



## The Life of St Nikephoros the Leper GET TO KNOW THIS BELOVED SAINT, WHO'S CHAPEL WE ARE HOPING TO BUILD St Nikephoros the Leper



*St Nikephoros with his spiritual father, St Anthimos of Chios*

### Inside Messenger

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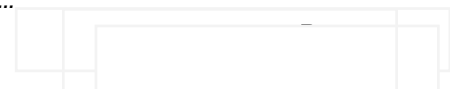
Father Nikephoros was born in 1890 in a mountainous village in Xania, Crete.

His parents were simple and pious villagers, who died when he was still a young child. So, at the age of thirteen, he left his home. His grandfather, who had undertaken to raise him, went to Xania to work there in a barber shop in order to learn the job.

He traveled to Alexandria, working in a barber shop again, but the signs of the disease became more and more apparent, especially on his hands and face. That is why, through the intervention of a priest, he went to the island of Chios, where there was a church for lepers at that time—and this priest in charge of this church was none other than the great [Saint Anthimos](#) of Chios (commemorated February 15).

St Nikephoros arrived in Chios in 1914 at the age of twenty-four. In the leper hospital of Chios, which was a complex with many homesteads, there was a chapel of Saint Lazarus, where the wonderworking icon of Panagia Ypakoe (Feb. 2) was kept. In this space, the course of virtues was opened for Ni-

Cover story continues page 15...



# St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

Phone: 253-272-0466

Parish Website: [stnicholastacoma.org](http://stnicholastacoma.org)

E-Mail: [mail@stnicholastacoma.org](mailto:mail@stnicholastacoma.org)

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



## Sunday Services

8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

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



## Fr. Seraphim Majmudar, Our Presiding Priest

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

Fr. Seraphim’s Cell phone: 253-365-5817

Office Hours at St Nicholas  
Thursdays 9:00am - 12:00 noon  
Email: [frseraphimm@gmail.com](mailto:frseraphimm@gmail.com)

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

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**Media team:** Paula Karanasos, Fr. Seraphim

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

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# St. Nicholas Ministries

**AHEPA**  
Paul Apostle

**Akathist Group Prayer**  
Kathy Rowley

**Altar Servers**  
Dr Nick Themelis

**Bible Study**  
Genevieve Eagle

**Book Store**  
Dr. Nick Themelis

**Building Committee**  
Bill Acker

**Building, Grounds & Maintenance**  
Richard Heidal, John Pangis

**Choir**  
Rebecca Primis

**Hands of Love**  
Genevieve Eagle

**Military Service**  
LTC Gus Chamales

**Premarital Education**  
George Pirotis, Diane Pirotis

**Stewardship**  
Maria Koumantaros  
Gus Chamales

**2022 Parish Council**  
Ronnie-Sue Johnson—President  
Alan Means—Vice-President  
Mark Robinson—Treasurer  
Christina Leinneweber—Secretary  
Maria Koumantaros, Andrew Auter, David Orriss Jr., Kathy Johnson, Klaudia Cedeno, Zach Karanasos, Fenia Mavromichali, Tony Panagiotu

**Greek Folk Dance**  
Evy Kontos — Chair & Intermediate dancers  
Dr. Anastasia Fyntrilakis—Treasurer & Teen dancers  
  
Krisann Firth — Costume Director  
Julie Kotsali — Board Member  
Presbytera Sophie Majmudar — Board Member  
  
Kelly Rosati — Beginner dancers  
  
George Pirotis — Adult Group Instructor

**Coffee Hour**  
Zach Karanasos

**IT, etc.**  
Bill Samaras

**Philia**  
Diane Pirotis

**Pro Life**  
Genevieve Eagle

**Flowers & Church Decorating**  
Kathy Rowley/Genevieve Eagle

**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

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

**Sunday School**

**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 November 8, 2022

# NOVEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45am Orthros</li> <li>10am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>11:30am Judith Mary Hibbel</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stachys of the 70</li> <li>Cosmas &amp; Damian</li> <li>David of Evia</li> <li>6:30am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eric, Bishop of Slane in Ireland</li> <li>STRICT FAST</li> <li>3pm Pro Life Vigil at Cedar f</li> <li>6pm Paraklesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Akepsimas</li> <li>5:30pm Modern Greek</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>George Karslides</li> <li>STRICT FAST</li> <li>6:30am No Orthros Today</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raphael of Brooklyn</li> <li>TURN CLOCKS BACK</li> <li>8am Orthros</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul the Confessor</li> <li>8:45am Orthros</li> <li>10am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cyngar of Congressbury, Wales</li> <li>6:30am Orthros</li> <li>6pm Vespers: Synaxis of Ho</li> <li>6:45pm Evening Liturgy: Syn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Synaxis of the Holy Angels</li> <li>5:30pm Vespers: St Nektaric</li> <li>6pm Beginning Greek</li> <li>7pm Parish Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fast: Wine &amp; Oil ok</li> <li>Nektarios of Pentapolis</li> <li>6:30am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>6pm Akathist &amp; Life of St Ar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arsenius of Cappadocia</li> <li>5:30pm Modern Greek</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fast: Wine &amp; Oil ok</li> <li>Great Martyr Menas</li> <li>6:30am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Join the Merciful, Abp Alexai</li> <li>8am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>6pm Vespers</li> </ul>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Chrysostom</li> <li>8:45am Orthros</li> <li>10am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PacNW Clergy Retreat: Goldendale</li> <li>Apostle Philip</li> <li>Gregory Palamas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy</li> <li>Paisius Velichkovsky</li> <li>6pm Beginning Greek</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apostle Matthew</li> <li>Fast: Wine &amp; Oil ok</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gregory the Wonderworker</li> <li>10am Philoptochos Mitg</li> <li>5:30pm Modern Greek</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plato of Ankyra</li> <li>STRICT FAST</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prophet Obadiah</li> <li>6pm Vespers</li> </ul>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy</li> <li>Prefeast of Entrance of Theot</li> <li>8:45am Orthros</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOH</li> <li>6:30am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>5:30pm Vespers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iakovos of Evia</li> <li>6:30am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amphiloikos of Iconium</li> <li>STRICT FAST</li> <li>6pm Akathist of Thanksgiving</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>THANKSGIVING DAY</li> <li>9am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>4pm Thanksgiving Potluck a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fast: Wine &amp; Oil ok</li> <li>Great Martyr Katherine</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nikon, "Repent, Yes!"</li> <li>6pm No Vespers Tonight</li> </ul>
27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advent Fast: No Meat or Dairy</li> <li>James of Persia</li> <li>8:45am Orthros</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oda of Brabant, Blind Princes</li> <li>6:30am Orthros</li> <li>5:30pm Vespers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philoumenos of Jacob's Well</li> <li>6:30am Orthros</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apostle Andrew</li> <li>Fast: Wine &amp; Oil ok</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prophet Nahum</li> <li>6:30am Orthros</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fast: Wine &amp; Oil ok</li> <li>St Porphyrios</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prophet Zephaniah</li> <li>6pm Vespers</li> </ul>

The most up to date calendar is always found at the St. Nicholas web page: [www.stnicholastacoma.org](http://www.stnicholastacoma.org)

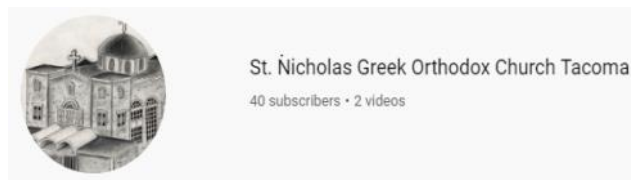
## News and Announcements

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

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

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

Click on this selection;



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

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

*Bill Samaras—*

### THANK YOU FOR A SUCESSFUL FESTIVAL

The 2022 Festival was a great success. After over a 2 year hiatus, our parish and community came back together to celebrate Greek culture: food, music and dance. Our efforts were well worth the planning, preparations and contributions of everyone. There were many changes this time, some new ideas and a lot of new people.

