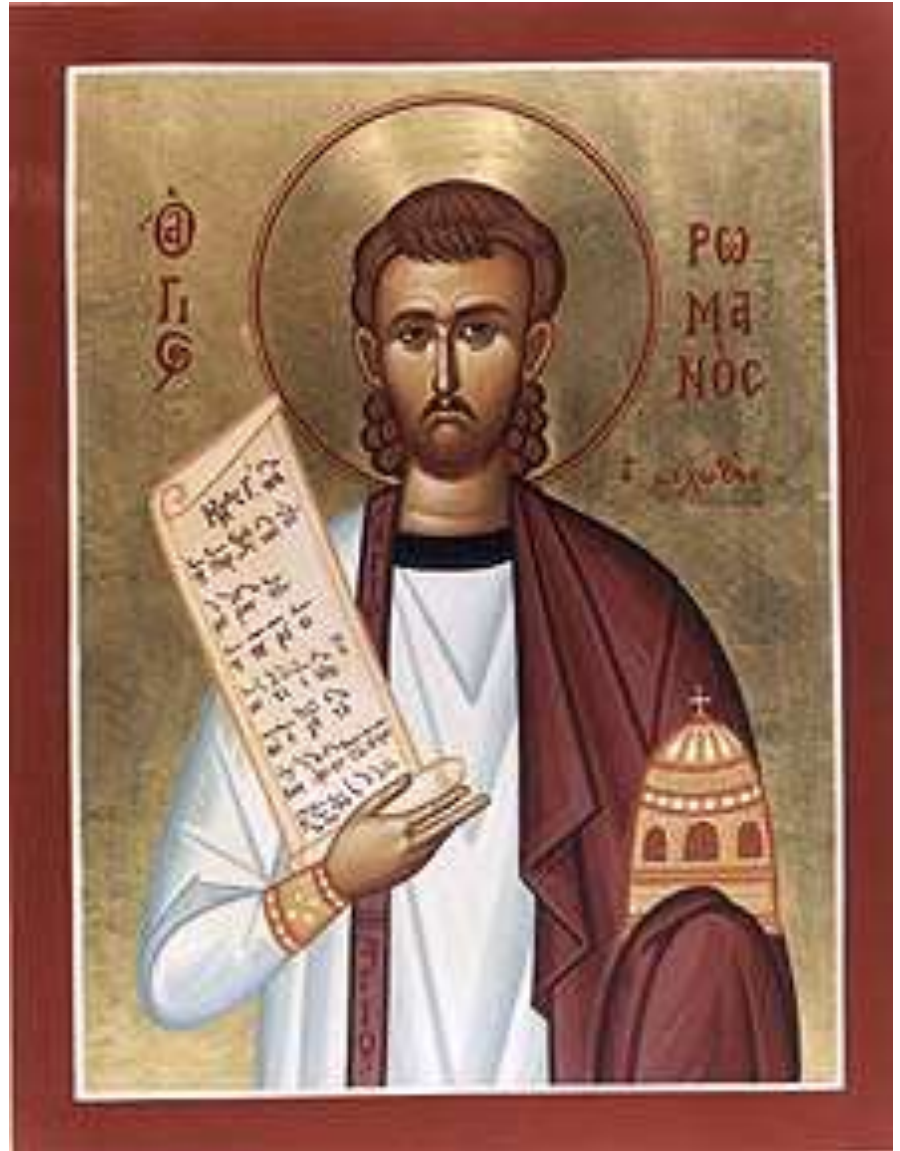


PARISH LIFE AT SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Saint Romanos the Melodist

commemorated on Sunday, October 1
To read more about this Saint turn to page 11

Worship services continue to be streamed on YouTube.

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

You may donate and light a virtual candle by visiting our website:

www.stnicholasnj.org

**SAINT NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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Wyckoff, NJ 07481

Tel.: (201) 652-4774 Fax: (201) 652-0789
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SUNDAY FALL WORSHIP SERVICES

Orthros 9:00 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Weekday Services including
Saturdays begin at 9:00 AM Orthros

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PASTOR'S PULPIT

I AM THE WAY

With the onset of Global Positioning satellites (GPS) it becomes difficult to excuse ourselves for not being able to get to our desired location or find an address. It seems that most people do not ask for directions any more because they can find their way on their car's GPS navigation system or by using the internet services and applications like Waze. When it comes to finding our way and getting direction in our spiritual lives we have challenges as well— the trials and tribulations we encounter in our lives and the various influencers, advertisers, persuaders who try to grab our attention. They plant a well seeded thought or suggestion and then entice us to do something like make a purchase. "It is just a thought" you might hear a professional persuader say to you, or "I am just saying" would be another comment. Jesus was the greatest of persuaders because His messages have endured for centuries. Not that everyone follows Him or acts on His messages, but the Lord as given people direction by His boundless love, His sacrifice/death on the Cross, His Resurrection and His Ascension into Heaven. He certainly chose the divine way and He calls Himself "The Way." Jesus states "I am the Way." The statement gives us direction, a goal and a destination but also and identifier. "The Way" here is a person— God Himself— Jesus Christ. He is not a road or a street. Yet, by following "the Way" we bypass "dead end streets" like substance abuse, hypocrisy, vices and other sinful actions that soil His image and likeness in us. If we allow Him to, Jesus directs us through "potholes and rough roads" by being a faithful guide of our souls and bodies. He is the Way to a new life full of peace, love,

