



SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Message from FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS, PROTOPRESBYTER

K O I N O N I A

This is the time of the year when everyone starts getting ready for Christmas. Each year, we joyfully celebrate the "Feast of Christmas" the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In fact, we celebrate it each year, and remarkably some of us even go through this holiday season without giving a thought at all to the true meaning and reason for the season. All these preparations that we do during the Holidays, are wonderful expressions of emotions, but how do we as Orthodox Christians prepare for this Great Event?

We have gone away from the true essence of why we celebrate the Birth of Christ. It seems that we all have a tendency to build up to Christmas as a climax anticipating the Feast with all sorts of observances and celebrations, and then as soon as the day is past, we forget all about it. To bring a solution to this, we must make sacrifices and personal decisions that will correct the past mistakes. We have gone away from the idea of caring for Christ, to the idea of caring for our own pleasures. When we prepare a birthday celebration, our key focus must be on the birthday person. This is his/her day. Since December 25th is the Lord's birthday, then we should focus and PUT CHRIST FIRST. As Christians we have to get back to the basics and the old times where Christ came first in our lives.

Today we have Christ on the back burner. We have so many distractions that we fulfill in our everyday

lives that we forget who our Creator is, and what is our purpose for being born in this world? We must have a purpose! I personally don't think that our purpose here on earth is just to satisfy our own personal pleasures. Just as we arrange our homes, schedules, and other aspects of our daily lives, God would like us to focus on what Christmas is all about. It's not about going to Department stores, and buying gifts for family and friends. It's not to schedule parties just to enjoy ourselves. **CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT CHRIST!** This is His Birthday, and we should celebrate this day with Him.



Today, we are pressured to proclaim a generic Happy Holidays, taking the focus of the season further and further away from the manger of our New Born Lord, and placing more emphasis on our own appetites, entertainment and satisfaction. Isn't it sad that on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day when the Bells of the Church ring to invite God's children to His home to celebrate His Birthday very few people show up? But when a Party, a Concert, a Banquet, a Football game, and other activities are scheduled we are there hours before to fill up the seats so we can enjoy the festivities. Or for Black Friday, people will stand in line for hours and hours just to get in the store and buy a product because it is cheaper on that day. For all those that I have mentioned we find time to do those things but for Christ we have no time for Him. And then we call ourselves Christians, and when hard times are hitting us, we always ask for His help and



Μήνυμα Από τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικό

guidance. That to me is so hypocritical. We should honor our Lord on His Birthday with our presence in Church. We can do all these things that are written above, and still make time to be with Him on His Birthday. His invitation is opened to everyone to come to His home and share the Christmas experience with Him.

We have Parents today who were raised in the Church. Their parents brought them to Church faithfully every Sunday. But today the same parents who are raising their children are the ones who neglect to teach their children the true essence of what Christmas is all about. How can anyone be so hypocritical? Is this what we are teaching our children that Christmas is just a day where we have parties, stay at home and open our gifts? If we are teaching our children this form of faith, then just imagine what our children will be teaching their children about Christmas. As good Christian parents, we can change all of that. We can have a better relationship with Christ, if we really wanted too. Remember the saying, "If there is a Will, there is a Way?" I hope and pray that this Christmas we can change things for the better. Let's bring our family to Church on Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day, to worship Him and receive Him in the Holy Eucharist as a family. Let us express to Him that we truly love Him, and for Him to bring peace into the world and into our hearts, and to help us let go of past resentments and guilt, forgiving those who have hurt us and seeking forgiveness from one another. We can do it all, have our parties, open up our gifts, and still find that special time to be with our Lord during His birthday celebration. Remember, the most important gift and the most expensive gift---- is to give ourselves to Him.

In closing, I hope and pray during this Christmas Holiday Season---that we make a change in our lives and correct our Old ways. Let's start this Christmas on the right foot, and head to a course that will truly bring us love, joy, fellowship, friendship, happiness and back to "Church".

Presvytera Toula and I, along with our whole family, wish you and your loved ones a Blessed and Merry Christmas and find the true meaning of Christ's birth.

Aυτή είναι η εποχή του έτους, που όλοι ξεκινούν να ετοιμάζονται για τα Χριστούγεννα. Κάθε χρόνο, με χαρά γιορτάζουμε την «Εορτή των Χριστουγέννων» την Γέννηση του Κυρίου και Σωτήρος ημών Ιησού Χριστού. Στην πραγματικότητα το γιορτάζουμε κάθε χρόνο και κυριολεκτικά μερικοί από εμάς περνούν ακόμη και αυτή την περίοδο των εορτών χωρίς να σκεφτούν καθόλου την αληθινή έννοια και την σημασία της εποχής. Όλες αυτές οι προετοιμασίες που κάνουμε κατά τη διάρκεια των εορτών, είναι μια θαυμάσια έκφραση των συναισθημάτων, αλλά και ο τρόπος που προετοιμαζόμαστε για αυτό το μεγάλο γεγονός, εμείς ως Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί. Έχουμε ξεφύγει από την πραγματική ουσία του γιατί γιορτάζουμε τη γέννηση του Χριστού. Φαίνεται ότι όλοι έχουμε την τάση να χιτίζουμε μέχρι τα Χριστούγεννα, ως αποκορύφωμα την πρόβλεψη της εορτής με όλες τις παραδόσεις και τις εορταστικές εκδηλώσεις, και στη συνέχεια, μόλις η ημέρα γίνει παρελθόν, ξεχνάμε τα πάντα. Για να βρούμε μια λύση σε αυτό, πρέπει να κάνουμε θυσίες και προσωπικές αποφάσεις που θα διορθώνουν τα λάθη του παρελθόντος. Έχουμε

απομακρυνθεί από την ιδέα της φροντίδας για τον Χριστό, με την ιδέα της φροντίδας για τις δικές μας απολαύσεις. Όταν προετοιμαζόμαστε για μια γιορτή γενεθλίων, βασική μας εστίαση είναι το πρόσωπο που εορτάζει τα γενέθλιά του. Η ημέρα αυτή είναι η ημέρα του. Αφού λοιπόν η 25η Δεκεμβρίου είναι τα γενέθλια του Κυρίου, τότε θα πρέπει να επικεντρωθούμε και να βάλουμε ΠΡΩΤΟ ΤΟ ΧΡΙΣΤΟ. Ως Χριστιανοί πρέπει να επιστρέψουμε στα βασικά και στους παλιούς χρόνους που ο Χριστός κατείχε τη πρώτη θέση στη ζωή μας.

Σήμερα έχουμε τον Χριστό σε δεύτερη μοίρα. Έχουμε τόσους πολλούς περισπασμούς που γεμίζουν την καθημερινή μας ζωή, με αποτέλεσμα να ξεχνάμε ποιος είναι ο Δημιουργός μας, και ποιος είναι ο σκοπός μας, που γεννηθήκαμε σε αυτόν τον κόσμο. Πρέπει να έχουμε ένα σκοπό! Εγώ προσωπικά δεν νομίζω ότι ο σκοπός μας εδώ στη γη είναι μόνο να ικανοποιήσουμε τις δικές μας προσωπικές απολαύσεις. Ακριβώς όπως τακτοποιούμε τα σπίτια μας, τα προγράμματά μας, και τα υπόλοιπα θέματα της καθημερινής μας ζωής. Ο Θεός

Dear St. Nicholas Parishioners,

I greet you with heartfelt wishes for a holy and joyous Christmas season to all.

Upon the election and ratification of the new Parish Council, my term as St. Nicholas Parish Council's President will come to an end. I have had the privilege to serve for six consecutive years and during that time have worked with amazing Parish Council members, and volunteers. Together, we have accomplished a number of key items.

The first major accomplishment is that the church is in better financial condition today than it was six years ago. I have to thank former Treasurer, Popi Paragios, and Assistant, Treasurer Emmanuel Diacogiannis for taking on the difficult task of cutting salaries, benefits and the church's overall expenses. Their actions, though unpopular at the time, was the right course to lead the church back to profitability. Also, I want to thank former Treasurer George Diacoloukas, and current Treasurer, Foula Mastrovasilis and Assistant Treasurer, Nancy Anastasiades for continuing that progress and being one of the many forces behind in making the Plateia profitable and as well as ensuring the profitability of the St. Nicholas Bilingual Early Education Center. Having the right people in these two positions is the key to the solvency of the church and I have been very fortunate to have great people hold these positions while serving as Parish Council President.

The second major accomplishment is the opening of the St. Nicholas Bilingual Early Education Center. Christine Gluszc and I worked tirelessly to convert the "market" into a warm learning environment for children. But obtaining a license to open seemed to be never ending process until Parish Council member, Stavros Katsas and Volunteer, Lia Dimas, took the helm. They devoted countless hours to meeting

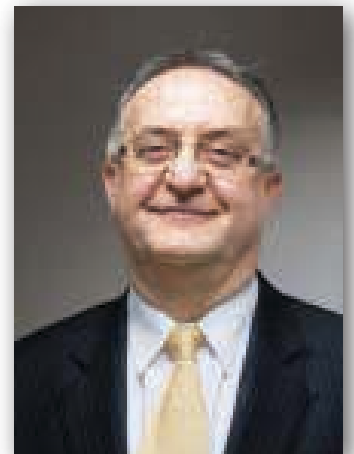
Αγαπητοί Ενορίτες του Αγίου Νικολάου,

Απευθύνω σε όλους εγκάρδιες ευχές αυτήν την άγια και χαρούμενη περίοδο των Χριστουγέννων.

Μετά την εκλογή και την επικύρωση του νέου Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου, θα τελειώσει και η θητεία μου ως Προέδρου του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου του Αγίου Νικολάου. Είχα το προνόμιο να υπηρετήσω επί έξι συνεχή έτη και κατά τη διάρκεια αυτού του χρόνου συνεργάστηκα με καταπληκτικά μέλη του Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου, καθώς και εθελοντές. Μαζί, κατορθώσαμε και επιτύχαμε ορισμένα βασικά έργα.

Το πρώτο σημαντικό επίτευγμα είναι ότι η Εκκλησία σήμερα βρίσκεται σε καλύτερη οικονομική κατάσταση, από ό,τι ήταν πριν από έξι χρόνια. Πρέπει να ευχαριστήσω την πρώην Ταμία, την κ. Πόπη Παραγιού και τον Βοηθό Ταμία κ. Εμμανουήλ Διακογιάννη, για το δύσκολο έργο που είχαν αναλάβει να μειώσουν τους μισθούς, τα επιδόματα και τις συνολικές εκκλησιαστικές δαπάνες. Οι ενέργειές τους, αν και μη δημοφιλείς εκείνη την περίοδο, ήταν η σωστή πορεία για να οδηγήσουν την εκκλησία πίσω στην κερδοφορία. Επίσης, θέλω να ευχαριστήσω τον πρώην Ταμία κ. Γεώργιο Διακολούκα, την σημερινή Ταμία, κ. Φούλα Μαστοβασίλη και τη Βοηθό Ταμία κυρία Νάνσυ Αναστασιάδη που συνέχισαν αυτή τη πρόοδο, η οποία είναι μια από τις πολλές δυνάμεις υποστήριξης στην κερδοφορία της Πλατείας και την εξασφάλιση της κερδοφορίας του Δίγλωσσου Κέντρου Προσχολικής Εκπαίδευσης του Αγίου Νικολάου. Έχοντας τους σωστούς ανθρώπους στις δύο αυτές θέσεις είναι το κλειδί για τη φερεγγυότητα της Εκκλησίας. Ήμουν πολύ τυχερός που είχα σπουδαίους ανθρώπους να κατέχουν αυτές τις θέσεις, ενώ υπηρετούσα ως Πρόεδρος του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου.

