

ST. NICHOLAS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2024

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

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



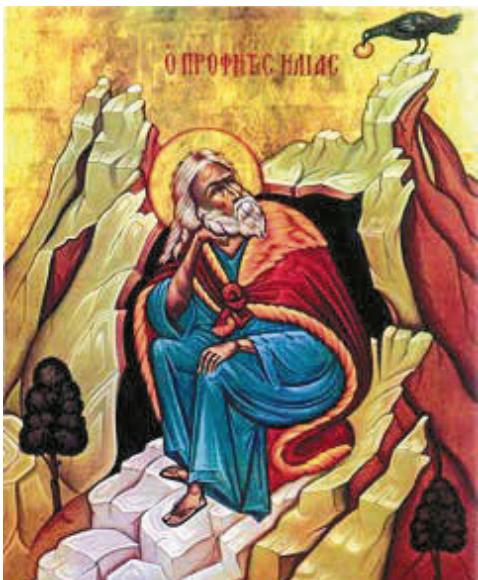
Proistamenos: Fr. Douglas Papulis
(314) 974-4613

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

Church/FLC Office: (314) 361-6924

Office Administrator: Lisa Danko
Financial Secretary: Linda Nicozisin

Email: stnicholas@sngoc.org
Website: www.sngoc.org



In the Small, Still Voice

-Fr. Michael Arbanas

The feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah falls in the middle of the summer (July 20), and maybe that's why it doesn't always get the attention it deserves. But his story can both challenge us and give us comfort, and we encourage all our parishioners to spend some time with it.

Elijah (Elias, in Greek) appears the books of 1 and 2 Kings as a prophet in the Kingdom of Israel, a strong critic of King Ahab and his pagan queen, Jezebel.

In 1 Kings 18, Elijah challenges 450 priests of the pagan god Ba'al to summon fire on an altar stacked with dry wood so they can make a sacrifice that will end the drought the nation has been suffering. After they fail, he has them soak the wood with water, prays to the Lord, and the Lord ignites the fire. Soon, the drought is over.

This account is inspiring, but the next episode of Elijah's story in 1 Kings 19 may have even more to offer us in terms of both challenge and comfort.

Thoroughly embarrassed by Elijah's putting her priests to shame, Jezebel sends her men to kill the prophet, and he flees into the wilderness. Eventually, he makes his way to a cave on Mount Horeb, where the Lord spoke to Moses. Exhausted, dispirited and feeling utterly alone, he prays for the Lord to take him. The Lord sends an angel to feed him and strengthen him, and when he is stronger, the angel calls him to look outside the cave.

Outside, Elijah witnesses a wind so strong that it tears up the mountainside, then an earthquake and finally a great fire. But the Lord is not in any of these. Finally, the Lord comes to Elijah in a "still small voice" (v. 13). The Lord tells Elijah that he has more work to do and that – no matter how isolated he has felt, he has never been alone in his faithfulness to the Lord.

"Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel," the Lord tells him, "all the knees that have not bowed to Ba'al, and every mouth that has not kissed him" (v. 18).

This passage assures us that God's will will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We may not experience the signs of earthly power and success in our own lives – the might of the wind, the force of the earthquake, the destructive power of the fire – and, in fact, we may be struggling. But the Lord might be found instead in the stillness, the quietness and humility we find in our Lord Jesus Christ. In Him, we are never alone.

It can be a challenge to hold onto this faith when life is personally difficult for us. It's tempting to look for some other powers – some modern equivalents of the thunder god, Ba'al – but the only real power they have is to dominate, not to heal. So we hold onto our faith in the true God, who showed Himself most perfectly in the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus and whose is truly the Lord of all.

May God give us strength to hold onto this faith always.

St. Nicholas Servants**2024 PARISH COUNCIL**

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CHURCH SCHOOL Director

Lexie Dendrinelis- sgnoccchurchschool@gmail.com

WEBSITE

Christina Stamelos 314-402-4996

**VOLUNTEER and join the FUN!**

Saturday, July 20

Shift 1 - 10:30-2:45

Shift 2 - 2:45-7:15

Sunday, July 21

Shift 1 - 10:30-2:00

Shift 2 - 2:00-5:30

To sign up, please contact:

Demi Holt - demi.holt@att.net
See you there!



