



METROPOLIS
OF ATLANTA



March 2018



Annunciation of the Theotokos
March 25

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*Adult Education...*Richard Reynolds
*Bookstore/Library...*Mary Ann Wall
*Oratorical Festival...*Kim Dandulakis
*Orthodox Coffee Hour...*Irene Voneiff
*Youth Catechism...*Georgia Spiliotis
*Vacation Church School...*Diakonissa Stacie Fernandez

Hellenic Culture...Kitsa Wiersteiner, Ministry Chair

*Hellenic School...*Anestis Logothetis, Acting Director
*Nea Smyrni Dance Group...*Zaharoula Katsikis
*Romiosini Dance Group...*Zaharoula Katsikis
*Special Activities...*Kitsa Wiersteiner
*Zoyra Dance Group...*Katerina Katsikis

Youth Diakonia...Cameron Calhoun, Ministry Chair

*GOYA...*Joyce Patsalos, Alexia Porzio
*HOPE/JOY...*Sophia Brewer, Jaime Saffo, Renée Karonis Psilos

Metropolis Strategic Planning...Koula Katsikis

Liturgical Life... Dr. Michael Rallis, Ministry Chair

*Acolytes...*Doug Brown
*Altar Care...*Matthew Wickersham
Liturgical Music... Dr. Michael Rallis

OCF...Fr. Jon

Communications - Technology Ministries...

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

Parish Family Life...Volunteer Needed

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

Outreach & Evangelism...Deacon Tom & Diakonissa

Stacie Fernandez, Ministry Chairs
*Hospitality...*Ed & Kathleen Mayorga
*Parish Care...*Pat Poulos, Constantina Stamatakis, Kay Skandalakis, Dr. Mary Frankos, Jim Stasios

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

Philoptochos...Debra Rallis, Chapter President

Stewardship...John Whitley

IOCC...Angela Dentiste

From the Desk of Fr. Jon

Falling in love with God (and each other)

Our Lenten journey will be in a full swing of the censor by the time this newsletter arrives. Still, let me say to all, a blessed 40 day and holy week journey. May you draw ever closer to the one, true and living God through repentance, attendance of Divine services, Scripture reading, fasting and giving of the alms.

We have an awesome God! As the psalm says, “Who is so great a God as our God? You are the God who does wonders...” Ps 76:14b-15a. Yet, our God revealed His love for us in the person of Jesus, His only-begotten Son! We do not have an impersonal God. The Lord Jesus came to earth and lived and walked among men. Jesus is like us in all ways except sin. Jesus became the last blood sacrifice, he became the suffering Servant from the prophecies of Isaiah. Jesus is the one who saves each and every one of us from sin and death, and grants us eternal life!

The Lord Jesus knows every secret about us. Jesus knows every thought, word and deed of our lives. And yes, he knows all our sins. Jesus knows our pain, our insecurities, our innermost fears. Many of us in the depths of our despair, in the worst moments of our lives, have reached out to Him. Jesus, heals all our wounds, forgives all our sins, and loves us more than any in the world. He wraps His arms around us and we become His servants. His loving embrace becomes known to us and we are His children. No more sorrow, no more pain, no more memories of past wrongs, just a love that goes beyond all understanding! Jesus loves us this much. As the lovers of God, Jesus has become our guide through all of life’s trial and tribulations. Jesus even tells us, “In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

The gospels become our chart for salvation and our Orthodox Church, with Jesus at the rudder, steers us through the perilous waters of life. While we are in the ship of the Church, we are safe, we are loved, we are in a community of believers that prays for each other, supports each other, cares for each other.

How do we show our love for God? How can we ever love Jesus as He loves us? The key to this door is in the word of God, the Bible. Jesus tells us, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” John 14:15. If we truly love the Lord Jesus, let us take His word to heart. Let us keep His commandments!

So, when we turn to the Bible, we become students and lovers of the gospel almost instantly, because Jesus’ words heal, direct, inspire and bring peace.

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Mt 4:17

Jesus calls us to repent of our sins. And here is a secret, He gladly lifts them from our shoulders! When, we repent and confess in our Orthodox Church, the Lord Jesus Himself, through the prayers of the priest, heals our wounds, takes away pain and guilt, and guides us to eternal life. The spiritual fathers, our Orthodox priests, are humble witnesses to this great mystery and stand in awe of your courage. By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have rejected the consul of the devil and chosen life in Christ Jesus. God rejoices when any of His sheep return to the fold! We come to know the grace of God and the joy of our spirit being renewed as on the day of our baptism.

“Love your enemies.” Luke 6:27 “Bless those who curse you.” Luke 6:28

Jesus liberates the world and us from hatred in these two commandments! It is impossible to hate anyone and be a true servant of the Lord Jesus. Love your enemies, pray for them. When we humble ourselves before those who we were previously at odds, it baffles them, but ultimately, it disarms them. With the same love Jesus displayed for His enemies, love them. This same sacrificial love becomes a beacon of hope to all around us. This is the same love the martyrs had. The grace of God abounds in these words of Jesus when they become flesh in us.

“Be merciful, as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:36

Just as God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are merciful, we must become merciful. What does it mean to be filled with mercy? We, as believers in Jesus, must strive to see the Lord present in all those around us. When we do this, an overwhelming kindness and compassion dwells in our hearts. We come to love everyone, not as our flawed eyes see, not as the devil suggests judgment, but as the Lord would treat them.

“Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” Luke 6:37

Jesus, in three commandments, brings peace to all of us. How you might ask? Jesus lifts our burdens, He unties us. Judge not, condemn not, forgive! In doing just that, we become freed from the binding of the evil one. Where the devil binds, Jesus gives freedom. When the devil judges, Jesus gives grace. When the devil would drag us to hell, Jesus leads us to His heavenly kingdom! This is what we could call a contagious commandment. When these commandments dwell in our hearts, we become the light on the stand! God's grace cannot be hidden. People begin to notice you live in the world, but you are not of the world. You do not participate in office politics and family gossip. You become a gospel bearing believer in our Lord Jesus. All the hymnology about our faith in the Lord and Master of our lives becomes real to us. And see the amazing blessings Jesus promises: you shall not be judged, you shall not be condemned, and you will be forgiven. Jesus opens the gates of heaven for us, will we walk through?

