

ST. NICHOLAS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 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**

CHRIST IS RISEN! GREAT LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Many thanks to you, the wonderful parishioners of St. Nicholas, for your great generosity, as well as your dedication and hard work. Your donation of time, talent, and treasure have once again adorned our Church for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. The sanctuary, filled with people and their lit candles, was truly uplifting and beautiful!



Thanks to: all the organizations that hosted the Lenten Meals after the Wednesday night Pre-Sanctified Liturgies (Parish Council, Philoptochos, Greek Dancers, Men's Fellowship and the St. Nicholas Youth Groups); Teddy Hart and her committee that made the Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday (Ron Been, Elaine Coulson, Georgia James, Kimberly and Glen Kaminski, Babe Kennedy, Mary Ann Mastorakos, Betsy Murphy, Tina & Chris Paradowski, George Pliakos, Kathy Rogers, Cathie Sorbello, Pete Stavrides, Penny Tsichlis, Mary Vidakis); special thanks to Stacie English for making the beautiful Palm Donkeys; Deb Palazzola for hosting the annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday of Lazarus; Christina Ginos, Philoptochos President, and the entire Philoptochos Board for the wonderful Palm Sunday Brunch, chaired by Chris Anastas, Christina Ginos and Carol Kamburis; Pres. Caroline Arbanas, Helen Carey, Stacie English, Rosie & Lee Hartley, Mahrya Page, and the Sunday School children who decorated the Church for Palm Sunday; Holy Monday, the Egg Dyeing Committee (Maria & Michael Kamburis, Mary Anne & John Koch, Pat Lekich, Teresa & Pete Stavrides, and Dianne Zotos) dyed and wrapped nearly 1,000 Easter eggs that you received at the Resurrection, AGAPE service and the annual Easter Lamb Roast; our Church Choir led by Diana Ott (Lisa Danko, Teddy Hart, Denise Karras, Valerie Karras, Maureen Kontominas, Steve Mastorakos, Tim Palazzola, Peggy Pierroutsakos, Nick Tharenos); our Readers (Lisa Danko, Michael Doran, Teddy Hart, Lee Hartley, Dean Kalomas, Kimberly Kaminski, Glen Kaminski, Maureen Kontominas, Austin Morris, Presvytera Christina Papulis, Demetrios Tsikalas); our Altar Boys, especially the following Altar Boys who helped during many of the Services of Lent and Holy Week (Yanni Angelides, Christian Appel, Isaac Belay, Spiro Georges, Derek Hammouri, Will Holt, Alexandros Kotis, Leo Martin, Nicholas Mastorakos, Evander Page, Doug Papulis, Leo Papulis, Michael Pizzo, Nikolas Pizzo, Nicholas Ray, Nicholas Salas, Noah Scarpino,

Continued on Page 3

St. Nicholas Servants**2025 PARISH COUNCIL**

Carol Kamburis, President
 Helen Carey, Vice-President
 Deb Palazzola, Secretary
 Christina Stamelos, Treasurer
 Zac Holt, Assistant Treasurer
 Adonis Chakides
 Niko Georges
 Marilyn Jemas
 Pat Lekich
 William Mastorakos, DDS, MS
 Jim Rigas
 Chris Sarantakis
 Nick Scarpino
 Jim Sorbello
 Paul Xenakis

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mark Vleisides, Chairperson 314-576-2898

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Bill Karides, Chairperson 314-422-1968
 Tina Paradowski

DANCE TROUPE

Demi Holt

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Mark Vleisides, Chairperson
 Demmie Nicozisin
 Elizabeth Glynias
 Lou Panopoulos
 Steve Storgion

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dan Tarlas, Chairperson 314-713-5500

GREETERS COMMITTEE

Lyndia Finer, Chairperson 314-960-3384

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Elaine Coulson, Chair-sngoclibrary@gmail.com
 Weston Haldeman
 Georgiana Grant

"THE NEXT 100"

Dan Tarlas, Chairperson 314-713-5500

ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULTS

Gracie Livaditis 314-616-9557

PHILOPTOCHOS

Christina Ginos, President 314-504-6988

PHYSICAL FACILITIES - CHURCH

Dino Pappas, Chairperson 314-707-8118
 Jonathan Hartley
 Tony Sorocko

PHYSICAL FACILITIES – FLC

Nick Tharenos, Chairperson 314-576-7011
 Jonathan Hartley
 Tony Sorocko

PLANNED GIVING COMMITTEE

Christina Anastas 314-647-4636
 Basil Pappas 314-368-6026
 Leon Spanos 314-966-5176
 Chris Varvares 314-374-3647

