Because of this diligence,

News and Announcements

we have NEVER had any issues, lawsuits or concerns in our 25 years of operating. In these times of extreme caution and concerns regarding potential liability, being under the Metropolis Philoptochos umbrella, we faced some difficult decisions with the Metropolis.

- Since our inception we have been responsible for our own fundraising efforts. We feel it is imperative to keep our fundraising localized as many local supporters have come to know Philoptochos through Camp Agape Northwest and want to keep their dollars with the local mission.
- The youth and young adult ministry component has played a vital role in the lives of countless young people from our churches and beyond - many who have developed beautiful life-long relationships through their AGAPE NW experience.
- We also want to continue to run a 6 day camp rather than reduce the number of days to a 4 day camp with our own chosen directors.

Our hope was to keep functioning as we had, but after many months of discussions, it was mutually decided that the best possible solution would be for Camp Agape Northwest to operate independently from the Metropolis Philoptochos so that we can continue to fulfill our important mission. This was a tough process and was handled with much thought and care.

Thankfully, we will continue to reach countless families through our amazing program supported by volunteers from all of our Orthodox churches and beyond. However, board members are no longer allowed to be “officially appointed representatives” of our local Philoptochos chapters due to the connection to the Metropolis. While these current restrictions no longer allow us to wear our official “Philoptochos” hat while serving Camp Agape Northwest (due to potential liability concerns by the Metropolis), anyone from our Orthodox parishes and Philoptochos chapters is welcome to join the board or volunteer at our camp as a community volunteer. We hope that our local Philoptochos chapters and parish members will continue to be involved and support Camp Agape Northwest cancer families by opening up new ways to share Agape with cancer families and our community in the future.

We have been in a long process to sign a separation agreement with the Metropolis and create new by-laws

which will allow Camp Agape Northwest the freedom to continue the good work we started. We, as Orthodox Christians and people who support the Church, are dedicated and committed to continuing our involvement in this extraordinary outreach and will do our best to serve and invite other Orthodox Christian clergy, church faithful and youth to get involved. We want to be clear that ANY Philoptochos or church member who desires to volunteer at Camp Agape Northwest or join our board are able and encouraged to do so.

News and Announcements

We would love for you to volunteer to help us bring Agape to families experiencing pediatric cancer – please click the link to go to our website:

www.campagapenorthwest.org/volunteer

Last year, our long-time Camp Directors , Deb and Jeff Greer, passed the leadership baton to our new camp directors, Courtney and Jason Bodily who had previously experienced Camp Agape Northwest as a camp family. They are well aware of life as a cancer family, as their daughter Macey continues to navigate through treatment. They have been dedicated and trusted volunteers serving with great passion for leadership and service.

The future is bright – and we pray that you will support our efforts as Camp Agape Northwest continues our legacy of outreach, service and love.

We are humbled and grateful for the legacy of those who served this mission of Agape before us, Camp Agape Northwest Board Members:

Diana Argeres, Andrea Bardin, Christina Bradic, Jennifer Doepping, Nanette Hayre, Carolyn Manta-Kennedy, Rebecca Panos, Maria Tsagalakis, Kalitsa Xitco



NOTE: If interested in volunteering please contact Kalitsa Xitco via the Church office.

Catechumens

ST. NICHOLAS' CATECHUMENS FROM BECOMING CATECHUMENS



TO...

Catechumens

NEWLY ILLUMINED



Catechumens

NEWLY ILLUMINED



From Back to Front:

Back Row: Father Irenaeus, Father Seraphim, Father Daniel

2nd Row: Andrew (GP), Scott, Jake, John (GP)

3rd Row: Chris, Rob, Liam, Roland (GP), Sheila (GP), Tekeste, Rachael, Barbara, Ronnie-Sue (GP), Kealy, Billy, Tim (GP)

Front row: Gus (GP), Belinda, Genevieve (GP), Lea, Vance, Sunny (GP), Rue

*GP-Godparent

Please welcome our new parish members to St. Nicholas!

Submitted by Genevieve

{This is my first time working with the Catechism Class and I want to thank our "Newly Illumined" Orthodox Christians for being patient and understanding! We had a few hiccups but by working together we overcame them. I want to thank the Godparents also for their patience during this whole process. }

Save the Date



THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER
is hosting a

Celebration Gala

HONORING
CLIFF & THEO ARGUE

SATURDAY, THE 4TH OF JUNE 2022
SIX IN THE EVENING
ST. DEMETRIOS ECHURCH
WWW.OCMC.ORG/ARGUEGALA2022

Daughters of Penelope and Maids of Athena



A Food Drive Unlike Any Other

THANK YOU for Supporting NOURISH!



DOP Icaria #175's and MOA Sparta #1's 2022 collaborative Food Drive and our first major fundraising effort since 2019, yielded **\$1,800** in dollars raised and **289lbs.** of non-perishable pantry items!! We are deeply humbled by everyone's generosity and the positive response from our parish and the greater community. A couple monetary donations came from Portland and as far as Greece!

THANK YOU for answering the call, for coming together and for building a community by giving back to the community and to those in need. This collective support has an immediate impact for hundreds of Nourish customers and ensures three nourishing meals for food-insecure families.



THANK YOU to EVERYONE who helped

Anonymous
 Klaudia Cedeno
 Dr. Ingrid Chamales
 Evy Kontos
 Maria Koumantaros
 Debby Lord
 Zoe Matteson
 Despina Mavromichali
 Helen McClure
 Anthony Panagiotu
 Mary Pazeotopoulos
 Ed Winskill

Left to Right: Tony Panagiotu, AHEPA Olympic Chapter,
 Maria Koumantaros, DOP Icaria 175, Ed Winskill

What a meaningful way to celebrate our Chapter's birthday!
ICARIA #175 will be 74 years *young* on April 24th! **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Sisters!

Fenia Mavromichali, DOP Icaria #175 President
 Zoe Matteson, MOA Sparta #1 President

Sunday School

Sunday School News

Χριστός Ανέστη (Christos Anesti) ~ Christ is risen!

