



METROPOLIS
OF ATLANTA

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

MARCH 2010

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

March 2010



ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS MARCH 25

608 SOUTH COLLEGE ROAD • WILMINGTON, NC 28403 • (910) 392-4444 • FAX (910) 392-4905

WWW.STNICHOLASWILMINGTON.ORG

Rev. Fr. Matthew Carter, Proistamenos

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Church Website: www.stnicholaswilmington.org

Office Phone: 910-392-4444

Office Fax: 910-392-4905

Fr. Matthew's cell phone: 910-685-5521

Office Email: stnicholaschurch@bellsouth.netFr. Matthew's Email: frmatthewcarter@gmail.com**2010 PARISH COUNCIL****Officers:**

Emanuel Miliotis (President)
 Angelo Fragos (Vice-President)
 Tina Bostic (Secretary)
 Barbara Reynolds (Treasurer)
 Dr. Ron Demas (Asst. Treasurer)

Members:

Debbie Rallis Alexandros Theodoropoulos
 Nick Saffo Irene Sotiriou-Vogiatzis
 Maria Stasios Dr. Sam Wiersteiner

CHURCH STAFF

Marie Reis, Office Administrator

PARISH MINISTRY TEAM*Education, Culture & Youth Diakonia...*Daphne Snow, Committee Chair*Philoptochos...*Thalia Kefalas, Chapter President*Education...*Diane McGowan, Committee Chair*Adult Education...*Dr. Michael Rallis*Youth Catechism...*Diane McGowan, Director*Oratorical Festival...*Kim Dandulakis*Retreats & Workshops...*Maria Stasios*Outreach & Evangelism...**volunteer needed**Forever Young...*Stella Vallianos*Culture...*Kitsa Wiersteiner, Committee Chair*Greek School...*Alexandros Theodoropoulos*Hellenic Dance Festival...*Antonia Ioannou*Dance Competition...*Antonia Ioannou*Choral Competition...*Dr. Michael Rallis*Special Activities...*Kitsa Wiersteiner*Youth Diakonia...*Koula Katsikis, Committee Chair*HOPE/JOY...*Sandra Papanikolaou, Advisor*GOYA...*Dr. David Snow, Koula Katsikis, Irene Sotiriou,
Mary Beth Miliotis, Tina Bostic, Advisors*St. Stephen's Camp...*Koula Katsikis*Winter Youth Rally...*Koula Katsikis*Lenten/Advent Retreats...*Koula Katsikis*OCF...**volunteer needed**Sports Fellowship...**volunteer needed**Liturgical Life...*Dr. Michael Rallis, Committee Chair*St. Nicholas Choir...*Elaine Whitley & Dr. Michael
Rallis, Co-Directors*Chanters...*Dr. Michael Rallis*Acolytes...*Doug Brown*Communications...*Alexandros Theodoropoulos, Committee
Chair*Website...*Alexandros Theodoropoulos*Bookstore/Library...*Richard Reynolds & Mary Ann Wall*Technology...*Hari Volikas*Advertising...*Kim Proukou*Graphic Design...*Kathy Dimopoulos

From the desk of Fr. Matthew

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

By the Grace of God, Presbyteria Emily and I are planning to welcome our first child into the world this month. We would like to thank all of you for your prayers and support. We especially would like to thank Philoptochos for hosting a baby shower for us. We received a lot of gifts, and we are very grateful to be a part of such a wonderful and nurturing community.

Being a parent is an awesome responsibility. God gives parents one of His perfect creatures, created in His Image and Likeness, and charges the parents to care for this child and raise him or her in a manner that is pleasing to Him. Even greater, God gives parents the opportunity to participate in the act of creation itself! Words can't even begin to describe how wonderful and awesome God truly is.

