WORSHIP SERVICES ARE STREAMED at 9:00am
See https://www.stnicholasnj.org/service-schedules.

We have a YouTube channel too!
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiyrX2_dz91YDO25QDmEk9Q

You can now also donate and light a virtual candle
www.stnicholasnj.org

The Holy Ascension of Our Lord
Thursday, June 2, 2022

Turn to page 4 to read the icon explanation.
**Parish Office**

Rula Thasites, Parish Administrator  
E-mail: office@stnicholasnj.org

**Editor-in-Chief**

+Rev. Protopresbyter Basil C. Gikas  
E-mail: frbill@stnicholasnj.org

**Layout Editor**

Athena Katsaros

**Editorial Staff**

Rula Thasites

**Parish Council**

Spiritual Advisor  
+Rev. Protopresbyter Basil C. Gikas

**Council Members**

Manny Toskos, President  
Nick Pirsos, 1st V.P.  
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Georgette Betts-Tsakalos  
Kathy Van Dine  
Jon Zymaris

**Parish Life Contributors**

Parish Council: Manny Toskos  
St. Nicholas Golf & Tennis: Teena Grant & Jason Fink  
Philoptochos: Roseanne Psomas  
Kali Parea: Christine Triant  
Ladies Prayer Group: Irene Ayvas  
Sharing and Caring: Dr. Eva Krias  
Daughters of Penelope: Debbie Donnelly  
AHEPA: Paul Goulet  
Greek Independence Day Parade: Tammy Spyropoulos  
GOYA: Maria Gougousis  
Stewardship Ministry Team: Bill Razcko

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**Pastor’s Pulpit**

**Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!  
Χριστός Ανέστη! Αλιθως Ανέστη!**

**Christ is Risen! And so... Now What?**

I have always loved the greeting we exchange with each other - “Christ is risen!” And the response, “Truly He is risen!” The festal Paschal greeting that we share for forty days after Pascha (Easter) cannot be forgotten, ignored, or set aside, because it brings people together in a happy, joyous moment and acknowledges a basic Church teaching - Jesus is not dead, He is out of the tomb, just up and out of plain physical sight. He is now Ascended to Heaven and at the right hand of God, the Father. The Lord is not with us physically walking the earth as a God and a man (Theanthropos), yet He still is our one true God ... so, now what?

First, we rejoice in that which we believe and then we recall that the Lord’s work is not in vain, nor has it been forgotten or concluded in our lives, or in society, or on earth. Just because our Lord (Leader) has risen to a better place, this does not mean we should stop making our lives, our homes, our societies a better place. When we respond, “Truly He (Jesus Christ) is risen!” the words are in the present tense - in the moment of the here and now. We are not the same “old thing or person”.

We read in the Gospels that our Lord Jesus, after His Resurrection, appeared to those who loved Him, and walked, and collaborated with Him. Even though some of them doubted, like Thomas, or denied Him, like Peter or abandoned Him, like most everyone, other than the women at the Crucifixion. After the Lord rises from the tomb, He appears to His disciples and apostles, and He then ascends.

The understanding of the Church set forth in the Ascension icon is succinctly expressed by Paul Evdokimov: “Christ is the head of the Church, the Mother of God is its image, and the apostles
are its foundation.” The icon expresses the sovereignty of Christ over His Church; He is Her Head, Her guide, the source of inspiration and teaching. The Church - His Body - His people - receives Her commission and ministry from Him and fulfills the Great Commission in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Great Commission is found in the Gospel of Matthew 28: 16-20: “Go forth and make disciples of All Nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” In other words, Jesus’ Great Commission has not yet been completed by us. Christian work remains because the need for hope, faith and love that all humans share is still viable, practical, and immediate. Everyone needs the “Good News”.

The Ascension picture (icon) tells the story further.

In the traditional icon of Jesus’ Ascension, Mary, the Mother of God, as the image of the Church, stands under Christ. She from whom the Incarnate Son took his humanity, stands rooted on the earth amid the apostles (those people sent forth to preach, teach and baptize people in the nations), with her hands raised in the gesture of the orant, signifying prayer and intercession. Mary, the Theotokos (God-bearer) intercedes for humanity, and in this she embodies an important aspect of the Church’s vocation - to intercede, to be the mediating channel of divine grace and love in a fallen, broken, distracted, world. Mary represents the holiness of the Church, which already shares the divine life and knows the reality of Christ’s triumph over sin and death. (John Baggley, Festival Icons for the Christian Year, 134, 138)

But if the Great Commission is what Jesus directed us to do and live by, then relying on Mary, or just waiting on the Holy Spirit to act can be perceived as indolence or lethargy on our part. How can we better the world, if not first ourselves, by just waiting on a saint or the Holy Spirit or even God for that matter? Someone has to act. And that someone is you and I. It is time for the Lord to act now through us, and for us to return to basic Orthopraxia (the right practice) - daily communication with the resurrected and ascended Christ, daily reading of Holy Scripture - the Good News rather than the shallow headline news or the “fake news”, attendance at holy events and festivals that transform our psyche wherein we share the gifts of grace in Holy Communion, community, fellowship and common mission.

And most of all, silence and inner spiritual stillness that transforms us gives us the power to “go forth”.

