



Seminarian Aaron Rice Update

We are settling in to our new life here at Holy Cross, meeting fellow students and their families. We miss you all at St. Nicholas. We are glad to hear that the community is growing and that the recent bake sale was successful. Though we are far from our family and friends back home, we know that you are with us in our prayers and hearts.

We are beginning to explore the area. We enjoyed a family apple picking outing (a New England tradition). Ranae also ventured to the beach with another mom and the kids. Most of our time is filled with services, studies, and the everyday duties of family life. Some of you may know Micah and Rachel Breland who are attending St. Tikhon’s Seminary. We look forward to visiting them and other friends who are in other seminaries on the east coast as well.

Please keep us all in your prayers during this intense season, particularly for our spiritual life. Thank you for being with us on this journey!

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Exaltation of the Holy Cross — Our school’s feast day

Return to Church Policies

See news on page 5

St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Phone: 253-272-0466

Parish Website: stnicholastacoma.org

E-Mail: mail@stnicholastacoma.org

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



Sunday Services

8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

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



Fr. Seraphim Majmudar, Our Presiding Priest

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

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

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

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

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Media team: Paula Karanasos, Fr. Seraphim

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

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St. Nicholas Ministries

AHEPA
Paul Apostle

Akathist Group Prayer
Kathy Rowley

Altar Servers
Dr Nick Themelis

Bible Study
Genevieve Eagle

Book Store
Dr. Nick Themelis

Building Committee
Bill Acker

Building, Grounds & Maintenance
Richard Heidal, John Pangis

Choir
Rebecca Primis

Hands of Love
Merrilee Pangis

Military Service
LTC Gus Chamales

Premarital Education
George Pirotis, Diane Pirotis

Stewardship
Maria Koumantaros
Gus Chamales

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

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

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

Kelly Rosati — Beginner dancers

George Pirotis — Adult Group Instructor

Coffee Hour
Zach Karanasos

IT, etc.
Bill Samaras

Philia
Diane Pirotis

Pro Life
Genevieve Eagle

Vitos Scholarship
Ronnie Sue Johnson

Flowers & Church Decorating
Kathy Rowley

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

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

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

Sunday School
Sheila Auter, Director

Greek School
George Pirotis

Lazarus Group
Dean Hamos

Pilgrimage
Zach Karanasos

Prospora Baking
Deborah Talbot

Welcome
Ronnie Sue Johnson

Parish Council

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

~ November 2021 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 David of Evia	2 Eric, Bishop of Slane in Ireland 10:00am-11:00am Fr S at WOCA mtg: (Arlington) 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-8:00pm Building Committee	3 Alepismas Strict Fast 6:00pm-7:00pm Paraklesis	4 Ioannikos the Great 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	5 Galaktion & Epistimi STRICT FAST 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: St Raphael of Brooklyn 6:45pm-7:45pm Evening Liturgy: St Raphael	6 Raphael of Brooklyn 5:30pm-6:30pm Akathist to St Xenia for Homeless 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers 11:00pm-12:00am TURN CLOCKS BACK	
7 Cyngar of Congresbury, Wales 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-12:30pm Sampson Memorial 12:00pm-1:00pm Veteran's Day Lunch- eon & Presentation	8 Synaxis of the Holy Angels 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers & Orthros	9 Nektarios of Aegina 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm-8:00pm Parish Council	10 Arsenios of Cappadocia Strict Fast 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: St Menas 6:45pm-7:45pm Evening Liturgy: St Menas	11 Great Martyr Menas 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek	12 Fast: Wine & Oil ok John the hairy John the Merciful, Abp Alexandria 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	13 John Chrysostom 8:00am-9:00am Orthros 9:00am-10:00am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm-6:30pm Supplication to St Xenia for Homeless 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers
14 Ap Philip Gregory Palamas 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm-1:00pm Daughters of Penelope Coffee Hour	15 Paisius Velichkovsky 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers: Ap Matthew 6:45pm-7:45pm Evening Liturgy: Ap Matthew	16 Apostle Matthew 10:30am-1:00pm Fr S at Vicariate Clergy Group	17 Fast: Wine & Oil ok Gregory the Wonderworker Sebastian Dabovich of Jackson, CA 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm-7:00pm Paraklesis	18 Plato of Ankyra 5:30pm-6:30pm Modern Greek	19 Prophet Obadiah Strict Fast 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 10:00am-12:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	20 Prefeast of Entrance of Theotokos in the Temple 5:30pm-6:30pm Supplication to St Xenia for Homeless 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers
21 ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN THE TEMPLE 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	22 Iakovos of Evia 6:30am-7:30am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm-6:30pm Vespers	23 Amphiloikos of Iconium 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 6:30pm-8:30pm Festal Vigil @ St Katherine's, Kirkland	24 Clement of Rome Strict Fast 6:00pm-7:00pm Great Vespers: St Katherine	25 Great Martyr Katherine Thanksgiving 9:00am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	26 Nikon "Repent, Ye!" Strict Fast 10:00am-11:00am NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK	27 James of Persia 5:30pm-6:30pm Supplication to St Xenia for Homeless 6:00pm-7:00pm Vespers
28 Oda of Brabant, Blind Princess of Scotland 8:45am-10:00am Orthros 10:00am-11:00am Divine Liturgy	29 Philoumenos of Jacob's Well 6:30am-7:30am Orthros 6:00pm-7:00pm Festal Liturgy: St Andrew's, Arlington	30 Apostle Andrew	Notes:			

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

News and Announcements

Returning to Church

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

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

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

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

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

Watch Services From Home, Live

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

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

Click on this selection;



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

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

Bill Samaras—

News and Announcements



Instant Church Directory™

Our Church Directory is now available to Stewards in digital form which can be accessed on your computer or through an app on your mobile device. It's safe, easy to use, and quite economical, allowing us to keep our directory up-to-date in an instant!

A few details you'll want to know:

- Access to the online directory is only available to parishioners who have filled out a pledge card for the current year. This contributes to keeping our directory safe and secure.
- Need to update your stewardship? Pledge cards are available in the Lower Hall. There's also a copy included in every monthly Messenger.
- To get started, an email will be sent to stewards asking his/her permission to be included in our directory. Once permission is granted, directions will be given.
- All information in the online directory is secure. It can only be accessed by stewards who have been given permission by one of our own parish administrators.
- There *are* plans in place to distribute a printed version of our church directory once we have built up the online one. We'll keep you posted!

Need Help?

Members of the Directory Committee will be available during Coffee Hour to answer your questions, help you get registered or upload a picture.

Council Corner

Council Corner

Curious about what your Parish Council is doing? Look no further than Council Corner! Highlights from October's Parish Council meeting include:

✝ Narthex Project

- **Delay in Door Delivery**

You may have heard about shipping delays and logistics problems at some of the world's largest companies. They are affecting us here in Tacoma, too. The delivery of the Narthex door has been rescheduled to the end of November.

- **Sound System**

We know that it can be hard to hear the services if you need to step out into the Narthex, so we are looking at options for speakers.

- **Landscaping**

We heard your concerns—many of you are wondering about the use of small rocks in the “rivers” along the easements. This is part of the City-approved plan, but we will take steps to prevent rocks from being dislodged if problems occur.

✝ Parish Council Nominations

Do you want to be on Parish Council? Do you know someone who does? Look out for the new Parish Council Member FAQ and Nomination Form coming soon to your mailbox! A General Assembly for Nominations & Elections Committee will also be held November 7th. Nominations will be due November 21st.

✝ Janitorial Services

Alan Means has stepped forward as the liaison between the church and our janitorial contractor. He is working with the company to improve services. If you have a question or concern about the physical cleanliness of our building, please let Mr. Means know!

✝ Reopening Volunteers

The **Coffee Hour Ministry** and the **Welcome Ministry** are both restarting, and they need YOU! Our community life is not the same without the warm *philoxenia* we share together with our guests after the Divine Liturgy on Sundays. Do you want to help make that happen? Talk to Zach Karanasos about the Coffee Hour Ministry, or Ronnie-Sue Johnson about the Welcome ministry.

