



SAINT NICHOLAS

GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

REV. ECONOMOS ARISTIDIS GARINIS, PASTOR

REV. PRESBYTER ALEXANDROS DOUVRES

June-July-August 2025 Volume 1, Issue 2

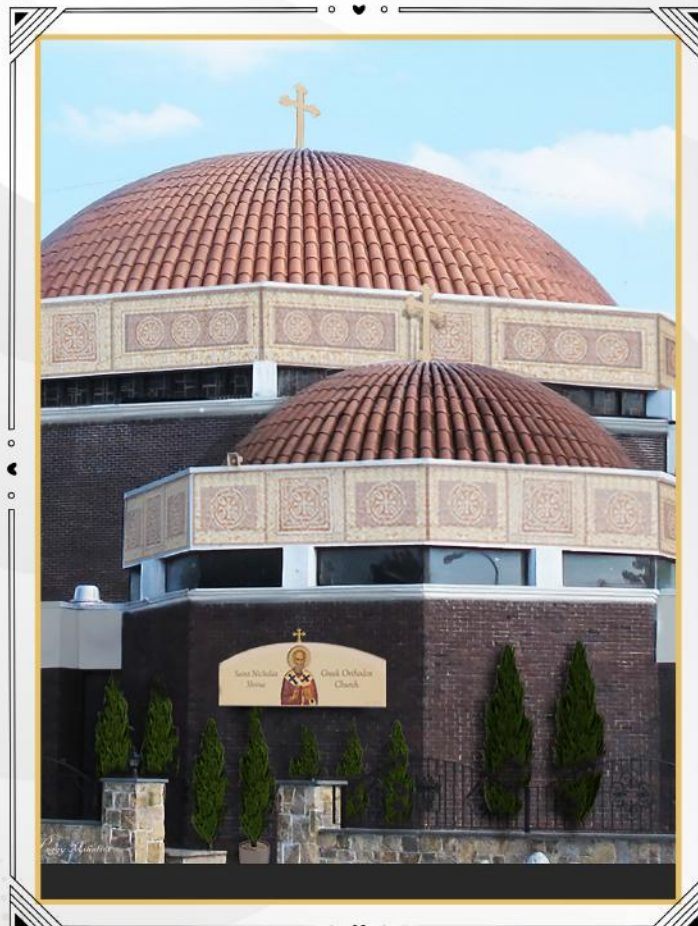
stnicholasflushing.org

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

+

Renovating

FOR OUR FUTURE



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

ORGANIZATIONS AND MINISTRIES

June/July/August 2025

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Administrative Assistants

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Anna Rigogiannis- Sacraments

Evangelos Vekios- Bookeeper

Church Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Phone 718-357-4200

Email: info@stnicholasflushing.org

196-10 Northern Blvd

Flushing, NY 11358

Parish Council Executive Board

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2nd Vice President- Chris Pantazis

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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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Angelo Serves

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FR. ARISTIDIS GARINIS

Pentecost 2025

My beloved Saint Nicholas family,

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life—come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

It is with immense joy that I greet you all in the Holy Spirit as we have recently celebrated the great feast of Pentecost. As Saint Paul beautifully articulates, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:12–27)

The event of Pentecost, occurring fifty days after the Resurrection of Christ, marked the fulfillment of the Lord’s promise to His disciples. He instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit, after which they would begin to witness and preach the

Gospel to the entire world.

As Orthodox Christians in the 21st century, we must not perceive the Pentecost event as a mere historical occurrence. Pentecost is, in fact, an ongoing reality—the continuous outpouring of God’s divine gift to His Church and to each one of its members.

As Saint Paul teaches us, we are individual members of one unified body, Christ’s body, and we all share in the singular Holy Spirit.

At Saint Nicholas, we are truly blessed with many wonderful individuals who tirelessly dedicate themselves to our community. This second edition of *The Ark* perfectly embodies this spirit. Each of us, in our unique way, is endowed with talents that we are called to employ for the good of our parish. All of these efforts reflect the very will of God, as expressed in our Lord’s prayer to God the Father at the Mystical Supper: “I pray that they will be one, just as you and I are one.” (John 17:21)

Everything we undertake in the life of the Church, whether liturgical or social, should be performed in a spirit of unity that glorifies God. As we pray in the invocation to the Holy

Spirit, we ask that the Comforter and Spirit of Truth abide within us and cleanse us from every impurity. It is particularly vital that the members of Christ’s body earnestly pursue purity of heart and soul, ensuring that we are all striving towards a common purpose rather than selfish ambitions.

This unity in spirit and purpose extends beyond our internal communal life; it compels us to outwardly manifest God’s love to those around us, both within and outside the Church. By actively using our diverse gifts in harmony, not only do we strengthen the bonds within our parish family, but we also create a welcoming and vibrant spiritual home,

drawing others to experience the transformative grace of Christ. Our collective efforts, offered with pure hearts, become a powerful witness, inviting all to partake in the abundant blessings of the Holy Spirit.

I pray that we continue to serve here at Saint Nicholas with one mind, body, and spirit, and that the Lord continues to bless us with the presence of His All-Holy Spirit. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

With love in Christ,

Rev. Ekonomos Aristidis Garinis
Proistamenos



FR. ALEXANDROS DOUVRES

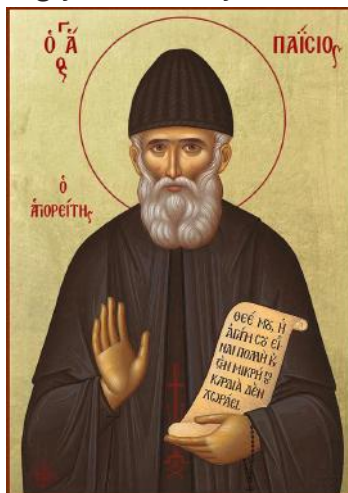
The first Sunday after Pentecost is designated as the Sunday of "All Saints." On this day, we celebrate and commemorate all the diverse saints of our Church, both known and unknown. One of the most profound spiritual lessons we can glean from this observance is that each saint possesses a unique story. While some of their narratives share similarities, all saints bear witness to the Faith in their distinct ways, consistently adhering to the Traditions and Teachings of the Orthodox Church. This exemplifies one of the beautiful paradoxes of our faith: the profound freedom and individuality that emerge when living within the Church's established guidelines. This is among the many reasons why the saints hold such significance; they serve as exemplars for us, demonstrating that regardless of our current circumstances or starting point, communion with God is always attainable.

A natural question that arises is, "How can someone who lived so long ago serve as an example to me? We inhabit different eras and face distinct struggles." Similarly, one might ask, "Is it truly possible to have saints in our contemporary world?" The mere fact that someone lived in a distant past does not preclude them from being a relevant example for us today.

It is highly likely that, if you

haven't already, you will one day find yourself in a situation where you are the sole or one of the few Orthodox Christians within a group. You might experience pressure to abandon certain practices, such as fasting or public prayer. You may even be urged to deny your belief in Christ. Questions like, "You're a Christian? You don't believe in that stuff, do you? Why are you fasting? Doesn't that seem silly?" might be posed.

In such moments, we are called to be courageous and stand firm with Christ. Saint Demetrios offers a powerful example of this; he endured immense pressure to renounce Christ yet never yielded. Although he lived in the third century, his lesson in unwavering courage resonates strongly even today.



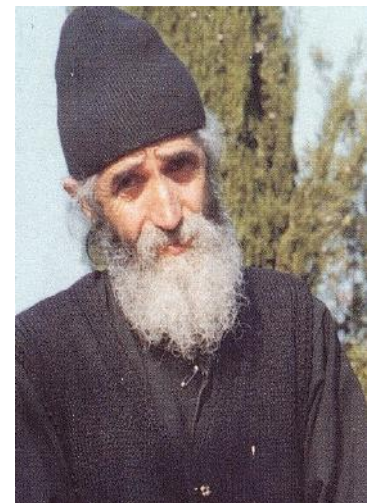
Our Church also recognizes modern saints, individuals



so recent that photographic evidence of their lives exists.

Two compelling examples are Saint Paisios the Athonite (depicted below) and Saint Maria Skobtsova (depicted on the next page).

Saint Paisios, whom we commemorate on July 12th, was born on July 25th, 1924, in Çamlıca, Türkiye. After serving as a radioman in the Greek army during both the Greek Civil War and World War II, he traveled to Mount



Athos in 1950 and was tonsured a monk in 1954. Numerous

miracles occurred through his prayers and intercessions, including the healing of those suffering from cancer. However, it is crucial to focus not solely on the miracles, but also on the profound words the Saint imparted. He taught many lessons, one particularly relevant today being the importance of maintaining focus—a skill we all desperately need. Consider for a moment the myriad distractions we encounter daily, and the anxiety and fear they can induce. Some of us are so preoccupied that we find it difficult to sit still and in silence. All these distractions cause our minds to race with various thoughts.

A particularly beautiful teaching from Saint Paisios involved focusing on and intentionally acting upon positive thoughts, while consciously disregarding unhealthy ones. He famously used the analogy of an airport and airplanes: Our mind is the airport, our thoughts are the airplanes, and we are air traffic control. While we cannot always control the thoughts that enter our minds, we possess control over the amount of attention we give them and what we choose to do. If we continuously invest time in negative thoughts, they will only become more frequent, and the associated negative feelings will intensify. Conversely, if we choose to dedicate more energy to our healthy thoughts

and act upon them, it will become easier to combat the mental clutter within us and the surrounding world. Saint Paisios prayed for many people, especially those afflicted with cancer. He himself was diagnosed with cancer in 1993 and reposed in 1994.

Saint Maria Skobtsova was born on December 20th, 1891, in Russia. She grew up as a



wealthy noblewoman. Following the death of her father during her teenage years, she became an atheist, despite being very well educated and a Communist. Over time, she realized that the life she was living and the ideologies she had embraced were unfulfilling, and she gradually began her return to Christ and His Church. She led a remarkably full and intriguing life in Russia, marked by numerous hardships, including

her divorce, her arrest and trial on charges of treason (from which she narrowly escaped execution because the judge was a former professor of hers), and the tragic death of her first child (her daughter) due to influenza, to name but a few challenges. She married a second time, and both she and her husband fled during the Bolshevik Revolution, being in Saint Petersburg as the

“While we cannot always control the thoughts that enter our minds, we possess control over the amount of attention we give them and what we choose to do.”



government was overthrown. She and her family eventually escaped to Paris. She had two children, but her husband was not a kind man and abandoned her in Paris. Following the guidance of her bishop, she became a nun and dedicated her ministry to the people in Paris. She primarily served children, the sick, and women (particularly those who were victims of abuse). Innumerable lessons can be drawn from her life and teachings. In her

ministry, she notably focused on serving the needs of those around her, famously declaring, "Piety, piety, but where is the faith that moves mountains?" She also taught that The Divine Liturgy does not conclude with the Dismissal, but rather, continues through how we serve and interact with the people in our daily lives. Having just received the Body and Blood of Christ, are we to keep Him to ourselves, or are we to share His love with the world? Her love was so profound that when Paris was evacuated during World War II, she chose to remain behind to provide aid to those still in the city. Both she and her son were subsequently arrested and sent to concentration camps. Her son, Saint Yuri Skobtsov, died in 1944, and in 1945, Saint Maria selflessly offered her life in place of a young child who had been selected for execution.