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**May 2022 Worship Services**

**Are Streamed on Facebook:**

& YouTube

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiyrX2_dz91YDO25QDmEk9Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiyrX2_dz91YDO25QDmEk9Q)

**Sunday Services**

**Sunday, May 1 (Thomas Sunday)**

9:00am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

No Memorials

**Sunday, May 8 (Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women)**

9:00am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, May 15 (Sunday of the Paralytic)**

9:00am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, May 22 (Sunday of the Samaritan Woman)**

9:00am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, May 29 (Sunday of the Blind Man)**

9:00am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Weekday Service**

**Saints Constantine & Helen**

**Saturday, May 21**

9:00am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Many Years (Chronia Polla) to All Who Celebrate!
HOLY ASCENSION

INTRODUCTION

The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes. The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday. This year the feast will be celebrated on June 2, 2022.

The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The story of the Ascension of our Lord, celebrated as one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church, is found in the book of the Acts of the Apostles 1:3-11. It is also mentioned in the Gospels of Mark (16:19) and Luke (24:50-53). The moment of the Ascension is told in one sentence: "He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).

Christ made His last appearance on earth, forty days after His Resurrection from the dead. The Acts of the Apostles states that the disciples were in Jerusalem. Jesus appeared before them and commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the "Promise of the Father". He stated, "You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:5).

After Jesus gave these instructions, He led the disciples to the Mount of Olives. Here, He commissioned them to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). It is also at this time that the disciples were directed by Christ to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus also told them that He would be with them always, "even to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

As the disciples watched, Jesus lifted up His hands, blessed them, and then was taken up out of their sight (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9). Two angels appeared to them and asked them why they were gazing into heaven. Then one of the angels said, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

REFERENCES

Icon of the Ascension of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, used with permission from Theologic.


Source: https://www.goarch.org/ascension
The icon of The Ascension of Our Lord is a joyous icon. It is painted with bright colors. Christ is shown ascending in His glory in a mandorla. A mandorla is a design which is almond-shaped or round. Inside the mandorla is the figure of a holy person. Christ blesses the assembly with His right hand. In His left is a scroll. The scroll is a symbol of teaching. This icon shows that the Lord in heaven is the source of blessing. In addition, Jesus is the source of knowledge. The icon reminds us that Christ continues to be the source of the teaching and message of the Church, blessing and guiding those to whom He has entrusted his work.

The Theotokos occupies a very special place in this icon. She is in the center of the icon, immediately below the ascending Christ. The gesture of her hands is gesture of prayer. She is clearly outlined by the whiteness of the garments of the angels. The Theotokos is depicted in a very calm pose. This is quite different from the appearance of the Disciples. They are moving about, talking to one another and looking and pointing towards heaven. The entire group, the Theotokos and the disciples represent the Church.

The icon of the Ascension includes some who did not witness the Ascension. St. Paul is shown to the left of the Theotokos, but we know that he was not present at the Ascension. At that time, Saint Paul did not yet believe in Jesus. But he became a Christian and one of the greatest Apostles and missionaries of Church.

The icon expresses the sovereignty of Christ over His Church; He is its Head, its guide, its source of inspiration and teaching; it receives its commission and ministry from Him, and fulfils it in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Ascension

This Feast of our Lord is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, which is conducted on the day of the Feast and preceded by the Matins service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast. Scripture readings for the Feast are the following: At Vespers: Isaiah 2:2-3, 62:10-63:9; Zechariah 14:1,4,8-11. At the Orthros (Matins) Mark 16:9-20; At the Divine Liturgy: Acts 1:1-12; Luke 24:36-53.

Hymns of the Feast

Apolytikion (Fourth Tone)

O Christ our God, You ascended in Glory and gladdened Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Your blessing assured them that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

Kontakion (Plagal of the Second Tone)

O Christ our God, upon fulfilling Your dispensation for our sake, You ascended in Glory, uniting the earthly with the heavenly. You were never separate but remained inseparable, and cried out to those who love You, "I am with you and no one is against you."

Source: https://www.goarch.org/ascension
Christos Anesti!

It was so wonderful to see the pews full again during Holy Week and the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that you will continue to join us in person to worship together.

Your Parish Council was active this last month. A number of parishioners joined members of the Council early one Saturday morning to clear the woods of dead trees around the Church. Our modern Paul Bunyons used chainsaws to cut and clear the trees. They were then cut up and carted off to an area adjoining the parking lot. There they were chipped into mulch and spread around the surrounding grounds. While there were some bumps, bruises and scratches, I’m happy to report no one suffered serious injuries and everyone had a good time enjoying coffee and donuts together at the end of the day.

Keep an eye out for an upgrade to the parking lot. The Parish Council approved an expenditure to fill the potholes, seal the cracks and resurface the parking lot. New stripping is also part of the project. We ask for your cooperation during the work since there may be a day or two when parking lot will not be completely accessible.

Long time and beloved parishioners, George and Catherine Corniotes have informed us that they will be moving to Long Island. George and Cathy were founding members of St. Nicholas. The Parish Council would like to acknowledge all of their contributions to our St. Nicholas community and wish them well!