PASTOR'S PULPIT

forgiveness, and healing. We follow the Way and become who we were meant to be— sons and daughters of the Most High God. He is the Way to transform our life from mere existence to a life in God. “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me,” said Jesus. To get on “the Way” to follow Jesus and His path, requires relinquishment, re-direction and repentance. Just as we change direction when we are lost, in the same “way” we alter our plans to follow Jesus Christ. Ask any lay person who abandoned career and left friends and family behind to become a monk or nun what it took for them to heed the Lord’s call and be on their way to Him. The first followers of Jesus in the first century were called followers of “The Way” who endured tremendous hardships and persecutions yet changed history through their martyrdoms— confessions of faith and personal sacrifices for Christ. Jesus is the Way to the heavenly kingdom because He is the example of who and what we can aspire to in our Christ like living through faith and works.

So if you are spiritually de-railed or lost , then follow the better Way.

Which way? Our Lord Jesus, is the Way!

2023 PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

WALK WHERE OUR LORD WALKED! JOIN OUR PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND!

ISRAEL AND CONSTANTINOPLE (ISTANBUL)
OCTOBER 27 TO NOVEMBER 8, 2023

\$4700 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY INCLUDES AIR FARE.

CLOUD TOURS IS STILL ACCEPTING DEPOSITS FOR RESERVATIONS

VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE AT WWW.STNICHOLASNJ.ORG OR
CONTACT TOULA AT TOULA@CLOUDTOURS.COM OR 718-721-3808

**NEWS: WE HAVE BEEN GRANTED AN AUDIENCE WITH HIS
ALL HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW
ON **NOVEMBER 5TH**!**

WORSHIP SERVICES

ARE STREAMED ON: **FACEBOOK:** https://www.facebook.com/stnicholasnj/videos?ref=page_internal

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

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

13TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

8:30AM ORTHROS AND 9:30AM DIVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

SUNDAY BEFORE HOLY CROSS

8:30AM ORTHROS AND 9:30AM DIVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

8:30AM ORTHROS AND 9:30AM DIVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

1ST SUNDAY OF LUKE

8:30AM ORTHROS AND 9:30AM DIVINE LITURGY

WEEKDAY SERVICES

NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

9:00AM ORTHROS & 10:00AM DIVINE LITURGY

THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:00AM ORTHROS & 10:00AM DIVINE LITURGY

TO ALL WHO CELEBRATE
CHRONIA POLLA (MANY YEARS)!

OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE

9:00AM ORTHROS AND 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

3RD SUNDAY OF LUKE

9:00AM ORTHROS AND 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

SUNDAY OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

9:00AM ORTHROS AND 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY

TEACHING LITURGY (PART 1)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

6TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

9:00AM ORTHROS AND 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

7TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

9:00AM ORTHROS AND 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY

WEEKDAY SERVICES

SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

9:00AM ORTHROS & 10:00AM DIVINE LITURGY

SAINT DEMETRIOS THE MYRRH-STREAMER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

9:00AM ORTHROS & 10:00AM DIVINE LITURGY

TO ALL WHO CELEBRATE
CHRONIA POLLA (MANY YEARS)!

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council hope all our parishioners are enjoying the summer. This was an opportune time to complete a longstanding project. Some of you may have noticed that the English version of the Lord's Prayer has been added above the Greek version in our beautiful St. Nicholas Church. After interviewing and getting bids from iconographers, the Parish Council contracted with Miltiades Afentoulis, a well known iconographer. Mr Afentoulis not only completed the project in one week he also touched up the Greek version to it's original brilliance. The project came in under budget thanks to a donation of labor and material costs by parishioner Bill Karsos. The Parish Council thanks Paul Savidis for spearheading the project. Also, thanks to John Psomas and Nick Pirsos for their assistance and to Dimitri for finding the manpower needed to move the pews.



SAVE THE DATES

THE ENTHRONEMENT OF HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN APOSTOLOS OF NEW JEESEY

Saturday, September 16, 2023

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sunday, October 1, 2023

YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, October 15, 2023

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Sunday, November 19, 2023

NEW MINISTRY: SAINT NICHOLAS SELF-AWARENESS AND SELF CARE

The Saint Nicholas Self-Awareness and Self-Care Ministry is a new no-cost support service offered to our individuals and families to assist with child rearing, marital relationships and navigating daily life. The ministry is led by Dr. Eva Pappas Krias, an experienced and NY State-licensed psychologist who donates her time and talents to our community. Our Lord wants us to be joyful and grateful but the pressures of life can sometimes be overwhelming. At times, we may need to seek some support and counsel. An ongoing confidential support group is also offered as another option for all, called Sharing and Caring.

Please contact Eva for more information at 212-475-8614 or ekrias1@gmail.com or contact Fr. Bill at frbill@stnicholasnj.org

SHARING AND CARING

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!

Contact Dr. Eva Krias at ekrias@optonline.net

Or Fr. Bill at 201 652 4774 ext. 12

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

World Mental Health Day is marked every year on October 10 to raise awareness about mental health around the world and to mobilize efforts to support those experiencing mental health issues.

The theme for 2023, set by the World Foundation of Mental Health, is:

'Mental health is a universal human right.'

