



October - November 2020



*The Holy Great Martyr Demetrios the
Myrrh-streamer
October 26, 2020*

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Parish Priest**

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**Georgia Marmaras
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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 & 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

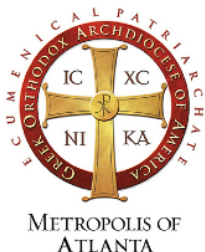
Greek Festival...Nick Saffo & Lee King, Ministry Chairs

Stewardship...Barbara Reynolds & Melissa Kirkby, Ministry 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



“Who touched Me? Jesus asked...[Then the woman] explained why she had touched Him and how she had immediately been healed. ‘Daughter,’ said Jesus, ‘your faith has healed you. Go in peace.’”
- Luke 8:45-48

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year has gotten off to a trying start for many of our faithful, and the world at large. The Coronavirus pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the lives of billions around the globe, and we have had to drastically alter our routines, plans and even the ways we think. The Church is not immune nor exempt from this, and in many instances we have had to adjust our approaches to administration, ministries, and even our timeless worship traditions.

Fittingly, this year, our Stewardship Committee chose the encounter of the woman who received healing by touching the hem of the Lord’s garment as our 2021 theme. In the excerpt referenced above (from Luke 8), there are two elements at play here. The first is that the woman was confident that the presence of the Lord would overcome any illness. This is undoubtedly the primary thought in the minds of countless believers throughout the world. “Will Church make me sick?” As the woman found out, that couldn’t be further from the truth, as our Lord is the Physician of our souls and bodies and the very source of healing from all forces that try and harm us (both spiritually *and* biologically).

The second point is that this healing, this wholeness is only possible when we reach out and have an actual encounter with Christ. Our blessings are there for us to receive. We simply have to be bold enough to reach out to take a hold of them. If you recall Christ, at the time of this interaction with this particular woman, was in a rush to save Jairus’ daughter who was dying. He was racing through a huge gathering of people when she touched his garment. Yet despite His hurry and the crowd, the Lord stopped to converse with her openly. This is because, above all else, our God desires a committed relationship with us. He does not offer His Grace “to-go,” nor does He give His blessings casually in passing. Rather He offers every good and perfect gift to those who faithfully pledge themselves to Him, and do not sit back anonymously in the crowd content to merely see Him from afar.

This year (like every year) Christ is in our midst! Yes there is the threat of sickness lurking outside, but there is also the promise of God’s Grace and wholeness. Like the woman mentioned in this year’s theme, do not allow your fear of infirmity keep you away from your God. And also like that woman, be brave enough to commit yourself to God boldly, and take hold of our faith and Church! Join us for **Stewardship Sunday - November 15, 2020**. Stewardship is the essential driving force behind our parish. Without the generous contributions from our faithful stewards, nothing at Saint Nicholas is possible. We invite you to prayerfully consider what you can offer in thanksgiving to our Lord, and bring (or send) your completed pledge to Church by Stewardship Sunday on November 15, 2020. On that morning we will collect all of the pledges in a special prayer service and dedicate them to Christ on the Holy Altar during the Divine Liturgy. We thank you for your support!

With Fervent Love in Christ,

Fr. Steven Klund

President
Evangelos Fragos

Dear Saint Nicholas Family,

I hope everyone was able to make the best of their summer, under the circumstances our world had to face. We have been taking all precautions to keep our Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church a safe place to come to worship.

Our protocols have been working very well to ensure the safety of all who enter. The attendance for our weekly Divine Liturgies is increasing. We want to thank all of you for attending and complying with the procedures.

I want to take a moment to wish all our students a safe and successful school year as you move forward with your education. This is surely a challenging time. Good Strength in your studies!

Saint Nicholas has been very busy this summer with our acquisition of 606 S. College Road. We are very excited for what the future holds for us and our planning and development.

On November 8, 2020, we will hold our General Assembly meeting at the church, and in combination with virtual participation through “ZOOM”. Please plan to attend in either capacity because everyone’s thoughts and support is valued and necessary for Saint Nicholas to succeed in serving you. If you need technical support with ZOOM, please contact the church office.

We are preparing the agenda for the fall General Assembly and will have it available as soon as possible. We are including a wonderful presentation of the progress we have made thus far on the new building. We are very excited to share this with all of you.

Finally, due to the pandemic the Metropolis of Atlanta has directed us to refrain from holding Parish Council elections this year. The terms of all Parish Council members who would have been up for re-election have been extended for an additional year.

We appreciate your support and being a faithful and good steward of our church. Thank you!

Treasurer

Tina Bostic

We continue to receive donations (monetary, building items and time) towards the 606 building and we appreciate all the support.

Operating Account Update: Our year to date operational income/expenses is positive largely due to less spending due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Operating Income/Expense End of Aug 2020	Income	Expenses	Variance
General Fund			
YTD	\$253,915.58	\$227,561.42	\$26,354.16

Stewardship Update: Our stewardship giving is down year to date, however we continue to be ahead in stewardship received compared to 2019 year to date.

Stewardship	Amount Received	Amount Pledged	Variance
YTD			
	\$149,682.82	\$186,240.64	\$(36,557.82)

We continue to receive donations (monetary, building items and time) towards the 606 building and we appreciate all the support. With the gifts the Lord has graciously bestowed on us our goal of obtaining the 606 building and having a youth activity center is within reach!



Sunday School Back in Session!

Our Saint Nicholas Sunday School program is BACK IN SESSION! After a long Summer off, and the uncertain weeks leading up to the academic year, we are happy to have our young people gathering together again remotely on Sundays to learn more about their faith. In a coordinated effort between Fr. Steven, Manny Miliotis (*Council of Ministries*), Courtney Malahias & Mary Beth Miliotis (*Religious Education*), and Stella McTaggart (*Saint Nicholas Youth Protection Chair and Summer Camp Director*), we were able to develop a safe and engaging plan to minister to our students even despite current conditions with the pandemic. So far the early returns in this ministry

have been encouraging. Our enrollment is up from where we left off last Spring, and the students are more comfortable in their virtual surroundings having grown used to the digital academic

little while longer before hopefully returning to our "in-person" program. This ministry comes at no cost to any of our families, and we highly recommend that all eligible students join us each week. Included below is our class schedule for the rest of the Fall semester:



Oct. 4 - The Creed
 Oct. 11 - Fruit of the Spirit
 Oct. 18 - The Bible
 Oct. 25 - ** NO CLASS **
 Nov. 1 - Unmercenaries
 Nov. 8 - ** NO CLASS **
 Nov. 15 - Advent Fast
 Nov. 22 - Charity
 Nov. 29 - ** NO CLASS **
 Dec. 6 - Saint Nicholas
 Dec. 13 - Nativity Part 1
 Dec. 20 - Nativity Part 2

setting from their respective schools. It is our prayer that we will only need to continue these remote classes for a

If you have any questions or want to learn more please contact us at the Church office: (910) 392-4444.

