



METROPOLIS
OF ATLANTA



December 2020 - January 2021



*The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
December 25, 2020*

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

www.stnicholaswilmington.org

Fr. Steven Klund

Parish Priest

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

Georgia Marmaras

Parish Administrator

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 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

2020 PARISH COUNCIL

Officers

Evangelos Fragos, President

Lee King, Vice President

Tina Bostic, Treasurer

Barbara Harris, Secretary

Members

Emmanuel Miliotis Dino Psilos

Cameron Calhoun Nick Saffo

Lee King Tony Saffo

Melissa Kirkby

2020 PARISH MINISTRY TEAM

Religious Education ...Mary Bath Miliotis & Courtney Malahias, Ministry Chairs
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...Argie Brown

Parish Family Life...Pauline McHugh, Ministry Chair
Forever Young...Kay Skandalakis
Parish Family Night...Pauline McHugh
Prayer Ministry...Barbara Reynolds

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

IOCC...Angela Dentiste, Ministry Chair

OCF...Koula Fragos, Chapter President
Elisabeth Baynard, Faculty Advisor



SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Fr. Steven Klund – Parish Priest



Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

By now we have spoken at length about the challenges of the Coronavirus. We have heard your fears and we have felt your frustrations. While we wish that the pandemic would just end and that we could go back to “normal life,” we understand that it isn’t as simple as that. It is a near certainty that we will be enduring this for quite some time still to come.

“Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.” - James 5:14

As we see in James’ Universal Letter, the Church has always been a place of refuge during times of sickness. The Holy Apostle encourages the faithful to not allow the fear of illness push them into hiding, but allow it to be an opportunity to connect more deeply with their faith. That is where the Church comes in. We are here for moments like this. The very hospitals that we are depending on to defeat the virus were first created within the context of the Christian Church. In the middle of the fourth century, famine broke out. Saint Basil, then a priest, immediately created free public services for those suffering from hunger. To achieve this, he had to fight, prove, hunt for, and even scream at the rich, to convince them to open their food supplies and share with the hungry. In 372, he finished building his famous complex, “The Basileiad.” In the center of the complex there was a magnificent church, and around it there were structures, guest houses/hotels, schools, orphanages, homes for the poor, and the hospital itself. Such a thing had not existed anywhere else. Saint Basil personally supervised the work, gave advice to the builders, and worked himself.

But the hospitals are not the only places you can find care in times like these. Our faith also is famous for making “house calls.” Recall, once more our theme for our 2021 Stewardship Campaign. The passage is found in the eighth chapter of Luke, where Christ heals the woman who simply touches the hem of His garment. That entire scene came to pass because Christ was summoned by Jairus to help his daughter who was gravely ill...*at home!* We know that Christ eventually did make it Jairus’ home and brought healing and comfort to his daughter and her family.

That is what the Church has always practiced, and what she continues to practice today. In a year in which we are encouraged to stay home, one could argue that there has never been a more important time in the Church’s history for these in-house visitations. Though right now *the doors of the Church* may be too difficult for your family to walk through, we pray that *the doors of your home* are still open for us! In the coming month, we at Saint Nicholas will begin preparing our schedule for our New Year House Visits following the feast of Epiphany. ***It is our goal to visit all of our families and bless every home!*** This will take considerable coordination and flexibility, but it is our belief that now more than ever, it is the role of the Church to seek out and meet our faithful in a time when the faithful are unable to come to us.

We thank you in advance for your constant support of our Saint Nicholas Family, and we pray that our God will always bless us here in Wilmington.

With Fervent Love in Christ

Fr. Steven Klund

Parish Council President
Evangelos Fragos

Dear Saint Nicholas Family,

Greetings!

I trust everyone was able to make the best of their Fall season, under the circumstances our world continues to face. COVID-19 has affected all of us and our routines in our normal lives. We find strength in our faith, and together we can beat this pandemic. The precautions we have been taking for the past six months are continuing to keep us safe. Our protocols have been working very well to promote the safety of all who enter the church. Our weekly attendance has been stable. Again, we want to thank all of you for complying with the Saint Nicholas procedures.

