



*“Whoever wants to come after me, let him deny himself,
Take up his cross, and follow me.”*



My beloved Saint Nicholas family; blessed New Ecclesiastical Year!

I would like for us to begin our New Church Year by asking ourselves the following question: *What is my cross?*

Now of course, as Orthodox Christians, we all receive the great blessing of a baptismal cross, which we wear, Lord willing, on a daily basis. And we also know from a very young age (maybe from our Yiayia, or nouno, or nouna) how to make our cross, the sign of the cross: which we might do when we pass by the church, when we offer a prayer before a meal, or light a candle, and so on. But these forms of the cross are only meant to be reminders of the cross which Christ speaks about to us in today’s Gospel reading. In this month’s celebration of the Precious and Glorious Cross, our Lord asks each and every one of us to deny ourselves, to take up *our cross*, and to follow Him.

But what is our cross?

Long ago in the middle of the 4th Century, when Saint Helen found the True Cross of our Lord, it came at a time in the Roman Empire when the Christians no longer had to hide in the underground catacombs, on their own stay-at-home orders—which they had been doing for centuries, struggling daily to keep their faith while facing death. Rather, the finding of the True Cross by Saint Helen came at a time when our beloved fellow Christians were beginning to lose track of their own cross.

Persecution, prison, and punishment were now being replaced with protection and comfort. “Glory to God!” you might think. And such a reprieve is certainly all good and true. After all, the protection of Christians allowed for the building of hundreds of Orthodox Churches, many from the command of Saint Helen herself, and some of which stand to this day. Perhaps you have visited some of them in your own pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

But while many Christians arose from the slumber of the catacombs to worship our Lord, many also fell into the slumber of forgetfulness in heeding the Lord’s command to take up his own cross. It was becoming too easy for them to be distracted by the new life of a free existence in the world. This great blessing came at a great cost.

Continued page 13

Inside Messenger

Calendar	Page 4-8
Festival	Page 9-10
Coffee Hour	Page 11
Council Corner	Page 12
Cover Story Continued	Page 13
St. Nicholas Vigil for Holy Cross	Page 14
Modern Greek Language School	Page 15
Daughters of Penelope	Page 16
Philoptochos	Page 17-18
Building Committee	Page 19-20
Akathist	Page 21
Catechumens	Page 22
Bible Study	Page 23-27
Flower	Page 28-29
Prospora	Page 30
Pro-Life	Page 31
News and Announcements	Page 32
Donations and Pledges	Page 33-34
Online Services	Page 35

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

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

Editors: Carol MartinOki/Bill Samaras

Media team: Paula Karanasos, Fr. Anthony

Saint Nicholas Messenger is published monthly on the last Sunday of the month. Contributors are encouraged to submit content by the 15th of each month to allow for timely compilation. *Saint Nicholas Messenger* is published in electronic format to the St. Nicholas web page www.stnicholastacoma.org, and in print for pickup at the parish on Sundays on or after the last Sunday of the month. Physical mailings are limited to shut-ins and special needs parishioners.

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

All contents copyright ©2023 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church –Tacoma, Washington

St. Nicholas Ministries

AHEPA

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

Akathist Group Prayer

Kathy Rowley

Altar Servers

Dr Nick Themelis

Bible Study

Genevieve Eagle

Book Store

Dr. Nick Themelis

Building Committee

Bill Acker

Building, Grounds & Maintenance

Richard Heidal, John Pangis

Choir

Rebecca Primis

Hands of Love

Genevieve Eagle

Military Service

LTC Gus Chamales

Premarital Education

George Pirotis, Diane Pirotis

Stewardship

Fenia Mavromichali

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

Mary Koumantaros - President
 Olympia T. Stafford - Vice President
 Evy Kontos - Treasurer
 D. Lord/F. Mavromichali - Rec/Cor-Secretary

Maids of Athena

Ana Matteson - President
 Alexandra Lord - Vice President
 Lexi Samaras - Treasurer
 I. Mastras/P. Montoya - Secretary
 Advisors: Chamales, McClure, Apostle

Greek Folk Dance

Anastasia Fyntrilakis - Chairperson
 Evy Kontos - Treasurer

Dance Instructors:

Teen Group: Anastasia Fyntrilakis
 Intermediate Group - Rachel
 Beginner Group - Kelly Rosati
 Adult Group - George Pirotis

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

Greek School

George Pirotis

Lazarus Group

Dean Hamos

Pilgrimage

Zach Karanasos

Prosphora Baking

Presvytera Anna

Welcome

Gus Chamales

Flowers & Church Decorating

Kathy Rowley/Genevieve Eagle

Parish Council

Next Parish Council Meeting will be Tuesday September 12, 2023

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	Sep 1	2
<p>Phocas the Martyr</p> <p>Venerable Pimen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Orthros <p>3 more</p>	<p>Venerable Moses the Ethiopian</p>	<p>Beholding of the precious head of St</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Divine Liturgy 6pm Vespers 	<p>Alexander, John, and Paul the New, J</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Paraklesis 7pm Choir Practice 	<p>Deposition of the honorable sash of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Orthros 6pm Adult Greek Dance Rehearsal 	<p>Ecclesiastical New Year</p> <p>Holy Forty Women Martyrs and Amn</p> <p>Holy Martyrs Callista, Evodius and H</p> <p>6 more</p>	<p>John the Faster, Patriarch of Consta</p> <p>Mamas the Martyr</p> <p>Repose of Fr Seraphim Rose</p> <p>2 more</p>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>Hieromartyr Antimus, Bishop of Nik</p> <p>Venerable Theocistus, fellow asceti</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Orthros <p>3 more</p>	<p>Hieromartyr Babyas, Bishop of Antik</p> <p>Moses the Prophet and God-seer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM) 	<p>Zachariah the Prophet, father of the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Divine Liturgy 6pm Vespers 7pm Building Committee 	<p>Commemoration of the miracle of th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Paraklesis 7pm Choir Practice 	<p>Cassian the Hymnographer</p> <p>Sozon the Martyr</p> <p>Venerable Daniel of Katounakia</p> <p>3 more</p>	<p>NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 6pm Small Compline (w/ Canon) 	<p>Holy and Righteous ancestors of Go</p> <p>Severian the Martyr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Divine Liturgy <p>2 more</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>Apostle Apollus</p> <p>Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, and I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Orthros <p>2 more</p>	<p>9/11 Remembrance Day</p> <p>Venerable Ephrosynus the Cook</p> <p>Venerable Theodora of Alexandria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM) 	<p>Hieromartyr Autonomus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers 7pm Parish Council 	<p>Cornelius the Centurion Martyr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Vigil for Exaltation of Cross w 	<p>UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Adult Greek Dance Rehearsal 	<p>Bessarion, Archbishop of Larissa</p> <p>Nicetus the Martyr</p> <p>Symeon, Archbishop of Thessalonik</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Small Compline (w/ Canon) 	<p>Great Martyr Euphemia, the All-laud</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Orthros 9am Festival Baking <p>2 more</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>Martyrs Sophia, Faith, Hope, and Lo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy <p>2 more</p>	<p>Venerable Eudymenus the Wonderwor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM) 	<p>Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbathus, and I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers 	<p>Great Martyr Eustathius, and those v</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Paraklesis 7pm Choir Practice 	<p>Apostle Quadratus of Magnesia</p> <p>Jonah the Prophet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Orthros 6pm Adult Greek Dance Rehearsal 	<p>Phocas the Martyr and Wonderwork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers and Small Compline 	<p>CONCEPTION OF THE FORERUNNER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Orthros 9am Festival Baking <p>2 more</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>Thecla the Protomartyr and Equal-to</p> <p>Venerable Silouan the Athonite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Orthros <p>2 more</p>	<p>Euphrosyne of Alexandria</p> <p>Venerable Sergius of Radonezh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM) 	<p>Translation of the Apostle and Evan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Divine Liturgy 6pm Vespers 	<p>Callistratus the Martyr, and those w</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Paraklesis 7pm Choir Practice 	<p>Venerable Chariton the Confessor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Orthros 6pm Adult Greek Dance Rehearsal 	<p>Venerable Cyprianus the Hermit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Small Compline (w/ Canon) 	<p>Hieromartyr Gregory, Illuminator and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Festival Baking 6pm Vespers & Small Compline (w,