At least for me, 2022 was the happiest festival I've experienced. Some of us are already talking about next year's festival. Let's keep the tradition intact for the 60th Tacoma Greek Festival.

### Holiday Bake Sale

Are you having Greek pastry withdrawal symptoms? There's one more chance to purchase pastries. We're holding a public bake sale beginning Nov 1, similar to what we did last year. That is, online pre-paid sales. Pickup is one day only on Sunday Nov 20 after church services. The online website will be available from the church's web site front page beginning Nov 1. [www.stnicholastacoma.org](http://www.stnicholastacoma.org)

Thank you everyone that contributed to the 2022 Tacoma Greek Festival

*Bill Samaras—*

## News and Announcements

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to New Visions Enterprises, Inc. for a job well done cleaning the kitchen!!



# 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 NOVEMBER:

11/06/2022 Team Karanasos  
 11/13/2022 Veteran's Day Luncheon  
 11/20/2022 Daughters of Penelope  
 11/27/2022 Team Johnson

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

### TEAMS:

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

**Team Johnson:** Joseph Johnson, Leader; Ronie-Sue Johnson, Fenia Mavromichali, Barbara Phillips, Sandra Ciarochi, Yvonne Brandvold, Maro Kouklis and Yanni & Sophia Charitou

**Team Chamales:** Dr Ingrid Chamales, Leader; Karen Samaras; Marion Palas, Sally Hallis, Krysanthes Barnes, Rikky Kapes. Kathy Johnson and Sharon Kennedy

**Team Pres Sophie:** Pres Sophie Majmudar, Leader; Evy Kontos, Irene Misiewicz, Gloria Brown, Deborah Talbot, Claudia Ceden and Scott & Rachael Parrell

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

## Modern Greek Language School



### 2022-2023 Modern Greek Language Classes, every Thursday, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions on "Gathering" all classes are virtual via "Zoom Teleconferencing", for more information please contact Genevieve Eagle or George Pirotis.

General Information: **The classes are open to everyone** who 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.**



## Philoptochos News

### President's Message

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

**Holiday Food Certificate Drive-** Every year Philoptochos spearheads a project to donate food certificates to families in the community for Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year we will assist families at four schools, Boze, Blix, Downing and McCarver elementary schools. Our goal is to raise **\$4,000** for this project. A flyer describing the project is a separate attachment in the Messenger.

Philoptochos members hosted a breakfast coffee hour on Sunday, Oct. 23, 2022 to start this project. Over \$2,200 was donated towards our goal for this worthwhile project, including a generous donation from the Daughters of Penelope. Please continue with your donations. Donations can be made by mail (please make your check out to Philoptochos-memo holiday food certificates) at the church mailing address or through the church donation website.

**Philoptochos AGAPE Award-** Our chapter recently received a 2022 AGAPE award from the Metropolis for our specific outreach efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. The icon of St. Sophie and her three daughters, Faith, Hope and Love, was presented to the chapter and the parish at the Oct. 23 coffee hour and now is hanging in the lower hall. A photo of that icon is attached in the Messenger.

**Veterans Day Lunch-** Philoptochos will assist with this event by offering lunch after liturgy on November 13, 2022. There will be a free will offering for Fisher House.

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

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

**Philoptochos Member Meetings-** Our next member meeting will be Thursday, November 17, at 10:00 in the upper hall of church. The meeting will be accessible by Zoom as well. Topics will include the planned St. Nicholas feast day(Dec. 6) food service and other 2022 and 2023 activities. We invite members and interested parishioners to join these meetings and share their thoughts.

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

*Thanks for your Continuous Support!*

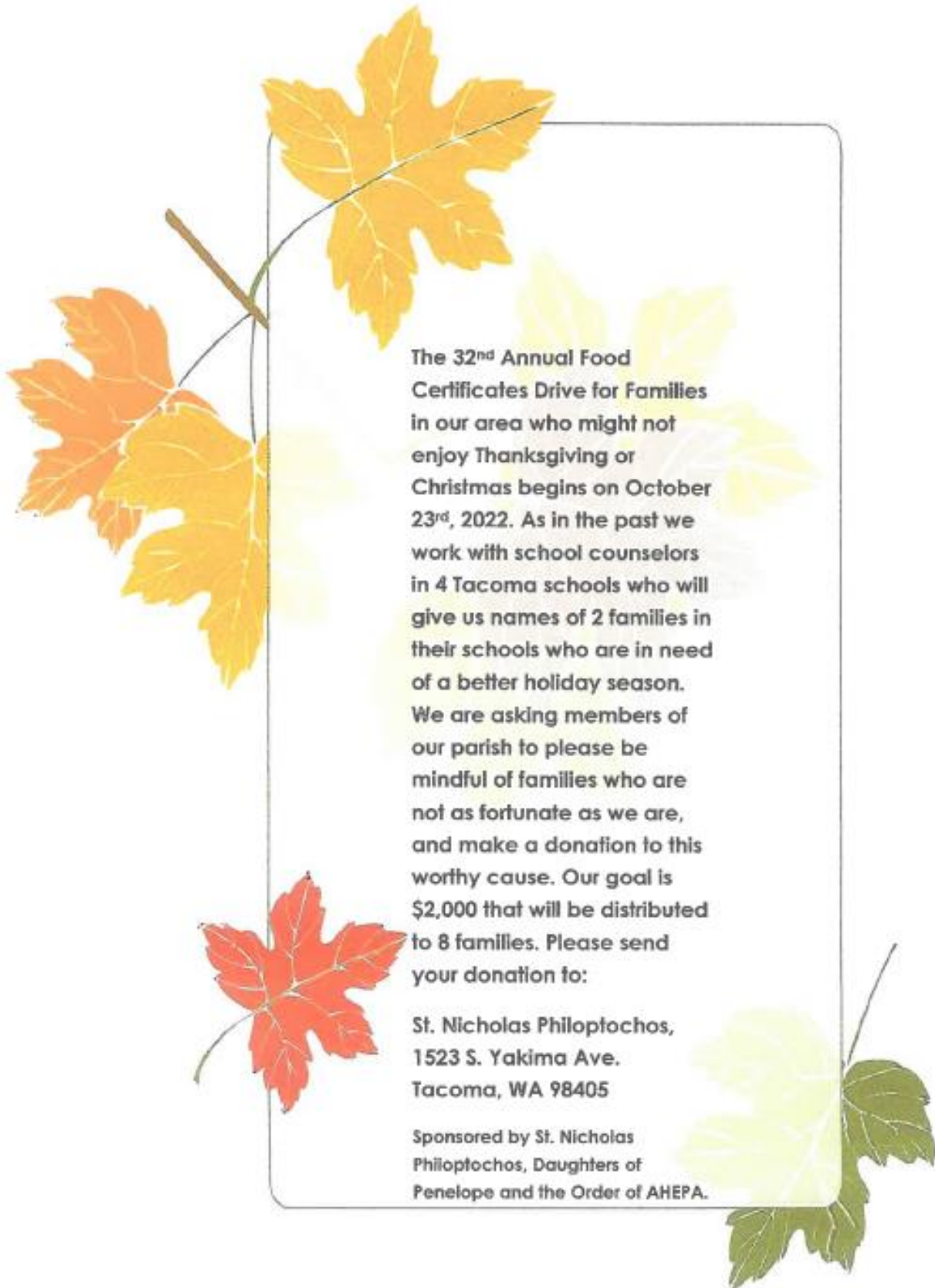
*Jane Evancho*

## Philoptochos News



St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society received the 2022 AGAPE award from the Metropolis for their outreach efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Philoptochos News Food Drive



The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Food Certificates Drive for Families in our area who might not enjoy Thanksgiving or Christmas begins on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. As in the past we work with school counselors in 4 Tacoma schools who will give us names of 2 families in their schools who are in need of a better holiday season. We are asking members of our parish to please be mindful of families who are not as fortunate as we are, and make a donation to this worthy cause. Our goal is \$2,000 that will be distributed to 8 families. Please send your donation to:

St. Nicholas Philoptochos,  
1523 S. Yakima Ave.  
Tacoma, WA 98405

Sponsored by St. Nicholas Philoptochos, Daughters of Penelope and the Order of AHEPA.

