



METROPOLIS
OF ATLANTA



December 2017



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

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: Monday through Friday, 8AM - 5 PM
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

2017 PARISH COUNCIL

Officers

Barbara Reynolds, President
Jack Poulos, Vice President
Tina Bostic, Treasurer
Peter Malahias, Assistant Treasurer
Irene Sotiriou Vogiatzis, Secretary

Members

Evangelos Fragos Emanuel Miliotis
Melissa Kirkby Nick Saffo
Peter Manolukas Maria Stasios

PARISH MINISTRY TEAM

Emanuel Miliotis, Chairman of the Council of Ministries

Religious Education...Richard Reynolds, Ministry Chair

*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, Alexandros Theodoropoulos

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, Tina 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

Prayers and Spiritual Treasures

Prayers

Each Sunday you will notice the prayer list on a stand on the right side of the Narthex. This is available to everyone to write the names of those living and departed ones we have special intention to pray for that day. Deacon Tom or myself then remember these particular souls in the Fervent Litany after the Gospel. If you arrive after the gospel reading, I will remember them in the Fervent Litany at the next Divine Liturgy. The parish prayer list I maintain for the entire community is prayed for every Divine Liturgy in the Proskomide (Preparation of the Gifts). This list is an extensive list and covers all your loved ones you have given me!

Praying for each other is one of the greatest gifts we can offer to the one true and living God. It costs nothing and does much good, as we learn from the epistle of St. James the Brother of our Lord, "The fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." It is an honor for any Priest to place a particle of the bread on the Diskos in your name. And because I love you, I do this at every opportunity.

Spiritual Treasures

If you knew where a treasure was, you would go to this location and dig it up immediately and with great anticipation! The truth is, you already have a treasure here at St. Nicholas! It is in the hymnology of our Orthodox Church! The focus of our hunt in this holy season is on the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Each year just after the leave-taking of the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple (November 25th), we begin to chant the Katavasies of the Nativity of our Lord. The beauty of these hymns is amazing. As in most hymnology surrounding our feast days, the Katavasies incorporates the mystery of the Incarnation with the prophecies about the birth of Jesus. These hymns are sung for each Orthros leading up to, and including, the Nativity. In addition to the Katavasies, the Iambikoi are chanted on the feast of the Nativity as well. Let us be attentive!

Ode i, Katavasia, Mode 1.

Christ is born; glorify Him! * Christ is come from heaven; go and meet Him. * Christ is on earth; arise to Him. * Sing to the Lord, all you who dwell on the earth; * and in merry spirits, O you peoples, praise His birth. * For He is glorified.

Ode iv. Iambic.

Prophet Habbakuk in his ode was foretelling * mankind's remaking, when of old he was granted * to see its type in a manner past expression: * From the Virgin mountain as a newborn infant * the Logos emerged, to refashion the peoples.

These are just two of the treasures from the translations of Fr. Seraphim Dedes in our Orthros! A true celebration of the incarnation. The greatest mystery of all time was foretold to us by Moses and the prophets, if we have eyes to see and ears to hear. Let us rejoice with Micah, Isaiah, Jesse, and Habbakuk of old, for the Lord of heaven and earth comes to save us the unworthy ones! The Son of God becomes the Son of man! Please join us for any and all the services offered here at St. Nicholas.

Love, Fr. Jon

From the Parish Council President Barbara Reynolds

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you to all those that attended the General Assembly meeting on November 19. Below are some highlights reported by the Parish Council for those of you that were unable to attend.

I would like to wish all of you a Blessed Nativity Season.

In His service,

Barbara Reynolds

Parish Council Highlights from the November 19 General Assembly

President's Update

2017 Parish Council Reflections – Barbara Reynolds

You Spoke – We Listened (Looking back at last year's Spring GA)

- ✓ Redo Plumbing and Bathrooms
- ✓ Redo Hellenic Center within existing footprint
- ✓ Fix broken items around the church
 - Carl Baynard is the St. Nicholas Mr. Fixit
 - Let office know of items needing repair
 - Carl will fix
- ✓ Install new security cameras & monitors
 - Includes new monitor in hallway outside the Hellenic Center
- ✓ Build a church directory
 - PDS data base complete and being maintained by office
 - Photos being taken for Church Directory
- ✓ Move Cross Dive back to January 6
 - 11:00 am Blessing of water service/dive
 - Noon: Lunch @ Bluewater
- ✓ Increase office coverage
 - Stella McTaggart & Georgia Marmaras working in office
- ✓ Include new sponsors for Festival charities
 - Good Shepherd & Nourish NC were sponsors this year
- ✓ Smart TVs installed in High School and Middle School classrooms

Additional Improvements in Progress

- New air conditioning in bathrooms, library, and storage rooms
- New floor, ceiling, lights and paint in library
- Classrooms, office and narthex painted
- Storage being added for Hellenic Center to store tables and chairs not being used
- New floor and painting to be done in hallways
- New chairs for Hellenic Center being donated

Additional Improvements being considered

- Add windows to front of Hellenic Center
- Cut back overgrown trees and landscaping in front of church
- Replace dropped ceiling in front hallway
- Fence our property on the sides to eliminate people cutting through our property
- Get new outside storage unit

