



Glimpses of Paradise in the Presence of God's Holy Ones May 2023 Saint Nicholas Messenger

It is a common thread throughout the lives of our most-blessed Orthodox Saints, that we see instances of their interactions with untamed nature in a manner fitting to the restoration of Paradise—whether it be lions doing the bidding of man in the lives of Saint Gerasimos of the Jordan, or Saint Mary of Egypt; Saint Seraphim of Sarov's friendly relationship with a bear; or even Saint Paisios feeding warmed milk to venomous vipers. In the midst of grace, there is a sense of restoration in God's creation, both in the heart of man as well as wild beast in his presence.

We often think of mankind as being “rational”, whereas beasts of the natural world (lions, tigers, serpents, etc.) are “irrational”. However much of the time, rather than acting toward our higher calling, we fall prey to our fallenness and serve in an irrational manner. My own patron, Saint Anthony, has this to say about rationality in mankind:

“The rational man, taking to heart communion and union with God, will never direct his love to anything earthly or mean, but will keep his mind directed towards the heavenly and eternal. He knows that God's will, being the cause of all goods and the source of eternal blessings for men, is that man be saved.” – Saint Anthony, Philokalia

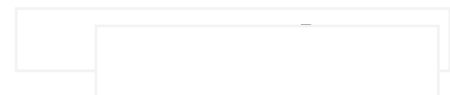
It is this sense of “rationality”—to be united with God's will—that drives the motivations of the saints. It is this sense of “rationality” that first tames the wild beast of our hearts and desires, and secondly the beasts in the physical presence of man. When we find ourselves surrounded by temptations, both physical and spiritual, how easy it is for us to feel backed into a corner, seemingly only able to point and observe—to call out, and perhaps complain about what is set before us. However, this is simply giving in to the distractive

Continued page 10...



Inside Messenger

Calendar	Page 4-9
Cover Story	Page 10
News and Announcements	Page 11
Sunday of Icons	Page 12
Holy Wednesday	Page 13-15
2023 Pilgrimage	Page 16-19
Coffee Hour	Page 20
Modern Greek Language School	Page 21
Philoptochos	Page 22-23
Building	Page 24
Military Ministry	Page 25-29
Akathist Ministry	Page 30
Bible Study Ministry	Page 31-34
Catechumens	Page 35
Pro-Life Ministry	Page 36
Flower Ministry	Page 37-38
Prosphora Ministry	Page 39
Stewardship Ministry	Page 40-41
All Saints Camp	Page 42
Donations and Pledges	Page 43-44
Online Services	Page 45



St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Phone: 253-272-0466

Parish Website: stnicholastacoma.org

E-Mail: mail@stnicholastacoma.org

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



Sunday Services

8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

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



Fr. Anthony Cornett, Our Presiding Priest

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

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

Office Hours at St. Nicholas

— by appointment —

Email: anthonymcornett@gmail.com

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

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

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Kathy Rowley

Altar Servers

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Bible Study

Genevieve Eagle

Book Store

Dr. Nick Themelis

Building Committee

Bill Acker

Building, Grounds & Maintenance

Richard Heidal, John Pangis

Choir

Rebecca Primis

Hands of Love

Genevieve Eagle

Military Service

LTC Gus Chamales

Premarital Education

George Pirotis, Diane Pirotis

Stewardship

Fenia Mavromichali

2023 Parish Council

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

Daughters of Penelope

Fenia Mavromichali – President
Olga Manos– Vice President
Evy Kontos - Treasurer
D. Lord/H. McClure - Secretary

Maids of Athena

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

Greek Folk Dance

Evy Kontos – Chair & Intermediate dancers
Dr. Anastasia Fyntrilakis–Treasurer &Teen dancers

Krisann Firth – Costume Director
Julie Kotsali – Board Member

Kelly Rosati – Beginner dancers

George Pirotis – Adult Group Instructor

Philoptochos Society

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

Sunday School

To be announced

Coffee Hour

Zach Karanasos

IT, etc.

Bill Samaras

Philia

Diane Pirotis

Pro Life

Genevieve Eagle

Flowers & Church Decorating

Kathy Rowley/Genevieve Eagle

Greek School

George Pirotis

Lazarus Group

Dean Hamos

Pilgrimage

Zach Karanasos

Prospora Baking

Deborah Talbot

Welcome

Gus Chamales

Parish Council

Next Parish Council Meeting will be Tuesday May 9, 2023

MAY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	May 1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>Ignatii Brianchaninov</p> <p>James the Apostle, brother of John</p> <p>MYRRHBEARERS SUNDAY</p> <p>3 more</p>	<p>Jeremiah the Prophet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am JoAnn Tryfon Funeral 	<p>Translation of the relics of Athanasius</p> <p>Venerable Matrona of Moscow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers 7pm Building Committee 	<p>Martyrs Timothy and Maura</p> <p>Nicholas, Bishop of Ohrid and Bulgaria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Paraklesis 7pm Choir Practice 	<p>Ven Beuno of Clymnoq Fawr and Eborac</p> <p>Venerable Martyr Pelagia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Orthros 	<p>Great Martyr Irene</p> <p>Venerable Martyr Ephraim of Sychar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Divine Liturgy 6pm Small Compline (w/ AK) 	<p>Holy and Righteous Job, the Righteous</p> <p>Venerable Seraphim of Mount Athos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Philoptochos Ladii 6pm Vespers
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<p>Alexis the Confessor, Defender of the Faith</p> <p>Commemoration of the appeal of the Holy Fathers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Orthros <p>2 more</p>	<p>John the Theologian, Apostle and Evangelist</p> <p>Venerable Arsenios the Great</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOO) 	<p>Christopher the Martyr</p> <p>Hieronymus of Simonopetra</p> <p>Isaiah the Prophet</p> <p>2 more</p>	<p>Apostle Simon the Zealot</p> <p>MID-PENTECOST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Divine Liturgy <p>2 more</p>	<p>Cyril and Methodius of Thessalonica</p> <p>Mocius the Hieromartyr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Orthros 	<p>Epiphanius, Bishop of Constantia</p> <p>Germanus, Archbishop of Constantinople</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Small Compline (w/ AK) 	<p>Glyceria the Martyr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<p>Martyr Isidore of Chios</p> <p>Therapon the Hieromartyr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Orthros <p>2 more</p>	<p>Matushka Theodosia the Parthenocissa</p> <p>Venerable Pachomius the Great</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOO) 	<p>Brendan the Navigator</p> <p>Venerable Theodore the Sancerre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers 	<p>Apostles Andronicus and Junia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Paraklesis 7pm Choir Practice 	<p>Martyrs Peter, Dionysius, Chiriac and Paphnutius</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Orthros 	<p>Hieromartyr Patrick, Bishop of Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Small Compline (w/ AK) 	<p>Thalaelaous the Martyr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>The Great God-crowned Sovereign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy <p>2 more</p>	<p>Basiliscus the Martyr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOO) 	<p>Evgeny of Chechnya</p> <p>Venerable Eumenios the Cretan</p> <p>Venerable Michael the Confessor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers 	<p>Leavetaking of Pascha</p> <p>Venerable Symeon of the Woods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Great Vespers (Ascens) 7pm Choir Practice 	<p>3rd finding of the precious relic of the Holy Cross</p> <p>ASCENSION OF OUR LORD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 	<p>Carpus the Apostle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Small Compline (w/ AK) 	<p>Helladius the Hieromartyr</p> <p>Venerable John the Russian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers
28	29	30	31	Jun 1	2	3
<p>Andrew, the Fool for Christ</p> <p>Hieromartyr Eutychius, Bishop of Constantinople</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Orthros <p>2 more</p>	<p>Theodosia the Martyr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOO) 	<p>Venerable Isaac the Confessor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers 	<p>Hermias the Martyr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Paraklesis 7pm Choir Practice 	<p>Justin Martyr the Philosopher</p> <p>Venerable Justin of Celije</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Orthros 	<p>Nicephorus the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Small Compline (w/ AK) 	<p>Lucillian the Martyr, and those who suffered with him</p> <p>SATURDAY OF SOULS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Orthros <p>2 more</p>