What a memorable journey to Pascha we had together with the children during the Sundays of Great Lent! A huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped cut, glue and coral children each week. I also want to thank our dedicated Church Office Secretary, Carol MartinOki, for all her help in making necessary copies for the children's lap books.

Our hope is that the children will keep these lap books, with their paper icons, Troparias, flip charts and more in a place where they can often return to help them remember, reflect and learn more about the Orthodox Christian's journey through Lent.

So What's Next?

Good News! Sunday School will continue from Pascha to Pentecost with children of all ages gathered together in the Upper Hall following Divine Liturgy. Just a reminder ~ children ages 4 and under must be accompanied by a parent.



Submitted by Sheila Auter

Philoptochos News

PHILOPTOCHOS

President's Message

The Philoptochos planned May-June activities are described below. Members continue to review our planned activities in light of the Covid restrictions and will try to schedule accordingly.

Ladies Spring Luncheon - We are planning for our famous luncheon and raffle this May (May 14, 2022), and tickets are selling quickly! We are planning this event carefully and thoughtfully. This gala event will include a Greek meal of pastichio, meatballs, dolmades, green salad and dessert buffet. Please contact the church office secretary, Carol, at 253-272-0466, for further information.

SAVE THE DATE-Greek Movie Night at the Grand Cinema - One of our members has reserved the date of Monday, June 6, for a Greek film event. Please put that on your calendar for viewing several short Greek movies, including subtitles, with an intermission. Look for more information soon!

Philoptochos Membership - Our year starts in January and runs through December. Annual membership renewal requests have been mailed to all current members. Please consider renewing your membership. We welcome new members as well. There is a lot of satisfaction in doing things for the common good and helping our church and the less fortunate among us.

Annual dues are \$30/year. Please contact the church office secretary if you would like the membership form.


Philoptochos Member Meetings - Member meetings are now being held in the lower hall of church. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, at 4-5:30 P.M. in the lower hall of church. If you would like more specific information about how to participate, please call the church secretary and she will ask a Philoptochos board member to contact you. 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 as we determine we can resume our activities safely.

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 Continuous Support!

Jane Evancho

Philoptochos News



*St. Nicholas
Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society
Cordially invites you to the
Annual Women's Tea and Luncheon
May 14, 2022*

Saturday at 11:30 a.m.

*Please contact **Hoddi Motz** or **Merrilee Pangis**
for more information.*

Tickets will be \$30.00 per person.

A luncheon and Dessert Buffet will be served.



Coffee Hour



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 MAY:

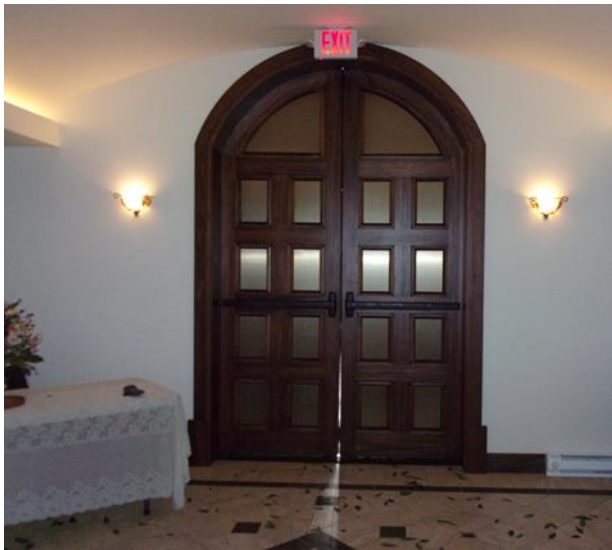
| | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 05/01/2022 | Team Karanasos |
| 05/08/2022 | Randy Sampson's Memorial |
| 05/15/2022 | Community Coffee Hour* |
| 05/22/2022 | Team Pres Sophia |
| 05/28/2022 | Memorial Day Luncheon |

***Community Coffee Hour:** Parishioners are encouraged to bring cookies, pastries, chips, etc. Just be aware that during fasting periods (Great Lent, Apostles, Panagia & Nativity) the items need to be vegan.

TEAMS:

- **Team Karanasos: Daphne Karanasos, Leader,** Anna Wilson, Christina Gretty, Zach Karanasos, Angie Wilen, Ann Koopman, John Kouklis, Pres Maria Armatas and Lisa Ishchenko
- **Team Johnson: Joseph Johnson, Leader,** Ronnie-Sue Johnson, Fenia Mavromichali, Barbara Phillips, Sandra Ciarochi, Yvonne Brandvold, Maro Kouklis and Yanni and Sophia Charitou
- **Team Chamales: Dr. Ingrid Chamales, Leader;** Karen Samaras, Marion Palas, Sally Hallis, Krysanthos Barnes, Rikky Kapes, Kathy Johnson and Sharon Kennedy
- **Team Pres Sophie: Pres Sophie Majmudar, Leader,** Evy Kontos, Irene Misiewicz, Gloria Brown, Deborah Talbot, Savina Frisk, Claudia Cedeno and Scott and Rachael Parrell
- **Men's Team: Ed Winskill, Leader,** Dr. Fred Ehret, Bill Samaras, John Cook Hugh Winskill, Andrew Phillips, Alex Misiewicz, and Dale Sokratis Frisk

Building Committee



THE DOOR TRIM IS UP; STILL WAITING ON FINAL TOUCHES

Casing at the new sets of exterior Narthex and interior Sanctuary doors were installed just before Holy Week. It's nice to finally be looking at finished-out wood trim instead of insulation batts. It was the special customization of the trim that took so long. Meanwhile, repairs and modifications at the interior set of Sanctuary doors will be taking place at the time of this writing, just after Pascha. Beyond that, there are still some project punch list and a few closeout issues to be taken care of with the architect and contractor.