Woman's Bathroom will be complete the middle of January

- All work should be complete by then

Treasurer's Report

- Stewardship

Year	Stewards	Pledged
2011	149	\$197,997
2012	158	\$193,838
2013	178	\$208,377
2014	139	\$227,120
2015	139	\$259,331
2016	179	\$274,335
Oct. 31, 2017	150	\$224,661

October stewards are based on commitment cards completed
Prior years represent adjusted total giving at year end

	Nov. 1, 2017	Nov. 1, 2016
Stewardship Commitment	\$224,661	\$214,958
Stewards	150	119
% Participation	75%	59.5%

2017 Stewardship Goal is \$227,306

Variance to goal is \$47,505

In 2016 we received \$38K in last 2 months of the year

- Assets & Liabilities

Bank Statements	Fall Assembly 11/2017	Spring Assembly 2/2017
General Fund	\$33,371.51	\$27,526.33
Money Market	\$390,885.38	\$425,741.1
Festival Checking	\$62,820.05	\$5,190.52
Designated	\$52,575.14	\$58,324.49
*Benevolent	\$13,562.66	\$13,560.33
*Building Fund	\$3,056.74	\$9,851.74
*Memorial	\$23,744.07	\$22,483.07
*Greek School	\$5,401.75	\$3,531.67
*Designated Other	\$3.65	\$134.17
*GOYA	\$6,806.27	\$8,763.51

- Draft 2018 Budget was reviewed and approved
- Irene Voneiff reported on the Audit of the books. No exceptions were reported in process or in the books

Festival Report

- Highest net income to date of \$149,724
- 2017 Charity Distribution
 - ◇ Good Shepherd Center – \$8,000
 - ◇ Nourish NC - \$4,000
 - ◇ Diakonia Retreat Center – \$1,500
 - ◇ Benevolent Fund – \$1,500
 - ◇ Youth - \$2,000
 - ◇ Dance Group - \$1,500
- From 2009 – 2017 we have donated \$94,200 to charity

Reviewed Greek Orthodox Archdiocese requirements for Parish Council Member

- Reviewed attributes of a good Parish Council Member (per St. Nicholas Parish Council)
 - ◊ Practicing Orthodox Christian
 - ◊ Steward in good standing
 - ◊ Connected to the parish
 - ◊ Level headed / balanced perspective
 - ◊ Good communications skills
 - ◊ Positive outlook
 - ◊ Brings outside skill set to complement the Parish Council

Parish Council Nominations – Five positions open

- Evangelos Fragos
- Manny Miliotis
- Nick Saffo
- Maria Stasios
- Carl Baynard
- Daphne Snow
- Alexandros Theodoropoulos

SAVE THE DATES

January 6, 2018: Theophany, Cross Dive Event & Luncheon

January 7, 2018: Philoptochos Vasilopita Auction

January 12-15, 2018: Hellenic Dance Festival, Orlando, FL

February 3, 2018: KIDZ Rally

February 3, 2018: Valentine's Dance

February 4, 2018: Oratorical Festival

February 18, 2018: Lent Begins

June 18-22, 2018: Vacation Church School

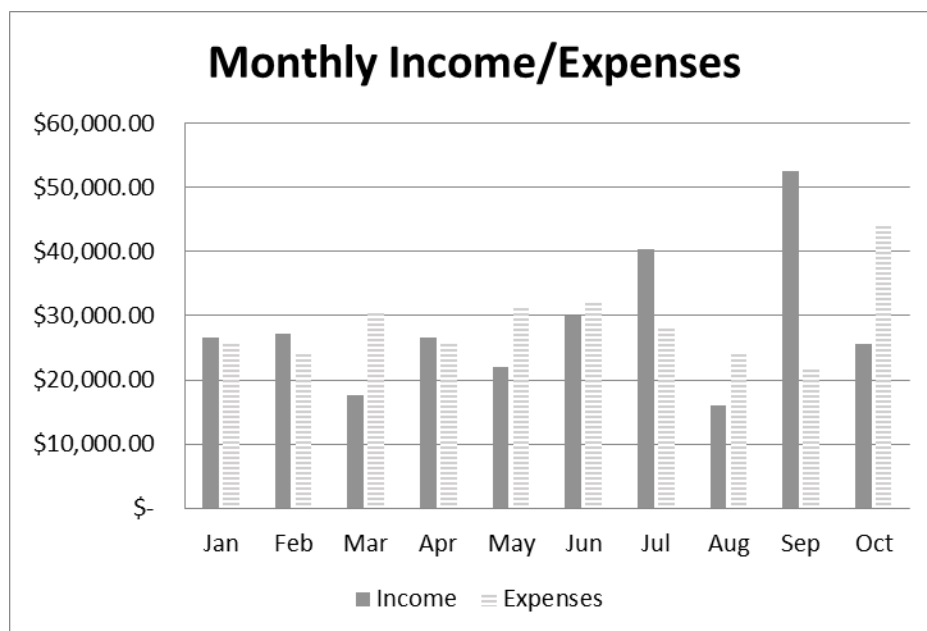
Treasurer's Report

Stewardship as of Oct. 2017	
Pledged	\$231,175.84
Full Year Goal	\$277,306.31
Variance pledged to goal	\$(46,130.47)
Percentage pledged to goal	83%
Amt. Received	\$229,801.08
Percentage received to goal	83%
variance received from goal	\$47,505.23

