



## Thank You!

### THE MAJMUDAR FAMILY IS GRATEFUL

As most of you know, recent months have been uniquely challenging for the Majmudar family. Presbytera’s mother, Judith, has declined significantly, as her cancer has worsened. Just as that was happening, we learned that Prez’s father, Kit, lost his beloved home of 40-plus years in the Santa Cruz “CZU” fire. Those two very difficult developments came on the heels of learning that Harbor Heights Elementary would not be holding in-person classes, so we were now looking at the daunting task of homeschooling while trying to be there for Nana & Grandpa—and all of this as I try to maintain a meaningful application of my priestly ministry as the pastor of St Nicholas. Brigid’s wonderful engagement to Colm Maines happened right in the middle of all of this, bringing us much joy but also the challenge of celebrating it amidst the sorrows.

### Here’s what we have learned:

- You guys are awesome! The prayerful, hands on support we have received from you all at St Nicholas has been unbelievable.
- We, along with all of our California family and Orthodox brethren there, are one family. It is “one mouth and one heart” as we say in the Liturgy. We find each other most directly in the Eucharistic gathering of the Liturgy, and only secondarily in geographic proximity.
- Everything—sorrows and joys together—falls under the glorious and hidden light of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. There is no such thing as “Church stuff” vs “family & life stuff”...it is all “One stuff”.
- We need each other, and the more difficulties we endure, the more powerful our bond in Christ becomes. Adversity forges unity.

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As of this writing, Judith “Nana” is entering what is likely her final days on this earth. It is difficult to describe the astonishing outpouring of grace we have experienced as a family, and especially that most precious and golden time we had with her when we traveled to Santa Cruz last week. Returning felt not like the conclusion to that outpouring of grace, but rather the continuation of it—and rightly so, because there is only one Christ and one Body.

Thank you so much for your love and prayers...this is not a time of sorrow, but of triumph in the power of Christ’s Crucifixion and Resurrection. His Kingdom is everything!

With love in Christ,  
Fr Seraphim

*Cover Story continued on page 30*

## How to Return to Church

See article on page 5

# 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



## 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)

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

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*Saint Nicholas Messenger* is published monthly on the last Sunday of the month. Contributors are encouraged to submit content by the 15th of each month to allow for timely compilation. *Saint Nicholas Messenger* is published in electronic format to the St. Nicholas web page [www.stnicholastacoma.org](http://www.stnicholastacoma.org), and in print for pickup at the parish on Sundays on or after the last Sunday of the month. Physical mailings are limited to shut-ins and special needs parishioners.

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**  
LTC Gus Chamales

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

**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

November parish council meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month.  
November 10, 2020

November 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 David of Evia 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-12:30pm Schema Charuhafas 1 yr memorial	2 Eric, Bishop of Slane, Ireland 8:30am-7:30am Orthros w/ blessing of waters 8:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	3 Aleksimias & Martyrs of Persia 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 9:30am-10:30am Viscariate Koinonia Group for Clergy 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	4 Ioannikios the Great STRICT FAST 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis 8:00pm-9:00pm Catechism: Genesis (Videoconf)	5 Galaktion & Epistimi 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek (Zoom)	6 Paul the Confessor STRICT FAST 5:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: St Raphael of Brooklyn 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: St Raphael	7 Raphael of Brooklyn 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers
8 Synaxis of the Holy Angels 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm-1:00pm Vespers: St Nektarios	9 Nektarios of Pentapolis 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 7:30am-8:30am Akathist to St Nektarios 8:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	10 Erastus & Companions of the 70 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-10:00pm Parish Council	11 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Great Martyr Menas 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 8:00pm-9:00pm Catechism: Genesis (Videoconf)	12 John the hairy John the Merciful, Abp Alexandria 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek (Zoom) 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: St John Chrysostom & St John the Merciful 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: St. John & St. John	13 Fast: Wine & Oil John Chrysostom 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	14 Apostle Philip Gregory Palamas 8:00am-9:00am Orthros 9:00am-10:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers
15 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy Martyr Habib 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	16 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy Apostle Matthew 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 8:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	17 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy Gregory the Wonderworker 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	18 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy Plato of Ankyra STRICT FAST 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis	19 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy Prophet Obadiah 6:00pm-7:00pm Modern Greek (Zoom)	20 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy Prefeast of Entrance of Theotokos in the Temple 5:30am-7:30am Orthros 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: Entrance of Theotokos 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: Entrance of Theotokos	21 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN THE TEMPLE 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers 7:45pm-8:45pm Laketa Family Shara
22 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy Sakovios of Evia 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	23 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy Amphilochios of Iconium 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 8:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	24 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy Clement of Rome 10:00am-11:00am Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers: St Katherine 7:45pm-8:45pm Evening Liturgy: St. Katherine	25 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy Fast: Wine & Oil ok Great Martyr Katherine 7:00pm-8:00pm Paraklesis	26 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy THANKSGIVING 9:00am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	27 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy James of Persia STRICT FAST	28 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy Oda of Brabant, Blind Princess of Scotland 7:00pm-8:00pm Vespers
29 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy St. Iulianus of Jassich's Wall 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm-1:00pm Vespers: St. Andrew	30 Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy Apostle Andrew 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 8:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	<b>Notes:</b>				

## News and Announcements

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Save the Date:** November 15, 2020 at 2:30pm, Virtual General Assembly - in order to nominate the 2021 Parish Council new members, new Vitos Scholarship Committee members, Elections Committee and Auditing Committee members.

George Pirotis-

### Baklava Sales

Many of you know that we are selling phyllo and nuts that we purchased for making baklava before the State's Covid-19 restrictions prevented us from doing so. We are also selling phyllo and nuts as kits or in bulk. If you want to purchase those items contact **Joseph Johnson at either (360) 941-9972 or [sgtjcj@msm.com](mailto:sgtjcj@msm.com)** to coordinate for payment and pickup. Please see more about this in Gus's Steward-

### 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.

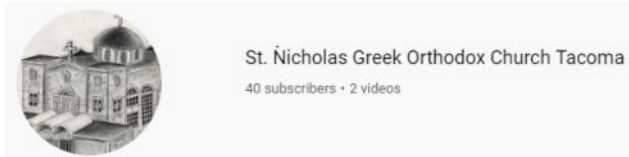
Live TV Streaming of church services continues. If you are unable to attend services in person, you can participate by watching most services live at home. See instructions below.

### 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.

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

Bill Samaras—

## Building Committee



### **NARTHEX RENOVATION MOBILIZATION AND BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

At the time of this writing ground breaking for the Narthex Renovation is still over 6 months out with a May 10th, 2021 start, but the church has been in mobilization mode since a near-consensus approval to proceed with construction in August was obtained via a virtual General Assembly. It is a luxury to have this generous amount of time beforehand to coordinate, procure and plan ahead for a project that will have just over four months to be substantially complete once field construction actually gets under way.

A formal contract and its various details on the Narthex Renovation have been worked out and is ready to be signed between the church and contractor. Currently, proper insurance coverages are being obtained from the contractor, as was stipulated in the bidding documents and contract provisions. Once certificates from the contractor are forwarded to our church insurance provider and approved, the contract will become official.

Demetriou Architects and Rush Commercial Construction, the project architect and general contractor respectively, continue to be proactive team players, which is reassuring for a project that will require close communication and coordination throughout.

So far, samples of the brick to be used on the Narthex that match the Sanctuary masonry have been submitted by the contractor, approved by the architect, and is now on order. This is a good thing as we have been advised by the supplier to allow a good 5 months to procure.

*Continued next page...*

## Building Committee

*Continued from page 7*

Another long lead item are two custom sets of oversized doors; one at the new Narthex main entrance, and another inside that leads to the Sanctuary. Thanks to a visit by Dr. Nich to the Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Yakima, where he was impressed by some ornamental doors recently installed there, we will likely be changing proposed door fabricators for the Narthex Renovation to a better product at no additional cost. While the appearance and detailing of both sets of doors will remain as designed, the exterior doors would be changed from wood to heavy gage metal with rigid insulation and thermal breaks in them, offering for better security, a greater thermal value, longer lasting durability to the outdoor elements, and being much less likely to warp over a long period of time.

We are still fine tuning details with the contractor of how to provide a smooth transition plan when construction starts in May of next year, coordinating specifics of keeping the main floor area of the church accessible during non-working hours while the Narthex is being demolished and replaced, and protecting from weather and break-ins; also of when and how long Father Seraphim will be required to relocate and work in a temporary office.

Beyond the upcoming Narthex project, there was a roof leak over the Kitchen area, plus roofing on a small canopy that leads into the Dining Hall from the parking lot was nearly blown off in a recent rain storm. A special thanks to John Pangis who arranged to have a local contractor replace dry rot at the canopy and then re-roof, plus he also mastic'd suspicious roof leak spots over the Kitchen which seems to have solved the problem for now.

John also provided a quick-fix repair to a semi-trailer storage in the church parking lot that was recently broken into. Fortunately, the trailer was not trashed, and all that was taken were some power extension cords.

Building Committee tasks that will likely be coming up within the next 12 months are:

- Installing some lattice and/or other screening onto the parking lot semi-trailer storage, with the intent to lessen a mild eye sore image it currently presents.
- Filling in floor recesses where Sanctuary pews are placed, and then re-flooring. This was previously proposed to the Parish Council, but deferred due to other pressing priorities.
- Security upgrades within the church building, which are currently being developed by a separate committee to eventually be proposed to the Parish Council.

Some or most of the above could possibly be incorporated into the Narthex Renovation project as change orders when work takes place during the summer of 2021 if proposed costs by the contractor are deemed reasonable and competitive.

*Contributed by: Bill Acker*

# Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

**Just a quick reminder**, we are seeking pictures of family members who served in either the armed forces of the United States or the armed forces of the homeland from which they originated. We would also like pictures of family members who served in either the Office of Strategic Services, the Central Intelligence Agency, or any branch of law enforcement. PLEASE snap a photo of their picture and email it along with their name and relationship to you, to [gleafops@gmail.com](mailto:gleafops@gmail.com). We will use their photos to honor these outstanding men and women during video presentations on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and throughout the year in these Messenger articles. **HELP US TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED!**



This month we have two new additions! The first is U.S. Air Force Major (Retired) Bill Koukourikos! Bill served twenty years in the United States Air Force in a variety of positions. He was a B-52 pilot and flew multiple combat missions during Operation Desert Storm for which he was awarded the Air Force Air Medal for Valor. He subsequently served as a Combat Planner during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Bill was a USAF Test Pilot School Instructor and a Flight Safety Mishap Investigator. He currently is a First Officer Pilot for Southwest Airlines but more importantly, **he is Stavros Frisk's Godfather!** **THANK YOU BILL FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY!**



**MAJ(R) Bill Koukourikos**  
**U.S. Air Force**  
*Opns Desert Shield/ Storm, Iraqi Freedom & Enduring Freedom*  
**Recipient of Air Medal for Valor as a B-52 Pilot in Desert Storm**  
**Godfather to Stavros Frisk**

Our second new photo is a former member of the Royal Hellenic Army. Efthimios G. Pirotis served in the Greek Army for two years from 1972 to 1974. He served as a sniper in the 5th Moira Special Forces and a graduate of the Royal Hellenic Paratrooper School. Additionally, he served at Nea Peramo (Megalo Pefko) which is the home of the Hellenic Special Forces Training Center. After his tour of duty was over he moved to Canada where he raised his family and lived for over 30 years. He has three children, two sons and a daughter, and all three serve as law enforcement officers with the Athens police. Efthimios G. Pirotis is George Pirotis' cousin.



