



SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Message from FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS, PROTOPRESBYTER

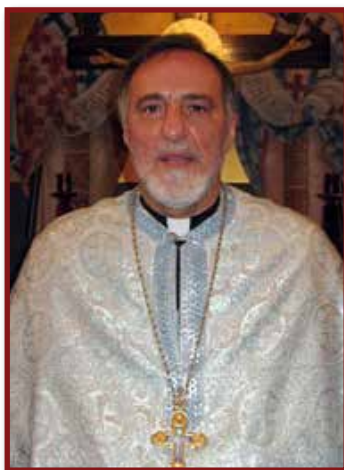
K O I N O N I A

My beloved in Christ,

**Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!**

Everyone is talking about the Corona Virus crisis that has befallen America, and the whole world. When we hear or read of the crisis, we come to the conclusion that this is a pandemic situation and not a political one. Many of us think that the politicians are behind this, and that all politicians are responsible for the financial destruction of the world. I think we have to look no further than within ourselves. Yes, I believe that politicians have a major responsibility to tell us the truth of what is happening in the world that we live in.

But no one can deny that each of us who is personally plagued by this current Corona Virus has a responsibility towards our actions, when it comes to following the rules and laws that were brought out by our scientists, doctors, politicians, and those who are in authority. I believe personally, that the crisis we are going through in our society is not just simply a mental, physical, economical, or political one but also a deep-seated spiritual crisis. Instead of coming together as Christians, we have lost somewhat the moral value of our existence. Instead of coming closer to God, we have distanced ourselves from Him; and by doing that, we suffer tremendously in all areas of our lives including the financial one. We read of people who have been trapped financially by this Corona Virus with no work resulting in the inability to take care of their families--children are going hungry, people have lost their jobs, companies are filing for bankruptcy, unemployment has gone through the roof (25%), people are losing their homes, the real estate housing market has gone to their lowest percentage, and the stock market has plunged. So, what can we do to bring back the good life that we had?



I hope and pray, that through this pandemic we realize that our lives actually matter, not only to ourselves but to others. Today, our breath matters, our masks matter, our hand washing matters. We stay at home to save the world, and yet we have doctors, nurses, delivery drivers, police, firefighters, paramedics and pharmacists to save the world. Who could have imagined that all of these people mentioned above are now our new heroes? Looking at these events, will we adapt to the virus, or will historians talk about it? More importantly, what will we have learned, and who will get to tell this story to our grandchildren?

When a storm subsides, the air is washed clean of whatever matter has been obscuring the view, and we can see farther and sharper than any other time. When this pandemic clears, will we see where we were and where we should go in a new light?

Things have changed, and we have to change also. We have to look back and thank God for our health, our care workers, who have done an amazing job. We owe them a huge debt, because while we were at home resting, the essential workers kept us going. These are some examples that we need to follow as we get out of this mess that we are in today. The whole idea is: (CARING FOR OTHERS) and not just caring for ourselves. I think this is a great lesson that these wonderful people have taught us.

I also would like everyone to pray for those essential workers who lost their lives during this terrible and ugly pandemic. Also let's not forget the thousands of people who resided in nursing facilities. May our Resurrected Lord provide the love and compassion for those souls, and grant them repose of their souls. This pandemic is



# Μήνυμα Από τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικό

very costly taking over 90,000 American lives and over 200,000 worldwide. Until we find a cure or a vaccine, how many more lives will be lost?

We may feel free to pursue a change in ways that seem impossible while “Status Quo” was locked up.

We have stayed home, withdrew from schools, workplaces, vacations, gyms, parties, bars, sports events, churches and from the busyness of everyday life. So now we have learned from this situation, that we can love one another from a distance. We have separated ourselves to protect each other. We will look back, and say that we did something good for mankind, by being patient, by following the CDC guidelines, by praying for one another, and helping each other in any way that we can be helpful. This pandemic disease has brought us closer to each other, and has taught us the value of friendship and life. We realize that death is around us at all times and that we should be more responsive and helpful to others who need our help and support.

Our Orthodox Church stresses the unique beauty and value of each human person. In the Biblical story of Adam and Eve, God gave to them the free will to choose their lifestyle and make free decisions. We today, have that same freedom to choose our lifestyle and make our own decisions. But we have to be careful in our choices. Our authorities, right or wrong, have given us the opportunity to get out of our homes, and try to live our lives again. We have been trapped in our homes for months. We are not used to that form of life. On the other hand, we have to make certain choices. We can no longer go back to the life we led before. Lifestyles will change in America and in the rest of the world. There are no more hugs to be given, no more embracing and kissing others. We now have to distance ourselves from others and wear a mask when we are outside and inside facilities. We must follow the guidelines, or else we will have thousands more infested by this disease. Even Churches from now on will be different. For example, the way we act in church through the distancing ourselves from one another will be something new and difficult to follow.

Most of the people today think because certain restrictions and rules have been lifted, that they now could go about the same way as usual. Again, I say to all of you, until there is a cure for this disease, we must follow all guidelines. Let's not forget if we let our guard down, there will be a second wave of this virus which will kill more of our loved ones, and we will go back to where we started from the beginning by closing everything down again. This is something that we don't wish to happen.

St. John the Evangelist describes it very clearly; “Everything that is in the world, the desire of the flesh, and the desire of the eyes and the arrogance of life, are not from the Father, but they are the entire world.” (1 John 2:16). So, as we make choices in our lives, we must always be aware of the responsibilities and the consequences that we will face, whether positive or negative. In making those decisions, we will have to give an account to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is no coincidence that one of the Biblical names for the devil is the “divider” or “disturber.” The devil wants us to make choices that disturb the relationships in our lives, dividing us and cutting us off from those who give our lives fullness and value. He wants us to lose everything that we worked for and cherish, and eventually if we follow his lead, we will cut ourselves off from God. Remember, “Sin divides and Virtue unifies.”

So, the answer to the problems of the world is to get on the right path to where the road leads us to the embrace of God our Father. Let's make the right choice and make sure that we continue to follow the CDC guidelines. In this way, we not only save our life but the lives of others.

Again, wishing everyone in the Community to be safe. We will get through this situation together.

**CHRISTOS ANESTI !! ALHTHOS ANESTI !!  
CHRIST IS RISEN !! TRULY HE IS RISEN!!**

Αγαπητοί Αδελφοί εν Κυρίω,

**ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!! ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!!**

Όλοι μιλούν για την κρίση του Κορωνοϊού που έπληξε την Αμερική και όλο το κόσμο. Όταν ακούμε ή διαβάζουμε για την κρίση συμπεραίνουμε ότι πρόκειται για μια κατάσταση πανδημίας και όχι κατάσταση πολιτική. Πολλοί από εμάς πιστεύουμε ότι οι πολιτικοί είναι πίσω από αυτό, και ότι όλοι οι πολιτικοί είναι υπεύθυνοι για την οικονομική καταστροφή του κόσμου. Νομίζω ότι δεν πρέπει να το εξετάσουμε περαιτέρω, αλλά με τον εαυτό μας. Ναι, πιστεύω ότι οι πολιτικοί έχουν μεγάλη ευθύνη να μας πουν την αλήθεια για το τι συμβαίνει στον κόσμο που ζούμε.

Αλλά κανείς δεν μπορεί να αρνηθεί ότι εμείς, και ο καθένας από εμάς προσωπικά, που σήμερα υποφέρει από τον Κορωνοϊό έχει ευθύνη για τις πράξεις του, όταν πρόκειται για την τήρηση των κανόνων και των νόμων που θεσπίστηκαν από τους Επιστήμονες, τους Ιατρούς, τους

Πολιτικούς μας και εκείνους που είναι στην Αρχή. Εγώ, προσωπικά πιστεύω, ότι η κρίση που περνάμε στην κοινωνία μας δεν είναι απλά διανοητική, φυσική, οικονομική, ή πολιτική, αλλά είναι μια βαθιά πνευματική κρίση. Αντί να ερχόμαστε πιο κοντά ως Χριστιανοί, έχουμε χάσει κάπως την ηθική αξία της ύπαρξής μας. Αντί να πλησιάζουμε τον Θεό, απομακρυνόμαστε από Αυτόν, και με τον τρόπο αυτό, υποφέρουμε παρά πολύ σε όλους τους τομείς της ζωής μας, συμπεριλαμβανομένης της οικονομικής κρίσης. Διαβάζουμε για ανθρώπους που έχουν παγιδευτεί οικονομικά από το Κορωνοϊό, έχουν μείνει χωρίς δουλειά με αποτέλεσμα να αδυνατούν να φροντίσουν τις ανάγκες των οικογενειών τους - τα παιδιά τους πεινούν, οι άνθρωποι χάνουν τη δουλειά τους, οι εταιρείες κηρύττουν πτώχευση, η ανεργία ξεπερνά το άκρον άωτο του (25%), οι άνθρωποι χάνουν τα σπίτια τους, η στεγαστική αγορά ακινήτων έχει πάει στο χαμηλότερο ποσοστό της, και η χρηματιστηριακή αγορά έχει βυθιστεί. Λοιπόν, τι μπορούμε να κάνουμε για να επαναφέρουμε την καλή ζωή που είχαμε;

# CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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DIRECTORS

PHAEDRA AVGERINOS 10TH  
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ΣΤΑΜΑΤΙΑ ΙΕΡΟΜΟΝΑΧΟΣ  
PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN - ELENI MASTORAS &  
XENIA PONTIDI  
ΠΡΟΝΗΠΙΟ & ΝΗΠΙΑΓΩΓΕΙΟ - ΕΛΕΝΗ ΜΑΣΤΟΡΑ &  
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Α' ΤΑΞΗ - ΔΕΣΠΙΟΝΑ ΛΑΡΕΝΤΖΟΥ &  
ΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΑ ΙΕΡΟΜΟΝΑΧΟΥ  
SECOND & THIRD GRADES - YVONNE GALETAKI  
THIRD GRADE - KATERINA IEROMONAHOS  
Β' & Δ' ΤΑΞΗ - ΥΒΟΝΝΗ ΓΑΛΕΤΑΚΗ  
THIRD GRADE - KATERINA IEROMONAHOS  
Γ' ΤΑΞΗ - ΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΑ ΙΕΡΟΜΟΝΑΧΟΥ  
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ΣΤ' 1 ΤΑΞΗ - ΕΛΙΝΑ ΠΑΠΑΔΗΜΑ  
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Ε' & ΣΤ' 2 ΤΑΞΗ - ΕΙΡΗΝΗ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΟΥ - ΤΣΙΑΤΣΟΥΛΗ  
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## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

## KOINONIA DEADLINE

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

**ISSUE MONTH: JULY/AUGUST 2020**

**SUBMISSIONS DUE: JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>**

Please email your article(s) to: [msalpeas@stnicholasmd.org](mailto: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.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/ ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟ

To all my beloved parishioners,

Christ is Risen!

I hope you are all healthy and happy during this unfortunate adventure of the pandemic we are going through that challenge us.

We have been given challenges but I am sure that we are going to get stronger out of this! This will get us appreciating those simple things that we thought we would never be missing!

Let's consider this sudden event as a great life lesson and take advantage of any positive thing.

