

ST. NICHOLAS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2025

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH
4967 FOREST PARK AVENUE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63108

ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY LIFE CENTER
12550 S. FORTY DRIVE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63141



Proistamenos: Fr. Douglas Papulis
(314) 974-4613

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Arbanas
(314) 425-9641

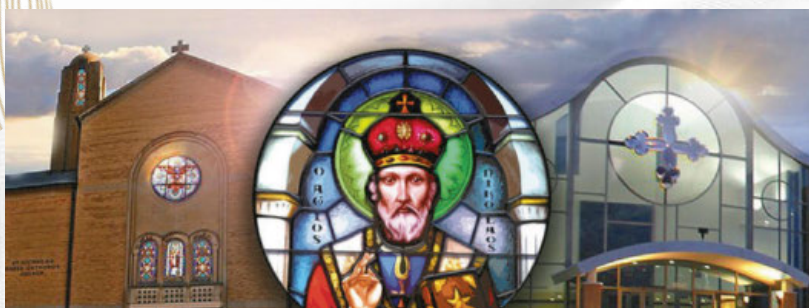
Church/FLC Office: (314) 361-6924

Office Administrator: Lisa Danko
Financial Secretary: Linda Nicozisin

Email: stnicholas@sngoc.org
Website: www.sngoc.org

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

MORTGAGE BURNING Celebration



Join us to celebrate this exciting time for
our community, as we retire our
mortgage debt and look to the future!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025
St. Nicholas Family Life Center

Divine Liturgy in the
Family Life Center Chapel
followed by a luncheon in the FLC
Auditorium

Complimentary by reservation only!
Please RSVP to: stnicholas@sngoc.org

St. Nicholas Servants

2025 PARISH COUNCIL

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Deb Palazzola, Secretary
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Zac Holt, Assistant Treasurer
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Marilynn Jemas
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Demi Holt

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Weston Haldeman
Georgiana Grant

"THE NEXT 100"

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Jonathan Hartley
Tony Sorocko

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Jonathan Hartley
Tony Sorocko

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Leon Spanos 314-966-5176
Chris Varvares 314-374-3647

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Clark Porter, Director 314-518-6747

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Amanuel Habtu
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Fr. Michael Arbanas
Mary Ann Mastorakos, Chairperson
Teddy Hart
Rosie Hartley
Marilynn Jemas
Christina Stamelos

CHURCH SCHOOL Co-Directors

Tania Scarpino sgnocchurchschool@gmail.com
Lisa James

WEBSITE

Christina Stamelos 314-402-4996



College Students/Parents of College Students



The Ladies of St. Nicholas Philoptochos would like to keep in touch with our college students this fall semester. Please email Dominica Redman at:

dominica.redman@yahoo.com

the following information:

**name, address, cell phone number
and email of the college student.**

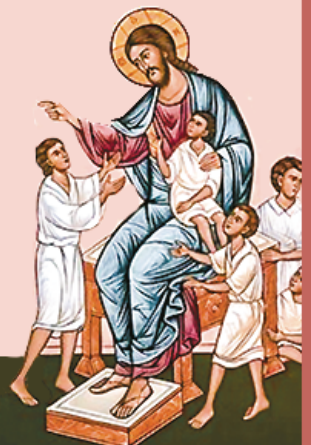
Even if you have sent us the information in the past, please send it again so we can keep our records up to date.

Thank you!

**Sunday School Assistants
are still needed.**

**Please contact one of your
Sunday School Co-Directors
Lisa James or Tania Scarpino
either in person or at:**

sgnocchurchschool@gmail.com



The St. Louis Metropolitan Committee invites you to its

23rd ANNUAL IOCC BANQUET

Sunday, September 28, 2025

5:00 pm Vespers | 5:30 pm Social Hour/Cash Bar | 6:15 pm Dinner

ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY LIFE CENTER
12550 South 40 Drive | St. Louis, MO 63141

Tickets \$40 per person
2 tickets included with all donations over \$500

Registration required by September 19

iocc.org/stlouis

Or complete form below and mail
check payable to IOCC to:

Diane Sieckmann
1755 Des Peres Rd.
Town & Country, MO 63131

Questions? Contact
Diane at 314-966-2255.