As a priest, I have many people who call me "father" and seek me out for spiritual advice. But this will be the first time in my life that someone will call me "dad" and seek me out for fatherly advice. What kind of interaction will I have with my child? Parents can attest to the fact that they have a different relationship with smaller children than they do with teenagers. Smaller children occupy a smaller world. They have simple needs, and they know that their parents can meet all of these needs and provide them with comfort and happiness. Teenagers learn just how big the world is, and they struggle to find out how they fit into that world. They are going through a process of independence and begin to separate from their parents. Many teenagers even resent their parents. I've worked with hundreds of teenagers, and I've heard their confessions at St. Stephen's Summer Camp. Most of them do not have a good relationship with their parents. They are angry and resentful. Will my child look at me that way? Will my child one day say, "I hate you?" Even worse, will my child say, "I hate God?"

I don't know how I will handle the difficulties of parenting, but I do know how I will parent: I will raise my child as an Orthodox Christian. I will Baptize and Chrismate my child according to the beliefs and traditions of the Orthodox Church, and I will raise my child in the sacramental life of the church by attending the Divine Liturgy and other services as often as possible. For many priests, having their children in worship services is difficult because many people hold the children of priests to a higher standard. There is even a label for these children: PK (priest's kids). Being a PK is difficult because they are always being overly scrutinized. Many people look to the priest and his presbyteria for examples of how to raise children. The correct way to raise Orthodox children is to have them participate in worship as often as possible. I know that many people believe that "children should be seen and not heard." This belief is especially thought of children in church. But if we didn't want children to participate in worship, then we wouldn't baptize them as babies. I want my child to have an active relationship with God, and I believe – both as a priest and a parent – that children who have been baptized are full members of the Body of Christ and need to be in church as often as possible and need to receive Holy Communion as often as possible. This means that my child may be fussy, or tired, or hungry, or energetic on some Sundays. This is normal behavior for all children. I ask that you please have patience with Presbyteria Emily and me as we raise our child in the life of the church. And if our child has moments of being spirited in church, please have patience with us. We are doing the best that we can with what God has given us.

From the desk of Fr. Matthew (continued)

We are excited to begin this chapter in our lives here in Wilmington, and we are thankful to God that His Eminence has assigned us here. We have received so much support and love that we feel that it's impossible to reciprocate. Many of you have offered to help us after the baby is born, and we are grateful for this. There are so many different things we will need, including the privacy to get to know our child when we return from the hospital. For those of you who wish to help, I would ask that you please contact Philoptochos so they can help to coordinate everything. We do not have any expectations, and we are grateful for your prayers and support.

Part of being a priest is balancing personal life with the needs/wants of the community. Following Holy Week, I will remain in Wilmington and celebrate the Divine Liturgy and other services, but I will have limited office hours for a few weeks so that I can spend time with my family. I will always be available for the needs of the community during this time. If there is a pastoral emergency, I am just a phone call away. If someone is sick or in the hospital, I will visit him. This is a need that only the priest can fulfill. However, I may not be available for all of the wants of the community. I know that there will be functions and meetings that I will be invited to attend, especially so close to our Greek Festival. I ask for you to understand my absence from these pastoral duties that are not emergencies.

Raising children is challenging. This is true for all parents, but raising children can be more challenging for clergy families because we lead very public lives. As parents, we are held to higher standards. Our children are held to higher standards. And the pressure many clergy families feel can have negative effects on both the parents and the children. As a priest, I do my best to try to do everything God has called me to do. As a first-time parent, I will also try to do my best. Is it fair to hold me to a higher standard? I can't answer this question. But I do ask for your understanding and patience as Presbytera Emily and I parent our child to the best of our ability. We do lead public lives in our church, but we also need a reasonable expectation of privacy in our lives. Please understand this fact and don't think too harshly of us. We love all of you, and we thank you for everything that you have done for us.

