



Happy New Year!

Blessed new beginnings!

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” —Galatians 3:28

“You are all **one** in Christ Jesus.” My beloved Saint Nicholas family, these words of Saint Paul remind us that we do not **lose** our identity in Christ, but rather we **gain** our *true purpose*, we inherit our *true potential*. Like a bridegroom being united in body to his bride in the Holy Sacrament of Marriage, we the Church are united to our collective bridegroom, Christ Himself, when we too are united in body during the Holy Sacrament of Baptism.

This **precious gift**, this **most sacred act** is *enough in itself* for us to be forever grateful, but for our benevolent Lord, it is *only the beginning*. In finding our **true purpose**, and in the inheritance of our **true potential**, we are also given a **new name**: indeed, we are properly **Christened**. However, this act does not occur at the Baptism ceremony itself. In fact, in *January 1st’s celebration* of Christ our Lord’s own **Circumcision on the 8th Day** since His birth, we also celebrate the second part of this Ancient Jewish Rite of Circumcision. Not only was a piece of flesh of the newborn male child

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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

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

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Media team: Paula Karanasos, Fr. Anthony

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

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St. Nicholas Ministries

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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

2024 Parish Council

— To be Announced —

See page 11, Council Corner

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 - Evy Kontos
Beginner Group - Kelly Rosati
Adult Group - George Pirotis

Philoptochos Society

Jane Evancho - President
Hoddi Motz - 1st Vice-President
Merrilee Pangis - 2nd Vice-President
Susie Manthou - Secretary
Ingrid Chamales - Treasurer

Coffee Hour

Zach Karanasos

Greek School

George Pirotis

IT, etc.

Bill Samaras

Lazarus Group

Dean Hamos

Philia

Diane Pirotis

Pilgrimage

Zach Karanasos

Pro Life

Genevieve Eagle

Prosphora Baking

Presvytera Anna

Flowers & Church Decorating

Kathy Rowley/Genevieve Eagle

Welcome

Gus Chamales

Parish Council

Next Parish Council Meeting will be Tuesday January 9, 2024

JANUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 Hieronary Nestor (Savchuk) Venerable Melania of Rome ● 8:30am Orthros 3 more	Jan 1 Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caes Circumcision of Christ ● 8:30am Orthros ● 10am Divine Liturgy	2 Sylvester, Pope of Rome Venerable Seraphim of Sarov ● 6:30am Divine Liturgy 2 more	3 Gordius the Martyr Malachi the Prophet Venerable Genevieve of Paris 2 more	4 Nicephorus the Leper Synaxis of the 70 Apostles Venerable Theoctistus ● 6:30am Divine Liturgy	5 Eve of Theophany Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas Venerable Synclitike ● 9am Great Hours w/ Vespers Litur	6 HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR SAVIOR ● 8:30am Orthros ● 10am Divine Liturgy w/ Great Bless ● 6pm Vespers & Small Compline (w,
7 Synaxis of St John the Baptist ● 8:30am Orthros ● 10am Divine Liturgy ● 11:30am Vasilopita	8 Venerable Domnica Venerable George the Chozebite ● 5pm Beginner's Greek (ZOOM) ● 6pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)	9 Eustratius the Wonderworker Peter, Bishop of Sevaste, brother of J Polyeuctus the Martyr 2 more	10 Dometian, Bishop of Melitene Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa Theophan the Recluse, Bishop of Ta 2 more	11 Venerable Theodosius the Cenobian ● 6:30am Orthros ● 11am Hands of Love Ministry Meel	12 Tatiana the Martyr ● 10am Bible Study (w/ 3rd Hour) ● 6pm Small Compline (w/ Canon)	13 Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus ● 6pm Vespers & Small Compline (w,
14 Leavetaking of Theophany Nino, Enlightener of Georgia Venerable Fathers of Sinai and Raith 4 more	15 John the Hut Dweller Venerable Paul of Thebes ● 5pm Beginner's Greek (ZOOM) ● 6pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)	16 Veneration of the Chains of Apostle ● 6pm Vespers	17 New Martyr George of Ioannina Venerable Anthony the Great Venerable Anthony the New of Veria 2 more	18 Athanasius and Cyril, Archbishops o ● 6:30am Orthros	19 Macarius of Alexandria Mark Eugenicus, Bishop of Ephesus Venerable Macarius of Egypt 2 more	20 Venerable Euthymius the Great ● 5pm Philochochos Christmas Party ● 6pm Vespers & Small Compline (w,
21 Martyr Neophytus Venerable Maximus the Confessor ● 8:30am Orthros 2 more	22 Timothy the Apostle Venerable Martyr Anastasius of Pers ● 5pm Beginner's Greek (ZOOM) ● 6pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)	23 Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Anc Martyr Agathangelus Venerable Dionysius of Olympus ● 6pm Vespers	24 Venerable Xenia Venerable Xenia of St. Petersburg ● 6:30am Divine Liturgy 2 more	25 Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop ● 6:30am Divine Liturgy	26 Venerable Xenophon, and those with ● 10am Bible Study (w/ 3rd Hour) ● 6pm Small Compline (w/ Canon)	27 Translation of the relics of St. John I ● 6pm Vespers & Small Compline (w,
28 Venerable Ephraim the Syrian Venerable Isaac the Syrian ● 8:30am Orthros 3 more	29 Translation of the relics of Hieromar ● 5pm Beginner's Greek (ZOOM) ● 6pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)	30 Hieromartyr Hippolytus, Pope of Rom Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gre ● 6:30am Divine Liturgy ● 6pm Vespers	31 Cyrus and John, the wonder-working ● 6pm Paraklisis ● 7pm Wednesday Chant Class	Feb 1 Brigid of Ireland Trypho the Martyr ● 6:30am Orthros	2 MEETING OF CHRIST ● 10am Bible Study (w/ 3rd Hour) ● 6pm Small Compline (w/ Canon)	3 Anna the Prophetess The holy and righteous Symeon the ● 6pm Vespers & Small Compline (w,