## Building Committee



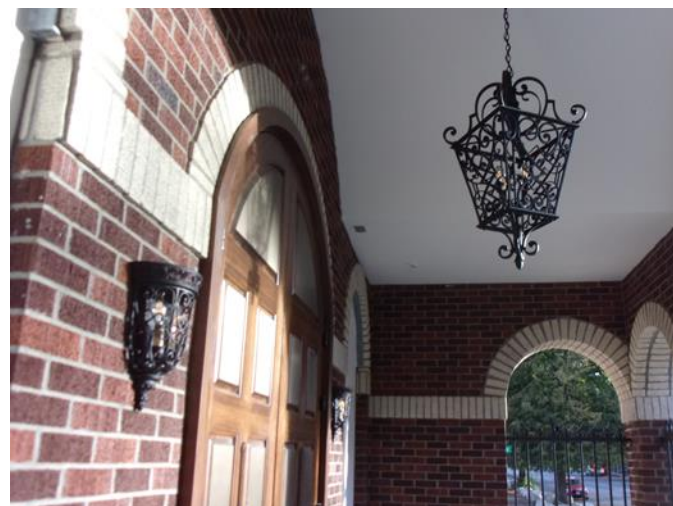
### NOVEMBER BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The last outstanding items of the Narthex Renovation project have been taken care of, namely finally obtaining and installing an additional special order set of weather stripping at the main entry doors, and installing two ornamental exterior wall sconce light fixtures at the main entry. A photo of the main entry doors from the interior side, and wall sconces from the exterior side, along with a main entry pendant light fixture, are shown below.

Short term roofing fixes at the Upper Hall and Dining/Kitchen roofs are still in the works, along with re-inspecting the Sanctuary attic space for possible moisture intrusion, and providing some preventative maintenance measures at existing scuppers above.

With the start of fall weather, it appears the new landscaping plants in the Narthex project truly are drought resistant as they were advertised to be, as to my knowledge no hand watering was done at all this year, and what's been in the ground through the exceptionally dry months of September and August have more than survived.

Lastly, a pleasant surprise occurred when the City of Tacoma ended up installing boulders at street side planter strips within the church neighborhood area to prevent the reemergence of homeless encampments that had been cleared out just before the Greek Festival. Gus Chamales was the spearhead behind making this happen.



# MILITARY MINISTRY NEWS

**November 11. Veterans Day!** St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church will be celebrating Veterans Day on Sunday, November 13th. Immediately following Divine Liturgy there will be a special



“military style” luncheon served by the wonderful women of our St. Nicholas Philoptochos Ministry. On the menu will be of one of the most common meals served in American military dining facilities around the world: meat loaf, mashed potatoes and gravy. As soon as everyone has gone through the “chow line,” we shall have all of the Marines and their family members move to the front of the dining room for the traditional cutting of the Marine

Birthday Cake, followed by the cutting of the Veterans Day Cake, by the family members of one of our distinguished veterans.

Immediately following the cutting of the cakes, pieces of cake will be served to all at their tables. While that is happening a brief remembrance will be rendered to Corporal George Velias, a St. Nicholas parishioner who was killed in combat during the Korean War on November 19, 1951, and to Ms. Helena Shelley who passed away on November 28, 2008. Ms. Shelley was one of St. Nicholas’ most patriotic parishioners.



**Miss Helena Shelley  
A Great American Patriot**



**May her memory be eternal**

Following the toast there will be a presentation on another former St. Nicholas parishioner, John E. Karanzas. While serving in the United States Navy during WWII, John Karanzas earned the distinction of becoming one of our parish’s most highly decorated parishioners. The story of his unit, VB-108 Squadron, made up of PB4Y-1 Liberator bombers, and the exciting accounts of his courageous accomplishments during many combat missions will be shared. The presentation will culminate with a short 5 minute video of what men like John experienced during their combat missions in the Pacific.

Following the presentation will be the singing of the military branch medley. If you are a veteran show your pride by standing when your branch song is sung.



**John E. Karanzas  
United States Navy  
World War II  
Recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross & Air Medal w/3 OLCs for valor in combat as a side gunner on a PB4Y-1 Liberator Bomber.  
Maria Koumantaros’ father**



# ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

## Ministry of Akathist, Prayers for the Departed



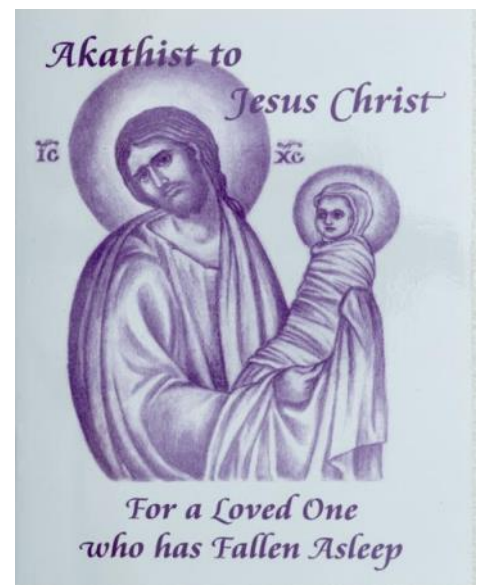
Thank you to all who are involved in this wonderful ministry at Saint Nicholas. In offering the gift of praying the Akathist to Jesus Christ for a Loved One who Has Fallen Asleep, it is a great comfort to family and friends of the departed ones.

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



**COVER STORY CONTINUED**

kephoros. Within two years Saint Anthimos discerned that he was ready for the angelic Schema and tonsured him with the name Nikephoros. The disease progressed and evolved in the absence of suitable drugs, causing many large lesions (a drug was found in 1947).

Father Nikephoros lived with unquestioning, genuine obedience to his Spiritual Father, and with austere fasting, working in the gardens.

Father Nikephoros prayed at night for hours on end making countless metanias, he did not quarrel with anyone, nor injure anyone's heart, and he was the master chanter of the temple. Because of his illness, however, he slowly lost his sight, and so he chanted the apolytikia and the Epistles from memory. However, while he lost his physical sight, he was granted the gift of spiritual sight; he clairvoyantly knew the thoughts of others with all humility and love; he could foretell coming events, and could describe things occurring hundreds or thousands of miles away.



Father Evmenios recalled how, one night, after having readied Father Nikephoros for sleep, he also went to rest in his cell. However, he could not sleep. He had great concern, perhaps because he did not do something well, or perhaps he forgot to close the oven. These and other things passed through his thoughts. He rose up, therefore, and went to the cell of the old Father.

## COVER STORY CONTINUED

To not bother him, lest he was perhaps sleeping, he considered it best not to knock on the door, nor to say “Through the prayers of our Holy Father, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us”, and await for the response within of “Amen”, as is done with monks. Very slowly he opened the door, and what did he see? He saw Father Nikephoros hovering one meter from the ground with his arms raised and praying.

The Chios leprosarium was closed in 1957 and the remaining patients, together with Father Nikephoros, were sent to Saint Barbara’s home for lepers in Athens, in Aigaleo. At that time, Father Nikephoros was about 67 years old. By this time, his members and his eyes were completely altered and distorted by the disease.



*Ὁ πατήρ Νικηφόρος  
σέ νεαρή ἡλικία, στήν Χίο.*

There, Father Eumenios also lived there at the home for lepers. He also suffered from Hansen’s disease, but with the medication he received, he was completely cured. However, he decided to remain in the home for lepers for the rest of his life near his fellow sufferers, caring for them with much love. Thus he submitted to Father Nikephoros, to whom the Lord had given many gifts as a reward for his patience. A crowd of people gathered in the humble cell of the leper Nikephoros, in Saint Barbara in Aigaleo to obtain his prayers. Here are some testimonies of those who met him:

“While he was prostrate with wounds and pains, he did not complain, but he showed great patience.”

“He had the charisma of consoling those who were sad. His eyes were permanently irritated, and he had limited sight. He also had stiffness in his hands and paralysis in his lower limbs. Nonetheless, he endured all of this in the sweetest, meek, smiling, delightful way, and he was also pleasant and lovable.”

