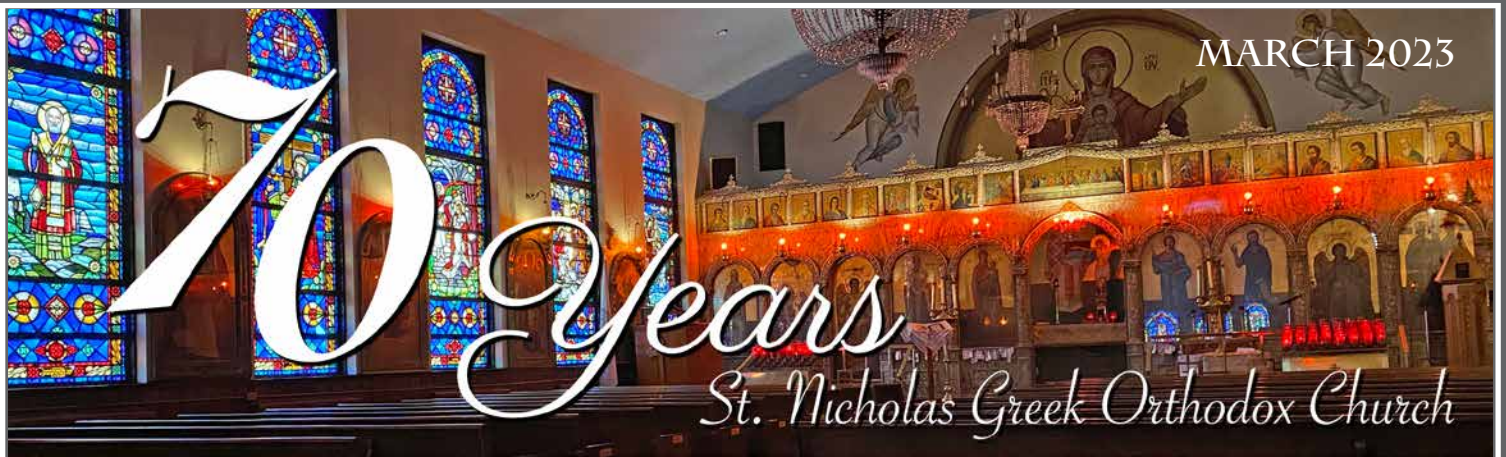


MARCH 2023



Message from FR. GEORGIOS OIKONOMOU, PROTOPRESBYTER

“Koinonia” is the monthly newsletter of our beautiful and God-blessed community of St. Nicholas. “Koinonia” succeeded “Pharos” and its publishing progress over time is great. I have listened respectfully to some suggestions to change the name; however, I wish this edition to continue under the same name for two important reasons. The first is my respect for the church tradition, in accordance with the exhortation of the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians “stand, and hold the traditions” (2 Thess. 2, 15). The second is that I love this title as it expresses our experiences within the community. The word “Koinonia” means unity, sharing, the community itself, contribution, forgiveness. I consider “Koinonia” as a title for our magazine. Much more so as the “Koinonia” within the church and by the mystery of the Divine Liturgy is reduced to Holy Communion and leads to the union with God Himself, the Communion of the Body, and Blood of our Christ. Therefore, we continue our “Koinonia” with responsible contribution, cooperation and common struggle to strengthen, consolidate and offer experiences full of God’s blessing to all members of the community.

The March issue already finds us “at sea”, sailing on the sea of Holy and Great Lent and destined for the spiritual port of Holy and Great Week and the appeal of the awesome, holy, and saving Passion of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, the Cross, and the Resurrection of our Lord. Hailing from the beautiful Greek Islands, many members of our community know well what the sea means, what is its beauty and joy but also the serious dangers of travel, such as the storms. However, we feel safe knowing that our ship is our Holy Church. The Captain is our Christ. Our patron saint is Saint Nicholas, the patron Saint of sailors and seamen. We board this ship from the day of our Baptism, and we sail throughout our lives until our last breath.

Some of our brothers and sisters in Christ, unfortunately, get off the ship in unknown ports, wanting to explore other destinations, other places, other people, other religions. Like the prodigal son of the parable, who fled to a distant country, denying the love of God the Father. In any case, in the ship of our Holy Church there

is a place forever reserved for each of us. The Captain is so good and loves mankind, who changes the course of the ship, so that we can board again no matter how far away we are. All we need is to call him. And this call is primarily made from the bottom of our heart, with the awareness of our situation and the desire to meet with Him.

And then with repentance, with the request for forgiveness. And Great Lent is the season par excellence for this meeting. One of the most beautiful hymns of the Triodion says: “Open to me the gates of repentance, O Giver of Life”. And Christ opens these gates to us like the Father of the Prodigal Son with joy, with a wide embrace, whole-hearted, full of love, tenderness, and affection.

During this Great and Holy Lent, let us offer to God ourselves, our mistakes, failures and sins as He became flesh for us, suffered and sacrificed His life on the Cross. But also, let us offer the gifts and talents, which he entrusted to us and give them back to the Church and to our fellow man, who needs our help. Let us strive harder to keep the divine commandments and offer our love in our own way to our beloved church of Saint Nicholas, as it floods through our hearts.

I close this message with warm and heartfelt wishes for a blessed Holy and Great Lent, an overwhelming Holy Week, and a blessed Holy Pascha. I invite you with love, and I await you with joy to participate in all of the holy services so that our “Koinonia” can be a true experience of joy and blessing.

With Love in Christ,

Fr. Georgios Oikonomou
Protopresbyter



Koinonia

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF
AMERICA METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



Η «Κοινωνία» είναι το μηνιαίο δελτίο επικοινωνίας στην όμορφη και ευλογημένη από τον Θεό κοινότητά μας. Η «Κοινωνία» διαδέχτηκε τον «Φάρο» και η εκδοτική της πρόοδος στο πέρασμα του χρόνου είναι σπουδαία. Άκουσα με σεβασμό ορισμένες προτάσεις για αλλαγή του ονόματος, ωστόσο επιθυμώ να συνεχίσει αυτή η έκδοση με το ίδιο όνομα κυρίως για δύο λόγους. Ο πρώτος είναι ο σεβασμός μου στην εκκλησιαστική παράδοση, σύμφωνα και με την προτροπή του Αποστόλου Παύλου στους Θεσσαλονικείς «στήκετε, καὶ κρατεῖτε τὰς παραδόσεις» (Β' Θεσ. 2, 15). Ο δεύτερος είναι πόσο πολύ μου αρέσει αυτός ο τίτλος και πόσο πολύ εκφράζει τα βιώματά μας μέσα στην κοινότητα. Η λέξη κοινωνία σημαίνει την ενότητα, την κοινή μετοχή, την ίδια την κοινότητα, τη συνεισφορά, τη συγχώρεση. Θεωρώ ιδανικό τίτλο για το περιοδικό μας την κοινωνία. Πολύ περισσότερο καθώς η κοινωνία μέσα στην εκκλησία και με το μυστήριο της Θείας Λειτουργίας ανάγεται σε Θεία Κοινωνία και οδηγεί στην ένωση με τον Ίδιο τον Θεό, την Κοινωνία του Σώματος και Αίματος του Χριστού μας. Συνεχίζουμε, λοιπόν, την «Κοινωνία» μας με συνείδηση ευθύνης, συνεργασία και κοινό αγώνα για την ενδυνάμωση, την εμπέδωση και την προσφορά βιωμάτων γεμάτα ευλογία Θεού σε όλα τα μέλη της κοινότητας.

Το τεύχος του Μαρτίου μας βρίσκει ήδη «εν πλω», πλέοντας στο πέλαγος της Αγίας και Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής και με προορισμό το πνευματικό λιμάνι της Αγίας και Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας και της προσκύνησης των Σεπτών Παθών, του Σταυρού και της Αναστάσεως του Κυρίου μας. Με καταγωγή από τα όμορφα Ελληνικά Νησιά πολλά μέλη της κοινότητάς μας γνωρίζετε καλά τι σημαίνει θάλασσα, ποια είναι η ομορφιά και η χαρά της αλλά και τους σοβαρούς κινδύνους των ταξιδιών, τις φουρτούνες και τις τρικυμίες. Εμείς, ωστόσο, νιώθουμε ασφαλείς γνωρίζοντας ότι το καράβι μας είναι η Αγία μας Εκκλησία. Καπετάνιος ο Χριστός μας. Προστάτης ο Άγιος Νικόλαος, προστάτης των θαλασσινών. Ανεβαίνουμε σε αυτό το καράβι από την ημέρα της Βάπτισής μας και ταξιδεύουμε σε όλη τη ζωή μας μέχρι την τελευταία μας πνοή.

Κάποιοι αδελφοί μας, δυστυχώς, κατεβαίνουν από το καράβι σε άγνωστα λιμάνια, επιθυμώντας να

γνωρίσουν άλλους τόπους, άλλους ανθρώπους, άλλες θρησκείες. Σαν τον άσωτο υιό της παραβολής, που έφυγε σε χώρα μακρινή αρνούμενος την αγάπη του Θεού Πατέρα. Σε κάθε περίπτωση στο καράβι της Εκκλησίας είναι μια θέση για πάντα κρατημένη για τον καθένα μας. Ο Καπετάνιος είναι φιλάνθρωπος και αγαθός και θα αλλάξει την πορεία του καραβιού, για να επιβιβαστούμε πάλι όσο μακριά και αν βρισκόμαστε. Το μόνο που χρειάζεται είναι να Τον καλέσουμε. Και η κλήση αυτή γίνεται κατ' αρχήν μέσα στην καρδιά μας, με επίγνωση της κατάστασής μας και την επιθυμία να συναντηθούμε μαζί Του. Και ύστερα με τη μετάνοια, με την αίτηση συγχώρεσης. Και η Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή είναι η κατ' εξοχήν περίοδος για αυτή τη συνάντηση. Ένας από τους πιο όμορφους ύμνους του Τριωδίου λέει: «Τῆς μετανοίας ἄνοιξόν μοι πύλας Ζωοδότα», δηλαδή «Χριστέ μου, Σὺ που δίνεις τὴ Ζωή, ἀνοίξε νὰ διαβῶ τις πύλες τῆς μετάνοιας». Και ο Χριστός μας ανοίγει αυτές τις πύλες σαν τον σπλαγχνικό Πατέρα του Ασώτου με χαρά, με μια διάπλατη αγκαλιά, ολόθερμη, γεμάτη αγάπη, τρυφερότητα, στοργή.

Αυτή τη Σαρακοστή ας προσφέρουμε στον Θεό, που σαρκώθηκε για χάρη μας, έπαθε και θυσίασε τη ζωή Του απάνω στον Σταυρό, τον εαυτό μας, τα λάθη μας, τις αστοχίες, τα αμαρτήματα. Αλλά και τα χαρίσματα και τα τάλαντα, που μας εμπιστευτήκε, να τα καλλιεργήσουμε και να τα χαρίσουμε στην Εκκλησία και τον συνάνθρωπο. Να αγωνιστούμε εντονότερα να τηρούμε τις θείες εντολές και να προσφέρουμε ο καθένας με τον δικό του τρόπο στην αγαπημένη μας εκκλησία του Αγίου Νικολάου την αγάπη μας, καθώς πλημμυρίζει μέσα από την καρδιά μας.

Κλείνω το μήνυμα αυτό με ολόθερμες και εγκάρδιες ευχές για μία ευλογημένη Αγία και Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή, μία κατανυκτική Μεγάλη Εβδομάδα και μία ολόλαμπρη Ανάσταση. Σας προσκαλώ με αγάπη και σας περιμένω με χαρά να μετέχετε σε όλες τις ιερές ακολουθίες για να είναι η «Κοινωνία» μας βίωμα, χαρά και ευλογία.

