

From the desk of Fr. Matthew (Continued)

August

We celebrated the Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos and had a traditional Panagiri that offered us the opportunity to join together in prayer and fellowship.

September

We moved all of our Religious Education classes to the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, more than doubling the average classroom time for our Sunday School classes. We also started an adult bible study on Sunday morning before the Divine Liturgy which has been a big success and averages around 30 adults at 9:45 am on Sunday mornings.

In September we also welcomed His Eminence Metropolitan ALEXIOS to our community as we celebrated our annual Blessing of the Waters and Cross Dive to coincide with the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14).

October

Our Philoptochos organization held a Greek Dinner as a fundraiser and successfully raised money to help the poor and needy in Wilmington.

November

I directed our Metropolis' Advent Retreat and had the opportunity to interact with 100 teens from throughout our Metropolis. We had several teens from St. Nicholas participate, and we learned about how Jesus Christ is portrayed in modern society and how we as Orthodox Christians should portray Him to others.

Also in November we had Maria Stasios and Pantelis Miliotis represent our parish and receive the Archangel Michael Award in Atlanta for their service and dedication to Jesus Christ and His Holy Church.

December

We celebrated the feast of our patron saint, St. Nicholas, on December 6. We had visiting clergy for Great Vespers and the Divine Liturgy, and we also enjoyed fellowship following these services.

In December we also held our annual Christmas Program and our choir and young people put on a traditional Nativity play for our community.

Other important events this past year include a weekly Adult Education group which meets on Wednesday evenings and focuses on different spiritual books; a monthly Family Night on Wednesdays which is open to our entire community and brings us together for prayer, food, and fellowship; several visits from Fr. Grigorios Tatsis who offered the Sacrament of Holy Confession; A prayer service for our many Veterans; our GOYAns participating in Wreaths Across America helping to place Christmas wreaths on the graves of Veterans at Wilmington National Cemetery, as well as the many the many other meetings, activities, and events which occur on a weekly basis here at our parish

Fr. Matthew will begin house blessings for Epiphany in January. Please call the office to schedule an appointment if you would like your home to be blessed.