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

SEPTEMBER 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

<p>Friday, September 1 Ecclesiastical New Year Holy Forty Women Martyrs and Ammon the Deacon Holy Martyrs Callista, Evodius and Hermogenes Joshua, Son of Nun Venerable Symeon the Stylite 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Small Compline (w/ Canon)</p>	<p>Saturday, September 2 John the Faster, Patriarch of Constantinople Mamas the Martyr Repose of Fr Seraphim Rose 9:00am Festival Baking 6:00pm Vespers</p>
<p>Sunday, September 3 Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia Venerable Theoctistus, fellow ascetic of of Euthymius the Great 8:30am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Coffee Hour: Team Chamales 12:15pm Sunday Choir Practice</p>	<p>Monday, September 4 Hieromartyr Babylas, Bishop of Antioch Moses the Prophet and God-seer 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)</p>
<p>Tuesday, September 5 Zachariah the Prophet, father of the Precious Forerunner 6:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Vespers 7:00pm Building Committee</p>	<p>Wednesday, September 6 Commemoration of the miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossae (Chonae) 6:00pm Paraklesis 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>
<p>Thursday, September 7 Cassiani the Hymnographer Sozon the Martyr Venerable Daniel of Katounakia 6:30am Orthros 6:00pm Adult Greek Dance Rehearsals 6:00pm Vespers</p>	<p>Friday, September 8 NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS 8:45am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Small Compline (w/ Canon)</p>

SEPTEMBER 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

<p>Saturday, September 9 Holy and Righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna Severian the Martyr 8:00am Divine Liturgy 9:00am Festival Baking 6:00pm Vespers</p>	<p>Sunday, September 10 Apostle Apollos Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora 8:30am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Anna Karanasos 90th Birthday Celebration</p>
<p>Monday, September 11 9/11 Remembrance Day Venerable Euphrosynus the Cook Venerable Theodora of Alexandria 5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)</p>	<p>Tuesday, September 12 Hieromartyr Autonomus 6:00pm Vespers 7:00pm Parish Council</p>
<p>Wednesday, September 13 Cornelius the Centurion Martyr 5:00pm Vigil for Exaltation of Cross w/ Fasting Potluck</p>	<p>Thursday, September 14 UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS 6:00pm Adult Greek Dance Rehearsals</p>
<p>Friday, September 15 Bessarion, Archbishop of Larissa Nicetus the Martyr Symeon, Archbishop of Thessaloniki 6:00pm Small Compline (w/ Canon)</p>	<p>Saturday, September 16 Great Martyr Euphemia, the All-laudable 8:45am Orthros 9:00am Festival Baking 10:00am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Vespers</p>



SEPTEMBER 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

<p>Sunday, September 17 Martyrs Sophia, Faith, Hope, and Love</p> <p>8:30am Orthros</p> <p>10:00am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>12:00pm Community Coffee Hour</p> <p>12:15pm Sunday Choir Practice</p>	<p>Monday, September 18 Venerable Eumenius the Wonderworker, Bishop of Gortyna</p> <p>5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)</p>
<p>Tuesday, September 19 Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius, and Dorymedon</p> <p>6:00pm Vespers</p>	<p>Wednesday, September 20 Great Martyr Eustathius, and those with him</p> <p>6:00pm Paraklesis</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Practice</p>
<p>Thursday, September 21 Apostle Quadratus of Magnesia Jonah the Prophet</p> <p>6:30am Orthros</p> <p>6:00pm Adult Greek Dance Rehearsals</p>	<p>Friday, September 22 Phocas the Martyr and Wonderworker</p> <p>6:00pm Vespers and Small Compline (w/ Canon)</p>
<p>Saturday, September 23 CONCEPTION OF THE FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN</p> <p>8:45am Orthros</p> <p>9:00am Festival Baking</p> <p>10:00am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>6:00pm Vespers</p>	<p>Sunday, September 24 Thecla the Protomartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Venerable Silouan the Athonite</p> <p>8:30am Orthros</p> <p>10:00am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>12:00pm Coffee Hour: Team Cedeno</p>
<p>Monday, September 25 Euphrosyne of Alexandria Venerable Sergius of Radonezh</p> <p>5:30pm Modern Greek (ZOOM)</p>	<p>Tuesday, September 26 Translation of the Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian</p> <p>6:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>6:00pm Vespers</p>

SEPTEMBER 2023 DAILY CALENDAR

<p>Wednesday, September 27 Callistratus the Martyr, and those with him 6:00pm Paraklesis 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>Thursday, September 28 Venerable Chariton the Confessor 6:30am Orthros 6:00pm Adult Greek Dance Rehearsals</p>
<p>Friday, September 29 Venerable Cyriacus the Hermit 6:00pm Small Compline (w/ Canon)</p>	<p>Saturday, September 30 Hieromartyr Gregory, Illuminator and Bishop of Greater Armenia 9:00am Festival Baking 6:00pm Vespers</p>



FESTIVAL NEWS

INDIVIDUAL PARISHIONER FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP

Traditionally, parishioners contribute to the Festival by placing a personal ad in the Festival brochure. This year, **personal ads** for the Festival are published in a special October issue of **St. Nicholas Messenger**, our monthly newsletter. The festival brochure is reserved for our corporate sponsors.

Ads work just like previous years. Prices are the same although the Messenger pages are bigger.

How? Fill out this form and Email to the church (Carol) at admin@stnicholastac.org

Please submit your ad text, or photo, or artwork as an attachment to your email. We can accept most formats such as jpg, pdf, WORD, or plain text. Please state if you'd like to use the exact ad from a prior year.

Your information must be received by **September 25, 2023**. If paying by check, make it payable to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and mail to:

**St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
Attention: Festival Ad**

1523 S. Yakima Ave, Tacoma WA 98406

If paying by credit card, go to <https://stnicholastacoma.org/donate> and make sure to choose **Festival Sponsorship - Advertising** as the purpose of your donation.

1/4-page in Messenger \$125

1/2 -Page in Messenger \$250

Full page in Messenger \$500

Use ad from prior festival

Your name: _____

Phone (or text) number: _____

Email: _____

For questions contact: Carol at the church at 253-272-0466

FESTIVAL NEWS CONTINUED

Festival 2023 Dance Practice

Teen Dance group August practice dates: August 13th, 20th and 27th. No practice on August 6th. Starts at noon, after church service.