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

JANUARY 2024 DAILY CALENDAR

<p>Monday, January 1, 2024 Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea Circumcision of Christ 8:30am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>Tuesday, January 2, 2024 Sylvester, Pope of Rome Venerable Seraphim of Sarov 6:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Vespers 7:00pm Building Committee</p>
<p>Wednesday, January 3, 2024 Gordius the Martyr Malachi the Prophet Venerable Genevieve of Paris 6:00pm Vespers 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>Thursday, January 4, 2024 Nicephorus the Leper Synaxis of the 70 Apostles Venerable Theoctistus 6:30am Divine Liturgy</p>
<p>Friday, January 5, 2024 Eve of Theophany Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas Venerable Syncletike 9:00am Great Hours w/ Vespers Liturgy & Great Blessing of Waters</p>	<p>Saturday, January 6, 2024 HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST 8:30am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy w/ Great Blessing of Waters 6:00pm Vespers & Small Compline (w/ PreCommunion Canon)</p>
<p>Sunday, January 7, 2024 Synaxis of St John the Baptist 8:30am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am Vasilopita</p>	<p>Monday, January 8, 2024 Venerable Domnica Venerable George the Chozebite 5:00pm Beginner's Greek (ZOOM) 6:00pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)</p>



JANUARY 2024 DAILY CALENDAR

<p>Tuesday, January 9, 2024 Eustratius the Wonderworker Peter, Bishop of Sevaste, brother of Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa Polyeuctus the Martyr 6:00pm Vespers 7:00pm Parish Council</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 10, 2024 Dometian, Bishop of Melitene Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa Theophan the Recluse, Bishop of Tambov 6:00pm Paraklesis 7:00pm Wednesday Chant Class</p>
<p>Thursday, January 11, 2024 Venerable Theodosius the Cenobiarch 6:30am Orthros 11:00am Hands of Love Ministry Meeting (Lower Hall)</p>	<p>Friday, January 12, 2024 Tatiana the Martyr 10:00am Bible Study (w/ 3rd Hour) 6:00pm Small Compline (w/ Canon)</p>
<p>Saturday, January 13, 2024 Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonikus 6:00pm Vespers & Small Compline (w/ PreCommunion Canon)</p>	<p>Sunday, January 14, 2024 Leavetaking of Theophany Nino, Enlightener of Georgia Venerable Fathers of Sinai and Raithu 8:30am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Coffee Hour: Community 12:15pm Choir Practice (Divine Liturgy Group)</p>
<p>Monday, January 15, 2024 John the Hut Dweller Venerable Paul of Thebes 5:00pm Beginner's Greek (ZOOM) 6:00pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)</p>	<p>Tuesday, January 16, 2024 Veneration of the Chains of Apostle Peter 6:00pm Vespers</p>