Nailed It!

REMOTE FAMILY BAKE-OFF EVENT



On September 19 we launched our 2020-2021 ministry year with a remote family activity inspired by the show "Nailed It." Beginning at 8am (and yes, there were two goyans who began their cakes that early!) participating families messaged Fr. Steven when they were ready to start their bake off. Fr. Steven then sent them their instructions, which were simply to create a cake featuring an animal theme. Each family was given two hours to complete their cakes, and they amazed us with their creativity and skill! At 5 pm we held a live Zoom tasting and judging event with ALL participating families. Following the presentation of the cakes the kids were separated into age-appropriate breakout groups to talk about "creation." We discussed how man-made things can sometimes turn out poorly, while ALL of GOD's creation is perfect! When we make mistakes, He always gives the chance to start anew.

This event was part of our "FALL FAMILY PLAN." This newly unveiled ministry proposal is presented by our Family Life Ministry in conjunction with all of our youth ministries (LOVE, JOY, GOYA, YAM). We know that 2020 has not gone the way we would have liked, but we refuse to let the pandemic hinder our young people's connection with their faith! Visit our parish website for more details on ministry events and resources for your family to enjoy safely this Fall. Our **Fall Family Plan for October** (next page) is now available!





SAINT NICHOLAS FALL FAMILY PLAN

OCT 2020

KEY THEMES: COURAGE & PERSEVERANCE

WE'RE OFF TO A GREAT START! Thank you all for participating in our September plan last month, and especially our Nailed It Bake-off. But that's the thing about "Starts," they are only as good as the steps that follow them. No matter how well you start something, you need to be better at **FINISHING** it. This month have a conversation with your family about not just planning goals (*what you discussed last month*), but about sticking to them even when they become difficult or inconvenient. Develop strategies as a family to keep you and your goals on track.

BIBLE VERSE TO KNOW: "Brothers and sisters, **NEVER TIRE** of doing what is good." - 2 Thessalonians 3:13

LOVE/JOY (0-11 YRS)



TRY & DO: Set up an obstacle course with sidewalk chalk and other fun items and work to complete the course together as a family. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us," (Hebrews 12:1)

GOYA (6-12TH GRADES)



TRY & DO: Dinner isn't finished until the plates are clean! For at least one week (all month?) clean the dishes after dinner each evening. Too often we are fine letting our parents cook and clean, while we just eat. Take this chance to help your parents **FINISH** the "dinner" race every evening!

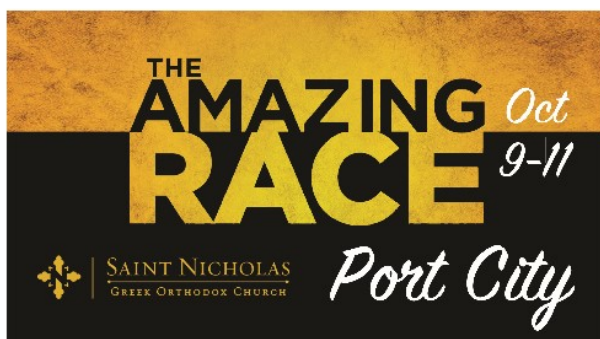
YOUNG ADULTS



TRY & DO: Challenge yourselves. Run or walk as many miles as possible this month. Keep track and post weekly results. "Consider it pure joy...whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." (James 1:2-3)

DATES TO SAVE: 10/23-25 GREEK FEST DRIVE THRU!!! | 10/26 (ST DEMETRIOS) | 10/28 (OXI DAY)

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED EVENT: "THE AMAZING RACE: PORT CITY"



FRIDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9-11 Join us in a remote family activity inspired by the show "The Amazing Race." On Friday morning we will distribute/post a series of clues that families will have to solve. The clues will direct the families to prominent locations around Wilmington. The families will "race" to visit as many of them as possible over the weekend. All families who finish the race and post their photos using the hashtags below will receive special offers at the Greek Festival Drive Thru.

RULES: 48 Hours | Take "Selfies" at Locations w/Hashtags **#AmazingRacePortCity** & **#StNickWNC**

Philoptochos

Maria Stasios

Happy New Year – it's a new ecclesiastical year at Saint Nicholas and our Ladies Philoptochos Society is off to a great start.

We had our new year kick-off "Mask-a-rade" event on September 12 on the front porch at church. We wore designed masks and practiced safe social distancing with hand sanitizer and Lysol wipes on hand. While it was a different sort of meeting, it was a much-needed time to come together, welcome our ladies, and share plans for the year. We collected and were able to donate three plastic bins of snacks to the local Brigade Boys and Girls Club. We miss you all and look forward to the time when more are comfortable returning to our Saint Nicholas Family in person.

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 would like a personal phone call just to talk or to share a need, please feel free to reach out. *If you are not receiving our Philoptochos emails*, please let us know that too. We are happy to add you to the email distribution where we send specific content and updates to our membership, however we'd love to have every woman in the community on our distribution list.

Through your continued support and stewardship, since the last newsletter, we have:

- Donated \$500 to the Diaper Bank of NC's Wilmington office
- Donated \$500 to Nourish NC
- Submitted \$1640 toward Metropolis Obligations
- Submitted \$3225 toward our National Obligations
- Continued to provide 40-day blessing packets to our new mothers
- Provided face-masks for parishioners who attend Liturgy and may need one

As the president of the organization, I was able to attend the National Convention – via zoom – in August with over 600 other Philoptochos women. See the separate summary of content from the convention within this newsletter. One major highlight to share is the awarding of two national Philoptochos grants to two local organizations - \$15,000 to Nourish NC and \$2500 to A Safe Place.

If you have not yet become a member of Philoptochos, we invite you to complete a stewardship card. It is through your

participation that we are able to continue to support the needs of our community. Anyone is welcome to become a part of this philanthropic group, "the right hand of the church." Again, our sincere thanks to you all, and prayers that we are together again soon!

