



METROPOLIS
OF ATLANTA



December 2018



*The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
December 25, 2018*

608 SOUTH COLLEGE ROAD • WILMINGTON NC 28403 • (910) 392-4444 • FAX (910) 392-4905

www.stnicholaswilmington.org

**Rev. Fr. Jon Emanuelson
Parish Priest**

Fr. Jon's Mobile Number: 910-685-0080
Fr. Jon's Email: FrJon@stnicholaswilmington.org

CHURCH STAFF

Stella McTaggart, Parish Office Administrator
Georgia Marmaras, Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: Vary. Please visit our website for hours of operation.
Office Phone: 910-392-4444 Office Fax: 910-392-4905
Office Email: office@stnicholaswilmington.org

Church Website: www.stnicholaswilmington.org
Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StNicholasWilmington

**2018 PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH MINISTRY TEAM**

Officers

Barbara Reynolds, President
Evangelos Fragos, Vice President
Tina Bostic, Treasurer
Peter Malahias, Assistant Treasurer
Irene Sotiriou Vogiatzis, Secretary

Members

Carl Baynard	Emanuel Miliotis
Melissa Kirkby	Nick Saffo
Peter Manolukas	Daphne Snow

Emanuel Miliotis, Chairman of the Council of Ministries

Religious Education... Volunteer Needed

ADULT FOCUS:

Adult Education... **Volunteer Needed**
Bookstore/Library... Mary Ann Wall & Chrysanthé Lazarides
Orthodox Coffee Hour... Irene Voneiff
Bible Study of St. John... Fr. Jon Emanuelson

YOUTH FOCUS

Oratorical Festival... Kim Dandulakis
Youth Catechism... Tia Saffo, Eleni Pappamihel
Vacation Church School... Pres. Barbara Emanuelson

Hellenic Culture... Kitsa Wiersteiner, Ministry Chair

Adult Greek Dance Group... Antonia Ioannou
Hellenic School... Anestis Logothetis, Acting Director
Nea Smyrni Dance Group... Zaharoula Katsikis
Special Activities... Kitsa Wiersteiner
Zoyra Dance Group... Sophia Brewer, Rena Poulson

Youth ...Fr Jon Emanuelson, Acting Director
GOYA... Eleni Pappamihel, Evangelos Fragos, Olympia Fragos, Doris King
HOPE/JOY... Renée Karonis Psilos

Metropolis Strategic Planning... Koula Katsikis, Ministry Chair

Liturgical Life... Dr. Michael Rallis, Ministry Chair
Acolytes... **Volunteer Needed**
Altar Care... Matthew Wickersham
Liturgical Music... Dr. Michael Rallis

Communications - Technology Ministries...

Alexandros Theodoropoulos, Ministry Chair
Webmaster... Alexandros Theodoropoulos
Publications... Church Staff & Various Volunteers
Technology... Alexandros Theodoropoulos
Media/Community Relations... Debra Rallis, Alexandros

Parish Family Life... Volunteer Needed

Forever Young... Kay Skandalakis
LOVE... Pam Calhoun & Sia Mayorga
Parish Family Night... **Volunteer Needed**
Men's Group... Fr. Jon Emanuelson

Outreach & Evangelism... Volunteer Needed

Hospitality... Ed & Kathleen Mayorga
Parish Care... Pat Poulos, Constantina Stamatakis, Kay Skandalakis, Mary Frankos, Jim Stasios
Adult Catechism... Fr. Jon Emanuelson

Greek Festival... Nick Saffo, Lee King, Ministry Chairs

Philoptochos... Debra Rallis, Chapter President

Stewardship... John Whitley, Ministry Chair
Stewardship... Peter Malahias, Peter Manolukas

IOCC... Angela Dentiste

OCF... Fr. Jon Emanuelson, Ministry Chair
OCF... Elisabeth Baynard

From the Desk of Fr. Jon

December 2018 –
A year to remember and why we hope.

This year may be the year all of us remember! Yes, we were here when hurricane Florence struck Wilmington or we evacuated just prior to its arrival. We came back to an area devastated by the storm but experienced an unprecedented outpouring of love and help from people here and all over the country. Christian love is at its height when called by God to act! IOCC stepped in did some amazing work and we learned how true aid works for everyone.

For some of our spiritual family we saw loved ones fall asleep in the Lord, we saw health concerns and struggles, and for some of us we saw renewed health and strength, baptisms and weddings. The truth of our circumstance is born out of faith in Jesus Christ. In season and out of season our beloved Orthodox Church is the ark of salvation in stormy seas! God's love for us never fades. He lifts us up in times of trouble and blesses us.

2018 is a year to remember and a year to forget. As we draw near to the Nativity of Christ during this Nativity Fast, we prepare to receive the Hope of the world, Jesus Christ into a manger in Bethlehem. We remember why we hope in the Lord. We also learn from our struggles and remember how blessed we are to survive. We forget the trials to some extent because they are behind us. We look forward to the blessed year of our Lord 2019.

The reason for this Nativity season is the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The hymns of our Church bring this into focus. Do not let all the secular commercial worldly nature of this time of year steal your joy and celebration at Christmas. Join us in our St. Nicholas Church for our feast day on Wednesday, December 5, at 6pm for Great Vespers with the Artoklasia, and Orthros & Liturgy on Thursday, December 6, at 9am and 10am respectively. This year we have the special blessing to have His Grace Bishop Sevastianos, our new auxiliary bishop in Atlanta, leading our services.

The hymns below are awe inspiring in our preparation for the season.
O devout Father, your brave deeds, like sweet fruit, have filled the hearts of the faithful with gladness. Who does not marvel when they hear about your immense humility and your patience and long-suffering, your cheerful generosity to those stricken by poverty, your sympathy for those in trouble? For all of us, you are a good teacher of the things of God, O Hierarch St. Nicholas. And now that Christ has placed on your head the unfading crown, intercede with Him on behalf of our souls. Vespers of St. Nicholas

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. * And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life * has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. * Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually * a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. * And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. * Christ is born, so that He might raise up * the formerly fallen image. Orthros of the Forefeast of the Nativity & the prayer opening the Proskomide.

Since the Lord Jesus was born of the holy Virgin, the universe has been illumined. Shepherds were keeping watch, and Magi were adoring Him, and Angels were singing praises, and Herod was troubled; for God appeared in the flesh, yes, the Savior of our souls. Vespers of the Nativity
Christ is born! Glorify Him!