“Give, and it will be given to you.” Luke 6:38

This commandment of Jesus has to be experienced in order to be understood. This is a creative command and a command of the moment. Every time we give time, love, help, talents, we do all these as believers and in the name of Jesus. We become good stewards of God's grace. All we need to do is read the life of St. John the Almsgiver of Alexandria, to understand that there are as many ways to fulfill this command and teaching of Jesus as there are days in our lives. My experience has taught me every time I give anything, I receive back more than I gave. Read Luke 6:38 in its fullness to begin your Lenten journey! Coupled with the command above are the following:

“I was hungry and you gave Me food.”

“I was thirsty and you gave Me drink.”

“I was stranger and you took Me in.”

“I was naked and you clothed Me.”

“I was in prison and you came to Me.”

“I was sick and you visited Me.” Matthew 25:35-36

This is the love of Jesus in action. Compassion become incarnate. The Lord Jesus in you, reaching out to those in need.

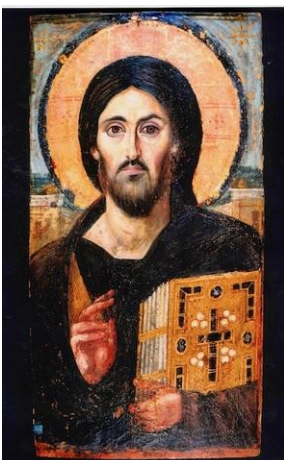
“Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them.” Matthew 7:12

This command of Jesus has become known as the golden rule. Live by this and we will live in the grace of the Lord Jesus. Yet, our Orthodox Church teaches us that in order to love this deeply, to live this grace filled life in Christ Jesus, we must follow the example of the Lord and keep our prayer life with fervor. We should become infused with the holy Mysteries of our Church and worship the one God with our entire being. Lord Jesus, grant us to live a life pleasing to You.

“Love one another, as I have loved you. John 13:34, 15:12

It is easy to love those who love us. Jesus gives us a new command! The love Jesus has surpasses all understanding. The love of God the Father is well known, “for God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. Jesus brings the good news of salvation and gives His life for the world. We, quite amazingly, walk the last week of Jesus' life and ministry in our Orthodox Holy Week and celebrate the glorious Resurrection! Nothing even remotely compares. To know the love of Jesus and to fall in love with God and each other is one of the great challenges of our lives!

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.” John 15:13-14 (See the universal letter 1 John for more on love.) During our Lenten journey, may the commands of Jesus go from our minds and descend deep in our hearts, that they may become the well spring of our life.



Prayer centered around the icon of Jesus

Lord Jesus, come. I ask you Lord Jesus to step out of your icon and into my heart. It was you, Lord Jesus, who said, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” Mt 11:28,30. Come now I pray you and enter my heart. Jesus, may my belief be unwavering, may my repentance be complete, may Your saving grace heal my wounded heart and mind. May Your love abide with me always, and be shared with all those around me! Lord Jesus you gave the Holy Spirit to your apostles, and it has sustained our Church to this day through the grace of Your Holy Mysteries. May I be continually renewed through Your most precious body and blood. Grant me, Lord Jesus, to be victorious over sin during my Lenten journey and that I may reach Your glorious Resurrection. Amen.

From the Parish Council President Barbara Reynolds

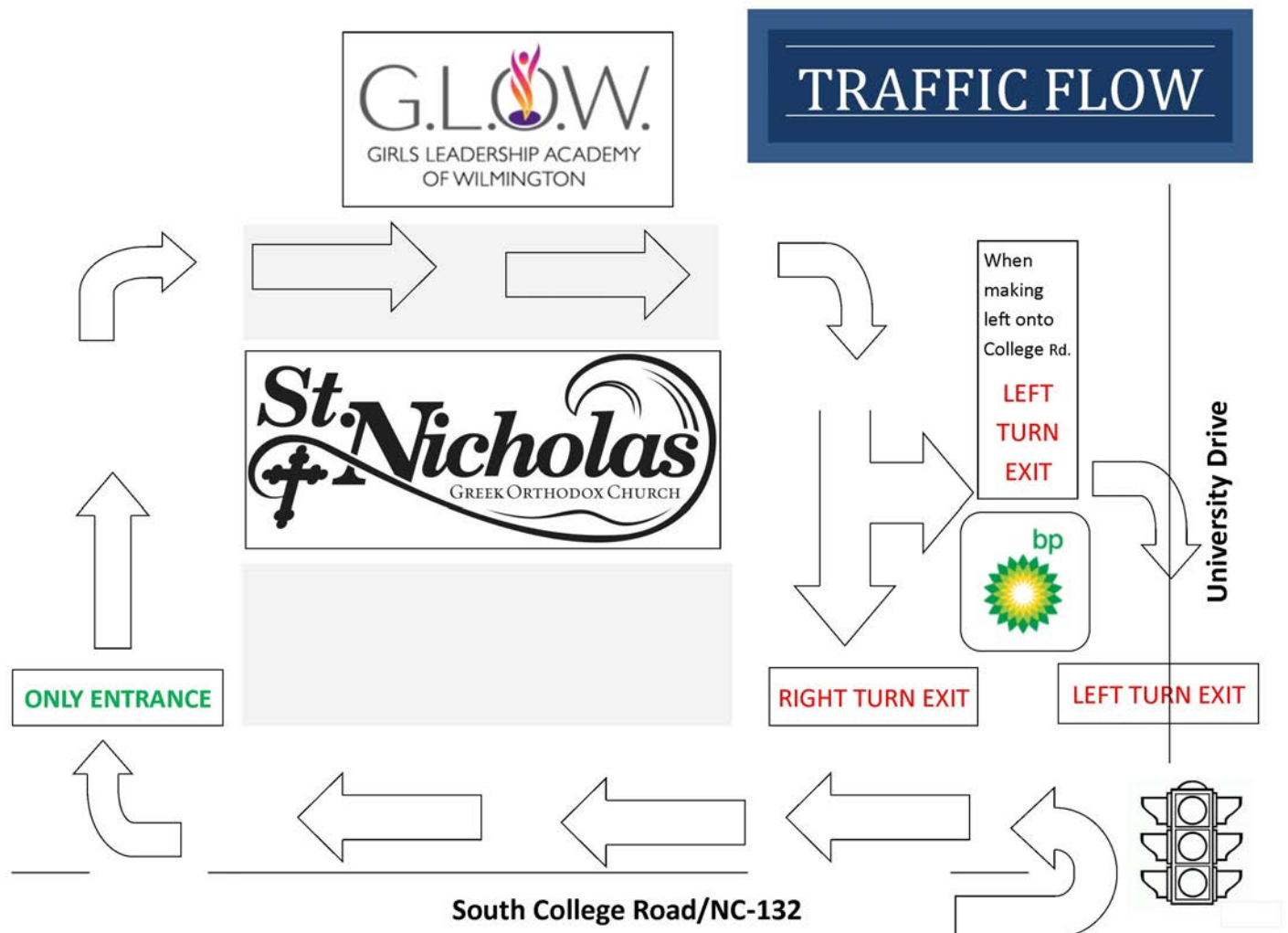
I hope everyone is enjoying the new bathrooms and improvements to the Hellenic Center and hallways as well as the lack of dust around the church. We have completed phase I of the construction. We are going to bring in a lighting expert to look at the lights in the Hellenic Center. Aside for that we will take a break in the construction for Lent and Pascha and do later phases after the festival. The roof has been power washed and repairs made to the roof. The outside of the church will be painted now that these repairs have been made. In addition, the kitchen has had a thorough cleaning including the drawers, cabinets, pots and pans. Please clean up after using the kitchen so that we can keep it this way.