Photos: Top left is the interior side of the new main entry Narthex doors during Pascha. Top right is the new Sanctuary set of doors, looking from the Sanctuary side. Bottom left is a close-up of a plinth block bottom trim piece at the Narthex door casing. Bottom right is the existing Lower Hall exterior door with new panic hardware installed, behind some of the new landscaping that was part of the Narthex Renovation project scope.



Cover Story Continued...

faith in Christ, he did order that the name of Jesus Christ be entered into the official pantheon of recognized gods throughout the Empire.

Ever since, it has been the tradition of the Church to dye eggs red, and in some Orthodox countries, to decorate them with much detail and beauty. The faithful, on Pascha, receive the blessed eggs, and then wish each other a joyous Resurrection, enjoying the contest of cracking eggs. Whoever has the egg without cracks is the winner.



Father Seraphim

Military Ministry News

It has become standard operating procedure that we begin this article by recognizing the newest addition to our Military, CIA, Law Enforcement photographic lineup. United States Air

Force Senior Airman Aubriana Butchko is a new member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. She arrived in April and visited our church for the first time with her mother, Pamela Poulos, who was visiting from Macon, GA. Aubriana is stationed at JBLM and serves as a C17 Globemaster maintenance journeyman performing maintenance on the large cargo jets that we often see flying overhead and landing at McChord Air Force Base. Not long ago she was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal for outstanding performance during Operation Allies Refuge, the evacuation of American and Afghani personnel from Kabul, Afghanistan. Her award citation reads as follows:



SrA Aubriana Butchko
Operation Allies
Refuge
United States Air Force
Assisted w/evac of
American & Afghani
personnel from Kabul.



“Senior Airman Aubriana R. Butchko distinguished herself by outstanding achievement as Aircraft Maintenance Journeyman....Airman Butchko was hand-selected to augment the squadron’s inundated Flying Crew Chief program as a mission essential airman in support of Operation Allies Refuge. She utilized her outstanding technical acumen to provide on-scene, ground, and in-flight maintenance support for 46 deployed C17A aircraft which guaranteed the success of the largest non-combatant evacuation operation in the history of the United States. Additionally, while under direct imminent threat of hostile enemy attack at Kabul International Airport, Airman Butchko expeditiously performed aircraft refueling operations and assisted overextended loadmasters with passenger control and medical support. Her efforts ensured the execution of 330 humanitarian airlift evacuations and the rescue of 124,000 U.S. and Afghan personnel. Finally, Airman Butchko tirelessly endeavored through extended duty hours between missions powering the generation of the final Joint Tactical Exfiltration missions. Her unyielding dedication and steadfast commitment to the mission propelled the rescue of the last remaining 800 personnel in country and concluded 20 years of U.S. military presence in Afghanistan. The distinctive accomplishments of Airman Butchko reflect great credit upon herself and the United States Air Force.”

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We are thrilled to welcome Aubriana to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and to the historical library of our Military Ministry. We would happily welcome any others that have yet to make themselves known and respectfully request that you do so at the earliest opportunity. Remember, these photos will be used to recognize your family members’ service and honor the sacrifices of our St. Nicholas parishioners during our Memorial Day and Veterans Day presentations. Please allow us to honor your family members’ contributions to the security and defense of our great country by simply **taking a photo of a family picture of them in uniform, and emailing it to gleafops@gmail.com**. May God always bless those who serve in the defense of freedom and the security of our great country, or their country of national origin.

Continued on next page....

Military Ministry News

May 15, 1942. Women's Army Auxilliary Corps (WAAC) established. With war looming, U.S. Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts introduced a bill for the creation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in May 1941. Having been a witness to the status of women in World War I, Rogers vowed that if American women served in support of the Army, they would do so with all the rights and benefits afforded to soldiers.

Spurred on by the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Congress approved the creation of WAAC on May 14, 1942. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the bill into law on May 15, and on May 16, Oveta Culp Hobby was sworn in as the first director. WAAC was established "for the purpose of making available to the national defense the knowledge, skill, and special training of women of the nation."

St. Nicholas has several parishioners and family members who served in the WAACs, the WASPs, and the MRs (Marine Reservists) during WWII. In time those organizations were retired and women were integrated into all the branches of the military as soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. This ministry is proud to recognize all of our parishioners' mothers, aunts, spouses, cousins, daughters, and nieces who've volunteered to serve, and we thank them for their sacrifice and service to our nation.



Marian Ciarochi
Women's Auxilliary
Army Corps
WWII
Anthony Ciarochi's
mother



T-5 Minnie Lee
Jameson
Women's Auxilliary
Army Corps
WWII
Diane Pirotis' aunt



Inez Reeves
Women's Army
Auxilliary Corps
WWII
Genevieve Eagle's
Mother



Angela Brown
Women's Air force
Service Pilots
(WASPs)
WWII
Peter Brown's mother



Ernest & Lois Denley
Both served in the U.S.M.C.
World War II
Ernest Denley was wounded in
combat in the Pacific Theatre.
Recipient/Purple Heart Medal
Deborah Talbot's aunt & uncle



Cassandra &
Tim Allen
United States Navy
MSGT(R) Joseph &
Ronnie-Sue's niece
and her husband



Staci Bouzinekis
U.S. Army
Kathy and Andy
Bouzinekis'
daughter



SrA Aubriana Butchko
Operation Allies
Refuge
United States Air Force
Assisted w/evac of
American & Afghani
personnel from Kabul.



Continued on next page....