✝ St. Nicholas Day Dinner

It is fitting that the first Parish-sponsored community meal since COVID began will be in honor of our very own patron saint, St. Nicholas. The Parish Council is planning for a wonderful event December 5th, so mark your calendars!

Staircase Renovation

ST. NICHOLAS RENOVATION PROJECTS

With the Narthex Renovation nearing its completion, it became painfully aware that the 16th Street staircase was in desperate need of repair. The Work Party team came to the rescue and worked as fast as weather would allow to complete the project before winter set in. I want to thank Kathy Johnson, Parish Council member, for taking time out from her busy schedule (and the long drive in) to help with the face-lift. I also want to thank Brandon Hardeman who is the 2020 Narthex Renovation project superintendent for The Rush Companies. On his own time, Brandon volunteered his labor by helping to scrape and prep the staircase for painting.



BEFORE



Brandon Hardeman, Superintendent
Rush Companies



Parish Council member, Kathy Johnson, donating her time and talent by scraping and Painting the 16th Street staircase.

Staircase Renovation



BEFORE



Kathy painting her way down the stairs



AFTER: With the new plants and shrubs, the newly painted staircase really shines!

Submitted by: Genevieve

Philoptochos News

PHILOPOCHOS

President's Message

31st Annual Holiday Food Certificate Drive-Fund raising for the food certificate drive has begun. Our goal is to raise \$2,000 to assist two families at four local schools. 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. Please send your donation to:

St. Nicholas Philoptochos

1523 S. Yakima Avenue

Tacoma, WA 98405

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

Veteran's Day Luncheon-A Veteran's Day presentation is planned for Sunday, Nov. 7 after Divine Liturgy. Philoptochos members will prepare this luncheon beforehand—members look for a notice of this in your email. This will be a freewill offering with donations going to the Fisher Houses at Joint Bases Lewis McChord.

Metropolis Webinar-The Metropolis will have a no-cost webinar titled "Stories of Struggle and Resilience amidst the Pandemic" on November 11 from 6:30-8 p.m. Look for more information on how to register in the weekly bulletin.

Board meeting: The board met by Zoom on October 21. Board members include:

Jane Evancho-president, Hoddi Motz-vice-president, Merrilee Pangis- secretary, Ingrid Chamales-treasurer, Sally Hallis-advisor, Kathy Johnson, Joyce Kalivas-Griffin, Maria Koumantaros, Olga Manos, Diane Pirotis, and Kalitsa Xitco.

Please contact Merrilee Pangis for the Zoom meeting information. Topics include Philoptochos programs and ministry commitments. We invite all interested members and parishioners to join these meetings and share their thoughts. Regular monthly meetings with the membership will resume soon. 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. Human contact and interaction is so important during these trying COVID-19 times.

Thank you for your Support!

Jane Evancho

Philoptochos News continued next page...

Philoptochos News

Holiday Food Certificates Drive

The 31st 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 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

Coffee Hour



COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY

URGENT CALL FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN

The **coffee** hours are still being no-host as the teams are still in the process of regenerating. The coffee hour teams are in imperative need of having more members on their team. You can help by volunteering to join the ministry. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lower hall to be able to sign-up. For the no-host coffee hours, you may bring something. Individuals or families may host a coffee hour for a special occasion. For more information please contact Zach Karanasos.

MISSION

- To extend the Holy Eucharist to social/coffee hour
- To express and manifest our faith by extending the hospitality we proclaim and by acknowledging the grace we have received during the Divine Liturgy
- To promote fellowship
- To connect with fellow parishioners, to welcome guests and to invite new faith seekers to our Church

Keeping the Coffee Hour Ministry alive is pivotal because it represents a great opportunity to:

- Put into practice principles of our faith (hospitality, discipline, respect, servitude, generosity, engagement) that enhance our spiritual growth and challenge us to become servant leaders
- Foster a sense of community
- Unify us by building within our parish a center of shared values and purposes

Coffee hour should become part of our collective identity as Orthodox Christians at St. Nicholas Church. Furthermore, it is one of the few and regular times parishioners can connect with each other.

TEAM SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER:

11/07/2021	Veteran's Day Celebration
11/14/2021	Daughters of Penelope
11/21/2021	Open
11/28/2021	Open

Building Committee



THE DOORS! THE DOORS!

At the time of this writing the Narthex Renovation is essentially done with the exception of installing three sets of specialty doors, still in procurement and waiting for arrival to the church. Those doors are:

- 1) An interior set of double doors that leads from the Narthex area to the Sanctuary.
- 2) An exterior set of double doors with arched tops at the Narthex main entrance.
- 3) A heavy-duty scissor type gate at the base of Narthex exterior steps at sidewalk level.

Due to the custom nature of all three sets of doors, combined with some design detail complexities, plus having to switch an exterior door supplier in July, and then deal with distribution & shop fabrication disruptions, all three sets of doors most likely will not arrive until after Thanksgiving in early December. As a result, temporary security measures have been set and will remain in place, both at the exterior main entry overhang area where the scissor gate is to be installed, and at the main entry door opening.

The Narthex area interior work is complete, other than finishing up around the Sanctuary and main exterior entry wall openings after specialty doors arrive, and Father Seraphim is now able to move back into his permanent office. There are still a few odds & ends to complete at the building exteriors, but the landscaping is done, and beyond the specialty doors, we are in "punch list" or final completion mode.

(See the following pages for additional photos.)

Building Committee



This photo shows an interior door opening that leads from the Narthex area to the Sanctuary. The existing door opening height was extended by over 1' to better accommodate processions out of the Sanctuary. The new doors will have stained glass and other accent features.



Above is the new exterior main entry door entrance opening that leads into the Narthex, with a temporary framed & sheathed cover over it. Since the time of this photo an interior lock has been added to supplement an exterior lock already in place at a temporary door that was constructed within that field framed opening cover. Batt insulation, covered with Visqueen is planned to be installed within the temporary cover to help maintain building heat as the outside temperatures drop. The temporary cover and door will be removed once the permanent exterior doors arrive.



A large arched opening in the center of the Narthex entry overhang gable wall is where a lockable scissor security gate, still in procurement, will be installed. Temporary chainlink fencing with a lockable gate will remain in its place in order to keep the outside entry overhang area secure until the scissor door arrives. The original design called for an ornamental type double swinging gate, but the City of Tacoma would not allow it because the gates would have swing out onto the abutting city sidewalk area.



This is a close-up of an ornamental security bar panel that has been installed in smaller arched openings under the Narthex main entry overhang area.

Building Committee



This photo is taken from the Sanctuary, and looks through the renovated Narthex area to the main entrance exterior door opening.



This photo was taken from the Upper Hall corridor side of the Narthex area, and looks into Father Seraphim's office.



A close up of an eagle mosaic near the center of the Narthex entrance.



A south side view of the new Narthex, showing how it blends with the existing Sanctuary.



Trash, weeds and debris along an east alley edge below the church parking lot have been removed and replaced with a new gravel strip.



A view of new landscaping along the north side of South 16th Street, taken at the driveway entry that leads to the church parking lot.

Cover Story Continued



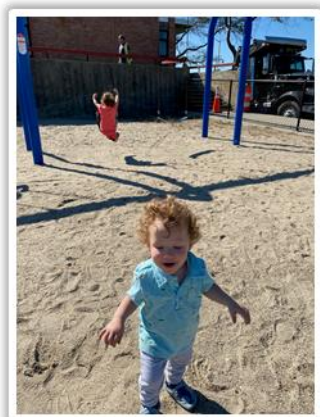
Feel free to look at our fundraising page for more information and continued updates.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-the-rices-pay-for-seminary-expenses?qid=9ad9826f1f458ef671740e81a4427203>



SCAN ME

If you would like to give directly, our mailing address is:
Aaron and Ranae Rice
C/O Campus Mail
50 Goddard Ave.
Brookline, MA 02445



Exploring Lynn Beach with friends

Daughters of Penelope



DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE ICARIA CHAPTER #175



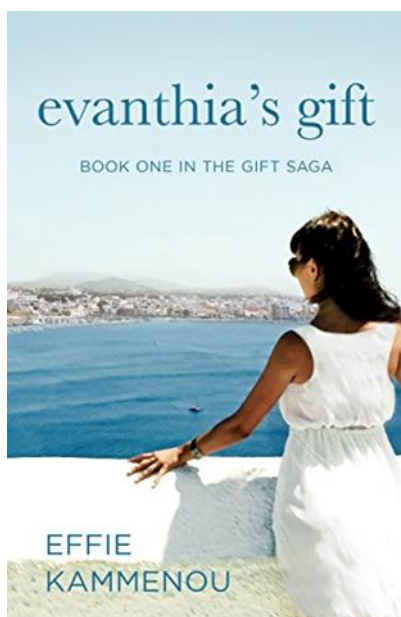
Coffee Hour

The Icaria 175 Chapter of the Daughters of Penelope cordially invites you to Coffee Hour on **November 14th** to celebrate the 92nd Anniversary of the founding of the Daughters of Penelope.