“His face, was eaten away by the marks of his illness, but his wounds shone with visible light. It was a joy for those who saw this destitute and seemingly feeble man saying, “May His holy name be glorified.”



**COVER STORY CONTINUED**

Father Nikephoros reposed on January 4, 1964 at the age of 74. After three years, his holy relics were exhumed and found to be fragrant. Father Eumenios and other believers reported many cases where miracles occurred by calling on Saint Nikephoros to intercede with God.

St Nikephoros was particularly close with his spiritual father, Saint Anthimos of Chios (commemorated February 15). The Holy Spirit lit the fire of grace in his soul from the light that illumined the great St Anthimos, just as Elisha received the double portion of grace from the holy Prophet Elijah. St Nikephoros composed a letter in 1961 in which he briefly outlined some of his elder's many miracles, many of which he personally witnessed. We related here just a few:

*I wanted to inform you, Lady Gerontissa, of some miracles of our most-holy Father, as I remember them. Now I will write to you those that I saw with my own eyes.*

*First, the late Justina had fourteen demons, as confessed by the demons she had. Thirteen left, but one demon was bestowed by God for her humility. You may remember how sometimes she would run to the fields and mountains. Especially during the Liturgy the demon would try to drown her or throw her off a Cliff.*

*At the same time Styliani Hatzigeorgiou and her sister Sevasti had demons and he healed them.*

*Also, a young priest from Cyprus came who had the demon of pride and was healed. Indeed, the watch he had in his pocket he left as a souvenir with his name engraved on it, George Aspiotis.*

*Then Mr. Rodokanakis, a senator of Chios, became sick and came near death. His son-in-law was the doctor Mr. Kountouras. He along with other doctors of the area were unable to find the source of his sickness. His daughter however, that is the wife of Mr. Kountouras, had great faith and reverence towards our holy Elder and she persuaded her husband Mr. Kountouras for our holy Elder to be sent for to go to the house, and he went. Once he arrived there was heard weeping and crying from the family, as well as many others. As he arrived he told them: "Stop, do not weep, Mr. Rodokanakis will become well and tomorrow will go to his office." Some of them laughed at him. He approached and crossed him, he blew on his face and - O the wonder! - at that moment he arose and came to his initial health. Since then Mr. Kountouras marveled at him and had great reverence for him.*

*Up until here I have informed you of those things I know and have seen with my own eyes. Again, if I remember other things, I will write you. Know however, Lady Eldress, that he had the gift of foresight and the gift of prophecy and he knew the future, much of which he revealed to me. He did not want his gift to be revealed, to bring glory from people. With spiritual love, the worthless Monk Nikephoros Tzanakakis.*

# COVER STORY CONTINUED



*Contributed by Father Seraphim*

## HANDS OF LOVE MINISTRY



This year at our Greek Festival, Hands of Love raffled off this “Greek Flag” blanket. Congratulations to our “Grand Prize” winner, Dr. Ingrid Chamales!! She is pictured here with the life-size photo cut-out of Father Seraphim, which turned out to be quite a draw for Festival visitors and (St. Nicholas parishioners as well), made most people who passed our booth look twice!

# HANDS OF LOVE MINISTRY



Kathy Rowley making a fashion statement and showing me how you can turn a baby afghan into a stylish shawl!



My little sister, Rovin Derby, donated 27 baby afghans to our Festival, which netted over \$500.00

Ευχαριστώ Αγαπητέ

I want to thank Ronnie-Sue and Joseph Johnson and their delightful granddaughter Lily for devoting so much of their time to help at our booth so I could dance, eat and take a breath. And I can't forget Gabriel Majmudar, who made sure that everyone who passed our booth knew we were raffling off the "Greek Flag" blanket. Because of Gabe's salesmanship, we made a little over \$200.00 on the raffle. I also want to thank Claire and Josiah Gorham for helping with the Hands of Love booth so I could grab a bite to eat.

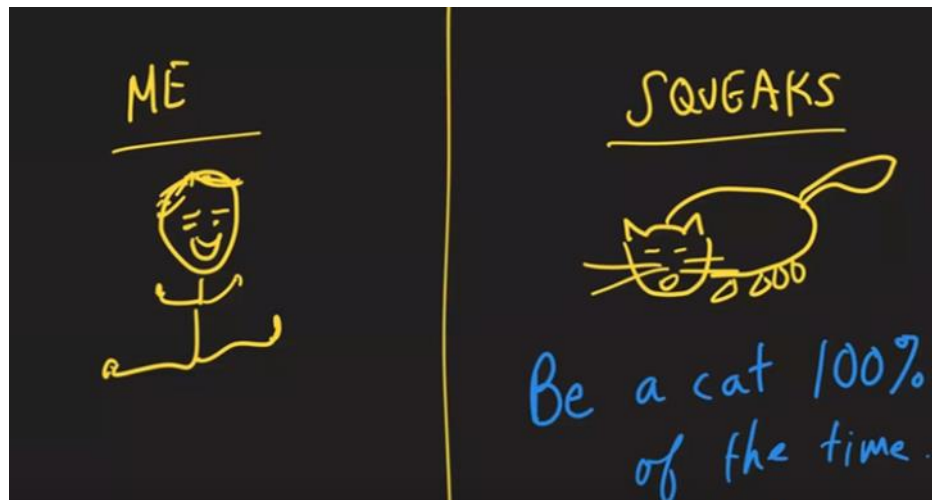
Submitted by: Genevieve

# St. Nicholas Bible Study

## The Book of Acts

**Fran H:** Does human nature become trans-substantial like the Eucharist?

**Father Seraphim:** Christ's human nature is glorified human nature.



My cat Squeaky can never exceed what he is - a cat. A human being, by contrast, can exceed our nature. A great example is St. Peter walking on water. How can he do this? It is not in human nature to walk on water. But, through the power of Christ he can exceed his own nature. Some people who are not “in Christ” can possess these abilities through demonic powers. Human beings have, built-in by the power of God, the ability to exceed the limitations of our own nature. Another word for that is “love”. Love is the capacity of human beings to exceed the inherent selfishness of self-preservation, for example, laying down our life for our brother as the Lord defines love. God gives some animals the capacity to manifest this to a certain extent, primarily in mothers. God is showing that nature points to love as the grounding principle of all creation. But only humans can exceed their own nature. That’s the best way to start with the issue of the Ascension. We cannot achieve the overcoming of our limitations of our human nature unless we have something that is beyond it to help us and that would be Christ’s Incarnation and His divine power at work in us, like St. Peter walking on water in the Sea of Galilee, or the five loaves of bread turning into enough food to feed the 5,000 men (plus women & children). If you read the Holy Fathers explanation, the Lord was trying to get the Apostles to work the miracle. Christ working the miracle was in reaction to their failure to accept what was possible for them, by His providence. He commanded them, *“But Jesus said to them, ‘They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat’ ”*. **Matthew 14:16** That was their opportunity, if they were truly free in Christ and trusted Him enough, to feed the 5,000.

This is the teaching of St. Gregory Palamas (and other Church fathers): he says explicitly that every human being who has ever lived (good, bad, somewhere in between, those who died in the womb – even those who were aborted) will partake of the Resurrection of Christ and be reunited with their bodies, when He comes again.

Isaac Newton’s students (at Oxford) were walking by a cemetery and asked Professor Newton: How is it that God, when He comes again, can raise the dead when their bones have become dust? He didn’t say anything during their walk past the cemetery, but after their return to the school, he asked one of the students to mix two substances, sand and iron filings, in a beaker. He asked the students to mix them thoroughly and then he took out a magnet and put it into the beaker and when he pulled it out the filings clung to the magnet while the sand fell away. He said, even as here with the sand and iron mixed togeth-

# St. Nicholas Bible Study

er it was simple to separate the two substances with the right tool; so too, by the power of the Holy Spirit, can God take the bodies of men and rejoin them with their souls, according to His will.

