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

Messenger

Volume 40 Number 7

JULY 2023



--- Beloved Saint Nicholas Family ---

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Faith in Our Future for the Future of Our Faith

Glory to God, the summer has arrived, and with it, the Church provides us with many opportunities of engagement with our own family, as well as surrounding neighbors. Preparations for our Greek Festival are also well underway, and I am appreciative of the level of support from our baking crew, as well as those working diligently to secure sponsorships as well as worthy causes for a portion of our proceeds to support.

For a bit of inspiration this month, I wanted to share an account from the life of the patron of parish priests, **Papa Nicholas Planas (March 2)**. This account from his life focuses on his interaction with a Great Unmercenary Healer, **Saint Panteleimon (July 27)**.

On March 2, 1885 St. Nicholas Planas was ordained a priest. He always served at three churches: Saint Panteleimon near Ilissus, Saint John the Hunter's and Prophet Elisseus' behind the Old Barracks.

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His first assignment was as a parish priest at Saint Panteleimon's in Neos Kosmos, Athens. When he arrived the church was totally abandoned and overgrown with weeds, and shepherds would go and pasture their flocks there. Papa-Nicholas got the weeds out of the church and was the first to serve there.

Saint Panteleimon's parish consisted of only thirteen families. During his term as parish priest, another priest without a parish visited him and asked to concelebrate in the Liturgy, and Papa-Nicholas, good and simple as he was, accepted him wholeheartedly. However, this priest made an agreement with the then church wardens of Saint Panteleimon, and they fired Papa-Nicholas and sent him to the Church of Saint John ("the Hunter," as they called the church in those days) on Vouliagmeni Road. The parish of this church consisted of only eight families! And the *Cover story continued on page 19...*

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 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: <u>anthonymcornett@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. Anthony

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Submit content, comments, or corrections, addressed to the Editor at mail@stnicholastacoma.org All contents copyright ©2023 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church –Tacoma, Washington

JULY 2023

AHEPA Paul Apostle, President Chris Basil, Vice President Tony Panagiotu, Treasurer Andrew Kouklis, Secretary	2023 Parish Council Andrew Primis, President Fenia Mavromichali, Vice President Christina Leinneweber, Secretary Mark Robinson, Treasurer Yianni Charitou, Lisa Faithful, Kathy Johnson,	Daughters of Penelope Fenia Mavromichali – President Olga Manos– Vice President Evy Kontos - Treasurer D. Lord/H. McClure - Secretary
Akathist Group Prayer Kathy Rowley	Zachary Karanasos, Maria Koumantaros, Alan Means, Tony Paniagotu, and Bill Samaras	Maids of Athena Zoe Matteson-President Alexandra Lord -Vice President
Altar Servers Dr Nick Themelis	Greek Folk Dance	Katie McClure -Treasurer N. Serhan/A. Matteson - Secretar Ingrid Chamalas - Advisor
Bible Study Genevieve Eagle	Anastasia Fyntrilakis - Chairperson Evy Kontos - Treasurer Dance Instructors:	Virginia McClure - Advisor Philoptochos Society
Book Store Dr. Nick Themelis	Teen Group: Anastasia Fyntrilakis Intermediate Group - Rachel Beginner Group - Kelly Rosati Adult Group - George Pirotis	Jane Evancho - President Hoddi Motz - Vice-President Merrilee Pangis - Secretary Ingrid Chamales - Treasurer
Building Committee Bill Acker		Sunday School
Building, Grounds & Maintenance Richard Heidal, John Pangis	Coffee Hour Zach Karanasos	To be announced Greek School
Choir Rebecca Primis	IT, etc. Bill Samaras	George Pirotis Lazarus Group Dean Hamos
Hands of Love Genevieve Eagle	Philia Diane Pirotis	Pilgrimage Zach Karanasos
Military Service	Pro Life Genevieve Eagle	Prosphora Baking
Premarital Education George Pirotis, Diane Pirotis	Flowers & Church Decorating	Deborah Talbot Welcome
Stewardship Fenia Mavromichali	Kathy Rowley/Genevieve Eagle	Gus Chamales

Next Parish Council Meeting will be Tuesday July 11, 2023

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

www.stnicholastacoma.org

JULY 2023

JULY 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

Saturday, July 1 Wonder-working Unmercenaries Cosmas and Dami- an, Martyred in Rome 6:00pm Vespers	Sunday, July 2 Deposition of the precious robe of the Theotokos in Blachernae 8:30am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Community Coffee Hour
Monday, July 3 Martyr Hyacinth the Chamberlain 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)	Tuesday, July 4 Andrew of Jerusalem, Archbishop of Crete 6:00pm Vespers 7:00pm Building Committee
Wednesday, July 5 Venerable Athanasius of Athos, and Lampadus the Wonderworker 6:00pm Paraklesis 7:00pm Choir Practice	Thursday, July 6 Venerable Sisoës the Great 6:30am Orthros
Friday, July 7 Great Martyr Kyriaki Venerable Thomas of Maleon 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Small Compline (w/ Akathist)	Saturday, July 8 Great Martyr Procopius Icon of Theotokos of Sitka 9:00am Festival Baking 6:00pm Vespers
Sunday, July 9 Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Tauromenium 8:30am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Coffee Hour: Team Cedeno	Monday, July 10 Forty-five Martyrs of Nicopolis in Armenia 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)