Fr. Jon and several members of the parish council attended a seminar on church security. The parish council is going to review the suggestions from the seminar, and we will implement any suggestions that make sense for us.

Speaking of safety. As a reminder I have included below a description of the traffic flow to be followed into and out of our parking lots. It is important to follow this flow especially now that we also have school traffic.

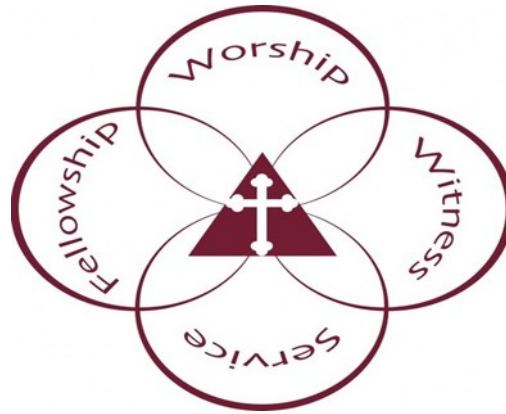
I hope everyone will take advantage of the beautiful additional church services that we are having now that we enter Great Lent.

May you all have a blessed Lent and Pascha season.



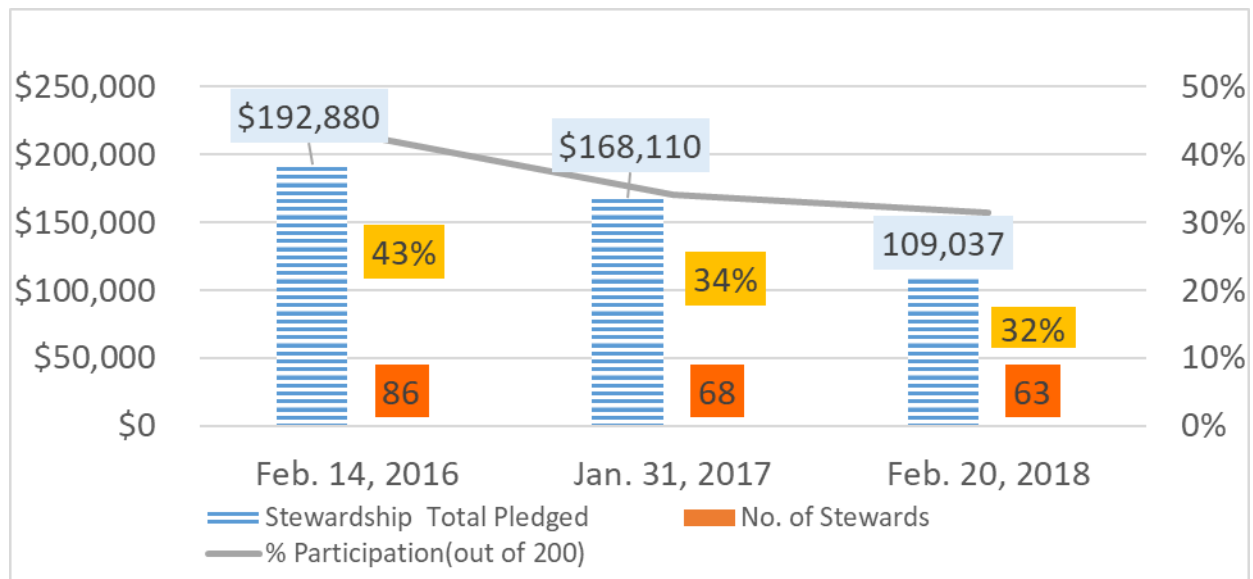
Treasurer

Tina Bostic



2017 Final Stewardship Results		
stewardship received	stewardship goal	Variance
\$271,900.73	\$277,306.31	-\$5,405.58

Below is a snapshot of the number of parishioners who have filled out stewardship cards during the spring General Assemblies in the last three years. There has been a decline in the number of parishioners providing a commitment card to St. Nicholas early in the year. Our church will continue to grow as we stand united in our love of the Orthodox Church. As I look around at the wonderful activities and organizations within St. Nicholas I'm so happy to see so many giving of their time, talent and treasurers. Please take the time to think and pray about how you will participate in the life of our St. Nicholas community in 2018.



Operating Income/Expense			
General Fund	Income	Expenses	Variance
Jan	\$19,386.32	\$37,995.11	\$(18,608.79)
YTD	\$19,386.32	\$37,995.11	\$(18,608.79)

Philoptochos
Enosis Chapter #5027
Debra Rallis

We are grateful to Dr. Peter Manolukas for speaking to us at our **membership brunch** and educating us on Heart Disease in Women. It was a beautiful afternoon of fellowship. We are happy to share some photos from the event.

Thank you to our **anonymous donor** who contributed \$1,000 to our chapter. These funds will be used to help those in need. God bless you!

We are excited that a dozen of our members will be attending the **Spiritual Retreat** March 16-18th at our beautiful Diakonia Retreat Center. The topic is Reaching IN to Reach OUT "Preparing our Lives for Philanthropy."