2020 National Philoptochos Convention Meeting Highlights**National Convention held Aug 21-22, 2020 via zoom**

- 613 Attendees; 93 from Metropolis of Atlanta (MOA)
- Link for content that will be posted:
<https://www.philoptochos.org/2020-national-philoptochos-biennial-convention/>

Convention Presentations:

- Hagia Sophia, Leadership, Emergency Fund, Public Relations, Operation Classroom, Membership
- Opioid Addiction & Recovery (Tony Hoffman), COVID-19, the Prevalence and Dangers of Vaping
- Social Services report
- Young Philanthropist nominees (congratulations shared by Nia Vardalos via video)
- New Initiative – Kindness Counts. November is Kindness Month –celebrated Nov 13, 2020
- Use the hashtags: #philokind, #kindnessisfree,
- Hellenic College/Holy Cross – Geo Cantonis thanked Ladies for \$275,000 for upgrade to wireless/tech infrastructure especially now that classes are virtual
- Children's Medical Fund Luncheon – Nov 6, 2021 – Indianapolis, IN

Resolutions:

- Streamline ratification of Chapter Officers and BOD
- Clarify role of Advisor to Board
- Clarify waiver process
- Support of Hagia Sophia

National Grants Awarded

- \$4 Million in Grants since 2018 (total disbursements \$4,540, 422)
- Two local recipients: Nourish NC - \$15,000 and A Safe Place - \$ 2,500

Agape Award

- Fran Papamichael, - Saint Mark - Boca Raton, from the Metropolis of Atlanta
- Other nominees from MOA – Irene Kroustalis (Winston), Charlotte Lechak (Mooresville), Vasso Poulos (St Augustine), Beba Zevgolits (Raleigh)

Feed the Hungry Challenge

- 2018-2020 – 2,161,073 meals provided
- 120,216 – Boca Raton – most in MOA (in Wilmington, we did 28,060)





Youth Safety

Stella McTaggart

“My help comes from the Lord, who made Heaven and Earth”
-Psalm 121:2

Open enrollment to become a Certified Youth Worker for the New Ecclesiastical Year ended August 31, 2020.

During September, October and November of this year all of our current Certified Youth Workers will receive emails from Praesidium and/or Armatus® Learn to Protect System to renew their Certified Youth Worker status on their anniversary date.

In order to be ready for in-person events, I want to remind everyone in our Parish **only Certified Youth Workers and participating Children and/or Youth are eligible to participate in Youth Ministry Programs and Events. There will be no exceptions.** We currently have 68 Certified Youth Workers for our Church.

Now, just because you may have missed open enrollment, this does not mean I cannot work with you one-on-one to complete the process. If you would like to become a Certified Youth Worker, please contact me to begin at youthsafe-ty@stnicholaswilmington.org.

To read the complete Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth please visit <https://www.goarch.org/safety>

Forever Young

Kay Skandalakis

Thank you to all who participated and supported the Panagia's Panigiri "To-Go" event on August 15. The food was absolutely delicious!! We would like to Thank the Tsingelis family for donating and preparing 100+ meals. We raised \$1,600.00 for this event. We would also like to thank those who participated in the purchase of raffle tickets for the \$10 & \$20 baskets. Congratulations to Helen Whitley who won the \$10 basket and Helen Kaprantzas who won the \$20 basket! Hopefully, next year, we'll be together celebrating Panagia's day with fellowship and fun!

Family Life Ministry

Pauline McHugh

“And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need.

These are the sacrifices that please God.” Hebrews 13:16

We have two new Teams under Family Ministry that have been active this year. The **Homebound Visiting** Team's mission is to personally visit and spend time with elderly parishioners, who are homebound and are unable to attend services at our St. Nicholas Wilmington Church. We minister to their needs by bringing the Church to them through our personal attention and time, our kindness, and our love for the Orthodox faith. During COVID, we called our Homebound parishioners regularly to check in, sent cards, delivered flowers or baked goods and brought them antidoro to keep them connected to our faith and church.

Join our Homebound Visiting Team if you can give some of your time every month to visit one to two homebound parishioners. Please contact Pauline McHugh at paul-inetmchugh@gmail.com 516-902-7760 to be part of our team.

Our **Prayer Team** is actively praying for all the members of our parish who are in need of spiritual and health related prayers. The Team prays on a daily and weekly basis for all our loved ones. If you would like to join this group please email **Barbara Reynolds** at breyoldsgm@gmail.com.

***"Be hospitable to one another,
as each on has received a special gift, employ it with serving
one another***

as good stewards of the manifold of God." 1 Peter 4:8-10

PLEASE PRAY

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

Christos Anagnost, Angelo Angeledes, Georgia Apostolou, Bobby Bobon (brother of Sue Lawler), Stavros Chantiles, Sue Fokakis (Autumn Care), Demitra George, Olga Mancuso, Calvin McGowan, Mary Compos Marmaras (Cypress Pointe), Jennifer Papalitskas, Anne Bakalis Pinkston, Sophia Sljaka, Pat Skinner, Tom Souflas, Peggy Stephanou, Kyriaki Thomas, Ernest Tracy.

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



Basic Introduction of yourself/family

We are new stewards to Saint Nicholas since moving here one year ago. We are originally from Saint Nicholas Shrine Church, Flushing, NY. We have also been faithful stewards of Saint George Ocean, in New Jersey.

- #1 How long have you been a part of the Orthodox Church? Saint Nicholas?

When we were contemplating a move from New Jersey, the one aspect that was non-negotiable and critical for us was finding the right church. We had visited Wilmington a few times over the years and attended Sunday liturgy. One year, we had the opportunity to attend during Holy Week and Pascha. Each time we visited, we went to coffee hour and met so many friendly and kind people like Jim and Maria Stasios, Nick and Nena Lazaridis, Angela Dentiste, Courtney Malahais, Dr. Michael Rallis and the Calhoun Family. They, in turn, introduced us to so many more people in the church.

What does the Church mean to you (or how is it significant in your life)?

My parents were faithful stewards of Saint Nicholas Shrine Church in Flushing, NY. They committed their lives to the church through various ministries and taught us the importance of faith, service and unconditional love of family. They led by example, prioritizing the church and attending services every Sunday.

This past year, with the onset of COVID, I truly felt how important the church is to me. I missed attending liturgy every Sunday and worshipping with our parish family. It was the first time in my life that I was not physically at Pascha to receive the light in person.

The Holy Spirit guided us during this difficult time to rediscover the importance of the church in our lives. Saint Nicholas Wilmington started online services and our daughter, Lea, began chanting along with Fr. Steven and Dr. Rallis, whom she felt connected to through her participation in Choir (pre-COVID). We lit our candles and set up our icon altars as a sacred place devoted to worship. We sang along and prayed. We turned our focus inward to God. It was beautiful to see other families, on social media, worshipping at their home altars, with icons of our saints out on display, and candles shining brightly.

What are your gifts and how have you used them in the Church as a steward?