JULY 2023

JULY 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 11

Great Martyr and All-laudable Euphemia Olga, Princess and Equal-to-the-Apostles Venerable Sophronius the Athonite 6:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Vespers 7:00pm Parish Council

Thursday, July 13 Golinduc the Martyr Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel 6:30am Orthros

Saturday, July 15 Martyrs Cyricus and Julitta 9:00am Festival Baking 6:00pm Vespers

Monday, July 17 Great Martyr Marina 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)

Wednesday, July 19

Venerable Dius Venerable Macrina, Sister of Basil the Great 6:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Vespers 7:00pm Choir Practice Wednesday, July 12 Martyrs Proclus and Hilary Venerable Païsios the Athonite 6:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Paraklesis 7:00pm Choir Practice

Friday, July 14

Aquila the Apostle Venerable Nicodemus the Athonite 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Small Compline (w/ Akathist)

Sunday, July 16 Hieromartyr Athenogenes, Bishop of Pedachtoë 8:30am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Community Coffee Hour

Tuesday, July 18 Emilian the Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth 6:00pm Vespers

Thursday, July 20 Prophet Elias (Elijah) the Tishbite 6:30am Orthros

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JULY 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

Friday, July 21

Venerable John and Symeon, the Fool-for-Christ 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Vespers 7:00pm Small Compline (w/ PreCommunion Canon)

Sunday, July 23

Phocas the Hieromartyr 8:30am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Coffee Hour: Team Karanasos

Tuesday, July 25 Dormition of Anna, the Holy Grandmother of God Evpraxia of Tabenna Olympia 6:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Vespers

Thursday, July 27

Great Martyr Panteleimon the Healer 6:30am Divine Liturgy

Saturday, July 22

Mary Magdalene, the Myrrh-bearer and Equal-tothe-Apostles 8:00am Divine Liturgy 9:00am Festival Baking 6:00pm Vespers

Monday, July 24 Great Martyr Christina 6:30am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)

Wednesday, July 26

Hieromartyr Hermolaus and those with him, Hermippus and Hermocrates Moses the Hungarian of the Kiev Caves Venerable Martyr Paraskevi 6:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Vespers 7:00pm Choir Practice

Friday, July 28 Apostles and Deacons Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, and Parmenas Venerable Irene Chrysovalantou 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Small Compline (w/ Akathist)

JULY 2023

JULY 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

Saturday, July 29

Monday, July 31

5:30pm

Eudocimus the Righteous

Joseph of Arimathea

Modern Greek (ZOOM)

Martyrs Callinicus and Theodota Olaf, King & Martyr of Norway 9:00am Festival Baking 6:00pm Vespers

Sunday, July 30

Apostles Silas, Silvan, Crescens, Epenetus, and Andronicus 8:30am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Antonio "Randy" Motz Memorial Coffee Hour

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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION TO CATECHISM CLASS Each Sunday, July 2 – July 30, 12:00 P.M. – Upper Hall

St. Nicholas' Catechism Class will be starting the 2023/2024 Catechumenate with an introductory book study. We will be studying "Arise O God" by Father Andrew Stephen Damick. All are invited to attend (Orthodox & Non-Orthodox).

Father Anthony would like to have those participating in the class to have reviewed the introductory content ahead of time. We have a Google Doc with that content, but for further digging into the text, we've also provided a link to the eBook, Audible audiobook, as well as where you can purchase a physical copy.

"Arise, O God: The Gospel of Christ's Defeat of Demons, Sin, and Death" by Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not about what Jesus can do for your life. It is not even the answer to the question, "How can I be saved?" It is the declaration of a victory. In His coming to earth, His suffering, and His Resurrection, Christ conquered demons, sin, and death. In *Arise, O God*, author and podcaster Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick introduces us to the spiritual war that Christ won by His victory, how we are caught in that war's cosmic crossfire, what the true content of the gospel is-and how we are to respond.

eBook: https://orthodoxchristianebooks.com/arise-o-god/ Audible: https://www.audible.com/pd/Arise-O-God-Audiobook/B09DT89JMW Print: https://a.co/d/fH0llgC Introductory Content: https://tinyurl.com/ariseogodintro

Please contact Genevieve at stnicholaszoom@gmail.com if you have any questions.

