ST. NICHOLAS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH **4967 FOREST PARK AVENUE** ST. LOUIS, MO 63108

ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY LIFE CENTER 12550 S. FORTY DRIVE ST. LOUIS, MO 63141



Proistamenos: Fr. Douglas Papulis (314) 974-4613

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Arbanas (314) 425-9641

Church/FLC Office: (314) 361-6924

Office Administrator: Lisa Danko Financial Secretary: Linda Nicozisin

Email: stnicholas@sngoc.org



Epiphany: Festival of Lights

Icon of the Feast

The Icon of the Feast of Theophany tells the story from the Gospels in images and color. On the left side of the icon we see John the Baptist (1) who is dressed in camel's hair and has the appearance of one who lives in the wilderness. His arms are outstretched, showing an attitude of prayer and reverence, but also directing others to Christ. With his right hand he is conducting the baptism.

John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and the one chosen by God to proclaim His coming, was preaching in the wilderness and was baptizing all who would respond to his message calling for repentance. As he was doing this, John was directing the people toward the one who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. Initially, John would not do this, saying that Jesus should baptize him. Jesus said to John, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness (3:15). John consented and baptized Jesus.

When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Bible records that the Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on him. When this happened, a voice came from heaven and said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." This was the voice of God the Father.

Christ's baptism in the Jordan was "theophany," a manifestation of God to the world, because it was the beginning of our Lord's public ministry. It was also a "theophany" in that the world was granted a revelation of the Holy Trinity. All three Persons were made manifest together: the Father testified from on high to the divine Sonship of Jesus; the Son received His Father's testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son

The theme of "manifestation" or "revelation" is also expressed in Scripture with the symbolism of light. In the hymn of the Feast we sing, "Christ has appeared and enlightened the world." Thus, January 6 is also known as the Feast of Lights. The Church celebrates on this day the illumination of the world by the light of Christ.

St. Nicholas Servants

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Rosie Hartley Marilynn Jemas

WEBSITE

Rosie Hartley 618-239-9359

Church is the place where we worship God, Who gave us life, Who is watching and protecting us every single day. Going to church made my life better, I feel the presence of God.

I asked my 8-year-old daughter what church means to her and she said:

"Church is a place where you can learn about Jesus and God, a place where you can say special prayers. Church is to be at peace with God and represent him and means love and how to share love with other people."

Father Michael and Father Doug are great leaders who inspired us to not give up in difficult times, to love unconventionally, to be a great example for our children, to help others in need. I am very happy that I am part of the St. Nicholas Church's community.

-Simona Kacso



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Parish Council President Notes January 2022

Dear St. Nicholas Family,

Happy New Year! May the Blessings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with us now and always. Let the words of wisdom, grace, positivity, and motivation inspire us to have our best year. Our parish family is nothing less of this, for we continue to strive to do and be better. We navigated through 22 months of a pandemic while continuing our ministries, our outreach, and our love for one another.

My sincerest gratitude to each and every one of you for all you do to keep our parish family strong and special, even the smallest gesture has the highest impact. We begin the year renewed with hope and energy. We must continue to increase our stewardship, our attendance at church and activities, and remain united.

Join me in welcoming our new Parish Council Members: Adonis Chakides, Jim Rigas, and Jim Sorbello. We look forward to serving our parish together! Heartfelt thanks to our outgoing members, John Davis, Stephanie Benos Tyler and Andy Keleta for their time on the board and all they have done.

I wanted to share with everyone the youth's gesture of kindness to our senior VIP's. On December 5th the eve of our Patron Saints' Name Day, our youth lead by Carmen Sorbello, Aliki Malek, Haroula Souris, and Claire and Jason Martin gathered at the Family Life Center, baked from scratch banana bread, packaged with love and additional goodies and delivered to our precious "seniors" for the holidays. They were welcomed with open arms.

This year, we will be celebrating Fr. Doug's 25 years as the Proistamenos of St. Nicholas Church. Please join us as we honor our beloved Fr. Doug. More details will be announced soon.