Adult Dance group rehearsals begin Thursday August 17th at 6:00pm in the lower hall and each Thursday thereafter at 6:00pm. Please contact Genevieve at stnicholaszoom@gmail.com for more information if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Ana Fyntrilakis

Festival Committee Update

Baking is progressing well. Most booths have a plan, but we can use leadership help running the kitchen during the festival. Also, we can always use help at the Loukomathes booth. For August, we're initiating our "get the word out" marketing campaign. We expect much wider advertising than previous years. Flyers will be available for everyone early August. Don't forget, the Festival is October 6, 7, 8.

All Baking Sessions begin at 9 AM



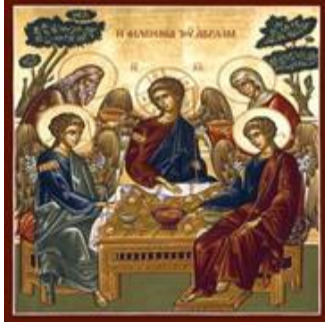
Please bring an apron, pastry brush and pot for melted butter if possible

Festival Baking Schedule

<u>SATURDAYS</u>	<u>WEEKDAYS</u>
Saturday, May 20	Monday, June 19
Saturday, June 10	Tuesday, June 20
Saturday, June 17	Monday, June 26
Saturday, June 24	Tuesday, June 27
Saturday, July 8	Monday, August 21
Saturday, July 15	Tuesday, August 22
Saturday, July 22	Monday, August 28
Saturday, July 29	Tuesday, August 29
Saturday, August 5	Monday, September 4
Saturday, August 12	Monday, September 11
Saturday, August 19	Monday, September 18
Saturday, August 26 CANCELLED	Monday, September 25
Saturday, September 2	Tuesday, September 26
Saturday, September 9	Wednesday, September 27
Saturday, September 16	Thursday, September 28
Saturday, September 23	Friday, September 29
Saturday, September 30	Monday, October 2
	Tuesday, October 3
	Wednesday, October 4

Contact Evy for questions 253-377-2191

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 SEPTEMBER:

- 09/03/2023 Team Chamales
- 09/10/2023 Anna Karanasos 90th Birthday Celebration
- 09/17/2023 Community Coffee Hour*
- 09/24/2023 Team Cedeno

TEAMS:

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

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

Team Chamales: Dr Ingrid Chamales, Leader; Karen Samaras, Sally Hallis, Rikki Kapes, Kathy Johnson, Sharon Kennedy and Tim & Kathie Harvey

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

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

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

COUNCIL CORNER

- ✂ A **General Assembly** is scheduled for **September 10th**. Items on the agenda include:
- A proposed update to the Parish **Bylaws**
 - A project to replace the **roofs over the Lower and Upper Halls**
 - A project to establish **St. Nikephoros Chapel** in the former Priest's office
 - A project to construct a **Cemetery Chapel** on the Parish's land in the Tacoma Cemetery

These items are the next steps toward the vision of our Church after the successful completion of Project 2020.

- ✂ **Festival 2023** is coming soon! The tent has been reserved and permits are being acquired. Baking is well underway. The Parish Council thanks everyone who has contributed so far. If you don't know how to join in the fun, look for the **Baking Schedule** in this *Messenger*, or contact *Bill Samaras*.
- ✂ The Parish Council is aware of certain issues that have arisen due to the loose rocks in the new **landscaping** and are investigating solutions, including possible methods to secure the rocks in place.
- ✂ The Parish Council is also aware of certain issues regarding the **parking lot** safety. In order to ensure greater security we have terminated our parking-share arrangement with Catholic Community Services/Nativity House. If you notice suspicious activity in the parking lot, please let a Parish Council member know.



Cover Story Continued

It is for these reasons that my own patron Saint Anthony, along with many others, went out into the desert to face the battles of their own cross, denying the comforts of the world. And it can only be God's perfect and providential timing that allowed Saint Helen to raise the Cross as a reminder to all Christians of the 4th Century of the path each of us is to take in following Christ.

Even in today's struggle, we also find ourselves with many comforts and distractions which can make us lose track of the cross which leads to everlasting life. God forbid, we grow accustomed to being away from our beloved Saint Nicholas Church for the sake of other pursuits. Like diligent athletes preparing for competition, we must dedicate our attention to the end goal, and stay the course. For now, that goal may be 2023 Greek Fest, but ultimately it is the Kingdom, as we are reminded to, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Our cross isn't something that simply inconveniences us—something that makes our day a little more difficult in trying to accomplish the tasks that we want to do. No, that's not our cross—it may be annoying, but it's not our cross. In order for each and every one of us to find our own cross we must look for the struggles in our life that prevent us from climbing up the ladder of the True Cross to be with our Lord.

What can we find in our day-to-day thoughts and interactions that become roadblocks to reaching God? Perhaps for some of us it is a continual struggle with anger. Or maybe like the early Christians, it is a temptation toward worldly comforts. It will be different for each of us, but in searching for this, we will find our cross.

And rather than mortifying this aspect of our life; rather than seeking for God to burn it up and eradicate it from our very existence, we are each called to seek transformation. We are each called to seek transcendence. We are called to seek what is beyond this blind spot in our life. For Saint Paul, he spoke about a certain thorn in his flesh, which he says is a constant reminder of his own shortcomings. In pleading for our merciful Lord to remove this pestering thorn from his flesh, the Apostle receives a clear reply: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9). And knowing that he can't possibly battle this cross by his own power, he offers this burden and yoke back to Christ, in order that he be transformed into a grace-filled vessel of God's glory.

It is this cross that we must take up and offer back to Christ, who carried and died upon the True Cross for our sake.

It is this cross that Jesus tells us in the Holy Gospel according to Matthew, "Come to me, all of you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest! Take my yoke upon you and learn from me because I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Indeed, my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

And it is this cross that although through death of our own worldly desires, will lead each of us to glorious eternal life in Christ.

Christ will meet each of us in this struggle, and does all the heavy lifting through His own carrying of the Cross. If we begin to slip and stumble, He will surely send someone our way to get us back on our feet, just as St. Simon the Cyrene was sent to help Christ in His own walk with the Cross. While each of us has his own particular set of battles, let us join together as a family in the taking up of our cross, so that we may all find rest in the gentle and humble heart of our Lord.

Amen.

—
In Christ,

Fr. Anthony Cornett
Proistamenos

ST NICHOLAS HOLY CROSS VIGIL



ALL-NIGHT VIGIL *for* Elevation of the Cross



Wednesday, September 13th

- 5:00pm Vespers (with Artoklasia)
- 6:15pm Orthros
- 7:30pm Divine Liturgy
- 9:00pm Potluck in Upper Hall

JOIN us for an All-Night Vigil (Αγρυπνία) for the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross. Let us celebrate this most-sacred feast with a potluck following the Vigil. As this is a fasting day, please bring a lenten item.



**SAINT NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

1523 S Yakima Ave, Tacoma, WA 98405

Modern Greek Language School



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

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

Teacher - George Pirotis

Contact Church Office - 253-272-0466

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

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

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

Yearly possible events and student involvement:

Αγιασμὸς (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-

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE



DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE



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

If you are interested please contact one of our officers.