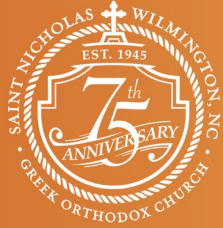
I have been fortunate enough to be a part of several Stewardship campaigns that built and expanded two churches. While there is a monetary contribution, *TIME and TALENTS* seemed to be equally important in growing a successful parish.

My family and I participate in several church ministries, including, Philoptochos, Choir, making Prosforo, SYNAXIS and the Festival. I am especially devoted to Family Life Ministries. I owe this to a special friend; an elderly woman that I met at Saint George. Her name was Persephone. She had no family and was disabled. The church was her only family. When she could no longer attend Church, we brought the Church to her. For seven years, I had the privilege to visit with her, bring her food and hear about her life. She taught me to have unwavering faith in God. She knew she had the church as her family and God was always by her side; she was always filled with faith, love and words of kindness. I will never forget her.

I am committed to connecting people to the Church whether it is through social events, visiting nursing homes and homebound parishioners, calling or sending cards, helping newlywed couples or young mothers and their children.

What would you like to see the Church offer that we don't already?

Every week I see new faces in church here at Saint Nicholas. Young families are moving to Wilmington. I would like to see us expand the welcoming committee and add a "Newcomers" group under Family Ministry that could support others adjusting to a new town and church. Eventually, I would like us to start a soup kitchen at Saint Nicholas to bring warm meals to those in need.



NOV. 15, 2021

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY



Join the Saint Nicholas Family on **November 15, 2020**, for **Stewardship Sunday**. We invite you that morning to **bring in your completed 2021 Stewardship Pledge Envelope** (*or return them to the office beforehand*) where we will present them all for a special dedication service during the Divine Liturgy.

Stewardship*Barbara Reynolds / Melissa Kirkby*

Thank you to the St. Nicholas Stewards! As of September 14, 150 families (54% of our parish family) have pledged to support St. Nicholas in 2020.

Our Stewardship goal in 2020 is \$279,361. As of September 14, we have received pledges of \$224,642 which is 80% of our goal. Stewardship contributed to date is \$163,293 or 58% of our goal.

Bill Agnostak & Beth Serepca
 Amalia Alexoudis
 Father Regis Alexoudis
 Roula Andrews
 George Argyropoulos & Kathy Kassab
 Bradley & Christina Ballou,
 Kamilia Batshon
 Bill & Elaine Batuyios
 Carl & Elisabeth Baynard
 Lucas & Alexandra Bostic
 Michael & Tina Bostic
 Doug & Argie Brown
 Emil & Helen Budri
 John R. Bryan,
 Cameron & Pam Calhoun
 Crawford Calhoun
 Poppy Ann Calhoun
 Jordan Caplanson
 USMC/GYSGT Stavros & Stephanie Chantiles
 Gregory & Kimberly Dandulakis
 Anastasia Davis
 Dr. Ron & Sherry Demas
 Iffie Diakogiannis
 Jon Diakogiannis
 George Dimopoulos
 Ioannis Dimopoulos & Theodora Angelis
 Maria Dimopoulos
 Peter & Kathy Dimopoulos
 Vasilios Dimopoulos
 Lauren Dodge
 Nick & Kristie Dodge
 Paul Dombalis
 Thomas Dombalis & Karen Moskoganis
 Peter & Christina Etters
 Larry & Helen Flowers
 Jennie & Koulla J. Galantis
 Jeffrey Glenn
 Pamela Mavros Hale
 Irini Haralambous
 Benjamin Harris & Barbara Efthymiou
 Charles Hegler
 Diana & Jeff Houck
 Yiannis & Antonia Ioannou
 Christos & Eleni Kaprantzas
 Yianni & Evyenia Karonis
 Angelo & Anastasia Katris
 Basile & Koula Katsikis
 Henry John King
 Jacob King
 Lee & Doris King
 Matthew King

Timothy & Veronica Kirk
 Emily Kirkby
 Matthew & Melissa Kirkby
 Zachary Kirkby
 Father Steven & Presbyteria Nicole Klund
 Hope Klund
 Luke Klund,
 Dr. Emmanuel & Lambra Koklanaris
 Elaine Koumparakis
 Caleb & Anita Kratsa
 Chrysanthé Lazarides
 Nick & Eleni Lazaridis
 Emmanuel & Athanasia Lionikis
 Anestis & Constance Logothetis
 Michael & Lola Loizides
 Michael Louca
 Ralph & Evelyn Maggio
 Peter & Courtney Malahias
 Dr. Peter & Joan Manolukas
 Patricia Manuel
 Nick & Jennifer Maraveyias
 Georgia Marmaras
 Xenophon & Mary Maroudis
 Aspasia Mayorga
 Edward & Kathleen Mayorga
 Calvin & Diane McGowan,
 Tom & Pauline McHugh,
 Micaiah & Stella McTaggart
 John Mihaltses & Dana Baigre
 Dorothy Miliotis
 Emanuel & Mary Beth Miliotis
 David & Argie Moe
 Wael Mosaad Youssif
 Neemat Nashed
 Roubini Omirly
 Matthew Orzechewski
 Mike Ost & Kalliopi Alexoudis
 William & Anastasia Papalitskas
 Lambros & Niki Papanicolaou
 Efstratios & Sandra Papanikolaou
 Maria Alexoudis Parnell
 Jimmy & Anna Patsalos
 Nick & Joyce Patsalos
 Brian & Benjalee Pittman
 Andy & Alexia Porzio
 Phillipe & Mary Victoria Poulin
 Koula & Argiro Poulos
 Dena Poulos
 John & Athena Poulos
 Evangelos & Anna Proimos

Dino Psilos & Renée Karonis
 John & Catherine Psilos
 Dr. Michael & Debra Rallis
 Richard & Barbara Reynolds
 Thomas & Connie Ronner
 Panagiota Routoulas
 Avery Saffo
 Dea Saffo
 Doky & Despina Saffo
 Kim Saffo
 Marika & Marian Saffo
 Nick & Tia Saffo
 Perry Saffo
 Tony & Jamie Saffo
 Vassilios Saffo
 Jimmy Saris & Georgia (Gina) Moudatsou
 Kalliopi Semanderes
 Spiros & Giannoula Simotas
 Joanna Skandalakis
 Kay Saffo Skandalakis
 Deborah A. Skinner
 Patricia Skinner
 Mary Tomica Sljaka
 Cassandra Snow,
 David & Daphne Snow
 Thomas Souflas
 Georgia Spiliotis
 Maria Spyropoulos
 Constantina Stamatakis
 James & Maria Stasios
 George & Margaret Stephanou
 Joseph Steyer & Dr. Lisa Kommatea-Steyer
 Alexandros Theodoropoulos & Eleni Pappamihiel
 Renee Theophilos
 Wanda Tsangarides
 Chris & Jeannie Tsingelis
 Nikiforos Tsingelis
 Petros Tsingelis
 Mary Ann Vavalette
 Anastasios Vogiatzis
 Ioannis & Barbara Vogiatzis
 Vasilios Vogiatzis & Irene Sotiriou
 George & Irene Voneiff
 Mary Ann Wall
 Joseph Weatherly
 John & Helen Whitley
 Donald Wickersham
 Samuel & Kyriaki Wiersteiner
 Effie Zezefellis