MISSION TEAM ST. LOUIS INVITES YOU TO

TRAVEL THE SOUTH PACIFIC

A TASTE OF ORTHODOXY IN OCEANIA

FIJI • TONGA • SAMOA • NEW ZEALAND

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024

Vespers at 5:00 p.m. | Check in at 5:30 p.m.
 Pacific Islands Jamboree from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

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

For questions contact:

Mission Team St. Louis at MissionTeamSTL@gmail.com
 Or Elaine Drikakis at elained@ocmc.org

For more information go to:

OCMC.org/MissionTeamStLouis

President's Message- July 2024

Dear St. Nicholas Parish Family,

“...a time for every purpose under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1”

There is “a time for every purpose,” as the verse from Ecclesiastes instructs us: “...a time to plant, a time to reap....” the challenge is to appropriately distribute our time to the various purposes that make claims on it and to make the most of God’s great gift of time. The most personal, most appreciated and most unique gift that you can give is the gift of time – Your time. Those treasured hours that only you can spend. Depending on your profession, your time may be extremely valuable. But the time you give to another person and the Church is priceless. As Christians it is also important to value the time we spend at church, in worship, service and activities. Every member of the Body of Christ plays a role, according to their gifts, in the life of our St. Nicholas Church. Thank you for being a contributing steward of our parish by sharing your time to serve.

Please assist us to continue our good works at St. Nicholas by ensuring that your 2024 Stewardship Pledge Form has been completed.

Thank you to Fr. Doug, Fr. Michael and our Youth Leaders for planning summer ministries and activities for our children. Parents, I encourage you to have your children participate in the upcoming camps, Greek dancing and Festival volunteer opportunities. These are opportune times to build lifelong friendships and memories!

The Parish Council, along with our physical facilities committees, work hard to maintain both buildings – St. Nicholas Church and the Family Life Center. You will continue to see projects in motion at our facilities. If you have any questions regarding the progress of a specific project, please contact Helen Carey or me.

Festival prep is in full swing! There are several volunteer opportunities throughout the summer. All are welcome, no experience necessary, we’d love to see you. Please support the Taste of the Greek Festival this month by volunteering your time. And it’s not too early to sign up for the Greek Festival over Labor Day Weekend. It takes all of us coming together to host the best ethnic food festivals in the area.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me any time.

May God continue to Bless all of us!

Best regards,

Carol Kamburis





Taste of the GREEK FESTIVAL

July 20-21, 2024

Saturday
11am to 7pm

Sunday
11am to 5pm



Come join us for the annual
Taste of Greek Festival

Authentic Greek Food | Delicious Pastries | Greek Beer & Wine
Live Music | Dance Performances
Free Admission | Free Parking

St. Nicholas Family Life Center
12550 South Forty Drive, St. Louis, MO 63141

opastl.com



Dear St. Nicholas Family & Friends

We are gearing up for our Annual Labor Day Festival and Taste of the Festival in July. We need your continued support with volunteering your services, even if its only for an hour or two. Last year we had a great response from our young adults – many thanks for their help! We hope you can join us again in continuing to learn the skills of our parents and grandparents.

Please feel free to contact a member of the Festival Food Team with questions regarding the schedule.

Thanks,

Chris Anastas, Teddy Hart, Peggy Pierroutsakos & Dianne Zotos
Festival Food Team

July –

Monday, 7/08 at 8:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Koulouria 1st Batch

Friday, 7/12 at 9:00 a.m. – Family Life Center – Taste of the Festival Prep (Tzatziki Cups/Cut Baklava)

Tuesday, 7/16 at 9:00 a.m. – Family Life Center – Taste of the Festival Pastry Prep

Wednesday, 7/17 thru Friday, 7/19 – Family Life Center – Taste of the Festival Kitchen Prep

Monday, 7/29 at 8:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Koulouria 2nd Batch

August –

Friday, 8/02 at 8:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Saganaki Prep

Monday, 8/05 at 8:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Kourabiedes

Friday, 8/16 at 9:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Cut Baklava/Crumble Feta/Walnuts