Το δεύτερο σημαντικό επίτευγμα είναι το ξεκίνημα λειτουργίας του Δίγλωσσου Κέντρου Προσχολικής Εκπαίδευσης του Αγίου Νικολάου. Η κ. Χριστίνα Γκλουτζ και εγώ εργαστήκαμε ακούραστα για να μετατρέψουμε την «αγορά» σε ένα ζεστό περιβάλλον μάθησης για τα



CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

PROTOPRESBYTER FR. MICHAEL PASTRIKOS, PASTOR Tel: 410-633-5020 • Fax: 410-633-4352 • Cell: 443-742-8314

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& IRENE NIOTIS
3RD & 5TH GRADE (E1): IRENE ANASTASIOU
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ADRIENNE KOURTESIS

****Send photos from your September Baptisms and Weddings for inclusion in our newest section of the Koinonia - Announcements!**



IMPORTANT NOTICE: **KOINONIA DEADLINE**

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

ISSUE MONTH: JANUARY 2019!!
SUBMISSIONS DUE: DECEMBER 20th

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

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

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

(Continued from page 3)

Baltimore City's licensing requirements and today oversee the operation of the learning center along with the Director, Sophia Moshoniotis. Together, they have been an unstoppable team.

The third major accomplishment is the increased profitability of the St. Nicholas Greek Folk Festival. Together, chairpersons, Spiro Alafassos, Penny Alafassos, Frank Mitsos and Treasurer, Foula Mastrovasilis worked to reduce prices and increase sales. In the end, the festival netted the same amount of money as the year before even with the church losing Sunday to rain. As a team, they accomplished the impossible.

None of these accomplishments could have happened without the dedication of each Parish Council member, the support of Father Michael L. Pastrikos, the church secretary, Maria Salpeas and you, St. Nicholas Parishioners.

I am humbled and grateful to every volunteer who has rolled up his/her sleeves for the betterment of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. I pray that the future Parish Councils will have the same community support as I.

Again, it has been honor to serve the community of St. Nicholas and may you have a blessed Christmas with your family.

Please keep St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in your prayers.

In His Service,
Demos Anastasiades, Parish Council President
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

παιδιά. Αλλά για να πάρουμε την άδεια και να ξεκινήσουμε φάνηκε να είναι μια ατέλειωτη διαδικασία, έως ότου ένα μέλος του Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου, ο Σταύρος Κάτσας και εθελοντικά, η κ. Λία Δήμα, ανέλαβαν το έργο. Έχουν αφιερώσει αμέτρητες ώρες για την συγκέντρωση και εκπλήρωση των απαιτήσεων για να εκδοθεί η άδεια από την Πόλη της Βαλτιμόρης και σήμερα επιβλέπουν τη λειτουργία του Εκπαιδευτικού Κέντρου μαζί με τη Υπεύθυνη, κ. Σοφία Μοσχονησιώτη. Όλοι μαζί, κάνουν μια σημαντική ομάδα.

Το τρίτο σημαντικό επίτευγμα είναι η αύξηση των εσόδων του Ελληνικού Λαϊκού Φεστιβάλ του Αγίου Νικολάου. Όλοι μαζί οι υπεύθυνοι, κ. Σπύρος Αλαφάσος, κ. Πένη Αλαφάσσο, κ. Φώτης Μητσός και η Ταμίας, κ. Φούλα Μαστροβασίλη, εργάστηκαν για να μειώσουν τις τιμές και να αυξήσουν τις πωλήσεις. Στο τέλος, το φεστιβάλ καθάρισε το ίδιο ποσό χρημάτων με το προηγούμενο έτος, αν και η εκκλησία έχασε την Κυριακή διότι έβρεχε. Ως ομάδα, κατάφεραν το ακατόρθωτο.

Κανένα από αυτά τα επιτεύγματα θα μπορούσε να είχε γίνει χωρίς την αφοσίωση του κάθε μέλους του Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου, την υποστήριξη του Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικού, της γραμματέα της Εκκλησίας, Μαρίας Σαλπέα και φυσικά εσάς, τους Ενορίτες του Αγίου Νικολάου.

Είμαι ταπεινόφρων και ευγνώμων σε κάθε εθελοντή που σήκωσε τα μανίκια του/της για την βελτίωση της Ελληνικής Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας του Αγίου Νικολάου. Προσεύχομαι ότι τα μελλοντικά Κοινοτικά Συμβούλια θα τύχουν της ίδιας υποστήριξης από την Κοινότητα όπως εγώ.

Και πάλι, ήταν τιμή μου να υπηρετήσω την Κοινότητα του Αγίου Νικολάου και σας εύχομαι να έχετε Καλά Χριστούγεννα με την οικογένειά σας.

Σας παρακαλώ να προσεύχεστε για την Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία του Αγίου Νικολάου.

Εν Χριστώ
Δήμος Αναστασιάδης
Πρόεδρος Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου
Ελληνικής Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησία Αγίου Νικολάου

DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

*In memory of Lambros
& Athina Neofitou*

Denis & Margo Koulatzos

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Emmanuel Katamokehras

& Anna Kalamokehra

Mrs. Irene Kapoutsos

In memory of Antonios Maragos

Petros & Lambrini Maragos

In memory of Savas Tsakiris

Mrs. Connie Tsakiris



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD & Poinsettias for the Church

Please help us to decorate our beautiful church for the upcoming Christmas season by donating **\$20.00** toward the purchase of a poinsettia plant.

Your family is also invited to join the Community Christmas Card for a donation of **\$20.00**. Please specify your choice and enclose your donation with this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Community Christmas Card (# _____) \$ _____

Please indicate how you wish your family name to appear on the
Christmas card _____

Poinsettias (# _____) \$ _____



Thank you for your support!

Deadline: December 6th

θα ήθελε να επικεντρωθούμε σε αυτό που πραγματικά σημαίνουν τα Χριστούγεννα. Δεν σημαίνουν να τρέχουμε σε πολυκαταστήματα για να αγοράσουμε δώρα για οικογένεια και φίλους. Δεν σημαίνουν να προγραμματίζουμε πάρτυ μόνο για τις δικές μας απολαύσεις. **ΤΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ ΠΡΕΠΕΙ ΝΑ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΑΦΙΕΡΩΜΕΝΑ ΣΤΟ ΧΡΙΣΤΟ!** Είναι τα Γενέθλιά Του και πρέπει να γιορτάσουμε αυτή την ημέρα μαζί Του.

Σήμερα, μας αναγκάζουν να λέμε, γενικά, Καλές Εορτές, απομακρύνοντας το επίκεντρο της εποχής όλο και πιο μακριά από τη Φάτνη Του Νεογεννηθέντος Κυρίου, και δίνοντας μεγαλύτερη έμφαση στις δικές μας ορέξεις, ψυχαγωγίας και ικανοποίησης. Δεν είναι λυπηρό το γεγονός ότι την Παραμονή των Χριστουγέννων και την Ημέρα των Χριστουγέννων, όταν οι Καμπάνες της Εκκλησίας χτυπούν για να καλέσουν τα παιδιά του Θεού στο σπίτι Του, να γιορτάσουν τα γενέθλιά Του, πολύ λίγοι άνθρωποι εμφανίζονται; Αλλά όταν προγραμματίζεται ένα πάρτυ, μια συναυλία, ένα επίσημο δείπνο, ένα παιχνίδι ποδοσφαίρου και άλλες δραστηριότητες, είμαστε εκεί πριν από μερικές ώρες για να πιάσουμε θέσεις και να απολαύσουμε τις εορταστικές αυτές εκδηλώσεις. Ή τη Μαύρη Παρασκευή, που οι άνθρωποι περιμένουν στην γραμμή για ώρες και ώρες μόνο για να μπουν στο κατάστημα και να αγοράσουν ένα προϊόν επειδή είναι φτηνότερο εκείνη την ημέρα. Για όλους εκείνους τους λόγους που προανέφερα, βρίσκουμε χρόνο να κάνουμε αυτά τα πράγματα, αλλά για τον Χριστό, δεν έχουμε χρόνο γι' Αυτόν. Και μετά λέμε ότι είμαστε Χριστιανοί, και όταν οι δύσκολες στιγμές μας χτυπούν, πάντα ζητάμε τη βοήθεια και την καθοδήγηση Του. Για μένα είναι καθαρή υποκρισία. Θα πρέπει να τιμήσουμε τον Κύριό μας στα γενέθλιά Του με την παρουσία μας στην Εκκλησία. Μπορούμε να κάνουμε όλα αυτά τα πράγματα που έγραψα παραπάνω και ακόμα να βρούμε το χρόνο να είμαστε μαζί Του στα Γενέθλιά Του. Η πρόσκλησή Του είναι ανοικτή για όλους να έρθουν στο σπίτι Του και να μοιραστούν την εμπειρία των Χριστουγέννων μαζί Του.

Έχουμε σήμερα Γονείς που μεγάλωσαν μέσα στην Εκκλησία. Οι γονείς τους τους έφεραν στην Εκκλησία κάθε Κυριακή, ανελλιπώς. Σήμερα, όμως, οι ίδιοι οι γονείς που μεγαλώνουν τα παιδιά τους, είναι αυτοί που παραμελούν να τα διδάξουν την πραγματική ουσία του τι σημαίνουν τα Χριστούγεννα. Πώς

μπορεί κανείς να είναι τόσο υποκριτής; Αυτό είναι που διδάσκουμε στα παιδιά μας ότι τα Χριστούγεννα είναι μια ημέρα που έχουμε πάρτυ, μένουμε στο σπίτι και ανοίγουμε τα δώρα μας; Εάν διδάξουμε στα παιδιά μας αυτή τη μορφή πίστης, τότε φανταστείτε τι τα παιδιά μας θα διδάξουν τα παιδιά τους για τα Χριστούγεννα. Ως καλοί Χριστιανοί γονείς, μπορούμε να τα αλλάξουμε όλα αυτά. Μπορούμε να έχουμε μια καλύτερη σχέση με τον Χριστό, αν όντως το θέλουμε. Θυμηθείτε το ρητό: “Αν υπάρχει θέληση, υπάρχει και τρόπος.”

Ελπίζω και προσεύχομαι ότι αυτά τα Χριστούγεννα μπορούμε να αλλάξουμε τα πράγματα προς το καλύτερο. Ας φέρουμε την οικογένειά μας στην Εκκλησία την παραμονή των Χριστουγέννων ή την Ημέρα των Χριστουγέννων, να προσκυνήσουμε, να εκκλησιαστούμε και να λάβουμε Θεία Κοινωνία σαν οικογένεια. Ας εκφράσουμε σ' Αυτόν ότι τον αγαπάμε πραγματικά, και να Τον παρακαλέσουμε να φέρει την ειρήνη στον κόσμο και στις καρδιές μας, να μας βοηθήσει να αφήσουμε πίσω μας τα μίσση, τις ενοχές και τις δυσαρέσκειες του παρελθόντος, συγχωρώντας εκείνους που μας έχουν βλάψει, και να ζητήσουμε συγχώρεση ο ένας από τον άλλο. Μπορούμε να τα κάνουμε όλα, να έχουμε τα πάρτυ μας, να ανοίξουμε τα δώρα μας και να βρούμε ακόμα τον ιδιαίτερο χρόνο να είμαστε μαζί με τον Κύριό μας στην εορτή των γενεθλίων Του. Θυμηθείτε, ότι το πιο σημαντικό δώρο και το πιο ακριβό δώρο ---- είναι να αφιερώσουμε τον εαυτό μας σ' Αυτόν.

Κλείνοντας, ελπίζω και προσεύχομαι κατά τη διάρκεια αυτής της περιόδου των Χριστουγέννων --- να κάνουμε μια αλλαγή στη ζωή μας και να διορθώσουμε τους Παλαιούς μας τρόπους. Ας ξεκινήσουμε αυτά τα Χριστούγεννα με το δεξί πόδι και να επικεντρωθούμε σε μια πορεία που θα μας φέρει πραγματικά την αγάπη, τη χαρά, την επικοινωνία, τη φιλία, την ευτυχία και την επιστροφή στην «Εκκλησία».

Η Πρεσβυτέρα Τούλα και ο υποφαινόμενος μαζί με την οικογένειά μας, ευχόμαστε σε εσάς και τους αγαπημένους σας Καλα Χριστούγεννα, και επίσης κατά την εορταστική αυτή εποχή να ανακαλύψετε το πραγματικό νόημα της Γέννησης του Χριστού.