Hellenic School

Anestis Logothetis

All classes in Greek School were suspended in March due to COVID-19 as well as the Greek Independence Day celebration. However, our speaker for the Day Daphne Snow was able to give her presentation in Church. We are planning to have classes by Zoom for the advanced class taught by Theodora Podia beginning in late September. For the intermediate kids the teacher Evgenia Karonis is going to have classes at her home. The adult classes and the very young kids will start when we have unrestricted services in Church. We hope we will be able to celebrate the Three Hierarchs Day at the end of January and the Greek Independence Day in March provided the pandemic has diminished enough and we feel safe to have coffee hour together.

What OXI Day Means to our Heritage

We usually celebrate the OXI Day on a Sunday close to October 28. We have Greek School students recite patriotic poems, a speaker describes the events that took place at that time and we end up with the youngsters dancing Greek dances. However, with the pandemic in place we cannot celebrate the same way. We decided therefore, to describe the events in this monthly newsletter.

Situation in Europe as WWII Begins

In early 1940 Italy invaded and occupied Albania which is located just north of Greece. Mussolini did not want to attack Greece without a reason so he started to provoke her by violating her air spaces and sea lanes and by having a submarine torpedo the Greek light cruiser Elly on August 15 at the harbor of the island of Tinos. This dastardly act took place during the celebration of Dormition of Theotokos. Greece desperately was trying to avoid war so ignored all the provocation. However, she made war preparations.

On Sunday October 27, 1940 the Italian embassy in Athens celebrated Puccini's 100th birthday by putting a production of the opera Madame Butterfly. All the diplomatic corps and the Athenian high Society was invited followed by a gala reception. When the Italian ambassador returned to his Embassy he found a telegram from Mussolini. It was an Ultimatum to be delivered to the Greek Government demanding Italian troops be allowed to enter Greece and establish military bases there. At 3 am on October 28 Ambassador Brazzi somehow a little embarrassed drove to the home of the Greek Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas and demanded an audience. They spoke in French, the diplomatic language at that time. When Metaxas read the ultimatum he said "Non, alors c'est la guerre" (No, that means war, *Οχι, αυτο σημαίνει πολεμος*)

Italian Invasion of Greece

Soon after Italian troops invaded Greece from Albania and penetrated a few miles into Greek soil. They were stopped on their tracks when Greek troops were rushed to meet them. The advantage that the Italians had in heavy war equipment was negated by the mountain terrain where there were no roads but just foot paths. The Italians could not use their tanks in the mountains nor could they bring their heavy guns nor could they use their air force effectively.

Greece was mobilized and every one helped. Young men between the age 18 and 40 were drafted. Women knitted woolen sweaters, socks, scarves and gloves for the soldiers to combat the winter cold. The Greek army slowly started an offensive and pushed the Italians back. By Christmas the Greeks had the upper hand and pushed the Italians deep into Albania almost to the Adriatic Sea. Mussolini panicked because he was about to lose his army in an embarrassing defeat. He therefore asked his ally Hitler for help. In early 1941 German troops and their Bulgarian allies invaded Northern Greece. The main Greek army was fighting in Albania and there were only reserve troops available to defend the borders. They gave a valiant fight but they were no match to the powerful German war machine. The Germans were able to occupy Athens on April 27. When the Germans ordered the Evzone guard on top of Acropolis, Konstantinos Koukidis, to lower the Greek Flag and raise the German Swastika he refused. Instead he wrapped himself with the Greek flag and jumped from the Acropolis to his death. The only free part of Greece was Crete and the Germans were determined to occupy it. Allied troops from Britain, Australia and New Zealand reinforced with Greek army reserves were preparing to defend Crete.

The Germans brought their elite corps of airborne troops. They dominated the air so they decided to attack Crete by air dropping their paratroopers. It was the first ever attack using air born troops. The Allies and the Greeks put a valiant defense from May 20 to June 1, 1941 but the German superiority was too much and the island was occupied for the next 4 yrs. Some of the allied troops were captured, most were evacuated and the Greeks went up in the mountains of Crete where they fought the Germans as guerillas.

President Roosevelt, Stalin and the King of England praised Greece but Winston Churchill said it best **"We will not say hereafter that the Greeks fight like heroes but heroes fight like Greeks"**

Let's be proud of our Greek Heritage

The German occupation was brutal but Greece, as in the past, survived and rebounded. After the war was over, October 28 was



established as **OXI-Day**, a national holiday to commemorate the brave refusal of the Greek People to submit to foreign occupation. We should be proud of our Greek heritage. It goes back 3000 years with a glorious history. Many of our American Founding Fathers such as Jefferson and Adams were students of Greek history and language and shaped our American Republic based in many respects on the Athenian model, the first established Democracy in the world. We should remember our ancestors for courage not only in war but also in peace. We should follow their example of love for education, open minds towards new ideas, practice of moderation, fairness and justice towards our fellow citizens and for standing up for our beliefs and principles.

SAINT NICHOLAS FAMILY News & Milestones

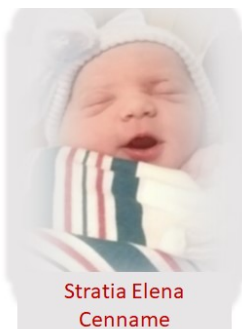
Congratulations to Alexandra and Lucas Bostic for their wedding which took place at Saint Nicholas on August 22, 2020. We wish them many blessing in their life ahead as husband and wife.



Congratulations to Theodora and Panayotis Kokolakis for their wedding which took place at Saint Sophia's Cathedral in Washington, DC on August 22, 2020. We wish them many blessings in their life ahead as husband and wife!!



Congratulations to **Timothy and Veronica Kirk** on the Baptism of their son **Nicholas Kirk** on August 24, 2020. May he live a blessed life in the Lord.



Congratulations to **Ekaterini & Dominic Cenname** for the birth of their daughter **Stratia Elena Cenname**. She was born on August 31, 2020 at 5 lbs. 2 oz. 18 inches. May Stratia have a long and healthy life in Christ!