PRISON MINISTRY

Clark Porter, Director 314-518-6747

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Peter Takes, Chairperson 314-503-0358
 Amanuel Habtu
 Deb Palazzola
 Alexia Georges

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Fr. Doug Papulis
 Fr. Michael Arbanas
 Mary Ann Mastorakos, Chairperson
 Teddy Hart
 Rosie Hartley
 Marilyn Jemas
 Christina Stamelos

CHURCH SCHOOL Director

Lexie Dendrinelis- sngocchurchschool@gmail.com
 Tania Scarpino

WEBSITE

Christina Stamelos 314-402-4996

May 26 Memorial Day

9 am Memorial Service
Veterans Memorial Pavilion
St. Matthew's Cemetery

*There will be no individual grave side memorial services this year.
 If you would like your departed loved ones memorialized with the
 veterans, please email their names to:*

ldanko@sngoc.org

*or deliver to either church office. The memorial service will be
 recorded and sent to the parish for viewing on Memorial Day.*

Put the Kids on the Bus!

**2025 Fundraising Luncheon for
 St. Nicholas Prison Ministry**

Sunday, May 4 Following Liturgy

**Raising funds to support Family Day
 when children will visit their
 incarcerated fathers.**

Eat in or carry out!

**St. Nicholas Scholarships**

The St. Nicholas Scholarship Committee
 is currently accepting applications for 2025

- Up to 5 recipients will be selected from qualified applicants for scholarships up to \$4,500
- Applicants must be graduating high school seniors or current college students presently attending or intending to attend 2 year, 4 year or graduate-level college program in anticipation of a degree.
- Awards are based upon the extent of faithful participation in and service to Orthodox Christian ministries and activities. Please refer to the guidelines outlined in the new scholarship application, available from the St. Nicholas Parish Office.
- All applications, in their entirety, must be received in the Church Office online or by U.S. Mail no later than:

5:00 pm CDT, Thursday, May 15, 2025

Late applications will NOT be accepted for consideration

**Any questions may be directed to the Church Office during
 normal business hours at 314.381.6924**

Continued from Cover

Yianni Scarpino, Nikolas Smith, Blake Sorbello, Damian Thompson, Nahom Zerai); Stephanie Glioumas for all the beautifully decorated icons for Holy Week services; Lisa Danko, Denise Karras, Loukia Smith, Renee Vleisides for preparing the booklets for Lenten and Holy Week services; Bill Nicozisin for all his help preparing for the Holy Week services; the Epistle readers for the Holy Wednesday Unction Service (Cecelia McPherron, Athena Page, Evander Page, Yianni Scarpino, Katherine Tovrea, Sophia Woodrome, Rosie Hartley); the Parish Council members who helped move and set up the Kouvouklion late Holy Thursday night after the Service in preparation for Holy Friday; Kathy Ginos, Pat Lekich, and their committee (Elaine Coulson, Teddy Hart, Jenny Pappas, Tina & Chris Paradowski, Dianne Zotos) who lovingly adorned the Epitaphion and the candles used by the clergy, altar boys and handmaidens; special thanks to Linda Nicozisin for making new bows for the altar boys, handmaiden and priests' candles; Tony Sorocko for arranging the temporary street closure for the Holy Friday night outdoor procession; Weston Haldemen who carried the Holy Cross in the Holy Friday procession outside, and Timothy Chiapel, Alex Davis, Tyler Holt, Zac Holt, Elias Stavrianos, and Nick Scarpino, who held up the Epitaphion on Holy Friday evening for all the faithful to walk underneath; the Handmaiden advisor, Rosie Hartley; the Myrrh-bearing girls and Handmaidens, who served during Holy Week (Lula Anastas, Sevra Anastas, Amnen Asfaw, Elen Belay, Betelihem Belay, Tiegsti Belay, Rufta Biniam, Lewhat Biniam, Catherine Fitzmaurice, Alexa James, Maria Kacso, Marina Kondis, Eleni Martin, Penelope Mastorakos, Delaney McPherron, Cecelia McPherron, Mariia Pavlova, Sophia Ray, Helena Rigas, Penelope Smith, Antonia Smith, Elena Zerai); Danielle Argyros LeFever for her guidance with the Handmaidens during the procession on Holy Friday evening; Bess Fitzmaurice and Lisa James for preparing lunch on Holy Friday for the Altar Boys and Handmaidens; Helen Koskolos, Becky Tharenos and the ladies who make the prosfora, and Presvytera Christina Papulis who made the prosfora used for Holy Communion in all the Liturgies; Vanessa Mezines, Tommy Pappas, and their committee who prepared the Anastasi Meal; Christina Ginos and her committee for the delicious Tsoureki bread served at the Anastasi meal; the ladies of Philoptochos for the AGAPE coffee reception at the Family Life Center chaired by Maria Kamburis; the ladies of Philoptochos for the koulouria served at the Easter celebrations; the co-chairs of the Easter Lamb Roast on Sunday afternoon at the Family Life Center (Mary Argyros, Carol Kamburis, Lauren Rowe, and Joe Palazzola); the lamb roasters (Joe Palazzola, Michael Palazzola, John Davis, Alex Davis, Demos Argyros, Yemane Habtu, Mark Stavro, George Pappas, Mike Pappas, Austin Morris); Mary Anne & John Koch (with help from Lisa & Alexa James) for the adorable Easter Egg Hunt at the Family Life Center on Easter Sunday; Sandra Kamburis for the festive and irresistible candy table at the Easter Lamb Roast; the members of the Parish Council for their faithful dedication during Lent and Holy Week; the ladies of Philoptochos for their continued support; our greeter, Tony Sorocko, for providing additional security during Holy Week and Easter services; our Church Staff (Lisa Danko, Linda Nicozisin, Natasha Graham and DeAndre Scott), for all of their hard work at St. Nicholas Church and the Family Life Center; and last, but certainly not least, our beloved Father Doug Papulis and Father Michael Arbanas for being our source of spiritual guidance, love and strength.

We thank you all for a wonderful Lent, Holy Week and Pascha!

Thank you to our Lent and Holy Week donors!

Jonquils for Sunday of the Cross - *Jim and Teddy Hart - in memory of Mary Varvares*
 Palm Sunday Crosses *Ron and Elaine Been - in memory of Nick and Katherine Georgen*
 Palm Sunday Icon Flower Arrangement - *John and Mimi Davis and Family,*
in memory of Socrates and Mary Dendrinelis, Paula Townsend, Pete and Irene Davis
 Lilies for Epitaphion - *Mastis and Lynch Families in loving memory of Frank and Florence Mastis*
 Epitaphion Flowers - *Karakas and Lemakis Families, in loving memory of Aunt Jeanne Tompras*
 Epitaphion Flowers - *Jason and Claire Martin, in loving memory of Evangelos Vlachos*
and Pete and Sandy Martin
 Epitaphion Flowers - *Tom and Patti Elwood and Family*
 Epitaphion Flowers - *Kerry Boudoures, in memory of Mary and Speros Boudoures*
 Hydrangeas for Holy Week and Easter - *Lisa Danko, in loving memory of her father, Michael Danko*
 Heretismoï (Friday night) Candles - *Sophia Chronopoulos and Family,*
in memory of Christos and Nota Chronopoulos
 Altar Candles for All Holy Week Services - *Sophia Chronopoulos and Family,*
in memory of Christos and Nota Chronopoulos
 Palm Tree Plants for Palm Sunday-12 Palm Plants - *Eugenia, Elaine and Ted Dimza*
in loving memory of their parents Frieda and James Dimza
 Cotton Balls, Flour & Olive Oil for Holy Wednesday Holy Unction - *The Kamburis Family,*
in memory of Tharinos and Kyriaki Patakas
 Holy Thursday Icon Flower Arrangement for Service for 12 Passion Gospels -*Ryan and Cassandra Smith,*
in memory of Victoria Peppes
 Holy Thursday Icon Service Wreath - *George, Andrea and Vanessa Mezines,*
in memory of Victoria Peppes
 Holy Thursday 12 Gospel Candles - *Mary Jane Thomas, in memory of the Siromas family*
 Holy Thursday Service Candles for Cross - *Jemas Family*
 Good Friday Sheet for Body of Christ - *The Family of Mary Rupi, in her Memory*
 Good Friday Icon Flower Arrangement for The Descent from the Cross - *Connie and Jim Moore*
and Nick and Mary Kamakas in memory of their parents Nicholas and Mary Kamakas
 Good Friday Epitaphion Candles (four)- *George and JoAnn Glikos,*
in memory of Chris & Despina Zeris, John and Despina Glikos and Eugenia Zeris
 Good Friday Epitaphion Candles (four) - *Noel Jemas Family, in memory of Lou and Felia Jemas*
 Good Friday Epitaphion Candles (four) - *Irene Schildroth, in memory of Loved Ones*
 Good Friday White Carnations - *Antoniou, Brennan and Conty Families*
in memory of Christos and Nicky Antoniou
 Anthonero (Rosewater) - *Rosie Hartley in memory of her parents*
 Holy Saturday Icon Flower Arrangement for Divine Liturgy - *Christina and Tom Ginos,*
in memory of their parents, Ann and Tom Ginos and Maria and Gregory Zougla
 Holy Saturday Resurrection Candles for Priests (two candles) - *Bill, Linda and Katerina Nicozisin,*
in memory of Frank and Rose Zirbas and Gus Nicozisin
 Holy Saturday Icon Flower Arrangement for Resurrection Service - *Connie and Jim Moore and*
Nick and Mary Kamakas in memory of their parents Nicholas and Mary Kamakas
 Holy Saturday Floral Cross for Resurrection Service - *Carey, Devers Family,*
in memory of Nicholas & Panagiota Yiatras
 Holy Saturday Resurrection Banner - *Mary Jane Thomas, in memory of Presvytera Sylvia Nicozisin*
 Agape Service Icon Flower Arrangement - *Kimberly and Glen Kaminski*
 Olive Oil (for votive lights) -*The Kamburis Family*
 Easter Eggs - *Stephanie Benos Tyler and Elaine Davis, in memory of their parents, Gladys & Dino Benos*
 Additional Candle Donations - *Irene Schildroth in memory of Loved Ones*