As we come to the end of 2020, we wish all of our students and teachers a successful completion of their semester. This academic year operated very different than ever before. Online classes, zoom meetings, and virtual learning has created a new approach for our young people who are pursuing their education. Good Strength in your studies!

On December 5-6, 2020, we will be celebrating our Saint Nicholas patronal feast. We have an exciting and full weekend planned that you do not want to miss! Our festivities will begin on Saturday, December 5th, where we will be celebrating our Festal Vespers. There will be activities on Saturday for the family to enjoy including the lighting of our outside Christmas tree and hot chocolate! On Sunday, December 6, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy in honor of Saint Nicholas. Immediately after church service, we will process out of the sanctuary to the back building for the grand opening of Saint Nicholas Activity Center! Please mark your calendar and plan to attend with the whole family! Make sure to check out our website for all events and details.

On behalf of the Parish Council we would like to wish our Saint Nicholas family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Please continue to stay safe through the holiday season, and let's bring in 2021 with GREAT health and cheer!

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support by being dedicated stewards our Saint Nicholas Church.

75th Year Anniversary
Evangelos Fragos, Committee Chariman

I would like to update everyone on our 75th Year Anniversary Celebration.

As many of you may already know we had to postpone our 2020 celebration to next year, 2021. We, the committee, are continuing to plan a Grand Celebration weekend full of events!

You may have received our correspondence in the mail.

Our updated schedule is as follows.

Friday, October 22, 2021 – “Welcome Reception” at Saint Nicholas Church

Saturday, October 23, 2021 – “75th Anniversary Gala” at Ballast Hotel

Sunday, October 24, 2021 – “Divine Liturgy” followed by “Farewell Brunch”

Mark your calendars for you and your family to be sure to attend! It is important that we all support these great moments of our 75 years at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church history here in Wilmington, NC! **Buy your tickets! Reserve your table now!** We have a limited amount of space at the Gala. We want all to participate and witness this memorable weekend of the 75th Anniversary of our church. Your attendance as well as your contributions will be remembered for many generations to come. You do not want to miss out!

For more information, rsvp's, ordered, or any other inquires please email STNICK75TH@GMAIL.COM



Show off your Parish Pride & Celebrate 75 Years in Style!

- Large Limited Gold Leaf Canvas Icon
- 8 x 10 in. Wooden Icon
- 75th Anniversary Fleece Pullovers

Supplies are Limited!

**Contact the Office to
Place an Order
(910) 392-4444**



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Gina Moudatsou and James Sarris on the Baptism of their son George on October 3, 2020. NA *May your child live a long healthy life in Christ!* NA ΣΑΣ ΖΗΣΕΙ!

Congratulations to Paul & Colleen Loukas on the Baptism of their son Paul Spero Jr., on October 11, 2020. *May your child live a long and healthy life in Christ!* NA ΣΑΣ ΖΗΣΕΙ!

Congratulations to Bill & Stacey Papalitskas on the birth of their first grandchild Lexi Grace. *May your grandchild live a long healthy life in Christ!* NA ΣΑΣ ΖΗΣΕΙ!

Congratulations to Shannon & Bradley on their Wedding and the Baptism of their son Chase, on October 17, 2020. *May you be filled with many blessings as on in Christ and May your child live a long healthy life!* NA ΣΑΣ ΖΗΣΕΙ!

Congratulations to Steven & Kimberli Theophilos, for the 40-day blessing of their daughter baby Ada Irene on November 8, 2020. *May your child live a long healthy life!* NA ΣΑΣ ΖΗΣΕΙ!

Congratulations to Katerina and Dominic Cename for the 40-day blessing of their daughter Stratia Elena on October 11, 2020. *May your child live a long healthy life!* NA ΣΑΣ ΖΗΣΕΙ!

Congratulations to John Mihaltses and Dana Baigre for their wedding on November 21, 2020. *May you be filled with many blessings as one in Christ.* NA ΣΗΣΕΤΕ ΕΥΤΗΧΙΣΜΕΝΗ!

