



## Believe and Be Healed



Beloved faithful of Saint Nicholas,

August is now in our midst! This is the month of Panagia, our Most-holy Theotokos, but also a month that was known historically throughout the surrounding region of Constantinople as one full of disease and hardship. For this cause, it has become our Mother Church’s tradition to have a great procession of a relic of the True Cross throughout the city during this month—to not only ward off illness with the power of the Cross, but also to remind the faithful that the Cross of Christ leads and illumines our own daily walk. If Christ were to approach us for our healing today, would we have the faith to be healed?

Brothers and sisters, we were recently warned by the Lord in Matthew’s Gospel account, that, “*If the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit.*” By all means, such a saying about the **blind leading the blind** is not unique to the Gospel—in fact it is a notion known throughout many cultures—both secular and religious. However, Christ uses this common saying as a means of warning His own disciples to not pay *any* attention to His accusers—those Pharisees who find themselves **more concerned** with *what* and *how* others are eating, than with what hatred stirs within their own hearts.

Yet in a recent Sunday Gospel reading, the same Lord and Author of our life encounters **two blind men** guiding each other toward Himself, crying out “*Son of David, have mercy on us.*” Seeking to rescue such lost sheep from the pit of darkness, our Lord tests their sincerity of belief in asking them, “*Do you believe I am able to do this?*”

Saint Gregory Palamas, a prolific commentator of Scripture, tells us that as the Knower of all hearts, our Lord does not ask them, “*Do you believe I am able to do this,*” so as to be informed Himself—but rather to reveal it to those in the crowd who might be ignorant of it. Notice that our Lord does

### Inside Messenger

Calendar	Page 4-8
News and Announcements	Page 9-13
Council Corner	Page 14
Festival News	Page 15
Coffee Hour	Page 16
Cover Story Continued	Page 17
Modern Greek Language School	Page 18
Philoptochos	Page 19-20
Building Committee	Page 21
Akathist	Page 22
Bible Study Ministry	Page 23-26
Flower Ministry	Page 27
Prospora	Page 28
Pro-Life	Page 29-31
Stewardship	Page 32-34
Donations and Pledges	Page 35-36
Online Services	Page 37

Continued on page 17

# 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)

Administrative 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. Anthony Cornett, Our Presiding Priest



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

Fr. Anthony's Cell phone: 1-661-776-5237

Office Hours at St. Nicholas

— by appointment —

Email: [anthonymcornett@gmail.com](mailto:anthonymcornett@gmail.com)

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

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

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# St. Nicholas Ministries

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Paul Apostle, President  
Chris Basil, Vice President  
Tony Panagiotu, Treasurer  
Andrew Kouklis, Secretary

## 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

Genevieve Eagle

## Military Service

LTC Gus Chamales

## Premarital Education

George Pirotis, Diane Pirotis

## Stewardship

Fenia Mavromichali

## 2023 Parish Council

Andrew Primis, President  
Fenia Mavromichali, Vice President  
Christina Leinneweber, Secretary  
Mark Robinson, Treasurer  
Yianni Charitou, Lisa Faithful, Kathy Johnson,  
Zachary Karanasos, Maria Koumantaros, Alan Means, Tony Paniagotu, and Bill Samaras

## Daughters of Penelope

Mary Koumantaros - President  
Olympia T. Stafford - Vice President  
Evy Kontos - Treasurer  
D. Lord/F. Mavromichali - Rec/Cor-Secretary

## Maids of Athena

Ana Matteson - President  
Alexandra Lord - Vice President  
Lexi Samaras - Treasurer  
I. Mastras/P. Montoya - Secretary  
Advisors: Chamales, McClure, Apostle

## Greek Folk Dance

Anastasia Fyntrilakis - Chairperson  
Evy Kontos - Treasurer

## Dance Instructors:

Teen Group: Anastasia Fyntrilakis  
Intermediate Group - Rachel  
Beginner Group - Kelly Rosati  
Adult Group - George Pirotis

## Philoptochos Society

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

## Sunday School

*To be announced*

## Coffee Hour

Zach Karanasos

## IT, etc.

Bill Samaras

## Philia

Diane Pirotis

## Pro Life

Genevieve Eagle

## Flowers & Church Decorating

Kathy Rowley/Genevieve Eagle

## Greek School

George Pirotis

## Lazarus Group

Dean Hamos

## Pilgrimage

Zach Karanasos

## Prosphora Baking

Presvytera

## Welcome

Gus Chamales

# Parish Council

Next Parish Council Meeting will be Tuesday August 8, 2023

AUGUST 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 Apostles Silas, Silvan, Crescens, Ept ● 8:30am Orthros ● 10am Divine Liturgy 2 more	31 Eudocimus the Righteous Joseph of Arimathea ● 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM) 2 more	Aug 1 Holy Seven Maccabean Child Martyr Procession of the Precious Cross ● 6:30am Divine Liturgy 2 more	2 Carmeliet, Teacher of St Paul Translation of the relics of the First- ● 6pm Vespers w/ Great Paraklesis ● 7pm Choir Practice	3 Venerable Isaac, Dalmatus, and Fair ● 6:30am Orthros ● 6pm Vespers w/ Small Paraklesis ● 6pm Great Vespers	4 Holy Seven Children of Ephesus ● 10am Bible Study ● 6pm Vespers w/ Great Paraklesis	5 Eusignius the Martyr Venerable John Jacob the Chozabiti ● 9am Festival Baking ● 6pm Great Vespers
6 TRANSFIGURATION OF THE SAVIOR ● 8:30am Orthros ● 10am Divine Liturgy 2 more	7 Venerable Martyr Dometius of Persi ● 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM) ● 6pm Vespers w/ Small Paraklesis 2 more	8 Kallinikos, Metropolitan of Edessa, F Venerable Emilian the Confessor, Bg ● 5:30pm Vespers w/ Great Paraklesis ● 7pm Parish Council	9 Matthias the Apostle ● 6pm Vespers w/ Small Paraklesis ● 7pm Choir Practice	10 Martyr Lawrence the Archdeacon ● 6:30am Orthros ● 6pm Vespers w/ Great Paraklesis	11 Martyr Euplus the Deacon Venerable Niphon of Athos, Patriarc ● 10am Bible Study ● 6pm Vespers w/ Small Paraklesis	12 Martyrs Photius and Anicetus ● 9am Festival Baking ● 6pm Vespers
13 Tikhon of Zadonsk Translation of the relics of the Vener ● 8:30am Orthros 3 more	14 Michaiah (Micah) the Prophet ● 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM) ● 6pm Great Vespers (at Assumption) 2 more	15 DORMITION OF THE MOST-HOLY TH ● 8:45am Orthros ● 10am Divine Liturgy ● 6pm Vespers	16 Diomedes the Martyr Translation of the icon of Christ not- Venerable Joseph the Hesychast 3 more	17 Myron the Martyr ● 6:30am Orthros	18 Martyrs Florus and Laurus ● 10am Bible Study ● 6pm Small Compline (w/ Akathist)	19 Great Martyr Andrew the Command ● 9am Festival Baking ● 6pm Vespers
20 Samuel the Prophet ● 8:30am Orthros ● 10am Divine Liturgy ● 12pm Church Picnic	21 Bassa the Martyr Thaddeaus the Apostle ● 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)	22 Agathonicus the Martyr, and those w ● 6pm Vespers	23 Hieromartyr Ireneaus, Bishop of Lyo Lupus the Martyr ● 6pm Paraklesis ● 7pm Choir Practice	24 Euthychus the Hieromartyr Hieromartyr Kosmas Aitolos, Equal-I ● 6:30am Orthros	25 Commemoration of the translation c Titus Bishop of Gortyna ● 10am Bible Study ● 6pm Small Compline (w/ Akathist)	26 Joasaph, Prince of India, Barlaam hi Martyrs Adrian and Natalia ● 9am Festival Baking ● 6pm Vespers
27 Phanurus the Martyr Venerable Pimen ● 8:30am Orthros 3 more	28 Venerable Moses the Ethiopian ● 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)	29 Beheading of the precious head of fl ● 6pm Vespers	30 Alexander, John, and Paul the New, I ● 6pm Paraklesis ● 7pm Choir Practice	31 Deposition of the honorable sash of ● 6:30am Orthros	Sep 1 Ecclesiastical New Year Holy Forty Women Martyrs and Ann Holy Martyrs Callista, Evodius and H 4 more	2 Join the Easter, Patriarch of Consta Mamas the Martyr Repose of Fr Seraphim Rose 2 more