From the Parish Council President

Barbara Reynolds

For my December report I would like to share the minutes from the November General Assembly meeting in case you were unable to attend.

St. Nicholas General Assembly Meeting Sunday, November 11, 2018

Parish Council Attendees: Father Jon Emanuelson, Barbara Reynolds, Tina Bostic, Manny Miliotis, Peter Manolukas, Carl Baynard
ABSENT: Vangeli Fragos, Nick Saffo, Melissa Kirkby, Peter Malahias, Daphne Snow, Irene Sotiriou Vogiatzis

Meeting began at 12:25

Father Jon Emanuelson gave the opening prayer

Jimmie Stasios elected as chairman for the meeting, accepted.

Quorum ascertained. 32 stewards present

Maria Stasios moved to accept minutes from 30 May 2018 as distributed; Father Jon Emanuelson seconded. Passed unanimously.

Fr Jon shared a spiritual reflection

The 2018 **Archangel Michael Awards** were given to:
Koula Katsikis – Adult
Maia Porzio – Youth

Barbara Reynolds gave the **President's Report**
Construction updates:

- Bathrooms
Have **completely** new bathrooms including new water/ sewer pipes and new A/C
- Library / Hallways Renovation
New flooring
New lighting
New ceiling
Painted
New trim
New A/C in library
- Hellenic Center Renovations
New floor over new bathroom water / sewer pipes
New ceilings
New flooring
New lighting
New trim

Painted
New shutters and granite bar at kitchen
New chairs
New storage closet for extra chairs and tables
New bar area with granite top

Construction Costs To Date - \$246,362 (includes \$4,500 to connect to sewer), Budget is \$237,794
3.5% over budget including extra sewer expense

Other Repairs

Power washed roof & building
Roof Repairs
Painted church
Added two crosses to roof

Upcoming Events

December 5 & 6 - His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela will be with us on to celebrated St. Nicholas's Feast Day
January 2019 - Church Directory with photos will be published

January 2019 – Theophany – Securing location for the celebration

2019-2020 – A list of enhancements to the church has been developed that we are costing and prioritizing to make our church even more beautiful for our 75th anniversary

2020 – 75th Anniversary - A team led Vangeli Fragos is working hard preparing for our 75th anniversary celebration

Ministry Team Reports- Manny Miliotis

Executive Committee:

Fr. Jon Emanuelson
Manny Miliotis, Council of Ministries Chairman

Council of Ministry Group Leaders:

Religious Education VACANT*

Hellenic Culture Kitsa Wiersteiner
Youth Diakonia Fr. Jon (Interim)*
Liturgical Life Dr. Michael Rallis

Parish Family Life Not actively pursuing @ this time

Comm/Technology Alexandros Theodoropoulos

Outreach & Evangelism VACANT *

Philoptochos Debbie Rallis
Metropolis Strategic Plan Koula Katsikis
Stewardship John Whitley
First Fall COM Meeting Held

ACTIONS:

Religious Education and Outreach & Evangelism positions are vacant

Outreach & Evangelism – Manny Miliotis

COM working on defining attribute list for team leader

Our current succession list has run dry

Looking to reaching out to community for those who may have interest

We will be accessing candidates soon

Appreciate your desire to those who have a passion to serve in this role or of any other volunteer spots

ACTIONS:

See Fr. Jon or Manny If interested in being a candidate

Looking to reaching out to community for those who may have interest

We will be accessing candidates soon

Religious Education – Manny Miliotis

COM working on defining attribute list for team leader

Our current succession list has run dry

Looking to reaching out to community for those who may have interest

We will be accessing candidates soon

Appreciate your desire to those who have a passion to serve in this role or of any other volunteer spots

ACTIONS: See Fr. Jon or Manny If interested in being a candidate

Team Stewardship – John Whitley

John Whitley

Peter Malahias

Peter Manolukas

Where do we go from here?

Monthly Newsletter Article

“Giving Tuesday” Appeal

Meeting with Key Groups at Church

2019 Stewardship Sunday Kickoff

Sunday Nov. 25 – Stewardship Speaker

Sunday Dec 2 – Stewardship Speaker

Sunday Dec 9 – Stewardship Speaker

Sunday Dec 16 – Stewardship Sunday/Cards Due

ACTIONS:

Looking for stewardship speakers. See Stewardship Team if interested

75 Year Anniversary Celebration – Manny Miliotis

October 23-25, 2020

ACTIONS:

If interested in being on the committee for the celebration see Vangeli Fragos

Festival 2018 – Tina Bostic

Lower net income (\$83,434) and profit margin (39%) than in previous years due to rain out on Saturday

2018 Charity Distribution

Good Shepherd Center - \$5,000

Family Promise of Lower Cape Fear - \$3,000

Metropolitan Alexios Agape Fund - \$5,000

Charity Donation 2009-2018 is \$110,700

Internal giving

Youth - \$2,000

Dance Group - \$1,500

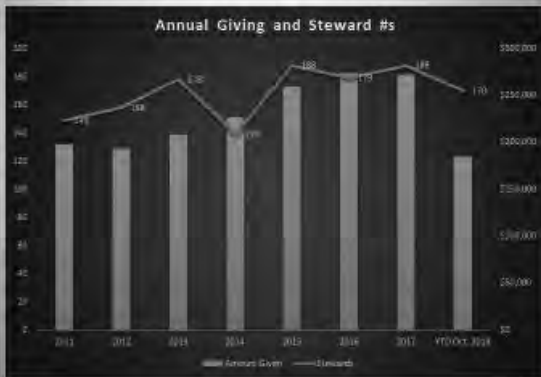
IOCC - Angela Dentiste and Fr. Jon

Spoke of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). The IOCC came to our community and helped after Hurricane Florence. Both St Nicholas and St Basil volunteered to help. Volunteers gutted numerous houses in Rocky Point after the storm.

Barbara Reynolds stated that the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Charleston, SC donated \$5,300 to St Nicholas for use towards hurricane damage.

