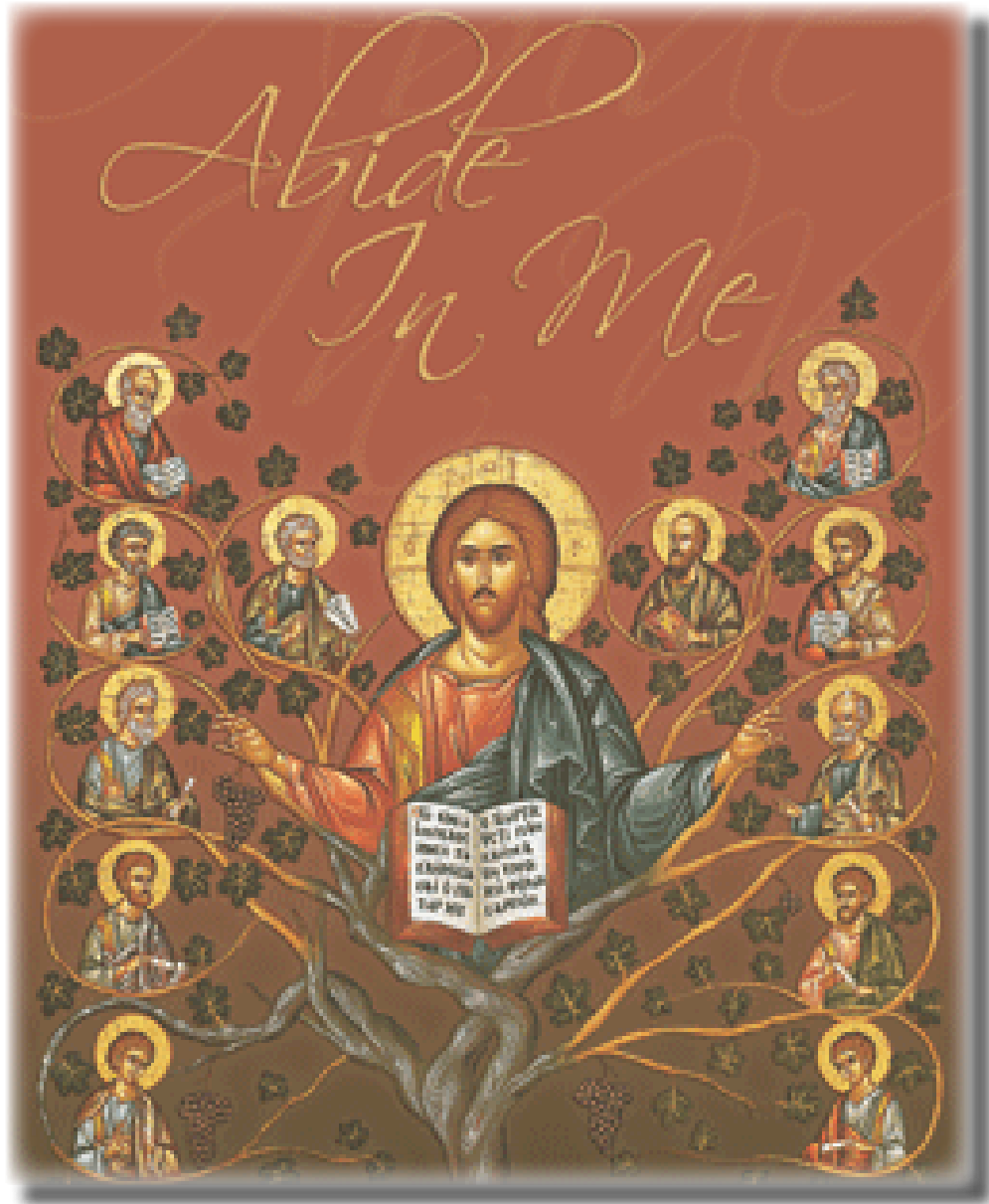


ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS
2011-2012
PARISH MINISTRIES



Sunday Worship Services

Orthros	8:15 am
Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

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St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church is a parish under the spiritual and ecclesiastical shepherding of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios, the presiding hierarch of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America under the jurisdiction of His All-Holiness, Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch.



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GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗΣ

November 9, 2011



**To the Parishioners of the Saint Nicholas Parish
In Lexington, Massachusetts**

Dear Brethren,

It is my great pleasure to greet you, the dedicated and faithful stewards of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Parish in Lexington, Massachusetts.

The second edition of the Ministry Booklet, prepared by Fr. Demetri Costarakis and his co-workers, serves to provide you with information of the many ministries and programs offered by the Parish in order to assist you in becoming more engaged and embraced by God and His love.

It is my sincere hope that the various organizations of the Parish will avail themselves of the breathtaking grounds of the Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook, New Hampshire. Brethren from throughout the world who have visited and conferred at the magnificent Retreat House have truly enjoyed the facility and the heartwarming hospitality during their stay.

May our Lord and Savior continue to bless you and your families with all good things.

With Episcopal Love,

**METHODIOS
Metropolitan of Boston**



Message from Father Demetri

Family, Friends and Visitors of St. Nicholas,

Once again, it is with great pleasure that we present our second ministries booklet, updating the information for each of our ministries and the many events, activities and gatherings planned for this year.

In just one year, we've seen many of our ministries grow! The Health & Wellness ministry sponsors monthly health walks and had its first speaking engagement; the Stewardship committee is focusing on offering useful information and resources to our stewards and community with monthly gatherings; our Food Pantry ministry has expanded its outreach; our Family Nights are always well-attended and our youth groups continue to grow and gather regularly.

As scripture reminds us, "Everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required" (Luke 12:48). This booklet highlights the existence of our thriving ministries, which are nurtured and made possible by our many active and participating parish family members.

I would like to thank Maria Decoulos and Leto Papadopoulos for helping organize all the information in putting together this ministry booklet. I also want to thank our parish photographers, Tony Gray and George Psyhoyos, for allowing these memories to be captured and treasured for years to come.

We hope that this booklet sheds light on the many things that take place here at St. Nicholas and that through your involvement in one or more of the many ministries, it offers ways for you and your loved ones to continue to be guided and come closer to our Lord.

With love in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Demetri", with a small cross symbol to the left.

Fr. Demetri



Message from Parish Council

Dear St. Nicholas Family and Friends,

On behalf of the Parish Council, we are excited to present the second edition of the St. Nicholas Ministries Booklet. One of the goals of this booklet is to provide a description of each of our St. Nicholas Parish family ministries.

It gives some insight into the activities and people who enable these ministries. There is also a section on the many ministries offered by the Metropolis of Boston. Another significant feature of the booklet is the inclusion of a 2011-2012 Ecclesiastical and Parish Calendar.

One will see ads throughout this booklet from businesses and parishioners who have contributed financially to support the production of this booklet and the many ministries of St. Nicholas. I want to express our gratitude to all of them on behalf of the Parish Council.

I hope that by reviewing this booklet, you and your family may find additional opportunities to become more involved, both spiritually and socially, with the St. Nicholas Family.

Bill Brown
Parish Council President

The Great Feasts of the Church

September 8	The Nativity of the Theotokos
September 14	The Elevation of the Holy Cross
November 21	The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple
December 25	The Nativity of Christ
January 6	Theophany (the Baptism of Our Lord)
February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple
March 25	The Annunciation
Sunday before Pascha	Palm Sunday
Great and Holy Pascha	Pascha
Forty days after Pascha	Ascension
Fifty days after Pascha	Pentecost
August 6	The Transfiguration
August 15	The Dormition of the Theotokos

Movable Ecclesiastical Dates

FEAST	2012	2013
Triodion Begins	February 5	February 24
Lent Begins	February 27	March 18
Saturday of Lazarus	April 7	April 27
Palm Sunday	April 8	April 28
Good Friday	April 13	May 3
Pascha	April 15	May 5
Western Easter	April 8	March 31
Ascension	May 24	June 13
Pentecost	June 3	June 23



2011-2012 ECCLESIASTICAL AND PARISH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER



September 1	First day of the Ecclesiastical Year
September 5	Labor Day (Office Closed)
September 8	Nativity of the Theotokos
September 11	Church School Registration
September 14	Elevation of the Holy Cross
September 16-18	"A Taste of Greece" Festival
September 18	First Day of Church School Classes and Agiasmo (blessing of waters)
	Church School every Sunday
September 24	First Day of Greek School Classes and Agiasmo (blessing of waters)
	Greek School every Saturday
September 30	1 st Family Night

OCTOBER



October 1	Metropolis Clergy Laity Conference Maliotis Center, Campus HC/HC Brookline, Ma
October 6	St. Thomas the Apostle Bible Study
October 10	Columbus Day (Offices closed)
October 12	Philoptochos General Meeting
October 13	Bible Study
October 17	Pampered Chef Party, sponsored by Philoptochos
October 18	St. Luke the Evangelist
October 20	Bible Study
October 21	2 nd Family Night
October 23	St. Iakovos, Brother of the Lord, Divine Liturgy of St. Iakovos
October 26	St. Demetrios the Great Martyr
October 27	Bible Study
October 28	The Holy Protection of the Theotokos (OXI Day)
October 29	Breast Cancer Awareness Discussion
October 30	Oxi Day program by Greek School Church School Fall Food Drive Delivery