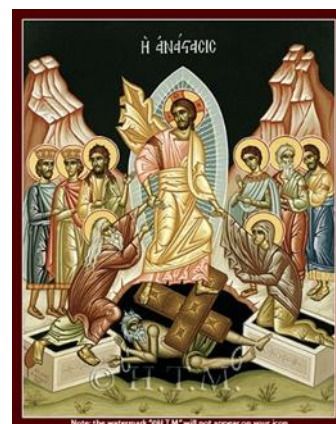
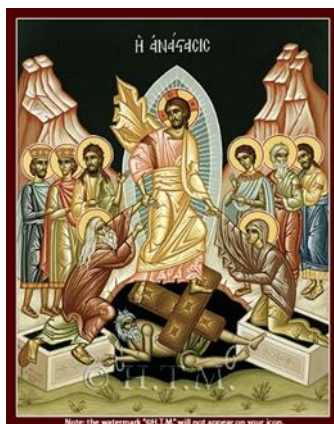


Ibid 283

## ST. GREGORY PALAMAS (15<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY) Difference between Ascension & Resurrection

RESURRECTION

ASCENSION



ALL will partake of the Resurrection. (All will be Raised with their bodies)

Only the DEIFIED in Christ will sit enthroned with him.

The point is, everyone rises from the dead and is reunited with their bodies regardless of their worthiness of the Kingdom. By contrast, as St. Gregory explains, only those who are deified (in union) in Christ will experience His Ascension. In Greek that is called theosis (θέωσις) - deification. What we are striving to do in this life is to be numbered among those who are deified in Christ.



SIGNIFICANCE OF 12  
???

## St. Nicholas Bible Study

Here is just a sampling (there are about 187 references in total) of the number 12 throughout the Bible:

- Jesus chose 12 disciples who later became the 12 Apostles which seem to fit the context of the number 12 used elsewhere in the Bible as this number also signified governmental rule or authority. The betrayer, Judas, was replaced by Matthias (**Acts 1:23-26**).
  - The New Jerusalem which descends out of Heaven has 12 gates made of pearl which are manned by 12 angels. Each of the gates has been named after one of the 12 Tribes of Israel.
  - In **Revelation 7**, twelve thousand from each of the 12 Tribes of Israel will be saved near the end of the present world system.
  - The walls of the New Jerusalem are measured at 144 cubits high which is 12 multiplied (**Revelation 21:16**).
  - The New City is also 12,000 furlongs squared (**Revelation 21:16**).
  - There are 12 precious stones that will be used as the foundation of the New Jerusalem (**Revelation 21:19-20**).
  - The wall of the city had 12 foundations with the 12 names of the Apostles on each one (**Revelation 21:14**).
  - Twelve thousand will be taken from the earth so that they may serve the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ (**Revelation 14:1-5**).
  - The high priest's breastplate had 12 precious stones embedded within them.
  - Jesus' very first words were spoken at the age of 12 (**Luke 2:42**).
  - There was even a woman who had suffered from a blood hemorrhage for 12 years (**Luke 8:40**).
  - There are 12 Minor Prophets in the Old Testament. They are called minor, not because they are less important than the Major Prophets, but due to their size being considerably smaller.
  - There are 12 historical books in the Bible: **Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther**.
  - There were 12 loaves of permanent offerings on the golden table (**Leviticus 24:5**).
  - There were 12 explorers or spies sent into the land of Canaan (**Deuteronomy 1:23**).
  - Solomon had 12 administrators in his kingdom (**1 Kings 4:7**).
  - There were 12 men who laid 12 stones in building a monument to the Lord (**Joshua 4:3**).
  - The **Book of Chronicles** contained 12 great priests.
  - Twelve curses were indicated for disobedience to Israel (**Deuteronomy 27**).
  - A young Israelite male took 12 years before he could be admitted as a "son of the law".
- There were the 12 sacrifices of animals that were to be given (**Numbers 7, 29**).

Why did the number of Apostles have to be twelve? Why couldn't they leave it at 11 after Judas hanged himself? For those who participated in our study of the **Book of Revelation**, there is all this imagery of twelve for one, and furthermore, there has to be twelve because it is the completion of something.

# St. Nicholas Bible Study

## Even in business: The Perfect Number is “12”



ABOUT US - SERVICES - PRODUCTS - EVENTS

What is the perfect size group?

Last week I facilitated Next Turn’s DISC certification program sponsored by the Northern California Human Resource Association. DISC is a behavior style assessment tool that can heighten self-awareness and offer strategies to improve work relationships. The train-the-trainer program shows participants how to use the DISC tool in their own organizations.

The members were talented Human Resource professionals and savvy consultants from a variety of private and public organizations. In one lively discussion, someone asked, “Jill, what is the perfect size for a training program?” It was a provocative question.

In preparing for this particular program, I had noticed that every activity was easy to plan because 12 people were attending. Thus the number 12 was foremost in my mind. So I responded, “A range of 12-16” and upon further thought settled on the specific number 12.

As I plan a training program, I often plan interactive activities with small groups such as:

- Breakout group (ideal 4-5).
- Triad discussion (ideal 3).
- Partnering exercises (ideal 2).

The number 12 lends itself readily to each breakdown. No other number under 20 does so. Groups under 12 may lack energy. Groups over 20 become unwieldy and may require more than one facilitator. An odd number of people makes pairing exercises awkward. Even numbers, except for 12, don’t always work for triads or balanced breakout groups. Twelve is just right for positive interactivity and meaningful discussions.

This is just a random business that was selected to show the importance of the number 12 in the secular world. Note what they say in the last paragraph: “Groups under 12 may lack energy. Groups over 12 become unwieldy...” and “Even numbers, except for 12, don’t always work for triads or balanced breakout groups. Twelve is just right for positive interactivity and meaningful discussions.” Even the business world recognizes the value of twelve. They also talk about “breakout groups” assuming that a group will breakdown into smaller groups to accomplish certain targeted tasks in a business setting and that’s what you see in the Gospels. Transfiguration: Peter, James and John went up Mt. Tabor with Christ and He was transfigured before them. He also sends them out two by two, three by three, etc. The point is that this is a “τύπος” (teepos) – a core principle of the way God structured the cosmos. We’re understanding the calling of Matthias at the end of this chapter as not just some sort of formalism.

Submitted by: Genevieve Eagle



# Flower Ministry

## PANAGIA OF HAWAII ICON visits Tacoma



## Pro-Life Ministry



A dear friend was given the following testimonial from a fellow classmate at her high school reunion:

I would like to share with you how the LORD Jesus helped me when I was in trouble. Here is what happened...

I was 24 years old, a first-grade teacher and not trusting God anymore. My problem: I was pregnant and not married. At the end of the school year, I went home to my parents' home and had to tell them my plight. When I revealed to them that I was going to have a baby, my mom said, "We love you!" My dad had a different reaction. He said, "I knew you would do something stupid like this, the way you were living!"

After my daughter was born, I had to leave her in the hospital because she was only 4 lbs. 6 oz. I was being counseled by an adoption agency who came to the hospital to have me sign the first papers to give her up. My parents wanted me to keep her, but I didn't know what to do.

While my baby was in the hospital, I was at home alone and contemplating what to do. I remembered how many years ago, the LORD answered a problem I had during college. I wondered if He still could help me now. I got out my dusty Bible and asked Him, "What should I do with my baby?" I just opened and read the first verse I saw. It said, "I would rather have you draw close to Me." Jesus was talking. Well, I had gone so far away, that I didn't know if He truly existed. Anyway, I tried to get close to Him again by asking Him back into my life and forgiving me for the way I had been living. Then I asked again what I should do. I opened and read, "Conscience, use your own conscience." I asked another question, why He had to have a heaven and a hell. I opened and read the first verse I saw, "It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 13 is filled with parables about Heaven. Well, at this point I thought that maybe I was talking to God, so I decided to use my own conscience and keep my baby.