Dear St. Nicholas Parish Family,

Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen! Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!

“It is the day of Resurrection; let us be radiant for the festival and let us embrace one another. Let us say, O brethren, even to those that hate us: Let us forgive all things on the Resurrection; and thus let us cry: Christ is risen from the dead, by death He has trampled down death, and on those in the tombs He has bestowed life.”

Many thanks to our committed and faithful parishioners of St. Nicholas for a meaningful Lenten journey, which led us to an uplifting and beautiful Resurrection. Special thanks to the Parish Council for all their efforts during the services, events and celebrations. And last, but certainly not least, to Father Doug & Father Michael, for their unwavering dedication to our community. Your guidance and love are an inspiration to all of us!

Life on earth is a gift. The work we do is also a gift if we see it as an opportunity to serve God and others. Saint Paul instructs us, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men....” (Colossians 3:23). When we see our work in this way, we are able to become Christian stewards of our work. As Christian Stewards we are called to give back to God from the “first fruits” of our labor. We support our parish and her ministries in an intentional way and not with only what it left after everything else has been taken care of. In whatever work we do, we are called to give glory to God for the abilities and opportunities he provides. We do this by caring for the work we do, applying our God-given abilities to our work, and by respecting the responsibilities with which we have been entrusted. We do our best and give the glory to God. Please assist us to continue our good works at St. Nicholas by ensuring that your 2025 Stewardship Pledge Form has been completed.

The Parish Council, along with our physical facilities committees, work hard to maintain both buildings – St. Nicholas Church and the Family Life Center. If you have any questions regarding a specific project, please contact me. We will be happy to provide an update on our progress.

Festival prep is in full swing! There are several volunteer opportunities throughout the summer. All are welcome, no experience necessary, we’d love to see you. Please save the dates for the Taste of the Greek Festival in July and the Labor Day Weekend Greek Festival. It takes all of us coming together to host the best ethnic food festivals in the area.

Looking ahead to the fall...Please save the date for our Mortgage Burning Celebration on Sunday, September 21st at the St. Nicholas Family Life Center. More details to be announced in the coming months!

May God continue to Bless all of us!

Best regards,
Carol Kamburis
Parish Council President

Philoptochos Corner May 2025

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen! – Thank you to the many Ladies of St. Nicholas Philoptochos who worked tirelessly during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Our members helped plan, cook, set up, clean up, decorate, and much, much more. May God continue to bless us with health in our hands and love in our hearts.

