



72 YEARS

SEPTEMBER 2026

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

Baltimore, MD



Koinonia

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- 2 | Letter from
Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos
- 4 | From the President
- 6 | Nativity of the Theotokos
- 7 | Elevation of the Cross
- 13 | Thoughts from Eva Lallas
- 46 | Children's Corner by
Presvytera Alexandra Houck
- 55 | Liturgical Calendar

THE HOLY FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

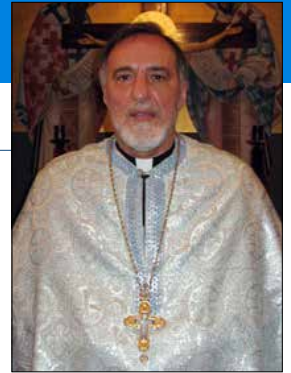


See more on pg. 10



MESSAGE FROM THE PROTOPRESBYTER

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



I would like to wish everyone in the Community a “Happy Month of September and also a Happy New Ecclesiastical Year.” Here we go again, we just finished the Ecclesiastical Year 2026 and now we are starting up again on a new year 2027. Vacations are over, the kids are back to school and life is becoming a routine again. It’s been a full year since my return to St. Nicholas after my brief so called retirement. We are beginning our full schedule of programs and events in our parish. We all recognize that September is a month that brings with it cooler temperatures because the last two months July and August really produced some “Hot Days” 100-degree weather.

Usually, in the September article I always welcome everyone back from their vacations. I also welcome back all our Church Organizations such as the Ladies Philoptochos Society, the Senior “Diamonds Group,” the Youth Advisors, Coaches, and GOYAs, the Sunday school and Greek school students along with their Teachers, our JOY Group, our YAL Group, the Members of the Greek School P.T.A. our Hellenic Golden Coins Dancers and the Instructors, our Pan Hellenic Senior Dancers and Instructors, our Festival Finance Committee Members, our Cantors, our Altar Boys, our Sextons and all the outside Societies and Organizations. It has truly been a year filled with anticipation, surprises, and success.

This year I chose the Theme of our “New Ecclesiastical Year” as the “Year of our Children.” One goal is to see much more progress in the area of regular Church participation for us and especially for our children. We first must be steadfast in our prayer and sacramental life, and learning everything there is to know about our faith.

Also, we as parents, need to improve our children’s participation in the Sunday school program.

Last year we didn’t have much improvement in this area and much is needed to improve in terms of attendance. Parents you play a major role in your child’s spiritual upbringing. I remember in previous years we had great attendance in Sunday school and I can’t understand why the Sunday school program has gone down from other years. I even see that in our enrollment for the Altar Boys program that has suddenly disappeared.

We all know who is at fault when it comes to our children’s participation in Church and in the Sunday school program. Making an honest effort this year from the parents is commendable and we all have a lot to learn. We have to work on coming to church with our family on time. We should reflect on why we come to church and be ready to give the Lord the time for worshipping, the time of prayer, and Christian fellowship.

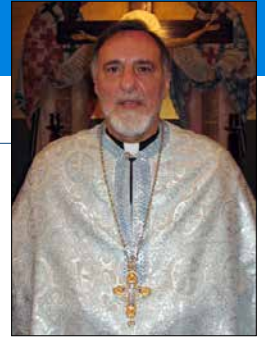
We must continue our spiritual mission of living according to what God teaches us. Let’s take pride in being true Stewards of a leading and progressive community in our Metropolis. Let’s make a better effort in fulfilling our spiritual and financial responsibilities to the Lord and to our wonderful family here at St. Nicholas. As we look to the present and future growth of our parish, let’s plan this together with a unified effort in trying to meet the needs of all. We cannot do this separately; we must do this together as a family.

Wishing everyone a Happy month of September.

With Love in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos
Protopresbyter

MESSAGE FROM THE PROTOPRESBYTER

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



Θα ήθελα να ευχηθώ σε όλους στην Κοινότητα «Καλό Σεπτέμβριο και Καλή Νέα Εκκλησιαστική Χρονιά». Και πάλι, μόλις ολοκληρώσαμε το Εκκλησιαστικό Έτος 2026 και τώρα ξεκινάμε ξανά για τη νέα χρονιά 2027. Οι διακοπές τελείωσαν, τα παιδιά επέστρεψαν στο σχολείο και η ζωή γίνεται ξανά ρουτίνα. Έχει περάσει ένας ολόκληρος χρόνος από την επιστροφή μου στον Άγιο Νικόλαο μετά τη σύντομη, λεγόμενη συνταξιοδότησή μου. Ξεκινάμε το πλήρες πρόγραμμα προγραμμάτων και εκδηλώσεων στην ενορία μας. Όλοι αναγνωρίζουμε ότι ο Σεπτέμβριος είναι ένας μήνας που φέρνει μαζί του πιο δροσερές θερμοκρασίες, επειδή οι δύο τελευταίοι μήνες, ο Ιούλιος και ο Αύγουστος, έφεραν πραγματικά κάποιες «Ζεστές Μέρες» με 44 βαθμούς Κελσίου.

Συνήθως, στο άρθρο του Σεπτεμβρίου, καλωσορίζω όλους πίσω από τις διακοπές τους. Καλωσορίζω επίσης ξανά όλες τις Εκκλησιαστικές μας Οργανώσεις, όπως την Φιλόπτωχο, την Ομάδα “Diamonds”, τους Συμβούλους Νέων, τους Προπονητές και τις GOYA, τους μαθητές του Κατηχητικού και του Ελληνικού Σχολείου μαζί με τους Δασκάλους τους, την Ομάδα JOY, την Ομάδα YAL, τα Μέλη του Συλλόγου Γονέων και Διδασκάλων του Ελληνικού Σχολείου, τους Χορευτές και τους Εκπαιδευτές μας για τα “Hellenic Golden Coins”, τους Πανελλήνιους Χορευτές και Εκπαιδευτές μας, τα Μέλη της Επιτροπής Οικονομικών του Φεστιβάλ, τους Ιεροψάλτες μας, τα Αγόρια του Ιερού, τους Νεωκόρους μας και όλους τους εξωτερικούς Συλλόγους και Οργανισμούς. Ήταν πραγματικά μια χρονιά γεμάτη προσμονή, εκπλήξεις και επιτυχίες.

Φέτος επέλεξα το Θέμα της “Νέας Εκκλησιαστικής Χρονιάς” μας ως “Χρονιά των Παιδιών μας”. Στους στόχους αυτούς είναι να δούμε πολύ μεγαλύτερη πρόοδο στον τομέα της τακτικής συμμετοχής στην Εκκλησία για εμάς και ιδιαίτερα για τα παιδιά μας. Πρώτα πρέπει να είμαστε σταθεροί στην προσευχή και τη πνευματική μας ζωή και να μαθαίνουμε τα πάντα για την πίστη μας.

Επίσης, εμείς ως γονείς, πρέπει να βελτιώσουμε τη συμμετοχή των παιδιών μας στο πρόγραμμα του

Κατηχητικού. Πέρυσι δεν είχαμε μεγάλη βελτίωση σε αυτόν τον τομέα και χρειάζονται πολλά για να βελτιωθούμε όσον αφορά την προσέλευση. Γονείς, παίζετε σημαντικό ρόλο στην πνευματική ανατροφή του παιδιού σας. Θυμάμαι τα προηγούμενα χρόνια είχαμε μεγάλη προσέλευση στο κατηχητικό και δεν μπορώ να καταλάβω γιατί το πρόγραμμα του κατηχητικού έχει μειωθεί σε σχέση με άλλες χρονιές. Βλέπω μάλιστα ότι στις εγγραφές μας στο πρόγραμμα αγόρια του ιερού αυτό έχει εξαφανιστεί ξαφνικά.

Όλοι γνωρίζουμε ποιος φταίει όσον αφορά τη συμμετοχή των παιδιών μας στην Εκκλησία και στο πρόγραμμα του κατηχητικού. Η ειλικρινής προσπάθεια που καταβάλλουν φέτος οι γονείς είναι αξιέπαινη και όλοι έχουμε πολλά να μάθουμε. Πρέπει να εργαστούμε για να ερχόμαστε στην εκκλησία με την οικογένειά μας εγκαίρως. Θα πρέπει να σκεφτούμε γιατί ερχόμαστε στην εκκλησία και να είμαστε έτοιμοι να δώσουμε στον Κύριο χρόνο για λατρεία, χρόνο για προσευχή και χριστιανική κοινωνία.

Πρέπει να συνεχίσουμε την πνευματική μας αποστολή να ζούμε σύμφωνα με όσα μας διδάσκει ο Θεός. Ας είμαστε περήφανοι που είμαστε αληθινοί Οικονόμοι μιας ηγετικής και προοδευτικής κοινότητας στη Μητρόπολή μας. Ας καταβάλουμε μεγαλύτερη προσπάθεια στην εκπλήρωση των πνευματικών και οικονομικών μας ευθυνών απέναντι στον Κύριο και στην υπέροχη οικογένειά μας εδώ στον Άγιο Νικόλαο. Καθώς προσβλέπουμε στην παρούσα και μελλοντική ανάπτυξη της ενορίας μας, ας το σχεδιάσουμε αυτό μαζί με μια ενωμένη προσπάθεια στην προσπάθεια να καλύψουμε τις ανάγκες όλων. Δεν μπορούμε να το κάνουμε αυτό ξεχωριστά. Πρέπει να το κάνουμε μαζί ως οικογένεια.

Εύχομαι σε όλους Καλό Σεπτέμβριο.

Με αγάπη εν Κυρίο και Σωτήρα ημών Ιησού Χριστού,
Πατ. Μιχαήλ Λ. Παστρίκος
Πρωτοπρεσβύτερος

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With hope and enthusiasm for the new church and school year!

With great joy and boundless enthusiasm, we welcome the new church and school year, ready to embark on a new and creative journey.

This year, our beginning comes at a time of great creativity, as many improvements and renovations have been carried out throughout our school and church facilities. Through these efforts, we hope to provide our children and all our faithful with a beautiful, functional, and welcoming environment.

This important endeavor, like every other effort we undertake, relies greatly on the spirit of volunteerism and the deeply moving generosity of our parishioners. Your contributions of time, money and resources are our strength as we strive to do the very best for our community in every area. Together, we can accomplish great things, and we have demonstrated this time and again through our actions in the past.

As we begin this new chapter, above all, let us wish for health in every home and abundant love in our hearts, so that we may move forward together, united and blessed.

Wishing everyone a happy and blessed year!

*With much love and respect,
Stamatia Ieromonahos
President of the Parish Council
St. Nicholas Church of Baltimore*

Με ελπίδα και ενθουσιασμό για τη νέα εκκλησιαστική και σχολική χρονιά!

Με βαθιά χαρά και αστείρευτο ενθουσιασμό υποδεχόμαστε τη νέα εκκλησιαστική και σχολική χρονιά, έτοιμοι να ξεκινήσουμε ένα νέο, δημιουργικό ταξίδι.

Φέτος, η έναρξη αυτή μας βρίσκει σε μια περίοδο έντονης δημιουργικότητας, καθώς πραγματοποιήθηκαν πολλές εργασίες στο χώρο του σχολείου μας και της εκκλησίας μας. Με τις εργασίες αυτές, επιθυμούμε να προσφέρουμε στα παιδιά μας και σε όλους τους πιστούς έναν χώρο όμορφο, λειτουργικό και φιλόξενο.

Αυτό το μεγάλο έργο, όπως και κάθε άλλη προσπάθεια, στηρίζεται κατά πολύ στον εθελοντισμό και στη συγκινητική γενναιοδωρία των ενοριτών μας. Η δική σας προσφορά, σε χρόνο, χρήματα και υλικά αγαθά, είναι η δύναμή μας για να κάνουμε το καλύτερο για την κοινότητά μας σε όλους τους τομείς.

Όλοι ΜΑΖΙ μπορούμε να πετύχουμε σπουδαία πράγματα, και αυτό το έχουμε αποδείξει έμπρακτα πολλές φορές στο παρελθόν. Με την έναρξη της νέας αυτής περιόδου, ας ευχηθούμε πάνω από όλα υγεία σε κάθε σπιτικό και άφθονη αγάπη στις καρδιές μας, για να πορευτούμε ενωμένοι και ευλογημένοι. Καλή και ευλογημένη χρονιά!

Με ειλικρινά αισθήματα αγάπης και σεβασμού,

*Σταματία Ιερομονάχου
Πρόεδρος του Συμβουλίου
Αγίου Νικολάου Βαλτιμόρης*



CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

PROTOPRESBYTER FR. MICHAEL PASTRIKOS, PASTOR Tel - 410-633-5020 • Fax - 410-633-4352

CHURCH SECRETARY

ELENI KOSTALAS-LENTIS
FINANCIAL SECRETARY
AMALIA SYROPOULOS-KOSTRIVAS

PARISH COUNCIL

PRESIDENT – STAMATIA IEROMONAHOS
VICE PRESIDENT – JOHN KOROLOGOS
TREASURER – ASPASIA CHARALAMBOPOULOS
ASSISTANT TREASURER – GEORGE STAMOULIS
RECORDING SECRETARY – MARITA KAZOS

BOARD MEMBERS:

ATHANASIOS KARAFLOS
JIMMY KOSMAS
DIMITRI PAPAVALSILEIOU
NICANOR PATERIS
JOEY VONAKIS

PHILOPTOCHOS

PRESIDENT - MARIA KARAGIANNIS
1ST VICE PRESIDENT - IRENE VASILEIOS
2ND VICE PRESIDENT - RENEE THEMELIS
TREASURER - STELLA KOUKIDES
ASSISTANT TREASURER - NORA KEFALAS
SECRETARY - PANAGIOTA KOUTSANTONIS
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - EVA NYCHIS
ADVISOR - MARIA GIORGAKIS

BOARD MEMBERS -

KATINA FOTINOS, MARIA KOUTSOURI, PATTY
MICKLOS, ZOE PERDIKAKIS, ELENI PIKOUNIS,
EVAGELIA SALIARIS, TSAMBIKA TRIANTAFILOS,
CHRISTINE ZERVOS