LADIES PRAYER GROUP

Our Saint Nicholas Ladies Prayer Group continues to meet in person and via ZOOM on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, for a time of dedicated prayer and fellowship. Ladies of all ages are welcome to join us at any time as we pray and call out the names of so many in need of a touch from our Lord. Whether it is a need for healing, comfort, financial and/or relational assistance, freedom from addictions, to name a few areas in our lives, God is able to do mighty things when we trust him enough to ask. He says you do not receive because you do not ask. So we use this time of prayer to put our faith in God and his faithfulness to hear us. The answered prayers and miracles we are witness to these past 15 years is countless! Please join us and see your own faith grow by being part of this amazing, faithful group of ladies. Contact the office or Irene Ayvas at iaivas@yahoo.com for details on joining or to submit a prayer request. There are no prayers too small or too large for the Lord!

SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL LADIES CONFERENCE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

LADIES of all ages IT'S TIME FOR A FAITH LIFT!!!

We are pleased to once again sponsor our ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS LADIES CONFERENCE, "BREAKING OUT IN FAITH", on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023 from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Complimentary lunch to follow. As in the past 5 years, we will fill our church with women of all ages to hear testimonies of God's goodness and faithfulness where we are encouraged, edified and uplifted in our faith. Something amazing happens when you have a room full of women willing to break out of routine to grow in God's grace. We start with a time of worship with contemporary hymns that speak directly to our hearts and then hear testimonies of amazing speakers. This year we have something special planned so please tell the ladies in your family, friends and neighborhoods to join us. All are welcome!! There is no charge, but a free will offering will be accepted.

You will be the best Christian, woman, friend, mother, daughter, sister, person you can be when you take time for yourself to be restored, renewed and refreshed by God! This is a place to start!

Registration begins on September 1st by calling Irene Ayvas at 201-803-2307 or emailing her at iaivas@yahoo.com

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

PHILOPTOCHOS

Philoptochos continued its outreach throughout the summer. Thank you to Peggy Goulet for chairing these events. Volunteers from our parish made sandwiches, and participated in feeding the hungry at The Last Soup Run in NYC. Thank you to all those who continuously volunteer!

Every good thing in life is a gift, and when you are in an advantaged position, it is especially important to give to those who are less fortunate. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Peggy Goulet. peggoul2@aol.com

Philoptochos also prepared and served a beautiful luncheon to the community on “Panagia’s”.

Thank you to all the women who volunteered.

Philoptochos will hold its first meeting on Monday, September 11th. If you are not yet a member of Philoptochos, please come join us at our next meeting to see what we are all about. Hopefully you will like what we are doing and will want to become a member. Either way, we will be pleased with your presence!

In ICXC,

Roseanne Psomas

Philoptochos



Beautiful and delicious spread prepared by Philoptochos for the celebration of the Dormition of the Theotokos Feast Day (August 15)



Feeding the homeless in NYC..
To all who participat5ed in this event: Thank You1



DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

The first Agape meeting will be held on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 7:00pm
in the Fellowship hall.

The Daughters of Penelope are selling fresh balsam fir Christmas Wreaths until October 31. These low-priced wreaths make great gifts, can be shipped anywhere in the 48 contiguous states and will be delivered in time to decorate your home for the Christmas holiday.

Please visit our table after Liturgy in the Fellowship Hall to see a sample wreath and place your order.

KALI PAREA (SENIOR FELLOWSHIP)

Dear Friends,

.... And all at once summer is over and autumn is here.

Please join us on Tuesday, September 5th at 12 Noon , in our Fellowship Hall for a PowerPoint presentation of our visit to the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine in Manhattan. Photos of the church and its magnificent icons, taken by Georgia Lipane and me will be described by Father Jim. Inspired by the architecture of the Cathedral Church of Hagia Sophia and the church in Chora, this church stands as a beacon of hope to all.

A light lunch will be served. **Please join us on September 5th at 12 Noon!**

Positive Thoughts

Abundance grows from the seed of gratitude.

I live in an attitude of gratitude.

Cultivate within your hearts an attitude of gratitude.

Gratitude is one of the healthiest of all human emotions.

Hebrews 12:14

“Make every effort to live in peace with everyone.”

BOOKSTORE

This fall, come and enrich your faith at our **updated bookstore**, which now includes new and refreshed content categorized by Children, Teen, and Adult sections! In addition to books and icons, we now have **a new gift shop area** within the bookstore. Treat yourself, a friend, or loved one with a special faith-based gift! Also, check out our discount bin for great deals. Come and See!

SAINT ROMANOS THE MELODIST

Saint **Roman the Melodist** (also *Romanos* and *Romanus*, from Greek Ρομανός), a Greek hymn-writer called "the Pindar of rhythmic poetry," was born at Emesa (Hems) in Syria. His feast day is October 1 with the feast of the Protection of the Mother of God.

LIFE

The popular patron of church singers, Saint Romanos, was born in Emesa in the latter part of the fifth century. Whether or not his Jewish parents converted to Christianity is uncertain; Romanos himself was baptized as a young boy and developed a great love for the house of God. When he came of age he served as a verger, lighting the lamps and preparing the censer. After moving to Beirut, he was ordained to the diaconate and assigned to the Church of the Resurrection. He had a rather mediocre voice, but his pure and simple heart was filled with love for God, and to assist at the church services gave him the greatest joy.