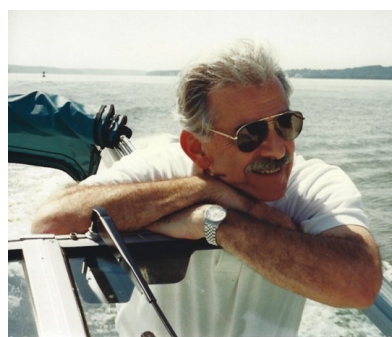
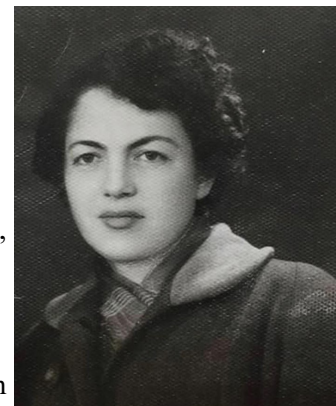
Memorials and Sympathy

Louis Anthony Andrews, 93, of Wilmington, passed away on Sunday, August 2, 2020, at the Lower Cape Fear Life Care. He was born in Warren, OH on November 28, 1926 the son of Anthony Andrews and Aryandou Zarnas Andrews. He is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Roula and his son Chris Andrews. On August 6, 2020, there was a visitation for friends at the St. Nicholas which was followed by a Funeral Liturgy and the interment at Greenlawn Memorial Park. A presentation of Military Honors were



rendered in recognition of Louis's honorable and faithful service to his country. ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΤΟΥ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ – Eternal be his memory!

Maria Tsermenga Tsantes, age 93, suddenly fell asleep in the Lord at The Leland House Sunday, Aug. 30, 2020. She is survived by her daughter, Demetria Tsantes Padgett, and her husband, Sotiris Kolofotias; seven grandchildren, Dr. Louis Padgett, Mrs. Maria Padgett Valaetis, Mr. Nicholas Padgett, Melissa, Stephanie, Zoie and Anastasia Padgett; great-grandson, Theo; and one sister, Toula Hamos. On Sept. 4, there was a visitation at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church followed by the Funeral Liturgy. ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΤΗΣ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ - Eternal be her memory!



Anthony (Tony) Peter Constandy, 88, of Alexandria, Virginia passes away peacefully Thursday, August 13, 2020. Tony is lovingly survived by his children, Peter of Alexandria, Michael of Alexandria, Elisabeth Baynard (Carl) of Wilmington, NC; and four beautiful grandchildren. He is also survived by many nieces and

nephews and their families, his sister-in-law, his childhood and lifelong best friend, and numerous friends and neighbors. ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΤΟΥ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ – Eternal be his memory!

Cleo Caird Karafas, fell asleep in the Lord on September 15, 2020 at the age of 73 in Columbia, Maryland, after a short illness. She is survived by her loving husband of 48 years, Constantine (Gus) N. Karafas; sister, Drucilla Fox (Larry); sister-in-law, Irene Voneiff (George); niece, Jennifer Fanning (Shane); nephew, George Voneiff (Kerry); three great-nephews; cousins and friends. ΑΙΩΝΙΑ ΤΗΣ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ - Eternal be her memory!





A vibrant poster for the Wilmington Greek Festival Drive Thru. The background is a deep blue with a white Greek key border. Large, expressive brown brushstrokes sweep across the top and sides. At the top center, a white outline of a church dome with a cross is positioned above the text "WILMINGTON" in a white, blocky font. Below this, the word "GREEK" is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a thick black outline, and "FESTIVAL" is in smaller white letters with a black outline. In the center, the words "DRIVE THRU" are written in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline. Below this, the dates "OCT. 23-25" are written in white on a dark purple background. At the bottom, a red car is shown from the front, with a hand in a red and white sleeve waving from the driver's side and a brown sack labeled "GREEK FOOD" hanging from the passenger side. At the very bottom, the text "VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!" is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline. A dark blue banner at the bottom contains the text "SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER TODAY AT: WWW.STNICHOLASWILMINGTON.ORG" in white.

