



SAINT NICHOLAS

GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

REV. ECONOMOS ARISTIDIS GARINIS, PASTOR

REV. PRESBYTER ALEXANDROS DOUVRES

Jun-Jul- Aug Volume 2, Issue 2

stnicholasflushing.org



*"And they were all
filled with the
Holy Spirit."*

— ACTS 2:4

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

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Rev. Presbyter Fr. Alexandros Douvres

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Helen Papageorgiou- Stewardship

Anna Rigogiannis- Sacraments

Evangelos Vekios- Bookkeeper

Church Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Phone 718-357-4200

Email: info@stnicholasflushing.org

196-10 Northern Blvd

Flushing, NY 11358

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THE ARK is a quarterly publication by St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. Any questions or comments please contact the editor, Olga Dakis at stnicholasark@gmail.com.

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GOYA

Advisor- Christina Mihalatos

Advisor- Christos Kladeftiras

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GOYA Volleyball

Advisor/Coach- Gerasimos Mihalatos

FR. ARISTIDIS GARINIS, PROISTAMENOS



Beloved St. Nicholas Parishioners,

We are deeply blessed to have experienced another wonderful year of our annual festival. The true measure of our success cannot

be quantified by monetary value; rather, it is rooted in our profound sense of community. Simply put, it was beautiful to witness our faithful come together, laboring hand-in-hand toward a common goal. This spirit of unity and togetherness is truly emblematic of our Orthodox Christian ethos.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ prayed to God the Father at the Mystical Supper, “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You” (John 17:21). The Lord prayed for our unity as a Church and as living members of His Body. He also promised that He would send us the Comforter, which was fulfilled on the glorious day of Pentecost. When the Apostles, the Virgin Mary, and the disciples were gathered together in prayer, the Holy

Spirit descended upon them, blessing them and igniting a divine fire in their hearts. They began to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ with such power that, in a single afternoon, over three thousand souls came to the faith. Pentecost was the spark that ignited the growth of our Church, which remains guided by the same Holy Spirit today. What makes our unity as Orthodox Christians so resilient—not only here at St. Nicholas but throughout the world—is that the message of Christ’s Gospel is unchanging, sustained by the one All-Holy Spirit. We confess this truth in the Divine Liturgy when we cry out, “Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess...” echoing the Apostolic sentiment that the multitude

“Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess...”

of believers were of “one heart and one soul” (Acts 4:32), emphasizing the unity of faith shared in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

What does this mean for us today? First and foremost, we have been granted a magnificent inheritance. Our Orthodox Christian faith is a priceless treasure! We are tasked with the great blessing

and awesome responsibility to uphold this faith and transmit the Gospel to this generation. Our youth are not simply the future of the Church; they are the vibrant present. As Orthodox Christians, our constant mission is to live the Gospel at all times, and, when necessary, use words. The connection of our youth to Christ and parish life stems from our ability to communicate the Gospel in spirit and in truth. This generation is thirsting for authenticity. They are bombarded by a superficial, manufactured digital world that often leaves them feeling empty and searching for something more. That "something more" is the Church. The Church is not a rigid set of rules, but the Living Body of Christ written on the hearts of her members, revealing a truth, value, and relevance that are utterly timeless. This timelessness is rooted in the eternal Word of God, who entered into the world to save it.

I pray that each of us examines our own heart: Are we living, breathing members of Christ's Body? This does not mean we are perfect, but that we are actively striving to acquire the Spirit of God in our lives. As Saint Seraphim of Sarov famously taught, "Acquire a peaceful spirit, and thousands around you will be saved." If our parish and our

parishioners were suddenly removed from Flushing, would the surrounding world notice our absence? Our answer to this question speaks volumes about how we live out our Christian calling in today's world.

May we continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, and may our St. Nicholas family continue to flourish in faith and love for generations to come.

With love in Christ,

Economos, Fr. Aristidis Garinis, Proistamenos



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church
Flushing, NY





Everyone loves summer vacation. The chance to get away from work and daily responsibilities, the opportunity to travel, to sleep

in, and to spend quality time with our families—the list goes on and on. Even if we cannot or choose not to go away, just having the 'free time' to relax feels amazing.

When we do have the opportunity to take a trip, what do we bring with us? What do we leave behind? What do we forget? If you are like my Presbyteria, you have a checklist, you pack well in advance, and you are probably using multiple bags. Or maybe you are a 'night before' packer like myself. Regardless of our packing style, there are certain things we always remember to bring, such as our cell phones. We make sure we have that device everywhere we go. In fact, it is safe to assume that the phone might be the least forgotten item when it comes to leaving for vacation. We make sure it is with us, fully charged, and

ready to use. We use our phones to text, make calls, take pictures, post on social media, stream movies, listen to music, make purchases, and manage almost everything else we do on a day-to-day basis. Our phone has become nearly essential to navigating today's world; it seems to be the one thing we cannot take a vacation from.

But what would that actually be like? Taking a vacation from our phone or technology? Going days, weeks, or even months without checking a device? Imagine only occasionally plugging it in, checking notifications every couple of days, barely responding to messages, and never updating social media. Is that something we could actually do?

'But Father,' someone may say, 'it is not that I wouldn't be able to do such a thing if I had the opportunity. But my phone

**TAKING A
BREAK FROM OUR DAILY
RESPONSIBILITIES DOES NOT MEAN
TAKING A BREAK FROM CHRIST
OR FROM BEING AN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN.**

has become essential to my life. It is how I communicate with my family, pay bills, manage work, and handle any number of good, important responsibilities.' While we certainly use our phones for good and important things, we must always remember what

is supposed to be the most important thing in our lives.

In the Gospel of Luke, Christ tells the parable of the Great Banquet. The host of the banquet announced he would be holding a grand feast, and when everything was ready, he sent his servant out to let the invited guests know that all was set. However, to the great disappointment of the host, nobody would come. They all had excuses, and none of their reasons were inherently immoral. One had recently bought land and needed to inspect it, another had purchased oxen, and the last had just been married. The master of the feast, now angry that his guests refused to come, sent his servant to invite everyone else from the streets.

God has invited us to be with Him, and being with God means keeping Him at the very center of our lives. This means that we must intentionally remember God, acknowledge His holy presence, and continuously do the things that are pleasing to Him. God is far too crucial to ever 'leave behind.'

When we go away for the summer, we must remember our faith. Neglecting our spiritual lives while we are away is an easy temptation to fall into.

It is vital to continue our morning and evening prayers, to give constant thanks to God, to follow the Church fasts, and, whenever possible, to find a local Orthodox church to attend. Just as we text our friends and post online while on vacation, we need to keep our communication up with God. Taking a break from our daily responsibilities does not mean taking a break from Christ or from being an Orthodox Christian. We must actively keep the fire of faith burning in our hearts.

I challenge each of us this summer to treat our vacation as a beautiful opportunity to grow closer to Christ—after all, we will all have a little extra free time on our hands! Whether you travel abroad, journey across the United States, or enjoy a staycation at home, take intentional time to be with God. This is how the soul finds true peace, and this is how we return from vacation feeling genuinely rejuvenated.

May God bless you all and keep you safe this summer, God bless you all,

Fr. Alexandros Douvres

Fr. Alexandros Douvres



On the Cover: The Icon of Pentecost

Our cover features the stunning Byzantine icon of Pentecost, capturing the historical birth of the Church and the fulfillment of Christ's promise to send the Comforter. In accordance with Holy Tradition, the icon does not merely depict a historical moment, but a timeless theological reality:

The Divine Fire: At the top of the icon, a semicircle represents the heavens, from which twelve tongues of fire descend upon the Apostles, symbolizing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The U-Shaped Seating: The Apostles are seated in a unified, orderly semicircle. This deliberate arrangement represents the unity, harmony, and equality of the Church under Christ, who remains the invisible Head of the Body.

The Empty Space: Notice the prominent empty seat at the center apex between Saint Peter and Saint Paul. This space is reserved for Christ Himself, reinforcing that He is ever-present in His Church.

King Cosmos: In the dark archway at the bottom sits an elderly king holding a white cloth filled with twelve scrolls. This symbolic figure is known as "Cosmos." He represents the entire world, which was once trapped in the darkness of sin and spiritual ignorance. The twelve scrolls represent the teaching of the twelve Apostles, bringing the illuminating light of the Gospel to all nations.

As we celebrate this glorious feast, may the same Holy Spirit that ignited the hearts of the Apostles continue to guide, unite, and bless our St. Nicholas parish family!