Finally, the Parish Council would like to thank you for your support and generosity during the last two difficult years. And, we look forward to your participation as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Saint Nicholas golf outing.

Save the date…Monday, June 27th, 2022. We hope to see you there!

Menelaos Toskos
Parish Council President

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**SAINT NICHOLAS CHARITY GOLF AND TENNIS CLASSIC**

This is a special year. Saint Nicholas will be sponsoring this popular event's 25th Anniversary. Don’t miss the wonderful celebration on Monday, **June 27, 2022** with longtime golf and tennis friends as well as new players and supporters. We hope you will also join us at the Edgewood Country Club, River Vale, NJ for a wonderful night of dinner, raffles, auctions and fun as we all enjoy this Silver Jubilee Anniversary.

Please "Save-the-Date" **Monday, June 27, 2022**.

For more information contact:

  - Jason Fink 201-206-7310
  - Charlie Charllis 201-245-6057 or
  - Teena Grant 201-741-7644 for
Philochohos held a meeting on Monday March 14th and April 11th. Millions of children and families living in America face hunger and food insecurity every day. Philochohos fulfills its mission to “help the poor, the destitute, and feed the hungry.” Thank you to everyone who participated in all of our outreach events and helped feed the poor. A special thank you to Peggy Goulet for chairing and coordinating all of our outreach. Volunteers went to Eva’s Kitchen March 18th and April 12th. Eva’s Kitchen was founded in 1982 to help feed the hungry. On March 31st and April 28th our Philochohos made and distributed sandwiches to the NYC Soup Run. Thank to everyone who donated food to The Mahwah Food Drive. Finally, our Philochohos volunteers served food to the homeless at Bridges on April 9th. Bridges ends homelessness through volunteer-driven outreach.

Philochohos made and sold Koulourakia on April 10th and 17th during Fellowship Hour. Thank you to everyone who baked and to Margaret Kolovos for chairing this event. On Wednesday April 13th Philochohos hosted an outstanding Lenten meal prior to the lecture. Thank you to everyone who cooked, donated, served and cleaned up. Thank you Angelica Tselepis for chairing this event. Saturday April 30th our Philochohos will be hosting a, Mother’s Day Luncheon, to thank all the women of our community. “Where there is a woman, there is magic.” – Ntozake Shange, Playwright. If you are not a member of Philochohos please consider joining. Membership is an extraordinary movement of love, unified with women of all ages, talents, and walks of life. What a wonderful privilege we have to continue the good works of Christ together.

We make a difference as we continue to fulfill our mission to … help those in need.
June 2022 Worship Services

Are Streamed on Facebook:
& YouTube

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiyrX2_dz91YDO25QDmEk9Q

Sunday Services

Sunday, June 5 (Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council)
9:00am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, June 12 (Holy Pentecost)
9:00am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy
No Memorials

Sunday, June 19 (The Sunday of All Saints)
9:00am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, June 26 (2nd Sunday of Matthew)
9:00am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Weekday Services

Holy Ascension
Thursday, June 2
9:00am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Saturday of Souls
Saturday, June 11
9:00am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

The Holy Apostles Peter & Paul
Wednesday, June 29
9:00am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Many Years (Chronia Polla) to All Who Celebrate!

Synaxis of the Holy Apostles
Thursday, June 30
9:00am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Many Years (Chronia Polla) to All Who Celebrate!

Important Upcoming Saint Nicholas Community Events!

Bridges Outreach
Friday, May 13
Saturday, May 14

AHEPA
Cigar Night Extravaganza
Wednesday, May 18

Religious Education Graduation
Sunday, May 22

Greek School Graduation
Friday, June 3

Parish General Assembly
Wednesday June 8

Saint Nicholas Charity Golf and Tennis Classic
Monday, June 27
Christ Is Risen! Christos Anesti!

We hope you all had a Blessed Pascha.

Kali Parea met on April 5th for lunch and a presentation from the Bergen County Prosecutor on “senior scams”. At this meeting we invited the seniors from our neighboring Orthodox churches to join us. It was an enjoyable and informative afternoon. Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 3rd in the fellowship hall. We plan on cutting and sharing our Vasilopeta that afternoon. Please join us - we’d love to have you.
Dear Friends and fellow St. Nicholas Stewards:

Several weeks ago it became apparent to the two of us that we could no longer live in our home in Allendale, NJ. We both experienced a rather sharp decline in our physical condition. Additionally, Katherine was suffering from a pinched nerve and I had a bout with Gout. Our biggest tormentor were the stairs in our split level home. This prompted us to start researching senior facilities with upgrades to assisted living. We found many ideally suitable in Bergen and Passaic counties. Our conclusion was that a transition to senior facility would indeed be seamless – with no change regarding our religious practices, social life, our friends and other important issues.

Then the realization that we had omitted to take into consideration the plans of our children and our grandchildren, the most important people in our lives. We quickly scrapped our plans and concluded that we follow our children who are committed to the south fork of Long Island, more specifically, East Hampton. Our daughter Ronni and her husband own a home which is currently being redesigned to satisfy their short and long term needs and scheduled for completion in the spring of 2023. Peter, our son, owns a condo in NYC and a condo in East Hampton. Now that our plans are known and available, our children’s move to East Hampton can be accelerated.