MEMORIALS

Marika (Maria) Tsantes - 40 Days

John Stamboulis - 3 Years

Eternal be their memory - ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ

(We will perform a Memorial service once a month for your dearly departed. Please call the office to schedule)

PLEASE PRAY

For those who are ill, recovering, and/or home-bound: Christos Anagnost, Angelo Angeledes, Georgia Apostolou, Bobby Bobon, Stavros Chantiles, Sue Fokakis, Demitra George, Olga Mancuso, Calvin McGowan, Mary Compos Marmaras, Anne Bakalis Pinkston, Sophia Sljaka, Pat Skinner, Tom Souflas, Peggy Stephanou, Kyriaki Thomas, Ernest Tracy., Vasilios Vogiatzis, Mary Ann Wall

Please contact the Church office to add/remove someone from the list

Forever Young

Kay Skandalakis

We hope everyone to be well and have our monthly lunches again soon. We pray that the year 2021 will bring us all Peace on Earth, Blessings and Good Health to all!

Greek Marketplace

We have various "Greek" food items for sale. These make great gifts for the holidays. Please let the office, Irene Vogiatzis or Sandra Papanicolaou know if you are interested in the following items:

Olive oil, Orzo, Olive soap, Canned giant beans, Greek coffee, Nescafé coffee, Frape-makers battery operated, Spooned dessert- sour cherry, fig, grape, bergamot, Honey, Ion chocolate, Sokofretes, and Taramousalata

Greek Festival

Nick Saffo, Ministry Chair



A big THANK YOU to all our amazing festival volunteers. Without your help, this would not have been such a successful drive-thru festival. Your devotion to St Nicholas of your time, talents and treasures is beyond words. We are truly blessed to have come together as a family in Christ especially during these unprecedented times, to celebrate our culture and food with the greater Wilmington Community and to donate a portion of our earnings to Good Shepherd and First Fruits Ministries.

Treasurer
Tina Bostic

General Assembly updates provided include the following:

Assets & Liabilities			
Bank Accts.	Fall Assembly 11.7.2020	Spring Assembly 02.2020	Comments to differences
General Fund	\$55,928.02	\$19,150.43	
Money Market	\$286,083.11	\$330,118.87	606 Expenses and Festival included
Festival Checking	\$18,953.03	\$63,985.36	Pending fest exp.
Designated	\$89,008.26	\$72,031.64	
*Benevolent	\$20,230.00	\$11,904.82	donation given
*Building Fund	\$19,851.74	\$19,851.74	
*Memorial	\$38,551.04	\$32,760.20	funerals and donations
*Greek School	\$10,087.92	\$6,290.60	Donation
*Designated Other	\$-326.24	\$-326.24	
*GOYA	\$0	\$1,550.52	Transferred to GF
Total of all Accts	\$449,972.42	\$485,286.3	
606 Mortgage	\$748,836.55	\$0	
GF owes MM account	\$50,000.00	\$60,000	Paid \$10K back

2020 Jan-Sep Budget Highlights – (75%)

- Net revenue of negative \$3212
- \$10K was paid back to Money Market for past operational support
- Received PPP money for COVID-19 expenses of \$22K

	2020 Total				% of Budget
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	Remaining	
Total Revenue	\$ 248,644.22	\$ 377,761.00	\$(129,116.78)	\$ 129,116.78	65%
Total Expenses	\$ 251,856.57	\$ 377,761.00	-\$ 125,904.43	\$ 125,904.43	66%
Net Operating Revenue	-\$ 3,212.35				

2019 financials were audited in the spring by Koula Katsikis, Barbara Reynolds and Pauline McHugh – thank you for your support.