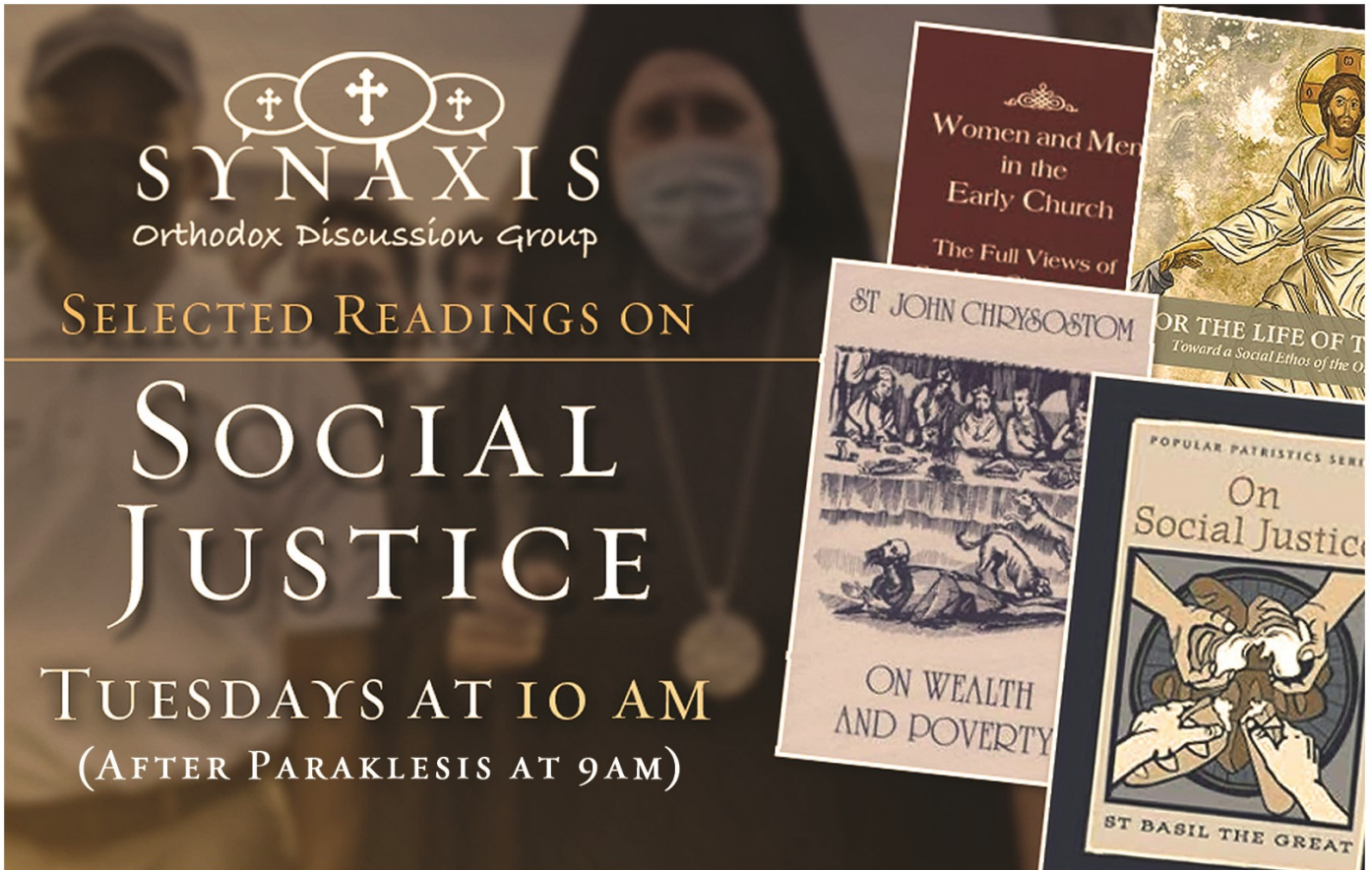
WILMINGTON
GREEK
FESTIVAL


DRIVE THRU

OCT. 23-25

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

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

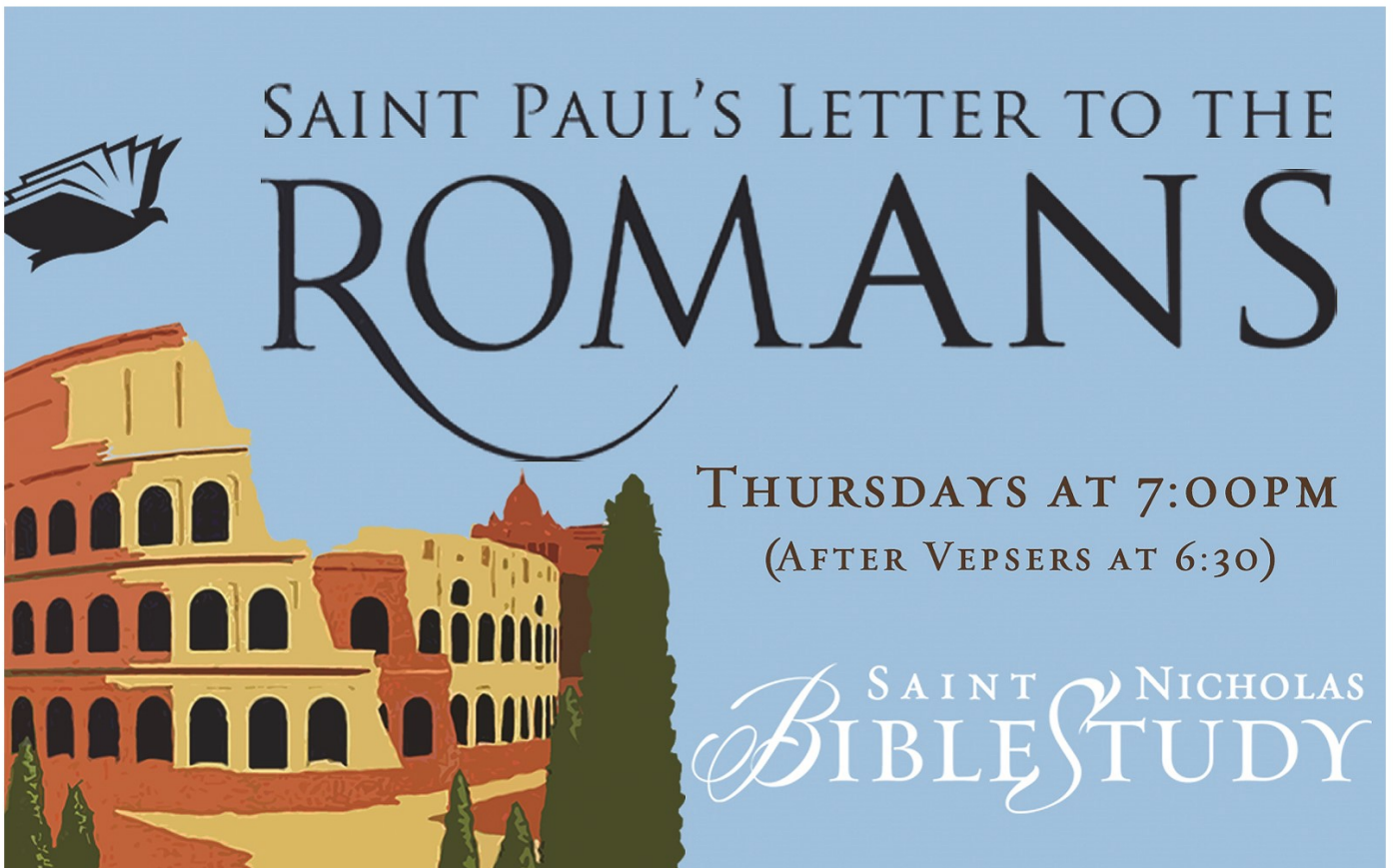
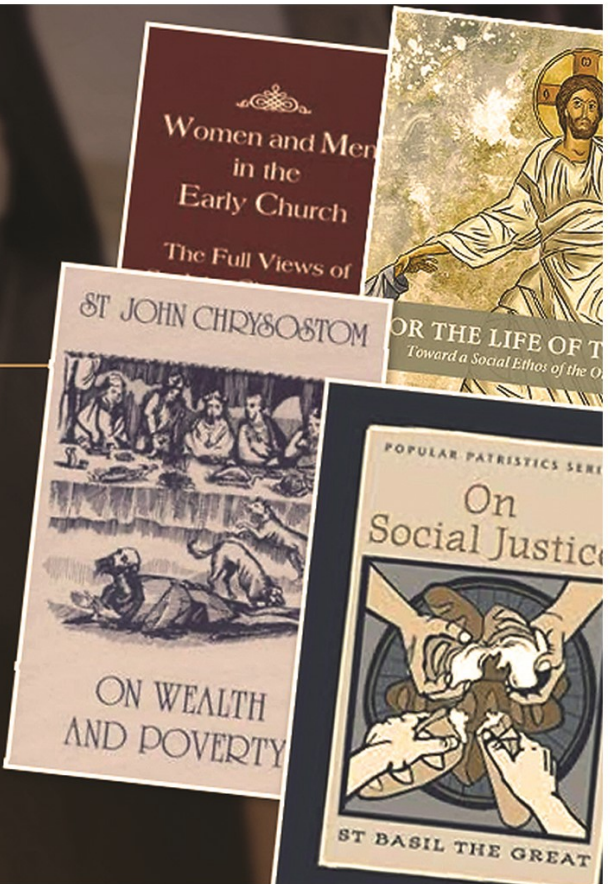



