

ST. NICHOLAS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2024

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 FESTIVAL Labor Day Weekend



Saturday
11am to 8pm

Sunday
11am to 8pm

Monday
11am to 5pm



Come join us this Labor Day weekend!

107th Annual St. Nicholas Greek Festival

Authentic Greek Food | Live Music | Dance Performances

Church Tours | Gift Shop

Free Admission | Free Parking

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

opastl.com

St. Nicholas Servants

2024 PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Mark Vleisides, Chairperson 314-576-2898

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Bill Karides, Chairperson 314-422-1968
 Tina Paradowski

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Demi Holt

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 Liz Glynnias
 Paul Leara
 Pat Lekich
 Demmie Nicozisin

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Dan Tarlas, Chairperson 314-713-5500

GREETERS COMMITTEE

Lyndia Finer, Chairperson 314-960-3384

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Elaine Coulson, Chair-sngoclibrary@gmail.com

"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

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

CHURCH SCHOOL Director

Lexie Dendrinelis- sngocchurchschool@gmail.com

WEBSITE

Christina Stamelos 314-402-4996



Basil

We appreciate your contribution of Basil

Saturday, September 14

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross

and also Sunday, September 15

Procession of the Holy Cross

Thank you!

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 Begins September 15



**\$25 Per Child
(\$75 Max Per Family)**

**Registration
is
OPEN**



For registration link, please visit sngoc.org.

Registration QR

For questions and information, please contact
sngocchurchschool@gmail.com.

BE INVOLVED... VOLUNTEER



WE NEED YOU TO....

- MAKE A DIFFERENCE
- JOIN THE TEAM
- HELP US WITH OUR MISSION
- ASK YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS
TO JOIN YOU

LABOR DAY WEEKEND GREEK FESTIVAL

“A ST. LOUIS TRADITION”
ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

CONTACT...

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

CHRISTINA GINOS	314.504.6988
DEMI HOLT	314.550.6579
SANDRA KAMBURIS	314.952.9958
TANIA SCARPINO	314.255.3262

-OR-

ASK US HOW TO SIGN-UP ONLINE!

Opportunity to Support the Greek Festival 2024

We need your support! In an effort to maximize profits, we are continuing to seek monetary donations to help offset expenses of the annual Greek Festival.

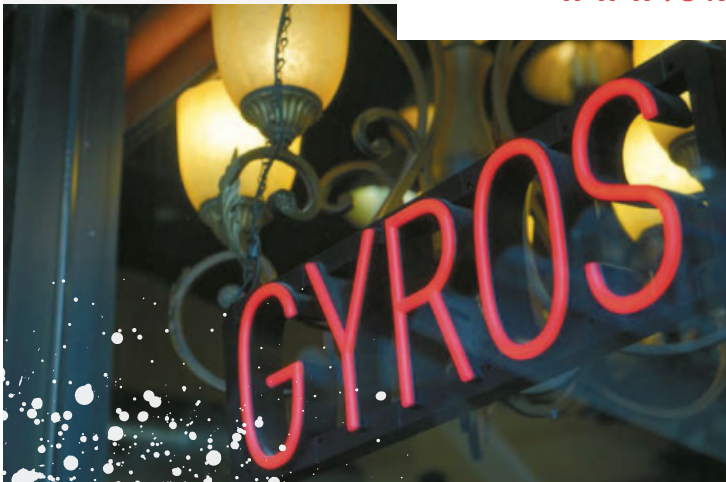
Gyros, Gyros, and more Gyros continue to be our top seller! Help us cover the expenses of the gyro cones and this will become pure profit for the Greek Festival. A quick, easy \$150 donation covers one gyro cone.

Please make checks payable to St. Nicholas Greek Festival and note "Festival Donation" in the memo line and mail to the Church office. Or for your convenience, you may donate online.