NOVEMBER



November 1	Sts. Cosmas and Damian, the Unmercenaries
November 3	Bible Study
November 5	Philoptochos White Elephant Sale
November 6	Teaching Divine Liturgy
November 8	Archangels Michael and Gabriel
November 9	St. Nektarios of Pentapolis
November 11	Veterans Day (Office Closed)
	3 rd Family Night
November 13	St. John Chrysostom
November 15	Beginning of the Christmas Fast (Advent)
November 16	St. Matthew the Evangelist
November 17	Bible Study
November 20	Greek School Turkey Raffle
November 21	Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple
November 24	Thanksgiving Day
November 25	St. Catherine the Great Martyr
November 30	St. Andrew, the First-Called of the Apostles



DECEMBER



December 1	Bible Study
December 2	4 th Family Night - Gingerbread House Making
December 4	St. Barbara the Great and St. John of Damascus
December 5	Great Vespers in Celebration for the Feast Day of our parish Fellowship Event sponsored by Philoptochos
December 6	Feast Day of our Patron Saint, St. Nicholas of Myra Fellowship Hour sponsored by Philoptochos, GOYA
December 8	Bible Study

*** DATES AND ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK***

2011-2012 ECCLESIASTICAL AND PARISH CALENDAR

December 12	St. Spyridon the Wonderworker
December 15	Bible Study
December 18	Christmas Parish Orchestra and Special Guest Philoptochos Bake Sale
December 24	Christmas Eve NO Greek School classes Church & Greek Schools Christmas Play/Pageant
December 25	Nativity of our Lord
December 31	NO Greek School classes

JANUARY

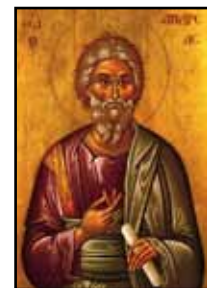
January 1	The Feasts of the Circumcision of our Lord & St. Basil the Great NO Greek School classes
January 5	Eve of Theophany (Blessing of the Lesser Waters)
January 6	Holy Theophany (Blessing of the Greater Waters)
January 7	St. John the Baptist
January 8	Vasilopita Sunday
January 12	Bible Study
January 17	St. Anthony the Great
January 19	Bible Study
January 20	5 th Family Night
January 26	Bible Study
January 29	Three Hierarchs and Presentation by Greek School & Church School

FEBRUARY

February 2	The Presentation of the Lord into the Temple Bible Study
February 5	Souper Bowl of Caring
February 9	Bible Study
February 10	St. Haralambos the Holy Martyr
February 11	Heart Awareness Discussion
February 16	Bible Study
February 18	1 st Saturday of Souls NO Greek School classes Apokriatiko Glendi and 6th Family Night
February 19	Sunday of the Last Judgment - Meatfare Sunday NO Church School classes
February 23	Bible Study
February 25	2 nd Saturday of Souls
February 26	Forgiveness Sunday
February 27	GREAT LENT BEGINS Great Compline
February 29	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

MARCH

March 1	Bible Study
March 2	1 st Salutation Service to the Virgin Mary
March 3	3 rd Saturday of Souls
March 4	1 st Sunday of Great Lent - Sunday of Orthodoxy Procession of the Holy Icons
March 5	Great Compline
March 7	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
March 9	Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts
March 15	Bible Study
March 16	3 rd Salutation Service to the Theotokos 7 th Family Night
March 18	3 rd Sunday of Great Lent - Holy Cross
March 19	Great Compline
March 21	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
March 22	Bible Study



*** DATES AND ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK ***

2011-2012 ECCLESIASTICAL AND PARISH CALENDAR



March 23
March 25

4th Salutation Service to the Theotokos
Feast of the Annunciation and Greek Independence Day
Greek and Church School Presentation

March 26
March 28
March 29
March 30

Great Compline
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
Bible Study
The Akathis Hymn

APRIL

April 1

5th Sunday of Great Lent - St. Mary of Egypt
GOYA Movie (following service)

April 7

Saturday of Lazarus Saturday/Folding of Crosses and Pancake Breakfast
NO Greek School classes

April 8

Palm Sunday

April 13

Great and Holy Friday
Retreat for Youth and Adults

April 14

Preparation of Kouvouklion

April 15

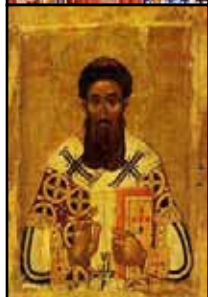
NO Greek School classes

April 16

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

April 22

Patriots Day
Sunday of Thomas
Godparent Sunday



MAY

May 6

Blood Pressure Clinic

May 13

Mother's Day

May 20

Church and Greek School Matriculation/Graduation Sunday
Parish Cookout Celebration and Activities

May 24

Ascension of our Lord

May 28

Memorial Day (Offices Closed)



JUNE

June 3

Pentecost Sunday

June 10

All Saints

June 17

Metropolis Ministry Awards Dinner

June 29

Father's Day

June 30

Sts. Peter and Paul

The Holy Apostles



JULY

July 20

Prophet Elias

July 27

St. Panteleimon

July - August
Dates TBA

Metropolis of Boston Summer Camp
St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center, Contoocook, NH
Metropolis of Boston Vacation Church School



AUGUST

August 6

Transfiguration of our Lord

August 15

The Dormition of the Theotokos

August 29

Beheading of St. John the Baptist



*** DATES AND ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK***

RESOURCES ON THE GREEK ORTHODOX FAITH

BOOKS


- Orthodox Study Bible
- The Orthodox Church by Katherine Clark
- Treasures of Orthodoxy by Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald (A series of pamphlets written for the non-Orthodox, especially those who are considering becoming members of the Orthodox Church and who wish to deepen their appreciation of her faith, worship and traditions.)
- Introducing the Orthodox Church: Its Faith & Life by Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris
- Life and Orthodoxy: A Creed for Today by Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris
- Encountering the Mystery, Understanding Orthodox Christianity Today by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
- What Every Orthodox Christian Should Know by Fr. George Nicozisin
- The Orthodox Church: New Edition by Bishop Kallistos Ware
- Philokalia, The Bible of the Orthodox Spirituality by Fr. Anthony Coniaris

WEB LINKS

- Daily scripture readings, lives of the saints, texts of liturgical services, and live broadcasts of liturgical services: <http://www.onlinechapel.goarch.org>. *Available as smartphone application.*
- Full-length, Emmy Award winning videos on Orthodox Christianity, audio of the hymnology of the Church, and virtual reality tours of Orthodox Churches: <http://www.goarch.org/en/multimedia>
- Daily calendar of saints, feasts, and fasting periods: <http://www.calendar.goarch.org>
- Extensive information about Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha in the Orthodox Christian Church: <http://www.goarch.org/en/special/lent>

PODCASTS

- Youtube.com web channel: Search “SaintNicholasGOC” for regular postings of sermons, Orthodox Life series and Teaching Divine Liturgies (more information can be found on church website.)
- Orthodox Christian Network: <http://www.myocn.net/index.php/OCN-Orthodox-Podcast-Channels.html>
- Ancient Faith Radio: <http://ancientfaith.com/podcasts>



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PATRON SAINTS



First and foremost one/all should pray to God, who is the source of all things. In the Orthodox Church, a patron saint is regarded as the intercessor and advocate in heaven of a nation, place, craft, activity, class or person. Since the time of the early Christians up to the present, a vast number of patron saints have been recorded. *Taken from Orthodoxwiki.org*