President – Maria (Mary) Koumantaros

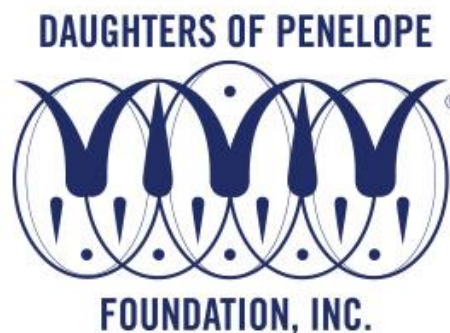
Vice-President – Dr. Olympia Tachopoulos Stafford

Recording Secretary – Debby Lord

Corresponding Secretary – Iphigenia (Fenia) Mavromichali

Treasurer – Evy Kontos

Maids of Athena Advisors – Ingrid Chamales and Virginia McClure.



Philoptochos News

President's Message

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 has 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. Philoptochos is humbled by the financial expression of your faith in our ability to help those who are needy both in our local area and in the wider orthodox community.

Significant activities include:

Maui Wildfire Relief - The National Philoptochos Society recently approved an emergency disbursement of \$10,000 to the Maui Greek Orthodox Mission to help fire relief efforts. Our Metropolis of SF Philoptochos just voted to send \$10,000. More information regarding this effort is at the National Philoptochos website. <https://philoptochos.org>

There are more opportunities to help Maui.

1) Individual donations can be sent directly to the Mission Church in Maui.

Maui Greek Orthodox Mission
P.O. Box 532642
Kihei, HI 96753.

2) Donations can also be sent to St. Nicholas Philoptochos and will be earmarked for the National Philoptochos "Maui Wildfire Relief Fund."

3) You can go online to the National Philoptochos appeal link (QR Code), that follows on the next page.

Greek Night at the Movies - Our second Greek night at the movies, was held on Sunday, August 27, 2023, at the Grand Cinema in Tacoma. Greek sodas, silent auction baskets and good conversation were enjoyed by all. More details regarding this gathering will follow in the October Messenger.

2023 Membership - Our year starts in January and runs through December. We currently have 47 members, both new and renewals, for the 2023 year. Please ask any member about 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. Our chapter has monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month, with Zoom connection available as well. We will take a summer break, resuming regular meetings in September, with a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 21. 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--

Philoptochos News



There are more opportunities to help Maui.

This is the address for the Mission Church in Maui.

Maui Greek Orthodox Mission

PO Box 532642

Kihei, HI 96753

The National Philoptochos is sending \$10,000 plus an additional \$3,000, and our Metropolis of SF Philoptochos just voted to send \$10,000. Most Philoptochos chapters are passing trays for the effort. See the National Philoptochos ongoing Appeal above.

Let's do what we can to help this devastation.

Mari Lou

Mari Lou P. Diamond, IIDA, NCIDQ

mlpdiamond@gmail.com

Building Committee

SEPTEMBER BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

REHASHING THE STATE OF THE UPPER HALL AND DINING HALL ROOFS:

Both the Upper Hall and Dining Hall/Kitchen roofing have been in terrible shape for a long time, experiencing roof leaks since I became a member of Saint Nicholas Church nearly 20 years ago. The roofing in both areas is past the life expectancy, and temporary repairs are a short-term fix. To properly replace either roof will cost a good six digit figure that will require a building permit and a plan submittal review. Below is a brief explanation and description of each area:

THE DINING HALL/KITCHEN ROOF:

Currently there are three roofing membranes over the existing Dining Hall/Kitchen area. The present building code allows a maximum of two. To fix this area the existing roofing and sheet metal flashings need to be removed and replaced with a new upgraded roofing system that has a 30 year manufacturers warranty. Dry rot would be replaced on an as-need basis and low-slope areas would receive built-up tapered insulation to enhance roof drainage flows and avoid ponding. There will likely be other enhancements to upgrade both the Dining Hall/Kitchen roof, and to accommodate other possible church campus improvements.

(Continued on the next page.)

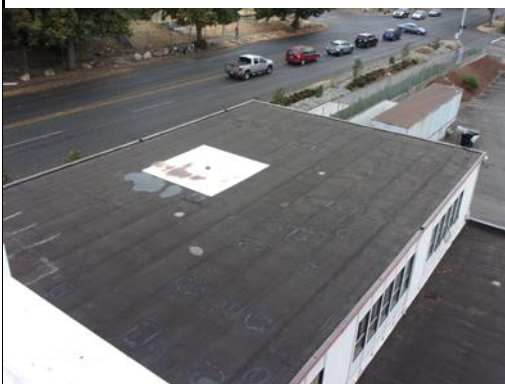


PHOTO NOTES:

Starting from the upper left, the first photo shows the Upper Hall roof with its flat roof structure, a recently installed white liquid membrane around its roof drain, and some lingering puddles in spite of experiencing a few straight days of dry weather.



The second and third photos show the west side of the Dining Hall roof, set at a lower elevation, and how it ties in with the Upper Hall east walls that overlook it. Part of the Dining Hall roofing replacement design would incorporate a flashed isolation curb at its west perimeter, so that the Upper Hall exterior walls could be removed and replaced in the future without tearing into or damaging the Dining Hall roofing.

Building Committee

THE UPPER HALL ROOF:

The Upper Hall, which currently has four roofing membranes over it, is a more complex and expensive fix than the Dining Hall roof for a variety of reasons. First, the roof structure is flat, offering no sloping drainage. Second, the structure is undersized by current code. While that is not a life & safety issue, the roof structure would have to be replaced, or at minimum be reinforced in order to obtain a building permit.

A "cheap" fix would be to keep as much of the current Upper Hall in place as would be possible; both the interior and exterior and then reinforce the existing roof structure as required; constructing tapered slopes over the entire roof deck to provide proper drainage. This would likely require replacing most or all of the existing interior drywall ceilings to accommodate the structural reinforcement work. This would be a messy project with the possibility that the existing exterior walls and the roof structure may end up having to be replaced in order to meet current energy code.

A more comprehensive fix would be to completely remove the Upper Hall area down to its existing floor structure, and then rebuild anew on top of what remains. Conceivably, this could end up being close to what's required with the "cheap" fix, depending on how stringent the building department is when submitting for a permit.

While expensive, replacing the Upper Hall provides an opportunity to upgrade and coordinate new Upper Hall exteriors with the renovated Narthex and Sanctuary, so that the exterior church face would look more uniform, and carry a Byzantine tradition. The replacement would also provide an option for new or modified interior space layouts, which could act as a part of enhancing long-term church campus program possibilities.

Deciding what to specifically do with Upper Hall roof and possibly beyond is going to take time. It took a year to reach a consensus on a previous Sanctuary windows project, and three years with the recently completed Narthex Renovation. An Upper Hall renovation could end up being more complex than both.