Palm Sunday Brunch – A special thank you to Chris Anastas, Christina Ginos, Carol Kamburis and all the Ladies of St. Nicholas Philoptochos for hosting a beautiful Palm Sunday Brunch. Guests enjoyed an elegant event – complimentary mimosas, delicious traditional & gourmet omelet buffets, coffee bar, festive spring décor, children's buffet & entertainment. This has become a wonderful tradition at the start of Holy Week.



Reception after AGAPE Service on Easter Sunday – Thank you to Maria Kamburis and the Ladies of St. Nicholas Philoptochos for hosting the annual AGAPE Coffee Reception on Easter Sunday at the Family Life Center.

General Meeting to Elect Board of Directors – Thursday, May 22nd – Please join us for dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the Family Life Center for our general meeting as we welcome a guest from one of our charity spotlights and elect our new Board of Directors for the 2025-2027 term. All candidates seeking election to the Board of Directors must qualify in accordance with the Philoptochos Bylaws. To be qualified for election to the Board of Directors, the member must have been a member in good standing of the Parish and the Chapter for a period of at least one year prior and must have attended a minimum of four meetings held in the year previous to the election.

Calendar of Events:

Thursday 5/1 – Board Meeting (FLC)

Thursday 5/22 – General Meeting





Dear St. Nicholas Family & Friends:

We are once again gearing up for our Annual Labor Day Festival, Saturday, August 30 thru Monday, September 1 and Taste of the Festival, July 19 and 20. We need your continued support in volunteering your services, even if its only for an hour or two. Last year we had a great response from our young adults – Many Thanks for their help! We hope you can join us again in continuing to learn the skills of your parents and grandparents. The following schedule also includes some Philoptochos prep dates.

Please feel free to contact a member of the Festival Food Team with any questions.

Thanks,

Teddy Hart – 314.914.7711, Peggy Pierroutsakos – 636.395.8696 & Dianne Zotos – 636.541.0708

Your Festival Food Team

May –

Monday, 5/05 at 8:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Spanakopita Assembly No. 2
 Monday, 5/12 at 8:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Spanakopita Assembly No. 3 (if needed)
 Monday, 5/19 at 8:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Galaktoboureko/Baklava Sundaes Assembly
 Friday, 5/30 at 9:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Organize Sunday School Rooms, FF Closet
 and much more!

June –

Friday, 6/06 at 8:30 a.m. – Family Life Center – Galaktoboureko Assembly for Philoptochos
 Monday, 6/09 at 8:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Salad Dressing Cups
 Wednesday, 6/11 at 8:30 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Salad Dressing Bottles
 Friday, 6/13 at 1:00 p.m. – St. Nicholas – Lamb Shanks (Wash and Marinade)
 Saturday, 6/14 at 7:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Lamb Shanks (Cook and Assembly)
 Friday, 6/20 at 8:00 a.m. – Family Life Center – Spanakopita Assembly for Philoptochos
 (if needed)

Monday, 6/23 at Time TBD – St. Nicholas – Hellas Pastries Arrival and Transfers to Family Life Center for Taste of the Festival

July –

Monday, 7/07 at 8:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Koulouria No. 1
 Friday, 7/11 at 9:00 a.m. – Family Life Center – Tzatziki Cups/Cut Baklava for Taste of the Festival
 Tuesday, 7/15 at 9:00 a.m. – Family Life Center – Pastries Assembly for Taste of the Festival
 Wednesday, 7/16 thru Friday, 7/18 – 9:00 a.m. – Family Life Center –
 Kitchen Prep for Taste of the Festival
 Monday, 7/28 at 8:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Koulouria No. 2





St. Nicholas Church School

Christos Anesti Χριστός Ανέστη!

We hope you had a wonderful Lent, Pascha and start to spring! It is hard to believe we are at the end of our Church School year!

It has been another rewarding year for our teachers and students alike. We participated in the traditions of processions, feast days, lessons, study of Saints, learning the parts of the Divine Liturgy and so much more. Most recently, we held the Oratorical Festival which encourages the youth to express their faith through group projects and individual contributions. Our lessons-from pre-k to high school- are designed to help us understand the Orthodox faith and actively apply it to life today. This means everything from how to be nice to your new baby sibling to what/if you should respond on Snapchat to a friend. Our teachers are there for our children to teach and guide throughout all stages. Please say thank you to them for their dedication!