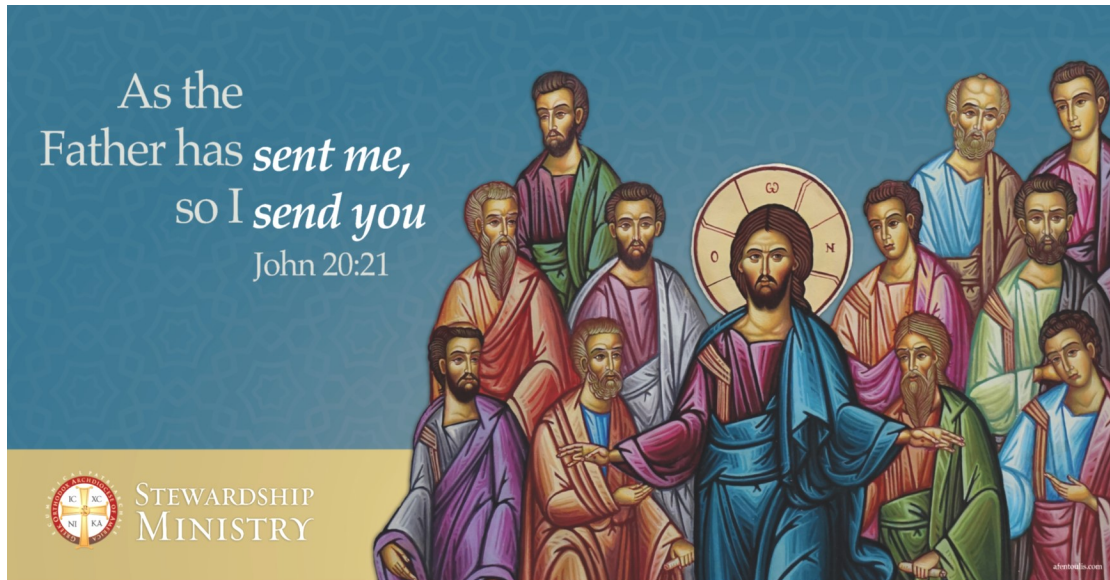
We have received 83% of our stewardship goal so far. Please continue to give so that we can meet 100% of our goal by the end of the year.

Operating Income/Expense			
General Fund	Income	Expenses	Variance
Jan	\$26,532.87	\$25,582.12	\$950.75
Feb	\$27,247.13	\$24,072.13	\$3,175.00
Mar	\$17,677.60	\$30,455.36	\$(12,777.76)
Apr	\$26,588.62	\$26,154.53	\$434.09
May	\$21,976.46	\$31,219.49	\$(9,243.03)
Jun	\$30,056.80	\$32,077.69	\$(2,020.89)
Jul	\$40,420.06	\$28,341.11	\$12,078.95
Aug	\$15,972.31	\$24,470.78	\$(8,498.47)
Sep	\$52,523.97	\$21,699.97	\$30,824.00
Oct	\$25,535.74	\$44,521.06	\$(18,985.32)
YTD	\$284,531.56	\$288,594.24	\$(4,062.68)

Our year to date expenses are exceeding our income. We are hopeful our income from stewardship and other donations the rest of this year will keep us in line with our budget.



YOU ARE THE VOICE OF CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD



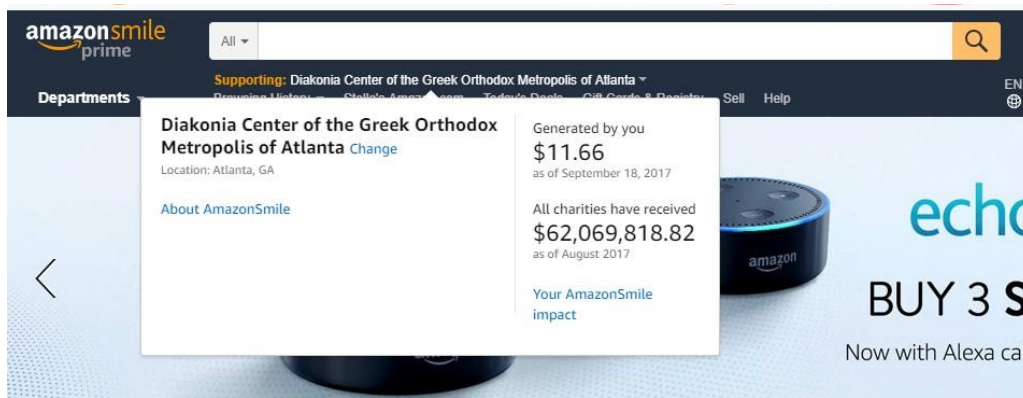
We live in a physical world that places great value on material possessions. Material possessions and wealth may bring power and status. But wealth and possessions can be fleeting. Circumstances change. It is the voice of Jesus Christ and the truth of His Gospel that remain constant. In our spiritual relationship with our Creator, we realize that we are called to be good stewards of His creation. And as stewards of His Gospel, we are called to use our material, worldly possessions to meet the needs of others.

