



# SAINT NICHOLAS

## GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

REV. ECONOMOS ARISTIDIS GARINIS, PASTOR

REV. PRESBYTER ALEXANDROS DOUVRES

Mar-Apr-May 2026 Volume 2, Issue 1

[stnicholasflushing.org](http://stnicholasflushing.org)



*Create in  
me a clean heart,  
O God, and renew a right  
spirit within me.*

PSALM 50:10.

# ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

## ORGANIZATIONS AND MINISTRIES

### CLERGY

*Rev. Economos Fr. Aristidis Garinis, Pastor*

*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](mailto:info@stnicholasflushing.org)*

*196-10 Northern Blvd*

*Flushing, NY 11358*

### PARISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

President- James Athanasopoulos

1st Vice President- Chris Pantazis

2nd Vice President- Eraclis Stamelos

Treasurer- Niki Sakarellos

Assistant Treasurer - Victoria Tsadilas

Secretary- Nektarios Giannios



*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](mailto:stnicholasark@gmail.com).*

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## PARISH MINISTRIES

### Agia Skepi

Advisor- Maria Papougenis

### Altar Boys

Advisor- Christos Kladeftiras

### Byzantine Music School

Director- Lefteris Eleftheriades

### St. Nicholas Church School Program

Advisors

Athanasia Koulotouros, Heidi Moustakos,  
Christina Pashos, Vasilis Poll

### Little Angels Mommy & Me

Margarita Eleftheriades

### St. Nicholas Men's League

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Vice President- Anthony Plakas

Treasurer- Nicholas Zolotas

Recording Secretary- Michael Giannakos

Corresponding Secretary- Nektarios Giannios

### St. Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos Society

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2nd Vice President- Maria Sakalis

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Assistant Treasurer- Anna Rigogiannis

Recording Secretary- Stephanie Moskos

Corresponding Secretary- Karen Kalkanis

Advisor- Irene Hotzoglou

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John and Christina Holinsky

### St. Stephanos Group

President- Peter Panopoulos

### Women's Choir

Director Irene Zapantis

### Youth Choir

Director- Presbytera Vasileia Garinis

## ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

### William Spyropoulos Parochial School

Principal- Mary Tzallas

Vice Principal- Georgia Kakivelis

Secretary- Olga Michaelidis-Katakis

Office Staff- Anna Nestoras

PTA President- Juliana Pantelatos

School Board- Georgia Athanasopoulos

### St. Nicholas George & Evlavia Doulaveris

#### Preshcool

Director- Elaine Meskouris

School Board- Andy Tsiolas

### Hellenic Orthodox Life Academy

Program Director- Despina Pavlidou

### Hellenic School

Principal- Matina Demelis

PTA President- Pamela Michos

School Board President- Maria Zolotas

Parish Council Representative- Niki Sakarellos

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

### JOY

Advisor- Stacey Theofanis

### Jr GOYA

Advisor- Olga Papadopoulos

### GOYA

Advisor- Christina Mihalatos

Advisor- Christos Kladeftiras

### GOYA/JOY Basketball

Directors- Bessie Lagudis & Chris Vlantis

Executive Board- Dimitri Douvres, Chrissy

Kouroupakis, George Kyprianides, Angelo Serves

### GOYA Volleyball

Advisor/Coach- Gerasimos Mihalatos

# FR. ARISTIDIS GARINIS, PROISTAMENOS



Beloved St. Nicholas Parish,

**W**e have begun our journey toward Pascha. The Church orders times and seasons for fasting and more intense focus on our relationship with God through

prayer, increased liturgical services, and a call to service to our neighbor. Now that Lent has begun, we are guided each Sunday into a deeper and more meaningful understanding of our faith. Among these Sundays of Lent also appear a group of saints who stand as examples for us in the world. Each of these saints is known as a monastic saint: Gregory Palamas, John Climacus, and Mary of Egypt. Though their lives were dedicated more intensely than our own, they still remain tangible evidence of God's grace working in our lives.

On the 5th Sunday of Lent, we commemorate St. Mary of Egypt. This statement alone contains the entire meaning of the Gospel of Christ. This is because her life, before she came to know Christ, was absolutely abhorrent. It is truly amazing that not only is she mentioned among the saints, but that she is also commemorated during Lent—the most holy and sacred time of the year. Her life was once so far from God; all she knew was how to satisfy the sins of her flesh. She became so obsessed with this way of life that she ran after others to bring them down with her. The Church, of course,

recognizes her because of her transformation. As our Lord said of the sinful woman in the Gospel, “She loved much because she was forgiven much” (Luke 7:47).

One day, as Mary was chasing after a group of young men going to church, she felt a divine force barring her from entering. With all her might she tried to get in, but she couldn't! At that same spot beside the entrance of the church was an icon of the Virgin Mary. Standing there confused, ashamed, and bewildered, Mary glanced up at the face of the Virgin and in an instant felt a deep contrast within her soul. The sinful, impure, and adulterous Mary was suddenly face to face with her opposite. Mary, the all-pure, ever-virgin, and immaculate, looked back with compassion and warmth. She understood then that her passions and desires were placed in the wrong things. She prayed with tears to be let into the church—not with the intent to sin, but to change. She was allowed into the church,

*“The sinful, impure, and adulterous Mary was suddenly face to face with her opposite.”*

received Holy Communion, and immediately set out for the desert, where she lived the rest of her life in ascetic

devotion to Christ.

The saints of our Church remind us that heaven is not filled with perfect people, but with repentant sinners. Our goal during this Lent is to enter the desert, just like St. Mary, to confront ourselves through prayer and fasting and to come to a renewed purpose for our lives: the salvation of our souls.

I encourage everyone to read the life of St.

Mary of Egypt and draw inspiration from her example. If she can change, so can we. May we have her prayers as we continue our Lenten journey. As we meditate on her life, let us each reflect on our own lives and ask the important questions that confront us:

*What is it that is keeping us from God?*

*What are we struggling with?*

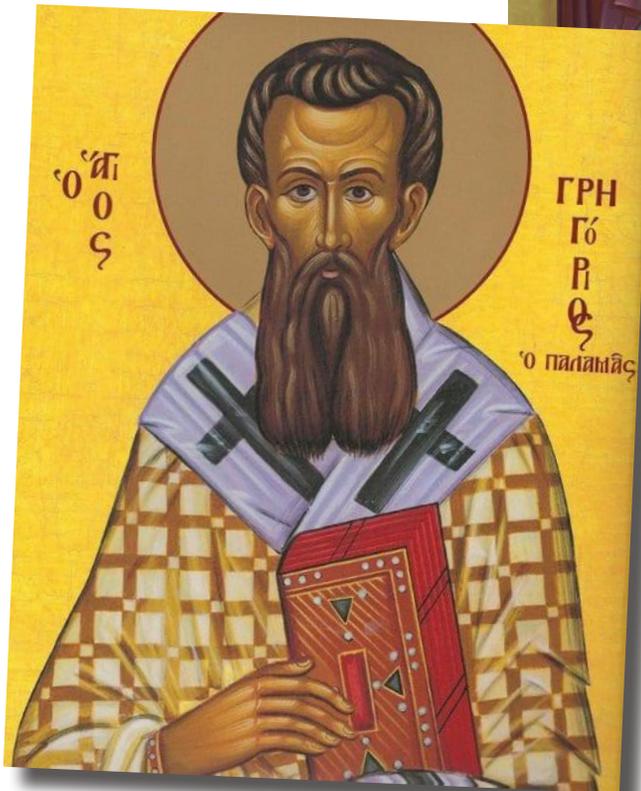
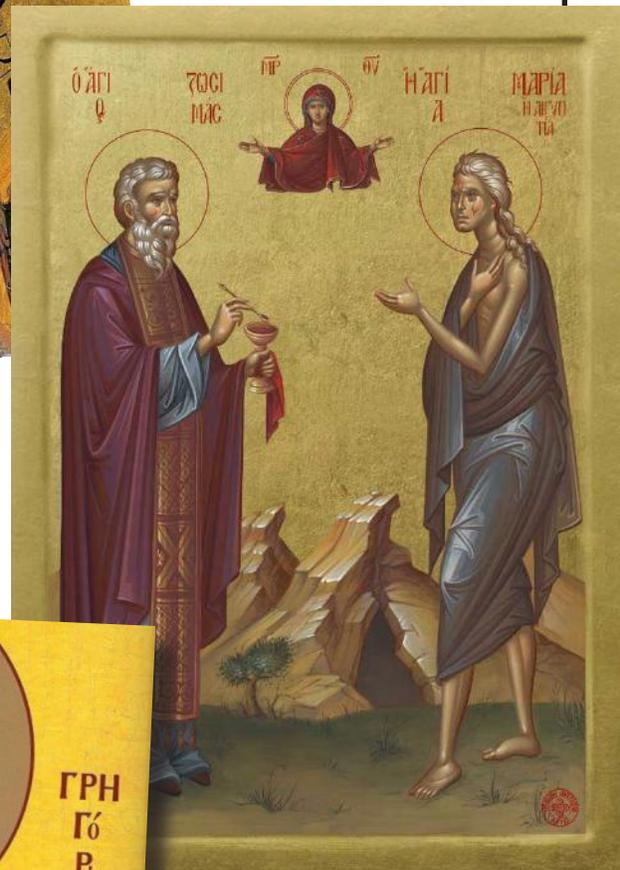
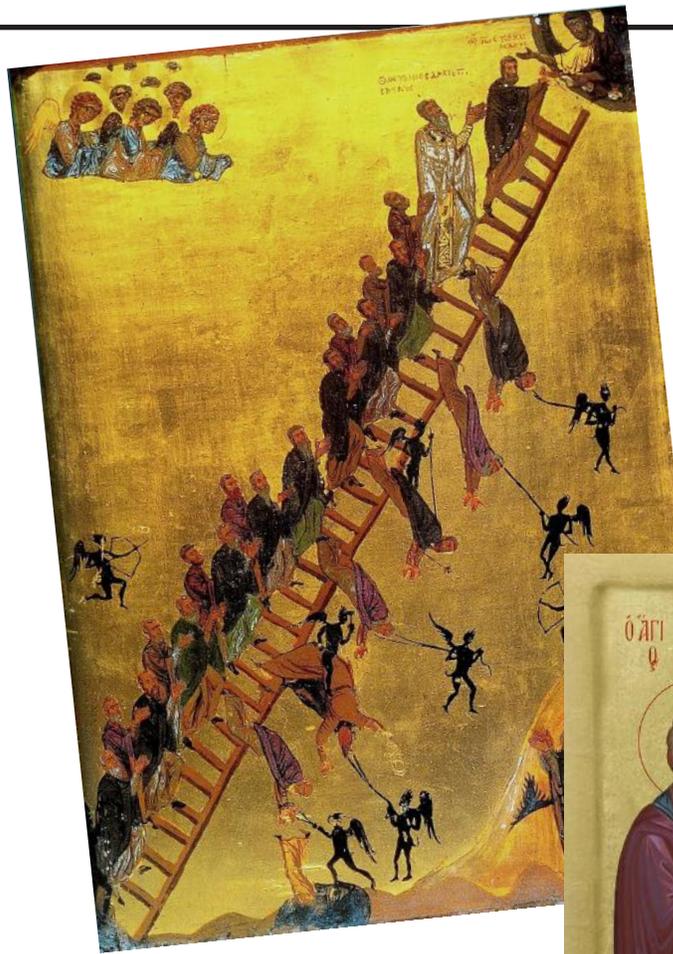
How can faith finally be meaningful in our lives. Please note that our church services during this time are listed below. We have frequent services throughout the week to aid us during Lent. Your priests are here to listen. We look forward to seeing you all!

With love in Christ,



Fr. Aristidis Garinis,  
Economos

St. Nicholas Greek  
Orthodox Shrine Church  
Flushing, NY



# FR. ALEXANDROS DOUVRES



On February 1st, the period known as the Triodion began. It continues until the beginning of Lent, spanning a period of three weeks. The Sunday Gospels during the Triodion are “The Publican and the Pharisee,” “The

Prodigal Son,” and the Sunday of the Last Judgment (the separation of the righteous sheep and the unrighteous goats). This time is meant to be spent in preparation for Lent and Pascha, acting as a roadmap guiding us on what we should focus on during this season.