As we close the 2024-25 school year, we invite everyone to join us on May 18, 2025 to celebrate on the last day of Church School. The details are in this bulletin and will be sent via e-blasts.

Lastly, mark your calendars for the fun summer youth activities.

- **Junior Olympics**
- **Fanari Camp**
- **Vacation Bible School**
- **Hellenic Culture Camp**

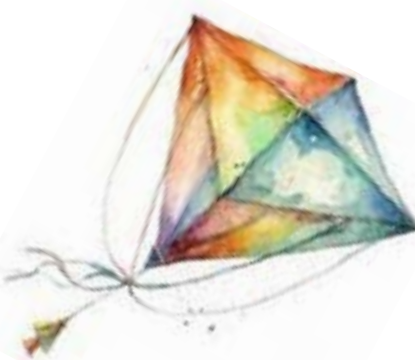
All details are on supporting flyers.

**Sincerely,
Lexie Dendrinelis & Tania Scarpino**

A SPECIAL MESSAGE:

At the end of this school year, I will be stepping down from the leadership role of the Church School. It has truly been my honor to serve our parish and our youth. I appreciate the support, teamwork and dedication to our Church School and me during my Director time.

**Sincerely,
Lexie Dendrinelis**





ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH SCHOOL PICNIC

LAST DAY PARTY

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

FOOD/ICE
CREAM/GAMES/FACE
PAINTING/ BALLOON
ARTIST

MAY 18, 2025 AT
11:30AM

LOCATION:
ST. NICHOLAS GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH
(PLEASE RSVP AT
CHURCH BY 5/14)

Pascha 2025



Pascha 2025



Pascha 2025



Pascha 2025







Young Adult League
GREATER SAINT LOUIS

18-35 YEARS OLD?

JOIN TODAY!

Worship. Witness. Service. Fellowship.

Already a Member? Stay in the loop!

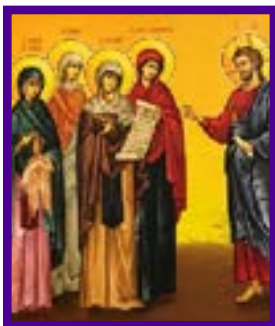


 @yalstlouis

 stlouisyal@gmail.com

Submit topics for future discussions!





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 Tuesdays, May 13 and 27
at the Family Life Center*



Save the Date!

Join us as we journey

To the Ends of the Earth!

following the paths of the Saints,
sharing the Gospel through time.

**2025 St. Nicholas
Vacation Bible School**

July 26 thru August 1

at St. Nicholas Family Life Center



Details soon!



"The Orthodox Mission Team of St. Louis works to nurture an awareness within our local churches of the need to evangelize, catechize, and support missionary efforts and programs globally."



IMPACT Introduced: Empowering Youth Ministry in East Africa



In 1999, Dana Bates had moved to an impoverished coal mining region in Romania. He developed Romania's first adventure education and ropes course summer camp called Viata ("the Life" in Romanian), which has given around 700 youth a transformative summer camp experience every year and introduced them to the Orthodox Way of life. As a follow-up to the summer camp, Dana developed a service-learning model called IMPACT that, besides teaching all sorts of life-skills, introduces youth to Orthodoxy by living the "liturgy after the Liturgy," becoming agents of change in their communities.

IMPACT is based on experiential education methods, especially service-learning, and combines spiritual formation and community development outcomes. Youth themselves identify community burdens (Gal. 6:2), decide on and implement a community service-project, and through this learn all sorts of life skills such as project management, budgeting, socio-emotional intelligence, and leadership (problem-solving).

IMPACT has gone on to become a global best practice and is used in over fifty countries through organizations like World Vision.

This past February, Dana and his team trained 44 Orthodox youth leaders in Kenya and Uganda and IMPACT is well underway, putting faith into action!

"We have been praying for support to further develop our active youth ministry, and the program that Dana has created is like a gift of gold," proclaimed His Eminence Jeronymos, Metropolitan of Kampala and all Uganda, after hearing the presentation by the Orthodox Christian Mission Center's (OCMC) newest missionary, Dana Bates, who is a multi-country youth specialist.