JANUARY 2024 DAILY CALENDAR

<p>Wednesday, January 17, 2024 New Martyr George of Ioannina Venerable Anthony the Great Venerable Anthony the New of Veria 6:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Vespers</p>	<p>Thursday, January 18, 2024 Athanasius and Cyril, Archbishops of Alexandria 6:30am Orthros</p>
<p>Friday, January 19, 2024 Macarius of Alexandria Mark Eugenicus, Bishop of Ephesus Venerable Macarius of Egypt 10:00am Bible Study (w/ 3rd Hour) 6:00pm Small Compline (w/ Canon)</p>	<p>Saturday, January 20, 2024 Venerable Euthymius the Great 5:00pm Philoptochos Christmas Party (Social for Husbands & Wives) 6:00pm Vespers & Small Compline (w/ PreCommunion Canon)</p>
<p>Sunday, January 21, 2024 Martyr Neophytus Venerable Maximus the Confessor 8:30am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Coffee Hour: Pro-Life Ministry</p>	<p>Monday, January 22, 2024 Timothy the Apostle Venerable Martyr Anastasius of Persia 5:00pm Beginner's Greek (ZOOM) 6:00pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)</p>
<p>Tuesday, January 23, 2024 Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra Martyr Agathangelus Venerable Dionysius of Olympus 6:00pm Vespers</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 24, 2024 Venerable Xenia Venerable Xenia of St. Petersburg 6:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Paraklesis 7:00pm Wednesday Chant Class</p>
<p>Thursday, January 25, 2024 Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople 6:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>Friday, January 26, 2024 Venerable Xenophon, and those with him 10:00am Bible Study (w/ 3rd Hour) 6:00pm Small Compline (w/ Canon)</p>

JANUARY 2024 DAILY CALENDAR

<p>Saturday, January 27, 2024 Translation of the relics of St. John Chrysostom 6:00pm Vespers & Small Compline (w/ PreCommunion Canon)</p>	<p>Sunday, January 28, 2024 Venerable Ephraim the Syrian Venerable Isaac the Syrian 8:30am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Coffee Hour: Philoptochos 12:15pm Choir Practice (Divine Liturgy Group)</p>
<p>Monday, January 29, 2024 Translation of the relics of Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer, Bishop of Antioch 5:00pm Beginner's Greek (ZOOM) 6:00pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)</p>	<p>Tuesday, January 30, 2024 Hieromartyr Hippolytus, Pope of Rome Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom 6:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Vespers</p>
<p>Wednesday, January 31, 2024 Cyrus and John, the wonder-working Unmercenaries 6:00pm Paraklesis 7:00pm Wednesday Chant Class</p>	



Coffee Hour



COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO JOIN TEAMS

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.

If you are so moved to join a Coffee Hour Ministry team, please contact Zach Karanasos or Fenia Mavromichali

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY:

1/7/2024	Vasilopita Cutting
1/14/2024	Community Coffee Hour
1/21/2024	Pro-Life Ministry Sanctity of Life
1/28/2024	Philoptochos Soup/Social Services/Cancer & Major Illness Fund

COUNCIL CORNER

- We are rapidly coming to the end of another year! As we wind up 2023, there are a number of **important dates** upcoming:
 - ◊ Sunday, **January 7th**: General Assembly to consider the **2024 Budget**
 - ◊ Sunday, **January 14th**: Last day to label items before **Storage Room Cleanout**
- **Parish Council Elections**: After our elections on December 10th, the following individuals were elected for Parish Council terms beginning in 2024: Zach Karanasos, Christina Leinneweber, Anthony (Tony) Panagiotu, George Pirotis, and Mark Robinson. The following individuals were tied: Fenia Mavromichali and Merrilee Pangis. In accordance with Parish Bylaws, the tie will be broken by a vote of the new 2024 Parish Council as the first order of business. Ann Koopman, Rob (Moses) Sullivan, and Ed Winskill were elected to the Audit Committee.
- **Parish Council Vacancy**: The Parish Council thanks **Leisa Faithful** for her service on the Council. Unfortunately, she has had to resign her position with one year in her term remaining. In accordance with the procedures outlined in the Parish Bylaws, **Dr. Nick Themelis** has been appointed as her replacement.
- **Storage Room Cleanup**: The storage room in the Lower Hall has become too full. The Parish Council would like to **declutter unneeded items** as well as **clean and organize** needed items. If you are involved in a **ministry that stores items in the Lower Hall Storage Room**, we need you to **label** items your ministry would like to keep by **January 14th**. After that date, the Parish Council will begin cleaning the room and may dispose of unlabeled items.
- **Building Committee**: The contract for repair work on the **roof** is finished and the work is scheduled for later in January. The Committee will be replacing the damaged portions of the chain link **parking lot fence** soon for enhanced security. In addition for safety, the Committee has commissioned an engineering study of potential **seismic improvements** for the floor of the Nave.
- **St. Nikephoros Chapel**: Construction on the Chapel has begun soon. Small adjustments will also be made in the Narthex and stairwell in coordination.