HELLENIC GOLDEN COINS

VASSO KOUMOUDIS, DIRECTOR
FOULA PARAGIOS & VASILIS PHILIPPOU,
DANCE INSTRUCTORS

PAN-HELLENIC BOARD MEMBERS

METAXIA KARDIASSMENOS -
HONORARY MEMBER
EFFIE KARBELAS - DANCE TEACHER
FOTEINI ARGIROPOULOS - POC

DIAMONDS

SOFIA XOURI - PRESIDENT
MOSKOULA KOUKIDIS - VICE-PRESIDENT
ANASTASIA VASILAKOPOULOS - SECRETARY
EVA LALLAS- TREASURER

BOARD MEMBERS

ROZA CORNIAS
SOULA KAPETANAKOS

G.O.Y.A. ADVISORS

ALEX KAROUTSOS
HARIKLIA NEZIS
PENNY ALAFASSOS
MARIA FILIPPOU
JESSICA STAMOULIS
ANASTASIA DINIOTIS

G.O.Y.A. COACHES

GIRLS:
JOHN CHRISOMALIS
GENEVIEVE ZDZIERA
GEORGE STAKIAS

BOYS:

DIMITRI KOSTRIVAS
JOHN SMOUDIANIS
SOPHIA GERAPETRITIS

G.O.Y.A. BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: GEORGE ZDZIERA
VICE PRESIDENT: ANTIGONI DIAKANTONIS
TREASURER: ELLIE FILIPPOU
CORR. SECRETARY: MARIA KILLIAS
REC. SECRETARY: ANDRIANNA NEZIS
HISTORIANS: MARKELLA KARANIKOLIS
AND ANTHI NEZIS
SGT OF ARMS: YIANNI BISIOTIS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SOPHIA GERAPETRITIS
PENNY GERAPETRITIS
STAVROULA GERAPETRITIS

YANA KARABELAS

PHAEDRA AVGERINOS
AIDES
TSAMBIKA AVGERINOS
ELIANA PARAGIOS
ANTIGONI DIAKANTONIS

AFTERNOON GREEK SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL - STAMATIA IEROMONAHOS
PRE-K - MARIA GOURGOULIATOU,
AGAPI MOSXONA MINADAKIS
KINDERGARTEN - MARIA GOURGOULIATOU,
AGAPI MOSXONA MINADAKIS
1ST GRADE - SEVI FROUMIS VLACHOU, YVVONI GALETAKI
2ND GRADE - SEVI FROUMIS VLACHOU, YVVONI GALETAKI
3RD & 4TH GRADE - PARASKEVI KOTSATOU ARGETAKI
5TH & 6TH GRADE - KELLY PEROS VASILIADES
AL ELLINOMATHEIA COORDINATOR -
PARASKEVI KOTSATOU ARGETAKI
A2, B1 ELLINOMATHEIA COORDINATOR -
KELLY PEROS VASILIADES
B2 ELLINOMATHEIA COORDINATOR -
PARASKEVI KOTSATOU ARGETAKI
TMHMA ENHLIKWN - YVVONI GALETAKI
VOITHOI ELLINOMATHEIAS - ELINA PAPADIMA
TSAPAKIDIS, DESPINA CHATZAKOU LARENTZOS

GREEK SCHOOL P.T.A.

ALEXANDRA KAROUTSOS - PRESIDENT
ALEXANDRA FORAKIS - VICE PRESIDENT
DIMITRA DOUSKAS - SECRETARY
AGATHI DIAKANTONIS - TREASURER

BOARD MEMBERS:

MARIA IEROMONAHOS
TSAMBIKA KOROLOGOS
ANNA NIKOLETOU
TINA STAMATIADI
ANGELA YEAKIM

YAL

FOULA PARAGIOS

IMPORTANT NOTICE - **KOINONIA DEADLINE**

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

ISSUE MONTH - OCTOBER 2026
SUBMISSIONS DUE - SEPTEMBER 20th

Please email your article(s) to - ekostaslas@stnicholasmd.org

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

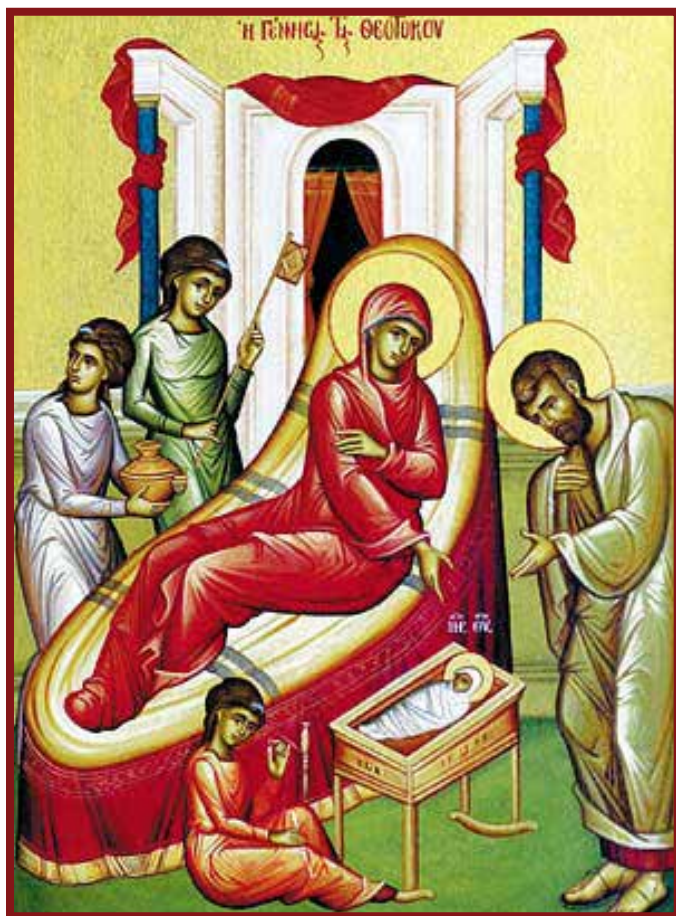
All articles must be proofread and color corrected prior to submission.

Thank you

Nativity of the Theotokos

Courtesy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

www.goarch.org



who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks.

As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

Icon of the Feast

The icon of the Nativity of the Theotokos presents to us the central figures of Saints Joachim and Anna, Mary's parents, and the Mother of our Lord as an infant. Saint Anna is in the middle of the icon with her right hand extended toward her daughter. Likewise, Saint Joachim, Mary's father, is gazing upon the young child with his right hand extended toward her. Anna is surrounded by attendants who have assisted with the birth.

The icon directs attention to Mary as the central figure in this feast. It also acknowledges the joy that was felt by Joachim and Anna as new parents with a child received through a promise from God. The liturgical texts of the feast acknowledge this joy and confirm the special role of Mary as the Mother of the Incarnate God, Jesus Christ. In this event, another step is made in sacred history in preparation for the entrance of Christ into the world.

The icon and the feast also acknowledge a transition from barrenness to life. This was but another foreshadowing of what would be offered through Christ, the transformation from death to eternal life.

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

The Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which is conducted on the morning of the Feast and preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast. Scripture readings for the Feast are the following: At Vespers: Genesis 28:10-17; Ezekiel 43:27—44:4; Proverbs 9:1-11. At the Matins: Luke 1:39-49, 56. At the Divine Liturgy: Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

Introduction

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on September 8 each year. The Feast commemorates the birth of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Biblical Story

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

According to the story found in this book, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross

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

Introduction

Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by



Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan. 22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.

Rest from labour. A Fast is observed today, whatever day of the week it may be.

[Apolytikion of Elevation of the Holy Cross](#)
[First Tone](#)

Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting our rulers to prevail

over adversaries, and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross.

[Kontakion of Elevation of the Holy Cross](#)
[Fourth Tone](#)

Lifted up on the Cross by Your free will, Christ God, grant mercies to the new commonwealth that bears Your name. Gladden our faithful rulers by Your power, giving them victories over their adversaries. May Your alliance be for them a weapon for peace, an invincible standard.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD - AUGUST 6

The Transfiguration of Our Lord & the Blessing of Grapes

For Orthodox Christians, the Transfiguration reveals Christ's divine glory. Rather than transforming Him into something new, it briefly revealed to His disciples the divine glory He had always possessed, strengthening their faith before His Passion.

Jesus brought Peter, James, and John up to a high mountain called Tabor to pray. He was transformed before them—His face shone like the sun, and His garments became radiant white. Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the Prophets) appeared alongside Jesus, signaling that He (Jesus) fulfills the Old Testament.

The three Apostles were filled with awe and fear, and they fell to the ground. When they looked up, only Jesus was left. As they descended, Christ asked them to share what they witnessed after His Resurrection and not before.

Why Are Grapes Blessed on August 6?

Bringing the season's first harvested grapes to church on the Feast of the Transfiguration is one of the most cherished Greek traditions.

This custom stems from the ancient Christian tradition of offering the year's first harvest to God in thanksgiving. Because grapes ripen in early August across Greece, they naturally fit the timing of the feast. Furthermore, grapes produce the wine used in Holy Communion, directly linking the summer harvest to the Eucharist.

Every August 6, carrying baskets of grapes into church unites a deep Gospel narrative with enduring community traditions, keeping faith actively woven into everyday life.

Fr. Michael Patrikos extends his sincere thanks to all who attended the beautiful service, partook of Holy Communion, and brought grapes to be blessed. Special gratitude is extended to the families who sponsored the Artoklasia and to the ladies representing Malona, Rhodes, for the floral arrangements that beautifully decorated the icons of our Lord.

May our Lord and Sotiras, Jesus Christ, continue to bless you and your families.



Η ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ - 6 ΑΥΓΟΥΣΤΟΥ 2026

Η Μεταμόρφωση του Κυρίου & η Ευλογία των Σταφυλιών – 6 Αυγούστου 2026

Για τους Ορθόδοξους Χριστιανούς, η Μεταμόρφωση φανερώνει τη θεϊκή δόξα του Χριστού. Δεν Αλλάζει τον Χριστό σε κάτι νέο, αλλά δείχνει στους μαθητές Του τη θεϊκή δόξα που είχε πάντα, για να δυναμώσει την πίστη τους πριν από τα Πάθη Του.

Ο Ιησούς πήρε τον Πέτρο, τον Ιάκωβο και τον Ιωάννη σε ένα ψηλό βουνό, το Θαβώρ, για να προσευχηθούν. Εκεί μεταμορφώθηκε μπροστά τους—το πρόσωπό Του έλαμπε σαν τον ήλιο και τα ρούχα Του έγιναν λευκά και φωτεινά. Ο Μωυσής (που αντιπροσωπεύει τον Νόμο) και ο Ηλίας (που αντιπροσωπεύει τους Προφήτες) εμφανίστηκαν δίπλα στον Ιησού, δείχνοντας ότι Εκείνος εκπληρώνει την Παλαιά Διαθήκη.

Οι τρεις Απόστολοι ένωσαν δέος και φόβο και έπεσαν στο έδαφος. Όταν σήκωσαν το βλέμμα τους, είδαν μόνο τον Ιησού. Καθώς κατέβαιναν από το βουνό, ο Χριστός τους ζήτησε να πούνε όσα είδαν μόνο μετά την Ανάστασή Του.

Γιατί ευλογούνται τα σταφύλια στις 6 Αυγούστου;

Η μεταφορά των πρώτων σταφυλιών της συγκομιδής στην εκκλησία την ημέρα της Μεταμόρφωσης είναι μία από τις πιο αγαπημένες ελληνικές παραδόσεις.

Αυτό το έθιμο προέρχεται από την αρχαία χριστιανική παράδοση να προσφέρουμε τους πρώτους καρπούς της χρονιάς στον Θεό ως ευχαριστία. Επειδή τα σταφύλια ωριμάζουν στις αρχές Αυγούστου στην Ελλάδα, ταιριάζουν φυσικά με την ημερομηνία της γιορτής. Επιπλέον, από τα σταφύλια παράγεται το κρασί της Θείας Κοινωνίας, συνδέοντας τη θερινή συγκομιδή με τη Θεία Ευχαριστία.

Κάθε 6 Αυγούστου, τα καλάθια με τα σταφύλια στην εκκλησία ενώνουν την ιστορία του Ευαγγελίου με τις παραδόσεις του τόπου μας, κρατώντας την πίστη ζωντανή στην καθημερινή μας ζωή.

Ο π. Μιχαήλ Παστρικός εκφράζει τις θερμές του ευχαριστίες σε όλους όσους παρευρέθηκαν στην όμορφη ακολουθία, κοινωνήσαν των Αχράντων Μυστηρίων και έφεραν σταφύλια για να ευλογηθούν. Ένα ιδιαίτερο ευχαριστώ στις οικογένειες που προσέφεραν τις Αρτοκλασίες, καθώς και στις κυρίες που εκπροσωπούν το χωριό την Μαλώνα, Ρόδου, οι οποίες στόλισαν τις εικόνες του Κυρίου μας με τις πανέμορφες ανθοσυνθέσεις.

Είθε ο Σωτήρας μας, Ιησούς Χριστός, να συνεχίσει να ευλογεί εσάς και τις οικογένειές σας.



THE HOLY FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS



Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos, alongside our cantors, led us in prayer through the beautiful hymns for the Holy Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. Our church was filled with faithful worshippers who actively participated in this moving liturgical experience and received Holy Communion.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended, to those who beautifully decorated the church, and to those who decorated the Icons and the Kouvouklion (Epitaphios) of Panagia. A special thank you to the volunteers who carried the Kouvouklion and the Holy Icon in procession around the church, and to our Ladies Philoptochos Society for sponsoring the coffee hour and fellowship.



Thank you all, Happy Nameday to everyone who celebrated. May our Panagia continue to guide, protect, and intercede for all of us!

Kai tou Chronou!



Η ΙΕΡΑ ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΜΗΣΕΩΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ



Η Ιερά Εορτή της Κοιμήσεως της Θεοτόκου

Ο π. Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικός, μαζί με τους ιεροψάλτες μας, μας οδηγήσαν στην προσευχή μέσα από τους πανέμορφους ύμνους της Ιεράς Εορτής της Κοιμήσεως της Θεοτόκου. Ο ναός μας ήταν κατάμεστος από πιστούς, οι οποίοι συμμετείχαν ενεργά σε αυτή τη λατρευτική εμπειρία και κοινώνησαν των Αχράντων Μυστηρίων.



Ευχαριστούμε θερμά όλους όσοι παρευρέθηκαν, καθώς και όσους στόλισαν την εκκλησία και όσους φρόντισαν για τον στολισμό των εικόνων, και το Κουβούκλιο της Παναγίας. Ιδιαίτερες ευχαριστίες οφείλουμε στους εθελοντές που περιέφεραν το Κουβούκλιο και την Ιερά Εικόνα γύρω από τον ναό, όπως επίσης και στην Αδελφότητα Φιλοπτώχου Γυναικών για τη φιλοξενία και την προσφορά του καφέ. Σας ευχαριστούμε όλους... Χρόνια Πολλά σε όλες και όλους γιόρταζαν.