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



**November 1, 1955. Beginning of the Vietnam War.** The Vietnam War was a long, costly and divisive conflict in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from 1 November 1955 to the fall of Saigon on 30 April 1975. It pitted the communist government of North Vietnam against South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States of America. The conflict was intensified by the ongoing Cold War between the United



# Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

and the Soviet Union. Over 58,000 Americans were killed in the Vietnam War. Opposition to the war in the United States bitterly divided Americans, even after President Richard Nixon ordered the withdrawal of U.S. forces in 1973.

Many Americans served in the military during that twenty year period and deployed in support of combat operations. As Americans turned against the war some disgracefully turned against the military men and women who had either enlisted or were drafted. The vast majority of these men and women served their country honorably and this ministry is proud to recognize those who were family members of St. Nicholas parishioners, and are eternally grateful for their service.



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



**COL(R) Leon Spirito**  
U.S. Army  
*WWII, Korea & Vietnam*  
**Recipient of the Bronze Star for Valor w/3olc's & Purple Heart w/2olc's!**  
Anthony Ciarochi's  
uncle

# Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

**November 8. Feast Day for the ARCHANGELS MICHAEL and GABRIEL** On this day the Archangels Michael and Gabriel are celebrated in the Eastern Orthodox Church. The Eastern Orthodox accord Michael the title Archistrategos, or “Supreme Commander of the Heavenly Hosts.” ARCHANGELS are messengers of great and wondrous tidings. They reveal prophecies and mysteries of the faith. They enlighten people to know and understand the will of God, they spread faith in God among the people, illuminating their minds with the light of the Holy Gospel.



Concerning angels, Saint John of Damascus writes: “God is Himself the Maker and Creator of the angels; for He brought them out of nothing into being, and created them after His own image.

The ARCHANGEL Michael is mentioned in a number of Eastern Orthodox hymns and prayers, and his icons are widely used within Eastern Orthodox churches, including our own St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. In many Eastern Orthodox icons, Christ is accompanied by a number of angels, Michael being a predominant figure among them.

Many organizations recognize Saint Michael as their patron saint. In the United States Armed Forces, St. Michael is the Patron Saint for the United States Air Force, and he is also the Patron Saint for members of the United States Army Airborne (Paratroopers) soldiers.

## November 10, 1775. Birthday of the United States Marine Corps.



KATHY'S SON



CHRISANN'S DAD



DELORES' DAD



HELEN'S DAD



VONNIE'S HUSBAND



ROXANNE'S UNCLE



STEVE'S DAD

## UNITED STATES MARINE CORP FAMILY MEMBERS OF SAINT NICHOLAS PARISHIONERS



GUS' COUSIN



KATHLEEN'S HUSBAND



FRAN'S BROTHER



ROGERS BRO'S G.DAD



JOSEPH'S SISTER



INGRID/GUS' SON

# Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

**November 11: VETERANS DAY!** On the Sunday closest to Veterans Day our St. Nicholas Military Ministry with the much appreciated support from Philoptochos traditionally hosts a luncheon, and provides a presentation that focuses on a few of our veterans. Because last year's presentation was on November 10th, the Birthday of the United States Marine Corps, we recognized our Marines and the Marine family members of our parishioners.



This Veterans Day there will be no luncheon or presentation due to our State's COVID restrictions, but that shouldn't keep us from honoring the many veterans with ties to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

Since this ministry began it has grown in its scope. In addition to writing a monthly article for the Messenger, we began asking for photographs all the veterans related to our parishioners. Their pictures have become part of the rotating video display that runs during the Veterans Day luncheon prior to the presentation. The collection of photographs continues to grow and we are now up to 140 photographs of different Military Veterans/CIA/Law /Enforcement personnel. Below are some interesting statistics of the remarkable men and women who served their country with honor and distinction, and are connected to our St. Nicholas Church.

## BRANCHES OF THE SERVICE

Army: 62                      Air Force: 21                      Navy: 25                      Marine Corps: 12                      Coast Guard: 1  
Merchant Marine Veterans: 1                      OSS/CIA: 2

## WOMEN VETERANS

Army: 8    Air Force: 1    Women's Air Service Pilots (WWII): 1    Women's Army Auxiliary (WWII): 3

## ALLIED MILITARY VETERANS

Royal Hellenic Army: 12    Royal Hellenic Air Force: 1                      Royal Norwegian Navy: 1

## WAR SERVICE

Revolutionary War: 1                      War for Crete Independence: 1                      Greco/Turkish War: 1  
Spanish American War: 1                      World War I: 6                      World War II: 38  
Korean War: 15                      Viet Nam War: 11                      Cold War: 44  
Desert Storm: 5    Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom: 13

## DISTINGUISHED AWARDS

Distinguished Flying Cross: 3                      Silver Star: 2                      Bronze Star: 13    Purple Heart: 8  
Legion of Merit/Hellenic Order of the Phoenix w/Gold Cross: 5/1  
Defense Meritorious Service Medal: 1

**Killed in Action or while on active duty: 7**

**Continued next page**

## Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

### **INTERESTING TIDBITS ABOUT SOME OUR VETERANS.**

Richard Motz's relative served with the Pennsylvania Militia during the Revolutionary War.

John & Mary Kouklis' great grandfather fought heroically in the Crete War for Independence. There is a street named for him in Chania, Crete. The sign has his name and below it reads: "HERO OF THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE."

Father Daniel and Roxanne's grandfather was awarded the Silver Star Citation for service in WWI.

Steve Buldis' father fought in both the Greek and American Armies during WWI, and his unit was decorated by France for its exceptional accomplishments in battle.

Mary Leonard's grandfather was a physician in the Greek Army. He was killed in the opening days of the war when the Italian Army invaded Greece.

Chrysanthe Barne's father fought the Italians and was a prisoner of war of the Albanians during WWII. Her brother served in the Greek Air Force and Retired as a Major General.

Two family members of one of our parishioners served during WWII in the famed 5307th Composite Unit, more famously known as Merrill's Marauders. The 5307th Composite Unit was just this month, October 2020, awarded the Congressional Medal of Freedom for their war time service. Their medal will be displayed in the Smithsonian.

One former parishioner, Angelos Chatas, was a Navy underwater demolitions expert (Frogman). After the war he was decorated by the country of France for setting charges to clear obstacles on the beaches of Normandy, prior to the invasion landing.

Ingrid's father was a gunner on a Norwegian Navy PT Boat. The boat and crew were tasked with providing security for the D-Day fleet during WWII.

Peter Brown's mother flew bombers across the Atlantic Ocean to England while serving as a Women's Air Service Pilot (WASP). WASPs shuttled aircraft from the U.S. across the Atlantic to England in order to free up male pilots to fly the airplanes in the air war against Germany.

Diane Pirotis' father flew with the famous Flying Tigers in the China/Burma/India Theatre. He was twice awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for valorous action during the war. Her grandmother had twelve children, eight of whom served in the military during WWII. She became a Gold Star Mother after one of her son's was killed.

Mary Koumantaros' father was a 50 caliber side gunner on a Navy PB4Y-4 in the Pacific. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and multiple Air Medals for heroism in battle. After one combat mission when his plane was badly shot up and its pilot was wounded, he helped fly the aircraft back to its base.

John Pangis' father was an artilleryman in Italy during WWII and was wounded in the Italian Campaign.

Greg Pantelis' father was a Navy corpsman and fought with the Marines on the island of Iwo Jima in the Pacific.

Vonnie Brandvold's father served on General MacArthur's staff in the Pacific during WWII.

## Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

Deborah Talbot's father served in the United States Navy on the USS Lexington, the second famous aircraft carrier of the same name to serve in combat operations while fighting the Japanese in the Pacific. Deborah Talbot's uncle also served in the United States Navy. He was killed while serving on the USS Helena when it was sunk by the Japanese.

Helen McClure's father was a Marine and fought on the island of Guadalcanal in the Pacific during WWII.

Fran Hall's brother was a Navy corpsman and fought with the Marines during the famous siege of Khe Sahn, during the Vietnam War.

David Orriss' father commanded the Navy Minesweeper, USS Impervious. That ship participated in clearing mines from Haiphong Harbor as part of the peace agreement after the war.

Mary Koumantaros' husband was a cavalry officer in the Royal Hellenic Army. He also served in the Royal Palace Guard of Greece.

Stavros Frisk's godfather, Bill Koukourikos, flew B-52 combat missions during Operation Desert Storm and was decorated for valor in combat.

One parishioner was an armored reconnaissance officer and conducted reconnaissance operations inside Iraq prior to the ground war during Operation Desert Storm. He was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor during an attack on a large Iraqi base near the Rummalah Oil Refinery.

Anthony Ciarochi's uncle served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. He earned four Bronze Star Medals for Valor, and three Purple Heart Medals for wounds received in combat.

Joseph and Ronnie-Sue Johnson's family has eight veterans spanning service from the Spanish American War, to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

John Kafka is a nuclear submariner.

George Pirotis' brother and cousin both served in the Special Forces for the Royal Hellenic Army.

These are just some of the remarkable exploits and accomplishments of our parishioners and their family members while in service to our nation, or in service to their European homeland. We owe them all a debt of gratitude that we can never repay.

**November 19, 1951.** Corporal George Velias was a parishioner at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox when the Korean War began. He volunteered for the Army and was assigned to the famous 1st Cavalry Division. He fought through most of the war as an infantryman before being killed in battle. Sixty four men were killed in his Company. He was the last man killed in action just ten days before the 1st Cavalry Division was pulled out of the front lines, and sent to Japan as the Pacific Theatre Reserve.



**Remember our Heroes!**

**CPL George Velias**  
**U.S. Army, Korean War**

**Killed in Action**

**November 19, 1951.**

**Recipient of the Purple Heart.**

Killed less than 10 days before his unit was pulled out of the front.

There were 64 men killed in his unit,  
 K Co, 3-7 Cavalry.

George Velias was the last man to die.

**MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

# Stewardship Ministry



**Stewardship...**  
...what you do with **ALL**  
the gifts God gave you

## TIME AND TALENT

November is now upon us and the holiday period is right around the corner. Traditionally, November is a very busy time for every-

one. In addition to Thanksgiving and preparations for the Christmas season, it is also a time when the weather is changing, the leaves are falling, and there is a lot of cleanup outside that needs to occur. It is also a great time to tithe some of your time and talent with which the good Lord has blessed you to help our church.