ON THE COVER

GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT, ANCHORED IN FAITH



Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Nicholas,

As we navigate the final months of our ecclesiastical year, we find ourselves at a beautiful spiritual crossroads. We have journeyed through the solemnity of Great Lent, witnessed the glorious, blinding light of the Resurrection, and now enter the radiant season of Pentecost. Just as the Holy Spirit descended to guide and unite the early Church, that same grace continues to fill the sails of our parish community today. The name of our newsletter, *The ARK*, reminds us that our church is a sacred vessel navigating the waters of the world—and within this very issue, you are invited to explore the most vibrant, action-packed chapters of our shared voyage yet.

We have filled these pages to the brim with the sights, sounds, and milestones of our community. Grab a cup of coffee, settle in, and get ready to flip through a celebration of our faith in action:

The Ultimate Festival Showcase (Pages 36–40): You won't want to miss our multi-page photo layout. Relive the incredible energy, the mouthwatering aromas of our delicious traditions, and the beautiful sea of volunteers who made this year's annual festival an absolute roaring success. Can you spot

yourself or your family in the crowds?

A Journey from Darkness to Light (Pages 14–15): Stop and immerse yourself in our breathtaking Lent and Pascha photo journal. This stunning two-page visual spread captures the deep solemnity of Holy Week and the explosive joy of the midnight Anastasi service.

The Power of "Philoptochos Strong" (Pages 20–22) See how our extraordinary Ladies Philoptochos Society anchored our community in love. From dyeing over 1,000 brilliant red eggs to raising \$3,000 for "Operation Classroom" and taking to the streets of Manhattan to feed the hungry, their recap is an inspiring testament to charity.

Bustling Halls & Youth Leadership: (Pages 41–69) Our youth are taking charge and making waves! Flip forward to read about the faith-filled excursions of our JOY and Junior GOYA programs, check out the heartwarming milestones at Doulaveris Preschool, and read about the exciting upcoming carnival hosted by the William Spyropoulos PTA.

Scouting Excellence & Honor (Pages 70–75): We are bursting with pride as we highlight the incredible dedication of our Scout troops. Be sure to check out the wonderful updates from our Girl

Scouts, and read the deeply inspiring personal reflections of our four newest Eagle Scouts—George Drakoulis, Vasilios Katranis, Konstantinos Mihalatos, and Christos Vangelatos—as they share the stories behind their remarkable leadership projects.

Every story told and every photograph captured in this issue is a reflection of you—our parishioners, teachers, leaders, and volunteers. We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to bringing this beautiful volume to life.

As the sails catch a gentler breeze and we drift into the peaceful, sun-filled months of summer, we wish you and your loved ones a safe, healthy, and restful season under the protective mantle of St. Nicholas. Enjoy the warmth, create beautiful memories, and we look forward to welcoming you back aboard when *The ARK* returns with a fresh issue this coming September!

Thank you for being the living heart and soul of our beloved community. Happy reading!

In Christ's love,

Olga Dakis

Olga Dakis Editor, *The ARK*



ΕΟΡΤΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ

JUNE 2026

June 1
MON
Monday of the Holy Spirit
Του Αγίου Πνεύματος
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 a.m. Liturgy

June 7
SUN
Sunday of All Saints
Κυριακή των Αγ. Πάντων
7:30 a.m. / 8:45 a.m. Liturgy
General Assembly

June 8
MON / ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ

+The fast of the Holy Apostles begins +
+Αρχεται η νηστεία των Αποστόλων+

June 11
THU
St. Bartholomew the Apostle
Αγ. Βαρθολομέου
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 a.m. Liturgy

June 14
SUN
Second Sunday of Matthew
2η Κυριακή Ματθαίου
7:30 a.m. / 8:45 a.m. Liturgy
Sunday School Graduation

June 21
SUN
3rd Sunday of Matthew
3η Κυριακή του Ματθαίου
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 a.m. Liturgy

June 24
WED
Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Γενέσιον του Αγ. Ιωάννου Βαπτ.
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 a.m. Liturgy

June 28
SUN
4th Sunday of Matthew
4η Κυριακή του Ματθαίου
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 a.m. Liturgy

June 29
MON
SS. Peter and Paul
Των Αγ. Πέτρου και Παύλου
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 8:00 a.m. Liturgy

June 30
TUE
Synaxis of the Holy Apostles
Σύναξις των Αποστόλων
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 a.m. Liturgy

Great Vespers of the Holy Anargyroi
Μ. Εσπερινός των Αγ. Αναργύρων
7:00 p.m.





ΕΟΡΤΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ

JULY 2026

July 1
WED
Holy Anargyroi
Αγιοι Ανάργυροι
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

July 2
THU
Deposition of the Precious Robe of the Theotokos in Vlacherna
Κατάθεσις Εσθήτος τῆς Θεοτόκου ἐν Βλαχέρναις
8:00 Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

July 5
SUN
5th Sunday of Matthew
4τη Κυριακή του Ματθαίου
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy

July 7
TUE
St. Kyriaki the Great Martyr
Αγ. Κυριακῆς Μεγαλομάρτυρος
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

July 11
SAT
St. Euphemia the Great Martyr
Αγ. Ευφίμιας Μεγαλομάρτυρος
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

July 12
SUN
St. Paisios Agiorites
Αγ. Παΐσιου του Αγιορείτου
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy

July 15
WED
SS. Kyrikos and Ioulita
Αγ. Κυρίκου και Ιουλίτας
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

July 17
FRI
St. Marina the Great Martyr
Αγ. Μαρίνης Μεγαλομάρτυρος
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

July 19
MON
The Prophet Elias
Πρ. Ηλίου του Θεσβίτου
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

July 22
WED
St. Markella of Chios
Αγ. Μαρκέλλης της Χίου
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

July 24
FRI
St. Christina the Great Martyr
Αγ. Χριστίνης Μεγαλομάρτυρος
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

July 25
SAT
Falling Asleep of St. Anna
Κοίμησης Αγίας Άννης
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

July 26
SUN
St. Paraskevi the Righteous
Αγ. Παρασκευῆς
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy

July 27
MON
St. Panteleimon the Great Martyr
Αγ. Παντελεήμωνος
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy





ΕΟΡΤΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ

August 2026

*Paraklesis services during the weekdays begin at 7p.m.
There is no Paraklesis on Saturdays. Sunday
Paraklesis services begin at 5 p.m.*

*Οι παρακλήσεις στην διάρκεια της εβδομάδας
αρχίζουν στις 7 μ.μ.
Το Σάββατο δεν τελείτε η παράκληση.
Η παράκληση τις Κυριακές αρχίζει στις 5 μ.μ.*

Aug 1
SAT
Procession of the Holy Cross
Πρόδος του Τιμίου Σταυρού
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

Aug 2
SUN
9th Sunday of Matthew
8η Κυριακή του Ματθίου
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy

Aug 6
THU
Feast of the Holy Transfiguration
Εορτή της Μεταμορφώσεως
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

Aug 9
SUN
10th Sunday of Matthew
10η Κυριακή του Ματθίου
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy

Aug 14
FRI
Great Vespers of the Dormition
Μ. Εσπερινός της Κοίμησης
7:00 p.m.

Aug 15
SAT
Falling Asleep of the Theotokos
Κοίμησης της Θεοτόκου
6:30 a.m Liturgy (Chapel)
Orthros 8:00 a.m.
2nd Liturgy 9:15 a.m.

Aug 16
SUN

10th Sunday of Matthew
10η Κυριακή του Ματθίου
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

Aug 22
SAT

Vespers of Panagia Prousiotissa
Εσπερινός Παναγίας Προυσιωτίσσης
7:00 p.m.

Aug 23
SUN

Apodosis of the Dormition
Απόδοσις της Κοίμησης
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

Aug 24
MON

St. Kosmas the Aitolian
Αγ. Κοσμά του Αιτολού
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy

Aug 27
THU

St. Phanourios the Martyr
Αγ. Φανουρίου
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

Aug 29
SAT

Beheading of St. John the Baptist
Αποτομή κεφαλής του Προδρόμου
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy

Aug 30
SUN

12th Sunday of Matthew
12η Κυριακή του Ματθαίου
7:30 a.m.Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy

Great Vespers SS. of Evrytania
Μ. Εσπερινός Αγ. Ευρυτανίας
7:00 p.m.