During the reign of Emperor Anastasius I (491-518), the young deacon moved to Constantinople. He led an ascetic life of prayer and fasting, but in his humility he thought of himself as being rather worldly. He had a special love for the Mother of God, and would go at night to pray in the Blachernae Church, which housed the precious omophorion of the Holy Virgin. The saintly Patriarch Euthemius loved Roman for his many virtues, and paid him the same wage as those singers and readers who were more educated and more talented. The latter resented this and derided Roman for his evident lack of musical and theological training. Roman himself was painfully aware of these defects; he longed for a melodious voice worthy of leading the faithful in praising God.

It was the day before the Feast of Our Lord's Nativity, and Saint Romanos was assigned to lead the singing that evening at the All-Night Vigil. He was responsible not only for the singing but also for the text of the hymns. After everyone had left, he remained in the Blachernae Church and tearfully entreated the Mother of God to help him. Exhausted, he fell asleep with his sorrow. In answer to his prayer, the Mother of God appeared to him in a dream. She handed him a scroll and said to him gently, "Here, eat this." Roman did so and awoke, overcome with joy and the lingering presence of the heavenly visitor.



Romanos Melodos vision,
in The Menologion of Basil II

When it came time that night for him to sing, Saint Romanos received the patriarch's blessing and, vested in a special garment reserved for the principal singer, he stepped onto the ambo. He began to sing: "Today the Virgin gives birth to Him Who is above all being . . ." The emperor, the patriarch, the clergy - the entire congregation listened in wonder at the profound theology and the clear, sonorous voice which issued forth. They all joined in the refrain, "A new-born Babe, the pre-eternal God." Later, Saint Roman told the patriarch about his vision, and the singers who had made fun of him prostrated themselves in repentance and humbly asked the Saint's forgiveness.

It should be noted that the kontakion as we know it today—a short hymn honoring and describing a particular feast or saint—is only the prologue or proomion of a full kontakion which, at the height of its development in the sixth century, was a poetic sermon composed of from 18 - 30 verses or ikoi, each with a refrain, and united by an acrostic. When it was sung to an original melody, it was called an idiomelon. Originally, Saint Romanos' works were known simply as "psalms," "odes," or poems. It was only in the ninth century that the term kontakion—from the word kontos, the shaft on which the parchment was rolled—came into use.

With the Nativity Kontakion, which has been dated to the year 518, Saint Romanos began a period of prolific creativity. Altogether, he wrote as many as one thousand kontakion, celebrating feasts and saints throughout the liturgical year. In the words of one scholar, Saint Romanos' compositions successfully combined "the solemnity and dignity of the sermon with the delicacy and liveliness of lyric and dramatic poetry."

Because Saint Romanos is commemorated on the same day as the feast of Protection, he commonly appears as a cen-

SAINT ROMANOS THE MELODIST

tral figure in the icon of that feast, even though there is no historical connection (the event celebrated by the Protection icon occurred in the tenth century). Although in more recent icons Saint Romanos is depicted as a deacon standing on the ambo, Russian church musicologist Johann von Gardner points out that in the oldest icons he is more accurately portrayed wearing the short red tunic of a singer and standing on a raised platform in the middle of the church.

Saint Romanos is said to have composed more than 8000 similar hymns or kontakia (Gr. κοντάκιον, "scroll") celebrating the feasts of the ecclesiastical year, the lives of the saints, and other sacred subjects. Some of the more famous are:

- on the death of a monk (extremely impressive)
- the Last Judgment
- the treachery of Judas
- the martyrdom of Saint Stephen



Romanos the Melodist's kontakion Ἡ παρθένος σήμερον

HYMNS

KONTAKION (TONE 8)

You were adorned from childhood with the godly virtues of the Spirit;
you were a precious adornment of the Church of Christ, all-wise Roman,
for you made it lovely with beautiful hymnody.
Therefore, we entreat you, grant your divine gift to those who desire it,
that we may cry out to you: "Rejoice, all-blessed Father, beauty of the Church."

TROPARION (TONE 4)

You gladdened Christ's Church by your melodies
like an inspired heavenly trumpet.
You were enlightened by the Mother of God
and shone on the world as God's poet.
We lovingly honor you, righteous Roman.

SOURCE: [HTTPS://ORTHODOXWIKI.ORG/ROMAN_THE_MELODIST](https://orthodoxwiki.org/Roman_the_Melodist)

NATIONAL FORUM OF GREEK ORTHODOX MUSICIANS

The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians is the Archdiocesan ministry responsible for liturgical music activities and the development, support, and recognition of church musicians. Chartered in 1976 as an official auxiliary of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the National Forum serves as the liaison among local church musicians, metropolis church music federations, and the Archdiocese. It also serves as the gathering place for church musicians to discuss issues related to liturgical music and to formulate needed responses.

The National Forum has four major areas of focus:

Support for CHOIRS, providing resources and activities to improve the quality of choirs and the availability of choral music in the church

Support for CHANTERS and the preservation of BYZANTINE CHANT

Support for YOUTH CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAMS, including hymnology and junior choirs

Support for CLERGY, including parish music ministries, and support for clergy

Now is a great time to become a STEWARD of the National Forum or to renew your membership!

Please help to support the vital mission of the National Forum in providing resources and guidance to all our Church Musicians! With the support of its stewards, the National Forum can continue to accomplish the many projects that strengthen and perpetuate our sacred Orthodox hymnology. Here are some of the projects that stewardship contributions have supported recently:

- Researched, prepared, published the *Annual Liturgical Guidebook* each year.
- Completed *A Guide for Greek Orthodox Church Music Directors*.
- Distributed Church Music Sunday materials to each parish of our Archdiocese including a complimentary National Church Music Sunday poster.
- Co-sponsored Church Music Institutes with Church Music Federations in several Metropolises (via Zoom during the pandemic).
- Created and distributed a new brochure with up-to-date information about the National Forum.
- Provided research and resources regarding ways to return to singing/chanting safely.