Philoptochos will be having a **Silent Auction** at this year's Greek Festival to fund our many charities. We are looking for church parishioners to donate frequent flyer miles/tickets to Greece, Rental Vacations or Timeshare, Spa Treatments, Golf Packages, Values starting at \$250 and up. Please let a Philoptochos Board Member know if you can help us!

Me Agape on your Lenten Journey.....





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 is excited to announce the following topics for the next official Faith Forums in Atlanta, Georgia the weekend of November 11, 2017 in conjunction with the Archangel Michael Awards Presentations:

- 1.1 Parish Strategic Planning
- 1.3 Risk Management
- 4.2 Orthodox Leadership Training
- Managing Difficult Conversations & Understanding Parish Finances
- 5.4 Programs For Our Seniors
- 8.1 Spiritual Growth Resources
- 9.1 Comprehensive Stewardship

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.

Family Life

The Family Life Ministry is an Orthodox Christian ministry dedicated to providing uplifting and diverse resources for dealing with life's daily joys and struggles in an Orthodox way through inspiring blog posts, informative podcasts, and creative ideas for adolescence, marriage and parenting. To learn more about this resource please go to www.familylifeministry.atlanta.goarch.org

And if you would like to lead this Ministry here at Church, please contact Fr. Jon.

Oratorical Festival

Kim Dandulakis, Oratorical Festival Chairperson

Dear Saint Nicholas Parents and Youth,

Introduced in 1983, the **St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival** provides our teenagers the opportunity to write and talk about their faith. The Oratorical Festival Program begins at the parish level and is divided into Junior and Senior Divisions:

Junior Division for students in grades 7–9
Senior Division for student in grades 10–12

The top speakers in the Junior and Senior Divisions advance to the district level. Two finalists in each district division represent the district at the Metropolis level. The top speaker in each Metropolis Division is then selected to participate in the Archdiocese Finals, which is hosted by a different metropolis each year.

All eighteen finalists at the Archdiocese Finals participate in a weekend of activities, the highlight of which is the delivery of their speeches on Saturday morning. The Oratorical Festival Scholarship Fund provides college scholarships to the top speakers. Currently, the top three speakers of each division receive college scholarships of \$2,000, \$1,500 and \$1,000. Last year, an Honorable Mention speaker was awarded \$500.

In addition, each senior and junior division first, second, and third place finalist in each category at the parish, district, metropolis, and national levels of competition is eligible to receive a Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College. This scholarship has been amended to provide awards ranging from \$2,500 up to \$30,000 per year.

The 2018 Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival topics for Junior and Senior levels are available. Copies of the topics can be found on line at: <https://www.goarch.org/-/2018-st-john-chrysostom-oratorical-festival-topics?inheritRedirect=true> Copies are also available from Sunday School Teachers and on the table in our Hellenic Center.

Participation in the Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is an excellent accomplishment to list on College Applications!

There is also an **Elementary Division for students in grades 4–6**. This allows our younger children to participate as well. There is no judging at this level. Children are encouraged to work with their Sunday School Teachers to come up with a suitable topic. Topics may include: Jesus, Prayer, Icons, Saint's and name days.

Our parish level competition will take place SUNDAY, MARCH 4. Any questions regarding our parish Oratorical Festival please feel free to contact me.

Stewardship

John Whitley

Lent is a time of reflection. As I reflect on stewardship I think of living in harmony with God, with my fellow man, and with the teachings of the church. In other words, to me stewardship means having a successful relationship with God, a successful relationship with my brothers and sisters, and successfully applying the teachings of the church to my life.

When I read about success, I see that successful people do not dwell on past hurts. Successful people put past offenses behind them and move forward. In other words, successful people practice forgiveness.

In an article from Success Story.com I read about the benefits of forgiveness. (You can read the article for yourself at the following link, Forgiveness and Emotional Intelligence, <https://successstory.com/inspiration/forgiveness-and-emotional-intelligence>)

Benefits of forgiveness include

1. Forgiveness Releases Resentment, Anger, and Frustration
2. Forgiveness is Good for Health
3. Forgiveness helps Build Good Relationships
4. Blame not the Persons but Their Acts
5. Forgiveness should Begin at Home
6. Prayer and Meditation Help
7. Accept the Way Things are
8. Don't Keep on Telling It to Others

While it is easy to recognize the importance of forgiveness, the how to do it can be a sticking point. How do you go about forgiving someone? Looking for some answers I turn to the Bible.

I see that Christ set the example. He forgave the cruelty of the Roman soldiers who had spit on him, abused him, and nailed him to the cross.

Forgiveness can also include reflection, something that is important during Lent. When I examine myself, I see that I am not perfect. This self-realization can be helpful in forgiving the shortcomings of other people.

In the Sermon on the Mount our Lord and Savior teaches us not to judge. He teaches us to not look at the speck in our brother's eye. "How can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." (Matthew 7)

In Romans 2 St. Paul is even more direct. "You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things."

Finally, it helps me to see the humanity of the person who has offended me and to see the image of God in the other person. St. John the Theologian says, "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (I John 4).

As I ponder the meaning of forgiveness I think of the Christ's example and my own human frailty. I also try to think of the person who has grieved me as a person like myself, made in the image of God. God loves this person.

On a personal level, forgiveness can be one of the most difficult teachings of our church to apply. Fasting is easy. Forgiveness is hard. It takes work, and I am still working at it. Just like Lent is a spiritual journey that leads to a closer understanding of the Orthodox way of life, forgiveness brings peace and is essential to living a successful life.

So as we continue our Lenten journey let us also consider the words of this year's stewardship theme: "Whatever you do work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for men." Colossians 3:23

Greek Festival

Nick Saffo, Lee King, Ministry Co-Chairs

Volunteers are needed to help make our 2018 Greek Festival the best yet. Look for schedule updates for festival meetings (NEXT MEETING MARCH 15 at 7PM) and bake dates in upcoming bulletins. Any and all hands are welcome. Please consider sponsoring the festival to advertise your business or send greetings from your family. See our sponsorship form later in this newsletter. You can request additional copies from the office or find online at www.stnicholasgreekfest.com

Forever Young

Kay Skandalakis

Forever Young will meet on Tuesday March 6, 2018 at 11:45AM at the College Diner. Please join us for the food and fellowship...