Είθε η Παναγία μας να συνεχίσει να μας καθοδηγεί, να μας προστατεύει και να πρεσβεύει για όλους μας!

Και του Χρόνου!



BLESSING OF PHANOUIROPITES

On Thursday, August 27, following the Divine Liturgy, Fr. Michael blessed the many Phanouropites brought by our faithful in honor of the Feast Day of St. Phanourios. We extend our sincere thanks to all our parishioners for their wonderful turnout—it took three full tables to hold all the pites!

Through the prayers and intercessions of the Holy Martyr St. Phanourios, may Christ our God bless and protect all of you and our community.



On September 1, 2025 the St. Nicholas Community welcomed back Fr. Michael Pastrikos as Pastor. It's been one year now, and we pray that God grant him many more years as he continues to dedicate his life serving our One Holy Church!

Happy Anniversary, Father Michael!
AXIOS!!!



September's Roller Coaster of Life

WOW! September has arrived! Perhaps this is a bittersweet time of the year for us as the weather gradually changes so too is life's daily routine altered for many. The school year begins anew and the annual allotted vacation leave from work ends, signaling the end of summertime's carefree days.

September is a snapshot, a glimpse, of life with its emotional ups and downs; it's like being on the roller coaster of life. Not only do we see the dwindling lazy days of summer's "time out" but the reminiscence of 9/11 now 25 years later. On that beautiful crisp September morning when all seemed right in the world our roller coaster took a sudden nosedive: 9/11 happened. America was under an unimaginable attack on our very shores. A day in our lifetime when thousands of lives were abruptly ended, and our way of life changed in so many ways. Precautions to help prevent such disasters in the future are still going on. In the midst of despair, heroism surfaced, family ties were strengthened, we once again turned to God for His mercy and guidance. A sense of unity and patriotism arose but seemed to fade in just a few years; another segment of life with its ups and downs. Some may say, "That was 25 years ago, it happened, it's over." Yes, but how can we forget the unprovoked obliteration of so many innocent lives? Therefore, each year we memorialize and pray for the souls of those lost during that period as well as for their families. Likewise, each of us recalls specific events of devastation that are meaningful to us. The author also memorializes the slaughter of thousands of Orthodox Christians by the Ottoman Turks during the catastrophe of Smyrna in Asia Minor during September 1922.

But then September brings the upward turn on our roller coaster ride of emotions. We now have the beautiful St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine which like the Phoenix has risen and stands at the World Trade Center in New York City signifying that the original humble St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox

Church which was destroyed during 9/11 is still alive to the Glory of God.

Our roller coaster climbs upward as our Orthodox Church proclaims September as the beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year: a time of revival for blessings of the earth and prayers to embolden us and bring us closer to Jesus. This is when both Sunday and Greek School classes begin. Being students in both of these courses provides meaningful education to young absorbing minds; education that will be valuable in their lives, and where friendships that could last a lifetime are made... the future of Orthodoxy.

Our St. Nicholas Church offers these educational opportunities, as well as all the youth centered programs, through the stewardship program. What an ideal time to become a steward or to renew your stewardship donation to our beloved St. Nicholas so that all these ministries can continue and expand!

On September 14th, dear reader, our Orthodox Church aims to keep us high on the upswing of life's roller coaster ride as we reverently celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; one of the holiest days of the year. On this day we commemorate the day that St. Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine, found the True Cross. Both are saints in our Greek Orthodox Church whose feast day is celebrated on May 21.

You may have asked why sweet basil is a part of our Orthodox celebrations. This was the herb that was growing on the site where the Holy Cross was discovered. It is quite moving to be in church praying and witnessing the service of the Holy Cross embedded in a mound of aromatic basil as Father Michael symbolically raises the Cross four times, reverently and very slowly. This is truly a memorable Liturgy! Orthodox Christians should make every effort to prepare for and partake of Holy Communion on this Holy Day, September 14th.

Thus, as we welcome Autumn and the never-ending summertime fun at Ocean City or your favorite resort may continue for just a little while longer, let's remember that St. Nicholas awaits us to come to worship and thank God for all our blessings and good times that we enjoyed, especially on September 14th. No matter which dark days we may have experienced on September's roller coaster ride, the celebrations of our Orthodox Church always direct us upward pulling us closer to God.



Greek Corner

In addition, I am adding "The Greek Corner" which is the outcome of phrases frequently used during conversations with Father Michael. They are sayings, parables, idioms with variations that address and express life situations or specific persons and have been common throughout the Greek world for many generations. In fact, such messages are universal. You are encouraged to inform us of some that are familiar to you. Please send them to - el817@yahoo.com

1. Δίπλα στα ξερά καίγονται και τα χλωρά!

Ίσως δεν φταις, αλλά είσαι με αυτή την παρέα, με αυτόν τον φίλο!
You may not be the guilty party, but you're known by the company you keep!

2. Σαν τον ποντικό στην φάκα!

Πιάστηκες!

Caught red handed, like a mouse in the mousetrap!



3. Ανάλατος!

Χωρίς γεύση!

Lacking salt, a bland personality.

You're not the "salt of the earth." (Salt was among the most valued items in the world.)

4. Λείψαι απ την κακιά ώρα, να ζήσεις χίλια χρόνια!

Avoid a bad encounter, live to be a thousand years old.
Be careful, try to avoid danger.

5. Βαπτίζει και μυρώνει!

Ολα στα γρήγορα!

Baptizing and Chrismating. Done in a flash!

Sometime these sacraments are performed very quickly, not at St. Nicholas however!

American Sayings, Phrases, Idioms

1. Out of sight, out of mind!

Sometime when we have not seen or heard of a person for a long time, we have forgotten about them.

2. On the ball!

With "it"! A dynamic individual, a person of action!

3. Sit on the fence, middle of the road.

Indecisive, hesitant to take action.

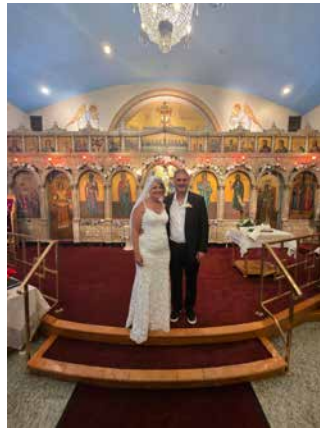
4. It's now or never!

Take action at this time. Now is the hour!

5. Not playing with a full deck!

One who is lacking in mental capacity; not making sense!

SAINT NICHOLAS CHURCH



Konstantinos Tsitsios and Danielle Blodnikar were married at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Baltimore, MD, on Sunday, July 5, 2026. Their sponsors were Antonios and Maria Pearce. They were joined together in marriage by the Rev. Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos.



The Clergy Laity Congress was held in Cleveland, Ohio, June 30 through July 3, 2026. Attendees included Presvytera Toulia and Athena Harris (St. Nicholas representatives), Metropolis Presvyteres,, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, His Eminence Metropolitan Sebastianos of Atlanta, and His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey (New Archbishop of Canada), Father Michael Pastrikos and his brother, Fr. Nicholas Pastrikos.



Saint Nicholas altar servers and chanters



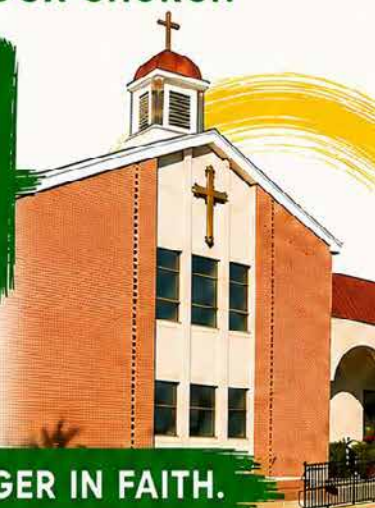
Parish Life Committee Meeting

SAINT NICHOLAS CHURCH



New windows in our church and school buildings!

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



GOYA

is Back!

NEW YEAR. NEW FRIENDS. STRONGER IN FAITH.

Calling all 7th–12th graders!

Join us as we kick off a new GOYA year filled with faith, fun, friendship, service, and unforgettable memories. Let's grow together in Christ and make this our best year yet!



DEEPEN
YOUR FAITH



BUILD
FRIENDSHIPS



SERVE OUR
COMMUNITY



AWESOME
EVENTS



STRONGER
TOGETHER

Let's Start Together!

GOYA KICKOFF MEETING



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



AFTER CHURCH SERVICES



SAINT NICHOLAS PLATEIA



FOOD, GAMES & FUN!
BRING A FRIEND!



Faith

Service

Fellowship

Witness



Notice of General Assembly Sunday, October 11, 2026

Pursuant to the regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (UPR) the date of the General Assembly meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, October 11, 2026, immediately after the Divine Liturgy at the Church Hall.

Also, according to the UPR, those persons wishing to participate and vote must pay their Stewardship up to the date of the Assembly. A regular member of the Parish who is already enrolled in the Parish register but has neglected to pay his/her stewardship may pay the same day and before the beginning of the Assembly in order to participate and vote.

AGENDA

1. Invocation by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos
2. Call to order by the Parish Council President Mrs. Stamatia Ieromonahos
3. Election of Chairman and Secretary for the Assembly
4. Reading and ratification of the minutes of the previous General Assembly meeting
5. Parish Council President report
6. Treasurer's financial report, Budget 2026 & 2027 versus actual figures, including the Plateia, Bilingual Early Education Center, Festival 2026
7. Auditing Committee Report
8. Festival Committee Report for the upcoming June 2027 Festival
9. Priest's Report
10. Elect Nomination Committee for December 2026 Elections
11. Elect Election Committee for the December 2026 elections
12. Old business
13. New Business
14. Benediction

All members of the Community are urged to attend this Parish Assembly meeting, because it is more than important. It is also our duty as members of the Community of Saint Nicholas to come and offer our support for the progress of the community. Your presence is mandatory to establish a quorum. PLEASE ATTEND.

From the Priest and Parish Council of Saint Nicholas



Ειδοποίηση Γενικής Συνέλευσης Κυριακή, 11 Οκτωβρίου, 2026

Σύμφωνα με τους κανονισμούς της Ελληνορθόδοξης Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής (UPR), η ημερομηνία της Γενικής Συνέλευσης έχει προγραμματιστεί για την Κυριακή, 11 Οκτωβρίου 2026, αμέσως μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία στην αίθουσα της Εκκλησίας.

Επίσης, σύμφωνα με την UPR, όσοι επιθυμούν να συμμετάσχουν και να ψηφίσουν πρέπει να καταβάλουν την Εφορία τους μέχρι την ημερομηνία της Συνέλευσης. Ένα τακτικό μέλος της Ενορίας που είναι ήδη εγγεγραμμένο στο μητρώο της Ενορίας αλλά έχει παραμελήσει να καταβάλει την εφορία του, μπορεί να πληρώσει την ίδια ημέρα και πριν από την έναρξη της Συνέλευσης για να συμμετάσχει και να ψηφίσει.

ΗΜΕΡΗΣΙΑ ΔΙΑΤΑΞΗ

1. Επίκληση από τον Εφημέριο της Ενορίας, Αιδεσιμότατο π. Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικός
2. Κάλесμα σε τάξη από την Πρόεδρο του Ενοριακού Συμβουλίου, κα Σταματία Ιερομόναχο
3. Εκλογή Προέδρου και Γραμματέα της Συνέλευσης
4. Ανάγνωση και επικύρωση των πρακτικών της προηγούμενης Γενικής Συνέλευσης
5. Έκθεση του Προέδρου του Ενοριακού Συμβουλίου
6. Οικονομική έκθεση του Ταμία, Προϋπολογισμός 2026 & 2027 σε σχέση με τα πραγματικά στοιχεία, συμπεριλαμβανομένης της Πλατείας, Δίγλωσσο Κέντρο Προσχολικής Αγωγής, Φεστιβάλ 2026
7. Έκθεση της Ελεγκτικής Επιτροπής
8. Έκθεση της Επιτροπής του Φεστιβάλ για το επερχόμενο Φεστιβάλ του Ιουνίου 2027
9. Έκθεση Ιερέα
10. Επιτροπή Υποψηφιοτήτων για τις Εκλογές 2027 – Νέοι Υποψήφιοι Ενοριακού Συμβουλίου
11. Παλιές Υποθέσεις
12. Νέες Υποθέσεις
13. Ευλογία

Όλα τα μέλη της Κοινότητας καλούνται να παραστούν σε αυτή τη συνεδρίαση της Ενοριακής Συνέλευσης, επειδή είναι κάτι παραπάνω από σημαντική. Είναι επίσης καθήκον μας ως μέλη της Κοινότητας του Αγίου Νικολάου να έρθουμε και να προσφέρουμε την υποστήριξή μας για την πρόοδο της κοινότητας. Η παρουσία σας είναι υποχρεωτική για τη διασφάλιση απαρτίας. ΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΟΥΜΕ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΘΕΙΤΕ.

Από το Ιερατικό και Ενοριακό Συμβούλιο του Αγίου Νικολάου



NOTICE FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

We wish to inform you that the term of office of the Parish Council members will terminate on December 31, 2026. In accordance with the Uniform Parish Regulations, "A candidate for the Parish Council must be a parishioner in good standing of the Parish for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the election and must live his or her life in accordance with the Faith and canons of the Church. The Priest determines whether the Parishioners are in canonical and financial good standing."

We urge all parishioners in good standing who have the willingness, ability, and time to serve our community to submit their candidacy for the Parish Council to the Nominations Committee. They may do so by following either one of the 3 procedures: 1) sign the application below and bring to the Church Office by October 6, 2026; 2) complete, sign and mail the form below, to be received by the Nominations Committee by the close of office business hours of the church on October 6, 2026. Please mail your completed Candidacy Form to:

Nominations Committee
c/o Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
520 S. Ponca Street
Baltimore, MD 21224

3) Be present at the General Assembly, on October 11, 2026, and become nominated at that time. Nominations will be closed at the General Assembly on October 11, 2026, at which time the Nominations Committee will announce the names of the candidates.