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy, our event will begin with a short presentation by Secretary Helen McClure on the history of the organization and of our Chapter, and our Mission for 2021-2022 which is: THRIVE: Care, Connect, Collaborate. We will allow time for questions while we enjoy treats and refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you then!

Join The Monthly Read, Icaria's Virtual (for now) Book Club!



A BOOK A MONTH, PICKED BY OUR SISTERS

We begin our reading journey with VP Olga Manos' pick: *Evanthia's Gift*.

Available on Amazon in three formats (Kindle, Audiobook, Paperback), *Evanthia's Gift* is the first book in The Gift Saga trilogy. Kindle Unlimited subscribers read it for free.

JOIN us on November 10th at 7:00p.m.

for our first discussion

A Zoom link to be emailed to all members ahead of time

Email *Join the Book Club* to icariatacomawa@gmail.com

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

This month we begin by recognizing the passing of another St. Nicholas veteran. Elias (Louis) S. Natsiopoulou, was a long-time member of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Assumption in Seattle, WA, but he would occasionally attend our St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church where he was friends with many of our long time parishioners, Elias passed away on 15 September and services were held for him at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Assumption in Seattle on 29 September.

When this ministry first began, Elias Natsiopoulou was one of the first veterans that provided me with a photo from his time in the military. One day he was kind enough to meet me for lunch and shared with me experiences from his time in the service during the Korean War. I still recall some of that conversation where he explained that because of his nationality and ability to speak Greek, he was tasked to serve as a liaison between his American unit and



the Greek "Spartan" Battalion, that was at the time attached to the American 1st Cavalry Division. We spoke for about an hour and when we were preparing to leave he took me to his car and showed me his Army uniform, and proudly, the insignia that reflected his service with the Greek Expeditionary Forces.

Quite some time later while researching George Velias, a St. Nicholas parishioner who was killed while serving with the 7th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Cavalry Division during the Korean War, I learned that George's unit was on occasion in the same sector as the Greek Spartan Battalion. I wondered if Elias' and George's paths may have crossed during the war, and I hoped to ask Elias that question the next time George Pirotis and I planned to visit him at the long term care facility in which he was staying. Alas, because of COVID and now his death, we shall never know.

I know from the picture at Elias' funeral that he was the recipient of the Army Presidential Unit Citation. That award is presented to units that demonstrate exceptional heroism in action against an armed enemy. Requirements include that the unit must "...display such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set it apart from, and above, other units in the same campaign."

The Greek Expeditionary Forces received two U.S. Army Presidential Unit Citations—One was awarded to the Sparta Battalion for the capture of Scotch Hill in October 1951, and one for the defense of Outpost Harry on June 17-18, 1953. I cannot confirm without seeing Elias' military records, but it is quite possible that he earned that award while serving with the Greek Expeditionary Forces.

MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL.

Continued on next page....

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

Elias (Louis) Natsiopoulos Obituary. It is with sadness, together with hope in our Lord's resurrection, that I share the news of the falling asleep of our brother in Christ, Louis Natsiopoulos. Louie fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, the 15th of September.

Louie was born on the 23rd of February in 1930 in a small village outside of Grevena called Agios Kosmas, located in northern Greece. He immigrated to America at the age of twenty-one. In February 1963 he married his wife Nancy. They were married for fifty-three years until Nancy fell asleep, preceding Louie in the Lord, on October of 2016.



Louie was a special person, and a mentor to many. He was a kind, gentle hearted person with a peaceful heart. As the Assumption was his home throughout his life in Seattle, you would often see Louie at Liturgy receiving the Eucharist and lending a helping hand. He enjoyed cooking for the poor and spent many Thursdays working and in fellowship with those in the Saint John the Almsgiver ministry. I also remember him as a Sunday Narthex Usher who would greet everyone with his genuine smile and gentle spirit. Most of all, I remember how Louie so lovingly interacted with his wife Nancy who was ill with Multiple Sclerosis for many years. Often you would see pictures of Louie sitting next to Nancy holding her hand. And when she fell asleep in the Lord, Louie was there, right by her side, holding her hand as she lay peacefully asleep by his side. Louie, together with his wife Nancy, carried the cross of Multiple Sclerosis with such dignity and strength. Louie's example of a loving husband in the face of challenges continues to hold a special place in my memory. The love he showed for his wife and family, and for all with whom he interacted with his gentle loving heart, was an expression of his love for our Lord, and the depth of his faith.

Louie's son Philip, wrote this about his dad, "I am so grateful to have a father who was the greatest example of being a good husband, a good parent, a hard worker, a loyal friend to all who were his friends, and a kind and compassionate man to anyone he ever crossed paths with. A super intelligent man and yet someone who would never speak or boast about himself, not to mention ever promote himself. While at the same time his actions and the testimonies of all who knew him were deafening. It would take hundreds of pages to describe and measure the impact my dad had on basically every person he ever encountered. It isn't a stretch to say THE FIRST THING every person that I have ever met that knows my dad has said to me is "Oh, I just love your dad!" and then, instead of letting a potential over used polite statement linger, there would be a specific follow up story about what he personally has done to impact them. From doctors, nurses, and care staff over the years who were involved with my mom's care, and in the last four years, his own care. As well as any person that he has worked with at Boeing or the FAA. The parishioners at the Greek Orthodox Church and the overall Greek community that he loved and was involved in."

Louie is survived by his two children, Veronica and Philip, and five Grandchildren, Philip Jr., Anthony, Kendel, Alyssa, and Meagan.

Written by Fr. Dean Kouldukis, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

Continued on next page....

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

10 November 1775: Birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

November 10th will be the 246th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. Marines all around the world celebrate this event in formal fashion wherever possible, and the ceremonies always begin with the reading of a birthday greeting from the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and later, the cutting of the official birthday cake. Whether in garrison or a field training exercise, or on a ship at sea or a war zone, the celebration is a memorable event for all, and an honor to experience.



Our St. Nicholas Church has many parishioners or family members who served in the United States Marine Corps, or as Navy Corpsman supporting them. Some participated in legendary battles on islands in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. Some fought in Korea or flew reconnaissance missions along the North/South Korean border. Most recently, some participated in combat operations on the desert sands of Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and in the mountains of Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. The following parishioners/family members "...have fought our countries battles in the air, on land and sea..," and we should always be grateful for their service.



Lester Beecher
USMC
WWII & KOREA
Chrisann Firth's father



John Paul Brandvold
U.S. Marine Corps
Cold War
Vonnie Brandvold's husband



MAJ Steve Chamales
USMC
Operation Iraqi Freedom & Operation Enduring Freedom
Dr. Ingrid & Gus' son



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



Elias Habeeb
U.S. Marine Corps
WWII
Delores Apostle's father



L/CPL Richard Hiedal
U.S. Marine Corps
Cold War
Kathleen Hiedal's husband



Sharon Denise Johnson
USMC
MSG(R) Joseph Johnson's younger sister



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



PVT Lazarus Politakis
U.S. Marine Corp
Cold War
Steve and Chris Politakis' father

Continued on next page.

Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News



PFC James (Chick) Robeson
U.S.M.C.
WWII
The third Marine on top of Mount Suribachi and a member of the platoon that raised the first flag during the battle for Iwo Jima.
Mark Robinson's 2nd cousin



Capt. Earl Rogers
U.S. Marine Corps
Died in the line of duty while conducting aerial reconnaissance of the North/South Korean border.
July 1978
Jeff Rogers' father



Angelo Sarantinos
U.S. Marine Corps
Korean War
Fr. Daniel & Roxanne's uncle



Bill Zorzakis
U.S. Marine Corps
WWII
Fought on the islands of Guadalcanal, Bougainville, & Guam.
Helen McClure's father



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



CPO(R) John Pantelis
U.S. Navy
WWII
Medical Corpsman w/USMC on Iwo Jima.
Tina Pantelis' father

11 November : Veterans Day. Veterans Day is celebrated on 11 November but **the annual St. Nicholas Veterans Day luncheon and presentation will be held on Sunday, 7 November**, following the liturgy service. The ladies of Philoptochos will be preparing the luncheon meal and sponsoring it along with the St. Nicholas Military Ministry. Afterward, our Marines and Marine family members will cut and share the 246th Marine Corps Birthday Cake, and then there will be a short presentation in honor of one of St. Nicholas' distinguished veterans. A free will contribution will be greatly appreciated with all funds going to the JBLM Fisher House.



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

VETERANS DAY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

19 November 1951. On this date St. Nicholas parishioner George Velias was killed in action while serving with the 1st Cavalry Division during the Korean War. George was an infantryman assigned to K Company, 3-7 Cavalry, a subordinate unit within the 1st Cavalry Division.

The 1st Cavalry Division was in Korea as part of the post WWII occupation force when the North Korean Army (NKA) attacked south across the border. The 1st Cavalry Division, along with the other U.S. Army units stationed in the Pacific Theatre, were poorly equipped and ill prepared for a NKA attack. The NKA quickly seized Seoul, the capital of South Korea, and was successful in pushing the United Nations (UN) forces all the way back to the southeastern tip of Korea, to the city of Pusan. The UN forces put up a stubborn defense along the Pusan perimeter while General MacArthur prepared for and conducted, on 15 September 1950,



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.

an amphibious assault at Inchon. MacArthur's seaborne invasion was successful in turning the tide of the war and UN forces were able to retake Seoul, the capital of South Korea. With that successful seaborne landing the NKA was threatened with encirclement, and it began to retreat north up the Korean peninsula. The 1st Cavalry Division and other UN forces went on the offensive and pursued the retreating NKA across the original 38th parallel border, and began approaching toward the North Korean/Chinese border.

As UN forces advanced closer to China, the Chinese leader, Mao Tse Tung, prepared to attack south in support of his North Korean communist allies. Mao began sending troops across the Yalu River border to support the NKA and by mid October the UN forces were fighting approximately 300,000 fresh Chinese troops. The tide of the war swung to the advantage of China and the NKA as they began pushing the UN forces back to the 38th parallel. Near the 38th parallel the opposing forces fought back and forth for almost a year as peace talks were ongoing, with neither side making substantial gains.

George's unit was on the front lines at this time (fall of 1951) and in the vicinity of the 38th parallel. The 1st Cavalry Division, having been decisively engaged in the war since the very beginning, was ordered to withdraw from the front lines so it could be sent back to Japan to rearm and refit, and serve as the Pacific Theatre Reserve. George Velias was killed ten days before his unit was pulled out of the front. There were 64 men killed in K Company, 3-7 Cavalry during the Korean War. George Velias was the 64th and last man from K Company to die.

George's loss was deeply felt by the Greek community of the Pacific Northwest. A plaque in his memory was presented to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and hangs in upper hall.

George's family was from Roy, WA and still resides in this area.

George's family was from Roy, WA and still resides in this area.

MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

Stewardship Ministry News

Dear Parishioners of St. Nicholas:

The temperature is dropping, the trees are turning their color, and it is getting darker much earlier. This is an indication that fall is in the air.

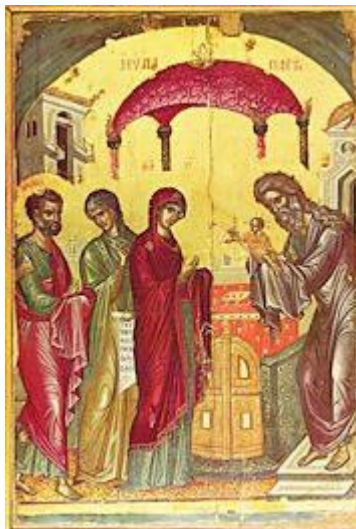
The first thing that comes to mind during fall is the St. Nicholas Festival. As we all know, we were not able to have the Festival as we have had it in the past, but do to the hard work of several individuals, we were able to have a Festival Bake Sale which was a tremendous success. We would like to thank EVERYONE who helped bake and distribute the baked goods we sold in place of the Festival. In addition, Many THANKS to those who supported the bake sale by purchasing items. Those who purchased Baked Good items should have seen a 2022 Stewardship Card in your package. There were more than 44 2022 Stewardship Cards that have already been distributed. In order to prepare a budget for the 2022 calendar year, please fill out and submit your 2022 stewardship card. We are planning on having a Stewardship Sunday at the beginning of the year. The next issue of the Messenger will have the date and time.

As a reminder to those who have not submitted their 2021 stewardship card, the Stewardship committee is contacting individuals who do not have 2021 stewardship card on file. We want as many of you as possible to be 2021 stewards so that you can take part in the administrative decisions of the church between now and the end of this year.

By now you should have already received information about nominating candidates whom you feel will best serve you on the parish council. If you have not received this information, please contact the church office. Elections will take place on December 5, 2021. Remember ONLY stewards in good standing can vote.

As we wind down this year, we would like to extend to each and everyone of you our sincere Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season. Hard to believe this year is coming to an end.

—Maria Koumantaros—



Stewardship Ministry News

Stewardship

Offering Our Time, Talent and Treasure To God

Stewardship Message

Each month the Messenger publishes a list of contributors who have made monetary donations to St. Nicholas for 2021. We also indicate those contributors who have a signed 2021 stewardship card on file in the church's office by showing an (•) after each last name. Each month, the contributors and those who have a signed stewardship card on file is growing. On behalf of the Parish Council, we THANK each and every one of you for your contributions. Below is an updated list of contributors as of October 20, 2021. If you have completed a 2021 Stewardship card and have made a contribution to St. Nicholas this year, your name with an (•) should be shown. If your name is NOT listed or an (•) is not indicated, please contact the church office to update your status.

William & Mary Acker •	Barry & Deborah Middleton Cas-	Christina Ginosatis
Nicholas Afeiche	sidy	Alla Glagoleva
Leonidas & Despina Alatsis •	Klaudia Cedeno •	John & Judy Godulas •
Patra Alatsis •	C.G. and Ingrid Chamales •	Eliza Gooler
Kacoulou Andreas*	Steven Chamales	Stephan & Claire Gorham •
Anna Andrey	Yianni Charitou	John Gregory
Sonny & Irene Angelos •	Reagan Charuhas	Christina Gretty •
Rick & Marlene Angelus •	Reanne Charuhas	Robin & Joyce Kalivas-Griffin •
Paul & Dolores Apostle •	Elena Chen	Sally Hallis •
Tony and Lori Apostle •	Chris A. Cherbas	Dean & Carol Hamos •
Andrew & Sheila Auter •	Anthony & Sandra Ciarochi	Michael & Kristine Hanberg •
Tina Ayers	Courtney Cole-Faso •	Daniel & Ekaterini Hanson •
George Ballasiotes	Sharmarie & Troy Dares •	Natalya Harpe
Tyler & Lexi Balser •	Dina Deliyianides •	Timothy and Kathleen
E. Anthe Barbas	Maria Diamond	Harvey •
Chrysanth & SFC® Wiley	P. & J. Dionas Trust	Brent & Evangelia Hassel
Barnes	Voula Dodd	Magdaline Hatzikazakis •
Harry & Sheri Basil •	Gretchen Eagle •	Vance and Suzanne Hawk
Sophia Elizabeth Berg •	Timothy & Sunny Edgren •	Richard & Kathleen Heidal •
T.L. Berg	Frederick & Anastasia Ehret	Will Horton
Theodora Bessinas •	Amber Lynn Eramo •	Christopher & Cheryl Hunt
Tatiana Bilibin	Mary Erickson	Thomas & Helga Jackson •
Dean & Anna Bolaris	Andrew & Jane Evancho •	Joseph & Ronnie-Sue John-
Andrew & Kathy Bouzinekis	James & Deena Fotinopoulos	son •
Yvonne Brandvold •	David & Savina Frisk •	Kathy Johnson •
Dora Brown	Dayle Sokratis Frisk •	"Rikki" Hariklia Kapes •
Cheryl Burack •	Father and Alexanorie	Anna Karanasos •
Scott & Marcia Cairns •	Gavrill	Paula Karanasos •
William and Bonnie Caress •	Andrea Georgopolos	
Cash Donations - Anonymous Donors	Mary Georgopolos • *	