There is no limit to what we can do as a family! Please stay connected and involved.

In Christ's Work, Helen Yiatras Care

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: The old has gone, the new has come! ² Corinthians 5:17</sup>





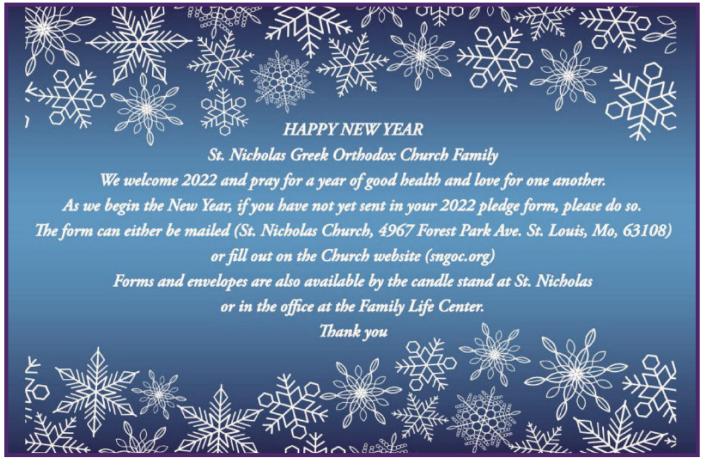
HOLIDAY SEASON SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Saturday, January 1, 2022: NEW YEAR'S DAY
10 am Divine Liturgy at Family Life Center Chapel
Breakfast—CANCELLED

Wednesday, January 5, 2022: FOREFEAST OF EPIPHANY
9:30 am Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Waters
at St. Nicholas Church

Thursday, January 6, 2022: EPIPHANY DAY
9:30 am Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Waters
at Family Life Center Chapel

Friday, January 7, 2022: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIZER 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Family Life Center Chapel



Scrapbooking & Project Day

Saturday, January 8, 2022 10am-10pm



\$20



It has been almost 2 years to the day since we last gathered to scrapbook! I hope you have finished those projects & are ready to start new ones.

Traditional & online scrapbooking, sewing, card making, quilting, jewelry making, knitting, needle pointing – **all projects welcome**!

This is just the space to get them done (or started)

Wi-Fi & power sources available.

Proceeds benefit St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

At St. Nicholas Family Life Center
Philoptochos Room
12550 South Outer 40 Dr. 63141

For reservations & questions contact Steph McPherron at scdemos@yahoo.com or 314-640-0989

Please make checks payable to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and pay the day of.

Philoptochos Corner—January 2022

Happy New Year!

Although we were operating in a modified format during most of 2021, the Ladies of St. Nicholas Philoptochos remain steadfast in continuing our mission and ministries. Our heartfelt thanks to the Philoptochos Board, Executive Board, and entire Membership for their continued support, hard work, and countless hours spent serving on committees, in order to meet our Philoptochos commitments – locally and nationally. Thank you for being generous with your time and talents. A special thank you to Father Doug Papulis and Father Michael Arbanas for their continued spiritual support, love, and guidance. "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." -Helen Keller

Grecian Kitchen Harvest Luncheon/Bake Sale – November 24 – Thank you to Georgia Ferretti and her committee for another successful and festive GK Harvest Luncheon/Bake Sale. Thanks to the ladies who donated homemade pastries for our bake sale. The success of these events makes it possible for us to continue our work in helping the needy, and our beloved St. Nicholas!

St. Nicholas Vespers Reception and St. Nicholas Day Brunch – December 5 & 6 – Many thanks to Maria Kamburis and Georgia Ferretti for chairing the lovely Vespers Reception at the FLC and St. Nicholas Day Brunch Reception at St. Nicholas. It was a beautiful way to continue our week-long St. Nicholas Celebrations. A huge thanks to the Philoptochos for providing the beautiful poinsettia centerpieces and delicious dessert at the St. Nicholas Day Luncheon on December 5. May God bless us and grant us many more years of service in His glorious name.