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Nativity Fast 2018

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy

Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, 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 Greek Orthodox Communities of our Holy Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved in the Lord,

As we find ourselves approaching the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, we are called to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. We hear in the hymnology of the Church from the Kathismata of the Sunday prior to the Nativity, *“Prepare yourself, O Bethlehem, for Eden is opened unto all.”* We are thus given a glimpse at the precise reason for which we are preparing ourselves – salvation. With the coming Nativity of Christ as the incarnate Word of God, we prepare ourselves for something no other group of people in the history of the world has ever beheld; God in the flesh condescending to us not out of necessity, but out of choice. He does not take on flesh out of grandeur, but in humility. He does not judge us with the condemnation of death, but He exalts us with the acclamation of life.

What kind of God is He who willingly condescends for the salvation of a disobedient people? What kind of God is He who endures an incarnation and is subject to the pains and trials of this world? It is precisely a God of mercy and compassion who does this for us so that we might no longer be subject unto death, but have a renewed life with Him in His everlasting Kingdom. Thus, we are called to prepare ourselves to welcome our God, our King, and our Liberator from death. We are called to prepare for Him so that in seeing his self-sacrificial love, we may use the freedom He gave us to do the same for our neighbor.

My beloved in the Lord, I thus implore you to prepare yourselves for this great feast since it is through the incarnation of Christ that we are enabled to partake in this experience of God’s continual salvation. Let us prepare ourselves through increased prayer, fasting, and our presence in the divine services of our Holy Church. We should never lack in preparations in order to greet our Savior who is the savior of our souls and bodies. Instead, let us greet Him who offers us His love, His freedom, and His salvation.

It is with these thoughts in mind that I ask you to search your hearts as we progress in this nativity season so that you may prepare both your body and your soul for the coming of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ who offers us a reopened Eden for all of humanity. Praying that our Lord, whose Nativity we are preparing to celebrate, blesses you and your families throughout this season, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

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 OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Πρός τόν εὐλαβέστατον Ἱερόν Κληρὸν,
Τοὺς Ἐντιμοτάτους Ἀρχοντας τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ ἡμῶν 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 Ὁργανώσεις τῆς Νεολαίας καὶ ἅπαν τὸ Χριστεπώνυμον πλήρωμα τῶν εὐσεβῶν
Ὁρθοδόξων Χριστιανῶν τῆς Ἱερᾶς Μητροπόλεως Νέας Ἱερσέης.

*«...διέλθωμεν δὴ ἕως Βηθλεὲμ καὶ ἴδωμεν τὸ ρῆμα τοῦτο
τὸ γεγονός, ὃ ὁ Κύριος ἐγνώρισεν ἡμῖν» (Λουκ. 2, 15)*

Ἀγαπητοὶ ἐν Χριστῷ ἀδελφοί,

Μέ τῆ χάρη τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀξιωνόμαστε καὶ ἐφέτος νὰ εἰσέλθουμε στὴ σπουδαία καὶ χαρμόσυνο περίοδο τῆς Τεσσαρακοστῆς τῶν Χριστουγέννων, ἡ ἑναρξη τῆς ὁποίας σηματοδοτεῖ τὴν προετοιμασία τῶν χριστιανῶν γιὰ τὸ ἅγιο Δωδεκαήμερο καὶ ἀποτελεῖ τὸν προάγγελο τῶν μεγάλων Δεσποτικῶν ἑορτῶν, τῆς κατὰ σάρκα Γεννήσεως καὶ τῆς Βαπτίσεως τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Κατὰ τοὺς πρώτους χριστιανικούς αἰῶνες, οἱ ἑορτές τῆς Γέννησης καὶ τῆς Βάπτισης τοῦ Χριστοῦ συνεορτάζονταν τὴν ἴδια ἡμέρα, καὶ συγκεκριμένα στίς 6 Ἰανουαρίου, με τὸ κοινὸ ὄνομα «Ἐπιφάνεια». Ἀπὸ τὰ μέσα ὅμως τοῦ 4^{ου} αἰῶνα καθιερώθηκε ὁ ξεχωριστὸς ἑορτασμός τῶν Χριστουγέννων στίς 25 Δεκεμβρίου, καὶ παρέμεινε στίς 6 Ἰανουαρίου μόνον ἡ ἑορτὴ τῆς Βαπτίσεως. Παράλληλα διαμορφώθηκε καὶ τὸ Ἅγιο Δωδεκαήμερο, μιὰ περίοδος δώδεκα ἡμερῶν ἀπὸ τὴν ἡμέρα τῶν Χριστουγέννων ἕως καὶ τὴν ἡμέρα τῶν Θεοφανείων, πού περιλαμβάνει ἀκόμη τὴν ἑορτὴ τῆς Περιτομῆς τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ τὴ μνήμη τοῦ Μεγάλου Βασιλείου τὴν 1^η Ἰανουαρίου.

Ἡ μεγάλη σημασία τῆς ἑορτῆς τῶν Χριστουγέννων καὶ ἡ εὐλάβεια τῶν χριστιανῶν, ὑπὸ τὴν ἐπίδραση καὶ τῆς χρονικὰ παλαιότερης Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς τοῦ Πάσχα, ὀδήγησαν στὴν καθιέρωση μιᾶς προπαρασκευαστικῆς περιόδου, ὅπου οἱ πιστοὶ ἐτοιμάζονται σωματικά καὶ ψυχικά νὰ «ὀδεύσουν» μέχρι τὸ σπῆλαιο τῆς Βηθλεὲμ. Σωματικά μέ τὴν νηστεία, πού εἶναι πιὸ ἐλαστικὴ ἀπὸ αὐτὴν τῆς Ἁγίας καὶ Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς τοῦ Πάσχα, ἐξαιτίας τοῦ χαρμοσύνου γεγονότος τῆς Θείας

Ένανθρωπήσεως, καί ψυχικά μέ τήν πνευματική άσκησι, τήν προσευχή καί τή συμμετοχή στή Θεία Λατρεία.

Όλη αὐτήν τήν περίοδο ἡ Ἐκκλησία μᾶς καλεῖ νά «*Προεορτάσωμεν Χριστοῦ τά Γενέθλια*», παρέχοντάς μας ὡς φιλόστοργος μητέρα, τήν πνευματική δυνατότητα νά προετοιμαστοῦμε κατάλληλα γιά τή συνάντησι μέ τό «*κείμενον ἐν τῇ φάτνῃ Θεῖον Βρέφος*». Τό πλῆθος τῶν ἐορταζομένων ἀγίων καί οἱ προεόρτιοι ὕμνοι μᾶς ὑπενθυμίζουν ὅτι ἔχουμε εἰσελθεῖ σέ αὐτήν τήν περίοδο ἀκολουθοῦντες τόν δρόμο πού ὀδηγεῖ στή νοητή Βηθλεέμ, δηλαδή τήν Ἐκκλησία, στήν ὁποία ὁ «*Χριστός γεννᾶται*» γιά νά ἀναγεννήσει κάθε ἄνθρωπο πού πιστεύει σ' Αὐτόν.

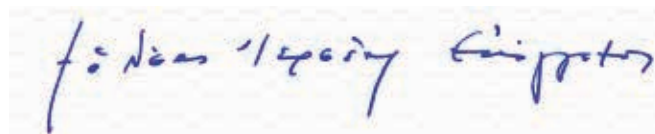
Ἀγαπητοί μου ἀδελφοί,

Ἡ προπαρασκευαστική αὐτή περίοδος πρό τῶν Χριστουγέννων μᾶς παροτρύνει νά ἀνακαλύψουμε καθετί ἁμαρτωλό πού κρύβεται στά βάθη τοῦ «*εἶναι*» μας καί νά μετανοήσουμε εἰλικρινά, νά μιμηθοῦμε τήν ταπείνωσι τοῦ «*ἐσπαργανωμένου*», νά μεταμορφωθοῦμε ψυχικά καί νά τολμήσουμε τή μεγάλη συνάντησι μέ τό νεογέννητο Βρέφος τῆς Βηθλεέμ. Ἡ νηστεία, ἡ προσευχή, ὁ ἐκκλησιασμός, ἡ συμμετοχή στό ἱερό μυστήριον τῆς Ἐξομολογήσεως καί προπάντων ἡ μετοχή μας στό μυστήριον τῆς Θείας Εὐχαριστίας, ἀποτελοῦν τούς ἀσφαλεῖς ὁδοδείκτες στό πνευματικό ὁδοιπορικό μας πρός τό ἅγιο Δωδεκαήμερον.

Ἄς προετοιμαστοῦμε κατάλληλα ὅλες αὐτές τίς ἡμέρες καί ἄς προσπαθήσουμε νά ζήσουμε πνευματικά τίς μεγάλες ἐορτές τοῦ ἁγίου Δωδεκαημέρου, ὥστε νά ἀξιωθοῦμε νά «*διέλθωμεν δὴ ἕως Βηθλεέμ καί ἴδωμεν τό ῥῆμα τοῦτο τό γεγονός, ὃ ὁ Κύριος ἐγνώρισεν ἡμῖν*».

Καλή καί εὐλογημένη Χριστουγεννιάτικη Τεσσαρακοστή!

Ο ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΗΣ



† Ὁ Νέας Ἱερσῆς ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINEES



Nickolas Aravidis

- St. Nicholas Church member for many years.
- Served in Parish Councils for 12 years.
- Served eleven of the twelve years as a Parish Council's as Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Correspondence Secretary.
- Has taken the Parish council's Oath-of-Office several times.
- Has an analytical mind and long Engineering and IT Careers.
- Wants to promote the Greek Orthodox faith through the ministry of Parish council.
- Wants to promote and continue the Greek Traditions.
- Wants to preserve the St. Nicholas "niche" which entails the most Spoken Greek in the region.



Demetrios Bitsanis

I was born and grow up in Zografou, Athens, Greece though my origins come from Peloponnesus. I moved permanently to Baltimore, MD, USA in August 2009 though I have been a member of Saint Nicholas Church since 9/9/2007 where I got married with Asimina Perivola Bitsanis and we have 2 children Giorgos and Rena Bitsanis, age 12 and 6 respectively.

I studied Civil Engineer in UK with degrees on B.Eng. (CE) Hons in Civil Engineering at Oxford Brookes University (1998) and M.Sc. in Civil Engineering at University of London (2000).

In Greece, I worked in the Construction of ATTIKI ODOS intercity Highway prior to the Olympic Games in Athens (2004) and later on as part owner of a Design & Construction company called ATTIKI MECHANIKI again in Athens, Greece on private & public projects.

Since my arrival in USA I have been working on Construction as a Project Construction Superintendent at multi-family mid & high rise buildings at AVALON BAY communities with an interval for almost 4 years at OAK Contracting LLC on institutional projects From K-12 (responsible for Addition and Renovation of Pikesville High School, Relay Elementary and Severna Park High School).



John Fotiou

I have served as a Parish Council member of Saint Nicholas Church years ago. My intention is to serve again for Saint Nicholas and give as much as I can to my Community. Recently I am a Board member of the Pan-Rhodian Society of Baltimore, "DIAGORAS"

**Parish Council Elections to be held
Sunday, December 2nd
Following the Divine Liturgy**

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINEES



Stamatia Ieromonahos

Since 2002, I have volunteered my services in my parish that I love!!!

I studied business administration in Greece and am a teacher of Greek as a second language. I served six years as secretary to the PTA. Also six years as a member of our church council as secretary and adviser.

Simultaneously, I'm in charge of the Greek afternoon school St. Nicholas for six years and continue with the help of God.

Our parish, our church, and our school are my second family!! I hope I have the strength to offer as many do with my sole motivation - LOVE.

Από το 2002 προσφέρω εθελοντικά στις υπηρεσίες μου στην ενορία μου την οποία αγαπώ πολύ!!! Σπούδασα διοίκηση επιχειρήσεων στην Ελλάδα και δασκάλα της ελληνικής ως δεύτερης γλώσσας. Έξι χρόνια γραμματέας στο PTA. Έξι χρόνια μέλος του συμβουλίου της εκκλησίας μας ως γραμματέας και ως σύμβουλος. Συγχρόνως είμαι υπεύθυνη του Ελληνικού Απογευματινού σχολείου Αγίου Νικολάου για έξι χρόνια και συνεχίζω με την βοήθεια του Θεού. Η ενορία μας, η εκκλησία μας και το σχολείο μας αποτελούν την δεύτερη οικογένειά μου!! Εύχομαι να έχω την δύναμη να προσφέρω όσα πιο πολλά μπορώ με μοναδικό μου κίνητρο την ΑΓΑΠΗ.



