The monthly newsletter of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church–Tacoma, Washington

Volume 39 Number 7

JULY 2022





The Festival is Back

After two long years, the Tacoma Greek Festival, sponsored by the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, is coming back! For six decades this event has been a highlight of the Downtown and Hilltop Tacoma Commu-

nity. It brings the culture, the passion, and of course the FOOD to all who attend. This celebration, held over three days, brings thousands together in our community to celebrate all that is Greek and showcase our Churches' beautiful facility, history and heritage.

Putting on this festival takes a huge amount of effort and investment. Our parishioners and friends spend thousands of hours baking and preparing to make this



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2022 Saturday Baking

a wonderful cultural experience. The baking has begun and
this year, we're utilizing Saturdays for the majority of the baking
effort. And, yes, there will be dancing. The practice sessions are
underway now that school is out for summer. No doubt, the
2022 Greek Festival is an evolution. We're adjusting to the environment.

In this issue of Messenger, you'll find the Saturday baking schedules as well as sponsorship forms.

July Baking	
Saturday, July 9	Baklava
Saturday July 16	Baklava
Saturday July 23	Baklava
Saturday, July 30	Baklava

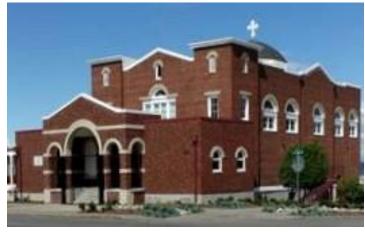
aking begins at 9 AM. Any amount of time you can contribute is appreciated

St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave Tacoma, WA 98405

Phone: 253-272-0466

Parish Website: <u>stnicholastacoma.org</u> E-Mail: mail@stnicholastacoma.org Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm



Sunday Services

8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

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



Fr. Seraphim Majmudar, Our Presiding Priest

For appointments, questions or urgent needs, Fr. Seraphim is available 24/7 on his cell phone. Fr. Seraphim's Cell phone: 253-365-5817

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

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

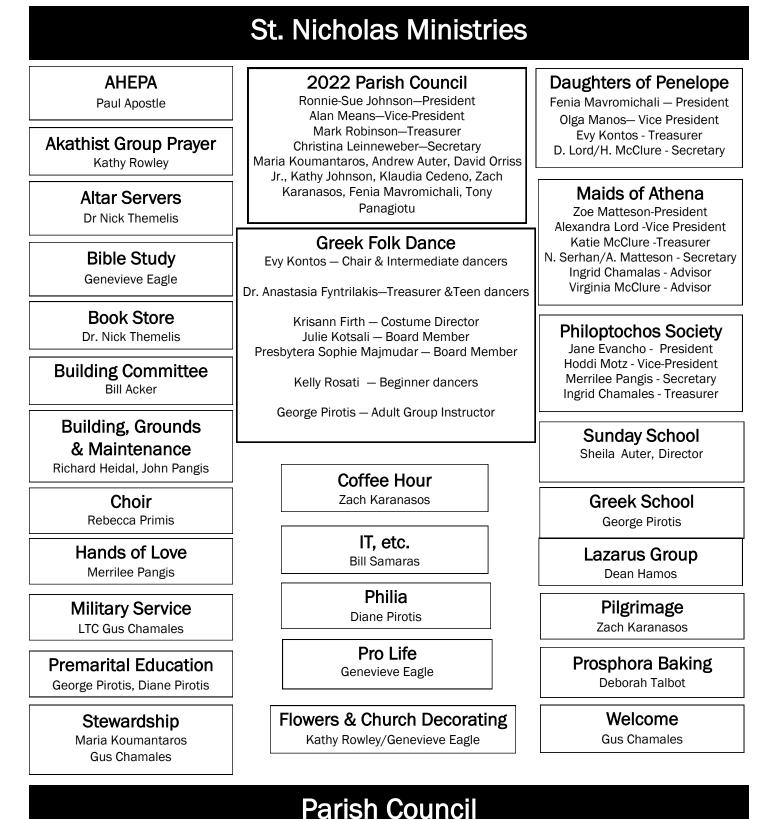
Editors: Carol MartinOki/Bill Samaras

Media team: Paula Karanasos, Fr. Seraphim

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Submit content, comments, or corrections, addressed to the Editor at mail@stnicholastacoma.org All contents copyright ©2022 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church —Tacoma, Washington

JULY 2022



Next Parish Council Meeting will be July 12, 2022

			July	July 2022		
sun 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	æ 😑	SAT 2
All Saints of North America	Miracle of St Menas at El Alai	Icon of "Three Hands"	Fast Fish, Wine & Oil	Synaxis of the Twelve Apostle	Cosmas & Damian	Jahn of SF
 8:45am Orthros 3 more 		 6pm Reader's Vespers: Ss P 6:30pm Beginner's Greek Cli 	Holy Aposites Peter & Paul 6pm Reader's Vespers: Syna	 5.30pm Modern Greek 	 10am No Bible Study Today 6pm Reader's Vespers: St Jr 	 6pm No Vespers Today
<u>.</u> 62	4	Q	9	7	8	6
Hyacinth of Caesarea	INDEPENDENCE DAY	Athanasios of Athos	Sisoes the Great	Great Martyr Kyriake	Icon of Theotokos of Sitka	Pankratios of Sicily
 8:45am Orthros 2 more 	Royal Martyrs of Russia	 6:30pm Beginner's Greek Cli 7pm Building Committee 	STRICT FAST	 5:30pm Modern Greek 	STRICT FAST • 10am No Bible Study	 6pm No Vespers Tonight
10	H	12	13	14	15	16
45 Martyrs of Nicopolis	Repose of Elder Sophrony of	Repose of Elder Paisios	Fast: Wine & Oil ok	Nikodemos of the Holy Moun	Fast: Wine & oil ok	Julia of Carthage
 8:45am Orthros 2 more 	Olga, Princess of Kiev 3 more	St Paisios of Mt Athos 7pm Parish Council 	Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel	5:30pm Modern Greek	Vladimir, Enlightener of Russi • 10am No Bible Study Today	6pm Vespers
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Great Martyr Marina	Grand Duchess Elizabeth	Makrina	Fast: Wine & Oil ok	Symeon the Fool for Christ	Fast: Wine & Oil ok	Prophet Ezekiel
 8:45am Orthros 2 more 	 6:30am Orthros 5:30pm Vespers 	• 6:30am Orthros 2 more	Prophet Elijah • 6pm Paraklesis	• 5:30pm Modern Greek	Martyr Markella of Chios 2 more	 6pm Vespers
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Great Martyr Christina	Evpraxia of Tabenna	Great Martyr Paraskevi	Fast: Wine & oil ok	Irene Chrysovalantou	STRICT FAST	Apostles Silas & Silvanos
 8:45am Orthros 3 more 	Olympia	Moses the Hungarian of the P 2 more	Martyr Panteleimon 2 more	• 5:30pm Modern Greek	Theodote & Her Children 3 more	• 6pm Vespers
31 Joseph of Arimathea PARISH PICNIC AT ALL SAIN	Aug 1	2 Gamaliel, Teacher of St Paul • 7pm Building Committee	m	4 • 5:30pm Modern Greek	5 • 10am Bible Study	6 e ópm Vespers

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

page:

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News and Announcements

Watch Services From Home, Live

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

- 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 <u>here</u>. 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;



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Tacoma 40 subscribers • 2 videos

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—

2022 Tacoma Greek Festival News

A big heartfelt THANK YOU to all of you who have generously spent their Saturdays helping make baklava. (Sheila and Andrew Auter, Chris Basil, Yvonne Brandvold, Ryan Carlton, Gus and Ingrid Chamales, Yanni and Sophia Charitou, Chris Cummins, Jackie Dionas, Krisann Firth, Sally Hallis and her sister Linda, Mike and Kris Hanberg, Kathie and Tim Harvey, Michael Hawk, Will Horton, Lisa Ishinko, Kathy Johnson, Zach and Daphne Karanasos, Maria Koumantaros, Nick Lay, Corey Loyal, Presvetera Sophie, Olga and Andrew Manos, Zoe and Mark Matteson, Fenia Mavromichali, Helen McClure, Angela, Justine and Porter Montoya, Tony Panagiotu, Avery Potyondy, Kelly and Anna Rosati, Bill, Karen and Lexie Samaras, Deanne Siridakis, Rob, Lee, and Blaise Sullivan, and Deborah Talbot). It has been a great team effort. There is still more fun to be had, so please join us for more Saturday baking starting again Saturday July 9. See pages 10-15 for more Festival information.