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

MAY 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

Monday, May 1

Jeremiah the Prophet

11:00am

JoAnn Tryfon Funeral

Tuesday, May 2

Translation of the relics of Athanasius the Great, Archbishop of Alexandria

Venerable Matrona of Moscow

6:00pm

Vespers

7:00pm

Building Committee

Wednesday, May 3

Martyrs Timothy and Maura

Nicholas, Bishop of Ohrid and Zica

6:00pm

Paraklesis

7:00pm

Choir Practice

Thursday, May 4

Ven Beuno of Clynnog Fawr in Wales

Venerable Martyr Pelagia

6:30am

Orthros

Friday, May 5

Great Martyr Irene

Venerable Martyr Ephraim of Nea Makri

6:30am

Divine Liturgy

6:00pm

Small Compline (w/ Akathist)

Saturday, May 6

Holy and Righteous Job, the Much-contested

Venerable Seraphim of Mount Domvu

11:30am

Philoptochos Ladies' Luncheon

6:00pm

Vespers

MAY 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 7

Alexis the Confessor, Defender of Orthodoxy in America

Commemoration of the appearance of the Sign of the Precious Cross in the skies of Jerusalem

8:45am

Orthros

10:00am

Divine Liturgy

12:00pm

Coffee Hour: Team Cedeno

Monday, May 8

John the Theologian, Apostle and Evangelist

Venerable Arsenios the Great

6:30am

Divine Liturgy

5:30pm

Modern Greek (ZOOM)

Tuesday, May 9

Christopher the Martyr

Hieronymus of Simonopetra

Isaiah the Prophet

6:00pm

Vespers

7:00pm

Parish Council

Wednesday, May 10

Apostle Simon the Zealot

MID-PENTECOST

6:30am

Divine Liturgy

6:00pm

Paraklesis

7:00pm

Choir Practice

Thursday, May 11

Cyril and Methodius of Thessaloniki, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Enlighteners of the Slavs

Mocius the Hieromartyr

6:30am

Orthros

MAY 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

Friday, May 12

Epiphanius, Bishop of Constantia (Salamis) in Cyprus

Germanus, Archbishop of Constantinople

6:00pm

Small Compline (w/ Akathist)

Saturday, May 13

Glyceria the Martyr

6:00pm

Vespers

Sunday, May 14

Martyr Isidore of Chios

Therapon the Hieromartyr

8:45am

Orthros

10:00am

Divine Liturgy

12:00pm

Coffee Hour: Men's Team

Monday, May 15

Matushka Theodosia the Paralyzed +2011

Venerable Pachomius the Great

5:30pm

Modern Greek (ZOOM)

Tuesday, May 16

Brendan the Navigator

Venerable Theodore the Sanctified

6:00pm

Vespers

Wednesday, May 17

Apostles Andronicus and Junia

6:00pm

Paraklesis

7:00pm

Choir Practice

Thursday, May 18

Martyrs Peter, Dionysius, Christina the Virgin and those with them

6:30am

Orthros

MAY 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

Friday, May 19

Hieromartyr Patrick, Bishop of Prusa, and those with him

6:00pm

Small Compline (w/ Akathist)

Saturday, May 20

Thalelaeus the Martyr

6:00pm

Vespers

Sunday, May 21

The Great God-crowned Sovereigns and Equal-to-the-Apostles Constantine and Helen

8:45am

Orthros

10:00am

Divine Liturgy

12:00pm

Maids of Athena Coffee Hour

2:00pm

Dimitri & Jessica Wedding

Monday, May 22

Basiliscus the Martyr

5:30pm

Modern Greek (ZOOM)

Tuesday, May 23

Evgeny of Chechnya

Venerable Eumenios the Cretan

Venerable Michael the Confessor, Bishop of Synada

6:00pm

Vespers

Wednesday, May 24

Leavetaking of Pascha

Venerable Symeon of the Wondrous Mountain

6:00pm

Great Vespers (Ascension)

7:00pm

Choir Practice

MAY 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

Thursday, May 25

3rd finding of the precious head of the Forerunner and Baptist John

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

9:00am

Orthros

10:00am

Divine Liturgy

Friday, May 26

Carpus the Apostle

6:00pm

Small Compline (w/ Akathist)

Saturday, May 27

Helladius the Hieromartyr

Venerable John the Russian

6:00pm

Vespers

Sunday, May 28

Andrew, the Fool for Christ

Hieromartyr Eutychius, Bishop of Melitene

8:45am

Orthros

10:00am

Divine Liturgy

12:00pm

Memorial Day Luncheon

Monday, May 29

Theodosia the Martyr

5:30pm

Modern Greek (ZOOM)

Tuesday, May 30

Venerable Isaac the Confessor, Abbot of the Dalmatian Monastery

6:00pm

Vespers

Wednesday, May 31

Hermias the Martyr

6:00pm

Paraklesis

7:00pm

Choir Practice

Cover Story Continued...

pomp of temptation by the tempter himself. From what is our attention being distracted? We are being distracted firstly from our first-calling: unification with the will of God, and through that, our attention is also taken away from our ability to focus on the irrational beasts of our own passions and desires. We seek to be vessels of God's grace, dwelling-places of the Spirit of Truth. What higher calling can there exist in all of nature? Knowing this calling, my beloved, is not enough. But how do we get ourselves 'unstuck'? How do we find reprieve from being backed into such a corner? We must call upon the ones who are made rational by the recreative grace of our benevolent God: the saints! They have struggled with the same struggles we find ourselves in, and they have found the path out—not simply the path away from trouble, but in their struggles, through their pains and losses, they have gained life abundantly in walking the path of the Cross of our Lord.

There is a beautiful account from the life of Elder Eumenios (Saridakis), who the Church celebrates on May 23rd, which speaks to this restoration of rational man in the face of wild beasts, and how it can work to transform the hearts of so many around them.

When Elder Eumenios Saridakis and a group of his spiritual children visited the London Zoo, the Elder found himself in front of a very furious Indian tiger.

She was jumping up and down, behind the barbed wire, roaring and everyone was standing at a great distance.

Father Evmenios approached her and began to talk to her:

"Tiger, tiger, my tiger, calm down, my tiger," and he was signing the cross over her with his hand.

Then the tiger put both paws in front of her and bowed her head three times as if repenting. And she calmed down.

The people watching from afar were shouting: "Father, Father, excellent!"