With love in Christ,

+Fr. Matthew

On Wednesday, March 17, the Very Rev. Fr. Grigorios Tatsis will be here at St. Nicholas to hear confessions beginning at 11:00 am. Evening hours will be available upon request. Please take advantage of this opportunity to receive this important and holy sacrament. If you would like to schedule a confession on this day, please call the church office (392-4444) on Monday. **Confessions will be scheduled for 1 hour blocks of time.**

From Emanuel Miliotis, Parish Council President

I am excited to see all the participation from our community in so many different ministries and events. I wanted to highlight my thoughts on two different experiences. First our Wednesday night adult education classes have grown significantly and typically have more than 20 people participating. It is great to see the hunger from our parish to learn more about our faith. It is also a great opportunity to see our church growing at the grass roots level as a good percentage of the class consists of new members or new catechumens. The opportunity for all involved to fellowship while growing in our faith is a blessing. The other experience is watching our kids compete in a Wilmington basketball church league called "Halo Hoops". The experience provided our kids a great opportunity to learn about working hard, achieving together as a team, having fun and finally about being a witness to their faith. Our kids displayed Christian sportsmanship while playing and was echoed by the referees when they saw us take the court. Switching gears, with Lent our church provides us many opportunities for liturgical participation. The different services are so beautiful and are meant to enhance our spiritual walk as we move closer to Pascha. With that said, please save the date (see your attached flyer) which invites our community to our Pascha picnic, held this year at Hugh MacRae Park. We invite everyone to come have some fun and fellowship. In closing, I want to ask all of you to keep Fr. Matthew and Presbyteria Emily in your prayers as they are expecting the arrival of their first baby. The due date is late March and I know we are all excited about the new addition to our community. While they are nervous about their new role as parents, I know that the St. Nicholas community will help them in their transition in whatever way we can. We certainly have appreciated all that they have brought to our community.

In Christ's service
Manny

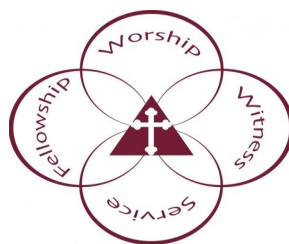
From Daphne Snow, Education, Culture, & Youth Diakonia Chair

What is your gift? Are you sharing it with the church?
What is Lent? What is Pascha? What is confession? How can I experience the full meaning of Pascha this season? What is your understanding of the Crucifixion? Will you stand up to defend your faith? Are your children prepared to defend their Orthodox faith?

Challenging questions indeed. What is your answer to these questions? These are questions the GOYAns discussed at the recent Lenten Retreat. I encourage each of you to have a conversation with the GOYAns who participated in the retreat, for they are so eager to share. The adults will be able to experience much of this in a mini retreat which will be presented by Fr. Matthew. Details on this event are forthcoming.

The GOYAns will be at laser tag on February 27, ice skating on March 6 followed by Vespers service. The basketball teams are in playoff games. A special thank you to coaches Peter Saffo, Peter Johns and Nick Saffo for their dedication to our youth.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the many different services: Compline on Monday's, Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday's and of course the Akathist Services of Friday evenings. A **very** special day to mark is March 17, Fr. Grigorios the Confessor will be with us to hear confessions. The 17th is Metropolitan Alexios' nameday and Fr. Matthew's birthday! The schedule for Holy Week will be sent under a separate mailing. Agape Pascha Picnic this year will be held at Hugh MacRae Park on Sunday April 4.



«ΓΝΩΣΙΣ» (KNOWLEDGE) FROM THE HELLENIC SCHOOL MINISTRY

Tyrtaeus and The Spartans, Themistocles and Eurybiades, and the Mission of the Church



Dear youth and fellow parishioners,

From my studies of the ancient Hellenic history and tradition especially during my school years, there are two stories in particular that have left a lasting impression on me.