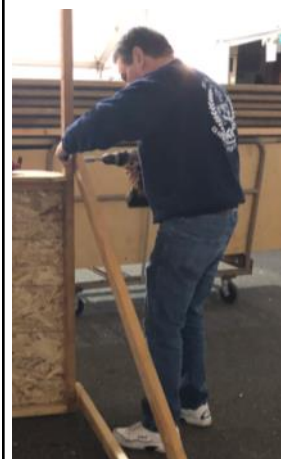
## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Last year about this time, Genevieve Eagle asked for volunteers to form a team of people that would be willing to assist with some of the yard maintenance tasks around the church. A small number of people offered to assist, but we need more help! Last year a couple of people raked the leaves on Yakima and 16th Street at the end of the leaf season and it took about eight hours and three truck loads to the dump. This year we are planning to rake the leaves every couple of weeks to shorten the time commitment. The 22nd of October was our most recent leaf gathering day and another is scheduled for 1100 hrs on Thursday, the 5th of November. It will be a great opportunity for anyone wishing to tithe some of their time and contribute to St. Nicholas by joining Genevieve's cleanup crew. Please call Genevieve at (253) 359-0455, or email her at [goobahoo@gmail.com](mailto:goobahoo@gmail.com) if you are able to participate. It shouldn't take more than two hours to complete, and your participation will be GREATLY APPRECIATED!



John Pangis and Rich HeideI have for many years been mowing the grass and doing many of the maintenance tasks inside and outside of the church. I know this may come as a shock to many but believe it or not, John and Rich are not getting any younger! At last year's festival these two fellas worked so hard that both sustained or aggravated injuries that still plague them to this day. We need some younger and more vigorous folks

to step in and assume some of these tasks! If you are physically able, would you please consider tithing some of your time and talent during the summer and fall by mowing our church lot at the corner of 16th and Yakima? Additionally, if you have any basic plumbing or electrical skills, or just some basic handyman skill in general, your talents would be very helpful around our church. Please step forward and get involved by calling John at (253) 590-6961, or email him at [jpangis@harbornet.com](mailto:jpangis@harbornet.com). St. Nicholas church needs your help!



## Stewardship Ministry

### HANDS OF LOVE!



**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church has many different ministries** with very generous people and remarkable talent. Hands of Love is one of these ministries and it certainly ranks high on the talent and generosity scales.

Hands of love is a group of parishioners (Genevieve Eagle, Krisann Firth, Marilee Pangis, Kathleen Heidel, Jane Evancho, Sally Hallis, and Ingrid Chamales) who mostly work individually but occasionally they also get together as a group. They use their God given talents to knit, crochet, or sew a variety of garments and donate the monies collected from their efforts to Saint Nicholas. In addition to having a separate booth during our Greek festival, they occasionally sell their wares at different times during the year at a Hands

of Love Ministry table inside our church. Krisann Firth has been sewing and selling masks that are for sale in the Narthex, Genevieve has been knitting and selling stockings for people who visited their table during last year's festival, and Kathleen has been knitting the scarves displayed in the picture shown to the right. Under normal conditions these women would try to meet twice a month, have a show and tell of the items on which they had been working, and exchange ideas about future projects that would be beneficial for St. Nicholas. Now that COVID has changed things for most people, their meetings have been more through facetime, and soon they will also be through Zoom.



You don't have to be a master knitter, an expert at crochet, or a professional seamstress to be a part of this group! Any beginner with a desire to learn any of these skills, or any novice who already possesses them would be eagerly welcomed into the group! If you are relatively new to St. Nicholas and looking for a relaxed social opportunity to become better acquainted with other parishioners, or if you are someone who because of COVID now has more time to devote to these skills and would like to do it with others who share your interest, please consider joining their group! Regardless of whether the meeting is in person or via Facetime or Zoom, the social opportunity is very relaxed and friendly, and you'll be welcomed with open arms and smiling faces!

We are truly blessed to have the Hands of Love participants as members of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and we sincerely appreciate all that they contribute toward our effort to do God's work! If you are interested in joining this outstanding Ministry please contact Marilee Pangis at (253) 376-4382 or email her at pangis.marilee@gmail.com. She will be happy to tell you about the group's ongoing projects and their plans for their next get-together. Please call and learn exactly what the group is about and enjoy an opportunity to cultivate relationships with some of the wonderful people at St. Nicholas, and an opportunity to tithe some of your remarkable time and talent. **Doxa to Theo!**

# Stewardship Ministry News

**The Tithe**

**MALACHI 3:10**  
 BRING THE WHOLE TITHE INTO THE STOREHOUSE, THAT THERE MAY BE FOOD IN MY HOUSE. TEST ME IN THIS," SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY, "AND SEE IF I WILL NOT THROW OPEN THE FLOODGATES OF HEAVEN AND POUR OUT SO MUCH BLESSING THAT YOU WILL NOT HAVE ROOM ENOUGH FOR IT.

## TREASURE

**Tithing Is The Right Answer (not just in the Old Testament)**

**"Stewardship is recommended to be ten percent (10%) of one's annual income as stated in Holy Scripture to help meet the financial obligations of the Parish, the Metropolis and the Archdiocese"**

Uniform Parish Regulations Article 18, Section 1 of the Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

**Project 2020.** Thanks to the enthusiastic General Assembly vote, we are well on our way toward finalizing the details of Project 2020! Bill Acker, George Pirotis, and Mark Robinson have been busy working with attorneys conducting legal reviews, signing contracts, coordinating for insurance, and making sure that everything is in order and ready to begin construction next year. We are so appreciative for their long hours of hard work, and we all should be extremely grateful for the work of everyone, from the Project 2020 Committee, to the parishioners that fulfilled their pledges. There are still some minor administrative matters to complete, and some outstanding pledges remaining, but once they are fulfilled we will enter the next phase of Project 2020, the preparation for construction. Please do your best to complete your outstanding pledge and help us continue toward our goal of a new Narthex. **DOXA TO THEO!**

**Festival Contributions.** Last month's article failed to give proper recognition to the great festival we all enjoyed in October of 2019. It was our most profitable festival ever— so here is an opportunity to take a moment, and stroll down memory lane with pictures from that event.



**God bless Miss Ely!**



*Continued on next page ....*



# Stewardship Ministry News



Continued on  
Next  
page....

# Stewardship Ministry News



If you read last month’s Messenger, then you know the Festival Committee is still trying to raise money by selling nuts and phyllo to anyone planning to prepare baklava over the holidays. Additionally, last month our festival committee suggested that in the absence of a festival we ask our parishioners to contribute to our festival fund in an effort to keep our fund growing. Our parishioners were asked to contribute an amount of money comparable to what they would have spent if our festival had occurred. This is a fund raising measure occurring throughout our Metropolis, and in fact, it is a fund raising measure that churches and organizations all around the country are already implementing. Many people have stepped forward to contribute, and because of their generosity, we have already raised over \$1000.00! If you haven’t already contributed won’t you please consider doing so? Any amount you contribute helps build our fund for future use, and will be greatly appreciated!

The Festival Committee would like to express their sincere appreciation to the following who have responded to our request to keep the spirit of the Festival alive, and have generously contributed. ***THANK YOU SO MUCH for contributing to the St. Nicholas Festival Fund!***

- |  |                                 |                        |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Jayne Berglund                                 | Dr. I.A. & LTC(R) C.G. Chamales | Genevieve Eagle        |
| The women of Hands of Love Ministry            | Zach & Daphne Karanasos         | Christina Leinneweber  |
| Mary Leonard                                   | Carol MartinOki                 | Sarah McInnis          |
| Kristin Nebiker                                | John & Merrilee Pangis          | George & Diane Pirotis |
| The women of St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society |                                 | Bill & Karen Samaras   |
| Charles Tomaras                                | Kalitsa & John Xitco            |                        |

**2021 Stewardship Pledges are due.** For the last couple months we have been addressing the need for those parishioners who have not already enrolled in an automatic payment plan to kindly print and complete a 2021 Stewardship Pledge Card (One can be found at the end of this article). Our 2021 Stewardship Pledge Drive started in September and our goal is to have all pledges received by the end of November. Thus, the Parish Council can put together a budget in December based on actual pledges, and present it to the General Assembly in January. We strongly encourage parishioners to set up an autopayment tithe, which can be done in one of several ways. Please consider logging on to the St. Nicholas website to set up autopayment, or arrange for an autopayment plan through your place of work if it is offered, or through the bank with which you do business. Once a parishioner enrolls in an autopayment

# Stewardship Ministry News

plan, there is no longer a need to complete a Stewardship Pledge Card unless there is a change to your contact information. Autopayments greatly facilitate budgeting for our church. In most cases they can simplify your life, and best of all they move us all closer toward achieving the tithe to which all Orthodox Christians aspire.

**WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE EITHER ENROLLED IN AN AUTOPAYMENT PLAN, OR HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR 2021 STEWARDSHIP CARD!**

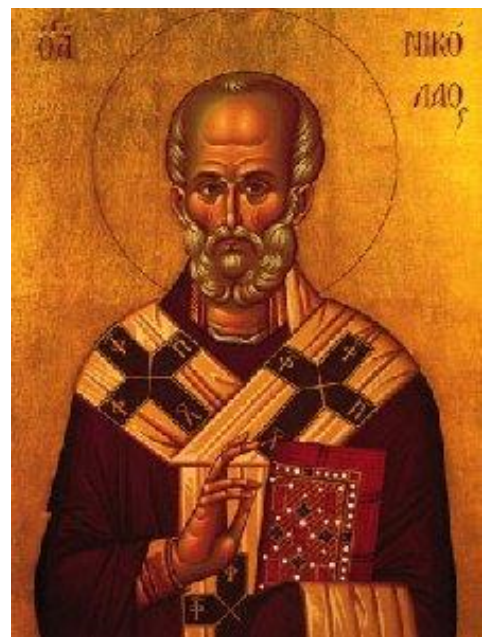
**Bless you heart for your dedication to St. Nicholas, and your support for God's work!**

- |                                      |                         |                                |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dr. Patra Alatsis                    | Tyler Balsler           | Harry Basil                    |
| Dr. I.A. & LTC(R) C.G. Chamales      | Yianni Charitou         | Courtney Cole-Faso             |
| Genevieve Eagle                      | Christina Gretty        | MSG(R) J. & Ronnie Sue Johnson |
| Zach & Daphne Karanasos              | Mary Kouklis            | Mary Leonard                   |
| Fr. Seraphim & Pres. Sophie Majmudar | George & Dianne Pirotis | Stavros Pirotis                |
| Rebecca & Andrew Primis              | Mark & Dana Robinson    | Bill & Karen Samaras           |
| Denise & SSG Rick Stahl              |                         |                                |

**Parish Council members needed!** In December of every year, St. Nicholas holds elections for new parish council members. Every year the two-year term of at least six parish council members is completed, and they either run for reelection or new members are solicited to fill vacancies. This year, Ronnie-Sue Johnson and Monica Auter have expressed a desire to run for reelection, but there are five additional vacant positions. Please pray for God's guidance and contemplate if now is a good time for you to run for one of these positions.

St. Nicholas is blessed with many wonderful and talented people that would be absolutely outstanding parish council members! Ordinarily, we would love an opportunity to speak with you during a Sunday luncheon and share the wonderful experiences to be gained by participating on the council, but that is not an option because of COVID. We ask that you contact Father Seraphim at (253) 365-5817, or George Pirotis at (206) 841-5705, for questions or to express your desire to join the council.