As a parish, we continue our activities with the completion of the elevator. This is a wonderful project that will be ready soon on our parishioners service. Besides, the architectural design for our bathrooms' renovation has been completed as well!

We have also been working on the renovation of the church and the Greektown Square. We have great expectations for this project and we truly believe that it can be beneficial for all of us.

St. Nicholas Bilingual Early Education Center continues child care supporting all of those essential persons and first responders on the front lines combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are getting ready to reopen as soon as the state and the law allow us to do so.

Our Greek School continues operating remotely. The Greek language program ends on Wednesday, June 11th, 2020. Graduation certificates will be sent to all of our students using postal service. A Virtual- Graduation of Sixth graders will take place, where all the graduate students are going to give a graduations speech in the presence of Father Michael, the president, their parents and teachers.

At the same time, we have been working hard on planning the coming school year. The new year's school calendar has already been designed and we are ready to respond to any unexpected situation without losing valuable time. Planners are ready too with all the essential information along.

Last but not least, we would like to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for all your donations, subscriptions and generous help during this challenging time that our church is going through. Together we can and we must support the House of our Lord! Everything you can do will be a great help. Remember, our church relies on our support and assistance!

Let's put our hand on our heart and think if this connection between us would exist without our church. Let's pray for this storm will pass soon so that we can all go back together under our church's arms.

I wish you all health!

With sincere love,  
Stamatia Ieromonahos  
Parish Council President  
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Baltimore

Χριστός Ανέστη!!!

Αγαπημένοι μου ενορίτες εύχομαι να είσαστε όλοι υγιείς και χαρούμενοι μέσα στην περιπέτεια της πανδημίας που δοκιμάζεται η καθημερινότητα της ζωής μας.

Τό μόνο σίγουρο είναι ότi όλη αυτή η περιπέτεια μας κάνει πιο δυνατούς και μας ταρακουνά να εκτιμάμε πιο πολύ αυτά που πιστεύουμε ότi ποτέ δεν θα λείψουν από την ζωή μας.

Ας το θεωρήσουμε σπουδαίο μάθημα ζωής αυτό το ξαφνικό γεγονός και ας πάρουμε από αυτό όλα τα θετικά κέρδη.

Εμείς σαν ενορία συνεχίζουμε τις δραστηριότητες μας με την αποπεράτωση του ανελκυστήρα που είναι ένα υπέροχο έργο προς εξυπηρέτηση των ενοριτών μας.

Τα σχέδια για την ανακαίνιση των μπάνιων μας είναι έτοιμα. Συνεχίζεται η ανακαίνιση εκκλησίας και πλατείας με σχέδια για υψηλούς στόχους και θετικά αποτελέσματα προς όφελος όλων μας.

Ο παιδικός μας σταθμός λειτουργεί κανονικά για τα παιδάκια ατόμων που δουλεύουν στην πρώτη γραμμή λόγω της πανδημίας. Είμαστε έτοιμοι να ανοίξουμε για όλους γενικά μόλις μας το επιτρέψει η πολιτεία και ο νόμος.

Το ελληνικό Σχολείο μας συνεχίζει τα μαθήματα του Διαδουκτιακά και η ύλη θα τελειώσει κανονικά 11 Ιουνίου. Θα σταλούν τα ενδεικτικά / απολυτήρια ταχυδρομικώς σε όλα τα παιδιά.

Διαδουκτιακά θα κάνουμε την αποφοίτηση των παιδιών της Έκτης μας τα οποία θα διαβάσουν τις εκθέσεις τους παρουσία του πάτερ Μιχάλη, της προέδρου, των γονέων και δασκάλων τους.

Έτοιμα και τα προγράμματα μας για την επόμενη χρονιά μαζί με όλες τις απαραίτητες πληροφορίες.

Σας ευχαριστούμε από καρδιάς για όλες τις δωρεές, συνδρομές και την απλόχερη βοήθεια σας σε αυτήν την δύσκολη στιγμή που περνάει η εκκλησία μας.

Όλοι μαζί μπορούμε και πρέπει να στηρίζουμε τον Οίκο του Κυρίου μας.

Ότι μπορεί ο καθένας μας όλα βοηθάνε γιατί η εκκλησία μας στηρίζεται στην δική μας υποστήριξη και συμπαράσταση. Ας βάλουμε το χέρι στην καρδιά μας και ας αναλογιστούμε ότi χωρίς την εκκλησία μας δεν θα υπάρχει κανένας σύνδεσμος μεταξύ μας.

Ας ευχηθούμε λοιπόν να περάσει σύντομα αυτή η καταιγίδα και να επιστρέψουμε ξανά πάλι στην αγκαλιά της εκκλησίας μας. Να είστε πάντα καλά και να έχετε υγεία !!!

Με αληθινή αγάπη  
Σταματία Ιερομονάχου  
Πρόεδρος του Συμβουλίου  
Αγίου Νικολάου Βαλτιμόρης



(Continued from pg. 2)

Ελπίζω και προσεύχομαι οτι μέσω αυτής της πανδημίας συνειδητοποιούμε ότι η ζωή μας πραγματικά έχει σημασία, όχι μόνο για τους εαυτούς μας, αλλά για τους άλλους. Σήμερα, σημασία έχει η αναπνοή μας, οι μάσκες μας, το πλύσιμο των χεριών μας. Έχουμε μείνει στο σπίτι για να σώσουμε τον κόσμο, ωστόσο έχουμε γιατρούς, νοσηλευτές, οδηγούς παράδοσης, αστυνομικούς, πυροσβέστες, παραϊατρικό προσωπικό και φαρμακοποιούς να σώσουν τον κόσμο. Ποιος θα μπορούσε να φανταστεί ότι όλοι αυτοί οι άνθρωποι που αναφέρονται παραπάνω είναι οι σημερινοί μας νέοι ήρωες; Βιώνοντας αυτά τα γεγονότα, θα προσαρμοστούμε στον ιό, ή θα μιλήσουν οι ιστορικοί γι' αυτό; Το πιο σημαντικό, τι μάθαμε και ποιος θα καταφέρει να διηγηθεί αυτήν την ιστορία στα εγγόνια μας;

Μετά την καταιγίδα, που ο αέρας ξεπλένεται και καθαρίζεται η ατμόσφαιρα από οποιαδήποτε στοιχεία παρεμποδίζουν την ορατότητα, μπορούμε να δούμε πιο μακριά και πιο έντονα από ό, τι οποιαδήποτε άλλη στιγμή. Όταν αυτή η πανδημία καταλαγιάσει, θα δούμε πού ήμασταν, και πού θα πρέπει να κατευθυνθούμε με νέο σκεπτικό;

Τα πράγματα έχουν αλλάξει, και πρέπει και εμείς να αλλάξουμε. Πρέπει να κοιτάξουμε πίσω και να ευχαριστήσουμε τον Θεό για την υγεία μας, τους εργαζόμενους στον τομέα της φροντίδας μας, που έκαναν καταπληκτική δουλειά. Τους οφείλουμε ένα τεράστιο χρέος, γιατί ενώ ήμασταν στο σπίτι και αναπαυόμαστε, οι βασικοί εργαζόμενοι μας κράτησαν όρθιους. Αυτά είναι μερικά παραδείγματα που πρέπει να ακολουθήσουμε όταν θα βγούμε από αυτό το χάος που βρισκόμαστε σήμερα. Η κεντρική ιδέα είναι: (μέριμνα για τους άλλους) και όχι μόνο φροντίδα για τον εαυτό μας. Νομίζω ότι αυτοί οι υπέροχοι άνθρωποι μας έχουν διδάξει ένα μεγάλο μάθημα.

Θα ήθελα επίσης όλοι να προσευχηθούμε για εκείνους τους ουσιώδεις εργαζόμενους που έχασαν τη ζωή τους κατά τη διάρκεια της φοβερής και άσχημης αυτής πανδημίας. Επίσης, ας μην ξεχνάμε τις χιλιάδες ανθρώπων που κατοικούσαν στα γηροκομεία. Ευχόμαστε όπως ο Αναστάς Κύριός μας παρέχει αγάπη και συμπόνια για αυτά τα άτομα, και να χαρίσει ανάπαυση στις ψυχές τους. Η πανδημία αυτή ήταν πολύ 'ακριβή' κόστισε πάνω από 90.000 αμερικανικές ζωές, και πάνω από 200.000 παγκοσμίως. Μέχρι να βρεθεί μια θεραπεία ή ένα εμβόλιο, πόσες ακόμη ζωές θα χαθούν;

Μπορεί να αισθανθούμε ελεύθεροι και να ακολουθήσουμε κάποια αλλαγή στους τρόπους, που μας φαινόταν αδύνατο πρώτα, όταν το «Καθεστώς» ήταν κλειδωμένο.

Μείναμε κλειδωμένοι στο σπίτι, αποσυρθήκαμε από τα σχολεία, τους χώρους εργασίας, τις διακοπές, τα γυμναστήρια, τα πάρτυ, τα μπαράκια, τις αθλητικές εκδηλώσεις, τις εκκλησίες και από την πολυάσχολη ζωή της καθημερινότητας. Έτσι τώρα έχουμε μάθει από αυτήν την κατάσταση, ότι μπορούμε να αγαπάμε ο ένας τον άλλον από απόσταση. Έχουμε χωριστεί με σκοπό να προστατεύσουμε ο ένας τον άλλον. Θα κοιτάξουμε πίσω και θα λέμε ότι κάναμε κάτι καλό για την ανθρωπότητα, με το να μείνουμε υγιείς, ακολουθώντας τις οδηγίες του CDC, με την προσευχή του ενός για τον άλλον, και βοηθώντας ο ένας τον άλλο με οποιονδήποτε τρόπο μπορούσαμε να φανούμε χρήσιμοι. Αυτή η πανδημία της νόσου μας έφερε πιο κοντά τον ένα στον άλλο, και μας δίδαξε την αξία της φιλίας και της ζωής. Αντιλαμβανόμαστε ότι ο θάνατος είναι γύρω μας ανά πάσα στιγμή και ότι θα πρέπει να είμαστε πιο ευέλικτοι και χρήσιμοι για τους άλλους που χρειάζονται τη βοήθεια και την υποστήριξή μας.

Η Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία μας τονίζει τη μοναδική ομορφιά και αξία κάθε ανθρώπου. Στην βιβλική ιστορία του Αδάμ και της Εύας, ο Θεός τους

χαρίσε την ελεύθερη βούληση να επιλέξουν τον τρόπο ζωής τους και να πάρουν τις δικές τους αποφάσεις. Σήμερα, έχουμε την ίδια ελευθερία να επιλέξουμε τον τρόπο ζωής μας και να πάρουμε τις δικές μας αποφάσεις. Αλλά πρέπει να είμαστε προσεκτικοί στις επιλογές μας. Οι Κυβερνήτες, σωστές ή λάθος, μας έδωσαν την ευκαιρία να βγούμε από τα σπίτια μας και να προσπαθήσουμε να ζήσουμε ξανά τη ζωή μας. Έχουμε παγιδευτεί στα σπίτια μας για μήνες. Δεν είμαστε συνηθισμένοι σε αυτό το τρόπο ζωής. Από την άλλη πλευρά, θα πρέπει να πάρουμε ορισμένες αποφάσεις. Δεν μπορούμε πλέον να επιστρέψουμε στη ζωή που είχαμε προηγουμένως. Ο τρόπος ζωής θα αλλάξει και στην Αμερική αλλά και στον υπόλοιπο κόσμο. Δεν υπάρχουν πια αγκαλιές, ούτε εναγκαλισμοί ούτε φιλία στους άλλους. Τώρα πρέπει να αποστασιοποιηθούμε από τους άλλους και να φοράμε μάσκα όταν είμαστε έξω και μέσα σε εσωτερικούς χώρους. Πρέπει να ακολουθούμε τις κατευθυντήριες γραμμές, ή αλλιώς θα έχουμε χιλιάδες άλλα νέα κρούσματα από την ασθένεια αυτή. Ακόμα και οι Εκκλησίες από τώρα και στο εξής θα είναι διαφορετικές. Για παράδειγμα, ο τρόπος που λειτουργούμε στην εκκλησία μέσω της αποστασιοποίησης μεταξύ μας θα είναι κάτι πολύ καινούργιο και δύσκολο να ακολουθηθεί.