Stewardship Ministry News

Stewardship

Offering Our Time, Talent and Treasure To God

Zachary & Daphne Karanasos •
 Sharon Kennedy •
 Naser & Catalina Khalaj •
 Nelya Khamilonova
 Claudia Sargent Kieszling •
 Evangelos & Despina Kipelidis •
 Anna Kiraki
 Anna Koopman
 Steve Koukles •
 John C. Kouklis
 Mary Kouklis •
 Ourania Koukousoula & Ronald
 Ayume
 Maria Koumantaros •
 Peter and Margaret Laketa
 Elia and Micheline Lakkis
 Deanne Langevin
 Vernon Larson
 Robert & Anne Latz •
 Christina Leineweber •
 Mary Leonard •
 L. Likos
 Mary Linak
 Svetlana Lukianova
 Andrew Lurker
 George and Bess Lurker •
 Jeff & Laura Macaluso
 John Basil Majmudar •
 Fr. Seraphim & Pres. Sophie
 Majmudar •
 Sara & Costas Makariou •
 Olga Lynn Manos •
 Chris & Susan Manthou •
 Mathew John Manthou •
 Natalia Marberg
 Katherine Mason •
 Dean & Julie Mastras •
 Iphigenia Mavromichali •
 Helen & George McClure •
 Alan (John) & Sheilagh Means •
 Cole Meyer

Tatyana Mikeladze •
 Cassie & Paul Moeller •
 Tom Mollas
 Nina & John Morrison •
 Hariklia & Dick Motz •
 Michael & Rodica Murphy •
 Order of AHEPA - Olympic Chap-
 ter
 David & Katrina Orriss •
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 Niko & Sonia Pamboukas •
 Tony and Debbie Panagiotu •
 George Panagiotu
 Alexis Pangis •
 John & Merrilee Pangis •
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 Lena & Charles Plunkett •
 Joaquin & Shanna Poirot
 Martha Politakis
 Steve & Kathleen Politakis •
 Andrew and Rebecca Primis •
 Helen and G.W. Psaros
 Emmanuel Psilovikos
 Scott, Peg and family Radford
 Sammy Ramzi
 Despina Reinmuth
 Homer-Christian Reiter and
 Audrey Sikara •
 Martin J. Reiter III & Lorissa
 Catherine Reiter •
 Aaron T. & Renae C. Rice
 Mark & Dana Robinson •
 Katherine Rowley •

Lilia Rusu
 Katherine Salatas
 Bill and Karen Samaras •
 Peter Sandas Jr.
 Alexandra and Richard Schutt
 St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society
 Alexandru Stefan • *
 Denise and Richard Stahl •
 Jacob Swan
 Andy & Joanne Stergachis •
 James & Jenise Sweeney
 Olympia and John Stafford •
 Deborah Talbot •
 The Matherne Family
 Nicholas and Becky Themelis •
 Roxanne Vallantine •
 Dee Varca •
 Georgia & Peter Vlahas •
 John Volkert •
 Michael Jane White •
 Jeffrey and Janice Williams
 Edward Winskill •
 Hugh Winskill
 Marcela Wirth
 Kalitsa & John Xitco •
 Tasso & Sarah Zambaras •
 John Zaoutsos
 Luai Zureikat

• 2021 Stewardship card on file

* Deceased

Organization: Order of AHEPA,

St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society

Bible Study

ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY THE REVELATION



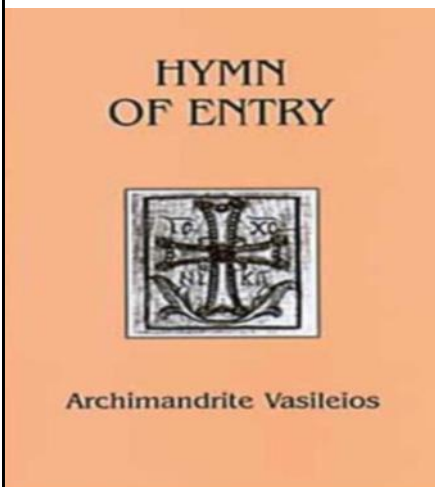
THE CHURCH – (ICON OF PENTECOST)

As each year goes by and new Christians come into existence through Baptism, this summarizes the core concept that we discussed earlier, of this basic conflict: the devil is envious of mankind and as a person is baptized and becomes a “christ” on earth who is a part of the body that is the Church; with every year that goes by that basic conflict is constantly unfolding because of that fact. We and we alone represent the possibility to iconically depict all of creation. The angels are just spirit – they don’t have flesh. Angels can take on human form and appear to be human but that doesn’t make them incarnate. On the other hand, animals can’t be icons of all creation because they don’t possess “spirits” – they don’t have souls that are formed in the image of Christ. Man is both spiritually in the image of Christ with a true rational soul, and simultaneously, has true flesh – thus, uniting heaven and earth (one of the 5 dualities). Only man can be the true image or little christ of the whole cosmos. He represents the image of Christ to the cosmos and he represents the icon of the cosmos to Christ. Only mankind has that dual role.

The devil was aware of what God was creating in man; and the fact that He was not creating that in angels. God was only making His purpose in the image of the child being born of the woman in Chapter 12. It’s in the singular, but by that image as St. Methodios just explained, that’s every single human being that God has made into what He intended, which is to be a “little christ”. God has a vision for our existence and, on a more personal level, every single one of us has to apply all these beautiful teachings from Scripture to our own self-concept. Our own self-concept has to be grounded in “God made me”. “I came into existence, not as a biological accident, but because He made me through the synergy of my parents. Therefore, I have His intentionality from the moment of the beginning of my existence. Each moment from the beginning of my existence also has His intentionality. So, my entire life-

Bible Study

time makes deep sense to Him.” There is a deep logic for everything from Genesis to Revelation. Father Seraphim feels that the acceptance of evolution, as a self-concept, was the real gateway to all the problems that we are experiencing in society today. Evolution is saying that there is no deep structural intentionality to human existence – it’s chemical and biological. The people who are anti-Christ are usually evolutionists. The excuse is, “I’m going to act like a beast, because all I am is a beast”.



Pages 44-47 The Structure of the Church

It is the eschatological freedom that the Church enjoys while existing in history. It is the coming together of heaven and earth.

If the Lord had wanted a merely administrative unity, with no further implications in terms of life and mystery, He could have provided as an image of the Church’s unity the Roman Empire, saying, “Father, I desire that the faithful may be united as the Roman Empire is united.” However, He did nothing of the sort, but asked instead that the trinitarian “even as” should be the measure of everything in the Church’s life. He likened His Kingdom to an entity with a power of its own, growing and living in its entirety. He said that the Kingdom of Heaven is like leaven, like a seed, like a pearl hidden in the earth which is of such value that any merchant who found it would sell all in order to obtain it.

The whole body of the Church bears witness to the unifying grace of the Trinity: its administrative structure, its liturgical life and its theological creativity. The Church is not an organization of “pious” people that provides liturgical outlets for the psychological needs of the faithful or theology to solve their metaphysical problems and puzzles. It is “dwelling of God among men” (Revelation 21:3). It is at once the little flock and she who is wider than the heavens, which is not contained but contains history and the whole of creation.

When the Church exists as Christ requires it to, then it bears witness. This witness is not a message unrelated to its life; it is the very fact that its whole existence is structured in a different way, a way dictated and hallowed by the trinitarian “even as”. The Church will not be united merely in any manner and to any end, but it will be united – that is to say, it is united and will remain so – because there is no other mode of existence for it. The loss of trinitarian consciousness means falling away from the Church.