Evy—-



News and Announcements

Annual Church Picnic

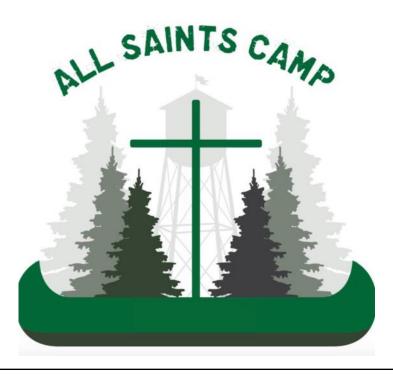
Sunday July 31st

As is the tradition at St. Nicholas, the Annual Church Picnic will be at All Saints Camp on Raft Island. This is a great change of pace as the Orthros and Divine Liturgy are performed at the small sanctuary at the camp. Orthros is at 8:45am, Divine Liturgy begins at 10am. Consequently, **no Sunday services will be performed at the St. Nicholas parish on Sunday July 31.** The Church will provide the hamburgers & hotdogs. You will provide either a side dish or dessert. There will be games for the kids, and feel free to explore the docks and do a little fishing.

Directions to All Saints Camp, 205 Camp Rd NW, Raft Island, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

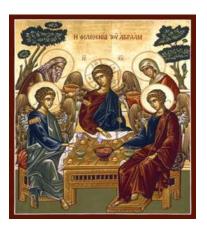
Go West on WA-16 /Take the Wollochet Dr NW exit toward City Center .3mi/ Continue onto Stinson Ave go .6mi/ Turn left onto Rosedale St NW go 2.9mi/ Turn left onto Ray Nash Dr NW go .7mi/ Continue straight onto Kopachuck Dr NW go .4mi/ Turn right onto Madrona Dr/Raft Island Rd go .3mi/ Turn right onto Camp Rd NW (first right) Camp is on right.

HINT: FOLLOW SIGNS TO KOPACHUCK STATE PARK TILL YOU COME TO Madrona Dr/Raft Island Rd.



JULY 2022

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 JUNE

07/03/2022 Community Coffee Hour*

07/10/2022 Men's Team

07/17/2022 Community Coffee Hour*

07/24/2022 Team Karanasos

07/31/2022 Community Coffee Hour*

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

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

JULY 2022

Sunday School

Sunday School News

No Sunday School during July and August

Though we won't be gathering for Sunday School during the summer months, we look forward to seeing the children every Sunday worshiping, singing and praying together during Divine Liturgy.



Submitted by Sheila Auter

JULY 2022

Council Corner

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

ℜ Review of updated By-Laws

One more section to finalize and then we should be able to bring them to a General Assembly sometime in August.

✗ Welcoming & Coffee Hour Ministries

Our community life is not the same without the warm *philoxenia* we share together with our guests after the Divine Liturgy on Sundays. Do you want to help make that happen? Talk to Zach Karanasos about the Coffee Hour Ministry or Gus Chamales about the Welcome ministry.

> Parish Directory

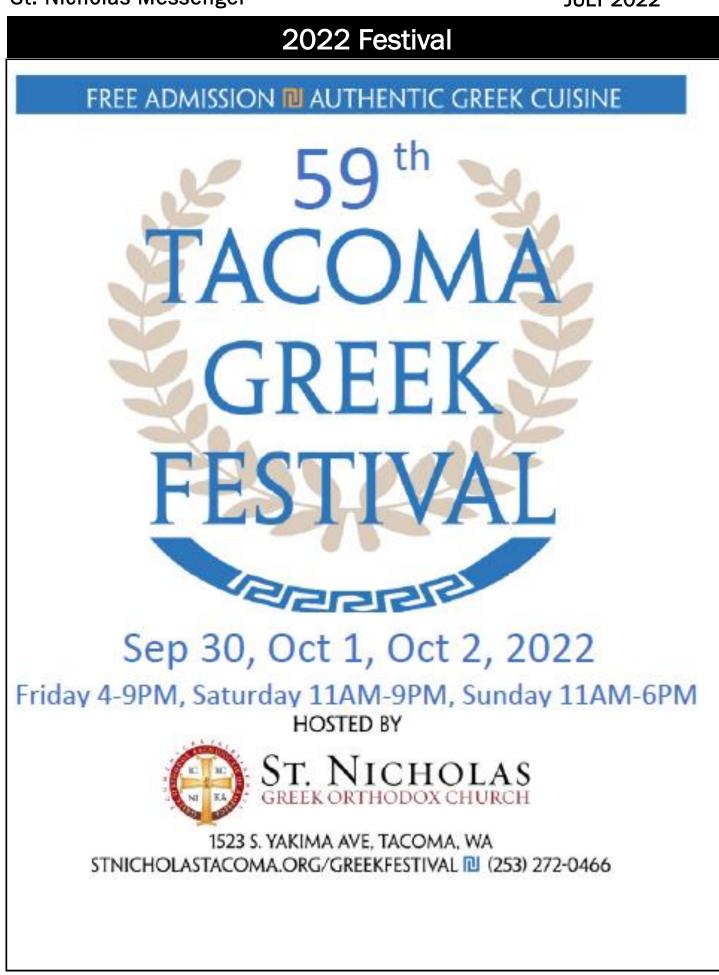
As our community begins gathering together more and more, we realize it can be hard to refresh lost connections. In order to foster the spirit of *koinonia* after COVID, the Parish Council has invested in **digital Directory software**. All Stewards are invited to submit their names, photos, and as much contact information as they wish into our system.

💥 Centennial Journal

The Archdiocese will be producing a hardback "centennial journal" commemorating the **hundredth anniversary** of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in 2022. If you are interested in learning more about the Archdiocese's centennial, please visit <u>goarch.org/centennial.</u>



JULY 2022



2022 Festival

TACOMA GREEK FESTIVAL IS BACK!

After two long years, the Tacoma Greek Festival, sponsored by the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, is coming back! For six decades this event has been a highlight of the Downtown and Hilltop Tacoma Community. It brings the culture, the passion, and of course the FOOD to all who attend. This celebration, held over three days, brings thousands together in our community to celebrate all that is Greek and show-case our Churches' beautiful facility, history and heritage.

Putting on this festival takes a huge amount of effort and investment. Our parishioners and friends spend thousands of hours baking and preparing to make this a wonderful cultural experience. This is where we need your support. The church makes a substantial investment in both time and money to make this happen. Your consideration will help to ensure that this event is a success. In addition, each year part of the proceeds are plowed back into our neighboring community. It is important that this church remain a symbol and beacon of love and hope for our inner city.

We are asking for your support by sponsoring our festival. Your sponsorship will give you exposure over three days to the thousands of citizens, community leaders and business that attend. The accompanying sponsorship form explains all the details. We ask that you consider a sponsorship to help keep this event a highlight in our community.

Sincerely,

Tony Panagiotu and Karen Samaras

Sponsorship Chairs

2022 Festival



TACOMA GREEK FESTIVAL - SPONSORSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Return this form by September 14, 2022 to guarantee your ad space in the 2022 Festival Program Brochure Artwork deadline for banners displayed in tent is September 8, 2022.

Contact name:		
condot name.		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone:	Other phone:	
Email:	Preferred method of contact	(phone, email, text):
	2022 SPONSORSHIP	RATES
	Full page ad	\$500
	1/2 page ad	\$250
	½ page ad	\$250
Payment method:	½ page ad 1/3 page ad	\$250 \$125

Please indicate if you would like to use your ad from a previous year.

In addition to this form, please provide us with your ad. For text only ads, please use WORD or plain text. For graphics, please produce a print ready .pdf or .jpg file.

Ad formatting information:

Full page and banner	8.5" x 5.5", aspect ratio of 1.54:1
Half:	5.5" x 4.25" aspect ratio of 1.3:1
Quarter:	4.25" x 2.75", aspect ratio of 1.54:1
	_
	and a

Ernail (best) your ad to Alex Joudy, alex.joudy@gmail.com You may also mail your ad to: St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church c/o Alex Joudy, Festival ads 1523 S. Yakima Ave Tacoma, WA 98405

For questions, payments, or special ad considerations, contact:

Tony Panagiotu 253-307-2151 (call or text) Anthonyp789@outlook.com Karen Samaras 260-070-5264 (call or text) karen.n.samaras@comcast.net.