Listed below are some key plans for 2022-2023.

- Reviewing and updating The Companion Guide to the "Liturgical Guidebook"
- Setting the Anastassiou liturgies to the official English translation.
- Developing a new ONLINE Youth Music Program for our Sunday Church Schools
- Planning a Composers Symposium in conjunction with our annual meeting in July
- Creating a national youth church music festival similar to the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival
- Offering financial assistance to Metropolis Federations to hold Church Music Institutes

To Download the Stewardship Form visit:

<https://churchmusic.goarch.org/assets/files/Stewardship%20Form-Indiv.2022.pdf>

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL (VCS)

Greetings!

Dear St. Nicholas Community, we are excited to share with you the incredible week we had at Vacation Church School in June with a thrilling superhero theme! Throughout the week, we explored the lives of various saints who exemplified qualities of true-life superheroes in our time. We would like to express our gratitude to all the volunteers and GOYANS who dedicated their time and effort to make this week a success.

We delved into the inspiring lives of Saints George, Theodore, Demetrios, Katherine, Barbara, and Paraskevi. We discussed how their faith, courage, and willingness to stand up for their beliefs made them heroes in their own right. We attended church daily and we did show and tell lessons which allowed us to deepen our understanding and appreciation of these remarkable saints.

In addition, we engaged in various crafting activities, allowing the children to express their creativity and imagination. The children had a blast making superhero capes, shields, bracelets, and frames embellished with sequins. Additionally, they assembled their own first aid care kits, fostering a sense of responsibility and preparedness.

Our action-packed week involved thrilling games that kept everyone active and engaged. From balloon stomping to parachute games, potato bowling, and self-defense lessons with Mr. Tony, the children had a blast exploring their physical abilities and learning important skills. Mr. Nonas also organized various exciting games that brought so much joy and laughter to all participants.

We ended our incredible week with a potluck lunch on Friday in which we invited everyone to join us. Parishioners took the opportunity to bring their favorite dishes and share in a beautiful meal together. This not only fostered a sense of togetherness but also allowed us to express our gratitude for the meaningful experiences we shared throughout the week.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the incredible volunteers and our GOYANS who dedicated their time, talent, and enthusiasm to create a memorable week for our children. Their selflessness and commitment truly made a difference. Stay tuned for next year's VCS camp in the last week of June 2024. We are excited to continue fostering love, faith, and fellowship among our young generation.

In Christ's service,
The St. Nicholas Vacation Church School Organizers



Lessons in the church



VCS Group photo



Fr. Bill with the acolytes

GREEK SCHOOL

Saint Nicholas Greek School registration for the 2023-2024 school year is underway.

The minimum age for children is 5 for entering Kindergarten in September 2023.
Classes are held every Friday from 4:15-6:30pm. Please register online at <https://sngswyckoff.corsizio.com>

Contact Maria Giamos at maria.moutafis@gmail.com
or Angela Bachardy at angelarokkos@hotmail.com for additional information.

GREEK DANCE

Practice weekly on Wednesday evening - Starting Wednesday, September 13th

Ages 5-11 - Jr. Dance 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Ages 12-18 - Goya Dance 7:30pm – 8:30pm

1st GOYAN Dance performance at the Ridgewood Cultural Festival on Saturday, September 16th at noon.

For more information or to pre-register please contact:

Jr. Dance: Maria Lleonart at either marhadg@gmail.com or 973-464-9525 or

Goya: Sophia Papson at either sophiapapson@icloud.com or 201-889-4800



Jr. Dance practice photos at Saint Nicholas

GREEK DANCE

Prophet Elias Yonkers Festival, June 2023 GOYAN Dancers.



Adrianna Manoussakis
Alexia and Christina Koulikourdis



Chloe Maurice and Maria Katsouris



From left to right:

Manolis Pittas
Darin Nonas
Melina McCallister
Thomai Andreopoulos
Athena Karra's-Nesbit

GOYA: TEEN YOUTH MINISTRY

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:18 OSB)

This summer, ten of our GOYAns traveled to Ionian Village (IV), the Summer Camping Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. This 19 day life-changing experience in Greece brought them closer to our Orthodox faith, explored our rich Hellenic culture and history and introduced them to other Greek Orthodox teens from across the country and from London and the Bahamas, too! They bonded with their fellow campers and amazing IV staff and made memories of a lifetime through their many excursions, dances, athletics, skits, theme nights, and so much more! The first GOYA Night of the new Ecclesiastical Year will be held on **Tuesday, September 12th at 7:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We invite all **7th to 12th graders (ages 12-18)** to come and experience GOYA and the opportunity to make lifelong relationships with our Lord Jesus Christ as well as with other teens! GOYA Nights are the second Tuesday of the month (unless otherwise noted) and are accompanied by other wonderful events such as religious retreats, dances, athletics, outreach programs, Greek dance, performing and visual arts and more! Come on down **September 12th** to check it out.

PARENTS- There will be a mandatory meeting for all new and current GOYA moms *and* dads which will be held in Church during the GOYA gathering. Father Bill, the GOYA advisors, coaches and Religious Education directors would like to speak to the parents and be available to answer questions. This will be followed by a Welcome Reception for the parents.