For a good end to one's life~Holy Archangel Michael (Nov 8), St. Niphon, Patriarch of Constantinople (Aug 11) **For animals and livestock**~Holy Martyr Mamas (Sept 2) Saints Speusippus, Eleusippus, Meleusippus: horses (Jan 16), St. George: cattle & herds (April 23), St. Modestus of Jerusalem (Dec 18), St. Parthenius of Radovizlios: cattle (Jul 21), St. Tryphon: geese (Feb 1) **For captives and court cases**~St. George the Great Martyr (Apr 23), St. Onouphrios the Great (June 12), St. Simeon the God-Receiver (Feb 3) **For care and protection of infants**~St. Stylianos (Nov 26) **For children**~St. Nicholas of Myra (Dec 6) **For church chanting**~St. John Koukouzelis (Oct 1), St. Romanos the Melodist (Oct 1) **For ears**~St. Spyridon the Wonderworker (Dec 12) **For eyes**~St. Lucia of Sicily (Dec 13), St. Paraskevi (Jul 26) **For finding employment**~St. Xenia of St. Petersburg (Jan 24) **For finding things**~St. Menas the Great Martyr of Egypt (Nov 11), St. Phanourios the Great Martyr (Aug 27) **For headaches**~Holy New Martyr Demas of Smyrna (Apr 10) **For help against quick temper and despondency**~St. Tikhon of Zadonsk (Aug 13) **For help in distress or poverty**~St. John the Almsgiver of Alexandria (Nov 12), St. Martin of Tours, the Merciful (Nov 12), St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (Dec 6) **For help in studies**~St. Justin the Philosopher (June 1), Three Hierarchs: St. Basil the Great, St. John Chrysostom, St. Gregory the Theologian (Jan 30) **For hernias and intestinal disorders**~Holy Martyr Artemius of Antioch (Oct 20), St. Artemius of Verkola (June 23, Oct 20) **For iconographers**~St. Luke the Apostle and Evangelist (Oct 18), St. John Damascus (Dec 4) **For marital difficulties**~Holy Martyrs Shamuna, Guria and Habib (Nov 15), Saints Peter and Febronia of Muron: also for newlyweds (June 25) **For mental disorders**~St. Anastasia (Oct 12), St. Gerasimos of Cephalonia: the possessed (Aug 16), St. Naum of Ochrid (June 20) **For patient endurance of affliction**~Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebastia: especially in freezing cold weather, Holy Forty-two Martyrs of Amorion, Righteous Job the Much-suffering (May 6), St. Eustathius Placidus & Family (Sept 20) **For physicians**~St. Panteleimon (Jul 27), The Holy Unmercenaries **For protection of crops from pests**~St. Gerasimos the New Ascetic (Oct 20), St. Michael of Synnada (May 23) **For protection of gardens against pests**~Holy Martyr Tryphon: also for hunters and Patron of Moscow (Feb 1) **For safe childbirth**~St. Eleutherios (Aug 4, Dec 15) **For soldiers**~Holy Archangel Michael (Nov 8), St. Barbara the Great Martyr (Dec 4), St. George the Martyr **For spiritual help, consolation and compunction**~St. Alexios the Man of God (Mar 17), St. Ephraim the Syrian (Jan 28), St. Seraphim of Arov (Jan 2) **For stone workers**~Holy Martyrs Florus and Laurus (Aug 18) **For teeth**~St. Antipas of Pergamum (Apr 11) **For the kitchen and home**~St. Euphrosynos the Cook (Sept 11), St. Juliana Lazarevskaya (Jan 2) **For the throat**~St. Blaise of Sebaste (Feb 11) **For trading**~St. Paraskevi (Jul 26) **For travelers**~St. Nicholas: in general, and specifically for sea travel (Dec 6), St. Niphon, Patriarch of Constantinople: for safety at sea (Aug 11) **For workers in hospitals**~Holy Unmercenaries, St. Dositheus, Disciple of Abba Dorotheus (Feb 19) **For young people**~Holy Great Martyr Demetrius the Wonderworker (Oct 26) **To have a child**~St. Anna, Mother of the Theotokos (Sept 9), St. Elizabeth, Mother of the Forerunner (Sept 5), St. Irene Chrysovolantou (Jul 28), St. Sabbas the Sanctified of Palestine (Dec 5), St. Symeon the Myrr-streamer, father of St. Savva of Serbia (Feb 13)

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"A TASTE OF GREECE" 2011



How does our parish function? How are we able to provide all the ministries that you will read about?

Through our many ministries at St. Nicholas, you will witness what the church becomes when everyone's time, talents and treasures are dedicated to the Lord's ministries. We are not maintaining ministries, but rather growing ministries that can only be made possible through all of our faithful.

If you are a visitor, we encourage you to participate in our worship and all our ministries. Our parish functions on the level of one's stewardship. We give to Christ and His Church not according to our means but according to our love for Him.

Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God. Come and see what we can do together with your support.

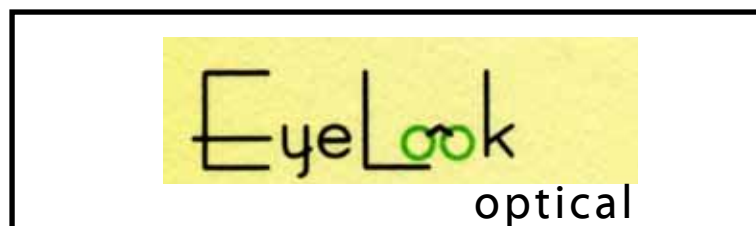
At the end of this ministries booklet, you will find a form that we encourage you to fill out and bring back to the church on Sunday, December 11, 2011. (sending it through the mail is fine, but we welcome you to bring it when you worship with us!)

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston Ministry Awards

Each year the Metropolis of Boston Ministry Award is given to an individual or couple who have shown extraordinary effort and dedication for the progress of their parish. Since the inception of this award program 25 years ago, a dinner banquet is also held to honor the services of these men and women. All the parishes under the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston gather to celebrate these individuals and witness the presentation of the Ministry Awards by his Eminence.

The Metropolis Ministry Award recipients from St. Nicholas:

1987 - Frank & Elaine Crosby	1996 - Andy & Nancy Vasilakis	2005 - Aspasia Mary Correia
1988 - Nicholas & Ann Damales	1997 - Peter Philliou	2006 - John & Amelia Yanakis
1989 - James & Effie Zisson	1998 - Bill & Pamela Brown	2007 - John & Felia Proakis
1990 - John & Nina Pantazis	1999 - Anesti Ghanotakis	2008 - Mark & Sandra Mimos
1991 - George & Mary Zarandis	2000 - Basil Vafiades	2009 - Emmanuel J. Rempelakis
1992 - Theodore & Christine Vallas	2001 - Robert & Stephanie DeVasto	2010 - Christopher Kokkinos
1993 - Efthemia Zervogolos	2002 - Frank Fotis	2011 - James & Maria Decoulos
1994 - Plato Spilios	2003 - Maria Neyland	
1995- Gus & Gloria Doukakakis	2004 - David & Monica Vafiades	

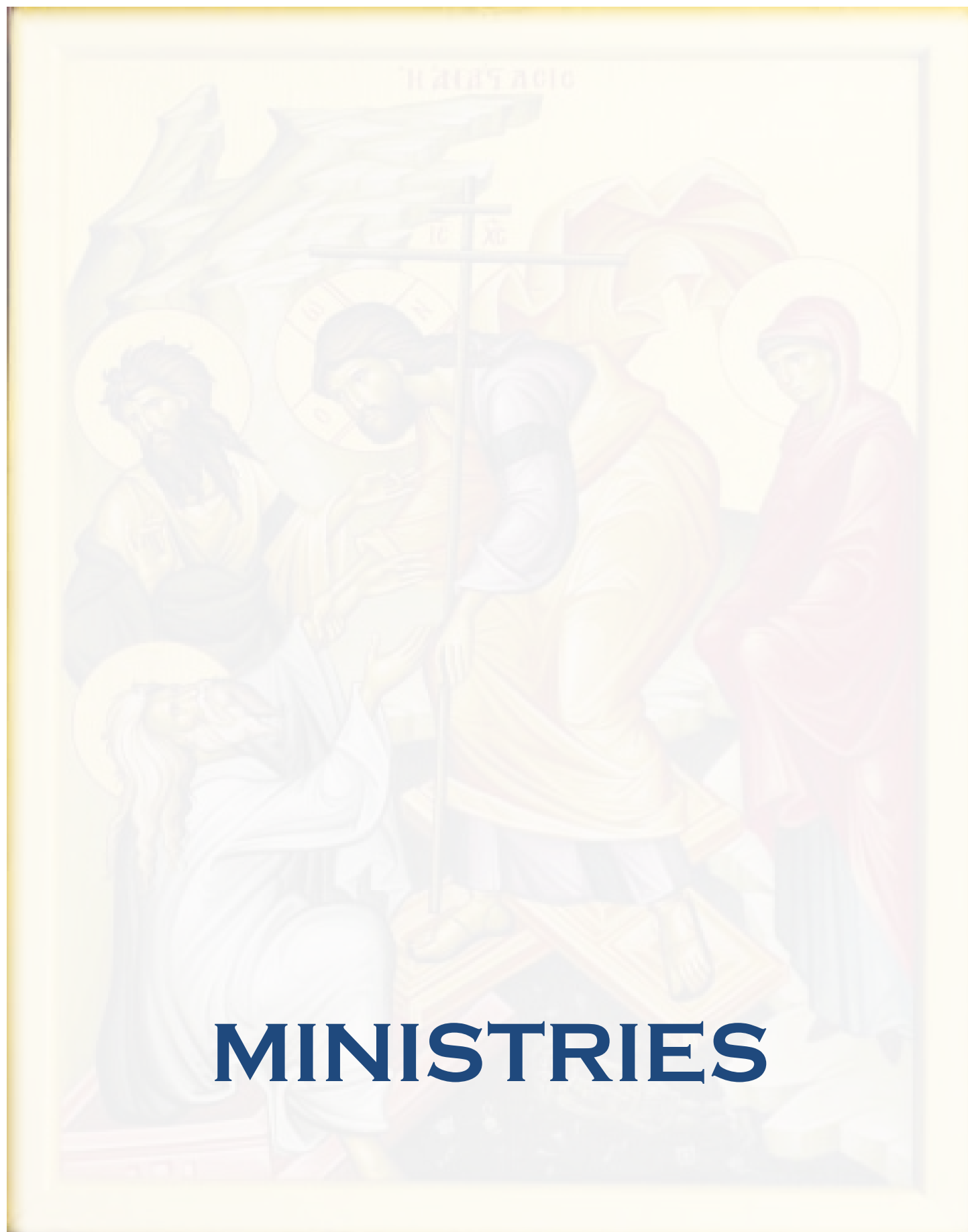


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Sat. 9:00-4:00



MINISTRIES

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH FAMILY NIGHT

"If we seek the things that are perfect, the secondary things will follow. The Lord says, Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you (Matt. 6:33). What sort of person do you think the children of such parents will be? What kind of person are all the others who associate with them? Will they not eventually be the recipients of countless blessings as well? For generally the children acquire the character of their parents, are formed in the mold of their parents' temperament, love the same things their parents love, talk in the same fashion, and work for the same ends. If we order our lives in this way and diligently study the Scriptures, we will find lessons to guide us in everything we need! "

-- On Marriage and Family Life by St. John Chrysostom

This will be our third year of continuing this wonderful ministry! Family Night allows all of our faithful to gather once a month as a family to enjoy fellowship, group activities and breakout sessions. The evenings begin with a potluck supper and followed by a group activity. Sometimes breakout sessions occur to discuss the message or theme of the night, (sessions are typically divided into HOPE/JOY, GOYA and adults.) It is a night in which our entire parish is called to gather and enjoy a family setting.