Our inquiry as to the most ideally recommended senior facility made of two friends living in South Hampton yielded Peconic Landing – without question. Located in Greenport (north fork), its campus is 48 acres bordering Long Island Sound with one mile of beach front. By mid May, it will also house the Stony Brook Medical facility, another critical and important attribute. It features a variety of apartments and cottages of diverse design and size. It offers an extraordinary variety of activities for its constituents with swimming pools, exercise and gym facilities, a large library fully equipped with electronic equipment, a playhouse, jitney service to NYC, Riverhead and Orient Point and many other amenities and activities. It is equity based. The purchase price also includes and insurance policy which guarantees upgrades to assisted living, etc. Should you move or pass on, all monies are refundable.

A visit of Peconic Landing just reinforced our very favorable impressions after a series virtual visits. We will probably be moving before long. Our home is currently being readied for an Open House in late April/early May.

We will sorely miss St. Nicholas. We were blessed to have been there since its inception. We felt the electricity and sensed the presence Christ as he guided us through the successful startup of our beloved St. Nicholas Community. A unique Community, St. Nicholas has had a most positive effect on the growth of our Spirituality, ironically, has helped us better understand and appreciate our heritage and ethnicity while dramatically affecting our social life. We’ve created lifelong relationships and have witnessed our children and our grandchildren doing the very same.

FAREWELL and GOD BLESS.......... 
Katherine and George Corniotes
Our Ladies Prayer Group, prayer meetings continue to be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evening of each month at 7:30 pm. We spend a dedicated time of informal prayer for our nation, church, community, families and friends. We continue to see countless answers to prayers, fellowship together and encourage and deepen our own faith. All Ladies Are Welcome to Join Us and all prayer requests are kept confidential. Call the parish office or Irene Ayvas at 201-803-2307, if you wish to join us. You may also contact Irene or the church office with any prayer requests you want added to our list or to the "Email Urgent Prayer Chain".

E-mail Urgent Prayer Chain: Please join our prayer chain of over 100 faithful, who are committed to praying for those with urgent needs or those facing sudden crisis or disaster. Prayer is a Simple Yet Powerful Way to Show Your Love for Others.

Contact Irene Ayvas at iayvas@yahoo.com or at 201-803-2307 to be added to the urgent prayer chain list.

This ministry (service) is for those who have been widowed or divorced, or who have experienced a personal loss in any way.

The group is facilitated by Dr. Eva Pappas Krias, a widow herself, who is a practicing and licensed New York State Psychologist (40 years). Challenges, thoughts and feelings are shared as to dealing with loss, grief, loneliness, survivors' guilt, and trauma associated with a declining spouse or a sudden death. Also, strategies for helping young children through death and most especially how life can go on after the loss of a loved one are explored.

The group is non-judgmental, discreet, confidential, informal and is open to males and females of all denominations.

Our facilitator, Dr. Krias, and the participants, maintain an atmosphere of emotional safety. Everyone's concerns, thoughts and feelings are treated respectfully and without judgment.

Come and see!

There is no cost or obligation.

We are open to all!

Save the Date: Our next Sharing and Caring meeting will be:

Thursday, June 2 at 3:00pm

Contact Dr. Eva Krias at ekrias@optonline.net

Or Fr. Bill at 201 652 4774 ext. 12
DAUGHTERS OF PENELope (DOP)

Christos Anesti. May the Light of our Lord’s resurrection shine brightly upon all our St. Nicholas family and friends throughout the year.

Our Agape chapter met on the first Thursday in March via Zoom and we were treated to a visit from Greek American chef, blogger, author, and restaurateur Dimitra Khan of the recipe website, www.dimitrasdishes.com. She discussed her background and some of her favorite recipes. Dimitra has a popular Facebook page, Youtube channel, and Instagram and other social media sites, all called "Dimitra's Dishes." They are filled with recipes, cooking shortcuts and tips and step by step instructional videos for cooking authentic Greek dishes and other foods. Dimitra was engaging and fun and our sisters enjoyed hearing from Dimitra and sharing our own cooking traditions with her.

In April we welcomed our members back to IN PERSON meetings with our annual pay your dues pizza party. Our meeting was well-attended as members were happy to be back in a social setting. We had a full agenda and productive meeting. Our book clubs shared their recent and upcoming selections: the Wednesday afternoon group read Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan and will be discussing Harlan Coben's mystery, The Boy from the Woods in May. The Tuesday evening group read A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khalid Hosseini and will be discussing The Rose Code by Katie Quinn next. The Knitting Crowd continued stitching projects for donation later this year.

Are you interested in learning more about our dynamic, social and philanthropic organization? For information about membership in the sisterhood of the Daughters of Penelope, Agape Chapter #336, please contact VP of Membership Georgia Lipane at glipane@gmail.com or President Debbie Donnelly at dopagape336president@gmail.com.