IN SUMMARY:

Both the Dining Hall/Kitchen and Upper Hall roofs are in need of replacement. It might be prudent to focus on the Dining Hall/Kitchen roof first for the following reasons:

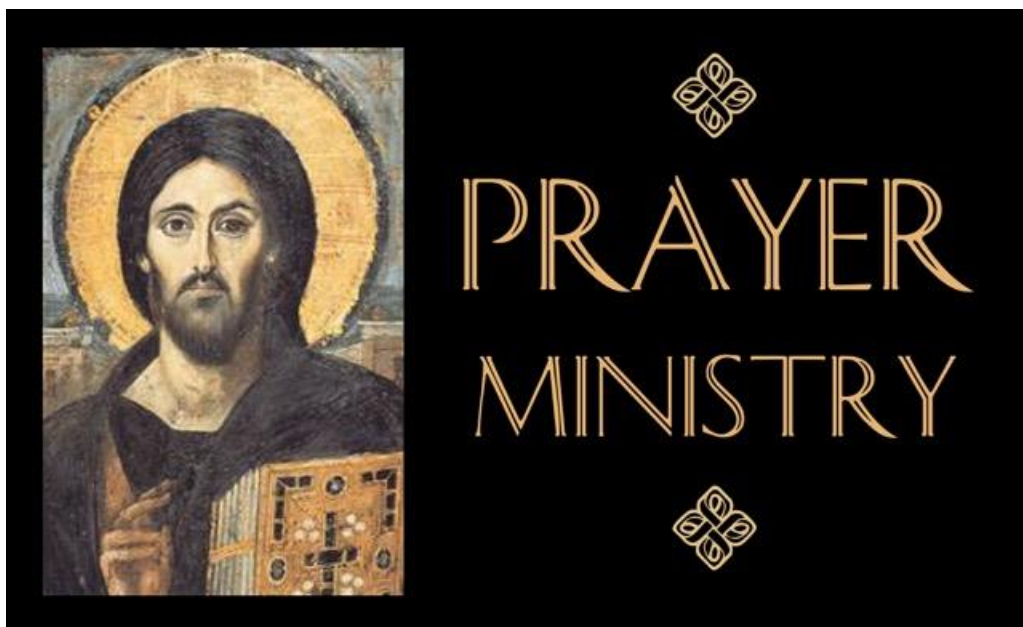
- 1) There is only so much time and resources available, the Dining Hall/Kitchen space is more critical to church operations, social functions and other activities than the Upper Hall area, and therefore takes a higher priority.
- 2) Taking care of the Dining Hall/Kitchen roof should be more straight forward and less of an expensive endeavor. Easier and quicker to reach a Parish consensus for approval.
- 3) Taking care of the Dining Hall/Kitchen roof, preferably by the end of June 2024 fixes an immediate church need in relative short order, this also provides time to come up with a more deliberate, thought out plan regarding the Upper Area and a vision of how it might better fit into a long-term church campus plan.

Re-roofing the Dining Hall/Kitchen and Upper Hall roofs is going to be a major undertaking that involves much more than finding a roofing contractor to provide a blanket bid based on their own perceived scope.

Submitted by: Bill Acker

ST. NICHOLAS AKATHIST MINISTRY

Ministry of Akathist, Prayers for the Departed

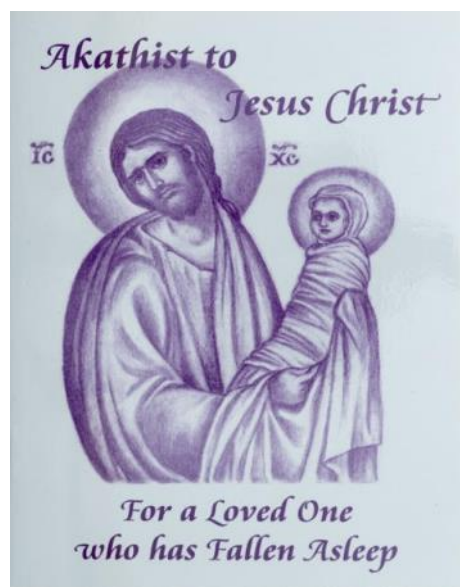


Thank you to all who are involved in this wonderful ministry at Saint Nicholas. In offering the gift of praying the Akathist to Jesus Christ for a Loved One who Has Fallen Asleep, it is a great comfort to family and friends of the departed ones.

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

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

Thank you again,
Kathy Rowley



CATECHUMENS

2023 CATECHUMENS & GODPARENTS



This fall, “Part One – The Doctrines of Christ” of Catechism class begins **Sunday, October 15, at 12:15 in the Nave of the Church and continues for each Sunday, thereafter, through Sunday, December 17.** At this time, we have four Catechumens enrolled and several inquirers. Please contact me, Genevieve, at stnicholaszoom@gmail.com if you wish to take the next step to becoming a Catechumen.

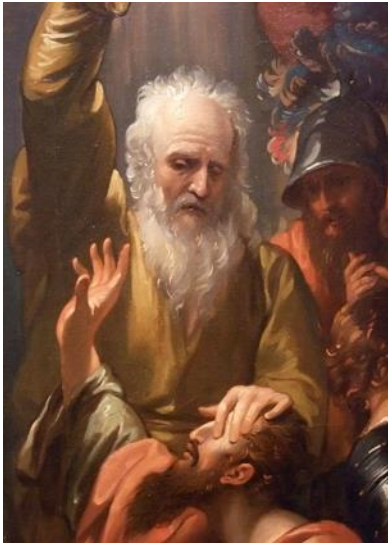
Please take the next available opportunity to introduce yourself to our Catechumens and include them in your prayers.



Submitted by: “Mama” Genevieve

St. Nicholas Bible Study

The Book of Acts



Acts 9: 17-22

17"Ananias departed and entered into the house. Laying his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me, so that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit!' *18*At once, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he received his sight. He arose and was baptized, *19*and after taking some food, he was strengthened.

*After staying for several days with the disciples who were at Damascus, 20*Saul immediately went in the synagogues to proclaim that Christ is the Son of God.

*21*All who heard him were amazed, and asked, 'Is this not the man who did such damage in Jerusalem to those who called on this Name? And had he not come here intending to bring them bound before the chief priests?' "

Ananias & St. Paul

Father Anthony: Can you imagine Ananias, with his teeth grinding, saying, "Brother Saul"? The Lord told Ananias what to say and how to say it. By reciting what Saul encountered on the road to Damascus, Ananias reveals that either he must have been there (which is not the case) or God told him. The assurance is there in saying, "Not only did you encounter God, but I know exactly what happened and how it happened." God heals the physical and imbues the Spirit. All of Christ's miracles occur this way as well. It's clear in the healings of Christ that the physical healing sometimes isn't required, but for the sake of the faith of those who surround them, He will perform the physical healing as well, so the greater healing can be told throughout generations. Imagine if Saul had remained blind, could he still have offered witness to God? Saul was offered that opportunity to return to God and he found healing because God had a greater purpose for him. Saul found fulfillment in this encounter and ate. It shows the priority of dealing with the things of God first and foremost. Until something was made clear, he was fasting. Where else, in Scripture, do we see the eyes of someone and/or a, sort of, mantle over the eyes and then being released?

Stephen G: The healing of the blind man when Christ spat in the dirt and made mud to anoint him.

Father Anthony: That's like a "creation" moment where some of the Holy Fathers say He created eyes for him because he was born without eyes. On Mt. Tabor when Peter, James and John ascend the mountain with Christ it says something was lifted from their eyes and they saw Christ for Who He truly is. He didn't all of sudden turn on the "Glory Light" and shone brightly. He's always God. When the Prophet Moses received the Law it says he was imbued with the Light but afterwards instead of being open-faced, he had to shield himself so as to not harm other people. St. Seraphim of Sarov, in his own experience with Uncreated Light, tried to explain being "in the Spirit of God" in a conversation with Motovilov:

"Nevertheless," I replied, "I do not understand how I can be certain that I am in the Spirit of God.