Annual Vasilopita Celebration – Sunday, January 9 - Philoptochos will host its Annual Vasilopita Celebration with proceeds to support St. Basil's Academy. For more than half a century, St. Basil's Academy has provided a "home away from home" for Orthodox young people who come from broken homes, or are victims of poverty, abuse or abandonment.

2022 Membership Drive - As we begin the New Year, 2022, with hope, faith, and renewed enthusiasm toward the Philoptochos mission to minister to the underprivileged, we want to invite women of all ages to join the St. Nicholas Philoptochos Society. Being a member of Philoptochos means being a part of something greater than yourself, it means making the world a better place. It is our tradition of philanthropy, our living and practicing Orthodox faith, which enables and encourages us to serve with compassion, dignity and respect. It is now the time to Invite you to offer your talents to our mission. It is now the time to Embrace your ideas of compassion for our fellow man. It is now the time to Involve yourself by offering your talents and ideas for the betterment of our community. Come join us! When making your 2022 pledge, please consider the following: \$21.00 of each pledge is used to fulfill yearly commitments to the National & Metropolis Philoptochos. The balance of your pledge supports our local chapter of St. Nicholas Philoptochos. Please mail checks payable to: St. Nicholas Philoptochos to 4967 Forest Park Ave, St. Louis, MO 63108. Stewardship is due no later than March 1, 2022.

Calendar of Events:

1/09 - Vasilopita Sunday

1/13 - Board Meeting

1/22 - General Membership Brunch Meeting

2/06 - Godparent/Godchild Sunday

and GK Pre-Lenten Luncheon/Bake Sale

2/24 - Board Meeting

Philoptochos Philanthropy Report - January 2022

<u>"Blessed is he who understands the poor and the needy" Psalm 40:1</u>
To our St. Nicholas Community, our Philoptochos Members and our Christian Friends everywhere... during these difficult years of the corona virus pandemic

May GOD continue to BLESS you and your families with good health, happy days and may you always be Safe in HIS EMBRACE!

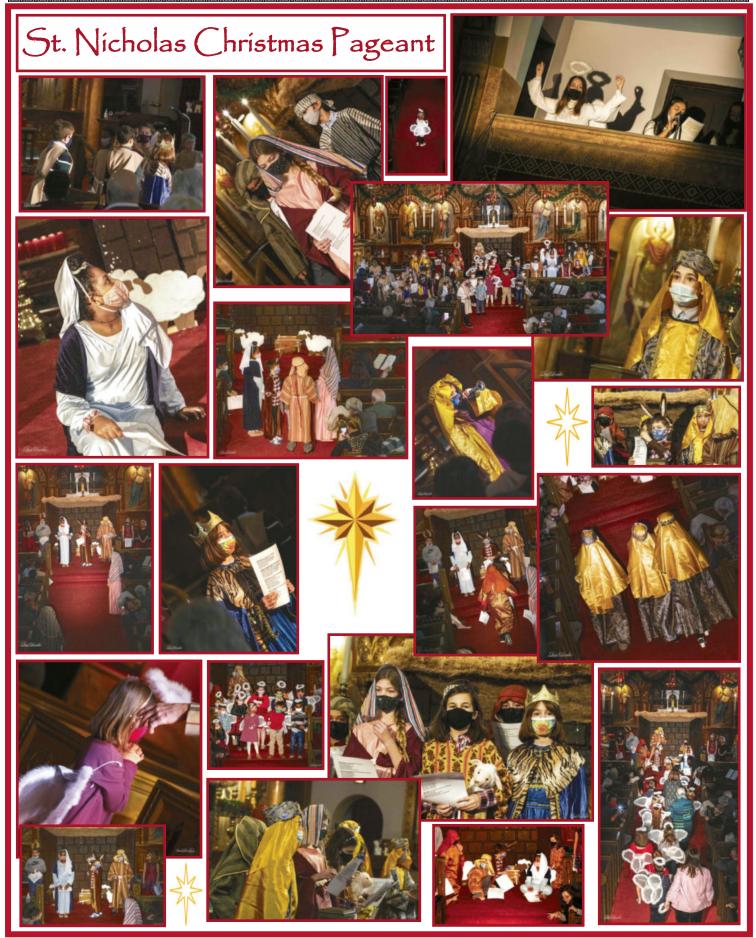
As we begin a hopeful New Year Let us pray and thank Father Doug and Father Michael as they pray for us and take care of our community. Let us give thanks and pray for our Philoptochos members and their Board who have accomplished almost the impossible during these difficult years. Let us pray for our Church Board as they work so hard to keep our beautiful church and FLC for us to pray and enjoy. We have a lot of heroes in our community