JULY 2023

Festival News

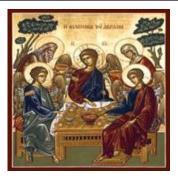
Many thanks to Alan, Angela, Chris, Despina A., Despina K., Eric, Gail, Ingrid, John, Justine, Kalitsa, Karen, Kathy, Krisann, Lisa, Mark, Mary, Merrilee, Olga, Porter, Sally, Tony, Tracey, Yvonne, Zach, and Zoe for making 121 big pans of baklava in the month of June!

Come join us on July 8 to make the small pans of baklava. Our goal is 200 small pans.



JULY 2023

Coffee Hour





COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY

MISSION

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

REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN THE MINISTRY

A servant's heart and a sense of love and care that is penetrating, engaging and inspiring. **TEAM SCHEDULE FOR JULY:**

- 07/02/2023 Community Coffee Hour*
- 07/09/2023 Team Cedeno
- 07/16/2023 Community coffee Hour*
- 07/23/2023 Team Karanasos
- 07/30/2023 Randy Sampson's 2 Year Memorial

TEAMS:

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

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

Team Chamales: Dr Ingrid Chamales, Leader; Karen Samaras, Marion Palas, Sally Hallis, Chrysanthe Barnes, Rikki Kapes, Kathy Johnson and Sharon Kennedy

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

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

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

JULY 2023



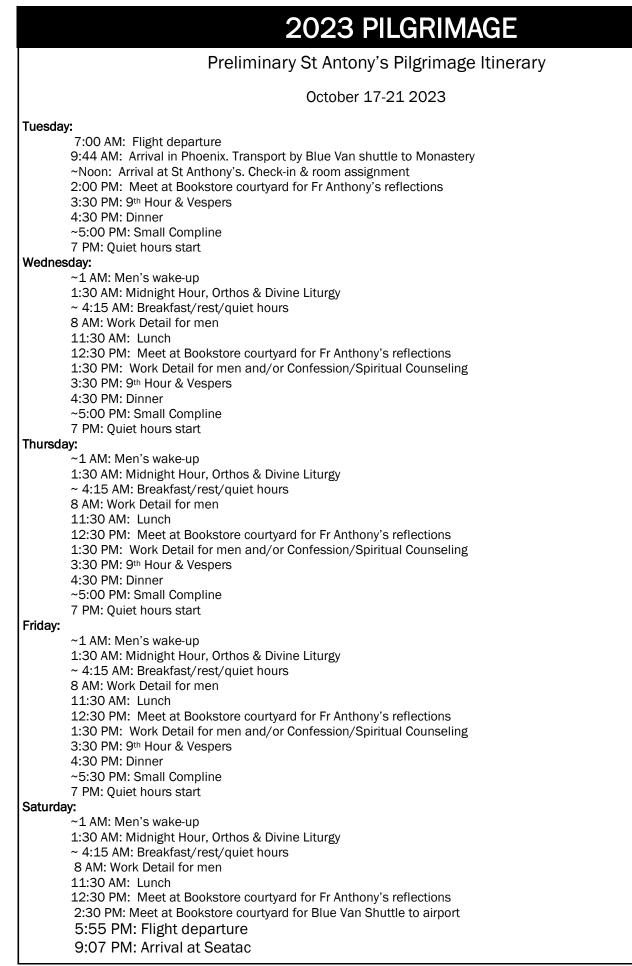
ST ANTHONY'S MONASTERY 2023 PILGRIMAGE

October 17 - 21, 2023

RESERVATION DUE JULY 2, 2023

MEETING: SUNDAY, JULY 16 UPPER CHURCH HALL

JULY 2023



2023 PILGRIMAGE







ST ANTHONY'S PILGRIMAGE OCTOBER 17-21 2023 RESERVATION/DEPOSIT FORM \$50 PER PERSON DEPOSIT DUE JULY 2, 2023

Alaska Airline Flight Information:

Flight # 606 leaves SeaTac on Tuesday, October 17 at 8:04 AM. Arrives in PHX at 11:00 AM Flight # 763 leaves PHX on Saturday, October 21 at 6 PM. Arrives in SeaTac at 9 PM

Approximate cost \$415 per person. Price includes airline tickets, shuttle service from PHX airport to the Monastery and from the Monastery to the PHX airport plus a small donation to Monastery. Lodging & meals are provided by St Anthony's. Final pricing will be known on August 1 when the ticketing is done. An email will be sent showing the remaining amount due (final pricing minus deposit paid). Remaining amount will be due on August 6.

Size is limited to 25 pilgrims. Your spot is reserved when you turn in this Reservation/Deposit form with your deposit. Please make your check payable to St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and on the memo line write "St Anthony's Pilgrimage".

REFUND POLICY: On or before August 17, 2023, full refund; from August 18 until October 14 no refund unless you can find someone to take your spot. After October 13, if you find someone to take your spot, you will get a refund minus a \$125 name change fee.