2022 Festival					
FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP FORM					
GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE LEVELS					
Please state sponsor name exactly as it will appear in the program					
Sponsor name:					
Address:					
City, State, Zip:					
Phone:					
Email:					
Sponsor signature:					
Company Media/Graphics contact person:					
Name:					
Phone/text:					
Email address:					
We want to sponsor the 2022 Tacoma Greek Festival					
Gold Sponsor \$5,00					
Silver Sponsor \$2,50	0				
✗ Bronze Sponsor \$1,25	0				
All levels are placed as full-page ads in the Festival brochure, with higher levels toward the front of the ad section.					
All levels have 3'x5' logo banners placed in the festival.					
Gold level receives verbal recognition at each dance event					
Payment Options					
✗ Check enclosed (pay to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church)					
 Revenue of the second of the se					
X Other: Contact Tony or Karen (s					
Contacts:	Tony Panagiotu Karen Samaras	253-307-2151 <u>Anthonyp789@outlook.com</u> 360-970-5264 <u>karen.n.samaras@comcast.net</u>			

JULY 2022

Festival Baking Schedule

2022 FESTIVAL BAKING SCHEDULE

JULY

- Saturday, July 9
- Saturday, July 16

Saturday, July 23

Saturday, July 30

Large Pans of Baklava Large Pans of Baklava Large Pans of Baklava Large Pans of Baklava

AUGUST

Saturday, August 20 Saturday, August 27 Dolmathes Spanakopita

SEPTEMBER

- Saturday, September 3
- Saturday, September 10
- Monday, September 12
- Tuesday, September 13
- Saturday, September 17
- Monday, September 19
- Tuesday, September 20
- Thursday, September 22
- Friday, September 23

- Spanakopita
- Galatombouriko
- Kourambiethes
- Kourambiethes
- Galatombouriko
- Kourambiethes
- Kourambiethes
- Bake Baklava
- Bake Baklava

JULY 2022

Festival Baking Schedule

Saturday, September 24

Sunday, September 25

Monday, September 26

Tuesday, September 27

Wednesday, September 28

Bake Baklava

Box Baklava

Ouzo Cake

Karithopita

Kataifi Ek Mek

Please join us at 9 am. Please call Evy at 253 377 2191 if you have questions.

Volunteers are greatly appreciated and should arrive any time after 9 am to the lower hall of the church. Please bring a pastry brush if you have one and a small pot for holding melted butter. You will be asked to wash your hands when you arrive and wear gloves and a hair net. It is also recommended that you bring an apron and if you have long hair to wear it pulled back.

Thank you so much!

Evy

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Philoptochos News

President's Message

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

Greek Movie Night at the Grand Cinema - Thanks to one of our members for donation of the Grand Cinema theatre for the first Greek film event. Approximately 50 were in attendance. The program was four short Greek movies, including English subtitles, with an intermission. Thanks also to the planning committee for organizing the silent auction and Greek refreshments. Free-will donations and proceeds from the silent auction brought in more than \$2,100. These very generous donations will enable Philoptochos to continue with our work in the community.

Ladies Spring Luncheon - Our annual Ladies Luncheon was held May 14 with over 120 attendees. This gala event included a Greek meal of pastichio, meatballs, dolmades, green salad, dessert buffet and raffle items. This event was carefully planned given Covid concerns. Many thanks to those who participated, donated items for the raffle, baked goodies for the desserts, and brought friends to support us. The luncheon income from donations, raffle tickets and the pastichio auction minus expenses totaled \$6,760. The community donations and generosity for this event were truly amazing. This will allow our ministry to continue our work in this community.

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 47 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.

Philoptochos Member Meetings - Member meetings are now being held in the lower hall of church. The June meeting was cancelled due to illness and will be re-scheduled. Topics will include 2022 accomplishments as well as outreach for potential community and parishioner needs. We also plan to take a group photo. We invite members and interested parishioners to join these meetings and share their thoughts. The calendar of events will be posted in the Messenger as we determine we can resume our activities safely.

Outreach to others -Please take a few minutes to call and support the older members of our community during the pandemic. Human contact and interaction is so important during these trying COVID-19 times.

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

Thanks for your Continuous Support!

Jane Evancho

JULY 2022

Building Committee





IMPLEMENTING SOME SMALL REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS

There have been a number of minor improvements done at Saint Nicholas Church over the last few weeks. In the above photos, a marble exterior wall plaque and an ornamental pendent light fixture have been installed at the front side and main entry area of the renovated Narthex. A close up of the new plaque is shown in a center photo below. In a left photo below, a loose railing outside the exterior Lower Hall entrance has been reset, and a portion of a concrete stair that was broken up at its base post has been sawcut, removed, prepped, re-formed, poured and replaced. Also, small drywells have been installed under new two south side downspouts, one of which is shown in a right hand photo below.

Other work that has been done beyond what is shown in the photos is an existing double set of doors in the Upper Hall corridor have been modified so that they now fully close, a tread cover has been installed over the top stair at the Narthex exterior main entry, and some exposed galvanized steel plates at an upper exterior mansard wall that were rusting have been repainted.

There still is a list of items to be taken care of, including making some further adjustments to the new front entry Narthex doors, and deepening the color of stained glass in the new Sanctuary doors, but things are slowly moving forward.



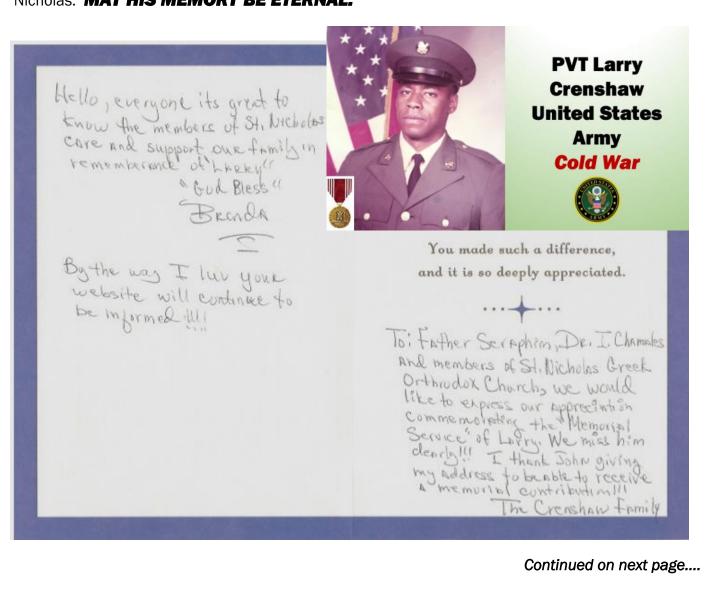




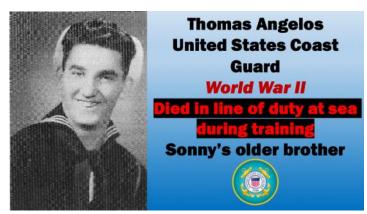
Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News

LARRY CRENSHAW. Larry Crenshaw passed away on April 20, 2021 and a one year memorial service was held for him in April 2022. Ingrid sent that weekly bulletin to Larry's sister and mentioned the Messenger containing a short article about him in the Military Ministry news. Larry's sister was grateful to know that St. Nicholas honored Larry's memory, that he was a cherished parishioner, and that he is not forgotten. Larry's sister in turn sent the below card. The card is addressed to everyone so it is included in this month's Messenger for everyone to enjoy.

Those who knew Larry remember that he was a long-time and very dedicated parishioner of our church. He regularly attended services. He always stayed after liturgy to enjoy fellowship during our coffees and luncheons. He supported several different ministries and helped all weekend long at our festivals. Larry was a loyal and devoted member of our church and those of us who were blessed by his friendship loved him dearly. If you were not fortunate to have met this kind man I sincerely hope you can glean a little about him by reading these articles. Larry was a great friend to everyone at St. Nicholas. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL.**

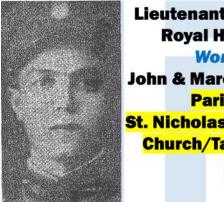


Military, CIA, Law Enforcement Ministry News



MEMORY ETERNAL July 4, 1948. Thomas Angelos served in the United States Coast Guard during WWII. His parents immigrated from Greece in the early 1900's and settled in Tacoma, WA. They became a part of the Greek orthodox community and opened the Candy Land candy store in downtown Tacoma. They baptized and raised twelve children in St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

Thomas was the 5th of the twelve children and he joined the United States Coast Guard near the end of World War II. He served in the Coast Guard for three years but tragically drowned in a training accident on July 4, 1948. Of his eleven other siblings two of them also served in the armed forces of the United States, His younger brother George served in the United States Coast Guard, and his younger brother Sonny served in the United States Army. Sonny and his wife Irene are still members of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, and Sonny is the recipient of the AHEPA Veterans Medal.



Lieutenant Costas Kouklis Royal Hellenic Army World War II **Parish Priest** Church/Tacoma 1952-57



MEMORY ETERNAL July 14, 1979.

Lieutenant Costas Kouklis was born on the island of Crete in the early 1900's. He joined John & Maro Kouklis' father the Hellenic Army, became an officer, and later became an Army Chaplain. He was serving St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox as a priest when the Germans parachuted onto the island in May of 1941 at the beginning of the WWII invasion of the island.