We wish to thank Johanna Spanos and Kim Tarlas for their many years of serving on the Philanthropy Committee.... Johanna was my mentor and friend for over 20 years and miss her as she retires – we wish her many happy years in her retirement.....Kim Tarlas was such a joy to work with but she wanted to spend time with her children and family....wishing Kim many wonderful years ahead and our heartfelt thanks to both ladies for their amazing contributions to Philathropy.

I am blessed and so fortunate to announce that Mary Ellen Anastas and Tina Spanos have joined me in Philanthropy....... They are both learning quickly and I am so proud of both of them for they understand and have already practiced our Confidentiality & Kindness Programs from day one! Soon they will be teaching the teacher! Thank you for the trust you have in us..... it gives us great joy if we can help. Please pray for us as we pray for those who need our help & thank you for your generosity when we ask you for help.

Happy New Year to You and Your Beautiful Families





St. Nicholas Day Luncheon







































































GOYA DELIVERS



Jr. GOYA FUN at the SKATING RINK!



Orthodox Young Adults

Please join us for an Orthodox Young Adults
(for ages after college-30's) night of fellowship, discussion and faith on
Tuesday, January 11, at 7 pm via Zoom. All young adults are welcome!
We will be meeting via Zoom on the second Tuesday of every month.
For the Zoom link and for any questions, please contact
Gracie Livaditis at glivaditis251@gmail.com



THE ST. NICHOLAS DATABASE UPDATE HAS BEEN COMPLETED!

THANK YOU, TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED IN PROVIDING INFORMATION, AND TO DEB PALAZZOLA AND THE COMMITTEE FOR ALL THEIR EFFORTS. IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL SNGOCDATA@GMAIL.COM, SO CORRECTIONS CAN BE MADE.





St. Nicholas Dancers

Practice

Sunday, January 9
At the Family Life Center

ARIADNE DANCERS: Children 6,7 and 8 years old.

Children 6,7 and 8 years old. Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

GARAGOUNA DANCERS: Children ages 9,10,11 and 12 years old. TIME: 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

SOULI DANCERS: (Adults) ages 18 years old an up TIME: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

CARIATIDES DANCERS: Teenagers 13 years old and up TIME: 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

We will continue to practice the second Sunday of each month.

Tina Paradowski will assist and you will get emails from Mrs. Pat Lekich.

Questions? Please email at georgiadances@gmail.com

This group is open to all Parishoners!

All are Welcome!



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



Greetings from Norway

by Fr. Theodor Svane



Mission updates: Numbers are increasing slowly even during COVID. Since our last update we have received 7 catechumens and have one more to start in December. We are experiencing an increasing interest in the Orthodox Faith, world wide it seems. Despite all this we are still struggling to find a place of our own. It has been a little discouraging to be turned down on several occasions. Sometimes we suffer from being viewed as a strange and foreign religion. One

exciting news is that a parishioner has translated "For the life of the World" by Fr. Alexander Schmemann into Norwegian (Nynorsk). Yours truly wrote the preface.

Thank God we are not the only Orthodox parish in Bergen. The Romanians bought a Lutheran prayer house in 2019 and have turned it into a beautiful Church. The consecration was in October. Romanian priests from all over the country and two bishops from abroad came.

Our Mission was transferred back to the Archdiocese spring last year, but only this July was I able to visit Paris and Metropolitan Jean again after a long break due to COVID. I also used the opportunity to visit the Protection monastery in Bussy which we are close to and visit on a regular basis. I find that these breaks away from the buss and fuss of everyday life is incredibly important and refreshing.