Emmanuel Theoharis

I am a business man on the carpentry field. I am an active member of Saint Nicholas Church for 30 consecutive years and I have served at the Parish Council as a Board member for 13 years. I am willing to serve again with love for the good and welfare of our beloved Community.



Steven Zdziera

Steve married his childhood sweetheart, Nitsa Stakias in 1995. He was baptized in the Orthodox faith and has volunteered countless hours in the last 23 years to St. Nicholas. Steve has 5 children (Ariadne - 19, Genevieve - 16, Maximus - 14, Panagiota - 11 and George - 9). Steve has been very active with the youth organizations, including Greek School and Goya. He is looking to make a difference within the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox community as a parish council member.

Additional nominees: John Chrissomallis, John Korologos, Stanley G. Souranis

PHILOTOCHOS NEWS / ΝΕΑ ΤΗΣ ΦΙΛΟΠΤΩΧΟΥ

We hope everyone had a Blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends! This year our Philoptochos supplied Thanksgiving Food Baskets for five families.

Our annual food drive was very successful thanks to all the donations from our community. All items went to supply the John's Hopkins Bayview Food Pantry.

Thank you to the Gerapetrides family for the Artoclasia for our Patron Saints Kosmas and Damanios. We wish them many years of health and happiness

Monday, November 5th our Philoptochos sponsored an evening with a presentation of His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey's (Opioid Response Effort "The More Program). We would like to thank The Vey Rev. Father Dean Moralís of the Annunciation Cathedral and Mr. Oniysa McDonald, Clinical Supervisor John's Hopkins Bayview for taking time out of their busy schedules to be our guest speakers. Thank you also to the Saint Nicholas Greek School, GOYA advisors and children, Members of the Parish Council and all those that attended. It was a very informative and emotional evening!

Wednesday, November 21st The concerto with Lefteris Pantazis with Vasiliki Ntonta and DJ Master Tempo to benefit The Philoxenia House. Thank you to Tony and Maria Perace, Maria Georgaki, Katina Pallas, Christine Zervos working to make this concert a success. Of course this would not have been possible without the following: Minadakis Family -Jimmy's Seafood for hosting the entertainers, Marc Tsakeris - Boulevard Dinner, The Gerapetrides Family- Michael's Steak and Lobster House, Trinantafilos family - Costa Inn, Pats Pizza of Carney and Xenos Kohilas - Ikaros Resturant for supplying meals to the entertainers during the concert. We are extremely grateful to all our VIP ticket purchases and everyone who came to support the mission of the Philoxenia House!

December 1 - 9th we will be collecting hygiene items (diapers, wipes, shampoos, etc.) for the Family Crisis Center.

Join us on Sunday, December 2nd for our Annual Christmas Lunch / Wine tasting at the Sparrows Point Country Club, Donation \$40.00 cash bar. Come celebrate the start of the holiday season. We will be collecting unwrapped toys and gift cards for the Children's Snowflake Room at John's Hopkins. There will be bottles of wine available for purchase at 6% off for your holiday giving. All proceeds from sales to benefit Philoptochos Missions. For information or tickets please call Maria Georgaki 443-413-2657 or Zoe Perdikakis 410-908-1556.

Next Philoptochos General meeting will be on Monday, December 3rd at 7:00p.m.

Join us on December 5th and 6th after the service as we will host a reception to honor our communities Patron Saint Nicholas. Thank you to everyone who contributes by bringing in desserts.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and may the birth of our savior bring warmth and love in your homes!

Ελπίζουμε ότι όλοι περάσατε όμορφα την Ημέρα των με την οικογένειά σας και τους φίλους σας! Εφέτος, η Φιλόπτωχος δώρισε Καλάθια με τρόφιμα για το δείπνο της ημέρας των Ευχαριστιών σε πέντε οικογένειες.

Το ετήσιο Πρόγραμμα μας Συλλογής Τροφίμων είχε μεγάλη επιτυχία χάρη σε όλες τις δωρεές της κοινότητάς μας. Όλα τα τρόφιμα δωρήθηκαν για την προμήθεια της Αποθήκης Τροφίμων του Johns Hopkins Bayview.

Ευχαριστούμε την οικογένεια Γεραπετρίτη για την Αρτοκλασία προς τιμήν της εορτής των Προστατών Αγίων της Φιλοπτώχου, Αγίου Κοσμά και Δαμιανού. Τους ευχόμαστε μακροζωία με υγεία και ευτυχία.

Την Δευτέρα 5 Νοεμβρίου η Φιλόπτωχος μας ήταν χορηγός της παρουσίασης του Σεβασμιωτάτου Μητροπολίτη Νέας Ιερσέης Ευαγγέλου, με θέμα « Εξάρτηση», Προσπάθεια κατά Οπιοειδών, Απάντηση «Το Μέγα Πρόγραμμα». Θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε τους προσκεκλημένους ομιλητές μας, τον Πανωσιολογίωτα Αρχιμανδρίτη Πατέρα Κωνσταντίνου Μοράλη από τον Καθηδρικό Ναό του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου και το κ Oniysa McDonald, Κλινικό Επόπτη του Νοσοκομείου Johns Hopkins Bayview, που πήραν χρόνο από το πολυάσχολο πρόγραμμά τους για να είναι μαζί μας. Ευχαριστούμε, επίσης, το Ελληνικό Σχολείο του Αγίου Νικολάου, την Νεολαία μας (GOYA) τους συμβούλους και τα παιδιά, τα μέλη του Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου και όλους εκείνους που συμμετείχαν. Ήταν μια πολύ κατατοπιστική και συναίσθηματική βραδιά!

Τετάρτη, 21 Νοεμβρίου, έλαβε χώρα η Συναυλία με τον Λευτέρη Πανταζή, την Βασιλική Ντντα και το DJ Master Tempo, προς όφελος του Οικήματος της Φιλοξενίας. Ευχαριστούμε τον Αντώνη και Μαρία Πης, τη Μαρία Γεωργάκη, Κατίνα Πάλας και Χριστίνα Ζερβού που εγίστηκαν σκληρά για την επιτυχία της Συναυλίας. Φυσικά αυτό δεν θα ήταν εφικτό χωρίς την συμβολή των : Οικογένειας Μηναδάκη - από το Jimmy's Famous Seafood Restaurant για τη φιλοξενία των καλλιτεχνών, τον Μάρκο Τσακίρη - από το Boulevard Dinner, την οικογένεια Γεραπετρίτη από το Michael's Steak & Lobster House, την οικογένεια Τριανταφύλλου - Costa's Inn, το Pats Pizza of Carney και τον Ξένο Κόγχιλα από το - εστιατόριο Ikaros για την παροχή γευμάτων στους καλλιτέχνες κατά τη διάρκεια της Συναυλίας. Είμαστε εξαιρετικά ευγνώμονες σε όλους που αγόρασαν VIP εισιτήρια, αλλά και σε όλους όσους ήρθαν να υποστηρίξουν το Οίκημα της Φιλοξενίας!

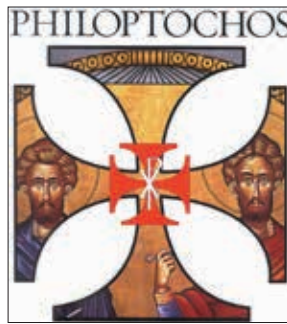
Από 1 - 9 Δεκεμβρίου θα μαζεύουμε είδη υγιεινής (Ντάϊπερς, υγρά μαντηλάκια, σαμπούν κ.λ.π.) για το Family Crisis Center.

Θα χαρούμε να σας δούμε στο Χριστουγεννιάτικο Γεύμα/ Οينوγευστιγνωσίας, την Κυριακή 2 Δεκεμβρίου, στο Sparrows Point Country Club, Δωρεά \$40.00, cash bar.

Ελάτε να εορτάσουμε το ξεκίνημα της εορταστικής εποχής. Μπορείτε να φέρετε παιχνίδια, χωρίς περιτύλιγμα, και δωροκάρτες για το Τμήμα του Johns Hopkins Children's Snowflake Room. Θα έχουμε μπουκάλια με κρασί αν κάποιος θέλει να αγοράσει με έκπτωση 6% για να δωρήσετε τα Χριστούγεννα. Όλα τα έσοδα από τις πωλήσεις θα διατεθούν προς τα Φιλανθρωπικά Προγράμματα της Φιλοπτώχου. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε με την Μαρία Γεωργάκη 443-413-2657 ή την Ζωή Περδικάκη 410-908-1556. Η επομένη Γενική Συνεδρίαση της Φιλοπτώχου θα είναι την Δευτέρα, 3 Δεκεμβρίου, στις 7:00 μ.μ.

Σας περιμένουμε όλους στις 5 & 7 Δεκεμβρίου αμέσως μετά το πέρας των Ακολουθιών, για τη δεξίωση προς τιμή του Προστάτου Αγίου της Κοιότητάς μας, Αγίου Νικολάου. Ευχαριστούμε όλους που προσέφεραν γλυκίσματα και άλλα εδέσματα.

Ευχόμαστε σε όλους ΚΑΛΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ. Η γέννηση του Σωτήρα μας να φέρει αγάπη, ομόνοια και αγάπη στα σπίτια σας.





**HIS EMINENCE
METROPOLITAN EVANGELOS OF NEW JERSEY**

Cordially invites

*The Reverend Clergy and their families, Parish Council Members,
Members of the Philoptochos Sisterhood, Religious Education and
Greek School Teachers and all heads of Parish Organizations, the
Orthodox Faithful and Friends of the Metropolis*

to the

**ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
&
OPEN HOUSE**

Sunday, December 9, 2018

5:30- 9:00pm

at the

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Headquarters

215 East Grove Street

Westfield, NJ

The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Flesh

Courtesy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America - www.goarch.org



As the story is told by the Apostles, the Roman Empire was powerful. The Romans had conquered much of the then known world. Judea and Samaria, what we know today as Israel, were included in their conquests. Emperor Augustus ordered that a census be taken in all his lands. He needed to know how many people lived in the empire so he could tax them. Everyone had to go to the town of their family's origin to register for the census. This meant that Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. They were descendants of King David and Bethlehem was the City of David.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth and it was a great distance from Bethlehem. It was about 100 miles over very rugged roads. Moreover, Mary was expecting the baby

and it was almost time for her to give birth. Bethlehem was a small town and there were many descendants of David who had come to register for the census. By the time Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem there was no place for them to stay. Joseph tried very hard to find a place to sleep that evening. There was no room at the inn. Finally, Joseph found a cave-like place where they could rest. This place was used by shepherds to protect their sheep in stormy weather. It was here that Mary gave birth to Jesus. The baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the straw in the manger.

Now, that night the shepherds were out in the fields guarding their sheep. Suddenly, there was a bright light which startled the shepherds. The light was so bright that it turned the night into daylight. Of course, the shepherds were frightened. Nothing such as this had ever happened. Soon an angel appeared and calmed them. The angel said:

"Fear not for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior; which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:11-12).

Then a larger group of angels appeared. They praised and glorified God and sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). When the angels finished singing, they disappeared and the light began to fade. It became dimmer and dimmer until it was dark again. The shepherds were awed. They didn't know what to do. Finally, they decided to leave their flocks of sheep and go to Bethlehem. They decided that they wanted to see for themselves what the angels had told them. When they got to Bethlehem, they found Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. They fell to their knees and adored Jesus.

Some Wise Men came from the East for they knew of the coming of Jesus. They had seen a star that told them that a new king had been born to the Jews. They followed the star and were looking for the child. At this time the governor of Judea was King Herod. He was a wicked man and was feared and hated by the people. When Herod heard about the Wise Men looking for the child, he invited them to his palace. Herod asked the Wise Men to find the child so that he, too, could worship Him. But Herod was lying. He did not want anyone to take his place. The Wise Men went on to look for Jesus. The Star led them to Jesus and Mary. When the Wise

Introduction

The Feast of the Nativity of Jesus is one of the most joyful days of the Orthodox Church. It ranks next to the greatest holiday, the Resurrection of Jesus. The Feast of the Birth of Jesus is also known as the "Incarnation of Christ." This means that Jesus became a man and came into the world to save us. We also refer to this joyous feast as Christmas.