Με εν Χριστώ αγάπη,

Πρωτοπρεσβύτερος Γεώργιος Οικονόμου

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

PROTOPRESBYTER FR. GEORGIOS OIKONOMOU, PASTOR Tel: 410-633-5020 • Fax: 410-633-4352 • Cell: 443-422-4548

CHURCH SECRETARY
PARASKEVI KOTSATOU

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
AMALIA SYROPOULOS-KOSTRIVAS

PARISH COUNCIL
PRESIDENT - STAMATIA IEROMONAHOS
VICE PRESIDENT - VASILIS ARGIROPOULOS
TREASURER - NICK ARAVIDIS
ASSISTANT TREASURER - SOFIA XOURI
RECORDING SECRETARY - MARY ILIADIS
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - IOANNIS SFAKIANOUDIS
STANLEY SOURANIS

BOARD MEMBERS
JOHN CHRISOMALLIS
JOHN KEVAS
JOHN KOROLOGOS
PETE SALLIARIS
EMMANUEL THEOHARIS

PHILOPTOCHOS
IRENE VASILIOS, PRESIDENT
MARIA GEORGAKI, VICE-PRESIDENT
ZOE PERDIKAKIS, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
MARIA KARAGIANNIS, RECORDING SECRETARY
EVA NYCHIS, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
STELLA KOUKIDES, TREASURER
CHRISTINE ZERVOS, ASSISTANT TREASURER

BOARD MEMBERS:
KATINA FOTINOS, PATTY KAFALLAS, NORA KEFALAS, MARIA KOUTSOURI, EVAGELIA SALLIARIS, RENEE THEMELIS, TSAMBIKA TRIANTAFILOS, KATINA YIANAKIS

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST
PETE BISBIKIS

SEXTON
STANLEY CAVOURAS

CHANTER
DIMITRIOS APOSTOLOU

HELLENIC GOLDEN COINS
KATERINA PATRIKIOS, DIRECTOR
FOULA PARAGIOS & IRENE ANGELOS,
DANCE INSTRUCTORS

PAN-HELLENIC BOARD MEMBERS
METAXIA KARDIASSMENOS - HONORARY MEMBER
EFFIE KARAMBELAS - DANCE TEACHER
FOTEINI ARGIROPOULOS - POC

DIAMONDS
ROSE TSAKALOS, PRESIDENT
ROZA CORNIAS, VICE-PRESIDENT
ANASTASIA VASILAKOPOULOS, SECRETARY
MARY SERAFIS, TREASURER

BOARD MEMBERS
SOULA GIANNAKOULIAS, SOULA KAPETANAKOS,
EVA LALLAS

G.O.Y.A.
RITA QUINTERO, HEAD ADVISOR
stnicholasgoyabalto@gmail.com
RENA KOUTSANTONIS
KATINA PALAS
NITSA ZDZIERA
DEBBIE NISTAZOS
EMILY SYROPOULOS

G.O.Y.A. COACHES
BOYS A & BOYS B TEAMS: DENNIS QUINTERO
GIRLS A & GIRLS B TEAMS: ANGELICA QUINTERO,
GENEVIEVE ZDZIERA, PANAYIOTA KOUTSANTONIS

G.O.Y.A. BOARD MEMBERS
PRESIDENT - ANEZINA PALAS
VICE-PRESIDENT - LEAH KOUTSANTONIS
TREASURER - KATERINA ALAFASSOS
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - PANAGIOTA ZDZIERA
RECORDING SECRETARY - SOPHIA KOUMOUDIS
HISTORIANS - ELLIE FILIPPOU AND MARIA KILLIAS
SERGEANT AT ARMS - GEORGE KOSTRIVAS

SUNDAY SCHOOL
PHAEDRA AVGERINOS AND SOPHIA GERAPETRITIS,
DIRECTORS
PHAEDRA AVGERINOS 10TH
NIKKI CANNING AND ROSE KOSTAKIS,
PRE-KINDERGARTEN
YANA KARABELAS, KINDERGARTEN
PENNY GERAPETRITIS & VASILIKI FONIADIKI, 1ST & 2ND
JENNA STAKIAS, 3RD & 4TH
STAVROULA SAKELAKIS 5TH
KALLIOPI CORNIAS & FLORA GIACOUMAKIS, 6TH
ELENI PIKOUNIS 7TH
MARIA FILIPPOU. 8TH & 9TH

AFTERNOON GREEK SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL: STAMATIA IEROMONAHOS
IRINI ANASTASIOU
YVONI GALETAKI
VOULA KOSMATOU
DESPINA LARENTZOS
EVANGELIA PAPADIMAS

GREEK SCHOOL P.T.A.
ALEXANDRA KAROUTSOS (PRESIDENT)
ALEXANDRA FORAKIS (VICE PRESIDENT)
DIMITRA DOUSKAS (SECRETARY)
AGATHI DIAKANTONIS (TREASURER)

BOARD MEMBERS:
MARIA IEROMONAHOS
TSAMBIKA KOROLOGOS
ANNA NIKOLETOU
TINA STAMATIADI
ANGELA YEAKIM

YAL
FOULA PARAGIOS

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
IRENE VASILAKOPOULOS, CHAIRPERSON
IRENE ANGELOS
ADRIENNE KOURTESIS
FOULA PARAGIOS

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

KOINONIA DEADLINE

Please submit your article(s) to the Koinonia staff by the deadline stated below:

ISSUE MONTH: APRIL 2023

SUBMISSIONS DUE: MARCH 20th

Please email your article(s) to: vkotsatou@stnicholasmd.org

Articles are due no later than the 20th of each month. If they are received after the deadline they will be published in the following month's issue.

All articles must be proofread and color corrected prior to submission.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Beloved friends and parishioners of Agios Nikolaos.

As we enter into the blessed period of Lent, let us refer to the custom that we teach in our school and remember it again and with love in our hearts travel through these holy days.

Lady Lent with 7 legs: one for each week until Easter

Lent customs:

The Greek Orthodox church has many traditions, one of the oldest ones found throughout Greece is "Lady Lent"; a woman in a drawing or sometimes made of dough who is depicted without a mouth because she is fasting, without ears so as not to hear and with crossed arms because she is praying and a cross because she is going to church. At the end of each week, beginning with the Saturday after Clean Monday, one of her legs is taken off to indicate the end of that Lenten week.

The last leg will be taken off on Holy Saturday. After Holy Saturday, the paper (if it's a drawing) is folded and hidden in a dry fig or walnut, which was placed with others. Whoever finds it is considered lucky. In some regions, the seventh leg was placed inside the Resurrection bread and whoever found it brought him a charm. In other regions of Greece, it was made of cloth and filled with feathers, while in Pontus, it was a potato or onion that was hung from the ceiling and seven chicken feathers were nailed to it, so that one feather was removed every week of Lent. Here the custom was called «Koukouras», which was also the fear of children! The following verses have been written for Lent:

On Lady Lent

which is an old custom
our grandmothers used to make it
with flour and water.

They wore it as an ornament
on the head a cross

but they forgot her mouth
because he had been fasting for a long time.

And the days were counted
with her seven legs
they cut one a week
until Easter comes.

Blessings and Happiness to all of you in your home!!
Blessed Lent!!

With love and appreciation,

Stamatia Ieromonahos
President of the Parish Council
St. Nicholas Church of Baltimore

Αγαπημένοι μας ενορίτες και φίλοι του Αγίου Νικολάου,

Με την ευκαιρία που μπαίνουμε στην ευλογημένη περίοδο της Σαρακοστής αναφερθούμε στο έθιμο που διδάσκουμε και στο σχολείο μας να το θυμηθούμε πάλι και με αγάπη στην καρδιά μας να διανύσουμε τις άγιες αυτές ημέρες.

Η «κυρά Σαρακοστή» με τα 7 πόδια: ένα για κάθε εβδομάδα μέχρι το Πάσχα.

Σαρακοστιανιά έθιμα η ελληνική ορθόδοξη πίστη έχει πολλά, ένα τα παλαιότερα που συναντάμε σε ολόκληρη την Ελλάδα είναι η «Κυρά Σαρακοστή», μια γυναικά σε ζωγραφιά ή από ζυμάρι που απεικονίζεται χωρίς στόμα γιατί νηστεύει, χωρίς αυτιά για να μην ακούει και κολάζεται, με σταυρωμένα τα χέρια γιατί προσεύχεται και ένα σταυρό γιατί πήγαινε στην εκκλησία. Στο τέλος κάθε εβδομάδας, αρχής γενομένης από το Σάββατο μετά την Καθαρά Δευτέρα, της έκοβαν ένα πόδι. Το τελευταίο το έκοβαν το Μεγάλο Σάββατο, ένα «ημερολόγιο» για τις ημέρες της νηστείας. Η κυρά-Σαρακοστή, στις περισσότερες περιοχές, ήταν μια χάρτινη ζωγραφιά. Μετά το Μεγάλο Σάββατο, το χαρτί το δίπλωναν και το έκρυβαν σε ένα ξερό σύκο ή καρύδι, το οποίο τοποθετούσαν μαζί με άλλα. Όποιος το έβρισκε θεωρούνταν τυχερός. Σε κάποιες περιοχές, το έβδομο πόδι το τοποθετούσαν μες στο ψωμί της Ανάστασης και όποιος το έβρισκε του έφερνε γούρι. Σε άλλες περιοχές της Ελλάδας, την έφτιαχναν από πανί και τη γέμιζαν με πούπουλα, ενώ στον Πόντο, ήταν μια πατάτα ή κρεμμύδι που το κρεμούσαν απ' το ταβάνι και του κάρφωναν επτά φτερά κότας, ώστε να αφαιρούν ένα φτερό κάθε εβδομάδα. Εδώ το έθιμο ονομαζόταν "Κουκουράς", ο οποίος ήταν και ο φόβος των παιδιών! Για την κυρά-Σαρακοστή έχουν γραφτεί οι εξής στίχοι:



Την κυρά Σαρακοστή
που 'ναι έθιμο παλιό
οι γιαγιάδες μας τη φτιάχναν'
με αλεύρι και νερό.
Για στολίδι της φορούσαν
στο κεφάλι ένα σταυρό
μα το στόμα της ξεχνούσαν
γιατί νήστευε καιρό.

Και τις μέρες τις μετρούσαν
με τα πόδια της τα επτά
κόβαν' ένα τη βδομάδα
μέχρι να 'ρθει η Πασχαλιά.

Ευλογία και Ευτυχία στο σπιτικό όλων σας !!!
Καλή Σαρακοστή!!

Με αγάπη και εκτίμηση,

Σταματία Ιερομονάχου
Πρόεδρος του Συμβουλίου
Αγίου Νικολάου Βαλτιμόρης

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Courtesy of goarch.org



Reading

For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous

men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy, that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.

[Apolytikion of Sun. of Orthodoxy](#)

Second Tone

O Christ our God, begging forgiveness of our sins, we venerate Your Pure Image, O Good One. Of your own will you condescended to ascend upon the Cross in the flesh and deliver those You created from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, thankfully, we cry out, "When You came to save the world, Your filled all things with joy, O Our Savior."

[Kontakion of Sun. of Orthodoxy](#)

Plagal of the Fourth Tone

The indescribable word of God became defined when He became incarnate of You O Theotokos. He restored our soiled image to what it was of old by joining it to His divine beauty. We confess salvation, and recount it in word and deed.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY



SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023

On this, the first Sunday of Lent, our church celebrates the day when icons were allowed back into the church. This was done to reassure that the use of icons is an integral part of Orthodoxy.

Bring your favorite icon and hold it high during the Procession of Icons to proclaim and defend Orthodoxy and the use of icons in the church.

Please join our Sunday school students in the procession by bringing your own personal icon to church.

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Sunday Church School
520 S. Ponca St.
Baltimore, MD 21224

Prot. No. 71

CATECHETICAL HOMILY
At the Opening of Holy and Great Lent

+ BARTHOLOMEW

By God's mercy Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch

To the Plenitude of the Church

May the Grace and Peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
Together with our Prayer, Blessing and Forgiveness Be with All

Most honorable brother Hierarchs and blessed children in the Lord,

By the goodwill and grace of the all-merciful and all-benevolent God, already living in the blessed and reverent period of the Triodion, tomorrow we enter Holy and Great Lent, the arena of fasting and "venerable abstinence" that eliminate the passions, during which the depth and wealth of our Orthodox Tradition and the vigilant care of the Church for the spiritual progress of its children are revealed. As we are reminded by the Holy and Great Council of Crete (June, 2016), "the Orthodox Church, in strict conformity with the apostolic precepts, the synodal canons, and the patristic tradition as a whole, has always proclaimed the great significance of fasting for our spiritual life and salvation" (*The Importance of Fasting and its Observance Today*, para. 1).

