

#### SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

## Message from FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS, PROTOPRESBYTER

The joyous day of Holy Pascha will be with us shortly. By the time you receive the issue of the "Koinonia" we will probably be in the heart of Palm Sunday or Holy Week. It is said that the months of March and April in the Orthodox Church are revered as months of Spiritual Cleansing and Renewal. This could have eternal influence. In Psalms 51:10 we read, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." This is the feeling and the experience that

we need to recognize the importance of the Paschal Celebration.

What must we do to get excited and to allow Christ's Passover to bless us and to feel His grace within us? Let us take the Parable of the Prodigal Son. What made the son come back to his father after leaving him to find a better life? Did he find a better life away from his father? Answer No.-it was the worst mistake that he made in his life, and he repented for that error. This also can affect us. We sometimes are also prodigal when we neglect our

Heavenly Father to pursue the life that we want to live. If we do the same and leave our Father, then we will never see the light at the end of the tunnel. We will face is frustration, disappointment, lack of love, loneliness, emptiness, and the feeling of unworthiness.

Before we can ask what does Christ ask from us, we must first ask, "What has God done for us"? As I am writing this article, I feel that I can never repay Him for what He has done for me and my family. When I look back in my life, there are no words to describe the wonderful experiences that He has provider me and my family during the 44 years of my Priesthood. While serving my Lord in His vineyard. I would need

to write a book on the adventures, and experiences that I have had throughout my life. The Lord has given me a treasure of good memories that I can never forget. And I'm sure that He has blessed all of you with a wonderful life filled with joy and happiness and success. I'm also sure that many of us have had bad experiences in our lives, because life is filled with bad and good experience. But we also know that God will always be there for us, protecting us from any dangers that we will face in our

lives. If we are close to our Lord, and we pray and worship in a positive and spiritual way, He will always be there for us. All Christ wants and asks from us, is simply a relationship, and a true friendship. The possibility to know Him, and for Him to know us. God wants to be involved in our lives in a big and small way.

I know and acknowledge that Christ went on the Cross, died, resurrected, and ascended, proving that passing from death to life, is a sure thing. By living a Christian life, we at least have

the opportunity to receive the gift of Eternal Life. For those who choose the opposite road, what future do they have when they die? I also realize and acknowledge that by living an honest and descent life with morals, virtues, and principles, we are already winners, no matter which way it goes. If we live our lives with honesty, never hurting anyone, always helping people in need, abiding by the rules and laws of society, following God's Commandments, giving love and respect to others, we know that our reward is already there for us.

With the spirit of our Resurrected Lord, we can start a new beginning with our lives. The Resurrection Hymn that we chant during Pascha Sunday gives us





## Μήνυμα Από τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Λ. Παστρικό

the true path towards salvation. "Let us who have beheld the Resurrection of Christ, worship our Holy Lord Jesus who alone is without sin. We worship your Cross, O Christ, and praise and glorify your Holy Resurrection. For you are our God, and we know none other beside You, and we call upon Your Name. Come all the faithful, let us worship Christ's Holy Resurrection, for behold, through the Cross, joy has come to

the world. We praise His Resurrection and forever glorify the Lord. He endured the Cross for us, and by death destroyed death".

May all of you have a Blessed Pascha!!
CHRIST IS RISEN !!! TRULY HE IS RISEN !!!

Η χαρμόσυνη ημέρα του Αγίου Πάσχα θα είναι σύντομα κοντά μας. Όταν θα λάβετε το τεύχος της «Κοινωνίας» κατά πάσα πιθανότητα θα βρισκόμαστε στην καρδιά της Κυριακής των Βαΐων και την Μεγάλη Εβδομάδα. Λέγεται ότι τους μήνες Μάρτιο και Απρίλιο στην Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία τους δεχόμαστε ως μήνες Πνευματικής κάθαρσης και ανανέωσης. Αυτό θα μπορούσε να έχει αιώνια επιρροή. Στους Ψαλμούς 51:10 αναφέρεται, «Δημιούργησε μέσα μου καθαρή καρδιά, Θεέ μου, και ανανέωσε σταθερό πνεύμα μέσα μου.» Αυτό είναι το συναίσθημα και η εμπειρία που πρέπει να αναγνωρίσουμε ως τη σημασία της Πασχαλινής Εορτής.

Τι πρέπει να κάνουμε για να ενθουσιαστούμε και να επιτρέψουμε όπως το Πάσχα του Χριστού μας ευλογήσει να αισθανθούμε τη χάρη Του μέσα μας; Ας πάρουμε την Παραβολή του Ασώτου Υιού. Τι ήταν αυτό που παρακίνησε το γιο να επανέλθει στον πατέρα του αφού τον άφησε για να βρει μια καλύτερη ζωή; Είχε βρει μια καλύτερη ζωή μακριά από τον πατέρα του; Απάντηση, Όχι. Ήταν το χειρότερο λάθος που έκανε στη ζωή του, και μετανόησε για το σφάλμα του. Αυτό μπορεί επίσης να μας επηρεάσει. Μερικές φορές γινόμαστε και εμείς άσωτοι, όταν αμελούμε τον Επουράνιο Πατέρα μας για να τραβήξουμε τη ζωή που θέλουμε να ζήσουμε. Αν κάνουμε το ίδιο και αφήσουμε τον Πατέρα μας, τότε ποτέ δεν θα δούμε το φως στην άκρη του τούνελ. Αυτό που θα αντιμετωπίσουμε είναι η απογοήτευση, έλλειψη αγάπης, μοναξιά, το κενό, και το αίσθημα της αναξιότητας.

Πριν μπορέσουμε να ρωτήσουμε τι ζητάει ο Χριστός από εμάς, πρέπει πρώτα να ρωτήσουμε: "Τι έχει κάνει ο Θεός για μας"; Καθώς γράφω αυτό το άρθρο, έχω την αίσθηση ότι δεν μπορώ ποτέ να Τον εξοφλήσω για όσα έχει κάνει για μένα και την οικογένειά μου. Όταν κοιτάζω πίσω στη ζωή μου, δεν υπάρχουν λόγια να περιγράψω τις υπέροχες εμπειρίες που Έχει δώσει σε μένα και την οικογένειά μου κατά τη διάρκεια των 44 χρόνων της ιεροσύνης μου, ενώ υπηρετούσα τον Κύριό μου στον Αμπελώνα Του. Θα ήθελα να γράψω ένα βιβλίο για τις περιπέτειες και τις εμπειρίες που είχα σε όλη μου τη ζωή. Ο Κύριος μου έδωσε έναν θησαυρό καλών αναμνήσεων που δεν μπορώ ποτέ να ξεχάσω. Και είμαι σίγουρος ότι σας ευλόγησε και εσάς με μια υπέροχη ζωή γεμάτη χαρά, ευτυχία και επιτυχία. Είμαι επίσης βέβαιος ότι πολλοί από εμάς είχαν άσχημες εμπειρίες στη ζωή τους, γιατί η ζωή είναι γεμάτη με κακές και καλές εμπειρίες. Αλλά γνωρίζουμε

επίσης ότι ο Θεός θα βρίσκεται πάντα εκεί για μας, να μας προστατεύει από τυχόν κινδύνους που θα αντιμετωπίσουμε στη ζωή μας. Αν είμαστε κοντά στον Κύριο μας, και προσευχόμαστε και Τον λατρεύουμε με θετικό και πνευματικό τρόπο, Αυτός θα είναι πάντα εκεί για εμάς. Όλα που θέλει και ζητά ο Χριστός από εμάς, είναι απλά μια σχέση, και μια αληθινή φιλία. Η δυνατότητα να Τον γνωρίσουμε, και Αυτός να μας γνωρίσει. Ο Θεός θέλει να συμμετέχει στη ζωή μας με μεγάλο και μικρό τρόπο.