Some upcoming events are:

Our **Saint Nicholas Festival** is being held **September 22nd - 24th**! Please don't forget to stop by our GOYA booth! Please check your email to sign up to help via the SignUp Genius.

The **Holy Cross Celebration** will be held on **September 24th** in Asbury Park, NJ. Good luck to our representatives, Vassilios Salvemini, Christos Schmarge and Daphne Schmarge!

The annual **Mr. and Miss GOYA Pageant** will be held on **October 8th** at The Hanover Manor in Hanover, NJ. We wish our GOYA representatives, Vassilios Salvemini and Eleni Diamantopoulos the best of luck! If you are interested in attending please reach out to one of the advisors.

Youth Sunday will be held on **October 15th**. This is a day for re-committing our young people to Christ and His Church. GOYAns will be participating in all aspects of worship including ushering, greeting people, proclaiming the Epistle and singing in the choir. Congratulations to our new GOYA Officers and Ministers who will take the Oath of Office that day. **President:** Callista Nonas; **Vice President:** Christina Koulikourdis; **Directors for Diakonia:** Eleni Diamantopoulos and Emily Gougousis; **Stewardship Director:** Darin Nonas; **Recording Secretary:** Manoli Pittas; **Corresponding Secretary:** Adriana Manoussakis; **Media Liaisons:** Maria Papson and Yianni Raftopoulos; **Sports Liaison:** James Gougousis. After Divine Liturgy, join us for a wonderful brunch during Fellowship Hour which is being organized by the families of our Mr. and Miss GOYA representatives. For further information on any of the above please contact your advisors.

In Christ's service,

Your GOYA advisors

Maria Gougousis (mariagougousis@gmail.com)

Tim Salvemini (timothy.salvemini@gmail.com)

Demetra Pittas (demetra.pittas@gmail.com)

Kallie Martello (ckmartello@verizon.net)



Pictured above are our GOYAns who participated in Session 2 of Ionian Village.
Top row (left to right) – Nick Diamantopoulos, Alex Christakos, James Gougousis,
Vassilios Salvemini; Bottom row (left to right) – Manoli Pittas, Eleni Diamantopoulos,
Adriana Manoussakis, Angelina Georgakopoulos, Emily Gougousis

GREEK FESTIVAL

THE 2023 SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK FESTIVAL BETTER THAN EVER!

Saint Nicholas Greek Festival **September 22-24, 2023**

Friday & Saturday: 12pm-11pm and Sunday: 12pm-7pm. Spread the word to help make our festival a success!

Look out for future e-mails regarding donations, and other details. Questions?

Please contact: John Tsadilas: jtsadilas@verizon.net George Bayiokos: bayiokos@aol.com ;

Angelo Lefer: angelo5763@msn.com ; Kathy Van Dine: kathyvandine@gmail.com ;

Charlie Pflager: pfasma5@yahoo.com; Parish office: office@stnicholasnj.org

FESTIVAL BAKING

Calling All Bakers!

We need YOU on September 10th after church services and on September 11th 9:30am-12:00pm.

We are making our famous Koulourakia for this year's festival. All are welcome (and needed).

Please contact spiros@gmail.com

SAINT NICHOLAS FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS IN PARISH (VIPS)

Volunteer Sign-up for our Greek Festival!

We can't believe our Festival is a few weeks away!!

In an effort to streamline volunteer sign-ups this year, we have created a google spreadsheet. It's a very simple process where you click on the link below and each individual can add their information. The data is live which means it's automatically updated.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE STATION TABS ON THE BOTTOM ON THE SPREADSHEET. PLEASE CHOSE YOUR STATION TAB FIRST AND THEN ADD YOUR INFORMATION TO THE APPROPRIATE TAB.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LSRifd3zTyU3cv4yHRZooTgtAlK0z6J82Hdkx8Vl04s/edit?usp=sharing>

Any questions or assistance with filling out your information, please reach out to Kathy Van Dine at kathyvandine@gmail.com

OUR FESTIVAL'S SUCCESS RELIES ON YOU, OUR VOLUNTEERS! THANK YOU!!

Many thanks from your Festival Committee!

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM (SMT)

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.” (Luke 6:38)

Beloved in Christ,

The teaching of Stewardship comes directly from the passages of the Old and New Testaments. We are taught that stewardship is about living a life of gratitude, by taking the time each day to recognize and be grateful for the gifts God has bestowed upon us. Stewardship is about returning a portion of these gifts to our Lord in the form of our time, our talents, and our treasure.

We are fortunate to belong to a church where stewardship remains strong, and thanks to your pledges, we have achieved our 2023 goal of 270 pledged households. We recognize the generosity of these households by listing them below. If you haven't yet made your 2023 pledge, we invite you to join us in Stewardship. Pledge cards are available in both the narthex and in the church office. You can also visit our website, www.stnicholasnj.org to make your pledge and payments.

This year, Stewardship Sunday will take place on Sunday, November 19th. Please join us for a day of testimony and celebration as we commit ourselves to our Lord and Savior.