YOU'RE INVITED TO
**NOW YOU SEE IT;
NOW YOU DON'T**

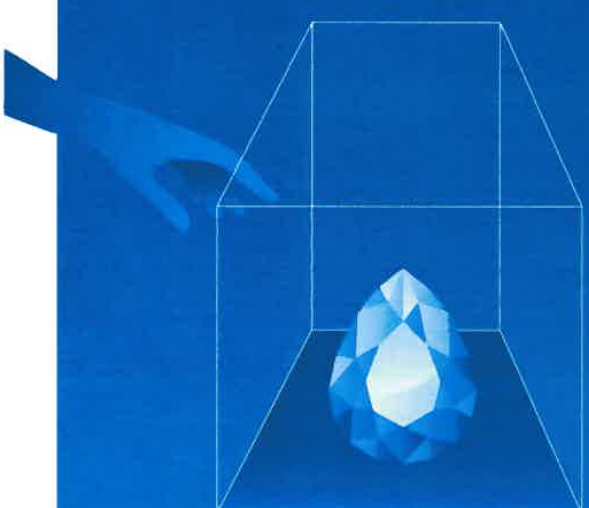
DIAMONDS ARE A CROOK'S BEST FRIEND...

6:00 PM **SARANTAKOS HALL**
SUNDAY OCT 11 2026 **196-10 NORTHERN BLVD**

The crowd was hushed as the museum proprietor got ready to unveil the prized display of the evening, the Stomach of the Ocean Diamond, only to find it had been stolen while the crowd mingled in ignorant bliss. Now it is up to you, your guests, and the detective to find the thief and restore the diamond to its rightful place to get the unveiling back on track!

Delicious Family Style Dinner will be served with
wine & beer included - \$100 per person

SCAN TO RESERVE



HOSTED BY
ST NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
FLUSHING NEW YORK

Pascha: A Community United in Faith...





MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Parish Family,

As we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ during this radiant Pascha season, my heart overflows with gratitude for the abundant blessings God has poured upon our community. This year, we rejoice not only in the light of Christ's victory over death but also in the vibrant, thriving life of our beloved parish. The spirit of renewal is truly alive among us!

Our Annual Festival was once again a resounding success, thanks to the incredible dedication and hard work of so many. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all our volunteers; your countless hours of planning, cooking, serving, and organizing made this massive event possible and allowed us to share our rich Greek heritage and Orthodox faith with the wider community. You are truly the backbone of our parish, and we could not achieve this without you.

This season has also brought remarkable progress in the beautification of our spiritual home. We are blessed to now enjoy newly polished brass doors, beautifully refreshed main sanctuary floors, new lighting throughout the narthex, fresh ceiling tiles, and a fully renovated kitchen in the Philokalia Bookstore. These structural enhancements not only improve the functionality of our facilities but also create a more welcoming and inspiring environment for worship, fellowship, and ministry. Each improvement reflects our shared commitment to stewardship and the care of our church, our home.

So many wonderful things are happening in our community! Our youth programs continue to grow and bring us great joy. As the academic year draws to a close, we look forward to the upcoming graduations of our students from the William Spyropoulos Parochial School, the Stephen and Areti Cherpelis Hellenic School, and the George and Evlavia Doulaveris Preschool. Watching our young people grow in faith, language, and culture is one of the greatest blessings of our parish life.

None of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of our dedicated Parish Council, our devoted staff, and our clergy. Your commitment, vision, and daily hard work keep our parish strong, vibrant, and focused on its holy mission. Thank you for all that you do; your service is a true example of Christian love in action.

May the joy of the Resurrection continue to fill your hearts and homes in the weeks and months ahead. Let us move forward together with faith, hope, and gratitude, always building up our community with God at the forefront of all we do.

In Christ's love and service,

Jimmy Athanasopoulos

Jimmy Athanasopoulos

President, Parish Council

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church

Flushing, NY



N.Y.C. Greek Independence Day Parade





Dear Parish Family,

As we approach the summer months, we ask you to prayerfully remember your stewardship commitment to our parish. While many families travel and schedules change during the summer season, the ministry and daily expenses of the church continue without pause. Our parish remains active in worship, outreach, maintenance, and service to our community throughout the year. If you have not yet made your 2026 stewardship commitment, or if you are able to offer an additional gift, we humbly ask that you do so before summertime. Every offering, no matter the size, helps sustain the life and mission of our church.

As Holy Scripture reminds us:

“Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase.”

— Proverbs 3:9

And:

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

— 2 Corinthians 9:7

We are deeply grateful for your continued love, generosity, and faithful support of our parish family. May God bless you abundantly for all that you give and do in His name.

For online giving—

<https://onrealm.org/StNicholasShrine/Give>

With love in Christ,

Rev. Economos Aristidis Garinis
Proistamenos

Demetrios Athanasopoulos
Parish Council President





BRONZE DEDICATION LEAF	\$ 2,000
SILVER DEDICATION LEAF	\$ 5,000
GOLD DEDICATION LEAF	\$10,000
BENEFACTOR DOVE	\$25,000
GREAT BENEFACTOR STONE	\$50,000

Please consider supporting our Renovation For Our Future project to continue passing the torch of Orthodox faith and Hellenism to our future generations.

BRONZE LEAF \$2,000

SILVER LEAF \$5,000

GOLD LEAF \$10,000

DOVE \$25,000

STONE \$50,000

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLEASE PRINT INSCRIPTION CLEARLY. 3 LINES (33 CHARACTERS MAX)

"SO LET EACH ONE GIVE AS HE PURPOSES IN HIS HEART; NOT GRUDGINGLY OR OUT OF NECESSITY; FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER"

Philoptochos Society: Faith in Action

The Ladies Philoptochos Society continues its dedicated mission to assist all those in need while also promoting fellowship events that bring our parishioners together.

On Holy Thursday, we traditionally come together to dye over 1,000 red eggs for our community, which are then distributed at the midnight Resurrection service and the following day at the Agapi service. This year was no exception, and we were truly blessed that all of our priests joined us to enjoy a Lenten lunch together while we worked.

We are also proud to announce that we raised over \$3,000 for our Operation Classroom drive! Through this initiative, we were able to provide critical math enhancement resources to underprivileged students at P.S. 280Q.

On Tuesday, May 26th, it was our turn to travel into Manhattan for the "Feed the Hungry" initiative, organized by our Archdiocesan District. We provided meals for the homeless and were deeply humbled by the experience and grateful for our own blessings. We included GOYA and other youth from our community so that they,

too, could be involved in this eye-opening and rewarding outreach.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 31st, we hosted a breakfast for our entire community and awarded scholarships to the two recipients of our annual Philoptochos Scholarship. We proudly support the educational and philanthropic endeavors of our youth!

We deeply appreciate your continued support of our ministry and invite you to join or renew your Philoptochos membership for 2026 if you have not already done so. We always welcome new members—please spread the word so that we may continue to stand "Philoptochos Strong"!







MYRRHOPHORES



THE MEN'S LEAGUE

Men's League & AHEPA's Festival Highlights

This year, the Men's League and AHEPA proudly continued their wonderful new tradition of both sponsoring and staffing the Festival Bar. It was a fantastic weekend of fellowship, hard work, and community spirit! Enjoy some of the photo highlights from the bar featured below.

Save the Date!

Building on this momentum, we are excited to announce our Annual Oktoberfest! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 26, 2026**. We look forward to raising a glass together in fellowship once again.



Email: GKakivelis@gmail.com
to join or for more information.



SAVE THE DATE!

ST. NICHOLAS MEN'S LEAGUE
PRESENTS

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER
26TH, 2026**

STARTS 11:00 AM

THE ANNUAL
Oktoberfest

WITH A GREEK FLAIR



BRATWURST



POTATO SALAD



SOUVLAKI STICK



**GERMAN
BEER**



**LIVE
MUSIC**



**FESTIVE
FUN**



**GREEK
FLAVOR**



DANCING



**LIVE
BOUZOUKI**

GREAT FOOD. COLD DRINKS. GOOD MUSIC. ONE GREAT CELEBRATION!

196-10 NORTHERN BLVD

CELEBRATING TRADITION. UNITING CULTURES.

PHILOKALIA ANTONIOS I. CRASSIDES BOOKSTORE

As we approach the end of the Paschal season, and anticipate the upcoming feast of Pentecost, we at the Philokalia Antonios I. Crassides Bookstore hope the word of God will continue to guide and shape our lives in all things, and that, just as the apostles did after receiving the divine flame of the Holy Spirit, we too will avail ourselves of every opportunity to share the wisdom of the “one true faith” of Orthodox Christianity.