In the life of the Church, all matters have a solid theological foundation and soteriological reference. Orthodox Christians share the "common struggle" of asceticism and fasting "giving thanks in everything" (Thess. 5.18). The Church invites its children to run the race of ascetic exercises as a journey toward Holy Pascha. It is a central experience of the life in Christ that genuine asceticism is never despondent, since it is imbued with the expectation of resurrectional delight. Our hymnology speaks of the "spring of fasting."

In this sense, far from the trappings of Neoplatonist dualism and the alienating efforts to “mortify the body,” genuine asceticism cannot conceivably aim at the eradication of an “evil body” for the sake of the spirit or the liberation of the soul from the torment of its shackles. As emphasized, “in its authentic expression, ascesis is not directed against the body but against the passions, whose root is spiritual because the intellect is the first to fall to passion. Thus, the body is hardly the great opponent of the ascetic.”

The ascetic endeavor pursues the transcendence of egocentrism, for the sake of love that “does not seek its own” and without which we remain enslaved within ourselves, in the “insatiable ego” and its unquenchable desires. Being self-centered, we shrink and lose our creativity, as has been said: “Whatever we give is multiplied; and whatever we retain for ourselves is lost.” For this reason, the wisdom of the Fathers and the experience of the Church associate the period of fasting with the “showering of mercy,” with good deeds and philanthropy, which are the evidence of surpassing self-love and acquiring existential fullness.

Such wholeness is at all times the characteristic of life in the Church. The liturgical life, ascesis and spirituality, pastoral care and good witness in the world, are expressions of the truth of our faith, interconnected and mutually complementary elements of our Christian identity, which share the eschatological Kingdom as a point of reference and orientation, as well as the completeness and fulfilment of the divine Economy. While church life in all its expressions reflects and depicts the coming Kingdom of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, it is the mystery of the Divine Eucharist that above all, as underlined by the late Metropolitan John of Pergamon, recently of blessed memory, “expresses the Church in its fullness” (*The Image of the Heavenly Kingdom*, Megara 2013, p. 59). “Pure communion,” the rendering of our existence into that of the church, as participation in the Holy Eucharist, is the “end” of fasting, the “crown” and “prize” of ascetical struggles (see John Chrysostom, *Homilies on Isaiah VI: On the Seraphim*, PG 56.139).

Today, in an age of desacralization of life, when humankind “attributes great importance to entirely insignificant things,” our Christian mission is the practical elevation of the existential depth of our Orthodox “trptych of spirituality,” as the inseparable unity of liturgical life, ascetic

ethos and solidarity, the essence of the revolution of values in the fields of ethos and civilization constituted by faith in Christ and the divinely-granted freedom of the children of God. We consider it of paramount importance that we should live Holy and Great Lent as a revelation and experience of the true meaning of freedom “for which Christ has set us free” (Gal. 5.1).

With these thoughts and sentiments of love and honor, we wish you, our most honorable brothers in Christ and spiritual children of our Mother Church throughout the world, a smooth course in the arena of fasting, invoking on all of you the grace and mercy of Christ our God, who always delights in the ascetic struggles of His people. To Him belongs the blessed and glorified power of the Kingdom, now and always, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy and Great Lent 2023
✠ **BARTHOLOMEW of Constantinople**
Your fervent supplicant for all before God

To be read in churches on Cheesefare Sunday, February 26, 2023,
immediately after the Holy Gospel.

ΛΟΓΟΣ ΚΑΤΗΧΗΤΗΡΙΟΣ
ΕΠΙ ΤΗ ΕΝΑΡΞΕΙ
ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ

+ Β Α Ρ Θ Ο Λ Ο Μ Α Ι Ο Σ
ΕΛΕΩι ΘΕΟΥ
ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣ - ΝΕΑΣ ΡΩΜΗΣ
ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ
ΠΑΝΤΙ ΤΩι ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΙ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ,
ΧΑΡΙΣ ΕΙΗ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΡΗΝΗ
ΠΑΡΑ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ,
ΠΑΡ' ΗΜΩΝ ΔΕ ΕΥΧΗ, ΕΥΛΟΓΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΣΥΓΧΩΡΗΣΙΣ

* * *

Τιμιώτατοι άδελφοί Αρχιερείς καί τέκνα έν Κυρίω εύλογημένα,

Εύδοκία καί χάριτι του πανοικτίρμονος καί πανδώρου Θεού, διάγοντες ήδη τήν εύλογημένην περίοδον του Κατανυκτικού Τριωδίου, εισερχόμεθα αύριον εις τήν Άγίαν καί Μεγάλην Τεσσαρακοστήν, εις τό στάδιον τής παθοκτόνου νηστείας καί τής «πανσέπτου έγκρατείας», κατά τό όποιον άποκαλύπτεται τό βάθος του πλούτου τής Όρθοδόξου ήμών Παραδόσεως καί ή άνύστακτος μέριμνα τής Έκκλησίας διά τήν πνευματικήν προκοπήν των τέκνων της. Ός υπενθυμίζει ή Άγία καί Μεγάλη Σύνοδος τής Κρήτης (Ιούνιος, 2016), «ή Όρθόδοξος Έκκλησία άπαρεγκλίτως στοιχούσα εις τε τά άποστολικά θεσπίσματα καί τούς συνοδικούς κανόνας καί εις τήν καθ' όλου πατερικήν παράδοσιν, διεκήρυξε πάντοτε τήν ύψιστην άξίαν τής νηστείας διά τόν πνευματικόν βίον του άνθρώπου καί τήν σωτηριάν αυτού» (Η σπουδαιότης τής νηστείας καί ή τήρησις αυτής σήμερα, § 1).

Τά πάντα εις τήν ζωήν τής Έκκλησίας έχουν άσειστον θεολογικόν θεμέλιον καί σωτηριολογικήν αναφοράν. Οί όρθόδοξοι χριστιανοί άσκοϋν τό «κοινόν άθλημα» τής άσκήσεως καί τής νηστείας «έν παντί εύχαριστοϋντες» (Θεσσ. Α' ε', 18). Η Έκκλησία καλεί τά τέκνα της νά διατρέξουν τόν δόλιχον των άσκητικων γυμνασμάτων ως πορείαν προς τό Άγιον Πάσχα. Αποτελεί κεντρικήν έμπειριάν τής έν Χριστώ ζωής, ότι ό γνήσιος άσκητισμός δέν είναι ποτέ σκυθρωπός, άφοϋ διαποτίζεται άπό τήν προσδοκίαν τής αναστασίμου εύφροσύνης. Η ύμνολογία μας αναφέρεται εις τό «εαρ τής νηστείας».

Έν τή έννοία ταύτη, μακράν των παγίδων του νεοπλατωνίζοντος δυϊσμοϋ καί τής άλλοτριωτικής «σωματοκτονίας», ό γνήσιος άσκητισμός είναι άδιανόητον νά άποβλέπη εις τήν έξουθένωσιν του «κακοϋ σώματος» χάριν του πνεύματος καί τής άπελευθερώσεως τής ψυχής εκ των βασανιστικων δεσμων του. Όπως τονίζεται, «ή άσκηση, στήν αυθεντική εκφρασή της, δέν στρέφεται κατά του σώματος, αλλά κατά των παθων, ή ρίζα των οποίων είναι «πνευματική», άφοϋ «πρωτοπαθής» είναι ό νοϋς. Μάλλον τό σώμα δέν είναι ό μέγας αντίπαλος του άσκητή».

Ἡ ἀσκητική προσπάθεια ἐπιδιώκει τὴν ὑπέρβασιν τοῦ ἐγωκεντρισμοῦ, χάριν τῆς «οὐ ζητούσης τὰ ἑαυτῆς» ἀγάπης, ἄνευ τῆς ὁποίας ὁ ἄνθρωπος παραμένει ἐγκλωβισμένος εἰς τὸν ἑαυτόν του, εἰς τὸ «ἀδηφάγον ἐγώ» καὶ τὰς ἀκορέστους ἐπιθυμίας του. Ὁ ἐγωκεντρικός ἄνθρωπος συρρικνώνεται, χάνει τὴν δημιουργικότητά του, κατὰ τὸ ἔξοχον, «ὄ,τι δίνουμε πολλαπλασιάζεται, ὄ,τι κρατᾶμε γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτό μας εἶναι χαμένο». Διὰ τὸν λόγον αὐτόν, ἡ σοφία τῶν Πατέρων καὶ ἡ πείρα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας συνδέουν τὴν περίοδον τῆς νηστείας μέ τὴν «δαψίλειαν τῆς ἐλεημοσύνης», μέ ἔργα εὐποιίας καὶ φιλανθρωπίας, τὰ ὁποία εἶναι ἔνδειξις ὑπερβάσεως τῆς φιλαυτίας καὶ ὑπαρξιακῆς πληρότητος.

Ἡ ὀλιστικότητα εἶναι ἐν παντί καιρῷ τὸ χαρακτηριστικόν τῆς ζωῆς ἐν Ἐκκλησίᾳ. Λειτουργικὴ ζωὴ, ἄσκησις καὶ πνευματικότης, ποιμαντικὴ μέριμνα καὶ ἐγκόσμιος καλὴ μαρτυρία, εἶναι ἔκφρασις τῆς ἀληθείας τῆς πίστεώς μας, στοιχεῖα ἀλληλένδετα καὶ ἀλληλοσυμπληρούμενα τῆς χριστιανικῆς μας ταυτότητος, μέ κοινόν σημεῖον ἀναφορᾶς καὶ κατεύθυνσιν τὴν Βασιλείαν τῶν Ἐσχάτων καὶ τὴν ἐν αὐτῇ πλήρωσιν καὶ πληρότητα τῆς Θείας Οἰκονομίας. Ἐνῶ ἡ ἐκκλησιαστικὴ ζωὴ εἰς ὅλας τὰς ἐκφάνσεις τῆς ἀνταντακῆς καὶ εἰκονίζει τὴν ἐρχομένην Βασιλείαν τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος, εἶναι τὸ μυστήριον τῆς Θείας Εὐχαριστίας, ἐκεῖνο τὸ ὁποῖον, ὅπως ὑπογραμμίζει μετ' ἐμφάσεως ὁ προσφάτως ἐκδημήσας πρὸς Κύριον μακαριστὸς Μητροπολίτης Περγάμου Ἰωάννης «ἐκφράζει τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν στὴν πληρότητά της» (*Βασιλείας Θεοῦ ἐκτύπωμα*, Μέγαρο 2013, σ. 59). Ἡ «καθαρὰ κοινωνία», ἡ ἐκκλησιοποίησις τῆς ὑπάρξεώς μας, ὡς μετοχὴ εἰς τὴν Θεῖαν Εὐχαριστίαν, εἶναι τὸ «τέλος» τῆς νηστείας, ὁ «στέφανος» καὶ τὸ «βραβεῖον» τῶν ἀσκητικῶν ἀγώνων (βλ. Ἰωάννου Χρυσοστόμου, *Εἰς τὸν Ἡσαΐαν Ὁμιλίαι*, στ': *Εἰς τὰ Σεραφεῖμ*, PG 56, 139).

Σήμερον, εἰς ἐποχὴν ἀποϊεροποιήσεως τῆς ζωῆς, ὅπου ὁ ἄνθρωπος «προσδίδει μεγάλη σημασία σέ ἐντελῶς ἀσήμαντα πράγματα», ἡ χριστιανικὴ μας ἀποστολὴ εἶναι ἡ ἔμπρακτος ἀνάδειξις τοῦ ὑπαρξιακοῦ βάθους τοῦ ὀρθοδόξου «τριπτύχου τῆς πνευματικότητος», ὡς ἀδιασπᾶστου ἐνότητος λειτουργικῆς ζωῆς, ἀσκητικοῦ ἠθους καὶ ἀλληλεγγύης, τῆς πεμπτουσίας τῆς ἀξιολογικῆς ἐπαναστάσεως εἰς τὸν χῶρον τοῦ ἠθους καὶ τοῦ πολιτισμοῦ, τὴν ὁποίαν συγκροτεῖ ἡ πίστις εἰς Χριστόν καὶ ἡ θεοδώρητος ἐλευθερία τῶν τέκνων τοῦ Θεοῦ. Θεωροῦμεν ἰδιατέρως σημαντικόν, νὰ ζῶμεν τὴν Ἁγίαν καὶ Μεγάλην Τεσσαρακοστήν ὡς ἀποκάλυψιν καὶ βίωσιν τοῦ ἀληθοῦς νοήματος τῆς ἐλευθερίας «ἢ Χριστὸς ἡμᾶς ἠλευθέρωσε» (Γαλ. ε', 1).