Passive Fundraising

Many times during this holiday season, you may go online to www.amazon.com to purchase gifts for family and friends.

Instead, please consider using <http://smile.amazon.com> and select the Diakonia Center of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta. Every eligible purchase will see a percentage go towards this wonderful retreat center sponsored by our Metropolis.

Thank you for your consideration.



For more information about AmazonSmile go to:

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_se_dshb_aas_saas



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.

Hellenic Culture - Special Activities *Kitsa Wiersteiner*

On behalf of the Hellenic Culture Special Activities Committee, we would like to thank all who attended or participated in the Intercultural Festival which was held at UNCW on Saturday, November 11, 2017.

Our wonderful St. Nicholas Zoyra dancers performed excellent, as usual, and everyone present enjoyed their program. We are grateful to have such talented and dedicated dance instructors as Zaharoula and Katerina Katsikis. A big thank you to the dancers and instructors. Our booth represented the Greek culture, heritage, religion and customs. As always, our booth attracted much attention from all who attended the festivities and were complimentary of our display.

Many thanks to Kim and Helen Dandulakis, Christina and Vasilis Lazaridis, Niko and Theodora Papadimitriou and Joanna Simotas who assisted with this event. We would also like to thank Kathy Dimopoulos who prepared our flyers.

Our appreciation to all who took part coordinating this year's beautiful festivities and look forward to next year's event.

Philoptochos *Enosis Chapter #5027* *Debra Rallis*



Inspired by teachings of Christ to love and care for all people, the St. Nicholas Philoptochos joins close to 30,000 National members to help those in need.

We would like thank everyone for their monetary and food donations towards the Thanksgiving baskets. We would also like to thank our GOYAns and youth who came out and helped sort and assemble the baskets. We were able to feed 30 large families.

We will again be sponsoring 10, homeless teens from New Hanover County. Most of these students do not have a place to call home. We receive a wish list of basic necessities - clothing, from the school social workers. We ask that families help sponsor and purchase items from this wish list. If you prefer not to shop, we will be passing a basket on Sunday, Dec 10th. Please give generously towards the gifts we will purchase.

We are so pleased to announce that our Philoptochos donated \$1,000 to Nourish NC to help fight childhood hunger in New Hanover County. We also want to thank our parishioners and youth for helping fill 50 Christmas



NourishNC Check Presentation to Kellie Furr by Irene Voneiff, Treasurer.

Philoptochos General Meeting, November 2017

stockings to give to the homeless youth.

We would like to thank everyone who bought a poinsettia and those who helped sponsor the annual Christmas card. It will be mailed to the entire church mailing list. If you haven't signed up, please do so by December 4th.

We hope to see all the ladies at our annual Christmas Luncheon on Sunday December 17th at 1:30 pm at the lovely home of Irene Voneiff. (See invitation later in this Newsletter.)

We would like to wish our St Nicholas Families a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Mark your calendars for our annual Vasilopita auction on January 7, 2018.

Oratorical Festival

Kim Dandulakis

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 now 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 the first Sunday in February 2018 - February 4. This should give everyone enough time to prepare their speech. Any questions regarding our parish Oratorical Festival please feel free to contact me.

Kim Dandulakis
Oratorical Festival Chairperson

Forever Young*Kay Skandalakis*

Christmas Bells soon will ring...

Please join us on December 12 for our Christmas luncheon. See the Forever Young flyer later in the Newsletter for all the details. ***Please bring a wrapped minimum \$5 gift for a gift exchange.*** If you are unsure how to get to "Beau Rivage" please meet at the church at 11:10AM and we will carpool to ride together!!! Please RSVP to Kay at 762-1161 by December 6, 2017.

We had a wonderful turnout at our November luncheon!! We hope to see you all as we ring in the Christmas Season with food, fellowship & raffle prizes.

Join us – all those 55 & older...

...See you December 12 at 12 noon.

Outreach & Evangelism*Deacon Tom and Diakonissa Stacie Fernandez***KIDZ Rally****Save the Dates**

Saturday mornings

February 3 and April 28, 2018

Bookstore

Bookstore Briefings

Despite the bare walls and the veneer of dust, exciting things are astir at our St. Nicholas Bookstore/Library! New inventory is being added, with special emphasis on featured authors within the growing Orthodox publishing

community; fresh voices and titles, as well as venerable writers that have stood the test of time. Christmas gift ideas are available now, ranging from beautifully crafted cards and icons, to children's and young adult titles. And, of course, the inimitable Orthodox Study Bible is a perfect gift for all! Until our bookstore is ready for perusal, we'll bring the portable bookstore to you on a cart during fellowship hour after Liturgy during the holiday season. Please come see our display, and shop from our fine offerings!

Sincerely,

Rick, Mary Ann, and Chrysanthé

Adult Catechism*Fr. Jon Emanuelson*

Everyone is invited to join our new Catechism Class Thursday evenings. This class is for both those who are interested in learning about the Greek Orthodox Faith AND for those looking to strengthen their knowledge and understanding. Our first class will be Thursday, December 7 at 7PM. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Jon.