CANDIDACY FORM FOR PARISH COUNCIL

Signature -----

Name (Print)-----

Address -----

Phone Number -----

E-mail address -----



ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΥΠΟΨΗΦΙΕΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΤΗΣ ΕΝΟΡΙΑΣ

Σας ενημερώνουμε ότι η θητεία των μελών του Ενοριακού Συμβουλίου λήγει στις 31 Δεκεμβρίου 2026. Σύμφωνα με τους Ενιαίους Κανονισμούς Ενορίας, «Ένας υποψήφιος για το Ενοριακό Συμβούλιο πρέπει να είναι ενορίτης με καλή φήμη στην Ενορία για τουλάχιστον ένα (1) έτος αμέσως πριν από την ημερομηνία των εκλογών και να ζει τη ζωή του σύμφωνα με την Πίστη και τους κανόνες της Εκκλησίας. Ο Ιερέας καθορίζει εάν οι Ενορίτες βρίσκονται σε κανονική και οικονομική καλή φήμη».

Προτρέπουμε όλους τους ενορίτες με καλή φήμη που έχουν την προθυμία, την ικανότητα και τον χρόνο να υπηρετήσουν την κοινότητά μας να υποβάλουν την υποψηφιότητά τους για το Ενοριακό Συμβούλιο στην Επιτροπή Υποψηφιοτήτων. Μπορούν να το κάνουν ακολουθώντας μία από τις 3 διαδικασίες: 1) να υπογράψουν την παρακάτω αίτηση και να την προσκομίσουν στο Γραφείο της Εκκλησίας έως τις 6 Οκτωβρίου 2026. 2) συμπληρώστε, υπογράψτε και ταχυδρομήστε την παρακάτω φόρμα, ώστε να παραληφθεί από την Επιτροπή Υποψηφιοτήτων μέχρι το τέλος του ωραρίου λειτουργίας της εκκλησίας στις 6 Οκτωβρίου 2026. Παρακαλούμε στείλτε την συμπληρωμένη Φόρμα Υποψηφιότητας στη διεύθυνση:

Επιτροπή Υποψηφιοτήτων
c/o Ελληνορθόδοξη Εκκλησία Αγίου Νικολάου
520 S. Ponca Street
Baltimore, MD 21224

3) Να είστε παρόντες στη Γενική Συνέλευση στις 11 Οκτωβρίου 2026 και να οριστείτε υποψήφιος εκείνη τη στιγμή. Οι υποψηφιότητες θα κλείσουν στη Γενική Συνέλευση στις 11 Οκτωβρίου 2026, οπότε η Επιτροπή Υποψηφιοτήτων θα ανακοινώσει τα ονόματα των υποψηφίων.

ΦΟΡΜΑ ΥΠΟΨΗΦΙΟΤΗΤΑΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΕΝΟΡΙΑΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ

Signature -----

Name (Prnt)-----

Address -----

Phone Number -----

E-mail address -----



MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of Despina Baris

Katina Palas
Antonia Sfiriou

In Memory of Vasilios Dargakis

Demetri & Eleni Karakasidis

In Memory of Marianna Gavrilis

Mary Antonas
Kelly Burkhead
Zoe Moshis-Fadok
Andrew & Peggy Franko
Sandra Hondroulis
Sozon Kaminaris
Maria Karagiannis
Metaxia Kardiasmenos
Kiki Kavouriou
George & Markella Lambros
James & Angela Mitsos
Evan & Renee Padousis
Kitsa Padousis
Matthew & Irene Papatheakis
Zoe Perdikakis
Mary Anne Rigopoulos
Anthi Roufas
Vasilios & Effie Roufas
Rose Tsakalos
Anastasia Vasilakopoulos
Toula Koukoulas-Woods

In Memory of Harikleia Georgas

George & Maria Georgas
& Family

In Memory of Savvas

& Marianne Georgas
George & Maria Georgas
& Family

In Memory of Angeliki Hatzidakis

Theodora Katsafanas & Family

In Memory of

Dionisios Hatzidakis

Theodora Katsafanas & Family

In Memory of Konstantinos

& Flora Karais

Anthi Roufas

In Memory of

Georgios Katsafanas

Theodora Katsafanas & Family

In Memory of Michael Kefalas

Roza Cornias
Steven & Katina Yianakis

In Memory of

Demetrios Koutsantonis

Mr. & Mrs Michael Klosterides
Virginia Polychronis

In Memory of

Ekaterini Logothetis

Nikos Logothetis

In Memory of Anne Matthews

Chris Angelopoulos

In Memory of

Constance Nearhood

Theodora Katsafanas & Family

In Memory of James Nearhood

Theodora Katsafanas & Family

In Memory of Mary Nearhood

Theodora Katsafanas & Family

In Memory of Dimitrios Psichis

Dula Psichis

In Memory of Toula Serdenes

Kiki Kavouriou
Angelo & Stamatia Kokkinakos

In Memory of Dimitrios Trikoulis

Roza Cornias
Metaxia Kardiasmenos
James & Argyrenia Maurakis

In Memory of Joseph Tripolitis

Chris Angelopoulos
Voula Liadakis
Perry Liakakis
Kaliopi Philippou
Stavros Rologas & Rologas Family
Dimitrios Stakias
Anastasia Vasilakopoulos

In Memory of George

& Maria Vergos

Karen Vergos

In Memory of Carol Hagopian

Eve Lallas

In Memory of Konstantinos

and Flora Karais

Eve Lallas

In Memory of Anne Matthews

Eve Lallas

In Honor of

Fr. Michael Pastrikos' Birthday

Eve Lallas



ST. NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
BALTIMORE

ANSWER THE CALL. SERVE AT THE HOLY ALTAR.

JOIN THE ALTAR GUILD.

**Young men, age 8 to 35+,
your parish needs you!**

The Altar Guild is a sacred ministry of service, reverence, and love for Christ and His Church. Help prepare the Holy Altar and vessels for Divine Services and be a vital part of our worship community.

YOU WILL HELP...

-  PREPARE THE HOLY ALTAR for Divine Services
-  CARE FOR SACRED VESSELS, LINENS, AND VESTMENTS
-  SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS AND PARISH COMMUNITY
-  GROW IN FAITH, DISCIPLINE, AND BROTHERHOOD



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
BUILD A LEGACY.**



ALL ARE WELCOME.
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

*Please be in church
by 9:45 am on Sundays
and by 9:30 am on
weekday Services.*



*"As each has received a gift,
use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's
varied grace."
1 PETER 4:10*



**STEP FORWARD.
SERVE WITH PURPOSE.**

INTERESTED?

Speak with Fr. Michael or any Altar Guild member or contact the church office.
Let's serve together for the glory of God!

STEWARDSHIP

September 1, 2026



Dear Parishioners:

We are on the last leg of 2026, and before we realize it, the new year of 2027 will be upon us. As we enter into another productive year, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. As a community we have a lot of work to do, the groundwork has been started, and we must work even harder to promote a better Christian environment for ourselves and our children. God has blessed our community with parishioners like you, who have supported the church throughout the years. But to continue this success that we have experienced, we need to focus on something very important. We need to understand what “STEWARDSHIP” means.

Our main concern in writing this letter is to have a better communication with the members of our St. Nicholas family. Somewhere down the line we have forgotten what it means to be a Good Standing Member of the Church. At the core of any Stewardship Program, the main characters and pillars of the church are the ‘Stewards.’ A good steward, is neither a miser nor a spendthrift person. A good steward is not one who economizes but one who is a good manager of what has been entrusted to him/her.

As members of our St. Nicholas Parish, we have by our own choice undertaken a responsibility to become a good member of the Church. That means we must love it, care for it, be concerned about it, support it, and promote its Christian work and mission. How well we are going to accomplish these major tasks, it is solely up to all of us as Christian Stewards.

Our parish is made up of married, single, and elderly people. We have the opportunity and the responsibility to help our St. Nicholas Community grow. But we have ‘Stewards’ that for years have never made any attempts to send in their Pledge Cards. We send out Stewardship information every three months to all our registered families, and along with that information, we also include a Pledge Card. It brings us to the question ‘WHY’. Most of our parishioners were raised in the parish of St. Nicholas who went to Greek School, Sunday School, Joy, Goya, Dance Groups, and etc. Talking to people in the parish, we hear stories about how proud they are to have grown up in the Church of St. Nicholas, and that they also want their children to experience that same tradition that their parents felt growing up in the parish. Many of our young people who are out of college, single, married and raising their families, are the groups that we need to communicate with, giving them the understanding that we truly need their help and support. Our young people need to step up to the plate and make their commitment to the church.

Remember, when we give to God, we must give with the attitude of how much we can give...not with the attitude of how much should we give....or how much did John Doe give, and so I will give. This is why it's called ‘Fairshare’, because everyone is part of the puzzle and everyone is responsible for their share.

Let's make a new resolution as we offer our prayers and offerings to God through our personal commitment to enlighten our hearts and minds to the true meaning of giving, erasing the selfish obstacles, that prevent us from giving what we should give totally and unselfishly.

As a family member of St. Nicholas, you are the most important piece of the puzzle. With your help and support we can finish the puzzle and make our Parish, a Community for others to follow.

On the following pages you will find the 2027 Stewardship Pledge Card. Please take a few minutes to read the information, sign it, and return it to the church office at your convenience. Thank You & God Bless.

With Love in Christ,
Fr. Michael I. Pastrikos



HIS EMINENCE
ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS
OF AMERICA
AND THE METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY
COUNCIL

Cordially invite you to a
Farewell Banquet

Honoring

the ministry of the newly elected
Archbishop Apostolos of Canada

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 • 5:30 PM



The Venetian
546 River Dr.
Garfield, NJ 07026

Tickets: \$195

Tickets Available
only on
[GiveButter](#)



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

IT TAKES A DEDICATED PERSON TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE

If you are interested in becoming an active member of the St. Nicholas Parish Council and want to know more about what it takes to be active in your Church and Community, please contact Fr. Michael for more information. Perhaps you are talented in youth development, marketing, fundraising, website development, finances, management, catering, education, or other activities. If you are interested,



we really need parishioners that care about their Church, and have the time, and talent to offer their services for the continued success of St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas is a very active Community, and we would like to keep the progress going in the right direction. We have come so far, and we can't afford to go backwards, we need to go forward and continue the success that the previous Priests, and Parish Councils have achieved in the past as well as the present. We need more of the Young Adults of the Parish to step up to the plate and offer their time, talent, and treasure. Become a Catalyst and let us bridge our ideas for the future of St. Nicholas. We need to work together and to empower each other to develop programs for the elderly, for our Youth, and to create a mission and outreach program for the parish. You can become a part of the solution and make a difference by becoming involved in your Church and Community.

**THIS IS A REALISTIC WAY FORWARD...COME AND BE A
PART OF THE FUTURE!**

IC XC NI KA

WELCOME Back TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

LET'S GROW TOGETHER IN
FAITH, LOVE & CHRIST



ST. NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

✝ SUNDAY SCHOOL ✝



LEARN
ABOUT OUR
FAITH



GROW
IN GOD'S LOVE
TOGETHER



LIVE
AS DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST

GRADES K-12

SUNDAY SCHOOL
STARTS ON

SEPTEMBER 13

*Please be in church
by 9:45 am!*



"Let the little children come to Me,"
and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of
heaven belongs to such as these."

MATTHEW 19:14

“Pastry Shoppe” St. Nicholas Festival

A BIG THANK YOU is extended to all who once again contributed monetarily toward the purchase of materials needed for the preparation of the traditional galactobourekia, bouyatses, and kataifia. In addition, much appreciation is given to those who volunteered their valuable time and talent in preparing these delicacies. The Pastry Shoppe of our festival which everyone looks forward to would not have been complete without the large trays of koulourakia, kourambiedes, and finikia devotedly made each year at home by Mrs. Rosa Cornias (before she left for Greece this year). Can you imagine the disappointment of our festival guests if there were no delicious Greek pastries to enjoy and to purchase to take home?!?!

Our St.Nicholas thanks all those involved and gives them his blessings.

“Τα Γλυκά” Το Φεστιβάλ Του Αγίου Νικολάου

Ένα ΜΕΓΑΛΟ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΟ σε όλους που και πάλι φέτος δώρισαν χρήματα προς τα ιλικά να γείνουν αι παραδοσιακές μπουγάτσες, γαλακτομπούρεκα, και καταίφια. Επισεις ευχαριστούμε τες εθελοντές και πάλι για την ανεκτίμητη βοήθεια που τα έφτιαξαν. Να είναι πάντα καλά, και η Κυρία Ρόζα Κόρνια όπως πάντα με αφοσίωση έψησε μεγάλα ταψιά κουλουράκια, κουραμπιέδες, και φιρίκια στο σπίτι της(πριν φύγει για Ελλάδα). Φανταστείτε την λύπη που θα είχαν οι επισκέπτες μας εάν δεν υπήρχαν τα γευστικά ελληνικά γλυκά να απολαύσουν και να αγοράσουν για το σπίτι των;!!

Ο Άγιος Νικόλας μας ευχαριστεί όλους και εύχεται να είστε πάντα καλά.



NOTICE:

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

Thank you for your cooperation.

HELP US GROW THROUGH E-GIVING



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

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

By giving electronically, you can -

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

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

Thank you for all you do to support our Saint Nicholas family!



SEPTEMBER: A New Year, A New Beginning

The beginning of the ecclesiastical year may be the appropriate time to be reminded of proper behavior as we participate in the liturgical services of our church. Although those who are regular attendees of Orthodox religious services are knowledgeable and adhere to the accepted procedures, it is their responsibility to be an example to our children and to those who may be new to Orthodoxy.

Essentially, we need only remember that each of us is in the sanctuary to worship and glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We must be mindful of our fellow parishioners and refrain from conversations and greetings; these can be shared following the services during the social hour. Basically, if one follows the directions of the ushers he will know not to enter the sanctuary or walk about at certain times during the Liturgy, such as the delivery of the Homily. Such interruptions are thoughtless and disruptive to all and disrespectful to the priest who is imparting the Word of God that we may be inspired.

Even though it should not need to be mentioned, a simple reminder is offered that our dress and demeanor is to be in accordance with that of attending the House of God: not chewing gum, eating food, crossing our legs, texting, etc.

As we approach the Chalice, we must be focused on receiving the Body and Blood of Christ; not on conversations and greetings among friends, or approaching with hands in pockets.

Our summer vacation of languid days and relaxed rules now concludes. We have been recharged and invigorated. September ushers in a year of regimented schedules, duties, and obligations. Our desire is that the New Year is one of enlightenment for each of us and that every Sunday includes a visit to God's House to worship and thank Him for all the gifts that he bestows upon us.