In the parable of the “Publican and the Pharisee,” Christ describes two men praying in the temple. The Pharisee, a religious leader and teacher, thanks God that he is not like the sinful publican (a tax collector) and then boasts about his own good works. Meanwhile, the publican stands in the back of the temple with his head bowed, praying only for God to forgive his sins. Christ tells us that the publican prayed correctly and that the boastful Pharisee was wrong, saying, “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” In this parable, God teaches us that it is not just about our outward actions; instead, it is about building a relationship with Him based on humility and love. The Pharisee did what was commanded—he tithed and fasted

every week—but he forgot the necessity of humility and sharing God's love. The message is to emulate the publican: “We see the exalted honor that comes through humility, and the grievous fall that comes through pride; let us, then, emulate the good actions of the Publican and hate the evil sin of the Pharisee.” The first week of the Triodion reminds us to be humble in our efforts and to avoid comparing ourselves to others. We are called to look only to God, ensuring we have the correct spirit behind our actions. Without love and humility, our actions lose their meaning and draw us further away from Him.



If we are boastful and lack humility, we become like the Prodigal Son. He showed a clear lack of love for his father by demanding his inheritance, abandoning his family, and wasting his life on sinful living. The son eventually finds himself in a strange land, penniless and forced into a job that goes against everything he was taught. Having hit rock bottom, he remembers his father's love and decides to return home. When

the father sees him, he does not wait for the son to reach the house; instead, he runs out to embrace him and welcome him back. Though the son tries to apologize, the father cuts him off and commands the servants to bring fine clothes and a ring for his son, and to prepare a feast. In this parable, the father is God and we are the child who has strayed: “Make haste to open unto me Thy fatherly embrace, for as the Prodigal I have wasted my life. In the unfailing wealth of Thy mercy, O Savior, reject not my heart in its poverty.” This Gospel is a call to

return to Christ, reminding us that no matter how far we stray, the way back is always open through repentance.

The final Gospel reading, on “Judgment Sunday,” describes Christ separating the righteous from the unrighteous at the Second Coming. St. John Chrysostom teaches us that this is not a parable, but an account of what will happen. Christ does not say it will be “like” something; He speaks as one stating a fact: “When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.” Christ plainly tells us how we will be judged.

**He showed a clear lack of love for his father by demanding his inheritance, abandoning his family, and wasting his life on sinful living.**

The righteous are those who cared for others—and in doing so, cared for God. They were not egotistical or self-centered; they shared what they had out of genuine love, not out of

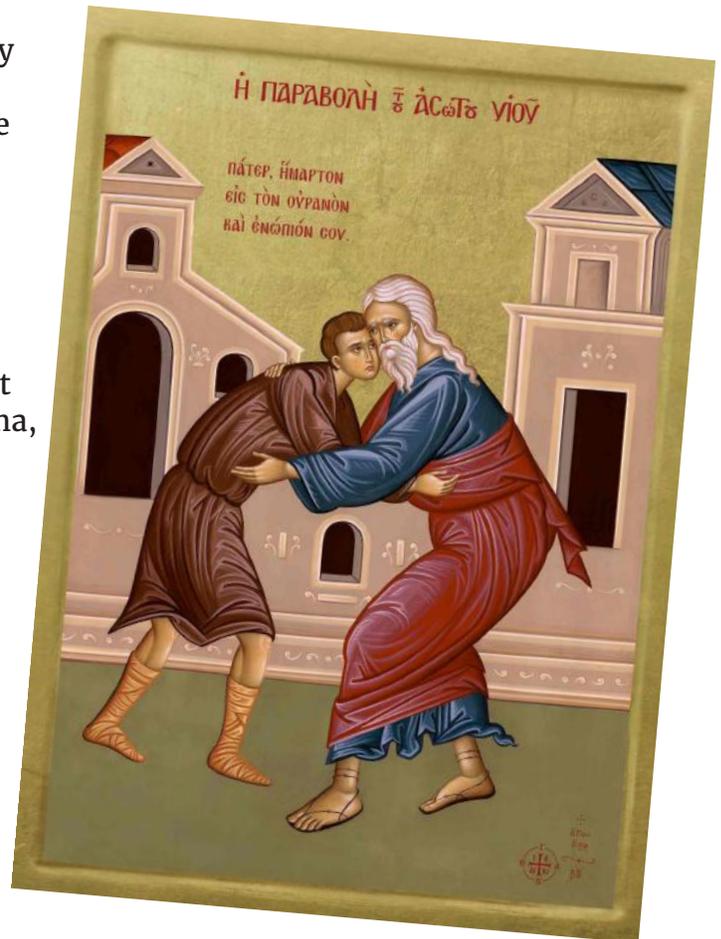
obligation or a desire to boast. We see this in their response to Christ; they ask when they ever fed or clothed Him, and He explains that in caring for “the least of these,” they cared for Him. The Church wisely places this reading before Lent to remind us of our calling. It is not through fasting alone that we prepare for Pascha, nor through fasting alone that we are saved. Central to our salvation is our love and action toward one another.

As we journey through Lent, let us focus on repentance, humility, and sharing the love of Christ with one another.

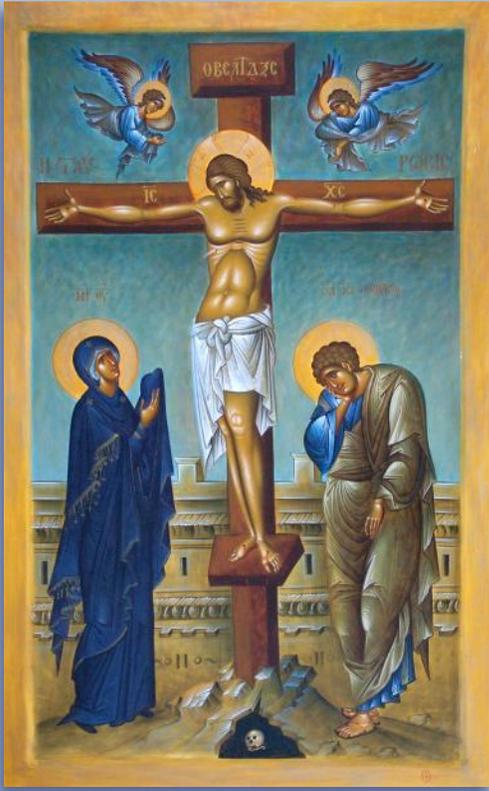
God bless you all,

*Fr. Alexandros Douvres*

Fr. Alexandros Douvres

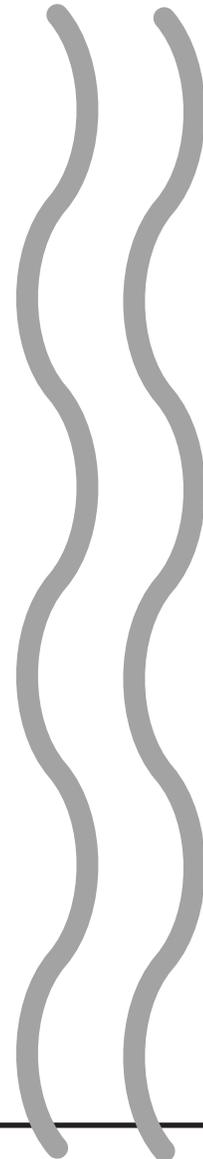


Icon by Fr. Loukas from Xenophontos Monastery Mount Athos



The icon on this quarter's cover of *The ARK* depicts The Crucifixion of Our Lord (I Stavros), a cornerstone of Orthodox iconography that invites us to witness the "King of Glory." Unlike Western depictions that often focus on physical agony, the Greek Orthodox tradition portrays Christ with a sense of divine peace and majesty, emphasizing His voluntary sacrifice as a victory over death. At the foot of the Cross, we see the Theotokos gesturing in faithful endurance and St. John the Beloved in mourning, representing the Church's presence at the Passion. Above, the lamenting angels signify that all of creation is moved by the Creator's sacrifice. Notably, at the base of the Cross lies the Skull of Adam in a dark cave; tradition holds that Christ was crucified over Adam's burial place, allowing His blood to wash away the ancestral sin and reclaim humanity. As we gaze upon this image, we are reminded that for the faithful of St. Nicholas, the Cross is not a symbol of defeat, but the "Invincible Trophy" that leads us directly toward the light of the Resurrection.

# ON THE COVER





# EMBARKING ON A NEW SEASON OF FAITH



Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Nicholas,

Welcome to the first issue of our second volume of The ARK.

When we launched this publication last year, our goal was to create a space that mirrors the sanctuary of our beloved parish—a place to gather, to share our stories, and to find refuge in our shared faith. As we turn the page to Volume 2, we find ourselves not just reflecting on our growth in our parish, but looking forward to the journey ahead.

The name of our newsletter, The ARK, is no coincidence. In our Orthodox tradition, the Church is often likened to a ship navigating the turbulent waters of the world. Within these pages, you will find the "logs" of our journey: the spiritual wisdom of our clergy, the academic milestones of our students, and the tireless work of our community ministries.

In this inaugural issue of the new volume, we focus on the theme of **Renewal**. Our faith is not static; it is a living, breathing experience that requires our active participation. This vitality is evident in the many milestones

we celebrate in this issue:

**Philoptochos & Charity:** Our Philoptochos continues to lead our parish with a remarkable spirit of giving. They kicked off the New Year with a successful Vasilopita Breakfast, raising \$3,800 for Saint Basil's Academy and our Archdiocese Youth Programs. You can find a full recap of their tireless work, in their dedicated section on page 16.

**Parish Life & Fellowship:** We look back at the traditional flair of Tsiknopemti (pg. 13), a pilgrimage to Mount Athos (pg. 30) and the wonderful camaraderie fostered by our Men's League during their Christmas Party (pg. 20).

**Sacred Arts:** We invite you to explore the breathtaking progress of the St. Luke's Iconography on page 30, a testament to our enduring Orthodox tradition.

**Educational Excellence:** Our schools remain a beacon of Hellenic culture. Doulaveris Preschool shares news regarding their lock-in rate for the 2nd-year program (pg. 38), while the William Spyropoulos Day School section highlights the significant

scholastic achievements of our students (pg. 40). Additionally, the Hellenic School continues its vital mission of educating our youth in our language and heritage (pg. 44).

**Youth Leadership:** We are especially proud to congratulate our three new Eagle Scouts (pg. 48). Their achievement represents the pinnacle of leadership and discipline we strive to instill in our youth.

We thank you for being a part of this voyage. Your feedback, your stories, and your presence are what fill these pages with life. As we set sail into this new volume, may we continue to support one another, anchored in Christ and guided by the intercessions of our patron, St. Nicholas.

Thank you for being the heart and soul of our community.

In Christ,

*Olga Dakis*

Editor, The ARK



# ΕΟΡΤΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ

MARCH 2026

March 1 SUN	<b>Sunday of Orthodoxy</b> Κυριακή της Ορθοδοξίας 7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy (One Liturgy)	March 13 FRI	<b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία 8 a.m.
March 2 MON	<b>Great Compline</b> Μέγα Απόδειπνο 7:00 p.m.		<b>Salutations to the Theotokos</b> Χαιρετισμοί της Θεοτόκου 7:00 p.m.
March 4 WED	<b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία 6:00 p.m. & <b>Discovering Orthodoxy Class</b>	March 15 SUN	<b>Sunday of the Holy Cross</b> Κυριακή του Τιμίου Σταυρού 7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy 10:45 2nd Liturgy
March 5 THU	<b>Great Compline</b> Μέγα Απόδειπνο 7:00 p.m.	March 16 MON	<b>Great Compline</b> Μέγα Απόδειπνο 7:00 p.m.
March 6 FRI	<b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία 8 a.m.	March 18 WED	<b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία 6:00 p.m. & <b>Discovering Orthodoxy Class</b>
	<b>Salutations to the Theotokos</b> Χαιρετισμοί της Θεοτόκου 7:00 p.m.	March 19 THU	<b>Great Compline</b> Μέγα Απόδειπνο 7:00 p.m.
March 8 SUN	<b>St. Gregory Palamas Sunday</b> Αγ. Γρηγορίου Παλαμά 7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy <i>Second Liturgy 10:45 a.m.</i>	March 20 FRI	<b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία 8 a.m.
March 9 MON	<b>Great Compline</b> Μέγα Απόδειπνο 7:00 p.m.		<b>Salutations to the Theotokos</b> Χαιρετισμοί της Θεοτόκου 7:00 p.m.
March 11 WED	<b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία 6:00 p.m. & <b>Discovering Orthodoxy Class</b>	March 22 SUN	<b>Sunday of St. John Climacus</b> Κυριακή Αγ. Ιωάννου Κλίμακος 7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy (CHURCH SCHOOL LITURGY)
March 12 THU	<b>Great Compline</b> Μέγα Απόδειπνο 7:00 p.m.	March 23 MON	<b>Great Compline</b> Μέγα Απόδειπνο 7:00 p.m.



# ΕΟΡΤΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ

MARCH 2026

- March 24 **Great Vespers of the Annunciation**  
TUE Μέγας Εσπερινός Ευαγγελισμού  
7:00 p.m.
- March 25 **Feast of the Annunciation**  
WED Ευαγγελισμός του Κυρίου  
8 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 a.m. Liturgy
- March 26 **Great Compline**  
THU Μέγα Απόδειπνο  
7:00 p.m.
- March 27 **Presanctified Liturgy**  
FRI Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία 8 a.m.
- Salutations to the Theotokos**  
Χαιρετισμοί της Θεοτόκου  
7:00 p.m.
- March 29 **Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt**  
SUN Κυριακή Αγ. Μαρίας Αιγυπτίας  
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy  
10:45 2nd Liturgy
- March 30 **Great Compline**  
MON Μέγα Απόδειπνο  
7:00 p.m.

O Lord and Master of my life!  
Take from me the spirit of sloth,  
faint-heartedness, lust of power, and  
idle talk. †

But give rather the spirit of chastity,  
humility, patience, and love to Thy  
servant. †

Yea, Lord and King! Grant me to see  
my own errors and not to judge my  
brother, for Thou art blessed unto  
ages of ages. †

Amen †

Lenten Prayer of  
ST. EPHREM THE SYRIAN

† = Prostration

# MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

A Message from Our Parish President

Dear Parish Family,

It is with deep gratitude and a profound sense of responsibility that I begin my term as President of our beloved parish here at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church. This community has been my spiritual home for as long as I can remember, and it is humbling to serve it in this capacity.

I was baptized at the old St. Nicholas, a church that was a cornerstone of faith and Hellenic tradition in Flushing since the 1950s. Growing up within its walls, I witnessed firsthand the strength of a community centered around worship, faith, and culture; values that continue to shape who we are today.

My wife, Georgia, has shared this journey with me. Some of you may know her from the William Spyropoulos Greek American Day School, where she dedicated herself to educating and nurturing our children. Her commitment to faith and education has touched countless families in our parish, and I am continually inspired by her devotion to both church and community.

Our two sons are proud graduates of the William Spyropoulos School as well. They were active in Boy Scouts, learning leadership and service, and played on our GOYA basketball teams, where they built strong friendships that remained into adulthood. Those formative moments, surrounded by the love and mentorship of this parish, remind me how vital it is that we continue investing in the next generation of Orthodox Christians.

As I look to the future, my vision for St. Nicholas is centered on community, growth, and engagement. We are blessed with strong foundations, faithful clergy, dedicated volunteers, and thriving ministries. My goal is to build upon these strengths:

- To strengthen our youth programs, ensuring our children remain connected to both their Orthodox faith and Hellenic heritage.
- To expand opportunities for adult education and fellowship, fostering spiritual growth at every stage of life.
- To enhance communication and transparency, so that every parishioner feels informed, included, and valued.

• And most importantly, to keep Christ at the center of everything we do, guiding our mission and our hearts.

One immediate way we can support this vision of growth and legacy is by continuing the Tree of Life fundraiser, which was started last year. This beautiful initiative allows us to honor our generous donors while visibly celebrating our parish family in the newly renovated lobby. In addition to leaves and stones, parishioners may also choose to donate a dove, symbolizing peace, faith, and the Holy Spirit.

Proceeds from the Tree of Life will be used for the upkeep and beautification of our church, including but not limited to critical repairs. Of urgency is the church roof, which is in desperate need of repair. Your generosity directly supports the preservation of our sacred space and ensures that St. Nicholas remains a welcoming and vibrant spiritual home for generations to come.

If you have not already done so, I encourage you to prayerfully consider making a donation. Details can be found in the Sunday bulletin and in this and past issues of the ARK. Your support helps us build a legacy rooted in faith, stewardship, and love.

I am deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in me, and I, together with the Parish Council, look forward to working alongside each of you. Together, with faith, love, and unity, we can continue to make St. Nicholas a vibrant home for generations to come.

With love in Christ,

*Jimmy Athanasopoulos*

President, Parish Council  
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church  
Flushing, NY

# Tsiknopempti 2026





Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes that everything we have—our time, talents, and treasure—is a gift from God. It is not simply about fundraising or finances; it is a way of life rooted in gratitude, generosity, and trust.

Scripture reminds us in Psalm 24:1: *“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.”* Everything we possess ultimately belongs to God, and we are entrusted to care for it faithfully.

In 1 Peter 4:10 we are told: *“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”*

Stewardship calls each of us to use our unique gifts in service to others.

Jesus teaches in Luke 6:38: *“Give, and it will be given to you.”* Generosity flows from trust in God’s abundant care.

And in 2 Corinthians 9:7, St. Paul reminds us: *“God loves a cheerful giver.”* True stewardship is never forced—it is a joyful response to God’s goodness.

### Why Stewardship Is Important to Our Parish

1. It Strengthens Our Mission  
Through stewardship, we are able to proclaim the Gospel, celebrate the sacraments, educate our children, and serve those in need.

### 2. It Builds Community

When parishioners share their time and talents, our parish becomes more than a place we attend—it becomes a family we belong to.

### 3. It Sustains Our Church

Faithful giving ensures that our parish ministries, outreach efforts, and daily operations continue to serve both our members and the wider community.

### 4. It Deepens Our Faith

Stewardship transforms hearts. As we give generously, we grow spiritually and learn to trust God more fully.

Stewardship is not about obligation—it is about gratitude. It is our loving response to a God who has given us everything.

We ask that you prayerfully review the stewardship materials recently mailed to you and make your pledge today. Thank you to all who have already submitted their pledge — your faithful generosity supports the ministries and mission of our parish. We are truly grateful for your continued commitment.”





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

**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)

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

# LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF ST. NICHOLAS

## *Philoptochos Society: Faith in Action*

### **Reflecting on a Season of Giving & Fellowship**

Our recent events have been a wonderful testament to our community's spirit. Thank you to everyone who participated, donated, and volunteered!

### **Impacting Our Community**

**Angel Tree Drive:** We were blessed to support the students of P.S. 19 this year. Because of your generosity, we provided requested Christmas gifts to children in need, bringing smiles and holiday joy to their families.

**Vasilopita Breakfast:** We kicked off the New Year with a successful breakfast, raising \$3,800! These proceeds were proudly donated to Saint Basil's Academy and our Archdiocese Youth Programs.

### **Fellowship & Celebration**

**Community Christmas Party:** What started as a small gathering has truly become a community staple.

It was heartwarming to see all age groups come together in anticipation of the Nativity.

**Annual Luncheon:** On January 24th, over 150 ladies gathered at The Lannin. It was a beautiful day of fellowship with members from our own and neighboring chapters, all while supporting our ongoing philanthropic treasury.

**Save the Date: Upcoming Pilgrimage**

Join us for a spiritual journey to Agia Skepi Monastery!

*When: Saturday, March 7th*

*How to Join: Please see the attached flyer or call the church office to reserve your spot. We would love to have you with us.*



*Stay Connected*

*Don't miss out on what's coming next!*

*Check your email for detailed updates.*

*Visit our website and follow our social media pages for photos and news.*

*Kali Sarakosti to everyone! Wishing you a blessed and meaningful Lenten journey.*









# OPERATION CLASSROOM

Helping Young Minds Build Strong Math Skills

Through March 2026

The **Saint Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos** in partnership with the **William Spyropoulos School** need your donation to support disadvantaged NYC students.



**Together with the Saint Nicholas community**, you can help students build their math basic skills.

To support this initiative, please donate **\$10** for the purchase of grade-specific **addition, subtraction, multiplication & division flash cards**.



**Your donation will make a big difference in building confidence and math success.**



### How to donate:

Mail checks payable to:

**St. Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos/Operation Classroom**  
196-10 Northern Blvd  
Flushing, NY 11358

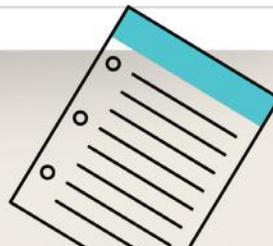
Or scan the **QR code** below for a secure online payment.



Thank you for your continued generosity and support in helping students learn, grow, and succeed.

### For more information, please contact us:

Stephanie Moskos (347) 804-8356  
Maritza Pritsos (917) 855-5154



# THE MEN'S LEAGUE

Strengthening our Parish through Service, Tradition, and Brotherhood

**F**rom festive celebrations to game-day gatherings, it has been a busy season of fellowship for the Men's League. Here is a look at what we've been up to and what's just around the corner!

## Winter Highlights

**Christmas at VIVO:** Our annual holiday party was a spectacular night! Parishioners filled the dance floor, enjoyed incredible food, and celebrated the season with the kind of camaraderie that defines our church family.

**Super Bowl Sunday:** We transformed Sarantakos Hall into the ultimate game-day destination. It was an evening of football, food, and fun.

**A Special Thank You:** To the Men's League members who worked tirelessly behind the scenes—your dedication and teamwork made this event a massive success!

## Mark Your Calendars

We have great opportunities for fellowship coming up quickly:

### MARCH 15: Coffee Hour

The Men's League will be hosting Coffee Hour following the Divine Liturgy. We invite everyone to stay, grab a cup, and share in fellowship.

## Thank You

The St. Nicholas Men's League exists to serve our community and uphold our traditions. We are deeply grateful to all our members and parishioners for your continued participation and support.



Email: [GKakivelis@gmail.com](mailto:GKakivelis@gmail.com)  
to join or for more information.

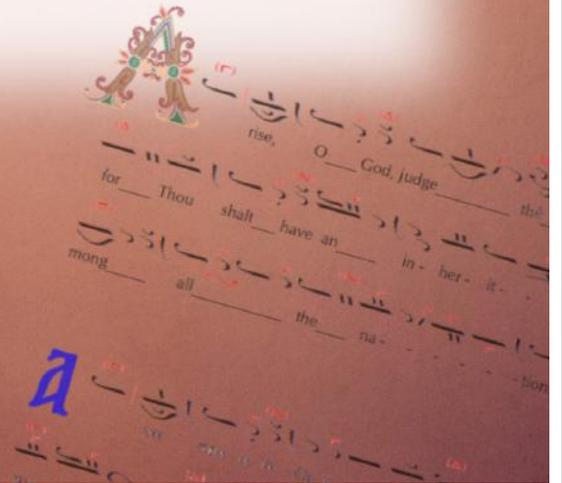
## ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH FLUSHING

### 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](mailto:info@stnicholaschurch.org).



# PHILOKALIA ANTONIOS I. CRASSIDES BOOKSTORE

As we approach another Lenten season, we at the Philokalia Antonios I. Crassides Bookstore would like to wish our fellow parishioners good strength in the weeks to come.