Youth Catechism*Georgia Spiliotis*

Sunday School is progressing nicely. Some of the materials the children are learning are being posted in the rooms. Let us share the spiritual journey of each of us. Don't forget there is no Sunday School on Sunday, December 24, 2017 and Sunday, December 31, 2017. We pray our children will experience the beauty of the entire Divine Liturgy with their families. Your Sunday School family wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Χρονιά Πολλά!

Men's Group*Fr. Jon Emanuelson*

Start your day by attending the next meeting on Saturday, December 2, from 7:30AM until 9AM. Come join us for spiritual nourishment while having breakfast for your physical nourishment.

Community News**HUMANITY NOW***Jen Maraveyas*

Dear St. Nicholas,
Thank you so much for the support you have given to Humanity Now. Your donations have eased the suffering of many people living in dire conditions. **Please join us for a fundraiser on December 10th.** We want to be sure to



WINTER IS COMING
Refugees in Greece continue to suffer.
You can help.
Please join us!
Sunday, December 10th
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Expo 216
216 North Front Street
drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation
RSVP
info@humanity-now.org
www.humanity-now.org
Humanity Now is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

have enough food and drinks, so don't forget to RSVP as soon as possible.

Love, Jen Maraveyas and Humanity Now

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.

CONSTRUCTION

Restrooms

Temporarily, all women are asked to use the new Men's Facilities. You will see a sign on the door identifying Women's Bathroom. Men are asked to use the facilities outside of church on Narthex side. Thank you.

Meetings

Please be aware the FIRE ALARM is disabled (test mode) during the hours 6:30AM – 8:30PM because of the construction work causing the fire alarm transmitting to the fire department. If you have a meeting at the church during those hours you will be responsible for walking around the church before and after your meeting to make sure all is secure since the alarm WILL NOT be transmitting to the fire department. (If the alarm goes off, please

silence the alarm AFTER confirming there is no fire.) Thank you for your help. Please let us know if you have any questions about this procedure by contacting the office.

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, 2017.** 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.

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."

DONATION REQUESTS TIME, 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 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.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Due to construction conflict, this year's New Year's Eve Dance has been cancelled. Please join us next year!! The Chapter Therma Icarian Brotherhood thank you for your understanding.

THANK YOU

Veteran's Day Pin Presentation, November 5, 2017

What a blessing to be able to present our Veterans with a pin to honor their service to their Country. Mary Ann Wall would like to especially thank Fr. Jon, Ed Mayoraga, Kay Skandalakis, Georgia Spiliots, Chrysanthé Lazarides and Alexandros Theodoropoulos for their help to make the presentation and light luncheon during the

Fellowship hour a success!

CONGRATULATIONS

2017 ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AWARD



Congratulations
to
Barbara
Reynolds and
Demetri Brown
on their selec-
tion to receive
this year's



Archangel Michael Award. Their dedi-
cation to the Ministries of our Parish is truly commenda-
ble. Thank you for all that you do for St. Nicholas!!

PLEASE PRAY

Please pray for those who are ill, recovering, and/or homebound: Angelo Angeledes, Evelyn Angeledes, Shelby Biancaniello (daughter of Sue Lawler), Bobby Bobon (brother of Sue Lawler), Stavros Chantiles, 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 (Autumn Grove); Eleni Mitsis (mother of Effie Davis), Dino Poulos (brother of Koula), George Poulos (son of Koula Poulos), 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.

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

SYMPATHIES

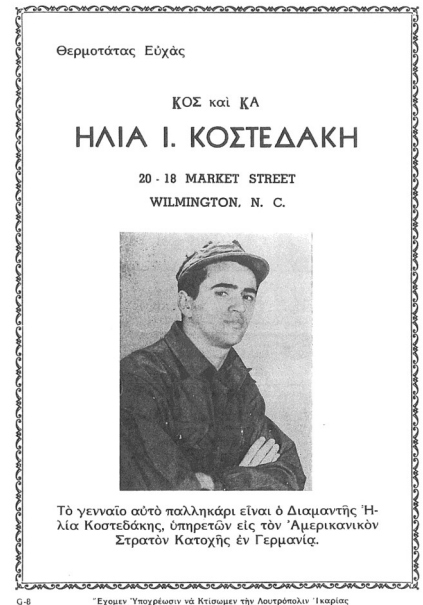
We would like to extend our condolences to Irene Karafas Voneiff for the passing of her Aunt, Victoria Karafas Glaros on October 17 at the age of 95 yrs. old. Her funeral was held at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on October 20. AIONIA TIS H MNHMH –ETERNAL BE HER MEMORY!

Tommy Louis Cotses, 87, of Wilmington, N.C. fell asleep in the Lord in the hope of the Resurrection at his residence on October 13, 2017.

Tommy was born on the Greek island of Icaria on January 1, 1930, the only child of Louis J. and Artemis Carafas Cotses. He came to the United States in 1947, attended Chestnut Street School and New Hanover

High School, after which he enlisted in the U.S. Army serving in Germany and Korea in the early 1950's.

Following his discharge, he began a long and fruitful career in the restaurant business, the fundamentals of which he had learned as a teenager while working in his father's downtown Wilmington eating establishment, The Mayflower Café, located in those days on North Front St, between Grace & Walnut Streets.