The exact name(s) and date of birth on the official issued identification is/are:

Address:		
Daytime Tel:	Evening Tel:	
Cell:	Email:	

JULY 2023

Modern Greek Language School



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

General Information: **The classes are open to everyone** who may be interested to learn the Greek Language, History and Culture!

Teacher - George Pirotis Contact Church Office - 253-272-0466

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

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

To the satisfaction of the teacher, there is lots of energy, interest, and curiosity in the class in learning the **great influence of the "Greek Language and Hellenism"** to the "Western Civilization" and to the whole world!

Yearly possible events and student involvement:

Aγιασμὸς (Blessing) of the class at the beginning of the School year. Sunday, October 29st, 2023 - OXI Day Celebration. Thursday, March 26th, 2023 Celebration, commemorating the March 25th, 1821 Revolution for the Greek Independence from the Ottoman Empire!

Cost: The classes are provided free of charge!

George Pirotis-

JULY 2023

Philoptochos News

President's Message

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

Significant activities include:

Class of 2023 - St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and the Philoptochos chapter honored members of our parish community who graduated this year from high school, college, graduate school, or other training endeavor. Five graduates were acknowledged at the June 25th coffee hour event. These graduates are Nicholas Lay, John Majmudar, Angela Montoya, Anna Mattson, and Lea Sullivan.

Chapter Board Officers - The chapter board election was held in May in accordance with the national bylaws. Eight officers were elected to a two year term; 2023-2025. They are: President - Jane Evancho, First Vice-President - Hoddi Motz, Second Vice-President - Merrilee Pangis, Recording Secretary - Susie Manthou, Corresponding Secretary - Lisa Faithful, Treasurer - Ingrid Chamales, Assistant Treasurer -Kathy Johnson, and Advisor to the Chapter Board - Sally Hallis. Other board members are Yvonne Brandvold, Kathleen Heidel, Olga Manos, Diane Pirotis, and Kalitsa Xitco.

Greek Night at the Movies - We are planning our second Greek night at the movies, tentatively scheduled for mid-August-September. This event will be at the Grand Cinema in Tacoma. More details to follow.

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

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

Thank you so much for your support!

Jane--

JULY 2023

Philoptochos News







Building Committee

Two significant building issues are currently in the works: 1) studying the feasibility and expected cost to add a new toilet stall in the Lower Hall area Women's Restroom and 2) replacing the Dining Hall/ Kitchen area roofing, which has been discussed over the last several months. A licensed architect is being set up to do a walk-through of both areas and advise.

In the case of the Women's Restroom, there are two primary issues to address: verify if there is enough clearance in the current restroom layout to allow for another toilet stall without being required to modify existing walls and the stalls that are already in place; from an initial observation, it's hard to say if the existing conditions will continue to meet current code standards if another stall is added. The second issue is to verify what permits would be required (if any), beyond a mechanical permit for the plumbing work.

The main purpose of a Dining Hall/Kitchen roof walk-through would be to verify anticipated permitting requirements. There is a need to go over a pre-prepared list of suggested construction details as they pertain to the immediate re-roofing work, and what would be the best way to add infrastructure that would accommodate future building improvements, such as renovating the Upper Hall area.

The goal is to present both cases to the Building Committee at their upcoming August meeting so that a comfortable and reasonably accurate budget, based on professional advisement could be drawn up. Going forward, it would be passed onto the Parish Council before their August meeting the following week. If approved, the Women's Restroom proposal could be brought forth to a General Assembly, and the Dining Hall/Kitchen area roofing replacement listed as a line item in the 2024 budget to be submitted to the Parish near the end of this year, with the intent (if approved), for actual field work to take place shortly after 2024 Pascha.

PHOTO NOTES:

The lower left photo shows the entrance into the Women's Restroom with a mother's chair by the door. The near side of a stub wall shown at the right is where a new toilet stall would go. The lower right photo shows the location of a new toilet and privacy partition, replacing the current pot depicted with a more practical type. The right photo shows the existing toilet stalls. A new stall would line up to the near side of the existing one in the foreground.







Submitted by Bill Acker

JULY 2023

Cover Story Continued....

priest's salary was a piece of meat from the lamb of Meat-fare Sunday or Christmas. That didn't bother Papa-Nicholas at all; he thought fasting was the corner-stone of virtue. It was enough that he had a church so that he could serve the Liturgy.

His dismissal from the Church of Saint Panteleimon caused him great spiritual sorrow. One night, as he left Saint John's to go home, he was weeping on the road. The place was deserted at that hour. Suddenly, he saw on the road a fine young man who said to him, "Why do you weep, my Father?"

"I weep, my child, because they chased me out of Saint Panteleimon."

"Don't be grieved, my Father. I am always with you."

Papa-Nicholas said, "Who are you, my child?"