Military Ministry News



Dr. Ingrid A. Chamales
United States Army
Cold War



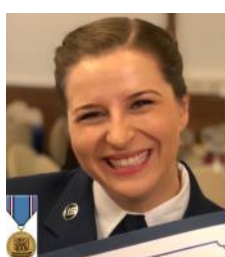
LTC(R) Jennifer Clark
United States Army
Jennifer is the recipient of the Legion of Merit



Sharon Denise Johnson
U.S. Marine Corps
MSG(R) Joseph Johnson's younger sister



Chief MSGT(R) Aphrodite Kafka
United States Air Force
CPO John Kafka's mother



SSG Ayrlee Rogers
United States Air Force
MAJ Jeff & Lexi Rogers' daughter



Shianne Taylor Soles
United States Navy
Killed in a non-combat incident while on active duty - May 2019
Genevieve Eagle's niece



SGT(R) Denise Stahl
United States Army
Cold War
SGT Rick Stahl's Wife



"Miss Mike" Michael Jane White
United States Air Force
Cold War



Sunday, May 29th, St. Nicholas will celebrate Memorial Day with a luncheon and presentation. Philoptochos and the Military Ministry will be hosting the event that is primarily intended to recognize and honor all who died while serving in the different military branches of the United States. During past Memorial Day events we have recognized *Denny Lagouraris (St. Nicholas parishioner)*, who was killed in 1944 during WWII during the battle of the bulge, while fighting the Germans, *CPL George Velias (St. Nicholas parishioner)*, who was killed in 1951 while fighting during the Korean War, *CPT Earl Rogers (Jeff Rogers' father)* who was killed in 1978 while flying a reconnaissance mission along the North/South Korean border, and *PFC Michael Mihalakis (Daphne's nephew)* who was killed in 2003 while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom, in Baghdad, Iraq.



Johnny Bennak & George Humphrey
U.S. Navy, **WWII**
Both Killed In Action on the USS Helena in July 1943 in the Pacific.
Recipients of the Purple Heart
Bennak is Deborah Talbot's uncle

This year's presentation will recognize the sacrifice of Johnny Bennak, Deborah Talbot's uncle, who served on the USS Helena and was killed in 1943 while fighting the Japanese in the Pacific. Please plan to attend Divine Liturgy and the Memorial Day luncheon in order to honor the sacrifice of these St. Nicholas parishioners and family members who died while serving our country.

Continued on next page....

Military Ministry News

The month of May has us recognizing the anniversary of the passing of PVT Panagiotis E. Apostolic, and James Carr, two veterans buried in the Greek section at the Old Tacoma Cemetery.

I never knew them personally. I don't know if Panagiotis Apostolic was a member of the church but I think it's a pretty safe assumption that he was. I have learned that James Carr was a long-time member, always had a joke to tell, helped a lot during the festival, and was "Koumbarro" with Mrs. Karanasos. Both Panagiotis and James are buried amongst our former parishioners and their service to our great nation deserves to be recognized.

I spent several hours going through the 75th Anniversary St. Nicholas book and found no reference to the Apostolic name. I found no reference to James Carr but I have learned from talking with Steve B., Sally H., and Marilee P., that James and his wife were very active members of St. Nicholas.

PVT Panagiotis E. Apostolic
U.S. Army Air Force,
52 Service Squadron
World War II

RIP: MAY 5, 1965



If anyone reading this article has additional information regarding their time in the service during World War II, would you please let me know? I would greatly appreciate learning more about them.

As was already mentioned, James was an active member of St. Nicholas and I would not be a bit surprised to learn that Panagiotis was as well. As

such they would have been loyal stewards giving generously of their time, talent and treasure, and had a hand in making our St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church the great place that it is today. We thank them for their service to our church and honor them for their service to our great nation.

**MAY THEIR
 MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

James Carr
United States
Navy
World War II

RIP: May 19, 2002



Contributed by Gus

Stewardship Ministry News

CHRIST IS RISEN!!!

SINCERE THANKS TO ALL that had a part in making the Palm Sunday and Pascha activities such a memorable and blessed time for all of us! We are truly blessed to have so many wonderful people that pitch in to make things happen by contributing their time, their talent, and their treasure. To Father Seraphim, everyone who helped with the different luncheons and to all those who participated.



**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR MAKING OUR ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH A MAGNIFICENT PLACE TO CELEBRATE PASCHA!
TRULY HE IS RISEN!!!**

Sunday School Ministry is May's Ministry of the Month. In our continuing effort to highlight a different ministry every month, this month we would like to recognize our Sunday School Ministry. The ministry director is Sheila/Monica A., and she is supported and assisted by Presbyteral Sophie. After a two year struggle with COVID we are returning to normal and our children of St. Nicholas are back in the classroom area. Sheila/Monica and Presbyteral Sophie have the children in one group learning together as one, and what a blessing it is to have so many in attendance. Classroom training has initially focused on the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as the children explore the Sundays of Great Lent. As time goes on they will learn about icons, Saints, prayers and traditions of the Orthodox church.

Every ministry plays an important role at our church. Nevertheless, I suggest that anything involving our expression of love or the education of our children should be considered a priority. The Sunday School Ministry touches both of those areas and we are blessed to have Sheila/Monica and Presbyteral Sophie leading the way at St. Nicholas, and setting an example for all to emulate.

Like all of our ministries, the Sunday School Ministry welcomes volunteers. Anyone interested in contributing their time and talent to the youth and future of St. Nicholas would be very greatly appreciated. Please reach out to Sheila/Monica at your earliest opportunity if you would like to assist.

Continued on next page....

Stewardship Ministry News



We all want the best for our children. We all want them to understand and love our Greek Orthodox faith and always consider St. Nicholas their home.

Recently I read the publication entitled **A 75 Year Journey through St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church**, a publication that was written by many parishioners. Father Anthony wrote the introduction for that publication and below is an excerpt from his writing that talks about the children of our church some 40-80 years ago. .

“Recently, while reading through some of the correspondence of the 40’s in the church records, I found an old despairing letter, in which someone was saying that we were losing our youth and that the church would close when the pioneers died. It is now nearing the eighties and the church is still here with many of those “lost” youths of the 40’s now worrying about losing their children. Let us have faith in our Lord, in our Church, and in our leaders. Let us meet the challenges of the future with the love of God, and He will sustain us.