Οι περισσότεροι άνθρωποι σήμερα πιστεύουν, ότι επειδή ακολουθούν ορισμένους από τους περιορισμούς και οι κανόνες έχουν αρθεί τώρα, θα μπορούσαν να ακολουθήσουν τον ίδιο τρόπο ζωής όπως συνήθως. Και πάλι, λέω σε όλους σας, μέχρι να υπάρξει μια θεραπεία για την ασθένεια αυτή, θα πρέπει να ακολουθείτε όλες τις οδηγίες. Ας μην ξεχνάμε, ότι όταν δεν είστε υπάκουοι και προσεκτικοί, θα υπάρξει και δεύτερο κύμα του ιού που θα σκοτώσει περισσότερους από τους αγαπημένους μας, και εμείς θα επιστρέψουμε από εκεί που ξεκινήσαμε, από την αρχή, κλείνοντας και πάλι τα πάντα. Και αυτό είναι κάτι που δεν θέλουμε να συμβεί.

Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Ευαγγελιστής το περιγράφει με πολλή σαφήνεια. «Ο, τι υπάρχει στον κόσμο, η επιθυμία της σάρκας, η επιθυμία των ματιών και η αλαζονεία της ζωής, δεν είναι από τον Πατέρα, αλλά είναι ολόκληρος ο κόσμος.» (1 Ιωάννης 2:16). Έτσι, όταν κάνουμε τις επιλογές στη ζωή μας, πρέπει πάντα να γνωρίζουμε τις ευθύνες και τις συνέπειες που θα αντιμετωπίσουμε, είτε θετικές είτε αρνητικές. Για τη λήψη αυτών των αποφάσεων, θα λογοδοτήσουμε στον Κύριο και Σωτήρα μας Ιησού Χριστό.

Δεν είναι τυχαίο που ένα από τα βιβλικά ονόματα του Διαβόλου είναι ο «διαχωριστής» ή ο «παρενοχλητής». Ο διάβολος θέλει να κάνουμε επιλογές που διαταράσσουν τις σχέσεις στη ζωή μας, που μας χωρίζουν και μας απομακρύνουν από εκείνους που δίνουν πληρότητα και αξία στη ζωή μας. Θέλει να χάσουμε ό, τι δουλέψαμε και λατρέψαμε, και τελικά να ακολουθήσουμε το προβάδισμά του, να αποκοπούμε από τον Θεό. Θυμηθείτε, "Η αμαρτία χωρίζει και η Αρετή ενώνει."

Έτσι, η απάντηση στα προβλήματα του κόσμου είναι να πάρουμε το σωστό δρόμο εκεί όπου ο δρόμος μας οδηγεί στην αγκαλιά του Θεού και Πατέρα μας. Ας κάνουμε τη σωστή επιλογή και να σιγουρευτούμε ότι συνεχίζουμε να ακολουθούμε τις οδηγίες του CDC. Με αυτόν τον τρόπο, όχι μόνο εξασφαλίζουμε τη ζωή μας αλλά και τη ζωή άλλων.

Και πάλι, εύχομαι σε όλους στην Κοινότητα να είστε ασφαλείς. Όλοι μαζί θα ξεπεράσουμε αυτή τη κατάσταση.

**ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!!! ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!!!**



## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS <sup>OF</sup> NEW JERSEY

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### ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

#### Statement of Support

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,

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

Recently there was a disturbing article in the Turkish press which libelously claimed that several high-profile religious figures including His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew were collaborators of the Fethullah Gülen movement. The article baselessly contends that the collaborators within this movement, a movement which is labeled as a terrorist organization in Turkey, were supporters of the attempted coup that took place in Turkey in 2016. These false and dangerous statements are simply unacceptable.

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey strongly and unequivocally condemns such accusatory language. Furthermore, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey fully supports our spiritual leader, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Center of Orthodoxy, in light of these false and baseless claims. The ministry of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has always been Christ-centered. His efforts to bring people of various backgrounds together in love has been a highlight of his lifelong ministry. Moreover, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has been and will always be the Church of peace, love, and faithful dedication to Christ's Gospel.

The truly alarming and troubling statements emanating from this biased press report are nothing short of irresponsible as they seek to stir resentment against

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communities that have already suffered immensely during the last century. Furthermore, these statements hinder the positive cooperation that has been made between people of varying communities. It is my sincerest hope and prayer that the truth prevails and that the public is not led astray by this shameful display of prejudice and, instead, looks towards the lifelong and admirable words and actions of His All-Holiness who is an example to the entire world community of living Christ's Gospel.

Praying that our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, who is *"the way, the truth, and the life"* (John 14:6) keeps guard over you, I remain,

With Paternal Love and Blessings in the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evangelos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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





## Holy Pentecost

*Courtesy of the Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

[www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

After the Saviour's Ascension into the Heavens, the eleven Apostles and the rest of His disciples, the God-loving women who followed after Him from the beginning, His Mother, the most holy Virgin Mary, and His brethren-all together about 120 souls returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem. Entering into the house where they gathered, they went into the upper room, and there they persevered in prayer and supplication, awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit, as their Divine Teacher had promised them. In the meanwhile, they chose Matthias, who was elected to take the place of Judas among the Apostles.

Thus, on this day, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, the tenth day after the Ascension and the fiftieth day after Pascha, at the third hour of the day from the rising of the sun, there suddenly came a sound from Heaven, as when a mighty

wind blows, and it filled the whole house where the Apostles and the rest with them were gathered. Immediately after the sound, there appeared tongues of fire that divided and rested upon the head of each one. Filled with the Spirit, all those present began speaking not in their native tongue, but in other tongues and dialects, as the Holy Spirit instructed them.

The multitudes that had come together from various places for the feast, most of whom were Jews by race and religion, were called Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and so forth, according to the places where they dwelt. Though they spoke many different tongues, they were present in Jerusalem by divine dispensation. When they heard that sound that came down from Heaven to the place where the disciples of Christ were gathered, all ran together to learn what had taken place. But they were confounded when they came and heard the Apostles speaking in their own tongues. Marvelling at this, they said one to another, "Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" But others, because of their foolishness and excess of evil, mocked the wonder and said that the Apostles were drunken.

Then Peter stood up with the eleven, and raising his voice, spoke to all the people, proving that that which had taken place was not drunkenness, but the fulfilment of God's promise that had been spoken by the Prophet Joel: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that I shall pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy" (Joel 2:28), and he preached Jesus of Nazareth unto them, proving in many ways that He is Christ the Lord, Whom the Jews crucified but God raised from the dead. On hearing Peter's teaching, many were smitten with compunction and received the word. Thus, they were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added to the Faith of Christ.

Such, therefore, are the reasons for today's feast: the coming of the All-holy Spirit into the world, the completion of the Lord Jesus Christ's promise, and the fulfilment of the hope of the sacred disciples, which we celebrate today. This is the final feast of the great mystery and dispensation of God's incarnation. On this last, and great, and saving day of Pentecost, the Apostles of the Saviour, who were unlearned fishermen, made wise now of a sudden by the Holy Spirit, clearly and with divine authority spoke the heavenly doctrines. They became heralds of the truth and teachers



of the whole world. On this day they were ordained and began their apostleship, of which the salvation of those three thousand souls in one day was the comely and marvellous first fruit.

Some erroneously hold that Pentecost is the “birthday of the Church.” But this is not true, for the teaching of the holy Fathers is that the Church existed before all other things. In the second vision of The Shepherd of Hermas we read: “Now brethren, a revelation was made unto me in my sleep by a youth of exceeding fair form, who said to me, ‘Whom thinkest thou the aged woman, from whom thou receivedst the book, to be?’ I say, ‘The Sibyl.’ ‘Thou art wrong,’ saith he, ‘she is not.’ ‘Who then is she?’ I say. ‘The Church,’ saith he. I said unto him, ‘Wherefore then is she aged?’ ‘Because,’ saith he, ‘she was created before all things; therefore is she aged, and for her sake the world was framed.’” Saint Gregory the Theologian also speaks of “the Church of Christ ... both before Christ and after Christ” (PG 35:1108-9). Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus writes, “The Catholic Church, which exists from the ages, is revealed most clearly in the incarnate advent of Christ” (PG 42:640). Saint John Damascene observes, “The Holy Catholic Church of God, therefore, is the assembly of the holy Fathers, Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Evangelists, and Martyrs who have been from the very beginning, to whom were added all the nations who believed with one accord” (PG 96, 1357c). According to Saint Gregory the Theologian, “The Prophets established the Church, the Apostles conjoined it, and the Evangelists set it in order” (PG 35, 589 A). The Church existed from the creation of the Angels, for the Angels came into existence before the creation of the world, and they have always been members of the Church. Saint Clement, Bishop of Rome, says in his second epistle to the Corinthians, the Church “was created before the sun and moon”; and a little further on, “The Church existeth not now for the first time, but hath been from the beginning” (II Cor. 14).

That which came to pass at Pentecost, then, was the ordination of the Apostles, the commencement of the apostolic preaching to the nations, and the inauguration of the priesthood of the new Israel. Saint Cyril of Alexandria says that “Our Lord Jesus Christ herein ordained the instructors and teachers of the world and the stewards of His divine Mysteries ... showing together with the dignity of Apostleship, the incomparable glory of the authority given them ... Revealing them to be splendid with the great dignity of the Apostleship and showing them forth as both

stewards and priests of the divine altars . . . they became fit to initiate others through the enlightening guidance of the Holy Spirit” (PG 74, 708-712). Saint Gregory Palamas says, “Now, therefore ... the Holy Spirit descended ... showing the Disciples to be supernal luminaries ... and the distributed grace of the Divine Spirit came through the ordination of the Apostles upon their successors” (Homily 24, 10). And Saint Sophronius, Bishop of Jerusalem, writes, “After the visitation of the Comforter, the Apostles became high priests” (PG 87, 3981B). Therefore, together with the baptism of the Holy Spirit which came upon them who were present in the upper chamber, which the Lord had foretold as recorded in the Acts, “ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence” (Acts 1:5), the Apostles were also appointed and raised to the high priestly rank, according to Saint John Chrysostom (PG 60, 21). On this day commenced the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by which we become “partakers of the Divine Nature” (II Peter 1:4). For before Pentecost, it is said of the Apostles and disciples only that they abode in “prayer and supplication” (Acts 1:14); it is only after the coming of the Holy Spirit that they persevered in the “breaking of bread,” that is, the communion of the Holy Mysteries-”and in prayer” (Acts 2:42).

