



METROPOLIS
OF ATLANTA



April - May 2021



Great & Holy Pascha
May 2, 2021

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

www.stnicholaswilmington.org

Fr. Steven Klund

Parish Priest

Fr. Steven - Phone number 910-392-4455

Fr. Steven's Email: frsteven@stnicholaswilmington.org

Georgia Marmaras,

Parish Office Administrator

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00AM - 5:00 PM

Office Phone: 910-392-4444 |

Office Email: office@stnicholaswilmington.org

Church Website: www.stnicholaswilmington.org

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StNicholasWilmington

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Officers

Evangelos Fragos, President
Lee King, Vice President
Tina Bostic, Treasurer
Barbara Harris, Secretary

Members

Louis Batuyios
Cameron Calhoun
Melissa Kirkby
Emmanuel Miliotis
Dino Psilos
Nick Saffo
Tony Saffo

PARISH MINISTRY TEAM

Religious Education - Mary Beth Miliotis, Ministry Chair, Interim
Bookstore/Library - Mary Ann Wall & Chrysanthé Lazarides
Book Study - Courtney Malahias
Sunday School - Volunteer needed
Synaxis Discussion Group - Irene Voneiff & Debbie Rallis\

Liturgical Life - Dr. Michael Rallis, Ministry Chair
Acolytes - Doug Brown
Altar Care - Matthew Wickersham
Koliva Ministry - Olympia Fragos
Prosforo Ministry - Lisa Kommatea-Steyer
Livestream - Rick Reynolds

Outreach & Evangelism - Cameron Calhoun & Daphne Snow, Ministry Chairs
Hospitality - Ed & Kathleen Mayorga
Parish Care - Constantina Stamatakis, Kay Skandalakis
Mary Frankos, Jim Stasios, John Whitley
Welcome Ministry - Argiro Brown

Parish Family Life - Pauline McHugh, Ministry Chair
Forever Young - Kay Skandalakis
Parish Family Night - Pauline McHugh
Prayer Ministry - Barbara Reynolds
Young Adults - Koula Fragos

Youth - Fr. Steven Klund, Interim Ministry Chair
GOYA - Joyce Kaprantzas Patsalos
HOPE/JOY - Renee Karonis Psilos, Sia Mayorga & Benjalee Pittman

Policies for the Safety of Youth & Children - Stella McTaggart, Parish Administrator
Communications - Technology Ministries - Steve Karafas, Ministry Chair

Hellenic Culture - Kitsa Wiersteiner, Ministry Chair
Adult Greek Dance Group - Antonia Ioannou
Hellenic School - Anestis Logothetis, Acting Director
Nea Smyrni Dance Group - Zaharoula Katsikis
Special Activities - Kitsa Wiersteiner
Zoyra Dance Group - Katerina Katsikis

Metropolis Strategic Planning - Koula Katsikis, Ministry Chair

Philoptochos - Maria Stasios, Chapter President
Irene Vogiatzis, Vice President
Barbara Reynolds, Treasurer
Angela Dentiste, Recording Secretary
Evyenia Karonis, Corresponding Secretary
Debra Rallis, Advisor

Greek Festival - Nick Saffo & Lee King, Ministry Chairs

Stewardship - Barbara Reynolds & Melissa Kirkby, Ministry Chairs

IOCC - Angela Dentiste, Ministry Chair

OCF - Volunteer needed
Elisabeth Baynard, Faculty Advisor



SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Fr. Steven Klund – Parish Priest



Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent is upon us! We are in the midst of our annual 40-Day journey to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. While last year our Lenten and Paschal seasons were severely hindered by the Coronavirus, I am thankful that it appears we will be able to have a significantly improved experience this year. On Great and Holy Pascha I preached about how, like us last year, the Disciples also witnessed Christ's Resurrection from behind closed doors:

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, the doors being shut...Jesus came and stood among them and said, Peace be with you!" – John 20:19

We observed that our Lord is not confined to them same physical limitations we are. Just as he came to the original Disciples in hiding, He too can visit us in Quarantine. However, this year, I want us to direct our attention to what happened afterwards. Note that all of the Resurrection narratives show that Christ appeared in their midst even while the doors remained closed and locked. Our Lord had just unlocked the gates of Hades, yet He did not touch the lock on *their door*—that was their job!

Christ gave them a reason to hope, but He did not bring them out of hiding, nor did He remove the danger from their lives (the threat of Jewish and Roman persecution was still a very real threat). Rather, He gave them a command—to come out from the safety of their closed rooms and go to meet Him in Galilee (*Mark 16:7*). There and only there would they be able to reach their full potential, and rise from the rank of Disciples to Apostles.