23rd ANNUAL IOCC BANQUET | SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Ticket(s) (\$40 per person) | <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Benefactor (\$5,000+) <i>includes 2 tickets</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$250) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am unable to attend, but please
accept my contribution: \$_____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$1,000) <i>includes 2 tickets</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter (\$100 - \$249) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$500) <i>includes 2 tickets</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend (\$50 - \$99) |

Name (For sponsors, as to appear in Program Book) _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Parish _____

Diet restrictions: ☐ Vegan ☐ Gluten-Free ☐ Other _____



“Your Own from Your Own”

Dear St. Nicholas Parish Family,

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be working side by side with our fellow parishioners at the Greek Festival over Labor Day Weekend. Thank you for supporting the festival by volunteering your time, donating towards expenses, and inviting your friends to attend. The work continues after the weekend to clean, organize and get our building ready for our fall activities. Please consider helping with the clean-up by contacting Christina Ginos or me! Festival results will be reported in detail at the November Parish Assembly.

Sunday School will be back in session starting Sunday, September 14. Our new co-directors, Lisa James & Tania Scarpino, along with the Sunday School teachers have planned a well-rounded curriculum for our youth. Special thanks to Lisa James who spent countless hours/days cleaning and organizing our Sunday School classrooms! Parents, please do your part and bring your children to Sunday School. Don't deny them the opportunity to enrich their Orthodox faith and build lifelong friendships along the way.

With our church, we often imagine only what is humanly possible, but if we do our part in faith, God will lovingly return to us much more than we could ever imagine. This is the true meaning of “Your own from Your own.” We will see our church, not as it is, but as it could be, with our humble gifts multiplied by God's generosity and love. Recently, we were able to retire our debt, thanks to the support of our faithful donors. This debt was paid by donations above and beyond Stewardship. However, as they say, fundraising never ends, and we must continue to support the operations of our facilities, expand our ministries and prepare for the future. Stewardship covers our operating expenses (utilities, insurance, salaries, etc.) for St. Nicholas Church and the Family Life Center. Just as managing your own home, these are ongoing expenses. Our annual operating expenses for 2025 are projected to be close to \$1,200,000. The Parish leaders are striving for Stewardship to cover at least \$855,000 of these operating expenses. Please assist us to continue our good works at St. Nicholas by ensuring that your 2025 Stewardship Pledge Form has been completed and Stewardship is being fulfilled.

Please plan to attend the Mortgage Burning Celebration on Sunday, September 21 at the St. Nicholas Family Life Center. The Divine Liturgy will be held in the Chapel, followed by a luncheon celebration in the Auditorium – including the burning of the mortgage! This is an exciting time for our community, as we retire our debt and turn to the future. The event is complimentary by advanced reservations only. Please RSVP by email to: stnicholas@sngoc.org.

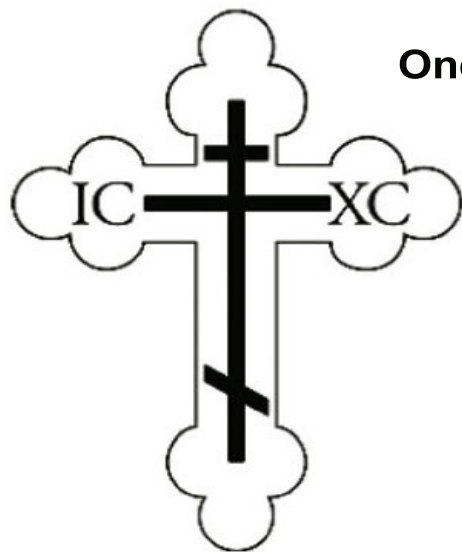
May God continue to Bless all of us!