As Orthodox Christians our goal should be tithing our time, talent, and treasure to our beloved St. Nicholas Church. Serving on the parish council is an excellent way to offer your time and talent, and contribute to the future of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.



## Safety and Security Ministry News

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

**Make  
your church  
the safest  
place in town.**

Safety and security is everyone's responsibility and it is only prudent that we occasionally address these issues. As part of that effort, this article will share some of the things that your parish council is doing to enhance safety and security around our church. It is intended to provide you suggestions on actions that you should consider or be prepared implement in order to assist with this very important endeavor.

Several months ago, we placed an article in the Messenger about the importance of reporting incidents that happen around our church. Since then the frequency of incidents continues to grow and transparency will help to keep people informed so that you in turn, can stay alert. Like the saying goes, "IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!"

Many cities around the country are struggling to deal with issues of homelessness, drug abuse, and mentally disturbed people on their streets, and regrettably our city of Tacoma is no exception. Our church has experienced an increasing number of disruptive or destructive incidents related to these problems. Almost weekly Father Seraphim finds people loitering on our steps, or drug paraphernalia that was discarded on our property. Additionally, we are experiencing a growing number of incidents where someone enters our church during a service and wanders around downstairs, or after gaining entrance to our church, they cause a disruption in the narthex, or even in our sanctuary!

Out of concern for the issues we are experiencing, a few members of our Parish Council have attended security seminars and meetings sponsored by our insurance company. As a result a small security team has been formed. This team is doing its best to stay alert and secure the church during Sunday services, and participants are tasked to respond to any danger or disruption.

At present our church is relying on four parishioners to provide this security, but more people are needed. If you are an able bodied parishioner willing to participate in this effort please contact Gus Chamales at (605) 691-3423 or [gleafops@gmail.com](mailto:gleafops@gmail.com), to learn more about what you can do to help.

It is important to recognize that despite a few parishioners doing their best to provide safety and security, they cannot be everywhere at all times. Despite our team's best efforts it is still possible for someone who is not a member of our church to gain entrance, and even though they appear to be a sincere worshipper, they may later become disruptive. Sadly, we recently experienced exactly such an incident.

When a disruption occurs anywhere in our church, every able bodied person should know that it is permissible and desired that you step forward and respond. If the disruption is caused by an unruly individual, numbers can have a positive effect in convincing that individual to withdraw. Do not assume your assistance has to be requested by either our priest or a member of the Parish Council. Our primary objective during such an event will be to ensure the safety and well-being of any vulnerable parishioners that are present, and to protect the sanctity of our altar, our sanctuary, and our church.

## Safety and Security Ministry News

It is impossible to address every possible type of disruptive incident that may occur at our church and it is also impossible to identify every type of response that may be appropriate. The best we can do is lay out some general guidelines for people to follow while keeping in mind the intent of our Priest, and the safety and wellbeing of those we are trying to protect.

**Rule #1. The safety and security of vulnerable parishioners in our church is paramount.** Historically, Orthodoxy has always placed the safety and security of women and children as its top priority. Going back to its earliest days men stood guard as services were performed, with the protection of women and children as their primary objective. Although times have changed and equality of the sexes has made great strides, when it comes to safety and security, our concern for women, children, and other vulnerable parishioners will remain paramount.

**Rule #2. Emergency and non-emergency contact numbers should be in everyone's phone.** Most people know that in the event of an emergency the quickest way to receive help from the police, the fire department, or emergency medical services is to call 911. Sometimes there is a need for police assistance with matters that do not constitute an emergency and in the interest of public safety, we should not use 911 to request those services. When that type of situation occurs it is best to call the Tacoma Police Non-Emergency phone number which is (253) 798-4722. **Please add it to your cellphone contacts list.**

**Rule #3. Follow Father Seraphim's lead.** In the event of any disruption when Father Seraphim is present, it is important that you follow his lead. Any parishioner in the vicinity of the disruption must know it is permissible to assist Father Seraphim without being asked, and comply immediately with his guidance.

**Rule #4. Physically able and alert people greatly enhance security.** Able bodied parishioners are needed to respond to emergencies and disruptions of all sorts. A quick response will make a difference and enhance safety and security. It is only prudent that able bodied parishioners consider positioning themselves where they can quickly respond to an emergency. The outside position closest to the aisle in every pew is the best seat that facilitates a rapid response.

Able bodied parishioners are encouraged to occupy those positions when seating their families in order to avoid having to climb over children or less able parishioners in your haste to respond to an emergency.

**Rule #5. Medical professionals direct medical aid.** All medical professionals will provide medical assistance as appropriate. Everyone should know that there is a First Aid kit in the office and one in the Narthex cabinet. Call 911 in the event a medical evacuation becomes necessary.

**Rule #6. Protection from disruptive/hostile/violent individuals.** If a disruptive individual is harassing any parishioner or guest inside our church and Father Seraphim is not present, every physically able person should know it is permissible to assist our parishioner or guest that is being

**BE AWARE**  
  
**BE PREPARED**

*Continued on next page....*

## Safety and Security Ministry News

confronted, and all should help to diffuse the situation as expeditiously as possible. If physical force becomes necessary apply the **minimum force necessary** to stop the harassment or the violence. Ushering the aggressor out of the church, or handing off the action to the police is the ultimate goal. Remember, there is strength in numbers and the more people that respond by rushing to the aid of the victim, the easier it will be to usher a disruptive individual outside or if necessary, subdue him.

**Rule #6. If evacuation becomes necessary.** All able bodied men and women are responsible for ushering others to a safe area inside the church if possible and appropriate.



Fire Assembly point

If evacuation to the outside becomes necessary because of a fire or other emergency, move to an assembly point at whatever corner of the block is closest. Our three assembly points are: 1) Near the bus stop at the corner of South 15th and Yakima. 2) Across the street and kitty-corner to the southwest of the church on South 16th and Yakima. 3) Straight east and down the hill on 16th Street, at the corner of 16th Street and South G Street.



Either a parish council member or other volunteer should make a list of all people present at their assembly point and keep a record of all departures. Children under the age of 16 should not be allowed to leave unless accompanied by an adult family member. If the emergency situation dictates the need to move farther away than these designated assembly points, it is imperative that you do so as a group while maintaining strict accountability of any children present. If inclement weather is an issue each group should move to the closest facility possible in order to keep people warm, dry and comfortable.

**Access to the church.** Several plans were in place that were intended to enhance our safety and security as part of our Narthex construction project. Because of the construction delay from 2020 to 2021 and because of the increased number of incidents that are occurring, we will not wait to implement some of these measures.

We are moving forward with the installation of automatic door locks that can be activated by a security code. Father Seraphim and other parishioners are often at the church in small groups and their safety and security must be ensured. Research into these types of locks is ongoing and once it is completed they will be purchased and installed on selected exterior and interior doors. Once these lock mechanisms have been installed, dissemination of the security code for all parishioners will occur.

If you wish to contribute suggestions or become part of the security team, please email Gus Chamales at [gleafops@gmail.com](mailto:gleafops@gmail.com). All suggestions are welcome and will be discussed at the next security meeting. Until next time, **“IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!”** Safety and security are important to all of us and everyone has a responsibility to respond when a safety or security issue is at hand.



# Maids of Athena

Presented by  
M.O.A. Sparta 1 &



## Crafting for Community

Join local artist and Maid of Athena Ginny McClure of Shop Second Best to learn how to make clay earrings and support Nourish Pierce County in their fight against food insecurity and poverty in our community. No one should go hungry!



### **COST:**

\$35 - This option includes a materials kit with everything you need to make 2-3 pairs of earrings

\$20 - This option allows you to buy your own materials (we'll let you know what you need)

Both options get you 25% off a purchase from the Shop Second Best Etsy Shop!

**Sunday December 6th @ 6:30PM on Zoom**

**For more info visit us on Facebook or Instagram!**



For more information on the event, contact Sparta 1 Chapter President Zoe Matteson at [moasparta1@gmail.com](mailto:moasparta1@gmail.com).

# Sunday School

## Sunday School News

This month, we celebrate The Feast of the Entrance into the Temple of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. The Feast commemorates when the Virgin Mary, as a young child, entered the Temple in Jerusalem. What a wonderful opportunity to sit down as a family, read aloud the following story taken from [goarch.org](http://goarch.org) and talk about the icon of this feast!

Be sure to mark your calendar for Friday evening, November 20, for Vespers and Evening Liturgy celebrating this beautiful, important feast. Starts at 7:00pm.



### Protevangelion Story

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

*When Mary was three years old, Joachim and Anna decided that the time had come to fulfill their promise and to offer her to the Lord. Joachim gathered the young girls of the neighborhood to form an escort, and he made them go in front of Mary, carrying torches. Captivated by*



## Sunday School

*the torches, the young child followed joyfully to the Temple, not once looking back at her parents nor weeping as she was parted from them.*

*The holy Virgin ran toward the Temple, overtaking her attendant maidens and threw herself into the arms of the High Priest Zacharias, who was waiting for her at the gate of the Temple with the elders. Zacharias blessed her saying, "It is in you that He has glorified your name in every generation. It is in you that He will reveal the Redemption that He has prepared for His people in the last days."*

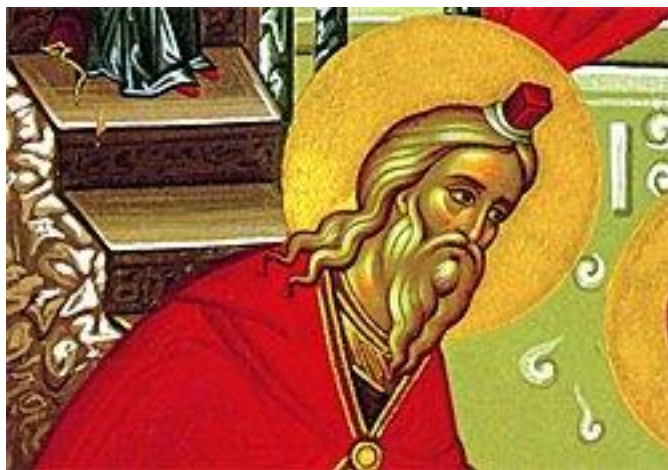
*Then, Zacharias brought the child into the Holy of Holies—a place where only the High Priest was permitted to enter once a year on the Day of Atonement. He placed her on the steps of the altar, and the grace of the Lord descended upon her. She arose and expressed her joy in a dance as wonder seized all who saw this happen.*

*The Virgin Mary dwelt in the Temple for nine years until, reaching an age for marriage, she was taken from the Temple by the priests and elders and entrusted to Joseph as the guardian of her virginity.*

*The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple signifies her total dedication to God and her readiness for her future vocation as the Mother of the Incarnate Lord. This is a feast of anticipation. As honor is shown to Mary, the faithful are called to look forward to the Incarnation of Christ, celebrated in a little more than a month by the Feast of the Nativity on December 25.*

### A Closer Look at the Icon of the Feast

The icon of the feast tells the story of Mary's entry into the Temple. The High Priest, Zacharias (1), is in his priestly robes standing on the step of the Temple. His arms are outstretched, ready to greet and receive the Virgin. Mary is shown as a small child, standing before Zacharias with her arms reaching up to him (2).