The feast of holy Pentecost, therefore, determined the beginning of the priesthood of grace, not the beginning of the Church. Henceforth, the Apostles proclaimed the good tidings “in country and town,” preaching and baptizing and appointing shepherds, imparting the priesthood to them whom they judged were worthy to minister, as Saint Clement writes in his first Epistle to the Corinthians (I Cor. 42).

#### **Apolytikion of Pentecost**

Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fishermen all-wise, sending upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, netting the world. O Loving One, glory to You.

#### **Kontakion of Pentecost**

Plagal of the Fourth Tone

When the Most High came down and confounded tongues of men (Babel), He divided the Nations. When He dispensed the Tongues of Fire, He called all to unity, and with one voice we glorify the Most Holy Spirit.



## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS <sup>OF</sup> NEW JERSEY

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### ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Archpastoral Message - May 18, 2020

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy

Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philotochos 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,

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

I pray this message finds you well physically and spiritually, experiencing all of God's Heavenly Blessings as we continue to celebrate the glorious Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As some states begin the slow and cautious process of permitting certain public areas to reopen in light of the recent progress made against the COVID-19 pandemic, we are filled with hope that we are slowly, yet eventually, arriving at the end of this most trying time. This is not to say that the end of the pandemic is imminent, but rather the progress made gives us cause to have cautious optimism that, God-willing, all of our Ecclesiastical Communities will be permitted to open their doors again in the near future. These months have been difficult especially for the devout faithful who have been yearning to attend the Divine Services, longing to pray in the House of God, and desiring to participate fully in the Sacramental life of the Church both with their spiritual presence and their physical presence. Although currently it is not the case, it is our most fervent prayer and our sincerest hope that the reopening of Ecclesiastical Communities to the devout faithful will be possible in the near future. In light of this, we must prepare ourselves both pragmatically and spiritually for when this day, God-willing, soon arrives.

For months the devout faithful have been unable to participate physically in the Divine Liturgy. The day is coming soon, however, when you will hear the resounding words of the Divine Liturgy, *"With the fear of God, with faith and with love, draw near."* I implore you all to inscribe these words on your hearts always. On the one hand, these

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sacred words of the Divine Liturgy prepare us to receive the precious Body and Blood of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. On the other hand, however, they take on additional meaning for us in these present circumstances. As we prepare to physically gather again soon for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, these words will serve as an angelic herald which calling all devout faithful to action. Having been distanced from your Ecclesiastical Communities for months, these words will inspire you to approach our Lord and, when called to Him, to not turn our face away from Him. Therefore, when the day comes that we will be permitted to safely gather together physically in united prayer, I encourage you to be spiritually courageous and draw near to our Lord in unwavering faith and unfettered love exclaiming, *"Here I am, Lord"* (Is. 6:8).

Though some people may feel trepidation in physically attending the Divine Services, I implore you to not allow anything to deter you from drawing near to our Lord and Savior so that you may experience the everlasting life He offers to you through His Divine Liturgy. For our Lord tells us, *"I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh"* (John 6:51).

As we patiently and prayerfully wait for the eventual reopening of our Parish Communities so that we may, *"with faith and with love, draw near,"* I beseech each and every one of you to encourage and to spiritually embolden one another. Though our Ecclesiastical Communities have endured much over the past couple months, let us be abounding with faith and love for each other and for our Communities so that when the doors of our Churches open again, we will be ready physically and spiritually to serve Christ and His Church.

Praying that our Loving Lord continues to guard and guide each of you and your families, I remain,

With Paternal Love and Blessings in the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evangelos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

# THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS - JUNE 14



## The Sunday of All Saints

Courtesy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
[www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

### Reading:

Honouring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, “But to me, exceedingly honourable are Thy friends, O Lord” (Ps. 138:16). And the divine Apostle, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1).

This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of “Martyr” in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood.

Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we the pious honour all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God’s commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honour the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the “much fruit” brought forth by that “Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died” (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as “the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Saviour” (Sunday of All Saints, Doxasticon of Vespers).

In this celebration, then, we reverently honour and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honour today, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.

## **St.Nicholas Greek Folk Festival and FATHER'S DAY**

by Eva Lallas

**Happy  
Father's  
Day**

*June, the long awaited month which each of us looks forward to each year anticipating the joyous events that were in the planning for many months: school graduations, summer vacations, weddings, reunions with family and friends, travels to new or favorite places, picnics and barbeques, lazy days at the beach, and weeks of relaxation away from the routine of work and school.*

*Of course, at our beloved St.Nicholas Community the annual Greek Folk Festival becomes a reality of four fun filled days enjoyed by all in the Baltimore Metropolitan area and surrounding States. This year, however, has brought an abrupt and drastic change to our usual visions of June as the country has been infected by the corona virus 19. Following three months of living under shut-down and stay at home orders, we are in a gradual "opening" mode: limited public gatherings are permitted but greatly discouraged.*

*This health crisis has left an enormous void in the life of our community where members are accustomed to interacting regularly with each other at church. We have missed the comradery of months of preparation, working and hosting the delightful festival which showcases our Greek traditions, religion, culture, and homemade foods while helping our St.Nicholas Church financially. This void is being felt not only by those who are actively involved in the festival but by the hundreds who anxiously awaited to visit and participate in an authentic Greek festival in the heart of Baltimore's Greektown.*

*At this time please allow the author to make a plea to all who are reading the Koinonia for your kind and enthusiastic support of St.Nicholas during this time of financial need. The health crisis has negatively affected the regular donations to our church made especially during Holy Week and the Folk Festival. Please consider completing your stewardship pledge, making a monetary donation, and lighting a candle in honor or in memory of a loved one, and purchasing the raffle tickets which will be mailed to all parishioners shortly. We who are avid supporters of St.Nicholas thank you in advance and await the day when our churches will reopen and we will greet you and warmly express our gratitude in person.*

*Looking on the brighter side, with or without co-vid19, one uplifting day in June which remains steadfast is the celebration of Father's Day. As long as God's Grace keeps us well, we will once again be able to give special tributes to our fathers on this day for all they do for their families. On this day we also honor the memory of our departed fathers. In reality, every day should be a day to honor and show our love and appreciation for our fathers. They are our guardians, our role models, our protectors, and our providers. We are probably never aware of the sacrifices that dads regularly make to keep their families in tact.*

*It is a given that as a community we have always appreciated our spiritual father, Father Michael Pastrokos who has tirelessly and selflessly taught us by example to live our lives closer to Jesus. This year's corona virus crisis has been especially taxing because the churches were ordered closed since March 16 and each liturgy and service, including Holy Week, was celebrated while the church pews remained empty. Even during this crisis while the services were live streamed, Father Michael still included as he has always done, his personal message of encouragement, teaching us to have a closer relationship with Jesus in addition to the homily. Father Michael is a "people person" and enjoys communicating with his parishioners and all who attend the coffee hour following the services, which were not to be during these months. Taking precautionary measures Father will once again offer prayers for our departed brothers and sisters on Memorial Day at Oaklawn Cemetery. Father Michael continues to give top priority to the spiritual needs of his parishioners.*

*It is the author's hope that by June 21 health restrictions will have been lifted so that we can properly honor Father Michael on Father's Day for he has been the guiding force in energizing our St.Nicholas Church in the true Christian Spirit.*

**Happy Father's Day, Father Michael !!!**

## ΙΟΥΝΙΟΣ -- ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΛΑΙΚΟ ΠΑΝΗΓΥΡΙ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ

### --ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΕΡΑ

Από την Ευαγγελία Λαλά

# Happy Father's Day

ΙΟΥΝΙΟΣ, ο πολυαναμενόμενος μήνας, που ο καθένας μας περιμένει κάθε χρόνο, αναμένοντας τις χαρούμενες εκδηλώσεις που είναι προγραμματισμένες για πολλούς μήνες: σχολικές αποφοιτήσεις, καλοκαιρινές διακοπές, γάμους, συναντήσεις με την οικογένεια και τους φίλους, ταξίδια σε νέα ή αγαπημένα μέρη, πικνίκ και μπάρμπεκιου, ημέρες ριλάξ στην παραλία και εβδομάδες χαλάρωσης μακριά από τη ρουτίνα της εργασίας και του σχολείου.

Φυσικά, στην αγαπημένη μας Κοινότητα του Αγίου Νικολάου, το ετήσιο Ελληνικό Λαϊκό Πανηγύρι παίρνει σάρκα και οστά με τις τέσσερις γεμάτες διασκέδαση ημέρες που απολαμβάνουν όλοι στην περιοχή της Μητροπολιτικής Βαλτιμόρης και των γύρω Πολιτειών. Η φετινή χρονιά, ωστόσο, έχει φέρει μια απότομη και δραστική αλλαγή στα συνηθισμένα μας οράματα του Ιουνίου, καθώς η χώρα έχει μολυνθεί από τον ιό του Covid-19. Μετά από τρεις μήνες εγκλειστού διαβίωσης ακολουθώντας τις οδηγίες 'Παραμένουμε στο σπίτι', βρισκόμαστε στη σταδιακή επαναλειτουργία στο «άνοιγμα»: που επιτρέπονται με περιοριστικά μέτρα οι δημόσιες συγκεντρώσεις, αλλά σε μεγάλο βαθμό αποθάρρυνσης.

Αυτή η κρίση υγείας άφησε ένα τεράστιο κενό στη ζωή της Κοινοτήτάς μας όπου τα μέλη είναι συνηθισμένα να αλληλοεπιδρούν τακτικά μεταξύ τους στην εκκλησία. Έχουμε χάσει τη συντροφικότητα κατά τους μήνες της προετοιμασίας, εργασίας και φιλοξενίας του υπέροχου φεστιβάλ που αναδεικνύει τις ελληνικές παραδόσεις μας, τη θρησκεία, τον πολιτισμό, και τα σπιτικά φαγητά, ενώ παράλληλα βοηθάει οικονομικά την Εκκλησία μας του Αγίου Νικολάου. Αυτό το κενό γίνεται αισθητό όχι μόνο από εκείνους που συμμετέχουν ενεργά στο φεστιβάλ, αλλά από τις εκατοντάδες άλλων ανθρώπων που με αγωνία περίμεναν να επισκεφθούν και να συμμετάσχουν σε μια αυθεντική ελληνική γιορτή στην καρδιά της Ελληνικής Παροικίας της Βαλτιμόρης.