Biblical Story

The story of the Nativity of Christ is beautifully told in the Holy Scriptures. The story is found in Matthew 1:18-25 and in Luke 2:1-20. No matter how often the Birth of Jesus is told, we realize that it is an important event.

Men found Jesus, they fell to their knees and worshipped Him. They gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Wise Men left but did not return to Herod. They had a dream that warned them that Herod wanted to harm Jesus. Instead, they returned to their native country by a different route.

[Icon of the Feast](#)

The icon of the Nativity tells the story of Christ's birth from the Scriptures. It also shows that all creation is taking part in Christ's birth. The angels give thanks with their song; the heavens give the star; the Wise Men give their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The poor, humble shepherds give their praise and amazement; the earth gives the cave, and humanity gives the Virgin.

This Holy Icon is an icon with many scenes. First, it stresses the importance of the Theotokos, the Mother of Jesus. She is placed in the center and is the largest figure in the icon. In this icon, she is kneeling with crossed arms, looking at the Christ child. The three stars, denoting her virginity before, during, and after the Nativity, are on her garments. The Christ Child, in the center of the icon, is in swaddling clothes and is lying in the manger. In the background is the dark cave where He was born. In the cave are an ox and a donkey guarding the newborn Babe. Even though the Gospels say nothing of the cave, this information is from Holy Tradition. Neither do the Gospels speak of the ox and the donkey, but all icons of the Nativity include these animals. Including the animals in the icon fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 1:3, "The ox knows his master, and the donkey his master's crib; but Israel does not know me, and the people have not regarded me." The long ray of light from the star points directly to the cave. This ray comes from the star and travels to all parts of the world. It teaches that this bright star is an astronomical happening, and is a messenger from heaven announcing the birth of Jesus.

On the left hand side of the icon is another scene. The Wise Men, who were led by the star, are riding horses to bring their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. The Wise Men are of various ages. One is without a beard. In those days, young

men did not wear beards. The other Wise Man has long hair and a long beard, which indicates that he is much older. These details teach that regardless of age and appearance, the Good News was given to each and everyone.

Opposite the Wise Men is the scene with the humble shepherds. An angel proclaims the glad tidings. A young shepherd plays a reed instrument. This scene reveals that the music of the humans was added to the hymn of the angels. Across from the shepherd's scene is the heavenly choir of angels. They are giving glory to God. The angels serve two purposes in the Nativity of Christ. They give glory to God and announce the good news to all mankind.

The background shows a very rugged terrain. This is not a true representation of the land in this area. Joseph could not find room in Bethlehem, so they went outside of Bethlehem to a cave. This rocky mountain formation only serves as a background for the event.

In the lower part of the icon are two more scenes. In the right hand corner are the two women Joseph brought to take care of the Christ child. They are bathing Him just as any baby is bathed. The humanity of Jesus is clearly shown in this setting.

Opposite the bathing of Jesus scene sits a sad and worried Joseph. He is not part of the central group the Christ Child and the Theotokos. Joseph is not the natural father. Joseph is troubled and despondent. There is an old man talking to Joseph. The old man is Satan. Satan can appear in many forms. Here he is as an old man who is tempting Joseph and disturbing him. Satan is telling Joseph that virgin birth is impossible. He's telling Joseph that he's a fool if he believes this. This story comes to us from Holy Tradition. The sad Joseph shows us not only his personal predicament but the dilemma of all mankind the difficulty of accepting that which is "beyond words or reason."

The tree, which is in the middle of the lower part of the icon, is a symbol of the Tree of Jesse. This tree refers to Isaiah 11:1-2, "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall

rest upon Him." King David was often mentioned as the son of Jesse and Jesus was from the House of David.

The Holy Icon of the Nativity reminds one to praise and glorify the Birth of Christ. The celebration of Christmas each year serves to remind each and everyone of us that Christ came for you and me.

[The Orthodox Celebration of the Feast of the Nativity](#)

As with Pascha, or Easter, the Feast of the Nativity begins with a period of preparation. It is preceded by a fast corresponding to Lent and lasting for forty days. The fast begins on November 15.

On the Sundays immediately before December 25, special commemorations emphasize the link between the Old Covenant and the New. On December 20 the Forefeast of the Nativity is commemorated, and the daily liturgical texts are directed toward the Feast itself. On Christmas Eve, services include the Great or Royal Hours, the Great Vespers, and the Liturgy of Saint Basil.

On Christmas Day the service commemorates the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, the adoration of the Shepherds, and the arrival of the Wise Men with their gifts. The service held on this day is the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom.

The days following Christmas are associated with the Theotokos and Joseph. December 26 is the Synaxis of the Mother of God, and the first Sunday after the Feast commemorates "Joseph the Betrothed." December 29 commemorates the Massacre of the Innocents, and January 1 the Circumcision of our Lord. The Nativity season concludes on December 31, but the spirit of the festival extends to the celebration of Theophany (Epiphany), the feast commemorating the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River. ■

EARLY EDUCATION CENTER NEWS



ST. NICHOLAS BILINGUAL EARLY EDUCATION CENTER



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

The BEEC children hosted a food drive for the month of November which benefited the Maryland Food Bank. We also hosted our annual Thanksgiving Feast for our BEEC families.

The Center is collecting new, unwrapped toys to be donated to Toys for Tots. If you like to donate, please drop your donations off at the Church office. The BEEC children are very busy this month. We are preparing for the name day celebration of Saint Nicholas as well as Christmas. Our little ones are working diligently to prepare for our Christmas Program. And this month would not be completed without a visit from Santa to take pictures and give gifts to the students! **All of us at the BEEC want to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!**

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, επικοινωνήστε με το σταθμό μας στο τηλέφωνο 410-633-5020, γραμμή 4 ή στείλτε μας μήνυμα στο Facebook.**



Το Νοέμβριο οι μαθητές μας διοργάνωσαν συλλογή τροφίμων για τους άπορους που διατέθηκαν στην Τράπεζα Τροφίμων του Maryland, καθώς επίσης και γιορτή για την Ημέρα των Ευχαριστιών για τις οικογένειες του σχολείου μας.



Το Δεκέμβριο, ο σταθμός θα διοργανώσει συλλογή καινούργιων, χρησιμοποιητών παιχνιδιών, για να διατεθούν προς δωρεά στον οργανισμό Toys for Tots. Αν επιθυμείτε να δωρίσετε, παρακαλείστε να αφήσετε τις δωρεές σας στο γραφείο της εκκλησίας. Οι μαθητές και το προσωπικό μας ετοιμάζονται επίσης για τη γιορτή του πολιούχου μας Αγίου Νικολάου και

των Χριστουγέννων, δουλεύοντας να προετοιμάσουν το Χριστουγεννιάτικο Πρόγραμμα. Φυσικά, η γιορτή των Χριστουγέννων δε θα ήταν επιτυχής, χωρίς την επίσκεψη του Αγίου Βασιλή για να βγάλει φωτογραφίες και να μοιράσει δώρα στα παιδιά! Από την οικογένεια του Δίγλωσσου Βρεφονηπιακού Σταθμού του Αγίου Νικολάου θα θέλαμε να σας ευχηθούμε Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Ευτυχισμένο το Καινούργιο Έτος.



GREEKTOWN SQUARE & EVENT CENTER

*A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to everyone who purchased a plaka for the St. Nicholas Greektown Square & Event Center!*

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Order Form

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Please mail all orders and make checks payable to: St. Nicholas Greektown Plateia
520 S. Ponca Street., Baltimore, Maryland 21224, Tel: 410-633-5020



PAN-HELLENIC NEWS/ ΠΑΝ-ΧΕΛΛΕΝΙΚ

Ο Χορευτικός Όμιλος ΠΑΝ-ΧΕΛΛΕΝΙΚ άρχισε τα μαθήματα χορού για τέταρτη (4η) συνεχή χρονιά. Τα μαθήματα θα γίνονται κάθε Πέμπτη στις 7:00 μ.μ. στη Κοινοτική Αίθουσα του Αγίου Νικολάου. Δεχόμαστε εγγραφές νέων μελών την ώρα των μαθημάτων ή μπορείτε να τηλεφωνήσετε στο 443-845-8903 και να μιλήσετε με την κ. Αναστασία (Στάσα) Χατζηευθυμίου Λουκάκη, μέχρι τον Δεκέμβριο. Δασκάλα του ΠΑΝ-ΧΕΛΛΕΝΙΚ είναι η κ. Έφη Καραμπέλα. Προτρέπουμε και ενθαρρύνουμε όσες και όσους αγαπούν το χορό να ενταχθούν στο γκρουπ του ΠΑΝ-ΧΕΛΛΕΝΙΚ. Όλα τα μέλη του θα χαρούμε να καλωσορίσουμε και να εντάξουμε στην παρέα μας νέα μέλη για τη χρονιά 2018-2019.

Με εκτίμηση

Από το Χορευτικό Όμιλο

Του Αγίου Νικολάου ΠΑΝ-ΧΕΛΛΕΝΙΚ



AMERICAN HELLENIC SOCIETY

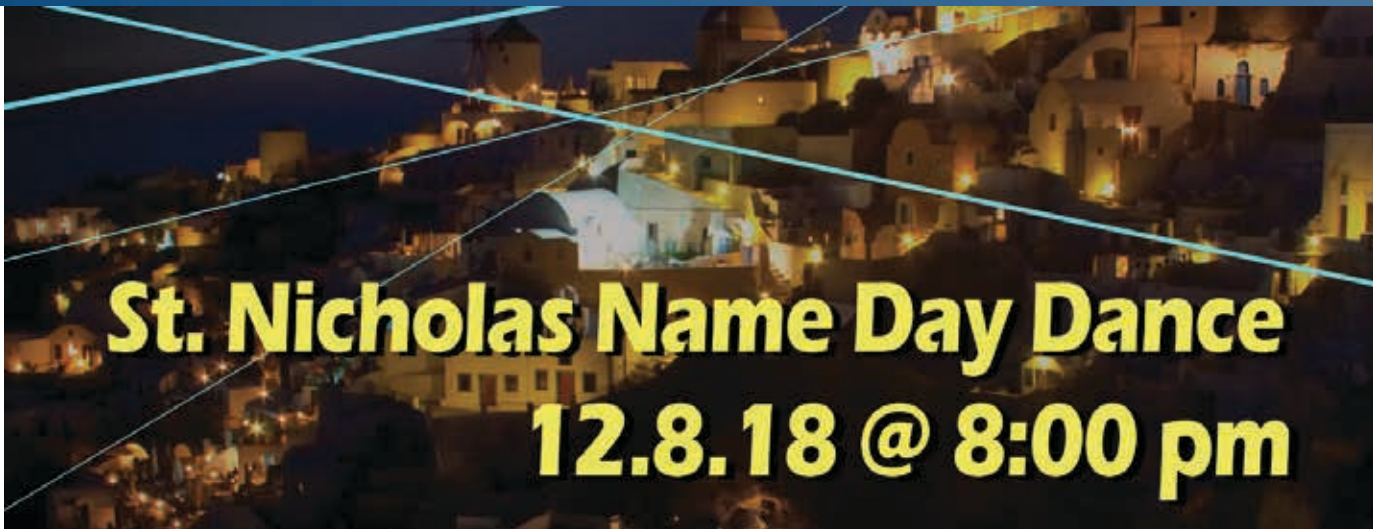


THE AMERICAN HELLENIC SOCIETY
OF ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The American Hellenic Society is now welcoming couples of mixed Greek and American backgrounds!