Times do change, and the challenges of today are not those we had in yesteryears. Our society is increasingly mobile. Our children move. Many go on to higher education, find new horizons and leave, just as their pioneering fathers and grandfathers before them moved to this place in search for a new life. Wherever they may be, we hope they will always remember their little church of St. Nicholas in Tacoma, and take their places in the congregations of other cities. They will find our Church in America is one, just as we are with each other.

What the future does have in store for us depends largely on how much we put into it. With the presence today of the relics of St. Nicholas in Tacoma, we have bridged

Continued on next page....

Stewardship Ministry News

the centuries, and from this day forth joined new hands with St. Nicholas, the champion of faith and teacher of courage. Nothing should stand in our way. He, the Wonderworker, gave his all for Christ, and the Church. May his example, as an icon of gentleness, a teacher of temperance, and a canon of faith, be our new call for the future. May our Church and her Sacraments be at the center of our lives, just as they were in his."

Our children are the future of Orthodoxy in America and with our parish's talent and devotion, that future is bright.

St. Nicholas Festival Update!



Come on Mom
We gotta get to the
St. Nicholas Greek
Festival!!!!

Bill S. and the people of the festival committee are continuing their work on the planning and preparation for the 2022 St. Nicholas Greek Festival. At the time of this writing (which happened to be mid April), the long pole in the tent (no pun intended) is verifying whether or not a tent will be available, what size of a tent we will use, and what the cost of that tent will be. Hopefully by the time you are reading this article those issues will have been resolved, but ever since COVID it seems like everything takes more time. Nevertheless, with the persistence of Bill S. an answer will be obtained.

Evy K. has put together a baking plan that has most of the baking being done on Saturdays during the months of June, July, August, and September. If we get the support necessary we should be able to accomplish the reduced baking goals that have been established. If we do not get the support we require we will either purchase more product from commercial resources or eliminate items altogether. Neither of those are very good options so PLEASE plan to contribute your time and talent to our festival baking and participate in as many Saturdays as possible.

The festival committee has discussed at length what booths we think can be properly staffed and supported as part of the festival. One of our changes is that we are not planning to do the dining room dinners this year. That opens up space and the possibility that some booths that have traditionally been in the tent may be repositioned to the main dining area. That is still being

Continued on next page....

Stewardship Ministry News

discussed so if you have advice or suggestions related to that topic, please coordinate with Bill to participate in the next festival committee meeting and present your recommendation.

DUST OFF YOUR DANCING SHOES! Evy and Kelly will be teaching and instructing the young folks which is often the highlight of the festival! **George P., the Fred Astaire of Greek dancing,** we trust will assist with the somewhat senior “young” folks.

Below are the booths that are planned for the festival and the person/people that are in charge of coordinating booth requirements and recruiting their staff.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Dancing. Evy K. and Kelly R. | Gyros. Presbyteral Sophie |
| Calamari. Jim and Dina F. | Greek Fries. John and Jacob C. |
| Souvlaki. Chris B. and Rod A. (George P.) | Loukoumades. ? |
| Outside Bar. John K. | Monastery Items. The Vasilli/Chris P. families |
| Coffee Shop. ? | Greek Coffee. Alex M. & Dr. Fred |
| Hands of Love. Genevieve | Inside Bar. Ricky & Marlene A. and family |
| Ala Carte dolmades/tiropita/spanakopita. Tina Basil? | |
| Bakery (Planning for inside small dining room). ? | Set up & tear down. ? |
| Corporate Sponsors/Festival Program. Karen S. & Tony P. | |
| Book Store. Dr. Nick and Deborah M. | Nave visits. Fr. Seraphim and Zach. |

In summary, St. Nicholas parishioners and members of the surrounding community have many fond memories of the activities and events leading up to the festival. Baking prep is a lot of work but it is also a lot of fun, and there is great camaraderie to be gained. Friendships are strengthened and new friends are made. Stories about the “old days” are shared along with eternal memories of loved ones who are no longer with us but contributed so much. These are opportunities for all of us as stewards to give of our time and talent, and the festival is a remarkable opportunity to share our culture with our community. This will be our first festival in three years. With God’s help and your support, it will be a tremendous success.

STEWARDSHIP STATUS. Special thanks to all who have completed their stewardship cards and to all who have enrolled in auto payments through our web site. As our parish continues to grow your generous contributions of time, talent and treasure are what make St. Nicholas a wonderful place to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Your devotion to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church is greatly appreciated!

Submitted by: Gus



Stewardship List

Donations and or Stewardship Commitments as of April 19, 2022

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| William and Mary Acker • | Maria and Kosta Aggelidakis • |
| Leonidas and Despina Alatsis • | Patra Alatsis • |
| Sonny and Irene Angelos • | Richard and Marlene Angelus • |
| Tony and Lori Apostle • | Paul and Delores Apostle • |
| Andrew and Sheila Auter • | Tina Ayers • |
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| Tyler and Lexi Balser • | E. Anthe Barbas |
| Chrysanthe and SFC(R) Wiley Barnes | Harry and Sheri Basil • |
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| Ricardo Aaron Bottino • | Yvonne Brandvold • |
| Dora Brown | Gloria and Peter Brown • |
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Stewardship List

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•Stewardship Card on file

Bible Study

ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY – THE REVELATION

Elder Porphyrios: “We Ought Not to Fear the Antichrist or 666”



Monday, January 3, 2011

One day Elder Porphyrios had told me:

“Father Athanasios (taking me by the hand tightly), I’m blind now, my eyes do not work physically because I have cancer of the pituitary gland, but I have spiritual eyes and see. Before you leave, I want you to tell me, what did Elder Aimilianos say about 666 and the Antichrist?”

This was in the days of Chernobyl. People were upset by this and went by the dozens every day, particularly to Elder Porphyrios near Athens, asking, “What will happen? Will the Antichrist come and stamp us with 666?”

The Elder asked me, “Tell me, my child, what did Elder Aimilianos say about 666 and the Antichrist?”