As the golden-tongued St. John Chrysostom wrote in one of his 4th century homilies on the book of Ephesians: “Make your home a church. Where prayer is, and reading of Divine Scripture, and psalmody, and thanksgiving, and pious conversations —there is nothing to prevent Christ from being present.” In other words, just like our home parish of St. Nicholas, so also should our own homes reflect the faith, worship and reverent nature of its residents to all who enter. The bookstore offers plenty of resources to aid in the worthy endeavor of transforming your house into a warm, welcoming and above all, sacred space.

We just recently added to our sizable stock of children’s books, and even purchased a stunning array of gold-leaf icons from the Athonite Press, shipped all the way from Houston, Texas. Our inventory of komboskini (prayer ropes), filakto, and charcoal was also replenished not too long ago, just in time for the weekend of our church festival. We hope these items of veneration, religious education and divine protection help inspire our fellow parishioners to make their homes into safe havens, in which all its residing family members/visitors may always feel free to worship in both “spirit and truth,” as the Bible so wisely recommends.

Wishing everyone a blessed and safe upcoming summer season. May the light of our Risen Lord shine within our hearts, now and always, and illuminate every decision and path that lies before us. Christos Anesti, and Kali Dynamis to all!

With love and prayers,
The St. Nicholas Bookstore Staff

A/n: We are still looking for 2-3 St. Nicholas parishioners who would be available to volunteer at the bookstore after the second divine liturgy, for just a half hour to 40 minutes after the service has finished. Thank you so much in advance, we would greatly appreciate the extra assistance! Please contact Tina Holinski at (718) 831-0371 for more information.

A/n: While we are always happy to collect donations, we humbly ask you to consider their conditions before dropping them off. The purpose of our bookstore is to sell as many items as possible to help meet the needs of our beloved parish. The better the state of our donations, the more likely they are to be repurchased. Thank you very much!



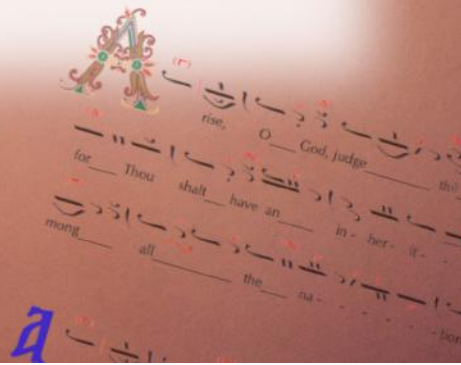
ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH FLUSHING

BYZANTINE MUSIC SCHOOL

The classes are held every Thursday at 6:00pm in the school building and are free. The classes are taught by the professor of Byzantine music and master chanter of St. Nicholas Shrine Church in Flushing, Eleftherios Eleftheriadis. The school has 15 registered students who participate in the Sunday services and holidays at St. Nicholas Church. All students are registered with the New York Chanters Association "Romanos the Melodist" and participate in all the events and concerts of the association.

Join us!

Call the church office 718-357-4200 or email us for more information at info@stnicholaschurch.org.



HELLENIC ORTHODOX LIFE ACADEMY

At the Hellenic Orthodox Life Academy, our program offers children a beautiful balance of academic support and joyful socialization. Every day, students naturally strengthen their Greek language skills through interactive play and daily conversation.

After school, children are given dedicated time to complete their schoolwork, enjoy healthy snacks, and connect with peers in a warm, supportive environment. Once their responsibilities are met, the real fun begins! They dive into creative games and engaging activities designed to foster lifelong friendships, encourage active learning, and offer a much-needed break from screens.

Our academy is also a place of celebration, where children love sharing the joy of birthdays and traditional name days with their friends. Under the spiritual guidance of Father Aristeidis and built upon the deep trust of our families, our program has truly become a safe, caring, and nurturing home-away-from-home for the children of our community.

We wish all of our wonderful families a blessed and beautiful summer!

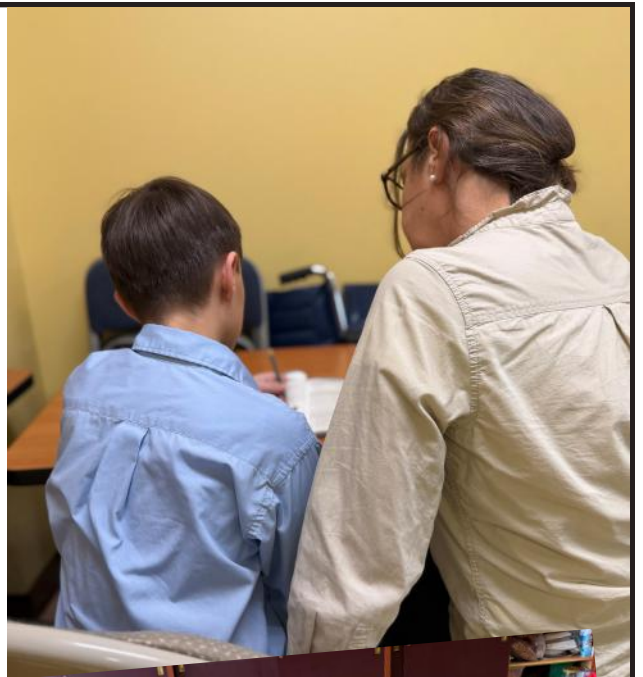
Program Details

Schedule: The program typically meets daily from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, making it a perfect solution for working families or students looking for extra social and cultural enrichment.

Enrollment: Registration usually opens in the summer for the upcoming academic year, with options for students to attend anywhere from 1 to 5 days a week.

HOLA is one of the "four pillars" of education at St. Nicholas, alongside the William Spyropoulos Day School, the Stephen & Areti Cherpelis Hellenic School, and the Doulaveris Preschool.





LITTLE ANGELS MOMMY & ME

Join the St. Nicholas Mommy & Me program—a special place to bond, learn, play, grow, and create lasting memories together in a supportive environment. We would love to have you and your little one join us. Grandmas are warmly welcomed, too!



We offer three weekly classes on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Our upcoming session starts on Wednesday,

September 17th, and runs through June 4th. Spots are filling up fast, so make sure to sign up soon!

Please call the Church office at (718) 357-4200 for more information and to register.



ST. STEPHANOS YOUNG ADULTS

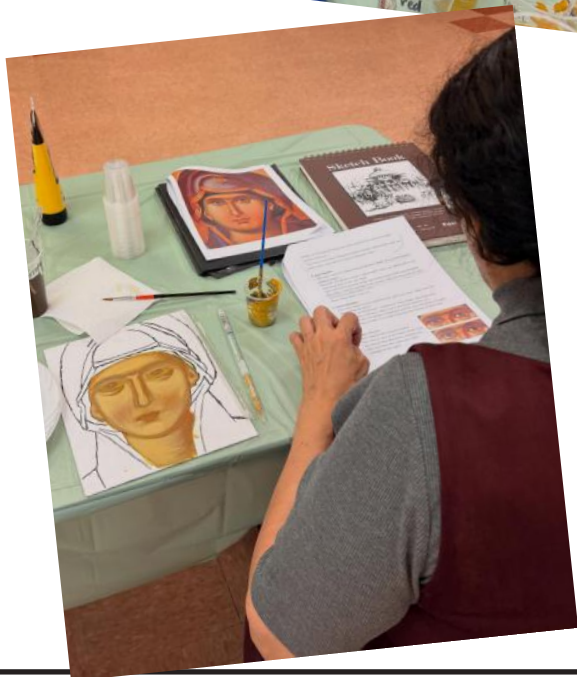


The St. Stephanos Young Adults had a busy spring season! We began hosting regular Greek dancing classes, continued our weekly bible study sessions, and hosted social activities like our Day in the Park and Wine and Cheese Night. The St. Stephanos Young Adults also prioritized giving back to our community through volunteering with the St. Nicholas festival preparations and throughout the festival weekend, at St. Mary's Hospital, at the St. Nicholas Joy retreat, and more.



Stay tuned by following our Instagram @StStephanosYoungAdults or emailing ststephanosyoungadults@gmail.com to be added to our email list.

ST. LUKE'S SCHOOL OF BYZANTINE ICONOGRAPHY



This past fall, we were blessed to begin our new ministry: St. Luke's School of Byzantine Iconography. Through our monthly classes, students have been immersed in the beautiful and sacred art of "writing" icons. We pray that God continues to guide our hearts and hands as we continue on this spiritual journey!