For information,
please email [info@
ahsofstnicholas.org](mailto:info@ahsofstnicholas.org)



St. Nicholas Name Day Dance

12.8.18 @ 8:00 pm

nexus
BAND

FEATURING
**NEXUS
BAND**

Giorgos Floradis -klarino
Stella Houli -tragoudi
Christos Gogidis -maestro
Lefteris Tsilimos -bouzouki
Antonio Giorgiou -drums
Christos -tragoudi

TICKETS: \$60 ADULTS, \$25 CHILDREN UNDER 12

Appetizers, sit down dinner, cash bar

For tickets and more information please call:

Maria 410.633.5020 | Stamatia 443.742.2424

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UPCOMING EVENTS / REMINDERS



2019
NEW YEAR'S EVE
Celebration

FEATURING
D.J. GEORGE KRAMEDAS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
9:00 PM to 2:00 AM
GREEKTOWN SQUARE AND EVENT CENTER
701 QUAIL STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21224

\$60.00 FOR ADULTS
\$25 FOR KIDS 12 AND UNDER
FOR TICKETS CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT
410-633-5020

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ENTERTAINMENT

COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE, OPEN BUFFET, VASILOPITA, CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, & CASH BAR

RHODIAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND "DIAGORAS"

PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018

FROM 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

**CHILDREN WILL ENJOY BREAKFAST, CRAFTS
AND A VISIT WITH SANTA**

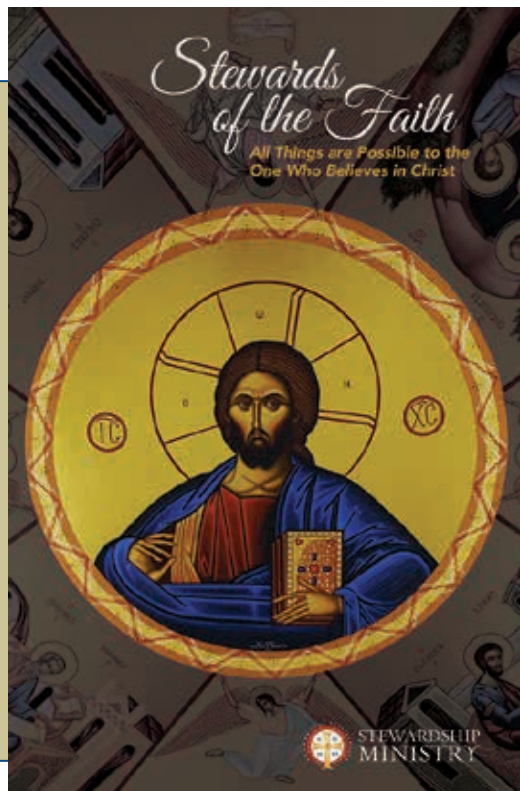
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Or visit us on Facebook at RHODIAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND



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Thank you!!*

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 MR/MRS ALFASSOS SPYROS &
 MR/MRS ALMASON STEPHEN &
 MRS ANAN ELEZABETH A.
 MR ANGELOPOULOS CHRIST
 MR/MRS ANGELOU JOHN
 MR/MRS ARAVIKAKIS EKATERINI
 MR/MRS ARGIRAKIS PANTELIS &
 MR/MRS ASMAR - OLIVER - ANNA
 MR/MRS AVGERINOS GEORGE AND
 MR/MRS BALOMAS BILL & KARI
 MR/MRS BENETOS JOHN &
 MR/MRS BITSANIS DIMITRIOS -
 MR/MRS BRITZOLAKIS GEORGIOS &
 MR/MRS CEJPEK PETER &
 MR/MRS CHRISOVERGIS NICHOLAS &
 MR/MRS CHRISOMALLIS METAXIA
 MRS CHRISTESSON STAVROULA
 MR/MRS CORNIAS MICHAEL C.
 MRS CORNIAS CALLIOPI
 MR/MRS CORNIAS THEONI
 MRS DENDRINOS EVANGELIA
 MR/MRS DOUKELIS GEORGE
 MR DUCHESNE ROBERT
 MR/MRS ELIOU ERNEST
 MR/MRS FILIPIDIS NICHOLAS
 MR/MRS FILIPPOU JASON &
 MR/MRS FORAKIS MICHAEL
 MR/MRS FOTINOS GERASIMOS -
 MRS FRANGAKIS SOFOULA
 Col&Mrs. GAVRILIS JOHN &
 MR/MRS GEORGAS SAVAS & KYRA
 MR GEORGE ANTHONY M.
 MRS GERAPETRITE FOTINI
 MR/MRS GIAKOUMAKIS TSAMBIKOS -
 MR/MRS GIANNAKOULIAS GEORGE
 MR/MRS GIORGAKIS NICKOLAOS
 MR. GLYKIADIS KONSTANTINO
 HALKIAN "SAINT
 MR/MRS HARTOFILIS NICK & SYLVIA
 MR HATZIGEORGALIS ANTONIOS
 MR HONDROULIS EMMANUEL D.
 MRS JOHNS ASPASIA
 MISS KAIKIS PENELOPE
 MR/MRS KALFAS ELEFTHERIOS -
 MRS KAMINARIS BARBARA
 MS KANAKIS CRISTINE A.
 MRS KAPOUDAS MARIA
 MR/MRS KARABELAS PANAGIOTIS
 MS KARAGIANNIS MARIA
 MRS KARAMIHALIS ELEFTHERIA
 MR/MRS KARDIASMENOS METAXIA
 MR/MRS KASTANAKIS MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS KATSAROS EMANUEL
 MR/MRS KEFALAS MIKE & NORA
 MR/MRS KIMOS JAMES
 MR/MRS KLOSTERIDIS SPIRO -
 MRS KONDYLAS DESPINA
 MR/MRS KORNIAS GEORGE
 MR/MRS KOSTALAS PANTELIS &
 MR/MRS KOUGANOS DIONISIOS -
 MRS KOULATSOS ANASTASIA
 MR KOUROUPIS STEVE
 MR/MRS KOUTELIS ADAMANTIOS
 MRS KOUVARIS PAULA
 MR/MRS LAMBROS - J. MITCHELL -
 MR/MRS LENTIS - MINAS - ELENI
 MR/MRS LISOWSKY - ARTHUR -
 MR/MRS MACH LEON J. &
 MRS MANOLITSIS ISMINI
 MR/MRS MASTROVASILIS IOANNIS &
 MRS MAVRIKOS LAMBRINI
 MR MAVROMOUSTAK ELEFTHERIOS
 MS MICKLOS CHRISTINE
 MR/MRS MILONAS KIMON
 MRS MINAS ROSE
 MISS MONIODIS PANAGIOTA
 MR MOSKOS THOMAS
 MR/MRS NICOLAIDIS VASILIOS &
 MR/MRS NIOTIS NICHOLAS -
 MR/MRS NYCHIS GEORGE
 MR/MRS ORFANOS ANTONIOS
 MRS PANTAZONIS MARY

MR AGAPIOS DIAMANTIS
 MR/MRS ALEFRANKIS - ANGELIKI,
 MR/MRS AMARANTIDIS HARRY AND
 MR/MRS ANASTASIADES DEMOS &
 MR/MRS ANGELOS JOHN & IRENE
 MR/MRS ANTONAS NICK
 MR/MRS ARAVIDES NICHOLAS
 MISS ARGIROPOULOS ALIKI
 MR/MRS ATHANASIOU IOANNA
 MR/MRS AVGERINOS SOPHIA &
 MR/MRS BARKAS HARALAMBOS
 MRS BILIS AMALIA
 MRS BOULOUBASSIS KATHERINE
 MS BURRIS STEPHANIE
 MS CHAGETAS ANGELA
 MR/MRS CHRISOVERGIS GEORGE &
 MRS CHRIST STASA
 MRS CONWAY ROSE
 MRS CORNIAS ROZA
 MRS CORNIAS DESPINA
 MR/MRS COSSIS MILTON &
 MR/MRS DIAKANTONIS NICKOLAOS -
 MR/MRS DOUSKAS NIKOLAS
 MR/MRS EFTHIMIOU SPIROS &
 MR/MRS FAKAS JAMES
 MR. FILIPIDIS JAMES
 MR/MRS FINNEY THOMAS &
 MR/MRS FORAKIS STAMATI &
 MR/MRS FOTINOS JAMES
 MR/MRS FRANGOS JOHN
 MR/MRS GAZONAS-ZIKOU GEORGE
 MS GEORGAS ANTHIE
 MR/MRS GEORGIU JOHN
 MS GERAPETRITE PANAGIOTA
 MRS GIALAMAS JOANNA
 MR/MRS GIANNAS STYLIANOS
 MR/MRS GLAVA KIKI
 MR/MRS GLYTSIS - FILIPO -
 MRS HALKIAS FOTINI
 MRS HATZIDAKIS ANGELIKI
 MR/MRS HATZIGEORGALIS NICHOLAS &
 MR/MRS HOUVARIDAS MINAS &
 MR/MRS JONES KENNY &
 MS KAITIS ANGELA MARY
 MRS KALIAKOUDAS SOFIA
 MR/MRS KAMMAS - GEORGIOS -
 MRS KAPETANAKOS SOULLA
 MRS KAPUTSOS IRENE
 MRS KARABELAS EFTHIMIA
 MR/MRS KARAGIANNOPOU GUS & SUE
 MR KARAMIHALIS GEORGE
 MR/MRS KARLOS PETER -
 MR/MRS KASTANAKIS MILTIADIS &
 MR/MRS KATSAS STAVROS &
 MR/MRS KEPREOS GEORGIA
 MR/MRS KLOSTERIDES MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS KOLIADIS EMMANUEL &
 MR/MRS KONSTANTINOU JOHN
 MR/MRS KOSMAS DEMETRIOS
 MR KOSTOS JOHN
 MR/MRS KOUKIDES HARRY
 MR/MRS KOULATSOS DIONISIOS
 MR/MRS KOUROUPIS JOHN
 MR KOUTSANTONIS JOHN
 MR/MRS KOVIOIS PETE
 MS LAMBROW STEPHANIE
 MRS LERICOS IRENE
 MR/MRS LOGOTHETIS NIKOLAOS &
 MR/MRS MAHANI GEORGE &
 MR/MRS MASTROGIANNIS ANTONIOS &
 MRS MATSANGOS ARGYRO
 MISS MAVROGIORGOS EVANGELIA
 MR MAVRONIS NICHOLAS
 MR/MRS MICKLOS - ANGELOS
 MRS MIMAROS PARASKEVI
 MR/MRS MITSOS FRANK
 MR/MRS MONIODIS MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS MULLINS TROY &
 MR NICOLARAKIS GEORGE
 MR/MRS NISTAZOS GEORGE &
 MR/MRS O'DRUDY LEO K. III &
 MR/MRS ORFANOS MICHAEL
 MR PANTELES KOSTAS