Ξέρω και αναγνωρίζω ότι ο Χριστός Σταυρώθηκε, πέθανε, αναστήθηκε και ανελήφθη, αποδεικνύοντας ότι το πέρασμα από τον θάνατο στη ζωή είναι σίγουρο γεγονός. Με το να ζούμε μια χριστιανική ζωή, έχουμε τουλάχιστον την ευκαιρία να λάβουμε το δώρο της Αιώνιας Ζωής. Για όσους επιλέγουν τον αντίθετο δρόμο, τι μέλλον έχουν όταν πεθάνουν; Αντιλαμβάνομαι επίσης και αναγνωρίζω ότι ζώντας μια ειλικρινή ζωή με ήθος, αρετές και αρχές, είμαστε ήδη νικητές, δεν έχει σημασία με ποιο τρόπο θα προχωρήσουμε. Αν ζούμε τη ζωή μας με ειλικρίνεια, ποτέ δεν βλάπτουμε κανέναν, βοηθώντας πάντα τους ανθρώπους που έχουν ανάγκη, τηρώντας τους κανόνες και τους νόμους της κοινωνίας, ακολουθώντας τις εντολές του Θεού, προσφέροντας αγάπη και σεβασμό προς τους άλλους, γνωρίζουμε ότι η ανταμοιβή μας είναι ήδη εκεί για εμάς.

Με το πνεύμα του Αναστάντος Κυρίου μας, μπορούμε να ξεκινήσουμε μια νέα αρχή στις ζωές μας. Ο Αναστάσιμος Ύμνος που ψάλλουμε κατά τη διάρκεια της Κυριακής του Πάσχα, μας δίνει την πραγματική πορεία προς τη σωτηρία. "Ας δούμε όσους έχουν δει την Ανάσταση του Χριστού, λατρεύουν τον Άγιο Κύριο μας Ιησού Χριστό, ο οποίος είναι ο μόνος αναμάρτητος, λατρεύουν τον Σταυρό Σου, ω Χριστέ, και δοξάζουν την Αγία Σου Ανάσταση, επειδή εσύ είσαι ο Θεός μας και δεν γνωρίζουμε κανένα άλλο εκτός από Εσένα, και επικαλούμαστε το όνομά Σου. Ελάτε όλοι οι πιστοί, ας υμνήσουμε την Αγία Ανάσταση του Χριστού, γιατί, μέσω του Σταυρού, η χαρά έχει έρθει ανά τον κόσμο, δοξάζουμε την Ανάστασή Του και δοξάζουμε τον Κύριό μας, και θανάτω θάνατον πατήσαν».

Εύχομαι σε όλους Καλό και ευλογημένο Πάσχα! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!! ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!!

\*\*\*Under the direction His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, no Sacraments will be performed until further notice. This mean that NO baptisms, weddings, or funerals may be conducted unless fewer than 10 people. Those in the church must remain 6 feet apart from each other.

APRIL 2020

## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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#### 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

#### AFTERNOON GREEK SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL: STAMATIA IEROMONAHOS ΥΠΕΥΘΥΝΉ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟΥ -ΣΤΑΜΑΤΙΑ ΙΕΡΟΜΟΝΑΧΟΣ

PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN - ELENI MASTORAS & XENIA PONTIDI

ΠΡΟΝΗΠΙΟ & ΝΗΠΙΑΓΩΓΕΙΟ - ΕΛΕΝΗ ΜΑΣΤΟΡΑ & ΞΕΝΙΑ ΠΟΝΤΙΛΗ

FIRST GRADE - DESPINA LARENTZOU & KATERINA IEROMONAHOS

Α' ΤΑΞΗ - ΔΕΣΠΟΙΝΑ ΛΑΡΕΝΤΖΟΥ & KATEPINA IEPOMONAXOY

SECOND & THIRD GRADES - YVONNE GALETAKI THIRD GRADE - KATERINA IEROMONAHOS

B' & A' TAEH - YBONNH FAAETAKH

THIRD GRADE - KATERINA IEROMONAHOS Γ' ΤΑΞΗ - ΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΑ ΙΕΡΟΜΟΝΑΧΟΣ

SIXTH GRADE - ELINA PAPADIMA ΣΤ' 1 ΤΑΞΗ - ΕΛΙΝΑ ΠΑΠΑΔΗΜΑ

FIFTH & SIXTH GRADES - TWO GROUPS -IRENE TSIATSOULI

Ε' & ΣΤ' 2 ΤΑΞΗ - ΕΙΡΗΝΗ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΟΥ – ΤΣΙΑΤΣΟΥΛΗ

ELLINOMATHIA - PANTELIS PSORAS ΕΛΛΗΝΟΜΑΘΕΙΑ - ΠΑΝΤΕΛΗΣ ΨΩΡΑΣ

GREEK DANCE LESSONS MARIA FILIPPOU, NIKI CANNING, MARIA AKALESTOS ΜΑΘΗΜΑΤΑ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΧΟΡΟΥ

ΜΑΡΙΑ ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ, ΝΙΚΗ ΚΑΝΙΓΚ, ΜΑΡΙΑ ΑΚΑΛΕΣΤΟΥ

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IRENE VASILAKOPOULOS, CHAIRMAN POPI PARAGIOS, ADRIENNE KOURTESIS SOPHIA REDMILES

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

## KOINONIA DEADLINE

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

**ISSUE MONTH: MAY 2020** SUBMISSIONS DUE: APRIL 20th

*Please email your article(s) to: msalpeas@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.

Thank you KOINONIA APRIL 2020

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/ MHNYMA ANO THN ПРОЕАРО

My beloved parishioners, I hope you all are healthy!

*Unexpectedly, we are going through difficult days! There are many* thoughts that cross our minds.

What if...

Could this pandemic have come to remind the values of life, and teach us a life-lesson?

Could this have come to show us how wrong we are ... considering that over-consumption is happiness, that professional development is everything that we truly desire, that being popular is a sign of success, that wealth is the only goal, that the number of instagram followers indicate our worth?

Maybe it happens now, all of a sudden, billionaires and the poor have something in common, share the same fear, lack of freedom or insecurity.

All of a sudden, it does not matter whether you live in a villa, a yacht, an apartment or a shed!

You are in danger. You are a prisoner.

All of a sudden it does not matter whether you are a king or a citizen, whether you are a prime minister or a simple citizen. It does not matter if you are a politician, a famous actor, a model, a businessman, an employee, a beggar, an educated or an uneducated person.

You are in risk. You are a prisoner.

All of a sudden, you are revising. Everything that were important to you before, they are not important now. A bottle of rubbing alcohol and a surgical mask are now vital. Having people care about you is important. Going out for a walk is important! Seeing people, hugging people is important! Living a free life, loving, enjoying is important!

What you wear, what you eat, who you are...it is not important any more! But it is important that you exist, you are healthy, you are free.

Could the virus have come to teach us? Could it have come to remind us what is really valuable? Could this have come to remind us that we are permenant, that we are not the center of the

Could this have come to make us realize that we are worshiping the wrong people -like Kardashian- who offer nothing as essential as all these doctors and nursing staff? Those are real heroes who worth bowing to.

May this is the time to focus on real-life values, worthy people, thinkers, spirituals, and not on those who pretend to be the great ones because they have many followers or because they go out on television.

May we overthink about ourselves too. That cultivates fantasies of unlimited success power, intelligence, beauty, or love that require extraordinary admiration and special treatment. But the overconsumption and over-induction could cause a narcissist disorder that is a form of psychopathy.

Are we potentially psychopaths? Could this virus, besides the "killer", be the "teacher" as well? Could this have come to make us reconsider? Do all these just happen? for no reason?

Suddenly, we are not the kings we believed we were. All these and many more bomb our minds and thoughts and make us

Let's all pray for this unexpected adventure to end as soon as possible. Let's all pray this nightmare comes to an end and meet all together with health at St. Nicholas church!

May the Lord bless us all! Stamatia Ieromonahos President of the Parish Council St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Baltimore Αγαπημένοι μου ενορίτες εύχομαι να είστε όλοι υγιείς.

Διανύουμε δύσκολες ημέρες και πολλές είναι οι σκέψεις που μας προβληματίζουν. Μήπως.....