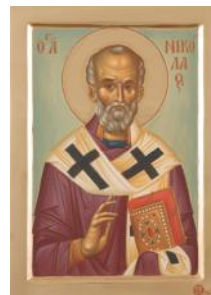
Both Saint Paisios and Saint Maria were monastics, yet they lived vastly different lives—not in the essence of their love for God and His creation, but in the distinct paths they took to sainthood and the unique ways they expressed their love for Christ and His people. May Saints Paisios and Maria, and all the Saints, serve as examples for us and intercede on our behalf.

God Bless You!

Fr. Alexandros Dourvas



ST. NICHOLAS 2025 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL



YEARLY STEWARDSHIP OPTIONS

St. Nicholas Shrine Church provides a wide range of ministries to its community. However, these ministries are expensive to maintain.

It costs \$5,300 a day to keep the doors open.

We ask that you consider sponsoring a day or more as your stewardship gift. That's a gift of \$14.75 a day or \$442 a month. With the understanding that these numbers may not be feasible for everyone, we ask that you alternatively offer

- ☐ Sponsor ONE Day for \$4,500-\$5,000
- ☐ Sponsor ½ a day for \$2,000-\$2,500
- ☐ Sponsor ¼ of a day for \$1,000-\$1,500
- ☐ Minimum Sponsor \$500-\$600

SCAN ME!



become a Steward of St. Nicholas today!

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Spouse's Name

Cardholder's Name

Credit Card

Exp Date Security Code

Call the church office to pay by phone or check
(718) 357-4200

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Parishioners & Friends of our St. Nicholas Parish,

Since our last communication, we've been blessed with a beautiful Lenten period and Holy Week. These sacred weeks saw robust attendance at our services, engaging Bible study classes, Palm-making, and many other activities as we spiritually prepared to celebrate our Lord's resurrection. Following this enriching season, we swiftly moved into preparations for our Annual Festival. Thanks to the tireless efforts of over 100 dedicated volunteers and your generous support, our festival fundraiser was highly successful. I sincerely hope you had an opportunity to come savor the delicious food, loukoumades, sweets, and drinks, and discovered various treasures at our Flea Market.

I would now like to take this opportunity to recognize all the teams that contributed to our festival's success, both behind the scenes and at the main stations:

- Snack Bar: Boys & Girls Scouts
- Cypriot Corner
- Flea Market: Philoptochos
- Kafenio: Wm. Spyropoulos PTA
- Loukoumades: Hellenic School PTA
- Wine & Bar: Men's League, Ahepa
- Ring Toss: Sons of Pericles & Maids of Athena
- Souvlaki Corner
- Souvlaki Sticks Grill
- Games & Rides

I would also like to extend a special thank you to the Raffle Committee for organizing and executing such an extensive and successful raffle. You can find a list of all Raffle winners here <https://www.stnicholasflushing.org/2025-raffle-winners/>.

In other news, I am happy to share that our "Renovating for our Future" campaign projects are making strong progress. We successfully completed the installation of the new HVAC system, and we've been enjoying heating and air conditioning in our Church since early April.

We are also ready to begin work on the lobby renovation in the Wm. Spyropoulos School once classes conclude later this month, and we anticipate all work to be completed by the end of August. We are continuing our fundraising efforts for the Exterior/Roof renovation and respectfully ask that you please consider supporting this vital campaign if you have not already done so. (Read more about this on pages 10-12.)

On June 3rd, the Parish Council and members of our Parish attended the Archdiocese Servants Award Dinner, where each Community recognizes two of its members for their exemplary and outstanding service to their Parish. Our honorees this year were Mr. Gregory Michelis and Mr. Christopher Palamara. Both serve as an inspiration to us all with their dedication, humility, and love for our St. Nicholas parish, for which we are truly grateful. May they always be "axioi" to continue and support the work of our Church. (see photos to the right)

As we head into the summer, we are diligently completing registration for our Wm. Spyropoulos School, our Doulaveris Pre-School, and the Stephen & Areti Cherpelis Hellenic Afternoon School. We are particularly pleased to announce that the Pre-School has expanded registration to include 2-year-olds, and we are happy to see the enthusiastic interest in this program. (more about this on pages 38-40). We're also excited to introduce some significant enhancements to our Hellenic School program in response to feedback from our recent survey. These enhancements include the addition of weekday classes, Greek dancing, and both Basic and Intermediate Conversational classes. Please take a moment to review the registration flyer and proposed calendar of classes on pages 52-53, and help us promote this valuable program. We realize there are many competing priorities in our children's lives, but we are encouraged by your feedback and the strong interest in a robust Hellenic school program. We remain committed to strengthening this program and promoting our culture, language, and religion to our children.

The Parish Council and I are always available to hear your thoughts, questions, and ideas on how

we can continue to improve. Please don't hesitate to find us after Church or call the office and ask to be put in touch with us. We would welcome the opportunity to hear from you. In the meantime, we wish you and your families a safe, enjoyable, and memorable summer.

With gratitude for all your love and support,
Mike Haralambous
President



RENOVATING FOR OUR FUTURE: A

By Manny Kratsios

Our beloved St. Nicholas parish complex has been a spiritual home, a center for education, and a vibrant community hub for over 50 years. Built with the dedication and love of generations of parishioners, these facilities — our beautiful church, thriving school, and welcoming spaces for youth and organizations — have served us faithfully. However, like all structures, time takes its toll. After half a century, the architectural, structural, and mechanical systems that form the backbone of our facilities naturally begin to show their age and lose efficiency.

This brings us to a critical moment: we must actively maintain and preserve the integrity of our cherished facilities. We cannot allow our spiritual home to deteriorate; it is the very heart of our community.

We are thrilled to announce that our “Renovating for Our Future” initiative is well underway, and we’re seeing an incredible start to our fundraising efforts! This ambitious project is divided into vital phases, each designed to ensure our parish remains a strong, welcoming, and functional beacon for generations to come.

PHASE 1: A BREATH OF FRESH AIR (COMPLETED!)

We are pleased to report that Phase 1, the crucial replacement of our aging and non-working heating and air conditioning systems, has been successfully completed. This essential upgrade, at a cost of \$320,000, ensures comfortable and efficient environments throughout our complex, regardless of the season.

PHASE 2: A GRAND WELCOME (COMING SOON!) This summer, prepare to be amazed as Phase 2 brings a stunning transformation to our parish lobby. This is the very first impression visitors have of our home, and we are investing \$230,000 to create an inviting and modern space. This renovation will include a new ceiling, elegant terrazzo flooring, enhanced lighting, updated reception desk, modern school office storefronts, and beautiful new wood doors. This refreshed entrance will truly reflect the vibrancy of our community.

PHASE 3: PROTECTING OUR SACRED SPACES (ON THE HORIZON) The major undertaking of Phase 3 will involve the critical replacement of both our church and chapel domes, alongside some of our aging flat roofs. Many of these roofs have bravely served beyond their life expectancy and are now beginning to cause water damage to our sacred iconography, as well as to our church, school, youth, and organizational spaces. Our diligent due diligence work has already commenced, and we anticipate awarding a contract by the end of this year. We estimate this vital roofing work will take place in 2026–2027, with an approximate cost of \$1,250,000. This phase is paramount to safeguarding the spiritual and physical integrity of our parish.

PHASE 4: ENHANCING EVERY CORNER (A VISION FOR THE FUTURE) Finally, Phase 4 will bring comprehensive beautification and essential upgrades across our entire complex. This includes stunning new mosaics, meticulous brick repointing, modernized windows, renovated bathrooms, and numerous enhancements for our church, school, youth, and organization areas. We estimate this work, largely taking place in 2026–2027, will cost approximately \$700,000. These improvements will not only uplift our surroundings but also enhance the functionality and aesthetics of every space we share.

A SHARED GOAL: \$2.5 Million for Our Future To bring these ambitious yet necessary phases to fruition, we need to raise approximately \$2.5 million over the next two years. We are incredibly grateful to share that we have already raised close to \$700,000! This amazing start is a testament to the deep commitment of our St. Nicholas family.

Your Legacy on the “Tree of Life” To help us achieve our goals and visibly honor your generosity, we will be installing a magnificent “Tree of Life” in our newly renovated parish lobby. This beautiful art piece will offer all of us a tangible opportunity to contribute to this much-needed fundraiser and leave a lasting legacy. Donors’ names will be beautifully inscribed on individual leaves of the tree, and their contributions will also be recognized in our weekly church bulletins.

SHARED VISION FOR ST. NICHOLAS



Giving Tree Rendering for the Renovating for our Future Fundraiser.

***We invite you to
participate in making this vital
project a reality.***

The donation categories include:

\$2,000 – Bronze Leaf

\$5,000 – Silver Leaf

\$10,000 – Gold Leaf

\$25,000 – Doves

\$50,000 – Rocks



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"





June 1
SUN
1st Ecumenical Council
Πρώτη Οικουμενική Συνόδου
7:30 Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy

June 5
THU
William Spyropoulos Liturgy
8:15 a.m. / 9:15 Liturgy

June 7
SAT
Saturday of the Souls
Ψυχοσάββατο
8:00 a.m. / 9:00 Liturgy

June 8
SUN
FEAST OF PENTECOST
ΠΕΝΤΗΚΟΣΤΗ
7:30 a.m. / 8:45 Liturgy
Kneeling service
Ευχές Γονυκλισίας

June 9
MON
Monday of the Holy Spirit
Δευτέρα του Αγ. Πνεύματος
Orthros 8:00a.m. / Liturgy 9:00a.m

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

June 15
SUN
Sunday of All Saints
Κυριακή των Αγ. Πάντων
7:30 a.m. / 8:45 Liturgy

June 16
MON / Δευτέρα

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

June 22
SUN
2nd Sunday of Matthew
2η Κυριακή του Ματθαίου
7:30 Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy

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

June 29
SUN
SS. Peter and Paul
Των Αγ. Πέτρου και Παύλου
7:30 Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy

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


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





ΕΟΡΤΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ

JULY 2025

July 1 TUE	Holy Anargyroi Άγιοι Ανάργυροι 8:00 Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy	July 20 SUN	The Prophet Elias Πρ. Ηλίου του Θεσβίτου 7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy
July 2 WED	St. John Maximovich Αγ. Ιωάννου Μαξίμοβιτς 8:00 Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy	July 22 TUE	St. Markella of Chios Αγ. Μαρκέλλης της Χίου 8:00 Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy
July 6 SUN	4th Sunday of Matthew 4τη Κυριακή του Ματθαίου 7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy	July 24 THU	St. Christina the Great Martyr Αγ. Χριστίνης Μεγαλομάρτυρος 8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy
July 7 MON	St. Kyriaki the Great Martyr Αγ. Κυριακής Μεγαλομάρτυρος 8:00 Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy	July 25 FRI	Falling Asleep of St. Anna Κοίμησης Αγίας Άννης 8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy
July 11 FRI	St. Euphemia the Great Martyr Αγ. Ευφίμιας Μεγαλομάρτυρος 8:00 Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy	July 26 SAT	St. Paraskevi the Των Αγ. Πέτρου και Παύλου 8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy
July 12 WED	St. Paisios Agiorites Αγ. Παϊσίου του Αγιορείτου 8:00 Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy	July 27 SUN	St. Panteleimon the Great Martyr Αγ. Παντελεήμωνος 7:30 Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy
July 13 SUN	4th Ecumenical Council Των Αγ. Πατέρων 7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy		
July 17 THU	St. Marina the Great Martyr Αγ. Μαρίνης Μεγαλομάρτυρος 8:00 Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy		



Paraklesis services during the weekdays begin at 7:00 p.m.