We at Saint Nicholas have a similar challenge this year. Last year we had to experience our journey to Pascha through the lens of fear and isolation. This year the threat still persists, but now we have seen the Lord in our homes and He has given us hope. A hope that will inspire, and ideally mobilize us to follow Him back out into the world. There will never be a moment when our lives are free of risk or danger. No one truly knows what each day will bring. I cannot, and will not, ever ask you to go against your own judgment and endanger your families. But I *will* simply remind us all that this has all taken place before. Danger...Hiding...Resurrection...Danger *remains*...But *hope overcomes!*

It is my sincerest hope that we all are able to safely and joyfully celebrate our Lord's triumphant Resurrection together here at Saint Nicholas. However, if you still aren't ready to venture out into public spaces that's ok. Like our Lord was for Thomas when he needed more time, we will be here for you whenever you feel ready to return.

With Fervent Love in Christ,

Fr. Steven Klund

***Parish Council President
Evangelos Fragos***

Greetings!

I want to thank everyone who attended our General Assembly meeting, either in person or online. Your participation in the life of our Church is crucial to the health and growth of our parish. We had a successful meeting and reviewed our 2020 accomplishments.

Here is a quick summary of some of the highlights from our Spring general assembly on February 28, 2021:

1. Our Liturgical Continuity and Parishioner Safety – Balancing in-person restrictions with online services.
2. Ministry Innovation – The continuation of key activities through the pandemic.
3. 606 S. College Rd – Purchase, Renovation, Rental to School, and Gym Restoration.
4. Fall 2020 COVID Drive Thru – Great response from our faithful.

Our Saint Nicholas Family stands proud of all these accomplishments during this world-wide epidemic. Our faith and agape gave us this strength.

As we begin our Lenten Season it is important to mark your calendars for all the important Services that Saint Nicholas has scheduled. Your attendance and participation, in-person or online, is felt and cherished by all. Please attend as many of the services that you can with your family. We are looking forward to sharing this great time of the year with you! Please visit our church website to stay up to date on all services and events.

We celebrate Holy Pascha on May 2, 2021. A couple of short weeks later, we have our annual Saint Nicholas Greek Festival. This is scheduled for May 14-16, 2021. This will be in the form of a “Drive Thru” only again. Last Fall’s event was a tremendous success and hopes that this year’s festival will be as well. Please mark your calendars, your involvement and help is what makes this event so fruitful.

Exciting News, Capital Campaign efforts have been underway. We are focusing on raising donations to help fund our new Saint Nicholas Activity Center! These donations can be made by visiting www.abundant.co/stnickwnc/capitalchampions

We are looking forward to seeing everybody soon! Thank you.



Treasurer

Tina Bostic

Below are a few of the financial updates shared during February's General Assembly.

Assets & Liabilities			
Bank Accts.	02. 26. 2021	Fall Assembly 11.7.2020	Comments
General Fund	\$33,581.78	\$55,928.02	
Money Market	\$150,801.04	\$286,083.11	Back building reno/ festival exp & \$50K loan payment
Festival Checking	\$6,570.43	\$18,953.03	
Designated	\$74,426.80	\$89,008.26	
*Benevolent	\$21,738.62	\$20,230.00	
*Building Fund	\$19,851.74	\$19,851.74	
*Memorial	\$22,626.69	\$38,551.04	Vestry capital improvement
*Greek School	\$10,187.92	\$10,087.92	
*Designated Other	\$-21.83	\$-326.24	
Total of all Accts	\$256,116.55	\$449,972.42	
606 Mortgage	\$689,206.80	\$748,836.55	
GF owes MM account	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	

2020 Operating Budget Final Actuals

Income –\$356,004 Expenses - \$348,533

Net revenue – \$7,471

Note: PPP funds received \$22,600

Stewardship received in 2020 - \$252,283

Goal was \$279,361 - short \$27,078

The 2021 budget was reviewed and approved with increases in expenses focused on our programs. We have increased stewardship by \$3K from what was received. This was possible because of the inclusion of the \$37,500K PPP money which is likely not to occur again. We depend on Stewardship to support all the expenses.

2021 Budget Comparison to Actuals

Budget Categories	2020 Actuals	2021 Budget	Variance
Income			
Total Stewardship	\$252,282.84	\$255,527.50	\$3,244.66
Other Income Donations/PPP	\$103,720.97	\$122,485.00	\$18,764.03
Total Income	\$356,003.81	\$378,012.50	\$22,008.69
Expenses			
Total Admin & Operational	\$18,219.38	\$16,700.00	-\$1,519.38
Total Building & Grounds	\$69,247.15	\$69,868.53	\$621.38
Total National Church			
Commitments	\$44,727.83	\$44,910.00	\$182.17
Total Parish Resources	\$173,889.25	\$177,378.97	\$3,489.72
Total Programs	\$32,449.24	\$59,155.00	\$26,705.76
Total Expenses	\$348,532.85	\$378,012.50	\$29,479.65

Additional financial updates include:

- We've received \$37,500 in PPP funding money from the government.
- The financial audit was completed in March for 2020 financials with an overall positive outcome. We appreciate and thank the auditors, Barbara Reynolds, Koula Katsikis and Pauline McHugh.
- Note: Expenses in Jan. were higher than normal due to the 2020 Archdiocese payments hitting in 2021 due to slow postal services in NY.