Μήπως η πανδημία ήρθε για να υπενθυμίσει τις αξίες της ζωής, να δώσει μαθήματα; Μήπως ήρθε να μας δείξει πόσο λάθος κάνουμε να πιστεύουμε πως η υπερκατανάλωση της ύλης είναι ευτυχία, πως η κοινωνική μας θέση στα πιο ψηλά σκαλοπάτια είναι το ζητούμενο, πως η διασημότητα είναι δείγμα επιτυχίας, πως ο πλούτος είναι σκοπός, πως επειδή έχεις πολλούς followers στο instagram είσαι ένας πολύ σημαντικός άνθοωπος:

Μήπως ξαφνικά δισεκατομμυριούχοι και φτωχοί έχουν κάτι κοινό. Μοιράζονται τον ίδιο φόβο, την ίδια έλλειψη ελευθερίας, την ίδια ανασφάλεια.

Ξαφνικά δεν έχει σημασία που μένεις, σε έπαυλη, θαλαμηγό, διαμέρισμα, παράγκα, κινδυνεύεις το ίδιο, είσαι φυλακισμένος.

Εαφνικά δεν έχει σημασία αν είσαι βασιλιάς ή υπήκοος, αν είσαι πρωθυπουργός ή απλός πολίτης, πολιτικός, διάσημος ηθοποιός, μοντέλο, επιχειρηματίας, υπάλληλος, ζητιάνος, μορφωμένος, αμόρφωτος. Κινδυνεύεις το ίδιο. Είσαι φυλακισμένος. Εαφνικά αναθεωρείς. Όλα όσα πίστευες πως είναι σημαντικά, τελικά δεν είναι. Σημαντικό είναι ένα μπουκαλάκι οινόπνευμα μια χειρουργική μάσκα. Σημαντικά είναι να έχεις ανθρώπους να σε νοιάζονται. Σημαντικό είναι να μπορείς να βγαίνεις από το σπίτι σου, να μπορείς να χαιρετάς ανθρώπους, πολύ περισσότερο να αγκαλιάζεις, σημαντικό είναι να απολαμβάνεις τον έρωτα, την αγάπη. Σημαντικό δεν είναι τι φοράς,

που και τι τρως, ποιος είσαι, σημαντικό είναι ότι υπάρχεις, είσαι

υγιής, είσαι ελεύθερος.

Μήπως ο ιός ήρθε να διδάξει; Μήπως ήρθε να μας θυμίσει τι πραγματικά είναι πολυτιμότερο; Μήπως ήρθε να μας πει πως είμαστε περαστικοί, πως δεν θα ζήσουμε αιώνια, πως δεν ήμαστε εμείς το Σύμπαν;

Μήπως ήρθε να μας πει πως προσκυνούμε ανθρώπους που πέρα από την επίδειξη -τύπου Καρντάσιαν- δεν προσφέρουν τίποτε ουσιαστικό όπως όλοι αυτοί οι γιατροί και νοσηλευτικό προσωπικό που είναι οι πραγματικοί ήρωες και που αξίζει να υποκλινόμαστε;

Μήπως είναι καιρός να εστιάσουμε στις πραγματικές αξίες ζωής, στους αξιόλογους ανθρώπους, τους σοφούς, τους στοχαστές, τους πνευματικούς και όχι σε εκείνους που παριστάνουν τους σπουδαίους επειδή έχουν πολλούς followers ή επειδή βγαίνουν στην τηλεόραση:

Μήπως η υπερβολική αίσθηση σπουδαιότητας για τον εαυτό μας, καλλιεργεί φαντασιώσεις απεριόριστης επιτυχίας, δύναμης, εξυπνάδας, ομορφιάς ή ιδανικής αγάπης, που απαιτούν υπερβολικό θαυμασμό και ιδιαίτερη μεταχείριση; Μήπως ο υπερκαταναλωτισμός και υπεραυτοθαυμασμός προκαλούν Ναρκισσιστική Διαταραχή που είναι μορφή Ψυχοπάθειας;

Μήπως είμαστε εν δυνάμει ψυχοπαθείς;

Μήπως ο ιός εκτός από «δολοφόνος» είναι τελικά και «διδάσκαλος;» Μήπως ήρθε για να μας κάνει να αναθεωρήσουμε;

Μήπως τίποτε δεν είναι τυχαίο τελικά;

Όλα αυτά και ακόμη πιο πολλά βομβαρδίζουν την σκέψη μας και μας προβληματίζουν.

Η ελληνική κουλτούρα βασίζεται στην ορθόδοξη πίστη, την αγάπη, την φιλοξενία αλλά και την απλότητα. Εκείνα που καλλιεργούν επιθυμίες για συνεχείς επιτυχίες, δύναμη, δόξα, εξυπνάδα, ομορφιά ή αγάπη μας ωθούν στο να κυνηγάμε το θαυμασμό και την ιδιαίτερη μεταχείριση από τους άλλους. Όμως αυτά δεν θα έπρεπε να αποτελούν τους κύριους στόχους μας!

Ας μην αφήνουμε λοιπόν την υπερκαταναλωτική μανία μας και την υπερβολική αγάπη προς τον εαυτό μας να μας οδηγήσουν σε λάθος μονοπάτια!

Ας αξιοποιήσουμε όσο πιο θετικά και διδακτικά μπορούμε αυτήν την ατυχή περίοδο της ιστορίας μας και όχι αυτοκαταστροφικά. Ας στραφούμε προς την πίστη μας, τον Θεό μας, τις ρίζες μας. Μπορούμε, ακόμα και υπό αυτές τις συνθήκες, να παρευρεθούμε στις λειτουργίες της εκκλησίας μας, σε ζωντανή μετάδοση μέσω διαδικτύου, στηρίζοντας την μεγάλη οικογένεια του Αγίου Νικολάου.

Ας προσευχηθούμε όλοι μαζί κι ας παρακαλέσουμε αυτή η αναπάντεχη περιπέτεια στις ζωές όλων μας να περάσει όσο το δυνατό γρηγορότερα! Ας προσευχηθούμε να τελειώσει το συντομότερο αυτό το κακό όνειρο και να μπορέσουμε, όλοι μαζί, να ανταμώσουμε και πάλι υγιείς στην εκκλησία του Αγίου Νικολάου μας!

Ο Θεός μαζί μας, Με ειλικρινή αγάπη και εκτίμηση Σταματία Ιερομονάχου Πρόεδρος του Συμβουλίου Της Ελληνικής Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας Αγίου Νικολάου, Βαλτιμόρης

## IN MEMORIAM

#### In memory of John Georgiou

Mrs. Anastasia Christ
Mr. & Mrs. Clemis Kaikis
Mr. Simeon Georgiou
Mrs. Popi Philippou
Mrs. Metaxia Chrissomallis
Mrs. Olympia Dimides
Mr. & Mrs. Wilson & Harriet Hart
Mr. John Kostos
Stavros, Christina Rologas
Mr. Chris Angelopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Philip and Marina Christ
Ms. Irene Lericos



*In memory of Linda Skandalis* Mr. George Skndalis

*In memory of Stamatis Christ* Mr. & Mrs. Philip and Marina Christ

*In memory of John N. Lallas*Mrs. Despina Glykiadis
Mr. Konstantinos Glykiadis

#### **GREEK SCHOOL - CLEAN MONDAY CELEBRATION**





















## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

### ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

#### Third Sunday of Lent – Stavroproskiniseos 2020

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy

Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Sisterhood, Faculty and Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools, Directors and Participants of all Youth Organizations, and all devout Orthodox Christians of the Communities of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved in the Lord,

Today, on the third Sunday of Holy and Great Lent, we celebrate the midpoint of our Lenten Journey towards the feast of feasts – Holy and Great Pascha. The Church, in her wisdom and desiring to strengthen her people, put at the center of this journey a day for venerating the Holy Cross of Christ. The Church arranged it thusly so that Orthodox Christians would remain steadfast in their faith, strengthened in their Lenten devotion, and emboldened in their prayerfulness as the feast of Pascha approached.