- Eva Lallas



Η αρχή του εκκλησιαστικού έτους ίσως να είναι η κατάλληλη στιγμή για να υπενθυμίσουμε την σωστή συμπεριφορά όταν συμμετέχουμε στις λειτουργίες της εκκλησίας μας. Αν και όσοι συμμετέχουν τακτικά στις Ορθόδοξες θρησκευτικές λειτουργίες είναι γνώστες και συμμορφώνονται σύμφωνα με τις αποδεκτές διαδικασίες, είναι ευθύνη τους να γίνουν το παράδειγμα στα παιδιά μας και σε όσους μπορεί να είναι νεοσύστατοι στην Ορθοδοξία.

Ουσιαστικά, χρειάζεται μόνο να θυμόμαστε ότι ο καθένας μας βρίσκεται στον ιερό χώρο για να προσκυνήσει και να δοξάσει τον Κύριο μας και Σωτήρα Ιησού Χριστό. Πρέπει να είμαστε προσεκτικοί με τους συν-ενορίτες μας και να αποφεύγουμε τις συνομιλίες και τις χαιρετούρες. Αυτά μπορούν να περιμένουν για μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία κατά τη διάρκεια της κοινωνικής ώρας. Βασικά, αν κάποιος ακολουθεί τις οδηγίες των επιτρόπων θα πρέπει να γνωρίζει ότι δεν πρέπει να εισέρχεται στον ιερό χώρο της εκκλησίας σε συγκεκριμένες χρονικές στιγμές κατά τη διάρκεια της Λειτουργίας, όπως η εκφώνηση του Κηρύγματος. Οι διακοπές αυτές είναι απερίσκεπτες και αναστατώνουν το εκκλησίασμα αλλά είναι και ασέβεια προς τον ιερέα που εκφωνεί τον Λόγο του Θεού από τον οποίο μπορεί κάποιος να εμπνευστεί και να ωφεληθεί.

Ακόμα κι αν δεν θα πρέπει να αναφερθεί, υπενθυμίζουμε απλά ότι η ενδυμασία και η συμπεριφορά μας θα πρέπει να είναι σύμφωνη με αυτή που αρμόζει στη παρουσία του οίκου του Θεού: Όχι τσίχλα, ούτε φαγητό, ούτε να σταυρώνουμε τα πόδια μας, ούτε να στέλνουμε ηλεκτρονικά μηνύματα με το κινητό μας τηλέφωνο κ.λπ. Επίσης όταν πλησιάζουμε για να λάβουμε Θεία Κοινωνία θα πρέπει να επικεντρωνόμαστε στην παραλαβή του Σώματος και του Αίματος του Χριστού. Όχι συζητήσεις και χαιρετισμούς στους φίλους, ή να πλησιάζουμε με τα χέρια στις τσέπες.

Οι καλοκαιρινές μας διακοπές, των νυχελικών ημερών και χαλαρών κανόνων, τώρα τελειώνουν. Έχουμε επαναφορτιστεί και αναζωογονηθεί. Ο Σεπτέμβριος εγκαινιάζει ένα χρόνο πειθαρχημένων χρονοδιαγραμμάτων, καθηκόντων και υποχρεώσεων. Η επιθυμία μας είναι το νέο έτος να γίνει ο φάρος που θα δώσει φώτιση στον καθένα μας και η κάθε Κυριακή να περιλαμβάνει μια επίσκεψη στο σπίτι του Θεού, να Τον προσκυνήσουμε και να Τον ευχαριστήσουμε για όλα τα δώρα που μας έχει προσφέρει.

- Ευαγγελία Λαλά

Then and Now: Early Christianity's Radical Reshaping of Childhood

by Jennifer Haddad Mosher, from Praxis 2017 Volume 16 Issue 3

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

Selected excerpts:

Quite simply, Christians believed that, in Jesus, God chose to become a human being—not just an adult human being, but a fetus, an infant, a child, a youth. This meant that all stages of life and development could be united to the divine life—not just those who had come of age or who possessed a certain level of education, or those who understood moral teachings or who could practice certain rites with intention. This meant the image of God existed not only in the thirty-year-old man who could read a scroll aloud in the synagogue, but also in the partially formed embryo in the womb, the completely vulnerable newborn, the frustrating toddler, the awkward tween. How could children, born or unborn, be disposable or objects of abuse, if the spirit of God could dwell in them as fully as in an adult?

.....

While, broadly, we now live in a time when the idea that children deserve protection, attention and care are commonplace, there is simultaneously still a “medley of mutually contradictory definitions of childhood” (as stated in the Patriarchal Proclamation). Consequently, a return to and reaffirmation of Orthodox Christianity’s first radical reorientation toward children is profoundly helpful;



it can act as a compass needle in a very confusing reality.

In our roles as Orthodox parents, teachers and adults in our parishes and neighborhoods, we need to remain rooted in this critical conviction:

God took the indignities and the insecurities of being a child seriously enough that He chose to inhabit them.

The challenges and realities of childhood were worthy of His attention, His presence, His own being. And He did not engage those challenges and realities in isolation, but—even as God—He chose to subject himself to the matrix of pious parents and a wider religious community. We need to be present to children in ways our fast-paced world is not necessarily set up to support. Children need us to share our lives with them. They need us to listen to them, set healthy boundaries for them, share our experiences and struggles with them as it’s appropriate, practice virtue alongside them, support them as they try new things, receive them graciously when they fail and use our wisdom to help them develop their own.

But most of all, they need us to recognize and honor the presence of Christ in them and be willing to make different and perhaps difficult choices as a result.

YOUTH PROGRAMS - REGISTRATION SEPTEMBER 13TH

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH YOUTH SUNDAY KICK OFF

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH
AFTER CHURCH IN THE LARGE SOCIAL HALL

Sign up for our



JOY

GOYA

Altar Boys

Greek School

Religious Education/

Sunday School

Hellenic Golden Coins

YAL

GREEK SCHOOL

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΑΠΟΙ ΕΥΜΑΤΙΝΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ
SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK AFTERNOON SCHOOL
520 PONCA STREET, BALTIMORE, MD. 21224 Tel. Number: 410-633-5022

ΑΙΤΗΣΗ ΕΓΓΡΑΦΗΣ/ REGISTRATION FORM

Σχολικό Έτος 2024-25/ School Year 2026-2027

Please, complete this form by printing or typing the information in either Greek or English.

Παρακαλούμε να συμπληρώσετε τα στοιχεία που ζητούνται στα Ελληνικά/ Αγγλικά.

GRADE – ΤΑΞΗ

☐ Pre-K ☐ Kindergarten ☐ 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd ☐ 4th ☐ 5th ☐ 6th ☐ Ellinomatheia ☐ Adults

STUDENT DATA - Στοιχεία μαθητή/μαθήτριας

ΟΝΟΜΑ ΠΑΙΔΙΟΥ/ STUDENT'S NAME: _____

και στις 2 γλώσσες/ in both languages - GR & EN _____

ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ/ HOME ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ/ TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

ΚΙΝΗΤΟ ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ/ CELL PHONE NUMBER: _____

ΗΜΕΡ. ΓΕΝΝΗΣΕΩΣ ΜΑΘΗΤΗ-ΡΙΑΣ/ STUDENT'S DATE OF BIRTH: _____

ΟΝΟΜΑ ΠΑΤΕΡΑ/FATHER'S NAME (GR & EN): _____

ΤΟΠΟΣ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΕΩΣ ΠΑΤΕΡΑ/ FATHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH: _____

ΟΝΟΜΑ ΜΗΤΕΡΑΣ/ MOTHER'S NAME (GR & EN): _____

ΤΟΠΟΣ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΕΩΣ ΜΗΤΕΡΑΣ/ MOTHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH: _____

In case of emergency, please contact: _____

Σε περίπτωση ανάγκης επικοινωνείτε με: _____

Emergency contact phone number: _____

Τηλέφωνο ατόμου ανάγκης: _____

Do you have internet access? _____

Έχετε διαδίκτυο; _____

Medical issues we should be aware of (allergies etc): _____

Ιατρικά θέματα που πρέπει να γνωρίζουμε (π.χ.αλλεργίες) _____

B. Photography Policy:

We would like families to know that the school may, from time to time, take photographs of the students for use in St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church or School publications, or school media (i.e. the church website). If you do not wish your child's photograph to be used, you must submit your request in writing with this form.

***NOTE: St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church or School cannot control photograph or film taken by the general media.

C. Payment Procedures:

1. Payment in full must accompany each registration.
2. Registration fees are based on each student's family stewardship status with St. Nicholas Church or a nearby church. A certificate in good standing must be presented at the time of registration from neighboring church.
3. Current stewards of St. Nicholas or families, who wish to become stewards of St. Nicholas, please see the Church Secretary prior to submitting this registration form.
4. Tuition will not be refunded for registration cancellations after September 30, 2026.
5. Tuition: \$ 750.00 per student, includes tuition, books and security guard.

Notes (for office use only): _____

Method of payment: _____ Cash: _____ Check (# _____)

Receipt No. Of Stewardship Payment: _____ Receipt No. Tuition Payment: _____

D. Volunteering:

One parent of each family is required to volunteer her/his time for a minimum of one Greek School event per year and one festival shift. More information will be shared by the PTA at the beginning of the school year.

** I understand that all lessons end at 6:10PM for the 1st shift and 7:45PM for the 2nd shift and I agree to picking up my child/children from the Church's Atrium waiting Hall with no more than a 5 minutes' delay. The Greek School bears no responsibility for the students' safety past that time.

Parent Signature/ Υπογραφή γονέα _____

Εβδομαδιαίο Πρόγραμμα
Saint Nicholas Greek Afternoon Weekly Schedule, 2026-2027
Phone Number: 410-633-5022 EMAIL: stngreekschool@gmail.com

	ΠΡΟΝΗΠΙΟ Pre-K	ΝΗΠΙΑΓΩΓΕΙ O Kindergarten	A' 1st	B' 2nd	Γ' 3rd	Δ' 4th	Ε' 5th	ΣΤ' 6th	ΕΛΛΗΝΟΜΑΘΕΙΑ A2 – B1 – B2 – Γ1 & ΕΝΗΛΙΚΕΣ ΑΡΧΑΡΙΟ & ΠΡΟΧΩΡΗΜΕΝΟ ΕΠΙΠΕΔΟ
Δευτέρα Monday									
4:45-6:10 (1 ^η βάρδια)	Ελληνικά Greek Language		Ελληνικά Greek Language		Ελληνικά Greek Language		Ελληνικά Greek Language		TO BE ANNOUNCED
5:45-6:15 2η Βάρδια				Χορός Dance		Χορός Dance		Χορός Dance	
6:15-6:45 1η Βάρδια			Χορός Dance		Χορός Dance		Χορός Dance		
6:20-7:45 (2 ^η βάρδια)		Ελληνικά Greek Language		Ελληνικά Greek Language		Ελληνικά Greek Language		Ελληνικά Greek Language	
Τετάρτη Wednesday									
4:45-6:10 (1 ^η βάρδια)	Ελληνικά Greek Language		Ελληνικά Greek Language		Ελληνικά Greek Language		Ελληνικά Greek Language		TO BE ANNOUNCED
6:05-6:20 (1-2 Βάρδια)	OXI	OXI	Παιδική Εκκλησιασ τική Χορωδία	Παιδική Εκκλησια στική Χορωδία	Παιδική Εκκλησιασ τική Χορωδία	Παιδική Εκκλησιασ τική Χορωδία	Παιδική Εκκλησιασ τική Χορωδία	Παιδική Εκκλησιασ τική Χορωδία	
6:20-7:45 (2 ^η βάρδια)		Ελληνικά Greek Language		Ελληνικά Greek Language		Ελληνικά Greek Language		Ελληνικά Greek Language	



Saint Nicholas Greek Afternoon School Yearly Calendar, 2026-27

Phone Number: 410-633-5022 EMAIL: stngreekschool@gmail.com

PTA Email : stnicholaspta520@gmail.com

DATES	EVENTS
<u>September</u>	
June, 1st	Registration begins through the church office during normal business hours. Last day of registration Friday, September 4th, 2026
Sunday, 6th	BLESSING OF THE SCHOOL IN CHURCH FOR ALL CLASSES FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY
Wednesday, 9th	Back-to-School Night for all parents /Open House - the first 15 minutes of class - Mandatory Attendance by All parents
<u>October</u>	
Wednesday, 28th	School Program- OXI Day, 28th of October 1940 in the large social hall of the church.
<u>November</u>	
Wednesday, 25th	School Closes (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Monday, 30th	Greek School Resumes after Thanksgiving Day Break Decorating of church for Christmas
<u>December</u>	
Wednesday, 2nd	Decorating of church for Christmas
Wednesday, 16th	Greek School Christmas Party & Caroling. All students & parents should be in attendance. More information to follow.
Thursday, 17th - January 3rd	Christmas Break - Greek School Is Closed Merry Christmas!
<u>January</u>	
Monday, January 4th	School Reopens & Theophany Celebration: video/ craft in class & Saint Basil's Bread (Vasilopita) cutting for the school
Monday, 11th	1st day of Review for midterm examination; grades 1st-6th
Wednesday, 13th	2nd day of Review for midterm examination; grades 1st-6th
Monday, 18th	School Closed (Martin Luther King Day)
Wednesday, 20th	Mid-term examination for grades 1st-6th
Monday, 25th	Make-up Day for Exams
Wednesday, 27th	Report Cards Distributed & Parent-Teacher Conferences before/ after class. Please email your teacher to schedule a time to meet
<u>February</u>	
**** TBD	Three Hierarchs Celebration, 5th & 6th Grade reciting poems in Church
Monday, 15th	March bracelets activity in class (Μάρτηδες)

GREEK SCHOOL

		Clean Monday- Picnic in class with Lenten foods Bake sale – LAGANES – Potential kite flying
	<u>March</u>	
	TBD	Celebration organized by the Metropolitan
	Wednesday, 24th	School Program, 25th of March, Greek Independence Day Celebration Program immediately after church services.
	Sunday, 28th	Md. Greek Independence Day Parade at 2 p.m.; all students and parents to attend
	<u>April</u>	
	Wednesday, 21st	Easter Program in Class for all students & crafts School Closed for Easter
	Saturday, 24th	Lazarus Saturday/ Easter Breakfast for the Community Children after church services at the Plateia starting at 11:00 a.m.
	Sunday, 25th	Palm Sunday – Myrofores Palm Sunday night
	Monday, April 26th – May 2nd	Holy Week- Please attend church with your children; Easter Break!!!
	Friday, 30th	Myrofores Holy Friday night
	Wednesday, May 5th	Resume after Easter
	<u>May</u>	
	Monday, 3rd	Wreath of Flowers Program at Plateia
	Monday, 10th	1st Day of Review for Final Examination Grades 1st-6th
	Wednesday, 12th	2nd Day of Review for Final Examination Grades 1st-6th
	Monday, 17th	Final Examination for Grades 1st-6th
	Wednesday, 19th	Make-up day for Exams & Parent-Teacher Conference Day Last Day of Greek School Classes & last rehearsal for our End of the Year Program
	Wednesday, 26th	Report Cards Distributed. End of the Year Program
	TBD	6th Grade Graduates Presented in Church and Graduation Luncheon held afterwards.
	Monday, 31st	Greek School Closed (Memorial Day)
	<u>June</u>	
	Thursday 10th – Sunday 13th	Saint Nicholas Greek Festival

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, GREEK SCHOOL CLOSURES WHEN THE BALTIMORE COUNTY SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED. IN A DIFFERENT SITUATION PARENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY PHONE & EMAIL!