"I," he said, "am Panteleimon, who lives at Neos Kosmos." And immediately he disappeared from in front of him.

He himself described this vision word for word to a daughter of his synodia.

Every year, on the feast of St. Panteleimon, he would go to the Saint's church in Neo Kosmo and do a vigil. One year, as he himself related, he was sick and had a fever. His relative did not allow him to go for his customary vigil. But because of the love which Father Nicholas had for the Saint, he went anyway.

"That night," he himself said, "after the vigil, exhausted, I leaned on the edge of the Holy Table. In the delirium of the fever I saw the Saint in front of me, young and vigorous, holding a small glass full of medicine, and he told me, 'Drink it, my Father, to become well.' I took it from his hand and drank it and became completely well. The fever left me! For a whole week I had the sweetness in my throat. I thought it was a sin and ungrateful not to mention it. I came out through the Beautiful Gate and said, 'My children, I was very sick tonight, and at this moment Saint Panteliemon gave me medicine and I drank and became well.' Everyone believed it and knelt down, glorifying the Saint."

May we have the protective prayers of St. Panteleimon, the inspirational vigor of Papa-Nicholas Planas, and the mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, together with His unoriginate Father and All-holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

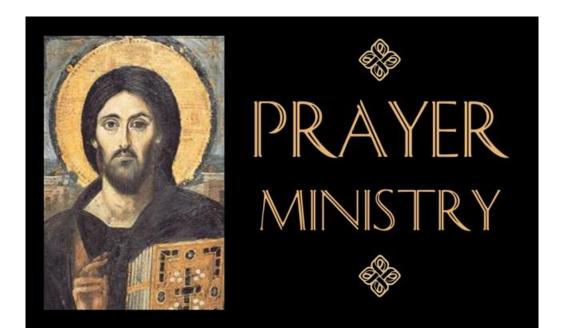
In Christ,

Ft. Anthony Cornett Proistamenos

Page 19

ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

Ministry of Akathist, Prayers for the Departed



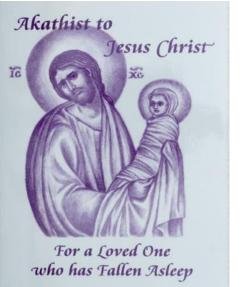
Thank you to all who are involved in this wonderful ministry at Saint Nicholas. In offering the gift of praying the Akathist to Jesus Christ for a Loved One who Has Fallen Asleep, it is a great comfort to family and friends of the departed ones.

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



JULY 2023

St. Nicholas Bible Study

The Book of Acts



Philip and the Ethiopian

Acts 8: 26-40 "Then, an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, 'Arise, and go toward the south, to the way that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is a desert.'

²⁷So Philip arose and went; and behold, there was a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace, geen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all her treasure and had come to Jerusalem to express adoration. ²⁸He was returning and sitting in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaias (Isaiah).

²⁹The Spirit said to Philip, 'Go near, and join yourself to this chariot.'

³⁰Philip ran to the eunuch and heard him reading Isaias the prophet. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'

³¹The man replied, 'How can I, unless someone explains it to me?' He then begged Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now, the passage of the Scripture which he was reading was this: (Isiah 53: 7-8)

'He was led as a sheep to the slaughter. As a lamb before his shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation, his judgment was taken away. Who will declare His generation? For his life is taken from the earth.'

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, 'Who is the prophet talking about? About himself, or about someone else?'

³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, he proclaimed {the Good News about} Jesus to this man. ³⁶As they went on the way, the arrived to [a place with] some water, and the eunuch said, 'Behold, here is water! What is keeping me from being baptized?'

³⁷Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!' ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stand still, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch did not see him any more and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip was found at Azotus. Passing through [that area], he preached the Good News to all the cities, until he reached Caesarea."

Father Anthony: This is a very sacrificial chapter. The eunuch is eager – he has been waiting for this – he has been praying! What happened at the "Well"? You see this throughout Scripture -so much happens at the Well. People meet their wives at wells in the Old Testament multiple times. What sort of matchmaking happens at Jacob's Well with St. Photini, the Samaritan woman? She meets the Bridegroom! She's been married how many times and the one she is with now is not even her husband as Christ says? He didn't do this to embarrass her, He said it to call her out, to say you've been seeking the Bridegroom. You've been unfulfilled by these