The gatherings are not limited to families with children.

2011-2012 Parish Family Night DATES

Start time is 6:30 pm!

- ✦ SEPTEMBER 30
- ✦ OCTOBER 21
- ✦ NOVEMBER 11
- ✦ DECEMBER 2
- ✦ JANUARY 20
- ✦ FEBRUARY 18
- ✦ MARCH 16
- ✦ APRIL
- ✦ MAY

...FAMILY NIGHTS!





ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH SCHOOL

Mission Statement

The purpose of this parish ministry is to allow the children and youth of our community to grow on the very foundation of our Orthodox faith. This program is a solid foundation that provides exemplary lessons in the teaching and worship practices of the Greek Orthodox Christian faith.

Church School Staff

Lower School Director: Lariza Panagioutou

Upper School Director: Leto Papadopoulos

The St. Nicholas Church School has a dependable volunteer staff who because of their personal commitment and love for Christ and His Church, serve as His directors and teachers.



Goals

- ✦ To encourage all students from toddler age to seniors in high school to participate in our Church School program;
- ✦ To make our Church School spiritually enriching for its students and to establish a stable Christian educational environment;
- ✦ To provide and present well-rounded and theological-based lessons, taken from the curriculum of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (www.goarch.org) and focusing on scripture, sacramental/liturgical worship and practice, prayer, and basic Christian awareness;
- ✦ To learn how to work together as a Christian family and working with others in our every day life;
- ✦ To encourage the practice of love and respect for all who come in contact with them;
- ✦ To provide the opportunity to learn about and practice true Christian stewardship.

Important Information

- ✂ All classes begin at 9:30 am with the Divine Liturgy. Students are encouraged to sit either with their family or with their fellow classmates in the front pews.
- ✂ At the time of Holy Communion, the Church School staff and the students come first to receive in order for them to proceed to their classes. In the hall, the children take a small snack and then are directed to the classroom area that is located downstairs.
- ✂ Children are provided with textbooks, handouts and other important resources which inspire Christian learning. The curriculum used by our Church School is taken from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America: www.goarch.org
- ✂ All children, whether belonging to St. Nicholas or visiting for the day, are invited to join the Church School classes.
- ✂ ***PLEASE NOTE*** THE FOLLOWING IS IMPORTANT TO PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN:
Parents with children in Grade 2 and under are requested to pick up their child each Sunday from the classroom upon completion of lessons.
- ✂ Students born 2007/2006/2005 (not yet in First grade) will be in the pre-k/k class downstairs with the wonderful teachers Mrs. Zervoglos and Mrs. Diorio. Students born in 2008 or younger will have a table set up in the hall with coloring supplies and/or small projects. This table will run by parents ONLY, no teacher will be assigned. Parents and students are responsible for cleaning up at the end.
- ✂ Please also visit our St. Nicholas parish website (www.stnicholaslex.org) for more information. Our church calendar is updated on a regular basis, in case dates have changed due to unforeseen situations. Please also visit the St. Nicholas Church School page for more help with home activities or messages from our directors and teachers.
- ✂ Information and updates from teachers may also be found on Facebook -- St. Nicholas GOC Lexington, MA.

Classes & Curriculum for 2011 – 2012 Church School Year

Pre-K and Kindergarten (Ages 2.9 to 4)

Teachers: Pattie DiOrio and Mandy Zervoglos



Textbook: God Loves Us ~ Love, which children so freely give and so naturally expect, is the basis for this program. Here, the materials discussed and presented build an effective, customized program for this age group.

Classes & Curriculum for 2011 – 2012

1st – 2nd Grades

Teachers: Monica Vafiades and Pam Vlahakis



Textbook: Loving God ~ This program concentrates on the theme of “Loving God.” Through examples of men and women of the Bible, and of our Saints, children begin to understand right, wrong and forgiveness in the light of God’s love. They also learn the importance not only of loving God unconditionally, but also of respecting other people, of taking care of the environment, of doing good in His Name.

3rd Grade

Teachers: Cassandra Garibaldi and Charlene Colt



Textbook: Growing with God ~ A programs devoted to helping children learn how to use and appreciate the Bible. Also introduces examples of living the sacramental life – attending services, fasting, praying, observing feast days, helping others, learning about the saints and the Church of Christ. After this program, children love the Bible, and know how to refer to it in times of doubt and fear. Contains words to hymns and songs.

4th – 5th Grades

Teachers: Alexandra Houck and Mary Royal



In this class students learn that worship goes beyond the Divine Liturgy and is an important aspect to a Christ-centered life. The Parables of our Lord and the following four sections are topics for the year: (1) Facing Up to Peer Pressure (2) Knowing Christ: Knowing Christ is Love. Knowing Christ is Truth. Knowing Christ is Peace. (3) Stewardship: Serving in God’s World. (4) Honesty: Honesty is a broad topic, but knowing the consequences of lying, cheating, and distinguishing right from wrong is essential for our youth and their spiritual growth.

6th – 7th Grades

Teachers: Daphne Papadopoulos and Nector Ritzakis



Textbooks: What Do You Stand For? For Teens, and Living the Liturgy Invites teens to explore and practice Orthodox Christian character traits such as honesty, kindness, empathy, integrity, tolerance, patience, respect and more. It challenges readers to think about, discuss, and debate positive traits. It offers group activities for them to explore what they stand for at school, at home, and in their communities.

8th - 9th Grades

Teacher: Danielle Xanthos
(Holy Cross theological student)

**10th - 12th Grades**

Teacher: James Tsikouris
(Holy Cross seminarian)



Textbook: Rejoice in One Lord Jesus Christ

The new CANA curriculum is designed to engage teenagers by showing them how Orthodoxy is applicable to their lives through a variety of pertinent, contemporary issues. High school students, separated into grades 8-9 and 10-12, are led by our experienced Holy Cross theological student and seminarian. They work closely with Fr. Demetri on the curriculum covered.

Additional Instruction

Each class will also discuss the following...

- ✦ Major Orthodox Holy Days: Great Lent, Great and Holy Week, Pascha, Advent and Christmas. Why we have them and what they mean...Lives of the Saints.....Various parts of Scripture.....Confession and Forgiveness.....Prayer



ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH SCHOOL PROJECTS

Church School Stewardship

Stewardship as we know is the ability to offer ones time, talent and treasure. We try to introduce the proper form of Orthodox Christian stewardship to our youth in order for them to grow into maturity as practicing Orthodox Christians. Our Church School students learn from a young age about the importance and value of true Christian stewardship. This does not solely focus on the monetary view of stewardship, rather it shows how one can become involved and support the church by their participation in events and activities. Each classroom has a monthly offerings collection.

Food Drives

Each year we collect non-perishable food items and monetary donations for those in need. The entire parish participates in these undertakings.

Open Houses

Starting this year, there will be two open houses, one in the fall and one in the spring. The one in the fall, "Meet and Greet" is where family members, relatives and friends will have the opportunity to visit the classrooms and meet teachers, classmates and others visiting. The second open house will take place during our parish-wide Oratorical Festival.

Teaching Divine Liturgy

We will offer a Teaching Divine Liturgy on the following Sundays: November 6 and spring (TBA.) This is a full Divine Liturgy during which we will pause periodically to explain the prayers and various aspects of the service. The Liturgy will be chanted primarily in English.

St. John Oratorical Festival

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides Greek Orthodox teenagers the opportunity to write and talk about their faith. The Oratorical Festival Program begins at the parish Level and is divided into two divisions; the Junior Division for students in the 7th to 9th grades and the Senior Division for teenagers in the 10th to 12th grades. This year, led by our Church School teacher Mary Royal, all of our Church School classes participate on some level in the Oratorical Festival. Whether drawing icons, writing poems, writing or chanting hymns, writing about our Lord and His Saints. There will be a few Sundays in which all will be able to see the talents of our young people in this wonderful Festival. Please visit <http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religious/sjcof> for more information.

St. Nicholas Orchestra/Santa's Visit, December 18

This year we will create a separate sing-along event led by the Greek School and our St. Nicholas orchestra. They will perform Christmas carols and kalanda. On this day, we have confirmed Santa's availability to pay us an early visit as well.

Christmas Pageant, December 24

Each year our children and young people participate in a reenactment of the Nativity (Birth) of Christ and sing traditional Christmas Carols. Since Christmas eve is on a Saturday, liturgy will start at 4pm and a new and improved Pageant will follow. We will have new costumes!

The Three Hierarchs, January 29

The youth from our Church School together with the parish Greek School present readings on the Three Hierarchs.