Cover Story Continued

offered to God as a covenant, as *an agreement to faithfulness*, but the child also **received his name**.

If we hear that in Christ Jesus, there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, ***neither male nor female***, then it is *precisely* in the Introductory Rites of Orthodox Christianity where we see this fulfilled. The Jewish Rite of Circumcision of the male newborn on the 8th day was *only a shadow* of its fulfilled reality that we have in the fullness of the Church today.

In the Jewish Introductory Rites, the male child was circumcised and named on the 8th day, and then was brought to the Temple on the 40th day with its mother in order for both to receive a blessing of both introduction to the space, as well as a return for the mother herself to its place of worship. This may sound familiar to us as Orthodox Christians, because we also practice this Rite of a **40 Day blessing**, however being one in Christ, we **no longer limit** it to the male child, but also female-born children. But what about the naming on the 8th Day? This most sacred act which, as we said, was previously combined with the Circumcision in the flesh, is still a sacred act in Orthodoxy today!

In the Orthodox Prayer book of the Priest, we have prayers not only for the 40th Day dedication of mother and child to the Temple, but *also* prayers for the mother on the day of birth itself, and *indeed* prayers for mother and child **on the 8th Day**, where the child is **Christened**—that is he or she receives their Christian name. It is precisely this most beautiful prayer of Naming the Child on the 8th Day that we also use in the making of a Catechumen, or an adult who is dedicating themselves to the Church in their process of learning before Baptism and Chrismation.

In the writings of Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, a 4th Century Bishop to the beloved City of the early Church, we are given guidelines to receiving converts to the Orthodox Faith. It is within these guidelines that we see the naming prayers of those preparing for Holy Baptism, and it is precisely upon being given a Christian name that they are recognized as being Christian. It is in this process of receiving a name that the new Christian is also enrolled in the list Catechumens, which was safeguarded by the Church along with its enrollment of others who were supported in prayer by the Church, and tended to by the clergy, such as Widows.

My beloved, we see that we as Orthodox Christians *also* participate in this ancient introductory act of being named on the 8th Day, whether we were born into an Orthodox family, or we walked in as adult converts. However, we may be wondering: what about the Covenant of Circumcision that we also celebrate on the 1st of January? If there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither male nor female in Christ Jesus, where does that leave those born outside the Jewish lineage, or female children and converts?

Cover Story Continued

In the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, we hear of circumcision, not only of the male child on the 8th day as commanded, but of the circumcision of the heart:

“And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”—Deut. 30:6

Notice that this act of circumcision of the heart is performed by Lord God Himself. It is in this offering of our hearts to our Creator that we are gifted the ability to fulfill the great commandment of loving God with all our heart and all our soul, that we may have true life—that we may live. Saint Paul speaks to this circumcision of the heart in his letter to the Romans:

“He is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.”—Romans 2:29

We who seek God’s good pleasure, and not that of other men, prioritize our *full dedication* unto Him. In the Holy Spirit, the same Person of the Holy Trinity that receives our bread and wine offerings and transforms them into our Lord’s own Body and Blood, also transforms our hearts, which have been offered to God in covenant.

In the Orthodox Sacrament of Baptism, there is another act performed by the priest and offered by the newly baptized, regardless of being male or female—that is the act of **tonsuring**, or offering of the first cut hair to the Lord. This act of first cut offerings, as we can see, is reminiscent of the act of Circumcision, which was previously limited only to male children or converts. It is important in our prayer life to not only offer our hearts and minds to the Lord, but also to make some level of physical commitment. As we enter into this most sacred Temple today, we likely began with 2 immediate physical acts tied to our prayer: Making our cross, and lighting a candle for ourselves or a loved one. As we were created as composite beings, body and soul, and as our own Creator Himself, Christ our Lord, entered into our existence as body and soul, we must not forgo either blessed aspect of our lives.

Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, whose own name means “God saves”, saves us from sin and death, and has grafted us into the divine family tree through Baptism. And by the power of the Holy Spirit, He has circumcised our hearts. The circumcision of the heart is an inner transformation from the ways of the old man or worldly ways of operation into that of our true purpose and potential, where we are gifted the pinnacle of Christian virtue: faith, hope, and love.

In taking on flesh, being born of a woman, and receiving both Circumcision and a Name on the 8th day, our all-powerful Creator Lord humbles Himself, submits to His prayerful parents, and honors them. He,

Cover Story Continued

the Giver of the Law, is also fulfilling the Law and giving us an example of obedience in humility. By His Incarnation, which we celebrate during this Christmas season, God the Son took human nature to heal and save it. He took a body and a soul with a human mind and human will. He was born and grew up as a young Jewish boy. We read in the Gospel that the Christ-Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon Him. As His mother, the Most Holy Theotokos was highly favored (in Greek, κεχαριτωμένη), so the Son has the favor (in Greek, χάρις) of God upon Him. He is the promised Messiah, Christ, the power and the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24). He is the eternal Wisdom (in Greek, Σοφία) of God, and He also increases in wisdom, in His human nature. He redeems all steps of our own development as human beings. Throughout his life, He forged the path for each of us to be united to Himself, to our Heavenly Father, and All-holy Spirit.

Saint Cyril of Alexandria says, ***“For as He was humbled for us, so for us He increased, that we who have fallen through sin might increase in Him. For whatever concerns us, Christ Himself has truly undertaken for us, that He might restore us to a better state.”***

Christ teaches us both humility and wisdom.

In participating, not only in soul, but also in physical body to the teachings and commandments of our Lord, we participate not only in death to the old self, but resurrected life in Christ. We see in our own Introductory Rites of 8th Day naming, 40 Day dedication, and Baptism with Tonsuring that the act of offering our lives unto the Lord is not a one-step process, but a continual commitment. After our adoption into this Heavenly Household, we are not abandoned and left to fend for ourselves, but are constantly called to the Tree of Life to be nurtured by its fruit. Let us not hide in the recesses of our Heavenly Home, but rather in honesty and humility, let us come forward to receive our nourishment from the Great Physician Himself, Christ our Lord, so that He can once again restore us to His likeness, **our true purpose.**

Amen.

With love in Christ,

Fr. Anthony

Modern Greek Language School



2024 Modern Greek Language School / Classes: Monday beginners 5pm (ZOOM) Modern Greek 6pm (ZOOM)

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:

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

Sunday, October 27th, 2024 - **OXI Day Celebration.**

Sunday, March 24th, 2024 **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-

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE



DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE



The Daughters of Penelope is a sisterhood of dedicated women who want to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, Family and Individual Excellence. We are starting our new fiscal year, and are inviting women of our parish to join our sisterhood.

If you are interested please contact one of our officers.

President – Maria (Mary) Koumantaros

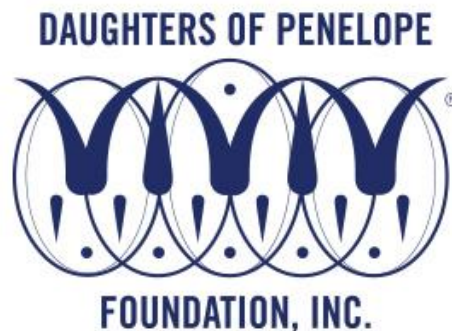
Vice-President – Dr. Olympia Tachopoulos Stafford

Recording Secretary – Debby Lord

Corresponding Secretary – Iphigenia (Fenia) Mavromichali

Treasurer – Evy Kontos

Maids of Athena Advisors – Ingrid Chamales and Virginia McClure.



Philoptochos News

President's Message

Holiday Food Certificate Drive - For more than 30 years Philoptochos has spearheaded a project to donate food certificates to families in the community for Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year we assisted eight families at four schools, Boze, Blix, Downing and Travis (formerly McCarver) elementary schools.