Click the link below for the
2025-2026 Greek School Yearbook!

Download eYearbook



ST NICHOLAS DIAMONDS CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026-2027

St. Nicholas



Tuesday September 8, 2026	Meeting 1:00 PM at the Church Free lunch
Tuesday October 13, 2026	Meeting 1:00 PM at the Church \$10.00 for Lunch
Sunday October 18, 2026	Crab Feast at Greektown Square (Platia) 4:00 PM \$75.00 Per person
Tuesday November 10, 2026	Meeting 1:00 PM at the Church \$10.00 Lunch
Sunday November 15, 2026	Memorial Service and coffee hrs in memoery of deceased members
Tuesday December 8, 2026	Meeting 1:00 PM at the Church \$10.00 for Lunch
Saturday December 12, 2026	Xmas lunch 1:00 PM \$60.00 at the platia
Tuesday January 12, 2027	Meeting 1:00 PM at the Church \$10.00 for Lunch and cutting of Vasilipita
Tuesday February 9, 2027	Meeting 1:00 PM at the Church \$10.00 for Lunch
Tuesday March 9, 2027	Meeting 1:00 PM at the Church \$10.00 for Lunch
Sunday	Parelas
Tuesday April 13, 2027	Meeting 1:00 PM at the Church \$10.00 for Lunch
Tuesday May 11, 2027	Meeting 1:00 PM at the Church \$10.00 for Lunch Free
Sunday May 16, 2027	Artoclasia for Patron Saint Celebration and Coffee Hour

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

**LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS
SOCIETY OF SAINT NICHOLAS**

***“ANNUAL WELCOME BACK
CRAB FEAST”***

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

6:00 pm

**COSTAS INN
4100 North Point Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21222**

Donation \$75.00

Cash Bar

For Tickets Contact:

Irene Vasilios – 410-687-3978

**Proceeds to Benefit Philoptochos
Missions!**

PHILOPTOCHOS

PHILOPTOCHOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS 2026-2027		
SEPTEMBER.2026		
September 6, 2026 Sunday	Special Tray to Benefit Holy Cross School of Theology	Church
September 21, 2026 Monday	Philoptochos First General Meeting	6:00 p.m.
September 29, 2026 Tuesday	Welcome Back Crab Feast at Costas Inn	6:30 p.m.
OCTOBER.2026		
October 5, 2026 Monday	Philoptochos General Meeting	6:00 p.m.
October 26, 2026 Monday	Harvest Night Out at Liberatores Restaurant White Marsh	6:30 p.m.
NOVEMBER. 2026		
November 1st-23rd 2026	Thanksgiving Nonperishable Food Drive for local pantry	
November 1, 2026 Sunday	Agion Anagyron Artoclasia and Special Tray to benefit	Church
	The Ecumenical Patriarchate's Programs and Charities	
November 2, 2026 Monday	Philoptochos Meeting / Sts. Anagyron Dinner	6:00 p.m.
DECEMBER.2026		
December 1st - 14th 2026	Collection of supplies for health backpacks for the homeless shampoo, deodorant, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrush etc.	
December 5, 2026 Saturday	St. Nicholas Vespers Reception following sponsored by Philoptochos and the community	
December 6, 2026 Sunday	St. Nicholas Nameday / No coffee hour	
	Father Michael's 50th Anniversary into the Priesthood Luncheon	1:00 p.m.
December 7, 2026 Monday	Philoptochos General Meeting	6:00 p.m.
December 15, 2026 Tuesday	Christmas Event / place to be announced	6:30 P.m.
JANUARY.2027		
January 4, 2027 Monday	Philoptochos General Meeting	6:00 P.m.
January 10, 2027 Sunday	Vasilopita cutting/ Special Tray to benefit St. Basil's Academy	Church
January 25, 2027 Monday	Event to be announced	
FEBRUARY.2027		
February 1, 2027 Monday	Philoptochos General Meeting	6:00 p.m.
February 20, 2027 Saturday	Concert- Georgios Giannas	
MARCH.2027		
March 1, 2027 Monday	General Meeting	6:00 p.m.
March 13, 2027 Saturday	Apokreatiko Event	
March 15, 2027 Monday	Kathara Deftera (Clean Monday) Pot Luck Lenten Dinner	After Church
March 21, 2027 Sunday	Sunday of Orthodoxy/ Philoptochos Memorial Service	Church
APRIL.2027		
NO GENERAL PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING THIS MONTH		
April 25 2027 Sunday	Palm Sunday / Tsourekia Bake Sale	church
April 30, 2027 Friday	Great and Holy Friday / Epitaphio Decorating	9:00 a.m.
MAY.2027		
May 2, 2027 Sunday	Pascha	
May 9, 20267Sunday	Mother's Day/ Philoptochos honoring Mothers of the community	
May 10, 2027 Monday	Philoptochos General Elections	6:00 p.m.
May 10, 2027 Monday	Philoptochos Last General Meeting	7:00 p.m.
May 16, 2027 Sunday	Philoptochos Scholarship Awards	Church



SAINT 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. We currently have openings for children ages 3-5 in our Preschool room. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the director, Jennifer John, at 410-633-5020 extension 4.

This summer the BEEC children enjoyed water day every Wednesday and soaking up the sun. The children also enjoyed doing various summer activities and in-house visitors; like the Kona Ice and Soccer Shots.

This month the BEEC children are getting back into school mode. We are starting September with All About Me themes, picture day, and also Soccer Shots. BEEC has also welcomed our new Director Ms. Jennifer John to our team. We look forward to having a fun and exciting school year!

Το Δίγλωσσο Κέντρο Προσχολικής Αγωγής Αγίου Νικολάου παρέχει ένα ασφαλές, φροντιστικό, κέντρο μάθησης μακριά από το σπίτι. Δεχόμαστε παιδιά από 6 εβδομάδων έως 5 ετών. Αυτή τη στιγμή έχουμε θέσεις για παιδιά ηλικίας 3-5 ετών στην αίθουσα προσχολικής ηλικίας μας. Εάν έχετε οποιεσδήποτε ερωτήσεις, μη διστάσετε να επικοινωνήσετε με τη διευθύντρια, Jennifer John, στο 410-633-5020 εσωτερικό 4.

Αυτό το καλοκαίρι τα παιδιά του BEEC απόλαυσαν την ημέρα του νερού κάθε Τετάρτη και απολάμβαναν τον ήλιο. Τα παιδιά απόλαυσαν επίσης διάφορες καλοκαιρινές δραστηριότητες και εσωτερικούς επισκέπτες, όπως το Kona Ice και το Soccer Shots.

Αυτόν τον μήνα τα παιδιά του BEEC επιστρέφουν στο σχολικό πρόγραμμα. Ξεκινάμε τον Σεπτέμβριο με θέματα All About Me, ημέρα εικόνας και επίσης Soccer Shots. Το BEEC καλωσόρισε επίσης τη νέα μας διευθύντρια, κα Jennifer John, στην ομάδα μας. Ανυπομονούμε να έχουμε μια διασκεδαστική και συναρπαστική σχολική χρονιά!



EVENTS/NOTICES

YOU'RE INVITED
HONOR AND CELEBRATE
FATHER KOSMAS'
45 YEARS OF MINISTRY
FAMILY ORIENTED DINNER DANCE

SCAN QR CODE OR CLICK THE LINK BELOW
 FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TICKETS
 ALL PROCEED BENEFIT THE MINISTRIES OF
 SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN ANNAPOLIS

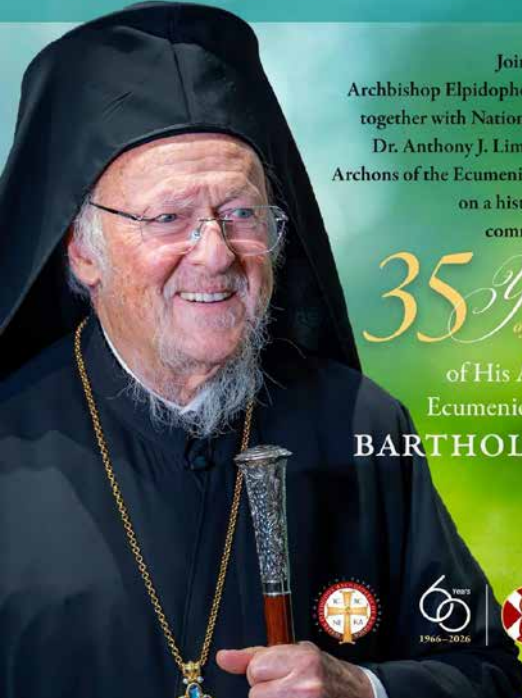


[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/2V9AJ69S](https://tinyurl.com/2V9AJ69S)
SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2026
6-10 PM
 2747 RIVA RD ANNAPOLIS MD 21401
 SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN ANNAPOLIS

Pilgrimage to **OCT 19-23 | 2026**
CONSTANTINOPLE

Join His Eminence
 Archbishop Elpidophoros of America
 together with National Commander
 Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis and the
 Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
 on a historic pilgrimage
 commemorating the

35 Years
of MINISTRY
 of His All-Holiness
 Ecumenical Patriarch
BARTHOLOMEW





ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
POSTER CONTEST
Ages 5-18

AUGUST 1
 Contest Opens

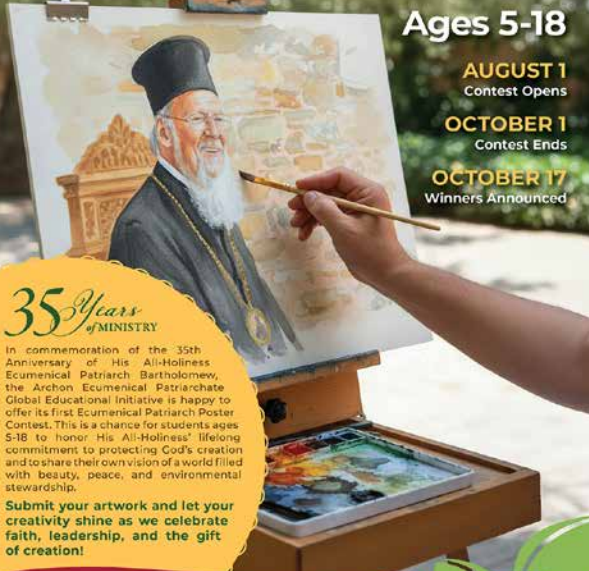
OCTOBER 1
 Contest Ends

OCTOBER 17
 Winners Announced

35 Years
of MINISTRY

In commemoration of the 35th Anniversary of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Archon Ecumenical Patriarchate Global Educational Initiative is happy to offer its first Ecumenical Patriarch Poster Contest. This is a chance for students ages 5-18 to honor His All-Holiness' lifelong commitment to protecting God's creation and to share their own vision of a world filled with beauty, peace, and environmental stewardship.

Submit your artwork and let your creativity shine as we celebrate faith, leadership, and the gift of creation!





For more information, or to submit your artwork, visit:
archons.org/sprouts



ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT
YAL
Conference

COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND
NEW YORK CITY
OCTOBER 9-12, 2026

YOUNG ADULTS | **REGISTRATION**
AGES 18-35 | **NOW OPEN!**




EVENTS.LIVEMAZI.COM/E/ARCHDISTYAL2026

Save the Date

The Golden Jubilee for Father Michael L. Pastrikos

The 50th Anniversary of Father Michael's ordination into the Holy Priesthood.

We invite you to mark your calendars
for a historic milestone in the life of Fr. Michael.

50 Years a Priest - 19 years our Spiritual Leader and Advisor.

Since his ordination on December 4, 1976, Father Michael has served the Lord
with tireless love and spiritual grace.
Since 2007, he has served St. Nicholas Church.

Let us gather to celebrate his Golden Jubilee
And his commitment to our community.
To honor his five decades of faithful service, love, and unwavering dedication,

A Parish Luncheon Celebration

will be held on:

**Sunday, December 6, 2026
Greektown Square & Event Center**

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

Please plan to join us as we honor
Father Michael's many years of
Service and Spiritual leadership.

More details to follow.



Save the Date

Το Χρυσό Ιωβηλαίο του Πρωτοπρεσβυτέρου

Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικού

Την 50ή Επέτειο της χειροτονίας του Πατρός Μιχαήλ στην Αγία Ιερουσύνη.

Σας προσκαλούμε να σημειώσετε στο ημερολόγιό σας
για ένα ιστορικό σταθμό για τον Πατήρ Μιχαήλ

50 Έτη Ιερουσύνης — 19 Έτη ο Πνευματικός μας Πατέρας και Σύμβουλος.

Από τη χειροτονία του στις 4 Δεκεμβρίου 1976, ο Πατήρ Μιχαήλ υπηρετεί τον Κύριο
με ακούραστη αγάπη και πνευματική χάρη.

Από το 2007, διακονεί την Εκκλησία του Αγίου Νικολάου.

Ας συγκεντρωθούμε για να γιορτάσουμε το Χρυσό του Ιωβηλαίο και τη βαθιά του αφοσίωση στην κοινότητά
μας. Για να τιμήσουμε τις πέντε δεκαετίες πιστής διακονίας, αγάπης και ακλόνητης αφοσίωσης στον Κύριο
και στην κοινότητα του Αγίου Νικολάου.

Σας προσκαλούμε σε:

Ενοριακό Γεύμα την:
Κυριακή, 6 Δεκεμβρίου 2026
Greektown Square & Event Center

Αμέσως μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία

Σας προσκαλούμε να τιμήσετε
με την παρουσία σας την πολυετή διακονία και
την πνευματική ηγεσία του Πατρός Μιχαήλ.