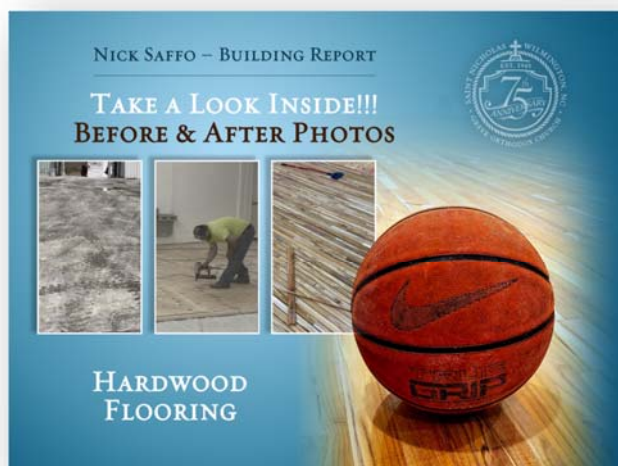
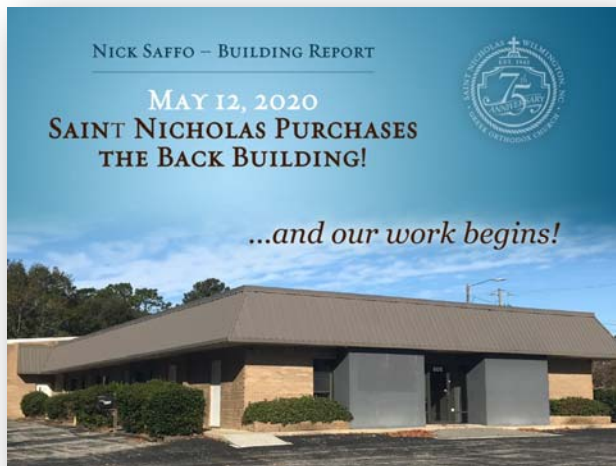
Additional Financial updates include:

- The PPP money received by the government has been forgiven and will not need to be paid back (\$22,600).
- The Metropolis has restructured the Pension Plan allocations for each church from a standard fee to one that is based on the size of the church. St. Nicholas' commitment will stay the same \$600/month).
- The Metropolis received PPP money and will be crediting each church with one month's fee toward the archdioceses allocation for 2020 (\$2942.47).
- We have hired a bookkeeper, Brenda Spooner, who will provide support to the Treasurer with paying bills and other financial tasks. Brenda will work approximately 20 hours month.

Building Report

Nick Saffo

Since our purchase of the 606 South College Road property our Parish Council and Building Committee have been hard at work to get the "Back Building" ready for use. Starting in July we began renovations to the front and back portions of the space with great success. We are happy to report that we were able to ready the front half of the building in time for the start of the 2020 academic year. This allowed us to secure Wilmington School of the Arts as our tenant for this year (and hopefully beyond). Additionally, our team has been hard at work converting the back half of the building back into a gymnasium and activity center. We are thrilled to announce that we are nearing completion on that project and we are on pace to have our **Grand Opening** Event on our Feast day, **Sunday December 6** after the Divine Liturgy.



THE CHAMPIONS OF SAINT NICHOLAS

With the purchase of the "Back Building" we doubled our campus and took a giant leap forward in this new chapter of our Church's history. But the work doesn't stop there! We secured a tenant in the front half of the building, and are hard at work con-

verting the back half into a gymnasium/activity space for our faithful. Now we need you to step forward as our **CHAMPIONS** to help us complete these goals. Detailed below are two opportunities for all of our families to contribute towards our efforts. We humbly ask you to consider joining our team, and becoming one of **The Champions of Saint Nicholas!**

Fr. Steven Klund

BUILDING TEAM

PART 1 of our "Champions" Capital Campaign is to pay off the building mortgage. Offering payment plans and one time donations, the Building Team aims to raise at least \$460K (40%) within five years. We aim for the Festival to match it.

Goal: Fund **AT LEAST 40%** of total Mortgage Principle



20% Paid to date
(Church Funds)

40% To Come from
Rent & Festivals

Our Goal!
\$460,000 (40%)

COURT TEAM

PART 2 of the campaign is to raise the necessary funds to outfit the building into a gymnasium and activity space for our ministries and families.