Μέ αὐτὰς τὰς σκέψεις καὶ μέ αἰσθήματα ἀγάπης καὶ τιμῆς, εὐχόμεθα εἰς ὑμᾶς τοὺς Τιμιωτάτους ἐν Χριστῷ ἀδελφούς καὶ εἰς τὰ ἀνά τὴν οἰκουμένην πνευματικὰ τέκνα τῆς Μητρὸς Ἐκκλησίας εὐδρομον τὸ στάδιον τῆς νηστείας, ἐπικαλούμενοι ἐπὶ πάντας ὑμᾶς τὴν χάριν καὶ τὸ ἔλεος τοῦ ἀεὶ εὐφραينوμένου ἐπὶ τοῖς ἀσκητικοῖς ἄθλοις τοῦ λαοῦ Αὐτοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ, Οὗ τὸ κράτος τῆς Βασιλείας εἶη εὐλογημένον καὶ δεδοξασμένον, νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Ἁγία καὶ Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστὴ ,βγκ΄
† Ὁ Κωνσταντινουπόλεως

διάπυρος πρὸς Θεὸν εὐχέτης πάντων ὑμῶν

Ἀναγνωσθῆτω ἐπ' ἐκκλησίας κατὰ τὴν Κυριακὴν τῆς Τυρινῆς, κς' Φεβρουαρίου, ἀμέσως μετὰ τὸ Ἱερὸν Εὐαγγέλιον.

Annunciation of the Theotokos

Courtesy of goarch.org



Reading

Six months after John the Forerunner's conception, the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a town of Galilee, unto Mary the Virgin, who had come forth from the Temple

a mature maiden (see Nov. 21). According to the tradition handed down by the Fathers, she had been betrothed to Joseph four months. On coming to Joseph's house, the Archangel declared: "Rejoice, thou Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." After some consideration, and turmoil of soul, and fear because of this greeting, the Virgin, when she had finally obtained full assurance concerning God's unsearchable condescension and the ineffable dispensation that was to take place through her, and believing that all things are possible to the Most High, answered in humility: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And at this, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her all-blameless womb, and the Son and Word of God, Who existed before the ages, was conceived past speech and understanding, and became flesh in her immaculate body (Luke 1:26-38).

Bearing in her womb the Uncontainable One, the blessed Virgin went with haste from Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, where Zacharias had his dwelling;

for she desired to find Elizabeth her kinswoman and rejoice together with her, because, as she had learned from the Archangel, Elizabeth had conceived in her old age. Furthermore, she wished to tell her of the great things that the Mighty One had been well-pleased to bring to pass in her, and she greeted Elizabeth and drew nigh to her. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she felt her six-month-old babe, Saint John the Baptist, prophesied of the dawning of the spiritual Sun. Immediately, the aged Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognized her as the Mother of her Lord, and with a great voice blessed her and the Fruit that she held within herself. The Virgin also, moved by a supernatural rejoicing in the spirit, glorified her God and Savior, saying: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour," and the rest, as the divine Luke hath recorded (1:39-55)

[Apolytikion of Annunciation of the Theotokos](#)

Fourth Tone

Today marks the crowning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before all ages. For the Son of God becomes the son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the grace. Wherefore, we also cry out with him, "Hail, O full of grace, the Lord is with you."

[Kontakion of Annunciation of the Theotokos](#)

Plagal of the Fourth Tone

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

FESTIVAL OF THE THREE HIERARCHS

HOLY ARCHBISHOP OF AMERICA
HOLY CATHEDRAL OF NEASIERSEIS

FESTIVAL OF THE THREE HIERARCHS AND OF THE GREEK LETTERS

Saint Nicholas Baltimore | February 5, 2023
CEREMONY SPEECH

In the mouth of the Scriptures, like wise bees, you who are presumptuous, look well, and of the flowers the best and the honey, to all the believers of your teachings, offer me, in their feast, and because of this you are sweetened, with joy shouts; take again, and after Potmon, to you blessed ones.

In the Holy Bible, the meadow, flying like bees, you wise men, have harvested the honey and everything that is best from those flowers, and you offer them as lessons for all believers to enjoy in a spiritual banquet. That is why with cheerfulness whoever is sweetened by these words exclaims, “come among us again, to those of us who honor you, blessed.”

In this beautiful hymn from the Orthros of the feast of the Three Hierarchs, the Three Hierarchs are compared and presented, who today rejoice in the Kingdom of God with the honor offered to them by the children of the Greek Schools of our Holy Metropolis, New Jersey, as bees. Bees flying in the meadows and gardens of the Bible and instead of looking for nectar and pollen to harvest like bees, they are looking for the nectar and pollen of the Holy Spirit. And having, after endless study, carefully collected them, they again offer them to us as lessons and discourses full of wisdom and prudence. No. It is no exaggeration to say that their words are sweeter than honey. They are indeed sweeter, they are sanctified words, words that flood light into a world that is marching and sinking into darkness. Centuries and centuries may have passed since the time when the Three Hierarchs lived, but their words sound as if they were spoken only today. And they are eternal words, because exactly, as the hymn says, they are not their own words but the words of the Scriptures.

This hymn reminds us of a wonderful speech once delivered by Basil the Great, addressed to young people. At that time, because the harsh period of persecution against Christians by the Roman Emperors had preceded it, some Christians rejected the Greek tradition and literature, identifying it with the pagan religion. These people discouraged young people from studying the Greek texts because of the danger of them turning to idolatry. Basil the Great, who himself

had studied and deeply appreciated ancient Greek wisdom, especially when he studied in Athens, speaks to the young and tells them not to be afraid of the study of Greek words and texts. It breaks down the narrow-minded prejudice of ignorant and fanatical people, who rejected knowledge and research, and motivates young people to read everything fearlessly.

Therefore, uttering a wonderful speech, in which he refers to Hesiod, Homer, Herakles, Odysseus, Solon, the god Theognis, Pericles, Euclid, Socrates but also Alexander the Great, he concludes: “Those in the writings of the ancients Greeks are not only looking for the sweetness and grace of the word, they can also reap some benefit for the soul. Therefore, we must study these writings following the example of the bees. Bees do not fly to all flowers in the same way. And wherever they sit, they don’t look to take everything. They only take what is needed for their work and the rest they give up and leave. So can we, if we are wise. We will take from these texts what is related to the truth and what we need and we will leave the rest behind us. And just as, by cutting the rose, we avoid the thorns of the rose, so from these texts we will take what is useful and we will protect ourselves from what is harmful”.

These advices, which Basil the Great gave to young people at that time, are good for our children to listen to today as well as ourselves. In an era of rapid transition from the world of the book to the electronic world of the Internet in terms of how knowledge is transmitted, the example of the bee can be a lifesaver. Nectar and pollen are everywhere, but good will is needed. And this will is born in our heart by the love of God, the search for the truth, the study of the Holy Bible, the love for the letters, God’s things.

The Three Hierarchs were and forever remain the shining examples of this path. Little recompense for the feast that today’s celebration offers us with the flowers and honey. A celebration that fills us with hope and optimism for the future in the faces of these children, who learn Greek letters and learn with love and respect in the treasure of Greek and Christian Tradition.

ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΗ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

ΓΙΟΡΤΗ ΤΩΝ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΩΝ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΩΝ

Άγιος Νικόλαος Βαλτιμόρης | 5 Φεβρουαρίου 2023
ΛΟΓΟΣ ΠΑΝΗΓΥΡΙΚΟΣ

Ἐν λειμῶνι τῶν Γραφῶν, καθάπερ μέλισσαι Σοφοί, προσπιτάμενοι ὑμεῖς, περιεδρέψασθε καλῶς, καὶ τῶν ἀνθέων τὰ ἄριστα καὶ τὸ μέλι, πᾶσι τοῖς πιστοῖς τῶν διδασκάλων ὑμῶν, προτίθεσθε ὁμοῦ, εἰς πανδαισίαν αὐτῶν, καὶ διὰ τοῦτο ἅπας γλυκαινόμενος, μετ' εὐφροσύνης κραυγάζει· πάρεστε πάλιν, καὶ μετὰ πότμον, τοῖς ὑμᾶς εὐφημοῦσι μακάριοι.

Στῆς Ἁγίας Γραφῆς τὸ λιβάδι, πετώντας σαν τις μέλισσες, σεις ἄνδρες σοφοί, τρυγήσατε τὸ μέλι κι ὅ,τι πιο ἐκλεκτό ἀπὸ τὰ ἀνθή ἐκεῖνα, καὶ τα προσφέρετε ὡς διδάγματα σε ὅλους τους πιστοῦς νὰ τ' ἀπολαύσουν σε συμπόσιο πνευματικό. Γι' αὐτὸ με εὐφροσύνη ὁποῖος γλυκαίνεται μ' αὐτοὺς τους λόγους ἀναφωνεῖ, «ελάτε πάλι ἀνάμεσά μας, σε ὅσους σ' ἐμᾶς που σας τιμοῦμε, μακάριοι».

Σε αὐτὸν τον ὁμορφο ὕμνο ἀπὸ τον Ὁρθο της γιορτῆς των Τριῶν Ἱεραρχῶν παρομοιάζονται καὶ παρουσιάζονται οἱ Τρεῖς Ἱεράρχες, που σήμερα ἀγάλλονται στη Βασιλεία του Θεοῦ με την τιμὴ που τους προσφέρουν τα παιδιὰ των Ἑλληνικῶν Σχολείων της Ἱεράς μας Μητροπόλεως, Νέας Ἱερσέης, ὡς μέλισσες. Μέλισσες που πετοῦν στα λιβάδια καὶ τους κήπους της Ἁγίας Γραφῆς καὶ ἀντὶ νὰ ἀναζητοῦν νέκταρ καὶ γύρη νὰ τρυγήσουν σαν τις μέλισσες, ἐκεῖνοι ἀναζητοῦν τὸ νέκταρ καὶ τὴ γύρη του Ἁγίου Πνεύματος. Καὶ ἀφού, ὕστερα ἀπὸ ἀτελείωτη μελέτη, τα συλλέξουν προσεκτικὰ, τα προσφέρουν πάλι σε ἐμᾶς ὡς διδάγματα καὶ λόγους γεμάτους σοφία καὶ σύνεση. Ὁχι. Δὲν εἶναι ὑπερβολὴ νὰ πούμε ὅτι τα λόγια τους εἶναι γλυκύτερα καὶ ἀπὸ τὸ μέλι. Εἶναι ὄντως γλυκύτερα, εἶναι λόγια ἀγιασμένα, λόγια που πλημμυρίζουν φως σ' ἓναν κόσμο, που βαδίζει καὶ βυθίζεται στο σκοτάδι. Μπορεῖ νὰ πέρασαν αἰῶνες καὶ αἰῶνες ἀπὸ την ἐποχὴ, που ἔζησαν οἱ Τρεῖς Ἱεράρχες, μα τὰ λόγια τους ἀκούγονται σαν νὰ ἐπώθησαν μόλις σήμερα. Καὶ εἶναι λόγια αἰώνια, γιατί ἀκριβῶς, ὅπως λέει ὁ ὕμνος, δὲν εἶναι δικά τους λόγια ἀλλὰ εἶναι λόγια των Γραφῶν.

Ὁ ὕμνος αὐτὸς μας θυμίζει ἓναν θαυμάσιο λόγο, που ἐκφώνησε κάποτε ὁ Μέγας Βασίλειος, καὶ ἀπευθυνόταν στους νέους. Τὴν ἐποχὴ ἐκεῖνη, ἐπειδὴ εἶχε προηγηθεῖ ἡ σκληρὴ ἐποχὴ των διωγμῶν ἐναντίον των χριστιανῶν ἀπὸ τους Ῥωμαίους Ἀυτοκράτορες, κάποιοι χριστιανοὶ ἀπέριπταν τὴν ἑλληνικὴ παράδοση καὶ γραμματεία ταυτίζοντάς τὴν με τὴν ἰδωλολατρικὴ θρησκεία. Αὐτοὶ οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἀποθάρρυναν τους νέους ἀπὸ τὴ μελέτη των ἑλληνικῶν κειμένων θεωρώντας ὅτι ὑπάρχει κίνδυνος νὰ στραφοῦν στὴν ἰδωλολατρεία. Ὁ Μέγας Βασίλειος, που ὁ ἴδιος εἶχε σπουδάσει καὶ εἶχε ἐκτιμῆσει βαθιὰ τὴν ἀρχαιοελληνικὴ σοφία, κυρίως ὅταν

σπούδασε στὴν Ἀθήνα, μιλάει στους νέους καὶ τους λέει νὰ μὴ φοβούνται τὴ μελέτη των ἑλληνικῶν λόγων καὶ κειμένων. Γκρεμίζει τὴ στενόκαρδη προκατάληψη των ἀμαθῶν καὶ φανατικῶν ἀνθρώπων, που ἀπέριπταν τὴ γνώση καὶ τὴν ἔρευνα καὶ παρακινεῖ τους νέους νὰ διαβάσουν ἀφοβὰ τα πάντα.