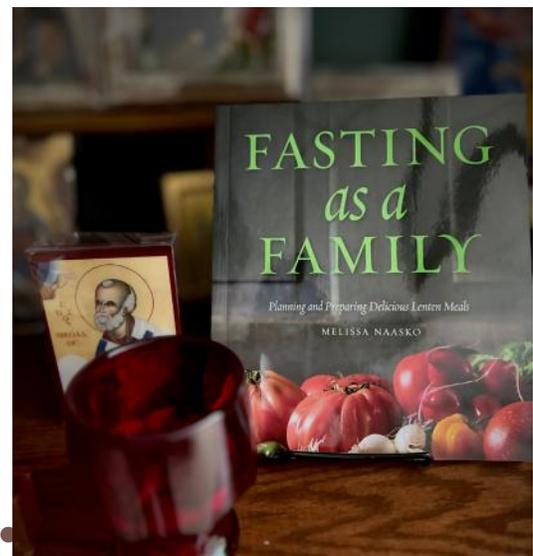
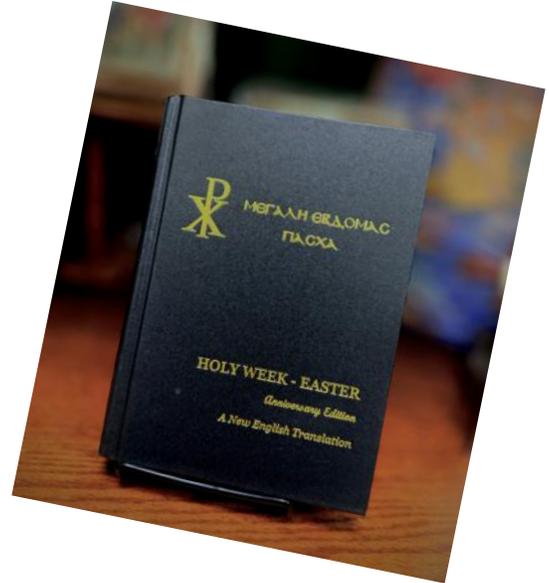
In preparation for this sacred time of year, the bookstore will be ordering more Orthodox Study Bibles, prayer books, prayer ropes, incense and charcoal, to help provide further spiritual wisdom and fortification for all. May God and Panagia continue to uplift and guide us as we navigate another season of working out our religious muscles in anticipation of celebrating the most blessed feast of Pascha. Above all, may we also seek to unburden ourselves through Holy Confession. While often one of the Church's most overlooked sacraments, it is also one of the most important, not to mention the most vital for a Christian's physical and spiritual health. As St. Silouan the Athonite so wisely notes,

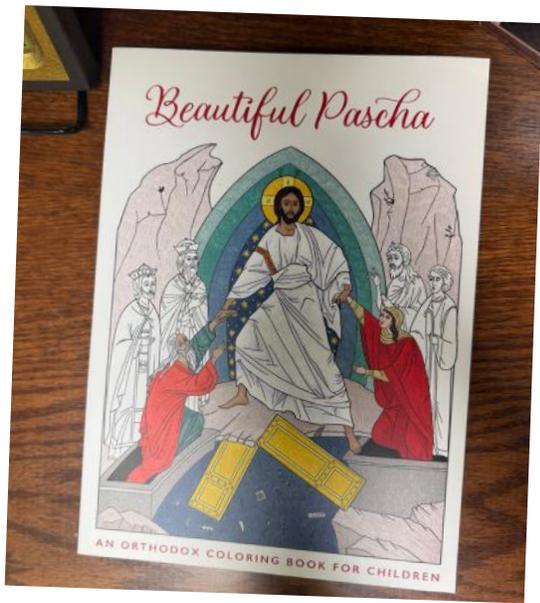
*"If a man does not tell everything to his spiritual father, then his path is crooked and does not lead to the Kingdom of Heaven...But the path of one who tells everything leads directly to the Kingdom of Heaven."*

Additionally, during a time when even the most mild-mannered of people are tested at every turn, may we strive to exercise God's mercy and compassion in all our dealings with family, friends and enemies alike. As one monk asked Abba Macarius, "How can I be saved?" The elder answered, "Be like one dead: do not think about insults from people, nor of glory, and you will be saved."

May the loving wisdom and forbearance of our Holy Bridegroom, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, continue to inspire us this Lenten season and always. Kali Sarakosti to all!

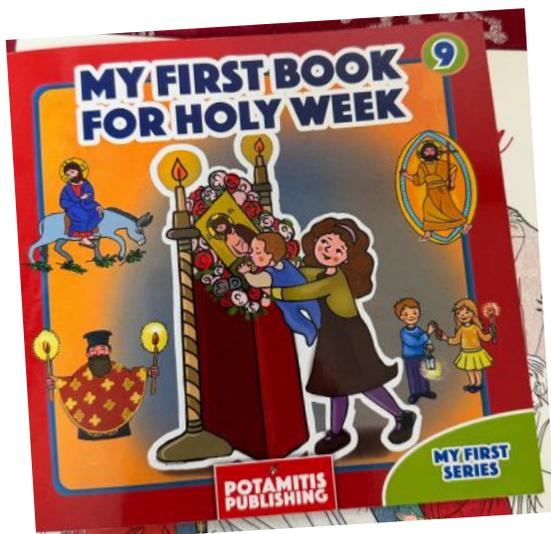
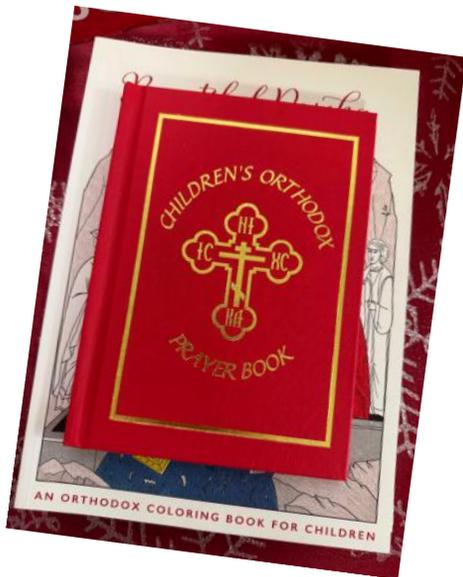
With love and prayers,  
The St. Nicholas Bookstore Staff





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 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!



# HELLENIC ORTHODOX LIFE ACADEMY

The Hellenic Orthodox Life Academy, widely known as HOLA, is an innovative after-school enrichment program at the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church in Flushing, NY.

Designed for students from Pre-K through 8th Grade, HOLA serves as a vibrant extension of the parish's educational mission, focusing on the "whole child" by blending faith, culture, and fun. It provides a bridge between the school day and home life, offering a safe and nurturing environment where children can deepen their connection to their Greek heritage.

## What Makes HOLA Special?

Unlike a traditional classroom setting, HOLA focuses on hands-on engagement. The curriculum is built around the Greek language and Orthodox values, but delivered through exciting, diverse activities:

**Arts & Culture:** Drama and theater, Greek mythology, and traditional arts and crafts.

**Music & Movement:** Byzantine and modern choir, traditional Greek dance, and even "Greek Zumba" for physical education.

**Life Skills:** Cooking classes and dedicated "Christian Orthodox Life" sessions.

**Academic Support:** Built-in homework time to help students stay on track with their daily studies.

## 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.





# ASK THE ARK...Q & A

**Q. Why does the Icon of the Resurrection (Anastasis) show Christ pulling Adam and Eve by their wrists instead of their hands?**

A: This is a profound theological detail in Byzantine Iconography. In the Anastasis icon, Christ is shown forcefully pulling our first parents out of their tombs. He grabs them by the wrists, not the hands, to signify that humanity is incapable of saving itself. Adam and Eve (representing all of us) are passive; they cannot "reach up" to grab God. It is God who reaches down into the depths of Hades to seize us and pull us into His light. It emphasizes that salvation is a gift of divine initiative. death and darkness.

**Q. Why do we call Great Lent a "Spiritual Spring," and what are the three "pillars" that support our journey toward Pascha?**

A: In the Greek Orthodox tradition, Great Lent is often referred to as the "Spiritual Spring" (derived from the word Lent itself, which means "springtime").

Just as nature awakens and flowers bloom after a cold winter, Lent is a season for our souls to "blossom" through repentance and renewal.

According to Holy Tradition, we navigate this journey using three essential pillars:

**Prayer:** This is our lifeline to God. During Lent, we add the Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian and attend the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and Salutations (Hairetismoï) to strengthen our inner life.

**Fasting:** We abstain from certain foods (meat, dairy, etc.) not as a mere diet, but to gain mastery over our physical desires. By quieting the body, we make room to hear the Holy Spirit.

**Almsgiving (Eleemosyne):** In Greek, the word for alms comes from eleos (mercy). Fasting is incomplete without charity. We save money by eating simpler meals so that we can give those resources to the poor and those in need.

As the Church Fathers teach: "Fasting without prayer and almsgiving is like a bird with broken wings—it cannot fly toward heaven."

*DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THE ORTHODOX FAITH?*

*PERHAPS YOU'VE BEEN PONDERING A QUESTION ABOUT THE DIVINE LITURGY, THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS, OR HOW TO APPLY YOUR FAITH TO THE CHALLENGES OF MODERN LIFE. WE INVITE YOU TO SUBMIT YOUR INQUIRIES. THIS IS A CHANCE FOR OUR COMMUNITY TO ENGAGE MORE DEEPLY WITH THE TEACHINGS OF OUR CHURCH AND TO SEEK GUIDANCE IN OUR DAILY WALK OF FAITH.*

*SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS TO STNICHOLASARK@GMAIL.COM*



**ASK THE ARK**  
YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Please send your questions to [stnicholasark+questions@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasark+questions@gmail.com) or scan the QR code

You may choose to remain anonymous, and we will not publish your name unless you give us explicit permission. We look forward to hearing from you!

St. Nicholas Ark

# ST. STEPHANOS YOUNG ADULTS

Instagram: [@ststephanosyoungadults](https://www.instagram.com/ststephanosyoungadults)



# 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!

Note on Registration: As we near the completion of this course, registration is now closed. We look forward to seeing our current students at the remaining sessions.

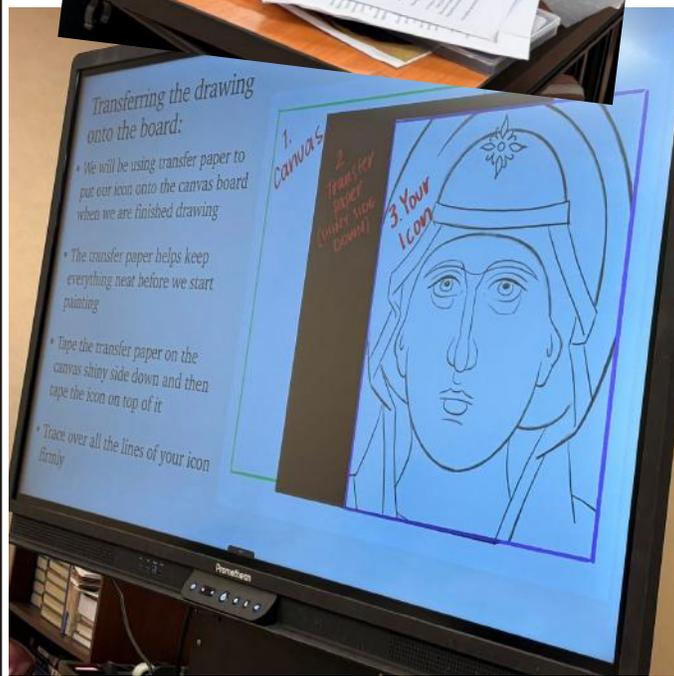
## Upcoming Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at 7:30 PM in the Cafeteria:

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Thursday, May 7, 2026





# PILGRIMAGE TO MOUNT ATHOS





ST. NICHOLAS STEPHEN AND ARETI  
CHERPELIS

# HELLENIC SCHOOL PROGRAM



**SAVE WITH EARLY  
REGISTRATION**

- ✓ Register by **March 31, 2026**, to lock in Early Bird Tuition\*.
- ✓ Expanded Curriculum: Greek Dancing, Theater, Mythology, and Conversation.
- ✓ Introduction of Weekday Classes and enhanced Greek Dancing organized by age groups (Pre-K through 8th Grade).
- ✓ Help us plan for a great year—register early!

A joyful and supportive environment to strengthen language and deepen cultural roots!

**Register by 3/31/26 and  
Save \$250\* on your first child's tuition!  
Plus: Additional prorated savings for siblings.**

**REGISTER  
NOW!**



*\*Must pay 50% of balance to qualify*

**REGISTER ONLINE!**

☎ 718-357-4299

🌐 [www.stnicholasflushing.org](http://www.stnicholasflushing.org)



  
**SAINT NICHOLAS** Greek Orthodox  
Shrine Church



*Nurturing Souls, Igniting Intellect.*



# CHURCH SCHOOL



It was such a blessing to see all of the godparents and godchildren gathered together today at Divine Liturgy for Godparent Sunday. The Liturgy is our home where we gather with our family in Christ. We welcome all of our visiting godparents and their godchildren. We pray that God blesses you all and strengthen your bond!

ST. NICHOLAS JOY

# Palm Cross Folding

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

APRIL 4, 11AM

WM. SPYROPOULOS  
SCHOOL COURTYARD

AN EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



# DOULAVERIS PRESCHOOL

It is a wonderful time of year at our school as we welcome new families and showcase our beautiful learning environment. This season, parents have enjoyed personal tours, observing firsthand how our students engage through both structured and unstructured play. Our early registration discounts have served as a fantastic incentive, encouraging many families to secure their spots ahead of time while exploring our Two-Year-Old, Nursery, Pre-Kindergarten, and Greek classrooms.

Our Montessori-inspired activities continue to keep our youngest learners captivated. In the Two-Year-Old and Nursery rooms, children are already building the foundations of literacy through pre-writing skills and letter recognition. Meanwhile, our Pre-Kindergarten students have been exploring art appreciation, proudly displaying creative masterpieces that foster deep confidence and self-expression.