Matushka Hanne has taken on an extra load of teaching this fall which made the first few months after summer vacation quite busy. In addition she is studying Byzantine iconography under Aidan Hart in Shrewsbury England. Too busy in fact and we have been reminded how important it is to focus and spend time on what is really important and what is truly necessary. That is always God, Church and family. So the both of us have been scaling down a bit.

Yours truly, Fr. Theodor, is currently a student at the naval academy in Bergen as the last part of my formal officer training. It is fun and different being a student again. The class I'm taking is an introductory class in military history, military theory and leadership. One thing I've been reflecting over is the similarity between priestly formation and officer education and training. One of our books on the curriculum even pointed out this connection. Formation, inner development, knowledge of self and practical training is vital in both. After Christmas break I will be back at Haakonsvern Naval Base where I am stationed.

Pilgrimage to Norway any time soon? COVID has halted our plans for a new pilgrimage to Norway. The summer of 2022 is going to be too soon unfortunately.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We know you all are busy, but we appreciate your prayers whenever we come to your mind.

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Dear St. Nicholas Parish Family,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2021: As of December 10, 2021, our current loan amount is \$3,430,604.63. Our monthly mortgage payment is \$25,500

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

Sincerely, George Ellis, DDS, Treasurer

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Financial Summary 1/1/2021 through 11/30/2021

	2021	2020	Change	% Change
Operations		000	- 5	
Stewardship Revenue	\$698,715.00	\$562,317.00	\$136,398.00	24.26%
Other Revenue	\$119,477.00	\$171,123.00	-\$51,646.00	-30.18%
Total Revenues	\$818,192.00	\$733,440.00	\$84,752.00	11.56%
Total Expenses	-\$892,012.00	-\$913,413.00	-\$21,401.00	-2.34%
Revenues less Expenses	-\$73,820.00	-\$179,973.00	\$106,153.00	58.98%
Ministries, Programs, & Organizations				
Total Revenues	\$16,829.00	\$13,239.00	\$3,590.00	27.12%
Total Expenses	-\$18,852.00	-\$9,656.00	\$9,196.00	95.24%
Revenues less Expenses	-\$2,023.00	\$3,583.00	-\$5,606.00	-156.46%
Fundraising Events			==-	
Hall Rental	\$8,575.00	\$7,286.00	\$1,289.00	17.69%
Taste of the Greek Festival	\$30,013.00	\$46,527.00	-\$16,514.00	-35.49%
Other	\$25,479.00	\$10,000.00	\$15,479.00	154.79%
Total Fundraising Events	\$64,067.00	\$63,813.00	\$254.00	0.40%
Total Expenses	-\$32,803.00	-\$24,472.00	\$8,331.00	34.04%
Revenues less Expenses	\$31,264.00	\$39,341.00	-\$8,077.00	-20.53%
PARISH TOTAL REVENUES	\$899,088.00	\$810,492.00	\$88,596.00	10.93%
PARISH TOTAL EXPENSES	-\$943,667.00	-\$947,541.00	-\$3,874.00	-0.41%
PARISH TOTAL REVENUES LESS EXPENSES	-\$44,579.00	-\$137,049.00	\$92,470.00	67.47%



MEMORIAL DONATIONS



GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Cynthia Milonas Thimios and Mary Zanetos George and Diane Ellis William and Stathy Darcy Theresa Galakatos Richard and Rhonda Radil Thelma Chilton

In Memory of Maria Arvanitakis Gus and Dianne Kapodistrias

In Memory of Alexandra Platipodis
Robert and Mary Muckler

In Memory of George Tompras *Mary Ellen Anastas and Family*

In Memory of Katherine Rutter George and Diane Ellis

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

In Memory of Cynthia Milonas
The Leo and Helen Pappas Family
Leonora Taratsas

In Memory of Katherine Rutter Michael and Jenny Pappas

FAMILY LIFE CENTER
In Memory of Katherine Rutter
Janet Papageorge

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In Memory of Cynthia Milonas
Dr. Bill and Fotina Shisko
Sam and Maureen Mezines
Mary C Mastorakos
Theodora Malakelis and Family
Sophia Malakelis
The Kamburis Family
The LaPasso Family
Joe and Caroline Carollo