The next day was a different story. I woke up in a panic, thinking I had made the wrong decision about keeping my baby. I went back to my Bible and asked God what He thought I should do. I opened and read the first verse I saw, and it said, "Take nothing." I thought God was telling me not to take my own

## Pro-Life Ministry

child. I then got very sad and started crying. As I was crying, my eyes fell on another verse which said, "If you receive this child in My Name, you receive Me." Well, that's all I needed to see...His approval. I did receive my baby girl and came back to trusting Jesus as my Savior and LORD of my life.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Jesus says in Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him." He wants to have fellowship with you and me. I pray that you will trust Him as your Savior. Just call out to Him, even if at first you don't believe. That's what I did, then He revealed through Scripture that He was real. Here's a Psalm from the Bible, chapter 66, verses 16-20 that has meant a lot to me:

*"Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will declare what He has done for my soul. I cried to Him with my mouth, and He was exalted with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear, but certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy from me!"*

Thank you for listening! God bless you!

Submitted by: Genevieve



# PROSPHORA

## PROVIDING PROSFORO

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

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

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

We could use two more regular bakers for Sunday Prospora. Anyone interested in providing Prospora or Artoklasia should contact Father Seraphim or Deborah Talbot

Michael and Susanna Hawk, and their children Anna, Basil, and Seraphim are leaving us in October. Michael is exiting the Air Force and they are going home to farm llamas. Godspeed - may your family prosper. The blessing of the artoklasia from the GOARCH website:



A basket of Prospora and 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

# PROSPHORA

## LEHEM-ARTOS-BREAD

### Following the Word Through Scripture

We are in 1 Kingdoms, otherwise known as 1 Samuel, following the stories of King Saul and King David. When the people wanted a king, the first man the Lord anointed for that job was Saul, a man of exceptional appearance. When Saul's character proved to be less exceptional than his appearance, the Lord then anointed David to be king. David's appearance was not exceptional, but his character is. Even though David has been anointed, he recognizes that Saul is still in the position of king by the hand of the Lord. Many people in Israel are unhappy with Saul's kingship. Many people recognize David's superior character, and Saul is unhappy about that. True to his own character, Saul is trying to kill David.

To escape death at the hands of Saul, David and his men are wandering in the wilderness of Israel, sometimes coming to the rescue of cities being attacked by enemies, sometimes just protecting the people who live and work in the wilderness. Once when David and his men were sitting in the back of a cave in En Gedi, Saul himself entered the cave "to make preparations." Coming into the dark from the bright light, I am guessing Saul could not see. But David and his men could see. David went up to Saul and cut off a corner of his robe. He took it back to his men, telling them Saul is the anointed of the Lord, and prevented them from killing Saul themselves. After Saul had departed from the cave and gone some way, David went out after him and called to him in front of all the men, Saul's men and David's men. David held up the corner of Saul's robe and said "*See and know today there is no evil of impiety or breach of faith in my hand. I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it. Let the Lord pass judgment between you and me...*" I am sure this incident was widely reported to the people round about Israel.

Sometime later David and his men were in the Desert of Maon. There was a very rich man there who had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. This man's name was Nabal (fool), and his wife was Abigail.



**ABIGAIL MEETS DAVID TO PREVENT THE SLAUGHTER OF NABAL'S HOUSE.**

## PROSPHORA

At shearing time, David sent a few men to Nabal with a message of peace, a reminder that his men did not interfere with Nabal's shepherds but actually protected them, and a request for supplies. I am sure everyone, including Nabal, knew who David and his men were. But Nabal chose to withhold hospitality. Nabal said:

*1 Kingdoms 25:11: Shall I then take my bread/lehem/artos and my wine and my meat that I killed for my shearers of sheep, and give it to men when I do not know where they are from?*

When David received this reply he readied his men to go and destroy all of Nabal's house. However, one of Nabal's men went to Abigail, Nabal's wife, who immediately took a lot of food that had been prepared for the shearers and went out to meet David and make peace with him. She then returned to Nabal, who was very drunk and holding the feast of a king in his house. She waited until the morning, until after Nabal had slept off the wine, to tell him what had transpired. Upon hearing her words, he became like a stone, the scriptures record, and ten days later he died. When David heard Nabal had died, he sent a message to Abigail to take her as his own wife. Abigail went out to David and became his wife.

After this there was another time when Saul came out with three thousand chosen men to hunt David. Learning of this, David and one of his men secretly entered Saul's camp at night and went right up to where Saul was sleeping in a covered chariot. Sleeping next to the chariot was Abner, the commander of Saul's army. David's man wanted to kill Saul, but David said, "*The Lord forbid me that I should bring my own hand against the anointed of the Lord...*" They did, however, take Saul's spear which was stuck into the ground right next to his head, and they took the water jug that was there. They went some way away from Saul's camp, and again David called out to them, saying, "*...look and tell me, where is the king's spear that was by his head, and the jug of water?*" David had words to say about the sons of men who were inciting King Saul against him. Again Saul was repentant and asked David to return to him, promising he would harm him no more. But David said, no, send someone over to retrieve your spear and "*may the Lord repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, as the Lord delivered you into my hands today, though I did not lift up my hand against the Lord's anointed...*"

Then David decided he would be safer in the land of the Philistines. His four hundred men and their families went with him and lived under the protection of Achish, king of Gath. David was given his own city to dwell in, the city of Ziklag, where they lived by their wits. They went out on raids against the enemies of Israel, killing all the people so that no one could tell Achish what was going on. They kept all the cattle and clothing and told Achish they had raided their own countrymen, the Isrealites. In this way, Achish thought that David would be abhorred by his own people and would have to be the servant of Achish forever. This went on for four months, and then the Philistines gathered their armies together to go and battle Israel.

To be continued...

*Deborah Talbot-*

## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

### THE GREAT BOULDER PROJECT

In a time of urgent need several parishioners offered their time, talent and treasure to accomplish the boulder project along Yakima Avenue after the festival. Thanks to the intercession of our patron saint, St. Nicholas, and St. Xenia, the city received our comments on the Tacoma First 311 platform and took corrective action. They employed Axum Construction, Inc. to place heavy 3 and 4 man lift rocks on the planter strip along Yakima Avenue directly across the street from our church, and one block to the south where our vacant lot is located. This measure alone does not solve the homeless problem, but it certainly goes a long way to lessen the problems we have experienced over the last several years.

Doing the work for Axum Construction were three men, the owner Eric Sanders, his son-in-law Ryan McMackin, and Johnny Liu. It is worth noting at this point that Eric and his wife Darcee named their company after the Ethiopian Cross, and that cross is emboidered on their uni-

forms. Eric and Darcee travelled to Ethiopia to adopt two young girls, and while there they attended Orthodox services. They named their company Axum in honor of their young daughters.

Eric and his crew loaded tons of rock, hauled it to our neighborhood and started placing the rock according to the city's plan. Like many plans this one looked good on paper, but the Axum crew and city inspectors determined that it just was not sufficient to meet the intended purpose. They adjusted the plan on day 1 when they were working across the street on its narrow 6 ft wide planter strip by placing the rocks 6 feet on center, instead of the 10 feet that was originally planned. On day two when they moved to our block where our lot is located, they quickly determined that one row of 6 feet on center rocks was not sufficient for our 11'-14' wide planter strip. Once again, working together with the city inspector they were able to gain authorization to modify the plan and put down two rows of rocks instead of one. When they arrived on day three they redesigned the two row barrier pattern. They had concluded that the two rows just did not look right and the appearance would have reflected negatively on their company and the city. They redid our planter strip with a design that was more aesthetically pleasing and more natural in appearance. Working in consultation with city inspectors Jerimiah Kotulan, and Sean Antonson, the team recommended a modification to the scope of the project, and gained the approval of city leaders. Thanks to their sincere desire to do the job professionally, the end result met and exceeded the expectations of all the affected property owners.