Αυτή τη στιγμή παρακαλώ επιτρέψτε στην υποφαινόμενη να κάνει έκκληση σε όλους όσους διαβάζουν την Κοινωνία για την ευγενική και εγκάρδια υποστήριξή σας προς τον Άγιο Νικόλαο, κατά τη διάρκεια αυτής της περιόδου της οικονομικής ανάγκης. Η κρίση υγείας επηρέασε αρνητικά τις τακτικές δωρεές στην εκκλησία μας, ειδικά κατά τη διάρκεια της Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας και του Ελληνικού Λαϊκού Φεστιβάλ. Παρακαλούμε να εξετάσετε την ολοκλήρωση της υπόσχεσής σας προς την Εθελοντική Προσφορά σας, κάνοντας μια χρηματική δωρεά, και ανάβοντας ένα κερί υπέρ υγείας ή υπέρ αναπαύσεως ενός αγαπημένου προσώπου, καθώς και την αγορά των λαχείων που θα ταχυδρομηθούν σε όλους τους ενορίτες σύντομα. Εμείς, που είμαστε πιστοί υποστηρικτές του Αγίου Νικολάου σας ευχαριστούμε εκ των προτέρων και περιμένουμε την ημέρα που οι εκκλησίες μας θα ανοίξουν εκ νέου και θα σας χαιρετήσουμε εκφράζοντας την ευγνωμοσύνη μας προσωπικά.

Κοιτάζοντας από την πιο φωτεινή πλευρά, με ή χωρίς Covid-19, μια αναζωογονητική ημέρα τον Ιούνιο που παραμένει σταθερή είναι η Εορτή της Ημέρας του Πατέρα. Όσο η Χάρη του Θεού μας κρατά καλά, θα μπορούσαμε για άλλη μια φορά να εορτάσουμε τους πατέρες μας αυτήν την ημέρα για ό, τι κάνουν για τις οικογένειές τους. Αυτή την ημέρα τιμούμε επίσης τη μνήμη των απελθόντων πατέρων μας. Στην πραγματικότητα, κάθε μέρα θα πρέπει να είναι μια ημέρα για να τιμήσουμε και να δείξουμε την αγάπη και την εκτίμησή μας στους πατέρες μας. Είναι οι φύλακες μας, τα πρότυπα μας, οι προστάτες μας και οι προμηθευτές μας. Πιθανότατα δεν γνωρίζουμε ποτέ τις θυσίες που κάνουν τακτικά οι μπαμπάδες για να κρατήσουν τις οικογένειές τους ψηλά.

Είναι δεδομένο ότι ως Κοινότητα πάντα εκτιμούσαμε το Πνευματικό μας Πατέρα, τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Παστρικό, ο οποίος ακούραστα και ανιδιοτελώς μας δίδαξε πως να ζήσουμε τη ζωή μας πιο κοντά στον Ιησού. Η εφετινή κρίση του Κορωνοϊού μας έχει πλήξει ιδιαίτερα οικονομικά, διότι οι εκκλησίες κατά διαταγή των Κυβερνόντων έπρεπε να παραμείνουν κλειστές από τις 16 Μαρτίου και κάθε λειτουργία και Ακολουθία, συμπεριλαμβανομένης της Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας, εορτάστηκε, ενώ τα στασίδια της Εκκλησίας παρέμειναν κενά. Ακόμη και κατά τη διάρκεια αυτής της κρίσης, ενώ οι Ακολουθίες ήταν σε ζωντανή μετάδοση, ο Πατέρας Μιχαήλ περιλάμβανε, όπως πάντα έκανε, το προσωπικό του μήνυμα ενθάρρυνσης, μας δίδασκε, εκτός από την ομιλία του, να έχουμε μια πιο στενή σχέση με τον Ιησού. Λαμβάνοντας προληπτικά μέτρα ο Πάτερ προσευχήθηκε και πάλι για τους αδελφούς και τις αδελφές μας που έχουν αποδημήσει εις Κύριον, την Ημέρα των Μνημοσύνων στο Νεκροταφείο Oaklawn. Ο Πάτερ Μιχαήλ συνεχίζει να αποδίδει υψηλή προτεραιότητα στις πνευματικές ανάγκες των ενοριτών του.

Ελπίδα της υποφαινόμενης είναι ότι μέχρι την 21η Ιουνίου θα έχουν αρθεί οι Περιορισμοί Υγείας, ώστε να μπορούμε να τιμήσουμε σωστά τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ για την Ημέρα του Πατέρα, διότι αυτός ήταν η κινητήρια δύναμη για την ενεργοποίηση της Εκκλησίας μας του Αγίου Νικολάου, με πραγματικό Χριστιανικό Πνεύμα.

**Χρόνια Πολλά Πατέρα Μιχαήλ για την Ημέρα του Πατέρα!!**

## TO ALL PARISHIONERS

Our church has fallen into trying times during this worldwide pandemic. We are now encountering financial difficulties, 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](http://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 liturgical calendar can be found on page 33, and the link for the live-stream can be found on our homepage at [www.stnicholasmd.org](http://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.

*\* NOTE \**

*Due to the current quarantine, and the inability to access certain files, we are unable to include the stewardship and memorial donation lists.*

*We appreciate your understanding.*

# 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 μηνιόσυνα, 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 Ιερομόναχου  
και το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο της Ελληνικής Εκκλησίας  
Αγίου Νικολάου Βαλτιμόρης





## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS <sup>OF</sup> NEW JERSEY

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### ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

#### Pontian Greek Genocide Remembrance 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,

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

This year marks the 101-year commemoration of the Pontian Greek Genocide in which hundreds of thousands of Pontian Greeks were murdered, more than a million more were forced to seek refuge in Greece, homes were confiscated, and countless Greek Orthodox churches and monasteries were destroyed. This is a dark period in the history of the world, one that will forever be a blight on the Turkish nation which perpetrated these heinous acts. Though the Turks tried to systematically exterminate entire populations, they can never exterminate the truth of these crimes. Though they attempted to eradicate the Orthodox faith, they will never be able to silence our people and our fervent prayers. Though they endeavored to destroy our history, culture, and language, they will never be able to do so because our identity is engrained in Pontos and all of Turkey.

Still, the events that took place just over one hundred years ago should forever serve as a reminder to each of us that evil persists and it should always serve as a reason for us to be vigilant against the dark forces of the world. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that we teach the world of the atrocities perpetrated against the Pontian Greeks so that the rest of the world may recognize and acknowledges as fact the crimes that took place against the Pontian Greeks.

In addition, we must endeavor to educate our youth concerning these terrible events since they constitute part of our history. We should also cultivate in them a love

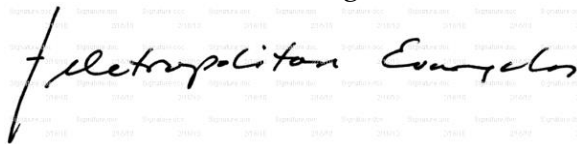
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and appreciation for their faith, history, culture, language, and traditions. This is the most fitting and surest way in which we may honor those who lost their lives and commemorate the efforts of those who heroically struggled to save others during those bleak days. Therefore, I implore you to teach your communities about Pontian Greek history and culture with a particular emphasis on the tragic events that took place a century ago, never forgetting that our identity is tied to the past, but our destiny is rooted in the future with our youth. **Furthermore, I ask that our parishes hold a memorial service on Sunday, May 17, 2020 for the repose of the souls of those who had lost their lives in the Pontian Greek Genocide.**

It is my sincerest hope and prayer that through our continued educational efforts we will be able to adequately inform both friends and neighbors as to the trials and tribulations suffered by Pontian Greeks with the goal of the Pontian Greek Genocide receiving worldwide recognition as a crime against humanity. Let us never forget those who lost their lives in this senseless slaughter, but let us also look towards the future in building a vibrant appreciation for Pontic Greek history and culture both within and outside of our own Hellenic communities.

With Paternal Love and Blessings in the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evangelos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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



## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

### ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

101<sup>η</sup> Ἐπέτειος τῆς Ποντιακῆς Γενοκτονίας

Πρὸς τὸν εὐλαβέστατον Ἱερόν Κλῆρον,  
Τοὺς Ἐντιμοτάτους Ἀρχοντας τοῦ Οἴκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου,  
Τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Ἐκκλησιαστικῶν Συμβουλίων,  
Τὰς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Φιλοπτώχων Ἀδελφοτήτων,  
Τοὺς διδάσκοντας καὶ διδασκομένους τῶν Κατηχητικῶν καὶ Ἑλληνικῶν Σχολείων,  
Τὰς Ὄργανώσεις τῆς Νεολαίας καὶ ἅπαν τὸ Χριστεπώνυμον πλήρωμα τῶν εὐσεβῶν  
Ὁρθοδόξων Χριστιανῶν τῆς Ἱερᾶς Μητροπόλεως Νέας Ἱερσέης.

Ἀγαπητοί μου ἀδελφοί, Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη!

Τὸ ἔτος πού διανύουμε σηματοδοτεῖ τὴν Ἐπέτειο τῆς συμπληρώσεως 101 ἐτῶν ἀπὸ τὴν Γενοκτονία τῶν ἀδελφῶν μας Ποντίων, δηλαδή ἀπὸ τὴν στιγμή ἐκείνη στὴν ἱστορία τῆς ἀνθρωπότητας ὅπου ἑκατοντάδες χιλιάδων συνανθρώπων μας Ἑλλήνων ποντιακῆς καταγωγῆς δολοφονήθηκαν, περισσότεροι ἀπὸ ἓνα ἑκατομμύριο ἐξορίσθηκαν ἀπὸ τίς πατρογονικές τους ἐστίες καὶ ὀδηγήθηκαν στὴν Ἑλλάδα, τὰ σπίτια τους κατασχέθηκαν, καὶ ἀναρίθμητες Ἐκκλησίες καὶ Μοναστήρια καταστράφηκαν. Αὐτὴ ὑπῆρξε μιά σκοτεινὴ περίοδος στὴν παγκόσμια ἱστορία, καὶ ἀσφαλῶς ἀποτελεῖ μιά μαύρη κηλίδα στὴν ἱστορία τοῦ Τουρκικοῦ Ἔθνους πού διέπραξε αὐτές τίς ἀποτρόπαιες πράξεις.

Παρά τὸ γεγονός ὅτι οἱ Τούρκοι προσπάθησαν συστηματικὰ στὸ διάβα τῆς ἱστορίας τους νὰ ἐξοντώσουν ὀλόκληρους λαοὺς, δέν κατάφεραν νὰ ἐξαλείψουν καὶ νὰ σβήσουν τὴν ἀλήθεια τῶν ἐγκληματικῶν τους πράξεων. Παρά τὸ ὅτι προσπάθησαν νὰ ξεριζώσουν τὴν Ὁρθόδοξο πίστη, δέν θὰ καταφέρουν ποτέ νὰ φιμώσουν τοὺς ἀνθρώπους μας καὶ νὰ σιωπήσουν τίς θερμές προσευχές τους. Ἄν καὶ προσπάθησαν νὰ καταστρέψουν καὶ νὰ ἐξαλείψουν τὴν ἱστορία μας, τὴν πίστη μας, τὸν πολιτισμὸ καὶ τὴν γλῶσσα μας, δέν κατάφεραν νὰ τὸ πετύχουν, καθὼς ἡ ταυτότητά μας καὶ τὸ ποῖόν τοῦ Γένους μας εἶναι αἰώνια χαραγμένο στὴν εὐλογημένη Γῆ τοῦ Πόντου καὶ ὅλης τῆς Τουρκίας.