Best regards,

Carol Kamburis
Parish Council President



ST. NICHOLAS PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY



**Invites you to Celebrate
One of the Great Feasts of the Holy Church**

The Elevation of the Cross Annual Stavrou Luncheon

**Sunday, September 14, 2025
Immediately following Divine Liturgy
St. Nicholas Church - Auditorium**

\$15.00

Proceeds to benefit Holy Cross Seminary

St. Nicholas Philoptochos



*St. Nicholas Philoptochos
General Meeting
Thursday, September 25, 2025
6:00 p.m.
St. Nicholas Family Life Center
Philoptochos Room*

*Please join us as we kick-off our 2025-2026 calendar
of events, with a special presentation to charity
spotlight, Harris House. Help us grow our chapter,
invite a new prospective member!*

\$15 per member

-complimentary for new members-

*Please RSVP to: Sandra Kamburis
314.952.9958 or skamburis@hotmail.com*



PHILOPTOCHOS CORNER – September 2025

We are pleased to be back after our summer “break”. Philoptochos has an exciting year planned and we hope you will join us in supporting our ministries. We need your help! Please feel free to contact one of our Board Members if you are interested in getting involved: Helen Carey (President), Pat Lekich (1st Vice President), Sandra Kamburis (2nd Vice President), Carol Kamburis (Treasurer), Teresa Stavrides (Assistant Treasurer), Deb Palazzola (Recording Secretary), Carol Efthim (Corresponding Secretary), Christina Ginos (Advisor), Chris Anastas, Mary Ellen Anastas, Georgia Ferretti, Demi Holt, Lisa James, Marilynn Jemas, Maria Kamburis, Betsy Murphy, Jenny Pappas, Jackie Tsikalas, and Dianne Zotos.

Transfiguration: August 6 - The service was held at the Family Life Center Chapel. On this very special day the blessing of grapes as well as other fruits and vegetables is the most beautiful sign of the final Transfiguration of all things in Christ. A special thanks to Maria Kamburis for preparing the trays of grapes and delicious cake.

Stavrou Luncheon: September 14 – Philoptochos invites you to celebrate one of the great feasts of the Holy Church, the Elevation of the Cross - Annual Stavrou Luncheon on Sunday, September 14 immediately following The Divine Liturgy. Proceeds to benefit Holy Cross Seminary.

General Membership Meeting: September 25 – Our first General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25 – 6:00 pm at the Family Life Center. Join us as we kick off our 2025-2026 calendar of events. There will be a special presentation to one of our charity spotlights, Harris House. Help us grow our chapter, invite a new prospective member to get involved!

Save-the-date: Grecian Kitchen Holiday Open House on Saturday, November 8 at the Family Life Center. Please join us for Lunch, Greek Pastries, & Boutique Shopping. This event is open to the public and will help fund the work of local & national charities supported by St. Nicholas Philoptochos



Calendar of Events:

9/14 – Stavrou Luncheon

9/18 – Board Meeting

9/25 – General Meeting



St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society
the Women's Auxiliary for St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

Grecian Kitchen

Holiday Open House

Saturday, November 8, 2025

10:30 am to 3:30 pm

St. Nicholas Family Life Center

12550 South Forty Drive

St. Louis, Missouri

GREEK FOOD & PASTRIES

BOUTIQUE SHOPPING

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For advanced orders, please contact

Dianne Zotos 636.541.0708

*Proceeds will help fund the work of
local & national charities supported
by St. Nicholas Philoptochos*



St. Nicholas Sunday School - September 2025



Welcome Sunday School Parents!

One of the most important ministries of the Church since Apostolic times has been to see to the spiritual education (κατήχησις-catechism) of its members with special instruction given regarding the education of our children. The greatest gift, the most precious inheritance we can give to our children is our Orthodox Christian Faith. Jesus makes it clear that He wants His children to come to know Him.

Sunday School is for children from the ages of 3 through High School. New this year is the expansion of Sunday School to include High School classes for each grade. As always, classes begin immediately following receiving Holy Communion.