For any questions, please contact:
Christina Anastas at 314.647.4636
Carol Kamburis at 314.803.2451

ONLINE FESTIVAL DONATIONS

WWW.SNGOC.ORG





GREEK FESTIVAL GUEST CHECKS

Treat your friends to the tastes and sounds of the Greek Festival by surprising them with Greek Festival Guest Checks. Available in increments of \$10 and redeemable for food, beverage or merchandise throughout the Festival over Labor Day Weekend. Only guest checks that are redeemed will be charged to the provided account. This is a simple way to support the Greek Festival while hosting your friends! Please email stnicholas@sngoc.org or contact the Church office for more details.



It's the Final Countdown!

Together as a dedicated parish family, we have made significant strides towards paying off our loan for the St. Nicholas Family Life Center and renovations to St. Nicholas Church. We are approaching the final countdown of our Capital Campaign, with \$400,000 remaining to raise before retiring our debt successfully. **Let's celebrate this amazing accomplishment, as we anticipate the final laps and launch our vision for the future of St. Nicholas!**

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
DIVINE LITURGY**

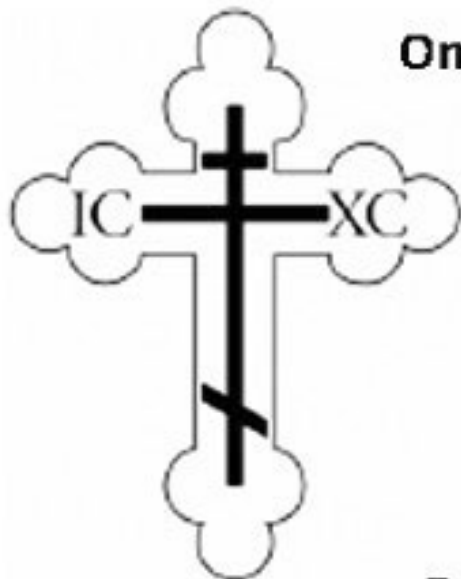
**ST. NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**



**Join us for a special reception to celebrate
our achievements and welcome the
children back to Sunday School!**

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**

**Saturday, September 14, 2024
Immediately following Divine Liturgy
St. Nicholas Family Life Center**

\$15.00

Proceeds to benefit Holy Cross Seminary

St. Nicholas Philoptochos



Membership Mimosa Brunch

*General Meeting
Saturday, September 28, 2024
10:00 a.m.*

*St. Nicholas Family Life Center
Philoptochos Room*

*Please join us as we kick-off our 2024-2025 calendar
of events, with a special presentation to charity
spotlight, Colton's Cause. 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*

The St. Louis Metropolitan Committee invites you to its

22nd ANNUAL IOCC BANQUET

Sunday, September 29, 2024

5:00 pm Vespers | 6:00 pm Dinner | Cash Bar

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 22

iocc.org/stlouis

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

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

Questions? Contact
Diane at 314-966-2255.



22nd ANNUAL IOCC BANQUET | SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Ticket(s) (\$40 per person) | <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Benefactor (\$5,000+) <i>includes 2 tickets</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$300) |
| <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 (\$200) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$500) <i>includes 2 tickets</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend (\$100) |

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

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Parish _____

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

Orthodox Young Adults

Please join us for an Orthodox Young Adults
(for ages after college-30's) night of fellowship, discussion
and faith on **Tuesday, September 10 at 7 pm via Zoom.**

We will be meeting via Zoom on the
second Tuesday of every month.

For the Zoom link and for any questions, please contact:

Gracie Livaditis at glivaditis251@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome!



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 24
at the Hearth Room Cafe
265 Lamp and Lantern Village
Town and Country Missouri, 63017*

From the Church School Director's Desk

Welcome back!