Goal: Raise **\$100,000** by our 75th Gala in October, 2021

The NAMES of All Donors from BOTH teams will forever be displayed on BANNERS in the Gym!

*Be Our
Champion...*



*...and Give
Today!*

Family Life Ministry

The Ministry for the Homebound has been keeping in close contact with our parishioners who are homebound or in long term care facilities since the start of COVID. While visitation has been limited, we have used creative means to bring the church to them through our caring words of encouragement in cards, phone calls, as well as care packages of home baked goods and flowers.

On Nov 21st the YAM Ministry baked koulourakia as part of their Test Kitchen Fellowship at the home of the McHugh Family. The young adults came together for a wonderful evening of fellowship and service. We added the cookies we baked together to the annual Thanksgiving Care Baskets for the Homebound Ministry. Our Homebound parishioners received the baskets with great joy. In addition, the young adults learned to cook a hearty Greek favorite, Pastitso, and share a meal together as part of their "Friendsgiving" evening. They also donated cereal boxes for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

In December, the Ministry for the Homebound plans on teaming up with the HOPE/JOY Ministry to create icon ornaments to add into the Christmas Baskets for the Homebound. What better way to spread love and joy from our youngest parishioners in St Nicholas with those who are unable to be with us during the twelve days of Christmas.

Our Prayer Team has also been fervently praying for all our parishioners in need. We have had so many prayers answered. If you have anyone who needs to be added to our Prayer List please email Barbara Reynolds, our Prayer Ministry Chair, @breynoldgm@gmail.com





SAINT NICHOLAS FALL FAMILY PLAN

DEC 2020

KEY THEMES: PRAISE & EVANGELISM

We have arrived at the final days of 2020, and with it comes some pretty significant events and celebrations for our Saint Nicholas Family. We are blessed here to have such an INCREDIBLE patron saint here in Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker. As many of you know Saint Nicholas is the inspiration behind Santa Claus. Our children know so much about the legend of Santa, but do they know anything about our own Saint Nicholas? If not, We hope to change that. We are actively planning a **Summer Camp** program for the kids for our first week of Summer vacation to address the lesser known life of the real Saint Nicholas. Until then, make sure to visit our **YouTube** page on **Friday, December 4** for a special **Saint Nicholas Storytime** video on our patron saint.

PARISH FEASTDAY



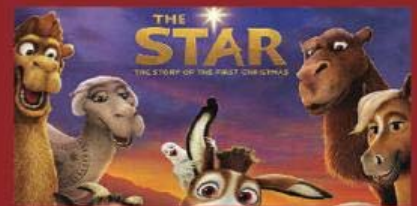
DECEMBER 5 & 6: Our Vespers (Dec. 5) will feature the blanket-drive blessing and donation, as well as our 1st annual Tree Lighting. The next morning after Liturgy (Dec. 6) we will process out of Church to the Back Building for the Grand Opening of the Saint Nicholas Activity Center!

GOYA (GRADES 6-12)



"RALLY PERFECT" (12/12): After the Liturgy for St. Spyridon we will take the GOYANs to the back building to try our best to complete the Metropolis' "RALLY Perfect" event. Based on the Dude Perfect videos, we will try our best to make several "trick shots" on video and send them to Atlanta.

LOVE/JOY (0-11 YRS)



CHRISTMAS MOVIE DRIVE-IN: On December 19 our youngest families will take part in a Drive-In showing of the 2017 movie "The Star." We will begin the movie at 6pm with enough popcorn for all to enjoy! The movie will be played outside with the families watching safely from their cars.

DATES TO SAVE: 12/5-6 PARISH FEASTDAY! | 12/12 ST. SPYRIDON | 12/24-25 NATIVITY SERVICES

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED EVENT: HOMEBOUND CAROLING EVENT



caroling from a safe distance on the front lawn of each home, and wearing masks throughout.