Stewardship Status- Tina Bostic**Stewardship Giving History**

- 18 parishioners less from last year giving
- 2017 received \$271,901 Current giving at \$184,799
- Short by \$87,102 compared to end of 2017

**Pledging and Giving Summary**

	Nov. 1, 2018	Nov. 1, 2017
Stewardship Commitment	\$186,177	\$224,661
# Stewards Pledged	128	150
% of Participation	64.0%	75.0%
Amount Given	\$184,799	\$229,801
# Giving	170	156

- Stewardship commitment down by \$38,484 and number of pledging stewards down by 22.
- More people giving however not as much as last year.
- Stewardship goal – \$290,355.36
- Amount needed to reach goal - \$105,557

Stewardship giving is down. Short by \$87,102 compared to end of 2017. More people are giving, but the amount is not as much.

Assets & Liabilities

Bank Statements	Fall Assembly 11/2018	Spring Assembly 02/23/2018	Comments to differences
General Fund	\$40,501.82	\$22,568.77	Fund transfer
Money Market	\$211,034.48	\$340,885.38	Hall renovations
Festival Checking	\$42,790.76	\$41,478.86	Stable
Designated	\$55,816.73	\$56,577.68	Stable
*Benevolent	\$12,315.19	\$11,034.47	
*Building Fund	\$9,851.74	\$9,851.74	
*Memorial	\$25,269.07	\$24,594.07	
*Greek School	\$5,438.47	\$5,368.62	
*Designated Other	-\$326.24	\$98.16	
*GOYA	\$3,268.50	\$5,630.61	
Transfer Festival to GF		\$40,000.00	

We only have \$40,501.82 in our checking account. Without the loans from the festival this year of \$40,000 we would only have \$501 in the General Fund.

Festival account is down \$129,851 due to construction projects at the church.
Designated accounts are stable.

2019 Draft Budget – Tina Bostic

Actual vs Budget Jan-Sep 2018 – summary at 75% of the year

- Income:
 - At 70.89% of total budget impacted by Decreased stewardship 59% - main impact No golf event
- Expenses:
 - At 70.83% of total budget – impacted by No spiritual event this year Decreased organizational spending Maintenance/Repairs down at 42% because of all the repairs done in 2017 and paid out of Festival

Overall net is (\$1,339.54)
Note: \$40K owed to festival net is (\$41,340)

2019 Draft Budget (column F)

- Income:
 - Increased Donations general
 - Reduced Pascha
 - Increased Event cleaning
 - Added rental income from GLOW
 - Increased Stewardship by \$34 \$290,389.36 new goal

Overall Income \$352,139.36

Kay Skandalakis inquired why GLOW was only paying \$300 instead of the agreed upon \$500 per month. Helen Flowers wanted to know who decided to charge \$300.

Barbara Reynolds stated that GLOW couldn't afford to pay \$500, but could afford \$300. PC agreed to the \$300 amount.

Georgia Spiliotis stated the community should have been informed that the amount of rent changed after the vote. Barbara Reynolds agreed, and stated that it was an oversight on the Parish Council's part to not to inform the community on the \$300 charge to GLOW instead of the \$500.

2019 Draft Budget

- Expenses:
 - Admin and Operational no \$ change overall
 - Building and Grounds – Increased by \$352
 - Increase insurance by \$252 (auto/background checks/building)
 - Reduced event cleaning
 - Kept maintenance and repairs same
 - Utilities up by \$400
 - Archdiocese commitments increased by \$5,392
 - We had no increase in 2018
 - We are submitting an appeal to this increase due to the hurricane

2018 Draft Budget continued

- Expenses adjusted based on 2018 spending:
 - Parish Resources – recommendations at Spring GA
 - Removed gift for dergy
 - Increased automobile repair expenses/cellular/health insurance
 - Secretary changes due to reduction in hours and adding bookkeeping costs – overall increase of \$1000
 - Total Programs decreased by \$5,950
 - Total conferences increased by \$150
 - Many line items remain same as 2018
 - Religious education decreased
 - Special events decreased

No admin or operational change. St Nicholas paying approximately \$31,800 for the Archdiocese commitment. Dr. Koklanaris questioned the Archdiocese commitment. Where does the increase amount of \$5,392 come from? Fr Jon stated that it is based on St Nicholas spending. 15% of total spending. Fr Jon stated that the 2019 Archdiocese commitment based on the average of the 2016 and 2017 expenditures.

Betsy Vines asked why we don't state what the Archdiocese "charges per parishioner"

Caleb Kratsa said it would be interesting to know what the average per steward is needed to make the budget. He also suggested a letter be sent out letting people know the state of our budget. Tina Bostic stated that these numbers are in the weekly bulletin each week.

Georgia Spiliotis wanted to know what expenditures have increased for 2019.

Tina Bostic stated that expenses are actually decreasing. Programs decreased approximately \$5,950

John Whitley stated that we have to ask ourselves why giving was down.

Helen Flowers asked if the Bishop visits, will we have to pay \$5,000.

Tina Bostic said that St Nicholas only has to cover the travel expenses only. The \$5,000 was a gift to the Metropolitan's Agape Fund.

Anesti Logothetis made a motion to accept the proposed 2019 budget.

Ed Mayorga seconded.

2019 budget approved.

2018 Audit of Financial Books

Completed in April, 2018 by audit committee

Renee Theophilos

Koula Katsikis

Irene Voneiff

No Findings

Jimmy Stasios asked for nominations for the Board of Elections

Anesti Logothetis

Ron Demas

Angela Dentiste

Nominees approved

Jimmy Stasios asked for volunteers to serve on the audit committee

Renee Theophilos

Barbara Reynolds

Koula Katsikis (absent)

Nominations approved

Parish Council Nominations

6 Council members term expires

Tina Bostic

Melissa Kirkby

Peter Malahias

Peter Manolukas

Barbara Reynolds

Irene Sotiriou

Tina Bostic will be running for re-election in 2019

Nominations for Parish Council

Tina Bostic

Betsy Vines

Caleb Kratsa

Barbara Harris

Cameron Calhoun

Georgia Spiliotis

Dino Psilos

Tony Saffo

Lee King

Nominations Closed

All nominees have to attend a Pre-Selection meeting on 17 November at St Nicholas Church.

Kay Skandalakis wanted to know if we can keep the election open until 3PM? We will not need to do that. Absentee Ballots will be allowed for the upcoming December 9, 2018 Parish Council Member Election. The procedure in place includes the confidential ballots being completed in person by the church member during office hours. Deadline for absentee ballots will be December 7, 2018.