Operating Income/Expense			
General Fund	Income	Expenses	Variance
Jan	\$ 31,140.99	\$ 47,681.92	\$ (16,540.93)
Feb	\$ 16,987.56	\$ 25,133.96	\$ (8,146.40)
YTD	\$ 48,128.55	\$ 72,815.88	\$ (24,687.33)

Stewardship			
	Stewardship Received	Stewardship Goal	Variance
Jan	\$ 27,617.84	\$ 21,293.96	\$ 6,323.88
Feb	\$ 13,059.74	\$ 21,293.96	\$ (8,234.22)
YTD	\$ 40,677.58	\$ 42,587.92	\$ (1,910.34)

Philoptochos

Enosis Chapter #5027
Maria Stasios, President

Greetings from the Ladies Philoptochos Society! We pray you are having a fruitful Lenten season. Since our last newsletter, we have had two successful General meetings via Zoom. We are looking forward to our May 23 end of year, where we will gather in person under our Breezeway for elections of our new Philoptochos board. Our chapter size is currently 35 ladies and we invite all to join. At that membership level, our Board number can range from 7-15 members. If you are interested in serving, please reach out to a current board member, or to Tia Saffo, our election chair.

Through your continued support, we have contributed \$1600 to our national commitments and are current in our Metropolis obligations. We also donated over 50 boxes of diapers to the Diaper Bank of NC in February.

We are currently hosting a Lenten Soup Sale (\$5 per pint) on Sundays following Liturgy. As an option, you can order and pay online using the Abundant Giving app.

Our lily sales are underway with a due date April 18. Please look for the sign-up form in this newsletter to sponsor a flower in honor or memory of a loved one.

We are sponsoring a "Palm Sunday Luncheon to-Go" on April 25 following liturgy. All meals will be fish plates, and are pre-order only due no later than April 18. Please call the office to reserve your meal. Pay by check/cash to the office, or use the Abundant Giving app to order and pay online. Please note - we are only able to take and serve meals that are pre-ordered and paid.

If you are not receiving our Philoptochos emails, please let us know. We'd love to have every woman in the parish on our distribution list. If you have not become a member of Philoptochos, we invite you to complete a membership pledge card. It is through your participation that we are able to continue to support the needs of our local community. Anyone is welcome to be a part of this philanthropic group, "the right hand of the church."

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON -TO-GO
SPONSORED BY THE ST. NICHOLAS
LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
April 25, 2021

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

TICKETS:
FISH PLATE \$15
Pre-Paid Orders only.
Please pay on line, or cash/ check
Reserve your meals by April 18, 2021



200 YEARS of FREEDOM

SAINT NICHOLAS CELEBRATES THE GREEK BICENTENNIAL



The Saint Nicholas Family celebrated the Bicentennial of the Independence of Greece on Sunday March 28. Immediately following the conclusion of the service, Greek School Chair Anesti Logothetis welcomed our very own Mayor Bill Saffo for a fascinating historical presentation in the sanctuary of the occasion.

After the Divine Liturgy our youth ministries gathered in the newly opened Saint Nicholas Activity Center for a jubilant Greek Independence celebration. There was Greek dancing, music, festive decorations and fun had by all. Fr. Steven led a brief discussion with the kids focusing on the dual-nature of our festivities. On the one hand we remember the independence of Greece from the oppression of the Ottomans, on the other we celebrate the joyful feast of the Annunciation of the conception of our Lord Jesus Christ. We took note that while our celebration of independence as Greek-Americans is a personal one for us, the entire creation celebrates an "existential independence day" of sorts with the glad tidings of the coming of our Savior! Many thanks to His Honor, Mayor Bill Saffo and Anesti Logothetis for the presentation in the Church, and to Katerina Katsikis and Angelena Kayafas for coordinating the youth event in the Activity Center.



City of Wilmington
NORTH CAROLINA

PROCLAMATION

- Whereas:* the people of ancient Greece developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people; and
- Whereas:* the founding fathers of the United States drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming the representative democracy of the United States; and
- Whereas:* the people of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance to the people of Greece during their struggle for independence; and
- Whereas:* Greece consistently allied with the United States in major international conflicts throughout its history as a modern state; and
- Whereas:* the governments and people of Greece and the United States are at the forefront of efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace and stability and have forged a close bond.

Now, Therefore,

I, Bill Saffo, Mayor of the City of Wilmington NC, on behalf of the Wilmington City Council do hereby recognize March 25, 2021 as the

Bicentennial of Greek
Independence Day

Bill Saffo

Bill Saffo



HOLY WEEK MEDITATION & STUDY GUIDE

FR. ANDREW J. DEMOTSES



The services of Holy Week transform us into eyewitnesses and direct participants in the awesome events of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In readings taken from both Old and New Testaments, in hymns, processions, and liturgical commemoration, we see the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies, and the mighty acts by which God Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, grants us forgiveness for our sins, and rescues us from the pain of eternal death.