JULY 2023

St. Nicholas Bible Study

earthly bridegrooms. He speaks directly to the aspect of water and Living Water like Philip and the eunuch do here. Ultimately it is the Bridegroom Who's seeking His bride and He draws her unto Himself. And through faith, St. Philip is able to draw the eunuch to Christ and the Living Water. Often this passage is used by some of our non -Orthodox friends to say this is all you need - just a simple belief and baptism. We see throughout the early Church in Scripture that the Apostles and disciples didn't leave people hanging - they didn't simply say, "Okay, you say you believe, be baptized." We see it with the accounts of healing with Christ - "...your faith has healed you, now go in peace". But it is Christ Who is offering the hand of healing through the person's faith. It's the synergy of working together with God's will. Obviously this eunuch was prepared. He had been studying - he shows through his humility that he understands nothing – he clearly understands to a certain extent. "How can I understand this?" is almost like, "how can I know?" What is knowledge? It is not simply learning about a subject or a person, knowledge is a most intimate act - it's about God coming into our lives and embracing one another - it seeks to transform hearts. This is what the eunuch is working with in his preparation to receive the Lord. Clearly he knows about the practice of baptism - this person is well prepared. The beauty and fruits of the eunuch's labor of what was on his heart was his humility. The humility of God is such that God's most humble act of all was coming down through His Incarnation with humility in order to unite man and God to fix the schism between man and God.

Stephen G: What happened to the Ethiopian Eunuch after this? Does he start the Ethiopian Church?

Father Anthony: Unfortunately, there had been so much war going on with the Georgian Church, the Ethiopian Church and the Armenian Church that a lot of the accounts on the origin stories don't occur until much later. Often the origin stories were in competition with Rome. It wasn't until much later that Rome started holding on to the origin account of their Apostolic witness of the Church. For some time the sort of, unification and the building up of a "pope" figure became of primary importance in old Rome. The focus was on Peter because he had the "keys". Out of a little, unhealthy, competition ancient cities would say, "Well we have our Apostle too." After the Church of Constantinople was developed, they said "Ours is Andrew". Clearly the laying on of hands in the electing of the presbyters, elders, the bishops, the priests and the deacons of the Church has always been a lineage thing. There has to be an Apostle who started a Church in "this city". We see this in Scripture when people are fighting over who baptizes them. 1 Corinthians 1:12-15 "Now I say this, that each of you says, 'I am of Paul', or 'I am of Apollos", or 'I am of Cephas', or 'I am of Christ'. ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name." Or the two brothers who were seeking the prominent seats at the right and left hands of God and they asked their mom to intercede for them. Matthew 20:21 "And He said to her, 'What do you wish?' She said to Him, 'Grand that these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your Kingdom." You see this throughout Scriptures because it is a very human approach. Obviously, there's apostolic succession in the Church and priesthood and the episcopacy, but early on it wasn't a big deal. Concerning the Ethiopian Eunuch, it's foggy. There are accounts that say that he was the one who started the Ethiopian Church.

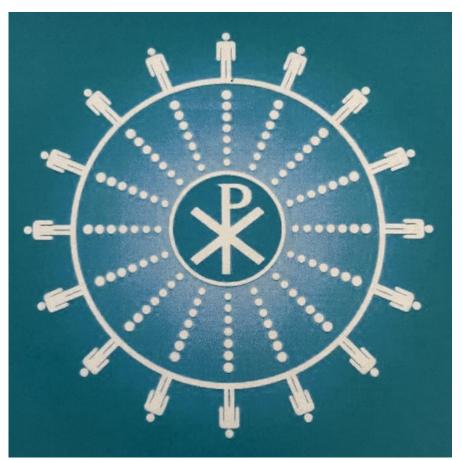


JULY 2023

St. Nicholas Bible Study

Father Anthony: The wheel was a common image of the early Church and you see it in the catacombs inscribed on the walls and you would see " $I\chi\theta \dot{u}\varsigma$ " the word for fish. Notice that each letter fits within the spokes of the wheels (shown in red) above each letter. It's an early Christogram – a way for the early Christians to say, "I am of Christ" without having something obvious, like a cross or an icon or writing out Jesus' Name.

Another version of this:



"Let us suppose that this circle is the world and that God, Himself, is the center; the straight lines drawn from the circumference to the center are the lives of men. To the degree that the saints enter into the things of the spirit, they desire to come near to God; and in proportion to their progress in the things of the spirit, they do in fact come close to God and to their neighbor. The closer they are to God, the closer they become to one another; and the closer they are to one another, the closer they become to God."

Abba Dorotheos of Gaza, On Refusal to Judge our Neighbor

Father Anthony: This is something that the early Church understood very well. They understood the mission of drawing others to God. They didn't say, "We have the bones of truth, we are with Christ so we're good to go. If you are with us you can be on the "in". This is the goal of the Church – to draw one another into the Center – that is God. This happens by being swept up by the Spirit. The Spirit is, effectively, the driving force or the magnet that draws us to the Center.

Submitted by: Genevieve

JULY 2023

St. Nicholas Flower Ministry

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



2022 Feast of Transfiguration and the Dormition of the Theotokos

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

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

If you are willing to donate flowers in honor of the great Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, please contact Genevieve at <u>goobahoo@gmail.com</u>

Submitted by: Genevieve

PROSPHORA

PROVIDING THE OFFERING

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

Despina Ampatzis brings the offering the first Sunday of every month. Stephen Gorham brings the offering the third Sunday of every month. Fenia Mavromichali brings the offering the fourth Sunday of every month. Regular Sunday prosphora bakers are needed.