Other Business

Presbyteria Barbara stated that a mini retreat would be held in December to bake prosforo. Everyone is invited. The theme is going to be "Christ is born, glorify Him"

Closing Prayer

Father Jon gave a closing prayer; Jim Stasios adjourned meeting at 2:00 pm

Treasurer

Tina Bostic

The Operating Income/Expense table below represents what we have received as of the end of October 2018. Please also note we owe Festival \$40,000. I have removed it from the income column so you have a better picture of our operating income/expenses for the year. We plan to pay Festival back once we see a pick-up in income.

Operating Income/Expense Jan-Oct 2018			
General Fund	Income	Expenses	Variance
YTD	\$237,406.10	\$280,363.24	\$(42,957.14)

Progress on Stewardship

We continue to be below our year to date needs for stewardship.


Stewardship Jan-Oct 2018			
	stewardship received	stewardship goal	Variance
YTD	\$184,798.75	\$241,962.80	\$(57,164.05)

Stewardship Actual as of Oct 2018 compared to Goal	
Pledged	\$186,177
Full Year Goal	\$290,355
Variance pledged to goal	\$(100,852)
Amount received	\$184,799
Amount need to receive	\$105,556

The following presented during General Assembly in Nov show how this year looks compared to last year at this same time:

Pledging and Giving Summary		
	Nov. 1, 2018	Nov. 1, 2017
Stewardship Commitment	\$186,177	\$224,661
# Stewards Pledged	128	150
% of Participation	64.0%	75.0%
Amount Given	\$184,799	\$229,801
# Giving	170	156

- Stewardship commitment down by \$38,484 and number of pledging stewards down by 22.
- More people giving however not as much as last year.
- Stewardship goal – \$290,355.36
- Amount needed to reach goal - \$105,557



THE METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA STRATEGIC PLAN

Metropolis Strategic Planning
Koula Katsikis, Parish Champion

What is Strategic Planning

Strategic planning is a process to define our direction (strategy) and allocate our resources to achieve our goals.

A Strategic Plan must answer four fundamental questions:

1. Why do we exist?
2. Where are we now?
3. Where do we want to be?
4. How will we get there?

The Metropolis Strategic Planning was excited to announce the official Faith Forums in March 2018 in Charlotte NC. More details to follow.

Parishioners are invited to use the content found at www.atlstrategicplan.org/portal To learn more about these goals visit the metropolis web site or contact me with any questions.

Forever Young
Kay Skandalakis

Please see the enclosed flyer concerning our December event. We look forward to seeing all on you on December 11 at 11:45AM at Beau Rivage Golf Resort for our Christmas luncheon. Save the date for Tuesday, January 8, 2019 for our next event. Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a happy and blessed new year!

Hellenic School
Anestis Logothetis

The Greek School started a little late this year due to hurricane Florence. However, the kids and the teachers are working very hard to catch up with their lessons. We have currently five classes for the kids and one for adults. There will be no classes on the Friday after Thanksgiving. The last day of classes before the Christmas holidays will be on December 14. Classes will start again on January 11. The Greek School kids along with the Goyans will sing carols at the AHEPA house for the residents there during the annual Christmas dinner offered by AHEPA and Chris's restaurant.

This year the speakers at the OXI Day celebration were three students from the advanced class, Eleni Dandulakis, Cassiani Harris and Maria Fulton. They did a wonderful job and deserve our congratulations. We want to thank our Parishioners who were present and supported our school kids as they recited their poems. We also want to thank Chris's restaurant for providing a delicious lunch. The Greek School wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Philoptochos
Enosis Chapter #5027
Debra Rallis



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving Baskets. We provided food for 21 families totaling 140 people! Helping those in need is the mission of Philoptochos. Thank you to all who contributed and made this possible. Our hearts are warmed and we thank you all for making that possible.

Our Christmas luncheon will be Sunday December 2nd at 1pm at Henry's Restaurant. Hope you can join us and please use this as an opportunity to pay your dues. We are also collecting boxes of diapers for NC Diaper Bank. Please take diapers to church before December 5th.

We are hosting a reception following St. Nicholas vespers on Wednesday December 5th. Our newly appointed assistant to Metropolitan Alexios will be with us!

Don't forget to include your family in our community Christmas card and Poinsetta sale.

Please mark your calendar to be with us at Divine Liturgy on December 6th for the feast day of our Patron Saint Nicholas.

Our Annual Vasilopita will take place on Sunday January 6th. Please let Kitsa know if you can bake one this year.

Wishing everyone a joyous, blessed Christmas and Happy, healthy New Year! Thankful for all our church family! Me agape Debra Rallis, President

Stewardship
The Stewardship Team



Cultivating Our Talents

Talents often come from nature (in other words a gift from God), but talents take time and energy to develop. You cultivate a talent for the piano at the keyboard. You cultivate a talent for golf on the driving range and the putting green. You cultivate a talent for business by engaging in and solving real time on the job problems.

Using Our Talents

The Christian life is a life of fulfillment and joy. We experience fulfillment and joy in worship, praise, and personal and communal prayer. We also experience fulfillment and joy in our daily lives. A life devoted to cultivating talents is a fulfilled life. We can find purpose and joy in God given talents for music, sports, our careers.

We can also use these talents in worship.

I love the psalms. Psalms were meant to be sung. In monasteries the entire book of Psalms is chanted every week. Think of it! In our Orthodox Church, we chant and sing every single word in the book of Psalms.

Psalm 149 says, “Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of His holy ones.”

If you have a talent for music, you have a gift from God.

How can I use a talent for sports to serve God?

There is no better way to serve God than to spend time with children.

I quote from St. Paisios the Athonite. “People of the 21st century will be saved and even acquire holiness for three obediences: for keeping the Orthodox faith and passing it on to others, above all their children and grandchildren; for daily repentance; and for regular participation in the Mysteries of the Church.”

A wonderful and fulfilling way to live the life of our faith is to spend time with children. Prayer and worship are an important the upbringing of children. But so is fun. You can cultivate a godly talent for sports one on one with your children, or as a coach for our church’s youth ministry.

Our work and our careers are also part of living our life of faith. If you live the Orthodox Christian life on the job, your co-workers will notice. Your work and career can be a powerful witness to our faith. I am reminded that Saint Euphrosinos practiced and cultivated his talent for cooking OJT (On-the-job).