There is no Paraklesis on Saturdays. Sunday Paraklesis services begin at 5:00 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 17 SUN	10th Sunday of Matthew 10η Κυριακή του Ματθαίου 8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy
		Aug 22 FRI	Vespers of Panagia Prousiotissa Εσπερινός Παναγίας Προυσιωτίσσης 7:00 p.m.
Aug 1 FRI	Procession of the Holy Cross Πρόοδος του Τιμίου Σταυρού 8:00 Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy	Aug 23 SAT	Apodosis of the Dormition Απόδοσις της Κοίμησης 8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy
Aug 3 SUN	8th Sunday of Matthew 8η Κυριακή του Ματθαίου 7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy	Aug 24 SUN	St. Kosmas the Aitolian Αγ. Κοσμά του Αιτολού 7:30 Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy
Aug 6 WED	Feast of the Holy Transfiguration Εορτή της Μεταμορφώσεως 8:00 Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy		Great Vespers SS. Of Evrytania M. Εσπερινός Αγ. Ευρυτανίας 7:00 p.m.
Aug 10 SUN	9th Sunday of Matthew 9η Κυριακή του Ματθαίου 7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy	Aug 27 WED	St. Phanourios the Martyr Αγ. Φανουρίου 8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy
Aug 14 THU	Great Vespers of the Dormition Μ. Εσπερινός της Κοίμησης 7:00 p.m.	Aug 29 FRI	Beheading of St. John the Baptist Αποτομή κεφαλής του Προδρόμου 8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy
Aug 15 FRI	Falling Asleep of the Theotokos Κοίμησης της Θεοτόκου 6:00 a.m Liturgy (Chapel) Orthros 8:00 a.m. 2nd Liturgy 9:15 a.m.	Aug 31 SUN	12th Sunday of Matthew 12η Κυριακή του Ματθαίου 7:30 Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy



Gathered in Faith

2025



PHILOPTOCHOS

Our Ladies Philoptochos Society: A Season of Service and Sisterhood

What a busy and fulfilling few months it has been for Our Ladies Philoptochos Society! We've been dedicated to both spiritual enrichment and community outreach, and we're excited to share our recent highlights and upcoming events.

Recent Highlights:

- **Understanding the Prosforo:** Our recent general meeting was a truly meaningful evening. Presbytera Lea led us in a wonderful demonstration, helping us understand the deep significance of the "prosforo" and even guiding us through preparing one to take home and bake.
- **Holy Thursday Egg Coloring:** Keeping with our cherished tradition, many of our ladies gathered on Holy Thursday to color approximately 1,000 eggs. These vibrant eggs were then distributed to our parishioners on Holy Saturday and at the joyous Agape service on Easter Sunday, fostering beautiful fellowship.
- **Annual Luncheon at the Sand Castle:** On Saturday, May 3rd, we hosted our highly anticipated annual luncheon at the Sand Castle. Over 180 ladies attended, including our wonderful sisters from neighboring chapters. It was a beautiful afternoon of camaraderie and shared support for the many worthy causes we champion throughout the year.

Upcoming Events:

- **"Feed the Hungry" Evening:** Our chapter is eager to make a direct impact on Tuesday, May 27th, as we head into Manhattan to distribute food, toiletries, and clothing to the homeless and needy.
- **General Meeting & Board Elections:** Please mark your calendars for Thursday, June 12th, for our general meeting and crucial board elections. We

strongly encourage you to attend and consider joining our dedicated board.

- **Pentecost Breakfast & Scholarship Awards:** We're looking forward to hosting our community for a special Pentecost breakfast. During this event, we'll also have the privilege of awarding this year's scholarship recipients. We hope to see you there!

Join Us!

Your involvement truly strengthens our mission. If you haven't already, please consider joining our chapter or renewing your membership for 2025. Together, we are stronger and can accomplish so much more with your invaluable support!





ΔΩΡΕΑΝ ΜΑΘΗΜΑΤΑ ΒΥΖΑΝΤΙΝΗΣ ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗΣ ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ -ΜΑΪΟΣ

Σχολή Βυζαντινής Μουσικής
Αγίου Νικολάου Φλάσινγκ

Η σχολή της Βυζαντινής μουσικής άρχισε να λειτουργεί από τον Σεπτέμβριο 2024. Τα μαθήματα γίνονται κάθε Πέμπτη 6:00 η ώρα και είναι δωρεάν. Στα μαθήματα διδάσκει ο καθηγητής Βυζαντινής μουσικής και πρωτοψάλτης του Ιερού Ναού Αγίου Νικολάου Φλάσινγκ Ελευθέριος Ελευθεριάδης. Η σχολή έχει εγγεγραμμένους 15 μαθητές οι οποίοι συμμετέχουν στις λειτουργίες των Κυριακών και των εορτών του Ιερού Ναού του Αγίου Νικολάου. Όλοι οι μαθητές είναι εγγεγραμμένοι στον σύλλογο Ιεροψαλτών της Νέας Υόρκης «Ρωμανός ο Μελωδός» και συμμετέχουν σε όλες τις εκδηλώσεις και συναυλίες του συλλόγου.

FREE BYZANTINE MUSIC SEPTEMBER - MAY

Byzantine Music School

The Byzantine Music School began operating in September 2024. 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.



Βυζαντινή μουσική και Αγιογραφία

Η Βυζαντινή μουσική και η Αγιογραφία μοιράζονται αρκετά κοινά χαρακτηριστικά, κυρίως στον τρόπο που εκφράζουν και μεταφέρουν τη θεία παρουσία, τη θεολογία της Εκκλησίας και την εμπειρία του πιστού.

Αντίληψη του Υπερβατικού και της Θεϊκής Παρουσίας

Η αγιογραφία δεν απεικονίζει απλώς τις θεϊκές μορφές, αλλά είναι ένας τρόπος να εκφραστεί η άχρονη, αιώνια αλήθεια της Εκκλησίας. Οι εικόνες δημιουργούνται με τρόπο που υπερβαίνει τον φυσικό κόσμο και προβάλλουν τη θεία, μεταφυσική πραγματικότητα. Οι μορφές των Αγίων και του Χριστού δεν είναι φυσιστικές, αλλά γεμάτες με το φως και την θεία παρουσία, ενώ η τοποθέτηση των εικόνων στον ναό συνήθως είναι προσεκτικά σχεδιασμένη για να ενισχύει την αίσθηση της θρησκευτικής τελετουργίας και του «ουράνιου κόσμου».

Παρόμοια, η Βυζαντινή μουσική δεν είναι απλώς μουσική για διασκέδαση, αλλά μέσω των ήχων και των ψαλμών της επιδιώκει να εκφράσει το άπειρο, το άχρονο και το υπερβατικό. Η μελωδία, οι αρμονίες και οι ήχοι της μουσικής λειτουργούν ως «γέφυρες» προς το θείο. Οι ψαλμοί και οι ύμνοι, με τη λιτότητά τους και την πνευματική τους ένταση, συντονίζονται με την αίσθηση της θείας παρουσίας, όπως και η αγιογραφία μέσω των εικόνων.

Αιωνιότητα και Χωρικότητα

Οι εικόνες στην Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία παρουσιάζουν έναν «εκτός χρόνου» κόσμο, χωρίς εφήμερη χρονική διάσταση. Τα πρόσωπα των Αγίων και του Χριστού αποτυπώνονται σε ακινησία και «αίθριο φως», διαπερνώντας τις συνθήκες του φυσικού κόσμου και δείχνοντας την αιωνιότητα. Οι άγιες μορφές, οι τοιχογραφίες και τα σχέδια δεν ακολουθούν την πραγματική προοπτική ή την ανατομία του σώματος, αλλά απεικονίζουν μια «άλλη» πραγματικότητα.

Παρόμοια, η Βυζαντινή μουσική καταργεί την αίσθηση του «πραγματικού» χρόνου. Η μουσική και οι ψαλμοί δεν περιορίζονται από το μέτρο ή τη χρονική διάρκεια με τον ίδιο τρόπο που λειτουργεί η μουσική στη δυτική παράδοση. Η ψαλμωδία δημιουργεί μια αίσθηση «αιωνιότητας», όπου ο χρόνος αμβλύνεται και γίνεται πιο ελαστικός, και ο πιστός μπορεί να ενωθεί με το άχρονο και το ατέρμονο της θείας παρουσίας.

Συμβολισμός και Αρμονία

Στην αγιογραφία κάθε στοιχείο της είναι γεμάτο με συμβολισμούς και προορίζεται να έχει μια βαθύτερη πνευματική και θεολογική σημασία. Τα χρώματα, οι στάσεις, οι εκφράσεις των μορφών είναι όλα σύμβολα που δείχνουν κάτι πιο απόλυτο και θεϊκό. Για παράδειγμα, το χρυσό φόντο στις εικόνες συμβολίζει το φως του Θεού

και την αιωνιότητα, και τα χρώματα έχουν συγκεκριμένες θεολογικές ερμηνείες (π.χ., το κόκκινο για το αίμα του Χριστού ή την αγάπη του Θεού).

Και στην Βυζαντινή μουσική υπάρχει μία έντονη χρήση του συμβολισμού. Οι διαφορετικές μελωδίες, οι ψαλμωδίες και οι τρόποι (ήχοι) δεν είναι απλώς μουσικές φόρμες, αλλά φέρουν μερικές φορές ιδιαίτερη θεολογική σημασία. Κάθε μουσικό μοτίβο και κάθε ήχος αντανακλά πτυχές της θείας φύσης ή της εκκλησιαστικής διδασκαλίας. Ορισμένοι ήχοι αναφέρονται στην «δόξα» του Θεού, ενώ άλλοι στον «πόνον» και στην «ανάσταση».

Λειτουργικότητα και Λειτουργική Ενοποίηση

Στην εκκλησιαστική τέχνη, οι εικόνες δεν είναι μόνο για «στολισμό» αλλά είναι ενσωματωμένες στην λατρεία και λειτουργούν ως μέσα προσκύνησης και προσευχής. Η θέση και η διάταξή τους στον ναό δημιουργούν μία λειτουργική ατμόσφαιρα, ενισχύοντας την αίσθηση του «Ουρανού στη γη». Με τον ίδιο τρόπο που η μουσική καθοδηγεί το πνεύμα του πιστού, οι εικόνες οδηγούν το βλέμμα και την προσοχή του.

Η Βυζαντινή μουσική δεν είναι μια απλή τέχνη για την τέχνη, αλλά είναι άρρηκτα συνδεδεμένη με την θεία λατρεία. Οι ύμνοι, οι ψαλμοί και τα μέλη είναι προορισμένα να εκφράσουν και να αναδείξουν τα μυστήρια της πίστης. Ο τρόπος που η μουσική συνδυάζεται με την αγιογραφία, τα χρώματα του ναού και τη θεία λειτουργία δημιουργεί έναν συνολικό λειτουργικό χώρο, όπου όλα τα στοιχεία (μουσική, εικόνες, αρχιτεκτονική) συντονίζονται για να εξυψώσουν τον πιστό στην επικοινωνία με τον Θεό.