AHEPA LORD
 MR/MRS ALEXANDROU JOHN
 MRS AMARANTIDIS PARTHENA
 /MRS ANASTASIS FOTINI
 MR/MRS ANGELOS MARK
 MRS APESOS ANTIGONE
 MR/MRS ARGETAKIS NICHOLAS
 MR/MRS ARGIROPOULOS WILLIAM
 MR/MRS ATSAKIS GUS
 MR/MRS BAGIATI - AIKATERINI -
 MISS BARKAS LAMBRINI
 MR BISBIKIS PETE
 MR/MRS BOULOUBASSIS NICHOLAS
 MR/MRS CAUSEY WILLIAM &
 MR/MRS CHALKIAS IOANNIS &
 MRS CHRISOMALLIS SOPHIE
 MR/MRS CHRIST PHILIP
 MR/MRS CORNIAS GEORGE A. &
 MS CORNIAS SEVASTI
 MR/MRS CORNIAS LARRY &
 MRS DARDAMANIS EVA
 Dr. DIMITRI GEORGE N.
 MR/MRS DOUSKAS KONSTANTINO
 MR/MRS ELEFTHERIOU JOHN
 MRS FAKAS ZENOVIA
 MS FILIPIDIS EFTHIA
 MR/MRS FONIADAKIS EMMANUEL &
 MR/MRS FORAKIS MICHAEL
 MR FOTIOU JOHN
 MR/MRS GALIATSATOS GERASIMOS &
 MR/MRS GEORGALAS MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS GEORGAS GEORGE
 MRS GEORGIU ARCHODOULA
 MS GERAPETRITE SOFIA
 MR/MRS GIALAMAS MARINOS -
 MR/MRS GIANNAS APOSTOLOS &
 MR/MRS GLUSZCZ CHRISTINE
 MR/MRS GOVASTES CLEOPATRA
 MR HANDAKAS PAUL
 MR HATZIDAKIS KONSTANTINO
 MRS HAZARIDES MELLI
 MR/MRS IEROMONAHOS PANTELIS
 MISS KAIKIS PENELOPE
 MR/MRS KAKAROLIS NIKOLAOS
 MRS KALIS EUGENIA
 MS KAMOS MARY
 MR KAPETANAKOS FANOURIOS
 MR/MRS KAPUTSOS - SYLVIA -
 MR/MRS KARAGIANNIS DEMETRIOS &
 MR/MRS KARAMANLIDES KYRIAKOS -
 MR/MRS KARANIKOLIS NIKOLAOS -
 MR/MRS KAROUTSOS GEORGE &
 MR/MRS KASTELLORIZIOS KONSTANTINO
 MR/MRS KATTAVENOS MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS KEVAS GEORGE &
 MRS KLOSTERIDES- VASILIKI
 MRS KLOTOS DORA
 MR/MRS KONSTANTOPOU ALEXANDER &
 MR/MRS KOSMAS - SAM &
 DR/MRS KOTZIAS CHRIS
 MR/MRS KOUKIDES JOHN
 MR/MRS KOUMOUDIS SOTIRIS &
 MR/MRS KOURTESIS MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS KOUTSANTONIS DEMETRIOS
 MS LALLAS EVA
 MR/MRS LARENTZOS JAMES -
 MR/MRS LEWIS HOWARD E.
 MR/MRS LOIZOU CHRIS
 MR/MRS MAHANI BLEDDAR IRINA -
 MR/MRS MASTROMANOLI MANUEL
 MRS MATTHEWS ANN
 MR/MRS MAVROGIORGOS OUANIA -
 MR MAVROULIS PHOTIS
 MRS MILLER MARY
 MR MINAS IOANNIS
 MR/MRS MONIODIS MICHAEL
 MRS MOREKAS NITSA
 MR/MRS MYARIS JOHN & SOFIA
 MR/MRS NIKOLETOS FELICIA
 MR/MRS NISTAZOS NICKOLAS Z.
 MR/MRS ONASIS THEODORE
 MR/MRS OTTO TERRY
 MR/MRS PANTELIS GABRIEL

MR/MRS AKALESTOS EMMANUEL
 MS ALEXANDROU CONSTANTINA
 MR/MRS AMBELAS STELIOS &
 MR ANDERSON EMANUEL P. JR.
 MR/MRS ANGELOU MARIA
 MR/MRS APOSTOLOU DIMITRIOS &
 MR/MRS ARGETAKIS GEORGE &
 MRS ARGYRAKIS DESPINA
 MR/MRS ATSIDIS IOANNIS
 MS BALOMAS PATRICIA
 MR BARKAS SOVRIDON
 MR/MRS BISIOTIS DIMITRIOS -
 MR/MRS BOUYOUKAS JOHN & FOTINI
 MR CAVOURAS STANLEY
 MISS CHRISOPOULOS VASILIA
 MR/MRS CHRISOMALLIS JOHN & TERI
 MRS CHRISTAKOU STAVROULA
 MRS CORNIAS CLARA
 MR CORNIAS NICHOLAS
 MRS CORNIAS KALLIOPI T.
 MR/MRS DEMETRIOS LOUZOS &
 MRS DINOTIS ANASTASIA
 MR/MRS DOUSKAS NIKOLAS
 MRS ELIOPOULOS ANNA
 MRS FANTIS PENELOPE
 MS FILIPPOU IRENE
 MR/MRS FOOTLAND RAY - KAREN
 MR/MRS FORAKIS - GEORGE -
 MR/MRS FOUKAS PAVLOS &
 MR/MRS GAVRILIS VIRGINIA
 MRS GEORGALAS OLGA
 MS GEORGAS HARRIET
 MR GERAPETRITE TOMMY
 MR/MRS GIAKOUMAKIS NICK
 MRS GIANNAKOULIAS DIONISIA
 MR/MRS GIORGAKIS JOHN & MARIA
 MRS GLYKIADIS DESPINA
 H & S BAKERY
 MS HARRIS ATHENA
 MRS HATZIEFTHIMIO ANASTASIA
 MR/MRS IHOTIS MICHAEL
 MR/MRS JANKOWIAK DAVID & MARY
 MR/MRS KAIKIS CLEMIS
 MR/KALAMBHIS MARIA
 MR/MRS KAMBANOPOULOU STELIOS
 MR/MRS KAMOS EMMANUEL &
 MR/MRS KAPETANAKOS ELIAS & STE
 MS KARABELAS IOANNA
 MR/MRS KARAGIANNIS PAVLOS & JO
 MR KARAMANLIDES ANTONIOS
 MR/MRS KARANIKOLIS MICHAEL -
 MR/MRS KAROUTSOS APOSTOLOS -
 MR/MRS KATSAROS MICHAEL
 MR/MRS KAZAMIAS GUS
 MR/MRS KILLIAS SAVAS &
 MR KLOSTERIDIS MICHAEL
 MR/MRS KOLOVOURIS KONSTANTINO
 MR/MRS KONTAUDIS KONSTANTINO
 MR KOSMOS GEORGE
 MR KOTZIAS GEORGE A.
 MR/MRS KOUKOULAS EMMANUEL
 MR/MRS KOUROUBLAKIS VASILIS,
 MR/MRS KOURTESIS CONSTANTINE
 MR/MRS KOUTSOURIS STYLIANOS
 MR LALLAS JOHN
 MR/MRS LAZAROU TED & MARY
 MR/MRS LIKAKIS PERICLES
 MR/MRS LOUMIOTIS DIMITRIOS &
 MR/MRS MALTAS JOHN & ZOE
 MR/MRS MASTROMINAS MINAS
 MR/MRS MAVIAS - BASIL KOULA - RENEE
 MR/MRS MAVROMOUSTAK GEORGE
 MR MELISSARATOS ARIS
 MR/MRS MILLETT & ALEX EARL &
 MR/MRS MINAS ARIANTH
 MISS MONIODIS DESPINA
 MRS MOSKONAS VASILIKI
 MR/MRS NEZIS NICHOLAS &
 MR/MRS NIKOLETOS KIRIAKOS &
 MR/MRS NYCHIS VASILIOS
 MS ORFANIDIS VASILIA
 MR/MRS PALAS JOHN
 MR/MRS PANTOULIS NICK

2018 PLEDGES-\$224,916.00 / Payments-\$209.135.22 / Balance-\$15,780.78

MR/MRS PAPADIMITRIOU EMMANUEL & MR/MRS PAPATHAKIS MATTHEW MRS PARAGIOS FOULA MR/MRS PARTHEMOS KONSTATNINO MR/MRS PATERIS TELEMACHOS MR/MRS PATRIKIOS-JISSRI AIKATERINE & MR/MRS PERDIKAKIS GEORGE MR/MRS PHILLIPS DOUGLAS - MR/MRS PIKOUNIS GEORGE E. MR/MRS POLIKANDRIOTIS KONSTANTINO MRS PROAKIS KOULA MR/MRS PROTOPAPAS GEORGE & MR/MRS REDMILES SOPHIA MR/MRS ROBERTS BRIAN MRS ROROS NICKOLETTA MR/MRS ROROS DIMITRIOS & MR/MRS ROXANIS DEAN & SOULA MR/MRS SAKPAZIS IOANNIS MR/MRS SANDALIS JOHN MR/MRS SARIOGLOU KERASSA MRS SERAFIS MARY MR/MRS SFDAKIANOS NICHOLAS MR/MRS SISAMIS IOANNIS & MR/MRS SMOUDIANIS JOHN & TINA MR/MRS SOULIKAS JAMES & JOAN MR SOURANIS STANLEY MR/MRS STAKIAS STELIOS & MR STAMATOPOULOU NICK MR/MRS STAVLAS JERRY MR/MRS STEWART JOHN MR/MRS SYROPOULOS NICHOLAS MR/MRS TASKER-GIOKA DAMIANOS MR THEMELIS JOHN MR/MRS TRIANTAFILOS COSTAS MRS TRINTIS THORINA MRS TSAKALAS JULIE MR/MRS TSAMPOS GEORGE MR/MRS TSERKIS VASILIOS & MR/MRS TZAVARIS STYLIANOS- MS VASILAKOPOULOU IRENE MS VATAKIS TESSIE MR/MRS VENETIS APOSTOLOS MR/MRS VERGOS JOHN MR/MRS VOXAKIS JOHN & IRENE MRS XOURI SOFIA MR/MRS ZDZIERA STEVE	MRS PAPADIMITRIOU ERMA MRS PAPAVALIOU VIRGINIA MR/MRS PARAGIOS IOANNIS & FR/MRS PASTRIKOS MICHAEL & MR/MRS PATRAS LEONARD N.& MR PAYIAVLAS JOHN MR PHILIPPOU KOSMAS MRS PIKOUNIS ELENI MS PIROVOLIKOS - MARIA - MR/MRS POSLUSZNY JEFFREY & MR/MRS PROCOPOU ARISTOTELIS & MRS PSICHIS DULA MR/MRS REESE KALYOPI - MR RODITIS THEODOROS MR/MRS ROROS STAVROS & MS ROSSIS TSAMBIKA MR/MRS SAKELAKIS JOHN & MR/MRS SALLIARIS PANAGIOTIS MRS SARIGIANIS CHRISTINE MR/MRS SAUNDERS JONATHAN - MRS SERAFIS MARY MS SFIRIOU ANTONIA MR/MRS SISKOS STEFANOS MR SOLLON JAMES STEVE MRS SOURANIS MARITSA MR/MRS SPENCER ERIC AND MR/MRS STAKIAS JOHN & MR/MRS STAMIDIS ANASTASIOS MR/MRS STAVRAKIS DEMETRIOS & MRS STRAKES KATHERINE MRS SYROPOULOS AMALLIA MRS TETTERIS STEVE MR/MRS THEOHARIS EMMANUEL MR/MRS TRIANTAFILOS PETE MR/MRS TRINTIS NICOLAOS & MS TSAKALOS JEANETTE MR/MRS TSAMPOS MICHAEL & MR/MRS TSERKIS GEORGE MR TZAVARIS DEMOSTHENIS MRS VASILAKOPOULOU ANASTASIA MR/MRS VATAKIS ARGYRO MS VENZKE KELLIE ANN MRS VIZANIARIS EVANGELIA MS VOXAKIS SAMANTHA MR/MRS XOURI SOFIA MR/MRS ZISSIMOS GUS PETE -	MR/MRS PAPADOPOULOS EFSTATHIOS MRS PAPPAS MARIA MR/MRS PARALIS KONSTANTINO MR/MRS PASTRIKOS/HALK NOMIKI/JOHN MR PATRAS STEPHEN MR/MRS PEARCE ANTHONY & MR PHILIPPOU PHILIP MR/MRS PIKOUNIS JOHN & DEBBIE MR/MRS PITROS PANAYOTA MS POULIMENAKOS ELENI MR/MRS PROTOPAPAS EMMANUEL & MRS PULIANAS DESPINA MRS REPPAS IRODOTOS MR/MRS ROLOGAS ANASTASIOS MR/MRS ROROS GEORGE I. MR/MRS ROUFAS VASILIS MR SAKELLIS GEORGE MS SALPEAS MARIA MR/MRS SARIGIANIS- THOMAS & MR SAZAKLIS ANTONIOS MR/MRS SFAKIANOUDIS VASILIS & MR/MRS SFIRIOU ANTONIOS MR SKANDALIS GEORGE MR/MRS SOLLON NICK & MR/MRS SOURANIS MICHAEL & MR/MRS STAKIAS MICHAEL & MR/MRS STAKIAS GEORGE MRS STAMIDIS SOPHIA MR STAVROU STAMATIOS G. MR/MRS STRATAKOS LEONIDAS & MRS TARATSIDES ATHENA MR/MRS THEMELIS JOHN & RENEE MR THEOHARIS GEORGE MR/MRS TRIKOUKIS DEMETRIOS MRS TRIPOLITIS EKATERINI MRS TSAKALOS ROSE MR/MRS TSAMPOS JOHN & MR/MRS TSERKIS PANTELIS - MR/MRS VALMAS GREGORY & MRS VASILAKOPOULOU PARASKEVI MRS VAVAKAS KIRIAKI MR/MRS VERENAKIS MICHAEL & MR VOURGARAKIS HARRY MR/MRS VOXAKIS GEORGE MR/MRS YEAKIM DENNIS &	MR/MRS PAPAMINAS ANDREW MRS PAPPAS IRENE MRS PAROS MARY MR/MRS PATERAKIS CHARLES & MR/MRS PATRAS PETE MRS PELTSEMES IRENE MRS PHILIPPOU KALIOPI MR/MRS PIKOUNIS JAMES MISS POLIKANDRIOTIS MARIA MR/MRS PRASSINAS JAMES MR/MRS PROTOPAPAS NICHOLAS MR/MRS QUINTERO DENNIS & RITA MR/MRS REPPAS SOTERIOS MR ROLOGAS STAVROS MR/MRS ROROS JOHN P. MR/MRS ROUSSOS ANTHONY & MR/MRS SAKELLIS MICHAEL MR SAMARAS PETER GEORGE MRS SARIOGLOU ANASTASIA DR/MRS SEAL CHARLES & MR/MRS SFAKIANOUDIS JOHN MR/MRS SIGAMBRIS JOHN & MR/MRS SKORDALOS VASILIOS MRS SOPHOCLEOUS HELEN MRS SOURANIS PARASKEVI MR/MRS STAKIAS DIMITRIOS MR/MRS STAKIAS PETE & MS STAMIDIS - PEREZ CHRISOULA MR/MRS STEFANONISTAK MICHAEL MR/MRS SVRICEK JAMES & ELENI MR TARATSIDES GEORGE MISS THEMELIS STELLA MR/MRS TOPOUZOGLOU ANASTASIOS & MR/MRS TRIKOUKIS JOANNE MR/MRS TSAKALAS STEVEN MRS TSAMBIKOS IRENE MR TSAPAKIDIS THEOHARIS MR/MRS TSIRONIS NICK & MR/MRS VANTELAS STELIOS & MR/MRS VASILIOS FRANK MR/MRS VENETIS DIMITRIOS & MR/MRS VERGOS GEORGE & MRS VOURVOULAS SOPHIA MR XIPOLITIDIS JOHN MR/MRS YIANAKIS STEVE &
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2019 PLEDGES-\$46,150.00 / Payments-\$23,142.71/ Balance-\$23,007.29