Ἐκφωνώντας λοιπὸν ἓναν θαυμάσιο λόγο, στὸν ὁποῖο ἀναφέρεται στὸν Ἡσίοδο, στὸν Ὀμηρο, στὸν Ἡρακλῆ, τὸν Ὀδυσσεά, τὸν Σόλωνα, τὸν θεὸ Θεόγνι, τὸν Περικλῆ, τὸν Εὐκλείδη, τὸν Σωκράτη ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸν Μέγα Ἀλέξανδρο, ἀποφαίνεται: «Ὅσοι στὰ συγγράμματα τῶν ἀρχαίων Ἑλλήνων δὲν ἀναζητοῦν μονάχα τὴ γλύκα καὶ τὴ χάρη τοῦ λόγου, μποροῦν νὰ ἀποκομίσουν καὶ κάποια ὠφέλεια γιὰ τὴν ψυχὴ. Πρέπει, λοιπὸν, αὐτὰ τὰ συγγράμματα νὰ τὰ σπουδάσουμε ἀκολουθώντας τὸ παράδειγμα τῶν μελισσῶν. Οἱ μέλισσες δὲν πετᾶνε σὲ ὅλα τὰ λουλούδια μὲ τὸν ἴδιο τρόπο. Κι ὅπου καθίσουν, δὲν κοιτᾶνε νὰ τὰ πάρουν ὅλα. Παίρνουν μονάχα ὅσο χρειάζεται στὴ δουλειὰ τους καὶ τὸ ὑπόλοιπο τὸ παρατοῦν καὶ φεύγουν.» Ἔτσι κι ἐμεῖς, ἂν εἴμαστε φρόνιμοι. Θὰ πάρουμε ἀπ' αὐτὰ τὰ κείμενα ὅ,τι συγγενεῖ με τὴν ἀλήθεια καὶ μᾶς χρειάζεται καὶ τὰ ὑπόλοιπα θὰ τὰ ἀφήσουμε πίσω μας. Κι ὅπως, κόβοντας τὸ τριαντάφυλλο, ἀποφεύγουμε τὰ ἀγκάθια τῆς τριανταφυλλιάς, ἔτσι κι ἀπὸ τὰ κείμενα αὐτὰ θὰ πάρουμε ὅ,τι εἶναι χρήσιμο καὶ θὰ φυλάξουμε τὸν ἑαυτὸ μας ἀπ' ὅ,τι εἶναι ἐπιζήμιο».

Αὐτὲς τις συμβουλές, που ἔδωσε τότε ὁ Μέγας Βασίλειος στους νέους, εἶναι καλὸ καὶ σήμερα νὰ τις ἀκούσουν τα παιδιὰ μας ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐμεῖς οἱ ἴδιοι. Σε μία ἐποχὴ ραγδαίας μετάβασης ἀπὸ τὸν κόσμο του βιβλίου στὸν ηλεκτρονικὸν κόσμο του διαδικτύου ὡς πρὸς τὸν τρόπο μετάδοσης τῆς γνώσης, τὸ παράδειγμα τῆς μέλισσας μπορεῖ νὰ εἶναι σωτήριο. Νέκταρ καὶ γύρη ὑπάρχει παντοῦ, ὁμως χρειάζεται ἡ καλὴ θέληση. Καὶ τὴ θέληση αὐτὴ γεννᾷ στὴν καρδιά μας ἡ ἀγάπη πρὸς τὸν Θεὸ, ἡ ἀναζήτησις τῆς ἀλήθειας, ἡ μελέτη τῆς Ἁγίας Γραφῆς, ἡ ἀγάπη γιὰ τα γράμματα, του Θεοῦ τα πράγματα.

Οἱ Τρεῖς Ἱεράρχες ἦταν καὶ παραμένουν παντοτινὰ τα ὀλοφώτεινα παραδείγματα πρὸς αὐτὸν τὸν δρόμο. Ἐλάχιστη ἀνταπόδοσις γιὰ τὴν πανδαισία που μας προσφέρουν με των ἀνθέων τὰ ἄριστα καὶ τὸ μέλι ἡ σημερινὴ γιορτῆ. Μια γιορτῆ που μας γεμίζει ἐλπίδα καὶ αισιοδοξία γιὰ τὸ μέλλον στα πρόσωπα αὐτῶν των παιδιῶν, που μαθαίνουν τα ἑλληνικὰ γράμματα καὶ μαθητεύουν με ἀγάπη καὶ σεβασμὸ στὸν θησαυρὸ τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς καὶ Χριστιανικῆς Παράδοσης.

ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ - ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΗ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

ΙΕΡΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ

ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ ΒΑΛΤΙΜΟΡΗΣ

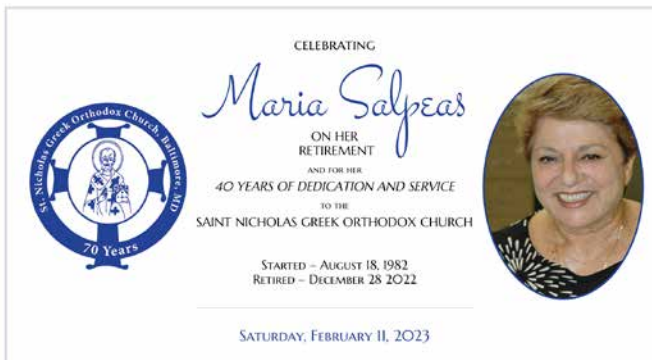
μελέτη
της Βίβλου
Bible study

Κάθε Δευτέρα

6:45-7:30μ.μ.

Έναρξη 27 Φεβρουαρίου

THANK YOU, MARIA SALPEAS and to All of You!



On behalf of Fr. Georgios Oikonomou and the Parish Council, the Event Committee would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all of you who came from far and near to attend this special celebration this past Saturday, February 11th, honoring Maria Salpeas' Retirement as a long serving Office Administrator of our Church and Community for the past 40 years.

Maria has served St. Nicholas Church as Secretary and Office Administrator from August 18, 1982, until her retirement on December 28, 2022. She has helped many parishioners not only from St. Nicholas church but also from our sister parishes in our area. If you needed a paper from Greece translated and notarized...you came to Maria. If you needed help with matters that involved the Greek Embassy...you came to Maria. If you needed help with translating articles to Greek for the then Pharos now Koinonia publications of our church...you came to Maria.

Father Manuel Burdusi said in his tribute..."Maria was Google before Google was invented. She applied herself to mastering the computer that the office added that was going to make her job a little easier. No matter who the president of the Parish council was or who the Priest was she could work with all of them...and that is not an easy task."

During her 40 years with the church, Maria has served under three Parish Priests: starting with Rev. Fr. George E. Kalpaxis (of blessed memory) from 1982 until 1991; Rev. Fr. Manuel J. Burdusi from 1991 until 2007; and Rev. Fr. Michael L. Pastrokos from 2007 until her retirement 2022. She had also worked under 14 Parish Council Presidents.

She not only served as an Office Administrator, but she also served on the Greek School PTA board when her sons, Manoli and Dimitri were in Greek School. She spearheaded for many years the Raffle Ticket drive and the Ad Book for the Annual Greek Folk Festival of our church, that helped bring in much needed funds to the church. You could not say "NO" to Maria when she called you to buy a ticket or an Ad for the Festival. In 1984, Maria asked several parishioners to help her raise funds in order to buy new computers for the office...when she asked everyone helped.

Thank you, Maria, for all that you have done for our church and our community.

At this time, we want to say Thank You and acknowledge our Master of Ceremonies for the night, Tony Pearce for all the introductions and to his band, Apollonia for providing the music that everyone enjoyed dancing to all night.

We want to Thank Fr. Eleftherios Plevrakis for the Blessing; Fr. Manuel Burdusi for the beautiful message that he had sent for Maria; Eve Lallas who also sent a tribute for Maria; to all of our Guest Speakers; to our past Parish Council President-George Perdikakis; to our special Guest from the Greek Embassy in Washington, DC - Theodosios & Alexandra Liappis and Vasiliios and Maria Giorgiou for making the trip to be with us; to the talented members of our Hellenic Golden Coins; and to the management and staff of Greektown Square and Event Center for the ambience and delicious food.

A Proclamation from Baltimore City Mayor, Brandon Scott recognizing Maria for her 40 years of service was presented. In addition, a special Icon of St. Nicholas that was made in Thessaloniki was also presented to Maria. We want to Thank Fr. Georgios Oikonomou for his help in making sure this Icon would get here on time. Also, a special icon of St. Kosmas & Damianos was presented to Maria by Irene Vasiliios, President of Philoptochos and Zoe Perdikakis.

In addition, we would like to Thank our Donors: Agios Nikolaos Philoptochos Society, G&M Restaurant, Ikaros Restaurant, Tony and Maria Pearce, Pixel Clear Photo Booth, Manolis Karellas and Manolis Lagogiannis and Yiayia's Bakery.

As Father Manuel Burdusi said in his tribute: "In the Olympics during the relay races, the baton is passed from one runner to the next. Today, the baton has been passed from the one generation to the next to continue the race. St. Nicholas is in good hands because God always looks after His faithful!"

We all wish Maria a happy and healthy Retirement to enjoy with her sons- Manoli & Joanne, Dimitri & Michelle and her beautiful granddaughters, Giota Maria, Eva and Vivi and her family and friends for many years to come.

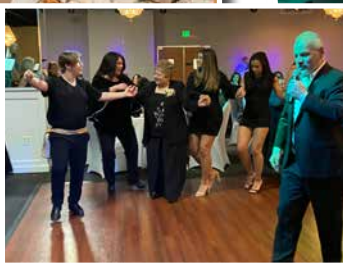
This year, the community of St. Nicholas will mark its 70th Anniversary of its establishment. Maria's celebration was our Kick-off for the many upcoming events the Parish Council is planning throughout this anniversary year. Stay tuned.

Again...Thank you, Maria...you are a legend...never to be forgotten.

Event Committee Members:

Stamatia Ieromonahos
Fr. Georgios Oikonomou
Giannis Sfakianoudis
Emmanuel Theoharis
Sofia Xouri
Milton & Emily Cossis

THANK YOU, MARIA SALPEAS



I extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to the organizers of the entertainment for my retirement: Father Georgios Oikonomou, Stamatia Ieromonachos, Yannis Sfakianoudis, Manolis Theoharis, Sofia Xouri and finally Miltiadis and Amalia Cossis. It was a wonderful night. The Apollonia band with its unsurpassed repertoire seduced us into singing with the participation of friends and relatives. The Organizing team worked hard, but the result counts....

Well done everyone, you crossed every limit.

When did 40 years go by?

I also want to thank all those who honored me with their presence, and all those who sent me greeting cards, and also monetary donations to our Patron Saint Nicholas.