Ἐντούτοις, τὰ δραματικὰ γεγονότα πού ἔλαβαν χώρα τότε, 101 χρόνια πρὶν, ὀφείλουν νὰ μᾶς ἀφυπνίζουν καὶ νὰ μᾶς θυμίζουν ὅτι τὸ κακὸ συνεχίζει νὰ ὑπάρχει στὸν κόσμον μας καὶ ὅτι πρέπει νὰ εἴμαστε πάντοτε σὲ ἐγρήγορη καὶ ἔτοιμοι ὥστε νὰ ἀντιμετωπίσουμε τίς σκοτεινὲς δυνάμεις αὐτοῦ τοῦ κόσμου. Ἐπομένως, ἀποτελεῖ ἐπιτακτικὴ ἀνάγκη νὰ διδάξουμε τὴν οἰκουμένη γιὰ τίς ἀποτρόπαιες πράξεις κατὰ τῶν Ἑλλήνων τοῦ Πόντου, ὥστε οἱ λαοὶ τοῦ κόσμου νὰ ἀναγνωρίσουν ἐπιτέλους τὰ πολλαπλά ἐγκλήματα πού διαπράχθηκαν ἐναντίον τῶν Ἑλλήνων τοῦ Πόντου, δηλαδή νὰ ἀναγνωρίσουν τίς πράξεις αὐτές ὡς «γενοκτονία».

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Ἐπιπλέον, ὀφείλουμε νά διδάξουμε τίς νέες γενιές γιά τά φορικτά γεγονότα πού διαπράχθησαν καί ἀποτελοῦν ἀδιάψευστο κομμάτι τῆς ἱστορίας μας. Ἐπίσης, πρέπει νά διδάξουμε στά παιδιά μας νά ἀγαποῦν καί νά σέβονται τήν πίστη, τήν ἱστορία, τόν πολιτισμό, τήν Γλῶσσα καί τίς παραδόσεις μας. Αὐτό θά ἀποτελέσει τόν ἀσφαλέστερο τρόπο ὥστε νά τιμήσουμε τήν θυσία τῶν ἡρώων μας καί νά διατηρήσουμε στήν μνήμη μας ὅλους ἐκείνους πού ἀγωνίσθηκαν ὥστε νά σώσουν ἄλλους κατά τήν διάρκεια τῶν φορικτῶν αὐτῶν γεγονότων.

Ὡς ἐκ τούτου, παρακαλῶ πολύ ὅλους νά διδάξουμε τά μέλη τῶν Κοινοτήτων μας τήν ἱστορία καί τόν πολιτισμό τοῦ Ποντιακοῦ Ἑλληνισμοῦ, δίνοντας ἰδιαίτερη ἔμφαση στά τραγικά γεγονότα πού ἔλαβαν χώρα 101 χρόνια πρῖν, στήν φορική γενοκτονία καί τόν ξεριζωμό καί ἄς μὴν λησμονοῦμε ὅτι ἡ ταυτότητα τοῦ Γένους μας εἶναι συνυφασμένη μέ τό παρελθόν μας, ἐνῶ τό πεπρωμένο μας εἶναι συνυφασμένο μέ τό μέλλον τῶν παιδιῶν μας. Παρακαλῶ λοιπόν νά τελεσθεῖ Ἐπιμνημόσυνη Δέηση σέ ὅλες τίς Ἑνορίες μας τήν Κυριακή 17 Μαΐου 2020 γιά τήν ἀνάπαυση τῶν ψυχῶν ὅλων τῶν ἀδελφῶν μας Ποντίων πού χάθηκαν στήν Γενοκτονία τοῦ 1919.

Εὐχομαι εὐλικρινῶς καί προσεύχομαι ὅπως συνεχίζοντας τίς προσπάθειές ὅλων μας γιά τήν ἐνημέρωση τῆς κοινῆς γνώμης ὡς πρός τήν ἀλήθεια τῆς Γενοκτονίας τῶν Ποντίων νά ἀφυπνίσουμε συνειδήσεις καί νά καταφέρουμε ἐπιτέλους νά φέρομε σέ γνώση ὅλων τῶν λαῶν τά βασανιστήρια καί τίς δοκιμασίες πού ὑπέστησαν οἱ Ἕλληνες τοῦ Πόντου, καί νά ἐπιτύχουμε νά ἀναγνωρισθεῖ παγκοσμίως ὁ ξεριζωμός τοῦ 1919 ὡς Ἐγκλημα κατά τῆς ἀνθρωπότητας. Ἄς μὴν λησμονήσουμε ποτέ τίς χιλιάδες ψυχές ὅλων ἐκείνων πού ἔχασαν τήν ζωή τους κατά τήν ἀδιανόητη αὐτή σφαγή πού ἔλαβε χώρα τότε καί ἄς ἀτενίζουμε πάντοτε τό μέλλον μέ αἰσιοδοξία, ἐκτιμώντας τήν ἱστορία καί τήν παράδοση τῶν Ἑλλήνων τοῦ Πόντου πού ζοῦν ἐντός καί ἐκτός τῶν Κοινοτήτων μας.

Μετά πατρικῆς ἀγάπης καί εὐχῶν ἐν Κυρίῳ Ἀναστάντι,

**Ο ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΗΣ**

† Ὁ Νέας Ἱερσέης ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

*Father Michael:*

*During these uncertain and difficult times of the Coronavirus pandemic, I wish to write just to express my deep gratitude and thanksgiving for your continued leadership and service at St. Nicholas. I have met you on several occasions as a visitor at St. Nicholas at various times over the course of the past many years, especially during Holy Week. In addition, I often stop by the Church as I commute from Baltimore to Annapolis, just to light a candle, pray, meditate and find renewal. You and the members have always been so warm and welcoming. Stanley is especially gracious, welcoming and helpful. I appreciate all of this. It has been a pleasure to worship with you, to experience the love of the members whom I have come to know, and to rejoice in the power and the spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ and His redeeming gospel.*

*I continue to Light a Candle by virtue of the Church's web page. Thank you for that opportunity as well. I hope it is somewhat helpful.*

*As we approached Holy Week and Great and Holy Pascha 2020 during this time of closures, physical isolation and social distancing, I knew that I could not physically join with you for services at the Church. I was also very aware of the disappointment and difficulty that you and your Church family experienced at the reality of not being able to gather together during this most sacred time of the year. Please be certain, however, that the service you and the handful of faithful, dedicated servant-leaders at the Church provided in order to live-stream each and every service was a blessing to us all. I participated in every service during Holy Week, from Palm Sunday through the Agape Vespers on Great and Holy Pascha. Though not physically present, it is important for you to know that these services still had a powerful and very beautiful impact on me and, I assume with confidence, upon all who participated virtually. Each service was a Spirit-filled, beautiful opportunity for worship, renewal and consecration. I thank you and all who were involved to make this happen. I am personally very grateful. I join my voice with those who were and continue to be lifted up, inspired and blessed by your leadership and service.*

*I pray the Lord's choicest blessings upon you and the Church. I hope and pray for good health and strength, protection and security for all of you. I am especially prayerful for you to be strengthened and magnified in all of your pastoral responsibilities and duties. I know the Lord is mindful of you and that He will continue to open the heavens and pour-out blessings upon you.*

*I am increasingly comforted by the inspired words of the Apostle Paul: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7) They seem especially applicable to our day and to this moment . . .*

*Fear is a tool of the adversary. It is corrosive and defeatist. We cannot let it govern or influence how we proceed in the face of challenge and difficulty. It will only cloud our capacity to think clearly, act positively and overcome obstacles. Hope dispels fear. God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of hope.*

*Power is the enabling strength, will and capacity to act; to do what we need to do; to accomplish what we need to accomplish. It is the capacity to do the right thing and to make the right choices. It is the ability to move forward with faith in Christ, to lift and to build, to survive and advance. It is knowledge that we shall overcome. God has given us the spirit of power.*

*Love is the greatest thing of all. God is love. It is the foundation of all of His perfect characteristics and attributes. Love conquers all. It heals all wounds. It is the most effective and powerful motivation to act and to serve, to minister and to bless. It is the very essence of all that is positive and decent in this world and beyond. God has given us the spirit of love.*

*Sound mind is wisdom, good judgment and common sense. We are expected to use all of these, especially now. It is the capability to be smart. It allows us to use an abundance of caution while still being boldly wise. It protects us from carelessness and stupidity. It allows us to think and act soundly. It is solid. God has given us the spirit of a sound mind.*

*So I thank the Apostle Paul for this particular inspired statement of beautiful, true doctrine. It is timeless counsel. In times like these, in a worldwide pandemic, these are words to live by. Not fear, but power, love and a sound mind.*

*Thank you, Father Michael, for exemplifying all of this in your ministry at St. Nicholas and in the community you serve. I am personally very appreciative (as are so many), and I just felt compelled to let you know. May the Lord bless you and keep you always. If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call upon me.*

*Christos Anesti!*

*Pace J. McConkie*



## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS <sup>OF</sup> NEW JERSEY

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### ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

May 21, 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,

Χριστὸς Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

Due the devastating effects of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic, we have witnessed the interruption and cancellation of numerous Ecclesiastical and social events both within our own communities and in society at-large. Many of these events centered around the celebration of significant accomplishments and marked an opportunity for people to gather in jubilation. One such event which has been affected are the graduation ceremonies of high school seniors who, having finished their primary education, now prepare themselves to enter a new world. For some, this marks the beginning of a career and for others it marks the beginning of a more specialized education. With the present circumstances, however, the 2020 graduating high school students have generally been deprived of the opportunity to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce that the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey will be holding a Virtual High School Graduation Ceremony for all of the faithful Greek Orthodox Christian graduating high school seniors of the Class of 2020 from throughout our Holy Metropolis. This will offer us the opportunity as a spiritual family of Greek Orthodox Christians to come together, to recognize, and to celebrate their accomplishments. By honoring their well-deserve achievement, we can express our support for them as the Body of Christ as they embark on their new journeys. Details pertaining to the Virtual Graduation Ceremony such as the date, time, and other relevant

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information will be communicated to the Parish Priest of each Community and to the devout faithful so that the graduates, their families, and all devout faithful can joyously participate in this significant celebratory event.

It is my sincerest hope and prayer that you will help join me in celebrating this auspicious occasion and show your support for our beloved young adults. Although we are not able to celebrate with them in person, let us fervently pray that our Lord will guide them and guard them as they enter this new phase of their young lives. Praying that our Loving Lord protects and guards our graduates, their families, and each one of you, I remain,

With Paternal Love and Blessings in the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evangelos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

†EVANGELOS  
Metropolitan of New Jersey





## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS <sup>OF</sup> NEW JERSEY

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### ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

#### Memorial Day 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,

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

For over 150 years our nation has set aside a day to commemorate the brave men and women who served this country and gave their lives in defense of our great nation. Their sacrifice, described by Abraham Lincoln as their last full measure of devotion, was not motivated out of ego or self-glorification, but it was motivated out of their desire to ensure that our nation remains free for all generations and that the principles which we hold so dear remain inviolate. It was through their courage that this nation was transformed from thirteen colonies into a nation of self-determination as they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to its establishment. It was through their resolve that they preserved the union of this country as brother fought against brother. It was through their bravery that they traversed the seas to liberate Europe when the powers of fascism threatened the world.