ARCHONTARIKI

SENIORS FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

Here are a few wonderful photos from our recent Archontariki gathering on April 23rd! It was a beautiful afternoon filled with music, delicious food, and wonderful parea (fellowship) among our senior parishioners.

At St. Nicholas, we strive to reach out to all generations and offer opportunities for community engagement and connection. We warmly encourage you to look out for these special events and invite your parents, grandparents, or loved ones to participate in this wonderful program.

Ελάτε να μας κάνετε παρέα!

While our gatherings are now on break for the season, stay

tuned for updates as we look forward to announcing our upcoming schedule after the summer. For more information, please contact the Church office.





Festiva



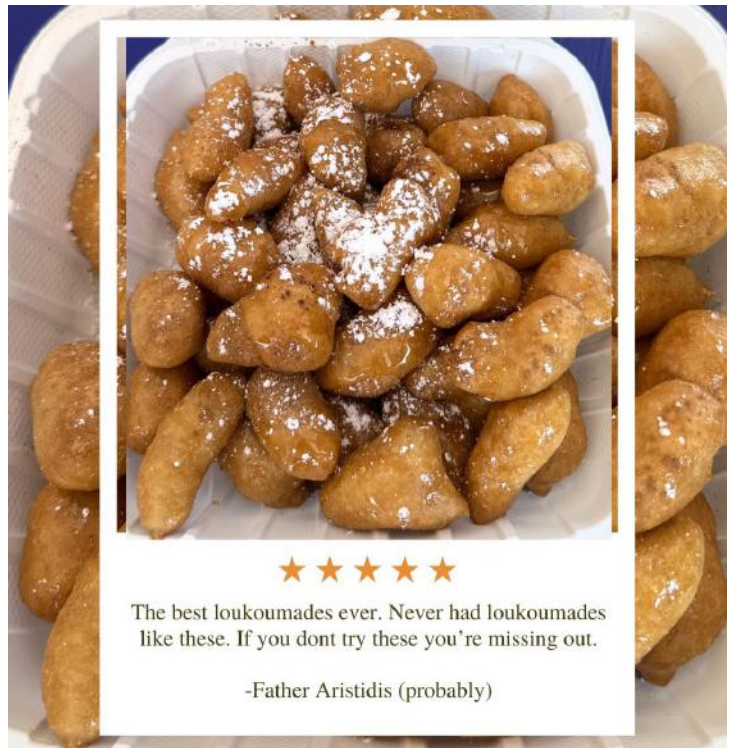
2026



Festival



A heartfelt thank you to our entire parish community for your vibrant spirit during this year's festival. We are delighted to share a spectacular



★★★★★

The best loukoumades ever. Never had loukoumades like these. If you don't try these you're missing out.

-Father Aristidis (probably)

2026



nity for your incredible hard work, dedication, and
epley grateful for your tireless efforts in making it
lar success!








SAINT NICHOLAS Greek Orthodox
Shrine Church



Nurturing Souls, Igniting Intellect.



CHURCH SCHOOL



Join us for Church School Graduation on Sunday, June 14th!

PANAGIA'S GARDEN

Summer is just around the corner, and we are thrilled to welcome back one of our community's most cherished traditions! Panagia's Garden, the beloved summer camp ministry at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church in Flushing, is ready for another incredible year of faith, friendship, and fun.

Our program offers children a vibrant, Christ-centered space to connect, grow, and make unforgettable memories. Grounded in our rich Greek Orthodox faith and Hellenic heritage, the camp combines meaningful fellowship with a summer schedule packed full of excitement. Campers will enjoy engaging games, creative arts and crafts, and energetic team activities. Alongside all the recreational fun, children will learn traditional Orthodox hymns and chants, discover inspiring stories from scripture, and build lifelong friendships rooted in our church community.

Register Today!

Spaces fill up quickly, so don't wait to secure your child's spot in the Garden this August. We can't wait to share a beautiful, spirit-filled summer with your family!

Click here for Camp sign up: www.stnicholasflushing.org/PGSummer
Click here for Counselor sign up: www.stnicholasflushing.org/PGCounselors

Attention Counselors!

Join the Team: Become a Camp Counselor at Panagia's Garden!

Are you looking for a rewarding way to spend your summer, give back to your community, and grow in your faith? Panagia's Garden is looking for dedicated, enthusiastic leaders to join our staff for Summer 2026! We are currently seeking Junior Counselors (entering grades 9-12 this September) and College-Aged Counselors to help lead our two exciting weeks of camp:

Week 1: August 3rd – August 7th

Week 2: August 10th – August 14th

Why Join Us?

Make an Impact: Serve as a positive role model and mentor for the younger children of our St. Nicholas parish community.

Build Leadership Skills: Gain valuable, hands-on experience in leadership, team-building, and organization that looks great on college applications and resumes.

Earn Community Service Hours: High school students can fulfill their school community service requirements in a fun, supportive, and faith-filled environment.

Faith and Fellowship: Spend your summer surrounded by lifelong friends, growing closer to Christ and our Church community.

What We are Looking For:

We need responsible, energetic individuals who love working with kids and are ready to assist with creative arts and crafts, lead high-energy games, teach orthodox hymns, and support our camp directors in making this a safe, unforgettable experience for every camper.

Ready to Lead?

Don't miss the chance to make a difference this summer! Positions are limited, so apply today to secure your spot on our leadership team.

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

COME & JOIN US FOR
**PANAGIA'S
GARDEN
DAY CAMP**

FAITH- GAMES- FELLOWSHIP

Open to students entering
grades 2-8
10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily

Jr. counselors 9th - 12th grade
Parent counselors requested



WEEK ONE:

Mon-Friday (Aug 3-7)

WEEK TWO:

Mon-Friday (Aug 10-14)



Price \$250 per week
\$50 off for siblings



For more information:
WWW.STNICHOLASFLUSHING.ORG/PGSUMMER

DOULAVERIS PRESCHOOL

Our Preschool celebrated Greek Independence Day with a beautiful and traditional program. The children dressed in traditional costumes, recited poems, and performed dances that honored the spirit of the Greek War of Independence. Though the performers are young, the themes of freedom and national pride resonated deeply. Parents, grandparents, and guests left the hall feeling proud and inspired by the accomplishments of our young learners under the direction of our Greek teacher.

We prepared for Pascha in so many meaningful ways. The children attended the Presanctified Liturgy, which Father Aristidis and Father Alex took time to explain. They dyed red eggs, as is tradition, and learned to sing Christos Anesti. They even crafted their own lambades to take home with them. It is a true gift to have our children with us each day, fully immersed in the faith and culture that we all share.

Once we returned from the Easter recess, we were thrilled to welcome “Dinosaur Rock,” an interactive museum brought right to our doorstep. The children were engrossed in an invaluable educational experience. Our young paleontologists embarked on a fossil dig, where they each got to keep authentic fossils, such as shark teeth—a unique blend of entertainment and education with no traveling required!

Protomayia was a wonderful way to welcome spring, marked by beautifully prepared wreaths adorning our Preschool. The Saint Nicholas Doulaveris Preschool is a place where traditions come alive, inspired daily by our dedicated teachers and assistants.

The children also enjoyed a trip to the Long Island Children’s Museum, which is perfectly suited for preschoolers of every age group. The museum provides a nurturing environment

for discovery and curiosity. While the Two-Year-Olds participated in hands-on activities, the Nursery and Prekindergarten classes enjoyed both the activities and a spectacular show in the state-of-the-art theater.

Our preschool is so fortunate to have such wonderful and caring parents. So many thoughtful treats were sent in for our staff during Teacher Appreciation Week. We love our parents—above all because they entrust us with their most precious blessings: their children.

The children are now busy rehearsing for the Stepping Up and Prekindergarten Graduation Ceremonies to be held on June 16th. While our youngest will return to us next year, our Prekindergarteners will continue onward in their educational journey. They have made so many new friends and developed a true love of learning.

Though it is never easy to say goodbye, we know they leave us as confident learners and, most importantly, as kind friends to one another. They have formed bonds that we hope will continue throughout their lives.

Our school year will come to a close with an outdoor picnic on the school grounds, filled with fun activities. It is a joyful way to celebrate our remarkable children!



Follow us on Instagram
@doulaveris_preschool



WILLIAM SPYROPOULOS



As we enter the final stretch of another wonderful school year, we are filled with gratitude, pride, and excitement for all that our students and teachers have accomplished

together. The year has moved quickly, yet it has been filled with meaningful learning, beautiful celebrations, academic growth, and memorable experiences for our children.