PALM SUNDAY EVENING

– Matthew 21:18-43

This evening's service calls to mind the beginning of Jesus' suffering. The Gospel describes the plotting of the priests and elders to trap Jesus into convicting Himself as a religious heretic. Through parables, Jesus tells us of His coming betrayal, trial, conviction and execution by crucifixion. The hymns of this service commemorate two things; the first, the prophetic figure of Joseph, who, while virtuous, nonetheless suffered unjustly at the hands of his brothers before being greatly rewarded, and the second, the parable of the fig tree, which in failing to bear fruit, became a symbol of fallen creation, and of our own lives, in which we also have failed to bear spiritual fruit.

HOLY MONDAY EVENING

– Matthew 22:15-23:39

This evening's theme is the need for watchfulness and preparation, lest we be called unprepared before the awesome judgement seat of Christ to render an account of ourselves. The Gospel reading contrasts the efforts of the Pharisees to trick and discredit Jesus, with the forceful resistance which Christ mounts against their evil. The hymns remind us of the parable of the Ten Virgins, in which the faithful Christian is exhorted to vigilance.

HOLY TUESDAY EVENING

– John 12:17-50

The need for true repentance is the concern of Tuesday evening's service. This transformation from the life of sin to a life of faith and obedience is exemplified for us in the person of the sinful woman who received the gift for forgiveness when she anointed Jesus with myrrh and washed His feet. The highlight of the service is the hymn written in honor of this woman by St.

Kassiani. The Gospel meditation foretells of the coming suffering of Christ and recalls His inner struggles and agony.

HOLY WEDNESDAY EVENING

– *Unction Readings*

Epistles: *James 5:10-16, Rom. 15:1-7, I Cor. 12:27-31-13:1-8, II Cor. 1:8-11, Gal. 5:22-6:2, & I Thess. 5:14-23.*

Gospels: *Luke 10:25-37, Luke 19:1-10, Matt. 10:1 & 10:5-8, Matt. 8:14-23, Matt. 25:1-13, Matt. 15:21-28, & Matt. 9:9-13.*

The primary theme of Holy Wednesday is our human need for the healing and forgiveness that comes into our lives when we establish a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We are reminded that the way to this relationship is to be found, above all else, through the life of prayer. In the Sacrament of Holy Unction, the faithful are anointed and thus, healed both physically and spiritually. They are also reconciled to God and one another so that they might receive the gift of the Holy Eucharist instituted by Christ at the Last Supper.

HOLY THURSDAY MORNING

– *Last Supper Passages*

Matt. 26:2-27:2, John 13:3-17, & Luke 22:43-45

On Holy Thursday morning, we ascend Mt. Zion with Christ and the Twelve, and enter into the upper room. Once there, we witness the awesome moment when, at the Last Supper, Christ abolishes the ritual practice of the Old Covenant and establishes the ritual of the New Covenant, prophesied by Jeremiah, through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The faithful receive Holy Communion at that Holiest of Liturgies.

HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

– *Crucifixion Passages*

In this service, we commemorate the undeserved suffering of Jesus Christ, endured for our sake, so that we might be reconciled anew to God our Father. The Gospel readings witness for us the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, his trial and conviction, and finally his torture, crucifixion and death at the hands of a sinful humanity. This evening's service also includes the procession representing Christ carrying His own cross along the Via Dolorosa, and ends when we see before us the King of Glory crucified. The Gospels are as follows:

John 13:31-18:1, John 18:1-29, Matt. 26:57-75, John 18:28-19:16, Matt. 27:3-32, Mark 15:16-32, Matt. 27:33-54, 23:32-49, John 19:25-37, Mark 15:43-47, John 19:38-42, & Matt. 27:62-66

HOLY FRIDAY MORNING

– *Crucifixion Passages*

I Cor. 1:18-2:2, Matt. 27:1-38, Luke 23:39-43, Matt. 27:39-54, John 19:31-37, & Matt. 27:55-61

In this service, we are once again reverent witnesses to the undeserved suffering of Christ, to his terrible passion and death. What is remembered in a special way through liturgical commemoration and procession, is the faithfulness and love of Joseph of Arimathea who tenderly removed Christ's body from the cross, wrapped it in clean linen, and carried it to his own unused tomb for burial.

HOLY FRIDAY EVENING– *Crucifixion Passages*

Ez. 37:1-14, 1 Cor. 5:6-8, Gal. 3:13-14, & Matt. 27:62-66

On Good Friday evening, the theme is Christ's descent into Hades during which the Gospel of repentance and reconciliation with God is shared with those who died before Christ's saving dispensation in the flesh. The service begins with lamentations sung as we stand before the tomb of Christ commemorating His unjust punishment and the shedding of His innocent blood. But the service ends on a note of joy and hope, with the reading of the Prophet Ezekiel in which he describes his vision of our resurrection yet to come; in the midst of despair, we are told there is hope, for not even death can separate us from the unfailing love and power of God. Death is about to be conquered and faithfulness rewarded.

HOLY SATURDAY MORNING– *Rom. 6:3-11, Matt. 28*

On Holy Saturday morning we celebrate the theme of faithfulness receiving its reward. The crucifixion is over, Christ is buried, the twelve apostles and other disciples are scattered and defeated. And yet, three myrrh-bearing women come in faithfulness to perform the last act of love--to anoint Jesus according to the Jewish burial custom. Their unwavering devotion is rewarded--they are the first to share in Christ's triumph over evil and death. They are the first witnesses to the Resurrection. This joy is commemorated through the scattering of bay leaves and rose petals by the priest.