> Rev.Fr. Costas Kouklis had two children when the invasion began. Maro, his daughter, was

the oldest child and at that time she was five years old. John, her younger brother, was an infant. The family was blessed and fortunately all of them survived the war. Rev.Fr. Costas Kouklis immigrated to America in 1946 thanks to a relative who was living in Wyoming. He settled in that area and became a parish priest in a small community. A year later he brought his wife and children to America and was subsequently transferred to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Tacoma. Here, he served as our parish priest from 1952-1957. Rev.Fr. Costas and his wife retired after serving other parishes and they are buried in the Old Tacoma Cemetery.

Two of Rev.Fr. Costa's children, Maro and John are long-time residents of Tacoma and members of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. Both have been active members since childhood and over the years have tithed their time, talent and treasure. They have served as members of the parish council, members of the adult dance group, supported our church's festivals, and have participated in many of our church's ministries. John is also a long-time member of AHEPA and is the recipient of the AHEPA Veterans Medal.

Contributed by: Gus

Bible Study

ST. NICHOLAS BIBLE STUDY - THE REVELATION



The Grim Reaper – angel of death

St. Andrew of Caesarea:

...This material is precious among us, and the sickle signifies consummation. For the Lord, Himself, also called the consummation of the world harvest. (Matthew 13:30)

Revelation 14:15-16 "And another angel came out of the sky, calling with a loud voice to Him Who sat upon the cloud, 'Send your sickle, and reap for your hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth as become dry.' And He Who sat upon the cloud cast His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped." The cry of the angel periphrastically means the supplication of all the powers of heaven, having been permitted to see on the one hand the honor of the righteous, and on the other hand the cutting down of the sinners of lawlessness upon which the things moving and changing cease and the unmovable and abiding things are manifested. For the harvest to be dry means the end time has arrived when the seed of piety has ripened like ripe wheat; (Matthew 13:30) it will be deemed worthy of the heavenly storehouses, (Matthew 13:30) the fruitfulness being rendered the Husbandman (John 15:1) thirty fold, sixty fold, and one hundred fold. (Matthew 13:23, Mark 4:20)

Father Seraphim: The Lord also called the consummation of the world a harvest. This image of the "Grim Reaper" (above) is a corruption of what actually takes place in **Revelation 14:17-19**. The point that St. Andrew wants to make is that God is behind the "sickle" as opposed to this man-made image.

St. Andrew of Caesarea continues: Chapter 44: About the Angel Harvesting the Wine of Bitterness

Revelation 14:17 "And another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and also having a sharp sickle." Even if Christ is called the Angel of the Great Counsel⁷⁶⁶of the Father, nonetheless the present (angel) is shown to be from the ministering powers⁷⁶⁷from what follows. First, coming out of the heavenly temple with a sharp sickle, then performing the harvest of the exceedingly impious.

Revelation 14:18 "And another angel [came out] from the altar, the angel having authority over fire, and he called with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle saying. 'Send your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe."

And from this we learn that the angelic powers have been assigned to created things, some to water, some to fire, and some to another part of creation. So, we learn that this one was assigned to the punishment by fire. It says that, being among the highest angels, with a cry he urged the one with the sickle

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to reap the clusters of the vineyard of the earth, [157] through which the impious and lawless are depicted, filling the cup of wrath of the Lord (Revelation 14:10, Jeremiah 25:15, Isaiah 51:17) bearing fruit of wrath of serpents and wrath of asps (Deuteronomy 32:33) instead of the wine of gladness to the Good Husbandman. (John 15:1)

Revelation 14:19 "So the angel cast his sickle on the earth and gathered the vintage of the earth, and threw it into the great wine press of the wrath of God."

Wine press of God is the place of torment which has been prepared for the devil and his angels, (Matthew 25:41) great because of the multitude of those tormented in it. For the road to destruction is wide and spacious. (Matthew 7:13)

Revelation 14:20 "And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the wine press, as high as the bridles of horses, for one thousand six hundred stadia."

For the place of torment of those deserving this is outside the heavenly city Jerusalem. And their blood reached the height of the bridles of horses to one thousand six hundred stadia probably means the magnitude of the punishments through the angels, who customarily are figuratively called horses in the divine scripture, to reach to their bridles (means) the lamentations of those being tormented. The bridles are the holy powers [158] who have the divine command by which they hold reins for those things being commanded, as Habakkuk says "You will mount on your horses", (Habakkuk 3:8) and the Canticles, "I likened you to my horse in the chariots of Pharaoh." (Song of Solomon 1:9) And it is possible think otherwise. Since the lawbreakers have become (like) horses, mad for women (and) devoted to pleasure, they will be unharnessed in torments up to the height of the bridles, for they knew no bridle in their pleasures. By the great expanse of "one thousand six hundred stadia" we are taught the great chasm, (Luke 16:26) the separation (of) the righteous from the sinners, because of the perfection in evil and abomination in deeds, ten times one hundred signifying the perfect magnitude of wickedness and the six of them⁷⁷⁶ are the diligent toil of sin by the abuse of creation which had been made in six days and in Noah's six hundredth year all of the land was deluged.⁷⁷⁷

[The wine press will be trampled on outside the city of the righteous. For in no way is the "rod of these sinners to be near the inheritance", (Psalms 125 (124):3) according to the prophetic saying. For their habitation will be unmingled (with the righteous), just as their way of life has become. The blood being shed from those trodden who are brought to justice is the fair and impartial judgment of God that He has pronounced. [159] "For the blood of the grape is wine". (Genesis 49:11, Deuteronomy 32:14, Wisdom of Solomon 39:26) Unmixed wine fills the cup of divine wrath, through which it shows the punishment to be received by those deserving it.

⁷⁶⁶Μεγάλης βουλῆς ἄγγελος, **Isaiah 5:6** (LXX), or "Messenger of the Great Counsel".

⁷⁶⁷**Hebrews 1:14** Because Christ was described one verse earlier (v.14) as having a sickle, Andrew wants to be sure that we do not come to the conclusion that the one described actually performing the harvest is Christ, even though he is sometimes referred to as an "angel" in patristic interpretation of certain passages in the Old Testament, such as Isaiah 5:6, which he quoted above. ⁷⁷⁶Six tens.

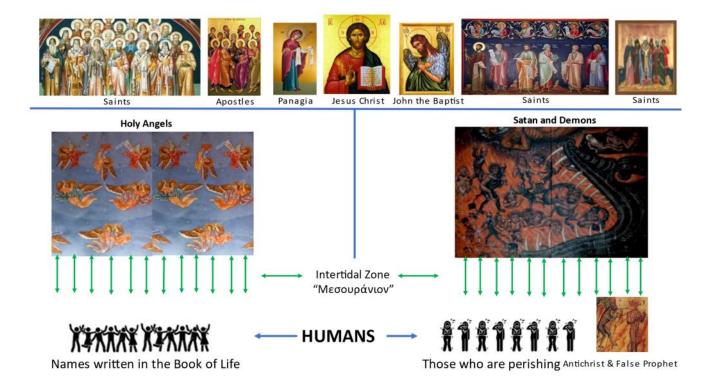
⁷⁷⁷**Genesis 7:11.** Irenaeus makes this argument for identifying the number six with evil, citing the years of Noah before the destruction of the world as symbolic of the height of evil. However, he explains the significance of the number six in connection with the name of the beast as 666 (Heres. 5.29.2). Andrew did not explain this symbolism of "six" in connection with the symbolic name of the beast in **Revelation 13:18**, but he uses Irenaeus here to explain the meaning of the 1600 stadia with six symbolizing evil. ⁷⁸⁰ Θυλημάνων (ππων. The expression literally means "mad-for-women horses".

Father Seraphim: We are now at that stage where everything is set in motion for all the momentous

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events to unfold. We return to what we discussed earlier in this study, "Seven Bowls", "Seven Trumpets", "Seven Seals". It's the angels who administer these judgments by the command of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. The angels have become central figures in this chapter.



We are calling the realm of the holy angels and Satan and his demons that are infiltrating the realm of humans, the "Intertidal Zone". It is where the energy of the angels, themselves, starts to become very directly manifest in the realm of humans in the material world. The tide will also go out and send what is in the material world into the spiritual realm. There's a definite interaction between the angelic realm and the material world that we see in **Revelation Chapters 13 and 14.** This drawing is a cosmological graphic. Humans are both spiritual and material, therefore, even though we are primarily geared to operate our lives based on sensory input, we generally consider things that are concrete as our most actionable things. The things in the spiritual realm are very mysterious to us. It's a lot easier to open our eyes and look around and take in reality around us than it is to open the eyes of our souls and take in the spiritual reality around us than it is no us, of the spiritual world. By dismissing this "intertidal zone" we fail to cultivate our ability to perceive its activity. When we fail to perceive this activity, we are prone to accept the deception of the devil. It's not just Christ and us – it is Christ, mankind, the angelic realm and the devil and his demons. The devil's most successful lie throughout history is that he doesn't exist.

Next, we want to look at the issue of the dispensation of Christ as being managed through the angels and how the will of the Slain Lamb is expressed through these realms into the realm of humans. St. John of Damascus will help us see the purpose of the holy angels.