This simple act from a modern saint of our Church does not exist to show some sense of magical power—to perform tricks in order to wow a crowd, or for any sense of personal gain through others' observation. This simple act from a joyful saint of our Church is an example to show us that even so-called irrational beasts recognize the grace of God in the presence of His holy ones, yet so often we—so-called rational man—hold grudges in our hearts, point our fingers at others, and are blind to God's operation in the fallen world today.

May we seek for the Lord to offer His everlasting peace within our untamed hearts, so that we can continue to glorify Him all the days of our lives.

Christ is Risen!

Fr. Anthony Cornett



News and Announcements

Attention Parents: There is a beautiful new book available about saintly interactions with animals called "A Taste of Paradise: Stories of Saints and Animals" by Katherine Bolger Hyde. I don't believe we currently have copies in our Saint Nicholas Bookstore, but it is available from ancientfaith.com

In Christ,

Fr. Anthony Cornett
Proistamenos



Council Corner

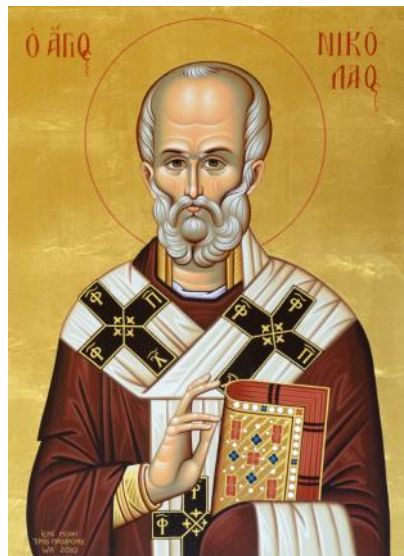
Χριστός ἀνέστη! *Curious about what your Parish Council is doing? Look no further than Council Corner! Highlights from April's Parish Council meeting include:*

- **Thank you, Philoptochos, Mrs. Hoddi Motz, Mr. Zachary Karanasos, and all the other people who cooked for Palm Sunday & Pascha!** The Philoptochos provided the delicious fish dinner on Palm Sunday, Fenia Mavromichaili and her team dyed red eggs on Holy Thursday, Mrs. Motz provided *avgolemono* soup after the Anastasis, and Mr. Karanasos led the lamb dinner team after the Agape Vespers.
- **Warm Hands, Warm Hearts:** A new furnace is scheduled to be installed the week of April 24th!
- **Landscaping:** The Parish Council is aware of the issue regarding individuals throwing rocks from the landscaping at the Church, and are reviewing options. In the interim, any parishioners who are interested in taking the rocks are encouraged to contact the Council. The Council is also looking into landscape maintenance services.
- **Livestream:** A big thanks to Bill Samaras for fixing the hardware problem with the livestream!
- **Building Committee Report:** Now that the Narthex project is completed, the Council is reviewing various suggestions regarding the next building enhancement. More to come!

Sunday of Icons



The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of Great Lent. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent. Ever since, this Sunday has been commemorated as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy."



Holy Wednesday 2023

**METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS OF SAN FRANCISCO
VISITS ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**



Holy Wednesday 2023



Holy Wednesday 2023



2023 PILGRIMAGE



ST ANTHONY'S MONASTERY 2023 PILGRIMAGE

October 17 - 21

INFORMATIONAL MEETING:

SUNDAY, May 7

UPPER CHURCH HALL

2019 PILGRIMAGE IN PHOTOS



2019 GROUP



MEN'S WORK————



———— **WOMEN'S WORK**

2019 PILGRIMAGE IN PHOTOS



MEN'S WORK GROUP



PAULA, KAT & KULA



ANGELIKI



PORT TOWNSEND GALS

2019 PILGRIMAGE IN PHOTOS



REFLECTIONS

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 MAY

05/07/2023 Team Cedeno
 05/14/2023 Men's Team
 05/21/2023 Maids of Athena
 05/28/2023 Memorial Day Luncheon

* **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 Faithful Ishchenko

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

Modern Greek Language School



2023 Modern Greek Language School / Classes:
 —CLASSES WILL RESUME ON MONDAY MAY 15, 2023—
 Every Monday from 5:30—7:00 pm

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

Teacher - George Pirotis

Contact Church Office - 253-272-0466

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

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

To the satisfaction of the teacher, there is lots of energy, interest, and curiosity 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:

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

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

Thursday, March 26th, 2023 Celebration, commemorating the **March 25th, 1821 Revolution for the Greek Independence from the Ottoman Empire!**

Cost: The classes are provided free of charge!

George Pirotis-

Philoptochos News

President's Message

Christos Anesti! 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 GENEROUSLY supported by not only parishioners, but even by visitors to our parish. Each event has seen an increase in giving over the previous year, and Philoptochos is humbled by the financial expression of your faith in our ability to help those who are needy in our local area and the wider orthodox community.

Significant activities include:

Palm Sunday Dinner - Philoptochos hosted the Palm Sunday dinner, serving cod, baked potatoes and beans. There was a free-will offering with this event, with proceeds of \$1,000 dedicated to Hellenic College/Holy Cross Lenten Event fund, which goes to the operating expenses of the school.

Ladies Spring Lunch and Raffle - We are planning for our famous luncheon and raffle to be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023. This gala event will include a Greek meal of pastichio, meatballs, dolmades, green salad and dessert buffet. There will be an incredible selection of raffle items too! Please contact Hoddi Motz or Merrilee Pangis for further information.

Recent activities to further our mission of helping those less fortunate and to promote participation in the Philoptochos Society:

Donations to Community - The St. Nicholas Chapter again received a large donation specifically designated for local charities. Chapter members voted to provide funds to the Family Renewal Shelter, St. Leo's Food Connection, Hope Sparks, Care Net, and Fisher House. Funds will also be held for a future senior event.

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

We encourage our Greek Orthodox friends to join us. They can be involved as much or as little as they wish. 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--

Palm Sunday pictures next page...

Philoptochos News

—PALM SUNDAY—



Building Committee

MAY BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Scheduling for the furnace replacement in the Dining Hall is still being verified, but expected to occur within the next two weeks. Actual field work should take 3 to 4 weekdays to complete, or most to all of a full work week.

It has been well over a month since roof leak drips were discovered outside the Upper Hall restrooms and then patched. Given that no leaks have since been detected after the patches and several rain storms later, a small portion of drywall ceiling that was damaged is now in the works to be repaired and repainted in the near future.

As preventive measures, a roof drain area above the Upper Hall is still to receive a roll-on type coating, and scuppers at the Sanctuary roof are to be resealed and reworked. A contractor is lined up, but waiting for a few straight days of dry weather to do the work.

Discussion is still taking place with the Parish Council over the most viable means to replace the worn out roof over the Dining Hall, while taking in account other long-term church renovation considerations. Optimistically, there may be an upcoming proposal to present to the Parish and ultimately a General Assembly this coming late Spring or Summer.



DINING HALL ROOF PHOTO NOTES:

Above is the east wall of the Upper Hall area as seen from the Dining Hall roof. Care would be taken in the Dining Hall reroofing design to isolate the Upper Hall east wall, based on the assumption it would later get replaced, along with the Upper Hall roof structure that does not meet current building code standards.

The upper right photo shows an entry canopy that leads into the Dining Hall from the north parking lot which is in terrible shape. It's roofing & sheathing would be replaced in conjunction with the Dining Hall work.



