Special Dates in February

Tuesday, February 2nd, 8:30am
Orthros and Divine Liturgy
Presentation of our Lord Into the Temple
Usher - Elias Tsitso

Saturday, February 6th, 8:30am
Orthros and Divine Liturgy
St. Photios
Usher - Damian Piaschyk

Sunday, February 7th, 8:45am
Orthros and Divine Liturgy
16th Sunday of Matthew
Usher - Todd Singleton

Sunday, February 21st, 8:45am
Orthros and Divine Liturgy
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Usher - Tim Anderson

Sunday, February 28th, 8:45am
Orthros and Divine Liturgy
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Usher - Tatiana Malys

Important Announcement:
On Sunday, February 14th there will be no services as Fr. Soteri will be out of town and there is no one available to fill in.
On that day we will open the Church from 10:00am to 11:00am for those who wish to come light a candle and say a prayer. If you choose to come to church, please follow the normal Covid protocols that are in place (wear a mask in church and social distance). Thank you for your time and understanding. God bless you!

February Prosforo Schedule

Sunday, February 7th
Sabrina Piaschyk

Sunday, February 14th
Joanne Christ

Sunday, February 21st
Christine Cheronis

Sunday, February 28th
Angie Turner
“Consider well, my soul: do you fast? Despise not your neighbor. Do you Abstain from food? Condemn not Your brother…May Christ lead you Without stumbling into His Kingdom.”

Matins Hymn
Meatfare Sunday

Believe it or not, the Great Lent will be upon us in one month’s time, and we are asked by our Blessed Church to change our ways and prepare for the glorious Resurrection of the Lord. Fasting from foods is part of the preparation and is intended as a spiritual preparation for an experience of deeper communion with God. Each person is a unity of body and soul. A right spiritual diet and a discipline of fasting go together and strengthen each other. Just as prayer benefits not only the soul but also the body, so also fasting from foods benefits not only the body but also the soul. Fasting and prayer make us more sensitive to God’s personal presence. At important times of their lives, the Prophets fasted and prayed. So did Jesus, the Apostles, Saints, and Church Fathers. How about you?

Fasting must be undertaken willingly and not by compulsion. God doesn’t need our fasting. We don’t fast as a kind of personal punishment for our sins. We cannot pay God back for our sins but we can only confess them to Him to receive forgiveness. Fasting with a willing spirit and not just with an attitude of fulfilling a religious obligation means that we keep the purpose of fasting always before us which is to develop self-control and to remember God and His Kingdom. That way we fast not only in what we eat but also in how much we eat. Fasting is simplicity of eating. We leave the table not with loaded stomachs. Being a little hungry during the day becomes a constant reminder of God, of our dependence upon Him, and of the fact that the Lord alone can give us “good that lasts for eternal life”. In fasting and praying, He reveals Himself to us as our true food and drink.

May this year’s Great Lenten Season be a special season to you as you prepare for His Glorious Resurrection.
Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The Council is excited to have been sworn in for another year of service to our church. We welcome Louie Ttitso as a new member to the Council and thank Chris Christodoulo for his time spent as a valuable member as well. Our officers this year will be Angie Turner continuing as Secretary, Todd Singleton returning as Vice President, myself returning as President, and Bryan Cummings transitioning to the Treasurer’s position. While Damian continues to consult and help in Bryan’s transition, we thank him for spending his many years helping to manage our financials!

We would also like to announce some exciting news with our financials. We received confirmation from the Office of the Metropolis that our Parish was chosen to receive financial assistance through the Archdiocese COVID-19 Parish Recovery Initiative. Through Damian’s diligence in helping to complete the application, we received a $10,000 check through this fund that will help offset some of the losses we’ve incurred this year, especially without having our annual Yassou Festival. As many of you know, we were also named as a beneficiary to the Estate of Betty Pappas, her memory be eternal. Her estate has bequested our Parish a total of $35,000. We are blessed to have such generous parishioners both near and far and are beyond thankful to everyone who has contributed the enhancement and sustainability of our church!

With love in Christ,

Tim Anderson

MEMORIALS

In memory of Dimitrios Kioumourtis
Voula & Ron Zorich
Peter Plumpis
Dean & Linda Spiridon
Elizabeth & Mark Frederick

In memory of John Malamas
Elizabeth & Mark Frederick

In memory of John Silo
Kathy & George Theofilactidis
Elizabeth & Mark Frederick

In memory of Fr. Nicholas and Presvytera Claire Rafael to the Ladies’ Erane Society
Dr. Timothy & Chryssanthe Rafael

In memory of Marguerite and Kostas Mihal
Paul Mihal
Elizabeth & Mark Frederick

In memory of Bill Siradis
Elizabeth & Mark Frederick

In memory of Kurt Cummings
Athena Constantine

In memory of Anita (Nitsa) Kettis
Kalope Jamesson & family
Middle/High virtual Church School News

For virtual Church school from January- May the middle/high school students will be joining the zoom meetings but in a separate break-out room. Students are to join the zoom at 2 pm (not 1:30) every other Sunday and will have a different lesson that is created for the needs of this level of the student. Materials will be mailed home ahead of time, and I encourage both the student and parents to read the material. A schedule is below with topics. If there is a topic that you do not wish your student to participate in then please email me. Many of these topics are sensitive and require the utmost maturity.