Στην αγιογραφία, τα ιερά πρόσωπα παρουσιάζονται κατά κανόνα, λιτά και απέριττα πάνω σε ένα χρυσό φόντο. Αυτό αποτελεί μια εσκεμμένη επιλογή, γιατί μόνο με την αφαίρεση μπορεί να εκφραστεί η πνευματική πραγματικότητα, η οποία για την εκκλησία αποτελεί την ύψιστη αλήθεια. Με άλλα λόγια, στόχος του αγιογράφου, δεν είναι να παραστήσει την εξωτερική μορφή του ιερού προσώπου, αλλά να εκφράσει τον εσωτερικό του κόσμο με όλες τις αρετές του. Κάτι ανάλογο συμβαίνει και με τη Βυζαντινή μουσική. Ο εκκλησιαστικός μελοποιός, που πολλές φορές είναι ο ίδιος και ο ποιητής του ύμνου, γράφει τη μελωδία όσο γίνεται πιο απλά και απέριττα, με μοναδικό στόχο να εκφράσει το περιεχόμενο του ύμνου και όχι να εντυπωσιάσει. Το ρόλο του χρυσού «φόντου» της αγιογραφίας παίζει εδώ το επίσης λιτό ισοκράτημα, το οποίο προσφέρει μια εντελώς στοιχειώδη πολυφωνία, η οποία βασίζεται σε συνειδητή επίσης επιλογή, που υποδηλώνει εγκράτεια και εκφράζει την ενότητα και την ομοθυμία των πιστών. Αυτό με κανένα τρόπο δεν πρέπει να εκληφθεί ως μελωδική φτώχεια, γιατί ότι υπολείπεται σε όγκο έναντι της δυτικής μουσικής, το αναπληρώνει με

τη λεπτότητα ανάπτυξης των μουσικών φράσεων και την ποικιλία των ρυθμών, των κλιμάκων, των διαστημάτων και των ειδών της ψαλμωδίας. Αυτό που αξίζει να τονιστεί με έμφαση είναι ότι η βυζαντινή μουσική είναι κατ'εξοχήν μουσική του λόγου, ο οποίος στην ορθόδοξη λατρεία κατέχει την πρώτη θέση. Η μουσική, με τις απλές μελωδίες της και χωρίς το φόρτο της πολυφωνίας και των μουσικών οργάνων, ντύνει διακριτικά τον ύμνο και βοηθά στην πληρέστερη κατανόηση του εννοιολογικού περιεχομένου του. Γενικά θα λέγαμε ότι η βυζαντινή μουσική, όπως και η αγιογραφία δεν παριστάνει, αλλά εκφράζει την έννοια του λόγου και διευκολύνει την κατανόηση των θείων μηνυμάτων.

Συμπέρασμα

Η συνύπαρξη της Βυζαντινής μουσικής και της αγιογραφίας στον ναό δεν είναι τυχαία. Και οι δύο τέχνες ενσωματώνουν και εκφράζουν τη θεολογία της Εκκλησίας με τρόπους που δεν περιορίζονται στη λογική ή την ανθρώπινη αντίληψη, αλλά στοχεύουν να ανοίξουν την καρδιά και το μυαλό του πιστού στην υπερβατική αλήθεια και τη θεία παρουσία.

Ελευθέριος Ελευθεριάδης
Καθηγητής Βυζαντινής
μουσικής
Πρωτοψάλτης Ι.Ν. Αγίου
Νικολάου Φλάσινγκ ΝΥ

Byzantine Music and Iconography

Byzantine music and iconography share numerous common characteristics, particularly in the manner in which they express and convey the divine presence, the theology of the Church, and the spiritual experience of the faithful.

Perception of the Transcendent and the Divine Presence

Iconography is not simply a depiction of divine figures; it serves as a means of expressing the timeless and eternal truths of the Church. The icons are created in such a way that they transcend the physical world, projecting the divine, metaphysical reality. The figures of Christ and the Saints are not rendered in a naturalistic manner, but are imbued with light and divine presence. The placement of icons within the church is carefully arranged to amplify the sense of religious ritual and to evoke the “heavenly realm.”

Similarly, Byzantine music is not merely entertainment. Through its sounds and chants, it seeks to express the infinite, the eternal, and the transcendent. The melodies, harmonies, and tones act as “bridges” to the divine. The simplicity and spiritual intensity of the psalms and hymns align with the sense of divine presence, much like the iconography does through its imagery.

Symbolism and Harmony

Every element of iconography is rich with symbolism, and each component is intended to convey a deeper spiritual and theological meaning. Colors, postures, and expressions of the figures are symbolic, pointing to something more absolute and divine. For example, the golden background in icons symbolizes the light of God and eternity, while colors have specific theological interpretations (e.g., red symbolizing the blood of Christ or the love of God).

Byzantine music also makes extensive use of symbolism. Various melodies, chants, and modes (echoi) are not merely musical forms, but often carry particular theological significance. Each musical motif and tone reflects aspects of the divine nature or Church doctrine. Some modes refer to the “glory” of God, while others evoke “suffering” and “resurrection.”

Functionality and Liturgical Integration

In ecclesiastical art, icons are not merely decorative; they are integral to worship and serve as instruments of veneration and prayer. Their placement within the church creates a liturgical atmosphere, enhancing the sense of “Heaven on Earth.” Just as music guides the spirit of the faithful, icons guide the gaze and attention.

Byzantine music is not an art form created for the sake of art alone; it is inextricably connected to divine worship. Hymns, psalms, and chants are intended to express and highlight the mysteries of faith. The way in which music is interwoven with iconography, the colors of the church, and the Divine Liturgy creates a unified liturgical space in which all elements—music, images, and architecture—work in harmony to elevate the faithful into communion with God.

In iconography, holy figures are traditionally depicted in simplicity and austerity against a golden background. This is a deliberate choice, as abstraction is the only means by which spiritual reality, which the

Church holds as the highest truth, can be conveyed. In other words, the iconographer's goal is not to portray the external form of the sacred figure but to express their inner world and virtues.

A similar approach can be found in Byzantine music. The composer, often also the poet of the hymn, writes the melody as simply and sparingly as possible, with the sole aim of expressing the hymn's content, rather than seeking to impress. The role of the golden "background" in iconography is fulfilled in Byzantine music by the equally austere ison (drone), which provides a basic form of polyphony. This choice reflects conscious restraint and symbolizes the unity and harmony of the faithful.

This should not be misconstrued as melodic poverty. While Byzantine music may lack the volume of Western music, it compensates for this through the subtle development of musical phrases and the variety of rhythms, scales, intervals, and types of chanting. What deserves special emphasis is that Byzantine music is primarily music of the word, which holds primacy in Orthodox worship. The music, with its simple melodies and absence of polyphony and musical instruments, subtly adorns the hymn and assists in the deeper understanding of its theological meaning.

Conclusion

The coexistence of Byzantine music and iconography within the church is not incidental. Both arts embody and express the theology of the Church in ways that transcend human logic and perception, aiming to open the heart and mind of the faithful to the transcendent truth and divine presence.

Eleftherios Eleftheriadis

Professor of Byzantine Music

Master Chanter (Protopsaltis)

of the Holy Shrine Saint Nicholas Flushing New York



PHILOKALIA BOOKSTORE

Greetings from the Philokalia Bookstore—or “Friends (Philo) of the Good (Kalia)” in Greek!

As the second volume of St. Nicholas Ark arrives, we at the Philokalia Bookstore are delighted to share our ongoing mission and vision with you. Our dedicated volunteers, working tirelessly with the guidance of our beloved Pastor, Father Aristidis Garinis, strive to provide a rich array of religious materials for everyone in our community—from those raised in the Orthodox faith to the many new converts who are so beautifully enriching our parish. Indeed, we are witnessing an amazing increase in converts, a true blessing for St. Nicholas.

This commitment to offering a wide variety of Orthodox study books and personal testimonies of faith has been the bedrock of our vision since the bookstore’s inception. This enduring vision was first brought to life under the guidance and encouragement of our dear Fr. Paul Palesty. We are ever grateful for his foundational work that continues to bless our community.

In today’s digital age, the Internet offers an endless stream of Christian resources with just a click of a button. While this accessibility is a gift, it also calls for prayerful discernment. As Dr. Jeannie Constantinou recently alluded to on her podcast, *Search the Scriptures Live*, what we encounter online, even if it claims to be Orthodox, may not always align with the authentic Orthodoxy we cherish. A prime example surfaces often during Great Lent, when references to “Lost Gospels” appear in magazines. As the late Father Thomas Hopko of blessed memory, former Dean of Saint Vladimir’s Seminary and a renowned author, wisely stated, “There are no lost Gospels... we knew they existed, but did not include them because they were heretical.” These texts were never part of the original Gospel canon, which was established in the 4th century during the Ecumenical Council at Nicea. Our own dear Saint Nicholas, the patron of this church, was an active participant in that very council and a vehement opponent of Arius! This vigilance against misinformation is as crucial today as it was then. Just recently, a parishioner shared an unsettling encounter with someone who, from an online church source, heard that Saint Nicholas himself was just a myth! This underscores precisely why we, as Orthodox Christians, must be deeply

educated about our faith.

It is our heartfelt prayer that the Philokalia Bookstore can serve as an invaluable fountain of authentic information in this regard. We are proud to offer resources such as *The Orthodox Study Bible*, which includes invaluable commentaries from our Church Fathers, handed down through the centuries and now translated into English for our better understanding. Our shelves also hold books on the profound writings of the Church Fathers, the lives of Saints and holy people of the past, and the inspiring journeys of devout pilgrims of the modern age. These individuals shine as much-needed beacons of light, guiding us as we navigate our way through an ever-changing and increasingly secular world. Of course, the bookstore also strives to keep a plentiful supply of religious items, including prayer ropes, incense, charcoal, as well as seasonal gifts, greeting cards, and bracelets.

In conclusion, we are a work in progress, both as individuals and as a parish. We pray that we may all grow in our faith, fight for our faith, and live our faith—the faith that is rooted in Jesus Christ, so that future generations will reap the profound benefit! Our Holy Orthodox faith has always desired and encouraged an educated laity.

Let us always remember the poignant conversation Jesus Himself had with the woman of Samaria at the well, recounted in the Gospel of John 4:13-14:

“Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water I will give Him... the water...will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

We often drink so much of the secular water: worldly news, gossip, social media, peer pressure, and countless other fleeting distractions. These “words” never truly quench our thirst but forever keep us tuning in for more entertainment! There is another source of information, however, one that has eternal life on its side. Perhaps after encountering Jesus Christ in the Divine Liturgy, you might stop by the Philokalia-Antonios I. Crassides Bookstore. Come and see if you can further understand the beautiful life of Orthodoxy that we experience in person every Sunday and bring some of that spiritual water home with you today!

Thank you for your continued support!

Love and prayers,
The Bookstore Staff

MYROPHORES

This Pascha, our community was truly blessed by the dedicated service of our Myrophores. These young ladies volunteered their time and devotion during our Holy Friday and Holy Saturday services. It was wonderful to see 21 young ladies serve on Holy Friday, reverently assisting throughout the solemn service.

Then, for Holy Saturday's Resurrection service, 7 Myrophores had the distinct honor of being the first to receive the much-anticipated Holy Light, a truly memorable experience for them and for all present.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to these incredible young ladies for their commitment, and to the adults who guided them: Mrs. Olga Michaelides-Katakis, Mrs. Christina Pashos, and Mrs. Eleni Stathopoulos. Their efforts helped make our Easter services so special and meaningful.