We are pleased to share that the school year has run smoothly and successfully, thanks to the hard work of our faculty, the dedication of our students, and the unwavering support of our families and parish community.

We have recently concluded our New York State Exams, and our students are now looking ahead to the many joyful end-of-year festivities and the much-anticipated summer break. Throughout the spring, our school community has continued to shine both academically and artistically.

One of the highlights of the season was our participation in the Greek parade where we all marched proudly along 5th Avenue celebrating our heritage, culture, and history. Another highlight was the beautiful performance by our Drama Club of *The Wizard of Oz*. Our students impressed audiences with their talent, confidence, creativity, and teamwork. We are also eagerly anticipating our fourth-grade production of *Newsies*, which promises to be another outstanding celebration of student talent and hard work.

We were delighted to welcome our parishioners and community members to our annual Musical Anthology, held on May 28th at 7:00 PM in the Sarantakos Hall. This year's theme, 'Songs from Greek Cinema,' took us on a beautiful musical journey, celebrating the melodies and traditions that have shaped generations of Greek culture and identity.

I am also excited to share that Father Aristidis and I escorted our graduating class to Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida for their senior trip. This special journey served as a joyful celebration, marking both the conclusion

of our students' academic journey at William Spyropoulos School and the beginning of an exciting new chapter in their lives.

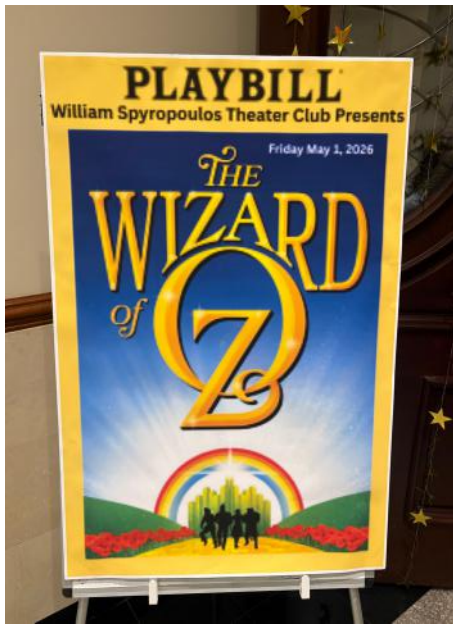
As June approaches, we are preparing for many important milestones and celebrations. Our students look forward with great excitement to the annual PTA Carnival, a beloved tradition that brings joy, laughter, and community spirit to our school grounds each year. We are deeply grateful to our PTA for their continued support and dedication to creating memorable experiences for our children.

We are also preparing for our Awards Ceremony, Kindergarten Graduation, and Eighth Grade Graduation—moments that celebrate not only academic achievement, but also the personal growth of our students as individuals and members of society.

Even as the celebrations continue, our academic work remains strong. Our students will conclude the year by taking







their Regents examinations, finishing the school year with focus, determination, and pride in all they have accomplished.

It has truly been a productive and rewarding year filled with learning, growth, and achievement. One of the

greatest joys of education is witnessing our students grow not only physically and academically, but also emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Each year, they continue to develop into thoughtful, compassionate, and capable young people who make our community proud.

We thank our parish and school community for your constant support, encouragement, and

partnership throughout the year. Your love for our school allows our children to thrive.

As we look ahead to the summer months and eventually toward September 2027, we wish all of our families a beautiful, restful, and healthy summer filled with joyful memories, meaningful adventures, and God's blessings.

With gratitude and warm wishes,

Mary Tzallas
Principal





WILLIAM SPYROPOULOS ALUMNI

Spring Highlights & Summer Updates

Our Bake Sale on 5/8 was a great success and brought the community together in the school courtyard!

Scholarship applications have officially been distributed to graduating students.

We are proud to present our second annual scholarships to two graduating 8th grade students of William Spyropoulos School, where the winners will be recognized during the upcoming graduation awards ceremony. Looking ahead to welcoming the graduating Class of 2026 into our alumni community.

Stay tuned for upcoming summer alumni events and opportunities to stay involved!

Sign up for our alumni association here for all updates and news: (see attached QR code)



WILLIAM SPYROPOULOS PTA

A MESSAGE FROM THE WILLIAM SPYROPOULOS PTA

Looking back at the last few months, we are filled with gratitude for our incredible school community! Enclosed are some wonderful photo highlights from the exciting events the PTA proudly hosted, including our creative Paint Night, the beautiful annual PTA Dinner Dance, and the action-packed Mother/Son Arcade Night. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make these memories possible.

Looking ahead, please join us for our final meeting and elections on Wednesday, May 27th.

We will officially wrap up this fantastic school year with our much-anticipated, two-day Carnival celebration for all the children! We can't wait to celebrate together.





SAINT NICHOLAS STEPHEN AND ARETI CHERPELIS HELLENIC SCHOOL

Our students prepared a wonderful Greek Independence Day celebration featuring a historic skit, traditional poems, and songs. Through their moving performances, they honored Greece's history and proudly shared their rich heritage with the entire school community.

As we prepared for Holy Week and Pascha, students participated in a traditional palm cross-folding activity. With the valuable support of community members and their teachers, they learned about the deep significance behind this Orthodox tradition. They also helped decorate the school with colorful Easter eggs, beautifully bringing the vibrant spirit of the season into our classrooms.

Our school community also proudly marched down Fifth Avenue in the annual Greek Independence Day Parade. Students, families, and staff walked side by side to honor Greece's historic struggle for freedom and celebrate this momentous day alongside the wider Greek-American community.

Additionally, a very special project was successfully completed by our 4th, 5th, and 6th-grade students. Each student prepared a presentation about their favorite Greek dish, wrote out the recipe, and brought it to school. Under the guidance of their teachers, they delivered impressive presentations while sharing beautiful details about their family heritage and the specific regions of Greece from which their families originate. This project beautifully celebrated both Greek culinary culture and the unique personal histories of our student families.

As we approach the end of the school year, our

8th-grade students are preparing for an important milestone—their graduation. Concurrently, they are working diligently as they study for their upcoming New York State Regents examinations. We are incredibly proud of their dedication, perseverance, and scholastic accomplishments throughout the year. We wish them the absolute best as they complete this chapter of their educational journey and take their next steps toward high school.

Congratulations, and good luck to the Class of 2026!



Website: <http://stnicholashellenicschool.org>
Email: info@stnicholashellenicschool.org



SAINT NICHOLAS STEPHEN AND ARETI CHERPELIS HELLENIC SCHOOL PTA

We had an amazing time at our Greek Independence Day Assembly, where our students proudly showcased their talents by reciting poems, singing songs, and performing traditional dances in honor of the heroes of 1821. It was truly a beautiful celebration of our heritage, culture, and faith.

What a memorable day we also had at the Greek Independence Day Parade! Our school community was wonderfully represented on the school float, and it was fantastic seeing our students and families celebrate Greek pride together.

The PTA had a fantastic time at our annual festival as well, reconnecting with so many of our amazing moms — past and present — while making our famous loukoumades together! Events like these remind us how close-knit our school community truly is.

We were also honored to celebrate the beautiful mothers of our Hellenic School community with a special

Mother's Day Breakfast. It was a lovely morning filled with love, appreciation, and fellowship as we recognized the incredible mothers who do so much for our children, school, and community each and every day.

As we move forward, we are excitedly looking ahead to our





Kindergarten Stepping Up Ceremony and our 8th Grade Graduation. These milestone moments are always so meaningful for our families, and we look forward to celebrating all of our students' hard work and accomplishments together.



Website: <http://stnicholashellenicschool.org>
Email: info@stnicholashellenicschool.org

ST. NICHOLAS

★ ★ ★ SUMMER GAMES ★ ★ ★

A Parish Youth BBQ



Date

June 14

Sunday, 2026

Festivities

Post Church-3:30

Lunch - DJ - Games

Where

St. Nicholas

Back Lot - Gym - Hall

The Feast

- ★ Burgers
- ★ Hotdogs
- ★ Souvlakia
- ★ Ice Cream



The Games

- ★ Basketball
- ★ Races
- ★ Disc Toss
- ★ and More!!!

