Dear Fellow Parishioners and Friends of St. Nicholas church,

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

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

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

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

Click on the image of the Candles to transition to our donation site where your electronic transactions will be taken. Donate any amount. Every little bit helps and if you wish enter a message in the text field provided.

The next time you watch via Live stream one of our church services, we hope to be able to light up our church with our candle/kandili since we cannot be there to light it up with our presence. The live stream you can navigate to using the St.Nicholas Web Site: <a href="https://stnicholasmd.org">https://stnicholasmd.org</a> and find the Youtube Link.

"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

May our St. Nicholas and all of our saints intercede for you and your families during this difficult time. With faith, with love and our prayers, we will get through this together.

Best regards,

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