Our goal was to raise \$4,000 for this project. As of December 11, 2023, we had raised \$4,911, surpassing this goal. We extend our heartfelt thanks to AHEPA, Daughters of Penelope and all members of our community who donated towards this project. Additional funds raised will be applied towards local community needs.

Fisher House Donation - Philoptochos members visited Fisher House at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and gave the staff a check for \$855. Fisher House provides comfortable accommodations where military and veteran families can stay free of charge while a loved one is in the hospital. (See photo page 18...)

January Planned Events for 2024

Vasilopita - On January 7, special loaves of bread (made by our Philoptochos members in the church kitchen) will be cut and served to representatives of the St. Nicholas ministries. Funds from this event will go to the St. Basil's Academy, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese home for children in need in New York.

Soup Coffee Hour - On January 28, homemade soup and rolls will be served at the coffee hour. Funds for this event benefit the Archdiocese Social Services Department and the Cancer and Other Major Illness Fund.

Philoptochos Membership - Our year starts in January and runs through December. Annual membership renewal requests have been mailed to all current members. We currently have 49 paid members. Please consider renewing your membership if you haven't already. We welcome new members as well. There is a lot of satisfaction in doing things for the common good and helping our church and the less fortunate among us.

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

Philoptochos Member Meetings - Our next member meeting will be Thursday, January 18, at 10:00 am in the upper hall of church. The meeting will be accessible by Zoom as well. Topics will include the planned St. Nicholas 2024 activities. We invite members and interested parishioners to join these meetings and share their thoughts.

Philoptochos News

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 and helps our community stay close.

Thank you for your continuous support!

Jane Evancho



Building Committee

JANUARY BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

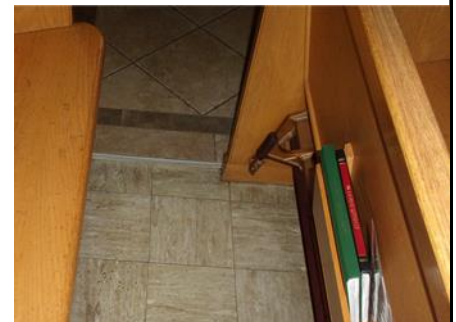
The New Year should be opening with the replacement of the existing roofs over the Upper and Lower Halls. The church has been negotiating and finessing the scope of details with Lakewood Roofing. The contract is now being finalized with field work slated to start shortly after the New Year. This is the wet and cold season so what might take two weeks to complete during the late spring or summer is likely to stretch out longer. Replacement of the roofs (upper and lower), is scheduled to be done before the start of Lent.

Remodel of the Nikephoros Chapel in preparation for new Narthex iconography continues to take place. The initial scope has increased with the removal of an existing closet inside the Chapel, relocation of wiring and skim coating additional surfaces over the rough textured walls in the Narthex area. The remodel and skim coat work should be completed around the first week of January. The Narthex iconography will start shortly afterwards, and is scheduled to be completed before the Great Lent.

A contract has been signed with AHBL (a structural engineering firm), to investigate the existing Sanctuary floor structure and produce design working drawings that would seismically bring the floor assembly up to current code. This would significantly increase the allowable load bearing capacity. The design drawings, with stamped structural calculations would be ready for permitting submittal if desired.

For now, the main purpose for the AHBL design is to provide a set of specifics for cost estimating while helping define logistical considerations. For example, a full floor structure upgrade would likely require the removal and replacement of existing Lower Hall ceilings in order to provide adequate access to the work above. The ceiling work could provide a potential Pandora's box of other possible interior improvements such as new lighting and HVAC. But that is a bridge to cross once we have a better idea of what all would be involved.

The main priority is to properly beef up the Sanctuary floor structure and take away its current "bounce" and also allow the added weight of additional mosaic floor tile if desired; and offering greater flexibility with seating and other layout options. An engineered structural layout is an initial step in being able to intelligently plan for long-term priorities. More information will be coming up as a design develops.



The above left photo shows the northeast corner of the Chapel pointing towards the Narthex. A previous door opening has been filled, and a new door opening (not shown) to its left has been cut and framed in. An existing closet is shown that has recently been removed. The middle photo shows a portion of the Lower Hall ceiling below the Sanctuary. The ceiling and interior soffit finishes would likely have to be removed and replaced in order to provide access to the Sanctuary floor structure above. The right photo shows existing old and worn vinyl tile flooring in the pew areas that sit about 3/4" below adjacent perimeter and main aisle porcelain mosaic floor tile. Part of the Sanctuary improvements would probably provide new built-up flooring in the pew areas that would be flush with the mosaic tile.