The Cross itself is a paradox. Before the time of Christ the Cross was seen as the most shameful manner by which punishment was delivered as it was reserved for the worst criminals and utilized in the most violent and brutal manner. With the crucifixion of our Lord, however, He transformed its meaning. The Cross thus became a symbol of peace, hope, and faith and the prime illustration of our Lord conquering death. Without the Cross, there is no life and there is no hope.

As we contend with the events surrounding the Coronavirus, we are in need of the faith, hope, and assurance that the Cross brings us. Our society stands at the precipice of the unknown as we learn of more and more people becoming ill and as we observe the toll these events are taking on the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of all people. We witness more drastic measures being taken to confront these issues to the point that Orthodox Christian faithful throughout our country and across the world are unable to personally participate in the Divine Services in their local communities. Now more than ever it is most fitting for us to venerate and honor the Holy Cross of Christ – the symbol of life, the image of victory, and the promise of Christ's

Resurrection. Therefore, even in these bleak circumstances, we must never forget that "through the Cross, joy has come to all the world." We must remain focused on the hope that the Cross brings and venerate it knowing that it is "truly our source of help having partaken of its fruit, and incorruption instead of death." Furthermore, the Cross is the Love of God and our strength at all times, but especially in times of distress. As we hear in the Exapostelarion for the Feast of the Holy Cross, "The Cross is the guardian of the whole world; the Cross is the support and staff of the faithful; the Cross is the beauty of the Church of Christ; the Cross is the mighty strength of kings; the Cross is the glory of Angels; it is the wounding of demons." Therefore, begin your devotion to the Cross of Christ by wearing your baptismal Cross and making the sign of the Cross when you awake each morning. Never be fearful of expressing your Orthodox faith by making the sign of the Cross, no matter where you may be because the Cross is our weapon of peace and wall of defense.

My beloved in the Lord, I entreat you to take time out of your day to reflect on the meaning of the Cross and to venerate the Cross in your homes. Come together as a family of faith and offer thanksgiving to God that our Lord willingly gave Himself to be crucified upon the Cross so that we might have life. Make the sign of the Cross as a family before you eat and allow yourselves to always look to the Cross of Christ as your symbol of hope. Let us all look towards the example of Christ and His Cross for how we are to confront the difficulties of our life, knowing that with the help of Christ and His Cross we can overcome all adversity. Finally, let us keep the words of our Lord close to our heart, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me" (Matt. 16:24).

Praying that our Lord, who was willingly crucified for our salvation, and the power and protection of the Holy, Precious, an Life-Giving Cross be with all of you throughout the remainder of the Lenten season, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

† E V A N G E L O S

Metropolitan of New Jersey

feletropoliton Congelos



## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

March 21, 2020

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy Of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved,

I pray this letter finds you well physically and spiritually as we continue our Spiritual Journey through Great and Holy Lent.

Due to the stay in place restrictions being mandated by our civil authorities in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, and although we are "essential," with the exceptions of the celebration of the Divine Services (without the physical participation of the faithful) and Pastoral Emergencies all Clergy of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey are hereby directed to work from home and as a reminder all parish offices are to be closed immediately until further notice.

Praying that our merciful Lord continues to bless and protect you and the devout faithful during this most trying time, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

† E V A N G E L O S

Metropolitan of New Jersey

feletropoliton Compelos



## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Pastoral Message March 23, 2020

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy

Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Sisterhood, Faculty and Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools, Directors and Participants of all Youth Organizations, and all devout Orthodox Christians of the Communities of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved in the Lord,

I pray this letter finds you all both physically and spiritually well during these challenging times as we continue our Lenten Journey towards Pascha.

Words can scarcely describe the depth of the current situation being experienced throughout this country and the world regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The issues that have stemmed from this pandemic have tested the confidence of governments, the determination of communities, the resolve of the strong, the endurance of the frail, and the faith of all people.

In these trying times, it can be difficult for some to keep their faith when all they see around them is panic. Yet even as the world is burdened with uneasiness, we as Orthodox Christians must nevertheless remain steadfast in our faith for "God is with us". In the midst of society's despondency, we must recognize that God never abandons us and in the throes of the world's despair, we must project the hope of the Resurrection. How we conduct ourselves is a direct reflection of our personal faith. We cannot give in to sentiments of sensationalism nor can we allow ourselves to be overcome by terror. Instead, we must reflect on the words of our Father when He says, "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10).

Therefore, I implore each and every one of you, do all you can to nurture your faith during these unsure times. When you arise, offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God that He blessed you with another day saying,

"Glory to You, King, God Almighty, who through Your divine and loving providence have consented that I, an unworthy sinner, should rise from sleep and obtain entrance into Your holy house. Accept, Lord, the voice of my prayer as You accept those of Your holy and spiritual powers; and that not through my defiled lips, but from a pure heart and humble spirit, praise may be offered to You so that I also, with the bright lamp of my soul, may become a companion of the wise virgins and glorify You, God the Word, who is glorified in the Father and the Spirit. Amen."

215 East Grove Street, Westfield, NJ, 07090-1656 • Tel: (908) 301-0500 • Fax: (908) 301-1397 Web: www.nj.goarch.org • E-mail: metropolis@nj.goarch.org During the course of your day, set aside some time to pray to God and to develop a relationship with Him. When you sit down to eat a meal with your family, thank God for everything He has given to you. When you prepare to go to sleep, thank God for having given you the opportunity to experience His blessings once again saying,

"Lord our God, whatever sins I have committed this day, in word, deed or thought, forgive me, for You are good and love all people. Grant me a peaceful and undisturbed sleep. Protect me from every abuse and plot of the evil one. Raise me up in due time that I may glorify You, for You are blessed, together with Your only begotten Son, and Your all-holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen."

Bring all of your troubles and concerns to Him because He will listen and will strengthen you as needed. As much as possible, keep prayer at the center of your lives because the strength of prayer cannot be underestimated. Furthermore, pray in your home together as a family and make your own home, as St. Paul emphasizes, " $\kappa\alpha\tau'$  o $\tilde{\iota}\kappa\omega\lambda\eta\sigmai\alpha\nu$ " (Rom. 16:5), that is, a church in the home. Though your homes can never substitute the traditional Eucharistic gathering of the entire community, you can nevertheless bring the spirit of the Apostle's words to fruition by praying and offering thanksgiving to God together as a family.

In the coming days and weeks there will be, undoubtedly, more times of anxiety, but it is at precisely those moments when we will need to pray for the strength and fortitude of God to sustain our faith. There will also come a time when this fierce virus will finally come under control and eventually will come to an end. When this happens, it is imperative that you return to your traditional participation in the Holy Sacraments and in the life of your Communities.

My beloved, even as we continue to be bombarded with the troubling news that has been emanating out of various news sources, do not lose faith and continue to pray. Let us always keep close to our hearts the words of St. Paul, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 15:13). Finally, let us all turn towards our common Mother, the Theotokos, who is "the bodily health's restoration" as we petition her to intercede for our health and protection. Praying that our loving Lord continues to guard each of you during these difficult times and that the Theotokos protects you all, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

† E V A N G E L O S Metropolitan of New Jersey

#### ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

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Ανακοίνωση Τύπου

Πληροφορίες: Γραφείο Τύπου

Tel: (212) 570-3530 pressoffice@goarch.org

ΠΡΟΣ ΑΜΕΣΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΠΟΙΗΣΗ Σάββατο 14 Μαρτίου 2020

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΘΕΝ - Κοροναϊός ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΘΕΝ - Κοροναϊός

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ: Το Σάββατο, 14 Μαρτίου 2020, συνήλθε σε έκτακτη τηλεδιάσκεψη η Ιερά Επαρχιακή Σύνοδος, σε συνέχεια των προηγουμένων αποφάσεών της, ώστε να αξιολογήσει τα νεώτερα δεδομένα ως προς την διάδοση του ιού CoViD19, γνωστού και ως Κορονοϊού, και αποφάσισε τα εξής:

- 1) Χάριν της προστασίας των πιστών μας και λαμβάνοντας υπ' όψιν τα πρόσφατα επιστημονικά δεδομένα, συμβουλεύουμε τους πιστούς μας τις προσεχείς εβδομάδες να μη εκτίθενται σε δημόσιους χώρους (συμπεριλαμβανομένου του εκκλησιασμού). Ομολογούμε ότι βιώνουμε μία άνευ προηγουμένου κατάσταση, κατά την οποία καλούμαστε να λάβουμε μέτρα προστασίας των ενοριτών μας και της ευρύτερης κοινωνίας. Η Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή δίνει την ευλογία την περίοδο αυτή, εφόσον κάποιος το επιλέξει, να μη εκκλησιάζεται, αφού μία τέτοια απόφαση δεν συνιστά αμαρτία, αλλά πράξη αγάπης και ευθύνης για την προστασία τόσο του εαυτού μας όσο και των συνανθρώπων μας. Προτρέπουμε τους πιστούς μας να συμμετάσχουν στη λατρεία της εκκλησίας κατ' οίκον, από την τηλεόραση και τα άλλα μέσα ενημερώσεως.
- 2) Οφείλουμε να σεβόμαστε και να υπακούμε στις αποφάσεις των Δημοτικών και των Πολιτειακών αρχών, όσο επώδυνες και αν είναι, για την προστασία της Δημόσιας υγείας.
- 3) Δίδεται στους κατά τόπους Μητροπολίτες της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής η δυνατότητα και η ευελιξία να λάβουν τις απαραίτητες αποφάσεις για την προστασία των πιστών, πάντοτε σύμφωνα με τις περί δημόσιας υγείας διατάξεις και τους κατά τόπους περιορισμούς που αφορούν τις συναθροίσεις σε δημόσιους χώρους και άλλες προβλέψεις.

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΘΕΝ - Κοροναϊός



## To All Parishoners

Our church has fallen into trying times during this worldwide pandemic.

We are now encountering financial dificulties, and hope that you can find it in your heart to give just a little bit more. Any amount will help.

Visit www.stnicholasmd.org and click on the "Give" link beneath the stewardship tree.

Our hearts are heavy as we close all church services to our parishioners, but will continue to provide live-streaming of all services.

The liturgal calendar can be found on page 21, and the link for the live-stream can be found on our homepage at www.stnicholasmd.org

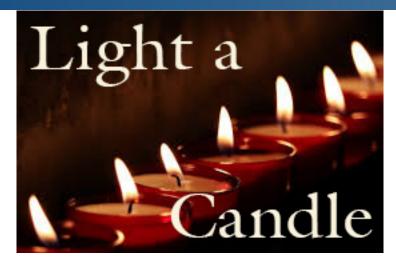
We pray that by the grace of God this pandemic will come to an end soon.

Please stay safe and continue to pray for our church, our parishioners, and the world.

## SUPPORT ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

Dear Fellow Parishioners and Friends of St. Nicholas church,

"Even from home, you can still offer your help by lighting a candle at St. Nicholas." In all Greek Orthodox churches, one of the first things most people do upon entering is to light their candle and offer prayer/s. We light candles to pray for protection and to be reminded by the flame of God's love which enlightens and warms our heart.



By lighting a candle and offering a prayer, one enters into closer contact with the Church and her ministry to the faithful, invisibly warming the soul by the visible light of the candle. We then proceed to kiss the Icons as we would kiss beloved friends and relatives when we enter their house.

During this trying period in our church's history, now more than ever St. Nicholas needs our help in sustaining the church's ministries and expenses. But due to this Coronavirus outbreak, we cannot make our donations in person because we have to continue to follow the guidelines of social distancing for everyone's health.

In practice, when lighting a candle in Church, we usually make a small offering to the Church. When you go to our web site, we have set up a Donate button that will allow you to make an online donation for various areas, i.e. Stewardship, Memorials, In Honor of someone and for Candles. Follow the instructions shown to set up your profile so you can make your online donations to St. Nicholas church.

Go to the following site for all Donations: https://stnicholasmd. org/give Click on the image of the Candles to transition to our donation site where your electronic transactions will be taken. Donate any amount. Every little bit helps and if you wish, enter a message in the text field provided.

The next time you watch via Live stream one of our church services, we hope to be able to light up our church with our candle/kandili since we cannot be there to light it up with our presence. To live stream the service, you can navigate to the St. Nicholas Web Site at: https://stnicholasmd.org and then you will find the You Tube Link.

"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) May our St. Nicholas and all of our saints intercede for you and your families during this difficult time. With faith, with love and our prayers, we will get through this together. Best regards,

Stamatia Ieromonahos, President and the Members of the Parish Council St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Αγαπημένοι μου ενορίτες,

«Ακόμα κι από το σπίτι μας, μπορούμε να προσφέρουμε βοήθεια ανάβοντας ένα κεράκι στον Αγ. Νικόλαο». Το πρώτο πράγμα που κάνει κάθε πιστός όταν εισέρχεται στον χώρο μιας Ελληνικής Ορθόδοξης εκκλησίας είναι να προσευχηθεί ανάβοντας ένα κερί. Ανάβουμε το κερί και προσευχόμαστε ζητώντας την προστασία Του. Η φλόγα του κεριού θυμίζει την αγάπη του Θεού που φωτίζει και ζεσταίνει τις ψυχές μας.

Ανάβοντας λοιπόν ένα κερί, κάνοντας μια προσευχή

ερχόμαστε πιο κοντά σε αυτό που αποκαλούμε Ιερό. Το ορατό φως του κεριού ζεσταίνει αόρατα τις ψυχές των πιστών.

Ύστερα, πλησιάζουμε και φιλούμε τις εικόνες των Αγίων, όπως φιλούμε τα αγαπημένα μας πρόσωπα ή τους συγγενείς μας καθώς μπαίνουμε στο σπίτι τους.

Σε αυτή την δύσκολη περίοδο που διανύουμε, τώρα περισσότερο από ποτέ, ο Άγιος Νικόλαος χρειάζεται την βοήθειά σας για να καταφέρουμε να διατηρήσουμε την λειτουργία της εκκλησίας μας και να ανταπεξέλθουμε στα έξοδα.

Δυστυχώς, λόγω της φύσης του ιού, δεν μπορούμε να κάνουμε δωρεές στην εκκλησία πρόσωπο με πρόσωπο καθώς οφείλουμε να ακολουθήσουμε τις οδηγίες τήρησης αποστάσεων μεταξύ των ατόμων.

Στην ουσία, όταν ανάβουμε ένα κερί, συνήθως κάνουμε μια μικρή προσφορά στην εκκλησία. Μπαίνοντας στην ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση της εκκλησίας μας, υπάρχει πλέον η επιλογή «Δωρεά» ( Donation button) που σας επιτρέπει να κάνετε κάθε είδους δωρεά διαδικτυακά ( για μνημόσυνα, για κεριά κτλ.). Ακολουθήστε τις οδηγίες που εμφανίζονται στον λογαριασμό σας για να κάνετε την δωρεά σας στην εκκλησία του Αγίου Νικολάου διαδικτυακά.

Επιλέγοντας «Κεριά» (Candles) και των αριθμό των κεριών που επιθυμείτε να ανάψουμε για εσάς και την οικογένειά σας.

Μπορείτε επίσης να ανάψετε Καντήλι βάζοντας την αντίστοιχη επιλογή στην ηλεκτρονική σελίδα του Αγίου Νικολάου.

Το κόστος του Κεριού ανέρχεται στο \$1.00, ενώ το Καντήλι κοστίζει \$10.00 και η Λαμπάδα \$25.00.

Κάθε μικρή προσφορά σας αποτελεί μεγάλη βοήθεια για την εκκλησία μας.

Την επόμενη φορά που θα παρακολουθήσετε διαδικτυακά την λειτουργία της εκκλησίας μας, ελπίζουμε να ανάψετε το δικό σας κεράκι ή καντήλι αφού πια είναι αδύνατον να το ανάψετε εν παρουσία σας.