The lower right photo shows but one of many roof leaks that have occurred and dripped through the Dining Hall ceiling over the course of at least the last 15 years.

MILITARY MINISTRY NEWS

If you have followed the articles of this ministry in the past, you know that I often reference historical events that occurred in the same month of our most recent the Messenger. My articles have evolved over time and now I try to focus on events in which either our parishioners or their family members participated, The month of May has many such historical events and I sometimes find it difficult to limit myself; nevertheless, I will do my best.

May 8, 1945, was Victory in Europe (VE) Day. During WWII there were over 10 million American men and women serving in the war effort. Among our parishioner's family members were the following who served in the European Theatre.



Sigurd Andenas
Royal Norwegian Navy
World War II
Gunner on a PT Boat
protecting the D-Day
invasion fleet.
Ingrid's father




SGT Paul Alexander Apostle
U.S. Army Air Force
WWII
Tony & Paul Apostle's father




Edward E. Beecher
U.S. Army Air Force
WWII
KrisAnn Firth's uncle




Angela Brown
Women's Air force
Service Pilots
(WASPs)
WWII
Peter Brown's mother





PVT Tom Charuhas
U.S. Army Air Force
WWII
Reagan Cheruhas' father





CPT Frank Ciarochi
U.S. Army Air Force
WWII
Anthony Ciarochi's father




SGT Arthur Ehret
U.S. Army Air Force
WWII
Dr. Fred Ehret's father




Antonios D. Georgantzis
Royal Hellenic Army
World War II
Wounded while fighting
the Italians & Germans
early in the war.
Hoddi Motz's father




Ionnis Klosses
Royal Hellenic Army
World War II
Fought the Italians and
later captured in the war.
Chrysanthe Barnes' father




Lieutenant Costas Kouklis
Royal Hellenic Army
World War II
John & Maro Kouklis' father
Parish Priest
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox
Church/Tacoma 1952-57




CPT Mike Mihalakis
United States Army
World War II
Daphne Karanasos' uncle




Elia J. Pangis
United States Army
World War II
Recipient/Purple Heart
for wounds during the
Italian Campaign.
John Pangis' father




Elia J. Pangis
United States Army
World War II
Recipient/Purple Heart
for wounds during the
Italian Campaign.
John Pangis' father



Continued on next page...

MILITARY MINISTRY NEWS



Zachary Karanasos
Firecrest Police Dept.
Pierce County
Sheriff's Dept.
Daphne's husband



May 15th begins National Police Week, an event that was established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. Zach Karanasos is one of many St. Nicholas parishioners that has served in law enforcement, and it is an honor to recognize him for his service to our community as a former Sheriff's deputy.

May 15, 1942. The Women's Army Auxillary Corps was organized. Several of our current parishioner's mothers served in the Women's Auxiliary Corps during World War II and contributed to our country's war effort.



Marian Ciarochi
Women's Auxillary
Army Corps
WWII
Anthony Ciarochi's
mother



Inez Reeves
Women's Army
Auxillary Corps
WWII
Genevieve Eagle's
Mother



T-5 Minnie Lee
Jameson
Women's Auxillary
Army Corps
WWII
Diane Pirotis' aunt



May 21st St. Constantine and Helen's Feast Day!

Saints Constantine and Helen, also known as Constantine and Helen, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Emperor Constantine and Empress Helen, made early and important contributions to the Orthodox Christian Church. They are celebrated together because Helen is Constantine's mother.

Emperor Constantine

Referred to as a "sovereign to the Christians" Emperor Constantine was known for his beliefs. He was the son of Constantius Chlorus, a ruler of a portion of the Roman Empire, and Helen, the Empress who was also a Christian alongside her son. Constantine was born 272 and he became Emperor when his father died in 306. In 312, he learned that his opponent, Maxentius, began marching to Italy. Shortly after that, Jesus Christ appeared to him in a dream and told Constantine about the cross and its significance. After the dream, he ordered that his victory banner be inscribed with the Holy Cross and the Name of Jesus Christ. On October 28, he officially marched and entered battle against Maxentius and won. He rode to Rome waving his victory banner proudly and was declared to rule Rome West, while his brother-in-law, Licinius, was to rule Rome East. Under Constantine's rule, Christianity really took root. In 325 he organized the First Council of Nicaea and he addressed the assembly personally.



Continued on next page...

MILITARY MINISTRY NEWS

Empress Helen

Helen's story with Christianity really begins after Constantine emerged victorious from the battle against Maxentius. During this time, she traveled to the Holy Lands in Jerusalem. During her travels, she is credited with finding the True Cross. Legend says that she was tipped off to the cross's existence

because she found the aromatic herb, basil, growing in the shape of a cross. Each year on September 14th, Orthodox Christians remember the cross on September 14th on the Feast Day of the Elevation of the Cross by taking home some fresh basil. (Source: GreekBoston.com)

St. Constantine was a great military leader but I can not help but marvel at St. Helen, his mother. This remarkable woman is credited with traveling to the Holy Land and finding the True Cross when she was over 70 years of age! I will turn 70 later this year and I already find it difficult to drive somewhere for longer than an hour. My back starts to ache, I constantly readjust in my seat, and I am compelled to periodically stretch my legs, arms, hands, and fingers. The thought of this 70+ year old woman travelling from Rome to Jerusalem on horseback or in a wagon across rugged terrain with no roads, and then upon arriving there searching for and discovering the True Cross, is truly a miraculous feat.



Obviously we have no parishioners that were related to Saints Constantine and Helen, but we do have several who celebrate their feast day. To Miss Lena P., Helen M., Constantine and Ingrid (Eleni) C., we say,

Χρόνια Πολλά



May 29, 2023 is Memorial Day and in keeping with our tradition at St. Nicholas, Sunday May 28th, will be our annual Memorial Day event. This event is sponsored every year by the ladies of St. Nicholas' Philoptochos and the Military Ministry. For the benefit of those who have never attended a St. Nicholas Memorial Day event, you may be interested to know that immediately following our Divine Liturgy, downstairs in the dining room we will have a presentation of the colors, followed by the serving of a salmon dinner. After the last person has gone through the buffet line there will be a presentation. Our presentations in the past have always focused on either a St. Nicholas parishioner, or the family member of a St. Nicholas parishioner who died while serving our nation.

Continued on next page...

MILITARY MINISTRY NEWS


This year’s presentation will be slightly different. It will feature the relatives of TWO of our current parishioners whose uncles, unbeknownst to them, served in the same Bomber Group during WWII.

These men never knew each other before the war, and in fact, they lived in states on opposite coasts of America. Both however found themselves stationed in Air Bases in Italy with the 15th Army Air Force, whose mission was to bomb and destroy the oil fields that were vital to keeping Hitler’s war machine running.


One man flew P-38 reconnaissance aircraft, while the other was the ball turret gunner on a B-24. There is a good chance their paths crossed during the war either on the ground at an air base in Italy, or up in the sky while conducting the same mission.

To hear their stories of courage and selfless sacrifice, come to Divine Liturgy on May 28th, and afterward join us for our salmon dinner. After the last person goes through the buffet line, the presentation will begin and then you will hear... “the rest of their story! Good day!”