At our February lunch we celebrated the "60th Wedding Anniversary" of Mike and Lola Loizidis...we wish them many more happy years. We had a nice turnout for our luncheon with new faces joining us. We hope that more new faces will join us at the March Forever Young lunch.

Youth Catechism

Georgia Spiliotis

The month of March provides services for the Sunday School students to “grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” God has blessed the children with intelligence and the Sunday School teachers will work on providing the knowledge of our own faith. Christ knew that His teachings would be carried on in the Church by ordinary people like us. Parents, join with the Sunday School in preparing our children for the riches of prayer in Great Lent.

This is what your children will be taught in March:

The story of the **40 Martyrs of Sebaste** comes to us from the Heroic days of the Church. These brave men were soldiers stationed at Sebaste in Armenia about the year 320 AD. When the Roman Emperor Licinius ordered all his legions to make public sacrifice as a test of their pagan loyalty, these soldiers refused to desert their Christian principles and were banded together in witness to their faith. All 40 were stripped of their clothes, scourged and then forced to lie naked upon the frozen surface of a nearby pond until they either gave in or froze to death. A fire was built on the shore nearby and a warm bath prepared to encourage any who might thus be tempted to desert. Only one weakened and crawled to the shore. However, his place was immediately taken from by one of the pagan guards who saw a vision of angels descending from heaven with crowns for the martyrs and thereupon was moved to Confess Christ. The Martyrs had prayed that their number might remain unbroke and so it was. When the ordeal was over, and the guards came to take their frozen bodies to be burned, the youngest soldier was found still to be alive. The guards were amazed with his bravery and wanted to spare him, but his mother urged him not to give in, but to be constant to the end. This example of constancy in the Christian Faith, became famous all over the East and is remembered to this day in the Orthodox Wedding Ceremony. We honor them on March 9 each year.

The **Feast of the Annunciation** which is always celebrated on the 25th of March is one of our four Great Feasts held annually in honor of the Virgin Mary. Although this Feast usually falls within the period of the Great Fast, it is

always celebrated with splendor and rejoicing, because Christians have been accustomed to look upon it, as the beginning of the course of their salvation through Christ. The first chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke tells the story of the Annunciation (Luke 1: 26-38) and the events concerning birth of St. John the Baptist, whose life and work were so intimately associated with the Divine Mission of Jesus in March 26 the day after the Annunciation, is celebrated a Feast in Honor of the Archangel Gabriel, the messenger of the Divine Decree.

Akathyst Hymn: The Service prescribed for Friday evening of the 4th week of Lent is that of the Akathyst Hymn, a devotion in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This Service consists of the recitation of the Little Compline, with which is combined a series of special hymns, Salutations in honor of Mary. Present custom is to hold the services on each of the first five Friday evenings of Lent. The Akathyst Hymn itself is divided into four parts, and on each of the first four Friday evenings, a successive part is sung and on the fifth Friday evenings, the entire Hymn is performed. The Akathyst Hymn was composed as an offering of Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin in the year 626 AD. In that year the Persians and Avars attacked the city of Constantinople and besieged it. The Patriarch Segius led the despairing people in a great procession around the walls of the city singing and bearing with them Icons of the Lord and His Mother. Strengthened by their devotion, and aided by a tempest which sprang up and destroyed the enemy fleet which had besieged the city, the inhabitants sallied forth and put the remnants of the invaders in flight. They considered their deliverance all the more miraculous because the Emperor Heraclius was absent on a campaign

with the major part of his army. In Thanksgiving the populace gathered in the Great Church of the Holy Wisdom (Saint Sophia) and remained standing the whole night as they sang hymns of praise and thanksgiving. The word “Akathystos” means “not sitting” and it is still customary for the congregation to stand as the stanzas of the Hymn are being sung. The Akathyst Hymn is one of the great devotional compositions of Christian hymnography and has been translated into many languages. It is often used as a Service of Intercession of the Blessed Virgin, and is sung in all the Greek Orthodox Churches during Lent.

Christ, the Master Teacher

Christ was the Master Teacher although...

He never had a teacher's degree...

He never attended college...

He never heard of educational methods...

Yet...

Christ was the Master Teacher because...

He used events, experiences, and language of the people...

He knew how to love others...

He was a role model...

He shared the faith...

He prayed to His Father for help...

He gave Himself for others...

And...

You can follow in the footsteps of Christ the Great Teacher if...

You love the faith...

You teach from knowledge...

You relate faith to life experiences...

You are willing to be a continual learner...

You teach with love, humility, and commitment...

You sow His seeds in the hearts of others.



Dance Groups

Zaharoula Katsikis & Katerina Katsikis

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual HDF Recognition Awards Ceremony. Thank you to all who spoke kind words and gave of their time to make this another wonderful event. We thank you from the bottom of our Hearts and pray our Dancers and Families will have a Good Lent.

Hellenic School

Anestis Logothetis

The **Annual Greek School/AHEPA Dance** took place on Saturday, February 3 at the newly renovated Hellenic Center. It was a very successful affair considering it is the only dance our Community has. The many folks who attended had a wonderful time and enjoyed good food, the music of Paschalis Band, the dancing, and the fellowship. We want to thank Chris's Restaurant for the donation of moussaka and pastichio and the College Diner for the donation of salads and dolmadakia. The Greek School teachers were involved with the Hall decoration, publicity, selling of tickets and preparing the appetizers. AHEPA was responsible for cooking the delicious lamb dish. Kitsa Wiersteiner arranged the Raffle which offered numerous baskets with Greek specialties, wines and gift certificates at various shops and restaurants. The Parishioners who attended enjoyed the dance and those who could not attend missed a fun evening. Whatever profit the dance makes goes to the Greek School and the AHEPA charities.

The Greek School is in full swing with classes for youngsters and adults. We have classes for beginners as well as for youngsters with advanced knowledge of Greek. Our next celebration will be on March 18 when the Greek School will celebrate the Greek Independence Day. The whole Parish is invited.

HOPE/JOY

Renée Karonis Psilos, Sophia Brewer & Jaime Saffo

Please join our youth on Saturday, March 31 immediately following Divine Liturgy. It is such a fun time for the children to make the palm crosses for Palm Sunday.



All Youth!

On April 6, please join us for the Holy Friday Youth Rally Retreat! 10AM-4PM. Registration deadline is April 4. Lunch will be provided. The retreat ends with the Unnailing Vespers starting at 3PM. We look forward to seeing all the youth at this wonderful annual event!