AHEPA

AHEPA RAMAPO #453 is hosting the 19th ANNUAL CIGAR EXTRAVAGANZA DINNER to benefit the education, community and several outreach philanthropic programs of AHEPA. Join us on May 18th, 2022 at SEASON'S in Washington Twp. NJ. Event starts at 6:00 To 11pm. Dress is "Smart Casual". A social networking event. Smoking is segregated outdoors only. Make your Reservations today, contact John Tsadilas at 201-707-2657, or jtsadilas@verizon.net. Please visit our web page at: www.ahepa453.org for further Cigar Extravaganza Event information contact John Psomas, Chairman, at 201-704-5903, or Co-Chairman Basil Megariotis, 201-575-6790, Paul Savidis 201-6941128 and Savvas Tsigaras at 201-681-4730.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

Following a two year interruption, due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the Federation of Hellenic Societies is very pleased to announce that there will be a parade this year to proudly celebrate the 200th anniversary of the start of the Greek War of Independence, the Bicentennial Celebration, which we were not able to celebrate last year. Please save the date: Sunday, June 5, 2022. Further information regarding our participation as a Community will be forthcoming!

Zito i Ellas !!! Ζήτω η Ελλάδα !!!
Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

On March 20th we held the Local St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. GOYAns had the opportunity to explore our faith through poems, essays or speeches on specific topics. A job well done by our 29 Oratorical Festival participants. Congratulations to our winners: Sr. Speech – 1) Dante Maurice, 2) Chloe Maurice, 3) Vasiliki Bachardy; Sr. Essay – 1) Thomai Andreopoulos, 2) Angelina Georgakopoulos, 3) Alexander Peppes; Sr. Poetry – 1) Sevasti Nicholaides; Jr. Speech 1) Michael Maris, 2) Adriana Carmichael, 3) Emily Gougousis; Jr. Essay – 1) James Gougousis, 2) Christos Schmarge, 3) Athena Joannidis; Jr. Poetry – 1) Vassilios Salvemini, 2) Nicholas Laideas, 3) Darin Nonas & Evie Romnios. Congratulations to Chloe and Michael for representing our Parish at the District Level Oratorical Festival and an extra BIG congratulations to Chloe for coming in 3rd place. Many thanks to Father Bill for his guidance, Mrs. Maurice and Mr. Salvemini for chairing and Mrs. Maurice for emceeing the local Festival.

On April 9 and 10th, some of our GOYAns, in conjunction with Philoptochos helped prepare and deliver sandwiches and toiletry bags for the homeless in Newark in connection with the Bridges Outreach Program.

On April 15 and 16th, we held our annual Overnight Lock-In Retreat. It was an incredible bonding experience where we were able to become closer to our Lord, God, & savior Jesus Christ, His Church and our fellow GOYAns through fun activities and talks with Father Bill. The next morning GOYAns attended worship services for the Saturday of Lazarus. Thank you to Mr. Salvemini, Mrs. Pittas, and Mrs. Manoussakis for a great evening and Mrs. Doumas for helping chaperone!

We are currently receiving nominations for the 2022-2023 GOYA officers and ministers. Ballots will begin to be submitted electronically after our May GOYA meeting and the new officers and ministers will be announced at our June meeting.

May 9th is the Annual Metropolis of NJ Service Awards. We are so proud to announce that Emily Gougousis, one of our Directors for Diakonia, will be honored by His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros, for her service and contribution to our Orthodox Church and Saint Nicholas. Congratulations Emily!

We are excited that Indoor (May 7th) and Outdoor Olympics (May 28-29th) are back! Indoor Olympics will held in Perth Amboy and will include chess, badminton, table tennis, checkers, backgammon and video games (FIFA Soccer and Just Dance). May 28-29th is one of the most exciting events of the year, Outdoor Olympics! It will be held Memorial Day Weekend at Monmouth University. Events include Track and Field, Co Ed Volleyball, Swimming, and a 5K. Our upcoming GOYA Nights are on May 11th (Wed.) and June 16th (Thurs.) and we are looking forward to seeing everyone!! Anyone in 7th-12th grade and 12-18 years of age who is interested in joining GOYA can reach out to Maria Gougousis, GOYA Advisor, at mariagougousis@gmail.com.

In the risen Christ’s service,

Maria Katsouris, Recording Secretary
Adriana Carmichael, Media Liaison
Christina Koulikourdis, Media Liaison
Pictured with Father Bill are our Co-chairs, Timothy Salvemini and Demi Maurice and our Oratorical Festival Speech Participants. (Top row; left to right – Maria Katsouris, Dante Maurice, Michaela Tsapatsaris, Chloe Maurice, Christina Koulikourdis and Vasiliki Bachardy Bottom row; left to right – Emily Gougousis, Adriana Carmichael, Callista Nonas, and Michael Maris)

Pictured right are the GOYAns who helped prepare sandwiches and toiletry kits for the Bridges Outreach Program.
Left to right – RJ Guerrero, Adriana Manoussakis, Seva Nicholaides, and Nico Nicholaides

Pictured above are Costa Rossakis and Seva Nicholaides who along with members of our Saint Nicholas family delivered the sandwiches and toiletry kits to the homeless in Newark in connection with the Bridges Outreach Program.