Going back to the theme of sports, there are words that each of us will recognize. In golf – we have bogies. In baseball we record, hits, runs, and errors. We also make mistakes in music (singing off key), and even in business.

What do we do when we blow it?

Failure is another way to cultivate our talents. Failure give us a time to reflect and to see what we can do better next time. Failure also helps cultivate another talent – Persistence. Thomas Edison failed over a thousand time before he got the light bulb right.

There is also a spiritual aspect to failure. Going back to St. Paisios the Athonite, we recall the Mysteries of the Church. Repentance, Confession, Renewal, are key steps to getting back on our feet.

Before closing I invite each of us to take an inventory of

our talents, the gifts that God has given us. Each of these talents provides us with opportunities to serve God in our personal lives, with our families, on the job, in the church, and in the wider community.

As I mentioned in my last article, take a look at the first page of our church newsletter. There are ministries within our church where your God given talent can make such an incredible difference. The Christian life is a life of fulfillment and joy. A major part of this life of fulfillment and joy involves service to others and service to the church.

“Whatever you do work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for men.” (Colossians 3:23)

GOYA

*Evangelos Fragos, Olympia Fragos,
Doris King, and Eleni Pappamihel*



The GOYAs have been hard at work. During time off from school, they volunteered to help with hurricane Florence cleanup within the community.

In November, they made St. Nicholas Christmas ornaments for a fundraiser and all donations are very much appreciated. They will continue to sell them after church for several weeks so don't miss out!

At the end of the November, we had the much anticipated lock-in retreat at St. Nicholas (11/30-12/1) from 6:30pm to 7:30am. Dinner, snacks and breakfast provided.

And finally...be on the lookout for monthly GOYA fellowship events to start in the New Year. Thanks to everyone for supporting our youth!

Youth Catechism

Eleni Pappamihel and Tia Saffo

Dear Parents and Children of St Nicholas,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Sunday Church School directors. You may have noticed the classrooms have been labeled by Father Jon, each of the rooms have been named after a Saint. We will try to refer to the classrooms moving forward by their given Saint names. We will be putting out a Sunday Church School newsletter each month that lets you know which days will be large-group classes and which days will be grade-based classes. We are working with just a small group of teachers and we want to extend our sincere gratitude for their willingness to teach this year.

Please welcome the following teachers to our grade-based classrooms.

PreK-Grade 1: Benjalee Pittman and Mariann Vavalette
Grade 2-3: Koula Fragos and Cassie Snow
Grade 4-5: Alexandros Theodoropoulos and Joanne Smith
Grade 6-8: Presbyteria Barbara and Pam Calhoun
Grade 9-12: Eleni Pappamihel and Tia Saffo

December Schedule

Dec. 2nd: Large-group classes
Dec. 9th: Grade-based classes
Dec. 16th: Large-group classes
Dec. 23rd: No Sunday School (Christmas break)

After our first teacher's meeting, one of the things that we all agreed upon was the importance that EVERY child involved in SCS come out of the classroom feeling smart, valued and worthy. This is our first and most important goal.

Here is the list of other SCS goals:

1. To help every student grow in their understanding of the Greek Orthodox faith and to find their own space within that spiritual community.
2. To help every student foster an enduring relationship with the Holy Trinity through worship, prayer and study of the Word of God.
3. To help every student learn how to work together in the love of Christ to the betterment of our spiritual community
4. To help every student understand that they are an important part of our spiritual community and how that relationship and position will evolve as they grow.

If you are feeling called to teach this year, please do not hesitate to contact one of us. We are desperately in need of more teachers to facilitate our goal of grade-based classes every Sunday.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship*Elisabeth Baynard*

Thank you to everyone who helped with the luncheon and those that supported the fundraising luncheon for OCF on Sunday, November 18, 2018.



Philoptochos has additional goodie bags for the OCF students who may not have been able to attend the luncheon. Please see Maria Stasios or Irene Sotiriou if you haven't picked up yours.

Community NewsOFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Stella McTaggart will be leaving the role of Parish Office Administrator on Thursday, December 13, 2018 to focus on her family and spirituality. She looks forward to volunteering with ministries of the Church and you will see her each Sunday at Church leading the Divine Liturgy Youth Program. We are pleased to announce Georgia Marmaras will be taking on the role as the full time Parish Office Administrator.

GREEKS IN THE NEWS

Many have asked about the Today Show's segment on Ikaria on Facebook so please visit the link:
<https://www.today.com/video/reducing-your-risk-of-alzheimer-s-what-one-greek-island-shows-us-1364059203820?v=raila&fbclid=IwAR0vFD5Zyj72b-sXBYngWjBzQcukyvd4CtsYPQWI-F9M1vMhxaC42skKVEA>

LOST AND FOUND

In an effort to properly return all missing and lost items to their owners, we wish to remind everyone there is a Lost & Found kept in the office for all lost treasures. **All items currently held in the office will be kept until December 31, 2018.** After that time all items will be donated to charity. If you are missing a favorite sweater, piece of jewelry, glasses, books, etc., please contact the Church Office to see if we may have your item.

DONATION REQUESTS
TIME, TALENT, OR TREASURE

If you would like to volunteer to be a Sunday Church School teacher, assistant, or substitute, please contact either Tia Saffo or Eleni Pappamihel.

We are always in need of some Olive oil for the altar vigil candles through our Greek Marketplace at St. Nicholas. Please see Fr. Jon if you would like to donate.

Our Community has need for more Prosforo. With many hands we can make light work of this blessed task. Thank you in advance to those who heed this call. **Please join us on December 1 for the Prosforo Retreat.**

STAFFED NURSERY

During Divine Liturgies each Sunday throughout the year we have a staffed Nursery with Attendant available for the use of our youngest members from birth to age 5. If your child needs a wiggle break or a place to listen to the Divine Liturgy in a different environment, please feel free to use this provided Service.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Deacon Tom Fernandez and Diakonissa Stacie for your invaluable contributions to our Community and Ministries over the past four years. We are pleased that His Grace Bishop Nicholas of Miami of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese has assigned you to serve in our area. We look forward to your visiting our Parish as often as your schedule allows. Gods blessing on your future ministry.

