

## THE WONDERWORKER

**ISSUE 1      January 2021**

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### Special Dates in January

Sunday, January 3rd, 8:45am  
**Orthros and Divine Liturgy**  
Sunday Before Epiphany

Tuesday, January 5th, 5:00pm  
**Orthros/Divine Liturgy/Great Agiasmos**  
Epiphany (Blessing of the Waters)  
**Usher - Joanne Christ**

Thursday, January 7th, 8:30am  
**Orthros and Divine Liturgy**  
St. John the Baptist  
**Usher -**

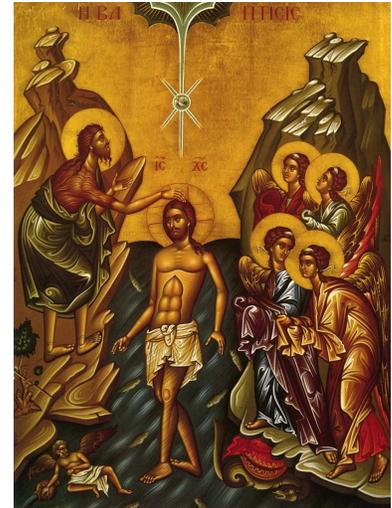
Sunday, January 10th, 8:45am  
**Orthros and Divine Liturgy**  
Sunday After Epiphany  
**Usher - Damian Piaschyk**

Sunday, January 17th, 8:45am  
**Orthros and Divine Liturgy**  
12th Sunday of Luke/St. Anthony the Great  
**Usher - Tatiana Malys**

Sunday, January 24th, 8:45am  
**Orthros and Divine Liturgy**  
14th Sunday of Luke  
**Usher - Bryan Cummings**

Saturday, January 30th, 8:30am  
**Orthros and Divine Liturgy**  
Three Hierarchs  
**Usher - Angie Turner**

Sunday, January 31st, 8:30am  
**Orthros and Divine Liturgy**  
15th Sunday of Luke  
**Usher - Todd Singleton**



### Announcements:

Our sincerest apologies to **John and Julie Dimitri** for inadvertently leaving them off the Christmas Card. Please forgive us!

Vasilopita Sunday will be January 10th. One vasilopita will be cut this year and everyone will receive a piece. The Philoptochos will have a second tray with the proceeds going to St. Basil Academy.

Parish Council Oath: January 10th.

### January Prosforo Schedule

Sunday, January 3rd  
**Sabrina Piaschyk**

Sunday, January 10th  
**Joanne Christ**

Sunday, December 17th  
**Christine Cheronis**

Sunday, January 24th  
**Angie Turner**

Sunday, January 31st  
**Tiffany Theofilactidis**



**Reverend Father Soterios Rousakis, Protopresbyter**  
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Happy New Year! Everything has a beginning and an end—this past year, our journey in life, and the history of our nation. Everything changes. Everything is in process. Entering the Year 2021, we bid farewell to an end and greet a new beginning.

The Sunday before Theophany, in anticipation of the celebration of the Baptism of Christ, Epiphany, the gospel lesson is a passage with the theme appropriately of the preparation for a new beginning. John the Baptist announces the public appearance of Christ and seeks to prepare the people to accept Him. This preaching of St. John is the beginning of the Good News of Christ by anticipation. St. John the Baptist says to you also, “Get the road ready for the Lord; make a straight path for Him to travel...the man who will come after me is much greater than I am.”

What a message! What a spiritual challenge! These words are especially relevant for us as we enter a new era. Can we begin the new calendar year by setting down as foundation for it the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Can we during 2021 “prepare the way of the Lord” by focusing on the life of Christ as God’s eternal Good News for us? Can we make His paths straight, by believing in Him more fervently and by following His teachings more closely? What a glorious hope, a spiritual goal worthy of the love of Jesus Christ as we finished 2020 and enter 2021.

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ grant to all a Healthy, Blessed, and Prosperous New Year.



*vision 2022*  
ST. NICHOLAS

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH · JAMESTOWN, NY

It is with great joy that the committee announces we have received commitments to pursue projects from the prospective list of legacy projects! Lou and Melissa Deppas and family will donate a new exterior sign in memory of his parents, Anthony and Domenica Deppas. This is a very important improvement that was very popular in our recent survey -- many thanks to the Deppas Family for making it happen! Around this new monument, we will plant a garden to further beautify our Church. Gregory and Christina Anderson will donate all of the plantings and mulch as well as organize the labor to put in place. On behalf of all parishoners, we extend our enthusiastic thanks to these thoughtful and generous stewards of St. Nicholas parish!

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Dear Fellow Parishioners,

As we turn the page on 2020, we pray for the continued hope and blessings of a new year and the health and safety of all of our parishioners.