Hellenic Culture

Kitsa Wiersteiner

Greek Independence Day will be celebrated on Sunday, March 18 in the Hellenic Center after the Divine Liturgy. The speaker will be Dr. Gregory Dandoulakis to be followed by poems and dances. The lunch will be provided as a fundraiser for the Hellenic School, \$10 per person (children 12 and under free). Poem practice for the children reciting poems will be offered on Sunday, March 11 during the fellowship hour. Καλή Σαρακοστή.

Hellenic Culture held its annual Three Hierarchs Presentation on Sunday, January 28, after Divine Liturgy in the Hellenic Center. Many thanks to Deacon Tom Fernandez for his well-done speech.

Community News

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.

FOR SALE

We have various "Greek Market" items for sale including Greek coffee, olive oil, olives, cookies, beans, and orzo. See Sandra Papanikolaou or Irene Sotiriou to purchase. All checks to be made out to St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church with the memo stating: "GREEK MARKET-PLACE."

MYROFORES

The holy season is quickly approaching and we are hoping your beautiful girls will join us as myrofores. All girls K-8th grade are invited and encouraged to participate. We ask that you attend a mandatory practice on Palm Sunday after divine liturgy. The girls will need to have white dresses with shoulders covered in order to participate in the Holy Friday service. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pam Calhoun or Renée Karonis-Psilos. We look forward to seeing all the young girls join us this year!

THANK YOU

On behalf of my family I would like to thank the anonymous donor who made the donation to the Philoptochos in memory of my mother, Angeline Batuyios Saffo. It is truly an honor and a blessing that my mother left her legacy on the church and with Philoptochos. I am honored to think that my mother, who worked tirelessly for the church and for Philoptochos and always was willing and wanting to help people in need, may have touched this person in some way that they made this donation to the Philoptochos.

I hope that my daughters and I can live up to the legacy that my mother left upon her beloved St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church & Philoptochos. I hope that we, her children and grandchildren, live up to her legacy and we make her proud as we honor & cherish her memory.

May God bless the donor and God bless Philoptochos as they carry out the charitable work of helping those in need.

With sincere gratitude,
Kay Skandalakis

AHEPACape Fear Chapter No. 408

AHEPA Cape Fear Chapter No. 408 will have its chapter meeting on Sunday, March 11 at 4PM. The chapter meeting will be held at the AHEPA 408 Apartments, located at 109 N. Kerr Ave.

Invite any brothers you may have the opportunity to see.

DONATION REQUESTSTIME, TALENT, OR TREASURE

Calling all Baker's in our St. Nicholas community to bake *prosforo* and *artoclasia*. Share your Love for the Lord in this heartfelt ministry. Remember, the bread we make for our spiritual home becomes the body of our Lord. We are excited to have you join Pres. Barbara and the rest of a team. Please contact Pres. Barbara for more information.

We are always in need of some Commandaria wine for the altar. It is available for purchases at Greek stores in Raleigh or online. Please see Fr. Jon if you would like to donate.

Please contact the office if you would like to donate an item needed for Liturgical Services during Great Lent. Thank you very much for your consideration.

CONGRATULATIONS

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

Congratulations to Victoria & Ben Boron as they welcome their daughter to the world. Cecilia Luz Boron was born on January 30, 2018 at 11:53AM (7lbs 11oz. and 20.5 inches.) Deacon Tom and Diakonissa Stacie Fernandez are the proud grandparents!! May God grant many blessings of hope, faith and love to them all!!



Congratulations to Maia Porzio for receiving one of the Odyssey Scholarships. She will be traveling to Greece this June with the Hellenic Dance Program. BRAVO!!!

PLEASE PRAY

Please pray for those who are ill, recovering, and/or homebound: Angelo Angeledes, Shelby Biancaniello (daughter of Sue Lawler), Bobby Bobon (brother of Sue Lawler), Stavros Chantiles, Anthony Constandy (father of Elisabeth Baynard), Sherry Demas, Nicholas Devoles, Constantine Dukas, Sue Fokakis (Autumn Care), George Fokakis (Morningside), Demitra George, Maria Karafas, Nick Karloutsos (Silver Stream), Dan Kirkby (brother of Matthew), Nikolaos Kotsinis, Olga Mancuso, Calvin McGowan, Mary Compos Marmaras; Ed Mayorga; Eleni Mitsis (mother of Effie Davis), Pat Skinner-Darby, Charity Skinner-Darby (daughter of Pat), Tom Souflas, Helen Vurnakes; Vasilios Vogiatzis, MaryAnn Wall

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

SYMPATHIES

Let us remember Evelyn Angeledes who fell asleep into the Lord on January 30, 2018. Please keep her husband Angelo Angeledes and the rest of her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΑΥΤΗΣ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ –Everlasting be her memory.

Let us remember Paraskevi “Kiki” Xanthos who passed away peacefully to be with the Lord with her family by her side on February 2, 2018. Please keep Katerina and John Psilos and the rest of her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult period. Μακαρία η Οδός, Αιώνια της η μνήμη Blessed be the way "Everlasting 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.



SAVE THE DATES

April 1: Palm Sunday, Philoptochos Sponsored Luncheon

April 2 - 7: Holy Week

April 6: Holy Friday Youth Rally Retreat *(see flyers & registration for more information)*

April 8: Holy Pascha, Agape Vespers & Picnic at 12 noon

Beginning April 11: Dinner & Book Study *(see flyer for more information)*

May 18-20: St. Nicholas 26th Annual Greek Festival

June 18 - 22, 2018: Vacation Church School

Σας προσκαλούμε στην Εθνική εορτή



Celebrate Greek Independence Day
after Divine Liturgy in the Hellenic Center
Sunday ~ March 18, 2018

Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Gregory Dandoulakis
followed by poems & dances

Lunch will be provided as a fundraiser
for the Hellenic School

\$10 per person
Children 12 and under free

EASTER LILY OFFERING

\$10 Each
Please make checks
payable to:
St. Nicholas Philoptochos



If returning by Mail:
St Nicholas Philoptochos
608 S. College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403

Donated By: _____

Number of Flowers _____ Total amount \$ _____

One flower each per person or couple.