HOLY SATURDAY EVENING– *Mark 16:1-8*

The lamentations of the previous night are repeated and the church is plunged into darkness to symbolize the despair and defeat experienced before the dawn of Christ's victory over the Enemy of our salvation. Late in the evening, a single light emerges from the altar representing the victory of Christ over death, the defeat of the Prince of Darkness by Jesus, the Light of the World. As the light is passed from person to person, it pushes back the darkness of the church and defeats it completely. Precisely at midnight, the Resurrection is proclaimed in song and triumphant procession, and after the Liturgy, its light is carried into our homes so that they too might be filled with its light and warmth and triumph.

EASTER SUNDAY MORNING– *John 20:19-25*

Christ's Resurrection and victory is affirmed in this morning's theme. The Gospel is read in several languages to illustrate the universality of the Good News of the Resurrection and its proclamation to the very ends of the earth. Love, forgiveness, reconciliation, triumph and joy--these are the gifts which we receive because Christ lived and died and triumphed for our sake.

2021 SPRING EVENTS

We are approaching the most significant time of the ecclesiastical year! In the coming weeks and months we will celebrate our Savior's Passion, Crucifixion, and Victory over death. Soon after we will prepare for our Greek Fest Drive Thru, Summer Camp, and maybe even some family vacations. Here are some important dates to remember:

Saturday of Lazarus (April 24)

- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
- 11:00 am Palm Folding

Palm Sunday (April 25)

- 8:45 am Orthros | 10 am Divine Liturgy
- 6:30 pm Bridegroom Service

Holy Monday (April 26)

- 6:30 pm Bridegroom Service

Holy Tuesday (April 27)

- 6:30 pm Bridegroom Service

Holy Wednesday (April 28)

- 5:30 pm Holy Unction Service

Holy Thursday (April 29)

- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy of the Last Supper
- 5:30 pm Service of the 12 Gospels

Holy Friday (April 30)

- 9:00 am Royal Hours
- 3:00 pm Taking Down From the Cross
- 7:00 pm Lamentations Service

Holy Saturday (May 1)

- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy - The Empty Tomb
- 11:00 pm Resurrection Vigil

GREAT & HOLY PASCHA (May 2)

- 12 am Midnight Paschal Liturgy
- 11:00 am Agape Vespers

2021 Greek Festival Drive Thru (May 14-16)

- Fri. & Sat. (11am-8pm), Sun. (11am-5pm)

Sunday School Graduation (May 23)

Summer Church Service Hours Start Today!

- 8:30 am Orthros | 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
- Graduation Ceremony After Liturgy

Ascension (June 10, 40 Days After Pascha)

- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Saint Nicholas Summer Camp

- "Christmas in June" (June 14-18)

Pentecost (June 20, 50 Days After Pascha)

- 8:30 am Orthros | 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

St. Stephen's Summer Camp - Week 1

- June 27 - July 3



CONGRATULATIONS

On February 14, 2021, we held a 40-day blessing for baby **Joseph Dylan Abdiotakis**, son of Courtney & Joseph Abdiotakis.

On March 14, 2021, we held a 40-day blessing for baby **Theotokis Bostic**, son of Alexandra and Lucas Bostic

On March 28, 2021, we held a 40-day blessing for baby **Athena Ballou**, daughter of Christin & Bradley Ballou.

On March 13, 2021, we held the Baptism of **Maura Gallaher**, daughter of Chris and Shannon Gallaher. Her proud Godparents are Stephanie & Graham Harrill.

ΝΑ ΣΑΣ ΖΗΣΟΥΝ!! May they live long Christian lives in the Lord.

Saint Nicholas' own **Ed Mayorga**, (of Master Craftsmen Services) was mentioned in the November issue of the *Wrightsville Beach Magazine*. We offer our heartfelt congratulations to Ed and Kathleen and are so proud of them and the tremendous mark they have not only left on our Saint Nicholas Family, but the greater community as well!

SYMPATHIES & MEMORIALS

We extend our condolences to Sophia Fragos Tracy and family for the loss of their beloved **Ernest "Ernie" Tracy**, who fell asleep in the Lord on February 11, 2021, in Raleigh, NC. *ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΤΟΥ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ* – Eternal be his memory!



We extend our condolences to Alex & Dean Angeledes for the loss of their beloved Father, **Angelo Angeledes** who fell asleep in the Lord on March 9, 2021, in Rock Hill, SC



We extend our condolences to Vicky Stephens, family and friends for the loss of their beloved Mother, **Martha Melts** who fell asleep in the Lord on March 12, 2021, in Wilmington, NC.

We extend our condolences to Chris & Roula Andrews for the loss of her beloved brother **Leonidas Koutsouflakis** who fell asleep in the Lord on March 9 2021 in Athens, Greece.