A photograph to remember a Saturday morning baking prosphora, accompanied by the prayers of Righteous Anthimos of St. Anne's Skete on Athos, and of the Great Grace of Tinos, because it was the monks of St. Anne's Skete who made this prosphora seal, and it was this icon of the Theotokos which fluttered down from its perch directly into my hands recently at a particular time. In the air the scents of beeswax, incense, red roses, and fresh baked bread. In my ears *The Lost Voices of Hagia Sophia* (Capella Romana). I felt at peace, aware of time and space yet connected to Him who is beyond time.

Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to you. Alleluia!

JULY 2023

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

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

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

2023 donations and commitments as of June 15, 2023

Jim and Carol Abel* AHEPA Patra Alatsis Sonny and Irene Angelos* Elena M. Apostle* Tony and Lori Apostle* **Tina Ayers** Tyler and Lexi Balser Costa and Donna Basil* T.L.Berg **Boone Electric** Yvonne Brandvold* Monica Bultz Klaudia Cedeno Steven Chamales Yianni and Sophia Charitou* Chris A. Cherbas John and Maria Cook* **Belinda and Chris Cummins Daughters of Penelope** Dina Deliyanides* Jacqueline Dionas* Gretchen (Genevieve) Eagle* Frederick and Anastasia Ehret Mary Erickson Tanner and Liliana Foster* James and Konstantoula Fotinopoulos **Gig Harbor Law** Stephen and Claire Gorham* Dean and Carol Hamos* Daniel and Ekaterini Hanson* Timothy and Kathleen Harvey* Richard and Kathleen Heidal* Radu Adrian and Ramona Ionita - Florea Hariklia (Rikki) Kapes*

William and Mary Acker* Leonidas and Despina Alatsis* George and Despina Ampatzis **Rick and Marlene Angelus*** Paul and Dolores Apostle* Andrew and Sheila Auter George Ballasiotes Baseball Club of Tacoma, Tacoma Rainiers Harry C. and Sheri Basil* Theodora Bessinas* John and Terri Botsis Dora Brown Barry Cassidy and Deborah Middleton C. G. and Ingrid Chamales* **Christine Chansley Reagan Charuhas** Anthony and Sandra Ciarochi* Nick and Cheryl Cosmakos* Sharmarie and Troy Dares* **Berverly Delivanides** John Diaconou Sandra Dutton* Timothy and Sunny Edgren* Andrew and Jane Evancho* Krisann and Peter Firth* Deena Fotinopoulos **Gregory Garcia*** John and Judy Godulas* Sally Hallis* Michael and Kristine Hanberg Natalya Harpe Brent and Evangelia Hassel* William Frederick Lincoln Horton* Kathy Johnson and Jim Belsvig Anna Karanasos*

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JULY 2023

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

Paula Karanasos* Sharon Kennedy* Claudia Kieszling* Evan and Despina Kipelidis Evy Kontos and Mark Matteson Steve Koukles* Maria Koumantaros* Elia and Micheline Lakkis* Lisa Lauderback* Mary Leonard George and Bess Lurker* Olga Lynn Manos* Matthew Manthou* Katherine and Gregory Mason* Iphigenia Mavromichali* Helen and George McClure* Charles and Gail Mentis* Angela Montoya* Dick and Hariklia (Hoddi) Motz Northwest AHEPA Family David and Katrina Orriss* George Panagiotu Tony and Debbie Panagiotu* John and Merrilee Pangis* Kesha Patel George and Diane Pirotis* Steve and Kathleen Politakis* **Emmanuel Psilovikos** Paul Rhondo Katherine Salatas Richard and Alexandra Schutt* **Richard and Denise Stahl*** Andy and JoAnn Stergachis* Rob(Moses) and Lea(Mary) Sullivan Zachary and Daphne Karanasos* Naser and Catalina Khalaj Stephen Kinyanjui Ann Kiraki and Jessee Macharia* Anna Koopman* John C. Kouklis Peter and Margaret Laketa Robert and Anne Latz* Christina Leinneweber* Hugh and Marella Lewis* Fr. Seraphim and Sophie Majmudar Chris and Susan Manthou* Carol MartinOki Dean and Julie Mastras* Vasiliki (Viki) McCarty (Nicholas)* Alan and Sheilagh Means Tatyana Mikeladze Nina Morrison Michael and Rodica Murphy* Order of AHEPA-Olympic Chapter No. 178 Oscar T. and Olivann Hokold Foundation Perry Panagiotu Alex Pangis* Scott and Rachael Parnell Patriot Fire and Protection. Inc. Charles and Lena Plunkett* Andrew and Rebecca Primis* MartinJ. And Lorissa C. Reiter III Rush Commercial Construction, Inc. Neal (Barnabas) Schaefer St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society Stellar Industrial Supply, Inc. Liam Sullivan Jacob Herman Swain*