Souper Bowl of Caring, February 5

The students of our Church School participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring, which takes place on Super Bowl Sunday. The Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth-led, grass roots movement of caring, that utilizes Super Bowl weekend to mobilize youth of all backgrounds to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. Since 1990, \$33 million has been raised for charities across the United States of America. This program is led by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Procession of the Holy Icons on Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 4

Our youth along with all the Faithful of our community are asked to bring an icon from home on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, in which we remember and celebrate the restoration of the Holy Icons by the 7th Ecumenical Council. There will be a procession with the Holy Icons outside the Church (weather permitting.)

Feast of the Annunciation, March 25

On or around the time of March 25, our Church School and Greek School give presentations on the Feast of the Annunciation along with the celebration of Greek Independence.

Saturday of Lazarus, April 7

All students and their families are encouraged to celebrate The Divine Liturgy, enjoy a community breakfast, help prepare the palm crosses that will be given to all the faithful on Palm Sunday and to help beautify and prepare the Church for Great and Holy Week.

Great and Holy Friday Retreat, April 13

This retreat is for all the youth of our community to spiritually prepare for Great and Holy Pascha. We encourage our entire parish to participate. Also, if needed, a letter can be provided from the church office to excuse a student from school.

Myhrr-bearing Girls at Great Holy Friday Service, April 13

Girls in grades 2-6 are invited to represent the myhrr-bearing women who were at the tomb of Christ on Great and Holy Friday. The girls participate in the Vespers of the Apokathelosis and during the evening service. During the evening service, the girls stand around the Kouvouklion/Epitaphion with flowers and participate in the procession of the Epitaphion as it is carried outside the Church.

Godparent Sunday, April 22

Godparent Sunday is a day set aside to remind ourselves of the meaning of our own Baptism, as well as to honor the great responsibility and blessing of being a Godparent. On this day, all students are encouraged to invite their Godparents to celebrate The Divine Liturgy together, receive Holy Communion together and to attend their Godchild(ren)'s Church School Class. Following the class, there is a Luncheon to honor all Godparents and their Godchildren. Godparent Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday of St. Thomas.

Graduation Sunday and Community Cookout, May 20

On this Sunday we will honor all of our students for their dedication and hard work for the year. We also acknowledge those who are graduating from high school and college. Following the awarding of certificates all are invited to enjoy fellowship during our Community Cookout.



ST. NICHOLAS ALTAR BOYS/SERVERS

It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve our Lord in the Holy Sanctuary. All boys entering the 4th grade are encouraged to serve our Lord as altar boys. This does not mean that this ministry stops at the completion of high school. We encourage men of all ages, who feel that they have a calling in serving Him in the Holy of Holies, to do so.

In serving our Lord, altar boys and servers are able to build off the true form of teamwork and servitude. Please encourage your son, grandson, father or grandfather to help serve Christ through this wonderful opportunity. This year we got new robes, which were displayed during Alumni Sunday!



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK SCHOOL

Mission Statement

The philosophy of the St. Nicholas Greek School is to offer a program to students from Pre-K to Level 7 that includes the teaching of the Greek language, Hellenic culture, history, and our Greek Orthodox faith by providing a learning environment that is supportive and structured to provide the best opportunities for each student to develop his/hers individual potential to the fullest.

Greek School Staff

Co-Directors: Lela Digenis and Gloria Dukakis

The directors and teachers of our school are dedicated fellow parishioners who have an extensive knowledge of the Greek language and Hellenic culture, and are inspired to instill this knowledge to our students in a loving and enthusiastic manner. They are trained educators who love children and have a desire to serve our community.



Goals

- ☉ To promote and teach Greek as a second language;
- ☉ To instill an appreciation and the importance of the Greek Language;
- ☉ To inspire in our students a sense of pride, love and respect for the Greek cultural heritage and the Greek Orthodox faith;
- ☉ To teach the major Feast Days of our faith;
- ☉ To stimulate students to perform at their highest level of achievement;
- ☉ To develop positive attitudes towards learning;
- ☉ To promote cooperative learning;
- ☉ To provide children with a quality education in a safe and loving environment;
- ☉ To maintain open channels of communications between school and home.

Important Information

- * Our school year begins on the third Saturday of September and ends on the last Saturday in May.
- * On the first day of school, Fr. Demetri blesses the children, staff and classrooms with an “Agiasmo” or “Blessings of the Water.” This is a great way to begin the ecclesiastical year.
- * Classes are held on Saturdays starting at 8:45 A.M. and ending at 12:30 P.M.
- * Length of instruction is 1 hour, 1 ½ hours or 2 hours depending on the age group of the children.
- * It is important that all classes begin promptly on time in order to provide the maximum instruction to all students.
- * Students are provided with textbooks, workbooks, supplementary materials and necessary supplies needed for their class
- * Our curriculum is enriched by additional Greek textbooks/workbooks, games, visual aid flash cards, Greek crossword puzzles, various wall posters displaying the alphabet, fruits, numbers, etc., as well as Audio CD’s.
- * The school calendar, along with each student’s class roster, is mailed to parents at the beginning of September.
- * Our school calendar follows the Lexington Public School calendar in which certain weeks are reserved for spring and winter vacations. Our school observes those weeks as well as our major religious feast days.
Example: Holy Week
- * Parents are encouraged to read our Greek School News published in the Church’s Monthly Bulletin as well as e-mails to parents to inform them of added announcements. Also, parents are encouraged to visit our St. Nicholas parish website (www.stnicholaslex.org) for viewing pictures of school events and/or other information.

Classes & Curriculum for 2011– 2012 Greek School Year

Pre-K and Kindergarten: (Ages 4 & 5)

Textbook: Το Πρωτο μου Βιβλίο Pre-School Reader with Workbook - Papaloizos Publications

Textbook/Workbook: Το Πρωτο μου Βιβλίο First Grade Primer – Papaloizos Publications

Learn the Greek alphabet and the sound of each letter; read and speak words through syllabication; complete each Workbook lesson with the aid of the teacher. Learn to: count from 1 to 20, the different colors, the different fruits, the different animals, the different body parts, the days of the week, the daily greetings (good morning, good night, hello, good-bye, thank you, please, yes, no) and several basic children’s songs. A 15-minute period is set aside for story time, children songs, games, and other “fun” activities suitable for the age of these young children.

Level 1 (Age 6)

Textbook: Αλφαβηταριο – Level 1 with Workbook - Papaloizos Publications

Review basic information learned from the previous year. Learn to write the Greek alphabet from memory; how to follow and read the weekly lesson with the teacher; and how to read the lesson independent of the teacher. Learn the vocabulary words presented in each lesson and how to copy them. Learn the Greek Articles – Singular and Plural, **Example:** (ο πατερας, οι πατερες, η μητερα, οι μητερες, το παιδι, τα παιδια). Learn Gender – Masculine, Feminine and Neuter **Example:** (ο ουρανος, η θαλασσα, το ψαρι) Learn possessive pronouns, **Example:** (μου, σου, του, της, μας, σας, τους–το βιβλίο μου, etc.) Learn to complete each Workbook Lesson with the help of the teacher Learn to count to 50.

Level 2 (Ages 7 & 8)

Textbook: Τα Παιδια της Γειτονιας Level 2 with Workbook - Papaloizos Publication

Review basic information learned from the previous year. Learn to respond in Greek; follow and read the weekly lesson with the teacher; read the lesson independent of the teacher. Learn: double vowels. **Example:** (αι, οι, ει, ου, αυ); double consonants **Example:** (μπ, ντ, γκ, τζ, τς, γγ); action verbs, and vocabulary words in each lesson. Learn to write vocabulary words from teacher's dictation without the aid of the book; auxiliary verbs **Example:** (εγω, εσυ, αυτος, αυτη, αυτο, εμεις, εσεις, αυτοι); first conjugation verb παιζω in the present, past and future tenses. Learn to recite oral sentences using παιζω in the present, past and future tenses **Example:** (Εγω παιζω μπαλλα με τον φιλο μου). Learn to complete each Workbook Lesson independent of the teacher. Learn to count to 100 and to sing several patriotic songs.

Level 3 (Ages 9-10)

Textbook: Μια Ελληνικη Οικογενεια Level 3 with Workbook

Papaloizos Publication



Review basic information from the previous year. Improve reading, writing and speaking skills; continue to respond in Greek. Learn the endings to masculine, feminine and neuter nouns; continue with first conjugation verb παιζω in the present perfect, past perfect, past continuous, and future continuous tenses. Learn to recite oral sentences using the above tenses to verb παιζω. Learn adjectives; to tell time in Greek; to write a simple and short one-paragraph composition; to use the Greek/English Dictionary; to complete Workbook assignment without the aid of the teacher. Learn the "Lord's Prayer" (Πατερ Ημων) in Greek and the Greek national anthem.

Level 4 (Age 11)

Textbook: Ιστοριες και Μυθοι Level 4 with Workbook

Papaloizos Publication

Review Group I Verbs; learn Group II Verbs – all tenses; and learn to read weekly textbook lesson with ease. Learn: the months of the year and the four seasons. Learn the past tense of the verb Ειμαι; the possessive case of words **Example:** (ο μαθητης – του μαθητη, η πολη – της πολης ,το βουνο – του βουνου. Learn to read the Nicaean Creed (Πιστευω) in Greek and about the major Religious Feast Days of our Church **Example:** The Three Hierarchs, the Annunciation of the Theotokos, Easter, the Dormition of the Theotokos, the Elevation of the Holy Cross, Christmas, etc.). Learn to count by groups of 100's to 1,000 **Example:** (100, 200, etc.) and learn Modern Greek Geography.