Throughout December, the Preschool was buzzing with the spirit of the season. The children learned about the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of our church, creating beautiful projects in his honor. Our Pre-K students even mastered the Apolytikion of our church, the Canon of Faith.

The joy peaked during our Christmas Spirit Week, a celebration filled with:

Festive Santa hats and reindeer antlers.

Cozy Christmas pajamas and stocking days.

The ever-popular "ugliest" Christmas sweater contest.

One of the highlights was gathering in the beautiful Sarantakos Hall for a movie screening that rivaled any theater experience. With tasty snacks and plenty of laughter, the children were truly mesmerized. This was followed by our moving Christmas Show, where the children performed the Nativity. Watching our students

share the message of that "Silent and Holy Night" was a blessing for families and staff alike, all captured by our videographer to be cherished for years to come.

In January, the children returned with eager stories of their holiday break. We marked Theophany with a visit from Father Aristidis, who blessed the children and their classrooms, answering many thoughtful questions along the way. Shortly after, Father Alex joined us for the traditional cutting of the Vasilopita, teaching the children about Saint Basil as they waited in anticipation for the lucky coin.

As the winter chill set in, our classrooms turned into cozy hubs for literature. The children loved listening to classics like *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats, part of a curriculum designed to enrich vocabulary and spark young imaginations.

Looking Ahead: We are always happy to welcome new families for a tour! Keep an eye out for our next edition of *The Saint Nicholas Ark*, where we look forward to sharing photos from our upcoming Greek Independence Day Show.

Follow us on Instagram  
@doulaveris\_preschool







**GEORGE & EVLAVIA DOULAVERIS PRESCHOOL**

# 2 YEAR OLD *Program*

**The Doulaveris "Forever Rate" is Here!**

The Deal: Sign up for our Two-Year-Old Program now, and your tuition stays exactly the same through Nursery and Pre-K.

**3 Years of Growth. 1 Steady Price.**

- Expert Care: Specialized curriculum for curious toddlers.
- Seamless Transition: Move into higher grades without the price jump.
- Total Savings: Thousands saved by the time they hit Kindergarten.

**Space is limited in our 2s program.  
Call us at 718-357-0800 to lock in  
your rate!**

 @Doulaveris Preschool



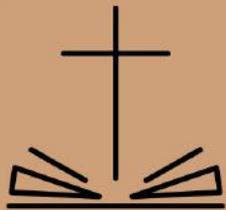
Contact Us  
**718-357-0800**



Our Location  
**43-09 196 Street, Flushing**



# NURTURING FAITH, HELLENIC HERITAGE, AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



## St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church **GEORGE & EVLAVIA DOULAVERIS PRESCHOOL**

*Building Foundations for Life*



### OUR CORE VALUES

Welcome to a family-oriented community where children are lovingly nurtured in the Christian Faith and our rich Hellenic Heritage.



### 2-YEAR OLD PROGRAM

We provide a structured environment that honors faith and tradition while challenging young minds to grow and excel.



### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Our accelerated curriculum integrates Hellenic language and values, ensuring students are fully prepared for the transition to primary education.

## Early Bird Registration

We believe in supporting our community through accessible excellence. From our Early Bird \$200 registration discount to our \$100 monthly sibling credit, we partner with families to make a premium, faith-based education attainable.



*Call or Email to secure your child's spot*

**EARLY REGISTRATION BY 3/1/26**

Ready to ignite your child's imagination?  
Enroll today!.

*Follow us*  IG @Doulaveris\_Preschool

Certified by the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene



Contact Us  
**718-357-0800**



Our Location  
**43-09 196 Street, Flushing**



Email  
**StNicholasDoulaveris@gmail.com**

# WILLIAM SPYROPOULOS



Dear Parishioners,

After a beautiful and restful holiday season, we returned to school renewed, energized, and eager to continue the meaningful work taking place in our classrooms each day. The heart of our school year has been filled with faith, learning, celebration, and Greek pride.

We began the new calendar year with our cherished tradition of cutting the Vasilopita, a beautiful reminder of faith, gratitude, and the blessings that guide our school community. At the end of January, we celebrated Three Hierarchs Feast Day and Greek Letters Day, honoring the great teachers of our Church—Saint Basil the Great, Saint Gregory the Theologian, and Saint John Chrysostom. This day reminds us that education is not merely the pursuit of knowledge, but the cultivation of wisdom and virtue. Our eighth graders had the distinct honor of attending Liturgy at the Cathedral, officiated by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros. We were especially proud as one of our students, Celia Spyriounis, represented our school by beautifully reciting a poem dedicated to teachers—a heartfelt tribute to those who shape minds and hearts. Students in grades K–7 celebrated at our own Saint Nicholas, attending Liturgy followed by a thoughtful and inspiring presentation by our seventh-grade students. It was a day that beautifully united faith, language, and learning.

February brought us one of our most joyful events—our Kindergarten Open House. We were thrilled to welcome prospective families and look forward with excitement to greeting the Class of 2035 this September. The enthusiasm of our young visitors and their parents reminds us of the bright future ahead.

Another highlight was the celebration of the 100th Day of School. In a tradition beloved by all, our eighth graders became administrators and teachers for the day. It was both inspiring and heartwarming to watch our students step into leadership roles, gaining appreciation for the responsibilities of guiding others. Across all grades, students and teachers marked the milestone with creativity, laughter, and pride in how much has already been accomplished this year.

As we move forward, we eagerly prepare for our great National Greek Holiday, Greek Independence Day. Through assemblies, performances, patriotic

songs, and traditional Greek folk dances, our students will honor the courage and sacrifices of those who fought for freedom. These celebrations are among the most meaningful moments in our school year, as they connect our children to their heritage with pride and reverence.

In April, our students in grades 3–8 will begin the New York State Exams, which continue into May. Our teachers are working diligently to ensure that every student feels confident, prepared, and supported. Academic excellence remains a cornerstone of our mission, and we are proud of the discipline and perseverance our students demonstrate.

We also look forward to participating in the Greek Parade, marching together with pride and unity, celebrating our rich culture and identity before the wider community.

Following Holy Week and Easter break, we will enter the final stretch of the school year. For the months of May and June, the calendar is filled with milestone events—graduations, stepping-up ceremonies, assemblies, and celebrations that mark both accomplishment and growth.

The year is going by quickly, but the

work continues with dedication and purpose. Teachers and students alike remain focused on finishing strong—academically, spiritually, and personally.

As we journey through this sacred season, we wish all of our families a blessed and spiritually enriching Lenten season. May this time of reflection bring peace to your homes and strength to our community as we continue our work together.

With gratitude and pride,

Mary Tzallas  
Principal





# WILLIAM SPYROPOULOS PTA

## A MESSAGE FROM THE WILLIAM SPYROPOULOS PTA

The William Spyropoulos PTA has been working hard to create meaningful and memorable experiences that enrich our children's everyday school lives. This year, we proudly continued our cherished traditions, including the Christmas Boutique and our holiday celebrations. We were also excited to welcome 2026 with brand-new cafeteria tables for our students—an upgrade made possible by the continued generosity and involvement of our community.

Our annual Ladies' Night was another wonderful success, bringing our community together and strengthening the relationships that make our school so special. Events like these not only foster connection and involvement but also directly support important improvements, such as the new cafeteria tables. Most recently, we hosted our Father-Daughter event at Leonard's—a beautiful evening filled with joy, laughter, and lifelong memories for our families.

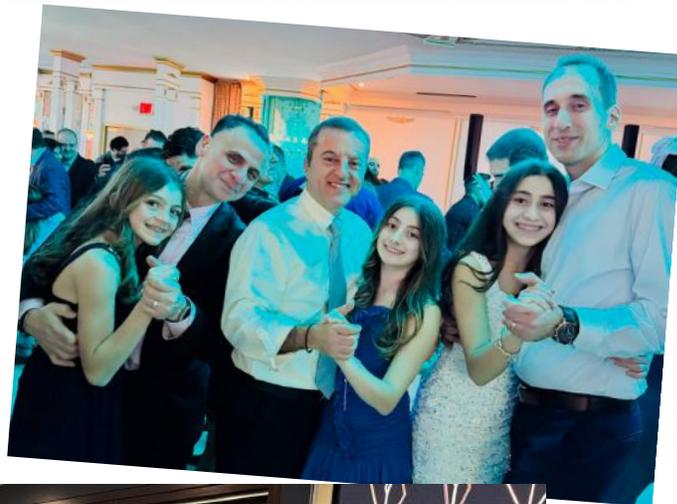
We are also looking forward to several exciting upcoming events:

**PTA Meeting:** March 10 at 6:30 PM

**Paint Nights:** Thursday, March 19 and Thursday, March 26

**Mother & Son Arcade Night:** Friday, May 8

We hope to see you there, as our success is truly built on the participation and support of our families. Together, we continue to enrich the lives of our children and strengthen the spirit of our school community.





# REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

BUILD YOUR FUTURE HERE.

The St. Nicholas  
Wm. Spyropoulos School

4315 196<sup>th</sup> Street, Flushing NY  
718-357-5583

Mary Tzallas, Principal



- An environment rich in Greek Orthodox values that gives students a strong foundation that lasts a lifetime.
- An exceptional and highly qualified faculty with a passion for learning and teaching
- Individualized attention that contributes to confident and independent learners
- Accelerated programs in grades K-8
- State of the art Computer and Science labs
- Cutting edge technology in all classrooms
- Small classroom size
- STEAM enriched curriculum and Robotics program
- An afterschool program that enhances intellectual, physical and artistic development
- A rigorous middle school program
- High acceptance rate to the most competitive public and private high schools with students receiving academic scholarships



CONTACT US TO SCHEDULE A BUDDY DAY  
OR A TOUR OF OUR SCHOOL

Scan to get a glimpse of our school



Our students prepared a wonderful Christmas show featuring poems, skits, and songs, showcasing their creativity, confidence, and hard work. Through their performances, they expressed the meaning of Christ's birth while demonstrating their growing language and presentation skills. The event brought together students, families, and teachers in a warm and festive celebration, highlighting the strong sense of community within our school.

We welcomed the New Year by cutting our traditional vasilopita. Father Aristidis shared with the students the story behind this cherished tradition and explained the special mission of those who received the "flouri", to offer help, kindness, generosity, compassion, and support for others in the year ahead.

Our students in grades 4 through 8 proudly participated in our church's celebration of the Three Hierarchs, reading about their lives and highlighting their profound contributions to Christian theology and their enduring influence on the Church..

In February, our school participated in a series of activities in celebration of World Greek Language Day. The children, from Pre-K through 8th grade, recited a verse from Odysseas Elytis's poem «Τη γλώσσα μου έδωσαν ελληνική» ("I Was Given the Greek Language"), honoring the significance and timelessness of the Greek language.

The students also created posters explaining why they learn Greek, expressing their love and respect for our language and culture. They also participated in the first Spelling Bee competition held at our school, further strengthening their language skills and confidence. We were honored to welcome Mrs. Athena Krommyda and Ms. Niki Mountantonaki as judges for the contest.

These activities were a special experience for

the students, strengthening their confidence and deepening their appreciation for the Greek language, while also highlighting the importance of preserving our cultural heritage.

Looking ahead, we are preparing our Greek Independence Day celebration with great excitement and pride. Students are learning about the history and significance of March 25th through poems, songs, and skits that honor Greece's struggle for freedom.





Γιατί θέλω να νιώθω περήφανη που είμαι Ελληνίδα.

Αντιστοίχια Σελόφι



Η ελληνική μυθολογία μου αρέσει πολύ

The Hellenic School “Stefanos & Areti Cherpelis” PTA at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church has been blessed with a joyful season rooted in faith, tradition, and community spirit. Our Christmas Assembly was a reverent celebration of the Nativity of Christ, where students brought the story of our Lord’s birth to life through a heartfelt performance. We are deeply grateful to Mr. Cherpelis for his generous donation of brand-new costumes, which made the play truly memorable. To further the holiday cheer, the PTA distributed gifts to all our children, while our PTA President kindly provided delicious food, creating a warm and festive gathering for our entire school family.

We transitioned into 2026 with our cherished annual Vasilopita cutting ceremony. Students learned the history of honoring St. Basil and the meaning behind the Vasilopita as a symbol of blessing for the new year. The room was filled with excitement as the children waited to see who would find the hidden flouri, a joyful way to begin the year rooted in our Orthodox faith. In February, we were proud to celebrate our Greek Spelling Bee winners. We commend all participants for their dedication to the Greek language, and the PTA was honored to provide gifts to all winners in recognition of their achievements.