The following relatives, friends and parishioners offered monetary donations, with their congratulations and my good health:

*Father Georgios & Presbytera Anastasia
Father Manuel & Presbytera Malama
Father Eleftherios & Presbytera Alexandra
Saint Nicholas G.O.Y.A.
Saint Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos Society
Κος. & Κα. Παντελής Ιερομόναχος
Κος. & Κα. Κώστας Παραλής
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jr. & Kim Bialozinski
Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Joyce Bialozinski Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Frank & Joan Ference
Κος & Κα Εμμανουήλ Καρελλάς
Κα. Μαρία Αγάπιου
Κα. Βίκυ Γεροντάκου
Κος. & Κα. Λοΐζος Δημητρίου
Κος. & Κα. Βασίλης & Φωτεινή Αργυρόπουλος
Κος. & Κα. Αργύρης & Ζηνοβία Στακιά
Κος & Κα. Δημήτρης & Πολυτίμη Ρορός
Κος. & Κα. Δημήτρης & Αργυρένια Μαυράκη
Κος. & Κα. Σάββας Κοιλιάς & Σοφία Θεοφανίδου Κοιλιά
Κος & Κα. Γιάννης & Δέσποινα Πικούνης
Κα. Ελένη Πικούνη
Κα. Ρόζα Κόρνια
Michael & Zoe Frangos*

Donors

*LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF SAINT NICHOLAS
MRS. ROZA CORNIAS
G & M RESTAURANT
IKAROS RESTAURANT
TONY AND MARIA PEARCE
THE DANCERS OF HELLENIC GOLDEN COINS
PIXEL CLEAR PHOTO BOOTH LLC
YIAYIA'S BAKERY*

Love, Maria Salpeas

MEMORIALS

In memory of Anastasia (Stasa) Christ

Mrs. Mary Serafis
Mrs. Irene Vavas
Mrs. Popi Philippou
Mr. Chris Angelopoulos
Mrs. Paraskevi Rappa
Mrs. Rose Cornias
Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Thoula Souranis
George Skandalis
Mrs. Katholiki Trintis
Mrs. Maritsa Souranis
Dr. & Mrs. Constantine J. Kaminaris
Ms. Paraskevi Souranis
Rhodea Tetteris
Connie Tsakiris
Anastasia Vasilakopoulos

In memory of Stamatis Christ

Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Thoula Souranis

In memory of Thrasivoulos Christ

Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Thoula Souranis

In memory of Apostolos Venetis

Chrysoula Foniadaki
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios and Alexadra Venetis

In memory of Stergos Trintis

Mrs. Popi Philippou

In memory of Konstantinos Forakis

Ms. Eva Lallas
Eve Stamatakis

In memory of Anna Aravides

Ms. Eva Lallas

In memory of Pete Chrisopoulos

Ms. Eva Lallas

***In memory of John, Nicholas, Irene,
Evanthia Lallas***

Ms. Eva Lallas

In memory of Panagiotis Jusakos

Ms. Eva Lallas

In memory of Presvytera Maria Arambiges

Ms. Eva Lallas

In memory of Theodora Polites

Ms. Eva Lallas

In memory of Nicholas Petite

Ms. Eva Lallas

In memory of Richard Di Pasquale

Ms. Eva Lallas

In memory of Marion Campanaris

Deanne Rzeczkowski



Saturday, February 25th we held our Annual Apokreatiko Dance to benefit the Philoxenia House. at Jimmy's Seafood. We would like to thank John and Tony Minadakis for hosting this successful event. We were honored to have in attendance Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos President Mrs. Eleni Constantinides and her spouse. This year's event was significant in the fact that the plans for "Project Hope" which is to include renovations to the garages and installation of an elevator to the Philoxenia House were unveiled. The support from those that were in attendance to our local sister parishes and the donations from chapters of our Metropolis Philoptochos of New Jersey made the evening truly a blessed one.

On Sunday, February 26th Mrs. Maria Serafis will celebrate her 90th Birthday! A longtime member of our Philoptochos, we wish her many more healthy and happy ones in our community!

On Sunday, March 5th Sunday of Orthodoxy, we will honor the memory of all our deceased members with a memorial service. A tray will also be passed to benefit Social Services of the Metropolis. We thank Mrs. Rose Tsakalos for donation of the Koliva. May their memory be eternal!

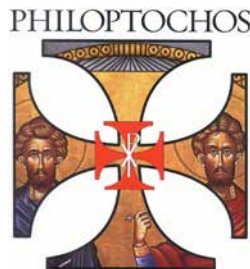
The next Philoptochos General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7th at 6:00 at the plateia. Join us for fruit and Lenten surprises!

Scholarship Applications for High School Graduates or College students that are continuing their education will be available in the church office starting March 1. Applications must be completed and returned to the church office no later than Sunday, April 16th. The Metropolis Philoptochos of New Jersey will award scholarships for the Anne Michaels Memorial Scholarship. To apply visit www.njphiloptochos.org

Saturday, March 18th Philoptochos will host a retreat at the Plateia with the guest speaker our own spiritual Father Georgios Oikonomou with the topic of "The meaning of the cross in our life". A continental breakfast will be served and Lenten lunch. For registration or information please contact Mia Atsidis 443-549-4862 or Kyriaki Kontoudis 443-938-3657. See the flyer on the next page.

Philoptochos Easter mailing and newsletter will be mailed out in the next week. As we begin the observance of Lent which will lead us to Easter Sunday, let us fast, pray and prepare spiritually. **Romans 12:12 - Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Wishing everyone a Blessed Sarakosti.**

Tο Σάββατο 25 Φεβρουαρίου πραγματοποιήσαμε τον Ετήσιο Αποκρεατικό Χορό προς όφελος του Οίκου Φιλοξενία στο Jimmy's Seafood. Θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε τον Γιάννη και τον Τόνυ Μιναδάκη για τη φιλοξενία αυτής της επιτυχημένης εκδήλωσης. Είχαμε την τιμή να παρευρεθούμε στην Μητρόπολη Νιου Τζέρσεϊ όπου η Φιλόπτωχος με την Πρόεδρο κα Ελένη Κωνσταντινίδη και τον σύζυγό της, διοργάνωσαν μια επιτυχημένη εκδήλωση. Η φετινή εκδήλωση ήταν σημαντική, αφού σε αυτήν αποκαλύφθηκαν τα σχέδια για το «Project Hope» που θα περιλαμβάνει ανακαινίσεις στα γκαράζ και εγκατάσταση ανελκυστήρα στο σπίτι της Φιλοξενίας. Η υποστήριξη από όσους παραβρέθηκαν στις τοπικές αδελφές εννορίες μας και οι δωρεές από τα παραρτήματα της Μητροπόλεως μας της Φιλοπτώχου του Νιου Τζέρσεϊ έκαναν τη βραδιά πραγματικά ευλογημένη.



Την Κυριακή, 26 Φεβρουαρίου η κυρία Μαρία Σεραφή γιόρτασε τα 90ά της γενέθλια! Πολυετής μέλος της Φιλοπτώχου μας, της ευχόμαστε πολλά ακόμα χρόνια γεμάτα υγεία και ευτυχία στην κοινότητά μας!

Την Κυριακή 5 Μαρτίου, Κυριακή της Ορθοδοξίας θα τιμήσουμε τη μνήμη όλων των κεκοιμημένων μελών μας με μνημόσυνο. Θα περάσει επίσης δίσκος προς όφελος των Κοινωνικών Υπηρεσιών της Μητρόπολης. Ευχαριστούμε την κ. Ρόζα Τσακάλο για τη δωρεά των κολύβων. Ας είναι αιωνία η μνήμη τους!

Η επόμενη Γενική Συνέλευση της Φιλοπτώχου έχει προγραμματιστεί για την Τρίτη 7 Μαρτίου στις 6:00 στην πλατεία. Ελάτε στην παρέα μας, τη βραδιά θα συνοδεύσουν φρούτα και νηστίσιμες εκπλήξεις!

Οι αιτήσεις υποτροφιών για αποφοίτους γυμνασίου ή φοιτητές που συνεχίζουν την εκπαίδευσή τους θα είναι διαθέσιμες στο γραφείο της εκκλησίας από την 1η Μαρτίου. Οι αιτήσεις πρέπει να συμπληρωθούν και να επιστραφούν στο γραφείο της εκκλησίας το αργότερο την Κυριακή 16 Απριλίου. Η Φιλόπτωχος της Μητρόπολης του Νιου Τζέρσεϊ θα απονεμίσει υποτροφίες για την υποτροφία Anne Michaels Memorial. Για να κάνετε αίτηση επισκεφθείτε τη διεύθυνση www.njphiloptochos.org

Το Σάββατο 18 Μαρτίου η Φιλόπτωχος θα πραγματοποιήσει «Retreat» στην Πλατεία με προσκεκλημένο ομιλητή τον πνευματικό μας πατέρα Γεώργιο Οικονόμου με θέμα «Η σημασία του σταυρού στη ζωή μας». Θα σερβίρεται ευρωπαϊκό πρωινό και νηστίσιμο μεσημεριανό. Για εγγραφές ή πληροφορίες επικοινωνήστε με την Μία Atsidis 443-549-4862 or Kyriaki Kontoudis 443-938-3657. Δείτε το φυλλάδιο στην επόμενη σελίδα.

Η αλληλογραφία και το ενημερωτικό δελτίο του Πάσχα της Φιλόπτώχου θα σταλούν την επόμενη εβδομάδα. Καθώς ξεκινάμε την τήρηση της Σαρακοστής που θα μας οδηγήσει στην Κυριακή του Πάσχα, ας νηστέψουμε, ας προσευχηθούμε και ας προετοιμαστούμε πνευματικά. **Ρωμαίους 12:12- Να είστε χαρούμενοι στην ελπίδα, υπομονετικοί στη θλίψη, πιστοί στην προσευχή.**

Ευχόμαστε σε όλους Ευλογημένη Σαρακοστή!

PHILOPTOCHOS

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church / Baltimore, Maryland

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL
LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday, March 18, 2023
9:00am – 12:30pm
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

“The Meaning of the Cross in Our Life” / “Το Νόημα Του Σταυρού Στη Ζωή Μας”

Speaker: Father Georgios Oikonomou / Ομιλητής: Πατερ Γεώργιος Οικονόμου

Continental Breakfast and Lenten Luncheon

Donation \$20

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them”.

Lenten Retreat Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (Daytime) _____ (Evening) _____

Email Address _____ Your Parish _____

Please include your check \$20, payable to St. Nicholas Philoptochos. Registration deadline is Monday, March 13th. Please respond by the deadline since a catered lunch is included. Mail registration to:

The Ladies Philoptochos Society
c/o Kyriaki Kontoudis
8053 Woodhaven Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21237

_____ Amount Enclosed

For additional information please contact: Mia Atsidis 443.549.4862 or Kyriaki Kontoudis 443.938.3657



Saint Nicholas Philoptochos Lenten Bus Trip

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

\$120.00 per person includes trip, meal and tips!

ITINERARY

8:00 A.M. Departure from White Marsh Park and Ride with Superior Tour Bus Charter.

11:00 Arrive at the Metropolis of New Jersey and meet with His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Media

Noon Depart New Jersey for Saint Nicholas Church and Shrine at World Trade Center. Which will include a brief tour.

2:00 p.m. 3 Minute Walk to Skinos Restaurant, 123 Washington Street, New York, N Y where arrangements have been made for the following meal:

Family Style

Greek salad no cheese

Calamari

Tarama/humus with pita bread

Choice of one

Shrimp with orzo

Vegetable moussaka

Stuffed peppers

6:00 p.m. Depart for Baltimore

FOR TICKETS OR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

IRENE VASILIOS 410-687-3978



NOW HIRING TEACHERS AND AIDES!

ST. NICHOLAS BILINGUAL EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

Hello BEEC Friends,

BEEC had a fantastic February. We created card artwork that explored feelings and relationships. We celebrated Valentine's Day with lots of red and sweets.

Spring is near! Our students are looking forward to exploring March with showers and flowers. We have many fun activities to look forward to, outdoor activities, butterfly gardens, and painting art. BEEC staff and Families are participating in the "Greek Independence Day Parade"!

BEEC is joining Soccer Shots this Spring. This program helps children develop their motor skills such as running, kicking and jumping which are necessary in learning the game of soccer.

We are also joining the Baltimore County Public Library. Literacy is essential, and so are the stories.

Lastly, BEEC is hiring; we are looking for a full-time teacher assistant, summer teacher assistant, and afternoon helper. If you are interested, please call 410-633-5020 or email beec@stnicholsmd.org

Michelle Abuel
Director of BEEC



Δίγλωσσος Βρεφονηπιακός Στανθμός Αγίου Νικολάου,

Η BEEC είχε έναν φανταστικό Φεβρουάριο. Δημιουργήσαμε έργα τέχνης με κάρτες που εξερευνούσαν συναισθήματα και σχέσεις. Γιορτάσαμε την Ημέρα του Αγίου Βαλεντίνου με πολλά κόκκινα και γλυκά.