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

# AUGUST 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

<p><b>Tuesday, August 1</b>                  Holy Seven Maccabean Child Martyrs, their mother Solomone, and their teacher Eleazar                  Procession of the Precious Cross                  6:00pm                  Vespers w/ Small Paraklesis                  7:00pm                  Building Committee</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, August 2</b>                  Gamaliel, Teacher of St Paul                  Translation of the relics of the First-martyr and Archdeacon Stephen                  6:00pm                  Vespers w/ Great Paraklesis                  7:00pm                  Choir Practice</p>
<p><b>Thursday, August 3</b>                  Venerable Isaac, Dalmatus, and Faustus                  6:30am                  Orthros                  6:00pm                  Vespers w/ Small Paraklesis</p>	<p><b>Friday, August 4</b>                  Holy Seven Children of Ephesus                  10:00am                  Bible Study                  6:00pm                  Vespers w/ Great Paraklesis</p>
<p><b>Saturday, August 5</b>                  Eusignius the Martyr                  Venerable John Jacob the Chozebite                  9:00am                  Festival Baking                  6:00pm                  Great Vespers</p>	<p><b>Sunday, August 6</b>                  TRANSFIGURATION OF THE SAVIOR CHRIST                  8:30am                  Orthros                  10:00am                  Divine Liturgy                  12:00pm                  Coffee Hour: Team Charitou                  6:00pm                  Vespers w/ Great Paraklesis</p>
<p><b>Monday, August 7</b>                  Venerable Martyr Dometius of Persia                  5:30pm                  Modern Greek (ZOOM)                  6:00pm                  Vespers w/ Small Paraklesis</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, August 8</b>                  Kallinikos, Metropolitan of Edessa, Pella and Almo-pia                  Venerable Emilian the Confessor, Bishop of Cyzi-cus                  6:00pm                  Vespers w/ Great Paraklesis                  7:00pm                  Parish Council</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, August 9</b>                  Matthias the Apostle                  6:00pm                  Vespers w/ Small Paraklesis                  7:00pm                  Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>Thursday, August 10</b>                  Martyr Lawrence the Archdeacon                  6:30am                  Orthros                  6:00pm                  Vespers w/ Great Paraklesis</p>

# AUGUST 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

<p><b>Friday, August 11</b>                  Martyr Euplus the Deacon                  Venerable Niphon of Athos, Patriarch of Constantinople                  10:00am                  Bible Study                  6:00pm                  Vespers w/ Small Paraklesis</p>	<p><b>Saturday, August 12</b>                  Martyrs Photius and Anicetus                  9:00am                  Festival Baking                  6:00pm                  Vespers</p>
<p><b>Sunday, August 13</b>                  Tikhon of Zadonsk                  Translation of the relics of the Venerable Maximus the Confessor                  8:30am                  Orthros                  10:00am                  Divine Liturgy                  12:00pm                  Community Coffee Hour                  6:00pm                  Vespers w/ Great Paraklesis</p>	<p><b>Monday, August 14</b>                  Michaias (Micah) the Prophet                  5:30pm                  Modern Greek (ZOOM)                  6:00pm                  Great Vespers (at Assumption Seattle)</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, August 15</b>                  DORMITION OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS                  8:45am                  Orthros                  10:00am                  Divine Liturgy                  6:00pm                  Vespers</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, August 16</b>                  Diomedes the Martyr                  Translation of the icon of Christ not-made-by-hands, that is the Holy Napkin                  Venerable Joseph the Hesychast                  6:30am                  Divine Liturgy                  6:00pm                  Paraklesis                  7:00pm                  Choir Practice</p>
<p><b>Thursday, August 17</b>                  Myron the Martyr                  6:30am                  Orthros</p>	<p><b>Friday, August 18</b>                  Martyrs Florus and Laurus                  10:00am                  Bible Study                  6:00pm                  Small Compline (w/ Akathist)</p>

# AUGUST 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

<p><b>Saturday, August 19</b>  Great Martyr Andrew the Commander, and those with him  9:00am  Festival Baking  6:00pm  Vespers</p>	<p><b>Sunday, August 20</b>  Samuel the Prophet  8:30am  Orthros  10:00am  Divine Liturgy  12:00pm  Church Picnic</p>
<p><b>Monday, August 21</b>  Bassa the Martyr  Thaddaeus the Apostle  5:30pm  Modern Greek (ZOOM)</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, August 22</b>  Agathonicus the Martyr, and those with him  6:00pm  Vespers</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, August 23</b>  Hieromartyr Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons  Lupus the Martyr  6:00pm  Paraklesis  7:00pm  Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>Thursday, August 24</b>  Eutychus the Hieromartyr  Hieromartyr Kosmas Aitolos, Equal-to-the-Apostles  6:30am  Orthros</p>
<p><b>Friday, August 25</b>  Commemoration of the translation of the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew  Titus Bishop of Gortyna  10:00am  Bible Study  6:00pm  Small Compline (w/ Akathist)</p>	<p><b>Saturday, August 26</b>  Joasaph, Prince of India; Barlaam his teacher; Abenner, his father  Martyrs Adrian and Natalie  9:00am  Festival Baking  6:00pm  Vespers</p>
<p><b>Sunday, August 27</b>  Phanurius the Martyr  Venerable Pimen  8:30am  Orthros  10:00am  Divine Liturgy  12:00pm  Coffee Hour: Men's Team</p>	<p><b>Monday, August 28</b>  Venerable Moses the Ethiopian  5:30pm  Modern Greek (ZOOM)</p>

# AUGUST 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

<p><b>Tuesday, August 29</b> Beheading of the precious head of the Forerunner and Baptist John 6:00pm Vespers</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, August 30</b> Alexander, John, and Paul the New, Patriarchs of Constantinople 6:00pm Paraklesis 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>
<p><b>Thursday, August 31</b> Deposition of the honorable sash of the Theotokos 6:30am Orthros</p>	





## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



# Annual Parish Picnic

SUN **20** AUGUST

AT CONCLUSION OF DIVINE LITURGY (11:30AM)

The **Church** will provide  
hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks.

The **parishioners** will provide  
either a side dish or dessert to share.



***THIS YEAR, THE PICNIC WILL BE HELD AT  
THE CHURCH AFTER SERVICE ON SUNDAY***

***AUGUST 20, 2023***

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### YAL Conference – Labor Day Weekend

Are you ready to FULFILL your purpose? If you are ages 18 – 35 then the YAL Conference is for YOU! Please join us over Labor Day Weekend in Garden Grove, CA for a full weekend of events, workshops, worship, and relaxation. Highlights of the weekend include engaging workshops, worship, dances, social events, an afternoon at the beach, a formal Hellenic Gala, and a fun-filled event called "Rock 'n' YAL" at the House of Blues in Anaheim, California. Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy live music, dancing, and an unforgettable night of entertainment at this iconic venue. Diakonia is also an important part of the YAL ministry and will include a program to benefit those in need in the local community. For registration and hotel information, please visit [www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL](http://www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL). Space is limited!