On February 27th and 28th, the PTA provided materials for students to craft traditional Marti bracelets. As we prepared for the Lenten season, the children enjoyed creating these red and white bracelets while learning about the beauty of our Greek customs. This hands-on activity helped connect our students to their heritage as we entered this sacred season of reflection. Looking ahead to spring, we are excitedly preparing for our Annual Greek Independence Day Assembly, where students will honor the heroes of 1821 through poetry and song. We also look forward to marching together in the Greek Parade to

represent our beloved community. Finally, our PTA mothers, past and present, will soon gather for our Annual Community Festival to prepare our famous homemade loukoumades—a beautiful reflection of generations of devotion to our school.



Website: <http://stnicholashellenicschool.org>  
Email: [info@stnicholashellenicschool.org](mailto:info@stnicholashellenicschool.org)





## ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

# ADVERTISE IN THE ARK

The St. Nicholas Parish community relies on The Ark as its communication hub, offering your business a direct, established path to a loyal local audience.



### Proven Reach & Consistent Engagement

- **Exceptional Long-Term Visibility:** Our inaugural edition now has over 1,400 total views, demonstrating the lasting visibility your ad receives.
- **Dedicated Core Readership:** Our last two editions secured over 1,300 committed views, proving a strong, consistent audience reads The Ark every time.

As we continue to build on the success of three strong editions, secure your space for the future and guarantee consistent brand visibility within the Parish.

### Key Benefits of a Multi-Edition Package

- **Guarantee Consistent Visibility:** Secure multiple upcoming editions to keep your business top-of-mind with hundreds of parishioners all year long.
- **Lock In Exclusive Value:** Our favorable advertising rates are still available for multi-edition commitments. Prepay for the year to lock in the most advantageous pricing.
- **Secure Priority Placement:** Committed advertisers receive priority consideration for premium placement in every issue.
- **Deepen Community Ties:** Your sustained presence is a powerful statement of commitment to the St. Nicholas Parish, building trust and loyalty.

*Space is Filling Up! Don't lose your preferred spot.*

**1/8 page**  
\$50 Quarterly  
Prepaid annual rate =  
\$160 (save 20%)

**1/4 page**  
\$95 Quarterly  
Prepaid annual rate =  
\$300/yr (save 21%)

**1/2 page**  
\$190 Quarterly  
Prepaid annual rate=  
\$600/yr (save 21%)

**Full page**  
\$380 Quarterly  
Prepaid annual  
rate=\$1200/yr  
(save 21%)

Contact [StNicholasArk@gmail.com](mailto:StNicholasArk@gmail.com) with any questions.





  
**SAINT NICHOLAS** Greek Orthodox Shrine Church

SHAPING TOMORROWS  
**STEWARDS**  
OF **FAITH**



**YOUTH**  
**MINISTRIES**

# JOY

## JOY PROGRAM UPDATE

Our Church JOY Program has been filled with faith, fellowship, and fun! We gathered together for a beautiful Thanksgiving potluck, sharing delicious food and giving thanks as a community. During Christmas, the children joyfully created meaningful religious crafts as we celebrated the birth of Christ. Now, we look ahead with excitement as we begin preparing our upcoming JOY events focused on Easter, reflecting on the hope, renewal, and Holy Resurrection. (Take a look at our flyers for upcoming events on page 58-59).





# JR. GOYA

This past holiday season, our Junior GOYA members helped support our parish Building Project through a special fundraising effort. Working together, they baked traditional Lenten koulourakia and sold them during Sunday services.

The youth showed wonderful teamwork, enthusiasm, and stewardship while sharing a beloved Greek tradition with our community. We are proud of their hard work and grateful to everyone who supported their efforts in helping build the future of our parish.





# ST. NICHOLAS BASKETBALL NEWS

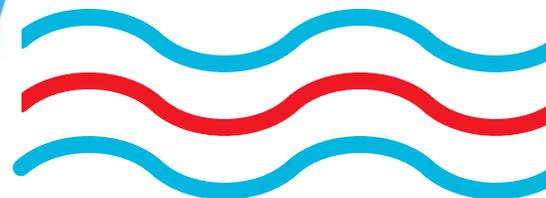
## Saint Nicholas Basketball Ministry Update

This winter season has been a tremendous blessing for the Saint Nicholas Basketball Ministry. Our players across all divisions have shown incredible dedication, teamwork, and growth—both on and off the court. It has been inspiring to watch each team compete with effort, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm. A particular highlight has been seeing players develop their confidence and support one another, creating a vibrant sense of community within our program.

As our regular season comes to a close, we are excitedly anticipating the upcoming playoffs, where our teams will showcase everything they have learned. We also celebrated our Free-Throw and 3-Point Shooting Contest on February 20, which brought players together for a fun, competitive event to honor their hard work. (See the photos below for highlights from the day!).

Looking ahead to the spring, we aim to build on this momentum by strengthening our program, encouraging

skill development, and fostering fellowship among our youth. We are deeply grateful for the continued support of our families, volunteers, and parish community who make this ministry possible.





# ST. NICHOLAS VOLLEYBALL

## Saint Nicholas Volleyball Ministry Update





ST NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH



**AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD & PASTRIES † LIVE MUSIC † RAFFLE PRIZES † CHURCH TOURS † GAMES † POP-UP SHOPS**

**MAY 14 TO MAY 17**

*Come & join us for great evening of  
Greek Food, Music & Dance*

<b>THURS MAY</b>	<b>FRI MAY</b>	<b>SAT MAY</b>	<b>SUN MAY</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6PM TO</b>	<b>6PM TO</b>	<b>2PM TO</b>	<b>12PM TO</b>
<b>10PM</b>	<b>11PM</b>	<b>11PM</b>	<b>9PM</b>

**140+ RAFFLE PRIZES**

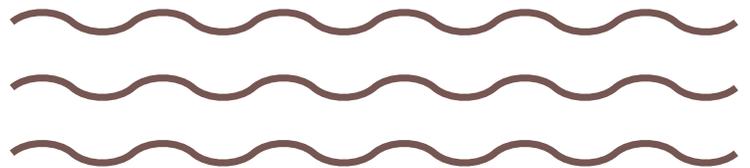
**196-10 NORTHERN BOULEVARD, FLUSHING**

**ENTRY: FREE**

*For more information:*

**[STNICHOLASFLUSHING.ORG/FESTIVAL](http://STNICHOLASFLUSHING.ORG/FESTIVAL)**

Purchase your raffles  
HERE:





### TOP PRIZES

114. Greenpoint Florist \$300 GC The Giannios Family, Greenpoint Florist
115. Gyro World \$200 GC & Lashes by Dioni Lash Lift Gyro World & Lashes by Dioni @ Beauty Bar
116. Laterna Estiatorio \$200 GC & Baraki, Bayside \$100 GC Laterna Estiatorio & Baraki, Bayside
117. Mythos Greek Restaurant \$300 GC Mythos Authentic Greek Cuisine Restaurant
118. Tory Burch Perry Leather Navy Blue Tote St. Nicholas Parishioner
119. Breville IQ 1.7 Liter Electric Kettle, Mikasa Stainless Steel Mugs, and Yoga Tea Collection
120. 14kt Yellow Gold Square Hoop Earrings
121. NY Mets (2) Field Level Tx w/ \$30 meal voucher & Caymus Cabernet Sauvignon
122. BIVA Salon \$100 GC and hair products & Taverna Agora \$100 GC Riva Salon & Taverna Agora
123. \$250 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Youth Association (GOYA)
124. \$250 The Bougiarnas Family
125. Anassa Taverna \$250 GC Mr. & Mrs. John Sgouras and Family
126. Aphrodite's Sweets \$100 GC & One Station Plaza (O.S.P.) Beer Garden & Eatery \$100 GC & Bottle of wine Aphrodite's Sweets & One Station Plaza, Bayside
127. Beauty Bar - single process color, cut and blow & Maria's Mediterranean Restaurant \$100 GC Beauty Bar & Maria's Mediterranean Restaurant
128. Bloomingdales \$200 GC & Galatia Moda Salon \$50 GC The Mousouroulis Family & Galatia Moda Salon
129. Bloomingdales \$250 GC George and Anna Xerakias
130. Bloomingdales \$250 GC St. Nicholas William Spyropoulos School PTA
131. Bloomingdales \$250 GC St. Nicholas William Spyropoulos School PTA
132. Godiva - Tower of Chocolates & Fontana \$100 GC The Pardalis Family and Fontana Famous Pizza & GYRO
133. Godiva - Tower of Chocolates & To Steki Tou Laki Restaurant \$100 GC The Pardalis Family & To Steki Tou Laki Restaurant
134. Greek Family Kitchen Restaurant \$250 GC St. Nicholas Parishioner
135. KYMA Restaurant \$150 GC & PC Richard & Son \$100 GC KYMA Restaurant & PC Richard & Son
136. Limani Restaurant \$250 GC Limani Restaurant
137. Neptune Diner \$200 GC & a bottle of wine Neptune Diner
138. Pall Restaurants \$250 GC St. Nicholas Parishioner
139. BIVA Salon \$100 GC and hair products & Bourbon Street Restaurant \$100 GC Riva Salon & Bourbon Street Restaurant
140. BIVA Salon \$250 GC Robert & Maria Grillo
141. Saks Fifth Avenue \$250 GC George & Julie Doureas
142. Taverna Kyclades Restaurant \$200 GC & a bottle of wine Taverna Kyclades Restaurant
143. Veranda Restaurant \$150 GC & Robert's Prime Meats and Deli \$100 GC Veranda Restaurant & Robert's Prime Meats and Deli
144. Zeta Aesthetics NYC Facial Treatment & Trattoria 35 Restaurant \$100 GC Zeta Aesthetics & Trattoria 35 Restaurant

## ST. NICHOLAS

GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH OF FLUSHING

### 2026 FESTIVAL RAFFLE

**FESTIVAL DATES:**  
**Thurs., May 14th** (6:00 – 10:00 p.m.)  
**Fri., May 15th** (6:00 – 11:00 p.m.)  
**Sat., May 16th** (2:00 – 11:00 p.m.)  
**Sun., May 17th** (noon – 9:00 p.m.)

Please Join Us For: Greek Food \* Cypriot Food \* Souvlaki/Gyro \* Pastries \* Loukoumades \* Flea Market \* Gift Vendors \* Music \* Greek Dancing \* Games

**TICKETS: \$100 - MAY BE PURCHASED @stnicholasflushing.org**  
 or by contacting Olga Dakis @ 917.584.0978, Tina Metis @ 646.753.0981, Thalia Mithos @ 917.751.2888, or Andy Tsiolas @ 516.286.2395

\* 1 Free Bonus Ticket w/ the Purchase of 2, 2 Free Bonus Tx w/ the Purchase of 10, 5 Free Bonus Tx w/ the Purchase of 20; Tx must be in the SAME NAME\*

Winner need not be present to win - Drawing 5/17/25  
 Drawing will be streamed LIVE on Facebook. Prizes not claimed within 60 days of the drawing will be forfeited. Prizes are not refundable or exchangeable.

### TOP PRIZES

1. \$20,000 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church
2. \$10,000 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church
3. \$5,000 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church
4. \$5,000 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church
5. Antigua, The Verandah Resort & Spa, 10 nights, 3 rms dbl occupancy, Watervue suite accommodations only & \$1,500 Elite Island Resorts & St. Nicholas
6. Antigua, St. James Club & Villas, 10 nights, 3 premium rms dbl occupancy accommodations only & \$1,500 Elite Island Resorts & St. Nicholas
7. Barbados, The Club Resort & Spa, 10 nights, 3 suite rms dbl occupancy accommodations only & \$1,500 Elite Island Resorts & St. Nicholas
8. Fendi 42mm Men's Watch
9. Gucci Nappa Vertical Matelassé Horsebit Chain Bag
10. Gucci Blondie mini crossbody bag
11. Van Cleef Sweet Alhambra Rose Gold Carnelian Bracelet
12. Louis Vuitton Pochette Camille Bag
13. Sony 85" TV Mini LED 4K Nicholas and Mia Tzoratzatos, Home Theater of Long Island
14. Michele Deco II Diamond Quartz 32mm Watch
15. Chanel Pouch
16. Cartier 18kt Yellow Gold Love Band
17. Gucci Ophidia Gold Label Logo Bag Cross Shoulder
18. Apple MacBook Air 15"
19. Apple 11" iPad Pro 256GB
20. \$1,000 James and Penelope Pritsisolais
21. \$1,000 Michael and Emilianna Siderakis and Family
22. \$1,000 St. Nicholas William Spyropoulos School
23. \$1,000 Stephen and Aret Cherpelis

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND WISH EVERYONE THE BEST OF LUCK IN THE DRAWING!