The first one refers to the Second Messenian War that lasted from B.C. 685 to 668 and was a result of a revolt from the *helot* population of Messenia as it was called by the Spartans. In an attempt to regain freedom after thirty nine years of suffering under the Spartan yoke, the Messenians took up arms against their oppressors and invaded Laconia, the broader land of the Spartans. The leader and hero of the Messenians was Aristomenes, whose wonderful exploits formed the great subject of this war. It would appear that most of the states in Peloponnesus, the southern part of Hellas (Greece), took part in the struggle. The first battle, the Battle of Deres, was fought before the arrival of the allies on either side, and, though it was indecisive, the valor of Aristomenes struck fear into the hearts of the Spartans. With his small army, he even pressed forward toward the city of Sparta, and camped within sight of its dwellings. The Spartan women could thus see a very unusual sight,—the light of the enemies' fires. To frighten the enemy even more, the hero entered Sparta by night, and affixed a shield to the temple of Athena, with the inscription, "Dedicated by Aristomenes to the goddess from the Spartan spoils." The Spartans in alarm sent to Delphi for advice. The god through the oracle bade them apply to Athens for a leader. The Spartans, being a proud people, did not like to ask aid of any one; but they made up their minds to obey this command, and so sent a messenger to Athens to ask for a good leader.

Whether the Athenians wished to render no real assistance, or whether they wanted to show them that the bodily beauty and strength which the Spartans prized so highly was not everything, no one now knows. However, the fact is that, fearing to disobey the oracle, the Athenians sent the Spartans a poor, lame schoolmaster, called *Tyrtaeus*, to lead them in battle. This man had never handled a weapon in his life, and the Spartans were very angry when he placed himself at their head with a lyre instead of a sword; but when he suddenly began to sing one of those war songs which make one's blood tingle, it roused their patriotism to such a point that all were ready to conquer or die, and their scorn was soon changed to deep admiration. Fired by these patriotic songs, and by the stirring music the lame schoolmaster played, the Spartans fought better than ever before, overcame the Messenians, and came home in triumph with their prisoners, among whom was the brave Aristomenes. It is generally admitted that *Tyrtaeus* eventually became one of the prominent elegiac poets in ancient Hellas, that he not only wrote poetry but served in the field as mentioned above, and that he endeavored to compose the internal dissensions of Sparta (Aristotle, *Politics*, v. 6) by inspiring the citizens with a patriotic love for their fatherland.

Regarding the moral of this story, it is taught in general that it was *Tyrtaeus's* martial songs that roused the fainting courage of the Spartans; and so efficacious were his poems that to them is mainly ascribed the final success of the Spartan

Arms. One perspective I like to use to view this story is that in any kind of ‘battle’, ‘war’ or ‘struggle’ we need both the **‘Spartan soldiers’** and the **‘Tyrtaeus’s moral support’**. This can apply, among others, in our everyday lives, in our work as well as in our church environment. In this way, for the broader ‘war’ of carrying out the mission of our church, our Lord Christ is the head with our clergy, Fr. Matthew in our case, being His generals while the ‘Spartan officers and soldiers’ consist of the leaders, chairs and members of our general assembly, parish council as well as all other ministries. One might then ask, what about the **‘Tyrtaeus’s moral support’**? There are various ways that this support can be expressed. As an example, offering our pledge cards as part of our **stewardship** in a timely manner as well as our **constructive input, feedback and ideas** can encourage and help our parish council tremendously to carry out the important operations of our parish and plan and put together a long term **vision** for our church. In addition, participation in terms of again **constructive input, feedback and ideas** as well as **attendance** can enormously contribute to successful Religious Education, Hellenic Education, Youth and all other ministries of our church. Furthermore, these are also excellent ways of **Service** that we can offer which constitutes one of the elements of our Church’s mission.

The second story mentioned above, pertains to an incident that took place right before the famous Sea Battle of Salamis. According to the ancient Greek historian Herodotus, during the conference before the battle, Eurybiades, the Spartan commander in charge of the Hellenic navy during the Persian Wars, wanted to move the fleet to the Isthmus of Corinth, where the armies of the Hellenic League were building fortifications. **Themistocles**, the great Athenian naval commander and better naval tactician, saw the benefits of fighting at Salamis and wanted to force a naval battle there. Eurybiades was insistent and in the heat of the argument he raised his wand to hit **Themistocles**. Then, **Themistocles** responded with the expression that became proverbial, that is, *«Πάταξον μεν, άκουσον δε»* (PAH-takson men, AH-kooson theh), that translates into “Hit me but at least listen to me”. At that crucial moment, Eurybiades eventually listened to **Themistocles** and the Hellenes went on to achieve, according to a significant number of historians, the most decisive and significant victory in human history. Had the Persians won this battle they would have conquered the whole Hellas and the world as we know it today wouldn’t have probably been the same.