Η άνοιξη είναι κοντά! Οι μαθητές μας ανυπομονούν να εξερευνήσουν τον Μάρτιο με βροχές και λουλούδια. Έχουμε πολλές διασκεδαστικές δραστηριότητες να περιμένουμε, υπαίθριες δραστηριότητες, κήπους με πεταλούδες και ζωγραφική. Το προσωπικό της BEEC και οι οικογένειες θα συμμετέχουν στην «Παρέλαση της Ελληνικής Ημέρας Ανεξαρτησίας»!

Η BEEC εντάσσεται επίσης στο Soccer Shots αυτή την άνοιξη. Οι βολές ποδοσφαίρου βοηθούν τα παιδιά να επιδείξουν αδρές κινητικές δεξιότητες όπως το τρέξιμο, το λάκτισμα και το άλμα.

Συμμετέχουμε επίσης στη Δημόσια Βιβλιοθήκη της Κομητείας της Βαλτιμόρης. Ο γραμματισμός είναι απαραίτητος, όπως και οι ιστορίες.

Τέλος, η BEEC προσλαμβάνει. Αναζητούμε βοηθό καθηγητή πλήρους απασχόλησης, βοηθό δασκάλου καλοκαιριού και απογευματινό βοηθό. Εάν ενδιαφέρεστε, καλέστε στο 410-633-5020 ή στείλτε email στο beec@stnicholsmd.org

Michelle Abuel
Υποδιευθύντρια του BEEC



DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

FLOWER DONATIONS

LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2023 - (EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 16, 2023)

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR TABLE – VASES

MARCH 5	1 ST SUNDAY OF LENT – SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY
MARCH 12	2 nd SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 19	3 rd SUNDAY OF LENT- THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – Daffodils
MARCH 26	4 th SUNDAY OF LENT
APRIL 2	5 TH SUNDAY OF LENT
APRIL 9	PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 13	HOLY THURSDAY
APRIL 15	HOLY SATURDAY – (spring flowers)

SALUTATIONS FLOWERS FOR THEOTOKOS

MARCH 3	1 st SALUTATIONS ICON -- PROSKINITARI & WALL ICON
MARCH 10	2 nd SALUTATIONS ICON -- PROSKINITARI & WALL ICON
MARCH 17	3 rd SALUTATIONS ICON-- PROSKINITARI & WALL ICON
MARCH 24	4 TH SALUTATIONS HYMN ICON -- PROSKINITARI & WALL ICON
MARCH 31	SALUTATIONS & AKATHISTOS HYMN -- PROSKINITARI & WALL ICON
APRIL 9	PALM SUNDAY PALMS
APRIL 9	PALM SUNDAY MORNING FLOWER DECORATIONS (various greens and yellow flowers)
APRIL 9	PALM SUNDAY ICON ((MORNING) –PROSKINITARI (yellow flowers)
APRIL 9	NYMPHIOS ICON (EVENING) – (purple flowers)
APRIL 13	HOLY THURSDAY – WREATH FOR THE CROWN – (burgundy roses)
APRIL 13	HOLY THURSDAY – WREATH FOR BASE OF THE CROSS (burgundy roses)
APRIL 13	HOLY THURSDAY - PROSKINITARI – (burgundy roses)
APRIL 15	HOLY SATURDAY -- RESURRECTION ICON -- WHITE ROSES

INCENSE FOR LENT AND FOR HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEDNESDAY UNCTION SUPPLIES
GOOD FRIDAY – Sheet -- Rose petals
HOLY SATURDAY LAUREL & BAY LEAVES
DECORATION OF THE ICONOSTASION

CANDLES DONATIONS

11" YELLOW
11" WHITE
YELLOW LAMBADES FOR GOOD FRIDAY WITH WHITE CUPS
WHITE LAMBADES FOR HOLY SATURDAY WITH RED CUPS
5 DAY VOTIVE LIGHTS -- 50 CASES RED
5 DAY VOTIVE LIGHTS -- 50 CASES PURPLE
5 DAY VOTIVE LIGHTS – 50 CASES WHITE

*In order to select your
donation(s), it is strongly
requested to contact
the church office
(410) 633-5020
Thank you.*

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

CLIP
HERE

GOOD FRIDAY—LAMENTATIONS SERVICE PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Την Μεγάλη Παρασκευή, κατά την διάρκεια της Ακολουθίας του Επιταφίου Θρήνου, και το Μεγάλο Σάββατο το πρωί, προσευχόμαστε στο Θεό για τις ψυχές των απελθόντων προσφιλών συγγενών και φίλων. Όσοι επιθυμούν να μνημονεύσουν τα αγαπημένα τους πρόσωπα τις ημέρες αυτές, παρακαλούνται να συμπληρώσουν το κάτωθι έντυπο και να το φέρουν στην Εκκλησία πριν την Μεγάλη Παρασκευή.

During the Lamentations Service of Good Friday evening, and on Holy Saturday morning, we offer prayers to God for the souls of our departed beloved family members and friends. For those who wish to have their departed brethren remembered on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, you are asked to complete the below form and submit the names before Good Friday.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

CLIP
COUPON

EASTER LILIES FOR THE CHURCH ΔΩΡΕΕΣ ΑΝΘΕΩΝ (ΚΡΙΝΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ)



Please donate Easter Lilies to decorate our church for Easter. The cost is \$25.00. Fill out this form and send or bring it to Saint Nicholas Church.

Αν επιθυμείτε να κάνετε τη δωρεά σας \$25.00, συμπληρώσετε το έντυπο αυτό και στείλετε την δωρεά σας εγκαίρως στον Άγιο Νικόλαο.

NAME

ADDRESS

AMOUNT \$25.00

OTHER AMOUNT

*For flower and other item donations, please contact the church office -
410-633-5020. Thank you for your support.*

*Για Δωρεές ανθέων και άλλων αντικειμένων για την Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή, την Μεγάλη Εβδομάδα και το Πάσχα παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε με το Κοινοτικό Γραφείο,
410-633-5020. Σας ευχαριστούμε για την υποστήριξή σας.*

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Saint Nicholas Oratorical Festival

Our Youth will present speeches on our
faith.

Competitive Division- grades 7-12

Elementary Division will also share
speeches.

Open to all Saint Nick's youth.

To register, email
stnicholassundayschool@yahoo.com

March 18, 2023

11:30 am (speakers arrive at 11)



**SAINT NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**



**VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL**

- *Children from k-6th grade*
- *VBS Registration begins March 1*
- *\$ 100 registration*
- *Registration includes a Daily Snack and Lunch
and a St. Nicks VBS T-shirt*

**CRAFTS – GYM PLAY – SNACK TIME
BIBLE STUDY – HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES**

JUNE 26 – 30, 9AM TO 12:30PM

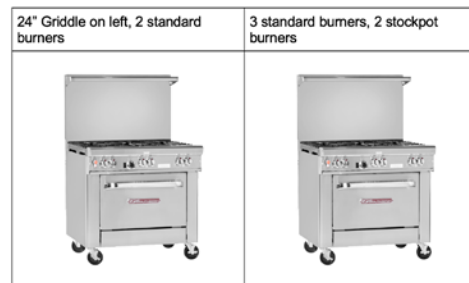
CHURCH WISH LIST

The Parish Council has been approached by many parishioners asking to provide a “Wish List” of items that our Church, and Community Hall Kitchen needs. As you may have noticed, parishioners have already donated the new passenger elevator for our Church, the new bathrooms on the first Floor and in the gym upstairs. All of these were donated with the love and trust to our Parish Council and Church members.

Please take a moment to think about how the past 50 years has taken a toll on our Church and its buildings and now it is in the dire need of replacement or renovation. Your monetary contribution (no matter what amount) to any of the items mentioned below in the Wish List can and will make a permanent difference in the Church and it will be there for generations to come.

wish list

1/4” clear polycarbonate sheets to protect the exterior of the stained glass icon windows



Two Southbend Ranges
(to sit side-by-side)
Item# 4361A-2GL, 4365A



Blodgett Double Stack Convection Oven
Item# ZEPH-200-G DBL
(Oven will come with legs and casters)



Dean 50 LB Fryer
Item# SR152G



Metro Warming Cabinet
Item # C539-CFC-U

Thank you for your support!



St. Nicholas eGiving Stewardship

One Less Thing
to think about



eGiving Benefits

- Easy set up
- One-time/recurring payment options
- Confidential & secure
- Track easily for tax purposes

How it Works

- Go to: stnicholasmd.org/give
- Select fund(s)
- Create your profile
- Select amount, payment method & frequency
- Complete donation
- THAT'S IT! Simple.

Thank you for your generosity!

Give yourself *One Less Thing* to think about
stnicholasmd.org/give
Or download the mobile app!

VANCO



MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE CARD ΚΑΡΤΑ ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑΣ

“GIVING THANKS: EUCHARISTIC STEWARDSHIP”

“ΑΝΤΠΟΔΙΔΟΝΤΑΙ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΙΕΣ: ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΙΕΣ ΜΕΣΩ ΤΗΣ ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑΣ”

2023 SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CONFIDENTIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD
2023 ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ –ΚΑΡΤΑ ΑΠΟΡΡΗΤΗΣ ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑΣ ΜΕΛΩΝ

In gratitude for God's blessings I/we make the following commitment to the ministries of St. Nicholas Church:
Σαν έκφραση ευγνωμοσύνης μου για τις ευλογίες που έχω λάβει από τον Θεό, δεσμεύομαι με την ακόλουθη οικονομική και εθελοντική μου προσφορά προς την Εκκλησία του Αγίου Νικολάου:

\$ _____ (Weekly / Monthly / Quarterly / Yearly)
\$ _____ (Εβδομαδιαίως / Μηνιαίως / Ανά Τρίμηνο / Ετησίως)
TOTAL ANNUAL PLEDGE FOR 2023 :\$ _____
Συνολικό ποσό προσφοράς για το 2023 :\$ _____

Come and See God work through your talents, skills, and experience, as well as your financial support.
Your offering to Christ and His Church can do as much as you empower it to do.

We give to Christ and His Church not according to our means but according to our love for Him.
Γίνετε μάρτυρες του έργου του Θεού! Δώστε από το ταλέντο με το οποίο σας έχει προικίσει, με τις ικανότητες, τις εμπειρίες, την οικονομική σας ευχέρεια. Η προσφορά μας στον Χριστό και την Εκκλησία Του ας βασιστεί στην αγάπη μας προς Αυτόν, όχι στην οικονομική μας δυνατότητα.

Planned Giving Please send me information on making a planned gift to the Church.
Δωρεά που σχεδιάζω Παρακαλώ στείλτε μου πληροφορίες σχετικά με τον τρόπο που μπορώ να δωρίσω.

Print Full Name/ Γράψτε με κεφαλαία γράμματα το επίθετό σας _____

Signature/ Υπογραφή _____

Date/ Ημερομηνία _____

Name / Ονομα	Date of Birth / Ημερομ. Γεννήσεως
Name of Spouse / Όνομα συζύγου	Date of Birth / Ημερομ. Γεννήσεως
Occupation / Επάγγελμα	
Occupation / Επάγγελμα (Spouse)	
Street Address / Ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση	
City / πόλη	Zip Code / ταχ. τομέας
Home Phone / Σταθερό τηλέφωνο σπιτιού	
Mobile Phone / Κινητό τηλέφωνο	Mobile Phone / Κινητό τηλέφωνο (Spouse)
Email Address / Ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση	
Email Address of Spouse / Ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση συζύγου	
Communication Preferences / Προτιμήσεις επικοινωνίας	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail / Ταχυδρομείο <input type="checkbox"/> Email / Ηλεκτρονική <input type="checkbox"/> Text / Μήνυμα	
Dependent Children's Names and Birthdates / Ονόματα παιδιών και ημερομηνία γεννήσεώς τους	

Introducing Auto Pay Set It and Forget It!

Take the work out of giving! Set up automatic offerings and pledges right from your computer or tablet that will seamlessly reoccur every week, month, quarter, or year.

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website www.stnicholasmd.org/give or download the GivePlus mobile app. If you have any questions, contact the church office at 410-633-5020.



ΕΙΣΑΓΩΓΗ ΣΤΟΝ ΑΥΤΟΜΑΤΟ ΤΡΟΠΟ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΗΣ ΡΥΘΜΙΣΤΕ ΤΟ ΚΑΙ ... ΞΕΧΑΣΤΕ ΤΟ!