In Christ's Service,
The Stewardship Ministry Team (SMT)

2023 Stewardship Pledges (thru 7.21.2023)

<u>Giving Tier</u>		<u>Number of Households</u>
Benefactors	\$5000+	14
Guardian Angels	\$3000-\$4999	16
Torchbearers	\$2000-\$2999	25
Shepherds	\$1000-\$1999	60
Stewards	< \$1000	161
Total Steward Households		276

SAINT NICHOLAS 2023 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Adams, Nick
 Albanis, Mary
 Aletras, Constantine & Mary
 Allocco, David & Constantina
 Andreopoulos, Nicholas & (Vasiliades), Thalia
 Andreopoulos, Stephen & Liza
 Antonucci, Alan & Irene
 Antonucci, Derek & Bianca
 Apostolou, Apostolos & Patricia
 Archbold, Edward
 Arianas, Stephen & Constance
 Arluna, John & (Issackedes) Anastasia
 Ayvas, Anton & Irene
 Ayvas– Manolakakis, Melissa

Balstyan, Anna
 Bannos, Thomas & Alexis
 Barbagallo, Joseph & Christen
 Bauer, Gregory & Karen
 Bayiokos, George & Angie
 Biondo, Michael & Pagona
 Boulos-Meyer, Mary
 Bouloukos, Ted & Dee
 Bufis, Philip & Sophia

Caramico, Gerard & Lydia
 Carfello, Carl & Maria
 Carmichael, Terrance & Christina
 Cavaliere, Julia
 Cavaliere, Victoria
 Chaconis, Argiry
 Chagares, Arthur & Annette
 Chaplauske, Richard & Stefanie
 Charllis, Charlie & Erin
 Chimarios, George & Fotini
 Christopoulos, Constantinos
 Clarke, Donald & Archondia
 Cornelius, Tony & Angela
 Corniotes, Katherine
 Cucopoulos, Greg & Deborah
 Cuyulis, Charles & Eugenia

Degenaaars, Glenn and (Stergiou) Angelica
 Deliantis, Scott & Sylvia
 Demetriou, Marc
 Demetriou, John & Fannie
 Deliyiannis, James
 Dervissis, Eugenia
 Detore, Andrew & (Koureas) Nikki
 Diamantopoulos, Alexander & Betty
 Dobrow, Jim & Tina
 Donnelly, Debra
 Douma, Peter & Ronni

Doumas, Ekaterini
 Drakotides, Criton

Efstathiou, Katherine
 Eliades, Maios & Alice
 Eliades, Virginia

Fava, Emilie
 Felix, Kevin & Tina
 Ferguson, Robert & (Manetas) Mary
 Fink, Jason
 Fiol, Fabrice & (Krettecoc) Alyssa
 Florakis, Konstantinos
 Fonseca, William & Ellice
 Fonseca, Timothy & Lindsay
 Foti, Marie

Galstyan, Anna
 Gama, Alvaro & (Lenas) Elizabeth
 Gasparis, George & Melissa
 Gatsonis, Theo
 Giamos, Maria
 Gikas, Fr. Bill & Presbyteria Sophia
 Gioia, Craig & Matina
 Goria Bruce & (McCauley) Alexis
 Gougousis, Athan & Maria
 Gougousis, Peter & Amy
 Gougousis, Sandra
 Goulet, Paul & Peggy
 Grammatikos, Demetrios & Panayiota
 Grant, Teena
 Griffin, Brian & Georgene
 Griffoul, Stephanie
 Guimmarra, Anthony & (Maroules) Athena

Hagy, Constance
 Hartofilis, Steve & Nota
 Hess, William & Anne
 Howie, Doug & Stella

Issackedes, Nicholas & Christine
 Issackedes, Helen

Janow, Chris
 Johnson, Stu & Catherine

Kalliotzis, Michael
 Kalliotzis, Michael & Caroline
 Kanakis, Helen
 Kapas, Catherine
 Kapsis, John & Susan
 Karalis, Virginia
 Karkanias, George

SAINT NICHOLAS 2023 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Karras, Mark & Nicole
Karras, Nicholas & Dorothy
Karsos, Vasilios & Theresa
Katsanos, Nikolaos & Rina
Katsaros, Stathis & Athena
Katsaros, Constantine & Danielle
Kintzing, Richard & Stephanie
Kokkinakis, Anastasia
Kokkinakis, George & Mary Ann
Kolovos, Margaret
Kontogiannis, Emmanuel & Kanella
Kostantakis, Dino & Christine
Kotsopulos, Mary
Koukos, Dorothy
Koulouthros, John & Noel
Koureas, Steven
Kourgelis, Jimmy & Caryl
Koutsouradis, Magdalene
Koykas, Bobby & Liz
Kuris, John & Sonia

Lainis, Gus & Renate
Lemond, Christine
Lenas, Constantine & Erriette
Lentzis, John & Toni
Liakas, Evangelos & Kerry
Lipane, Georgia
Lodewyck, Ron & Betty
Lolis, William
Long, Vincent & Bessie

Manousos, Peter
Manuel, Eva
Marcopul, Mary
Marcopul, Sophie
Mariconda, Nicole
Maris, Yianni & Zaharoula
Marose, Michael & Evelyn
Maroules, Michael & Penelope
Maroules, Argeres
Maroulis, Constance
Maroulis, Anastasia
Marousis, Sophia
Martello, Charles & Kallie
McAllister, Scott & (Parlami) Christine
Megariotis, Basilios
Megariotis, Rosemary
Melis, Rena
Melis, Stephen & Laura
Mellas, Dean & Denise
Mellides, George
Mellis, Louis & Irene
Melissas, Claire