PRIZES DONATED BY ST. NICHOLAS G.O. SHRINE CHURCH UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

## Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church of Flushing Festival Raffle 2026

24. \$1,000 The Men's League of St. Nicholas & The Gas Cherevas Estia Pindus 320 AHEPA Chapter
25. \$1,000 Nicholas, Maria and Spiridoula Zolotas
26. Apple MacBook Air 13"
27. Apple MacBook Air 13"
28. Samsung 75" TV - Q60D Series QLED 4K UHD Smart Tizen
29. Gucci GG Marmont Full-Grain Leather Pouch Georgiana & Athanasia Mithos
30. Efy Two-tone 925 & 14kt Pave diamond oval necklace
31. Hilti 5 Pc 12Volt Cordless Tool Set with-Tool Bag Harris and Eleni Stathopoulos
32. 14kt White Diamond Pendant Necklace Alicia Levantis
33. Samsung 65" TV - Q60D Series QLED 4K UHD Smart Tizen
34. Valentino Kai Bag with matching black Pouch The Moustakos Family
35. Lagos 18kt Yellow Gold & Sterling Silver Caviar Lux Clip Diamond Bead Link Necklace Nick and Maria Costidis
36. Samsung 75" Q7F QLED 4K UHD Vision AI Smart TV
37. Gucci Men's Black Bifold Wallet Michael Nicolaou
38. David Yurman Cable Cross with Chain The P. Notias Family
39. Amethyst and Diamond Accents Drop Pendant in 10kt White Gold
40. White Sapphire Twist Circle Necklace in 10kt White Gold
41. Apple 11" iPad Air 128GB
42. Apple 11" iPad Air 128GB
43. Saint Laurent YSL Black Leather Pouch The Lagudis Family
44. YSL Pouch Monogramme
45. Apple Watch Series 11 (GPS & Cellular) 46mm Sport Band - Black w/ light blush Tilly and Dora Paleostas
46. 14kt Yellow Gold Diamond Necklace Ritso Jewelry
47. Samsung 65" Q7F QLED 4K UHD Vision AI Smart TV
48. Apple Watch Series 11 (GPS) 46mm Sport Band - Black
49. Apple Watch Series 11 (GPS) 46mm Sport Band - Rose Gold
50. Apple - iPad mini - 128GB
51. Gucci 45 x 195 beige wool scarf George, Nancy, Tony, and John Paul Kostolatos
52. \$500 Michael & Kathy Giannakos & Family
53. \$500 Mr. Nicholas & Mrs. Aspasia Hatzoglou
54. \$500 Peter and Barbara Skenderis
55. \$500 St. Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos Society
56. \$500 St. Nicholas Parish Council
57. \$500 St. Nicholas William Spyropoulos School Board
58. \$500 The Karacostas Family
59. \$500 The Koutsogiannis Family
60. \$500 Triantafyllos and Elena Fillos & Family
61. \$500 Delta Airlines GC St. Nicholas Parishioner
62. Angle's Restaurant \$500 GC Angle's Restaurant - Stefanos Vozvoudakis
63. For Five Coffee \$500 GC For Five Coffee, Manhasset - Stefanos Vouvoudakis
64. John Hardy Silver Amulet Connector Bracelet
65. Samsung 55" Q7F QLED 4K UHD Vision AI Smart TV
66. Samsung 55" Q7F QLED 4K UHD Vision AI Smart TV
67. Samsung 55" Q7F QLED 4K UHD Vision AI Smart TV
68. JBL Partybox Stage 320 Portable Party Speaker
69. John Hardy 925 Silver Hammered Hoop Earrings
70. Tiffany & Co. Paloma Picasso Olive Leaf Vine Silver Necklace The Donas Family
71. Apple 11" iPad 256GB John and Maria Sakalis
72. Sterling Silver Greek Key Bangle & Sterling Silver Engraved Keychain
73. Gucci 56 mm Women's Sunglasses
74. Breville Smart Toaster Oven with Air Fryer Pro
75. Bose Smart Soundbar with Dolby Atmos & Bluetooth
76. Bose Smart Soundbar with Dolby Atmos & Bluetooth
77. 8.5mm Pearl 14kt Yellow Gold Necklace
78. Gucci GG Grey & Black Leather Canvas Bifold Wallet St. Nicholas Parishioner
79. Louis Vuitton Women's Key Pouch
80. Ferragamo 60 mm Aviator Sunglasses & Il Bacco Ristorante Italiano \$100 GC St. Nicholas & Il Bacco Ristorante Italiano
81. Louis Vuitton Men's Double Card Holder
82. Top Golf \$200 GC & JBL Charge 5 Wi-Fi SE Portable Waterproof Speaker with Auracast The Dakis Family
83. Gucci Women's Sunglasses
84. Douglaston Golf Course - Round of Golf w/ Cart for 4 Tina and Peter Metis
85. Apple AirPods 4 with Noise Cancellation & Johnny Walker Blue Scotch
86. Nintendo Switch Mario Kart 8 Deluxe Bundle Alicia Levantis
87. NY Yankees Tickets (2) w/ \$30 meal voucher & Class Azul Resposado Tequila John Mithos & St. Nicholas
88. Amazon \$350 GC Harry & Christina Yanakis
89. Amazon \$350 GC Harry & Christina Yanakis
90. Amazon \$350 GC Harry & Christina Yanakis
91. Anassa Taverna Astoria \$200 GC & French Workshop Artisan Bakery \$150 GC Anassa Taverna & French Workshop Artisan Bakery
92. Melrose Ballroom - 4 Tx to an Upcoming Concert Melrose Ballroom
93. Molyvos Restaurant "Dinner for Two" GC & Four Seasons Florist \$150 GC Molyvos Restaurant - The Livanos Family & Four Seasons Florist
94. Valentino Quilted Leather Wallet on a Chain in Crime
95. De'Longhi All-in-One Coffee & Espresso Maker, Cappuccino, Latte Machine - Milk Frother
96. HP OfficeJet Pro 9125e Wireless All-In-One Inkjet Printer
97. Apple AirPods 4 with Noise Cancellation & Macallan 'A Night on Earth' Scotch
98. JBL Partybox Encore Essential 2 Portable Party Speakers
99. Burberry Lola Womens Maroon Leather Quilted Card Case Andy Latos
100. 14kt Gold Turquoise Earrings
101. Gucci GG Supreme Card Case Paul & Thalia Mithos
102. Burberry Sandon Black Leather Check Card Case Joanne Levantis
103. Tory Burch Britten Envelope Wallet
104. \$300 Angelo, Conrie, Taso and Theodora Diakantoni
105. \$300 Harry and Roula Siderakis
106. 14kt Gold Cross Pendant & Galatia Moda Salon \$50 GC St. Nicholas & Galatia Moda Salon
107. 26" Bicycle Roberts Bicycles
108. Americana Manhasset \$300 GC Mr. Elias & Mrs. Vianna Psarros
109. Americana Manhasset \$300 GC The Pashalis Family
110. Andrew Bellucci's Pizzeria \$200 GC & Martha's Country Bakery \$100 GC Matthew and Olga Katakis & Martha's Country Bakery
111. Aphrodite's Sweets \$100 GC & Taverna Kyclades \$200 GC Aphrodite's Sweets & St. Nicholas Parishioner
112. Butcher Bar Restaurant \$200 GC & Martha's Country Bakery \$100 GC Matthew and Olga Katakis & Martha's Country Bakery
113. French Workshop Artisan Bakery \$150 GC & Godiva - Tower of Chocolates French Workshop Artisan Bakery & The Pardalis Family

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

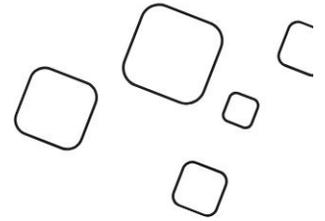
Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sec. Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Seller: \_\_\_\_\_

Check \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ Bonus Ticket \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: \$100

ST NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH



## Become a Pillar of Our Community at the St. Nicholas Greek Festival!

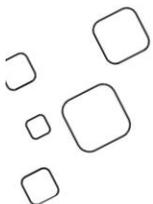
For decades, our festival has been a cornerstone of Flushing, bringing together thousands for a celebration of faith, culture, and (of course) world-class food.

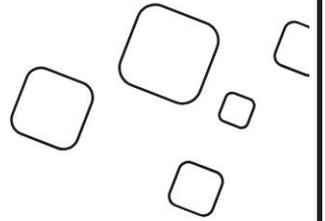
As we prepare for our **May 14-17, 2026** event, we invite you to join us as a formal sponsor. Your support doesn't just fund an event; it preserves our traditions and allows us to welcome the entire neighborhood with open arms.

Join the St. Nicholas family today and help us make this our most vibrant year yet!

---

**Ready to partner with us?** Secure your sponsorship in just a few clicks! Visit our official festival portal at [stnicholasflushing.org/festival](https://stnicholasflushing.org/festival) to view our 2026 packages and sign up online.





# 2026 Sponsorship Opportunities

Support the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church Festival (May 14–17)



## Festival Friend Sponsor \$250

- The perfect way for individuals and local shops to show their support. Your name or business name featured prominently on our official "2026 Festival Sponsor List."

## Food Booth Sponsor \$500

- Own a piece of the festival's most popular attraction! Your name or business logo displayed directly on one of our high-traffic food booths (Souvlaki, Gyro, Loukoumades, etc.). Continuous visibility to thousands of hungry guests throughout the 4-day weekend.

## Festival Banner Sponsor \$550

- Maximum brand impact for the entire weekend. Display your custom 2' x 6' banner in a premium, high-visibility area of the festival grounds. Note: Sponsor must supply their own 2' x 6' banner.

Join the St. Nicholas family today and help us make this our most vibrant year yet!



## Ready to Sign Up?

Don't wait—booth and banner placements are limited!

- Go Here: [www.stnicholasflushing.org/festival](http://www.stnicholasflushing.org/festival)
- Visit Us: Drop off your form at the Church Office 196-10 Northern Blvd
- Contact: Call office **718-357-4200** or email [info@stnicholasflushing.org](mailto:info@stnicholasflushing.org) to secure your spot.



ST. NICHOLAS G.O. SHRINE CHURCH

# GOYA SCHEDULE



EMAIL: SAINTNICHOLASFLUSHINGGOYA@GMAIL.COM

## ST. NICHOLAS JOY & JR GOYA HOLY FRIDAY

YOUTH RETREAT

APRIL 10 11 AM - 4:30 PM

GRADES 2-7

PREPARATION OF PASCHA CANDLES

HOLY WEEK DISCUSSION

PICNIC LUNCH

RESERVED SEATING FOR THE DESCENT FROM THE CROSS AT 3PM

WE ASK ALL CHILDREN TO BRING THEIR OWN NUT FREE LUNCH

AND WEAR CHURCH ATTIRE



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

INTRODUCES

# COLLEGE Synaxis

AN ONLINE MINISTRY FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS HOME AND AWAY.

ARE YOU AWAY AT SCHOOL AND FEELING DISCONNECTED FROM YOUR CHURCH AND FAITH?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO NAVIGATE THE SEMESTER ALONE. JOIN FR. ARISTIDIS AND FR. ALEXANDROS FOR A WEEKLY VIRTUAL GATHERING AS WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR PASCHA.

WEEKLY REFLECTION: THE SUNDAY GOSPEL  
FOCUSED ON THE TRIODION PERIOD & GREAT LENT

WHEN: EVERY SATURDAY

TIME: 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

LAUNCH DATE: FEBRUARY 7

**SIGN UP**



## St. Nicholas Jr. GOYA

### Get to Know Your Church

On Friday April 3rd let us gather together so we can both learn and care for our home here at St. Nicholas.

We will meet in the Church. Church tour beginning at 5:30 followed by church cleaning.