Their sacrifice has preserved time-honored principles such as freedom, equality, and justice of which we are all beneficiaries. Their service to our nation paved the way for this country to ascend the heights of greatness as it has become a shining beacon of liberty and hope for the entire world. Freedom and all of its benefits, however, come at a great cost. This cost was paid in the lives of hundreds of thousands of courageous men and women throughout the life of our nation. They waged war so that we might know



peace. No amount of thanks can ever be rendered to them for their selfless service and the sum of our praise can never repay the debt of the nobility of their deeds.

As we pay tribute to these valiant men and women, let us honor their sacrifices through personal reflection and prayerful remembrance. **Moreover, I ask that our Parishes hold a Trisagion service on Sunday, May 24, 2020 for the repose of the souls of all deceased veterans and for our deceased brethren.** May our prayers for and our commemoration of these brave souls remain within our hearts so that we may more fully honor their sacrifice, never forgetting their courage and valor. Praying that God grants them eternal rest and praying that He guards and protects all members of our armed forces, law enforcement, and civil authorities, I remain,

With Paternal Love and Blessings in the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evangelos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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





## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS <sup>OF</sup> NEW JERSEY

### ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

May 25, 2020

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy  
Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the  
Parish Councils and Philoptochos Sisterhood of the Communities of the  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

Beloved in the Lord,

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

I pray this letter finds you all well as we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The devastating effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic continue to wreak havoc on our communities and society at-large as tens of thousands have died and more than a million people have contracted the virus in the United States alone. Therefore, I regretfully have decided to cancel the 2020 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy-Laity Assembly and Philoptochos Convention that had been rescheduled for October.

This was a difficult and painful decision to make, however, it was made for the protection and benefit of our faithful as it does not seem suitable to hold a gathering of this scale. Whereas some states have seen limited progress in recent weeks in their fight against the Coronavirus and may lift their gathering restrictions in the weeks and months to come, the safety of the Clergy and the devout faithful is of principal importance. The next Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy-Laity Assembly and Philoptochos Convention will take place in May 2021.

Although we are temporarily separated from gathering together physically, we are forever united in faithful prayer. It is my sincerest hope and prayer that God will continue to grant each and every one of you and your families good health so that, when

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we are enabled to gather again, we may be ready to serve our Lord both spiritually and physically. Praying our loving Lord guards and guides each of you during these tumultuous times, I remain,

With Paternal Love and Blessings in the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evangelos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

† EVANGELOS  
Metropolitan of New Jersey



Christos Anesti! Christ has risen!

We pray that everyone has continued to stay safe.

This month Saint Nicholas Philoptochos purchased and had delivered 19 Pizzas to John's Hopkins Bayview ER front line night shift. As we mentioned in last's months article we had purchased 60 meals for the morning shift. This is a small token of our appreciation for all they do for our community. We continue to contact members of our community to make sure that they are doing well. If anyone is in need during this Pandemic please contact Irene Vasilios 410-687-3978 or Nora Kefalas 410-979-6656 All names are kept in strict confidence and given case numbers.

Due to circumstances beyond our control and the restrictions by our local government we could not honor the mothers of our community but we want to take this opportunity to wish all the Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers and the ladies that have touched a child's life and made a difference in their lives a Happy Belated Mother's Day.

Usually scholarships are awarded the last Sunday of May in Church. The scholarship committee met and reviewed all applications and the students will be awarded the scholarships through the mail due to the pandemic. We want to congratulate all the graduates and wish them continued success in their future studies. The students receiving the awards are as follows: **The Thomas Lambros Memorial Scholarship**, Dimitrios Kostivas. **The Antonios Nicolaidis Memorial Scholarship**, Christos Vasilarakis, **The Linda Skandalis Memorial Scholarship**, Katerina Ieromonachos. **Philoptochos Scholarships**, Panayiota Koutsantonis, Flora Giakoumakis. Philoptochos also awards a scholarship **In Memory of Bill Tsambikos, George Koutsounouris, Merope Sophcleous, Chrysa Minadakis, Antonios Nicolaidis, Michael Kolivas, Despina Siskos and Bill Diakokominos** will be awarded to Penelope Topouzoglou. Thank to our screening committee for their service to our Philoptochos and to those that have established the scholarships in memory of their loved ones May their Memory be Eternal!

We remind everyone that all Philoptochos events have been postponed. Any updates we will inform Father Michael and also post on Facebook page.

**Donations:** Mrs. Despina Cornias

In closing we would like to thank everyone for their continued support and pray that the light of the resurrection keeps those on the front line safe, health to those suffering and comfort to those mourning the loss of a loved one. Stay Safe and Stay Home! Prayers that we are all together soon.

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!!

Προσευχόμαστε και ελπίζουμε να είστε όλοι καλά και ασφαλείς.

Αυτό το μήνα η Φιλόπτωχος του Αγίου Νικολάου αγόρασε και πρόσφερε 19 'πίτσες' στο προσωπικό Πρώτης Γραμμής, της Νυχτερινής βάρδιας, του Νοσοκομείου Johns Hopkins, Bayview Τμήμα Επειγόντων Περιστατικών. Όπως αναφέραμε στο άρθρο του τελευταίου μήνα είχαμε αγοράσει 60 γεύματα για την πρωινή βάρδια. Αυτό είναι ένα μικρό δείγμα της εκτίμησής μας για όλα όσα κάνουν για την Κοινότητά μας. Συνεχίζουμε να επικοινωνούμε με μέλη της Κοινότητάς μας για να βεβαιωθούμε ότι είναι καλά. Αν κάποιος έχει ανάγκη κατά τη διάρκεια αυτής της πανδημίας, παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε με την Ειρήνη Βασιλείου 410-687-3978 ή με την Νόρα Κεφάλια 410-979-6656. Όλα τα ονόματα φυλάσσονται με απόλυτη εχεμύθεια και δίνονται μόνο αριθμός υπόθεσης.

Λόγω των περιστάσεων, πέρα από τον έλεγχό μας και τους περιορισμούς από την τοπική μας Αυτοδιοίκηση, δεν μπορούσαμε να τιμήσουμε τις μητέρες της Κοινότητάς μας, αλλά θέλουμε να εκμεταλλευτούμε αυτή την ευκαιρία για να ευχηθούμε σε όλες τις μητέρες, γιαγιάδες, νονές και τις κυρίες που έχουν αγγίξει τη ζωή ενός παιδιού και έκαναν τη διαφορά στη ζωή τους, Χρόνια Πολλά και ευτυχισμένη, έστω και καθυστερημένα, η ημέρα της Μητέρας.

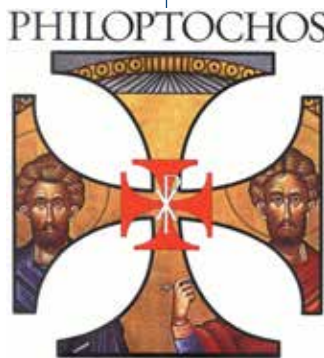
Συνήθως οι υποτροφίες απονέμονται την τελευταία Κυριακή του Μαΐου στην Εκκλησία. Η Επιτροπή Υποτροφιών συνεδρίασε και εξέτασε όλες τις αιτήσεις, οι μαθητές θα λάβουν τις υποτροφίες μέσω ταχυδρομείου λόγω της πανδημίας. Θα θέλαμε να συγχαρούμε όλους τους αποφοίτους και να τους ευχηθούμε συνεχή επιτυχία στις μελλοντικές τους σπουδές. Οι μαθητές που έλαβαν τις υποτροφίες έχουν ως εξής: **Την Υποτροφία εις Μνήμη του Θωμά Λάμπρου**, έλαβε ο Δημήτριος Κοστρίβας. **Την Υποτροφία εις Μνήμη του Αντωνίου Νικολαΐδη**, έλαβε ο Χρήστος Βασιλαράκης. **Την Υποτροφία εις μνήμη της Λίντας Σκαντάλη**, έλαβε η Αικατερίνη Ιερομονάχου. **Τις Υποτροφίες τις Φιλοπτώχου**, έλαβαν οι **Παναγιώτα Κουτσαντώνη, Φλόρα Γιακουμάκη**. Η Φιλόπτωχος βράβευσε επίσης με υποτροφία εις μνήμη των **Βασιλείου Τσαμπίκου, Γεωργίου Κουτσουνούρη, Μερόπης Σοφοκλέους, Χρύσας Μηνιάδακη, Αντωνίου Νικολαΐδη, Μιχαήλ Κολιβιά, Δέσποινας Σίσκου και Βασιλείου Διακοκομνηνού, της Πηνελόπη Τοπούζογλου**.

Ευχαριστούμε την Εξεταστική Επιτροπή Υποτροφιών για την υπηρεσία τους στη Φιλόπτωχό μας και σε εκείνους που έχουν καθιερώσει τις υποτροφίες στη μνήμη των αγαπημένων τους. Ευχόμαστε η μνήμη τους να είναι αιώνια!

Σας υπενθυμίζουμε ότι η Φιλόπτωχος έχει αναβάλει όλες τις εκδηλώσεις της. Για οποιοσδήποτε ενημερώσεις θα ειδοποιήσουμε τον πατέρα Μιχαήλ και επίσης θα τις δημοσιεύσουμε στη σελίδα του Facebook.

**Δωρεές :** Κυρία Δέσποινα Κόρνια.

Κλείνοντας, θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε όλους για τη συνεχή υποστήριξή τους και να προσευχηθούμε ώστε το φως της Ανάστασης χαρίσει σ' αυτούς που βρίσκονται στην πρώτη γραμμή ασφάλεια, υγεία σε όσους υποφέρουν και παρηγοριά σε όσους θρηνούν την απώλεια ενός αγαπημένου προσώπου. Μείνετε ασφαλείς και μείνετε σπίτι! Προσευχόμαστε να βρεθούμε όλοι μαζί σύντομα.



# GREEK SCHOOL

Αγαπητοί ενορίτες,

Η φετινή σχολική χρονιά κύλισε γρηγορότερα από ποτέ. Στη μνήμη μας είναι ακόμα ζωντανές οι πρώτες μέρες λειτουργίας του σχολείου, όπου οι αίθουσες και οι διάδρομοι γέμισαν ξαφνικά με χαρούμενες παιδικές φωνές.

Το σχολικό αυτό έτος μπορεί να ήταν ασυνήθιστα σύντομο όμως ήταν εξίσου πλούσιο σε συναισθήματα και γνώσεις! Μοιραστήκαμε πολλές



χαρούμενες στιγμές, παίξαμε, μάθαμε, ανακαλύψαμε.

Με το τέλος της σχολικής χρονιάς, όλοι οι εκπαιδευτικοί ανατρέχουμε πίσω στο χρόνο όχι μόνο με ερωτήματα σχετικά με την κάλυψη της ύλης αλλά κυρίως με ερωτήματα που αφορούν στην δημιουργία

μιας ευνοϊκής ατμόσφαιρας που επιτρέπει στους μαθητές να κινηθούν, να συνεργαστούν, να μορφωθούν και να κοινωνικοποιηθούν.