It is an irony that the Hellenic nation, which gave birth to democracy and established the dialogue as a means of resolving conflicts, has also made *discord* probably its number one national vice. It was because of a *discord* that broke out among them when the first Hellenic state was established right after the Hellenic War of Independence, for example, that the Hellenes manage to imprison for a number of years their revolution leader and national hero **Theodoros Kolokotronis**, who is considered the ‘George Washington’ for the Hellenic nation. In addition, there are numerous examples throughout the Hellenic history when the Hellenes had either glorious national moments in times of **accord** or great national disasters when they would allow their *egos* to influence them in times of *discord*.

One of the morals that both stories teach us is to always have an open mind when we are presented like the Spartans or Eurybiades with ideas or suggestions that might look or sound different because we can never know what God might offer us as a solution to our issues, a solution that could change the ‘tides of the war’. One might ask, how can this be achieved since it is easier said than done? A starting point could be to follow **Themistocles’s** cry and try to always listen and understand first the new/different idea before we rush into any judgments. Trying to show understanding for the views of our fellow parishioner and human in general not only can contribute to a healthy environment where **accord** and **consensus** can be easily reached but also is an excellent way of practicing **Fellowship** which constitutes another one of the elements of our Church’s mission. Moreover, we read in the Gospel of John that *«και το φως εν τη σκοτία φαίνει, και η σκοτία αυτό ου κατέλαβε»* or “**And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.**”, *John 1:5*. It becomes then evident from this quote how important the art of **listening** and **understanding** also is for receiving the word of God, in other words, for experiencing the **Martyria** or **Witness** that is the third element of our Church’s mission ...

In conclusion, in addition to exercising **Service** and **Fellowship** by working, for example, like the **‘Spartan soldiers’** and **‘Tyrtaeus’** for our ministries of our church, next time we find ourselves ready to engage into a heated conflict we could **pray to God** and try to control our *egos* and be good listeners first before we try to ‘hit’ or even ‘crucify’ our fellow parishioner or human or the idea in general that stands on the other side. Who knows, this might mean a healthy parish life, a successful and thriving ministry or the whole ‘war’ to them and to us ... It might even mean the **Martyria** to us

In His service,

Alexandros A. Theodoropoulos
Hellenic School Director

2010 Stewardship Drive as of March 7, 2010

Andrews, Louis & Roula
 Angeledes, Angelo & Evelyn
 Balourdos, Konstantinos & Karla
 Balourdos, Kosmas & Melissa
 Batis, John or Emily
 Batuyios, Bill
 Bostic, Michael & Tina
 Brilakis, Antony & Shirley
 Brown, Doug & Argie
 Brunetti, George & Cindy
 Burgee, John & Beth
 Carter, Fr. Matthew & Emily
 Copes, Sophia
 Copulos, Danna
 Cranidiotis, Chris & Joy
 Dandulakis, Gregory & Kimberly
 Demas, Dr. Ronald & Sharon
 Demetriou, Angelo & Emilee
 Dentiste, Angela
 Diakogiannis, Iffie & son John
 Dias, Tony & Debbie
 Dimopoulos, Pete & Kathy
 Doukas, Peter
 Dukas, Nota
 Faraclas, Pearl
 Flowers, Larry & Helen
 Fokakis, George
 Fouros, Theodore & Elizabeth
 Fragakis, John & Sophia
 Fragos, Evangelos & Olympia
 Frankos, Dr. Mary Andrew
 Franck, John & Argie
 Galantis, Nick & Jennie
 George, Dimitra
 Gerry, Despina
 Gibbs, Ryan & Aspasia Mayorga
 Hale, Pam
 Haralambous, Irini
 Jeffries, Phil & Irene
 Johns, Christopher & Shannon
 Kaprantzas, Chris & Helen
 Karafas, Tony & Maria
 Karonis, Yianni & Evyenia
 Katris, Angelo & Anastasia
 Kefalas, Thalia
 King, Lee & Doris
 Kirkby, Matt & Melissa
 Koklanaris, Dena
 Koklanaris, Emmanuel Dr. & Lambra
 Lazaridis, Nick & Nena
 Lionikis, Emmanuel & Athanasia
 Logothetis, Anestis & Constance
 Loizides, Michael & Lola
 Macris, Georgia
 Malahias, Peter & Courtney
 Maraveyas, Nick & Jennifer