Over a ten-day period, Fr. Rob Spaliatsos and Dan Christopoulos, OCMC's Missionary and Development Directors, visited seven dioceses and six hierarchs in Kenya and Uganda to learn more about their needs for missionaries or other resources and see how the IMPACT Orthodox service-learning youth ministry model Bates developed might be implemented in the two countries.

Bates created the IMPACT model based on Orthodox theological foundations which are amplifications of the two greatest commandments: Love of God and love of your neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40). He states:

Nicholas Cabasilas has written, *'Two things, then, commend us to God, and in them lies all the salvation of men. The first is that we be initiated into the most sacred Mysteries; the second, that we train the will for virtue.'* If salvation involves training the will for virtue, it is a vital question: precisely how is the will trained for virtue? St. Gregory Nazianzus tells us that God is pleased by acts of mercy and not the performance of virtues per se. It is only through acts of mercy that the virtue of mercy is developed, and our service-learning model helps our youth do these acts of mercy to and for their neighbor in order to become more Godlike – engage in Theosis. This is simply impossible without action, service—the Liturgy after the Liturgy.

"We are hopeful that after successfully introducing this model to our Orthodox brothers and sisters in East Africa that it will be embraced in other countries where OCMC is supporting the Church's efforts to preach the Good News to 'all nations'," concluded Fr. Spaliatsos.

You may support Dana and this exciting new youth movement in East Africa by going online to www.ocmc.org/Dana-Bates or by contacting him at danamateibates@gmail.com to receive more information.

As always, please feel free to contact Rosie Hartley, 618-447-9688, if you have any questions, would like to be part of the Mission Team St. Louis, or if you would like to help our missionaries.

Thank you for your continued support!



MEMORIAL DONATIONS



CHURCH FUND

In Memory of Anthony Leara

Paul & Helen Leara

In Memory of Despina Pashos

Frances Demetre

Trigona Maleas

In Memory of Anne Souris

John Nicozisin

In Memory of Bess Zotos

Tot & Millie Strong & Family

Chase Law Firm

In Memory of Roxana Couteranis

Andrew Efthim

Becky Liringis

Trigona Maleas

In Memory of Johanna Spanos

Andrew Efthim

Byron & Carolyn Golfin

Raymond Kattelmann

MORTGAGE PAYOFF

In Memory of

William & Ethel Fotenos

Helen Fotenos

ST. NICHOLAS SCHOLARSHIP

In Memory of Roxana Couteranis

Lee & Rosie Hartley

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In Memory of Johanna Spanos

Frieda Perkins

Pete & Kay Koronis

NEXT 100 CAMPAIGN

In Memory of

Presvytera Sylvia Nicozisin

John Nicozisin

In Memory of Frieda Karras

John Nicozisin

In Memory of Roxana Couteranis

Frances Demetre

In Memory of Christine Lemakis

George & Andrea Mezines

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

In Memory of Roxana Couteranis

Deborah Johnson

Elaine & Ron Been

Ellen Piskos

Janet Papageorge

Michael & Georgia Ferretti

Paul & Helen Leara

Peggy & Tom Dimitriades

Sam & Maureen Mezines

Terry & Kathy Livaditis

Theresa Galakatos

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

(continued)

In Memory of Bess Zotos

Patty & Bill Brasher

In Memory of Johanna Spanos

Art Liyeos

Basil Livanos

David & Carolyn Zwart

Denise & Evan Graf

Ellie & Pantelis Lico

George & Andrea Mezines

James & Theresa Demos

Janet Pappageorge

John & Angie Koulouriotis

John & Lisa Buescher

Kathy Tzortzidis

Mano & Gina Nakis

Mary Ann Mastorakos

Mary Joanne Karella

Mike & Lucie Convy

Stephanie & Collin McPerron

Sue Katsoulis

MEMORIALS

| | | | |
|---|---------|---|----------|
| † | 40 day | memorial for Vasso Angelos | March 30 |
| † | 40 day | memorial for Bess Zotos | March 30 |
| † | 1 year | memorial for Bill Koutsougiannis | March 30 |
| † | 1 year | memorial for Vassiliki "Bessie" Dubis | March 30 |
| † | 10 year | memorial for Haralambos "Bobby" Botonis | March 30 |

FUNERALS

Dennis Plesons fell asleep in the Lord on March 11. His funeral was March 21.