The new Church School year is here! On behalf of our priests and teachers, I want to extend a warm welcome to returning and new students. Our first day is September 15th and we are busy getting classrooms, lessons and activities planned. Below are the key items to know as the 2024-25 school year begins:

- Please register your child. This is important so teachers know how to plan, set up attendance rosters, etc. If you have not yet registered your child (ren), please do so online at: > sngoc.org > MINISTRIES > YOUTH MINISTRIES - Look for "Church School" and "Register Here."
- The first day is also the Elevation of the Holy Cross. We have the students participate in the procession as usual. Teachers will have crosses available in the classroom for the students to use.
- Parents, please watch your email for details on Church School events and activities.

It is my honor to again serve as the Church School Director for our wonderful St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. I look forward to supporting the growth of youth and sharing the traditions of our faith and culture. Please email with any questions to

sngocchurchschool@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Lexie Dendrinelis



Join us at the **Travel the South Pacific Missions Benefit Event**

Hosted by Mission Team St. Louis

When Sunday, November 3, 2024
 5 pm Vespers | 5:30 pm Registration
 5:30 pm Tiki Cash Bar & Oceania Displays
 6 pm Pacific Islands Jamboree & Presentation

Where Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
 1755 Des Peres Road, Town & Country, MO 63131

Who Anyone: \$40 Adults | \$20 Students
 May wear tropical attire – optional

For additional information contact
 571-276-6541 or missionteamstl@gmail.com

**Help us support the Theological Education Program of the
 Metropolis of New Zealand and enhance the next
 generation of leadership and vocations.**

Register Now! 3 easy ways

- Visit the web address
<https://www.ocmc.org/MissionTeamStLouis>
- Scan the QR code





- Sign up and mail
 check before
 10/27/24 to...

OCMC Benefit Dinner
 c/o Registration
 5243 Creighton Dr.
 St. Louis, MO 63123

Make check payable
 to OCMC – Write "St.
 Louis Dinner" on the
 memo line.

-Liturgical Items for Church Services - Donations Welcome.

 Chalice for St. Nicholas	\$5,000 Donated by Anonymous
 Chalice for Chapel	\$2,300 Donated by Andy Efthim
Chalice and Paten Coverings for Liturgies	\$ 375
Four Sets - 2 for Chapel, 2 for Church	\$ 375
	\$ 375
	\$ 375
Communion Cloths \$20 ea(10 Available for donation)	\$ 200
One Gospel Book on Altar-Embroidered Bookmark	\$ 100
One Wedding Cup for Marriage Service	\$2,500
One Gospel and Candle Cover for Episcopal items (for Church)	\$ 150
One Communion Spoon - Chapel	\$ 200
One Holy Unction blessing item	\$ 200
One Gospel and Candles covers for Episcopal items (for Chapel)	\$ 150

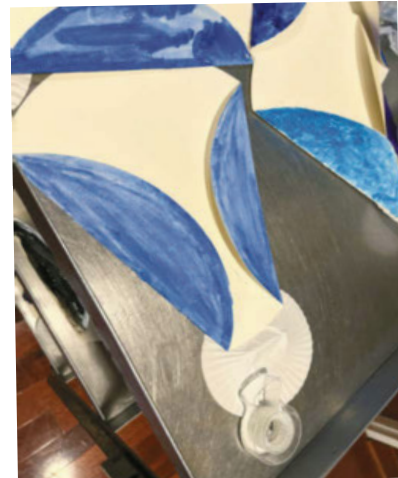


***Please indicate item by notation in the memo / notes section
 of your check/online donations.**

***To make online donation, please go to :**

>sngoc.org >GIVING >DONATE >General Donation

We Magnify You!