Past presentations told the stories of PFC Denny Lagounaris, USA, who was killed in action (KIA) during WWII in the Battle of the Bulge. CPL George Velias, USA, who was KIA during the Korean War just days before his unit was pulled out of Korea and sent to Japan. Capt. Earl Rogers, USMC, who died while flying a reconnaissance mission along the North/South Korean border. PFC Michael Mihalakis, USA, who died in a rollover accident just one month before his unit was to be redeployed from Iraq back to America. And Johnny Bennack, USN, who was KIA when his ship, the USS Helena, was sunk by the Japanese in the Pacific. Their pictures are shown below along with the pictures of other St. Nicholas parishioners who passed away during the month of May. We must never forget these brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. They served our nation in peacetime and in war. All were prepared to pay the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation, and sadly, some did.




Thomas Angelos
United States Coast Guard
World War II
Died in line of duty at sea during training
Sonny's older brother



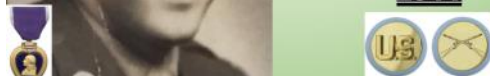

Johnny Bennack & George Humphrey
U.S. Navy, WWII
Both Killed In Action on the USS Helena in July 1943 in the Pacific.
Recipients of the Purple Heart
Bennack is Deborah Talbot's uncle




REMEMBER OUR HEROES
SSG James L. Jameson
U.S. Army Air Force
WWII - Killed in Action
17 March 1944
Ball Gunner
B-24 "La Barracha"
While conducting bombing mission over Vienna, Austria
Diane Pirotis' Uncle

Remember our Heroes!
PFC Denny Lagounaris
United States Army
World War II
Killed in Action
Battle of the Bulge
1944



Continued on next page...

MILITARY MINISTRY NEWS



George Markakis
Royal Hellenic Army
World War II
Killed in Action during
Italian Invasion
Mary Leonard's
grandfather



James Michalareas
Royal Hellenic Army
Greco-Turkish War
Killed by communist
guerillas during WWII
Gus Chamales' great
uncle



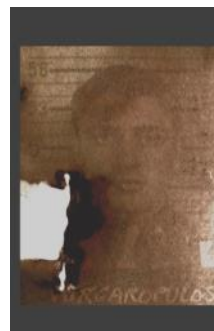
Remember our Heroes!
PFC Mike Mihalakis
United States Army
Died in a non-combat
vehicle accident in
Baghdad, Iraq,
12/26/2003
Bronze Star recipient
Daphne Karanasos' nephew



Shianne Taylor Soles
United States Navy
Killed in a non-combat
incident while on active
duty - May 2019
Genevieve Eagle's niece



Remember our
Heroes!
CPL George
Vellas
United States
Army
Killed in Action
November 19,
1951



REMEMBER OUR
HEROES!

1Lt James
Vurgaropoulos
75TH Fighter Sqdn.,
23rd Fighter Group,
U.S. Army Air Force
WWII
Killed in action in
China, June 29, 1944
Ann Calcote's uncle



MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

Submitted by: Gus

ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

Ministry of Akathist, Prayers for the Departed

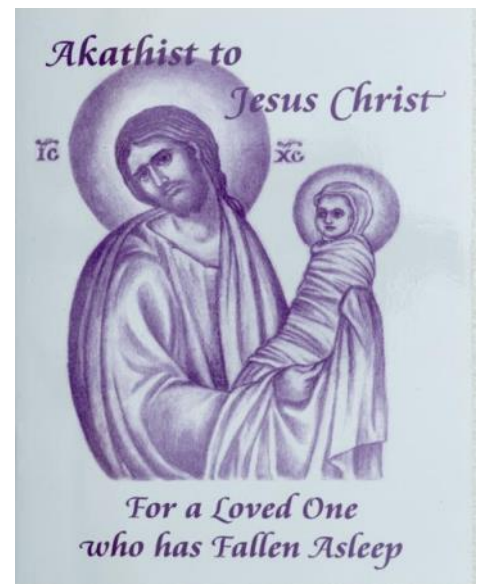


Thank you to all who are involved in this wonderful ministry at Saint Nicholas. In offering the gift of praying the Akathist to Jesus Christ for a Loved One who Has Fallen Asleep, it is a great comfort to family and friends of the departed ones.

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

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

Thank you again,
Kathy Rowley



St. Nicholas Bible Study

The Book of Acts



After an almost 3 month hiatus, Father Anthony will be taking up the baton from Father Seraphim and Bible Study will resume at its regular time on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, sometime after Pascha. I will run an announcement in the Sunday bulletin as soon as a start date is set. If you want to join Bible Study and receive reminder emails, access recordings and related documents, please contact Genevieve at goobahoo@gmail.com.



PARSING ST. PETER'S SERMON

Salutations + Terms:

Father Seraphim: In **Acts 3:12** the salutation is "*Men of Israel*". Pretend you were asked to speak on some spiritual topic before a group of fellow Christians. How would you begin it?

Various answers: Brothers in Christ, Sisters in Christ, Brothers & sisters in Christ, good morning, Brethren.

Father Seraphim: There's a protocol. St. Peter is using the proper form of address which makes sure God understands that he is placing himself where he belongs, but he's also bold enough to speak. Forms of salutations do two things: they establish that the speaker recognizes with whom he is speaking out of respect and humility but he's also saying I'm going to address you.

Genevieve E: It also identifies, from a reader's point of view, to whom the speaker is talking. When he said, "*Men of Israel*", I immediately knew that he was talking with the Jews, not his Christian brothers.

Father Seraphim: Exactly. Without a salutation, it is merely transactional – the audience is there just to get something out of the speaker and the speaker is there to give them something and, presumably, to be compensated somehow. There's nothing transactional about any of the sermons in the **Book of**

St. Nicholas Bible Study

Acts. Look at the Epistles of Paul. It's a specific, identifiable group of people who have something in common and therefore, it becomes personal, not transactional.

Anonymous: *"Friends, Romans, countrymen..."*

Father Seraphim: Right! It's a simple thing, but you can see it in the absence of it. Another classic salutation, *"Good morning, Vietnam"*. A quote from Robin Williams character in the movie of the same name. He's addressing American servicemen in Vietnam. Giving it a concrete personal character, therefore, the listeners are hearing what the speaker is saying in light of who he says they are. In the absence of a salutation, everyone is defining themselves individually and therefore, the message is always filtered transitionally. Back to St. Peter's sermon, the salutation, *"Men of Israel"*, draws the attention of those St. Peter wishes to address. Someone in the crowd may say, "I'm not a man of Israel. I'm a Gentile who got caught up in the crowd."

Genevieve E: I was going to bring that up. St. Peter is pointing his finger at the Jews who crucified his Lord and Savior. Since it was a mixed crowd, he wants the Jews to know they were in the wrong and committed a mortal sin.