Margoles, Andrew & Jackie
 Markatos, Aristeia
 Mamaras, Mary
 Mayorga, Edward & Kathleen
 Mayorga, Stephanie
 McGowan, Calvin & Diane
 Melts, Martha W
 Miliotis Manny & Mary Beth
 Omirty, Roubini
 Papanicolaou, Efstratios & Sandra
 Papanicolaou, Haralambos & Androniki
 Patsalos, Jimmy & Anna
 Patsalos, Nick & Joyce
 Pinkston, Anne Bakalis
 Ponos, Mark & Rhonda
 Poulos, Dena
 Poulos, Jack & Danielle
 Poulos, John & Athena
 Poulson, Elpetha Tsingelis
 Prokou, Theodore & Katherine
 Psilos, Constantine & Renee
 Psilos, John & Catherine
 Rallis, Dr. Michael & Debra
 Reynolds, Richard & Barbara
 Ronner, Thomas & Connie
 Rousonelos, Emmanuel & Irene
 Rowell, Robert & Cathy Lazarides
 Saffo, Angeline B.
 Saffo, Doky & Despina
 Saffo, Marian M.
 Saffo, Nick & Tia
 Saffo, Peter W. & Kimberly
 Saffo, Tony & Jamie
 Schaefer, Robert Mr. & Mrs.
 Skandalakis, Kay
 Stjaka, Mary Tomica
 Stjaka, Sophia
 Snow, Dr. & Mrs. David H.
 Souflas, Thomas & Linda
 Spiliotis, Georgia
 Stasios, James & Maria
 Theodoropoulos, Alexandros & Eleni
 Theophilos, Plato & Renee
 Tsingelis, Christos & Angela
 Vallianos, Stella
 Veros, Stacey
 Vogiatzis, Anastasios & Georgia
 Vogiatzis, Ioannis & Barbara
 Vogiatzis, Vasilios & Sotiriou, Irene
 Volikas, Harilaos & Belinda
 Wall, James & Mary Ann
 Wells, Rickey & Lolotiti S.
 Whitley, John & Helen
 Wiersteiner Samuel & Kyriaki
 Yucius, Erika
 Zezefellis, Effie

Stewardship 2010 Update

Currently we have 105 pledgers. This represents 53% participation. Our goal is 100% participation. We need 95 more pledge cards. Our budget is \$200,000 and we have pledges totaling \$151,795. We will be contacting you shortly if we don't receive your pledge. Remember no amount is too small or too large. What matters is that you pledge. You may ask why 100% participation. We want to provide a loving, caring and welcoming environment where all belong and grow in the faith through worship, service, witness and fellowship.

2010 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

Summary Stats

2/15/2010

Total Pledgers as of 02/03/2010	105
Total \$ Pledged	\$151,795.00
Avg \$ pledge per steward	\$1,445.67
% Parish participation to date	53%
% of total goal	76%

Families who didn't pledge in 2009	10
** Includes (5) new pledgers	

Number of families pledging more than 2009	26
Number of families pledging less than 2009	17
Number of families pledging the same as 2009	52
New pledgers to 2010 vs 2009	10

2010 Pledge breakdown	
\$1-\$599	44
\$600-\$999	21
\$1000-\$2499	24
\$2500-\$4999	9
\$5,000-\$9,999	2
\$10,000+	5

March Liturgical Guide

SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday, March 1
6:00 PM Compline