Levels 5 & 6 (Ages 12 & 13)

Textbook: Η Ξαδελφη Μου Στην Αθηνα Level 5 with Workbook

Textbook: Τριαντα Μερεις στην Ελλαδα Level 6 with Workbook

Papaloizos Publication

Learn to read, understand, write and converse with ease in Greek; review Group I and 2 verbs; learn Group 3 verbs – all tenses; review Greek geography. Learn Greek Mythology; modern history of Greece and learn to compose short essays without difficulty.

Levels 7 & 8 (Ages 14 & 15)

Textbook: Ο Κηριος Γιαννης Level 7 with Workbook

Textbook: Απο τα Διαμαντια της Ελληνικης Λογοτεχνιας Level - Papaloizos Publication

Learn to read, understand, write and converse with ease in Greek; learn to read short Greek articles from periodicals and newspapers. The main emphasis of this class is to prepare students for their **Comprehensive Greek**

Achievement Examination, which assesses their proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing Modern Greek.

This exam comes in three levels and is given at the end of each year at one of the Boston Metropolis schools. If the student meets success in passing the exam, it is our understanding he/she is awarded three language credits at a school of higher learning and an opportunity to work in any government office in Greece. This year, students in the advanced class have taken **Level A** (Επιπεδο Α) of the exam. They will now prepare for **Level B** (Επιπεδο Β) of the exam.

✦ All Papaloizos Textbooks are accompanied with Lesson Exams

Additional Textbooks:

Our school has other enrichment books:

Let Us Learn Greek are three great resource books geared for the Pre-School and Kindergarten classes.

Μαθαινω Ελληνικα is an excellent series from Levels 1 to 6, published in Greece and sent to us from the Greek Consulate in New York free of charge. This series is a textbook/ workbook combination in one.

Παιζω και Μιλω and Γραφω και Διαβαζω are also sent to us from the Greek Consulate in New York.

Πες το Ελληνικα – Published in Patras, Greece is another great series from Levels 1 to 6, which offers additional material to the teachers.

*** All of our books--main and supplementary--are geared for students learning Greek as a second language. The exception is: Η Γλωσσα Μου. This series is a little more difficult since it is geared for children who live in Greece and Greek is their first language.



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK SCHOOL EVENTS

September 24th – “Agiasmo” by Father Demetri to bless the students, staff and classrooms on first day of school.

October 30th: “Oxi” Day This day commemorates the spirit of the freedom-loving Greeks when on October 28, 1940 they denied the Axis Powers free passage through Greece in order to occupy countries in the Eastern part of the Mediterranean and the Balkans. On this day, our School has a short program in Church remembering this very important historic day. Also, our school is represented at the Metropolis level in a special program sponsored by the Greek Federation of New England and the Greek Consulate.

November 20th: “Turkey Drawing” This fundraiser is one of two for the year for our school in order to defray the cost for the purchase of additional books and needed supplies. Two gift cards from Wilson Farm/Whole Foods are presented to the winners the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving Day when the drawing takes place.

December 18th: Kalanda Sing-along Following the Divine Liturgy, there will be a sing-along program of Greek kalanda and Christmas songs. The St. Nicholas orchestra will be accompanying us and Santa Claus may pay us a visit. (The St. Nicholas Church School will be re-enacting the Nativity of Christ at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Christmas eve. Everyone is welcome.)

January 29th: The Feast Day of the Three Hierarchs & Greek Letters The Greek and Church School students recite the lives of these great saints of our Church. Our Greek School is also represented at the Metropolis level for this event. This religious holiday is also known as **Greek Letters’ Day**. **Coffee Fellowship** is co-hosted by both schools on this day.

February 11th: Apokriatiko Glendi This event is our second fundraiser of the year. The Glendi is open to the entire community, which is a great family gathering for all ages to enjoy an evening of fellowship, food and music from a D.J. for our dancing enjoyment before Great Lent begins. As in every year, a donation from this event is made to our Church. Our St. Nicholas Dance Groups entertain us with their many Greek folk dances.

March 25th: The Feast Day of the Annunciation & Greek Independence Day Celebration This dual religious and patriotic day is celebrated along with the Church School. Though the true celebration is on the 25th of March, it is usually celebrated on the closest Sunday to that date. The children from both schools explain the significance of both celebrations in Greek and English. On this day the Greek School students recite their poems, sing the patriotic songs and dance their Greek folk dances. In addition, our Greek School participates on the Metropolis level. **Coffee Fellowship** is co-hosted by both schools on this day.

April Sometime in April, our community—young people and adults alike—march in the **Boston Parade**. The Friday prior to the Parade, there is a celebration to commemorate Greek Independence Day at the **State House** in which many dignitaries are present. Our Greek School is represented by dancing their Greek Folk dances.

May 20th: Graduation Sunday and Community Cookout This particular Sunday, the children from both schools received their Promotional Certificates/Graduation Diplomas at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. A Community Cookout follows the awards in which everyone enjoys the day.



ST. NICHOLAS DANCE GROUP

Dance Instructor: Daphne Papadopoulos

As part of the enrichment curriculum for the St. Nicholas Greek School, the children also participate in instruction of Greek folk dancing.

We encourage other children from the community to join our dance groups. Our groups are comprised of a group for younger children and one for the older children. Dancing practice takes place on Saturday mornings. Both groups participate by dancing at the following gatherings:

- ✦ Apokriatiko Glendi
- ✦ The 25th of March Greek Independence Day Celebration
- ✦ Our Greek Festival
- ✦ At the State House
- ✦ St. Nicholas Greek School Graduation exercises

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40 TO 4

Advisor: Gloria Costarakis

Mission

40 to 4 is a playgroup for children to develop social, creative and spiritual character from infancy (40 days) to toddler (four years). The gatherings of this group provide fellowship for both the children, as well as the parents. Meetings take place either in the kindergarten classroom at St. Nicholas or on scheduled field trips. Each session begins with prayer, followed by a brief lesson on our Faith and circle time or a small craft. On Family Night, 40-4 meets at 5pm then join in the potluck family night dinner.

Please check Facebook, church website and weekly bulletins for meeting dates or see Father Demetri or Gloria with any questions.



HOPE/JOY

Advisor: Cassandra Garibaldi

Mission

The mission and goal for HOPE/JOY is to lead children who are in elementary school into experiencing our faith together. By becoming active sacramental members of the living church and developing a relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, our youth will be equipped with the tools necessary to assist them in their journey toward salvation. By laying a foundation of faith at this age, the young people will have something to guide them as they continue through junior and high school. Gatherings take place once a month.

Please check Facebook, church website and weekly bulletins for meeting dates or see Father or Cassandra with any questions.

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GOYA

**Advisors: Alyssa Psychojos, Leto Papadopoulos,
Daphne Papadopoulos and Nector Ritzakis**

Mission

The Greek Orthodox Youth of America, or GOYA, is the ministry for teenagers (grades seven through twelve) of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

The mission and goal of the GOYA ministry is to lead our young people into experiencing the Holy Orthodox Faith. By developing a personal relationship with our Lord and becoming active sacramental members of the living church, our young people will be equipped with tools necessary to assist them in their journey toward salvation. The GOYA ministry team consists of the parish priest and dedicated volunteers from our community, who through their love and dedication, facilitate our young people on the path, which leads to Christ.

Please check Facebook, church website and weekly bulletins for meeting dates or see Father Demetri or advisors with questions.



PHOTO GALLERY





PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council members represent their parish and the Orthodox Christian faith. As leaders of the community, Parish Council members are on the front line and have a long-term effect on our parish. Serving on the Parish Council ministry is also a calling to represent Christ to all whom they meet in all aspects of life.

Mission

The mission of the parish as defined in the Uniform Parish Regulations – and therefore the mission of the Parish Council is “... to keep, practice and proclaim the Orthodox Christian Faith pure and undefiled.”

In the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, the rich man walked by poor Lazarus every day. The rich man didn't hate Lazarus – he just ignored him, committing the sin of indifference. The opposite of love is not hate. The opposite of love is indifference.

We have been blessed with great treasures of the faith and Lazarus lies at our gate. Lazarus is the visitor that walks through the doors of our church on Sunday morning. Lazarus is the non-Orthodox spouse. Lazarus is the lapsed Orthodox Christian visiting the parish after a long absence. Like the rich man in the parable, we often walk right by without noticing, as they eat from the crumbs that fall from our table.

If we believe that in Orthodoxy we have the fullness of the Truth, then we have the great responsibility – the Great Commission – to share it with everyone. As Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of ALL nations.”

Here at St. Nicholas, along with the parish priest, 15 dedicated stewards of our parish actively serve the everyday needs of our parish. Those who are currently serving through the year 2011 are:

William Brown, **President**

Dan Wouralis, **Vice President**

Evangeline Poupolo, **Secretary**

Michael Tanionos, **Treasurer**

Penelope Tzougros, **Stewardship**

Nector Ritzakis, **Finance Committee**

Christopher Kokkinos, **Asst. Treasurer**

Valerie Larsin, **Asst. Secretary**

James Decoulos

Kostas Daileanes

Anthony Gray

Marilyn Nichols

William Nimee

Pamela Schmidt

Michael Wilson

Avenue Deli

1806 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington

781.862.1806



ST. NICHOLAS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Advisor: Penelope Tsougros

This ministry involves the complete participation of each household that makes up our parish family. All are called to give their time, talent and treasures to our Lord and to His church. Through the Stewardship Ministry, we have had parish family gatherings over meals to talk about who we are and what we are called to be. This ministry has presentations and lectures, such as “What’s Your Legacy?” a panel discussion to discuss the critical steps one should take to protect loved ones and all their assets.