Some of our GOYAns who attended the Overnight Lock in Retreat!
Greetings and Χριστός Ανέστη from the St Nicholas Stewardship Ministry Team. Our Lord’s resurrection brings the promise of eternal life in His Kingdom for those who believe in His glory and commit to theosis in His name. As always, St. Nicholas presented itself with magnificent spirituality on Pascha and throughout Great Lent. For the first time in several years, many of you were able to attend services in-person, and the reunions reminded us of the importance of our shared community in Christ.

As our blessed church and its families actively rejoice in Christ’s victory over death, please take a moment to reflect on how St. Nicholas delivers the intimate and powerful gift of Orthodoxy that transforms our lives. As Orthodox Christians, one of our most important roles is to serve as stewards of our church.

Many families have already made their 2022 stewardship pledge to St. Nicholas, and we are requesting that you join them. If you have misplaced your pledge card, additional pledge cards are available in both the narthex and in the church office, or can be requested by emailing office@stnicholasnj.org

In Christ’s Service,
The Stewardship Ministry Team

### 2022 Stewardship Pledges (thru 4.15.2022)

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<tr>
<th>Giving Tier</th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benefactors</td>
<td>$5000+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guardian Angels</td>
<td>$3000-$4999</td>
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<td>Torchbearers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherds</td>
<td>$1000-$1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewards</td>
<td>&lt; $1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Households</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Saint Nicholas Stewards through April 2022.** “Please note, only Stewards who have submitted a Pledge Card are eligible to vote in Church elections”.

### Saint Nicholas 2022 Pledged Stewards

- Adams, Nicholas
- Agrapidis, Christos
- Agrapidis, Evans & Christine
- Albanis, Mary
- Aletras, Constantine & Mary
- Allocco, David & Constantina
- Andreopoulos, Nicholas & Vasilias, Thalia
- Antonucci, Alan & Irene
- Archibald, Edward
- Arluna, John & Anastasia
- Ayvas, Anton & Irene
- Ballai, Michael & Lynn
- Bannos, Thomas & Alexis
- Barlas, Anne
- Bauer, Greg & Karen
- Bufis, Philip & Sophia
Hadjitheodosiou, Theo & Maroulis, Anastasia
Hagy, Constance
Hampilos John & Rosa Maria
Hampilos, Nicholas & Gyparaki Melina
Hampilos, Perry
Hartofilis, Steve & Nota
Herbo, Andrew & (Kotsopoulos), Sofia
Hess, Bill & Anne
Howe, Douglas & Stella
Humblias, Charles & Olga

Ioannou, Anastasios & Coleen
Issackedes, Claire

Janow, Chris
Janow-Caramico, Lydia & Gerard
Johnson, Stuart & Catherine

Kalliotzis, Michael & Caroline
Kalliotzis, Michael Jr.
Kanakis, Helen
Kapas, Catherine
Kapsis, John & Susan
Karadimas, Nicholas
Karalis, Virginia
Karras, Nicholas & Dorothy
Karsos, Vasilios & Teri
Katsanos, Nick & Rina
Katsaros, Stathis & Athena
Kokkinakis, Anastasia
Kokkinakis, George & Mary Ann
Kolovos, Constantine & Eleanor
Kolovos, Margaret
Konstantakis, Dino & Christine
Kotrokois, Demetrios & Corinna
Kotsopulos, Mary
Koukos, Dorothy
Kourgelis, Jimmy & Carol
Koulouthros, John & Noel
Koykas, Bobby & Liz

Lainis, Gus & Renate
Laios, Ernest & Norma
Lange, Samantha
Lefer, Angelo
Lemond, Christine

Carfello, Carl & Maria
Carmichael, Terrence & Christina
Chagares, Arthur & Annette
Charlitis, Charles & Erin
Chaplauske, Richard & Stefanie
Chimarios, George & Fotini
Chmura, Walter & Sophia
Christopoulos, Constantinos
Christopoulos, James & Michele
Corniotes, George & Katherine

Deliyiannis, James
Dellas, James
Demetriou, John & Fannie
Dimitriou, James & Frances
Dobrow, Jim & Tina
Dolianitis, Constantine & Savannah
Donnelly, Debra
Douma, Peter & Ronni
Doumas, Eikaterini
Drakontides, Ciriton

Efstathiou, Katherine
Eliades, Marios & Alice
Eliades, Virginia

Falzone, Richard & Eva (Krias)
Fava, Emilie
Felix, Kevin & Tina
Fiol Fabrice & Alyssa (Kretetcos)
Florakis, Konstantinos
Fonseca, William & Ellice
Foti, Marie

Gasparis, George & Melissa
Georgatos, Athena
Goria, Bruce & Alexis
Gikas, Fr. Bill & Presv. Sophia
Gostkowski, Steven & Popi
Gougousis, Athan & Maria
Goulet, Paul & Peggy
Grammatas, Elton & Kristen
Grant, Ron & Teena
Griffin, Brian & Georgene
Griffoul, Peter & Stephanie

Hadjitheodosiou, Theo & Maroulis, Anastasia
Hagy, Constance
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Koulouthros, John & Noel
Koykas, Bobby & Liz

Lainis, Gus & Renate
Laios, Ernest & Norma
Lange, Samantha
Lefer, Angelo
Lemond, Christine
SAINT NICHOLAS 2022 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Lenas, Constantine & Erriette
Lenas, Elizabeth & Gamma, Alvaro
Lipane, Georgia
Leonart, Maria
Lodewyck, Ron & Betty
Lolis, Matthew & Peggy
Logothetis, George & Corrine
Long, Vincent & Bessie