Submitted by: Bill Acker

ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

Ministry of Akathist, Prayers for the Departed

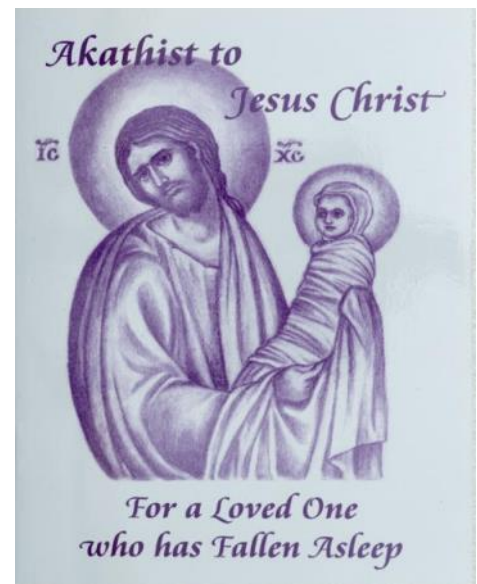


Thank you to all who are involved in this wonderful ministry at Saint Nicholas. In offering the gift of praying the Akathist to Jesus Christ for a Loved One who Has Fallen Asleep, it is a great comfort to family and friends of the departed ones.

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

Join us in person
or on ZOOM!

BIBLE STUDY

- **Samuel (1st & 2nd Kingdoms)**
- Accompanying text: ***The Seer***
- Meeting for **3rd Hour Prayer** in Church followed by study in Upper Hall

Fridays 10am-12pm

Metropolitan of Nafpaktos Hierotheos

The Seer



The Life of the Prophet Samuel
and its Relevance Today

Birth of the Theotokos
Monastery

INTERESTED IN JOINING?

Please contact Genevieve
at stnicholaszoom@gmail.com
to add your name to our email list.

Pro—Life Ministry



Baby at 8 weeks

Abortion: An Orthodox Christian Perspective on the Sanctity of Human Life

Reflection:

Each human being is unique creation of God. Each one of us has never been before and will never be again – throughout all eternity each human being who is, has, and will be conceived is unique.

Sanctity of Life Sunday

In this new year of 2024, the Sunday for the Sanctity of Life is on January 22. The Pro-Life Ministry will be hosting the coffee hour after the Divine Liturgy in the lower hall. Pamphlets, “Precious Feet” pins (exact shape & size of unborn baby’s feet 10 weeks after conception), articles, 12-week fetal models, and other items will be offered in addition to a delicious brunch. Please consider joining us in celebration of the sanctify of human life in the womb and after.

FLOWER MINISTRY



Every flower is fragrant through the power of the Holy Spirit, in a delicate flow of aroma and tenderness of color; the beauty of the Great contained in what is small. Praise and honor to God, Who gives life, Who spreads forth the meadows like a flowering carpet, Who crowns the fields with golden ears of wheat and azure basilisks, and the soul – with the joy of contemplation.

Let us rejoice and sing to Him: Alleluia.

Akathist Glory to God for All Things,

Kontakion 3



Preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ



Continued next page...

FLOWER MINISTRY

St. Nicholas Feast Day & Feast of the Nativity of Christ



Feast Day of St. Nicholas



Feast of the Nativity of Christ

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.