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

# YAL CONFERENCE

*Fulfill 2023*



LABOR DAY WEEKEND

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 4

HYATT REGENCY ORANGE COUNTY

Enjoy a weekend of fellowship, service, and worship - along with exploring all that SoCal has to offer!

[www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL](http://www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL)



*Registration Closes August 14*  
*Deadlines on first-come-first serve basis*

# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Senior Resort Camp

The Metropolis of San Francisco Family Wellness Ministry presents *A Royal Adventure, Senior Resort Camp* for adults aged 50 or better! Join us from Monday, September 25 – Friday, September 29, 2023 at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA for good food, great company, and majestic experiences. And what Royal Adventure would be complete without high tea? The adventure begins with registration on Monday afternoon. Our first Royal Feast will be Monday evening’s dinner. The adventure concludes on Friday after breakfast. For registration information, please contact St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Fresno, CA 559-233-0397.

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco  
Family Wellness Ministry presents

*A* **Royal** *ADVENTURE*

**Monday, September 25 to  
Friday, September 29, 2023**  
*Saint Nicholas Ranch  
and Retreat Center  
Dunlap, CA*

**\$550 per person**  
*for single occupancy Lodge Room*

**\$400 per person**  
*for double occupancy Lodge Room*

**\$325 per person**  
*for Dormitory (shared occupancy)*

*Senior Resort Camp  
for adults aged  
50 or better!*

Join us for good food, great company, and majestic experiences. And what Royal Adventure would be complete without high tea?

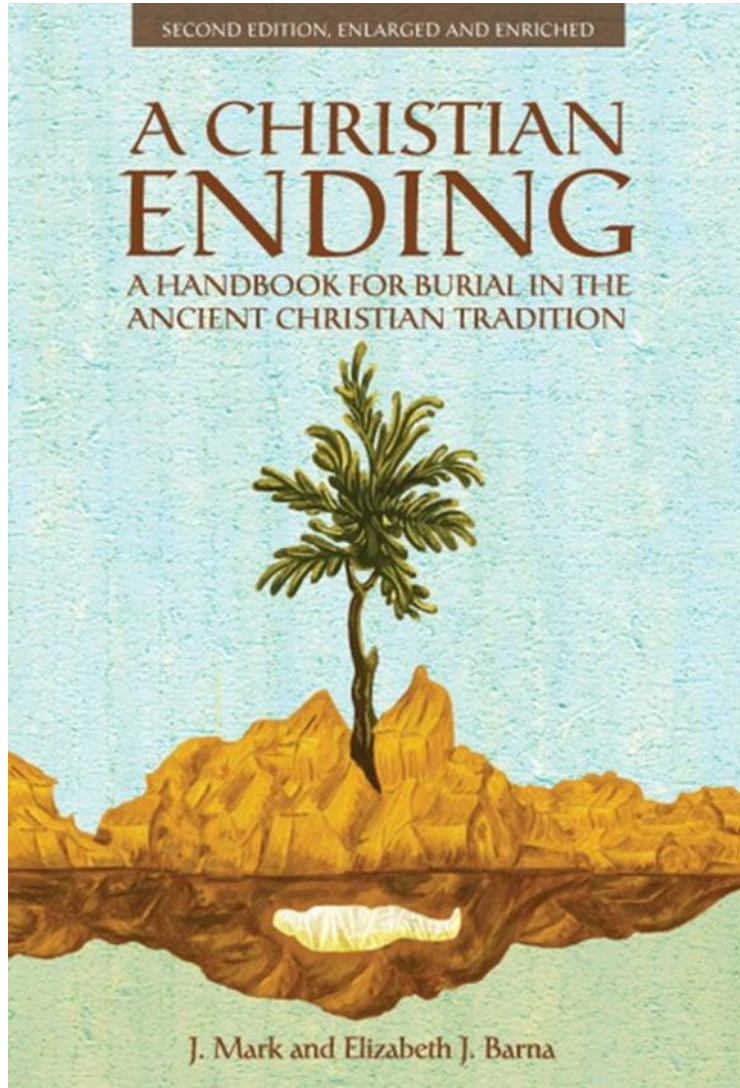
*The adventure begins with registration on Monday afternoon. Our first Royal Feast will be Monday evening’s dinner. The adventure concludes on Friday after breakfast.*

Online registration available at [http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Senior\\_Resort\\_Camp\\_2023](http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Senior_Resort_Camp_2023)

**Scan this code and register today!**

For more information, please contact Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Fresno, CA at 559-233-0397.

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Orthodox Christian Buri-

al Seminar in Arlington

**Saturday, August 12th**

The Funeral Team at Saint Andrew Orthodox Church in Arlington, WA will be offering an Orthodox Burial workshop focusing on body preparation and burial. The informative session will begin at 10am. Q&A will follow, and a sandwich/salad bar with a basket for donations will be offered.

Interested parties are asked to familiarize themselves with *A Christian Ending* by Fr Dcn Mark Barna. The book is available from Ancient Faith Publishing and Amazon. There are also various YouTube videos with Fr Dcn Mark presenting the material.

Please contact Father Anthony if you are interested in attending this most blessed opportunity to better be informed about our own options for burial as well as assisting other loved ones in our community.

In Christ,  
Fr. Anthony Cornett  
**Proistamenos**

# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 2023 MONTHLY MINISTRY SERIES



*The Anastasimatarion -*  
The importance of Saturday Vespers  
and Sunday Orthros in our lives

### GUEST PRESENTERS



**Christopher Hondros**  
*Ministry Chair,  
Church Music Ministry*



**Ross Ritterman**  
*Church Music  
Development Team Lead*



**Rev. Deacon  
Justin Bosl**

**Monday, August 21, 2023 • 6:30 p.m. Pacific**

Go to: [www.sanfran.goarch.org](http://www.sanfran.goarch.org), click on events to sign up for the event.

## COUNCIL CORNER

### Parish Council Activities

- The **Parish Picnic** is scheduled for **August 20th**. In an effort to make this event **more accessible** to all parishioners, it will be held **on the Church grounds**, *not* at Raft Island.
- **Festival 2023** is coming soon! The tent has been reserved and permits are being acquired. Baking is well underway. The Parish Council and Festival Committee thanks everyone who has contributed so far. If you don't know how to join in the fun, look for the **Baking schedule** and the **Dance schedule** in this messenger, or contact *Bill Samaras*.
- The Parish Council is aware of certain issues that have arisen due to the loose rocks in the new **landscaping**. Solutions are being investigated, including the possibility of securing the rocks in place.
- Also an issue is the **parking lot safety**. The parking-share arrangement with Nativity House and Catholic Community Services is under review at this time. If you notice any suspicious activity in the parking lot area, please let a Parish Council member know.



# Festival News

## Festival 2023 Dance Practice

Teen Dance group August practice dates: August 13th, 20th and 27th. No practice on August 6th. Starts at noon, after church service.

Adult Dance group rehearsals begin Thursday August 17th at 6:00pm in the lower hall and each Thursday thereafter at 6:00pm. Please contact Genevieve at stnicholaszoom@gmail.com for more information if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Ana Fyntrilakis

## Festival Committee Update

Baking is progressing well. Most booths have a plan, but we can use leadership help running the kitchen during the festival. Also, we can always use help at the Loukomathes booth. For August, we're initiating our "get the word out" marketing campaign. We expect much wider advertising than previous years. Flyers will be available for everyone early August. Don't forget, the Festival is October 6, 7, 8.