Monday, 8/19 at 8:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Pastries Assembly

Wednesday, 8/21 at 8:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – If needed finish Pastries

Friday, 8/23 at 8:30 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Tzatziki Cups

Wednesday, 8/28 at 9:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Chickens Prep

Friday, 8/30 at 8:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Salads Prep

Saturday, 8/31 at 8:00 a.m. – St. Nicholas – Salads Prep





St. Nicholas GREEK FESTIVAL Labor Day Weekend

Saturday
11am to 8pm

Sunday
11am to 8pm

Monday
11am to 5pm



Come join us this Labor Day weekend!
107th Annual St. Nicholas Greek Festival
Authentic Greek Food | Live Music | Dance Performances
Church Tours | Gift Shop
Free Admission | Free Parking

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

opastl.com

BE INVOLVED... VOLUNTEER



WE NEED YOU TO....

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

LABOR DAY WEEKEND GREEK FESTIVAL

“A ST. LOUIS TRADITION”

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

CONTACT...

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

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

-OR-

ASK US HOW TO SIGN-UP ONLINE!

Opportunity to Support the Greek Festival 2024

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

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

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

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

ONLINE FESTIVAL DONATIONS

WWW.SNGOC.ORG





GREEK FESTIVAL GUEST CHECKS

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





We Magnify You !

Mary helps us come closer to God
St. Nicholas Vacation Bible School

July 29-August 2, 2024
9 am - Noon

St. Nicholas Family Life Center
12550 South Forty Drive
St. Louis, MO 63141
314-361-6924

\$25 fee



**Register
Here**



For more information please contact
your church office
314-361-6924
ldanko@sngoc.org



HELLENIC CULTURE CAMP

St. Nicholas Family Life Center

August 5-9, 9 am - 4 pm
(drop off at 8:30)

Grades 1-8 in Fall of 2024

Fun Activities include:
Orthodox Faith
Greek Cooking
Geography/Mythology
Greek Dancing
Greek Language
Arts & Crafts
Sports & Games
Field Trip to Vetta Sports

\$150 for first child, \$100 for each additional child
(Financial assistance is available)

For questions or to volunteer please contact:
Tania Scarpino 314.255.3262 - helleniccamp@gmail.com

To register online, please visit
>sngoc.org >RESOURCES & EVENTS >Parish Events & Activities
>St. Nicholas Hellenic Culture Camp



REGISTER
HERE



Junior Olympics

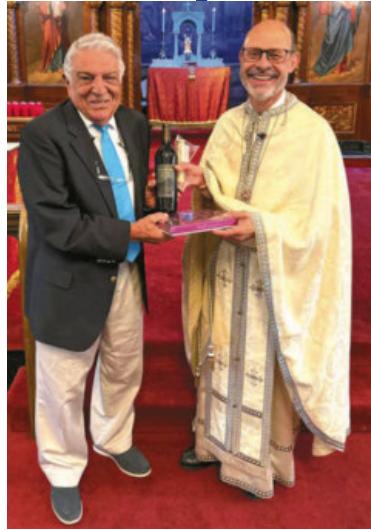
May 24 - May 27



Men's Steak and Stogie Night to benefit



Father's Day



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, July 9 at 7 pm via Zoom**.

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

For the Zoom link and for any questions, please contact:
Gracie Livaditis at glivaditis251@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome!

Congratulations to the 2024 St. Nicholas Scholarship Recipients



Linda Katsiyiannis
Zagreles-Greles Scholarship

Markella Souris
Leo & Helen McDermott Scholarship



St. Nicholas Dance Troupe Schedule Beginning June 23 at the FLC

Every Sunday-Adults
3 pm - 4 pm

Questions?
Contact Demi Holt:
demi.holt@att.net

Every Tuesday
6-12 years 5:30 - 6:00 pm
13-18 years 6:00 - 7:00 pm

The St. Louis Metropolitan Committee invites you to its

22nd ANNUAL IOCC BANQUET

Sunday, September 29, 2024

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

ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY LIFE CENTER
12550 South 40 Drive | St. Louis, MO 63141

Tickets \$40 per person
2 tickets included with
all donations over \$500

Registration required
by September 22

iocc.org/stlouis

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

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

Questions? Contact
Diane at 314-966-2255.