I told him, “He told us in a gathering a few days ago to not worry. We should be interested in having a vibrant relationship with Christ and not give much attention to the Antichrist, because then he will become the center of our lives and not Christ.”

Immediately the Elder hit his hands against his bed and said, “What did you say, my child, what did you say?! Glory to You, O God, that I found a spiritual father who agrees with me! My child, these spiritual fathers here in the world, what have they done?! They have upset souls and created many problems psychologically and with families with the 666. People in the world cannot sleep and are taking psychiatric drugs and sleeping pills in order to sleep. What is this thing? Christ does not want these things, my child. And can I tell you something?”

“What Elder?” I said.

He told me, “For us Christians, when we experience Christ there is no Antichrist. Tell me something, on this bed I sit here, can you also sit on it?”

Bible Study

I said to him, "No, Elder."

He asked, "Why?"

I responded, "Because if I sit on you I will crush you."

He asked again, "Will you never be able to sit here?"

I said to him, "When you leave, Elder, I can sit."

He said to me, "Precisely, my child. The same happens with our souls. When we have Christ inside us, can the Antichrist come? Can anything opposite this enter our souls? For this reason, my child, today we do not have Christ within us and because of this we worry about the Antichrist."

When Christ is within us, everything becomes Paradise. Christ is everything, my child, and the Opposer we should not fear; this you should always tell people. And let me tell you something. If the same Antichrist came now with a device that shot laser beams and sealed me by force with 666, I would not be upset. You will tell me, 'Elder, is this not the seal of the Antichrist?' Yes, but even if he wrote 666 on me a thousand times with laser beams, indelibly, I would not be upset.

Why? Because, my child, the first martyrs they cast to the wild beasts, and when they did their cross the wild beasts became like lambs. They cast them in the sea, but when they did their cross the sea became like dry land and they walked on it. They cast them in the fire, but when they did their cross the fire was cooled. My blessed child, what have we become today? Do we believe in Christ? In our cross? Why did Christ come? Didn't Christ come to strengthen us in our weaknesses?

This is what you should say to the Elder, my child. And you should tell the people to not fear the Antichrist. We are children of Christ, we are children of the Church."

All this made quite an impression on me.

And he added, "Can I tell you something?"

I said, "Please, Elder."

"Patriarch Demetrios, how did he come to Athens?"

"With an aeroplane", I said.

"Well, yes, I know he came with an aeroplane. Did you think the man swam over? With what documents?"

"With a passport, Elder", I said.

"Greek or Turkish?"

"I don't know", I said.

"Well, you play the wise man. He came with a Turkish one. And what is the emblem of Turkey, you know?"

I said, "I don't know, Elder."

"Now you have overdone it, not knowing the emblem of Turkey? It is the crescent. And do you know what the Fathers of the Church called the crescent after the appearance of Muhammad?"

Bible Study

"No, Elder", I said.

Jokingly he said, "Well, I should take your degree and tear it up. What kind of a theologian are you? The crescent is a symbol of the Antichrist. If the crescent is a symbol of the Antichrist and the passport of the Patriarch has a symbol of the Antichrist (and in their seals, how many seals do they put inside and out?), does this mean our Patriarch is the Antichrist? No, my child, no! Do not restrict the Gospel message so much! Christ is not as narrow-minded as us people who want to defend our opinions.

This is what you should tell the Elder and this is what you should tell the people: We ought not to fear the Antichrist or 666."

Source: *Ανθολόγιο Συμβουλών Γέροντος Πορφυρίου σελ. 71, 72-75, δ' έκδ. 2003.*
Translated by John Sanidopoulos.

Father Seraphim:

This is a wonderful reminder from one of our modern saints to not get caught up in the happenings of this world, especially with the COVID pandemic. With the division it has created (especially within the Church), we are not getting to where St. Porphyrios is trying to lead us and that is to be filled with Christ. When our life starts to be depleted of monuments of joy such as Divine Liturgy, prayer, fellowship and the ministries – in their absence we become polarized, anxious and irritated. It's not as if these things disappear, they get crowded out because of worldly obsessions. We need to make Antichrist irrelevant or incidental to us because we are so full of the hope and joy of the Kingdom. We have control over this. We can choose to go to Divine Liturgy or choose to be part of a ministry (baking for Festival, arranging flowers, stand out on the sidewalk praying for an end to abortion, painting the Church, etc.). If we populate our week with these kinds of activities, there won't be interior psychological space to go to a darker place.

We can't become mesmerized through fear of the Antichrist because it can pull us down into a pit of despondency and despair. We need to fill our lives, instead, with Christ.

J.R.R. Tolkien in the Lord of the Rings: Two Towers – The Dead Marshes, for example, graphically shows how despair over the Antichrist can take over our lives:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R83vTGt0vg8>



Submitted by: Genevieve

ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY**ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY**

Over 30 parishes signed up to join in this year's National Orthodox Baby Shower. Each parish connected with local pregnancy resource centers (PRC) to find out their material needs for mothers in crisis pregnancies and then held drives for those items on the weekends surrounding the Feast of the Annunciation.

"Juxtaposed with the joyous news of the Annunciation and Mary's humble 'yes' to an unexpected pregnancy, many women who find out they are pregnant go into crisis mode," said Emily Wilkinson, Executive Director of Orthodox Christians for Life.

"They begin panicking and thinking they can't have a child, they don't have the resources to raise a child. But the pro-life movement is here to say, 'Yes you can, you are strong enough and we will support you.' By partnering with pregnancy resource centers, the Orthodox community can help transform a difficult circumstance into a profound blessing for these women."

PRC's around the country provide hundreds of millions of dollars in no-cost services each year, including pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, pregnancy and parenting classes, and material resources such as diapers, formula, baby clothes, and more. They rely on donations from local churches and individual supporters to distribute these items to women and families in need, playing a major role in preventing abortions.