Following please find the classes offered and the names of the teachers for each class:

2025-26 St. Nicholas Sunday School Teachers

3 year olds	– Alexandra Barton
4 year olds	– Mahrya Page
Kindergarten & Grade 1	– Linda Dubis Meyer, Christina Dubis
Assisted by	Kathryn Arendt & Anamaria Claudia Guta
Grades 2 & 3	– Susan Winter
Assisted by	Christina Bourantas and George Pliakos
Grades 4 & 5	– Pres. Caroline & Haroula Souris
Grades 6, 7 & 8	– Mike Pappas
Grade 9	– Amanuel Habtu
Grade 10	– Mitry Anderson
Grade 11	– Weston Haldeman & Mark Vleisides
Grade 12	– Clark Porter & Alexandra Kavourinos

** Lexie Dendrinelis will serve as a part time assistant.*

•In expanding classrooms for Sunday School, we are still in need of assistants. If you would like to be a classroom assistant, please contact either Sunday School Co-Director

Lisa James or Tania Scarpino at sngocchurchschool@gmail.com.

We understand that we all have busy schedules; however, God has placed this responsibility on us as parents to instruct our children and support them in their faith, bringing them to church so that they may learn more about our precious Orthodox Faith.

We look forward to seeing everyone for the start of this exciting new school year!

In Christ,
Tania Scarpino & Lisa James
St. Nicholas Sunday School Co-Directors



Sunday School Begins September 14

Expanded age groups to include Pre - K through 18 years old
offering a new and age-appropriate curriculum



Please use the registration QR code to reserve space
for your child(ren) to explore the fundamental teachings
and rich traditions of our Orthodox Faith.

Registration
is OPEN!

For questions and/or information, please visit:
sngocchurchschool@gmail.com
or contact your church office.
314-361-6924

*There is NO FEE to attend Sunday School at St. Nicholas



Young Adult League GREATER SAINT LOUIS

18-35 YEARS OLD?
JOIN TODAY!

Already a **Member**?
Stay in the loop!



@yalstlouis



stlouisyal@gmail.com



Submit topics for
future **discussions**!



Worship. Witness. Service. Fellowship.



The Women's Faith Group meets monthly (excluding July and August) to learn about the Orthodox Christian Faith and how to live the Faith throughout one's life. Scripture and various books authored by Orthodox Christians are read and discussed for enrichment, enlightenment, and encouragement to live a Christ-like life. "being transformed from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

*Please join us 10 am Tuesday, September 23
at the Hearth Room Cafe
265 Lamp and Lantern Village
Town and Country Missouri, 63017*



TASTE OF THE GREEK FESTIVAL



HELLENIC CULTURE CAMP



HELLENIC CULTURE CAMP





Prayers for Healers



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACKS

MAY 1ST – SEPTEMBER 1ST

Through this initiative, FOCUS North America will equip you to support students going back to school in your community.



MISSION TEAM ST. LOUIS INVITES YOU

Sharing Christ's Love

For the Care of the Whole Person – Spiritual, Emotional, and Physical



Sunday, November 2nd, 2025

Vespers at 5pm; Program from
5:30pm – 8:30pm

Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church

1910 Serbian Dr., St. Louis, MO 63104

Support the Work of the Mission Center

Proceeds to benefit Guatemala Medical Center by helping to purchase an ultrasound machine and a portable dental chair with the goal of raising \$12,500 from the 2025 St. Louis Dinner. Live Stream with Keynote Speakers, OCMC Missionaries in Guatemala Jesse & Juanita. OCMC Development Director, Fr. Christopher Rowe will provide a state of the state address on the latest Mission Center developments.

\$40 Adults \$20 Students

Register online or by mailing this form with checks made payable to **OCMC** and '**STL Dinner**' in the memo.



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ Reserve ____ adult seats x \$40 and ____ student x \$20.

☐ I cannot attend but enclosed is my donation to OCMC

☐ I'd like to be an event sponsor

☐ Defender (\$1,000) ☐ Missionary (\$100)
☐ Guardian (\$500) ☐ Disciple (\$50)
☐ Mentor (\$250)

Special Diets

☐ Vegetarian

☐ Gluten Free

Remit to: OCMC Benefit Dinner, c/o Registration, 5243 Creighton Dr. St. Louis, MO 63123 by Oct 15th!

www.ocmc.org/MTSL2025

Call 571-276-6541 or email missionteamstl@gmail.com for more info



Book Review:

Theology and the Church by Saint Dumitru Stăniloae

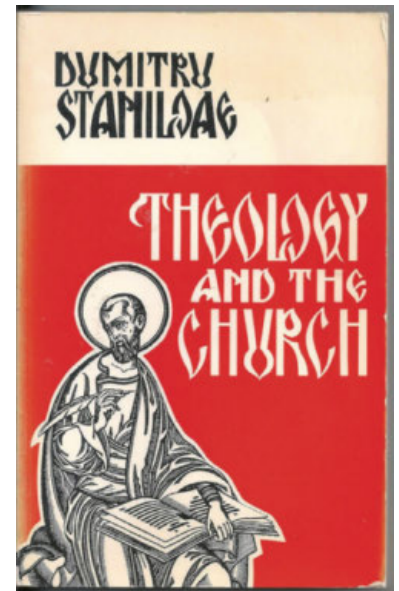
by Weston Adam

Recently canonized, Saint Dumitru was one of the most important Orthodox theologians of the 20th century. In this book, he shows that the Church is not just a building or organization, but the living Body of Christ, filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit, and in so doing he inadvertently teaches clearly on the Comforter, maybe the most neglected Person of the Holy Trinity.

What makes this book special is how it connects big theological ideas to everyday Christian life, especially in the case of something as difficult and seemingly esoteric as Pneumatology. Saint Dumitru shows how theology isn't just for scholars, it's for everyone who wants to grow closer to God. The Truth of our faith isn't something we just read about, theology isn't what is stuck in dusty old books: it's something we live out together, especially through worship, prayer, and the sacraments.

The book reminds us that true Christian life is about love, community, and becoming more like Christ, and Saint Dumitru draws on the wisdom of the early Church Fathers to show how the Church through the Holy Spirit, has always been a place of deep connection with God and with one another.

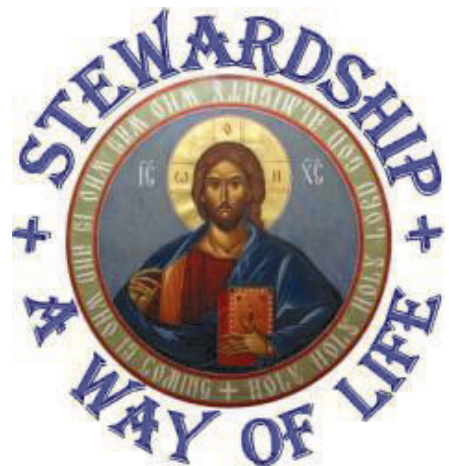
Though the topics are profound, the message is clear: the Church is where we meet God, and where our faith becomes real, together with one another, reflecting the Life of the Holy Trinity. *Theology and the Church* is a powerful encouragement for all who want to understand the Church not just with their minds, but with their hearts.



Ways to Give: Qualified Charitable Distributions

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows individuals who are 70½ years old or older to donate up to \$100,000 total to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distributions.

- It's a smart way for individuals who don't/can't tax benefits from their charitable donations.
- QCDs are not included in taxable income.
- QCDs satisfy RMDs without increasing adjusted gross income, thus lowering or eliminating Social Security benefit taxation, Medicare premiums, alternative minimum tax, 3.8% investment surtax and medical expense deductions, or being bumped to a higher marginal tax bracket.



If you have questions or would like to donate appreciated securities, mutual funds, or make QCDs, please contact Sakis Salas at 636-866-6193. We also recommend that you consult your Financial/Tax Advisors for additional information

✠ MEMORIAL DONATIONS ✠

CHURCH FUND***In Memory of Christine Lemakis***

Georgia Pliakos

In Memory of Magdalene Zotos

Georgia Pliakos

In Memory of***John Andrew Halley Halikiopoulos***

Demetra M. Halley

In Memory of Maria Cutsoukos

Georgia Pliakos

In Memory of Judy Drennen

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In Memory of Kurt Smith

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In Memory of***Hrisostomos (Chris) Christ***

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Dr. & Mrs. Henry Purcell

Jim & Terry Demos

Keith Manzer

Trigona Maleas

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Kay Zotos

Marcia Theodore Kassis Burdick

Paul & Helen Leara

Steven & Michelle Storgion

Tom Zotos

Trigona Maleas

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY***In Memory of Kurt Smith***