Father Seraphim: Let's say you were a Gentile visitor (especially if this took place in the Court of the Gentiles) – as soon as they heard the salutation, *"Men of Israel"*, that put them at a little bit of a distance and they were put in the position of observers. Just three words establishes this whole thing. Incidentally, it's important to remember that the New Testament is addressed to the believers in Christ. All unbelievers who want to take our Scriptures and dice and slice them need to know this has nothing to do with them. This is God's communication to His believers. I don't encourage unbelievers to read the Bible unless they are ready to open their hearts to the Gospel. The scene at Solomon's Porch is a quintessential scene where the preaching of the Good News is happening. There are clues as to how the Gospel message is revealing itself to those who have *"ears to hear"*. We may find ourselves in the presence of someone who has ears to hear the Gospel and if our spirit has the love of Christ and humility in it, it projects the energy of hope of the Kingdom. Everywhere we go, in theory, the people all around us are the unintended audience. They are somehow listening to the thoughts of our hearts and the ones whose hearts are open will receive it – in some ways, better than if they were addressed directly. The nuns in Michigan gave me a plaque that reads, "Preach the Gospel always, and if necessary, use words". This is what's going on under the surface with St. Peter's sermon.

Let's talk about the language that is used in **Acts 3:13-16** *"The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, Whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and killed the Prince of Life, Whom God raised from the dead of which we are witnesses. ¹⁶And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."*

Genevieve E: I'm looking at the fact that he is being specific of which God he's referring to, because there are Gentiles and pagans present.

Alan M: The delivery is accusatory.

Father Seraphim: Yes – you are all correct. I want to focus on the "accusatory". John Alan, can you expand on that.

Alan M: It's where you have a decided opinion of a situation in the past, and to the person receiving that opinion perceives it as "I did something wrong".

Father Seraphim: Yes, and he's calling them out. The language in **verses 13-16** is accusatory. Let's place ourselves in this scenario. We have the Gentile centurion listening, knowing there is something deep in his heart for which he longs but for which he had no name. The words are popping with the Holy Spirit and if he's called to salvation, even if the words are not addressed to him, he knows there is something going on. St. Luke, who also wrote the Gospel of Luke, is the same one whose heart was burning

St. Nicholas Bible Study

on the Road to Emmaus, **Luke 24:32** “...Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” He had no understanding of the One to Whom he was speaking, but his heart was burning. This is singled out every eleven weeks in the Orthros Gospels (it’s my favorite one). How could it not be a part of the state of St. Luke’s heart at all times? That experience is going to get carried through even though it’s not explicit in the **Book of Acts** as well. It’s really important for us to understand that our heart is emitting something of the hope of the Kingdom and it’s going to presume repentance (of which we are about to read in a little bit). Peoples’ hearts will start to burn in our presence even though they won’t know why and won’t have a word for it. That’s the heart of the matter when it comes to evangelism. In the meantime, what is happening to the hearts of the Men of Israel who are listening to this?

Rikki K: I have a question. Why are the Gentiles there? Shouldn’t the Temple be only open to the Men of Israel?

Father Seraphim: In Herod’s Temple is Solomon’s Porch and in that is the Court of the Gentiles where non-Jews were allowed to enter. This was an area that was quite broad where both Jews and Gentiles would mingle potentially.

Anonymous: Also the Romans were there because they were the occupying governing force.

Fran H: Wasn’t there also a big marketplace in the court?

Father Seraphim: Remember, this was the “center” of Jerusalem.

Rikki K: The Apostle Peter is addressing the Jews to get to the point where others would hear it and become interested.

Father Seraphim: Absolutely. You see that in the vision of St. Peter and the “sheet” and Cornelius the Centurion, the “so-called” Gentile Pentecost, the singing in the prison (where the prison guards hear them and become interested) and it goes on and on. This is one of the most significant strings in the **Book of Acts** to demonstrate that the Plan of Salvation includes all. If we didn’t have the **Book of Acts**, the Church might still be struggling with whether or not non-Jews can be saved. Our sense of identity comes through the principle of exclusion – that’s how everything works. It’s identity by negation, which never works. This is why the phrase “Men of Israel” is so powerful. It’s really ingenious what St. Peter is doing. St. Paul will do the same thing when he’s on trial (a few chapters ahead) before the Sanhedrin. He leverages his status as a Pharisee to divide the Sanhedrin between the Pharisees and the Sadducees. On the one hand St. Peter is gathering their attention by saying “Men of Israel” and then he goes into this.

Genevieve E: And then he lambastes them!

Father Seraphim: It’s oratorios therapeutic. St. John Chrysostom always said that every sermon should heal. Words should be like a scalpel, excising sin and passion in the hearts of your hearers and putting in place, the healing power of the Holy Spirit. St. John Chrysostom identified the “words” of the sermon as surgical instruments bringing about healing.

Roberta N: St. Peter announces who he is talking to and gets them to feel a little special and then says they didn’t do everything right. And then the eavesdroppers can think it’s nice to be on the outside!

Father Seraphim: Yes. And what happens next? **Acts 3:17-21** “*Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰and that He may send Jesus Christ, Who was preached to you before, ²¹Whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*” This is the template. For example, if you’re a parent and you have a wayward child – this is the template for that. I found myself doing this with my own kids. You establish your commonality by making sure there is no question that you identify with them and that they are part of your in-group (so to speak). Once that’s established, then you can perform the surgery. It’s painful and the pain can be al-

St. Nicholas Bible Study

ienating, but there's no question about you leaving "us". It's important that they believe they belong 100%. If they stop believing that then that's where the existential despair comes in. A lot of times that can get inverted. It may seem that you are respecting the individuality and freedom of the child, but you're not. It's actually depriving them of their individuality and freedom because you're not giving them membership in the "body". You're saying that it's their impulses that are what matters, which leads to nothing except existential despair.

Dimitri A: That's where we are in society right now.

Father Seraphim: Right – that's exactly where we are in society. What keeps the body together? The story. That's why the devil is using different means to deprive Americans of our core story. If he distorts the story, changes the story, deletes the story, then everything falls apart. The story keeps us together – that's what Paul Kingsnorth's insight is. There is so much happening in this sermon. There's the "Men of Israel", the story which makes us "Men of Israel", and now that we have established that you are part of this – I have to tell you the hard truth, but it doesn't mean you're losing your membership in the story.

Roberta N: One of things that's happening in society today is we're not getting to the hard truth.

Father Seraphim: That's right. You can look at the era of Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement which was dealing with the national sin in a concrete way within the context of membership. We're all members – no one loses their membership – it's that we're dealing with our national sin as brothers and sisters of the same story. Now, that has become inverted. Now you have either super exclusionist impulse or you have the "there's no membership in anything", just the national sin. It leads to existential despair and the disintegration of a national identity. It's one thing to tell the hard truth to the family, it's quite another when you say "there is no family, there's just the hard truth". Do you see the difference? One leads to repentance, the other leads to despair. That's the little twist that the devil seems to be accomplishing. St. Peter's sermon can even apply to problems America is facing. How about are national sin of killing babies in the womb? We have to take a hard look at all of them. Once we get to **Acts 17**, they are stung but not with the threat of exclusion from the nation, they're stung with the threat of being a hypocrite member of the nation. Now he applies the healing balm after the surgery.

Genevieve E: St. Paul uses the term "brethren" in this verse, whereas before he addressed them as Men of Israel. Now after the surgery, he's welcoming them back into the "fold".

Father Seraphim: That's right. Excellent – a great insight. He's showing that Men of Israel is based on a restrictive reading of their national story. Now he's using "brethren" to show that the national story is bigger than what they thought it was.

Genevieve E: I also think he's saying that he forgives them. There's a lot that is being said in that one word.