The existence of the Church is not a cause for fear to anyone, but rather a reassurance, a testimony to the love of God and a proof of His power and providence, “so that the world may know that Thou has sent Me and hast loved them even as Thou hast loved Me” (John 17:23). This is the only way to lead the world to faith and love; otherwise, we lead it into unbelief and provoke it to hatred. The world needs to feel that God loves it. It is this that tames the passions, revitalizes hope, and renews the thirst for life. This Gospel of love is made known by the Church through the way it exists “kenotically”, the way it is united “even as” the Holy Trinity is united, and thus becomes a living theophany within history.

Bible Study

The Church has one mission: to be in the world; and by its presence and the manner of its existence to confess: "It is no longer I who live, but the Holy Trinity Who lives in Me. It does not improvise. It does not do Its Own will. As It hears, It judges." (cf. John 5:30). The unity which the Church has after the manner of the Trinity makes it capable of partaking organically in the divine and blessed life, of receiving the grace of the Comforter and of being witness that God loves the world.

He who has really seen the Church has seen the Holy Trinity. This vision is Paradise, a pledge of the life to come and of the Kingdom. It is a vision revealed to those who are baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity, to those "who have attained not only union with the Holy Trinity, but also the unity which can be perceived with the Holy Trinity."

The twelve, united after the manner of the Trinity ("even as"), are sent into the world "even as" the Father sent the Son into the world (cf. John 20:21). "Fear not, little flock" (Luke 12:32). The work is practically finished. The Virgin said to the Archangel Gabriel, "Let it be to Me according to Your word" (Luke 1:38). The Lord said to His heavenly Father, "Thy will be done" (Luke 22:42). The Church says every day, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Thus, the sacred action seen at work in the Trinity begins to operate in the world.

The Church is God's Christ Himself, the Kingdom of God which "is within us" (Luke 17:21). It is heaven on earth. The Church's aim is to remain on earth, and not to leave the world until such time as it can take the world with it, until it can make the world heaven. According to His promise, we wait for a "new heaven and a new earth" (II Peter 3:13), and heaven and earth are one in this new creation.

Thus, we understand that true union is an eschatological event; but it does not, therefore, follow that we are far removed from unity in terms of time. If it seems so to us, this proves that we are far away in terms of trinitarian awareness, that we are far from the new understanding, the new creation that Christ has inaugurated. The time of eschatology has already begun, and there are people who do not come into judgment but pass from death into life.

In the Church, in the Divine Liturgy, the faithful who are offered to Him "in all and for all" do not simply ask for but actually enjoy the union of all. The unity of the Church is not an administrative system or a method of procedure which can be seen with the naked eye and arranged in a human fashion. It is a theanthropic mystery made known in the Spirit, Who "unites the whole institution of the Church." It is a reality outside the world which gives life to the Church.

The Church is a living entity, not an abstraction. Here are some Bible Study members reflections on this:

Father Seraphim: The conflict isn't just between Christ and the devil, but how the devil is attacking Christ's Body to usurp Christ. It's not just an abstract battle between the two; it's how the devil is trying to destroy His Body.

Deborah T.: Everyone is worshipping the same God and all is okay. It's a very personal and real thing. If you are part of The Church, you are part of the Body of Christ and you are, personally, being attacked. It's not this thing that is out there and we will live the best that we can. It makes it very important to be part of The Church and not just to be baptized into it, but to actually live in it.

Father Seraphim: Luke 9:49-50 "...Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your Name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us. ⁵⁰But Jesus said to him, 'Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side.' " Being in His Body is to walk with His Apostles, but His Name also has power. That is why the Holy Spirit included that moment in Scripture. It's the basis on which we can understand all kinds of diversity within Christianity without losing that sense of the inexorable Oneness of His Body. You can hold both those concepts at the same time. Those who were casting out demons in "His Name", but did not walk with the Apostles, had a concept of the Church that would have been an abstraction – for them it was all about the power of Jesus. The drawback with separating themselves

Bible Study

from His Body, is not sharing in that “Oneness”.

Alan M.: *“The Church is a community of faith committed to worship, witness, service and fellowship.”*

Denise S: The concept of the Church as an abstraction leaves a vulnerability that allows those who don’t follow Church doctrine to plant seeds of evil which can divide and conquer.

Father Seraphim: There’s a conception that everyone who believes in Christ is the Church, which is a “catch-all” term for those who, more or less, believe the same thing. If you go back to the text from the “Hymn of Entry”, for example, the Church (the Woman), in **Revelation 12**, is a living entity of which we are, ontologically united - on a being level. We are not just a group of people who believe the same thing. What action of the Church signifies what we are talking about?

Deborah M: The Eucharist (Holy Communion). It’s not just grape juice and crackers – It’s the Body and Blood of Christ. It becomes a part of us when we consume it.

Father Seraphim: You see this during the Turkish occupation of Greece or Communist Russia or Romania, where the faithful risked their lives to come together for the Eucharist. Some can rationalize by thinking, “I believe in Jesus, you believe in Jesus, but why risk life and limb just to get together and pray? We can pray on our own. Ultimately, it boils down to “Do you love Christ, or not?” The Orthodox Church didn’t stop celebrating the Eucharist during the COVID lockdown. If we dispense with the Church coming together (σύναξη - synaxis), if that is negotiable, then we are left with devastating and lingering theological effects. We are talking about, potentially, catastrophic spiritual consequences. The Church will change from a living being, as symbolized by the Woman with the child in **Revelation 12** to a shared belief system with no necessary or ontological sharing. How does the coming together for the Eucharist relate to the theology of what the Kingdom will be?

Deborah M: We will partake of His Body and Blood which will unite us to Him. He will recognize us and know us and we will all be one in the Kingdom.

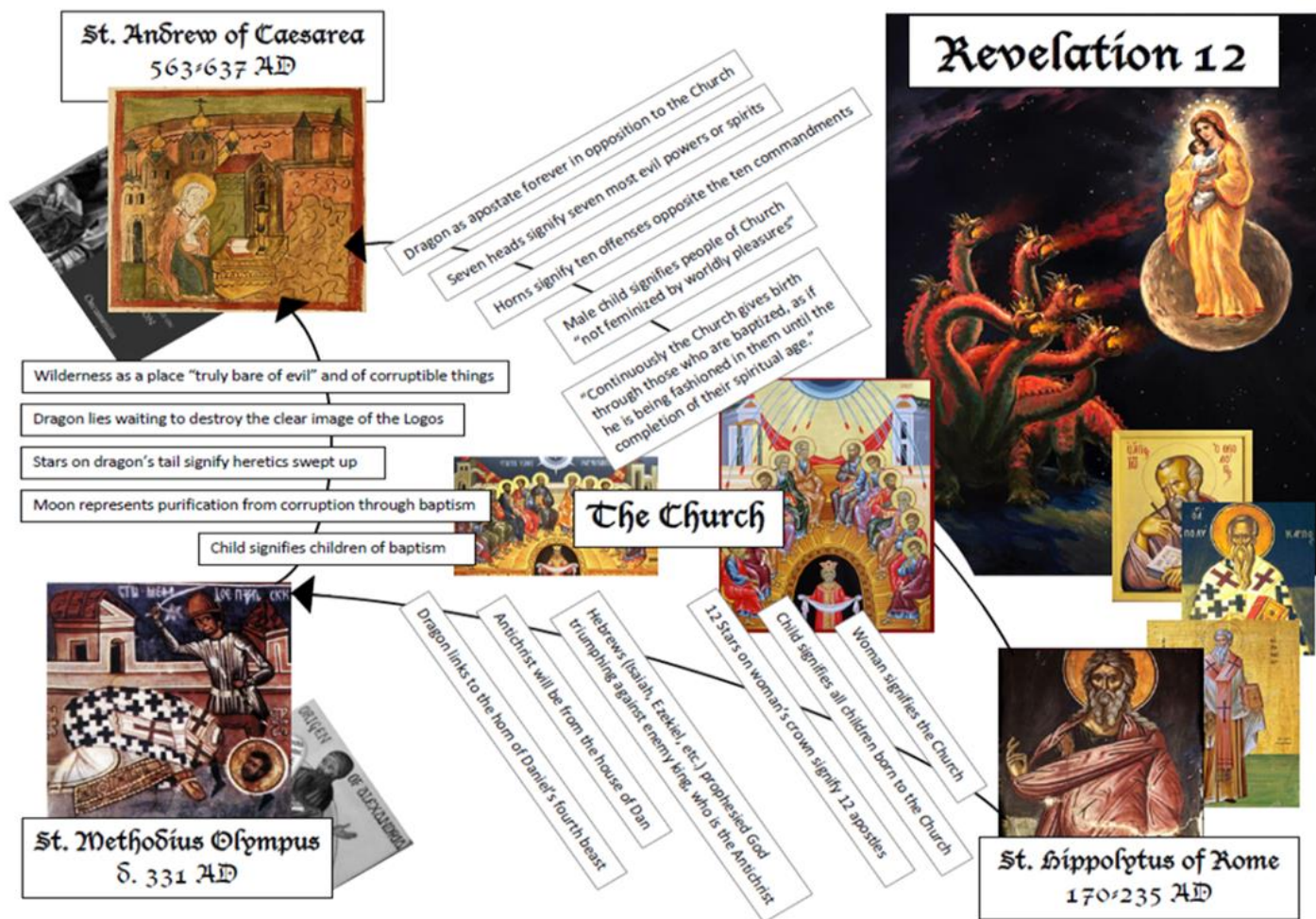
Father Seraphim: On a physical, or molecular level, the theology of the Church, expressed by Father Staniloae, using St. Gregory of Nyssa and many other Saints, state that our bodies will be reconstituted according to the glorious bodies that St. Paul describes. Our spiritual bodies will become interpenetrated in this incredible oneness, but we will remain identifiably unique. Everyone’s “resurrection” bodies and souls will be intertwined or interlocked. It always leads back to the Eucharist. It is above all a celebration of love in the fulfillment of oneness.