Malas– Wraga, Alice
Manousos, Peter
Marcopul, Mary
Marcopul, Sophie
Maris, Yianni & Zaharoula
Markoulis, Dimitri & Shelley
Marose, Michael & Evelyn
Maroules, Michael & Penelope
Maroulis, Constance
Martello, Charles & Kallie
McConnell, Mary
Megariotis, Bassilios
Megariotis, Rosemary
Melissas, Claire
Melis, Louis & Irene
Mellas, Dean & Denise
Menakis, Chrys
Milcos, Vassilios & Angeline
Miro, Peter & Katherine
Monfried, Thomas
Moore, Bowley & Sophia
Moreira, George & Irene
Moreira, John
Moulketis, Fr. Jim & Pres. Evangeline
Moustopoulos, James

Nakis, Andrea
Nakis, Nicholas & Joanne
Nickles, Donna
Nickles Steven & Debi
Nonas, Helen
Nonas, James & Brigid

O’Neill, Donald & Jacqueline
Panakov, George & Chrysoula
Panayotopoulos, Demetrios

Papandrikos, Georgette
Papadopoulos, Costas & Panagiota
Pappas, Chris & Betty
Pappas, James & June
Pappas, Paul & Pamela
Papoutsakis, Ekaterini
Papson, Christopher & Sophia
Patentas, John & Stafford
Peppes, John & Katherine
Perez, Michael & (Kollias), Cleopatra
Peters, John & Rosemary
Petronio, Frank & Andrea
Petropoulos, Steve
Pflager, Charles & Alexandra
Phili, Kleon & Kleo
Phili, Marios & Maria
Phillips, John & Angela
Phommathep, Mike & Christine
Pirrmann Barry & Chrisoula
Pirros, Nicholas & Stephanie
Pittas, Irene
Portelos, Vasilios & Theodora
Poulis, Demetri
Poulis, Elien
Poulos, Dennis & Charlene
Poulos, Nicholas & Helen
Principe, Robert & Catherine
Psomas, John & Roseanne
Raczko, William & Krassas, Ariadne
Radoslovc, Frank & Effie
Roost, Arno & Argie

Saites, Vasilios
Savas, Stephen D. & Lorrie
Savidis, Paul & Kathy
Sclavounos, Aristotle & Julianne
Schell, Michael
Semetis, Peter & Sandra
Servidio, Damon & Thalia
Sfugaras, Steven & Pamela
Shoshilos, Nicholas & Katherine
Sigalos, George & Laurie
Simeonidis, Nicholas & Carolyn
Skamas, Constantine & Ty
Skoufis, George & Louisa
SAINT NICHOLAS 2022 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Slider, George & Helen
Spiridakis, Nicholas & Michelle
Spyropoulos, George & Tammy
Stamoulis, Philip & Michele
Stavrianos, Tommy & Stephanie
Stergiou, John
Stergiou, Lambryny
Stergiou, Thomas & Dana
Suppe, John
Symeonides, Dean & Christina
Symeonides, Michael & Rose

Tahinos, Peter & Andrea
Tanzer, Fotini
Tanger, Gregory
Thalassinos, Angelo & Dayna
Thanasides, Nicholas & Susan
Thasites, James
Thasites, Rula
Theodorobeakos, Michael & Grace
Theodorou, Alexandros & Valerie
Thomas, Sammy & Demi
Toskos, Menelaos & Chrissie
Trian, Christine
Tsacalis, Norman & Alexandra
Tsadilas, Billy
Tsadilas, John & Aggie
Tsairis, Christine
Tsakalos- Betts, Georgette & Steven
Tselepis Nicholas & Angelica
Tselepis, Dean & Mary
Tsigaras, Savvas & Renia
Tsiamtsiouris, Frank & Sue
Tsiamtsiouris, John & Nicole
Turnure, Tom & Terri
Tweed, David & Elena

Valas, Joan
Van Dine, Brian & Kathy
Vittas, Ted & Valerie
Venekas, Dimitri & Lauren
Vishiniakov, Denis & Elena
Vogis, Philip & Connie
Voulgaris, Suzanne
Vrachimis, Titos & Peggy
Wells, Virginia
Wentzell, John & Anna

Zanikos, John & June
Zegiares, Pauline
Ziotas, Irene
Zorbas, George & Debbie
Zymaris, Jon & Manuel, Eugenia

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS!

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

46 Biennial Clergy -Laity Congress
Centennial (1922-2022)
“Legacy, Renewal, Unity”
The Clergy Laity Congress and the National Philoptochos Convention will convene in New York City on July 3-7, 2022

Metropolis of New Jersey

Northern New Jersey Honoree Grand Banquet
Monday, May, 9
at The Venetian, Garfield, NJ

Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy Laity Assembly & Philoptochos Convention

The Clergy Laity Assembly and the Philoptochos Convention will convene in Claymont, DE on Monday, May 16, 2022
SAINT NICHOLAS BENEVOLENT FUND

In the Gospel of Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus acknowledges those who saw Him thirsty and gave Him drink and those who saw Him hungry and gave Him food amongst others who gave alms. The Lord considers them worthy of the heavenly kingdom to come. Saint John Chrysostom speaks of charity (almsgiving) as part of the self-denial of Great Lent.