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Deadline for submittals is Sunday, March 18th

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON
SPONSORED BY THE ST. NICHOLAS LADIES
PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

April 1, 2018

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

TICKETS:

FISH PLATE \$15

SENIOR FISH PLATE \$12

SPAGHETTI PLATE \$6





Myrofores

Holy Friday Service

K-8th girls you're invited to join us!

7 pm Friday, April 6th

Evening Service

Mandatory

Practice following divine liturgy on Palm Sunday

Girls must wear a white
dress with shoulders covered

Please sit with Renée Karonis-Psilos and
Pam Calhoun in the front pews



The Illumined Night

A Wednesday night dinner and book study



Join Us and Light Up the Middle of Your Week

Come join us for a 5 week spiritual adventure to nurture your body and your mind!

From April 11th to May 9th we will have a lovely meal to share with our friends and then get together to discuss this wonderful little book called *The Illumined Heart* by Frederica Mathews-Green. We will start at 6:00 for a meal and then adjourn to a classroom for those who would like to participate in the book study from 6:45-7:30.

Hosted by:

Courtney Malahias, Renee Theophilos, Sandra Papanikolaou,
Joanne Simotas, Irene Vogiatzis, Sandy Lazaridis, Mary Ann Vavalette
and Maria Stasios

Orthodox Life

Crafts

Games



Music

Skit

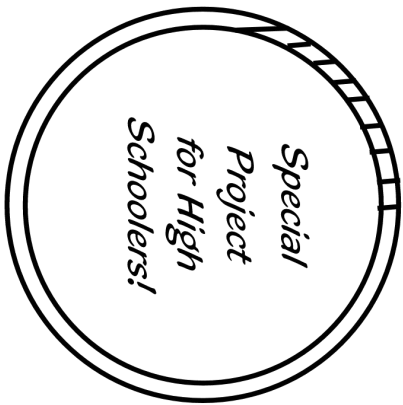
*Religious Observation
Day/Event—remember
to get your excuse letter
from the Office for your
County School System*

Lunch included

Pre-K through 12th Grades

Invite your

Friends!



**REGISTER
BY
APRIL 4**



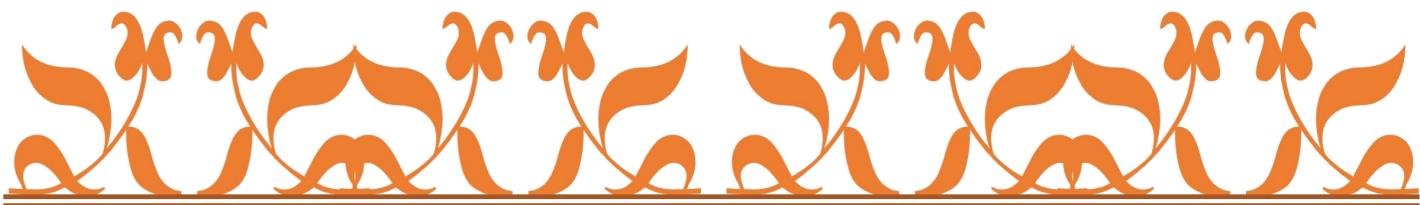
Holy Friday Youth Rally Retreat

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

April 6 • 10AM

Including the Unnailing

Vespers until 4pm



Friday, April 6, 2018

10 AM until 4 PM

PRE-K through 12th Grade

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

608 S. College Road

Wilmington, North Carolina 28403

Holy Friday 2018 Registration Form DUE APRIL 4, 2018

Please return this form to Church Office

Any questions, please contact St. Nicholas Church Office at 910-392-4444

Child's Name	Birth Date	Grade	Allergies/Medical Concerns	Friend/Guest?

Parent/Guardian Name(s)

Address:

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email Address

Is there anything else we should know about your child(ren)?

Holy Friday Youth Rally Retreat Registration



St. Nicholas 26th Annual
GREEK FESTIVAL

Hosted by:
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
608 South College Road Wilmington, NC 28403
(910) 392-4444

info@stnicholasgreekfest.com
www.stnicholasgreekfest.com



February 1, 2018

Dear Friends of St. Nicholas Greek Festival:

Yassou (Greetings)!

Our Greek Festival has been a Wilmington tradition for the past twenty-five years. It brings people together for an enjoyable and cultural weekend. This year please join us as we celebrate our 26th Annual Greek Festival which will take place on **May 18, 19, and 20 2018**. Mark your calendars for another wonderful event full of Greek foods, pastries, music and award winning dancers.

Last year we were able to present business advertisements and/or family greetings to over 10,000 patrons at our Annual Greek Festival.

We would like to present you once again, with an advertising opportunity that is very unique. This year, our advertising program will be a souvenir brochure that our patrons will take home with them. This brochure will have the menu, schedule of events and your ads all in one, easy to carry brochure. We encourage our business partners to offer discounts or coupons within their ads. We will also be including recipes and tourist information on Greece this year. This way our patrons will hold on to the program book throughout the year. We are enclosing an order form explaining your choices of advertising levels. *We have BRONZE and COPPER levels again this year!*

Advertising space is limited and will be on a first come, first serve basis. The deadline to reserve your space is April 5, 2018. Please do not hesitate to contact Stella McTaggart in the Church office at 910-392-4444 or email info@stnicholasgreekfest.com with any questions.

A portion of our proceeds from the festival will benefit local charities again this year.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance and generosity.

Most cordially,

Your 2018 Greek Festival Committee

**An opportunity for the Greek Community to share its culture, faith, and heritage
including food, music, dancing, a marketplace and much more.**

Please fill out this form and attach your check. Thank you so much for your support!



GOLD LEVEL

- Name on menu
- Name prominently displayed at entrance and food line
- Full page prominent program ad
- 20 dinner tickets
- 20 admission tickets
- 4 pastry boxes
- Ad on the festival website

Sponsorship Amount: \$750

PLATINUM LEVEL

- Prominent position of banner around the main tent
- Name and logo on menu
- Full page prominent program ad
- Announcement by the band throughout the festival
- 30 dinner tickets
- 30 admission tickets
- 6 pastry boxes
- Ad on the festival website

Sponsorship Amount: \$1,500



BRONZE LEVEL

- Quarter page prominent program ad
- 4 dinner tickets
- 4 admission tickets
- 1 pastry box

Sponsorship Amount: \$125

COPPER LEVEL

- Business card (1/8 page) prominent program ad
- 4 dinner tickets
- 4 admission tickets
- 1 pastry box

Sponsorship Amount: \$100

A portion of our proceeds will be donated to Charity!