MR/MRS ALMASON STEPHEN & MR/MRS APOSTOLOU DIMITRIOS & MR/MRS BAGIATI - AIKATERINI - MRS CONWAY ROSE MR/MRS DOUSKAS NIKOLAS MR/MRS FILIPPOU JASON & MR/MRS GAZONAS-ZIKOU GEORGE MR GLYKIADIS KONSTANTINO MRS HAZARIDES MELLI MRS KAITIS ANGELA MARY MR/MRS KATTAVENOS MICHAEL & MR KOIZIAS GEORGE A. MRS LERICOS IRENE MR/MRS MILONAS KIMON MR/MRS O'DRUDY LEO K. III & MRS PAROS MARY MR/MRS PRASSINAS JAMES MR/MRS RODITIS THEODOROS MRS SARIOGLOU ANASTASIA MRS SOURANIS PARASKEVI MR/MRS STEWART JOHN MR/MRS TRIANTAFILOS COSTAS MR/MRS TSAMPOS MICHAEL & MRS VIZANIARIS EVANGELIA	MR/MRS AMARANTIDIS HARRY AND MR APOSTOLOU MICHAEL MR BISBIKIS PETER MRS CORNIAS CLARA MRS FAKAS ZENOVIA MR/MRS FORAKIS MICHAEL MR/MRS GEORGIOU JOHN MRS GLYKIADIS DESPINA MR/MRS HONDROULIS EMMANUEL D. MRS KALIAKOUDAS SOFIA MR/MRS KILLIAS SAVAS & MR/MRS KOULATSOS ANASTASIA MR/MRS LEWIS HOWARD E. MR/MRS NISTAZOS GEORGE & MR/MRS PAPADIMITRIOU ERMA MR/MRS PATRAS PETE MR/MRS PROTOPAPAS EMMANUEL & MR/MRS SAKPAZIS IOANNIS MR SAZAKLIS ANTONIOS MR/MRS SPANOS NICHOLAS & MR TARATSIDES GEORGE MRS TRIPOLITIS EKATERINI MRS VASILAKOPOULOU ANASTASIA MR VOURGARAKIS HARRY	MRS AMARANTIDIS PARTHENA MR/MRS ATHANASIOU ANTONIOS MRS CHRISOULLIS SOPHIE MRS CORNIAS ROZA MR/MRS FILIPIDIS NICHOLAS MR/MRS FOTINOS GERASIMOS - MR/MRS GIAKOUMAKIS TSAMBIKOS - MR/MRS GLYKIADIS KONSTANTINO MR/MRS IEROMONAHOS PANTELIS MRS KAPETANAKOS SOULLA MR/MRS KOSMOS GEORGE MR/MRS KOURTESIS MICHAEL & MR/MRS MARAGOS PETROS & MR/MRS NISTAZOS NICKOLAS Z. MR/MRS PARAGIOS IOANNIS & MR/MRS PIKOUNIS ELENI MR/MRS REDMILES SOPHIA MS SALPEAS MARIA MRS SOPHOCLEOUS HELEN MR/MRS STAKIAS MICHAEL & MRS TARATSIDES ATHENA MS TSAKALOS JEANETTE MS VASILAKOPOULOU IRENE MR/MRS YIANAKIS STEVE &	MR/MRS ANAN ELEZABETH A. MR/MRS ATSIDIS IOANNIS MRS CHRIST STASA MR/MRS DIAKOKOMNINOS KOSMAS MRS FILIPPOU IRENE MR FOTIOU JOHN MRS GLANAKOULLAS DIONISIA MS HATZIEFTHIMIOU ANASTASIA MR/MRS KAIKIS CLEMIS MR/MRS KATSAROS MICHAEL MR KOSTOS JOHN MS LAMBROW STEPHANIE MR/MRS MILLETT & ALEX EARL & MRS NISTAZOS SEVASTI MISS PARAGIOS FOULA MR/MRS PIKOUNIS JOHN & DEBBIE MR/MRS REESE KALYOPI - MR SAMARAS PETER GEORGE MR/MRS SOULIKAS JAMES & JOAN MR/MRS STEFANONISTAK MICHAEL MR/MRS TASKER DALE & MR/MRS TSAMPOS GEORGE MS VENZKE KELLIE ANN
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FRIENDS OF BOROUME

#GivingTuesday [2] is here!

Feed the needy by supporting Friends of Boroume. Donate safely by credit card or paypal. Go to <https://www.boroume.gr/en/donate/> [3] and click on donations with PayPal (for USA residents or others outside the USA as appropriate). If you do not have a paypal account you can still donate by credit card.



100% of your donation will go to Boroume in Greece.

Every \$1 of support translates to 40 meals to those in need all over Greece. Think of the impact your contribution will make whether it is \$5 or \$500. Every little bit helps. Thank you for your support.

Friends of BOROUME is an organization set up to support the mission of BOROUME in Greece. BOROUME, which means “we can” in Greek, fights food waste by organizing the distribution of surplus food to charitable organizations all over Greece. For more information go to: www.boroume.gr/en [4].

Links:

[1] <https://www.facebook.com/nick.politakis#>

[2] https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/givingtuesday?source=feed_text

[3] https://www.boroume.gr/en/donate/?fbclid=IwAR0XVNrBRI1eLna_MwmOnOJCwT2BPn7d8j8ezIa-FO7NdAp9R6FMLrWqj5bI

[4] <http://www.boroume.gr/en/?fbclid=IwAR0PissSAelfYFfPwZP0eAjTvia0KgvYbpg2aceYAOlnt-kJdwfq99j7k1g>

JOY PROGRAM

~ The St. Nicholas JOY Program ~

The JOY Program is designed for ages 3-11. The program will prepare our children for GOYA and will emphasize the same goals of fellowship and understanding of our faith. Each meeting has a theme based on the Ecclesiastical Feast Days of the month. Activities include Crafts, Games, Basketball, and a lesson by Fr. Michael. Snacks will be provided by the parish.

We meet once a month every third Saturday from 12-2 pm.

Please feel free to contact me at 443-221-8024 or ckouroublakis@gmail.com for more information.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - DECEMBER

December 1st & 2nd: St. Nicholas GOYA Basketball Tournament

December 1st - 9th: Collection of Hygiene Items for the Family Crisis Center

Sunday, December 2nd: Parish Council Elections following Church Service

Sunday, December 2nd: Philoptochos Christmas Brunch/Wine Tasting @ Sparrows Point Country Club

Monday, December 3rd: Philoptochos Monthly Meeting at 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 8th: St. Nicholas Name Day Dance at 8 p.m. at the Plateia

Tuesday, December 11th: Diamonds Meeting at 1 p.m.

Tuesday, December 11th: Parish Council Meeting at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12th: Bible Study at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12th: Diamonds Trip to Sight and Sound

Saturday, December 15th: Rhodian Society Breakfast with Santa 10 a.m. to Noon

Sunday, December 16th: Hellenic Golden Coins Kalanta

Tuesday, December 18th: Choir Rehearsal at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 19th: Greek School Christmas Party and Caroling

Monday, December 24th: Christmas Carols and Reception sponsored by the St. Nicholas Choir and the community after the Christmas Eve service

Thursday, December 27th: Hellenic Golden Coins Christmas Party

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, January 2nd: NO Greek School

Monday, January 7th: Philoptochos Monthly Meeting at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 8th: Choir Rehearsal at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 8th: NO Diamonds Meeting

Saturday, January 12th: Diamonds Christmas/New Years Luncheon

Sunday, January 13th: Vasilopita cutting sponsored by the Philoptochos

Tuesday, January 15th: Philoptochos Ronald McDonald Dinner Visitation

Friday, January 18 - Monday, January 21: Hellenic Golden Coins Dance Festival - Atlanta, GA

Saturday, January 19th: Ladies Panchian Meeting at 1 p.m.

Monday, January 21st: NO Greek School

Monday, January 21st: Philoptochos Night Out - TBD

Tuesday, January 29th: Choir Rehearsal at 7 p.m.

****SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**** Hold the Date!

Father Michael Announces a Pilgrimage to the HOLY LAND

SEPTEMBER 2019

More information in the near future

LITURGICAL PROGRAM - DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS FAST CONTINUES

Sunday, December 2: 14th Sunday of St. Luke: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

Tuesday, December 4: St. Barbara the Great Martyr: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am

Wednesday, Dec. 5: Great Vesper Service: St. Nicholas Name Day: 7:00 pm *A Reception sponsored by the Philoptochos will follow.*

Thursday, December 6: St. Nicholas Name Day Celebration: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

Saturday, December 8: A Name Day Banquet has been scheduled for this evening. Please come and support this festivity.

Sunday, December 9: 10th Sunday of Luke: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

Wednesday, Dec. 12: St. Spyridon the Wonderworker: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am

STRICT FAST BEGINS FROM DEC. 12TH UNTIL DEC 24TH. NO MEAT, FISH AND DAIRY PRODUCTS ARE PERMITTED DURING THIS PERIOD.

Sunday, December 16: 11th Sunday of St. Luke: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

Sunday, December 23: Sunday before the Nativity of our Lord: Orthros: 8:45am Divine Liturgy: 10:00

Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve Service: 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day Celebration: The Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, the Church Staff, and the entire family of St. Nicholas we would like to wish everyone in the Community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thursday, December 27: St. Stephen the First Martyr: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am

Sunday, December 30: Sunday after the Nativity: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

LITURGICAL HOURS: The Liturgical Hours stay the same throughout the year.

Sunday services: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 10:am.

Week Day Liturgy: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am

Vesper Services: 7:00 pm