CHURCH SCHOOL

Registration for the new school year is tentatively planned for Sunday, September 21 at the Church School office, in addition to the St. Nicholas Youth BBQ event which will take place on a Saturday, September 13th, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.



PRE-K, KINDERGARTEN, 1ST GRADE



2ND GRADE



4TH GRADE



5TH GRADE



6TH GRADE



3RD, 7TH, 8TH GRADE



12TH GRADE



CHURCH SCHOOL GRADUATION



CHURCH SCHOOL PALM PROCESSION



2025 St Annual Gr



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St. Nicholas Greek Festival



TO ALL
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Stephen and Areti Cherpeli

Hellenic Orthodox Life Academy Of St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church



About the Program!

The Hellenic Orthodox Life Academy is an innovative after-school enrichment program that meets daily and gives students the opportunity to engage in educational fun activities while practicing the Greek language. The program offers a range of academic components: culture, language, arts, and recreation which allows children to grow physically and socially while connecting with their Greek heritage.

Registration

- Contact the St. Nicholas church office
- Monthly Payments
- No refund for Absences
- 10% Sibling Discount

*See Registration form for the schedule, tuition and fees.

Registration is open ALL year long!

What We Offer

- Time for Homework
- Language Supplemental Help
- Art and Crafts
- Christian Orthodox Life Session

NEW

- OPTIONAL EXTRA DAYS
- OPEN ON SCHOOL HALF DAYS
- OPENS SEPTEMBER 3!

196-10 Northern Blvd, Flushing, NY 11358
Phone: 718-357-4200
holastnicholas@gmail.com
info@stnicholasflushing.org



THE MEN'S LEAGUE

St. Nicholas Men's League: Fellowship and Future Plans

The St. Nicholas Men's League recently gathered for a memorable evening of fellowship at Neo, a local gem proudly owned by the Kantlis family from our parish. It was a great opportunity for our members to connect and enjoy some time together.

Our final meeting before the summer break will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 7:00 PM. We encourage all members to attend as we'll be discussing important plans. And for a taste of something truly new, prepare yourselves for news on our inaugural Greek Oktoberfest when we reconvene in September! We're already planning an unforgettable event.

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



Men's League Supports Hellenic School Students with Scholarships



The St. Stephanos Young Adult Fellowship of St. Nicholas is a vibrant and dedicated group! We're proud to share some highlights: our young adults recently hosted Emmy Award-winning actor Jonathan Jackson, who shared his inspiring life story and profound journey to Orthodoxy. In addition,

ST. STEPHANOS YOUNG ADULTS

the St. Stephanos group demonstrated incredible commitment by volunteering and working tirelessly at our recent festival. Check out the photos below to see their efforts!



WOMEN'S CHOIR

For over forty years, the St. Nicholas Women's Choir has graced our church with the rich, Byzantine sounds of sacred chant. Evolving from the Junior Choir in the late 1970s, this dedicated group, sustained by long-standing members, enriches our Lenten, Good Friday, Anastasi, and Christmas Eve services, plus select Sunday liturgies.

Though regular rehearsals are paused, we warmly welcome new voices passionate about chanting in both English and Greek.



YOUTH CHOIR

The cherished sound of children's voices has returned to St. Nicholas! We are thrilled to announce the revitalization of our Youth Choir, re-established from its 1990s origins to inspire a new generation of young singers in Orthodox hymns.

Our mission is to engage youth in the Divine Liturgy through chant. The Youth Choir meets Sundays after the first Divine

Liturgy, welcoming children entering second grade and older, especially music lovers.

Join us to explore rich melodies, perform at our Christmas pageant with the St. Nicholas Women's Choir, and deepen spiritual understanding by uncovering hymn meanings. This is a unique opportunity to engage in worship, build lasting friendships, and create cherished memories. Beyond vocals,

members will also sharpen Western music notation reading and aural skills through fun sight-reading.

If your child is ready to join our musical family, scan the QR code for more information. We eagerly await new voices!



AGIA SKEPI

Agia Skepi: A Sisterhood of Hope and Growth

For over three decades, the Agia Skepi fellowship at St. Nicholas has been a beacon of support, friendship, and positive outlook for women in our community. What began as a small gathering of widowed friends seeking solace and shared understanding has blossomed into a thriving organization, officially recognized by our church.

The name, Agia Skepi, meaning "Holy Protection," was thoughtfully chosen by Father Paul Palesty 33 years ago when this unique group was formed. Prior to becoming a formal organization within St. Nicholas, the ladies met informally, often at the home of Maria Papougenis, a driving force behind the organization. This humble beginning, where a few widowed

friends shared coffee and conversation, laid the groundwork for the supportive fellowship it is today. As news of their supportive little group spread, more and more women expressed interest. Recognizing their ability to help others, they decided to formalize their fellowship through the church, leading to Father Paul's selection of Agia Skepi as their official name.

Agia Skepi is a fellowship exclusively for ladies, with one very important exception: Irakli, our "chanter," is the only man permitted to join their gatherings. With over 25 members, the group typically meets once a month at the church, though they occasionally enjoy their fellowship at Mythos restaurant. Members contribute \$5 a month for food from Mythos and a

yearly membership fee of \$10.

Maria Papougenis emphasizes that Agia Skepi extends "an understanding hand of welcome to the newly, long-time

togetherness."

Regardless of age, wealth, or background, the pain of loss through widowhood or divorce is unique to everyone. Agia Skepi offers a space where members hope to provide the same help and comfort, they themselves have received. The ladies of Agia Skepi are always eager to welcome new members, meet new friends, and share ideas to make their fellowship even more enjoyable and enriching.



widowed or divorced who may wish to join us." While the shared experience of widowhood or divorce often brings members together, this is distinctly not a "weeping group." Instead, it is a vibrant collective of women coming together with a "very positive outlook in the spirit of hope, friendship, and continued growth." It is a true "support group of

LITTLE ANGELS

Saint Nicholas'
"Little Angels"

MOMMY & ME



For
Children
Ages 0-2.5



Classes
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
9-11 AM

Featuring:

- Creative Music and Movement led by Margarita Eleftheriadis
- Greek songs and themes
- Sensory stimulation
- Arts and Crafts
- Great opportunity to meet other families

Beginning: Wednesday class: September 17
Thursday class: September 18
Friday class: September 19

For more info: SaintNicholasLittleAngels@gmail.com

DOULAVERIS PRESCHOOL

The Saint Nicholas George and Evlavia Doulaveris Preschool is proudly licensed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. This certification ensures that we maintain a high-quality, safe, and nurturing early childhood program.

Our Preschool offers enriching programs for children aged two through five, with both full -day

and half-day options available to suit the needs of families. A key component of our comprehensive curriculum is the integration of the Greek language and the teachings of the Greek Orthodox faith, helping children connect with their heritage and values.

We are proud of our experienced and dedicated



staff, many of whom have been with us for years. Their commitment reflects the stability and consistency that are so important in a child's early development.

At Saint Nicholas Preschool, we strongly value the home school connection. We maintain open communication with families and provide regular updates on each child's social, emotional, and academic progress.

Our most exciting recent addition is our Two-Year-Old Program, which incorporates a variety of Montessori-inspired activities. We have invested in new materials to support this approach, fostering independence, sensory exploration, early cognitive development in our youngest learners.

Our Nursery program is in full swing with both full-day and half-day

sessions available to fit your family's needs. Each day is filled with fun, learning, and exploration. Children enjoy creative art projects that inspire self-expression. During circle time, they build important listening and social skills while sharing stories and songs with friends.

We are so proud of the growth we're seeing in our nursery children.

In our Prekindergarten classrooms, children are engaging in more structured learning while still enjoying the wonder and excitement of discovery each day.

They also have been exploring world famous artists and creating their own incredible masterpieces—each one unique and full of personality! We're also building strong literacy skills with the Foundations reading program, and taking an eclectic, hands-on approach to math

preparing our Pre-K for Kindergarten.

Our Nursery and Pre-Kindergarten students shine not only in the classroom but on stage. Throughout the year, they take part in three

wonderful performances that celebrate their talents and our school community. Please feel free to contact us at (718)357-0800 for a tour of our Preschool.



SAINT NICHOLAS DOULAVERIS PRESCHOOL

ENROLLMENT

The best place for your children to learn and grow!

REGISTER NOW

OFFERING INCENTIVES FOR SIGNING
UP FOR THE 2-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM



OFFERING 2, 3 & 4 YEAR
OLD PROGRAMS



WHY CHOOSE US?

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- CHILD'S BIRTH AND BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE
- IMMUNIZATION RECORDS
- RECENT PHYSICAL EXAMINATION



SMALL CLASS SIZES



EARLY DROP OFF



OUTSTANDING ACADEMICS
AND FAITH BASED CURRICULUM



FULL AND HALF DAY PROGRAMS

FOLLOW US:  @DOULAVERIS_PRESCHOOL



ST.NICHOLAS DOULAVERIS PRESCHOOL



For More Information
718-357-0800



43-09 196TH STREET, FLUSHING NY
STNICHOLASDOULAVERIS@GMAIL.COM



Save the Date...

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

MINISTRY SIGN UPS

**FEAST, FUN, FAITH
& FELLOWSHIP
BBQ**

- JOY
- JR GOYA
- GOYA
- ST. STEPHANOS
- YOUTH CHOIR
- BASKETBALL
- SOCCER
- VOLLEYBALL
- CHURCH SCHOOL
- MOMMY & ME
- HELLENIC SCHOOL
- H.O.L.A.
- ALTAR BOYS
- BYZANTINE MUSIC SCHOOL
- ICONOGRAPHY SCHOOL

BOY SCOUTS ** CUB SCOUTS ** GIRL SCOUTS

SEPTEMBER 13TH



ST. NICHOLAS PARKING LOT

11:30 AM. TO 1:30PM.

196-10 Northern Blvd Flushing NY 11358

STNICHOLASFLUSHING.ORG

WILLIAM SPYROPOULOS



The William Spyropoulos Greek - American Day School Of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

43-15 196 St., Flushing N.Y. 11358
Tel. (718) 357-5583/ Fax (718) 428-3051
www.wmspyropoullosschool.org

Mary Tzallas
Principal

Georgia Kakivelis
Assistant Principal



Dear Parishioners,

Χριστός Ανέστη!

The end of the school year is quickly approaching, but before we close our doors for the summer we have some very exciting events and milestones that will be taking place in the next few weeks, starting with the week of May 19th during which our Eighth Graders will be going on their senior trip to Universal Studios. Two weeks later, on Friday, June 6th, they will celebrate their Graduation at the 42nd Commencement Exercises of our school.

On May 28th, we have our Fifth Grade *Stepping Up Ceremony* which is a day the fifth graders celebrate their transition from Elementary School to Junior High School.

On May 29th, we invite the community to our annual Musical Anthology *Τραγούδια και Σκοποί απο 'Όλη την Ελλάδα* which will take place at 7:00 PM in the Sarantakos Hall. This year our Choir will be singing traditional folk songs while our Seventh Grade Dance Group will be dancing to some of these songs. We look forward to seeing many of you there to support our students and see the beautiful work they do.

On June 11th and 12th, we have a two- day Carnival which our children are so looking forward to and, finally, our little Spyropoulites will celebrate their Kindergarten Graduation on June 17th. June 20th is our last day of school, and all of us, teachers and students, look forward to summer vacation and all the fun and adventures that come with it.

We have had a very successful and productive school year, and we look forward to the next one in September. Congratulations to all our students for their accomplishments this year, and we wish our Graduates all the best in High School!