Middle/High virtual Church school schedule

1/24- Peer pressure
2/7- Bullying
2/21- Dealing with gossip
3/7- Managing stress
3/21- Body image
4/4- Drug and alcohol abuse
4/18- Suicide
5/9- Pornography
5/16- Abstinence
5/23- Life after High school

All of these topics and information that will be presented are from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Department of youth and young adult ministries. If you have questions, comments, or concerns please call or email me.

Elementary virtual Church School News

We have started off our 2021 virtual program with GREAT success! Many of you are attending, and having fun learning about the major feasts of the Church. Music with Dora and craft with Lexie are on a rotating schedule. Thank you to both of these ladies for enriching our program! Wonderful job everyone, and keep up the great work.

Thank you,

Sabrina Piaschyk
PHILOPTOCHOS

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
St. Nicholas Ladies Erene Society
February 2021
Submitted by Liz Frederick, Secretary

We all pray that the Dear Lord continues to watch over us as humanity throughout the world battles the pandemic of COVID.

Although we celebrated St. Basil’s Feast Day, due to COVID, we were unable to have in person services nor have a second collection tray for St. Basil’s Academy. If you would like to donate to St. Basil’s Academy, you can mail your check to St. Nicholas, and Christina Anderson Treasurer will forward to St. Basil’s Academy along with our Chapter’s donation.

Fr. Soterios continues to present a brief biography of women saints who may not be as well known as others. This month he presented on St. Xenia of Rome, whose feast day is celebrated on 1/24/21. These biographical sketches are very educational and appreciated by the members.

Our drive thru bake sale was a success with limited remaining inventory. Anyone interested in purchasing a spinach pie or loukoumathes can make arrangements with Kim Tatoian or Liz Frederick. We are planning to have another drive thru bake sale in the Spring. We agreed to donate remaining baklava for the Sunday School fund raiser in March. Thank you everyone for your support.

Donations for January, approved by the membership, are as follows: St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, $1,000; St. Basil’s Academy, $300; Detroit Metropolis Ministries in honor of St. Spiridon, $100. Thank you to those who made monetary donations: Dr. Timothy and Chrysante Rafael, Dennis Joanethis, Virginia Coustenis. These donations are greatly appreciated enabling us to continue philanthropic missions and meet the National and Metropolis obligations.

Kim Tatoian will be sending a reminder letter to Chapter members for dues payable now thru April 2021. Many thanks to Kim Tatoian, Kathy Kieva Tetlak, and Christina Anderson for delivering poinsettias to those unable to leave their homes. Next meeting will be held on February 4th, via Zoom, at 6:30pm. If you have difficulties with Zoom, we have members that can assist you on your computer with internet or smart phone. Fr. Soterios coordinates the Zoom meetings, please send him your email address so he can register you for the meeting.

Our Mission: To promote charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic outreach; to preserve the sanctity of life and family; and to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and traditions.

New members are always welcome! Join us!
Greetings St. Nicholas Family,

Thank you! We have had a great response to the 2021 Stewardship campaign. Many cards have been returned and many of you have increased your pledge from last year! Through your generosity we can meet our stewardship goal of $114,676. Our church stays open and our ministries are made possible because of your giving.

Stewardship tip: Give consistently
The easiest way to give consistently is to use your bank’s online website to set up St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church as an auto bill pay. Check into it! We have all adapted to new ways of doing things over the past 12 months, maybe this could be another!

Please contact us if you have not received a stewardship packet or need a stewardship card!

Thank you for your continued faithful giving to St. Nicholas and our Parish Ministries. We are grateful for you.

Sincerely,
Courtney Theofilactidis, courtneyebush@gmail.com 716-664-1077
Tiffany Theofilactidis, ttheofilactidis@gmail.com
Damian Piaschyk, dpiaschyk@gmail.com

A NOTE FROM THE CHOIR
Liturgical music is an indispensable part of any Orthodox service. But, it is only one aspect. Of course, we need a priest, and people to help him. In this article, we’d like to recognize two people who have been assisting during the Divine Liturgy services alongside the church musicians. These are Louie “Elias” Tsitso, and Dmitry Piaschyk, son of Damian and Sabrina Piaschyk. Louie has been a faithful servant, quietly and efficiently doing whatever is needed to conduct services. Dmitry is the newest addition to our altar servers, and despite his tender age, he performs his duties with a sense of pride and attentiveness beyond his years. These two servants are wonderful examples that, no matter how old or young we are, we can always find ways to serve the Lord.

With Love in Christ,
Jim Cheronis
Choir Director & Chanter
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Bean Soup
Fasolada
Mary Michos Riolo
St. Nicholas Cookbook: YASSOU FAVORITES AND MORE

This is a great soup for our cold winter months along with COVID which has made us a little more house bound giving us time to cook from scratch!

1 lb. navy beans
½ c. olive oil
1 finely chopped onion
2 finely chopped garlic cloves

1 (8oz.) can tomato sauce, or
4 to 5 T. tomato paste, diluted in water
Salt and Pepper to taste
1 Bay leaf

Soak beans in cold water overnight, or 2 hours. Change water, 3/4 of the pot (Dutch oven) full. Add rest of the ingredients. Boil on high, then reduce heat to medium and cook until tender, about 2 hours. Broth should be slightly thickened. Yield: 5 to 6 servings. Delicious winter soup!

Order your own cook book or gift for a friend, email Liz Frederick at lizfrederick3231@gmail.com.