All Families Welcome - Bring an Appetite, Bring Your Spirit



Register

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH




SAINT NICHOLAS Greek Orthodox
Shrine Church

SHAPING TOMORROWS
STEWARDS
OF **FAITH**



YOUTH
MINISTRIES

JOY

JOY PROGRAM UPDATE

This spring, our JOY Program was filled with faith, fellowship, and memorable moments for our families. We kicked off the season with a fun family game show event, followed by a beautiful gathering where families joined together for traditional palm folding. Later in the season, we held a deeply meaningful Lenten retreat. During the retreat, our children learned about the true meaning of this holy season, crafted their own incense, designed crosses to take home, and helped prepare candles for the midnight Anastasi service. We then attended the solemn Apokathilosi service together as a youth family.

We were also profoundly honored to welcome His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros to our parish with flowers and gifts, accompanied by a beautiful group of our junior Myrofores. It was a truly magnificent service, and our young girls represented our church wonderfully.

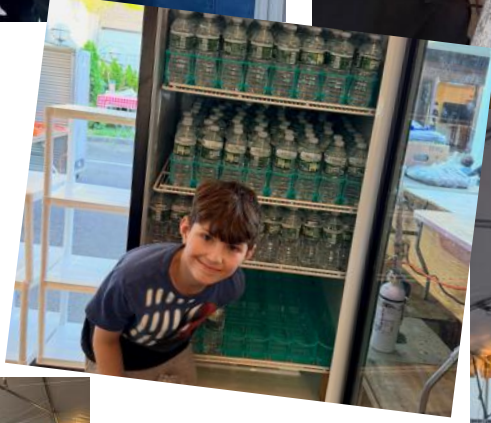
Additionally, we proudly congratulate all of our athletes who competed and represented our parish in the 48th Annual Archdiocesan Olympics. With numerous medal winners and outstanding participation across the board, we are so proud of all our children for their hard work, sportsmanship, and dedication. As we look forward to our final event of the year, we thank all of our families for making this season so blessed!





JR. GOYA & GOYA





JOY/GOYA OLYMPICS

St. Nicholas made a return to the GOYA/JOY Olympics at Suffolk Community College on Memorial Day Weekend for a 5th year with almost 40 athletes competing and medals won in multiple individual and team sports including gold for Junior and Senior soccer. The athletes and their parents had an incredible time all in the spirit of Fellowship and sportsmanship.





**CONGRATULATIONS TO
ALL OF OUR ATHLETES!**



JOY SOCCER GOLD

Alexander Kourkoumelis
Constantine Marangoudakis
Dimitri Hartofilis
Elias Siklas
Frankie Difino
Konstantinos Tsimitras



Maximus Martone

Leonidas Nostaris
Lucas Matsikas
Marios Stathakis
Panagiotis Tsimitras
Theodore Niarhos
Yianni Kyrou



GOYA SOCCER GOLD

Dimitri Mironis
Andreas Georgakopoulos
Nicholas Christofidis
Constantine Christofidis
Konstantinos Mihalatos



Demetrios Kazalas
Andreas Ioannou
Dino Kabanakis
Kyriako Papaseraphim
Antares Stylianou



SILVER

Individual Swimming

Yianni Kyrou



Long Throw

Marios Stathakis

Track 4 x 50m Relay Race

Alexander Kourkoumelis
Demetrios Garinis
Theodoros Niarhos
Yianni Kyrou

Swimming 4 x 25m Freestyle

Maximus Martone
Theodore Gogas
Theodoros Niarhos
Yianni Kyrou

Gold

Table Tennis

Anastasios Stathakis



Junior GOYA Lenten Service and Fellowship

Our Junior GOYA members dedicated a significant amount of time during the Lenten season to serving our parish community. One of their first major projects was helping to prepare our church for Holy Week by thoroughly cleaning both the main sanctuary and the chapel. Armed with plenty of enthusiasm and elbow grease, they washed windows, dusted pews, polished icons, and assisted with the care of the altar areas.

The Junior GOYAnS also participated in our annual Holy Friday Retreat, where they had the opportunity to give back through hands-on service. Together, they assembled the candles utilized for both the Holy Friday services and the midnight celebration of Holy Pascha (Anastasi). The retreat also featured meaningful discussions about the profound spiritual significance of the day, helping our youth deepen their understanding of our Orthodox faith. As part of this rich experience, the children also learned the traditional art of making their own incense to take home.

It has been a wonderful year of service, learning, and fellowship for our Junior GOYA. We are deeply grateful for their enthusiasm and dedication, and we wish all of our families a blessed, safe, and enjoyable summer ahead!"



ST. NICHOLAS BASKETBALL NEWS

Saint Nicholas Basketball Ministry Update

The St. Nicholas Basketball Program wrapped up another exciting year with our 2nd Annual Hoopathon, which was a great success! We are incredibly grateful to all of our sponsors, families, friends, and top donors whose generosity and participation helped make the event such a memorable one. Your continued support allows our program to grow and provide meaningful opportunities for our athletes.

In addition, this year our Basketball Program proudly sponsored the Smash Burger booth at the St. Nicholas Festival, and it was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who stopped by and supported us throughout the festival weekend.

As we transition into summer mode, our players and coaches are already looking ahead with excitement and anticipation for



the start of the new basketball season in September. We thank our entire St. Nicholas community for your ongoing encouragement and support of our program!

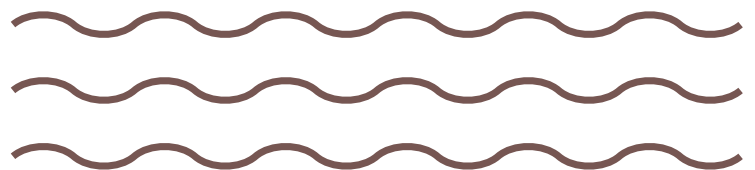


ST. NICHOLAS VOLLEYBALL

Saint Nicholas Volleyball Ministry Update



The St. Nicholas Flushing 2 team should be incredibly proud of all they accomplished this season. As the newest and youngest team in the Junior Girls Division, they finished an outstanding season in 2nd place, losing only one match and just 3 out of 18 total sets played all year. On April 18th, they capped off their impressive season by earning the Bronze trophy after a hard-fought victory over AMC in the Bronze match. Their dedication, teamwork, and perseverance throughout the season truly paid off.





The St. Nicholas Jr Flushing A team won the championships this year after an undefeated season. Congratulations to these amazing girls:

Chrissie Bliagos, Maria Danalis, Kalliopi Hatzoglu, Daphne Kourkoumelis, Marianna Liapis, Elena Pardalis, Nepheli Stamelos.



Coaches: Katerina Kourkoumelis, Niki Bliagos and Maria Liapis

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

AHEPA

Hello, St. Nicholas Family!

Summer is here!

The Gus Cherevas Estia-Pindus Flushing Chapter enjoyed a wonderful spring season. We welcomed several new members who are eager to jump right in and give back to our community. Our 2026 scholarship season saw a record number of applications, with awards presented at the beginning of June. We congratulate all of our applicants and wish the entire graduating Class of 2026 continued success! Remarkably, this marks the 44th consecutive year our Chapter has handed out scholarships since the program was established in 1982.

We also held our annual elections in May and wish the newly elected board great success in the coming year.

Please Save the Date!

Our next Chapter Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2026. We will host our highly anticipated Awards Gala, celebrating three outstanding pillars of our community:

Thomas Suozzi – Recipient of the Pericles Award for Civic Service

Dr. Lorraine Chrisomalis-Valasiadis – Recipient of the President's Award for Community Service

Dean Moskos (PD6G & Past Supreme Governor, Region 3) – Recipient of the Gus Cherevas Legacy Award for Philanthropy

The gala will begin at 7:00 PM at Leonard's Palazzo in Great Neck, NY. The evening's

proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House Greek Division (NY) and the Gus Cherevas Estia-Pindus Scholarship Fund. More details will follow soon!

One More Date to Mark on Your Calendars...

On Saturday, November 21, 2026, the AHEPA Regional Banquet (hosted by NY District 6) will take place, *honoring Past Supreme President Nicholas A. Karacostas.*

Location: Leonard's Palazzo | 555 Northern Boulevard, Great Neck, NY 11021

Pricing: \$225 per individual ticket | \$2,000 for a table of 10

Sponsorships Available

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Konstantinos Prentzas at (917) 254-6874.

We wish everyone a very happy, healthy, and safe summer!