22nd ANNUAL IOCC BANQUET | SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

_____ Ticket(s) (\$40 per person)

Grand Benefactor (\$5,000+) *includes 2 tickets*

Patron (\$300)

I am unable to attend, but please
accept my contribution: \$ _____

Benefactor (\$1,000) *includes 2 tickets*

Supporter (\$200)

Sponsor (\$500) *includes 2 tickets*

Friend (\$100)

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

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Parish _____

Diet restrictions: Vegan Gluten-Free Other _____

Dear St. Nicholas Parish Family,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2024: As of June 5 our current loan amount is \$1,005,625 Our monthly mortgage payment is \$25,500

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

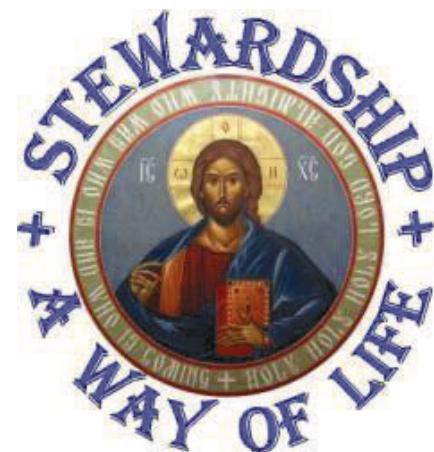
Sincerely,

Carol Kamburis, President

Ways to Give: Qualified Charitable Distributions

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows individuals who are 70½ years old or older to donate up to \$100,000 total to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distributions.

- It's a smart way for individuals who don't/can't tax benefits from their charitable donations.
- QCDs are not included in taxable income.
- QCDs satisfy RMDs without increasing adjusted gross income, thus lowering or eliminating Social Security benefit taxation, Medicare premiums, alternative minimum tax, 3.8% investment surtax and medical expense deductions, or being bumped to a higher marginal tax bracket.



If you have questions or would like to donate appreciated securities, mutual funds, or make QCDs, please contact the church office. We also recommend that you consult your Financial/Tax Advisors for additional information



MEMORIAL DONATIONS



CHURCH FUND

In Memory of John Ferris

Aaron & Kathy Hinni
 Aegeerter Family
 Alex Karagiannis
 Alexis Paspalas & Michael Bante
 Algonquin Golf Club/John C Welter
 Aristea Georges
 Bill, Linda & Katerina Nicozisin
 Chris & Popi Athanasiadis
 Craig & Mary Donis
 Dimitrios & Bessie Theodorou
 Dr. William & Fotina Shisko
 Ernie & Elaine Davis
 Ferris Family
 Frances Demetre
 George & Diane Ellis
 Gus Harris
 Harriet, Georgia, Merope & Peter
 Kastaris
 Harry Stratos
 Jim & Terry Demos
 Joe & Stacy McCullison
 John & Angela Koulouriotis
 John & Ellen Galanis
 John & Vicki Sioumcas
 Maria Xenos
 Nick Georges
 Phil & Christina Kirkou
 Sam & Maureen Mezines
 Sappington House Loft Gift Shop
 Sophia & Stephanie Chronopoulos
 Spiro & Barbara Karagiannis
 Stacy Neeser

MEMORIALS

- † 40 day memorial for Jeanne Tompras
- † 40 day memorial for George Papagianis
- † 40 day memorial for Mary P. Woodcock
- † 10 year memorial for Katherine Condaxis

BAPTISMS

Kennedy Rae Meyer, daughter of Clayton and Sarah Meyer, was baptized on June 9. Her Godparent is Dianna Birkby. Congratulations!

CHRISMATIONS

Duane Wilson was chrismated on Sunday, June 9. His Sponsor is Adonis Chakides. Congratulations!

WEDDINGS

Peter Lemakis and Amie Poole were married on Saturday, June 1. Their Orthodox Sponsor is Dr. George Ellis. Congratulations!

Jeffrey Powell and Kristie Smyrniotis Sissom were married on Saturday, June 8. Their Orthodox Sponsor is Nicholas Smyrniotis. Congratulations!