1. The High Priest, Zacharias receives the Theotokos at the steps of the Temple.
2. The Theotokos as a small child being received by the High Priest, Zacharias.

## Sunday School



In some icons the young maidens (3) who served as her escort are depicted standing behind her. Also, we see her parents, Joachim and Anna (4), offering their child to God and His divine service.



3. Young maidens gathered by Joachim to form an escort for the Theotokos.

## Sunday School



4. Joachim and Anna, parents of the Theotokos.

In the upper center portion of the icon, the Virgin is seated on the steps of the Holy of Holies. An angel is there, attending to the one chosen by God to bring the Savior into the world.



5. An Angel of the Lord attends to the Theotokos.

Resources

Festival Icons for the Christian Year by John Baggley (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2000), pp. 16-20

The Festal Menaion. Translated by Mother Mary (South Canaan, PA: St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, 1969) pp. 51-52

The Incarnate God: The Feasts of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary, Catherine Aslanoff, editor and Paul Meyendorff, translator (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1995)

The Synaxarion: The Lives of the Saints of the Orthodox Church, Vol. 2, compiled by Hieromonk Makarios of Simonos Petra and translated from the French by Christopher Hookway (Chalkidike, Greece: Holy Convent of the Annunciation of Our Lady, 1999) pp. 193-196.

- Sheila Auter

## Flower Ministry

### A message from the Flower Ministry:

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to the beautiful Flower Ministry at Saint Nicholas this year. There have been many generous and thoughtful donations, acts of kindness and gifts of love — which are greatly appreciated and very welcomed. Thank you also to the many flower caretakers this year.

I wanted to especially mention our Father Seraphim, who regularly has contributed a great deal of talented, creative inspiration, hands-on help, and has tenderly cared for individual flowers as their time has come to an end. He's encouraged and supported new arrangement ideas, and provided freedom with orientation, and given me a better understanding of certain Feast Days. He has generously offered flowers from their own family garden, which we have happily used in some of the summer arrangements.

Anyone who has clippings or flowers which would beautify the sanctuary this season, please feel free to bring them! We would hopefully be able to use your greenery or flowers in the upcoming holiday time; there will be many opportunities for flower arrangements.

A special thank you again to Marian, Vonnie, Fran, Deborah, Ronnie Sue, Roxanne, Gretchen/Genevieve, Larry, Daphne and Zack, Diane and George, John Alan, John, Pres Sophie, Maria Georgopolos and family, Deena, Sally, Kathleen, Sheila, Nina, who have helped out so, so much, and everyone else who has brought flowers, watered, picked up dead leaves, or replaced dead flowers with new. Thank you so much! It is very appreciated!

We encourage bringing flowers to church as an offering on our Name's Day. Or on a Saint's Day we choose to commemorate. Flowers are brought on Feast Days, and holidays. And any other day we want to beautify our sanctuary. Flowers are a fragile and temporary gift; an offering, and also a small sacrifice. They usually smell wonderful, and are extraordinary, unique and precious, amazing independent beauty. When added with the others, the individual blossom is amplified, and furthermore enhances the entire bouquet. It's a metaphor, in a way, for the congregation, or us — as we all each distinctively add to the Body of Christ.

November 21, is the Entrance of the Theotokos. The color of flowers used in the arrangements next to the icons on this day are usually feminine pastels; pinks, whites, lavenders, pale yellow. Flowers which look beautiful together.

November 25 we remember Saint Katherine the Great Martyr. The color commonly used for martyrs in arrangements is a dark red shade, rich tones of browns, greens, and often roses mixed with other deep colors. It varies though, and seems it is more importantly about attitude and love.

Thanksgiving this year is the next day, November 26, and the colors used in arrangements are usually oranges, yellows and browns — fall colors.

## Flower Ministry

*Continued from page 16*

We would like to begin decorating for the Nativity of Christ this year on Saturday, November 28, [tentatively about 11 am], and are asking for volunteers to help put up the greenery, ribbons and tree garlands from last year. If you would like to help out in any way, please text your name to me, and I will call you back.

Any volunteers would be great! Ladders, and tools are helpful!

By December 1, its time to prepare for Saint Nicholas Day on December 6. We will be making flower arrangements to decorate the icon of Saint Nicholas. Traditionally, we have had many reds and white flowers. Last year it was very pretty. This year undoubtedly will be a little different, but it can be beautiful and inspirational.

If anyone would like to make donations to the Flower Ministry, please give it to Mark Robinson, the treasurer. If you would like to help with transporting flowers, and decorating, or logistics, etc., please let us know. Everything is so appreciated! Thank you again. I look forward to a new season and another new beginning!

Submitted by:

Kathy Rowley

Flower Ministry Lead

253-948-2864



# Cover Story

## SOME PICTURES FROM OUR TIME THERE



Nana with all of her grandchildren



Praying for Nana (and all of you!) before the incorrupt relics of St John of SF

# Cover Story



Nick, Tom & Gabe with their Nana



Nick surveys the damage with his Grandpa. But from the ashes will grow an even better home!

# Cover Story



Thomas receives Holy Communion on his name's day (Apostle Thomas) by the hand of Fr Christopher (whose family I knew well during my student days in Santa Barbara...he was just a kid!)



Stopping in Concord to see my dad (BEFORE John got a much needed haircut)



## Cover Story



Brigid and her fiancée, Colm Maines!

# Cover Story



Kudos to my Mom! Totally running the house and loving it



Brigid came from Michigan

**ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY**

**MESSAGE FROM THE AKATHIST MINISTRY**

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

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

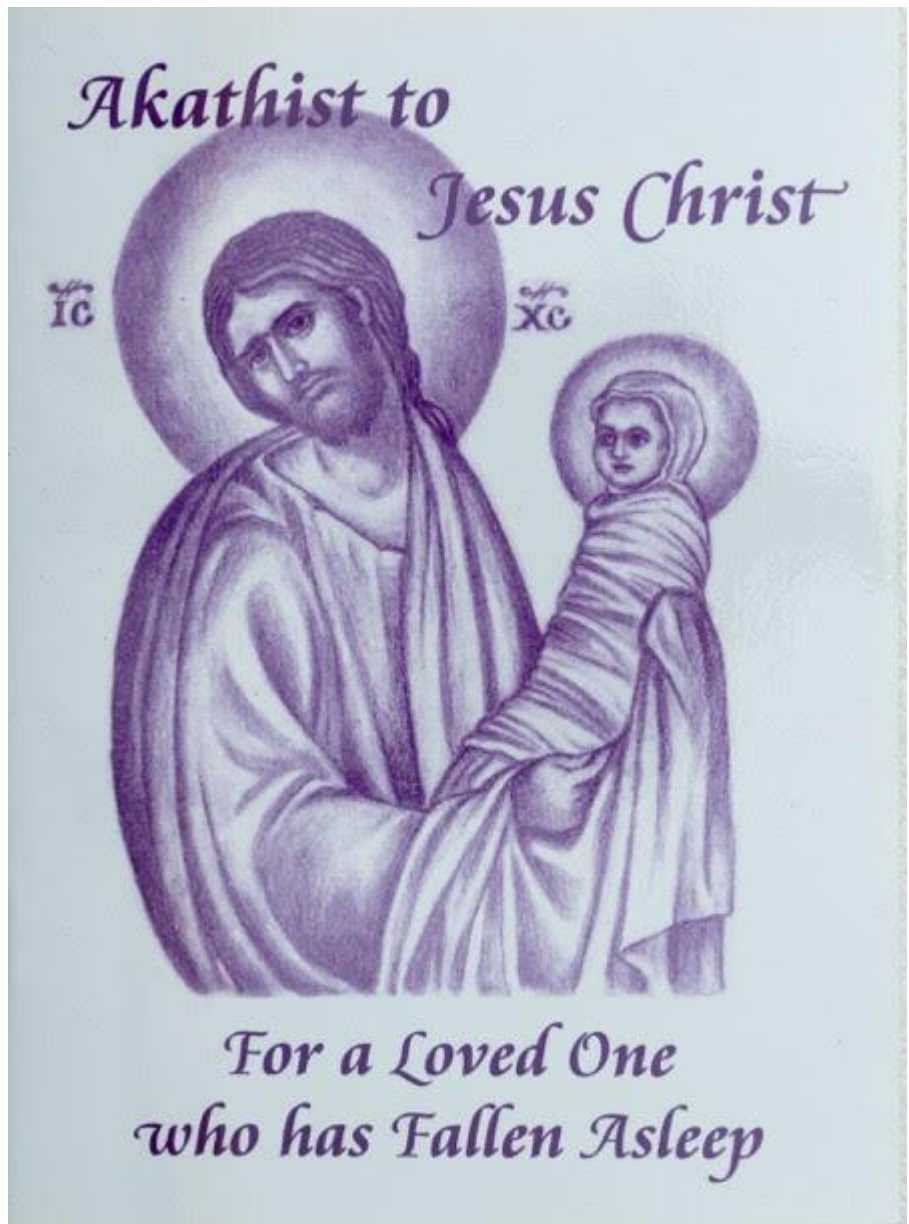
If you are interested in knowing more or would like to participate, please contact me.

Thank you again,

In Christ Love,

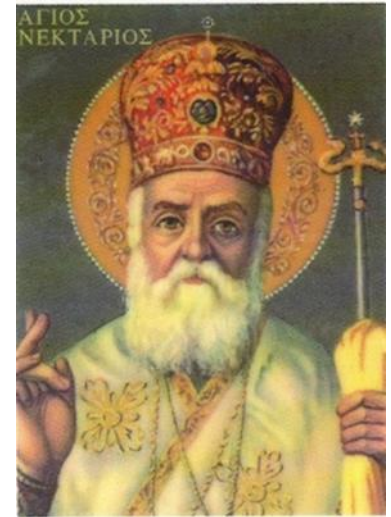
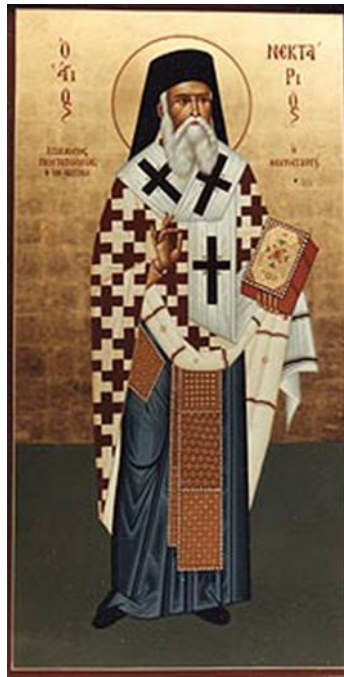
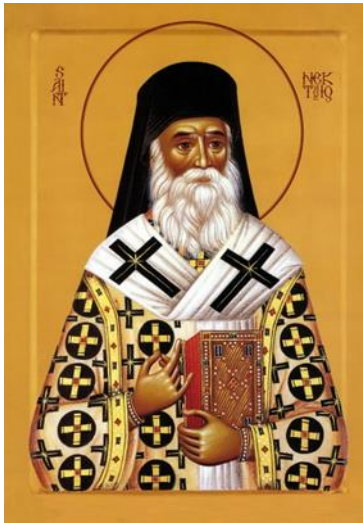
Kathy.