Please check Facebook, church website and weekly bulletins for planned activities or see Father Demetri with any questions.



ST. NICHOLAS TEEN AND ADULT CHOIR

“I will sing praises to the Lord all my life; I will sing praises to my God as long as I live.” Ps 103 (104)

Director: Efthemia Zervoglos

Going on its second year, our parish began a new ministry -- a ministry which involves love, service and chanting a joyful hymn to the Lord. Our adult/teen choir meets weekly to practice and learn traditional Byzantine music. This ministry allows one to see the rich tradition of sacred byzantine music and at the same time to be able to learn, understand and chant during the various services in the life of the parish. Since our worship is one of full participation, we welcome all of our faithful to join and be part of a beautiful ministry which chants to the glory of our Lord. **Choir practices are held on Wednesdays at 7pm.**



ST. NICHOLAS HEALTH & WELLNESS MINISTRY

Advisors: Judy Gray and Alyssa Psychojos

This ministry is dedicated and is focused on the physical, mental and spiritual health of our parish family members and friends. Throughout the year our Health Ministry Team will host various events, activities, presentations, lectures, discussions and clinics. Each month, a mile-long health walk is held right after coffee hour - join us!

Please check Facebook, church website and weekly bulletins for meeting dates or see Father Demetri or advisors with questions.



AGAPE ST. NICHOLAS SENIORS MINISTRY

Advisors: Gloria Doukakis and John Yanakis

This ministry group provides the opportunity for senior parishioners to get together with friends, meet new people, enjoy pleasant fellowships over coffee and pastry, as well as plan enjoyable events. These activities are meant to provide fellowship as well as be informative, interesting and fun.

Activities planned for the year: Lexington Symphony series at Cary Hall, Cary Lecture Series in Lexington, Metropolitan Opera at Burlington Cinema, Greek movies at St. Spyridon in Worcester; day trips to local literary locations.

Please check Facebook, church website and weekly bulletins for meeting dates .



LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY ST. IRENE CHAPTER

OFFICERS

President:	Pamela Brown
Vice President:	Maria Decoulos
Recording Secretary:	Stephanie DeVasto
Corresponding Secretary:	Mary Correia
Treasurer:	Stephanie Wilson
Assistant Treasurer:	Gloria Doukakis
Advisor:	Felia Proakis

Mission

Philoptochos is a national Greek Orthodox women's organization established 80 years ago to work through the parishes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese to assist those in need. Its expanded mission is to preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian concepts and the Orthodox Christian Family, and through them to promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and traditions.

For over 40 years, St. Irene's Philoptochos of Lexington has worked to assist those in need at the national, metropolis and local levels. We are also available to assist our beloved St. Nicholas Church community when we can. All women in our church over the age of 18 are invited to become stewards of Philoptochos.

St. Irene's Philoptochos presently consists of 78 stewards. Our Board of Directors consists of 17 elected members. For the period covering June 2011 – May 2012, the board list includes the following: Pam Brown, Charlene Colt, Mary Correia, Maria Decoulos, Stephanie DeVasto, Kathy Dimas, Gloria Doukakis, Pam Giannatsis, Evelyn Milona, Marcy Norse, Elena Proakis, Felia Proakis, Pam Saledas, Monica Vafiades, Christine Vallas, Stephanie Wilson, Amelia Yanakis.

Our Philoptochos chapter raises funds throughout the year to support 19 National Philoptochos commitments and three Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos commitments. St. Irene's Philoptochos has also contributed to the needs of St. Nicholas Church, and local charities including the Hellenic Women's Benevolent Association Radiothon, the Lexington Food Pantry, Project Bread, REACH, as well as others.

We believe in the strong values of faith and family and can be counted on to provide hands and heart to our parish whenever needed. If you are interested in supporting our causes, please consider joining St. Irene's Philoptochos.

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

EVENTS AND SCHEDULE OF DONATIONS

SEPTEMBER Annual collection for Hellenic College/Holy Cross (national commitment) – September 18 and 25.
Donation to Retired Clergy Benevolent Fund to support retired clergy facing financial problems (national commitment).

OCTOBER Donation to Cancer Fund and National Philoptochos Emergency Fund (national commitments.)

October 12 General Meeting

October 17 Pampered Chef event

NOVEMBER Annual collection for the Ecumenical Patriarchate (national commitment) in conjunction with the celebration of the feastday of Philoptochos Patron Saints Cosmas and Damianos in early November. Donation to the National Sisterhood of Presbyteres Benevolent Fund (national commitment.) Donation to Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage Center (metropolis commitment.) Presentation of Philoptochos report at St. Nicholas General Assembly – meeting date to be announced. Swearing in of new officers on a Sunday to be announced.

November 5 Rummage Sale

November 8 General Meeting

November 27 Christmas Holiday Luncheon –Lowell, Massachusetts, Sunday, 12:30

DECEMBER Decoration of church for Christmas Season – early December. Donation to UNICEF and General Medical Fund (national commitments.) General Meeting date to be announced.

December 5 St. Nicholas feast day celebration – Philoptochos hosting Fellowship Hour following vesper services.

December 6 Host Fellowship Hour for St. Nicholas feast day celebration.

December 18 Collection of Toys for local needy children. Our Annual Bake Sale.

JANUARY Annual collection for St. Basil's and Social Services (national commitments.) 2012 Stewardship Drive letter goes out to St. Nicholas community. General Meeting date to be announced.

January 8 Basilopita blessing

FEBRUARY Donation to Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards (FOS) (metropolis commitment.) Donation to Autism Assistance Fund (national commitment.) Tray collection for St. Photios Shrine (national commitment) date to be determined. General Meeting to take place only if necessary.

MARCH Donation to Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) (national commitment.) Tray collection for Hellenic College Holy Cross (national commitment.) 2012 letter requesting Easter flower donations goes out to St. Nicholas community. General Meeting date to be announced.

APRIL Donation to the Sisterhood to benefit needs of St. Basil's Academy children and graduation costs - (national commitment.) Donation to International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) (national commitment.) General Meeting date to be announced.

April 8 Palm Sunday Fellowship Hour

April 13 Decorate Kouvouklion for Holy Friday services

MAY Tray collection for Philoxenia House (metropolis commitment.) Donation to 75th Anniversary Founders Fund to support existing continuing care facilities for the aging Greek Orthodox population in the US (national commitment.) Presentation of Philoptochos Report at the St. Nicholas General Assembly Meeting – date to be announced. Tea Time hosted by St. Irene's Philoptochos – date to be announced. General Meeting – date to be announced.

May 6 Artoclasia in celebration of feast day of our Patron Saint – Saint Irene

JUNE Donation to Support a Mission Priest and Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) for college campus newsletters, etc (national commitments.) End of year Pot Luck Supper Meeting, date to be announced.

None of the above (meetings, events, collections, hosting of fellowship hours, etc.) could take place without the dedicated work of the active members of St. Irene's Philoptochos. It's amazing to see what's accomplished. We are always open to suggestions to better ourselves, and we are always prepared to welcome new active members with the desire and willingness to share their valuable time, knowledge and resources.



SHARING IN THE SACRAMENTS AT ST. NICHOLAS



ADDITIONAL ADULT MINISTRIES

Orthodox Life Series

This series will be four to five sessions/themes each consisting of four to five weeks. During Great and Holy Lent, a session will also be held. **Please check Facebook, church website and weekly bulletins for upcoming meeting dates or see Father Demetri.**

Bible Study

"We read Scripture, not as isolated individuals, but as members of the Church. Our 'Scriptural mind' is to be at the same time an 'ecclesial mind.' The Bible is the book of the Church, and so our decisive criterion when seeking to understand Scripture is always the mind of the Church. But how are we to discover this 'mind'? There is only one way: by observing how Scripture is used in worship, and how it is interpreted by the Fathers. Our approach to the Bible is both Liturgical and Patristic." Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia. Beginning in September, there will be a weekly one-hour bible study offered to the faithful of our community. We encourage those who are able to come for this hour (bring your lunch if it will be your lunch break) to learn more about the Word of God. We will begin with the Gospel according to John. We ask that you bring a bible with you for the study.

OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship)

In the greater-Boston area, our Metropolis supports an active campus ministry program at six area universities: Boston College, Boston University, Harvard University, MIT, Northeastern University, and Tufts University. Each school has its own student-organized OCF group that meets weekly. Students at Holy Cross Seminary are assigned to each school to lead the weekly discussions. Alumni from the various schools have been invited to serve on the OCF Ministry Team, which supports and guides the effort on each campus. A few times during the year the Metropolis coordinates a joint meeting of all the schools at which there is a guest speaker. There is also a Vespers Divine Liturgy and Dinner with Metropolitan Methodios at the Metropolis Center. For more information, please contact Fr. Demetri and visit the national OCF website at www.ocf.net

Chanters/Readers

"The music of the Church...requires in us a longing to know God and to possess a desire to behold Him portrayed in our song. It requires that we be true to Christ, for in singing and chanting we become witnesses (martyrs) to the truth." Dr. Constantine Cavarnos. Chanting the services of the Church, reading the Scriptures and prayers within the Church, is a great blessing and responsibility. Through our song and words, we imitate and join the angels in their unceasing praise of God; the heavens and the earth are united in our common doxology to the Lord. If anyone is interested in learning more about Byzantine hymnody and in assisting in this ministry, please contact Fr. Demetri.