If you have any questions please email [stnicholasjoy@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasjoy@gmail.com)

**ST NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH,  
FLUSHING**

# **GREEK**

**PARADE**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26th**

*Save the date!*

ST. NICHOLAS  
JOY & JR. GOYA

# **Palm Cross Folding**

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS  
APRIL 4, 11AM  
WM. SPYROPOULOS  
SCHOOL COURTYARD

AN EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX  
SHRINE CHURCH FLUSHING

# Lenten RETREAT

SATURDAY, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>

WITH DR. JEANNIE CONSTANTINO

*The "agony in the garden" is one of the most poignant and powerful images from the gospels. Those hours in which Christ struggled are not only among the most impactful and relatable for us, they also so many important spiritual lessons. What was the Lord experiencing? Fear, loneliness, disappointment, apprehension? What was He thinking and what was at stake? Why was the Cross the only answer? Was it because Christ "had to" die? What can we learn from how the Lord made his peace with that horrific reality?*

**JOIN US**

#### Schedule of the Day

10:00 Registration

10:30-11:30 Session 1

Struggle: Lord's Agony In the Garden.

11:30-11:40 Break

11:40-12:40 Session 2

Submission: Accepting the Will of God

12:40-1:30 Lenten Fellowship Meal

1:30-2:45 Session 3

The Cross: The Ultimate Christian Paradigm

3:00 Vespers

Sign Up



#### About our Speaker

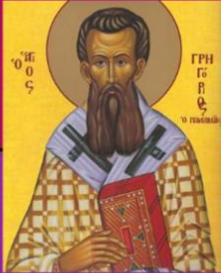
Dr. Jeannie Constantinou is a retired professor with over 40 years of experience teaching Biblical Studies. A world-renowned scholar and author of *The Crucifixion of the King of Glory*, she is also the beloved host of *Search the Scriptures LIVE!* on Ancient Faith Radio. She holds a Ph.D. in the History of Biblical Interpretation.





# THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

*Lenten series*



**WED March 4**

St. Gregory Palamas



**WED March 11**

St. Gregory the Great & the Presanctified Liturgy



**WED March 18**

St. John Climacus

**WED April 1**

St. Mary of Egypt

**Special Event: Lenten Retreat**

**SAT March 21**

with Dr. Eugenia Constantinou

Join us for a day of deep reflection and spiritual growth.

**Weekly Wednesday Schedule**

**6:00 PM – 7:30 PM: Presanctified Liturgy**

**7:30 PM – 8:00 PM: Lenten Supper**

**8:00 PM – 9:00 PM: Lenten Lecture**

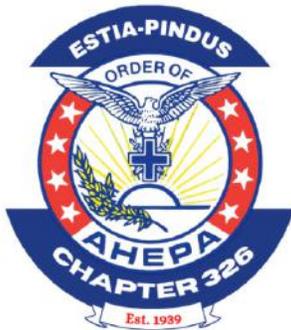
# FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

**H**appy Spring, St. Nicholas Family!

The Flushing AHEPA Chapter would like to congratulate The Ark on its first anniversary, and on many anniversaries to come. Spring is a time of growth and new beginnings. The Gus Cherevas Estia-Pindus Ahepa Chapter is just as eager as everyone to put this winter behind us. We invite everyone to join us as we participate in these events:

- \* 2026 Ahepa Scholarships are still available.
- \* 2026 NYC Greek Independence Day Parade.
- \* St. Nicholas Festival.
- \* 2026 Little Neck-Douglaston Memorial Day Parade.





## Flushing, New York. December 2025

The Gus Cherevas Estia-Pindus Ahepa Chapter 326 presented the St. Nicholas Community with a \$20,000 donation towards their Renovations Project.

The Gus Cherevas Estia-Pindus Ahepa Chapter 326 presented the St. Nicholas Flushing Community with a \$20,000 donation toward their Renovations Project.

These funds were raised during the “Evening Cruise around the Statue of Liberty”—a fundraiser that brought us face-to-face with the same icon our relatives first saw when they began their journeys in the United States. It was only fitting to support St. Nicholas with a cruise in the New York Harbor, as he is the patron saint of sailors and travelers. St. Nicholas watched over us that night, just as he did our ancestors many years ago.

[nycAhepa326.org](http://nycAhepa326.org)



# GIRL SCOUTS

December was a joyful month for our Girl Scouts as the girls celebrated the holiday season with a festive Christmas party, creating special gifts for their moms and exchanging gifts with one another.

Throughout the winter, the girls embraced exciting hands-on experiences, becoming scientists, chefs, coders, and detectives through robotics, cooking, coding, and an escape room adventure. In February, we focused on self-love and wellness with a spa party, aerial yoga, and Pilates.

We proudly congratulate Eirini Pristouris (St. George), Vasiliki Moukas (Chi Rho), Eleni Spanakis (St. George), and Arianna Theofanis (Chi Rho) on earning their Religious Awards.

We look forward to celebrating the 114th Birthday of Girl Scouts

in March with fun activities. Girl Scout Cookie Season is currently underway! To buy cookies to support our troop and girls, please reach out to [stnicksgstroop04212@gmail.com](mailto:stnicksgstroop04212@gmail.com).





# BOY SCOUTS

## A Commitment to Creation and Community: John Balis



**M**y name is John Balis, and I am currently a senior at Holy Cross High School. While my days are often filled with the rigors of the National Honor Society and the fast-paced energy of the varsity volleyball team, I also find balance through my love for playing the guitar, rock climbing, and spending quality time with my family. My journey has been guided by a simple but powerful principle: that our faith and

our commitment to service should define how we approach every responsibility in life.

Since joining Troop 268 in May 2019, Scouting has been instrumental in strengthening my character and leadership skills. It has taught me the vital importance of teamwork and what it means to lead with integrity. These lessons were put into practice during

my Eagle Scout project, where I led a beautification and improvement initiative at the Queens Botanical Garden's World Farm.

By replacing aging wood framing around the garden plots, my team and I were able to ensure the safety and sustainability of a vital space that provides organic food to our local community. I chose this specific project because it is a direct reflection of the values I have learned through both Scouting and my faith: the call to serve others, to act as stewards of God's creations, and to leave a lasting, positive footprint on the world around us.



## A Journey of Faith and Service: Andreas Chrysikos



**M**y name is Andreas Chrysikos, and as a senior in the Environmental Engineering Program at Bayside High School, I have always strived to balance my studies with a deep commitment to my community. Whether I am participating in Key Club, advocating for local wildlife in the Raising Awareness for Stray Animals Club, or playing the xylophone in the Jazz Band, I've learned that the most rewarding experiences come from being involved. Outside of school, you can often find me staying active at the NYSC gym, but my most formative years have been

defined by my time with the Boy Scouts and my life here at St. Nicholas.

Scouting has been a cornerstone of my growth, providing me with incredible memories from camping trips to places like Durland, Alpine, and St. Basil's Academy. These experiences, alongside my yearly tradition of volunteering at the St. Nicholas Greek Festival snack stand, have taught me the true meaning of leadership and community service. My journey with the scouts has given me more than just merit badges; it has gifted me with lifelong friendships and a profound love for the outdoors—values I know I will carry into my future.

This spirit of service culminated in my Eagle Scout Project, which focused on giving back to the youth of our parish by repainting and upgrading the GOYA loft. With the incredible generosity and donations from our church community, we were able to transform the space with a new TV, upgraded furniture, and new games. My hope was to make the loft a truly inviting "home away from home" for our GOYAnS—a place where they can gather to watch movies, share laughs, and build a sense of community. By creating a fun and comfortable environment, I wanted to help our youth foster a lasting bond with one another and a closer connection to our Orthodox faith and the St. Nicholas family.



## Stewardship Through Service: Dimitri Efthimiades



For Dimitri Efthimiades, a senior at St. Francis Preparatory High School, the journey toward becoming an Eagle Scout began long before he even donned the uniform. As a young boy, he followed in his older brother's footsteps, attending meetings and camping trips where he eagerly learned to tie knots alongside the older scouts. This early exposure sparked a lifelong passion for the program and a deep-seated desire to reach the rank of

Eagle. Along the way, Dimitri balanced his scouting responsibilities with his studies, a three-year stint in track, his love for snowboarding, and a job with a New York City catering company, where he learned the value of hard work and hospitality.

Dimitri's time in Troop 268 has been defined by the strong friendships he built and the independence he gained. At Ten

Mile River Scout Camp, he learned what it truly means to be self-reliant—cooking his own meals, navigating merit badge classes, and discovering that growth often happens when you step outside your comfort zone. These experiences reinforced the scouting values of respect and service, showing him that anyone, regardless of their background, has the power to make a tangible difference in their community.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Dimitri chose a task that combined his love for the Greek Orthodox community with the practical needs of the parish: repainting the parking lot lines at both St. Nicholas and Holy Cross Church in Whitestone. While the work was time-consuming and physically demanding, Dimitri walked away with a profound realization: service isn't always about doing the "impossible"—it's about having the passion and the discipline to give your time to something bigger than yourself. By maintaining the church grounds, Dimitri hopes to remind his fellow parishioners that taking pride in our physical space is a vital part of honoring our faith and our community.



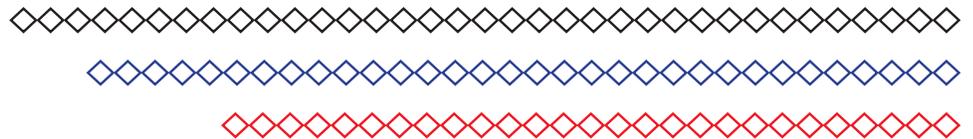
# What is an Eagle Scout?

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest and most prestigious achievement in the Boy Scouts of America. Attaining this rank is a multi-year journey that requires immense dedication, the mastery of diverse life skills through at least 21 merit badges, and the assumption of significant leadership roles within the Troop.

The hallmark of an



Eagle Scout is the Eagle Scout Service Project. This capstone requirement challenges the Scout to plan, develop, and lead a significant mission that benefits their religious institution, school, or local community. Only about 5% of all Scouts reach this milestone, marking them as individuals of exceptional character, perseverance, and a lifelong commitment to the values of faith, citizenship, and service to others.



## **Congratulations to Our Eagle Scouts!**

*To Andreas, John, and Dimitri: Your hard work, leadership, and dedication to our parish and the wider community are truly inspiring. Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is a rare and prestigious honor that reflects your strength of character and your commitment to the values of our faith.*

*We are incredibly proud of your accomplishments and the lasting impact of your service projects. May God continue to guide and bless you as you lead the way for the next generation.*



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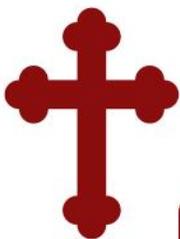
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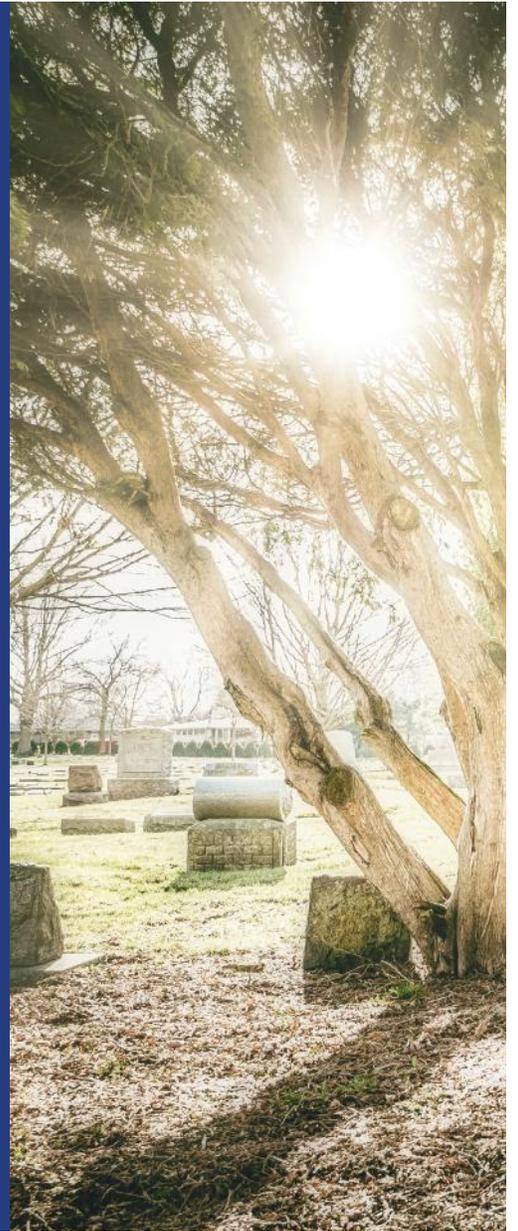
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