Thank you to the volunteers of IOCC for coming to our Community and helping after Hurricane Florence. We truly appreciate all of your help. We know there is a long way to go to completely recover from the devastation, but your aid started the process. We could not have done it without your help.

What a blessing to be able to present our Veterans with an icon to honor their service to their Country. Mary Ann Wall would like to especially thank Fr. Jon and Ed Mayorga for their help to make the presentation a success.

The Pan-Ikarian Brotherhood "Chapter Therma" would like to thank all of those who gave a monetary donation or brought items towards our Hurricane Florence Relief Project. With your support we helped families within our church who needed help after the storm. Thank you all for reaching within your hearts to help those in our St. Nicholas Family!!!

Thank you to all of the community members who decorated our Church and Hall so beautifully for the Name Day of our Patron Saint Nicholas and for the Advent & Christmas Seasons. To our tireless volunteers we say THANK YOU!!

Thank you to Dr. Constantine Kokenes who visited us as a Guest Chanter on Sunday, November 11, 2018. He is the Chanter at the Metropolis Cathedral of the Annunciation in Atlanta, nationally recognized chanter and master of the art of Byzantine Chant, and the member of Coppella Romana.

CONGRATULATIONS

For all the people celebrating their birth, anniversary, and name day in the month of December may you have many happy and healthy years ahead to enjoy God's many blessings!!!

CONGRATULATIONS...Nikoletta Rallis and Aza Sydykov for the 40- day blessing of their daughter Despina Alymkan Sydykov. May she be richly blessed throughout her life in Christ! *Να σας ζήσει!* May your child live a healthy life!

CONGRATULATIONS...We are pleased to announce to Michael and Abby Moran was born a beautiful baby boy - Michael Ivory Moran - Thursday, November 1 at 4:43AM. Michael was born 6 lbs. 12 oz. and 20 inches long. Michael joins his older brother Trey as the newest member of their family. God bless their growing family. *ΝΑ ΣΑΣ ΖΗΣΕΙ!!! ΝΑ ΣΑΣ ΖΕΕΣΕΕ!!!*

PLEASE PRAY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL, RECOVERING AND/OR HOMEBOUND Shelby Biancaniello (daughter of Sue Lawler), Bobby Bobon (brother of Sue Lawler), Stavros Chantiles, Anthony Constandy (father of Elisabeth Baynard), Sherry Demas, Nicholas Devoles, Iffie Diakogiannis, Constantine Dukas, Constantine Efthymiou (Father of Barbara Harris), Sue Fokakis (Autumn Care), Demitra George, Stephanie & Georgiana Jean Harrill (daughter & granddaughter of Pat and Marisa Gallaher), Nick Karloutsos (Silver Stream), George Kanes (brother-in-law of Barbara Harris), Dan Kirkby (brother of Matthew), Nikolaos Kotsinis, Olga Mancuso, Calvin McGowan, Mary Compos Marmaras (Cypress Pointe), Maria Padgett-Velaetis, Koula Poulos, Dorothy Radomsky, Pat Skinner-Darby, Kim Saffo, Charity Skinner-Darby (daughter of Pat), Tom Souflas, Peggy Stephano, Debbie Triantafillopoulos, Helen Vurnakes, Vasilios

Vogiatzis, MaryAnn Wall.

Please contact the church office to add/remove someone from the list.

MEMORIALS

If you need to have a Memorial for a loved one or an Artoclasia for the health of your family contact the church office or Fr. Jon at least 2 weeks in advance. We want to make sure we can have all of the correct information in place for your commemoration. Thank you.

SYMPATHIES

Darius L. Babson (1953-2018) passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 27, 2018 in the waiting arms of our Lord, surrounded by his family. Surviving are his wife, Stella Alambis Babson and their four children. The funeral service was held on Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 3:00 pm in Soldier Bay Baptist Church where he was a member.

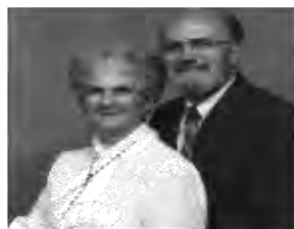
On Sunday, November 18 a one year memorial was chanted for *John Stamboulos!*

ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΤΟΥ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ – Eternal be his memory!

Also on November 18, a 40 day memorial for mother of *Effie Davis and Anastasia Perk* done. *ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΤΗΣ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ* - Eternal be her memory!

With the Saints, give rest to the souls of Your servants, where there is no pain, sorrow, or suffering, but life eternal.

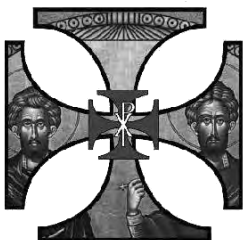




deadline: Saturday, December 15

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

If you did not have a photo taken during our photo campaign earlier this year for a photo directory, please feel free to submit a personal photo by Saturday, December 15, 2018 electronically (IMB, JPG) to the office if you would like your photo included in the Photo Directory. Include all names of members in photograph with your submission.



AND



Shop at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and 0.5% of the price of your purchase

will be donated to Philoptochos

What could make a Philoptochos member happier than shopping and benefitting
Philoptochos all in one step?

While the matching total from Amazon does not seem that large, multiply it by hundreds and thousands of transactions and the amount donated to Philoptochos could make a significant impact!

Philoptochos members unite! Let's join together to shop and benefit our organization to continue its philanthropic work!

Read the information below on how each of us can help.

AmazonSmile ([smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)) is the charitable division of Amazon.com. Customers enjoy the same wide selection of products and low prices as on Amazon.com, with the added benefit of knowing that 0.5% of the purchase price will be donated to the charitable organization of their choice.

Log on to smile.Amazon.com and you will be prompted to enter a charitable organization. Enter "National Philoptochos," and in the future, always shop on smile.Amazon.com. 0.5% of the price of your purchases will automatically be donated to Philoptochos each time you shop.

Save the Date for the 2019 St. Nicholas Oratorical Festival **Sunday, February 17, 2019**



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(800) 566-1088 • RELIGIOUSED.GOARCH.ORG

2019 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Topics

2019 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Topics

Junior Division (Grades 7–9)

1. Martyrs of the Church and some of the early monastics are both described as “athletes.” What does it mean to be an athlete for Christ?
2. On January 30., the Church celebrates the Feast of the Three Hierarchs: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom. Select one of these Church Fathers and discuss his contribution to the Church.
3. Discuss the significance of water in the Church – Baptism, Theophany, holy water, etc. – and what this suggests about our responsibility for the natural world.
4. Discuss the new commandment of John 13:34: “Love one another, even as I have loved you...” What does it mean to love one another as Christ loved us?
5. In 1 Timothy 6:10, St. Paul writes, “For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.” How should Orthodox Christians relate to money and wealth?