Menakis, Chrys
Milcos, Vassilios & Angeline
Miro, Peter & Katherine
Moore, Bowley & Sophia
Moreira, Christina
Moreira, George & Irene
Moreira, John
Moukietis, Fr. James & Presbyteria Evangelia
Moustopoulos, James

Nakis, Andrea
Nakis, Nicholas & Joanne
Nickles, Alex
Nickles, Donna
Nickles, Steven & Debi
Nicolaou, Nicolas & Lisa
Nicolelis, Christopher & Constance
Nonas, John & Adora
Nonas, Chris & Geraldine
Nonas, James & Brigid

O'Neil, Donald & Jacqueline

Panakos, George & Chrysoula
Panagiotopoulos, Georgios & Alexandra
Panayiotarakos, Dino & Nicoletta
Panayotopoulos, Demetrios
Papadopoulos, Costas & Panagiota
Papageorgis, Jack
Papoutsakis, Ekaterini
Pappas, Ann
Pappas, Chris & Betty
Pappas, Paul & Pamela
Pappas, Zacharine
Papson, Christopher & Sophia
Patentas, John & (Saite) Stafford
Peppes, John & Kathy
Peters, John & Rosemary
Petronio, Frank & Andrea
Pflager, Charles & Alexandra
Phili, Kleanthis & Kleopatra
Phili, Marios & Maria
Phillips, Chloe
Phillips, John & Angela
Pirrman, Barry & Chrisoula
Pirsos, Alexandra
Pirsos, Nicholas & Stephanie
Pittas, Irene
Plomartelos, Elias & Cathy
Poulis, Demetri
Poulis, Nicholas & Helen
Poulos, Dennis & Charlene
Psomas, George

SAINT NICHOLAS 2023 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Psomas, John & Roseanne

Raczko, William & (Krassas) Ariadne

Radoslovic, Frank & Effie

Rayney, James & (Sofas) Dina

Rego, Marie

Roost, Arno & Argie

Saites, Nicholas & Theresa

Salvemini, Timothy & (Georgiou) Paraskevi

Samoilis, Nicholas & Carrie

Savidis, Paul & Kathy

Schell, Michael

Sclavounos, Spyros

Skoufis, George & Louisa

Semetis, Peter & Sandra

Seremetis, Peter & Frances

Seretis, Alexandros & Alexis

Sfikas, Paul & Kelly

Shoshilos, Nicholas & Katherine

Simeonidis, Nicholas & Carolyn

Skoutakis, Dimitra

Slider, George

Spyropoulos, George & Efstathia

Stamas, Dimitrios & Evie

Stergiou, John

Stergiou, Lambryn

Stergiou, Thomas & Dana

Suppe, John

Symeonides, Dean & Christina

Symeonides, Michael & Rose

Symeonides, Marisa

Symeonides, Nicole

Tanzer, Fotini

Tanzer, Gregory

Thaler, Sean & Jo Ann

Thasites, James

Thasites, Rula

Theodorobeakos, Michael & Grace

Theodorou, Alexandros & Valerie

Thomas, Sammy & Demi

Toskos, Manny & Chrissie

Toskos, Gregory & Chrisoula

Triant, Christine

Tsacalis, Norman & Alexandra

Tsadilas, Christian

Tsadilas, John & Aggie

Tsadilas, William

Tsairis, Christine

Tsakalos –Betts, Georgette & (Tsakalos) Steven

Tselekas, Anastasios & Marianna

Tselepis, Dean & Mary

Tselepis, Nicholas & Angelica

Tsiamtsiouris, John & Nicole

Tsiamtsiouris, Frank & Sue

Tsigaras, Savvas & Renia

Tsimpedes, Angelo & Jurate

Turnure, Tom & Terri

Tweed, David & Elena

Venekas, Dimitri & Lauren

Virges, Rob

Vishniakov, Denis & Elena

Vittas, Christina

Vittas, Ted & Valerie

Vogis, Phil & Connie

Voulgaris, Dorothea

Voulgaris, Suzanne

Vrachimis, Tito & Peggy

Worth, Kenneth & Maria

Zannikos, John & June

Zegiares, Pauline

Zorbas, George & Debbie

Zubac, Josip & Christina

Zymaris, Jon & (Manuel) Genny

WAYS TO GIVE

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.

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

SAINT NICHOLAS GIVING TREE DONORS

THANK YOU to our donors for their generosity!

Agrapidis, Evans and Christine

AHEPA Ramapo Chapter 453

Albanis, Gregory (2 gifts)

Andreopoulos Family

Anonymous (8 gifts)

Ayvas Family (1 gifts)

Bacalakis 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

Gougousis, 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

Karras, Nick & Dottie

Katsanos Family

Konogeris Family

Lainis, Gus and Renate

Melissas, Claire

Menakis, Chrys

Paulson, Fred and Family

Panayotopoulos, Demetrios

Petropoulos Family

Phili, Kleon and Kleo

Philliou, Demetrios & Eleni

Phillips Family

Pirsos Family

Pogatsias, George and Yolanda

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, Nico and Carolyn

Soukas, William and Amy

Svokos, George and Grazia

Symeonides, Michael

Symeonides, Stacy

Taggart, Michael and Ria

Thomas Family

Tsakalos, (Betts) Georgette and Family

Tsoukas, Dr. Elias and Pennee

Tselepis, Dean and Mary

Tselepis, Nick and Angelica

Toskos, Manny & Chrissie

Voulgaris Family

Zymaris — Manuel Family