The great saint and orator of the 4th century commented that it was more important to feed the hungry than to raise the dead! We Greek Orthodox Christians are generous stewards. Throughout the year, however, there are some of us that may be experiencing true hardship but keep it a secret. Our Saint Nicholas benevolent fund was established to help those in need.

If you know of someone in our beloved Saint Nicholas community that needs help, please reach out to Fr. Bill or any Parish Council member. You too can make a difference! Mail your donation check or drop it in the collection plate in our Narthex. All communication will remain confidential. “God bless you always for your open heart!

Contact Fr Bill for information at frbill@stnicholasnj.org or 201 652 4774 x12

LIGHT A VIRTUAL CANDLE

We know that adjusting to life during the COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult, especially not being able to physically go to church. While our services have been virtual, via YouTube & Facebook Live, we are now making it possible to light a candle as well.

Go to our web site, www.stnicholasnj.org to

Light a Candle & Say a Prayer

Choose your donation amount to light candle (s) or 7-day candle (s). Upon receiving your donation, we will light your candle (s) during upcoming services.

AMAZON SMILE

Amazon has a unique feature for charitable organizations called “Amazon Smile”, which serves as an easy and hassle-free fundraiser. For any amount you spend on Amazon, they will donate 0.5% of your entire Amazon shopping proceeds to your charity of choice.

The process is simple.

1. If you are already an Amazon customer, to participate in the program, login to “smile.amazon.com”. If you are new to Amazon, you must first create an account.

2. Next, search for St. Nicholas Church. There are several churches named St. Nicholas. Look for Wyckoff, NJ. Our church may also be listed by its formal name "Greek Orthodox Community of Bergen County Inc.”

3. Shop away for all current and future orders. Every three months, Saint Nicholas receives a check from Amazon.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GIVE

Please consider giving to Saint Nicholas throughout the year in the following ways:

• Gift in Stock
• Gift of Real Estate
• Gifting from an Estate
• Corporate Matching Programs
• Gift payments via credit card through www.stnicholasnj.org and select the “Donate” button.
• Recurring gift payments via GivePlus+. Download the “Give Plus Church” app from the App store or from Google Play.
• Gift to the Saint Nicholas Benevolent Fund.
• Gift to the Giving Tree.

Call the Parish Office 201-652-4774 for details or contact Fr. Bill at ext. 12 or frbill@stnicholasnj.org
THANK YOU to our donors for their generosity!

Agrapidis, Evans and Christine
AHEPA Ramapo Chapter 453
Albanis, Gregory (2 gifts)
Andreopoulos Family
Anonymous (5 gifts)
Ayvas Family (2 gifts)
Bacalakis Family
Betts–Tsakalos, Georgette and Family
Bouloukos Family
Charllis, Charles and Erin (2 gifts)
Clark, Marilyn (2 gifts)
Colman Family
Eliades, Maios and Alice (2 gifts)
Falzone, Krias, Pappas, Eva
Fava, Peyton & Petronio Families
Fonseca, Bill and Ellice
Gikas, Father Bill and Presvytera Sophia
Gikas, Spiros
Gougeousis, Athan & Maria and Sandra
Goulet, Paul and Peggy
Grant, Ron and Ashley
Grant, Thomas, James and Emily
Griffin, Georgene
Issackedes, Claire
Janow, Lydia
Karalis, Virginia
Konogeris Family

Lainis, Gus and Renate
Melissas, Claire
Menakis, Chrys
Paulson, Fred and Family
Petropoulos Family
Phili, Kleon and Kleo
Phillips Family
Pirrmos Family
Poulos, Dennis & Charlene
Psomas, John and Roseanne
Raczko, Bill and Ariadne Krassas
Rochonchou Family
Saint Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos
Saint Nicholas Greek School
Saint Nicholas Golf Outing (2018)
Sharing & Caring Ministry
Simeonides, Niko and Carolyn
Svokos, George and Grazia
Symeonides, Michael
Symeonides, Stacy
Taggart, Michael and Ria
Thomas Family
Tsoukas, Dr. Elias and Pennee
Tselepis, Dean and Mary
Tselepis, Nick and Angelica
Toskos, Manny & Chrissie
Voulgaris Family
Zymaris — Manuel Family

WE INVITE YOU TO HELP COMPLETE OUR SAINT NICHOLAS GIVING TREE!

You can make a monetary donation of $2,500 (Silver Leaf); $4,000 (Gold Leaf); $10,000 (Rock); $25,000 (Dove) or $50,000 (Tree Trunk) and purchase a beautiful commemorative symbol with an inscription of your design, to honor or memorialize your loved one or to offer a prayer of support to our church’s mission and Her ministries. Contact Fr. Bill at 201 652 4774 ext. 12 or frbill@stnicholasnj.org

The Giving Tree has room for your gift and it is on prominent display in our Narthex.

As a reminder, you may donate over time.

Your donation will be inscribed when your final payment is received.