We wish you all a healthy, happy, and restful summer.

Sincerely,

Mary Tzallas
Principal

*An outstanding environment,
where children learn and grow happily and successfully*





ST. NICHOLAS ARK 2ND EDITION





WILLIAM SPYROPOULOS PTA

A Message from The William Spyropoulos PTA

The William Spyropoulos PTA is dedicated to empowering the Saint Nicholas William Spyropoulos Greek American Day School. Our mission is straightforward: to enrich our students' educational journey by providing essential resources and unwavering support to our dedicated teachers and administrators. Through the collaborative efforts of parents, faculty, and school leadership, we cultivate a dynamic and academically stimulating environment where our students flourish and our cherished traditions are celebrated.

The PTA is far more than just an organization; it's a vibrant community. It's a place where parents' voices are heard, connections are forged, and opportunities for personal and collective growth abound. We actively foster an environment where families can engage with one another, voice their concerns, and stay informed about all school happenings. Your active involvement has a direct and significant impact on our students' experiences and the continued success of our school.

Meet Your William Spyropoulos PTA Officers for School Year 2024-2025:

- **Anna Xerakias**, President
- **Aspasia Hatzoglu**, 1st Vice President
- **Helen Kartsonis**, 2nd Vice President
- **Keri Filipos**, Treasurer
- **Juliana Pantelatos**, Assistant Treasurer
- **Roula Tsaltas**, Recording Secretary
- **Eva Drivakos**, Greek Recording Secretary
- **Katerina Kourkoumelis**, Co-Corresponding Secretary
- **Jessica Koutsoftas**, Co-Corresponding Secretary

Community Lobby Renovation: A Dream Realized!

We are thrilled to announce that the long-anticipated community lobby renovation will finally take place this summer! This project, a topic of discussion for many years, is becoming a reality thanks to the incredible support and generosity of our William Spyropoulos families. We successfully raised approximately \$160,000 through generous donations from both current and alumni families, along with funds from two successful walkathons and sponsorships for our PTA Celebration. The completed lobby will provide a welcoming and modern environment that will benefit not only our school but our entire community. We are immensely grateful for the significant part our William Spyropoulos parents have played in this achievement.

William Spyropoulos Parents: Join Us and Get Involved!

We warmly invite all William Spyropoulos School parents to participate in our PTA meetings, lend a hand at our fundraisers, and join us for our exciting events throughout the year. Whether you're a seasoned member or new to our school family, there are countless ways to get involved, meet other parents, and contribute to the heart of our community. The PTA thrives on the energy and enthusiasm of engaged parents! Here's a look back at just a few of the memorable events the PTA helped organize this past spring:

- **Walk-a-thon:** Students, teachers, and parents united to raise funds for the much-needed lobby renovation.
- **PTA Celebration:** A special evening dedicated to celebrating the vibrant spirit of our school community, filled with fun, delicious food, and dancing.
- **Kafenio Booth:** A perennial favorite stop during our annual church festival, where parents volunteered, enjoying a fun and meaningful way to spend time together while giving back to our community.
- **Mother-Daughter Luncheon:** A cherished Spyropoulos tradition and a heartwarming event celebrating the special bond between mothers and daughters.
- **School Carnival:** Two days of thrilling carnival games, rides, and treats sponsored by the PTA as the school year draws to a close.
- **End-of-Year Picnic:** Students were treated to a delightful picnic lunch and engaging activities during the very last week of school.

We eagerly anticipate the 2025-2026 school year and look forward to continuing our work for the benefit of our students and our cherished William Spyropoulos School community.





SAINT NICHOLAS STEPHEN AND ARETI CHERPELIS HELLENIC SCHOOL



Principal- Stella Vasileiadou



Το Σάββατο 29 Μαρτίου στην αίθουσα εκδηλώσεων «Σαραντάκος» πραγματοποιήθηκε η σχολική γιορτή για την επέτειο της κήρυξης της Επανάστασης της 25 ης Μαρτίου 1821. Μεγάλη τιμή η παρουσία των Ευζώνων στο ελληνικό σχολείο «Στέφανος και Αρετή Τσερπέλη» της κοινότητας του Αγίου Νικολάου. Η γιορτή αυτή θα μείνει στην ιστορία του σχολείου και θα μείνει πάντα χαραγμένη στις καρδιές όλων όσοι παρέστησαν.

Website:

<http://stnicholashellenicschool.org>









ST. NICHOLAS
STEPHEN AND ARETI CHERPELIS
HELLENIC SCHOOL

Greek Conversational Classes

SPEAK IT. LIVE IT. LOVE IT.
OPEN TO ALL YOUTH

BASIC & INTERMEDIATE LEVELS
COMING THIS FALL
THURSDAYS 5:30-6:30 PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
718-357-4200

INFO@STNICHOLASFLUSHING.ORG

ST. NICHOLAS
STEPHEN AND ARETI CHERPELIS
HELLENIC SCHOOL

New Class Options Available



GRADES 4 & 5:
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 4:00-5:30 PM

GRADES 6-8:
SATURDAYS 9:45 AM- 1:00 PM

PLEASE NOTE: THE CURRENT FRIDAY/SATURDAY
SCHEDULE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
718-357-4200
INFO@STNICHOLASFLUSHING.ORG

ST. NICHOLAS
STEPHEN AND ARETI CHERPELIS
HELLENIC SCHOOL

Greek Dance Classes

LEARN DANCES FROM ALL OVER GREECE
AND EXPERIENCE THE CULTURE THROUGH
TRADITIONAL AND FOLK DANCING.

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH
GRADES 3 AND UP

COMING THIS FALL
FRIDAYS 6:15-7:15 PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
718-357-4200
INFO@STNICHOLASFLUSHING.ORG



**SAINT NICHOLAS STEPHEN AND ARETI CHERPELIS
HELLENIC SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2025-2026**

REGISTRATION for the HELLENIC SCHOOL 2025-2026 will be held from **10:00AM to 4:00PM Monday through Friday** beginning immediately in the church office. We would be happy to accommodate you at a different time, but please call in advance to make an appointment.

We are excited to announce that we will be enhancing our program and will be *offering supplemental classes* in Greek Conversation, Greek Dancing, mid-week classes for the 4th and 5th grades, and Saturday class for the 6th/7th/8th grades. Please note that *Greek Dancing, Theater and Conversation will continue to be a part of the Core Curriculum, as it has been in the past.* The new classes added are intended to supplement and provide more focused instruction to the children. We will require a minimum of 5 students in each of these **NEW** classes to be able to establish them formally in our program starting September. In the event we do not achieve this minimum registration, we will work with you to make other arrangements for your child. Please help the Hellenic School Board to prepare to best meet the School's needs in September by registering your child/children early.

Classes will be held as follows:

Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NEW: 4-5:30pm	NEW: 4-5:30pm	4-6pm	9:45am-1pm
4th/5th grades Core Curriculum	4th/5th grades Core Curriculum	6th/7th/8th grades Core Curriculum	Pre-K- 6th NEW: 6th, 7th, 8 th grades Core Curriculum
	NEW: 5:30-6:30 All grades: Conversation- Basic All Grades Conversation- Intermediate	NEW: 6:15-7:15 Greek Dancing: grades 3-5 Greek Dancing: grades 6-8	

TUITION AND FEES:

- **REGISTRATION FEE OF \$100 WILL BE WAIVED IF REGISTERING BY JUNE 15, 2025**
- Stewardship **MUST** be paid in full upon registration. If your Stewardship is not up to date, you will not be able to register for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Tuition must be paid in full by September 22 2025, unless other arrangements are made through the church office.
- Tuition can be paid by check, money order, cash or credit card. If paying by credit card, a 3% fee will be added.
- There will be a late fee of \$100 if registering after September 22, 2025
- The \$100 registration fee and \$50 PTA Membership fee are assessed required upon registration per family
The PTA membership fee should be paid by check payable to "St. Nicholas Greek Afternoon School PTA"

FOR CORE CURRICULUM	TUITION	REG FEE	TOTAL TUITION	PTA Membership Per Family
One Child	\$ 1,125	\$100	\$ 1,225	\$50.00
Two Children	\$ 2,200	\$100	\$ 2,300	\$50.00
Three Children	\$ 3,000	\$100	\$ 3,100	\$50.00
Four Children	\$ 3,500	\$100	\$ 3,600	\$50.00
Five Children	\$ 4,000	\$100	\$ 4,100	\$50.00

OPTIONAL NEW CLASSES:

Conversation \$450 per child
Greek Dancing \$450 per child

*Please use this QR Code to register and pay for
Hellenic School Core Curriculum and/or Optional classes:
Or this link: <https://form.jotform.com/251525174390152>*



TUITION REFUND POLICY:

By October 11 th	75% Refund
By November 1st	50% Refund
After November 1st	NO REFUND

Classes will begin the week of September 16th, depending on the days you have registered for.
The Agiasmo date for the entire school will be announced in September

Rev. Ekonomos Aristidis Garinis
Proistamenos

Maria Zolotas
School Board President

Stella Vasileiadou
Principal

Click here: <https://form.jotform.com/251525174390152>

JOY



SAINT NICHOLAS SUMMER DAY CAMP

Panagia's Garden

August 4th-8th &
August 11th-15th 2025
Joy & Jr. Goya

2nd-8th grade	10:00 AM- 2:00PM Monday- Friday	2 week program	\$250/week per participant
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Faith-Games-
Fellowship-Greek
Dancing-Chanting



Register
here!

REGISTRATION OPEN JUNE 15-JULY 15

Late registration fee: \$50 per family



St. Nicholas Flushing GOYA Newsletter – End of Season Update

As our GOYA season comes to a close, we reflect on an amazing year of fellowship, faith, and fun!

This past month, we celebrated with our Annual GOYA Dance, where we welcomed Goyans from parishes across the area for a joyful evening of music, dancing, and community. It was a beautiful reminder of the friendships and bonds that continue to grow through our shared heritage and faith.

We also proudly hosted the GOYA Olympics, a weekend full of spirited competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship. From basketball to relay races, our Goyans gave it their all and truly represented the spirit of our community.

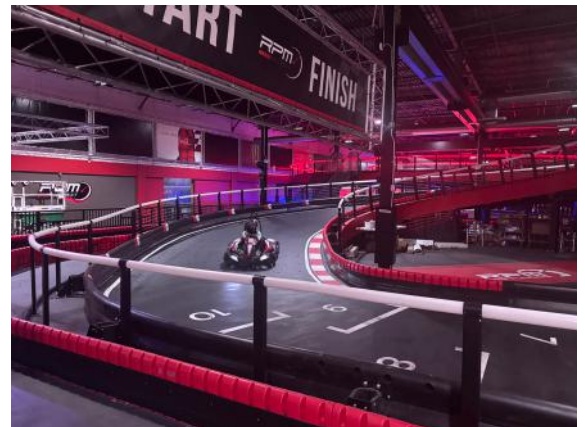
As we wrap up for the season, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated, supported, and helped make this year unforgettable.

Looking ahead to next year—if you're interested in getting involved as an advisor or helping guide our GOYA ministry,

please reach out to Fr. Alexandros Douvres.

Your leadership and support can make a lasting impact on the next generation of Greek Orthodox youth.