Submitted by Kathy Rowley



## ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY

## ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY



## ST. NECTARIOS, METROPOLITAN OF PENTAPOLIS AND WONDERWORKER OF AEGINA

MAN OF GOD, a major film production, starring well-known foreign and Greek actors and actresses, will mark the 100th anniversary of the falling asleep in the Lord of St. Nectarios, one the most beloved Saints of the Orthodox Church.

Yelena Popovic's film "Man of God" will officially premiere in November 2020. It is about the biography of St. Nectarios, who went through a series of trials throughout his life; He was unjustly exiled, slandered for no reason, endured the hatred of his enemies but he carried on preaching the Divine Word.

The Saint has hundreds of thousands of worshippers, who travel to Aegina to venerate him. His life moved the film producer and actress Yelena Popovic – originally from Serbia -, and as an Orthodox Christian and herself, she always wanted to write a scenario that would help people think positively and overcome life's obstacles. But she never thought she would make a film about a Saint's life.

In 2012, while travelling, she read a book about the life of Saint Nectarios that deeply affected her. In 2013 and then in 2014 she visited Aegina and in 2015 she expressed the idea of making a film about the life of the Saint to the abbot of a monastery in Arizona. The film is now expected to have its premiere within a few months with the possible contribution of Sony Russia.

Aris Servetalis will play the role of Saint Nectarios. Other actors and actresses, who will play in the film are Mickey Rourke, Kariofyllia Karabeti, Giannis Stankoglou, Nikitas Tsakiroglou, Tonia Sotiropoulou, Alexander Petrov and others.

I haven't been able to find an exact date for the premiere of this movie, but as soon as I do, I will make sure to share it with anyone who is interested. Please contact me ([goobahoo@gmail.com](mailto:goobahoo@gmail.com) or 253-359-0455) if you are able to gather more information about this movie.

**ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY**

**St. Nectarios** (1846-1920), Metropolitan of Pentapolis and Wonderworker of Aegina, was officially recognized as a saint by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in 1961. His feast day is celebrated on November 9. He is often referred to as **Nectarios of Pentapolis** or **Nectarios of Aegina**, and his name is sometimes spelled *Nektarios*. St. Nectarios was born on October 1, 1846, in Selymbria in Thrace to a poor family. His given name was Anastasios Cephalas. At the age of 14 he moved to Constantinople (Istanbul) to work and further his education. In 1866 he left to the island of Chios to take a teaching post. He then became a monk at the age of thirty.

Three years after becoming a monk he was ordained a deacon, taking the name Nectarios. He graduated from the University of Athens in 1885. During his years as a student of the University of Athens he wrote many books, pamphlets, and Bible commentaries.

Following his graduation he went to Alexandria, Egypt, where he was ordained a priest and served the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo with great distinction. In recognition of his piety and brilliance as a preacher, as well as his administrative ability, he was consecrated Bishop/Metropolitan of Pentapolis (an ancient diocese in Cyrenaica, in what is now Libya) by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Sophronios in 1889.

He served as a bishop in Cairo for one year, but was then unjustly removed from his post and was also anathematized. This was a result of lies made up by jealous clerics who envied his popularity with the people. Patriarch Sophronios refused to listen to St. Nectarios, who was sent away from Egypt without trial or explanation and was never given an opportunity to defend himself.

After his dismissal, he returned to Greece in 1891 and spent several years as a preacher (1891-1894). He was then appointed director of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School for the education of priests in Athens, where his service was exemplary for fifteen years. He developed many courses of study and wrote numerous books, all while preaching widely throughout Athens.

In 1904 at the request of several nuns, he established a monastery for them on the island of Aegina. The monastery was named Holy Trinity Monastery.

In December of 1908, at the age of 62, St. Nectarios resigned from his post as school director and withdrew to the Holy Trinity Convent on Aegina, where he lived out the rest of his life as a monk. He wrote, published, preached, and heard confessions from those who came from near and far to seek out his spiritual guidance.

While at the monastery, he also tended the gardens, carried stones, and helped with the construction of the monastery buildings that were built with his own funds. He was also the Metropolitan of the island of Aegina.

St. Nectarios died on the evening of November 8, 1920, at the age of 74, following hospitalization for prostate cancer. The commemoration date was set at the next day, November 9, because November 8 is the feast of Synaxis of Archangel Michael. The first posthumous miracle took place when the shirt of St. Nectarios was accidentally placed on the neighboring bed: a paralyzed man who was lying there was suddenly healed. The body of St. Nectarios was taken to the Holy Trinity Convent, where he was buried by the only clergyman- his best friend and spiritual brother Saint Savas the new of Kalymnos, who later painted the first icon of St. Nectarios. The funeral of St. Nectarios was attended by multitudes of people.

**ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY**

Many people regarded St. Nectarios as a saint during his lifetime because of his prayerful life, his humility, his purity and other virtues, and his writings, as well as the miracles he performed. St. Nectarios also had the gift of prescience.

The relics of St. Nectarios were removed from the grave on September 2, 1953, and gave out a beautiful fragrance. Official recognition of Nectarios as a saint by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople took place on April 20, 1961. Thousands of miracles have been attributed to his intercession, particularly cases of cancer or other serious illnesses being cured.

**Message from Father Seraphim regarding new Bible Study members:** Security is important, so we are not posting it publicly. Inclusion is also important, and we, as always, welcome new folks to join us. We will do this in two ways: (1) if you want to invite a friend, simply email Genevieve and let her know your friend's contact information. She'll send the link to them (2) to welcome the general public, we will post an invitation to our Bible Study on the website & the monthly bulletin to contact Genevieve with a request to join. This way, we know the name and background information for everyone on the Zoom call. This is important because if the link were open to the public, we could have anyone in the universe joining us without us having any idea who they are--and this would negatively impact the dynamic of our group.

Submitted by: Genevieve Eagle



## Pro-Life Ministry

### ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY



#### **Sheboygan, Wisconsin**

There's nothing more pro-life than adoption. Whether it's a struggling mother placing her baby with a family better suited to care for a child or a family welcoming a little one in need of a home, adoption is a gift. Sheboygan vigil participant Joe knows this first-hand. Nearly two decades ago when he was a toddler, Joe's parents traveled to Eastern Europe to adopt him from a Slovakian orphanage. Now, he's an accomplished musician. "He's a typical Cheesehead who loves polka music," wrote his mother Carol. "But he chose to perform hymns and other Christian songs on the sidewalk during our 40 Days for Life vigil." Joe brought his concertina out to the vigil site and led prayer volunteers in songs like "Amazing Grace" and "Christ is Arisen, Alleluia." "Joe is proudly pro-life because his birth mother placed him for adoption," Carol said. "He understands the sanctity of life in a very personal way."

#### **Bratislava, Slovakia**

Back in Joe's native land, it's been a difficult fall. Many public establishments—including churches—are closed. And the maximum gathering allowed is only six people. But Slovakian pro-lifers aren't backing down. "We still persist and pray in groups of a maximum of six people," said Martina, the local leader. "We believe that our prayers are very important—especially in these times."

## Pro-Life Ministry

### Madrid, Spain

Vigil participants in Madrid are facing the threat of a buffer zone that would silence pro-life speech near abortion facilities. The government is trying to amend the abortion law so that children can get abortions without their parents' consent, too. In spite of those challenges, 40 Days for Life is growing in Madrid. Nayeli said more than 400 volunteers have joined her vigil in spite of pandemic lockdowns. "Every day covered is a miracle," Nayeli said. "We have been living miracles all week."

### Shawn Carney Author & CEO, President, & Co-Founder of 40 Days for Life

Shawn began in the pro-life movement in college as a volunteer and after college was asked to be the Executive Director of the organization he volunteered for, the Coalition for Life which is made up of over 60 churches.

Shawn's passion for local pro-life ministry developed when he orchestrated the purchase and remodeling of a new office next door to the Planned Parenthood abortion facility to offer free pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds, and loving support to women.

In 2004, Shawn helped to lead the first-ever 40 Days for Life campaign in College Station, Texas. This breakthrough initiative – made up of 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion, the round-the-clock peaceful vigil outside a local abortion center, and grassroots door-to-door outreach – dropped local abortion numbers by 28%.

Beginning in 2007, Shawn helped to expand 40 Days for Life as a national and then international movement. Today, 40 Days for Life has been done in 856 cities in all 50 states and 61 countries. His efforts have helped mobilize more than 1,000,000 pro-life volunteers over the last 13 years.

40 Days for Life has confirmed reports of nearly 17,000 mothers choosing life and 196 abortion center workers who have had conversions and left their jobs, including former Planned Parenthood director, Abby Johnson who walked into Shawn's office just next door to her abortion facility. Shawn and his wife are portrayed in the 2019 film, *Unplanned*, which tells the beautiful story of Abby Johnson's conversion.

From Cary Solomon and Chuck Konzelman, the writers/co-producers of *God's Not Dead, Unplanned* brings us an eye-opening but hopeful look inside the abortion industry.

Shawn is a regular media spokesperson and his work has been featured on hundreds of media outlets including Fox News, The New York Times, The Laura Ingraham Show, The Drudge Report, The Guardian, and USA Today, and Christian media, including The Christian Post, National Catholic Register, Salem Radio, Relevant Radio, EWTN Radio, and Focus on the Family. Shawn has also produced and hosted award-winning pro-life documentaries that have aired in 128 million homes via the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).

Shawn loves helping pro-life groups receive the funding they need. He knows and understands firsthand the joys and challenges of running a local pro-life organization and of putting on a local fundraising banquet. As a speaker, consultant, and leader Shawn has helped pro-life and non-profit organizations raise over \$57 MILLION for their missions.