Food Pantry

Non-perishable food items are collected on an ongoing basis. Throughout the year, the food items are brought to the Lexington Pantry, Project Bread, and other local charities. Volunteers are needed for this very important ministry. Please contact Fr. Pam Giannatsis is coordinating this important effort.

Website Ministry Team

The St. Nicholas website ministry is responsible for updating and maintaining the church website: www.stnicholaslex.org The church's monthly newsletter, calendar updates, parish news, and clergy letters are made available on the website. In addition, we handle any special requests to post pertinent information to the website. Please contact Fr. Demetri or Tony Gray for more information.

Hospital Visitations

Due to privacy laws, hospitals do not divulge information lists for Pastoral visitations as has been done in the past. Because we strongly believe in the importance of Pastoral visitations in hospitals, we need your help. When someone is admitted into a hospital, the administration will ask several questions about your religion and whether you want a priest to be notified of your admission. If the hospital does not ask these questions, then the family must request that they want visitations from their priest. The pastoral office of the hospital is then obligated to notify our church office with this information. Please help us and let others know of these new hospital visitation regulations. Also, please call our church office directly to inform our clergy of any hospitalizations.



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METROPOLIS OF BOSTON MINISTRIES

The Metropolis of Boston offers a variety of ministries for the Orthodox faithful. We are blessed to be guided by our special Father, His Eminence Metropolis Methodios. Listed below are some highlights. For more information on any of the Metropolis ministries, please contact the Metropolis office at 617-277-4742.

Metropolis Staff

Father Theodore J. Barbas – Chancellor, Mike Sintros – Director of Faith and Heritage Center.

Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle

The Metropolis of Boston invites all to the celebration of the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle and the patron Saint of our Metropolis Clergy. Great Vespers will be celebrated on November 29 at the Cathedral Chapel in Brookline. Orthros and Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on November 30. The Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos hosts a reception following services on both days at the Metropolis Center.

Ministry Awards Dinner

The faithful of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston, in grateful recognition of the dedicated men and women who serve our communities, gather as a family each year at this Ministry Awards Dinner. The Metropolis Award is bestowed annually to parishioners chosen by each community who have labored for the progress of the local Parish. Stewardship of time and talents is the basis for this Award. In addition, Metropolitan Methodios designates individuals who have labored many years on behalf of our Church and are outstanding examples of what it means to be Greek Orthodox.

Marriage Preparation Seminars

Our Metropolis continues to offer the Marriage Preparation Seminar to all couples planning to be married in the Church, as a requirement prior to their wedding. These seminars are offered at the Metropolis Center as well as in five other districts around New England. This program, which has been in existence for over 20 year now, is currently being used as a model by the Archdiocese for other Metropolis.

Radio Ministry

Every Sunday morning at 7:30 AM a sermon on the day's Gospel lesson is given by Fr. Kyriakos Saravelas in both Greek and English on the Greek Radio Station WNTN 1550 AM during the "Voice of Orthodoxy" program.

Chanter Classes/Group

Chanters classes are arranged through the Metropolis of Boston. For more information, please contact the Metropolis Office. You may also visit the Archdiocese "Learn to Chant" website page www.goarch.org/chapel/chant

New England Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs

The New England Federation of the Greek Orthodox Choirs is comprised of individual choirs throughout the Metropolis of Boston, a total of 63 parishes. Each member choir participates in a variety of musical activities and has a vote in ALL matters brought before the Federation Council. Officers are elected at the Fall Conference for a two-year term. The goals of the New England Choir Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs are to improve the spiritual and musical background of choir members, directors, organists, clergy, psalti, and the Greek Orthodox faithful; strengthen communication between choirs and clergy, hierarchy, and parish councils; encourage the development,

composition, publication, and performances of Greek Orthodox sacred and Greek folk music; offer workshops, choir institutes, and annual conferences to develop musical skills; and to institute a means of integrating the work of the member choirs in order to increase the interest and enthusiasm of the individual members. For more information, please contact Carol Salvo at bcjas@comcast.net

DOXA – Giving Glory to God

Our Mission is to provide religious educators the opportunity to grow as Orthodox Christians and fulfill their catechismal ministry in the life of the Church as they teach the Good News of Christ and the doctrines and traditions of Orthodoxy. “Make disciples of all nations . . .teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Our Purpose is:

- 1) To advocate religious education as an integral part of the worship and sacramental life of the Orthodox Church.
- 2) To advance the ongoing education and Christ-centered growth of religious educators.
- 3) To promote religious education as a lifetime process.
- 4) To provide a vehicle of communication among religious educators on the parish, Diocese and Archdiocese levels.
- 5) To advance the educational initiatives of the Archdiocesan Department of Religious Education.

Conferences are held in the fall and in the spring. For more information, please contact Fr. Andrew George at fr.andrew@annunciationri.org

Winter and Summer Camps

An opportunity for children and families to participate in fun activities and spiritual enriching time at the Metropolis camp site in Contoocook, New Hampshire - whether it's winter or summer. Family camp sessions allow everyone in the family to spend quality time together strengthening their relationship with Christ and each other. Summer camps for children provide the ideal environment to make new friends, reconnect with old ones and live out our faith through fun and fellowship. For more information, please see www.boston.goarch.org/youth_ministries/mbc





“ABIDE IN ME”

2012 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Confidential Stewardship Form Please bring this form to church on Stewardship Sunday, December 11, 2011

Last Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone _____ *Check here if home phone is unlisted* _____

Check here if you don't want your home phone number listed in parish directory _____

First Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Orthodox Christian? Yes No Birthday _____

Orthodox Christian? Yes No Birthday _____

Mobile Tel: _____ Nameday _____

Mobile Tel: _____ Nameday _____

Email: _____

Email _____

Occupation: _____

Occupation: _____

Preferred Method of Contact _____

Preferred Method of Contact _____

Wedding Anniversary Date _____

Child(ren) Information

Child's Name/Birthday/Nameday

1 _____ / _____ / _____ 2 _____ / _____ / _____ 3 _____ / _____ / _____

4 _____ / _____ / _____ 5 _____ / _____ / _____ 6 _____ / _____ / _____

Please indicate those areas in which you or a member of your family would like to contribute and participate in:
For married couples, please enter “H” HUSBAND, “W” WIFE, or “B” for BOTH, “C” for CHILD, “A” for ALL

LITURGICAL

- ☐ Sanctuary & Altar Care
- ☐ Altar Server/Boy
- ☐ Baking Prosforo
- ☐ Youth Choir
- ☐ Teen/Adult Choir

MINISTRIES

- ☐ Family Night
- ☐ 40 – 4 (Infant - Pre-k)
- ☐ HOPE (K - 2nd)
- ☐ JOY (3rd - 6th)
- ☐ JOY Basketball
- ☐ GOYA (7th - 12th)
- ☐ GOYA Basketball
- ☐ OCF College Campus
- ☐ Young Professionals
- ☐ Welcome Team
- ☐ Outreach
- ☐ Stewardship
- ☐ Fellowship Hour
- ☐ Visitations - Hospital
- ☐ Visitations - Shut-ins
- ☐ Visitations - Prisons
- ☐ Feed the Hungry

MINISTRIES CONT.

- ☐ Grief/Bereavement Support
- ☐ Disaster Relief Projects
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Project Mexico
- ☐ IOCC - Int. Orth. Christian Charities
- ☐ OCMC - Mission Center
- ☐ Agape - Seniors Group
- ☐ Couples
- ☐ Interfaith Couples
- ☐ Singles
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Military/Veteran
- ☐ Philoptochos

EDUCATION

- ☐ Church School
- ☐ Bible Study
- ☐ Orthodox Life Series
- ☐ Intro to Orthodoxy
- ☐ Guest Speakers
- ☐ Library
- ☐ Bookstore
- ☐ Greek School

COMMUNICATION

- ☐ Website Administration
- ☐ Weekly Bulletin
- ☐ Monthly Bulletin
- ☐ Public Relations

ADMINISTRATION

- ☐ Fiscal Management/Review
- ☐ Long Term Planning
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Computer/Networking
- ☐ Office Support/Mailings
- ☐ Legal/Estate Planning
- ☐ Capital Improvement

BUILDINGS/GROUNDS

- ☐ Gardening/Landscape
- ☐ Plumbing
- ☐ Electrical
- ☐ Clean-up
- ☐ Interior Repairs
- ☐ Exterior Repairs
- ☐ Snow Cleanup

Being aware of the ministries of St. Nicholas and how they can change lives and bring all closer to Christ, I/we are able to make the sound investment of support for the 2012 Stewardship Program with a commitment of \$_____.

“Come and See” God work through your talents, skills and experience, as well as your financial support.

Your offering to Christ and His Church can do as much as **YOU EMPOWER** it to do.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

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Abide in Me...