Michael and Georgia Ferretti Demetra Nicozisin Joyce Mirras Chris and Tina Paradowski

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Ron and Elaine Been

Andrea, George and Vanessa Mezines

The Jeff Hartman Family Dennis and Helen Carey Elaine and Ernie Davis Christina Spanos Janet Papageorge Zach LaPasso

Mary and John Gunther Jim and Maralin Fredericks

Ann Zotos Katherine Zotos

Mike and Jennifer Hojnacki

(CAPITAL CAMPAIGN Continued)

In Memory of Andrea Pappas Jackson

Achilles and Dorothea Karakas

In Memory of Alexandra Platipodis
Tim and Alexandra Inman and Family

In Memory of Katherine Rutter

Ron and Elaine Been Stacey Alexander Mary C. Mastorakos Sam and Maureen Mezines Ann Zotos Katherine Zotos Michael and Georgia Ferretti

*In Memory of Alexandra Platipodis*Tim and Alexandra Inman and Family

In Memory of Ruth Anastas Jeanne Tompras

*In Memory of Trifon Abatgis*Achilles and Dorothea Karakas

PARISH LIFE

FUNERALS

- † Cynthia Minolas fell asleep in the Lord on December 14, 2021. Her funeral was on December 18. May her memory be eternal.
- † Katherine Rutter fell asleep in the Lord on December 14, 2021. Her funeral was on December 20. May her memory be eternal.
- † Maria Vamvas fell asleep in the Lord on December 17, 2021. Her funeral was on December 22 in New York. May her memory be eternal.

MEMORIALS

- † 1 year memorial Chrisoula Tomaras—December 12
- † 21 year memorial Vasiliki Papay—December 12

FORTY DAY BLESSINGS

Sloane Sophia, daughter of Alexandra (Carey) and Brennan Devers was blessed and churched on Sunday, December 12, 2021. Congratulations!

Terra Beth, daughter of Ashton and Jonathan Hartley was blessed and churched on Sunday, December 12, 2021. Congratulations!

Niko Farik, son of Zheni Michalaris was blessed and churched on Sunday, December 19, 2021. Congratulations!

January 2022

SATURDAY	1 Happy New Year! 10 am Divine Liturgy at FLC	8 9 am- 10 pm FLC Scrapbooking	15	12 10:00 am FLC St. Nicholas Philoptochos General Membership Brunch Meeting	29	
FRIDAY		7 St John the Baptizer 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Family Life Center Chapel	14	21	28	
THURSDAY		Epiphany Day 9:30 am Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Waters Family Life Center Chapel	13	20	27	
WEDNESDAY		5 Forefeast of Epiphany 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Blessing of the Waters at St. Nicholas Church 7 am Men's Fellowship	12 7 am Men's Fellowship via Zoom	7 am Men's Fellowship via Zoom	26 7 am Men's Fellowship via Zoom	
TUESDAY		4	Orthodox Young Adults Meeting 7 pm via Zoom	18 10 am-FLC Women's Faith Group	25	
MONDAY		3	10	17	24	
SUNDAY		2 Sunday Before Epiphany 8:15 am Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church Fellowship Coffee Hour NO Sunday School	9 Sunday After Epiphany Vasilopita Sunday Vasilopita Sunday 8:15 am Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church Fellowship Coffee Hour Sunday School	16 12th Sunday of Luke 8:15 am Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church Fellowship Coffee Hour Sunday School	23 14th Sunday of Luke 8:15 am Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church Fellowship Coffee Hour Sunday School	31 Three Hierarchs 8:15 am Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church Fellowship Coffee Hour Sunday School

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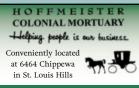
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