Some people say that bureaucracy can sometimes be the enemy of common sense but that certainly was not the case here. The city council, the city manager, and Axum Contracting, Inc expedited the call to duty to get it right for our neighborhood. When you have a spare moment I would ask that you take some time and join our Parish Council in sending a note of thanks to the city council, the city manager, and to



#### The Team That Made It Happen!

Left to Right:

City Inspector: Jerimiah Kotulan

Axum Member: Jonathan Liu

Axum Owner: Eric Sanders

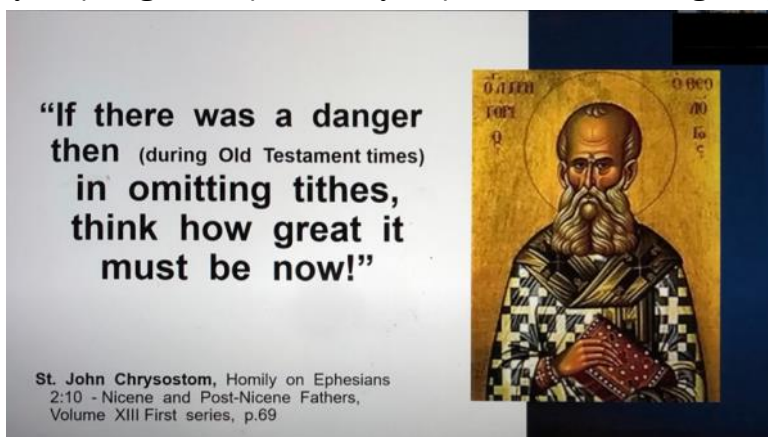
Axum Member: Ryan McMackin (Eric's son-in-law)

# STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

## And now, a few comments about stewardship.

**First** of all, the parish council may be looking for a new Stewardship Ministry leader for the upcoming year. If you would be interested in serving our church as a part of the Stewardship Ministry, please contact any member of the parish council. This to is a ministry that greatly influences the future of our church and the more people that are willing to assist the parish council at encouraging and publicizing stewardship, the more our stewardship will thrive.

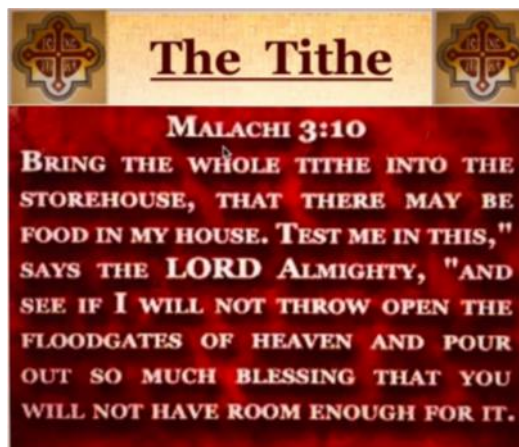
**Second**, we are rapidly approaching the end of the year. We hope you are able to complete your stewardship pledge of time, talent and treasure for 2022, and ask that you strive to do so as soon as possible. Our parish council and treasurers need to close out their books for the year so completing your pledge as expeditiously as possible would be greatly appreciated.



**Third**, As we have discussed many times in the past, COVID has shown that we need to change the culture of stewardship. Our goal should be to wean ourselves from reliance on festivals and bake sales in order to subsidize our parish operating expenses and bank money for necessary high dollar repairs and future building expenses. The only way to do that is to develop a culture of tithing which we all know is based on our religious teachings. Giving 10% of our income to our

church is a goal to which we should all subscribe but we all know that sometimes that is easier said than done. That is why for the last couple of years we have been encouraging everyone to consider what they were able to contribute this year, and round that amount up to the next whole number. If everyone would do this in a few short years we would easily wean ourselves from the “need” to hold a festival, and instead hold a festival in order to share our culture, food and dancing with the community. Can you imagine an annual general assembly where we could say that our operating expenses are easily met, and discuss what our next construction project should be? That is only likely if all of our members/families would start working toward the round up method in the pursuit of tithing.

If you doubt me on this simply do the math. We have approximately 100 parishioners/families. If the average income of those 100 family units was \$50,000, tithing 10% would equal \$500,000. That is approximately the amount that we currently raise in stewardship and festival income combined! Some people are less fortunate than others and their income may not make a \$5000.00 stewardship contribution possible. But there are others who are more fortunate and a \$5000.00 stewardship contribution is an easily achievable tithing goal. To those who much is given, much is expected!



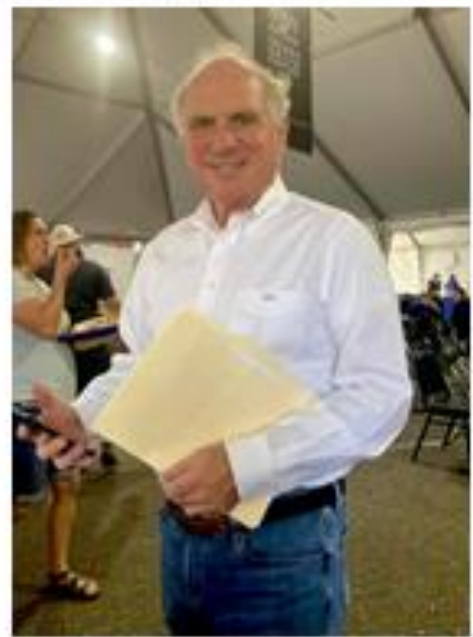


# STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

And finally, THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL WHO WORKED TOWARD TITHING THEIR TIME AND TALENT BY HELPING WITH OUR 2022 ST. NICHOLAS FESTIVAL! As the saying goes, all gave some, but some gave all, and for that we as a parish should be extremely grateful. There is another old saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words!" We shall close this article with pictures from the festival and as always, a word of thanks to all who have completed and submitted stewardship cards, or contributed financially to our church. Doxa To Theo!



# STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS



# STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS



# STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS



# STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS



## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

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

We cannot thank you enough!

### Donations and or Stewardship Commitments as of October 27, 2022

William and Mary Acker •	Nicholas Afeiche
Maria and Kosta Aggelidakis •	Leonidas and Despina Alatsis•
Patra Alatsis •	Sonny and Irene Angelos •
Richard and Marlene Angelus•	Paul and Dolores Apostle •
Tony and Lori Apostle •	Andrew and Sheila Auter •
Tina Ayers ▪	Ourania Ayume•
Kuljit Bains	George Ballasiotes •
Tyler and Lexi Balsers•	E. Anthe Barbas
Chrysanthe and SFC(R) Wiley Barnes •	Harry and Sheri Basil •
Azile Bennett	T. L. Berg ▪
Theodora Bessinas•	Greg Bettencourt
Dean and Anna Bolaris ▪	Ricardo Aaron Bottino •
Yvonne Brandvold •	Dora Brown ▪
Gloria and Peter Brown •	Monica Bultz
Penelope Burke ▪	Anne and Don Calcote
William and Bonnie Caress•	Barry and Debora Middleton Cassidy •
Klaudia Cedeno •	C.G. and Ingrid Chamales •
Steven Chamales ▪	Yianni and Sophie Charitou •
Reagan and Reanne Charuhas •	Chris Cherbas •
Anthony and Sandra Ciarochi•	John and Maria Cook •
Nick and Cheryl Cosmakos•	Irina Crouse
Belinda and Chris Cummins •	Daughters of Penelope
Dina Deliyianides •	John Diaconou
Voula Dodd	John and Melinda Dionas
Genevieve Eagle •	Timothy and Sunny Edgren •
Frederick Ehret and Anastasia Fyntrilakis•	Callie Elliott
Daniel & Valerica Ene-Stroescu	Mary Erickson ▪
Andrew and Jane Evancho •	Krisann and Peter Firth•
Radu Florea and Ramona Ionita ▪	James and Konstantoula Fotinopoulos •
David and Savina Frisk ▪	Dayle Sokratis Frisk ▪
Gregory Joseph Garcia•	John and Judy Godulas•
Stephania and Jason Greenwood▪	Christina Gretty •
Sally Hallis •	Dean and Carol Hamos •
Michael and Kristine Hanberg •	Daniel and Ekaterini Hanson•
Natalya Harpe •	Timothy and Kathleen Harvey •
Bret and Evangelia Hassel •	Magdaline Hatzikazakis & Reginald Williams•
Vance and Suzanne Hawk •	Richard and Kathleen Heidal •
Meslissa Holden •	William Frederick Lincoln Horton •
Laurie Hulter	Melissa and Miguel Hungria ▪
Lisa Ishchenko	Thomas and Helga Jackson•
Danni and Brian Johnson	Joseph and Ronnie-Sue Johnson •
Kathy Johnson •	Joyce and Robin Kalivas Griffin •
Hariklia (Rikki) Kapes •	Anna Karanasos •

# STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

Paula Karanasos •  
 Sharon Kennedy •  
 Claudia Kieszling ▪  
 Ann Kiraki and Jessee Macharia •  
 Ann Ruth Koopman •  
 Andrew and Melinda Kouklis •  
 Mary Kouklis •  
 Peter and Margaret Laketa ▪  
 Robert and Anne Latz •  
 Mary Leonard •  
 Joshua and Jill Livingston  
 Jennifer Luna and Daniel Gonzales ▪  
 George and Bess Lurker •  
 Olga Manos •  
 Mathew John Manthou •  
 Carol MartinOki  
 Katherine and Gregory Mason •  
 Iphigenia Mavromichali •  
 George McClure ▪  
 Virginia McClure •  
 Gail Mentis  
 Paul and Cassie Moeller •  
 Angela Montoya •  
 Dick and Hariklia (Hoddi) Motz •  
 Derek Olsen ▪  
 David and Katrina Orriss •  
 Niko and Sonia Pamboukas •  
 George Panagiotu ▪  
 Alex Pangis •  
 Scott and Rachael Parnell •  
 John Payne •  
 George and Diane Pirotis •  
 Josquin Poirot  
 Andrew and Rebecca Primis •  
 Martin J. and Lorissa C. Reiter III •  
 Katherine and Mike Rowley •  
 Bill and Karen Samaras •  
 Neal (Barnabas) Schaefer ▪  
 Todd and Teresa Silver  
 Olympia and John Stafford •  
 Andy and JoAnn Stergachis •  
 Jacob Swain •  
 Deborah Talbot •  
 Charles Tomaras ▪  
 Edward Tuohy  
 John and Angela Vlahas  
 Morgan Waterman •  
 Jeffrey and Janice Williams  
 Ed Winskill •  
 Kalitsa Xitco •  
 Matthew and Leigh Ann Zehnder •  
 • Steward      ▪ Active Contributor

Zachary and Daphne Karanasos •  
 Naser and Catalina Khalaj •  
 Evan and Despina Kipelidis •  
 Evy Kontos and Mark Matteson •  
 Steve Koukles ▪  
 John C. Kouklis •  
 Maria Koumantaros •  
 Elia and Micheline Lakkis •  
 Christina Leinneuber •  
 Hugh and Mariella Lewis ▪  
 Jaclyn Lukehart  
 Bonnie Luntzel and Douglas Fairbanks  
 Fr. Seraphim and Sophie Majmudar •  
 Chris and Susan Manthou •  
 Natalia Marberg  
 Dean and Julie Mastras •  
 Evangelia Mavrogiorgos  
 Vasiliki (Nickolas) McCarty  
 Helen McClure •  
 Alan and Sheilagh Means •  
 Tatyana Mikeladze ▪  
 Tom Mollas ▪  
 Nina and John Morrison •  
 Michael and Rodica Murphy •  
 Order of AHEPA, Olympia Chapter  
 Marian Palas •  
 Evangelos and Anastasia Pampoukas ▪  
 Tony and Debbie Panagiotu •  
 John and Merrilee Pangis •  
 Kesha Patel ▪  
 Andrew Phillips  
 Charles and Lena Plunkett •  
 Steve and Kathleen Politakis •  
 Sammy Ramzi  
 Mark and Dana Robinson •  
 Katherine Salatas ▪  
 Peter Sandas Jr.  
 Richard and Alexandra Schutt •  
 St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society  
 Richard and Denice Stahl •  
 Rob and Lea Sullivan •  
 James & Jenise Sweeney ▪  
 Nick and Becky Themelis •  
 Samuel Torvend  
 Roxanne Vallantine •  
 John Voklert ▪  
 Michael Jane White •  
 Anna and Raymond Wilson •  
 Hugh Winskill •  
 Tasso and Sarah Zambaras •  
 Luai Zureikat

# Donations and Pledges

## On line Donations now possible

### ON-LINE DONATIONS

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



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

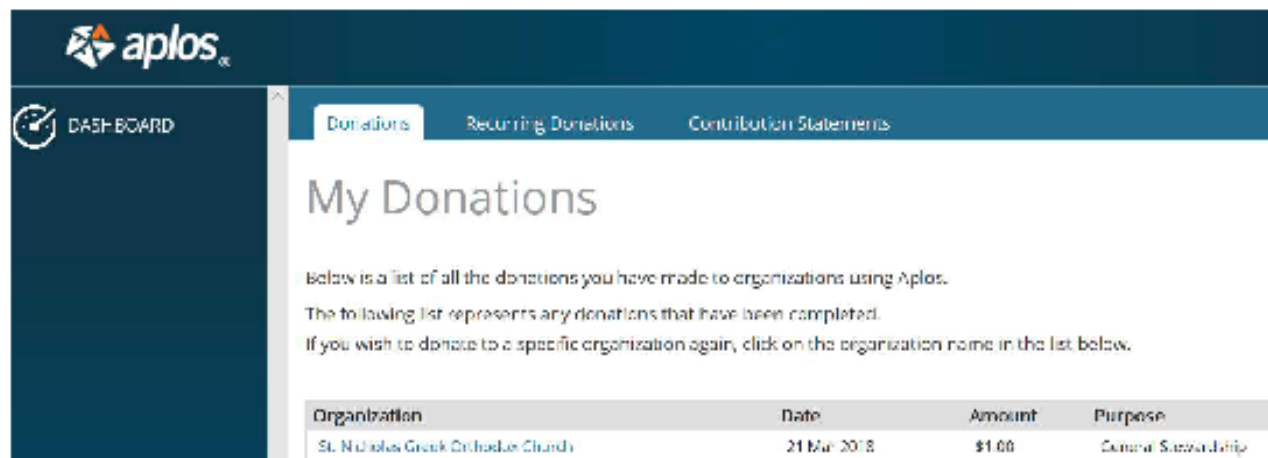
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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

In Christ,

Mark Robinson

### On-Line Contribution Instructions:

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





**OUR MISSION**

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

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

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

**HOW TO RETURN THIS CARD**

**BY MAIL:**

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

**AT CHURCH:**

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

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

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
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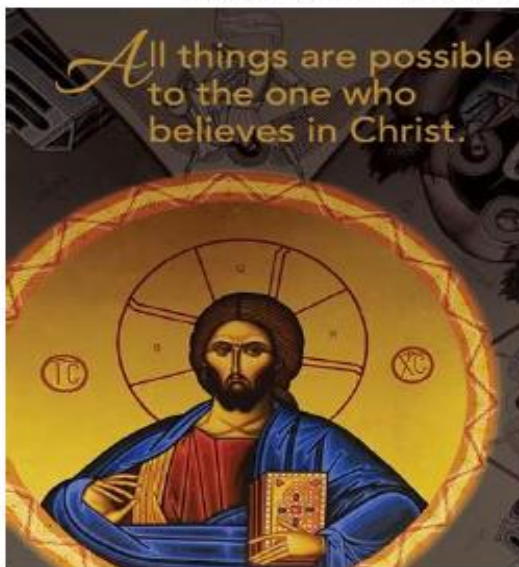
.....(Y/N)

.....(Y/N)

.....(Y/N)

.....(Y/N)

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



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

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

**OUR DONATIONS ARE IN THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR HIS CONTINUED BLESSINGS GIVEN TO US. OUR DONATION 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.**

**2022 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT**

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

I/We offer a minimum stewardship pledge of \$...../year or \$...../month in 2022 to support God's work.

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

**SIGNATURE**.....

Saint Nicholas Messenger

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

1523 S Yakima Ave

Tacoma, WA 98405

*Address Service Requested*