Upon leaving Wilmington, Tommy's work as a chef took him to Richmond and Alexandria, V.A. and he also managed the Holiday Inn restaurants in Durham and Chapel Hill. He was an Executive Chef at Disney World and in New York City at the Essex House and the Marriott Marquis. In Wilmington in the 1970's he opened and operated The Orient Express and, prior to that, the Gold 'N' Crust Italian Restaurant, which was the first eatery in the greater Wilmington area that featured home-made pizza as a main entrée.

In subsequent years, Tommy became a consultant and troubleshooter in the food industry while simultaneously compiling and cataloguing recipes from a variety of ethnic cuisines around the globe. He had even done work on foods associated with the many and diverse cultures of Native Americans.

Tommy was especially gratified and proud that, in the twilight of his years on earth, he was able to make a substantial financial contribution to the Center for Marine Science at UNCW. Having always valued the intrinsic nature of food, its centrality in all human societies, its capacity for establishing community and communion among people; and believing firmly that the oceans of the word hold the key to the food resources of the future, he established the Aghios Isodoros, Louis & Artemis Cotses, and Tommy Cotses Mariculture Fund at UNCW. This endowment was a concrete expression of his deep conviction that the measure of a successful society is to be found in its commitment to the advancement and enrichment of its culture and its educational systems.

Tommy was a member of the Wilmington Chapter Therma #10 of the Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of Ameri-

ca, an organization founded by Greek immigrants from their ancestral island of Icaria. He was also a charter member of the Wilmington Chapter #408 of the Order of AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational and Progressive Association)

He was a communicant of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church even as he frequently attended services at other churches in the Wilmington area. A genuine ecumenist in the realm of culinary traditions and practices.

Tommy is survived by numerous cousins and many friends of long-standing who will remember his gifts as a storyteller, his humorous anecdotes and antics, the uniqueness of his personhood.

ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΑΥΤΟΝ Η ΜΗΝΜΗ... ETERNAL BE HIS MEMORY!!

We would like to extend our condolences to the Tzouvelekas family on the falling asleep to the Lord of Emanuel "Nick" Tzouvelekas, 82, who died Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at Blumenthal Nursing and Rehabilitation. Funeral services were held on Saturday, October 28, 2017 at the Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Greenville, SC. Burial took place at Woodlawn Memorial Park.

Mr. Tzouvelekas was born on August 10, 1935 in Greenville, SC to the late James Tzouvelekas and Sophie Psillas Tzouvelekas. He graduated from Furman University and served in the US Army for two years, ten months and nine days afterwards. He had a long career in Textile Chemistry and Management with Cone Mills and Burlington Industries. Nick was a member of The Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church in Greensboro, NC where he served on the Parish Council. He was preceded in death by his wife Debra Stupenos Tzouvelekas and his brother George Tzouvelekas. He is survived by his son Mark Tzouvelekas of Jamestown, NC, daughter Betsy Tzouvelekas Grinnell and husband John of Wilmington, NC, grandsons Garrett and Grant Grinnell, step-granddaughter Amanda Grinnell Sipe and step-great-grandchildren Keagan and Tatum Jo Sipe of Hickory, NC, brother Tom Tzouvelekas of Greenville, SC, and cousin Renee Theophilos of Wilmington, NC. Memorials may be made to either The Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church, 800 Westridge Road, Greensboro, NC 27410 or The Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 406 N. Academy Street, Greenville, SC 29601. ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΑΥΤΟΝ Η ΜΗΝΜΗ... ETERNAL BE HIS MEMORY!!

On October 29, 2017 we held a one year memorial in honor of Linda Souflas, the Wife of Thomas Souflas and Mother of Diana Houck. ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΑΥΤΗΣ Η ΜΗΝΜΗ... ETERNAL BE HER MEMORY!!

It was with a great sadness that we were informed that Mrs. Joan Anthony Andrews Brunetti, age of 89, Fell Asleep in the Lord in the Hope of Resurrection at the Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCare Center on Thursday, November 9th, 2017.

The interment took place at the Oleander Memorial Garden Mausoleum immediately following the funeral service. We would like to extend our deepest condolences to her family

As many of you know, Joan was the daughter of the late Anthony George Andrews and Argendou Zarnas Andrews. Her husband, Valerio Brunetti, and her brother, Andrew Anthony Andrews, preceded her in death. Joan was a loving wife and devoted mother and Yia Yia (grandmother). One of the things she loved most was gatherings with her family and friends. She was a life-long member of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. Joan and her husband, Valerio, ran their family store, Valerio's Grocery on Third and Castle. Another one of her passions was visiting family in Argentina and Greece. She loved working in her yard with her beautiful roses, and was also known for her cooking and wonderful Greek pastries. She will be dearly missed by family, friends and our St. Nicholas community. Please find Joan's full obituary as it has been posted on the Andrews Mortuary's website at http://www.andrewsmortuary.com/memsol.cgi?user_id=2034806. Please share this information with parishioners you think may want to know and might not be receiving our email list messages. Please keep her sons, Carlos Brunetti of Wilmington, and George & Cindy Brunetti of Burgaw, NC; her two grandchildren, Jo Anna Brunetti and Stephen Anthony Brunetti, her brother Louis & Roula Andrews of Wilmington, NC, as well as the rest of her extended family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult period

... Μακαρία η
Ὁδός - Blessed be
the Way! Αἰωνία
της η μνήμη - Ev-
erlasting be her
memory!