We extend our condolences to the Spirakis family of Myrtle Beach, SC for the falling asleep in the Lord of their Mother, **Presbytera Mary C. Spirakis** on February 23, 2021.

We extend our condolences to Maria Stasios, Melissa Kirkby, Florence Thomas, Athena Melts Karahalios, John Melts and Jimmy Melts for the falling asleep of their Uncle, **Jimmy Zarres** on February 28, 2021 in Lynchburg, Va.

ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΤΩΝ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ – Eternal be their memories!

February Memorials:

40th day **Efstratios "Harry" Papanikolaou** - Husband of Sandra and Father of Stephanie, Katina and Eliana

Aphrodite Argyropoulos - Mother of George Argyropoulos
Vasiliki Lazaridis - Mother of Nick Lazaridis

Irini & Panagioti Frangias - Parents of Evgenia Karonis

Anastasia Annette Karonis - Daughter of Evyenia & Yiannis Karonis and Sister to Renee Karonis Psilos

Georgios & Anastasia Karonis - Parents of Yiannis Karonis

Constantinos Petros Tsingelis 6 yrs. - Brother of Chris & Jeannie Tsingelis

March Memorials:

On March 28, we honored all of those who fought for our freedom from the Ottoman empire in 1821.

Vasilios Melts - Father of Maria Melts Stasios, Melissa Melts Kirkby, Athena Melts Karahalios, Florence Melts Thomas, Jonny Melts & Jimmy Melts

***We will perform a Memorial service once a month for your dearly departed . Please call the office to schedule a 40-day or memorial services. Upcoming Memorials: April 18 and May 9*

Please Pray

For those who are ill, recovering, and/or homebound:

Christos Anagnost, Nikki Bober, Bobby Boron, Georgia Apostolou, Stavros Chantiles, Sherry Demas, Nicholas & Margie Devoles, Sue Fokakis, Demitra George, Charles Hegler, Gus Karafas (brother of Irene Karafas Voneiff), Lambra Koklanaris, Olga Mancuso, Mary Marmaras, Ann & Frank Pinkston, Scott Sanders (husband of Nikkii Koklanaris), Sophia Sljaka, Pat Skinner, Tom Souflas, Peggy Stephanou, Kyr- iaki Thomas, Vasilios Vogiatzis, Mary Ann Wall



Policies for the Safety of Youth & Safety

Stella McTaggart

Be ready! Let the truth be like a belt around your waits, and let God's justice protect you like armor. Ephesians 6:14

Each day we wake up we make a conscious decision to **WEAR** our cross. Some of us wear just our baptismal cross for our entire lives. Some of us wear different crosses each day. Some of us wear our cross while we sleep. Some of us wear our cross around our neck, and some of us wear our cross around our wrist. Some have even have a cross tattoo. We, as followers of Christ, wear our cross as our ward against evil, we wear our cross to show our love to God who died on the Cross.

During Great and Holy Lent we wear our cross, we pray, fast, give alms and prepare for the coming Pascha. Everything we do is to embody what Jesus would want us to do. Jesus told us to LOVE THY NEIGHBOR. We have had—for the past year—the opportunity to daily show our love for our neighbor by wearing our cross and visibly wear a mask to prevent the spread of COVID19. We wear our cross for ourselves, we wear our masks for others.

Another way our Community has had the opportunity to show the love of Jesus Christ is to participate in the Policies for the Safety of Youth and Children. Each of these 42 Servants of God have made a decision to commit time to learn the best policies and procedures for how to keep our Youth safe from harm. Just as they commit to wear their cross to show their love for God, they commit to complete this process to show their love for the Youth of our Community.

I am so very proud of the efforts our Community puts forth each year to provide Ministries and Events to instill the LOVE of our beautiful faith to all of our Children. As you can see, not all of these Servants have children of their own, not all of these Servants have children under 18, and not all of these Servants participate in every youth event. But they are all ready to be called upon when needed. They stand ready with their fellow servants to help our children grow up in a safe, loving, and Christ-centered community. They help as substitute Sunday School teachers, they are Ministry Leaders, they take part in 1-day youth fellowship events, or they weekly are with acolytes or in Greek School...the list goes on and on.

If you want to participate in ANY Youth Ministry or Event you **MUST** be a CERTIFIED YOUTH WORKER. To start the 3-step process please visit <https://forms.gle/geDBqdHoFuuSH4ua8> to complete the registration form or contact me at youth-safety@stnicholaswilmington.org. Thank you to all of us as we work together to meet our Church's Mission and Vision.

Certified Youth Workers as of February 26, 2021:

Fr. Steven Klund
Demetri Brown
Doug Brown
Konstandena Brown
Pam Calhoun
Cameron Calhoun
Patricia D'Orazio
Barbara Harris
Renée Karonis
Evyania Karonis
Koula Katsikis
Zaharoula Katsikis
Katerina Katsikis
Angelena Kayafas
Doris King
Melissa Kirkby
Anita Kratsa
Anestis Logothetis
Georgia Marmaras
Sia Mayorga
Pauline McHugh

Lea McHugh
Thomas McHugh
Stella McTaggart
MaryBeth Miliotis
Manny Miliotis
Matthew Orzechowski
Stacey Papalitskas
Eleni Pappamihel
Joyce Patsalos
Anastasia Perk
Fred Perk
Benjalee Pittman
Athena Poulos
Michael Rallis
Connie Ronner
Tia Saffo
Cassie Snow
Jimmy Stasios
Alexandros Theodoropoulos
Joseph Weatherly
Matthew Wickersham
Kitsa Wiersteiner

Thank you to these wonderful servants.



