

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

Hellenic Golden Coins Dance Troupe



Handbook

Welcome to the 2016-2017 dance year at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. **We are happy that you have decided to entrust your children to us to teach dances, songs, and traditions of the various regions of Greece.** This is a great place for children to grow and develop lifelong friendships. We are a youth ministry that follows the teachings and leadership of our Greek Orthodox religion and is under the guidance of our Spiritual Father, Father Michael Pastrokos.

Inside this handbook, you will find some valuable information, rules, and procedures of the Hellenic Golden Coins (HGC) dance program. It is meant to inform you of what to expect from the program and what the rights and responsibilities are of each parent, dancer, and instructor.

Of course, this is only an overview of our program and we will practice to meet the specific needs of the group. During the course of the year, based on the needs of the program and for the benefit of the children, rules and procedures may change.

Again we welcome you, and look forward to getting to know each and every one of you, as well as your children/dancers, as we grow in faith together.

INSTRUCTORS:

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Tony Giorgakis <u>tgiorgakis@yahoo.com</u>	410.733.5849
Stacey Lioreisis <u>lioreisis.stacey@gmail.com</u>	443.977.7177
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GROUP EMAIL:

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PARISH COUNCIL LIASON:

Stamatia Ieromonahos kridiwtisa@hotmail.com	443.742.2424
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PARISH PRIEST:

Father Michael Pastrikos <u>frmichael@stnicholasmd.org</u>	410-633-5020
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HGC EXECUTIVE BOARD:

(Elections will be held by the end of February 2016.)

Service Learning Hours will be available for these positions held by HGC dancers.

- TBA - President
- TBA - Vice President
- TBA - Treasurer
- TBA - Historian
- TBA - Secretary

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Program Instructors:

HGC currently has four Instructors who oversee all events. They are responsible for the financial health and maintenance of the dance program. They are responsible for tracking all required paperwork from each dancer, as well as, costumes which have been signed out by a dancer for performances. One of the main responsibilities of the instructors is to implement the artistic program. They are responsible for the artistic administration of the HGC. In addition, they are responsible for the proper conduct of the dancers and implementation of the over-all dance program.

HGC Instructors reserve the right to make changes to this Handbook at anytime based on the benefit to the group.

Parents:

Parents will assist dancers in attending Church services, youth activities, and dance practices.

The HGC is a team with every dancer playing a part based on their strengths. Please allow instructors to place dancers where it will best support the team/group. Throughout the year, instructors make an effort to give each dancer an opportunity to perform in different positions such as leading or holding the end. Parent special requests place undue stress on the instructors and only serve to compromise the group for the benefit of an individual dancer.

Dancers:

All Dancers will be a part of the active youth ministry program, attend Sunday school and Church on a regular basis. Ultimately, the HGC is your group. You have a voice, and we encourage you to help make decisions for the group that you feel will enhance your performance and generate your enthusiasm! The group will be successful because of you, not only through dancing, but through your input.

Tuition:

\$60.00 per Dancer

Registration Form and tuition payment must be turned in to the instructors before enrollment is complete. For safety, no dancer may participate until emergency numbers are on file.

Please make *checks payable to:*

Saint Nicholas' Hellenic Golden Coins

Payment for the 2016-2017 Dance Program is due no later than February 28, 2016.

Tuition covers all expenses the HGC incurs during the year from purchase of costumes, to travel expenses, to any other expenses the Instructors approve for payment based on the benefit of our group.

Coffee Hour:

Many of the St. Nicholas Church Organizations sponsor the Sunday fellowship Coffee Hour. We will be notified of the date HGC will be hosting coffee hour. Hosting may include a cash donation from each dancer to cover the cost of supplies. Donations may also include baked goods or supplies.

Snack Corner:

During each practice, the Instructors like to have some drinks/snacks available to the dancers.

We will have a sign-up sheet for parents to donate money and/or snacks for the practices. The dancers appreciate all donations. Thank you in advance.