VBS 2024

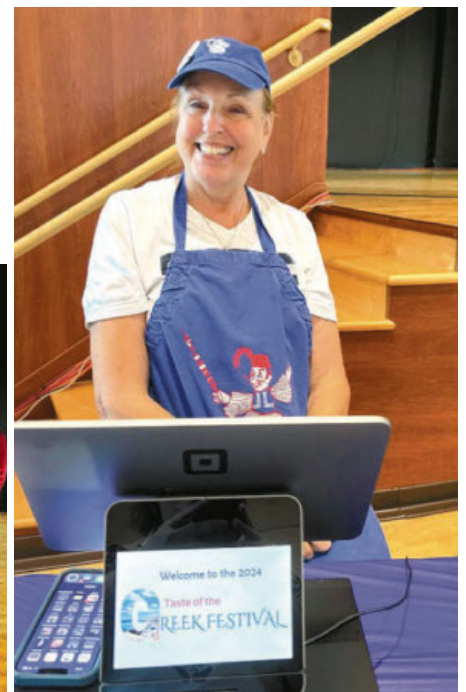
GOYA Community Service Project



HELLENIC CULTURE CAMP



TASTE OF THE GREEK FESTIVAL





Initiatives to advance the Vision for Growth take shape as momentum builds for the Metropolis of Chicago's Annual Vision Campaign

LOMBARD, IL, July 8, 2024 – Since their retreat in January, the members of the Metropolis Council and staff have been engaged in designing a series of initiatives and programs to realize the Vision for Growth, the Metropolis of Chicago's long-term vision for its parishes, institutions, ministries, and people. The initiatives will be fully unveiled in late Q3 or early Q4 of 2024.

While the initiatives are meant to address various needs on the parish level, they also are intended to revitalize parish life and ultimately expand the number of believers in the Church.

"We, as members of the Metropolis Council, understand and are motivated by what can be achieved for our parishes and communities through the Metropolis's Vision for Growth. The level of time, talent, and treasure that is being committed to our Vision for Growth initiatives has been nothing short of inspiring and I'm proud to be part of this work and this Metropolis Council," said George Lattas, First Vice President of the Metropolis Council.

As a result of a year-long dialogue with clergy and lay leaders, His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael identified five core priorities that undergird the Vision for Growth which was first unveiled at the 2023 Clergy-Laity Assembly last October. The five core priorities will be realized through the following initiatives:

DEVELOPING CLERGY: The Metropolis will establish and enroll 10 priests in a clergy wellness program by July 31, 2024. A Vicar of Clergy Care ultimately will be appointed to oversee the mental, emotional, physical, social, and financial well-being of the Metropolis clergy so they become better spiritual fathers.

SUPPORTING PARISHES: The Metropolis will create a training and education program for the purpose of improving the efficiency and creating a culture of servant leadership among all parish councils. Under the program, eight parish councils will be enrolled by October 1 and all other parishes will be enrolled by December 31. Separately, the Metropolis also will enroll eight parishes by December 31 to better understand and define the individual characteristics of parish vibrancy. Once finalized, a parish vibrancy assessment tool will be rolled out to all parishes to augment the spiritual experience in parishes and identify areas of improvement.

EXPANDING PHILANTHROPY: The Metropolis will distribute two million meals to disadvantaged populations by December 31. For context, the Metropolis distributed more than one million meals from January 2020 to December 2023.

INCREASING ENGAGEMENT: The Metropolis is collecting and analyzing the catechism programs used within its parishes by December 1. Once this process concludes, the Metropolis will create a best-in-class catechism program to create a consistent experience among all catechumens of all parishes.

FUELING GROWTH: The Metropolis will raise \$1 million in recurring gifts by December 31 to sustain and grow Vision for Growth initiatives and other Metropolis needs. Additionally, the Metropolis will establish a parish debt elimination policy by December 31. Once the criteria are identified and the policy is approved, parishes will submit applications for partial or full elimination of debt.

Vision for Growth News (continued)

“The work related to our Vision for Growth, to which so many have tirelessly devoted themselves, is premised on the truth that a good life is one that serves the other through Christ. As a people of faith, there is no greater achievement than existing and acting as the Body of Christ. As Metropolitan, I am excited that this remains our present focus as well as desired outcome,” said His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael.