St. Nicholas Summer Camp

Stella McTaggart

summercampstnicholaswilmington@gmail.com

As we take our first steps towards our Lenten Journey this month, we are already planning for a week of fun-filled mornings for every **child** from rising Kindergarten to 6th grades to attend our **SUMMER CAMP!** #christmasinjune is our exciting program for **the week of June 14-18**. Online registration is NOW OPEN at: <https://stnicholaswilmington.org/summer-camp-2021/>

We are looking for **youth volunteers** entering 7th grade and older to be our **Camp Counselors or Teachers' Aides**. If you have a High Schooler who needs volunteer hours for school this is a PERFECT opportunity to help their Church family meet this need. It also looks great on job applications and other volunteer opportunities with the Metropolis & Archdiocese and well as College Applications.

If you are an **adult volunteer** we would love to have you. It is a priceless one-week commitment (with one or two teacher meetings beforehand to become familiar with the process) to get to know the kids, have fun, and build memories. You can commit to as little as one hour or the full session. If you have the time and the desire to volunteer, we will find a place for you on our team.

GOYA
Joyce Patsalos

On February 27th, our GOYA youth participated in a community service project with the Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry (WARM). WARM helps people in need in our area with urgent, safety related repairs, hurricane recovery, or accessibility upgrades. For this recent project we were assigned to a home in Leland that was in need of building two sets of landing and steps, yard debris clean up, and sorting of materials. The youth worked diligently together and made a huge impact for this homeowner in need. Thank you to Doris King for arranging this wonderful opportunity for our youth!



On March 13, our GOYA gathered outside at the Patsalos home for a backyard fireside Pre-Lent discussion with Fr. Steven which included games, fellowship, and s'mores. The youth learned about preparing for Lent and the true meaning of fasting.



Forever Young

Kay Skandalakis

Join us on Saturday, April 10, 2021 for Fitness & Fellowship at our beautiful gym and activities center. We will meet at the church at 11:00 am and go over to the gym for walking and exercise for 30 minutes. Wear comfortable clothes and only tennis shoes. After we exercise, we'll go to the fellowship hall for a Lenten lunch and meet with Fr. Steven. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Stewardship

Barbara Reynolds & Melissa Kirkby

We currently have 149 families that have pledged out of 296 active families, over 50% of active families!

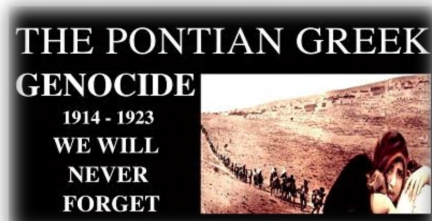
\$208,153 has been pledged which is 81% of the full year pledges that are needed for us to meet our 2021 budget of \$255,427. We only need \$47,364 more in pledges.

\$77,577 has been given through March 31. This is 30% of the full year stewardship budget. Thank you to all of our stewards!

If you would like to enter a pledge card online, please go to www.stnicholaswilmington.org/stewardship/ in order to enter your pledge.

Hellenic Culture

Special Activities - Kitsa Wiersteiner



Please join us for a Memorial (Μνημόσυνο) for the Pontian Genocide on Sunday, May 23, 2021 immediately following Divine Liturgy.

Pontos is a region in Northeast Asia Minor which

Greeks inhabited for 2,500 years until the Turks ethnically cleansed the Greeks from all of Asia Minor. The Pontic refugees mostly settled in eastern Macedonia and western Thrace.

By 1923, out of approximately 700,000 Pontian Greeks who lived in Turkey at the beginning of World War I, as many as 350,000 were killed, and almost all of the rest had been uprooted during the subsequent forced population exchange between Greece and Turkey. May 19 is the Memorial Day of the Genocide of the Greeks of Pontos by the Ottoman Turks during the period of 1914-1923. May their memory be eternal.

Honor, gratitude, respect and justice to the Greeks of Pontos that were annihilated.

Αιωνία τους η Μνήμη!

75th Anniversary Save the Date!

AHEPA

Cape Fear Chapter No. 408



AHEPA-Cape Fear No 408 will be selling **Tsoureki** (Sweet Easter Bread), again, this year. The sale will be on our Orthodox Palm Sunday (April 25th) following Divine Liturgy.

This year, the loaves will sell for \$14, as there has been a price increase from our supplier.

We will sell the Tsoureki via a Drive-Thru out of the side-door of the Hellenic Center on Palm Sunday following church services. Please contact the church office to reserve your tsoureki.

Thank you in advance for your support of AHEPA's annual fundraiser.