St. John of Damascus – Exposition of the Orthodox Faith (Book II) – A pause to consider the purpose of Angels

Chapter 2: Concerning the Creation

Since, then, God, Who is good and more than good, did not find satisfaction in self-contemplation, but in

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His exceeding goodness wished certain things to come into existence which would enjoy His benefits and share in His goodness, He brought all things out of nothing into being and created them, both what is invisible and what is visible. Yea, even man, who is a compound of the visible and the invisible. And it is by thought that He creates, and thought is the basis of the work, the Word filling it and the Spirit perfecting it.

Chapter 3: Concerning Angels:

He is Himself the Maker and Creator of the angels: for He brought them out of nothing into being and created them after His own image, an incorporeal race, a sort of spirit or immaterial fire: in the words of the divine David, He maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire: and He has described their lightness and the ardour, and heat, and keenness and sharpness with which they hunger for God and serve Him, and how they are borne to the regions above and are <u>quite delivered from all material thought.</u>

An angel, then, is an intelligent essence, in perpetual motion, with free-will, incorporeal, ministering to God, having obtained by grace an immortal nature: and the Creator alone knows the form and limitation of its essence. But all that we can understand is that it is incorporeal and immaterial. For all that is compared with God Who alone is incomparable, we find to be dense and material. For in reality only the Deity is immaterial and incorporeal.

The angel's nature then is rational, and intelligent, and endowed with free-will, changeable in will, or fickle. For all that is created is changeable, and only that which is un-created is unchangeable. Also all that is rational is endowed with free-will. As it is, then, rational and intelligent, it is endowed with free-will: and as it is created, it is changeable, having power either to abide or progress in goodness, or to turn towards evil.

<u>It is not susceptible of repentance because it is incorporeal.</u> For it is owing to the weakness of his body that man comes to have repentance.

It is immortal, not by nature but by grace. For all that has had beginning comes also to its natural end. But God alone is eternal, or rather, He is above the Eternal: for He, the Creator of times, is not under the dominion of time, but above time.

They are secondary intelligent lights derived from that first light which is without beginning, for they have the power of illumination; they have no need of tongue or hearing, but without uttering words they communicate to each other their own thoughts and counsels.

Through the Word, therefore, all the angels were created, and through the sanctification by the Holy Spirit were they brought to perfection, sharing each in proportion to his worth and rank in brightness and grace.

They are circumscribed: for when they are in the Heaven they are not on the earth: and when they are sent by God down to the earth they do not remain in the Heaven. They are not hemmed in by walls and doors, and bars and seals, for they are quite unlimited. Unlimited, I repeat, for it is not as they really are that they reveal themselves to the worthy men to Whom God wishes them to appear, but in a changed form which the beholders are capable of seeing. For that alone is naturally and strictly unlimited which is un-created. For every created thing is limited by God Who created it.

But to whatever post they may be assigned, there they are present after the manner of a mind and energize, and cannot be present and energize in various places at the same time.

Whether they are equals in essence or differ from one another we know not. God, their Creator, Who knoweth all things, alone knoweth. But they differ from each other in brightness and position, whether it is that their position is dependent on their brightness, or their brightness on their position: and they impart brightness to one another, because they excel one another in rank and nature. And clearly the higher share their brightness and knowledge with the lower.

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Father Seraphim: When he says, "quite delivered from all material thought", he's talking about the barrier between the angelic realm and the material realm. By thought he means the energies that produce intentions as well as thoughts. They are not automatically "material". By intelligent, he means noetically. "It is not susceptible of repentance because it is incorporeal." In God's desire for a multitude of creatures to enjoy His limitless, perfect and humble beauty. He creates the cosmos. It's all about joy and inclusion in experiencing His ineffable beauty and perfect life. He creates the spiritual or noetic world, the Angelic Realm and then He creates the material world, the world of man. Each realm has its own purpose. Humans are the only created beings who can exist in the "intertidal zone". Angels and the other creatures of the material world can only exist on the outskirts of the "intertidal zone". St. John is trying to explain that there is no way for a created being in the material world, other than man, to perceive or contemplate the spiritual beauty of Christ. With the angels, man shares a noetic capacity to perceive and enjoy the ineffable and Uncreated beauty of Christ. An angel is a being that God created to directly perceive and experience the Uncreated glory of God without getting burned up. If humans were exposed to the full glory of the Uncreated God we would be incinerated. We don't have the capacity yet. There's no repentance for angels because they have already been given as full an experience as can be had of beholding the glory of God. That is not the case with man. If a being experienced the full glory of God, why would that being reject God. That is the mystery of evil. It's also the mystery of freedom, which angels also possess. As fallen beings, we lost the clarity of the "eye" of the nous. The reason an angel can't repent is because there is no veil between them and the perception of God. As fallen beings, we lost the clarity of the "eye" of the nous and have this veil between us and God. We are continually operating on a "partial" experience of the grace of God and have a spiritual ignorance of God's divine glory. It's that ignorance that allows us to reverse our fate through the act of repentance. An angel has undisputable proof of God and his glory, so there is no excuse for him to reject God. We on the other hand, operate on faith and are given the chance to change our destiny. This explains the unquenchable rage of the demons. They know where they are going and that their future is irreversible. That's why they want to take as many of us as they can on their way down.

George P: Growing up in Greece as a child, I remember when people felt demons around them, they would make their $\sigma \tau \alpha u \rho \delta \varsigma$ - stavros (the sign of the cross) and then every evil thing dissolves.

Father Seraphim: Absolutely, there are actions we can take to combat demons. As Mr. Pirotis said, the sign of the cross, Holy Water, calling on Panagia and the Saints. Above all, we must not panic. **1 Peter 5:8** "Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. ¹⁰But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. ¹¹To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Fran H: Remembering the old Warner Brother cartoons, there would be a character struggling with temptation who would have a demon on one shoulder whispering in his ear and on the other shoulder an angel whispering into the other ear. You can see the spiritual warfare going back and forth through the character's head and how his expression changes as each spiritual entity makes headway. There's a lot of truth in Looney Tunes.

Father Seraphim: Angels have the power of illumination – they bring light everywhere they go. They don't speak with audible words but with, what we would call, telepathy. They can communicate with each other rapidly and also move swiftly. They each have their own personality, their own thoughts and their own free will. Each one has a role to play in God's Plan of Salvation. Only the Holy Trinity, Father – Son – Holy Spirit, are unlimited. St. John wants to make sure we understand that an angel's power is not limitless, but proper only to God.

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The ranks of angels are in a hierarchy (as St. Dionysius points out) and that is what we are seeing in **Revelation Chapters 13 and 14**. There is a hierarchy also within the realm of the devil and his fallen angels. Because there is an identifiable structure or hierarchy within the angels, the ministration of these 21 Judgments is given by Christ through those ranks of angels to minister in very specific ways. In particular, the angels who cross into the "intertidal zone" speak to humans in an audible way with a visible physical appearance. This is encouraging because the demons are trying to destroy humans in the aggregate, and also trying to destroy us individually. Just as each one of us is targeted by specific demons, God assigns a specific angel to protect, bless and guide us. It's like having a "Secret Service" all around us to guard us. The Archangel Michael and the Archangel Gabriel are not interchangeable in their duties – each one is given a specific task according to their particular abilities. As humans, we are being called on to be warriors who discern with agency, which requires us to deal with this "intertidal zone". The core way of dealing with it is through repentance.

Alan M: I've recently learned to pray to an angel. I became frustrated and at odds with all the things that are happening in our country today, and I was led to pray to the Archangel Michael for legions of angels to come and combat the demonic forces that are prevalent in the world. The result was that I felt I had someone right beside me and that I was being listened to and strengthened.

Father Seraphim: We should be encouraged to venture into the "intertidal zone" without fear or anxiety, but with sobriety using the tool of the "stavro" and to know that you have your own personal guardian angel with you always, comforting you and holding your hand through these perilous times. It's also comforting to know that when our souls depart our bodies, we will meet our angel and the group of agents that have been with us from the beginning. God has created this whole menagerie of beautiful beings to be a part of the great celebration of the Kingdom to come. Whether angel or human, we are all beings with a specific contribution to make to the coming of Christ's Kingdom.