Father Seraphim: That's right. The story is much larger than what they originally thought. Similar to the way that St. Luke experienced the Resurrection – meaning, He loved Christ, but he thought that was the end and now his heart's experiencing something that makes it burn, but his brain can't comprehend it yet (on the Road to Emmaus). He's trying to expand their sense of the story to include new and unprecedented possibilities. Like, maybe the same and beloved prophets, our beloved Moses and Abraham, Isaac and Jacob may have been speaking about things much bigger than we ever could have dreamed; and promises that were embedded in the explicit promises included much bigger promises than we could have ever thought as we read the literal text of the promise of a land flowing with milk and honey. The surgery had to occur before they could understand that the "Promised Land" (flowing with milk and honey) is the eternal Kingdom of God and the key to that is repentance.

Submitted by: Genevieve Eagle

St. Nicholas Catechumens

FROM CATECHUMEN TO NEWLY ILLUMINED



Jim/James & Godfather Zach Karanasos (not pictured) – Godmother Rikki Kapes & Lisa/Helen – Father Anthony – Justine/Olga and Porter/Photini with Godfather, Tony Panagiotu (behind) – Godmother Jessica Brown & Angela/Angelika – Dimitri Aggelidakis (behind)

Submitted by: "Mama" Genevieve

ST. NICHOLAS PRO-LIFE MINISTRY



Jim from Lake Tapps, WA

Fran

Herman

Jeffrey

The 40 Days for Life spring campaign came in like a lion and left like a lion as well, but knowing that our appearance on the sidewalk outside of Cedar River Clinic could have changed the mind of a woman bent on abortion made all of it worthwhile. Thank you to all those who came to join us during this campaign, especially Jeffrey who had a one hundred percent attendance - a gold star for you Jeffrey!!

A few months ago I was talking with a visitor to St. Nicholas at coffee hour who wanted to know about our Orthodox Service of Supplication for the Victims of Abortion that we read during our time slot at the 40 Days for Life vigils. He goes to St. Paul's Orthodox Church in Brier, Washington and he sent me this email after I sent him a copy of our Orthodox service for the unborn:

"How are you doing with the sidewalk vigils in your area. We have been very busy up here and made a banner with the icon of Christ and the babies in front of him which we are using out in the sidewalk. We generally go out 2-3 times a week for 1-3 hours in Lynnwood and we have anywhere from two of us to six of us going out from St. Paul's in Brier. Blessings to you for all you have done to help me. We are using the Orthodox vigil for the unborn and praying with it out on the sidewalk! Blessings to you! Daniel"

Thanks be to God for Daniel and his dedication and service to the most vulnerable of all, the unborn!

Submitted by: Genevieve

St. Nicholas Flower Ministry



St. Nicholas Flower Ministry



Thanks again to all those who helped prepare and arrange the flowers for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha: our fearless leader and designer, Kathy Rowley, Lesia Faithful, Despina Kipelidis, Irene Misiewicz, Chrysanthe Barnes, Kathy Johnson, Angela, Porter & Justine Montoya, Dino Basil, Stephen Gorham, Ethan Wright, Ingrid & Gus Chamales, Jessica Brown, Dimitri Aggelidakis, John Payne, Rachael Parnell and Pres Anna and her team. We couldn't have done it without you!! Christos Anesti - Christ is risen!!

Submitted by: Genevieve

PROSPHORA

PROVIDING THE OFFERING

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

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

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

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

Regular Sunday prospora bakers are needed.



Left: a basket of Prospora. Right: a basket of artoklasia. The artoklasia does not need to be decorated. It is a sweet bread offered at Vespers in five loaves (from the Gospel accounts of feeding 5000+) in honor of the Lord, or the Theotokos, or a saint. Artoklasia means breaking bread.



The blessing of the artoklasia from the GOARCH website:

Priest: Lord, Jesus Christ, our God, You blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and from them five thousand men were filled. Bless now these loaves, the wheat, the wine and oil and multiply them in this holy church, this city, in the homes of those who celebrate today, and in Your whole world. And sanctify Your faithful servants who partake of them.

Priest: For You are He who blesses and sanctifies all things, Christ our God, and to You we offer up glory together with Your eternal Father and Your holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Priest kisses the loaf and then enters the holy sanctuary, singing:

The rich have grown poor and gone hungry but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.

(3)

Submitted by: Deborah Talbot

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

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

The ministry is grateful to the following individuals and families who have supported 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 who make contributions of time, talent and treasure as well. YOU make St. Nicholas the wonderful place that it is to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

2023 Donations and or commitments as of April 26, 2023

Jim and Carol Abel *	William and Mary Acker *
AHEPA	Leonidas and Despina Alatsis *
Patra Alatsis	George and Despina Ampatzis
Sonny and Irene Angelos *	Rick and Marlene Angelus *
Elana M. Apostle *	Paul and Dolores Apostle *
Tony and Lori Apostle *	Andrew and Sheila Auter
Tina Ayers	George Ballasiotes
Tyler and Lexi Balser	Costa and Donna Basil*
Harry C. and Cheri Basil	T.L Berg
Theodora Bessinas	John and Terri Botsis
Yvonne Brandvold*	Dora Brown
Monica Bultz	Deborah Middleton and Barry Cassidy
Klaudia Cedeno	C.G. and Ingrid Chamales*
Steven Chamales	Christine Chansley
Yianni and Sophia Charitou*	Reagan and Reanne Charuhas
Chris Cherbas	Anthony and Sandra Ciarochi*
John and Maria Cook	Nick and Cheryl Cosmakos*
Belinda and Chris Cummins	Sharmarie and Troy Dares*
Daughters of Penelope	Dina Deliyianides*
John Diaconou	Jacqueline Dionas*
Sandra Dutton*	Gretchen (Genevieve Eagle)*
Timothy and Sunny Edgren*	Frederick and Anastasia Ehret
Andrew and Jane Evancho*	Krisann and Peter Firth*
Deena Fotinopoulos	James and Konstantoula Fotinopoulos
Gregory Garcia*	John and Judy Godulas*
Stephen and Claire Gorham*	Sally Hallis*
Dean and Carol Hamos*	Michael and Kristine Hanberg
Daniel and Ekaterini Hanson*	Natalya Harpe
Timothy and Kathleen Harvey*	Richard and kathleen Heidal*
William Frederick Lincoln Horton*	Radu Adrian and Ramona Ionita-Flores
Kathy Johnson and Jim Belsvig	Hariklia "Rikki" Kapes
Anna Karanasos*	Paula Karanasos*

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

Zachary and Daphne Karanasos*
 Naser and Catalina Khalaj
 Stephen Kinyanjui
 Ann and Jessee Kiraki Macharia*
 John C. Kouklis
 Maria Koumantaros*
 Elia and Micheline Lakkis*
 Robert and Anne Latz*
 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
 David and Katrina Orriss*
 Tony and Debbie Panagiotu*
 Alex Pangis*
 Scott and Rachael Parnell
 George and Diane Pirotis*
 Steve and Kathleen Politakis*
 Emmanuel Psilovikos
 Paul Rondo
 Neal (Barnabas) Schaefer
 St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society
 Andy and JoAnn Stergachis*
 Rob (Moses and Lea (Mary) Sullivan
 Janes and Jenise Sweeney*
 Nicholas and Becky Themelis*
 Roxanne Vallantine*
 Jeffrey and Janice Williams
 Hugh Winskill
 John and Kalitsa Xitco*
 Matthew and Leigh Ann Zehnder