Senior Division (Grades 10–12)

1. Many of the Church’s services employ objects from the natural world (such as wheat, wine, oil, or water) in order to confer a blessing upon the faithful. Why does the Church do this, and what does this suggest about our responsibility for the natural world?
2. From ancient Greece to the present, politicians have aligned themselves with religious concepts and constituencies. How is an Orthodox Christian to discern whether today’s politicians do this out of genuine piety or in order to manipulate the electorate?
3. The hymns of the Church contain the whole of its theology. Pick one hymn from the Lenten or Holy Week period and describe how it speaks to you personally.
4. Describe how science and technology should always be at the service of humanity and, ultimately, of God, in harmony with His purposes.
5. In view of St. Paul’s exhortation in Colossians 3:16, “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom,”



Please join us
for some holiday cheer
for Christmas day
will soon be here!



*St. Nicholas Forever Young
Christmas Luncheon*

**Tuesday, December 11, 2018
11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
Beau Rivage Golf & Resort Banquets
649 Rivage Promenade ~ Wilmington, NC**

Take College Road or Carolina Beach Road towards Carolina Beach.
Roughly 2 miles past Monkey Junction
Turn right on to Beau Rivage Drive
Turn left on to Rivage Promenade
The large white building is the venue.
(Elevator is available for those unable to climb the stairs.)

Lunch will be served promptly at Noon

Followed by an afternoon of fellowship, raffles and gift exchange.

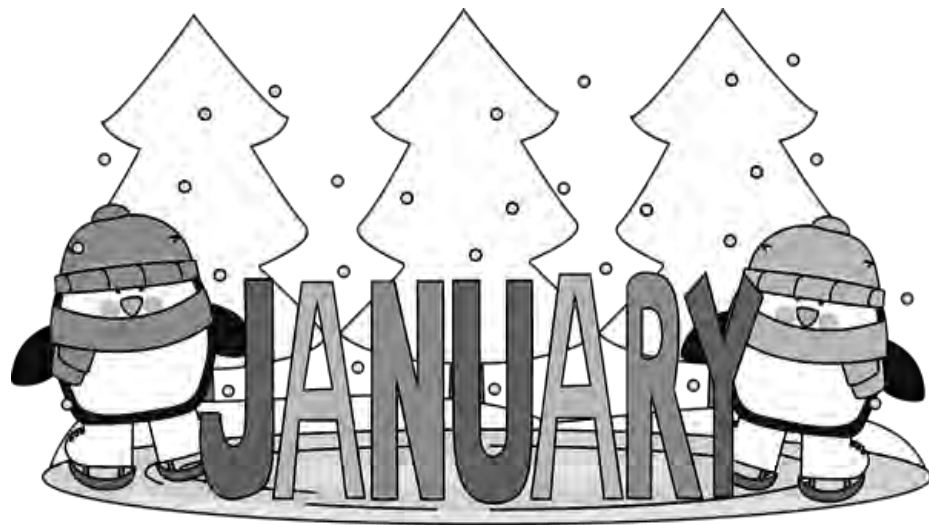
**Please bring a wrapped gift for the gift exchange.
(Maximum Value \$10)**

**For an accurate headcount for the luncheon
please phone Kay Skandalakis by December 5, 2018
at (910) 762-1161**

Home Blessings

During the days following the Feast of the Theophany, it is customary for Fr. Jon to visit the homes of his parishioners for the traditional Theophany Home Blessing.

Call the Church today to schedule your Home Blessing. Anytime all family members are available for the blessing is the right time to schedule. 910.392.4444



SAVE THE DATES:

January 6: Theophany and Vasilopita Sunday

January 18 - 21: HDF in Atlanta, Georgia



ST. NICHOLAS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

1:00 PM

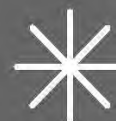
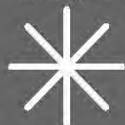
Henry's Restaurant
Shipyard Blvd., Wilmington



RSVP to Debra 910-256-3024 or
dbrallis@aol.com

Order from the Menu "Dutch Treat"

Bring a box of diapers to church by December 5 for Diaper Bank of NC



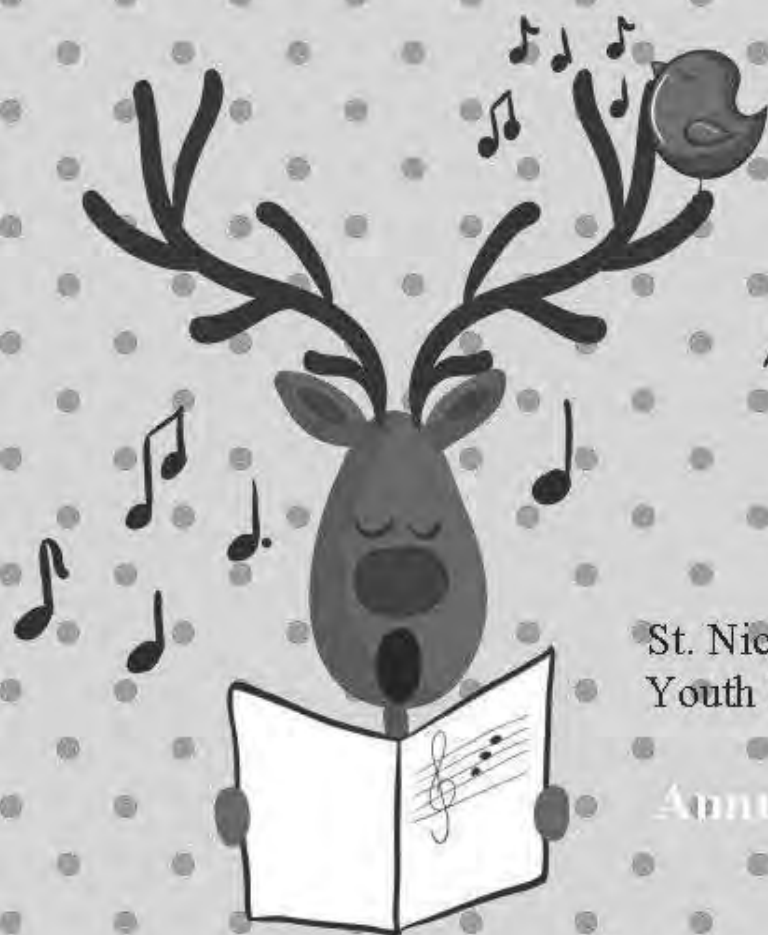


PRE - Holiday BAKE SALE

DEC 9 & DEC 16

**Youth Dance Group
Fundraiser during
fellowship hour.**

**Baked Goods make great
teacher gifts!**



Season's Greetings

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
Youth Dance Groups proudly present

Annual Christmas Caroling

Saturday,
December 15,
2018
5:00 p.m.
until 8:30 p.m.