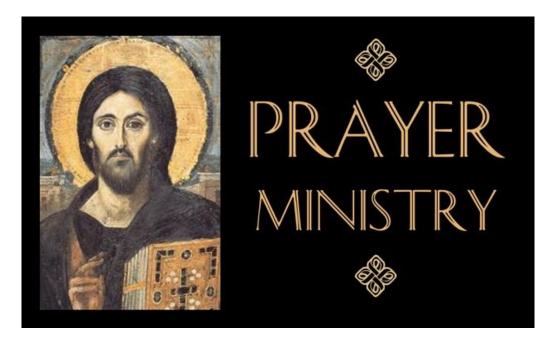
Submitted by: Genevieve



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ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

Ministry of Akathist, Prayers for the Departed

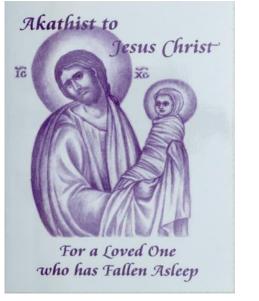


Thank you to all who are involved in this wonderful ministry at Saint Nicholas. In offering the gift of praying the Akathist to Jesus Christ for a Loved One who Has Fallen Asleep, it is a great comfort to family and friends of the departed ones.

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



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Flower Ministry

THE JOY OF AN ORTHODOX FLORIST

<u>Marina Schmeleva</u>

The <u>feast of Pentecost</u> has various adornments. Lofty theology, unusual worship, the long-awaited prayer, "O Heavenly King", sung on this day as if for the first time in life. And then, the verdancy of our beloved birch trees, freshly cut grass, a variety of field and garden flowers. It's no coincidence that our ancestors called Holy Trinity week a "Green Christmastide."

Our common cause of flower arrangement



Julia Ivanovna Tsygankova

Bishop Pachomy of Pokrovsk and Novouzensk called Pentecost the "Day of the Orthodox Florist." "I fully agree and always try to take part in the decoration of a church on this day," says Julia Ivanovna Tsygankova, head instructor at the florist courses of the Pokrovsk Diocesan Educational Center. A successful master of her craft and the owner of several florist shops, she has been teaching, for the last seven years, anyone interested to make a positive contribution to this beautiful and fragrant activity.

A church floral designer of many years, she puts her heart and soul into every project. When asked, "What does this work give you personally?" she would answer, "It is another way to have a conversation with God." No more and no less. The Lord gradually reveals Himself to her, a sincere and genuine teacher, who in response to the frank question, "Don't you regret sharing your trade secrets with others?" she straightforwardly replies: "The more capable students I get, the more joy it brings. It means my life's work will live on."

Besides, flower décor, as another method to serve the Lord and the Church, is also used as an educational tool. "You are not here to show off your skills. The most important thing for you is to learn humility." Wouldn't you agree that it is unusual to hear such a comment from a self-described secular florist? But those are exactly the words we heard when we got into a little argument during our flower décor session as to who was the best at it. "You have to see what others are doing and learn to work as a team. You're working to achieve a common goal," our teacher admonished us. Over the years, we indeed developed a team, and not just one but a few of them. The course graduates consider the job of decorating their parish church a matter of strategic personal interest, as they rejoice at having the opportunity to serve the Lord with their newly discovered talent.

Yulia Ivanovna observes what décor is currently used in different dioceses, or even different religious traditions, and takes personal notes on the wonderful work of the floral designers at the Moscow Sretensky monastery. She believes that the church florists should always perfect their skills. "Don't choir members always practice before the service and take the rector's preferences into account? Why should we to handle our work any differently?"

Like any other business, floral design has its specific rules. "You can't use just flowers in the composition, without any greenery. It shouldn't contain any rigid geometric shapes. It will weigh down the composition and distract the eye from the icon. The plant material should be of various sizes and displayed at different levels," explains the floral expert.



The center's graduates

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (Matthew 6:28-29), instructs the Savior. We learn, too—about their impractical and fragile beauty, how to admire the greatness of their Creator and the brevity of their lines. On top of that, we learn how to be alive—nothing more, and not necessarily practical or useful.

Flower Ministry

Church floral design is an ancient art. According to the earliest document about the history of the monastery gardens, decoration according to Christian floral symbolism began to spread in the eighth century. Before the fourteenth century, flower décor and the cultivation of flowers were associated with monasteries and served exclusively for church decoration. Therefore, medieval ornamental gardening was practiced primarily in monastery gardens. People were keen to beautify the house of God, that they might share the story of Him Who is the source of beauty, love, and meaning.

On the feast of Pentecost in Rus', the church was literally buried in the greenery of young birches. Wildflowers and meadow grasses blanketed the floors, filling the space with fragrance. I will not quote the classic example from the memoirs of Ivan Shmelev—as I would be obliged to extensively use excerpts from his book *The Year of the Lord*, a hymn to childhood joy over the beauty of the church life. I would rather mention that we inherited the custom of decorating the churches with greenery from Old Testament times. Fifty days after the Israelites came out of Egypt, God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. In remembrance of the Covenant between God and His chosen nation, the people decorated their homes with tree branches and flowers.

Besides, the green branches are the sign of spiritual spring, the renewal of our life for the glory of the Most Holy Trinity and our unity with God. The fresh leaves and flowers—a symbol of life—are in honor of the Giver of Life. To extend the jubilant feeling of joy, our ancestors decorated with birch branches not only the churches, but the houses as well. They even colored eggs green using the birch leaves.



Pentecost at St. Nicholas 2022

There are trade secrets, by all means. But we already know that Yulia Ivanovna is happy to share them: "A church florist's job is to make sure that, despite the colorful decoration, the icon must remain its focal point. The floral arrangement should complement prayer and not distract us from it. Everything should be in harmony. It should "scream" when it has no décor at all, and not when there is."

Nowadays, we use modern materials for the floral décor and it allows us to create beautiful elements in harmony with the Orthodox Church design. It is especially true since we have comprehensive resources available to us, such as having a year-round supply of a wide variety of flower material. "The scope of opportunities is perhaps great, but meager finances don't afford us the rare chance to make use of them," our skeptical reader may think, assuming that floral design is a sign of luxury. But Yulia Ivanovna knows for sure that if the people had the desire and the skills, anyone could make an inexpensive but elegant composition. To achieve that, you need to plant flowers near the church for their future use in the designs. You can pick up plant material in the fields or ask the parishioners to bring them. But there is one important rule you need to follow: Before using the improvised plant materials in a floral design, you must check how they will last in a vase. There are plants that can bloom for months in the garden or a field, but they won't last in a vase at all. You should also test whether they can be placed in the floral foam used to create the floral compositions.

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Among the different kinds of greenery, there are lilac branches, peony leaves; thuja, and hosta leaves keep their shape well. The birch tree should have fully formed branches and foliage. If it has light green leaves, they will curl immediately. When selecting flowers, you should cut the ones that built up strength while still in the ground. Bell-flowers, sunflowers, zinnias, marigolds, chrysanthemums, asters, hydrangeas, and viburnum berries all hold for a long time. Lilacs do too, provided the flowers were fully opened. Yulia Ivanovna shares an unusual secret: To make the lilac branches last longer, you need to hammer the cut ends of the branches and soften them in boiling water for 2-3 hours.

On the feast of Pentecost, multi-colored flowers should prevail in the composition; but even then, it should not look chaotic or ill conceived.

"You need to pick a color combination that wouldn't offend the eye. If you have dark burgundy or purple plants (like peonies, for example), we blend in the shades of cream, white, and lemon. The floral designs for Holy Trinity Day should imitate the colors of the native nature of our meadows with its flowers of varying sizes and colors," notes the expert.

The last bit of Paradise on earth

"Some say the church is boring. It is boring because no one cares for it. That's why it seemingly belongs to others, not ourselves. If only you could bring some flowers or greenery, or take on the burden of decorating the church, it would never seem boring again."

St. Anatoly of Optina didn't offer his piece of advice to professional florists or new amateurs, but to all parishioners. For as soon as we take the trouble and do some work, the house of God will become our home as well. A home that is beautiful, cozy, and dear to our heart.

Righteous <u>St. John of Kronstadt</u> called flowers "the last bit of Paradise on earth." Their beauty is fleeting, but the joy they bring will live on in our hearts, along with the sinking feeling of longing for the Heavenly Fatherland. The desire for beauty and harmony is embedded in our hearts. That is why we present those essentially useless, but truly beautiful flowers to each other as a material representation of our feelings and emotions.

The desire for beauty and harmony is embedded in our hearts

Additionally, each of us, from the point of view of an Orthodox florist, resembles a flower, be it modest or a lush, that makes a composition or adds unique fragrance. Altogether, we create a bouquet of our labors, talents, and most importantly, love of God and people—in short, the Church of Christ.

<u>Marina Schmeleva</u> Translation by Liubov Ambrose <u>Pravoslavie.ru</u> 6/15/2022

Submitted by: Genevieve and Kathy

PROSPHORA

PROVIDING PROSFORO

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

Despina Ampatzis brings the offering the first Sunday of every month. James Horton brings the offering the second Sunday of every month.

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

Vance and Kealy Hawk bring the offering the fourth Sunday of every month.

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

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





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

Contemplate the Lord Jesus as the Bread of Life:

-As the Bread by which the soul is nourished and lives;

-As the Bread by which the mind is nourished and enlightened;

-As the Bread by which the heart is nourished and ennobled.