«Είμαι το φως του κόσμου. Εκείνος που με ακολουθεί δεν θα περπατήσει στο σκοτάδι, θα έχει το φως της ζωής» (John 8:12)

Εύχομαι ο Άγιος Νικόλαος και όλοι οι Άγιοι να προστατεύουν εσάς και τις οικογένειές σας εν όψει της δύσκολης περιόδου που διανύουμε.

Με πίστη, αγάπη και προσευχή, όλοι μαζί θα καταφέρουμε να το ξεπεράσουμε κι αυτό!

Με εκτίμηση

Η Πρόεδρος Σταματία Ιερομονάχου και το Δοιηκητικό Συμβούλιο της Ελληνικής Εκκλησίας Αγίου Νικολάου Βαλτιμόρης

## **HOLY FRIDAY - April 17**



Courtesy of the Orthodox Archdioese of America www.goarch.org

When Friday dawned, Christ was sent bound from Caiaphas to Pontius Pilate, who was then Governor of Judea. Pilate interrogated Him in many ways, and once and again acknowledged that He was innocent, but to please the Jews, he later passed the sentence of death against Him. After scourging the Lord of all as though He were a runaway slave, he surrendered Him to be crucified.

Thus the Lord Jesus was handed over to the soldiers, was stripped of His garments, was clothed in a purple robe, was crowned with a wreath of thorns, had a reed placed in His hand as though it were a sceptre, was bowed before in mockery, was spat upon, and was buffeted in the face and on the head. Then they again clothed Him in His own garments, and bearing the cross, He came to Golgotha, a place of condemnation, and there, about the third hour, He was crucified between two thieves. Although both blasphemed Him at the first, the thief at His right hand repented, and said: "Remember me, O Lord, when Thou

comest in Thy Kingdom," to which our Saviour answered, "Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise." As He hung upon the Cross, He was blasphemed by those who were passing by, was mocked by the high priests, and by the soldiers was given vinegar to drink mixed with gall. About the ninth hour, He cried out with a loud voice, saying, "It is finished." And the Lamb of God "Which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) expired on the day when the moon was full, and at the hour when, according to the Law, was slain the Passover lamb, which was established as a type of Him in the time of Moses.

Even lifeless creation mourned the death of the Master, and it trembled and was altered out of fear. Yet, even though the Maker of creation was already dead, they pierced Him in His immaculate side, and forthwith came there out Blood and Water. Finally, at about the setting of the sun, Joseph of Arimathea came with Nicodemus (both of them had been secret disciples of Jesus), and they took down the all-holy Body of the Teacher from the Cross and anointed it with aromatic spices, and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. When they had buried Him in a new tomb, they rolled a great stone over its entrance.

Such are the dread and saving sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ commemorated today, and in remembrance of them, we have received the Apostolic commandment that a fast be observed every Friday.

## **Apolytikion of Holy Friday**

Plagal Of The First Tone

As the glorious disciples, in the washing of the feet, were enlightened, the profane Judas, ravaged by greed, was benighted. And to the lawless judges he surrenders You the just judge. Consider, you who love money, the one who hanged himself for the sake of it. Shun the insatiate heart that could dare such a deed against the Teacher. Lord, benevolent above all humans, glory to You.

## Kontakion of Holy Friday

Plagal Of The Fourth Tone

Come, let us all praise Him Who was crucified for us. Mary beheld Him on the Tree and said, "Though You endure even the Cross, You are my Son and my God."



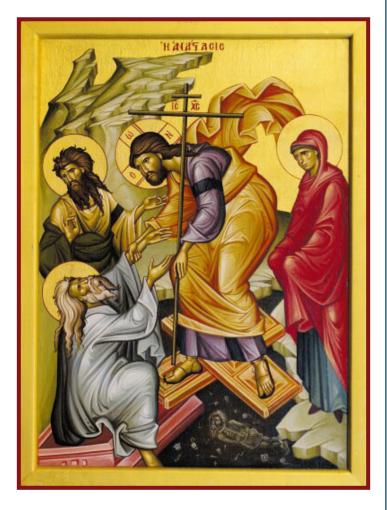
## **GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA - April 19**

# Courtesy of the Orthodox Archdioese of America www.goarch.org

Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Saviour on Friday evening, returned from Golgotha to the city and prepared fragrant spices and myrrh, so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. On the morrow, because of the law which forbids work on the day of the Sabbath, they rested for the whole day. But at early dawn on the Sunday that followed, almost thirtysix hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulchre with the spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women, however, went into the sepulchre, but did not find the Lord's body. Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Saviour was risen, and they sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these gladsome tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions.

Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

As we celebrate today this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Saviour's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting. The feast itself is called Pascha, which is derived from the Hebrew word which means "passover"; because Christ, Who suffered and arose, has made us to pass over from the curse of Adam and slavery to the devil and death unto our primal freedom and blessedness. In



addition, this day of this particular week, which is the first of all the rest, is dedicated to the honour of the Lord; in honour and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labour that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.

## Apolytikion of Great and Holy Pascha

Plagal Of The First Tone

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

#### Kontakion of Great and Holy Pascha Plagal Of The Fourth Tone

Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Hail!" and granting peace to Your disciples, You who raise up the fallen.

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS / NEA ΤΗΣ ΦΙΛΟΠΤΩΧΟΥ

Phillippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

Our beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

During this difficult time with Covid 19 and not knowing from day to day we need to rely on our Spiritual Fathers and our elected officials in order to get through this. In the meantime all Philoptochos events have either been suspended or cancelled.

Since we do not know about our Holy Week services and how long the quarantine is going to be in effect the following will take place:

- 1. The Tsourekia Bake Sale that was scheduled for Palm Sunday will change to curbside pick up. You will be contacted with the date andt ime for pickup. Rest assured every precaution will take place for your safety and ours. If you would like to place an order please call Irene Vasilios 410-687-3978. Thank you to the families of Sun Bakery for their generous donation.
- 2. If Good Friday there is no decorating of the Epitaphio, all those that Have given donations towards the flowers, the funds will go to help those from our community that have been effected by these circumstances. All donations are still welcomed and appreciated at this time!
- 3. Philoptochos distributes Easter food baskets every year. If you know of any families that are in need of food please notify Nora Kefalas at 410-661-2853. Rest assured all names are kept confidential. Although personal delivery will not take place we will notify the families of the method of delivery.

These are unusual circumstances that we are faced with but with prayer, cooperation and patience we will get through this together.

Φιλιππησίους 4:13 "Μπορώ να κάνω τα πάντα μέσω του Χριστού που με ενδυναμώνει".

Αγαπητές αδελφές και αδελφοί μας εν Χριστώ,

Κατά τη διάρκεια αυτής της δύσκολης περιόδου με το Covid 19 και χωρίς να γνωρίζουμε καθημερινά τι θα γίνει, πρέπει να βασιζόμαστε στους Πνευματικούς Πατέρες μας και στους εκλεγμένους Αξιωματούχους μας έως ότου περάσει κι αυτό το κακό. Εν τω μεταξύ, όλες οι εκδηλώσεις της Φιλοπτώχου είτε έχουν ανασταλεί είτε έχουν ακυρωθεί.