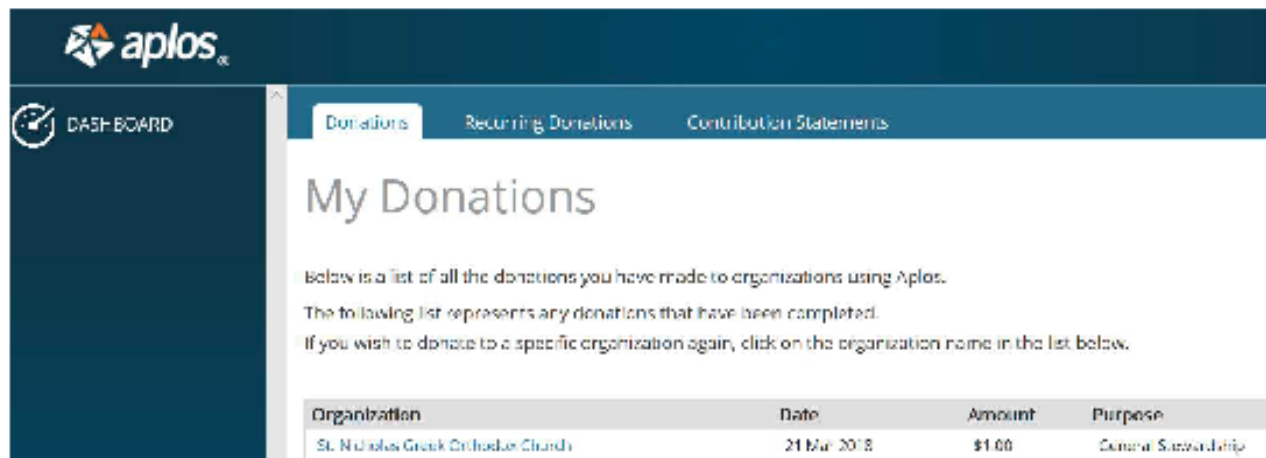
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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



Organization	Date	Amount	Purpose
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church	21 Mar 2018	\$1.00	General Stewardship

2024
ST NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

2024 SAINT NICHOLAS (TACOMA, WA) STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

JAN-DEC 2024

Please print clearly in all applicable fields.

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ SPOUSE* _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE () _____ CELL () _____ EMAIL(S) _____

PROFESSION (Optional) _____ ANNIVERSARY ____ / ____ / ____ BIRTHDAY ____ / ____ / ____

NEW STEWARD ACTIVE STEWARD *SPOUSE BIRTHDAY ____ / ____ / ____ *SPOUSE IS ORTHODOX? YES NO

Dependent Children

NAME _____ D.O.B. _____ ORTHODOX? YES NO

NAME _____ D.O.B. _____ ORTHODOX? YES NO

NAME _____ D.O.B. _____ ORTHODOX? YES NO

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES <<< PLEDGE CARD MUST BE COMPLETED ANNUALLY

2024 SAINT NICHOLAS (TACOMA, WA) STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

JAN-DEC 2024

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED CARD BY DECEMBER 17, 2023 USING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:



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

CHURCH
Drop your completed card for the
2024 Stewardship Pledge 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.

A contribution of \$2000/yr per family allows for coverage of operational costs.

As a steward in gratitude for God's blessings, I/we commit to support the work of His
church by offering the following PLEDGE of \$ _____ /month or \$ _____ /annually

SIGNATURE _____ SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES <<< PLEDGE CARD MUST BE COMPLETED ANNUALLY

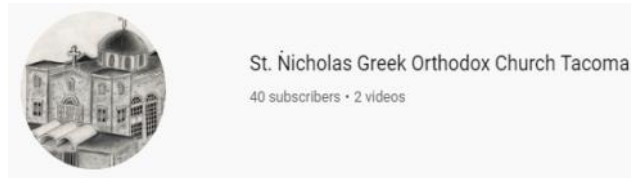
On Line Services

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. 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*

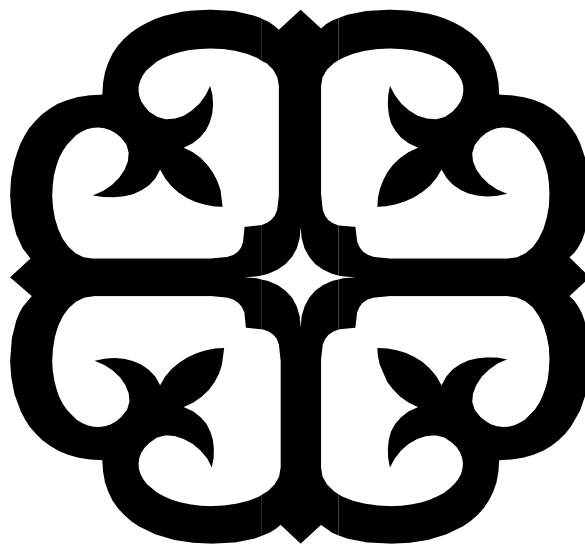
Click on this selection;



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