THIS MONTH We will have our Sunday School students help us spread some Christmas cheer to our homebound families at Saint Nicholas. During their classes on December 6, BOTH classes will take part in a special craft session. The older class will make icons, while the younger class will make ornaments. The families will then deliver these handmade gifts to our homebound families as part of our Caroling trip on December 20. We will be

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE VISIT: <https://www.stnicholaswilmington.org/article/fall-family-plan/>

Stewardship

Barbara Reynolds & Melissa Kirkby

NEW STEWARDSHIP UPGRADES FOR 2021 Saint Nicholas Partners with "Abundant Giving"

The Saint Nicholas Stewardship Committee has been hard at work this year during the pandemic. We have realized that this may be a trying time physically, emotionally, and financially for many of our families. We are here for you and want to serve you in any way we can.

Due to the global health crisis, Church attendance has gone down in efforts to remain safe and socially distant. This has impacted our faithful's ability to connect (and in many ways give) to Saint Nicholas in person. We are proud to announce that we have upgraded our online giving system, allowing for our believers to still support their spiritual home even from a distance. The benefits with this "Abundant Giving" program include:

- Mobile giving from any device
- Choose what account/card to use
- Give to multiple funds at any time
- Manage your stewardship directly by creating an online account
- No more having to find a check/cash
- Schedule gifts to occur automatically
- Help reduce fees for the Church

Your stewardship makes a difference, and every pledge counts. Thank you for being a part of our Saint Nicholas Family and supporting our Church!

CHOOSE HOW YOU GIVE

"All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God."

- Deuteronomy 16:17

Give easily and securely...

1. Give on our **Church Website**
www.stnicholaswilmington.org/stewardship/
2. Or the **"Abundant Giving" App**
Search for "St. Nicholas" or "Wilmington"
3. Or Text **"Thanks"** to **73256**
Enjoy our new "Text-To-Give" Feature!



SAINT NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
WILMINGTON, NC

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE Barbara Reynolds & Melissa Kirkby

Thank you to the St. Nicholas Stewards who have supported our church this year! The church has been able to continue to support both our business expenses and our ministries during this very challenging year. Every week in the email blasts you see the activities available to our parish family to grow our faith, to help those in our community, and for fellowship. In addition, we have implemented new software to make it easier to manage your stewardship online or even via text.

Our Stewardship goal in 2020 is \$279,361. As of November 11, 173 families (63% of our parish family) have pledged to support St. Nicholas in 2020. We have received pledges of \$237,692 which is 85% of our goal. Stewardship contributed to date is \$204,463 or 73% of our goal.

Everyone should have received their 2021 Stewardship packets in the mail. If you haven't received your packet, please contact the office.

November 15 kicked off our 2021 Stewardship Campaign. During the Divine Liturgy on November 15, our pledge envelopes were offered to God in a special dedication service. Our prayers are for a blessed 2021 at our beloved St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

75% of the Saint Nicholas budget comes from Stewardship, and on average it costs approximately \$1,800 to operate the parish annually per family. Without you filling out your stewardship pledge card each and every year, we cannot exist. Everything we possess are gifts from God and they ultimately belong to Him. They are given to us — by Him. For this reason, we understand Stewardship to be a spiritual exercise of thanksgiving. These are NOT "membership dues," but rather free offerings in appreciation for all that God has done for you. If you haven't filled out your 2021 Stewardship Pledge Envelope — please, do so today (they are located in the pews). "God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7)."

Policies for the Safety of Youth & Children

Stella McTaggart

Not everyone likes to eat broccoli, some people don't like to read, and others of us don't want to go camping. Each person is different and unique and special. We are all made just the way God wanted us to be. But, what we ALL have to do now is follow some simple standards at church and outside of church. And these include **Wear** (a mask), **Wait** (6 feet apart), and **Wash** (your hands for 20 seconds, the same amount of time it takes you to recite *The Lord's Prayer*.) The NC Department of Health and Human Services has been reminding us all to take these steps to protect ourselves and care for others in our day to day lives.