GOYA



OLYMPICS

What an incredible showing at the GOYA/JOY Olympics! St. Nicholas made its most triumphant return yet, with 33 enthusiastic participants competing and earning numerous medals across three action-packed days. From the courts of Soccer and Volleyball to the fields of Track & Field and even the quiet intensity of Strategy and Board Games, our youth excelled. Our deepest gratitude goes to the volunteers who tirelessly ensured a smooth weekend: Nicholas Hartofilis, Lea Garinis, Michael Martone, Angeleke Lymberatos, and Gerasimos Mihalatos. We proudly had multiple teams in nearly every team sport and, for the first time in years, dominated the track events, medaling in almost every single one. A huge congratulations to all our talented athletes, and immense thanks to the parents and volunteers whose dedication truly made this memorable weekend happen.

JOY WINNERS

Long Jump: Demetrios Garinis, Bronze

Free Throws Basketball: Elias Siklas, Silver

Boys Swim Relay: Gold

Theodore Niarhos
Yianni Kyrou
Rafael Ioannou
Spiro Katehis

Softball Throw: Mario Stathakis, Gold

GOYA WINNERS

Boys Soccer: Silver

Nicholas Christofidis
John Balis
Andreas Georgakopoulos
Nicholas Xanthakos
Dimitri Mironis
Konstantinos Mihalatos
Costa Christofidis
Demetrios Kazalas

Girls Senior 200 Meter:
Erato Mihalatos, Gold

Girls Junior 55 Meter:
Victoria Zajac, Gold

Girls Senior 55 Meter:
Erato Mihalatos, Bronze

Boys Senior 55 Meter:
Nicholas Christofidis, Bronze

Girls Junior Long Jump:
Victoria Zajac, Silver

Girls Senior Long Jump:
Erato Mihalatos, Silver

Boys Senior Long Jump:
Nicholas Christofidis, Silver

Coed 4x200 Meter- Gold

Nicholas Christofidis
Victoria Zajac
Erato Mihalatos
Pavlo Arlotta

Trinity Challenge- Gold

Konstantinos Kabanakis
Ermione Balis
Erato Mihalatos
Victoria Zajac





BASKETBALL

Exciting Updates from Our Basketball Program!

Our basketball program is experiencing a period of exciting growth and advancement, both on and off the court! We are delighted to announce that final preparations for vital renovations in our gymnasium are officially underway, with physical construction set to

commence in the near future.

This significant undertaking is a testament to our unwavering commitment to providing top-tier athletic facilities that empower our student-athletes.

Our vision for this revitalized space is to create an environment where dedication to

2025 - 2026

ST. NICHOLAS

JOY / GOYA BASKETBALL



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

GRADES 2ND - 12TH

REGISTER HERE

<https://dadgobi.leagueapps.com/leagues/basketball/4599286-gobi-2025-2026>

FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT (516)-423-9249
OR EMAIL STNICKSGOYABB@GMAIL.COM

BASKETBALL CLINIC

JUNE
19

TIME
10AM-12

Grades 1-5

SIGN UP BY JUNE 14TH

\$15 DONATION
DONATIONS WILL GO TOWARDS ST.
NICHOLAS CHURCH RENOVATIONS

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

JUNE 2025

St. Nicholas Flushing

196-10 Northern Boulevard, Flushing



QUESTIONS: EMAIL ALEXANDERV29@NYCSTUDENTS.NET OR
27124AD@CHAMMADE-WS.ORG

training, strategic play, and overall well-being can flourish. These improvements will directly impact the quality of practices, enhance the experience of competitive games, and offer improved spaces for broader community engagement.

We eagerly anticipate the positive impact these enhancements

will have on every participant. Keep an eye out for regular updates as we progress, as we are dedicated to building a stronger, more dynamic, and ultimately more successful program—one crucial phase, and one impactful renovation, at a time!

St Nicholas hosted and won the first annual GOSL Futsal Tournament. We are trying to revive the GOSL and had a total of 70 athletes compete across 2 tournaments held this April and May. We will continue the league after the summer and more details will follow.



The St. Nicholas Ark quarterly newsletter is a labor of love, and much of that is made possible by the generous support of our advertisers. We invite you to discover their offerings starting on page 72. When you support these businesses, you're investing in our community and helping us continue to bring you valuable content each quarter.

ADVERTISE IN THE THE ARK

Second Edition



**Over 1100 Engaged
Readers**

Join The Momentum: Advertise in The Ark's Next Edition!

The launch of "The Ark" was an incredible success, with our inaugural edition garnering over 1100 views from our supportive St. Nicholas Parish community! As we move forward with our second edition, we're thrilled to offer you the chance to capitalize on this proven reach and continued engagement.

Unlock Your Business's Potential in The Ark:

- *Connect with 1100+ Views (and Growing!)*: Place your ad directly in front of a highly dedicated local audience in Flushing, NY, who are already invested in "The Ark." Your message will be seen by a community eager to support its local businesses.
- *Special Rates Held for You*: We're pleased to announce that our exclusive introductory advertising rates are still available for this edition! This is a fantastic opportunity to lock in a discounted price, especially when you prepay for the year.
- *Prioritized Placement*: As an early advertiser for our second issue, you'll receive priority consideration for premium ad placement, ensuring your message stands out.
- *Strengthen Community Ties*: This is more than just an ad; it's a statement of your commitment to the St. Nicholas Parish and its members.

Space is Limited! Ready to expand your local reach and support our vibrant community? Contact us today to secure your advertising spot in the upcoming edition of "The Ark"!

1/8 page

**\$40 Quarterly
(\$160/yr)**

1/4 page

**\$75 Quarterly
(\$300/yr)**

1/2 page

**\$150 Quarterly
(\$600/yr)**

Full page

**\$300 Quarterly
(\$1200/yr)**

Contact StNicholasArk@gmail.com with any questions

**SCAN
ME!**



TO APXONTAPIKI THE ARCHONTARIKI MUSIC FOOD PAREA

The Archontariki is a monthly gathering of our senior parishioners. At St. Nicholas, we strive to reach out to all ages and offer opportunity for community fellowship and engagement. Please encourage your loved ones to participate in this wonderful new program. Please rsvp with the Church office. Thank you!

Join us for our first gathering on **THURSDAY, JUNE 12** at 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 P.M.

Ελάτε να μας κάνετε παρέα!!!



ALTAR SERVING

SERVING IN THE ALTAR IS A BLESSING AND AN OFFERING TO GOD!



IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN SERVING IN THE ALTAR, PLEASE SPEAK WITH FATHER ARISTIDIS OR FATHER ALEXANDROS.

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

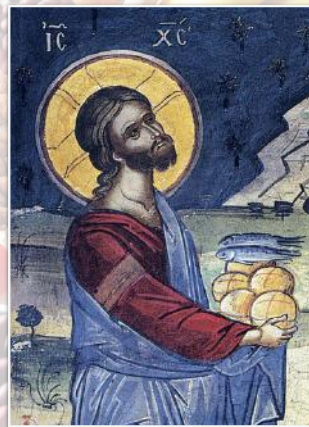
ST. LUKE'S SCHOOL OF BYZANTINE ICONOGRAPHY

•MONTHLY
ICONOGRAPHY CLASSES

•ALL SKILL LEVELS
WELCOME

•COMING FALL 2025

SCAN THE QR
CODE TO BE
ADDED TO OUR
MAILING LIST!



Saint Nicholas AGAPE FOOD DRIVE

**We are very excited to announce a
NEW MINISTRY**

Our Saint Nicholas parish together with our Ladies Philoptochos Society are opening a year round food pantry for the needy community in the greater Queens area. This is an opportunity for parishioners of all ages to show love to our neighbors and give to those who need it most.

**Please donate NON-PERISHABLE
food items outside the Sarantakos entrance.**

ST. NICHOLAS CRUISE FOR A CAUSE

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Please join The Gus Cherevas Estia-Pindus AHEPA Chapter 326 for an evening under the stars aboard the "SUPER YACHT" SKYLINE PRINCESS as we sail down the East Side of Manhattan, through the New York Harbor, around the Statue of Liberty and back to celebrate the St. Nicholas community.

MUSIC • DINNER • DANCING

Music by DJ Gus Ballas
International Buffet

Proceeds to Benefit



Departing from the
WORLD'S FAIR MARINA
125-00 Northern Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11354
Free Parking

Boarding: 5:00 PM
Sailing: 6:00 - 10:00 PM

Chairman:
Nick Tavantzis
nicktavantzis@aol.com

Co-Chairman:
Chris Tavantzis
chris.tavantzis@gmail.com

Tickets: \$150 pp

Venmo: @Estia-Pindus

For Ticket Reservations call:
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The AHEPA Voice from St. Nicholas: A Look at Our Latest Endeavors!

Dear Fellow Parishioners and Friends,

The AHEPA chapters proudly operating within the embrace of our beloved St. Nicholas Church have been bustling with activity, furthering our mission of Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence. We're excited to share highlights from our recent events and give you a sneak peek at what's on the horizon.

Recapping Our Recent Successes!

- A Winning Night with Estia-Pindus Flushing AHEPA Chapter 326 On April 24th, our Estia-Pindus Flushing AHEPA Chapter 326 hosted their 2nd successful Virtual Horse Racing Night. It was an evening truly exemplifying camaraderie, brotherhood, and spirited fun. During the event, the Chapter was honored to present the Hellenic Athlete Award to Lefteris (Lefty) Liotopoulos, a promising SJU Red Storm Freshman Guard, celebrating his dedication and achievements.
- Reeling in Good Times with the Three Queens AHEPA Chapters Annual Fishing Trip, hosted by the Three Queens AHEPA Chapters on May 3rd, was once again a resounding success! With a fantastic turnout, too many fish were caught (our apologies to the marine life!). A great time was certainly had by all who joined, strengthening the bonds within our brotherhood.
- Greek Heritage Night: A Night to Remember Our community came together at Citi Field on May 31st for Greek Heritage Night. It was



AHEPA

a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our Hellenic roots and cheer on the home team. We were thrilled to see so many of you there! GO METS!

Upcoming AHEPA Initiatives & Community Support!

- Honoring Our Scholars with a Fellowship Breakfast We invite the entire St. Nicholas community to join us on June 22nd as we proudly honor the recipients of our 2025 Scholarship Program. This year, six deserving recipients will be awarded a total of \$7,250! The awards presentation will take place after liturgy, followed by a special Chapter-sponsored Breakfast Fellowship Hour, where eggs and sausages will be served. Come celebrate the bright futures of our young Hellenic Americans!
- Set Sail for a Noble Cause: The St. Nicholas Cruise! Mark your calendars for September 25th, 2025, for the highly anticipated St. Nicholas Cruise for a Cause! This inspiring event will sail around the iconic Statue of Liberty, with all proceeds dedicated to the essential renovations of our cherished St. Nicholas Church. This is a prime example of AHEPA's commitment to supporting our spiritual home. Be sure to secure your tickets and join us in this vital fundraising effort!

The AHEPA chapters remain dedicated to supporting the St. Nicholas community and upholding the values that bind us. We look forward to seeing you at our next events!



MAIDS OF ATHENA

Bayside Maids of Athena Chapter #126 – End-of-Year Update

Spring Recap: Sisterhood, Service & Fun

Since our last ARK update, our chapter has had a jam-packed calendar full of sisterhood, service, and unforgettable memories!

In March, a few of our members traveled to Greeks in Montreal, a cross-border social weekend that brings together Sons and Maids from across the U.S. and Canada. From Café Olympico to the Montreal Biodome—and dancing the night away at Mythos—we had the best time bonding with our MOA/SOP community.