How can

I discern for myself His true manifestation in me?"

Father Seraphim replied: "I have already told you, your godliness, that it is very simple and I have related

in detail how people come to be in the Spirit of God and how we can recognize His presence in us. So what

do you want, my son?"

"I want to understand it well," I said.

St. Nicholas Bible Study

Then Father Seraphim took me very firmly by the shoulders and said: "We are both in the Spirit of God

now, my son. Why don't you look at me?"

I replied: "I cannot look, Father, because your eyes are flashing like lightning. Your face has become brighter

than the sun, and my eyes ache with pain."

Father Seraphim said: "Don't be alarmed, your godliness! Now you yourself have become as bright as I am.

You are now in the fullness of the Spirit of God yourself; otherwise you would not be able to see me as I am."

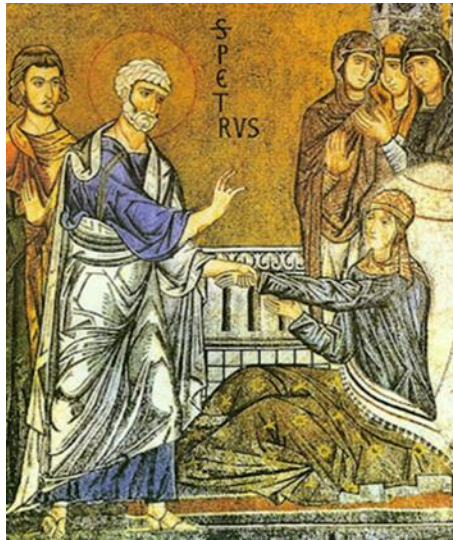
Then, bending his head towards me, he whispered softly in my ear: "Thank the Lord God for His unutterable mercy to us!"

Father Anthony: It's overwhelming – it's nothing for the physical eyes of man to perceive. For something more specifically regarding scales, in the **Book of Tobit** in the Old Testament, there's a journey that is very similar (typology wise). Tobit has business dealings but he also wants to marry off his son, Tobias. Tobit has been blinded and has scales on his eyes. Tobit tries to convince his wife to send Tobias to complete his business dealings. The mother is both a Greek mother and a Jewish mother and doesn't want to let her boy go. Then someone knocks on the door and claims to be a cousin but is in truth the Archangel Raphael who's there to convince the mother to allow Tobias to go on this journey. On the journey they come across a stream and encounter a behemoth of a fish that tries to devour Tobias, but he is able to wrestle it into submission. Raphael convinces Tobias to bring the fish with them and gives him a prescription of what to do with the fish to make a whole burnt offering to God that will also provide a healing for his father: **Chapter 11: 7-14** *"Raphael said, "I know that the eyes of your father will open. ⁸Rub the gall (of a fish) on his eyes. When the eyes sting, he will rub them and cause the white film to fall away. He will then see you. ⁹Then Anna ran up to her son and fell upon his neck and said to him, 'I have seen you, my child. From this day, I am now ready to die!' So they both wept. ¹⁰Then Tobit came out of the door: He stumbled, but his son ran up to him. ¹¹He took hold of his father and dabbed the gall on the eyes of his father, saying, 'Father, take courage!' ¹²Then as his eyes stung, he rubbed them, and the white films peeled off from the corners of his eyes. ¹³When he saw his son, he fell upon his neck, weeping, and said, ¹⁴'Blessed are You, O God, and blessed is Your Name unto the ages. Blessed are all Your holy angels, for You scourged me but had mercy on me. Behold, I see Tobias my son.'" What takes place in the **Book of Acts** with Saul is reminiscent of that. A reader in the early Church would have immediately gone back to the **Book of Tobit**. When Paul went into the synagogues, he didn't go to take the census, he was there to proclaim the Gospel. How do you think this went over?*

Dr. Ingrid C: Jaws were dropping!

Father Anthony: Right. "Hi, I'm Saul. A few of you might have seen me blind a few minutes ago." People were amazed – not simply amazed at hearing the Gospel, but amazed at hearing this person preach the Gospel. His renown went before him.

St. Nicholas Bible Study



St. Tabitha the Merciful (Feast Day - October 25)

Saint Tabitha was from Joppa and lived during Apostolic times. What we know from her life is what the evangelist Luke mentions in the ninth chapter of the **Acts of the Apostles**, where he emphasizes that "she was full of good works and almsgiving". The name Tabitha is Syrian and in Greek it is Dorcas which is interpreted as "gazelle". She was a weaver and made tunics and garments, which she gave to poor people, widows and orphans. And while she was working hard, she suddenly fell ill and died. Her death, of course, caused deep pain, especially to those who experienced her beneficial presence and offering. And while they were all ready for her funeral, the faithful were informed that the Apostle Peter, as part of his apostolic journey for the preaching of the gospel, was in Lydda, which was near Joppa.

This news delighted the people who loved her, so they sent two men to Lydda to ask him to come to Joppa. The Apostle Peter responded to the invitation, and when he arrived, all the widows appeared before him and with tears in their eyes they showed him the tunics and the garments that Tabitha had given them. Moved by this, the Apostle Peter, having taken everyone out of the room, knelt down and prayed fervently. Then he turned to the dead body and said: "Tabitha arise." And indeed the dead woman was resurrected! Then the sorrow of those present was transformed into joy and spiritual rejoicing. This fact became known throughout Joppa, with the result that many believed in Christ.

Saint Tabitha, according to an oral tradition, "reposed in peace" in deep old age, loaded with good works, as "a fruitful olive tree in the house of God".

Her life and her conduct give us the opportunity to highlight the following:

First, whatever has a beginning inevitably has an end. Hence, the life of man here on earth begins at some point, and after a few years -more or less- it ends. Life, however, never ends, because the human soul is immortal, not by its very nature, but because God wants it to be. For this reason it is important, not how many years you will live here on earth, since no matter how many years you live there will come a time when you will die, but to live in such a way so as to be found worthy of the eternal divine life. That is, for the soul after its departure from the body to enter into the Light and the glory of Christ. And during the Second Coming of Christ, when the soul is united with its resurrected incorruptible body, it will not to be "cast away" to "eternal hell", but to "eternal life", where there is unspeakable joy and eternal gladness. To the unbelievers and the idolaters, death causes fear. The philosopher Aristotle said that death is "the most fearful thing", while for believers life is Christ and death is gain, as the Apostle Paul said, when he confessed: "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain."

When people believe in the resurrection of the dead, and above all when they live it and experience it in their existence, like the Saints who were united with Christ, the victor over death, and conquer death within the frame of their own life, then they experience death as a journey, a transition "from the most sad to the most good and most glad", to "rest and joy". A man of God was once asked, shortly before he reposed, how he feels now that he is leaving this world, and he replied: "Whether here with God or there with God, I am well anywhere."

Secondly, almsgiving and every good work is good, when it is done with good intentions, without deceit, self-interest, scheming, vanity, but with simplicity, honesty, and essentially with selfless love, which is manifested as an offering of material goods, and primarily prayer for all people, especially for the afflicted and the suffering, the "least of the brethren of Christ."