Θα ακολουθήσουν
περισσότερες λεπτομέρειες.



A festive "Save the Date" poster for a New Year's Eve event. The poster features a cream-colored background with a decorative Greek key border. At the top, a gold cross is flanked by two large, stylized fireworks. Below the cross, the text "SAVE THE DATE" is written in a dark blue, serif font. Underneath, "ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH" and "BALTIMORE, MARYLAND" are printed in a smaller, dark blue font. The main title "RING IN 2027" is prominently displayed in a large, dark blue, serif font. Below this, "NEW YEAR'S EVE" is written in a smaller, dark blue font, followed by "— with —" in a gold script font. The event is presented by "POWER ⚡ STATION ENTERTAINMENT", with "POWER" and "STATION" in bold dark blue and "ENTERTAINMENT" in a smaller, dark blue font. The date "THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2026" is printed in a dark blue font, followed by the invitation "LET'S CELEBRATE FAITH, FAMILY & FRIENDS AS WE WELCOME THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER!". At the bottom, the text "More details coming soon!" is written in a gold script font. The bottom of the poster features a photograph of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at night, with its brick facade and arched entrance illuminated. Two flags, the American and Greek, fly on poles in front of the church. The background of the photo shows a city skyline with fireworks exploding in the night sky.

SAVE THE DATE

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

RING IN
2027

NEW YEAR'S EVE
— with —
POWER ⚡ STATION
ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2026
LET'S CELEBRATE FAITH, FAMILY & FRIENDS
AS WE WELCOME THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER!

More details coming soon!

NOTICE

✠ Sunday Coffee Hour

Sponsored by
St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church



Coffee & Assorted Cookies - \$200
Includes setup, cleanup, paper goods

Coffee Service Only - \$120
Includes setup, cleanup, paper goods

Fruit Tray - \$40

Spanakopita - \$75
100 pieces

Tyropita - \$75
100 pieces

Tray of Cheese, Olives & Crackers - \$100

Sandwiches - \$2 per piece
Tuna, Shrimp or Chicken

For orders please call 410-633-5020 or visit the
St Nicholas Office at 520 Ponca St



Sunday Coffee Hour & Makaria Menus

✠ Makaria Menu

Sponsored by
St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church



Appetizer Choices

Cheese Pies (*included*)
Spinach Pies (*included*)
Fried Calamari (*add \$2.00pp*)



Choices of salad (1)

Garden Salad, Greek Salad, Village Salad, Caesar Salad

Choices of Entree (1)

Roll & Butter (*included*)

Package #1 - \$31pp

Salmon (broiled/grilled)
Shrimp Creole
Shrimp Orzo
Cod Fish (broiled/fried)

Package #2 - \$39pp

Two (2) Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes
Choice of Fish and One (1) Jumbo Lump
Crab Cake

Sides (2 choices)

Greek Style Lemon Potatoes, Roasted Red Skin Potatoes,
Kritharaki(orzo), white rice, fresh cut vegetables, string beans Greek style

Beverages (items included)

Red or White Wine, Coffee and Tea, Sodas,
Water

Also available - Paximadia

Bar Options

Mixed Drinks \$6
Domestic Beer \$6
Imported Beer \$6
Mixed Drinks and Beer Available at Per
Drink Charge \$10

tel church: 410-633-5020
tel venue: 410-633-3131

GREEKTOWN SQUARE & EVENT CENTER

Greektown Square & Event Center

CELEBRATE YOUR SPECIAL EVENT! BEAUTIFULLY.



SLICK & MODERN VENUE

CREATIVE & CUSTOMIZED MENUS

BALTIMORE'S NEWEST AND LARGEST
INDOOR/OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE

FULL-SERVICE CATERING COMPANY
CREATE THE MENU THAT IS PERFECT FOR YOU

UNIQUELY YOUR OWN

GRAND BALLROOM
SEATS UP TO 400

CELEBRATION ROOM
SEATS UP TO 175

OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER & DANCE FLOOR
FOR CEREMONIES, RECEPTIONS, AND
SPECTACULAR CELEBRATIONS

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED

MINUTES FROM I-95, 895, 695

FREE PARKING

~ TESTIMONIALS ~

"THE FOOD, THE SERVICE, THE ENTIRE VENUE... WOW!"

"THE ROOM WAS BUZZING WITH MUSIC AND
LAUGHTER... JUST BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL!"

"THE FOOD WAS DELICIOUS!
THE VENUE WAS BEAUTIFUL AND ELEGANT"

Greektown Square & Event Center

700 S. QUAIL STREET, BALTIMORE, MD
410.633.3131

INFO@GREEKTOWNSQUARE.COM

WE'D BE HONORED TO HOST YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY, RECEPTION, OR BOTH!

YOU WILL HAVE A STAFF OF EXPERIENCED EVENT PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH YOU
TO CREATE YOUR PERFECT EVENT.

ABOUT US

GREEKTOWN SQUARE & EVENT CENTER IS AN ELEGANT VENUE LOCATED IN BALTIMORE.
A FULL-SERVICE CATERING COMPANY SPECIALIZING IN EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE
AND DELICIOUS FOOD FOR EVERY GUEST.

Greektown Square & Event Center

700 S. QUAIL STREET, BALTIMORE, MD
410.633.3131
INFO@GREEKTOWNSQUARE.COM



REVIEWS, TESTIMONIALS & PHOTO ALBUMS

WE'RE PROUD OF OUR GREAT REVIEWS!

SEE TESTIMONIALS AND PHOTO ALBUMS ON
WEDDING411ONDEMAND.COM, WEDDINGWIRE.COM,
GREEKTOWNSQUARE.COM, AND
FACEBOOK.COM/GREEKTOWNSQUARE.

WeddingWire Couples' Choice Award
Baltimore Magazine Best of Baltimore Award
Wedding411 Preferred Vendor

WEDDING OPTIONS

- 4-HOUR RECEPTION OR 4.5-HOUR CEREMONY AND RECEPTION
- VENUE INCLUDES TABLES, CHAIRS, CHINA, GLASSWARE, AND SILVERWARE
- BEAUTIFUL HORS D'OEUVRES, BUTLER-SERVED AND DISPLAYED
- FORMAL PLATED AND WAITER-SERVED OR BUFFET-STYLE DINNER
- EXTENSIVE MENU OPTIONS TO SUIT YOUR TASTE AND MATCH YOUR BUDGET
- BAR PACKAGE OPTIONS
- PRIVATE BRIDAL READY ROOM
- DISCOUNT LODGING AT NEARBY HOTELS
- FREE PARKING



Greektown Square & Event Center

700 S. QUAIL STREET, BALTIMORE, MD
410.633.3131
INFO@GREEKTOWNSQUARE.COM

God bless our Church!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian kids. Copyright 2026 Alexandra Houck. Email is [orthodoxchildrensword\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxchildrensword(at)gmail.com). Find it each week at orthodoxchildrensword.org.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Volume 14, Issue 35

Our Christian friends

How did you meet your friends?

Do you have friends from school and sports and from camp? Do you have friends from church and from your neighborhood? Our friends are special to us because we have something in common with them. We take care of each other.



In today's epistle reading, Saint Paul writes about his friends too. He writes to the Christians in Corinth, "I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicos, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours...Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings."

Saint Paul had a hard job to do. He traveled all over, telling people the good news of Jesus Christ. It was hard, because sometimes people didn't want to hear him, and they hurt him and made fun of him. It was tiring work too! But Saint Paul knew it was the job God wanted him to do. Saint Paul writes about how his friends made things easier for him. "They refreshed my spirit." His friends lifted him up when things were hard.

It's good for all of us to have Christian friends. Why? Because things might be hard for us sometimes as Christians. It is good to have good Christian friends who love God and who love us! We can say, like Saint Paul did, "They refreshed my spirit." Even Saint Paul needed these kinds of strong and faithful friends, and he was one strong person, too!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Alexander
Believe
Bravery
Christian
Constantinople
Epistle
Friends
Greetings
Patriarch
Preach
Truth

C	N	N	E	L	H	U	X	P	K	S	B	U	D	G
X	D	A	F	P	K	B	A	Z	B	D	J	O	A	R
U	C	L	I	S	I	T	D	E	T	N	V	G	L	E
C	H	R	V	T	R	S	L	S	A	E	K	T	E	E
N	N	I	A	I	S	I	T	R	A	I	Z	C	X	T
I	T	M	A	G	E	I	W	L	O	R	T	Z	A	I
W	T	R	H	V	K	J	R	E	E	F	A	S	N	N
L	C	U	E	G	Y	J	G	H	D	Q	W	H	D	G
H	B	R	A	V	E	R	Y	D	C	H	Z	E	E	S
V	P	O	V	A	C	L	G	S	C	G	W	H	R	F
E	L	P	O	N	I	T	N	A	T	S	N	O	C	A
U	B	Y	P	Y	M	F	E	P	A	X	K	S	Z	S
H	T	U	R	T	E	R	B	Y	M	L	S	T	S	Q
W	R	O	Q	H	P	V	I	B	D	E	T	W	W	G
H	I	Q	X	Y	E	C	H	B	L	Z	U	C	D	

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Some saints look alike in their icons! (Of course, we don't know exactly what they looked like!)

Here are Saints Alexander, Athanasios, and Gregory the Theologian.



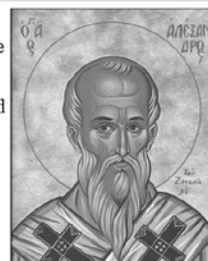
SAINT ALEXANDER

THE FIRST PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Do you think God cares what

we believe? If you asked Saint Alexander, he would tell you, "Yes! Definitely!"

Saint Alexander was a holy bishop who lived 1,700 years ago. He went to the First Ecumenical Council, a big meeting where the Church leaders talked and agreed on what we Christians believed. One man, named Arius, was telling other Christians that Jesus wasn't really God, and that He wasn't equal to God the Father. Saint Alexander knew that wasn't right. Arius tried to trick the leaders, and he told them he really believed the same thing. Saint Alexander knew it was a trick, and he asked God to make it so Arius would not be received into the Church. And he wasn't.



Another time, Saint Alexander was arguing with somebody who was a pagan (who worshiped idols). Saint Alexander said, "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I command you to be quiet!" Suddenly the pagan man couldn't speak! No sound would come out! Then the man showed with his hands that he no longer believed that stuff, and his speech came back.

Let's thank Saint Alexander for his Christian bravery. He teaches us that God really does care what we believe!

We celebrate St. Alexander today, August 30th (OC: September 12th).

© Alexandra Houck 2026



St. Nicholas eGiving Stewardship

One Less Thing
to think about

eGiving Benefits

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

How it Works

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

Thank you for your generosity!

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

VANCO



MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE CARD ΚΑΡΤΑ ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑΣ

RISE AND BUILD

ΑΝΑΣΤΩΜΕΝ ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΔΟΜΗΣΩΜΕΝ

2026 SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CONFIDENTIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD 2026 ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ -ΚΑΡΤΑ ΑΠΟΡΡΗΤΗΣ ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑΣ ΜΕΛΩΝ

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

\$ _____ (Weekly / Monthly / Quarterly / Yearly)
\$ _____ (Εβδομαδιαίως / Μηνιαίως / Ανά Τρίμηνο / Ετησίως)

TOTAL ANNUAL PLEDGE FOR 2026 :\$ _____
Συνολικό ποσό προσφοράς για το 2026 :\$ _____

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

We give to Christ and His Church not according to our means but according to our love for Him.

Γίνετε μάρτυρες του έργου του Θεού! Δώστε από το ταλέντο με το οποίο σας έχει προικίσει, με τις ικανότητες, τις εμπειρίες, την οικονομική σας ευχέρεια. Η προσφορά μας στον Χριστό και την Εκκλησία Του ας βασιστεί στην αγάπη μας προς Αυτόν, όχι στην οικονομική μας δυνατότητα.

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

Print Full Name/ Γράψτε με κεφαλαία γράμματα το επίθετό σας

Signature/ Υπογραφή

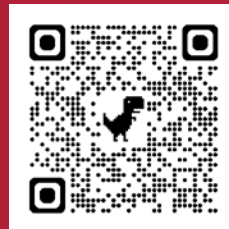
Date/ Ημερομηνία

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

Introducing Auto Pay Set It and Forget It!

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

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



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

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

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

HEALTHY BODY AND MIND

THE INVISIBLE EPIDEMIC LONELINESS

Jacob Dickerman hasn't had a lot of luck making friends in college. Like many students of his generation, he lived with his parents for a year rather than entering classrooms, due to COVID-19. When he got to the University of California, Santa Cruz, he didn't click with his dormmates. (He says he still doesn't understand why they hung up beer-pong posters.) Living off campus, he spent most weekends eating takeout pizza and playing video games, but not the kind where you play and talk over the internet with friends. "I've just been knee-deep in my studies," says the computer science major. "I have no idea how healthy that is."

After his grandmother died, Dickerman inherited her board games. "I've wanted to play them, and that's a little hard to do because you need at least two people."

Dickerman's story is not unusual. Young people today complain about feeling lonely and isolated, part of a suite of mental health challenges that has led to record rates of anxiety and depression. Loneliness seems to peak between ages 18 and 25, affecting about one in three young adults.

They aren't alone. Surveys indicate that about one in five American adults as a whole report feeling lonely. This is a problem with implications beyond bad moods. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, social isolation and loneliness increase a person's risk not only for depression, dementia and suicide, but ailments including heart disease and diabetes. One study found that the social isolation of older adults leads to an additional \$6.7 billion worth of Medicare costs each year.



Our bodies are primed to be among other people. Our ancient ancestors learned there was strength in numbers; on your own, you were likely to be a prime target for saber-toothed tigers or other larger animals. The sense of comfort and security that comes from being around people we know have our backs has not gone away. Conversely, humans can experience a fight-or-flight chemical reaction in situations where they find themselves alone or in groups where they don't feel welcome or understood. Being or feeling alone is associated with hypervigilance, which leads to disrupted sleep and the release of stress hormones such as cortisol.

One widely cited study from 2010 found that lack of social connections was as bad or worse for mortality and longevity than other factors such as physical inactivity, air pollution or smoking 15 cigarettes a day. "Loneliness is the signal that lets us know our social needs are not being met," says Julianne Holt-Lunstad, a psychologist at Brigham Young University who led the study. "We know from lots of scientific evidence that the human brain and body function best when we are socially connected."