To date, 100 percent of the members of the Metropolis Council have made annual financial contributions to the Annual Vision Campaign above and beyond donating their professional time and talent on a continuous basis. For more information about the Vision for Growth, visit the Metropolis’s webpage at goarch.org

**UMSL *SAVE THE DATE!*****A CELEBRATION OF 30 YEARS OF
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🌟 **Historical Presentation**

💻 **Oral History Digital Exhibit**

🎬 **Exclusive Film Screening**

🍽️ **Delicious Greek Cuisine**

📖 **Book Presentations**

💃 **Traditional Greek Dances**

Join us for a landmark celebration of Greek culture and tradition! Immerse yourself in an evening of history, community, and joyous memories. Gather your loved ones and experience the richness of our shared heritage. This is a festivity you won't want to miss!!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 6-8 p.m.

UMSL, MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER
Free and open to the public

ORGANIZED BY THE HELLENIC GOVERNMENT – KARAKAS FAMILY FOUNDATION PROFESSORSHIP IN GREEK STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

Dear St. Nicholas Parish Family,

In an effort to communicate the status of our loan for the St. Nicholas Family Life Center & renovations to St. Nicholas Church, below is a condensed timeline to recap the past 20 years.

1999: Purchased 10 acres in Town & Country for \$2,500,000

2003: Retired the land loan for a total of \$3,200,000

2010: First St. Nicholas Capital Campaign raised \$4,000,000 in pledges and construction began on the St. Nicholas Family Life Center as well as the renovations at St. Nicholas at Forest Park

Total cost to complete construction of the St. Nicholas Family Life Center and major renovations to St. Nicholas Church on Forest Park of \$8,500,000

2012: Signed loan documents for \$5,855,024

2015: Refinanced to a lower 3% interest municipal bond loan of \$5,273,184

2020: Extended our current municipal bond loan for 5 years at the same 3% interest rate and continuing the same amortization schedule

2024: As of June 5 our current loan amount is \$829,210.06. Our monthly mortgage payment is \$25,500

We have made significant strides towards paying off our debt. Thank you for your continued love and dedication to our Parish.

Sincerely,

Carol Kamburis, President

Remember the Church in Your Will: Bequests

When you include the Church in your testamentary plans, you support its vital mission on a long-term basis. The most common way this is done is through a single bequest. Any type of property, including cash, securities, real estate, works of art and jewelry, and more, may be given to the Church through a bequest. Your generosity will assist in sustaining the faith, ministries and mission of St. Nicholas for generations to come.



TYPES OF BEQUESTS

- **Specific Bequest:** This may be a specific dollar amount, a specific piece of tangible or real property, or a stated percentage of your estate.
- **Residuary Bequest:** This includes all or a portion of your estate after distribution of other specific bequests, debts, taxes, expenses & fees.
- **Contingent Bequest:** Under this type of provision, the Church will only receive the bequest if the primary intention cannot be met or if certain specified circumstances take place.

We also recommend that you consult your Financial/Tax Advisors for additional information.



MEMORIAL DONATIONS



CHURCH FUND

In Memory of Thimios Zanetos

Basil and Kathy Pappas
Christine Tschlis
George and Diane Ellis
Mary Ann Mastorakos
Noel and Angie Sevastianos
Paul and Carmela Vazopolos
Penny Tschlis
Roger and Deborah Mitchell
Ron and Elaine Been
Rose and Ray Bauer
Sam and Maureen Mezines
The Engstrom Family
Theresa Galakatos

In Memory of

Elizabeth 'Libby' Efthim

Becky Liringis
Paul and Helen Leara
Tom and Mersine Kallaos

CHURCH FUND (continued)

In Memory of John Ferris

Brenda Halastanis
Dennis, Mary Helen,
Jonathan Moss

In Memory of Jeanne Tompras

Helen Georges

In Memory of Gus Trakas

Margaret Trakas

In Memory of

Bill Koutsogiannis

Stephanie Benos Tyler

In Memory of

Elaine Kontominos Alquist

Tom & Mersine Kallaos

NEXT 100 CAMPAIGN

In Memory of Thimios Zanetos

Andrea, George & Vanessa Mezines
Dan & Andrea Tarlas
Dennis & Helen Carey
George & Kim Tarlas
Sophia & Stephanie Chronopoulos
Terry & Kathy Livaditis