SYNAXIS
Orthodox Discussion Group

SELECTED READINGS ON

SOCIAL JUSTICE

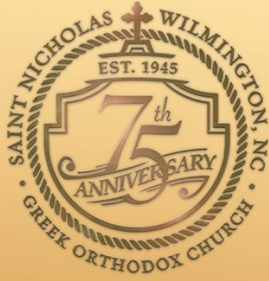
TUESDAYS AT 10 AM
(AFTER PARAKLESIS AT 9AM)



SAINT PAUL'S LETTER TO THE
ROMANS

THURSDAYS AT 7:00PM
(AFTER VEPSERS AT 6:30)

SAINT NICHOLAS
BIBLE STUDY



SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

75TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

"75 Years Established & Committed in Christ"

– Proverbs 16:3

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**

October - Οκτώβριος 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes-	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Vespers 6:30 PM</i> Bible Study - Romans 7 PM	2	3 Baptism 4 PM
4 <i>Orthros 8:45 AM</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 10 AM</i> Sunday School 12:30 PM ZOOM	5	6 <i>Paraklesis 9 AM</i> Synaxis - Social Justice 10 AM 6 PM Growth & Planning Town Hall Zoom Meeting	7	8 <i>Vespers 6:30 PM</i> Bible Study - Romans 7 PM	9 Family Plan "Amazing Race"	
						10 AM Growth & Planning Meeting
11 <i>Orthros 8:45 AM</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 10 AM</i> Baptism 11:30 AM Sunday School 12:30 PM ZOOM	12	13 <i>Paraklesis 9 AM</i> Synaxis - Social Justice 10 AM	14	15 <i>Vespers 6:30 PM</i> Bible Study - Romans 7 PM	16	17 Wedding 10:30 AM Baptism 11:30 AM
18 Luke the Evangelist <i>Orthros 8:45 AM</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 10 AM</i> Sunday School 12:30 PM ZOOM 6 PM YAM Oyster Roast Family Plan "Amazing Race"	19	20 <i>Paraklesis 9 AM</i> Synaxis - Social Justice 10 AM	21	22	23 <i>Wilmington Greek Festival Drive -Thru 11 am - 8 pm</i>	24
25 <i>Wilmington Greek Festival Drive-Thru 11 am--5 pm</i> <i>Orthros 8:45 AM</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 10 AM</i> Sunday School 12:30 PM ZOOM	26 <i>St. Demetrios the Great Martyr</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i>	27 <i>Paraklesis 9 AM</i> Synaxis - Social Justice 10 AM COM Meeting 7-9 PM	28 OXI Day	29 <i>Vespers 6:30 PM</i> Bible Study - Romans 7 PM	30	31

November - Νοέμβριος 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Orthros 8:45 AM Divine Liturgy 10 AM Sunday School 12:30 PM ZOOM	2	3 <i>Election Day</i> Parish Council Meeting 7 - 8:30 PM	4	5 Vespers 6:30 PM Bible Study - Romans 7 PM	6	7
8 Orthros 8:45 AM Divine Liturgy 10 AM <i>Veterans Day Celebration 11:15 AM</i> Sunday School 12:30 PM ZOOM General Assembly 11:30 AM	9 St. Nektarios the Wonderworker of Aegina Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM	10 Paraklesis 9 AM Synaxis - Social Justice 10 AM Newsletter Articles Due	11 <i>Veterans Day</i>	12 Vespers 6:30 PM Bible Study - Romans 7 PM	13 St. John Chrysostom Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Wedding Rehearsal - 4:30 PM	14 Wedding 5 PM Hall in use 5-11:30 PM
15 Stewardship Sunday Orthros 8:45 AM Divine Liturgy 10 AM Sunday School 12:30 PM ZOOM	16 St. Matthew, the Apostle Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM	17 Paraklesis 9 AM Synaxis - Social Justice 10 AM	18	19 Vespers 6:30 PM Bible Study - Romans 7 PM	20 <i>Philoptochos Thanksgiving Basket Distribution</i>	21 Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple Orthros 8:45 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM <i>Philoptochos Thanksgiving Basket Distri-</i>
22 Orthros 8:45 AM Divine Liturgy 10 AM Philoptochos tray 11 AM Sunday School 12:30 PM ZOOM	23	24 Paraklesis 9 AM Synaxis - Social Justice 10 AM COM Meeting 7-9 PM	25 St. Katherine the Great Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM	26 	27	28 YAM - Discussion & Watch Party 9 AM
29 Orthros 8:45 AM Divine Liturgy 10 AM Sunday School 12:30 PM ZOOM	30 St. Andrew, the First Called Apostle Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM	<p>Dates to Remember:</p> <p>ADVENT FAST November 15 - December 24</p>				

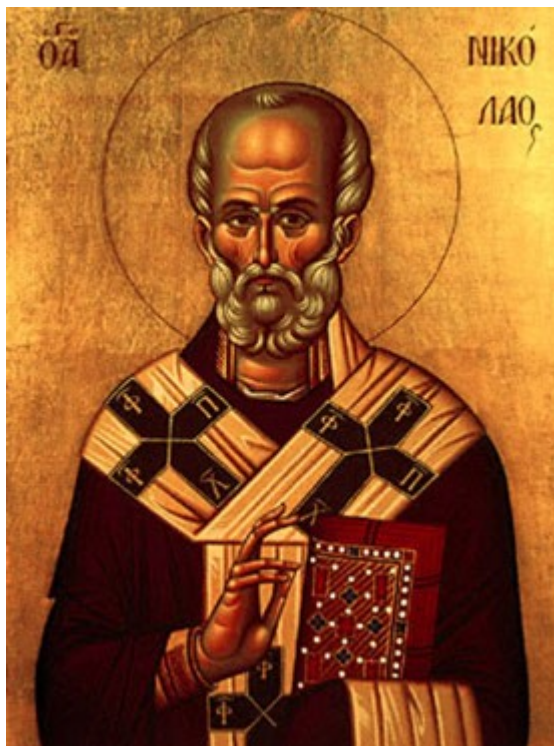
October-November 2020

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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.