**All Baking Sessions begin at 9 AM**



**Please bring an apron, pastry brush and pot for melted butter if possible**

## Festival Baking Schedule

<u>SATURDAYS</u>	<u>WEEKDAYS</u>
Saturday, May 20	Monday, June 19
Saturday, June 10	Tuesday, June 20
Saturday, June 17	Monday, June 26
Saturday, June 24	Tuesday, June 27
Saturday, July 8	Monday, August 21
Saturday, July 15	Tuesday, August 22
Saturday, July 22	Monday, August 28
Saturday, July 29	Tuesday, August 29
Saturday, August 5	Monday, September 11
Saturday, August 12	Monday, September 18
Saturday, August 19	Monday, September 25
Saturday, August 26	Tuesday, September 26
Saturday, September 2	Wednesday, September 27
Saturday, September 9	Thursday, September 28
Saturday, September 16	Friday, September 29
Saturday, September 23	Monday, October 2
Saturday, September 30	Tuesday, October 3
	Wednesday, October 4

**Contact Evy for questions 253-377-2191**

# Coffee Hour



## COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY

### MISSION

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

### REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN THE MINISTRY

A servant's heart and a sense of love and care that is penetrating, engaging and inspiring.

### TEAM SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST:

- 08/06/2023 Team Charitou
- 08/13/2023 Community Coffee Hour\*
- 08/20/2023 Church Picnic
- 08/27/2023 Men's Team

### TEAMS:

**Team Karanasos: Daphne Karanasos, Leader;** Anna Wilson, Christina Gretty, Zach Karanasos, Angie Wilen, Ann Koopman, John Kouklis, Pres Maria Armatas and Lisa Faithful Ishchenko

**Team Charitou: Yanni & Sophia Charitou, Leaders;** Fenia Mavromichali, Barbara Phillips, Sandra Ciarochi, Yvonne Brandvold, Marie Bell, Kathy Hermick and Maro Kouklis and Lisa Lauderback

**Team Chamales: Dr Ingrid Chamales, Leader;** Karen Samaras, Sally Hallis, Rikki Kapes, Kathy Johnson, Sharon Kennedy and Tim & Kathie Harvey

**Team Cedeno: Klauda Cedeno, Leader;** Evy Kontos, Irene Misiewicz, Gloria Brown, Deborah Talbot, Scott & Rachael Parnell and Angela Montoya

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

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



## Cover Story Continued

not ask them, **nor do the two men directly inquire**, about *healing* their blindness. Rather, they simply ask for **mercy**, and testify to Him as the Son of David—that He is the one who is born of the royal lineage, and will rescue mankind from darkness in the latter days.

Yet again, as the Knower of all hearts, He gives unto those who seek Him in faith. Psalm 36 says, *“Delight in the Lord, and He will give you the requests of your heart. Reveal your way to the Lord, and hope in Him; and He will do it.”* These two blind men did nothing to hide their blindness, but indeed **revealed their way**—their state of being—openly to our Lord and Savior. It is only in this **openness**, in this **nakedness**, that we allow our Lord to heal our brokenness.

Do we who are able to see, hide in the blindness of our shame? Certainly, it is understandable if there are areas of our life we do not wish to reveal to all, or even to a few. With good reason, the Church removed the early practice of public confession, and personalized the encounter between confessee and Father confessor to avoid such public rebuke and potential gossip. However, we are *still called* by the same God to bring such brokenness unto Him—and it is through the same act of **Holy Confession** that we can stand before our Lord, like the two blind men seeking His mercy.

How does our Lord react to their request, and their professed conviction of belief? *“He touched their eyes, saying, ‘According to your faith be it done to you.’ And their eyes were opened.”*

What a merciful Lord, indeed! Yet, not all who were present rejoiced in His acts of mercy. The very group of accusers who our Lord calls the **blind leading the blind**, that is the Pharisees, accuse our Lord of healing the blind and casting out demons by the power of the prince of demons himself—that is the Devil. Imagine that!

We, my beloved, are called to **rejoice** in the Lord with those who rejoice, are we not? We are also called to lift one another up, and bear the failings of the weak, as Saint Paul tells the Romans, saying “together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” We are called to encourage one another, **not to remain in weaknesses**, but unto the glory of God, the great Physician of our souls and bodies.

So then how do we proceed? How can we be inspired by the courage of the two blind men who seek not to remain in darkness, but find healing in full exposure to the Light of Lights, the True God of True God? The Psalm which we recently quoted speaks greatly to our calling to pay no attention to the accusers, but rather to place our hope in the Lord. I will now leave us with the following passage from Psalm 36, that we might find inspiration in our daily walk with the Lord:

Do not be envious of those who do evil, nor be jealous of those who work lawlessness; For like grass they shall be dried up quickly, and like green vegetables they shall swiftly wither. Hope in the Lord, and work goodness; dwell in the land, and you shall be nurtured by its riches. Delight in the Lord, and He will give you the requests of your heart. Reveal your way to the Lord, and hope in Him; and He will do it. He shall bring forth your righteousness as light, and your judgment as the noonday sun. Submit to the Lord, and supplicate Him; do not be envious of him who prospers in his way, nor of him who transgresses the law. Cease from wrath and forsake anger; do not be envious so as to do evil; Because evildoers will be destroyed, but those who wait on the Lord, these shall inherit the earth. For in a little while the sinner shall no longer be present, and you will look for his place, but not find it. But the gentle shall inherit the earth, and they will delight in the fullness of peace. Amen.

In Christ,

**Fr. Anthony Cornett**

**Proistamenos**

**Phone:** ((253) 272-0466 **Mobile:** (661) 776-5237

**Web.** [www.stnicholastacoma.org](http://www.stnicholastacoma.org)

## Modern Greek Language School



### 2023 Modern Greek Language School / Classes: Every Monday from 5:30—7:00 pm

General Information: The classes are open to everyone who may be 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 in the class in learning the great influence of the "Greek Language and Hellenism" to the "Western Civilization" and to the whole world!

**Yearly possible events and student involvement:**

**Ἀγιασμὸς** (Blessing) of the class at the beginning of the School year.

Sunday, October 29st, 2023 - **OXI Day Celebration.**

Thursday, March 26th, 2023 **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-

## Philoptochos News

### President's Message

Greetings everyone! It is such a blessing that the Philoptochos mission is truly a valued part of St. Nicholas parish! The events that Philoptochos has sponsored over the past year have been GENEROUSLY supported by not only parishioners, but even by visitors to our parish. Each event has seen an increase in giving over the previous year, and Philoptochos is humbled by the financial expression of your faith in our ability to help those who are needy in our local area and the wider orthodox community.

#### Significant activities include:

**Greek Night at the Movies** - We are planning our second Greek night at the movies, scheduled for August 27, 2023. This event will be at the Grand Cinema in Tacoma. A flyer with more details follows this column. Seating is limited so please reply via the email: [GreekFilms25@gmail.com](mailto:GreekFilms25@gmail.com) or phone 253-205-9018 if you plan to attend.

**Turkey Earthquake Relief Efforts in Collaboration with GOA and IOCC** - The National Philoptochos Society recently approved a \$200,000 disbursement to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (GOA) Turkey & Syria Earthquake Relief Fund. This is the second disbursement of funds from Philoptochos for the earthquake victims. An initial disbursement of \$50,000 in February brings the total of Philoptochos' emergency relief to \$250,000. The Tacoma chapter and individual donations of \$650 went to assist this effort earlier in the year.

IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) will use these funds to provide shelter for displaced families and everyday necessities. More information regarding this effort is at the National Philoptochos website.