Later that month, we proudly represented our chapter and the Maids of Athena organization at the NYC Greek Independence Day Parade, marching and showing off our Greek pride! We ended the day at the Bayside Sons of Pericles After Parade Party, continuing the celebrations with our brothers and community.

On Saturday, April 12, we held our first-ever Greek-themed cycling fundraiser at CycleBar Garden City! It was a major success, with riders from our community—and even a few sisters from Albany—joining in to support our cause. Through ticket sales and a raffle basket donated by Pure Care Pharmacy & Wellness, along with support from sponsors like Melrose Penthouse, Boro Hotel, Farmingdale Diner, CPN Mechanical, and AHEPA Estia Pindus Chapter #326, we raised funds for our National Project, Girls Inc.

Most recently, we had a blast running the very first Ring Toss Booth at the St. Nicholas Greek Festival all weekend long! Festival goers played to win bottles of Greek wine, and thanks to their support, we were able to raise funds for the St. Nicholas Church Renovation Program—a cause that means so much to us as members of this parish.

We also held two monthly chapter meetings and are closing out our meeting calendar with one final meeting on Monday, June 2 at 7 PM in the AHEPA Room. If you'd like to attend, please contact us—we'd love to welcome you!

What's Ahead: June & July Events

The end of our Maids year is just as exciting as the beginning! In June, we're headed to the District 6 End-of-Year Conference (June 6–7) in Poughkeepsie, followed by the Greeks in NYC

Weekend (June 13–15), hosted by the Sons of Pericles.

On Saturday during that weekend, we'll also be attending the St. Basil Academy Sensory Room Unveiling—our District Project this year. This initiative is incredibly close to our hearts. Throughout the year, we helped fundraise and even contributed hands-on labor to bring this safe, welcoming space for children to life.

And of course, we're thrilled to announce the return of our big summer kickoff: Our Annual White Party Saturday, June 21 | 7 PM – Midnight | Boro Hotel Rooftop This 18+ event is the perfect way to kick off summer—with skyline views, music, and great company. Most importantly, a portion of proceeds will go directly to the St. Nicholas Church Renovation Program, so your good time supports an even greater cause. Early bird tickets are just \$15 and can be purchased through the link in our Instagram bio: @maidsofathenapyg. Prices increase to \$20 the week of the event and at the door!

In July, we'll head to Supreme Convention in Walt Disney World, where we'll spend a few magical days with our AHEPA family reflecting on the year, celebrating all we've accomplished, and gearing up for what's next.

Stay Tuned: We'll Be Back Soon!

We'll be taking a short summer break after July—but we'll be back before you know it!

Stay tuned for updates on our Instagram (@maidsofathenapyg) for when our first chapter meeting of the new term will be and how you can get involved.

Our sisterhood is open to young women between the ages of 14–28—we'd love to have you join us!

With love in ΠΑ,

The Sisters of Bayside Maids of Athena Pygmalion #126





BOYSCOUTS

St. Nicholas Scouts Celebrate Another Stellar Year: Camporee Success, New Recruits, and Exciting Adventures Ahead!

Our St. Nicholas Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts have concluded another remarkably successful year, filled with growth, achievement, and memorable experiences. We're thrilled to share the highlights with our parish community, including the impressive performance of Troop 268 at the annual Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting (EOCS) Camporee, the welcome of new recruits, and exciting plans for the summer!

Troop 268 Continues a Legacy of Excellence

A testament to this ongoing success was our performance at the recent annual Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting (EOCS) Camporee, held at the picturesque St. Basil's Academy. This unique event brings together all the Greek Boy Scout Troops from across New York and New Jersey for a highly anticipated competition that fosters camaraderie and healthy competition, testing the Scouts' mastery of essential outdoor and scouting skills.

This year, five competing Troops and twelve Patrols (teams) faced off in a series of challenging events designed to hone their practical abilities and teamwork. Our Troop 268 Scouts demonstrated remarkable proficiency and spirit in disciplines such as knot-tying, orienteering, lashing, fire building, and first aid. We are incredibly proud to announce that our boys achieved an outstanding 3rd place overall among the talented competitors! This marks the fourth consecutive year that Troop 268 has placed in the top ranks at the EOCS Camporee,

a true testament to their consistent dedication and skill. Beyond the thrill of competition, the Scouts also enjoyed an overnight campout from Saturday into Sunday and had the meaningful experience of attending Church Services on Sunday morning.

Cub Scout Pack 268 Crosses Over to Troop 268

A momentous occasion for our Scouting family took place on April 4th, as our Cub Scout Pack 268 celebrated their official crossover ceremony, marking their transition into Boy Scout Troop 268. This significant induction, filled with tradition and excitement, officially welcomes the Cub Scouts into the next stage of their Scouting journey.

The ceremony was a wonderful event, attended by our dedicated Scouting leaders, including Scoutmaster Gerry Mihalatos, Cub Master Tina Kabanakis, and Assistant Cubmaster Dimitri Kabanakis, who guided the Scouts through this memorable milestone. The following Webelos Cub Scouts Crossed Over to the Troop: Panagiotis Kabanakis, Angelo Sapokolos, Dionysi Tsouknidas, Manoli Diacosavvas, Tasos Nakos, Aristratis Fountis and Stefano Kokolis. We look forward to seeing these young men continue to grow and develop their skills within the Boy Scout program.





TROOP & PACK 268 SIGN UP



CUB SCOUTS
Grade K-5th

BOY SCOUTS
Grades 6 & above

Friday September 5 & 12th, 2025
7:00 -8:00 PM

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DID YOU KNOW...

Children between 6 to 13 years of age should be sleeping 9 to 12 hours!



14 to 17 year old children should still be sleeping 8 to 10 hours!



DID YOU KNOW...

Bedtime Routine = Better Sleep = Health and Well-Being!

BUT DID YOU KNOW....

there are children who don't own pajamas and books to help them sleep!

A SCOUT IS KIND!

Help the Cub Scouts of St. Nicholas collect books and pajamas for children in need, in hospitals and "in the system" (such as between housing and foster care).



"PAJAMA PROGRAM- GOOD NIGHTS ARE GOOD DAYS"



ST. NICHOLAS CUB SCOUTS 268 PAJAMA AND BOOK DRIVE

Books and pajamas will be distributed through the "Pajama Program" to children in need.



- **New Books** (*Sorry, no used copies*)
- **New Pajamas** (Sizes NB to Kids 16/18) for Spring/Summer Season



****Shorts cannot be "too" short**

****Please refrain from any writing on the backside**



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THROUGH JUNE 15**

Questions?? Text Stacy: 917-363-2711

"PAJAMA PROGRAM- GOOD NIGHTS ARE GOOD DAYS"

GIRL SCOUTS

We are now accepting all girls of Greek Orthodox faith from Kindergarten to 8th grade to join our Saint Nicholas Troop 4212 for the 2025-2026 Scout year starting in September 2025. Open enrollment closes on September 6, 2025.

We are also inviting any moms or dads to volunteer as co leaders. Any questions, or to enroll, please contact, Stacey Theofanis, at at StNicksGsTroop04212@gmail.com



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Girls K-8th Grade

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St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine Church
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"Lethal Nationalism: Genocide of The Greeks 1913-1923"- Documentary Film
MDA-Muscular Dystrophy Association
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The Prostate Cancer Foundation-NYC
*Camp St. Paul Youth Ministry * Academic Scholarships and Awards * Athletic Programs*
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*Support for our Veterans * Global and National Disaster Relief & Humanitarian Aid*

Meetings held 2nd Wednesday of the month.

For information and to join please visit nycahepa326.org

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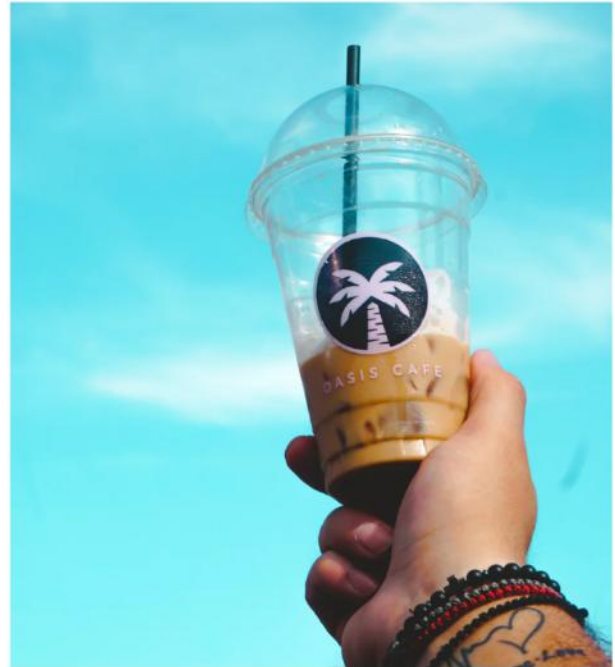
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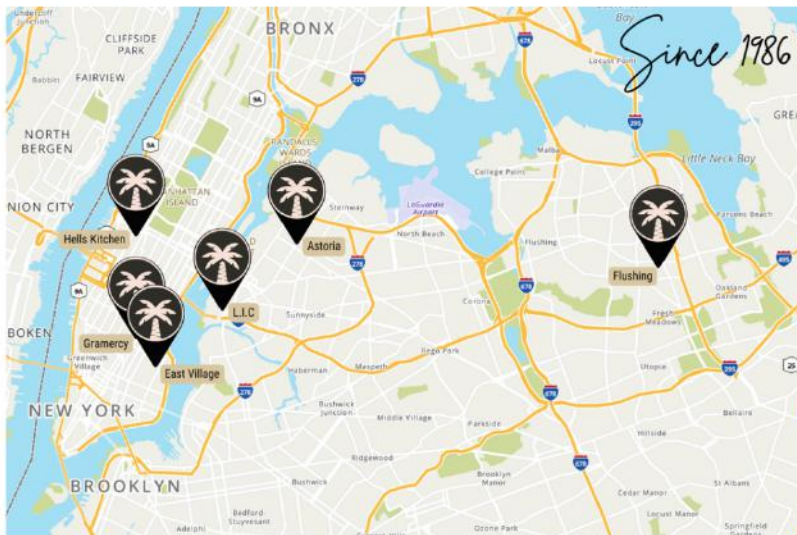
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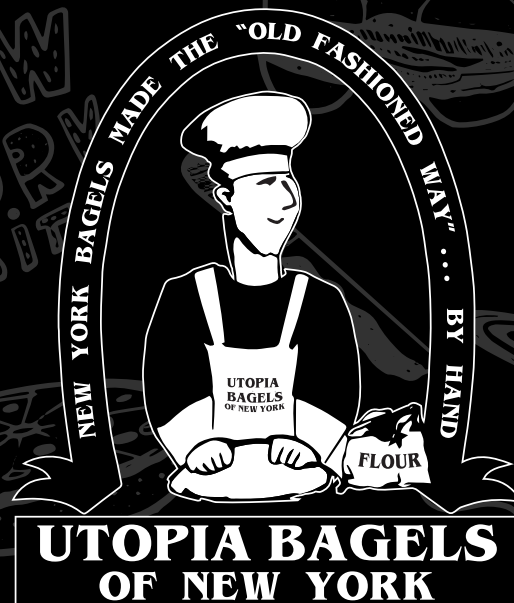
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