Warm summer wishes,

Jimmy Papageorgiou President, Gus Cherevas Estia-Pindus Flushing Chapter

GIRL SCOUTS



This spring, Girl Scouts of Troop 4212 had a season full of adventure, creativity, leadership, and service. The girls participated in the Spartan Race, enjoyed an overnight aboard the Intrepid



Museum, took art and Taekwondo lessons, explored flowers and scents at the Queens Botanical Garden, visited the FDNY Smoketruck, and enjoyed a special Mommy & Me NYC bus tour aboard Tea Around Town.

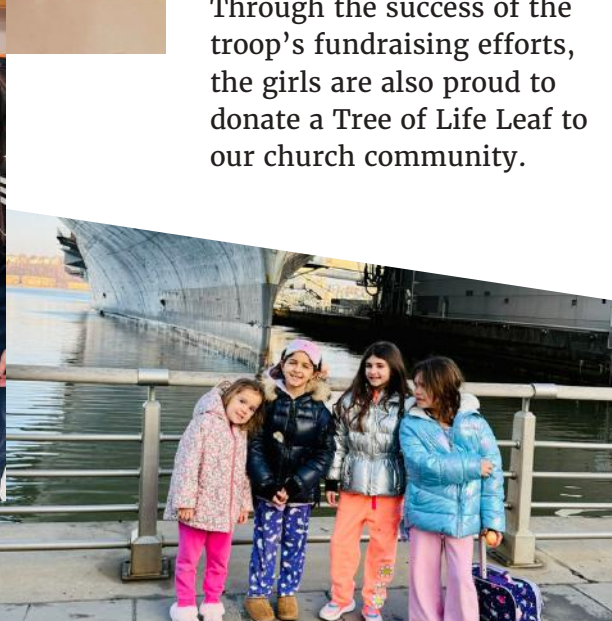
The troop plans to celebrate the end of the year with a beautiful art gallery and awards celebration honoring our graduating girls.

Most importantly, the girls continued to give back to the community by making and distributing 222





sandwiches for a local outreach program and donating and volunteering at our church festival selling ices. The season also included an epic fashion show fundraiser that celebrated confidence, individuality, sisterhood, and Girl Scout spirit while helping support future troop adventures and service projects. Through the success of the troop's fundraising efforts, the girls are also proud to donate a Tree of Life Leaf to our church community.





BOY SCOUTS



BUILDING SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY: Eagle Scout George Drakoulis

For my Eagle Scout Project, I led the construction of 60 feet of wooden walkways behind the Alley Pond Environmental Center to improve trail safety and accessibility. This experience taught me the invaluable importance of planning, teamwork, and leadership. With the incredible support of fellow Scouts, troop leaders, friends, and volunteers, it was deeply rewarding to see the project come to fruition. Along the way, I also learned a timeless, firsthand lesson: 'measure twice, cut once.'

I chose this project because Scouting fundamentally encourages a deep respect for nature and a lifelong commitment to community service.



RESTORING OUR PARISH FACILITIES: Eagle Scout Vasilios Katranis

For my Eagle Scout Project, I repainted both the male and female gym locker rooms at St. Nicholas. This project taught me invaluable lessons in responsibility, organization, and how to effectively lead others toward a common goal. It stands as one of the most rewarding accomplishments of my Scouting career because it allowed me to give back directly to my home parish while demonstrating leadership and teamwork.



My Scouting journey began at the age of six and continued until I was 19. Spending 13 years in the program shaped who I am today. One of the greatest influences during my time in Scouts was my Uncle Gerry, who served as my Scout leader and mentor for many of those years. I was also fortunate to share this experience with my cousins, which made the journey even more meaningful and created lifelong memories and friendships.

Scouting instilled in me core qualities including leadership, direction, teamwork, loyalty, and brotherhood. I learned how to collaborate, take initiative, and support the people around me—lessons that continue to guide me in both my personal life and business endeavors today. Some of my absolute favorite memories come from our camping trips and outdoor adventures; I truly loved every single trip we took. Through these experiences, I mastered survival skills, outdoor cooking, and how to become independent and confident on my own. Ultimately, Scouting was more than just activities and badges—it was a foundational journey that built my character and prepared me for life.



**REFORESTING ST. BASIL ACADEMY:
Eagle Scout Konstantinos Mihalatos**

For my Eagle Scout Project, I led a reforestation initiative at St. Basil Academy, which had recently suffered a major loss of trees due to a parasite infestation. I managed a team of 80 GOYAn's and Scouts to plant 300 new trees. It is incredibly meaningful to me to plant something that will help sustain the forest for years to come, ensuring future generations of Scouts can enjoy it.

Reflecting on my seven years in the program, I am deeply thankful to have been part of a Troop that included my best friends and cousins. Being able to share those formative years with those closest to me was the absolute best part of Scouting—whether we were on weekend camping trips, away at Ten Mile River (TMR) Scout Camp, or participating in other activities. Furthermore, the invaluable lessons I learned while serving in the leadership position of Troop Guide are skills I will proudly carry forward into my future career as a teacher.

**CRAFTING SACRED
ART FOR THE
MONASTERY:
Eagle Scout Christos
Vangelatos**

For my Eagle Scout Project, I led the construction of four liturgical lecterns, which were delivered to the All Saints Greek Orthodox Holy Monastery in Calverton, NY. This project meant a great deal to me because it

seamlessly combined craftsmanship with service to a community I care about deeply—a perfect reflection of the core values of Scouting.

I have been a proud member of Troop 268 since the sixth grade. Looking back, it is hard to imagine growing up without the Scouting program shaping the person I am today. Some of my absolute favorite memories come from our camping trips, especially the EOCS (Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting) Camporee and our summers at Ten Mile River (TMR) Scout Camp. TMR was always something truly special. My second summer there stands out above the rest because we brought our largest group ever, but what made it truly unforgettable was the people. (It was also, I must add, the year I clearly won—but was mysteriously not awarded—the cowboy action shooting plaque!) Spending a week out in the forest with lifelong friends, and growing even closer to them along the way, made it one of my favorite Scouting experiences.

Ultimately, more than any single project or campout, what made my Scouting journey extraordinary was the people. Growing up alongside my friends, my troop, and my family, and sharing every challenge and adventure together, is something I would not trade for anything. And the absolute best part? Most of those very same people are standing on this stage right here with me today.



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YOUTH

Ministry

Sign ups

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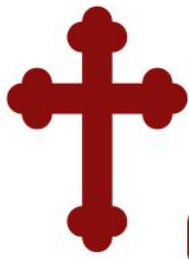
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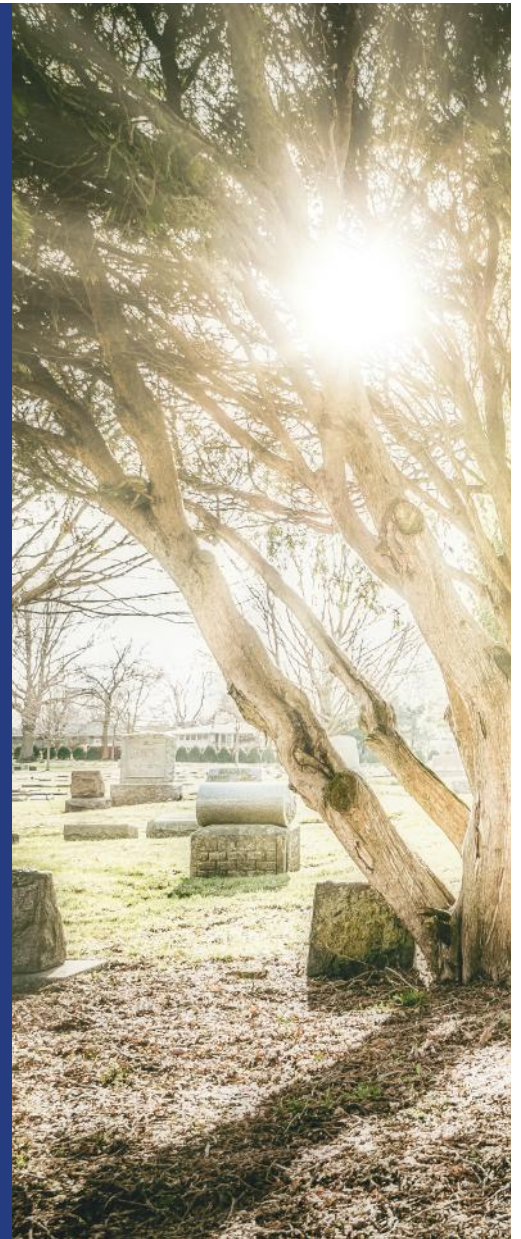
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