**2023 Membership** - Our year starts in January and runs through December. We currently have 47 members, both new and renewals, for the 2023 year. Please ask any member about Philoptochos - it is the Orthodox Church's Women's Ministry. Please contact Jane Evancho for membership payment. The membership is \$30 for the year.

We encourage our Greek Orthodox friends to join us. They can be involved as much or as little as they wish. Our chapter has monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month, with Zoom connection available as well. We will take a summer break and resume regular meetings in September. We welcome you all to our group. There is a lot of satisfaction in doing things for the common good and helping our church and the less fortunate among us...

Thank you so much for your support!

Jane--

# Philoptochos News

## A Special Event to Benefit Philoptochos

of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

Save The Date!!

### Greek Night At The Grand Cinema

When: Sunday, August 27, 2023 6:30 PM -9:00 PM

Where: Grand Cinema, 606 Fawcett, Tacoma, lower lobby

Program- 'Family Member', a critically acclaimed Greek film with English subtitles

Free Admission

Free-will donations to Philoptochos are Encouraged!  
Beverages and snacks available, silent auction and more.

Limited seating capacity- Reservations a must, contact:

GreekFilms25@gmail.com  
or call:253-205-9018



# Building Committee

## AUGUST BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Preventive improvements at existing roofs and scuppers and the patching of a drywall ceiling outside Upper Hall restrooms (from a previous roof leak), were finally completed this last month. Below are photos of the repair work.

During the first week or so of August a licensed architect will be walking through the church to look at the roof of the Dining Hall/Kitchen area and the lower level Women's restroom. The intent is to verify permitting requirements and construction details in regards to replacing the Dining Hall/Kitchen area roofing (long past its expected dependable lifetime), and also adding another toilet stall in the Women's restroom. With this input and information, the plan is to work up comfortable proposals and budgets to run by the Building Committee and then pass onto the Parish Council at their monthly meeting in August.

The significant milestone is to get the replacement of the Dining Hall/Kitchen area roofing approved by the Parish and funded by the end of this year. Field work should start shortly after Pascha of 2024. An additional toilet in the lower level Women's restroom is a recent issue that has come up to the Building Committee. Its approval and funding is expected to run a similar route.

### PHOTO NOTES:

*Starting counter-clockwise from the upper right hand photo, is an outer view of one of the four Sanctuary roof scuppers. Below is a closer inside view of a scupper with new sealants applied at all sheet metal joints, and a new lower overflow outlet hole drilled into it. Next is an after and before photo of a ceiling area outside the Upper Hall restrooms that was damaged from a previous roof leak. The roof leak itself was taken care of a few months ago. Lastly, the lower left shows a 10' X10' liquid membrane in white that was applied over an Upper Hall roof drain, an area that has been a source of several roof leaks in the past.*



Submitted by Bill Acker

# ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

## Ministry of Akathist, Prayers for the Departed

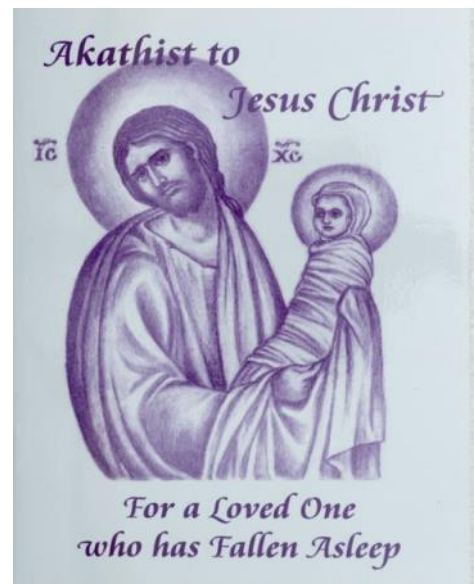


Thank you to all who are involved in this wonderful ministry at Saint Nicholas. In offering the gift of praying the Akathist to Jesus Christ for a Loved One who Has Fallen Asleep, it is a great comfort to family and friends of the departed ones.

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



# St. Nicholas Bible Study

## The Book of Acts



### ROAD TO DAMASCUS: ST. PAUL'S CONVERSION

**Acts 9: 1-5** *“But Saul, still breathing threats and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest. <sup>2</sup>He asked him for letters to the synagogues of Damascus, [giving permission] that if he found anyone who belonged to ‘The Way’, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>As Saul was on his journey and approaching Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly shone around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell on the earth and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ <sup>5</sup>He asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ “*

**Father Anthony:** Think about this. In this moment having just asked for a hit list, what does Saul say? “Who are You, Lord?” Does anyone have the Greek? I’m sure the word for “Lord” is Κύριε? It has a meaning similar to Δέσποτα, not of a political figure but that of a master of a domain, a lord and lady of a manor. An address like, sir. How does the light affect him? Physically, he’s blinded. What’s it doing to him eternally? Repentance, right? He’s illuminated. This is the light of God. This wasn’t a physical fire. This is a key transformative moment in the life of Saul who was full of pride, but he would have said of himself, full of assurance. He was following his teachers and what he knew of being a good scholarly

## St. Nicholas Bible Study

Jew. He thought he was following and doing the will of God and, yes, he was re-directed. He's physically blinded, but he's illumined inside and he's able to see the reality of things as they truly are. The illuminating light of God allows us to see things as they truly are. The Holy Fathers speak through various points of Scripture as well, but the fathers in their commentaries speak about the Last Judgment. In certain parts of Scripture we see a group of 12 set as judges over the people. We see 24 as a group of judges over the people. There's the 70 Apostles also as judges over the people. But we also see accounts of this exact same Uncreated Light of God, the revelatory Light of God giving witness to all that hides in the darkness of our hearts. Meaning the judgment, itself, is self-revelatory. This is why those prayers of exorcism in Baptism, anything that is hiding or lurking in the heart comes out. This is what we do with the scalpel of holy confession. Was Saul prepared to receive God at this moment? No, he was not prepared. He was in a state of comfort of being assured of his salvation, effectively. The Church talks about Scripture and about God entering into the heart of someone - comforting the afflicted but also afflicting the comfortable. When we are a little too comfortable, sometimes we need a little bit of a prick to wake up. Sometimes we need those harsher words of Christ, like He used with the Sadducees and the Pharisees, to wake us up. The illuminating, Uncreated Light of God enters and surrounds St. Paul and it goes straight to his heart. We don't have an account of other people around him seeing this light like on Mt Sinai, right? In terms of being prepared, he was not. He knows this and it becomes a part of that "thorn in his side" that he lives with. St. Paul writes to the Corinthians and basically goes over the formula of the Lord's Supper and speaks about preparedness and worthiness.

**Acts 9: 5b-12** *"The Lord answered, 'I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>Now arise, go into the city, and [there] you will be told what you must do.' <sup>7</sup>The men who were travelling with Saul stood speechless, hearing the sound, but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he could not see anyone. His fellow-travelers led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>Saul was without sight for three days, and he neither ate nor drank. <sup>10</sup>Now, a certain disciple named Ananias lived in Damascus. In a vision, the Lord said to him, 'Ananias!' Ananias answered, 'Behold, it is me, Lord!' <sup>11</sup>The Lord said to him, 'Arise, and go to the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judah for someone named Saul, a man of Tarsus. For behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him, so that he might receive his sight."*

**Father Anthony:** This idea of chastisement does not go on and on, it's meant to correct. He speaks on this from a personal account. This is what happened to him at the beginning of **Chapter 9**. He was not worthy to receive the Lord, but he did not know this. But the Lord made him aware of this and through His illuminating Light he saw the inner-workings of his heart as they truly were. This is why St. Paul said he was chief among sinners, but he could also say he was one of Christ's Apostles. When St. Paul teaches the Corinthians about the worthiness of receiving the gifts of the Lord, he's not saying this without personal experience. Anything that we offer in sharing the Good News of the Gospel with others should be expressed through personal experience. If not, give credit where credit is due by quoting from one of the Holy Fathers or bring that person to someone in the Church who has a gift for preaching the Word of God; but let's not get trapped in that darkness that Paul was in by mistakenly believing he was walking in God's Light.