Δεν χρειάζεται να θυμάστε να στείλετε τη προσφορά σας. Ρυθμίστε την αυτόματη δωρεά και την εθελοντική σας προσφορά απευθείας από τον υπολογιστή σας ή το tablet σας που θα επαναλαμβάνεται ανελλιπώς κάθε εβδομάδα, μήνα, τρίμηνο ή έτος.

Εάν επιθυμείτε να στείλετε τη δωρεά σας ηλεκτρονικά, επισκεφθείτε την ιστοσελίδα μας www.stnicholasmd.org/give ή κατεβάστε την εφαρμογή GivePlus mobile. Εάν έχετε απορίες, επικοινωνήστε με το Γραφείο της Εκκλησίας στο τηλέφωνο 410-633-5020.



100 CENTENNIAL 1922-2022 PILGRIMAGE

LED BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP
ELPIDOPHOROS OF AMERICA



CAPPADOCIA

- Among the many sites visit Goreme Open Air Museum to see the Byzantine rock churches, the Underground City of Kaymakli (Anakou), the old Greek cities of Sinassos, Aravissos & much more Attend the Divine Liturgy celebrated by H.A.H. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Ancient Rock Church.

SMYRNA

Tour the city including the old Greek section & the promenade by the sea. A full day tour to Ephesus where St Paul preached the Gospel & was imprisoned. See the Library of Celsus, & the Basilica of St. John. Tour Pergamon, the northern most of the seven churches of Asia & visit the Pergamon Altar, the Ascelpion



CONSTANTINOPLE

- Experience the Queen of Cities by visiting sites sacred to the Orthodox faith: The Sacred Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Hagia Sophia, the Theological School of Halki, Panagia Vlacherna, Baloukli Monastery, and celebrate the Feast Day of the H.A.H Ecumenical Patriarch Batholomew!

**12 NIGHTS
14 DAYS**



**PRICE:
\$4850 DOUBLE
\$5800 SINGLE**



**DATE
MAY 31- JUNE 13**



Reserve your spot today by contacting
Cloud Tours at (718)721-3808 and
stephen@cloudtours.com

NOTICES

ΖΗΤΩ Η ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΩΔΕΚΑΝΗΣΟΣ

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE

75th Anniversary of the Unification of the Dodecanese Islands with Greece

Traditional Food, Music, Dancing,
Special Guests, and More!

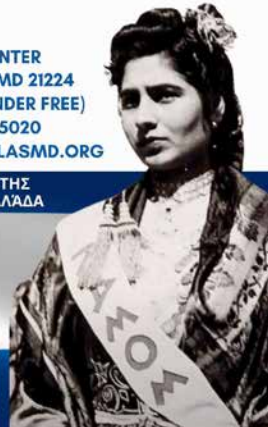
PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
DIVINE LITURGY AND DOXOLOGY
AT SAINT NICHOLAS GOC,
PRESIDED BY HIS GRACE
BISHOP APOSTOLOS OF MEDEIA

MARCH 5, 2023

at 1:00 p.m.

GREEKTOWN SQUARE & EVENT CENTER
700 QUAIL STREET, GREEKTOWN, MD 21224
TICKETS: \$20 PER PERSON (18 & UNDER FREE)
CALL VOULA KOTSATOU 410-633-5020
OR EMAIL VKOTSATOU@STNICHOLASMD.ORG

7 ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ 1948 - Η ΕΝΣΩΜΑΤΩΣΗ ΤΗΣ
ΔΩΔΕΚΑΝΗΣΟΥ ΜΕ ΤΗΝ ΜΗΤΕΡΑ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ



2:00 PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023
ON EASTERN AVE. IN BALTIMORE'S GREEKTOWN

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

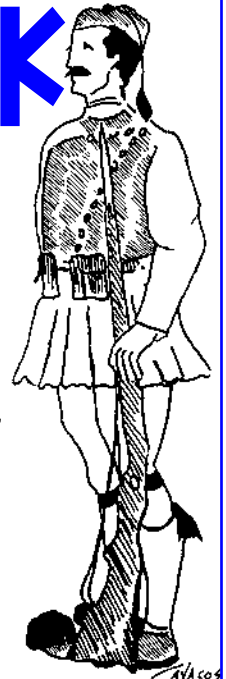
HONORING OUR ANCESTORS'
SACRIFICES TO PRESERVE THE IDEALS
OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

FOR INFORMATION

PARADE HOTLINE: 443-267-4735

www.greekparade.com

[/greekparade](https://www.facebook.com/greekparade) [@greekparade](https://www.instagram.com/greekparade)



HELP US GROW THROUGH E-GIVING



It's through your contributions that we're able to carry on important work both spiritually and in our community.

Electronic giving is a convenient, easy way to support St. Nicholas.

By giving electronically, you can:

- Give anywhere, anytime from your computer, smartphone or tablet.
- Donate easily for special projects.
- Set up recurring offerings and pledges and never worry about bringing your checkbook or cash again.

Show your support and try one of our e-Giving options. If you would like to give electronically, visit our website www.stnicholasmd.org or download the GivePlus mobile app.



Thank you for all you do to support our St. Nicholas family throughout the year!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!! FESTIVAL - JUNE 8-11

PREPARATIONS ARE NOW UNDERWAY FOR THE 2023 ST. NICHOLAS FESTIVAL. MANY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESSFUL EVENT. THERE WILL BE A WIDE VARIETY OF VOLUNTEER OPTIONS FOR EVERYONE. PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH THE OFFICE (410-633-5020) OR SOFIA (240-375-5464) TO SIGN UP!

CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR
FESTIVAL MEETING NOTICES!



NOTICES

SPONSOR A COFFEE HOUR

We have resumed the Coffee Hour following the Divine Liturgy on Sundays. Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour in memory of a loved one, for the health of your family, or in honor of our St. Nicholas Church.

Please call the office at **410-633-5020** to schedule.

*Thank you
for your
support!*



**St. Nicholas Greek School PTA
2022-2023 Fundraiser
KARELLAS CAFÉ**



Karellas Café has generously offered to donate 10% of all their Proceeds during Greek School hours for either Dining in or Carry Out orders. All you have to do is mention you are there for Greek School. Please consider supporting our St. Nicholas Greek School Fundraiser and enjoy your coffees, desserts, appetizers, or dinners.

Thank you in advance for all your Support throughout the School Year.
St. Nicholas Greek School PTA

- Where: Karellas Café
426 S. Newkirk St. Baltimore, MD 21224
- When: Every Mondays & Wednesdays
- Time: 4:00PM- 8:00PM
- Phone #: 443-520-3030

NOTICE:

All organizations must review their upcoming events with Paraskevi Kotsatou (410-633-5020) who will add the event to the official church calendar on the bulletin board across from Father Georgios' office.



Thank you for your cooperation.



St. Nicholas Greek School
PTA Fundraiser

RUSTIC OLIVE BREAD

No Knead Lenten Olive Bread Mix
complete with Olives!

[Click here to order!](#)

<https://st-nicholas-greek-school-pta.square.site>



Saint Nicholas Greek School

Wine Fundraiser

Celebrating 70 Years

White and Red Wines from Greece

1 for \$20

2 for \$40 with box

Place order: stnicholaspta520@gmail.com

FINANCIALS

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Budget vs. Actuals: Church and Greek School January 2023

	Actual	Budget	over (under) Budget
Income			
4000 Stewardship	18,037.00	21,355.00	(3,318.00)
4010 Greek School Registration	2,640.00	673.00	1,967.00
Other Income	11,728.00	17,064.00	(5,336.00)
Total Income	32,405.00	39,092.00	(6,687.00)
Total Cost of Goods Sold	3,463.85	8,199.00	(4,735.15)
Gross Profit	28,941.15	30,893.00	(1,951.85)
Expenses			
Total CAPITAL COSTS (CHURCH)	6,309.39	680.00	5,629.39
Total GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION	18,001.38	21,116.00	(3,114.62)
Total OCCUPANCY COSTS	7,495.68	5,385.00	2,110.68
Total PAYROLL EXPENSES	30,987.13	24,476.33	6,510.80
Total YOUTH AND EDUCATIONAL	0.00	750.00	0.00
Total Expenses	62,793.58	52,407.33	10,386.25
Net Operating Income	(33,852.43)	(21,514.33)	(12,338.10)
4815 Eastern AVE Mortgage Principal Payments	\$ 568.07		
OVERALL CHURCH SURPLUS (LOSS) (Operating and Mortgage)	(\$34,420.50)		

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Budget vs. Actuals: Learning Center January 2023

	Actual	Budget	over (under) Budget
Income			
4011 Learning Center Income	93,751.64	91,595.00	2,156.64
Total 4011 Learning Center Income	93,751.64	91,595.00	2,156.64
Total Income	93,751.64	91,595.00	2,156.64
Gross Profit	93,751.64	91,595.00	2,156.64
Expenses			
LEARNING CENTER			
Total Payroll Expense (L.C.)	49,065.53	61,966.00	(12,900.47)
Total Food and Classroom Supplies (L.C.)	2,178.04	4,227.00	(2,048.96)
Total Admin and Office Expenses (L.C.)	2,885.25	6,003.00	(3,117.75)
Total Occupancy Expenses/Cap Improvements (L.C.)	6,246.70	7,120.00	(873.30)
Total LEARNING CENTER	60,375.52	79,316.00	(18,940.48)
Total Expenses	60,375.52	79,316.00	(18,940.48)
Net Operating Income	33,376.12	12,279.00	21,097.12
Other Revenue			
State and Local Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Revenue	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Net Other Revenue	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Net Revenue	\$ 33,376.12	\$ 12,279.00	21,097.12

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Budget vs. Actuals: Plateia January 2023

	Actual	Budget	over (under) Budget
Income			
4140 Plateia Income (Onsite)	10,130.54	26,361.00	(16,230.46)
Total Income	10,130.54	26,361.00	(16,230.46)
Cost of Goods Sold			
COST OF GOODS SOLD			
Total Plateia CGS Expenses	447.03	9,263.00	(8,815.97)
Total COST OF GOODS SOLD	447.03	9,263.00	(8,815.97)
Total Cost of Goods Sold	447.03	9,263.00	(8,815.97)
Gross Profit	9,683.51	17,098.00	(7,414.49)
Expenses			
PLATEIA EXPENSES			
Total Occupancy Expenses (Plateia)	12,499.78	8,834.00	3,665.78
Total Payroll Expenses (Plateia)	80.74	1,592.00	(1,511.26)
Total Admin Expenses (Plateia)	1,341.32	1,853.00	(511.68)
Total Bus Dev/Marketing Expenses (Plateia)	1,053.00	1,455.00	(402.00)
Total PLATEIA EXPENSES	14,974.84	13,734.00	1,240.84
Total Expenses	14,974.84	13,734.00	1,240.84
Net Operating Income	(5,291.33)	3,364.00	(8,655.33)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR - MARCH

Wednesday, March 1:	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	7:00 pm
Friday, March 3:	First Salutations to the Theotokos	7:00 pm
Saturday, March 4:	Third Saturday of the Souls:	
	Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
Sunday, March 5:	Sunday of Orthodoxy (First Sunday of Lent):	
	Orthros: 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy:	10:00 am.
Monday, March 6:	Great Compline Service	6:00 pm
Wednesday, March 8:	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	7:00 pm
Friday, March 10:	Second Salutations to the Theotokos	7:00 pm
Sunday, March 12:	Second Sunday of Lent (St. Gregory Palamas)	
	Orthros 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Monday, March 13:	Great Compline Service	6:00 pm
Wednesday, March 15:	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	7:00 pm
Friday, March 17:	Third Salutations to the Theotokos	7:00 pm
Sunday, March 19:	Third Sunday of Lent: Veneration of the Holy Cross:	
	Orthros 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Monday, March 20:	Great Compline Service	6:00 pm
Wednesday, March 22:	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	7:00 pm
Friday, March 24:	Great Vesper Service:	
	<i>At the Annunciation Cathedral</i>	7:00 pm
Saturday, March 25:	Feast Day of the Annunciation: Greek Independence Day:	
	Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
	<i>This service for the Annunciation, Feast Day will be held at St. Nicholas</i>	
Sunday, March 26:	Sunday of St. John Climacus	
	Orthros: 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy:	10:00 am.
Monday, March 27:	Great Compline Service	6:00 pm
Wednesday, March 29:	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	7:00 pm
Friday, March 31:	Akathistos Hymn	7:00 pm

New Bible Study session with Father Georgios after each Compline Service on Monday nights from 6:45 to 7:30 pm