Feeling lonely is not the same thing as being alone. Many people seek out and thrive in solitude, while spending time among other people is not necessarily a cure for loneliness. Think about walking around a major city or finding yourself stuck at a party where you don't know anyone. Being lonely means, in essence, that your desire for companionship is not being met, whether temporarily or persistently.

"Loneliness is the subjective feeling that you're lacking the social connections you need," writes Dr. Vivek Murthy, who championed the issue as surgeon general in the Obama and Biden administrations.

This problem is not limited to the United States. In June, the World Health Organization released a report that found loneliness affects nearly one in six people around the world, and is linked to an estimated 871,000 deaths per year - about 100 deaths per hour.

"We all experience loneliness," says Tracey

Crouch, who served as the United Kingdom's minister of loneliness nearly a decade ago, the first nation to establish such a post. "But we need to worry when it gets to an acute level because of the health consequences that can have." Loneliness is not by any means a new feeling. Why is it apparently so widespread now? One factor often cast as a villain in this story is social media. We've all seen people sharing tables in restaurants who are looking at their phone screens and not each other.

"This is the great irony of social media: the more you immerse yourself in it, the more lonely and depressed you become," writes Jonathan Haidt in his influential 2024 book "The Anxious Generation."

This concern has led to a flurry of laws and policies banning cellphone use during school hours. More than half the states have enacted such restrictions, mostly over the past couple of years. "I am deeply concerned about the impacts cellphone and social media use are having on our kids and their mental health, school outcomes, and how our kids engage and interact with each other and the world around us," Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers said when he signed such a bill in October.

Even so, Holt-Lunstad and other behavioral health researchers caution that the issue is more complicated. Many people do find connection through social media, as its very name suggests. "I did a research synthesis, and we found that elderly people who learn to use the internet and social media became happier," said Ruut Veenhoven, a sociologist at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. This is widely true of many social media users, not just older people. "The more connections people have, the better," he added. But that's not true for excessive users, who are almost constantly online and barely interact with others in real life.

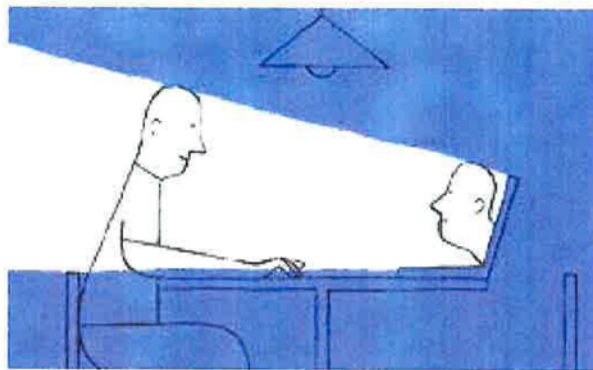
The contemporary increase in loneliness is part and parcel with other trends, says Robert Putnam, who helped draw attention to the problem with his influential book "Bowling Alone," first published in 2000 and updated in 2020. Throughout much of the 20th century, Americans grew closer through social clubs and family life, but that started to change in the 1960s. "Over the last 50 years, we've become steadily more polarized politically, more unequal economically, more self-centered, and more socially isolated and less socially connected," he says.

Today's Americans are more likely to live alone or in smaller households than their forebears. The nation's average family size has declined by an entire person since 19 and the share of people who attend religious services weekly or regularly has dropped from

42% to 30% since the start of the 21st century.

"Today's youth must make their way in a society increasingly defined not by the genuine and personal love of family and church, but by the cold and judgmental world of social media," Missouri Republican Josh Hawley said during his maiden Senate floor speech in 2019, when he warned about an "epidemic of loneliness and despair."

OLDER, BUT NOT NECESSARILY LONELIER



Tim Page doesn't go out like he used to. At 71, the retired music and journalism professor - who lives in Manhattan - has had health issues that leave him feeling too run down over the course of the day to go out in the evening. Nevertheless, he's able to share thoughts about everything from silent films to contemporary politics with a circle of friends scattered from California to the Balkans, thanks to Facebook. "I feel very much connected and very happy," Page said. "Because I can be very shy personally, I've often wanted to write things to people rather than have the in-person meeting."

This is how social media is supposed to work. For many seniors who might otherwise feel isolated, keeping up with friends and family is a snap. "The scientific evidence shows that the use of digital social media can reduce the perception of loneliness or isolation in older adults," according to a 2022 review of multiple psychological studies.

There are seniors who do end up feeling isolated due to a combination of mobility issues, strained relations with family members and, sometimes, outliving their contemporaries.

In general, however, older Americans tend to be less lonely than older teens and young adults. "Happiness and life satisfaction tends to rise over the lifespan," said Dominic Packer, a psychologist at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. "As we get older, we tend to prioritize relationships over other things."



A BREAK IN YOUR DAY

When I was young, I did stupid things because I didn't know any better. Now I know better, I still do stupid things, but I can't help it.

I always feel better when my doctor says something is normal for my age, but then I remember that death will be normal for my age at some point.

I've reached the age where looking in the mirror is like checking the news. I know there'll be some new developments I won't like.

When you're young, embarrassment is forgetting to zip up your fly. When you're old, embarrassment is forgetting to unzip your fly.

As I get older and remember all the people I've lost along the way, I think to myself maybe a career as a tour guide wasn't the right one for me.

A wise man remembers a woman's birthday but never her age.

I'm so old, I can remember when emojis were called hieroglyphics.

Regular naps will prevent old age, especially if taken while driving.

Ageing gracefully is the polite way of saying you're slowly looking worse.

You know you're old when dining out means catching the early bird special.

You know you're old when people call at 9 pm and ask, "Did I wake you?"

I believe in loyalty. So, when I got to a certain age, I decided to stick with it.

My wife's so vain, she'd rather pay full price than admit she's a senior citizen.

I like older women because they're used to life's

disappointments, so they're ready for me.

When you're old, getting lucky is walking into a room and remembering exactly why you're there.

Old age is when your old classmates are so grey, wrinkled, and bald that they no longer recognize you.

If it's your birthday today, you should congratulate yourself. Especially if you're still able to remember it.

The older I get, the more cults make perfect sense. Do you know how hard it is to make friends as an adult?

You know you're getting old when you have more candles on your cake than friends at your birthday party.

The skill of the diplomat is the ability to tell someone to go to Hell in such a way that they'll look forward to the trip.

Old age is when you're faced with two temptations and you choose the one that will get you home by nine o'clock.

The best moment of a woman's life isn't giving birth, it's seeing an old adversary and realizing how fat and ugly she is now.

When you're young, you make a lot of noise just having fun. When you're old, you make even more noise just bending over.

I wanted to look distinguished in my old age, so I grew a beard. Turns out the statement I'm making is more like, "Discount, please, I'm a senior!"

When I was a boy, I had a disease that required me to eat dirt three times a day in order to survive. Fortunately, my older brother told me about it.

When I was young, I did stupid things because I didn't know any better. Now I know better, I still do stupid things, but I can't help it.



\$ A FOCUS ON FINANCES \$

WANT TO DO A LITTLE EXTRA TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A HAPPY RETIREMENT? TRY THESE TIPS

Think About Your Death
Yes, you read that correctly.



A recent essay published in the New York Times made the case that thinking about your death can make you happier. The idea is to think about your daily choices as if this year were your last year. The research indicates that using death to help prioritize how you use your time actually improves your satisfaction and overall happiness with your choices.

And if you are worried that thinking about death is too morbid, researchers have found that contemplating mortality can actually make you funnier.

CREATE A RETIREMENT INCOME PLAN, STICK TO IT

According to a Towers Watson Retirement Survey, having predictable retirement income (presumably adequate income to cover all of your expenses) can help you feel happier. Conversely, the researchers discovered that retirees who must withdraw money from investments to pay for retirement expenses had the highest financial anxiety.

Predictable retirement income usually comes from Social Security and pensions. Rental income and dividend-paying investments are other ways you might be able to earn predictable lifetime payments.

If those sources are not enough to cover your expenses, you might consider reducing expenses or

using retirement savings to buy a lifetime annuity. An annuity is an insurance product. In exchange for a lump-sum of money, you buy monthly income for a predetermined period of time. Retirees usually consider lifetime payments.

You might also want to use a retirement calculator. The best retirement calculators enable you to really see how much retirement income you have and how much you need. If you use the NewRetirement Retirement Calculator, you can even do “what-if scenarios.” See what happens if you get an annuity, for example.

CALCULATOR: EASY STEPS TO A BETTER RETIREMENT

If You Don't Have to Work, Keep Working

Work has long been proven to a good way to be happy. The social and intellectual stimulation keeps you vital, the income reduces stress and the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology found that retirees working part-time had fewer diseases than retirees who did not work at all.

Additional research suggests that you will be happier if you are working by choice. If you have to work because you really need the income, then you might not be as happy with the job.

DO NOT HANG ONTO YOUR HOME FOR TOO LONG

Michael Finke, a Certified Financial Planner and a personal financial planning professor at Texas Tech University, has researched the satisfaction people derive from owning a home. He found that, overall, owning a home brings more joy than renting. However, satisfaction with homeownership dropped later in life, particularly as homeowners hit their eighties.

It makes sense. Home maintenance can be hard work and the types of home we want in our forties is different from the house we need in our sixties and is probably very different for what we want and need in our eighties.

The benefits of selling our homes in retirement might be twofold. It might make us happier and we can use the home equity to help with retirement expenses. Home equity is the greatest source of wealth for most Americans.

Use the NewRetirement retirement calculator to see how downsizing in your 70s or 80s impacts your retirement finances.

\$ A FOCUS ON FINANCES \$

MEDIA FINANCES: FROM NETWORKS TO NETFLIX

The first decades of television were dominated by the same three networks that ruled radio. Watching TV meant watching affiliate stations of CBS, NBC and ABC. PBS wasn't established until the end of the 1960s, and only large cities had independent stations.

Having to please everyone meant producers had to pull plenty of punches. Characters couldn't say dirty words, and storylines mostly had to avoid controversial topics. Broadcast TV, complained producer David Chase, "has an unerring system for detecting whatever it is that gets you excited about a project and telling you to get rid of it."

Broadcast nevertheless continued its dominance through the 1970s. The "Who Shot JR?" episode of "Dallas," which aired in 1980, drew 83 million viewers - more people than voted in that year's presidential election. But that proved to be one of the last great peaks of the network era.

Cable came along in a big way during the 1980s. Where only 15% of U.S. households had cable in 1976, nearly 40% were wired by 1983. There was a proliferation of cable channels, many of which - AMC, FX and HBO - became known for granting creative freedom to producers. By 1999, the share of the prime-time audience commanded by the three networks had fallen below 60% for the first time.

Known for airing movies without commercial interruptions, HBO lost that competitive advantage with the advent of video rentals. The network had produced occasional original shows starting in the 1980s, but stepped up its game by the late 1990s with series such as "Deadwood," "Sex and the City" and Chase's "The Sopranos." "After a while, we had proven that you could have both creative opportunity and big success," said Chris Albrecht, a longtime head of the network.

When Netflix was founded in 1997, it wasn't taken seriously as a threat by Blockbuster, then the leading video-rental chain, let alone networks and studios. But Netflix quickly found a profitable niche renting DVDs by mail. When it launched its "Watch Now" service in 2007, it was a giveaway to subscribers, with slow internet connections sending streaming video only to computers. Within a few years, however, it was possible to watch on TV sets, but the networks and studios still didn't worry they were building up a competitor by licensing their content to Netflix.

In a statement that would become notorious in the industry, Time Warner CEO Jeff Bewkes in 2010 dismissed the threat. "It's a little bit like, is the Albanian army going to take over the world?" he said. Recognizing that their competitors would eventually figure this out, Netflix began airing original shows such as "House of Cards" and "Orange Is the New Black."

"Overnight, Netflix redefined internet content, which heretofore had been synonymous with skateboarding fails, music videos and cheap, low-quality fare," write journalists Dade Hayes and Dawn Chmielewski in "Binge Times," their history of the streaming business.



After spotting Netflix a 10-year head start, Apple, Disney, Warner and NBC all launched their own streaming services over a seven-month period in 2019 and 2020. It was a golden moment for streaming—the pandemic made homebound viewers practically addicted—but by then, Netflix had built an almost insurmountable lead. NBC had to pay \$500 million to Netflix to get streaming rights back for one of its own shows, "The Office," while Warner paid \$425 million for "Friends."

Although Netflix enjoyed an operating margin of about 20% last year, its major competitors continued to lose money. Meanwhile, cable networks such as USA, TBS, MTV and the Comedy Channel - which used to produce original dramas and comedies - are now "zombie channels," with lineups made up of little more than reruns.

To subscribe to the St. Nicholas mailing list, please follow these steps:

- 1) Open your Email client and create a new message.
- 2) Enter stnicholasbaltimore@listserv.goarch.org as the To address. If this address does not work, you may need to use **STserv@stnicholasbaltimore@listserv.goarch.org**. Older list serve accounts were configured with the STserv address.
- 3) Enter **"subscribe"** *stnicholasbaltimore* in the body of your message where *stnicholasbaltimore* is the name of the list you are subscribing to.
- 4) Leave the subject of the message blank. If your mail program requires text in the subject field, enter random characters.
- 5) Send the email; you will receive a confirmation if you successfully subscribed.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER

LIVE STREAMING MAY BE AVAILABLE

KALO MINA! HOPING EVERYONE IN THE PARISH HAS A GREAT AND BLESSED MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

ΚΑΛΟ ΜΗΝΑ! ΕΥΧΟΜΑΣΤΕ ΣΕ ΟΛΟΥΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΝΟΡΙΑ ΕΝΑΝ ΟΜΟΡΦΟ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΛΟΓΗΜΕΝΟ ΜΗΝΑ - ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 – Beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year / Ἀρχή τῆς Ἰνδίκτου

ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 am

A small service of the Blessing of the Waters will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 – 14th Sunday of Matthew / ΙΔ΄ Ματθαίου

ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:45 am

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 – Nativity (Birth of the Theotokos) / Γενέθλιον τῆς Θεοτόκου

ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 am

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 – Sunday Before the Holy Cross / Κυριακή πρό τῆς Ὑψώσεως

ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:45 am

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 – Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Strict Fast Day) / Ἡ Ὑψωσις τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ

ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 am

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – Sunday after the Fast of the Holy Cross / Κυριακή μετά τήν Ὑψωσιν

ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:45 am

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 – First Sunday of Luke / Α΄ Λουκᾶ

ORTHROS – 8:30 am DIVINE LITURGY – 9:45 am

Elevation of the Cross