Saul (Paul) was the leader of this group of fellow-travelers and now they are carrying him – how humbling that would have been. Why do you think Saul "*neither ate nor drank*" for three days? Did he lose his appetite or that he wasn't feeling good? Before we receive the Lord, we fast. Paul received the Lord and then he fasted. In thanksgiving and (kind of) makeup homework, St. Paul (Saul) is fasting. It is not simply the loss of appetite, but a religious act.

**ANANIAS (PERSON) [Gk *Hanania* ('Ανανίας)].** *Probably a transcription of the not uncommon Hebrew*



## St. Nicholas Bible Study

name hananeyah, “God is merciful,” with a Greek ending. In Damascus, Ananias, a Jewish Christian, is a devout observer of the law and well-spoken of by all the Jews, has a vision of Christ, who sends him to lay hands on Paul and cure his blindness, to baptize him so that he may wash away his sins and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Ananias protests because of Paul’s reputation and the harm he has done to the Christians. In the meantime, Paul has received a vision about Ananias’ coming. When Ananias arrives, he performs his assignment and likewise tells Paul that God appointed him to know his will and to see the Just One whose witness he must be and for whom he will suffer.

**Father Anthony:** Clearly Saul had made his case known to all that he had authority to “bind all those...” who called upon the Name of the Lord. Ananias knew who he was.

**Stephen G:** Ananias was bishop of that city so he was probably the first name on Saul’s hit-list. I’m sure Ananias thought he would be the first one rounded-up because he was a Christian bishop. (foot-note in the Orthodox Study Bible: Ananias was likely one of Saul’s targets for arrest in Damascus. He served as first bishop of that city.)

**Father Anthony:** Yes, I’m sure he thought “why am I’m being called to go to this guy?” But again it goes back to that beautiful image of the wheel drawing people towards God. Saul may have been completely off the mark and chief among sinners, but he was striving to do God’s Will (even though he missed the mark). Ultimately, God is uniting these polar-opposites. St. John Chrysostom often talks about this unification of polar-opposites. For example, the wealthy and the poor and alms-giving. It’s like one of the legs of a stool (especially in times of fasting) that alms-giving is vital. During the Great Fast we have fasting, prayer and alms-giving. With alms-giving, what are we doing? We realize that we rely on nothing of our own, we are stewards and God has entrusted us with gifts, but in the marriage ceremony it is clear why we are entrusted with gifts of God. The bride and groom are asked to be fruitful, not simply in their progeny. This was chiefly expressed by Christ, Himself. We see this when Christ speaks about the Judgment. **Matthew 25: 34-40** “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me’. <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? <sup>39</sup>Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, My brethren, you did it to Me.’” St. John Chrysostom speaks to this a lot because in both Antioch and Constantinople, he was faced with the extremes of the wealthy and the poor. He was the liaison striving to unite the wealthy and the poor.

When God says in **Acts 9:16**, “For I will show him how much he must suffer for My Name’s sake.”, he means St. Paul hasn’t suffered at all yet. He’s had it very easy so far. The Lord reminds us of those who will suffer for His Name’s sake in the **24<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Gospel account of Matthew verse 9-10**, “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you and you will be hated by all nations for My Name’s sake. <sup>10</sup>And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.” Ultimately, we have free will. The grip of God is often illustrated as an open palm. By the Spirit, we are swept into the Hand (or Palm) of God but we can fall through the gaps between His Fingers because He gives us free will. (Footnote in Orthodox Study Bible: That Saul was God’s chosen vessel does not mean that he had no free will in the matter. Rather, it indicates that God had selected Saul, knowing that he would freely accept and be capable of doing the work set before him.)

Continued next page...

# St. Nicholas Bible Study



There are angels surrounding His Hand, as always, there to guide us and remind us and lift us up. But with free will, we can choose to leap of the edge or slip between His Fingers, as Ananias, Sapphira and Judas Iscariot willingly chose.

Submitted by: Genevieve

## St. Nicholas Flower Ministry

*FLOWERS & GREENERY NEEDED FOR THE  
DORMITION FEAST OF THE THEOTOKOS  
AUGUST 2023*



The Flower Ministry is reaching out to St. Nicholas parishioners for help with supplying fresh flowers (especially Hydrangeas) for the Feast of Transfiguration and the Dormition of the Theotokos. We've found that Hydrangeas purchased from the florists and stores barely last through the feast day, whereas homegrown flowers last so much longer and are far more beautiful. I believe that the love one puts in nurturing their garden is reflected in the offering.

The floral colors for the Dormition feast are blue and white. Even though I highlighted Hydrangeas, any blue or white flowers and all greenery would be most welcome.

If you are willing to donate flowers in honor of the great Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, please contact Genevieve at [goobahoo@gmail.com](mailto:goobahoo@gmail.com)

Submitted by: Genevieve

# PROSPHORA

## PROVIDING THE OFFERING

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

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

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

Fenia Mavromichali brings the offering the fourth Sunday of every month.

Regular Sunday prospora bakers are needed.

Hello Saint Nicholas prospora bakers and interested prospective bakers. Blessed Feasts!

We are in a joyous season with lots of opportunities for baking prospora for the weekday and Sunday liturgies. A go-to resource for prospora skills and techniques is the skilled baker of <https://www.prosporo.com/>

This baker has been featured by our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese for his methods. His complication of traditional skills brings consistency to this holy art.



Here is an example of ideal recipe proportions for (2) 7" prospora loaves, like the ones photographed above:

1200g flour  
1/2 tsp yeast  
12g of salt  
600ml of filtered water

*Contributed by Presvytera Anna*

## PRO-LIFE MINISTRY



**A Reflection on Abortion and Being Pro-Life**  
**by Fr. Steven C. Kostoff**  
 Posted by [Orthodox Christian Meditations](#)

June 24, 2022 – the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Forerunner – what no one really expected until recently, actually happened. This was the overturning of the controversial Roe v. Wade Supreme Court ruling of 1973, which granted women the constitutional right to abortion throughout the country. The new ruling is referred to as Dodd v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization. For many, Roe v. Wade was flawed from the very beginning, both in form and content. (Even Ruth Bader Ginsburg considered it problematic.) It certainly did not have a grasp of the biological facts about the beginning of human life in the womb. Perhaps one way to envision the acceptance of abortion is to realize just how powerful is the affirmation of the self-autonomous individual, wherein “choice” is the ultimate act of freedom.

The Orthodox Church always has and always will resist abortion. Thus, the Church took a position of “holy resistance” in opposition to Roe v. Wade, encouraging peaceful and prayerful protests against the widespread practice of abortion since 1973. The Church also condemned violence as a legitimate form of protest. Abortion is actually a very old issue, since the ancient Church stood out against this common practice many centuries ago. One of many representative voices was that of St. Basil the Great (+379). In stark terms this is what he wrote about abortion:

*“Those who give potions for the destruction of the child conceived in the womb are murderers, as are those who take potions which kill the child.” (Letter 188)*

Notice how St. Basil does not only cast blame on the mother of the child, but first mentions those who provide the means for the abortion to occur. In our contemporary setting, we need be aware and sensitive to the complexities of life situations, especially as these affect women who are not the recipients of structural social support, or of love and concern flowing from family support.