Sheila A: Our thoughts effect each other even if we are not in each other’s presence because we have that oneness.

Father Seraphim: *“Our thoughts determine our lives.” Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica.* Our input determines our thoughts, also.

Bible Study

Extra Credit Assignment- connect the sources:
St. Hippolytus, St. Methodios, St. Andrew of Caesarea & The Church
Submitted by Nektarios (Derek Nektarios Olson)



Please contact Genevieve at stnicholaszoom@gmail.com if you wish to receive the Zoom link information to participate in the Bible Study meetings or if you would just like to receive the video and audio links to view or listen to the weekly studies.

Submitted by: Genevieve Eagle

ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

This month's newsletter reflects the results up to the half-way mark of the 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign. Praise God for record-setting numbers of saved babies reported. Today, we know of 366 babies saved from abortion through your prayers since September 22!



Hollywood, Florida

A dramatic scene unfolded before 40 Days for Life vigil participants in Hollywood, Florida. A half hour after an Uber brought a couple to their abortion appointment, the woman's mother showed up.

"I'm here to stop my daughter from doing this," she said.

As the woman went inside to try to save her grandchild, vigil participants stepped up their prayers. While prayer warriors implored God to save the child, the abortion-bound woman, her boyfriend, and her mother repeatedly entered the abortion facility. They exited the abortion facility. They paced. They went back into the abortion facility.

"We are witnessing a battle between Heaven and hell," said Nancy, the Hollywood leader.



Finally, the family told vigil participants that they had chosen life – and that it was the *vigil participants' presence who made the difference!*

"How many babies have been saved?" asked the baby's grandmother.

"As of yesterday, there were 229," Nancy answered.

"Well, now there are 230," the woman said. "I think I may join you out here."

ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

Tuluá, Colombia



An expectant mother from out of town visited Tuluá for a late-term abortion. She faced financial difficulties and had experienced a traumatic delivery of her first child. Volunteers accompanied the mother to a local pregnancy help center, which provided her with answers – and an ultrasound that showed she is carrying a girl!

“She saw a fetal model of five months of gestation, and her face began to change,” reported Director of Latin American Campaigns Lourdes Varela. “She chose LIFE!”

Portland, Oregon



The 40 Days for Life team in Portland prays in front of an abortion business named after a demon. But amidst the spiritual warfare, God is winning. Vigil participants had asked God

ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

to show them a saved baby. That same day a couple entered the abortion facility – and five minutes later walked right back out.

“We aren’t going through with it,” the man said. “You guys made the difference!”

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, Who being in the form of God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the Cross.” **Philippians 2:5-8**

O Lord, help us follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Let us humbly and diligently work to restore legal protection for the unborn, the disabled, the medically dependent and all innocent children of God whose lives are threatened. Let us remember the old adage that “He can never lead who has not first learned to obey.” And, Lord, grant us a peaceful heart as we labor in Your Name.

If you would like to join St. Nicholas’ Pro-Life Ministry, or would just like to receive more information, please contact Genevieve, stnicholaszoom@gmail.com.

Submitted by: Genevieve



ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

Ministry of Akathist, Prayers for the Departed

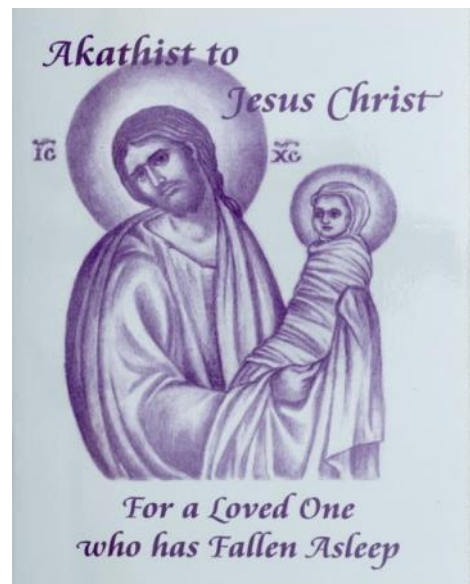


Thank you to all who are involved in this wonderful ministry at Saint Nicholas. In offering the gift of praying the Akathist to Jesus Christ for a Loved One who Has Fallen Asleep, it is a great comfort to family and friends of the departed ones.

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

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

Thank you again,
Kathy Rowley



Greek Language School

Modern Greek Language School/Classes

"Advanced Class" - Student Picture of 04-15-2021



"Pictures of previous years"



Greek Language School

Pictures of previous years continued...

Modern Greek Language School / Classes:



The 2020 - 2021 Modern Greek Language School "Advanced Class - Εκτὴ Τάξη" resumed on Thursday, October 8, 2020 and will continue to September 30, 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

Contact Church Office - 253-272-0466

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

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

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:

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

Sunday, October 31st - **OXI Day Celebration.**

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

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

George Pirotis-

PROSPHORA

PROVIDING PROSFORO

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

Despina Ampatzis brings the offering for the first Sunday of every month. Just a reminder that people are welcome to bring the prospora (and artoklasia) for special days, name days, etcetera. The procedure would be to contact Father Seraphim and discuss it with him before the actual day, and to have the offering there in time. We also have a need for people desiring to participate in the Liturgy in this way to commit to providing the offering on one Sunday every month. The second, third, and fourth, Sundays of every month are available. You can bring in your bread for Sunday at Saturday evening Vespers, or you can bring it in at 8:30 Sunday morning. Any extra loaves will be frozen and used during the weekday liturgies.

Contributed by: Deborah Talbot



PROSPHORA

LECHEM-ARTOS-BREAD

Following the Word Through Scripture

We have arrived at Deuteronomy, the fifth book of the Bible, and the last book attributed to Moses. Deuteronomy is a second telling of the journey from Mt. Sinai to the Jordan River where the Israelites are preparing to cross into the Promised Land. Our Orthodox Study Bible says that Moses delivers this narrative *“in a warm, personal, homiletic form,”* which indicates Deuteronomy is for edification, not doctrine. The major theme being edified is *“loving God with all our heart and strength.”* This retelling of the journey in the Book of Deuteronomy is, I believe, intended to strengthen the peoples’ faith in God and connection to God through remembering their experience of traveling with God through the wilderness those forty years.