Δεδομένου ότι δεν γνωρίζουμε για τις Ακολουθίες της Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας και για πόσο χρονικό διάστημα πρόκειται να τεθεί σε εφαρμογή η καραντίνα, θα γίνουν τα εξής:

- 1. Η πώληση των Πασχαλινών Τσουρεκιών που είχε προγραμματιστεί για την Κυριακή των Βαΐων θα αλλάξει ως προς την παραλαβή τους. Θα επικοινωνήσουμε μαζί σας για την ημερομηνία και ώρα της παραλαβής. Σιγουρευτείτε ότι θα πάρετε όλες τις απαραίτητες προφυλάξεις για την ασφάλειά σας και τη δική μας. Εάν επιθυμείτε να δώσετε τη παραγγελία σας παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε με την Ειρήνη Βασιλείου 410-687-3978. Επ' ευκαιρία θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε τους ιδιοκτήτες του Sun Bakery για τη γενναιόδωρη δωρεά τους.
- 2. Αν τη Μεγάλη Παρασκευή δεν διακοσμηθεί το Κουβούκλιο του Επιταφίου, όσοι έχουν δώσει δωρεές για την αγορά των ανθέων, τα χρήματα θα διατεθούν να βοηθήσουν εκείνους τους ενορίτες της Κοινότητάς μας που έχουν επηρεαστεί από αυτές τις συνθήκες. Γίνονται ακόμη δεκτές όλες οι δωρεές και εκτιμώνται ιδιαίτερα αυτή τη στιγμή!
- 3. Η Φιλοπτώχος διανέμει κάθε χρόνο Πασχαλινά καλάθια με τρόφιμα. Εάν γνωρίζετε οποιεσδήποτε οικογένειες που χρειάζονται τροφή, παρακαλείστε να ειδοποιήστε τη Νόρα Κεφάλα στο 410-661-2853. Να είστε βέβαιοι ότι τηρείται απόλυτη εχεμύθεια όσον αφορά τα ονόματα των οικογενειών. Αν και δεν θα γίνει προσωπική παράδοση, θα ειδοποιήσουμε τις οικογένειες για τη μέθοδο παράδοσης.

Οι περιστάσεις που διανύουμε και αντιμετωπίζουμε είναι ασυνήθιστες, αλλά με προσευχή, συνεργασία και υπομονή θα τις περάσουμε από κοινού.

#### **Donations:**

*In memory of George Kotzias*Peter & Renata Karlos
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Kotzias

*In memory of Vasileios Giorgakis* John & Maria Giorgakis

May their memory eternal and prayers to their family.

Note: If you would like to apply for a Philoptochos scholarship or any of the memorial scholarships please call Irene Vasilios 410-687-3978 and one will be mailed to you. Once completed must be mailed and received at the church no later than Sunday, April 26th.





Δωρεές:

Εις μνήμη του Γεωργίου Κοτζιά Παναγιώτης & Ρενάτα Κάρλου Δρ. & κα. Χρήστου Κοτζιά

Εις μνήμη του Βασιλείου Γιωργάκη Ιωάννης & Μαρία Γιωργάκη

Ο Κύριος να τους αναπαύσει. Αιωνία τους η μνήμη.

Σημείωση: Εάν επιθυμείτε να υποβάλετε αίτηση για την υποτροφία της Φιλοπτώχου ή οποιαδήποτε από τις άλλες υποτροφίες, παρακαλείστε να καλέσετε την Ειρήνη Βασιλείου στο τηλ. 410-687-3978, και θα σας αποσταλεί

ταχυδρομικώς. Αφού συμπληρωθεί, θα πρέπει να ταχυδρομηθεί και να παραληφθεί στην Εκκλησία το αργότερο μέχρι και την Κυριακή 26 Απριλίου, 2020.

## STEWARDSHIP CARD

Λ

#### MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE CARD ΚΑΡΤΑ ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑΣ

"A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN. THE STEWARDSHIP OF TIME." "ΤΟΙΣ ΠΑΣΙ ΧΡΟΝΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΙΡΟΣ ΤΩ ΠΑΝΤΙ ΠΡΑΓΜΑΤΙ ΥΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΟΥΡΑΝΟΝ. ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑ ΧΡΟΝΟΥ"

2020 SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CONFIDENTIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD 2020 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:

Signature/ Υπο	γραφή			Date/ Ημερομηνία	
Print Full Name	•/ Γράψτε με κ	κεφαλαία γράμματα το επ	ίθετό σας		
	οιάζω Γ	lease send me informatioi Παρακαλώ στείλτε μου πλ να δωρίσω.			
Υ <b>We give t</b> Γίνετε μά με τις ικανό	our offering to to Christ and H ιρτυρες του έρ τητες, τις εμπε	through your talents, skill:  o Christ and His Church ca His Church not according t ργου του Θεού! Δώστε α ειρίες,την οικονομική σας στεί στην αγάπη μας προ	an do as much as to our means but πό το ταλέντο μ ς ευχέρεια. Η πρ	you empower it to do t according to our love is το οποίο σας έχει π ιοσφορά μας στον Χρ	o. e for Him. ιροικίσει, ιστό και την
		AL ANNUAL PLEDGE F ο ποσό προσφοράς για			
		(Weekly / Monthly / (Εβδομαδιαίως / Μ			

Name / Όνομα		Date of Birth / Ημερομ. Γεννήσεως		
Name of Spouse / Όνομα συζύγου		Date of Birth / Ημερομ. Γεννήσεως		
Occupation / Επάγγελμα				
Occupation / Επάγγελμα (Spouse)				
Street Address / ΙΙιεύθυνση				
City / πόλη		Zip Code / ταχ. τομέας		
Home Phone / Σταθερό τηλέφωνο σπιτιο	ού			
Mobile Phone / Κινητό τηλέφωνο	Mol	blle Phone / Κινητό τηλέφωνο (Spouse)		
Emall Address / Ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση				
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Dependent Children's Names and Birthda Ονόματα παιδιών και ημερομηνία γεννή		ouc		

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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 or 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 τριμηνο ή έτος.

Αν θέλετε να επιλέξετε τη μέθοδο πληρωμής της ηλεκτρονικής μορφής, τότε επισκεφθείτε την ιστοσελίδα μας www.stnicholasmd.org ή επικοινωνήστε με το γραφείο της εκκλησίας 410-633-5020.

## FESTIVAL AD BOOK

# GREEK FOLK FESTIVAL

Check if same ad as 2019

# 2020 AD PLACEMENT ORDER FORM

Support St. Nicholas Church by purchasing your ad space for 2020 now! Don't forget weddings, baptisms, engagements, graduations, memorials						
\$400 - Full Page - 6" x 9"						
\$200 - Half Page - 6" x 4.5"						
\$125 - Quarter Page - 3" x 4.5"						
(If Available):						
\$600 - Back Cover (Jpg or pdf format, Minimum resolution - 150 ppi)						
\$600 - Inside Front Cover Artwork to adrienne@kosaridesign.com						
\$500 - Inside Back Cover						
Company:						
Mailing Address:						
Contact:						
Phone:						
E-mail:						
Submission date: / 2020						
NOTE: Please e-mail an electronic version of your ad to <a href="mailto:adrienne@kosaridesign.com">adrienne@kosaridesign.com</a> Ads that do not fit the measurements above will be resized. No bleed edge required. Please check box at top of form if same ad as 2019.						
PAYMENT: Please send your form and check made out to: St. Nicholas Greek Folk Festival 2020 Ad Book, 520 South Ponca Street, Baltimore, MD 21224. For payment questions please contact Sophia Paros at 443-910-5338.						

#### FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

# ST. NICHOLAS FESTIVAL JUNE 11-14

PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE 2020 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 PENNY (443-756-2201) TO SIGN UP!



## **NOW HIRING!!**

ST. NICHOLAS BILINGUAL EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

The Saint Nicholas Bilingual Early Education Center provides a safe, nurturing, home away from home learning center. We accept children from 6 weeks till 5 years of age. **BEEC is hiring part-time and full-time aides to assist our teachers at the Center. If you or anyone you know is interested, please call the Center at 410-633-5020 extension 4 or message us on Facebook.** 

#### <u>ΔΙΓΛΩΣΣΟ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΠΡΟΣΧΟΛΙΚΗΣΗΛΙΚΙΑΣ</u> ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ

Ο Δίγλωσσος Βρεφονηπιακός Σταθμός Αγίου Νικολάου παρέχει ένα ασφαλές περιβάλλον, ένα σπίτι μακριά από το σπίτι, ένα σπίτι μάθησης. Δεχόμαστε παιδιά ηλικίας 6 εβδομάδων έως 5 ετών. Ο σταθμός μας ψάχνει να προσλάβει βοηθούς δασκάλων μερικής και πλήρους απασχόλησης. Αν έχετε ερωτήσεις ή χρειαζόσαστε περισσότερες πληροφορίες, παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήστε με το Σταθμό μας στο τηλέφωνο 410-633-5020, γραμμή 4 ή στείλτε μας μήνυμα στο Facebook.