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

-From The Prologue of Ohrid (February 28 entry)

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE. Our church is extremely blessed with so many people who tithe their time, talent and treasure. The following are just some of the shining examples of our parishioners' kindnesses that occurred during the months of May and June. We are all so thankful for those who make our beloved St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church a wonderful place to worship our Lord and Savior.

May 12: PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES LUNCHEON. Thank you so much to everyone who was involved in making the Philoptochos Ladies Luncheon in May such a memorable event! The women of Philoptochos did a magnificent job of decorating tables in a variety of themes from **Willie Wonka and**

the Chocolate Factory to Life by the Sea, and the food that was served was positively heavenly! In addition to a fabulous main course there was a lavish selection of pastries that rivaled those served in any royal palace! I don't think I have ever seen so many wonderful desserts under one roof at one time, and the mouthwatering pastry buffet prompted the following response from one attendee: *"Kings and Queens don't dine* any better than this!"



Presbyterra Sophie And Kathy Rowley A tribute to Pres. Sophie's mother, the 1960 Rose Queen Of Stretford

Another impressive aspect of this fund raising event was the raffle drawing that was courtesy of many of the Philoptochos members. Olga M. enthusiastically encouraged the ticket sales and then entertained everyone as she worked her way through the drawings for the many raffle selections. Mrs. Chrysanthe B.



was bestowed the title of "The Luckiest Lady" because she was the winner of multiple raffle prizes. Chrysanthe is living proof that the more tickets you buy the better your odds of winning, so everyone should remember that for next year!

Our sincere thanks to all the women of Philoptochos who made it such an enjoyable and entertaining event! We know that the money raised will go to very good causes and charities around the community, and the generosity of

everyone involved is truly heartwarming. "We can hardly wait to see what happens next year!"

MEMORIAL DAY LUNCHEON! This year Philoptochos, the Military Ministry, and several of our new parishioners teamed up to make the 2022 Memorial Day Luncheon a notable event! Mrs. Hoddi M. oversaw the preparation of the traditional baked salmon dinner and thanks to her legion of promising young sous-chefs (Andrew A., Chris C.,

Continued on next page....



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STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

Will H., Scott P., Jacob/Herman and Jeffery S., and Rob/Moses S., the meal once again, in my humble opinion, keeps St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church as one of the top 10 dining establishments in the Pacific Northwest! Many others joined in to make this a memorable event, Monica A., Claudia C, Yianni and Sophia C., Ingrid C., Cathy J., Zak K., Fenia M., Bill S., and Roxanne V. If there are others whom I failed to



mention please forgive me. My memory just isn't what it used to be!

The presentation this year focused on Deborah Talbot's uncle, John Bennak, who was killed while serving on the USS Helena in the Pacific during WWII. That ship earned the nickname "The Fightingest Ship in the U.S. Navy" because of the many battles in which it participated and it's remarkable achievements during its participation in the war. John Bennak and the USS Helena began the war on

December 7th, 1941 at Pearl Harbor, and at the time of its sinking on July 6, 1943, it was one of the most highly decorated ships in the entire Navy.

John Bennak's name along with those of many other American service men and women is etched for eternity on the pillars of the American Memorial located in the capital of Manilla on the Philippine Islands. It is a memorial similar to the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.

FESTIVAL BAKING IS HAPPENING! Thanks to Evy K., and Olga M., the Saturday festival baking sessions are off to a great start! There has been strong support to date but if we could just get a few

more people to participate at each of them, we could do so much more. Our goal is to have at least 35 people at the next several sessions so please check your calendar and do your best to come out and support or baking effort.

Special thanks go out to Vonnie B., Sally H. and her sister Linda, Krisann F., Kathy H., Maria K., and Hoddi M., who are among our more experienced bakers. Their assistance and guidance has been so valuable to many of our new and younger participants!





Thanks to their help and our many other enthusiastic volunteers we are on our way to making the 2022 St. Nicholas Greek Festival another terrific extravaganza.

Continued on next page....

JULY 2022

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

In addition to baking, another very important aspect of preparing for the festival is getting the dance groups organized and trained. The practices are scheduled to begin on the 26th of June but if you haven't seen anything about it until now, it is not too late to sign up and participate. This year's dance instructors are Kelly Rosati, Lexi Themelis, and Lexi Samaras, All are extremely talented dancers and the two Lexis danced as a part of the youth group for many years.



Practices for all three groups will be on Sundays

after Divine Liturgy from 26 June until the festival. The middle and teen group will also have a weekday evening practice (TBD) as we get closer to the festival. If your children are interested in dancing at the festival, and we certainly hope they are, please contact Mrs. Evy K. at (253) 377-2191. She will be happy to answer any questions. OPA!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ST NICHOLAS CULTURAL EVENT! In our continuing effort to teach Greek culture and church tradition, Dr. Fenia Mavromichali presented a cultural lesson on the prepara-

tion and serving of one of Greece's favorite entrées, pastichio. Fenia explained how the preparation of most Greek foods is an elaborate process filled with love, passion and a sincere desire to make the dining experience a truly extraordinary event for all the invited guests. The discussion included different techniques for preparing pastichio, the setting of the table, wines and other foods that go well with pastichio, and memories of learning how to prepare, serve and enjoy Greek cuisine. Fenia prepared a tray of pastichio ahead of time and served samples to all the attendees along with a wonderful accompanying dessert. Maria K., Evy K., and others also contributed to the class, and everyone present expressed their grateful appreciation for the event.





This was the second of our cultural events that has

proven to be a great way to bring long-time parishioners and new members of St. Nicholas together where they can enjoy each other's company, and cultivate new friendships. We would like to continue these events on a monthly basis and we are open to other ideas or volunteers who would be willing to assist. If you would be interested in leading one of these sessions, please contact Gus C. My phone contact information is on the church directory or you can email me at gleafops@gmail.com.

Continued on next page....

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

MEMORY ETERNAL: Dr. George and Mrs. Virginia Delyanis. It is with great sadness that



we report the passing of two of our church's long-time supporters, Dr. George Delyanis and his lovely wife, Virginia Delyanis. Virginia passed away on June 4 and Dr. George just nine days later on June 13. They were a very loving couple and long time stewards and supporters of our beloved St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, where Virginia was also an active member.

Virginia was born in Yakima, WA. Her father served in the United States Navy so Virginia lived in many places across the United States as she grew up. She married in 1970 and was blessed with a daughter. She graduated from Nursing School in Maine in 1975 and moved back to Washington where she dedicated her life to caring for others. In 1983, Virginia married George Delyanis and created a family of 5 with her daughter, Vicki, and George's two children, Peter and Annie.

Dr. George was born in New York. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1961 and the Albany School of Medicine in 1965. He moved to Tacoma, WA in 1970 and entered private practice at Neurology & Neurosurgery Associates, and was a passionate and well-respected physician for over 40 years.

Dr. George was a devoted member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. He served for many years on the St. Nicholas Parish Council and was a regular attendee at Father Seraphim's Bible Study classes. He participated with his granddaughter, Alexandra, in many of our annual festivals and gave generously of his time and talent to many other St. Nicholas events.

Dr. George and Virginia enjoyed traveling and staying in B&Bs. In addition to being very altruistic, selfless and caring for others, they were loyal Mariners and Seahawks fans.

Dr. George and Virginia are survived by their three children, Victoria Chavis (Walter Jahn), Peter (Lianne) Delyanis and Annie Delyanis. They were blessed with six loving grandchildren; Michael, Alexandra, Mikala, Nickolas, Gabrielle, and Arianna, and they will be sadly missed by their many friends at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL.

JULY 2022

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

In closing, the stewardship ministry is extremely grateful to all of the following who have supported our church by completing a stewardship card or by making a contribution of time, talent and treasure. YOU make St. Nicholas the wonderful place that it is to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We cannot thank you enough!

Contributed by: Gus

Donations and or Stewardship Commitments as of June 28, 2022

William and Mary Acker • Maria and Kosta Aggelidakis • Patra Alatsis • Richard and Marlene Angelus • Tony and Lori Apostle • Tina Ayers • George Ballasiotes • E. Anthe Barbas Harry and Sheri Basil • Theodora Bessinas • Yvonne Brandvold • Gloria and Peter Brown • Penelope Burke • William and Bonnie Caress • Klaudia Cedeno • Steven Chamales -Reagan and Reanne Charuhas • Anthony and Sandra Ciarochi • Belinda and Chris Cummins • Dina Deliyanides • Voula Dodd Timothy and Sunny Edgren • Callie Elliott Andrew and Jane Evancho • Radu Florea and Ramona Ionita -David and Savina Frisk -Gregory Joseph Garcia • Stephania and Jason Greenwood-Sally Hallis • Michael and Kristine Hanberg • Natalya Harpe •

Nicholas Afeiche Leonidas and Despina Alatsis • Sonny and Irene Angelos • Paul and Dolores Apostle • Andrew and Sheila Auter • Ourania Ayume • Tyler and Lexi Balser • Chrysanthe and SFC(R) Wiley Barnes • T. L. Berg • Ricardo Aaron Bottino • Dora Brown • Monica Bultz Anne and Don Calcote Barry and Debora Middleton Cassidy • C.G. and Ingrid Chamales • Yianni and Sophie Charitou • Chris Cherbas • Nick and Cheryl Cosmakos • Daughters of Penelope John Diaconou Genevieve Eagle • Frederick Ehret and Anastasia Fyntrilakis • Mary Erickson Krisann and Peter Firth • James and Konstantoula Fotinopoulos • Dayle Sokratis Frisk • John and Judy Godulas • Christina Gretty • Dean and Carol Hamos • Daniel and Ekaterini Hanson • Timothy and Kathleen Harvey •

Continued next page ...