A person who strives to live according to the will of God receives the uncreated Grace of the Holy Spirit, the fruit of which is selfless love, and then with his prayer and his shining example he becomes a bene-

St. Nicholas Bible Study

factor to his fellow man. He becomes spiritual salt, which preserves humanity from decay, extinction, destruction. As it is been aptly explained, saints are those who are not simply merciful, but are merciful to all of humanity, for God gives Grace to His saints. And to understand this, an example from the Old Testament will be cited, and specifically from chapter 18 of the book of **Genesis**, which records a dialogue between God and the Patriarch Abraham.

God announced - the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Incarnate Word - to Abraham that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed because of the sins of their inhabitants. And then Abraham begged God not to allow them to be destroyed, if there were fifty righteous in these cities. God told him that if fifty righteous were found, then He would not destroy them. Then Abraham asked, "Are there forty-five?" And God answered him in the same way. Abraham continued to ask and to reduce the number, until he reached ten. Again God assured him that if there are ten righteous, then these cities will not be destroyed thanks to the ten. Unfortunately, however, the only God-fearing man who lived there was Lot, the nephew of Abraham, who was saved from destruction, and thanks to him, his family was saved. Of course, his wife, because she disobeyed the command of God and turned back, became a pillar of salt, but she was also saved from destruction.

In our short journey on this earth, if we are not beneficial to our fellow human beings, at least we should be careful not to be catastrophic. Also, let us make sure that our short life becomes a stadium of spiritual struggle, for the acquisition of the "crown of life".

Father Anthony: This event of the raising of Tabitha became known ⁴²"This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord." There is something greater at play here because Tabitha, herself, had great influence in her own life. Who were the people surrounding her bed when St. Peter arrived? The widows who were weeping. But they were carrying somethings with them – handiworks that Tabitha had made, herself. Just like there's a registry for Catechumens (who are inquiring about the faith), there was a registry among the widows also. Not just the widows, but shut-ins and those who were unable to care for themselves. The Church has always provided for those who need financial, physical or emotional assistance and support. Tabitha had gifted these handiworks to those in need. It seems like an interesting thing to mention – why was this text added? When Peter arrives and scopes out what is going on in the room, he sends them all out. It wasn't simply items of reminiscence that they brought with them, but in a sense those who brought the beautiful items that Tabitha had made for them were holding onto to them as if they were holding on to her, not wanting to let her go. In a way, they were almost treating them as idols or an inversion of an icon. One doesn't complete the other. They were holding onto to them in a sense that was not allowing what needed to take place to happen. We see something similar with Christ after the Resurrection with Mary Magdalene, **John 20:17** "Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father...". In the Greek it is ἅπτομαι (haptomai) to fasten one's self to – adhere to – cling to – to touch. In the case of Thomas when the Lord asks him to put his hand in His side – it was a matter of investigating – to see that His organs are real. So too, when Mary Magdalene sees the risen Lord, she, sort of, wants that same kind of intimacy – to embrace Christ. Not wanting her to hold onto Him wasn't because He was some sort of phantom, but so that she wouldn't hold onto this image of Him and not see that there was something greater, not just for Him, but for everyone else. In the case of Tabitha, these people were holding onto her in this limited worldly (finite & limited) sense and missing the greater picture.

Dr. Ingrid C: In a sense, you're looking at how the Jews and pagans viewed death. There was much weeping and wailing.

Father Anthony: Peter was there to remind them of the Resurrection and eternal life. That's exactly why she was raised. In that healing and raising, in that Lazarus-like reminder, some of that could have been lost in their emotions.

Dr. Ingrid C: What gets people through that loss and loneliness and sadness is the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

St. Nicholas Bible Study

Father Anthony: Peter's not discounting the mourners, but his purpose for him being there was to raise her from the dead. When the environment is focused on the remembrance of life, it can become a sort of idol and memories can turn into a solidified version of that person. Peter is giving them, now, a new memory. Peter's not replacing those things, but he's putting a beautiful cap on it for that time in raising her. When they called for him to come, it didn't seem like the purpose was to raise her from the dead. It wasn't like Mary and Martha when they asked Christ "where were You?" In this Scripture there is no account of that. In a sense, the comforting does take place through the widows reminiscing in Peter's presence. His act of healing is for the whole house. When Peter says, "*Tabitha get up!*" this is the same terminology used in every bit of the resurrection when Christ is talking to Lazarus. It's participating in that one continuous act. Liturgically, that is why we use the same language that Christ used for certain acts. We take Scripture and use it as a prayer in the Orthodox Church. The Jews also, wouldn't ex-temporaneously come up with prayers, they would have set prayers that were used for miraculous things in the Old Testament, often from the **Book of Psalms**. St. Arsenios of Cappadocia, who baptized St. Paisios, used the **Book of Psalms**, primarily, as a book of prayers.

The reminder is there. Even if it seems like a simple request, God has a part in the fulfillment of that request. There might be a practical thing going on, but there's not always a practical solution. There's not a practical solution without God's hand.

Submitted by: Genevieve



St. Nicholas Flower Ministry



Feast of Transfiguration – August 6, 2023



Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos – August 15, 2023

Continued next page...

St. Nicholas Flower Ministry



Πολλά ευχαριστώ

Many thanks to Merilee & John Pangis, Pres Anna Cornett, Hoddi Motz and Lisa (Helen) Lauderback for the donation of hydrangeas and greenery that they gifted for the Feast of the Dormition of our Lady the Theotokos - We couldn't have done it without your generous and thoughtful gifts during this special time of year.

Kathy and 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.

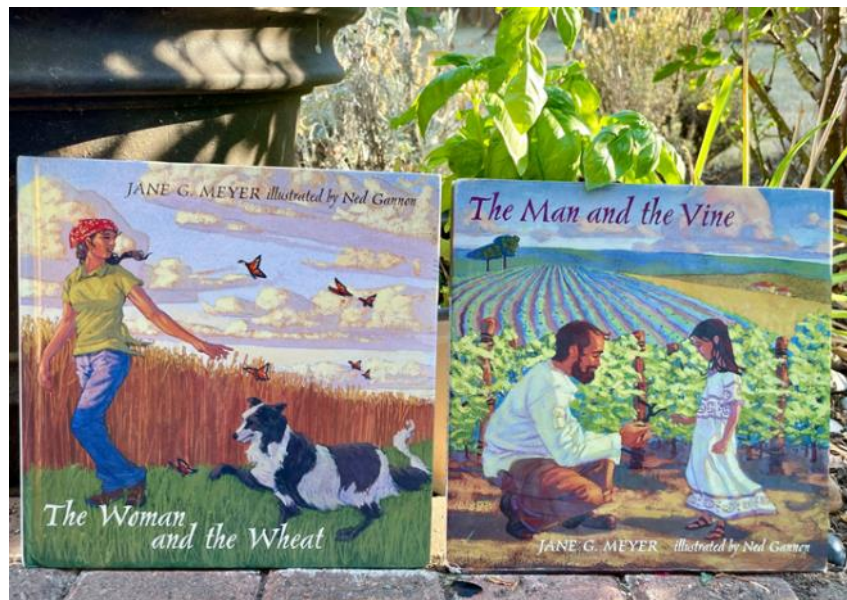
Deborah Talbot brings the offering the second Sunday of every month.

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

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

Regular Sunday prosphora bakers are needed.