## 2020 PLEDGES-\$120,020.00 / Payments-\$81,629.74 / Balance--\$38,390.26

MR/MRS AGAPIOS DIAMANTIS MR/MRS ALMASON STEPHEN & MRS ANASTASIS FOTINI MRS APESOS ANTIGONE MR/MRS ARGIROPOULOS WILLIAM MR/MRS ATSIDIS IOANNIS MR/MRS BENETOS JOHN & MR/MRS BONOLIS CATHERINE MR CHIONIS ANTONIOS MR/MRS CHRIST STASA MR/MRS CORNIAS THEONIMFI MR/MRS CORNIAS GEORGE A. & MR/MRS CORNIAS KALLIOPI T. MR/MRS DOUKELIS GEORGE MR/MRS FAKAS ZENOVIA MR/MRS FILIPIDIS NICHOLAS MR/MRS FORAKIS STAMATI & MR/MRS FRANGOS JOHN -MR/MRS GAZONAS-ZIKOU GEORGE MS GEORGAS ANTHIE MRS GIANNAKOULIAS DIONISIA MRS GLYKIADIS DESPINA MR/MRS HALKIAS FOTINI MR/MRS HATZIGEORGALI NICHOLAS & MRS JOHNS ASPASIA MRS KALAMBIHIS MARIA MRS KAMINARIS BARBARA MRS KAPUTSOS IRENE MR/MRS KARAMANLIDES ANTONIOS MR/MRS KATSAS STAVROS & MR/MRS KOLENDRIANOS JOHN MR/MRS KOSMOS GEORGE MR/MRS KOUKIDES HARRY MR/MRS KOULATSOS CHRISTOS MR/MRS KOURTESIS MICHAEL & MR LASKARIDIS NIKOLAOS MR/MRS LOUKAS DIMITRI & MR/MRS MASTROMANOLI MANUEL MR MAVROMOUSTAK ELEFTHERIOS MR/MRS MILLETT & ALEX EARL & MR/MRS MONIODIS STEVE MR/MRS NICOLARAKIS GEORGE MR/MRS NYCHIS GEORGE MR/MRS PANTOULIS NICK MR/MRS PAPADOPOULOS ANASTASIOS & MR/MRS PARAGIOS IOANNIS & MR/MRS PATRAS STEPHEN MR/MRS PERDIKAKIS GEORGE MS POULIMENAKOS ELENI MR/MRS ROROS NICKOLETTA MR/MRS ROUFAS VASILIS MR/MRS SAKPAZIS IOANNIS MR SAZAKLIS ANTONIOS MR/MRS SOPHOCLEOUS HELEN MR/MRS SPENCER ERIC AND MRS STILLWELL BILLY J. & MRS TETTERIS RHODEA MR/MRS THEOHARIS EMMANUEL MRS TSAKALOS ROSE MR/MRS TSAMPOS GEORGE MRS VASILAKOPOULO ANASTASIA MR/MRS VERGOS GEORGE & MS VOXAKIS SAMANTIIA

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MS ALEXANDROU NIKI MR/MRS ANASTASIADES DEMOS & MR/MRS ANTONAS NICK MR/MRS ARAVIDES ANTONIOS MR/MRS ATSALIS GUS MR/MRS BASIL GEORGE JOHN MR/MRS BLACK MARK MS CHAGETAS ANGELA MRS CHRISSOMALLIS METAXIA MR/MRS CORNIAS ROZA MRS CORNIAS DESPINA MR/MRS CORNIAS LARRY & MRS DENDRINOS EVANGELIA MR/MRS ELIOU ERNEST MR/MRS FILCHAGINA - KSENIA-MR/MRS FONIADAKIS EMMANUEL & MRS FRANGAKIS SOFOULA Col/MRS GAVRILIS JOHN & MR/MRS GEORGAS GEORGE MR/MRS GIAKOUMAKIS NICK MR/MRS GIANNAS STYLIANOS HALKIAN "SAINT MR/MRS HATZIGEORGALI ANTONIOS MR/MRS HUNTER TYRUS & IRENE MR/MRS KAITIS ANGELA MARY MRS KALOGRANI VASILIKI MRS KAPETANAKOS SOULLA MR/MRS KARAGIANNOPOU GUS & SUE MR/MRS KATSAROS MICHAEL MR/MRS KEVAS GEORGE & MR/MRS KORNIAS GEORGE MR/MRS KOTZIAS GEORGE A. MR/MRS KOULATSOS DIONISIOS MR KOUROUPIS STEVE MS LAMBROW STEPHANIE MR/MRS LOIZOU CHRIS MR/MRS MARAGOS PETROS & MR/MRS MAVROMOUSTAK GEORGE MR/MRS MILLER MARY MR/MRS MONIODIS MICHAEL MR/MRS NICOLAIDIS VASILIOS & MR/MRS NISTAZOS SEVASTI MR/MRS PANTELIS GABRIEL MR/MRS PAPADOPOULOS EFSTATHIOS MRS PAPPAS IRENE MR/MRS PARTHEMOS KONSTATNINO MRS PELTSEMES IRENE MR/MRS POLIKANDRIOTIS KONSTANTINO MR/MRS PROTOPAPAS NICHOLAS MRS ROROS KYRIAKI MR/MRS ROROS DIMITRIOS & MR SAKELLIS GEORGE MR/MRS SARIOGLOU ANASTASIA MR/MRS SISAMIS IOANNIS & MR/MRS SOURANIS MARITSA MR/MRS STAMIDIS ANASTASIOS MR/MRS TASKER DALE & MR/MRS THEMELIS STELLA MRS TRIPOLITIS EKATERINI MR/MRS TSAMPOS MICHAEL & MRS VASILAKOPOULO IRENE MR/MRS VERENAKIS MICHAEL & MRS VOURVOILLAS SOPHIA MR/MRS ZOULIS JOHN &

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## LITURGICAL CALENDAR - APRIL

Per the decision of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic that is afflicting the entire world, all Liturgical Services in the Parish of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Baltimore are Live-Stream Only.

## Visit our website and select "CLICK TO VIEW" - WWW.stnicholasmd.org

Wednesday	April 1	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm
Friday	April 3	Akathist Hymn 6:00 pm
Sunday	April 5	Fifth Sunday of Lent Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Monday	April 6	Compline Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday	April 8	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy: 8:45 am.
Saturday	April 11	Saturday of Lazarus: Orthros: 8:45 am.D.Lit. 9:45 am.
Sunday	April 12	Palm Sunday: Orthros: 8:45 am. D. Liturgy 10:00am.
	HOLY	WEEK SERVICES
Palm Sunday Evening	April 12	The Bridegroom Service 6:00 pm
Holy Monday Evening	April 13	The Bridegroom Service 6:00 pm
Holy Tuesday Evening	April 14	The Bridegroom Service (Kassiani Troparion) 6:00 pm
Holy Wednesday Morning	April 15	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 9:00 am
Holy Wednesday Evening	April 15	Holy Unction Service 6:00 pm
Holy Thursday Morning	April 16	Divine Liturgy commemorating the Last Supper*: The Service will begin at 9:00 am
Holy Thursday Evening	April 16	The Reading of the Twelve Gospels 6:00 pm
Holy Friday Morning	April 17	The Royal Hours 9:00 am
Holy Friday Afternoon	April 17	Apokathelosis Service 2:00 pm
Holy Friday Evening	April 17	The Lamentations Service 6:00 pm
Holy Saturday Morning	April 18	Vesper Liturgy of St. Basil (First Resurrection): Services will begin at 8:45 am
Holy Saturday Evening	April 18	Resurrection Service: 11:00 pm Pascha Vigil, Orthros & Divine Liturgy
Sunday of Holy Pascha	April 19	The Agape Vespers: Holy Pascha 11:00 am