Anthony Leara fell asleep in the Lord on March 23. His funeral was April 1.



† May his memory be eternal

† May his memory be eternal.

40 day Blessing:

Kyriaki Marie, daughter of Mahrya and Dave Page was Blessed and Churched on March 30, 2025. Congratulations!

Have you pledged to be a steward of St. Nicholas in 2025?

*"The key to giving is realizing we have nothing to give,
but merely we give back from what He first gave us."*

-Father Stavros, St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church.

We are all called to be stewards of the church. As we approach the middle of the year, we are asking, if you haven't done so as yet, to become a steward of St. Nicholas. You are part of our church family and as a family member you are welcomed, loved and appreciated.



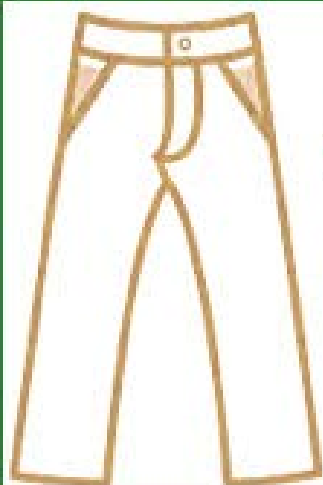
Please be a financial contributor as well.

Income Tax Savings



Recently, a parishioner who gifted \$25,000 to pay off the mortgage on the Family Life Center happily called and advised Fr. Doug that the gift not only avoided additional income taxes for 2024, but also paid for estimated taxes for the first and second quarters of 2025 due to overpayment of 2024.

If you are considering leaving the church a legacy in your trust or will, you might wish to make a gift or gifts during your lifetime and take a deduction on your current federal and state income taxes. Contact your tax advisor to determine just how much you can save by making such a lifetime gift to St. Nicholas.




PRISON MINISTRY NEEDS

St. Nicholas Prison Ministry is in need of jeans and khakis-waist size 34-38.

Please contact Clark Porter to arrange delivery
Clark_Porter@moep.uscourts.gov or
314.518.6747

May 2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 10:30 am Adult Choir Practice at FLC |
| 4 <i>Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church <i>Sunday School</i> Fellowship Coffee Hour Prison Ministry Fundraising Luncheon at Church 5 pm Jr. GOYA & GOYA Dinner and Presentation at FLC | 5 8:00 am Festival Prep Spanakopita Assembly No. 2 St. Nicholas Church | 6 | 7 7 am Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom | 8 | 9 | 10 10:30 am Adult Choir Practice at FLC |
| 11 <i>Sunday of the Paralytic</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church <i>Sunday School</i> Fellowship Coffee Hour | 12 8:00 am Festival Prep Spanakopita Assembly No. 3 (if needed) St. Nicholas Church | 13 10:00 am <i>Women's Faith Group</i> <i>Family Life Center</i> 7 pm via Zoom Young Adult League | 14 7 am Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom | 15 | 16 | 17 10:30 am Adult Choir Practice at FLC |
| 18 <i>Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church <i>Sunday School</i> Fellowship Coffee Hour May Name Day Celebration 11:30 am Church School Picnic | 19 8:00 am Festival Prep Galaktoboureko/Baklava Sundaes Assembly St. Nicholas Church | 20 | 21 7 am Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom <i>Ss. Constantine and Helen</i> 9:30 am at Family Life Center Chapel | 22 6:00 pm <i>Philoptochos General Meeting</i> Family Life Center | 23 | 24 10:30 am Adult Choir Practice at FLC Junior Olympics Lombard, Illinois |
| 25 <i>Sunday of the Blind Man</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church <i>Sunday School</i> Fellowship Coffee Hour | 26  9:00 am <i>Memorial Service</i> <i>Veterans Memorial Pavilion</i> St. Matthews Cemetery Junior Olympics Lombard, Illinois | 27 10:00 am <i>Women's Faith Group</i> <i>Family Life Center</i> | 28 7 am Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom | 29 <i>Holy Ascension</i> 9:30 am at Family Life Center Chapel | 30 9:00 am Festival Prep Organize Sunday School Rooms, FF Closet and much more! St. Nicholas Church | 31 10:30 am Adult Choir Practice at FLC |

Thank you for supporting St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
4967 Forest Park Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63108

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. LOUIS, MO
PERMIT NO. 1029



Please visit us at www.angoo.org