RECOMMENDED READS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER



Two beautiful written children's books by Jane G. Meyer that inspire a love for preparing prosphora and communion wine for the Divine Liturgy. Recommended for children, godchildren, and the young at heart. The vibrant images—reminiscent of fields and vineyards in the American midwest and west—sparkle with light-saturated, warm jewel-tones and provide the perfect backdrop for the stories of a woman and a man in love with the earth, their labor, and their God."

Excerpt 1:

"There once was a woman who planted some wheat...so begins this rhythmical, festive children's book about the joy of a farmer as she works to grow the wheat and bake that bread that she will offer back to her creator and Eucharistic celebration."

Excerpt 2:

"There once was a man who planted a vine...so begins Meyer's second rhythmic tale of a farmer and his young daughter joyfully tending their vineyard and offering the fruit of the vine back to their Creator in Eucharistic celebration. Meyer invites children to follow the journey of the grapes from the field to the wine press and from the wine cellar to church, where they become the wine of Holy Communion.

These texts are available for purchase online.

Contributed by Presvytera Anna

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY



KEEP THE DATES
Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
October 3 – 31
Cedar River Clinic
1401 MLK Jr. Way, Tacoma, WA



Thanks to all our faithful St. Nicholas Pro-Life supporters over the years who have given their time to stand out on the streets of Tacoma to be witnesses to the truth and to join in our Orthodox Service of Supplication for the Victims of Abortion during the 40 Days for Life vigils. We also want to thank those who were unable to join us on the street but have prayed for the most innocent and vulnerable from their homes or work places.

The 40 Days for Life Fall 2023 campaign starts September 27 and runs through November 5. St. Nicholas Pro-Life Ministry has committed to sponsor each **Tuesday, starting October 3 through October 31, from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. at the Cedar River Clinic, 1401 MLK Jr. Way, Tacoma, WA.**

All are welcome to join us – the more the merrier!! Please contact me, Genevieve, at stnicholaszoom@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Resort Camp

The Metropolis of San Francisco Family Wellness Ministry presents *A Royal Adventure, Senior Resort Camp* for adults aged 50 or better! Join us from Monday, September 25 – Friday, September 29, 2023 at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA for good food, great company, and majestic experiences. And what Royal Adventure would be complete without high tea? The adventure begins with registration on Monday afternoon. Our first Royal Feast will be Monday evening’s dinner. The adventure concludes on Friday after breakfast. For registration information, please contact St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Fresno, CA 559-233-0397.

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco
Family Wellness Ministry presents

A Royal Adventure

*Senior Resort Camp
for adults aged
50 or better!*

**Monday, September 25 to
Friday, September 29, 2023**
*Saint Nicholas Ranch
and Retreat Center
Dunlap, CA*

\$550 per person
for single occupancy Lodge Room

\$400 per person
for double occupancy Lodge Room

\$325 per person
for Dormitory (shared occupancy)

Join us for good food, great company, and majestic experiences. And what Royal Adventure would be complete without high tea?

The adventure begins with registration on Monday afternoon. Our first Royal Feast will be Monday evening’s dinner. The adventure concludes on Friday after breakfast.

Online registration available at http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Senior_Resort_Camp_2023

Scan this code and register today!

For more information, please contact Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Fresno, CA at 559-233-0397.

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.

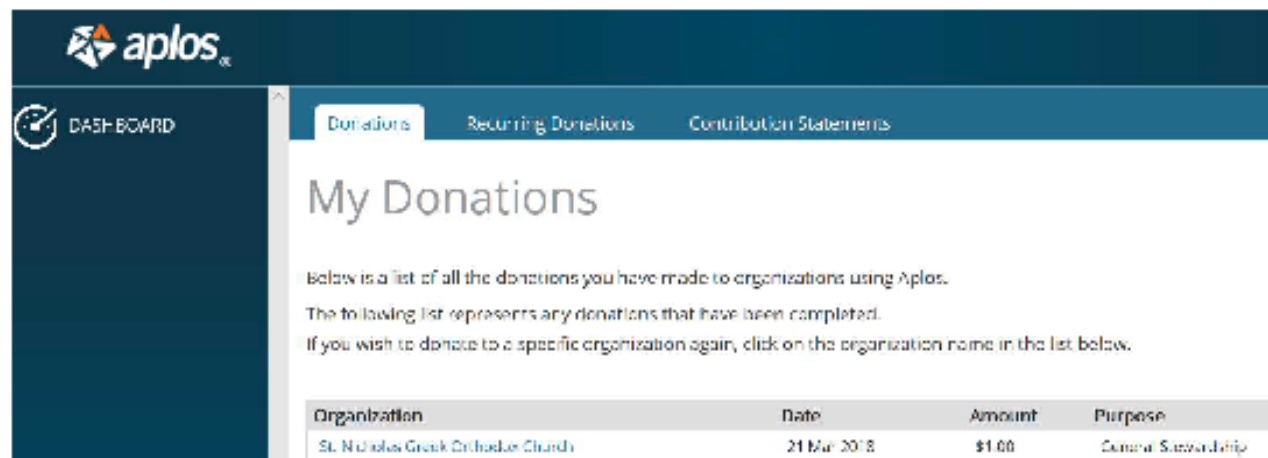
I want parishioners to enjoy greater flexibility in making Church donations and receiving an accounting of their annual to date contributions at any time of the year. Many of you have asked and inquired about the possibility of accounting for your donations automatically on-line. It is now a reality.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



aplos

DASH BOARD

Donations | Recurring Donations | Contribution Statements

My Donations

Below is a list of all the donations you have made to organizations using Aplos.
 The following list represents any donations that have been completed.
 If you wish to donate to a specific organization again, click on the organization name in the list below.

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

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:

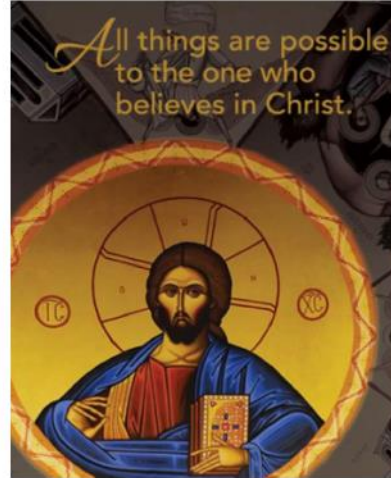
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
 Attn: Church Treasurer
 1523 S. Yakima Ave.
 Tacoma, WA 98405

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/M/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*

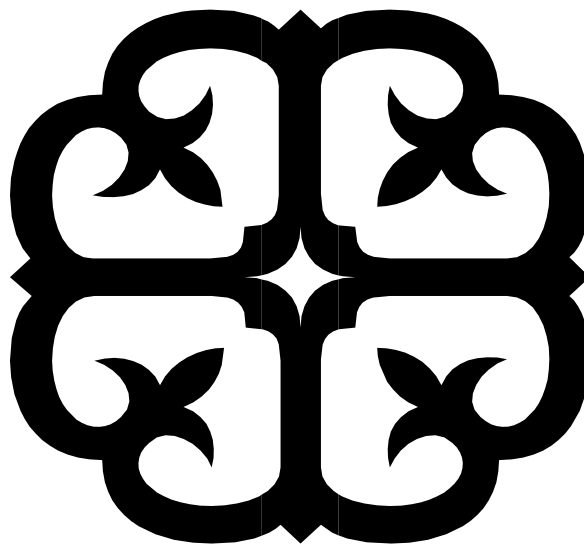
Click on this selection;



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