CHURCH FUND (continued)

Steve & Sandy Stratos
 Stewart & Sylvia Massad
 The Rotty Family
 Tim & Tammy Gera
 Trigona Maleas
 Vasiliki Nicozisin
 Vasiliki Stratos

In Memory of Jeanne Tompras

Mary Angelides
 Edward Jr & Susan Lynch
 Anthony & Sandra Kardis

In Memory of Thomas Kirkou

Paul & Bessie Karagiannis & Family

In Memory of Presvytera Sylvia Nicozisin

Mary Angelides

NEXT 100 CAMPAIGN

In Memory of John Ferris

Dan & Andrea Tarlas
 Dennis & Helen Carey
 George & Andrea Mezines
 Harriet Lontos
 John & Michelle Nicholas
 Kalliope Tsipos
 Kathy Tsipos
 Lou & Theone Politis
 Paul & Helen Leara
 Terry & Kathy Livaditis
 The Kamburis Family

NEXT 100 CAMPAIGN (continued)

Tim & Jeanne Pappas
 Tom & Christina Ginos
 Zac & Demi Holt

In Memory of Jeanne Tompras

Ron & Kathy Rogers
 Ann Zotos

In Memory of Nicholas Reynolds

John & Michelle Nicholas

In Memory of Bessie Dubis

John & Michelle Nicholas

In Memory of Presvytera Sylvia Nicozisin

Trigona Maleas

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

In Memory of John Ferris

George & Amy Kirkou

In Memory of Jeanne Tompras

Barry & Sharon Friedman

PRAYER SHAWL

In Memory of Jeanne Tompras

Nick & Becky Tharenos

In Memory of Presvytera Sylvia Nicozisin

Nick & Becky Tharenos

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In Memory of John Ferris

Frieda Perkins

May 26

June 2

June 2

June 9



July 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 <i>7 am</i> Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom	4	5		6 <i>10:30 am</i> <i>Adult Choir Practice</i> <i>at FLC</i>
7 <i>Second Sunday of Matthew</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church Fellowship Coffee Hour 3 pm Adults St. Nicholas Dance Troupe Family Life Center	8 <i>8 am</i> Koulouria Prep First Batch St. Nicholas Church	9 <i>7 pm</i> Orthodox Young Adults via Zoom	10 <i>7 am</i> Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom	11 <i>10 am</i> Kaféno Family Life Center	12 <i>8 am</i> Tzatziki cups / Cut Baklava Family Life Center	13 <i>10:30 am</i> <i>Adult Choir Practice</i> <i>at FLC</i>
14 <i>Sunday of the Holy Fathers</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church Fellowship Coffee Hour 3 pm Adults St. Nicholas Dance Troupe Family Life Center	15	16 <i>8 am</i> Pastry Prep Family Life Center	17 <i>7 am</i> Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom 8:30 am	18 <i>9 am</i> Taste Kitchen Prep Family Life Center	19 <i>9 am</i> Taste Kitchen Prep Family Life Center	20 <i>10:30 am</i> <i>Adult Choir Practice</i> <i>at FLC</i>
21 <i>Fourth Sunday of Matthew</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am DIVINE LITURGY at FAMILY LIFE CENTER  <small>July 20-21, 2024</small>	22	23 <i>5:30 pm</i> 6-12 Years <i>6:00 pm</i> 13-18 years St. Nicholas Dance Troupe Family Life Center	24 <i>7 am</i> Men's Fellowship Family Life Center/Zoom	25 <i>9 am</i> Taste Kitchen Prep Family Life Center	26 <i>9 am</i> Taste Kitchen Prep Family Life Center	27 <i>10:30 am</i> <i>Adult Choir Practice</i> <i>at FLC</i>
28 <i>Fifth Sunday of Matthew</i> 8:15 Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Church Fellowship Coffee Hour 3 pm Adults St. Nicholas Dance Troupe Family Life Center	29	30 <i>8 am</i> Koulouria Prep Second Batch St. Nicholas Church	31 <i>9 am</i> VBS - We Magnify You Family Life Center			

Thank you for supporting St. Nicholas

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