Wednesday, March 3
6:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 5
7:00 PM Akathist Service

Saturday, March 6
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, March 7 - Sunday of the Holy Cross
8:30 AM Orthros/9:45 AM Religious Education/
10:30 AM Divine Liturgy
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6/Mark 8:34-38; 9-1

Monday, March 8
6:00 PM Compline

Wednesday, March 10
6:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 12
7:00 PM Akathist Service

Saturday, March 13
No Great Vespers

Sunday, March 14 - Sunday of Saint John Climacus
8:30 AM Orthros/9:45 AM Religious Education/
10:30 AM Divine Liturgy
Hebrews 6:13-20/Mark 9:17-31

Monday, March 15
6:00 PM Compline

Wednesday, March 17
6:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 19
7:00 PM Akathist Service

Saturday, March 20
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, March 21 - Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt
8:30 AM Orthros/9:45 AM Religious Education/
10:30 AM Divine Liturgy
Hebrews 6:13-20/Mark 10:32-45

Saturday, March 27 - Lazarus Saturday
9:00 AM Orthros/10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Hebrews 12:28-29; 13:1-8/John 11:1-45
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday
Please Note: No Religious Education Classes Today
9:15 AM Orthros/10:30 AM Divine Liturgy
Philippians 4:4-9/John 12:1-18
7:00 PM Bridegroom Service

Monday, March 29 - Holy Monday
7:00 PM Bridegroom Service

Tuesday, March 30 - Holy Tuesday
7:00 PM Bridegroom Service

Wednesday, March 31 - Holy Wednesday
6:00 PM Holy Unction



Acolytes

All young men (ages 10 - 18) are encouraged to serve in the altar.

All altar boys are kindly requested to serve every Sunday and major feast days.

Please report to the altar immediately after Sunday School.

Please contact Fr. Matthew or Doug Brown if you are interested.

Forever Young

We will meet on Wednesday, March 3, at 11:00 AM, at the church. Please come join us; bring a Lenten dish. We will have a very interesting movie to show.

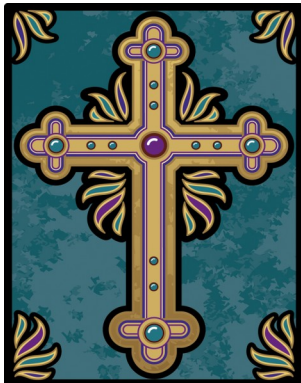
Sympathy

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to Renee Theophilos and family on the falling asleep of her mother, Helen Psillias. May her memory be eternal!

Memorials

A 40 day memorial was chanted for Alphonse (Seraphim) Calabrese, husband of Elie Calabrese. May his memory be eternal!

A 3 year memorial was chanted for Nicolaos Psilos, brother of John Psilos. A 3 year memorial was also chanted for Anastasia Annette Karonis, daughter of Yianni and Evyenia Karonis and sister of Renee Karonis Psilos. May their memories be eternal!



*With the saints give rest to the soul
of your servant
where there is no pain, nor sorrow,
nor suffering,
but life everlasting.*

Communication

Any parishioner who is interested in joining our email list please send your email address to the church office. It will then be added to our email list.

Philoptochos

Last year the National Philoptochos donated over 1.3 million dollars to all the charities which they support! Good job ladies!

The Philoptochos is happy to report that we collected approximately \$4000 from the Vasilopita auction. One third went to our Benevolent Fund and two thirds went to St Basil's.

We are busy preparing for Pascha. All ladies are invited to help us with the various preparations.

We are always seeking volunteers to bake prosforo. Contact Thalia Kefalas if you can assist with this ministry.

If you would like to host a coffee hour after Pascha, please contact Thalia Kefalas.

Please join us for our next meeting Sunday, March 14th following Divine Liturgy.

Spring Orthodox Youth Rally

In conjunction with the AHEPA District Convention, the Spring Youth Rally will be held May 21-23, 2010, in Fayetteville, NC. Registration to follow.