General Rules:

1. Dancers will be between the ages of 13-25.
2. Dancers will be on time to each rehearsal and ready to “stretch-out” under the guidance of the Instructors, as well as, be attentive to the dance instructions.
3. Dancers will have all of the following required forms signed and turned into their instructors by their first practice:
 - Registration Form
 - Handbook Acknowledgment Receipt
4. Conduct toward other members of group or other church dance groups should be respectful. Any conduct which is not “sportsman like”, will not be tolerated and dancer will be excused from group.
5. Dancers shall be selected for a role in performances by the instructor based on attendance, best use of their abilities, and the needs of the HGC.
6. Gratuities received during a performance shall go towards the HGC general fund.

Discipline:

The following are rules for discipline:

1st Demerit – Verbal warning issued to dancer

2nd Demerit – Dancer will have a 15 minute sit-out

3rd Demerit – Dancer will be excused from practice and may lose the opportunity to perform at the next performance.

Attendance:

If unable to attend rehearsal, dancer will contact instructors via phone call, email or text message prior to the start of rehearsal.

Excessive Absences may result in:

- Not being able to perform in the next performance, or
- Dismissal from the group

Dress Code/Costumes:

Rehearsals – For regular rehearsals appropriate attire is required for both boys and girls.

- Modest clothing
- Proper shoes must be worn.
(NO OPEN TOED, FLIP FLOPS, OR ANYTHING THAT WILL FLY OFF)

Costume Inventory:

A Costume Inventory Check List of any items that have been assigned to your dancer. Items will be checked in/out and signed off in “good-order”. Dancers will be responsible for any improper handling of the costumes and shall replace any lost or damaged pieces.

For performances that are less formal and the HGC wear all black attire, with the following requirements:

- Black V Neck T-Shirt
- Black Pants
- Black Dance shoes for girls and Black Dress shoes for boys

HGC will provide any accessories to go with this “costume” and will be signed out by dancer. No variation from this costume is acceptable.

Practice Schedules:

Practices are held every Monday, from 6PM-8PM at the Plateia, located at 701 Ponca St. Baltimore, MD, one block from St. Nicholas Church.

If practice time/location changes, group will be notified in advance.

Special Practice Schedules:

Prior to upcoming performances, instructors may request additional practices.

Fund Raising:

In order to meet our financial goals for various activities of HGC, we will be fund-raising.

We need parents willing to lead and execute these activities.

Saint Nicholas Greek Folk Festival:

Each year St. Nicholas hosts a folk festival in June. We expect all dancers to be present during performances throughout the weekend. If for some reason a dancer cannot participate, it is their responsibility to advise the instructors they will not be attending.

Metropolis of New Jersey, Hellenic Folk Dance Festival (FDF):

We will travel to Annapolis to attend the Metropolis of New Jersey Folk Dance Festival which takes place on a Saturday/Sunday in January each year. This is a wonderful place to meet dancers from all over the country, celebrate our love of dance, song, and grow in our faith.

In order to prepare for this, there will be additional dance practices and a significant commitment is required on the part of both the dancer and the family. Instructors invest significant resources in this Youth Ministry. Because of this, Instructors will have the discretion of deciding which dancers have made the commitment and are eligible to participate.

Based on successful fund-raising results, a dancer may be required to pay a portion of the registration fee and other expenses related to this event.

SCHEDULE:

- Mar. 12, 2016 - Saint Nicholas Philoptochos Apokreatiko Glendi 7pm – 10pm
- May 2016 - Saint Nicholas Philoptochos Mother's Day Tea
- June 2016 - Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Folk Festival
- TBD - Coffee Hour
- TBD - Hellenic Golden Coins Fundraiser
- Sept. 2016 - Saint Demetrios Greek Folk Festival
- Nov. 2016 - Annunciation Greek Folk Festival
- Dec. 2016 - Saint Nicholas Philoptochos Christmas Tea
- Jan. 2017 - Hellenic FDF Dance Competition, Annapolis

*Other events may be scheduled at a later date. Instructors will provide details accordingly.

On behalf of all the HGC Dance Instructors and current HGC Dance Troupe, we would like to welcome you and look forward to watching your children grow together.