MEMORIES FROM THE PAST



1st row, seated: GAPA Rep, Pres. Evangelio, Lola (Pantayis) Loizidos, Lillian Carras, GAPA Rep (name unknown), Doky Saffo, Gus Stefanadis, Nick Modinos

2nd row: Demetria Carras, Argie Mavrolas, Clara Fokakis, Toula Saffo, Bebe Batouyias, Guest (name unknown), *Tommy Cotses, Pete Poulos, George (Yogi) Saffo, Lym Vallianos, Louis (Louie) Tripodis

3rd row: Andy Andrews, Fred Vallianos, Kleomanis Pistolas, Paul Pappas*

4th row, back wall: Dorothy Pastis, Eva Kefalas, Despina Tripodis, Anna Batouyios, Mary Compos, Koula Fragos, Bessie Andrews, Jimmy Pappas, Mike Poulos

*depending on where YOU think the 2nd & 3rd rows start, the names may begin/end at the asterisk *

**Do you have a photo you would like to share?
Bring it by the church office!**

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



When you join the Matthew 25:36 Fellowship, you will be answering the mandate of our Lord to visit Him in prison!

To become a member of the Matthew 25:36 Fellowship, please go to the following link:

<https://theocpm.org/matthew-2536-fellowship/>

We thank you in advance for your consideration & support during this Advent Season.

God Bless You!

IN-PRISON MINISTRY
CHURCH OUTREACH AND TRAINING
REINTEGRATION

A Sample Lesson for our Sunday School Students

Religious Significance of the Days of the Week



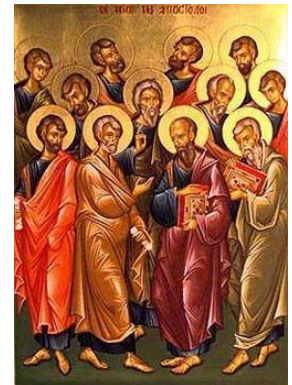
MONDAY
DEDICATED TO
THE ANGELS

TUESDAY
DEDICATED TO
JOHN THE BAPTIST



WEDNESDAY
RECALLS THE BETRAYAL OF JESUS CHRIST

THURSDAY
DEDICATED TO
THE APOSTLES



FRIDAY
RECALLS THE CRUCIFIXION AND
THE BURIAL OF JESUS CHRIST



SATURDAY
DEDICATED TO THE
MARTYRS AND
OUR DEPARTED
LOVED ONES



SUNDAY
DAY OF RESURRECTION OF
JESUS CHRIST



To learn more, ask your child.



LET'S CELEBRATE

CHRISTMAS

please join us in
adopting 20 local teens
this Christmas.

3rd DEC
after church

Join Us

in the Hellenic
Center! Donate
\$10 per Stocking

To thank you for
your donation
decorate a
Christmas cookie



HOSTED BY
HOPE/JOY

Please join us
for some Holiday Cheer....
For Christmas Day
will soon be here!



St. Nicholas Forever Young Christmas Social

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

11:45 a.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

Large white building.

**Luncheon hosted by Kay Skandalakis
in Loving Memory of her parents - Bill & Angeline Saffo**

**Lunch will be served promptly at Noon
Followed by an afternoon of fellowship, raffles and song.**

**We will sing Christmas Carols and Kalanda
and bring back Christmas memories of yesteryear.**

**For an accurate headcount for the luncheon
please phone Kay Skandalakis by December 5, 2017
at (910) 762-1161**

**No need to cook or bake. Just come and enjoy the day!
Elevator is available for those unable to climb the stairs.**



Christmas Luncheon

Hosted by Ladies Philoptochos

Sunday, December 17, 2017

1:30 pm



At the home of Irene Karafas Voneiff

121 Waters Edge

Hampstead, NC

(301)928-3374

*Please bring a box of diapers
To benefit the Diaper Bank*

RSVP: dbrallis@aol.com



Directions to Irene Voneiff's House:

[\(910\)821-1344](tel:9108211344)

Take Market St. (US 17) North to Hampstead
Turn right on Headwaters Dr. (1st street past Port City Java)
Turn left on Overlook Dr. (3rd street)
Turn right on E. Creekview Drive (1st right turn)
Turn right on Captains Cove (1st right turn)

House is straight ahead - 121 Waters Edge - Plenty of Parking on Street



Merry Christmas!

Once again Philoptochos presents our Christmas card and the poinsettias to decorate our church. The tradition has become meaningful to our community and you are invited to participate by sharing your love and good wishes.

Interested in participating, please fill out the form below and mail it with your donation - or - you may see one of the Philoptochos ladies on duty in the Hellenic Center after liturgy every Sunday.

Deadline for submission: December 4th, 2017

✂-----

✂ Add my name to the Christmas Card as follows:

Individual and Family..... \$15.00

Name: _____

✂ I would like to donate a poinsettia: (\$10 each).