## Pro-Life Ministry

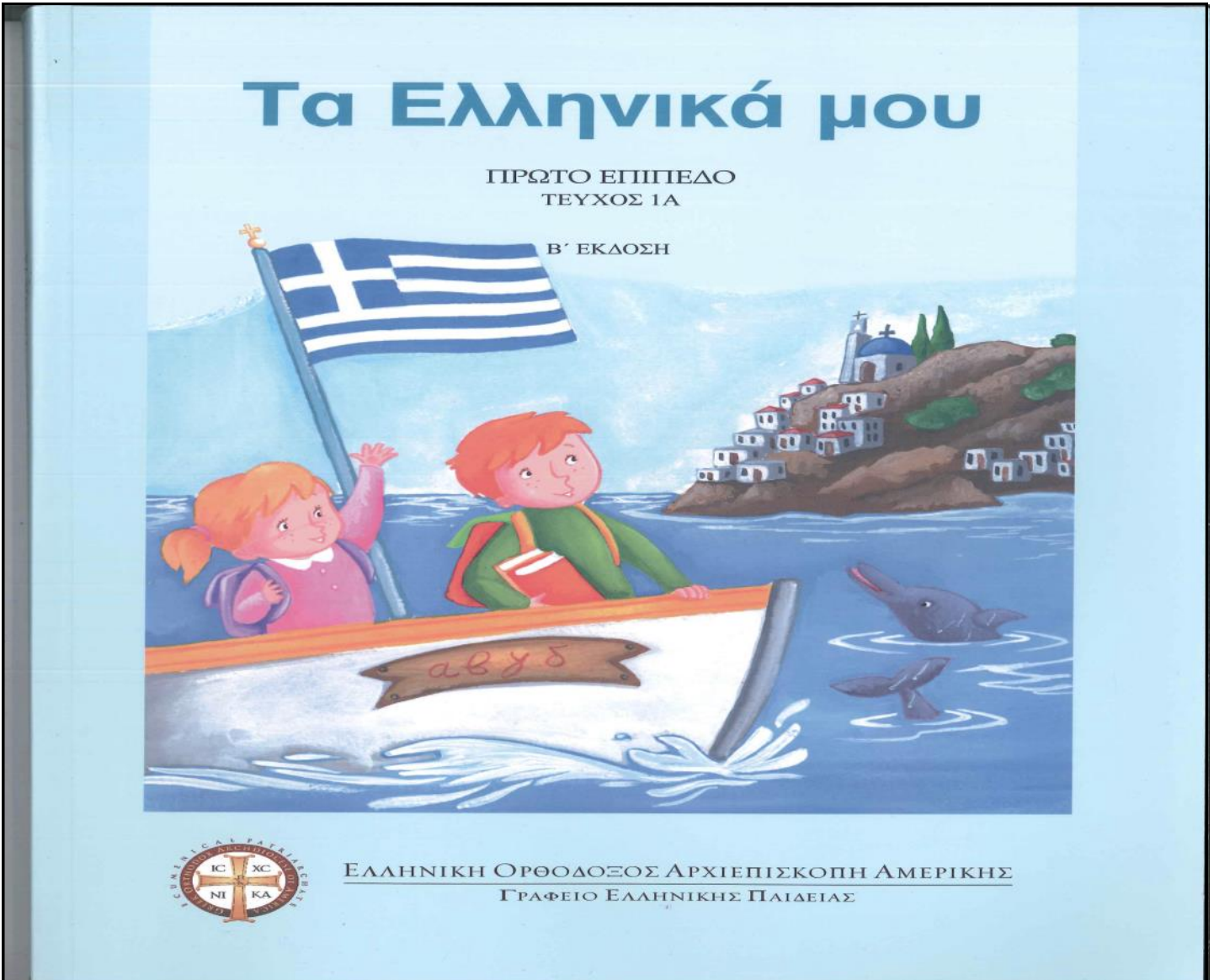
As an activist who is also an author, Shawn writes prolifically. He is the co-author of the Amazon Top Rated Christian book, 40 Days for Life, and the host of the popular pro-life podcast, 40 Days for Life. Shawn's book, The Beginning of the End of Abortion, became a national bestseller and was endorsed by Gov. Mike Huckabee, Eric Metaxas, Bishop Thomas Olmsted, and Ruth Graham. Shawn just released his newest book, To the Heart of the Matter: The 40 Day Companion to Live a Culture of Life.

Shawn's experience in local and national pro-life ministry has led him across America, inspiring audiences at pregnancy center events, conferences, fundraising banquets, churches, colleges, and high schools. His passion for helping women and the unborn is contagious. Shawn lives in Texas with his wife and eight children.

Submitted by: Genevieve Eagle



# Greek Language School



## Modern Greek Language School / Classes:

The 2020 - 2021 Modern Greek Language School resumed on Thursday, October 8, 2020 and will continue to Jun. 25, 2021, **every Thursday 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 206-841-5705.**

*Continued next page...*

## 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:

**Αγιασμός** (Blessing) of the class in 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.



## Prospora



### 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

Anyone wanting to bring this offering on a particular day should make the arrangements with Father Seraphim. Every Orthodox Christian in good standing is welcome to make the offering.

### LECHEM-ARTOS-BREAD

#### Following the Word Through Scripture

We continue in the book of Exodus. Last month we learned how in the Wilderness of Sin the people received manna from the Lord. Afterwards, they departed the Wilderness of Sin and came to camp in Rephidim where they found no water to drink. The people have not changed their point of view; they again complain to Moses and Aaron. Moses again goes to God, and He sends Moses to the rock in Horeb from which water flows when Moses strikes it. Moses names that place Temptation and Abuse (πειρασμός και λοιδότης) because the people used abusive language and tempted God there. After this, Amalek (descendants of Esau, Israel's twin brother) came to fight the children of Israel there at Rephidim. This is the battle in which the children of Israel prevailed as long as Moses held out his arms like a cross, so that Aaron and Hur supported his arms in that position until the going down of the sun. The biblical account tells us that all the people of the region heard about the crossing of the Red Sea and all that this God was doing for His people, and they were afraid. And when Jethro, Moses' father-in-law heard these things, he contacted Moses and told him he was coming with Moses' wife and two sons. Moses went out to meet them, greeted them with honor, and brought them into the tent. Moses told his father-in-law all the things that had happened, and Jethro then said, *Blessed be the Lord...Now I know that the Lord is great above all the gods; for this reason they did not prevail over them. Exodus 18:12: Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for God, for Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God. Jethro the priest of Midian became a believer in and sacrificed to the God of Israel and ate bread before Him. It was the next day that Jethro advised Moses in Exodus 18:19-23 to choose able God-fearing men from among the people, just men, hating covetousness, and set them over the people to be rulers of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens to help Moses govern. Jethro said, If you do this thing, God will strengthen you; then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace. And Moses heeded the voice of Jethro.*

After this the children of Israel departed Rephidim and came to camp before the mountain in the Desert of Sinai. In Exodus 19, God called Moses up the mountain (Mt. Sinai) and said to him to tell the house of Jacob and the children of Israel: *You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you shall be a special people to Me above all nations; for all the earth is Mine. You shall be to Me a royal priesthood and a holy nation.* When Moses relayed this to the people, they answered with one

## Ministry News

accord that they would do and hearken to everything the Lord said. So then God sent Moses to sanctify the people, to have them wash their clothes and to instruct them to be ready for the third day. On the third day, God descended upon Mt. Sinai. Then God told Moses what to tell the people. He gave the Ten Commandments and further instructions (chapters 20-23), and then He said that if the people do these things, His Angel will go before them and bring them into the land. This angel will be an enemy to their enemies and an adversary to their adversaries. Exodus 23:24-26: *You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them [the people already inhabiting the land] and completely break down their sacred pillars. So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your **bread**, wine, and water; and I will take away sickness from you. No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days. And down in verse 32: If you serve their gods, it will surely be a stumbling block to you.*

All of this was spoken to Moses, somehow, and after this (Chapter 24) God called Moses to come up to Him. So Moses went and relayed the words of God to the people, who again answered with one voice, *“All the words the Lord spoke we will do.”* Moses wrote all these words in the Book of the Covenant, built an altar, and had young men of the children of Israel offer whole burnt offerings and peace offerings to God. Moses took half the blood and poured it on the altar. Then he read the book of the covenant to the people, who for the third time confirmed they would be obedient, and Moses sprinkled the other half of the blood on the people saying, *“This is the blood of the covenant the Lord made with you according to all these words.”*

After the covenant was confirmed in this way Moses took Aaron and his two eldest sons, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel, and they saw the place where the God of Israel stood (Exodus 24:9-11), and they ate and drank there. Then Moses went further up the mountain with Joshua, and the Glory of the Lord descended on them as a cloud for six days. On the seventh day the Lord called Moses, who went up further into the midst of the cloud for forty days and forty nights. This was the first time Moses spent forty days and nights on the mountain with God.

To be continued...

Deborah Talbot-



# PHILOPTOCHOS

## PHILOPTOCHOS

### President's Message

This fall we have two projects to give back to our community. They are listed below.

#### St. Nicholas Philoptochos Food Drive-

The critical need for non-perishable food continues. To address this need, we have held a food drive to assist an existing organization, Families United Network, that works from the University Place Presbyterian Church (UPPC) in University Place.

We are continuing to collect food donations during the month of October at the church. As of October 21, 2020, we had collected funds of \$1,000 and 5+cases of canned foods for the food drive. If you are unable to shop for groceries, please consider a monetary donation that we will use to purchase food for our drive. (Please make your check out to Ladies Philoptochos-memo food drive.) For those attending church on Sundays there will be a box in the upper hall by the kitchen for drop off of canned items through the end of the month.

Food items needed are: Canned spaghetti and sauce. Please make sure products are within expiration dates. NO GLASS containers. No cans larger than 15 1/2 oz. Please call Kalitsa Xitco at (253) 312-6312 or Gus Chamales at (605)691-3423 if you can assist or have questions about this project.

**Holiday Food Certificate Drive-** Every year Philoptochos has spearheaded a project to donate food certificates to families in the community for Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year we will assist eight families at four schools, Boze, Blix, Downing and McCarver elementary schools. Our goal is to raise \$2,000 for this project. A flyer describing the project is a separate attachment in the bulletin. Donations can be made by mail (*please make your check out to Ladies Philoptochos-memo holiday food certificates*) at the church mailing address or through the church donation website.

**Philoptochos Member Meetings-**The chapter board meetings will continue to be held monthly by Zoom. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5 at 5:00 P.M. Please call Merrilee Pangis at 253-759-1026 for the Zoom information. Topics will include the budget for 2020/2021 and the Holiday Food Certificate drive. 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.

**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

### Holiday Food Certificates Drive

The 30th Annual Food Certificates for Families in our area who might not enjoy Thanksgiving or Christmas begins this month and will end December 15th. As in the past, we work with school counselors in 4 Tacoma Schools who will give us the names of 2 families in their schools who are in need of a better holiday season.

We are asking members of our Parish to please be mindful of families who are not as fortunate as we are, and make a donation for this worthy cause. Our goal is \$2,000 that will be distributed to 8 families.

Please send your donation to:

St. Nicholas Philoptochos  
1523 South Yakima Avenue  
Tacoma, WA 98405

and mention Food Certificates on the memo line. You may also go to the website: [st.nicholastacoma.org](http://st.nicholastacoma.org) and donate online with a credit card. The category will be listed as Holiday Food Certificates Drive.

If you have any questions on the Food Drive, please contact any Philoptochos member. Not a Philoptochos Member? Feel free to join this wonderful organization Remember Philoptochos means **Friends of the Needy**.