Sharon Kennedy*
 Claudia Kieszling*
 Evan and Despina Kipelidis
 Anna Koopman*
 Steve Koukles*
 Peter and Margaret Laketa
 Lisa Lauderback*
 Christina Leinneuber*
 Hugh and Marella Lewis *
 Fr. Seraphim and Sophie Majmudar
 Chris and Susan Manthou *
 Carol MartinOki
 Dean and Julie Mastras *
 Viki McCarty*
 Alan and Sheilagh Means
 Tatyana Mikeladze
 Nina Morrison
 Michael and Rodica Murphy*
 George Panagiotu
 Perry Panagiotu
 John and Merrilee Pangis*
 Kesha Patel
 Charles and Lena Plunkett*
 Andrew and Rebecca Primis*
 MartinJ. And Lorissa C. Reiter III
 Katherine Salatas
 Richard and Alexandra Schutt*
 Richard and Denise Stahl*
 Liam Sullivan
 Jacom Herman Swain*
 Deborah Talbot*
 Edward Tuohy
 Michael Jane White*
 Edward Winskill*
 Daniel and Mary Wright
 Tasso and Sarah Zamaras*
 Luai Zureikat

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

ALL SAINTS CAMP 2023

All Saints Camp 2023 Registration is Open!

Camper Registration for All Saints Camp 2023 opened Wednesday, 1/25 at 8:30am! Our overnight camp takes place in beautiful Gig Harbor, WA on Raft Island at All Saints Camp. Campers have the chance to experience the outdoors, make new friends, grow in their Orthodox spirituality, and have lots of fun! Each day features time in Orthodox Life and Chapel, Arts & Crafts, games at the Sports Court, time outside on the dock and beach, and hiking Camp's many trails, swimming at a local pool, cabin activities and competitions, and campfire each evening.

We are excited to offer two sessions this year:

- Elementary (Campers entering grades 3-5 in Fall 2023)
- Intermediate (Campers entering grades 6-8 in Fall 2023).

Early Bird Rates through March 1st, 2023:

- First camper registration fee: \$400
- Any additional campers registration: \$375/camper



Register today for
All Saints Camp
Summer Sessions 2023!

ELEMENTARY (GRADES 3-5):

JULY 9-15TH

INTERMEDIATE (GRADES 6-8):

JULY 16- 22ND

www.allsaintscamp.com

Donations and Pledges

On line Donations now possible

ON-LINE DONATIONS

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



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

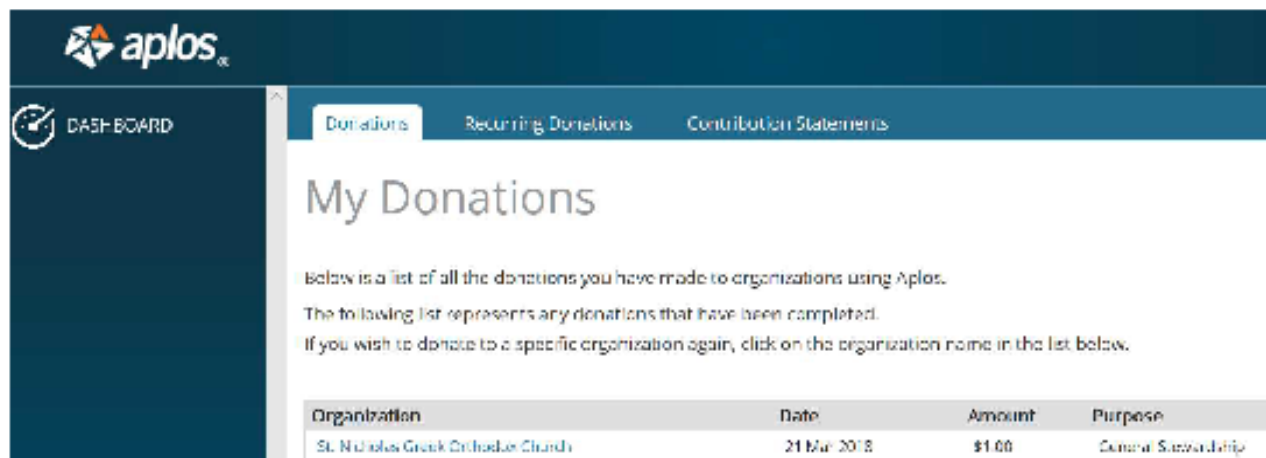
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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

In Christ,

Mark Robinson

On-Line Contribution Instructions:

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



OUR MISSION

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

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

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

HOW TO RETURN THIS CARD

BY MAIL:

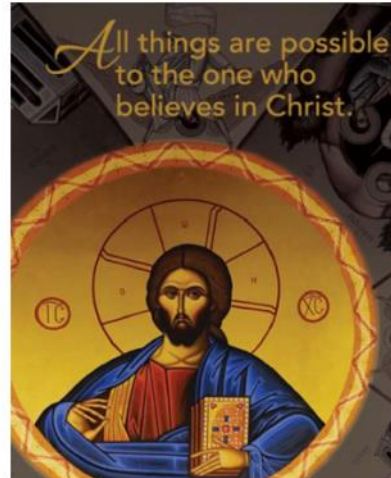
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
Attn: Church Treasurer
1523 S. Yakima Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98405

AT CHURCH:

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

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

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



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

Please PRINT your information clearly

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

Household Information

Address
City/St/Zip

Dependent Children

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

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

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

2023 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

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

I/We offer a minimum stewardship pledge of \$...../year or \$...../month in 2023 to support God's work.

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

SIGNATURE.....

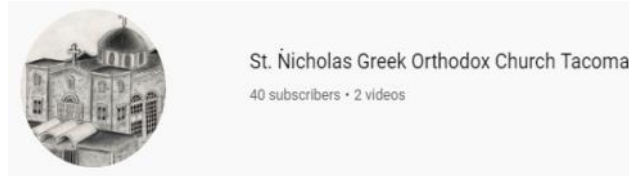
On Line Services

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

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

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

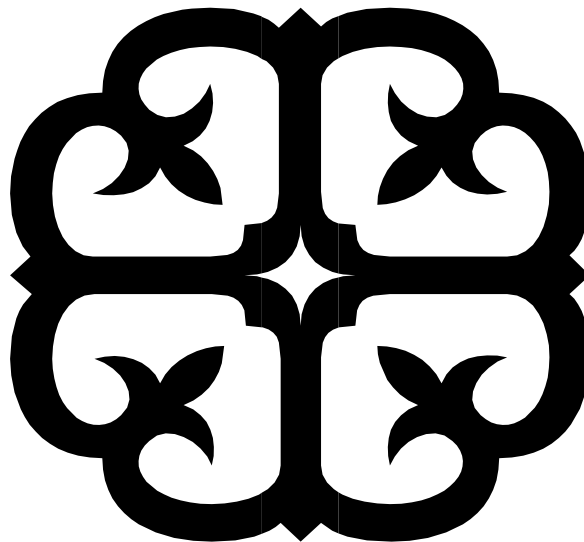
Click on this selection;



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

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

Bill Samaras—



Saint Nicholas Messenger

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Address Service Requested