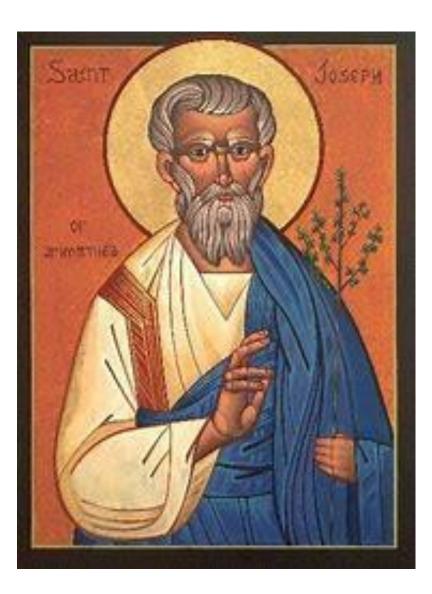
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JULY 2023

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

Jeffrey Swain* Nicholas and Becky Themelis* Roxanne Vallantine* Jeffrey and Janice Williams Hugh Winskill John and Kalitsa Xitco* Tasso and Sarah Zambaras* Luai Zureikat Summit Packaging, Inc. James and Jenise Sweeney* Edward Tuohy Michael Jane White* Edward Winskill* Daniel and Mary Wright YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties Matthew and Leigh Ann Zehnder Ryan Jorgenson & Limoli PS

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



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 (was to) 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: **stnlcholastacoma.org/mlnlstry-center**.

HOW TO RETURN THIS CARD

BY MAIL:

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

AT CHURCH:

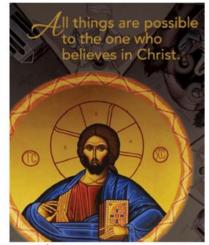
Drop your completed card into the secured dropbox on the stewardship table in the downstairs hall.

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

stnicholastacoma.org/stewardship.

2023 STEWARDSHIP CARD ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

TACOMA, WASHINGTON



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

Fr. Seraphim Majmudar

Please PRINT your information clearly

Name (F/M/L):		
DOB (M/D/Y):		
Email:		
Telephone:		
Spouse:		.
DOB (M/D/Y):		
Email:		
Telephone:		
Ha	usehold Information	
Address		
City/St/Zip		.
	ependent Children	
Name (F/MI/L)	DOB (m/d/y)	Orthodox
		(Y/N)

"Those who seek the Lord shall never want for any good thing." (Psalm 34:10) OUR DONATIONS ARE IN THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR HIS CONTINUED BLESSINGS GIVEN TO US. OUR DONATION 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.

2023 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

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

I/We offer a minimum stewardship pledge of

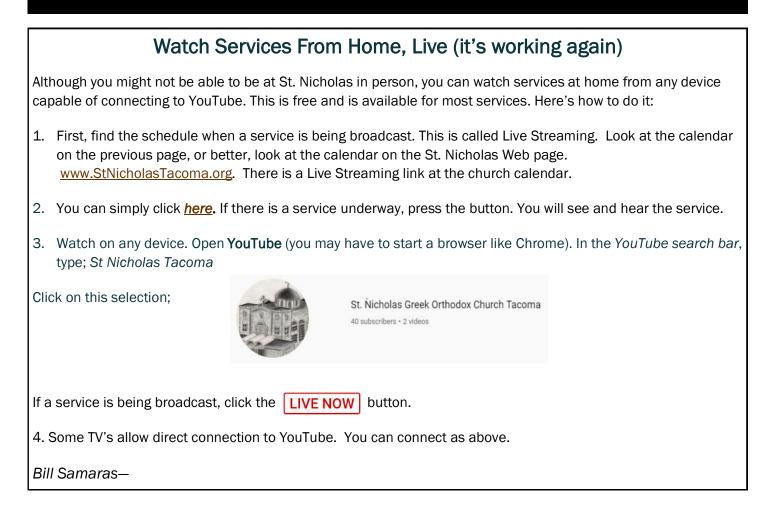
\$...../year or \$...../

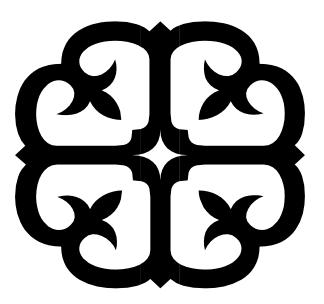
month in 2023 to support God's work.

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

SIGNATURE.....

On Line Services





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

Address Service Requested





www.stnicholastacoma.org

Rev: 1