In Memory of:

From: _____

Or

In Honor of:

From: _____

Thanking you for your continued support

Please mail to:

Ladies Philoptochos Society

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

608 South College Road

Wilmington, NC 28403



DATE: Saturday, January 6, 2018

TIME: 11:00 AM

PLACE: Blue Water Grill Waterfront
Wrightsville Beach, NC

**Lunch Reception Immediately Following
at the Bluewater Grill**

4 Marina Street

Wrightsville Beach, NC

Children 5 & Under Free

Youth: \$10

Adults: \$15

Divers: \$15

Epiphany,
"Ta Fota" or "Theofania"
Commemorates Christ's Baptism.

The Blessing of the Waters
is symbolized by the throwing
of a cross into the sea by a priest,
while swimmers brave the
chilly waters to retrieve it.



Are you an Active GOYA member of your Parish?
Do you want to dive for the cross?
Call today for more information: (910) 392-4444

2018 Cross Dive & Theophany Celebration Registration and Event Information



608 S. College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403
www.stnicholaswilmington.org
(910) 392-4444
office@stnicholaswilmington.org



December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 1PM Baptism 5 PM Hellenic School	2 7:30AM Men’s Group 9AM Youth Dance Practice 6PM Great Vespers
						Advent Fast
3 8:30AM Orthros/Liturgy 12 Youth Dance Practice	4 St. Barbara the Great Martyr 8AM Orthros/Liturgy	5 6PM Great Vespers & Artoclasia for St. Nicholas 7:30 PM Fellowship Hour sponsored by Philoptochos	6 St. Nicholas the Wonderworker 8AM Orthros/Liturgy 10:30AM Orthodox Coffee Hour 6:30PM Adult Greek Dance	7 7PM Catechism Class (First Class of New Series)	8 5 PM Hellenic School	9 Conception of the Theotokos 8AM Orthros/Liturgy 11AM Youth Dance Practice 6PM Great Vespers
Advent Fast						
10 8:30AM Orthros/Liturgy 12 Youth Dance Practice	11 6:30PM Philoptochos Board Meeting	12 St. Spyridon the Wonderworker 8AM Orthros/Liturgy 11:45AM Forever Young Christmas Social	13 10:30AM Orthodox Coffee Hour 6:30PM Adult Greek Dance	14 7PM Catechism Class	15 St. Eleutherios 8AM Orthros/Liturgy 5 PM Hellenic School *Newsletter Articles DUE	16 2:30 Christmas Caroling
						Stella McTaggart - Out of Office.
Advent Fast						
17 8:30AM Orthros/Liturgy 12 Youth Dance Practice 1:30PM Philoptochos Christmas Social 5PM Christmas Caroling		18/19	20 10:30AM Orthodox Coffee Hour 6:30PM Adult Greek Dance	21 9AM Youth Dance Practice 7PM Catechism Class	22 7AM Royal Hours & Divine Liturgy 11AM Youth Dance Practice	23 9AM Youth Dance Practice 6PM Great Vespers
Georgia Marmaras will be holding Office Hours this Month. Please check our website for Office Hours.						
Advent Fast						
24 Eve of the Nativity of Christ 8:30AM Orthros/Liturgy 6PM Great Vespers	25 Nativity of Christ 8:30AM Orthros/Liturgy *Office Closed	26	27 9AM Youth Dance Practice 10:30AM Orthodox Coffee Hour 6:30PM Adult Greek Dance	28 9AM Youth Dance Practice	29 9AM Youth Dance Practice	30
Advent Fast						
Stella McTaggart will be out of the Office.						
31 8:30AM Orthros/Liturgy						
Stella McTaggart will be out of the Office.						

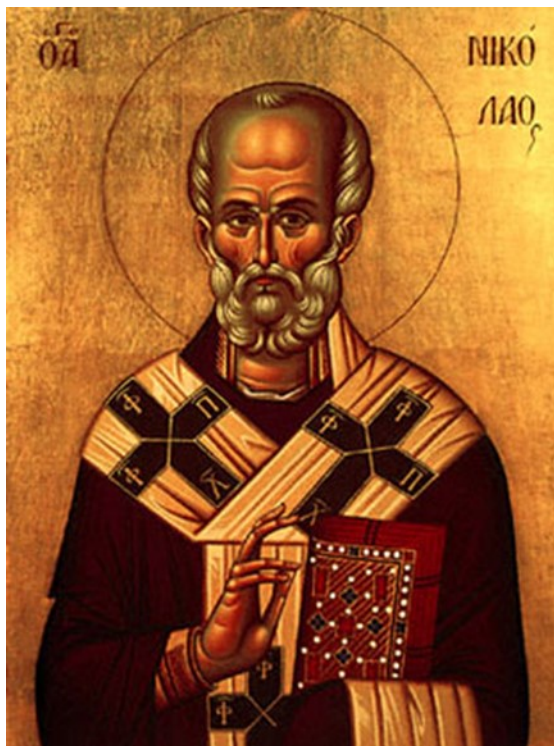
For the most current version of our Parish Calendar, please visit us online at:
<http://www.stnicholaswilmington.org/ParishCalendar.html>

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

608 S. College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403

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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.