In Memory of

Elizabeth 'Libby' Efthim

Dennis & Helen Carey
Michael & Georgia Ferretti
Teddy & Jim Hart
The Kamburis Family

In Memory of

Vassiliki 'Bessie' Dubis

Stephan Constantinides Family

In Memory of Gus Trakas

George & Kim Tarlas

FUNERAL

Elizabeth "Libby" Efthim fell asleep in the Lord on June 30. Her funeral was on July 8.

May her memory be eternal.

Constantine "Gus" Trakas feel asleep in the Lord on July 20. His Funeral was July 27

May his memory be eternal.

Frieda Margaret Karras fell asleep in the Lord on August 13. Her Funeral was on August 17.

May her memory be eternal.

MEMORIALS

†	40 day memorial for Elizabeth "Libby" Efthim	August 18
†	1 year memorial for Mary Harris	August 11
†	1 year memorial for Yvonne Coleman	August 11
†	2 year memorial for William Coleman	August 11
†	5 year memorial for Thomas Alexander	August 4
†	5 year memorial for Aliki Bibas	August 18
†	8 year memorial for Efthimios "Tim" Bibas	August 18

BAPTISMS

Nicholas Kappas, adult son of Attallah and Katharine Kappas was baptized on July 28.

His sponsor is Mike Pappas. Congratulations!

Zoi Philip, daughter of Nileena Philip and Peter Nicholas was baptized on August 24.

Her godfather is Michael Becker. Congratulations!

Adeline Menos, daughter of Amber and Kevin Menos was baptized on August 25.

Her godfather is Alexander Rogers. Congratulations!

Logan Daly, adult son of Shawn Daly and Missy Taylor. was baptized on August 25.

His sponsor is Dimitri Tsakalas. Congratulations!

WEDDINGS

John Ashley and Christie Corrigan were married on July 20. Their Orthodox Sponsor is

Pres. Chrysanthie Bessinas. Congratulations!

Mitchell Stevens and Madeleine Wolfe were married on July 21. Their Orthodox Sponsor is

Mimi Davis. Congratulations!

September 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>Ecclesiastical New Year</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church 	2 	3 18:30 AM GREEK FESTIVAL CLEANUP	4 7 am Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom 18:30 AM GREEK FESTIVAL CLEANUP	5 10 am Kafenio Family Life Center 8:30 AM GREEK FESTIVAL CLEANUP	6 18:30 AM GREEK FESTIVAL CLEANUP	7 10:30 am Adult Choir Practice at FLC
8 <i>Nativity of the Theotokos</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church Fellowship Coffee Hour 5 pm Junior GOYA at FLC 5 pm GOYA at FLC	9	10 7 pm via Zoom Orthodox Young Adults	11 7 am Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom	12	13	14 <i>Elevation of the Cross</i> 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Family Life Center Stavrou Luncheon to follow 10:30 am Adult Choir Practice at FLC
15 <i>Sunday After Holy Cross</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church Fellowship Coffee Hour First Day of Sunday School <i>Final Countdown Celebration</i> Following Divine Liturgy	16	17	18 7 am Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom	19	20	21 10:30 am Adult Choir Practice at FLC
22 <i>First Sunday of Luke</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church Fellowship Coffee Hour 6 pm UMSL Anniversary Event	23	24 10 am Women's Faith Group Hearth Room Cafe	25 7 am Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom	26	27	28 10:00 am Philoptochos General Meeting FLC - Philoptochos Room 10:30 am Adult Choir Practice at FLC
29 <i>Second Sunday of Luke</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church Fellowship Coffee Hour 5pm IOCC Banquet Assumption Greek Orthodox Church	30					

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