GOYA

Ice Skating- **March 6th** Saturday from 1:00-4:00pm, Ice House \$10 includes skate rental.

Prepare sandwiches for the Good Shepherd House- **March 20th** Saturday 9:30am. Please bring bread, cheese and cold cuts to church and help make sandwiches that we will deliver in time for lunch..

Pancake Breakfast and making Palm crosses- **March 27th** Saturday of Lazarus.

Also in April, we will be participating in the Relay for Life cancer walk on April 23-24th. Look for more info coming up on Fayetteville Youth Rally in May and St Stephens camp (summer camp registration is now open) in July, as well as other activities.

GOYA LENTEN RETREAT

Our GOYAns participated in the Lenten Retreat at the Diakonia Center the weekend of February 19-21. We had a total of 15 youth and 4 chaperones in attendance. It was a fantastic weekend complete with beautiful weather. Listed below are some comments from our kids.

GIRLS... "What did you learn?"

"I learned about the vision that a nun had about a bird that was torturing the thief that was mocking Jesus. The nun recorded her vision in a book." *Dea Saffo*

"I learned that scourging was brutal and people could die from it." *Eliana Papanicolaou*

"I learned that you don't eat dairy during Lent." *Katerina Katsikis*

"I learned what scourging really is. And also when Jesus went to Hell and ascended He didn't take Judas with Him." *Cassie Snow*

"I learned how bad the crucifixion was and when we watched it, it was like watching someone you love suffer. Also the full meaning of Pascha comes to you if you participate in all of the services." *Alexandra Miliotis*

"Jesus put a lot into saving us and did what He could to make it happen." *Konstandena Brown*

"I learned how crucifixion affected people medically. Also, I learned that they would break the legs of the people so they would die faster. Jesus' legs were not broken." *Maria Poulos*

BOYS...."What did you get out of the retreat?"

"It was an eye opener spiritually. We learned how much pain Christ went through to save us from our sins." *Pantelis Miliotis*

"Jesus Christ really loved us. He could have stopped the crucifixion anytime He wanted to but He chose to go through all of that pain for us." *Yianni Fragos*

"Jesus must have really loved us to go through all that He did. It shows us what we mean to Him." *Michael Poulson*

"I learned how painful crucifixion really is and Jesus must really love people for going through that pain." *Lucas Bostic*

"Christ's pain hurt me in my heart." *Connor Snow*

"Christ went through a lot of pain in the crucifixion but when He was resurrected He was totally healed except for the holes in His hands and feet which proved that it was really Him." *Panayioti Vogiatzis*

"We should always try our best to be the best that we can because Jesus suffered so much for us." *Vasili Brown*



A Blessed Pascal Season!!



Philoptochos is now taking orders for the lilies that will decorate the church this Paschal Season. If you are interested in contributing a lily, please fill out the bottom portion of this form and mail it with your donation to the address below; or you may see one of the Philoptochos ladies stationed in the Hellenic Center following liturgy.

(Flower substitutions made based on seasonal availability)

Thank you, The Ladies Philoptochos Society

Deadline for submission: **March 21, 2010.**

Please write clearly & as you would like it printed in the bulletin.

My name:

I would like to donate # _____ lily/lilies (\$10 each).

Cash/Check: Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Check selection below:

In "Memory" of

In "Honor" of

Mail to:

Ladies Philoptochos Society

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

608 South College Road ~ Wilmington, NC 28403



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

**AGAPE SERVICE
&
PASCHA PICNIC**

APRIL 4TH, 2010 – Starting at 12:30

FELLOWSHIP AFTERWARDS

HUGH MACRAE PARK

SHELTER 5 & 6

LAMB WILL BE PROVIDED

BRING A DISH and DRINK TO SHARE

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church is dedicated to the continuation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's ministry of salvation through the proclamation and teaching of the Gospel; through Baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and through loving service to God to mankind.

Please check our online Parish Calendar at

<http://www.stnicholaswilmington.org/ParishCalendar.html>

for up to date information about our Parish Life events

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
608 S. College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