The WAIT part is what really ties in well with the Policies for the Safety of Youth & Children. In the training to become a certified youth worker, you learn about always asking permission to touch a child BEFORE you touch them. And in most cases, it is best to avoid physically touching any child. It is really hard for a lot of us to do this because you just want to rub the back of a baby, or pick up a running toddler, or thump the back of a child for a job well done. But remember, if you are doing any of these things, you are not WAITING 6 feet apart from that child. By getting into the habit of physically distancing yourself from the youth of our community, you will automatically be following the standards set forth in the Policies for the Safety of Youth & Children AND the recommendations from the NCDHHS.

I know I appreciate the efforts everyone is making to ensure our Church is a safe place for adults and children alike. Kudos to a job well done! Let's continue in our efforts:

Thank you to our SEVEN Certified Youth Workers who have completed their certification for the 2020-2021 Ecclesiastical Year. I am expecting SIXTY-FIVE more of our congregation to join their ranks by Sunday, November 22, 2020 to be compliant with the Policies for the Safety of Youth & Children as deemed by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Recertification instructions had been emailed to all 2019-2020 participants at the beginning of November. The entire process should take less than 10 minutes.

If you would like to join us as a NEW CERTIFIED YOUTH WORKER it is 3 easy steps – register, screen, and training. For more information about this process, please contact me at youthsafety@stnicholaswilmington.org. A certified youth worker is the only adult allowed to participate in youth ministries and events - and that includes our ONLINE EVENTS. If you are a Sunday School teacher please register ASAP for this current year.

AS THE WEATHER COOLS...YOUTH MINISTRIES HEAT UP!



This Fall has been an unprecedented one, but a surprisingly eventful one for our youth ministries. We have successfully held three months worth of discussions/events/activities in our "FALL FAMILY PLAN." Our families have taken part in remote cake bake-offs, scavenger hunts around the city, and even a blanket-making donation effort. Meanwhile our Sunday School ministry has continued to offer weekly lessons for our children via Zoom (and even an in-person sandwich making service project, pictured top-left). Finally, our GOYANs were able to partner with another home restoration project with WARM (pictured left middle/lower), our JOY kids were able to share in a special Sunday Tailgate event after Halloween (pictured right), and our LOVE (children ages 0-4) were able to have their first park playdate at Wrightsville Beach (pictured below)! Visit our parish website for more details on ministry events and resources for your family to enjoy safely this Winter. Our **Fall Family Plan for December** (next page) is now available!



Philoptochos
Enosis Chapter #5027
Maria Stasios, President

Greetings from the Ladies Philoptochos Society! November 15th was National Philoptochos Day and the ladies were able to meet outdoors for a general meeting and celebration. Non-perishable food items were collected for our Thanksgiving project. Many thanks to all who attended. We miss our sisters and look forward to the time when more of us are comfortable returning together in person. Through your continued support and membership, since the last newsletter, we have:

- Provided 30 families with Thanksgiving baskets
- Sponsored 10 teenagers to provide Christmas gifts
- Donated \$1000 to IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Ministries)
- Contributed \$125 to our Parish's \$500 contribution for flood relief in Greece
- Donated \$100 to the Patriarchate National Philoptochos project
- Continued to provide 40-day blessing packets to our new mothers
- Prepared for Saint Nicholas Day celebrations

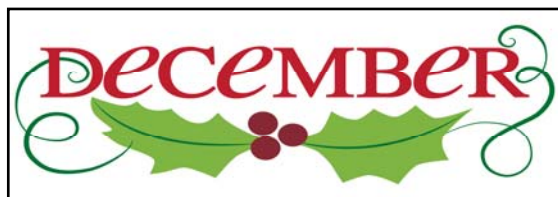
Thank you to all who helped with our recent projects by working, or by donating food, gifts or monetary contributions. It is very much appreciated! Thanks also for Poinsettia donations and Christmas Card support. (Deadline Dec. 3).

The Philoptochos board continues to meet virtually via Zoom and we have been able to share information with our members via email and/or phone calls. *If you are not receiving our Philoptochos emails*, please let us know. We'd love to have every woman in the church on our distribution list to receive these updates. For example, we are exploring how to host our annual Vasilopita Auction that benefits Saint Basil's Academy in Garrison NY. Be on the lookout for more information. Our scheduled date at this time is January 3rd.