Τι έγινε λοιπόν με την ύλη; Καλύψαμε τα βασικά; Έμαθαν να ζητούν συγγνώμη όταν κάνουν λάθος; Ορθώνουν το ανάστημά τους όταν έχουν δίκιο; Ακούνε την γνώμη του συμμαθητή τους; Πετάνε τα σκουπίδια τους στον κάδο; Επιστρέφουν στην θέση τους αυτό που δανείστηκαν; Έδωσαν το λόγο στον συμμαθητή τους όταν είδαν ότι σήκωσε πρώτος το χέρι του; Ήρθαν να σας πούν ιδιαιτέρως πως εκείνα έσπασαν το τζάμι; Σταμάτησαν να λένε ψέματα για να την γλιτώσουν; Ρωτάνε εκτός από το να ακούνε; Αποδέχθηκαν το παιδάκι που διέφερε από αυτούς; Έδωσαν συγχαρητήρια στην αντίπαλη ομάδα που νίκησε;

Ελπίζω όλοι μας να καταφέραμε να φτάσουμε ένα βήμα πιο κοντά στο στόχο μας! Ελπίζω ο καθένας από εμάς να καταφέρει να παραδώσει ένα «καλό υλικό» στον επόμενο εκπαιδευτικό.

Ευχαριστούμε που μας εμπιστευτήκατε το παιδί σας! Ελπίζουμε να το επιστρέψουμε κάθε χρόνο βαρύτερο, ψηλότερο, σοφότερο, πιο υπεύθυνο και πιο ώριμο από ποτέ!

Φέτος, λόγω του χρόνου που χάθηκε εξαιτίας των συνθηκών, παρατείνουμε το πρόγραμμά μας για μερικές ακόμα εβδομάδες. Τα μαθήματα τελειώνουν επίσημα την Τετάρτη, στις 11 Ιουνίου.



Οι μαθητές της Στ' τάξης, αποφοιτούν ηλεκτρονικά διαβάζοντας μια έκθεση, που έχουν συντάξει οι ίδιοι, εν παρουσία του πάτερ Μιχαήλ, της πρόεδρου, της δασκάλας τους και των γονιών τους.

Παρόμοια μορφή αποφοίτησης θα ακολουθήσουν και τα υπόλοιπα επίπεδα.

Τα Απολυτήρια και οι Έπαινοι θα σταλούν ταχυδρομικά στα σπίτια των μαθητών!

Παράλληλα, οργανωνόμαστε για την επόμενη σχολική χρονιά ετοιμάζοντας όλα τα προγράμματα καθώς και εναλλακτικούς τρόπους λειτουργίας εν όψει των συνθηκών. Η ασφάλεια και η υγεία των παιδιών αποτελεί άμεση προτεραιότητά μας!

Σας ευχαριστούμε για την άψογη συνεργασία σας και την στήριξή σας! Ελπίζω οι συνθήκες να μας επιτρέψουν να ανταμώσουμε και πάλι όλοι μαζί τον Σεπτέμβρη με την έναρξη της νέας σχολικής χρονιάς!

Καλό καλοκαίρι!

Μένουμε ασφαλείς και τηρούμε τους κανόνες που συνιστούν οι ειδικοί!

Με εκτίμηση,  
Υβόνη Γαλετάκη

Η Δασκάλα της Β' και Δ' τάξης  
Ε λ λ η ν ι κ ό  
Α π ο γ ε υ μ α τ ι ν ό  
Σ χ ο λ ε ι ο  
Α γ ί ο υ Ν ι κ ο λ ά ο υ



Dear all parishioner,

This school year passed faster than ever. The first days of the school are still alive in our memory, when all classrooms and the hall were suddenly filled with happy children's voices again.

This school year may have been unusually short but it was just as rich in emotion and knowledge! We shared many happy moments, we played, we learned, we discovered.

At the end of the school year, all teachers go back in time not only to question the material coverage but mainly to question their ability creating a conducive atmosphere that allows students to develop, collaborate, educate and socialize.

So what happened with the material? Did we cover the basics? Did they learn to apologize when they make a mistake? Do they stand for their selves when they are right? Do they listen to their classmate? Do they throw their rubbish in the bin? Are they replacing what they borrowed? Did they let their classmate talking first when they saw that they raised

# GREEK SCHOOL



Sixth graders graduating virtually by giving a graduation speech in the presence of Father Michael, the president, their teacher, and their parents. The rest of the levels will follow a similar form of graduation. Graduation certificates and Praises will be mailed to students' homes!

At the same time, we are planning the next school year preparing all of our programs as well as alternative ways of operation regarding the conditions. Child safety and health is our first priority! Thank you for your excellent cooperation and support! I hope the conditions allow us to meet again in September with the beginning of the new school year!

Enjoy the Summer!  
Stay safe and follow regulations recommended by the experts!

Sincerely,  
Yvoni Galetaki  
Teacher of 2nd and 4th  
Saint Nicholas Greek School

their hand first? Did they come to tell you in particular that they broke the glass? Did they stop lying to save themselves? Do they ask in addition to listening? Did they accept the child who was different from them? Did they congratulate the team that won?

I hope we all managed to get one step closer to our goal! I hope each of us manages to deliver "good material" to the next teacher.

Thank you for trusting us your child! We hope to return it every year back to you heavier, taller, wiser, more responsible and more mature than ever!

This year, due to the time lost due to the conditions, we are extending our Greek language program for a few more weeks. Classes officially end on Wednesday, June 11th.



Dear Parishioners and friends of Saint Nicholas Church,

Christos Anesti!

We hope that all of our parishioners are doing well and keeping safe and healthy during these difficult times.

The festival committee, alongside Fr. Michael Pastrokos, Parish Council President Stamatia Ieromonahos, and the Parish Council Members, have discussed the fate of the June 2020 festival extensively, and have decided to tentatively postpone the festival for September 11-13, 2020. Please keep in mind that this is a tentative date and all decisions will be guided by the directives of our federal, state, and local authorities, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, and in ensuring the health and safety of all. As soon as we have more information, we will confirm the dates of the festival, and provide a schedule for food preparations and other planning activities.

Our annual Raffle is still going to proceed, and will be drawn on September 13, 2020, even if the festival needs to be postponed further or cancelled. The Raffle is a great way to support our church during these difficult times. Our Raffle committee is working hard to organize the Raffle drive and more details are forthcoming. Please look out for the tickets and support our church!

Although the virtual access to our church is truly a blessing, it is not, nor can it ever be a worthy substitute for being together physically as a community. Worshipping together, celebrating together, learning together, and working side by side for our church and our community is a source of great joy for all of us. Our festival is the culmination of that community spirit. We work side by side for months preparing to bring our community together for four days of joyous celebration. It is also our church's biggest fundraiser. The funds raised are critical for the operation of our beloved Saint Nicholas Church, a church that provides us with spiritual leadership, Hellenic education, cultural awakening, and serves as the anchor for the important work of all of our ministries. Therefore, we remain hopeful that we will be able to still have our festival.

However, in these uncertain times, your financial support of our church is of the utmost importance. Most importantly, if you are able, please satisfy your 2020 stewardship commitment, and continue donating to your church any way you. All donations and stewardship payments can be made at [www.stnicholasmd.org/give](http://www.stnicholasmd.org/give).

We pray and hope that you are all healthy and faring well, and we will soon be able to gather as a community. God Bless you all!

Best Regards,

Father Michael Pastrokos

Spiro Alafassos, Chairman 2020 Festival Committee

Stamatia Ieromonahos, Parish Council Members  
President Parish Council



## NOW HIRING!!

### ST. NICHOLAS BILINGUAL EARLY EDUCATION CENTER



## WE ARE OPEN FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS!

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.**

### ΔΙΓΛΩΣΣΟ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΠΡΟΣΧΟΛΙΚΗΣ ΗΛΙΚΙΑΣ 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 χρειάζοσαστε περισσότερες πληροφορίες, παρακαλείσθε να επικοινωνήσετε με το Σταθμό μας στο τηλέφωνο 410-633-5020, γραμμή 4 ή στείλτε μας μήνυμα στο Facebook.

# GREEKTOWN SQUARE & EVENT CENTER

## Greektown Square & Event Center

A tailor-made experience for any event!

Greektown Square & Event Center

During these stressful and difficult times, we hope that everyone is well, safe and healthy.

The Greektown Square and Event Center is happy to announce the services of Mr. Michael Burdish as the general manager and coordinator for our center. Mr. Burdish has 29 years' experience in general management and coordinator of events.

The pandemic virus has caused much cancellation for events that were scheduled and on the books for our event center. The Plateia Committee along with Michael Burdish has slowly brought the Greektown Square & Event Center to a different level. Coordinating, scheduling, restocking, cleaning all storage areas, landscaping and being accountable for every piece of inventory in our stock rooms. Even the centers phone system is functional and operational once again!

Once the Mayor of Baltimore City lifts the ban on social events the center will be ready to function and show off our best for all events which are still scheduled from July 2020 and well into 2021.

We invite everyone once the center reopens, to stop by the Greektown Square & Event Center to meet and greet Mr. Michael Burdish.

Please continue to stay safe and healthy. Together as a strong Parish we will overcome the pandemic virus and be able to celebrate together, work side by side together but more importantly move forward as a great team.

Plateia Committee of the Saint Nicholas Parish Council

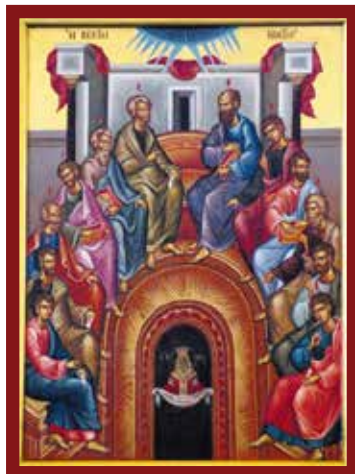




# LITURGICAL CALENDAR - JUNE

- SATURDAY, JUNE 6:           SATURDAY OF THE SOULS:  
  ORTHROS: 8:45 AM DIVINE LITURGY: 9:30 AM
- SUNDAY, JUNE 7:             SUNDAY OF PENTECOST:  
  ORTHROS: 8:45 AM DIVINE LITURGY: 10:00 AM
- MONDAY, JUNE 8:            DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:  
  ORTHROS: 8:45 AM DIVINE LITURGY: 9:30 AM
- SUNDAY, JUNE 14:          SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS:  
  ORTHROS: 8:45 AM DIVINE LITURGY: 10:00 AM
- MONDAY JUNE 15 BEGINS THE APOSTLE’S FAST. THIS FAST WILL CONTINUE UNTIL JUNE 29. DURING THE FAST “FISH “ IS NOT PERMITTED DURING WEDNESDAY’S AND FRIDAY’S.
- SUNDAY, JUNE 21:          SECOND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW:  
  ORTHROS: 8:45 AM DIVINE LITURGY: 10:00
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24:      NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST:  
  ORTHROS: 8:45 AM DIVINE LITURGY: 9:30 AM.
- SUNDAY, JUNE 28:          THIRD SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW:  
  ORTHROS 8:45 AM DIVINE LITURGY: 10:00 AM
- MONDAY, JUNE 29:          HOLY APOSTLES PETER & PAUL:  
  ORTHROS: 8:45 AM DIVINE LITURGY: 9:30 AM
- TUESDAY, JUNE 30:         SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES:  
  ORTHROS: 8:45 AM DIVINE LITURGY: 9:30 AM

*Holy Pentecost*



*Sunday of All Saints*