The Council starts the year with a close eye on the safety of everyone who is attending church. As you've seen in the weekly announcements, we made the decision to take a pause on in-person services, but will still continue our Facebook live stream for the two weeks that the church is closed. These decisions aren't made lightly. As cases continue to rise in our County, we must all take precautions that will ensure everyone's safety.

On this same note, we would like to encourage the continued transparency of everyone who attends church. We know that temperatures are checked upon entry and it's required for everyone to wear a mask, but we also need to be diligent about informing the Council if you have attended church and then later tested positive, or are in required quarantine because of a close contact to someone who has tested positive. Much like the County's reporting system, we will never identify cases by name, but we would like to keep the general population of our church informed, just as happens with local businesses and school systems.

Once again, we pray for everyone's health, safety and blessings in the new year!

With love in Christ,

Tim Anderson  
Council President

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### **Memorials**

**In memory of Marguerite Mihal**

Gary Georgeff  
Lewis V. Koleci

**In memory of Dimitrios Kioumourtis**

to the St. Nicholas Scholarship Fund  
from the Turner & Cheronis Families  
Pamela L. Lewis

**In memory of John Malamas**

John & Toulia Bechakas

**In memory of Katie Johnson Hoffman**

Victoria & John Bertrand

### Sunday School News

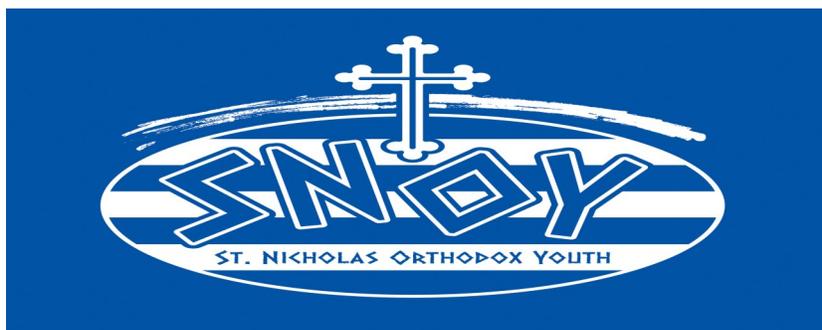
Virtual Church will continue on Sunday January 10th, at 1:30 pm. The classes will be divided into two groups.

K-6 will be taught by Sabrina, Dora, and Lexie. We will alternate between crafts (Lexie) and music (Dora).

7-12 will meet with Father every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Time to be determined.

If you have any questions, please contact Sabrina. Thank you for your continued support.

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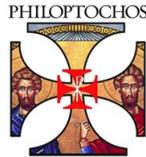


Thanks to the efforts of our youth ministry, St. Nicholas was presented with a beautiful plaque recognizing the Church's Angel Tree program. For the second year in a row, and through the artistic talents of our kids, and the generosity of our parishioners, St. Nicholas presented gifts for every child under the care of CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) of Chautauqua County. We received a heartfelt card from the staff and volunteers of CASA thanking all of us for the tears of joy and excitement we helped to create. Father Soteri and the youth volunteers appreciate all of you who bought gifts and got them back to the church on time. It takes teamwork to make the dream come true!

#### A NOTE FROM THE CHOIR:

This year our parish celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with a Christmas Eve service. We heard beautiful, joyful hymns during the Orthros & Divine Liturgy, highlighted by Melina Singleton singing "On This Day the Virgin Gives Birth". Her sweet voice left many with tears in their eyes and smiles on their faces. At the conclusion of the service, the faithful sang some of the most popular traditional Western Christmas songs, like Joy to the World and Silent Night.





Hoping everyone has had a wonderful Christmas celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, as we move to celebrate St. Basil and the coming of the new year, 2021 and Epiphany! We all pray the new year will bring good health and happiness to all.

With everyone's volunteerism and assistance from Demetra Lecourezos of Heavenly Puffs and Alexis Singleton, we had a successful drive thru bake sale! Many thanks to Joanne and Madison Christ, Rachel and Christina Anderson, Kim and Marty Tatoian, Helen Voulgaris, Toulia and Larry Caskey and Chris Rousakis for baking the spinach pies! Our Poinsettia fund raiser was also successful and decorated the church very nicely. Please call Kim Tatoian or Liz Frederick to purchase baked goods or to pick up your poinsettia. Thank you everyone for your support for these events including the Christmas raffle, enabling us to continue our philanthropic missions to our parish and the community.

Winners of the Christmas raffle were James Zorich, Children's Basket; Andrea Jonethis, Mary Kay basket (generously redrawn for Violet Kianos); Terry Louis, Christmas Wreath; Linda Manno, Table quilt; Dora Turner, Religious Basket; Irene Gilmour, Family Basket; Gregory Anderson, Nativity Scene. Many thanks to all the donors that make this raffle possible, Linda Spiridon, Christine Cheronis, Liz Frederick, and Erene Society.