When all is said and done – and remaining aware of the complexities of life just mentioned above - abortion is the taking of a human life. Since the “sacred gift of life” is ultimately in the hands of God, elective abortion is understood to be contrary to the will of our Creator as the One who is the Lord “of the living and the dead.” That, of course, is a “religious” perspective not shared by a large part of American society. A growing secular perspective, developing within our country’s strict separation of Church and State, allowed for the option of abortion that ultimately received the sanction of the Supreme Court. And since 1973 there has a bitter and contentious struggle between those described as “pro-life,” and those de-

## PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

scribed as “pro-choice.” This recent ruling will prove to be as contentious and controversial as the ruling of 1973. In other words, the debate will continue with no end in sight.

Now this divisive issue has been handed back to the states for their own legislative deliberations. Many states have already enacted strict anti-abortion laws, and others will soon join them. And there are states in which abortions will remain legal. Hopefully women will not be criminalized for seeking an abortion; or for going out of state to have one. And we should certainly hope that the State does not pry into the contents of a person’s mail. Will pro-life politicians fund programs that will financially assist poor mothers with child care, housing and other daily requirements? A pro-life society will need to support children born into difficult circumstances. To abandon them to the harsh realities of life after protecting their “right to life” would be immoral. That would include us, as Orthodox Christians. Are we willing to provide the necessary support to pregnant women and their children once they are born? Being Pro-life needs to continue outside of the womb.

Concerning the overturning of Roe v. Wade, Metropolitan Tikhon recently **wrote**: “Broadly speaking ... this should be a cause for rejoicing.” Yet, he also wrote in the same pastoral letter: “However, we must avoid all triumphalism.” Here is how I understand that comment: The Christian position – and those who accept that position – always had the moral high ground when it came to defending life from its very conception. Life, from the moment of conception, is not “potential life,” but life with potential. The conceived child is awaiting to behold the light of day, and to enter into the mystery of life in all of its varied manifestations. However, serious problems arise with the “pro-life” position because it is not consistently “pro-life” at all. This inconsistency can be, and often is, hypocritical, because of how selective the “choice” is as to who and what kind of life needs to be protected within a “pro-life” ethic.

In America, we have three forms of State-sanctioned killing: abortion, capital punishment, and war. Capital punishment and the ubiquitous presence of the threat of war certainly predate 1973. A consistent “pro-life” ethos would reject capital punishment and certainly any act of war that is aggressive and belligerent. Has the American fascination with our nation’s ongoing gun culture inured us to public violence? Are we unwilling to accept acts of violence within the womb; but willing to accept State-sanctioned acts of violence outside of the womb? Many “pro-life” Christians are strong advocates for capital punishment. Most of the autocephalous Orthodox Churches formally oppose capital punishment. I know that the Orthodox Church in America has such a resolution that goes back to the All-American Council in St. Louis in 1989. One may argue that abortion is different from capital punishment – one victim is absolutely innocent, and the other guilty (but certainly not always!) of a heinous crime – but it is still the State-sanctioned taking of a life. St. Prince Vladimir (+1015) abolished capital punishment in medieval Russia once he consciously became a Christian, based upon the precepts of the Gospel.

Here is a link to one of many excellent articles that explain why the Church cannot sanction capital punishment:

### Capital Punishment: Points to Consider

Many “pro-life” American Christians are “hawks” when it comes to war. And when we maim and kill thousands – including innocent men, women and children - through bombing and precision drone attacks, I wonder just how much distress does that cause, and how much sympathy does that awaken in us as a nation for those non-Americans who have died? Covering that up with a lot of flag-waving does not soften the destruction that has been unleashed. In the new document, For the Life of the World – Towards a Social Ethos of the Orthodox Church, blessed by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew - we read the following: *“Nothing is more contrary to God’s will for creatures fashioned in his image and likeness than violence one against another, and nothing more sacrilegious than the organized practice of mass killing.”*

## PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

Here are two further links to the Orthodox Church's attitude toward war:

[No Just War in the Fathers](#) by Fr. Stanley Harakas

[The Orthodox Church and Peace](#) by Olivier Clement

Having written the above, I am fully aware of the inconsistency and hypocrisy of “pro-abortion” advocates. They are very mindful of saving life outside of the womb, but apparently seem to disregard protecting life within the womb. There is also scant recognition of accepting the responsibilities that accompany sexual relationships. Let us further hope that their protests against the overturning of Roe v. Wade does not result in acts of senseless violence. And let us not harshly judge those who disagree with us.

Thus both sides in this debate lack consistency and descend into hypocrisy. Our Orthodox Church strongly encourages a faithful, consistent and God-inspired attitude to the “sacred gift of life” in all stage of life's journey from the womb to the tomb. When we abandon that approach for reasons that could be political, social, cultural or philosophical, then we submit ourselves as Orthodox Christians to the skepticism and scorn of the secular world. That undermines our witness to the world of the Truth of the Gospel. Let us continue to protect the unborn and the marginalized alike – “the poor, the sick, the suffering, and the imprisoned; abandoned, abused and orphaned children, and those who are persecuted for their faith.”

Submitted by: Genevieve



## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

The Stewardship Ministry encourages all parishioners to fill out and submit a yearly donation/stewardship card so that we can maintain an accurate registry of information and commitment.

The Ministry is grateful to the following individuals, families, organizations and businesses that have shown support to our church by completing a 2023 stewardship card and/or have made a contribution to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church to date. As always, we honor those individuals who make contributions of time, talent and treasure. YOU make St. Nicholas the wonderful place that it is to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### 2023 donations and commitments as of July 26, 2023

Jim and Carol Abel*	William and Mary Acker*
AHEPA	Leonidas and Despina Alatsis*
Patra Alatsis	George and Despina Ampatzis
Sonny and Irene Angelos*	Rick and Marlene Angelus*
Elena M. Apostle*	Paul and Dolores Apostle*
Tony and Lori Apostle*	Andrew and Sheila Auter
Tina Ayers	George Ballasiotes
Tyler and Lexi Balser	Baseball Club of Tacoma, Tacoma Rainiers
Costa and Donna Basil*	Harry C. and Sheri Basil*
T.L.Berg	Theodora Bessinas*
Boone Electric	John and Terri Botsis
Yvonne Brandvold*	Dora Brown
Monica Bultz	Barry Cassidy and Deborah Middleton
Klaudia Cedenó	C. G. and Ingrid Chamales*
Steven Chamales	Christine Chansley
Yianni and Sophia Charitou*	Reagan Charuhas
Chris A. Cherbas	Anthony and Sandra Ciarochi*
John and Maria Cook*	Fr. Anthony and Anne-Grace Cornett*
Nick and Cheryl Cosmakos*	Belinda and Chris Cummins
Sharmarie and Troy Dares*	Daughters of Penelope
Beverly Deliyianides	Dina Deliyianides*
John Diaconou	Jacqueline Dionas*
Sandra Dutton*	Gretchen (Genevieve) Eagle*
Edgewater Wealth Management	Timothy and Sunny Edgren*
Frederick and Anastasia Ehret	Andrew and Jane Evancho*
Mary Erickson	Krisann and Peter Firth*
Tanner and Liliana Foster*	Deena Fotinopoulos
James and Konstantoula Fotinopoulos	Gregory Garcia*
Gig Harbor Law	John and Judy Godulas*



## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

Stephen and Claire Gorham*	Sally Hallis*
Dean and Carol Hamos*	Michael and Kristine Hanberg
Daniel and Ekaterini Hanson*	Natalya Harpe
Timothy and Kathleen Harvey*	Brent and Evangelia Hassel*
Richard and Kathleen Heidal*	William Frederick Lincoln Horton*
Radu Adrian and Ramona Ionita – Florea	Joseph Jenkins
Kathy Johnson and Jim Belsvig	Hariklia (Rikki) Kapes*
Anna Karanasos*	Paula Karanasos*
Zachary and Daphne Karanasos*	Sharon Kennedy*
Naser and Catalina Khalaj	Claudia Kieszling*
Stephen Kinyanjui	Evan and Despina Kipelidis
Ann Kiraki and Jessee Macharia*	Evy Kontos and Mark Matteson
Anna Koopman*	Steve Koukles*
John C. Kouklis	Maria Koumantaros*
Peter and Margaret Laketa	Elia and Micheline Lakkis*
Robert and Anne Latz*	Lisa Lauderback*
Christina Leineweber*	Mary Leonard
Hugh and Marella Lewsi*	George and Bess Lurker*
Fr. Seraphim and Sophie Majmudar	Olga Lynn Manos*
Chris and Susan Manthou*	Matthew Manthou*
Carol MartinOki	Katherine and Gregory Mason*
Dean and Julie Mastras*	Iphegenia Mavromichali*
Vasiliki (Viki) McCarty (Nicholas)*	Helen and George McClure*
McPhee Dental Group	Alan and Sheilagh Means
Charles and Gail Mentis*	Tatyana Mikeladze
Angela Montoya*	Nina Morrison
Dick and Hariklia (Hoddi) Motz	Michael and Rodica Murphy*
Northwest AHEPA Family	Order of AHEPA-Olympic Chapter No. 178
David and Katrina Orriss*	Oscar T. and Olivann Hokold Foundation
George Panagiotu	Perry Panagiotu
Tony and Debbie Panagiotu*	Alex Pangis*
John and Merrilee Pangis*	Scott and Rachael Parnell
Kesha Patel	Patriot Fire and Protection, Inc.
George and Diane Pirotis*	Charles and Lena Plunkett*
Steve and Kathleen Politakis*	Andrew and Rebecca Primis*
Emmanuel Psilovikos	MartinJ. And Lorissa C. Reiter III
Paul Rhondo	Rush Commercial Construction, Inc.

## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

Ryan Jorgeson & Limoli PS  
Bill and Karen Samaras\*  
Richard and Alexandra Schutt\*  
Richard and Denise Stahl\*  
Andy and JoAnn Stergachis\*  
Rob (Moses) and Lea (Mary) Sullivan  
Jacob Herman Swain\*  
James and Jenise Sweeney\*  
Edward Tuohy  
Morgan Waterman  
Jeffrey and Janice Williams  
Hugh Winskill  
John and Kalitsa Xitco\*  
Tasso and Sarah Zambaras\*  
Luai Zureikat

Katherine Salatas  
Neal (Barnabas) Schaefer  
St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society  
Stellar Industrial Supply, Inc.  
Liam Sullivan  
Summit Packaging, Inc.  
Jeffrey Swain\*  
Nicholas and Becky Themelis\*  
Roxanne Vallantine\*  
Michael Jane White\*  
Edward Winskill\*  
Daniel and Mary Wright  
YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties  
Matthew and Leigh Ann Zehnder

\* indicates those individuals who have filled out the Stewardship/donation commitment form.

*When we believe, stewardship follows.  
Stewardship is faith in action  
Action motivated by humble gratitude to God  
For His blessing in our life.*

# 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.

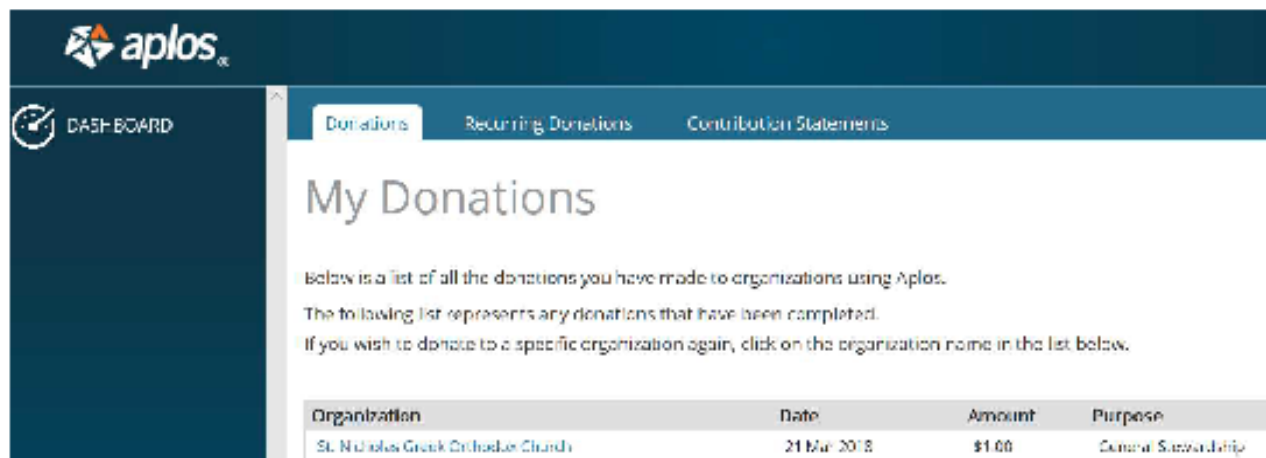
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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



**OUR MISSION**

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

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

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

**HOW TO RETURN THIS CARD**

**BY MAIL:**

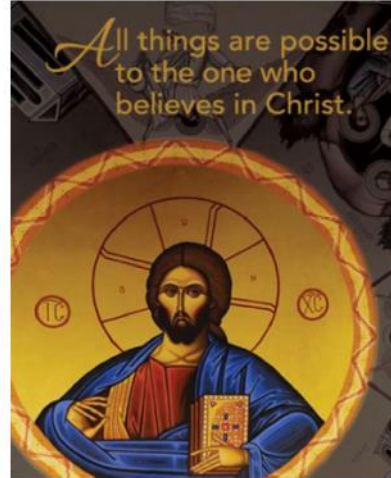
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church  
 Attn: Church Treasurer  
 1523 S. Yakima Ave.  
 Tacoma, WA 98405

**AT CHURCH:**

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

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

**2023 STEWARDSHIP CARD**  
**ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**TACOMA, WASHINGTON**



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

Please PRINT your information clearly

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

**Household Information**

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

**Dependent Children**

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

*"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.**

**2023 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 2023 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**.....

## On Line Services

### Watch Services From Home, Live (it's working again)

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

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

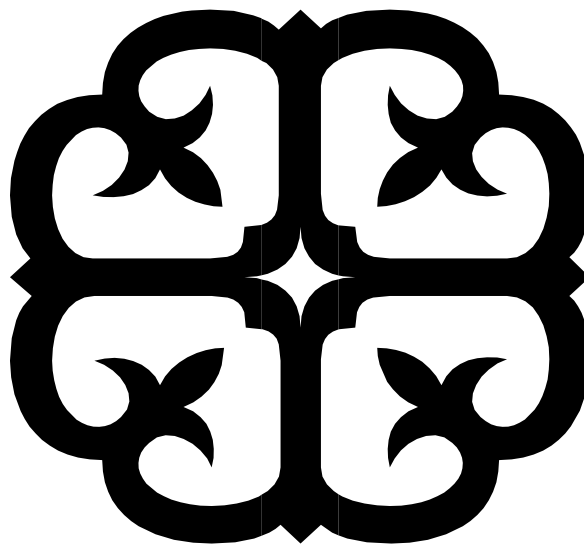
Click on this selection;



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

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

*Bill Samaras—*



Saint Nicholas Messenger

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

*Address Service Requested*