Καλες
Εορτες!

This is a
fundraiser for
HDF. All
donations are
welcome.

Invite your family and friends to enjoy a wonderful selection of
heart-warming holiday music!

See the signup sheet in the Hellenic Center
or contact the Church office
at: 910-392-4444
to be added to the list.

SAVE THE DATE



PLEASE JOIN US IN
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
JUNE 25 - 29, 2019

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN ALEXIOS
INVITES YOU TO

THE 2019 CLERGY LAITY ASSEMBLY

PHILOPTOCHOS CONFERENCE
SOUTHEASTERN CHOIR FEDERATION
CONFERENCE



HOSTED BY THE SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE PARISH
WWW.STJOHNTHEDIVINE.COM

Δεκέμβριος 2018 • December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<div>Reminder: GLOW will be using Fellowship Hall and Classrooms <u>EACH WEEKDAY</u> <u>during school hours</u> <u>9AM-4PM</u> until June 6, 2019.If you would like to use the Hall or Classrooms for a meeting, the office must give 2 days notice to GLOW. Thank you for your</div>					30 6:30 PM GOYA Lock-In	1 7:30AM Men’s Group Bible Study & Breakfast 9AM Prospero Baking Re-treat	
2 <i>14th Sunday of Luke</i> 8:30AM Orthros & Divine Liturgy 11:30AM Hope/Joy event 11:30AM Pre Holiday Bake Sale 1PM Philoptochos Christmas Social	3 6PM Great Vespers in Durham	4 <i>St. Barbara the Great Martyr</i> 8AM Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 7PM Parish Council Meeting	5 10AM Orthodox Coffee Hour <div><i>Bishop Sevastianos to Visit</i></div> 6:00PM Great Vespers for St. Nicholas 7:30PM Philoptochos Sponsored refreshments	6 <i>St. Nicholas the Wonderworker</i> 9AM Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 7PM Catechism Class	7 Office Closed 5PM Greek School 5PM Bible Study	8 All-Day Fellowship hall in Use 4PM Sanctuary in Use 6PM Great Vespers	
9 10th Sunday of Luke 8:30AM Orthros & Divine Liturgy 12PM Parish Council Elections	10 6:30PM Philoptochos Board Mtg.	11 11:45AM Forever Young Christmas Social Beau Rivage 7PM Festival 2019 Meeting	12 <i>St. Spyridon the Wonderworker</i> 8AM Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 10AM Orthodox Coffee Hour 7PM COM Meeting	13 Last Day for Stella McTaggart 7PM Catechism Class	14 Georgia’s 1st Full day (8:30AM - 5:30PM) 5PM Greek School 5PM Bible Study	15 <i>St. Elefterios</i> 8AM Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 4PM Great Vespers 5PM Christmas Caroling	
16 <i>11th Sunday of Luke</i> 8:30AM Orthros & Divine Liturgy 11:30AM Pre Holiday Bake Sale	17	18	19 10AM Orthodox Coffee Hour	20	21	22 <i>St. Anastasia the Great Martyr</i> 6PM Great Vespers	
23 <i>Sunday before Nativity</i> 8:30AM Orthros/ Divine Liturgy	24 <i>Eve of the Nativity of Christ</i> 8AM Royal Hours for the Nativity 6PM Vesporal Liturgy of St. Basil’s for the	25 <i>Nativity of Christ</i> 9AM Orthros/ Divine Liturgy <div><i>Christ is Born...Glorify Him</i></div>	<div></div>		27 <i>St. Stephan The Great Martyr</i>	28	29
30 <i>Sunday after Nativity</i> 8:30AM Orthros/		<div>HAPPY★NEW★YEAR</div>					

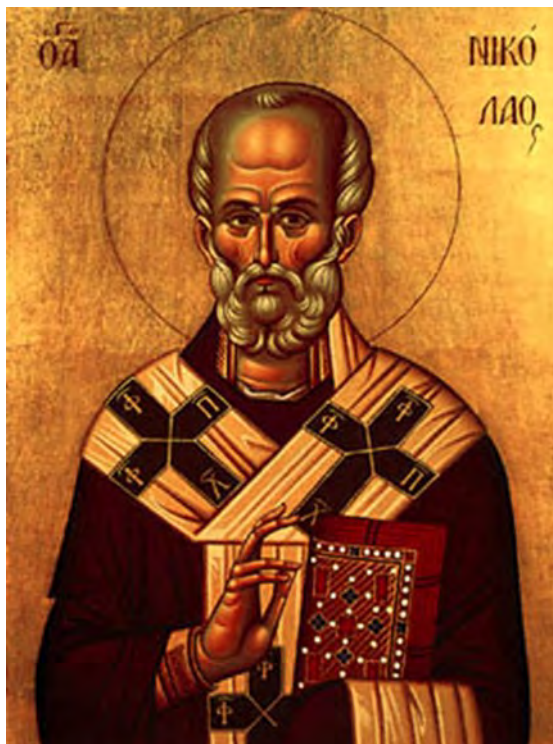
ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.stnicholaswilmington.org

608 S. College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WILMINGTON, NC
PERMIT NO. 634**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



ST. NICHOLAS

**GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
MISSION**

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church is dedicated to the continuation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's ministry of salvation through the proclamation and teaching of the Gospel; through Baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and through loving service to God and mankind.

VISION

The community will provide a loving, caring and welcoming environment where all belong and grow in the faith through worship, service, witness and fellowship.