December donations were to the CASA Angel Tree program, National: UNICEF and General Medical Fund; Metropolis: St. Spiridon Fund; Alzheimer's Research in honor of Martha Campbell.

We are pleased to welcome new members to the Erene Society: Madison Christ, Tatiana Malys, Sabrina Piaschuk, Kathy Tetlak, Dora and Lexie Turner. Next meeting will be held on, January 14th, 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. New members are always welcome! THANK YOU EVERYONE! ~ Submitted by Liz Frederick, Secretary

I would like to thank everyone for all their support and dedication during these challenging times. I feel honored to be surrounded by some many strong and supportive people here in at St. Nicholas Church.

Our Annual Raffle sale was another fantastic Success! Thank you all who donated our raffle items and all those who participated.

Thank you to all who purchased Poinsettia's to decorate our Church. It was so heartwarming to see over 35 poinsettia's in Honor of their Loved ones past & present. We were able to deliver poinsettia's to those in our parish that have been homebound as well.

One of the many things that I love about being part of our Ladies Philoptochos Erene Society, is the money we raise goes back into our Chautauqua, Warren & Russell Community. Helping those in need, while supporting our Beloved St. Nicholas Church; We the ladies decided to try our hand at a Drive Thru Bake Sale. Our goal was to promote and keep St. Nicholas Church name out in the community during these challenging times. With the support of so many, not only in our Parish but in the community, we were able to bring our yummy goodies to fruition. I am so humbled by the energy and the positive minds of everyone who came out to support us. Not only was it a different way, following the Covid guidelines, but it was being part of a small but mighty team. What a wonderful experience it was for me. I enjoyed each day, getting to know my fellow parishioners. I am more than grateful to my right-hand ladies & gents who helped make our Bake Sale a HUGE SUCCESS!!!! I AM SO PROUD to be part of such generosity. We here at St. Nicholas Ladies Society received wonderful feedback from the community. People near & far missed OUR FOOD at the Yassou Festival & Taste of St Nicholas.

Again, Thank you all for your support & dedication.

May God continue to bless us all, especially those less fortunate than us.

With God's Love,

Kim Tatoian- President Philoptochos Ladies Erene Society

“...The Greatest Of These Is Love.” 1 cor 13:13

Happy New Year St. Nicholas Family!

Thank you for being a part of what St. Nicholas will accomplish this year! You will soon be receiving the 2021 Stewardship campaign mailing. Through your financial giving we can meet our stewardship goal of \$114,676.

This is an increase from years past and yes, the economy and financial stress are at the forefront of our minds. However, we know that God is in charge and if we put Him first He will give us all we need.

Over the past five years the median stewardship pledge per family has stayed flat, around \$500. The most common pledge over the same time period has been \$300 per family. We are thankful for every commitment and know you will give generously in 2021. The financial figures we have included on the stewardship card are meant to guide you in your giving. For example, it costs \$500 per day to operate our Church and Our 2021 Goal can be met if each family makes a commitment of \$1,350.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Nicholas and our Parish Ministries.

Sincerely,

Courtney Theofilactidis, courtneyebush@gmail.com 716-664-1077

Tiffany Theofilactidis, ttheofilactidis@gmail.com

Damian Piaschky, dpiaschky@gmail.com





## ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Hazelnut Biscotti

Paximathia

Toula Bechakas

St. Nicholas Cookbook: YASSOU FAVORITES AND MORE

A nice snack with a hot cup of coffee or hot chocolate!

2 ½ c. flour

½ tsp. baking powder

½ tsp. baking soda

1/8 tsp. salt

1 ½ tsp. anise

½ c. butter

1 c. sugar

2 eggs

Zest of 1 lemon, lime, or orange

1 ½ tsp. vanilla

¼ tsp. almond extract

1 ½ c. hazelnuts (can use less or almonds)

Mix together dry ingredients. Cream together butter, sugar, eggs, zest and flavorings. Fold in dry ingredients and chopped nuts; mix. Divide stiff dough in thirds on parchment paper on cookie sheet. Form long flat logs, 2x16 inches. Bake for 25 minutes at 325 degrees. Carefully cut 3/8 inch thick on diagonal, lay flat, rebake 12 minutes at 250 degrees on each side. Cool and store in airtight container. Freeze well. Yield: about 65 small biscotti.

Great snacking biscotti or light dessert. To order your own cook book or gift for a friend, email Liz Frederick at [lizfrederick3231@gmail.com](mailto:lizfrederick3231@gmail.com).