If you have not joined Philoptochos, we invite you to complete a membership card. It is through your participation that we are able to continue to support the needs of our community. Anyone is welcome to be a part of this philanthropic group affectionately known as "the right hand of the church."

We wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We pray that 2021 brings us together again as a beloved Saint Nicholas family.



**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1**

9 am - Paraklesis 10 am - Synaxis: Church & Social Issues
7 pm - Parish Council Meeting

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

6:30 pm - Vespers 7:00 pm Bible Study Romans

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

6:00 pm Great Vespers for St. Nicholas & Tree Lighting

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Feast Day of St. Nicholas

8:45 am Orthros - 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Grand Opening of the Activity Center
12:00 pm Bidding starts online for Vasilopites

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

9:00 am - Paraklesis 10:00 am - Synaxis: Church & Social Issues

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

6:30 pm - Vespers 7:00 pm Bible Study Romans

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

St. Spyridon, the Wonderworker

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
10:30 am GOYA -Rally Perfect

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Monthly Memorial Service for all those who have passed away in December. Please call the office to schedule a memorial service for your dearly departed.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:00 am - Paraklesis 10:00 am - Synaxis: Church & Social Issues

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

Daniel the Prophet & Saint Dionysios

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
6:30 pm - Vespers 7:00 pm Bible Study Romans

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

5:00 pm JOY Drive-In

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:00 am - Paraklesis 10:00 am - Synaxis: Church & Social Issues

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

Eve of the Nativity of Christ

5:30 pm Vespers of St. Basil

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

NATIVITY OF CHRIST Have a Blessed Christmas!!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

10:00 am Vasilopites bidding ends

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Pick-up Vasilopites

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021

Circumcision of Christ/St. Basil & NY Doxology

9:30 am- Divine Liturgy St. Basil

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

Eve of Theophany

6:30 pm Great Vespers

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

8:45 am Orthros - 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

Saint John the Baptist

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

7:00 pm Discover Orthodoxy

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

Newsletter Articles due (February & March)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

Monthly Memorial Service for all those who have passed away in January. Please call the office to schedule a memorial service for your dearly departed.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18

Athanasios and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

7:00 pm Discover Orthodoxy

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

St. Gregory, the Theologian

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

7:00 pm Discover Orthodoxy

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

Holy Three Hierarchs

9:30 am Divine Liturgy - St. Basil

For the most current version of our Parish Calendar,
please visit us online at

<http://www.stnicholaswilmington.org/church-calendar/>

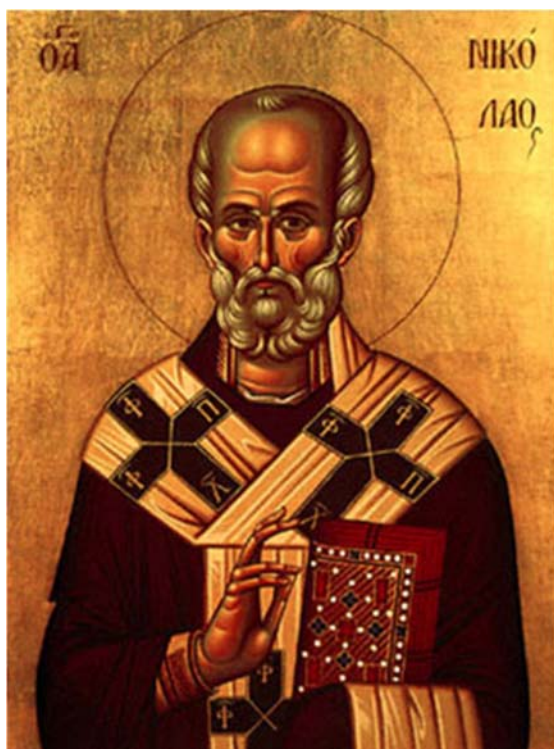
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www.stnicholaswilmington.org

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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.