Many of our St. Nicholas' parishioners donated hundreds of diapers and accessories, and outfits that were donated to Care Net of Puget Sound, Tacoma. The ladies at Care Net were so excited to take in these most needed items for their clients who are in need. One of the volunteers commented that after seeing the beautiful little outfits she wanted to have a baby!

ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY



Submitted by: Genevieve

ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

Ministry of Akathist, Prayers for the Departed

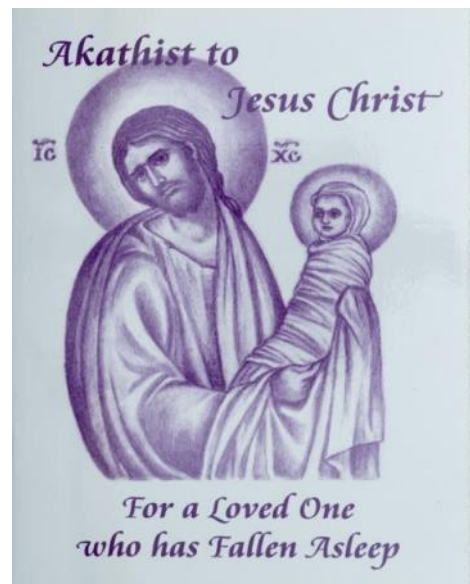


Thank you to all who are involved in this wonderful ministry at Saint Nicholas. In offering the gift of praying the Akathist to Jesus Christ for a Loved One who Has Fallen Asleep, it is a great comfort to family and friends of the departed ones.

When we offer these prayers for the newly departed, it also helps us in many ways. **May God bless your gift of prayer.**

If you are interested in knowing more about this ministry, or would like to be involved, please contact the church office.

Thank you again,
Kathy Rowley



PROSPHORA

PROVIDING PROSFORO

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

Despina Ampatzis brings the offering the first Sunday of every month.

James Horton brings the offering the second Sunday of every month.

Stephen Gorham brings the offering the third Sunday of every month.

We welcome you orthodox who are not on the baking rotation to bring the prospophora and/or artoklasia for an occasion you want to commemorate. The procedure would be to contact Father Seraphim and discuss it with him before the actual day, and to have the offering there in time. For a Sunday morning prospophora, in time would be 0830. For a vespers artoklasia, in time would be by the start of vespers.

Pictured at right is an offering at St. Nicholas Church as prepared before the Divine Liturgy, and pictured below is a prospophora seal from the monks of St. Anne's on Athos.



I am that Bread of Life (John 6:48).

Contemplate the Lord Jesus as the Bread of Life:

- As the Bread by which the soul is nourished and lives;
- As the Bread by which the mind is nourished and enlightened;
- As the Bread by which the heart is nourished and ennobled.

Our good and sweet Lord, stir up our souls that they may continually nourish themselves with Thee and remain alive. Thou art our Bread of Life.

—From *The Prologue of Ohrid* (February 28 entry)

PROSPHORA

LECHEM-ARTOS-BREAD

Following the Word Through Scripture



*“See, for instance, what befell Ruth, how like it is to the things which belong to us. For she was both of a strange race, and reduced to the utmost poverty, yet Boaz when he saw her neither despised her poverty nor abhorred her mean birth, as Christ having received the Church, being both an alien and in much poverty, took her to be partaker of the great blessings. But even as Ruth, if she had not before left her father, and renounced household and race, country and kindred, would not have attained unto this alliance; so the Church too, having forsaken the customs which men had received from their fathers, then, and not before, became lovely to the Bridegroom. Of this therefore the prophet discourses unto her, and saith, “Forget thy people, and thy father’s house, so shall the king have pleasure in thy beauty.” This Ruth did too, and because of this she became a mother of kings, even as the Church did likewise. For of her David himself sprung.” —St. John Chrysostom**

BOAZ AND RUTH
BIBLICAL ARCHEOLOGY SOCIETY ONLINE ARCHIVE

The Book of Ruth is only four pages long in the Orthodox Study Bible (OSB). It is a story of redemption that reads like a love letter. In a message to Jerusalem having to do with wholeness, joy, and safety, Zephaniah 3:17 reads (in some translations): *He will quiet you with His love.* That is how I felt upon reading the Book of Ruth; as though I were resting in the Mighty One.

Traditionally, Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi are believed to have lived during the time of the judges, the time recorded in the Book of Judges that we looked at the last two months. Naomi and her husband went from Bethlehem of Judah to Moab and stayed there about ten years. During this time Naomi’s husband died, and their two sons who had taken wives from Moab also died. After their deaths, Naomi arose to return to Bethlehem. Naomi’s daughter-in-law Ruth chose to go with her, thus forsaking her prior customs, per the quote above from St. John Chrysostom. Ruth 1:19 tells us that the whole city of Bethlehem *“shouted”* upon Naomi’s return. The footnotes in the OSB tell us that when Naomi arose to return, she arose from sin to return to the Father and receive His bread, with a reference to John 6:48, *“I am the Bread of Life.”*

*Ruth 1:6: Then she arose with her two daughters-in-law and returned from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord was watching over His people by giving them **bread/lechem/artos.***

Now Naomi and Ruth were poor. It was the time of the barley harvest, which would be around Passover or Pascha. Naomi had a wealthy relative whose name was Boaz. Ruth went to glean in his fields, following after the harvesters, in order to get food to sustain both women. Boaz noticed Ruth, inquired as to who she was, and then he fed her and protected her.

Continued next page...

PROSPHORA

*Ruth 2:14: Now Boaz said to her, "It is already time to eat. Come here and eat of the **bread/lechem/artos**, and dip your piece [of bread] in the vinegar." So Ruth sat beside the reapers, and Boaz made a pile of grain for her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back.*

Ruth gleaned in the fields belonging to Boaz until the end of the barley harvest and the wheat harvest. Then Naomi instructed Ruth what to do next. It is a very beautiful story. If you have an OSB, the study notes will help. In summary, Boaz as the kinsman redeemer is a type of Christ.