George Pappas

In Memory of***Hrisostomos (Chris) Christ***

Anna Zotos

Kay Zotos

Tom Zotos

In Memory of Becky Tharenos

George Pappas

Lee & Ginger Christakis

Lexie Dendrinelis

Michael & Jenny Pappas

Pete & Teresa Stavrides

NEXT 100 CAMPAIGN***In Memory George Papagianis***

Gus & Ellen Mezinis

In Memory of Judy Drennen

Dennis & Helen Carey

NEXT 100 CAMPAIGN (continued)***In Memory of******Hrisostomos (Chris) Christ***

Dan & Andrea Tarlas

Greg & Cheryl McDermott

In Memory of Becky Tharenos

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Stefan & Elizabeth Glynias

Steve & Carol Pappas

Susan Blaney

Susan, John & Michael Christakis

Terry & Kathy Livaditis

The Kamburis Family

Tom & Carol Ryan

MEMORIALS

† 40 day memorial for Kurt Smith

August 17

† 1 year memorial for Thimios Zanetos

July 27

† 1 year memorial for Frieda Karras

August 17

† 2 year memorial for Mary Harris

August 17

† 2 year memorial for Yvonne Coleman

August 10

† 3 year memorial for William Coleman

August 10

† 6 year memorial for Thomas Alexander

August 10

† 10 year memorial for Kay Karras

August 17

† 38 year memorial for Peter Karras

August 17

FUNERALS

Kurt Matthew Smith fell asleep in the Lord on June 29. His funeral was July 3.

† May his memory be eternal.

40 Day Infant Blessing


Daphne Danielle, daughter of Savanna & Constantine Cosmas was Blessed and Churched on July 27.

Isabella Lee, daughter of Kristina & Jesse Schreidel was Blessed and Churched on August 3.

Jack Matthew, Son of Sabrina & Chris Efthim was blessed and Churched on August 17.

Congratulations!

September 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 	2 8:30 AM GREEK FESTIVAL CLEANUP	3 7 am Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom 8:30 AM GREEK FESTIVAL CLEANUP	4 8:30 AM GREEK FESTIVAL CLEANUP	5 8:30 AM GREEK FESTIVAL CLEANUP	6 9:30 am Sunday School Teachers Training at FLC 10:30 am Adult Choir Practice at FLC
7 <i>Sunday Before Holy Cross</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am The Divine Liturgy at Church Fellowship Coffee Hour 5 PM JR. GOYA AT FLC	8 <i>Nativity of the Mother of God</i> 9:30 am The Divine Liturgy FLC Chapel	9 7 pm via Zoom Young Adult League	10 7 am Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom	11 8:30 AM GREEK FESTIVAL CLEANUP	12 8:30 AM GREEK FESTIVAL CLEANUP	13 10:30 am Adult Choir Practice at FLC
14 <i>Elevation of the Holy Cross</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am The Divine Liturgy at Church Procession of the Most Holy Cross First Day of Sunday School Immediately following Divine Liturgy Fellowship Coffee Hour Stavrou Luncheon \$15 Donation requested Proceeds to benefit Holy Cross Seminary	15	16	17 7 am Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom	18	19 IOCC REGISTRATIONS DUE	20 10:30 am Adult Choir Practice at FLC
21 <i>Sunday After Holy Cross</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am The Divine Liturgy at the Family Life Center followed by Mortgage Burning Celebration with Complimentary Luncheon Everyone is WELCOME!	22	23 10:00 am Women's Faith Group at Hearth Room Cafe Lamp & Lantern Village	24 7 am Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom	25 6 pm Woman's Philoptochos General Membership Meeting Family Life Center	26	27 10:30 am Adult Choir Practice at FLC
28 <i>First Sunday of Luke</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am The Divine Liturgy at Church Sunday School Fellowship Coffee Hour Name Day Celebration 5:pm Vespers 5:30 pm Social Hour 6:15 pm Dinner IOCC Banquet Family Life Center	29	30				

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**ST. NICHOLAS
PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY**

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With many years of health & happiness*



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