A vibrant poster for the Wilmington Greek Festival Drive Thru. The background is a deep blue with a white Greek key border. A large, expressive brown brushstroke sweeps across the upper half. At the top, a white icon of a church dome with a cross sits above the text 'WILMINGTON' in a white, blocky font. Below this, 'GREEK' is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a white outline, and 'FESTIVAL' is in a smaller white font. The words 'DRIVE THRU' are prominently displayed in large, bold, yellow letters. A red pickup truck is shown from the front, with 'MAY 14-16' written on its windshield in white. To the left of the truck, a hand in a red and white sleeve waves a white cloth. To the right, a hand holds a white bag labeled 'GREEK FOOD' in black letters. At the bottom, the text 'VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Below this, a dark blue banner contains the text 'SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER TODAY AT: WWW.STNICHOLASWILMINGTON.ORG' in white.

WILMINGTON
GREEK
FESTIVAL

DRIVE THRU

MAY 14-16

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER TODAY AT: WWW.STNICHOLASWILMINGTON.ORG

St. Nicholas LOVE

"LOVE" is [BACK] in the AIR!

The Saint Nicholas LOVE ministry enthusiastically returned to gathering for the 2021 year this passed month. The littlest members of our Saint Nicholas Family typically meet every other Wednesday morning at 10am. In an effort to accommodate the households who work outside the home and find it difficult to attend during the week, we are making it a priority to include at least one weekend outing in addition to the many other family friendly events we offer each month.

Every meeting follows the same structure. We meet in the sanctuary to light candles, and God willing one day soon, to venerate the icons! We then sit in the pews as Fr. Steven joins us to teach and review some church etiquette. We cannot emphasize this enough. The more and more our children come to services and feel welcome, the more likely their faith will take root in their hearts. This is the primary goal of this group, to engrain a love of the church within our future generations in their earliest formative years. After church etiquette, our little ones typically need a snack and listen to a story. Whether it's How Do Dinosaurs Say I Love You or Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed, we are developing

the skills of good listeners and future avid readers. We then move on to a carefully curated craft. Some have included a Lenten placemat reminding us to pray, fast a give during this season in the church, as well as replicating the Greek flag to commemorate the bicentennial celebration of Greece's independence from the Ottoman Empire. After all that sitting, it's time to get some wiggles out

and extended family connect and share their experiences with one another. After all, if we expect our little ones to prioritize the church in their lives, they have no where else to look than to those raising them.

We recently gave the former Nursery room an extensive purge and cleaning since it had not been in use for over a year due to the pandemic. We are pleased to repurpose this room as the main meeting space for LOVE, in addition to the hall, activity center and future playground as needed. While we are blessed with many materials in this room, much of it was not age appropriate or it was no longer usable in its condition. As a result, we do have a wish list that we will fundraise and accept donations for. Some examples

include a new rug, supplies for crafts, a book rack, quality toys that promote skill development, and so much more. If you are interested in contributing toward the needs of the LOVE (Living Orthodoxy Very Early) ministry please contact Pres. Nicole Klund via email at nicoletsapelas@gmail.com

We try to always end by 11am to accommodate lunch and nap needs as they vary greatly for this age group, and child to child.

This ministry is equally beneficial for the caregivers. It is so important that the parents, guardians, grandparents

include a new rug, supplies for crafts, a book rack, quality toys that promote skill development, and so much more. If you are interested in contributing toward the needs of the LOVE (Living Orthodoxy Very Early) ministry please contact Pres. Nicole Klund via email at nicoletsapelas@gmail.com

We thank you in advance for supporting this noble ministry, and look forward to raising these children to love Christ and His church. Glory to God in all things!

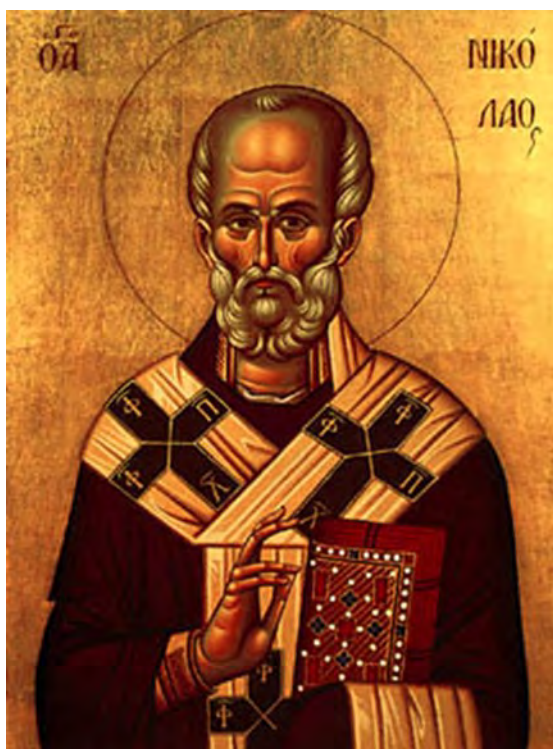


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ST. NICHOLAS

**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.