Contact Name:			
Company/Organization Name:			
Address:			
Phone:	Fax:	E-mail :	
Please check Sponsor Level:		3 options for your ad (please check one) :	
<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum \$1,500 (Size 6 1/4 X 8) <input type="checkbox"/> Gold \$750 (Size 6 1/4 x 8) <input type="checkbox"/> Silver \$300 (Size 6 1/4 x 3 7/8) <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze \$125 (Size 3 x 3 7/8) <input type="checkbox"/> Copper \$100 (Size 3 x 1 1/2)		<input type="checkbox"/> You Design <input type="checkbox"/> Reuse Ad <input type="checkbox"/> Pick Up (\$25) <i>See Rates Below</i>	
Make checks payable and send to: St Nicholas Greek Festival ATTN: Commemorative Album 608 S. College Rd. Wilmington, NC 28403 All payments due April 5, 2018			

ARTWORK FOR SPONSORSHIP AD

Ads due by April 2, 2018

You Design/ Reuse Ad

You can email a print ready ad (must be at least 300 dpi .jpg) to info@stnicholasgreekfest.com. Let us know if you want to use your 2017 ad as it was published last year.

Pick Up

Any changes/design work to ads. Changes to past or new ads will cost \$25.

March 2018

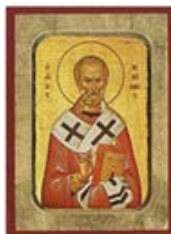
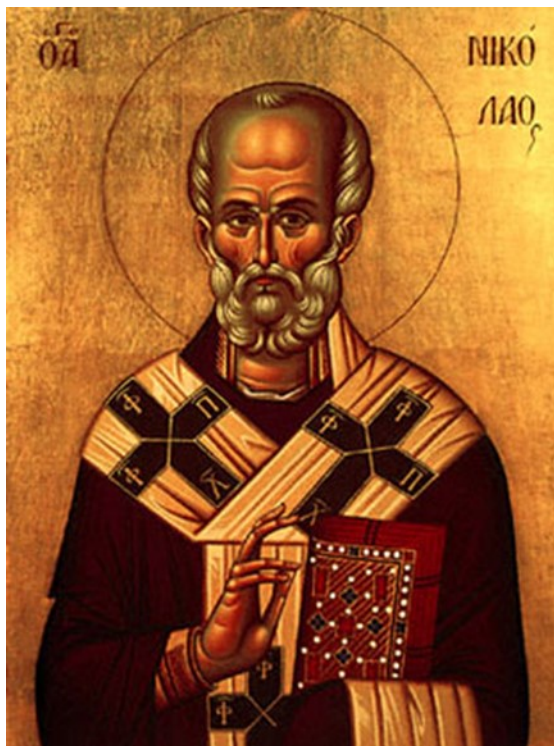
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>For the most current version of our Parish Calendar, please visit us online at: http://www.stnicholaswilmington.org/ParishCalendar.html</p>				<p>1 6:30PM HOPE/JOY Event</p> <p>7PM Catechism Class</p>	<p>2 5PM Hellenic School</p> <p>7PM Salutations to the Theotokos</p> <p>8PM GOYA Retreat</p>	<p>3 7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study</p> <p>6PM Great Vespers</p>
				Great Lent		
<p>4 St. Gregory Palamas</p> <p>8:30AM Orthros/Liturgy</p> <p>11:30AM Oratorical Festival & Luncheon</p>	<p>5 7PM Great Compline</p>	<p>6 11:45AM Forever Young</p> <p>6:30PM Young Adult Ministry</p>	<p>7 10:30AM Orthodox Coffee Hour</p> <p>5:30PM PreSanctified Liturgy</p>	<p>8 7PM Catechism Class</p>	<p>9 9AM PreSanctified Liturgy</p> <p>5PM Hellenic School</p> <p>7PM Salutations to the Theotokos</p>	<p>10 9AM Prosforo Baking Workshop</p> <p>6PM Great Vespers</p>
Great Lent						
<p>11 Veneration of the Holy Cross</p> <p><i>Daylight Savings Time</i></p> <p>8:30AM Orthros/Liturgy</p> <p>Greek Independence Day Poem Practice after Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>12 6PM Philoptochos Board Meeting</p> <p>7PM Great Compline</p>	<p>13 6:30PM Young Adult Ministry</p>	<p>14 10:30AM Orthodox Coffee Hour</p> <p>5:30PM PreSanctified Liturgy</p>	<p>15 <i>Newsletter Articles Due Today</i></p> <p>7PM Catechism Class</p> <p>7PM Greek Festival Meeting</p>	<p>16 5PM Hellenic School</p> <p>7PM Salutations to the Theotokos</p>	<p>17 3PM Holy Friday Retreat Volunteer Meeting</p> <p>6PM Great Vespers</p>
Great Lent						
<p>18 St. John Climacus</p> <p>8:30AM Orthros/Liturgy</p> <p>Greek Independence Day Commemoration Event</p>	<p>19 7PM Great Compline</p>	<p>20 6:30PM Young Adult Ministry</p>	<p>21 10:30AM Orthodox Coffee Hour</p> <p>5:30PM PreSanctified Liturgy</p>	<p>22 7PM Great Compline with Canon</p>	<p>23 5PM Hellenic School</p> <p>7PM Akathist to the Theotokos</p>	<p>24 6PM Great Vespers</p>
					Stella McTaggart out of the office	
					OCF Work Daze Retreat at DRC	
Great Lent						
<p>25 <i>Annunciation of the Theotokos</i></p> <p>8:30AM Orthros/Liturgy & Doxology</p> <p>Parish Care Mtg. after Liturgy</p> <p>OCF Work Daze Retreat</p>	<p>26 7PM Great Compline</p>	<p>27 6:30PM Young Adult Ministry</p> <p>7PM COM Meeting</p>	<p>28 10:30AM Orthodox Coffee Hour</p> <p>5:30PM PreSanctified Liturgy</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 5PM Hellenic School</p>	<p>31 <i>Saturday of Lazarus</i></p> <p>8AM Orthros/Divine Liturgy</p> <p>10:30AM Palm Cross folding</p> <p>6PM Great Vespers</p>
Stella McTaggart out of the office until April 17						
Great Lent						

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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.