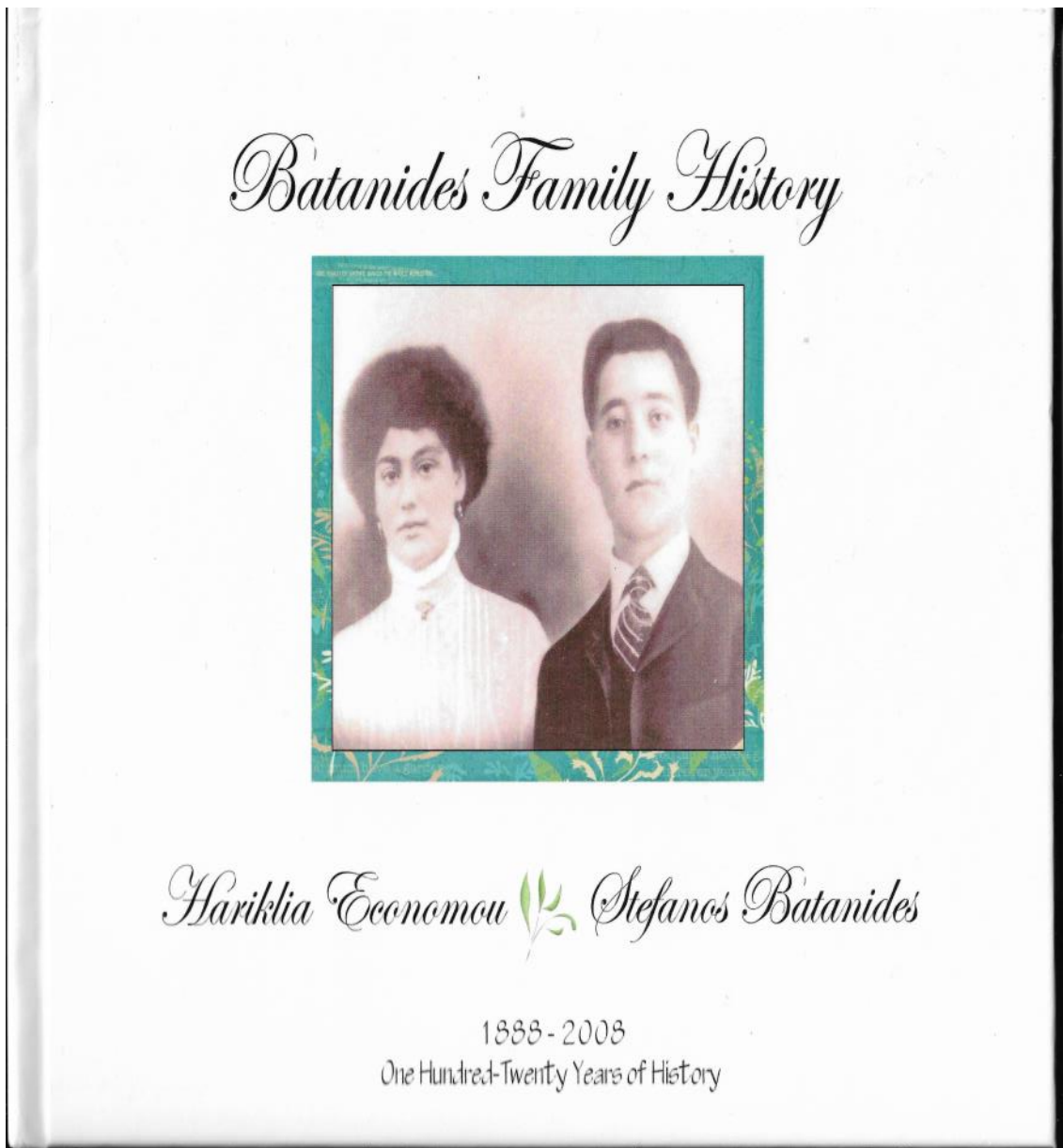
Sponsored by the St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Daughters of Penelope and the Order of AHEPA Families

## Ministry News

### SEEN THIS BOOK?

Mrs Mary Dallas-Smith searching for a lost copy of her book, Batanides Family History, which may be floating around the community somewhere. If you have any information, please let the office know.

Thank you!





## Ministry News

Former St. Nicholas parishioner, Denise Stahl, wanted to share the following information with us:

This has been a dream of mine for a long time. I have talked to many churches about signing and have always been met with the same response: "We don't have any deaf people attending our church, so there is no reason for it."

Too many Deaf people who want to go to church will look up churches in that area and look for ones that offer sign language interpreters. Because of this, many deaf people are not looking for a specific religion, but only go to churches that offer interpreting. If you build it, they will come.

I am part of the initial group that is working on this program. If you have anyone in St. Nicholas who is interested in this, they can join the group here: <https://www.orthodoxdeaf.org/jointheocdatoday>.

Here is more information about this wonderful ministry.



The Orthodox Christian Deaf Association (OCDA) was formed with the blessing of Archbishop Alexander (Golitzin) of the Diocese of the South (OCA) in April 2020. It is under the 501(c)(3) umbrella of Holy Nativity of the Lord Orthodox Church (OCA) in Shreveport, LA. The purpose of this pan-Orthodox organization is to connect Orthodox deaf Christians of all jurisdictions together in order to foster fellowship, create useful resources, both educational and liturgical, plan special events, and to introduce the greater deaf community to the Orthodox faith. For this to happen, we also need hearing Orthodox Christians who are versed in ASL to join and assist us in developing the OCDA.

Estimates from the SIPP (The Survey of Income and Program Participation) indicate that 1 in 20 Americans are currently deaf or hard of hearing. In round numbers, nearly 10,000,000 persons are hard of hearing and close to 1,000,000 are functionally deaf. How many of these are Orthodox Christians? We do not know. Currently, there is no organization in North America that focuses on uniting and serving the Orthodox deaf community. Moreover, how is the Orthodox Church in North America reaching out to the deaf and hard of hearing with the Gospel? The OCDA was formed to assist the Church in uniting, serving, and reaching out to the Orthodox deaf and others in the Name of Christ.

If you know anyone who is deaf or hard of hearing who is either Orthodox, interested in Orthodoxy, inquiring about Christianity, or other hearing Orthodox individuals who know ASL (American Sign Language), please encourage them to join the OCDA today or contact us for more information. Eventually, we hope to connect with Orthodox deaf around the world!

## Ministry News

Once we identify and connect Orthodox deaf Christians and those who sign with each other through the OCDA, we will continue to develop resources based on the needs of the community and the local churches who serve or seek to serve the Orthodox deaf. Also, our hope is to work with each jurisdiction to plan events in conjunction with their annual regional and national gatherings.

What does it cost to be a member? There is no cost to join the OCDA. Membership is free!

Who can join the OCDA? Membership in the OCDA is open to Orthodox deaf, hearing Orthodox who are certified in or have a working knowledge of ASL or anyone who desires to learn more about the deaf community and help develop the association.

College student and daughter of Priest Jason Foster, Savannah Foster, with the blessing of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, and His Eminence Archbishop Alexander has founded the Orthodox Christian Deaf Association. The hope is this organization will become a resource for all the Orthodox jurisdictions in North America. You can help the OCDA by letting the Orthodox deaf and hard of hearing, and those that are trained in ASL in your parishes, know about the organization. At present, the site is primarily designed to connect and unite these people via free membership in the OCDA.

There are approximately 1,000,000 functional deaf and 10,000,000 hard of hearing persons in the United States. Many of these people are not connected to a local faith tradition. This field, like so many others, is white for harvest. Savannah Foster, the Director of the OCDA, said, "With our worship involving all the senses, it seems that we are uniquely positioned as Orthodox to present the fullness of the Gospel and life in Christ to so many that cannot hear the Good News."

How can I support the OCDA? First and foremost, please keep the OCDA and our Orthodox deaf in your prayers. In the near future, there will be items for sale (T-shirts, decals, stickers, etc.) to help cover the various cost of the association. If you desire to make a financial contribution, please contact our Administrator, Priest Jason Foster, at [frjasonfoster@gmail.com](mailto:frjasonfoster@gmail.com) or 318-455-4219 to discuss the best way to process your donation.

How can you learn more? Please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Savannah Foster, with any questions you may have at [orthodoxdeaf@gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxdeaf@gmail.com)

Thank you for taking the time to visit the OCDA website. May God continue to bless you and yours in the days ahead!

If you want to find out more about the Orthodox Christian Deaf Association, you can visit the website at [www.OrthodoxDeaf.org](http://www.OrthodoxDeaf.org) or contact Savannah Foster at [orthodoxdeaf@gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxdeaf@gmail.com) or Fr Jason Foster at [frjasonfoster@gmail.com](mailto:frjasonfoster@gmail.com).

Submitted by: Genevieve Eagle

# 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.

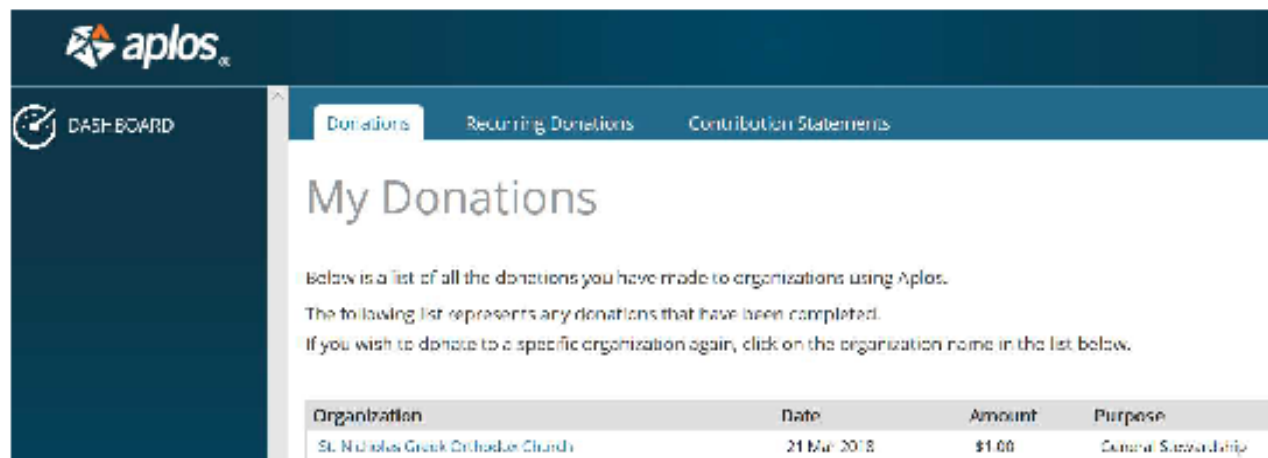
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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



# 2020 STEWARDSHIP CARD

## ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH TACOMA, WASHINGTON

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

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

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



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

*Fr. Seraphim Majumdar*

Please PRINT your information clearly

*“Those who seek the Lord shall never want for any good thing.”*

*(Psalm 34:10)*

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

**2020 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT**

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

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

month in 2020 to support God’s work.

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

SIGNATURE.....

Name (F/M/L): .....  
 DOB (M/D/Y): .....  
 Email: .....  
 Telephone: .....  
 Spouse: .....  
 DOB (M/D/Y): .....  
 Email: .....  
 Telephone: .....  
 Address .....  
 City/St/Zip .....

**Household Information**

**Dependent Children**

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

..... (Y/N)      Orthodox

..... (Y/N)      Orthodox

..... (Y/N)      Orthodox

..... (Y/N)      Orthodox

Saint Nicholas Messenger

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

*Address Service Requested*