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

Bret and Evangelia Hassel • Vance and Suzanne Hawk • Meslissa Holden • Laurie Hulter Lisa Ishchenko Danni and Brian Johnson Kathy Johnson • Hariklia (Rikki) Kapes • Paula Karanasos • Sharon Kennedy • Claudia Kieszling -Ann Kiraki and Jessee Macharia • Ann Ruth Koopman • Andrew and Melinda Kouklis • Mary Kouklis • Peter and Margaret Laketa -Robert and Anne Latz • Mary Leonard • Joshua and Jill Livingston Jennifer Luna and Daniel Gonzales -George and Bess Lurker • Olga Manos • Mathew John Manthou • Carol MartinOki Katherine and Gregory Mason • Iphigenia Mavromichali • Helen McClure • Alan and Sheilagh Means • Tom Mollas -Nina and John Morrison • Michael and Rodica Murphy • Order of AHEPA, Olympia Chapter Marian Palas • Evangelos and Anastasia Pampoukas -Tony and Debbie Panagiotu • John and Merrilee Pangis • Kesha Patel • George and Diane Pirotis • Josquin Poirot Andrew and Rebecca Primis • Martin J. and Lorissa C. Reiter III • Katherine and Mike Rowley • Bill and Karen Samaras •

Magdaline Hatzikazakis and Reginald Williams • Richard and Kathleen Heidal • William Frederick Lincoln Horton • Melissa and Miguel Hungria -Thomas and Helga Jackson • Joseph and Ronnie-Sue Johnson • Joyce and Robin Kalivas Griffin • Anna Karanasos • Zachary and Daphne Karanasos • Naser and Catalina Khalaj • Evan and Despina Kipelidis • Evy Kontos and Mark Matteson • Steve Koukles • John C. Kouklis • Maria Koumantaros • Elia and Micheline Lakkis • Christina Leinneweber • Hugh and Mariella Lewis -Jaclyn Lukehart Bonnie Luntzel and Douglas Fairbanks Fr. Seraphim and Sophie Majmudar • Chris and Susan Manthou • Natalia Marberg Dean and Julie Mastras • Evangelia Mavrogiorgos George McClure • Virginia McClure • Tatyana Mikeladze • Angela Montoya • Dick and Hariklia (Hoddi) Motz • Derek Olsen • David and Katrina Orriss • Niko and Sonia Pamboukas • George Panagiotu • Alex Pangis • Scott and Rachael Parnell • John Payne • Charles and Lena Plunkett • Steve and Kathleen Politakis • Sammy Ramzi Mark and Dana Robinson • Katherine Salatas • Peter Sandas Jr.

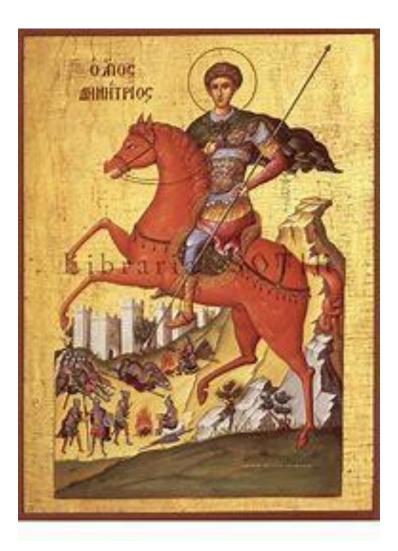
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JULY 2022

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

- Neal (Barnabas) Schaefer Todd and Teresa Silver Olympia and John Stafford • Andy and JoAnn Stergachis • Jacob Swain • Deborah Talbot • Charles Tomaras • Edward Tuohy John Voklert • Michael Jane White • Anna and Raymond Wilson • Hugh Winskill • Matthew and Leigh Ann Zehnder •
- Richard and Alexandra Schutt St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society Richard and Denice Stahl • Rob and Lea Sullivan • James & Jenise Sweeney • Nick and Becky Themelis • Samuel Torvend Roxanne Vallantine • Morgan Waterman • Jeffrey and Janice Williams Ed Winskill • Kalitsa Xitco •

- Steward
- Active Contributor



Rice Family













We pray you all had a blessed and beautiful Holy Week and Pascha at St. Nicholas! We enjoyed being on campus for this season of Lent and Pascha, especially for Ranae and the children to be able to participate in more services than in the past. It was wonderful to celebrate the Resurrection with our friends on campus and share some campus meals together. The kids enjoyed an Easter egg hunt and Pascha baskets after a much-needed Pascha nap! We also received a very thoughtful package from St. Nicholas Philoptochos. Thank you so much!

We are grateful for Spring, for the lightening of the weather after a cold winter, for the beautiful flowers and blossoms on campus. It has felt like a very long winter and a long semester, yet God knows when we need reprieve. After finishing this semester, Aaron began 4-week intensive Modern Greek program which will be completed in the middle of June. We are really looking forward to more family time this summer and our trip back to Washington in July. We are also expecting another baby in October, Glory to God!

Please continue to keep us in your prayers! We miss you all and our families. It is not easy being so far away, but we do feel so much peace in following the call to ministry. We are taking every opportunity to ground ourselves spiritually, focus in on our family, and learn from those around us. So, thank you for helping to make this time of formation a possibility. We appreciate you!







With Love,





ve,

The Rice Family

If you would like to support us by helping with some of our many expenses, we have established a GoFundMe account. <u>https://www.gofundme.com/manage/help-the-rices-pay-for-seminary-expenses</u>





JULY 2022

JULY 2022

Metropolis

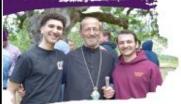
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Camp Agape Northwest

Update to our Parishes - Camp Agape Northwest



November 2021

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

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

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

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

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

program.

All of our volunteers go through extensive training, follow national standards for "best practices" and

JULY 2022

Camp Agape Northwest

work diligently to provide the safest and best camp experience for all involved. Because of this diligence, *Camp Agape Northwest continued...*

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

• Since our inception we have been responsible for our own fundraising efforts. We feel it is imperative to keep our fundraising localized as many local supporters have come to know Philoptochos through Camp Agape Northwest and want to keep their dollars with the local mission.

• The youth and young adult ministry component has played a vital role in the lives of countless young people from our churches and beyond - many who have developed beautiful life-long relationships through their AGAPE NW experience.

• We also want to continue to run a 6 day camp rather than reduce the number of days to a 4 day camp with our own chosen directors.

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

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

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

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

JULY 2022

Camp Agape Northwest

Camp Agape Northwest continued...

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

Last year, our long-time Camp Directors , Deb and Jeff Greer, passed the leadership baton to our new

camp directors, Courtney and Jason Bodily who had previously experienced Camp Agape Northwest as a camp family. They are well aware of life as a cancer family, as their daughter Macey continues to navigate

through treatment. They have been dedicated and trusted volunteers serving with great passion for leadership and service.

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

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

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



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

Donations and Pledges

On line Donations now possible

ON-LINE DONATIONS

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

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

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

In Christ,

Mark Robinson

On-Line Contribution Instructions:

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



OUR MISSION

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

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

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

HOW TO RETURN THIS CARD

BY MAL:

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

AT CHURCH:

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

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

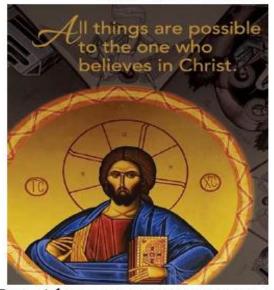
stnicholastacoma_org/stewardship.

Please PRINT your Information clearly

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Spouse:
DOB (M/D/Y):
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Household Information
Address
City/St/Zip
Dependent Children

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

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



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

Fr. Scraphim Majmudar

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

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

2022 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

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

I/We offer a minimum stewardship pledge of

\$...../year or \$...../

month in 2022 to support God's work.

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

SIGNATURE.....

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

Address Service Requested





www.stnicholastacoma.org

Rev: 1