Boaz and Ruth had a child. The Book of Ruth tells us that Naomi, who had been left childless, took the child Obed and laid him on her bosom and became his nurse. It was the neighbors who named the child Obed, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi."

The book ends with a short genealogy: More than four hundred years before Ruth, Jacob's son Judah had twin sons by Tamar. One of the twins was named Perez. It was a descendent of Perez named Salmon who joined with Rahab—the woman of Jericho with the scarlet cord—and begot Boaz, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David; David became the King of Israel through whose line the Christ came to redeem all. You will find a prophecy of the coming Christ in chapter four of the Book of Ruth.

Bread in this book has to do with redemption, communion, and genuine love.

To be continued...

Deborah Talbot-

*The quote from St. John Chrysostom is from Homily III of *Homilies on the Gospel of Matthew*, which is on the genealogy in Matthew chapter one.

MODERN GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Modern Greek Language School / Class of 2022



Picture was taken on 2-17-2022

Modern Greek Language School / Classes:

The 2021 - 2022 Modern Greek Language Classes will continue to Jun. 30, 2022, every Thursday, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM.

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

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

Teacher - George Pirotis

Contact Church Office - 253-272-0466

Purpose: The purpose of the Greek School is to promote the Greek letters, language, culture, and Hellenic Civilization. **The classes are open to all parishioners.**

Students will learn Grammar, Modern Conversational Greek and some of the Biblical - Ancient Greek Terminology.

MODERN GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL

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

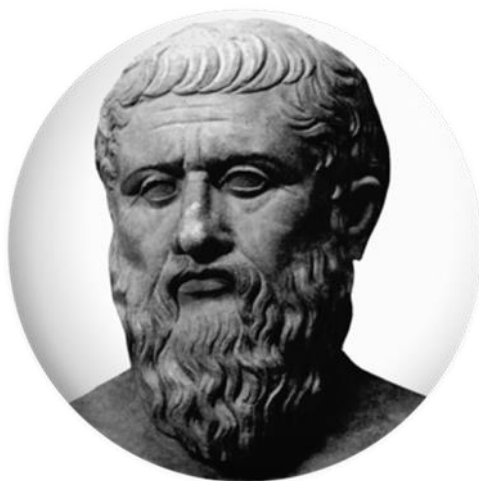
Yearly possible events and student involvement:

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

Sunday, March 26th, 2022 **Celebration, commemorating the March 25th, 1821 Revolution for the Greek Independence from the Ottoman Empire!** Sunday, October 29th - **OXI Day Celebration.**

Cost: **The classes are provided free of charge!**

George Pirotis-



Donations and Pledges

On line Donations now possible

ON-LINE DONATIONS

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



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

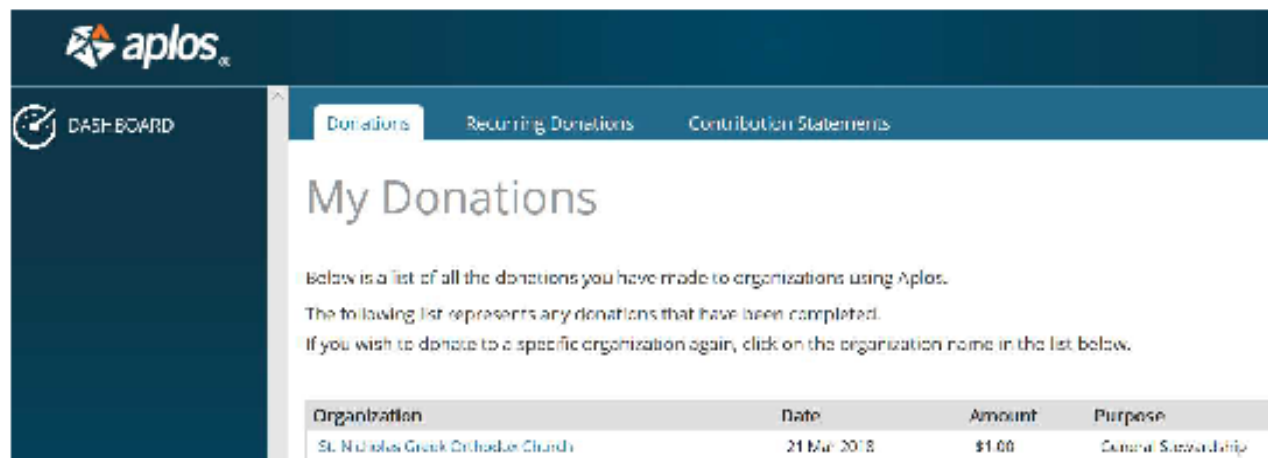
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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

In Christ,

Mark Robinson

On-Line Contribution Instructions:

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



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.

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

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| Name (F/MI/L) | DOB (m/d/y) | Orthodox |
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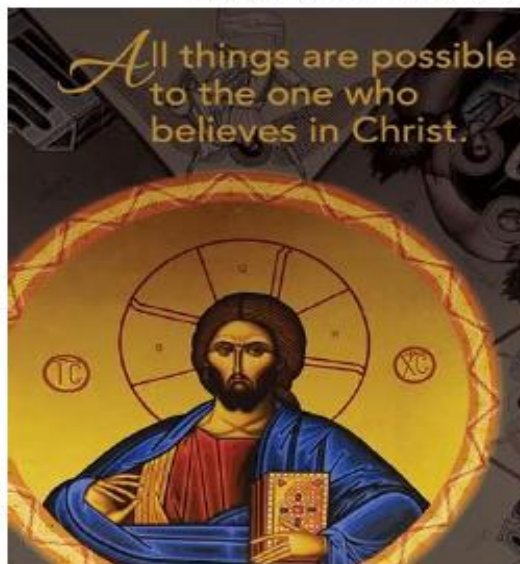
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2022 STEWARDSHIP CARD
ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
TACOMA, WASHINGTON



"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

"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.

2022 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 2022 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.....

Saint Nicholas Messenger

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Address Service Requested