In Deuteronomy chapter six Moses begins telling the children of Israel that if they will hear and be careful to do the commandments, ordinances, and judgments of God, things will go well with them, they will greatly multiply and be given a land flowing with milk and honey. The commandment is *“Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart, from your whole soul, and from your whole power. So these words I command you today shall be in your heart and in your soul. You shall teach them to your sons, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up...”*. Notice, the words of God are to be a part of us, in our hearts and souls. We are to experience them/Him in our everyday movements, and then things will go well with us. Remember how things did not go so well in the Book of Numbers when the people rebelled against the words of God.

*Deuteronomy 8:2-9: Now you shall remember the whole way the Lord your God led you in the desert, to deal harshly with you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He dealt harshly with you and weakened you with hunger, and fed you with manna, which your fathers did not know, **that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread/lechem/artos alone, but by every word proceeding from the mouth of God man shall live. Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your feet become callused these forty years. You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good and great land, where torrents of waters and springs of bottomless depths flow through the plains and through the mountains; a land of wheat and barley, of vines, fig trees, and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will not eat your bread/lechem/artos in poverty, and in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you can dig copper.***

This is an amazing passage. They experienced nourishment from bread that fell like dew from heaven and water that came from a rock, clothes that did not wear out after forty years of desert exposure, feet that did not become callused in forty years of walking through sand and rocks. This is how they experienced traveling with God through a desert wilderness, on their way the promised fertile, productive land, yet it is God who supports the fertility of that land, just as it is God who allows the barrenness of the desert. Life is found in God, not in the land or the circumstances.

Consider James 1:2-4: *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.* On page 1674 of our Orthodox Bible, the study notes to this verse tell us the important thing is our response to the trials that come upon us, not the trials themselves. Our response reveals to us where our hearts are focused. To get angry at circumstances is to get angry at God who permits them, and He permits them in order to grow our faith. This is definitely in line with the lessons of the wilderness.

PROSPHORA

The baptism of Jesus is one of our twelve great feast days, the one we call Theophany, meaning in this case a tangible manifestation of the triune God - the thundering Father, the Son Jesus, the descending Spirit dove. Immediately after this theophany, Jesus went into the wilderness (with the Holy Spirit) and fasted for forty days and forty nights. According to the gospels of Matthew and Luke, the tempter then came to him and said, *"If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."* But Jesus countered, *"It is written, 'Man shall not live by **bread** alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"* Jesus responded to the tempter by quoting from the same passage of Deuteronomy cited earlier in this article, and which every Israelite would have been familiar with in the context of their own history of having been sustained by God in the desert for forty years and then poised to enter into the promised land.

As I am working on this article, at this point it occurs to me that it was Moses who committed the story of our beginnings to writing. It was Moses who recorded that "bread" is introduced to us from the mouth of God in the context of the reality of death. Genesis 3:19: *"In the sweat of your face you shall eat **bread** till you return to the ground from which you were taken. Earth you are and to earth you shall return."* Then I noted the very next verse says, *So Adam called his wife's name Life, because she was the mother of all living.* The irony of this juxtaposition floored me, until I thought, no, this is a metanoia moment, meta with a meaning of after and beyond. It was the woman's thought and act that allowed the entrance of death. Adam, who had understood each of the animals and named them correctly, had not yet named his wife. They sinned, God has explained the consequences, and *then* Adam understands that his wife is meant to be Eve (Life). After obtaining knowledge, Adam comes to *know* beyond the knowledge. This is relevant to being strengthened by the retelling taking place in Deuteronomy. It is relevant to realizing what you have experienced and making connections that go beyond.

In the Deuteronomy verses containing the word bread there is a phrase from the first verse and a phrase from the last verse that reached out and grabbed me: ***That He might make you know...that you may know.*** This is a knowing that goes beyond knowledge, a penetration of truth. I am thinking this knowing could be expressed by the word metanoia—which could be translated "beyond thought," but usually is translated as "repentance." *Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.* Without metanoia, without the connecting experience that goes beyond mere knowledge, we cannot enter into the Kingdom, also known as the Promised Land. The Lord has brought the children of Israel through the desert for forty years, allowing them to experience certain things that He might make them know Him as their King and God, the sustainer of their lives, the provider of their bread. And it is Moses, again, who records for us in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy that this bread which does not prevent us from dying, when offered to the Lord in thanksgiving becomes the bread that brings us life everlasting.

To be continued...

Deborah Talbot-

Donations and Pledges

On line Donations now possible

ON-LINE DONATIONS

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



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

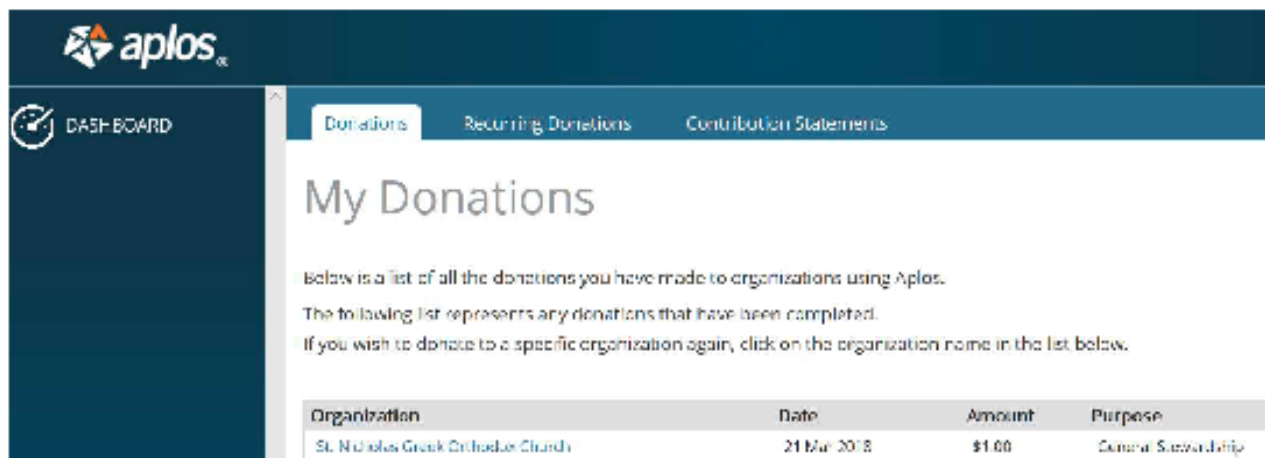
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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

In Christ,

Mark Robinson

On-Line Contribution Instructions:

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



OUR MISSION

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

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

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

HOW TO RETURN THIS CARD

BY MAIL:

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

AT CHURCH:

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

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

Please PRINT your information clearly

Name (F/M/L):

DOB (M/D/Y):

Email:

Telephone:

Spouse:

DOB (M/D/Y):

Email:

Telephone:

Household Information

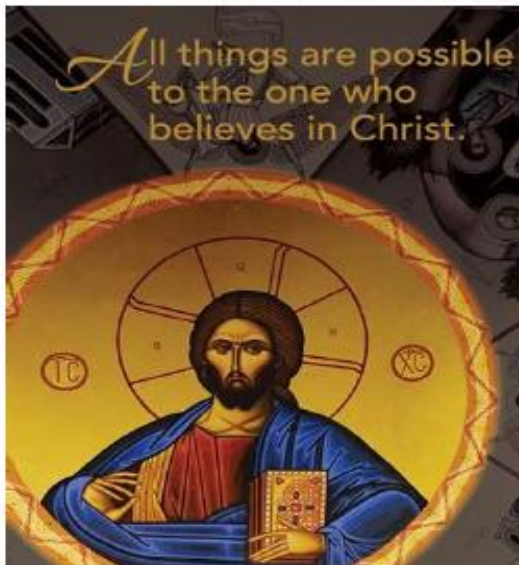
Address

City/St/Zip

Dependent Children

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

2022 STEWARDSHIP CARD
ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
TACOMA, WASHINGTON



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

"Those who seek the Lord shall never want for any good thing." (Psalm 34:10)

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

2022 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

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

I/We offer a minimum stewardship pledge of \$...../year or \$...../month in 2022 to support God's work.

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

SIGNATURE.....

Saint Nicholas Messenger

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Address Service Requested

