



Saint Nicholas
Greek Orthodox Church
2525 South 25th Street
Fort Pierce, FL 34981
Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
FORT PIERCE
FLORIDA 34981
PERMIT NO. 401

*Though our feelings
come and go,
God's love for us
does not.*
~ C.S. Lewis

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church



The Voice

**April
2025**





The Voice is published monthly by
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

2525 South 25th Street
 Fort Pierce, FL 34981
 Office Phone: 772-464-7194 Fax: 772-464-5595
 Email stnickftp@aol.com
The Rev. Father Andrew Maginas

Parish Council

President

Kevin Cruz

Vice Presidents

Jim Crist

Gregory Demko

Secretary

Crystal Monocandilos

Treasurer

Bob Azari

Asst. Treasurer

Sharon Colonis

Ann Athans

Nick Gieseler

Nick Kapsis

Helen Kutukyan

Carmen Mohan

Homer Zambigadis

GraceWay Village

Paul Maneos

Library

Elizabeth Demko

Stewardship

Sharon Colonis

Robert Rieffel

Office Staff

Office Manager

Pam Kapsis

Sunday School

Director

Pam Kapsis

GOYA

Advisor

Betty Cruz

JOY/HOPE

Advisor

Lauren Gieseler

AHEPA

President

Homer

Zambigadis

YAL

Caroline

Abramson

Greek Dance

Director

Helen Kutukyan

Deli

Kevin & Betty

Cruz

Meetings

Parish Council

3rd Tuesday

7:00 PM

Philoptochos

1st Saturday

11:00 AM

Bible Study

Every 2nd & 4th

Wednesday

10:30 AM

Addiction

Support

Every 2nd & 4th

Monday

6:00 PM

GOYA

last Sunday

12:00 noon

Adult

Dance Classes

Ann Athans

Book Store

Kathy Beasley

Prison Ministry

Shannon

Foreman

Philoptochos

President

Stacey Louka

Vice President

Sharon Colonis

Recording

Secretary

Betty Cruz

Corresponding

Secretary

Toni Rekus

Treasurer

Toula Bouchoc

F.I.S.H.E.R. Men

Aaron Knapp

Every 1st & 3rd

Monday

6:00 PM

On the Web

stnicholasfp.com

Facebook

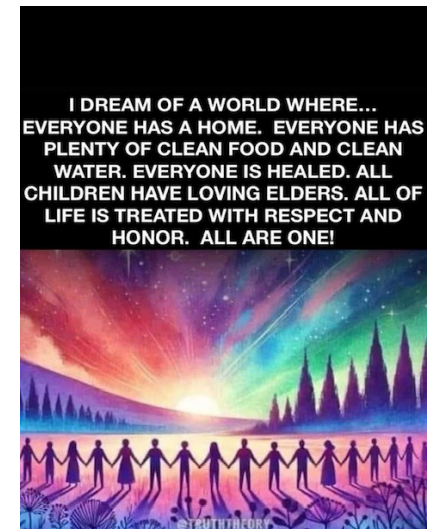
[Facebook.com/
stnicholasfp/posts](https://www.facebook.com/stnicholasfp/posts)

YouTube

St Nicholas Greek
 Orthodox Church
 Ft Pierce, FL

VOICE Format Change

Within the next few months, the newsletter will change to a digital format. The VOICE will be published on our website (at stnicholasfp.com) and e-mailed to our parishioner e-mail list. For those without access to social media, a limited number of printed copies will be available in the Narthex. Out-of-town readers may request mailed copies for a small donation by contacting the church office. We pray you will support our efforts to reduce costs.



Note to Parishioners:

We invite all parishioners to submit items of interest for our monthly newsletter, *The Voice*.

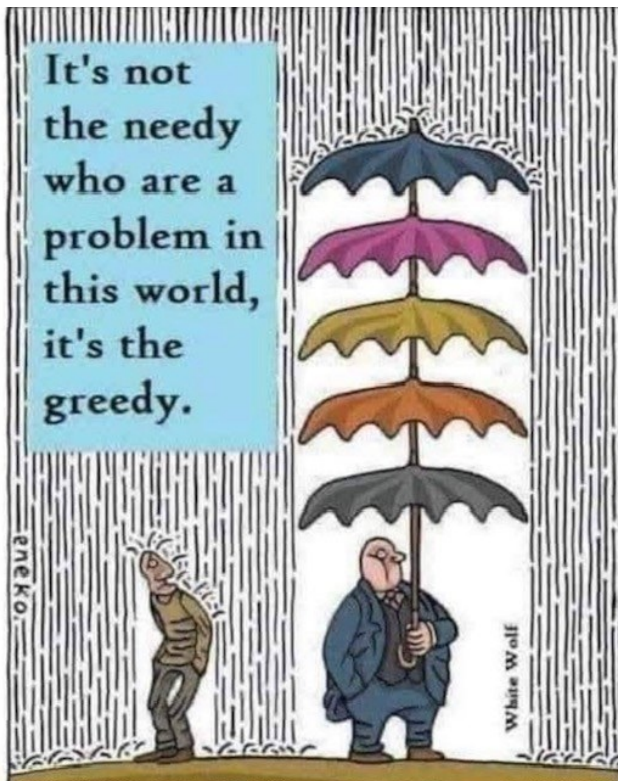
This may include articles, stories that are relevant and important news in the lives of our parishioners.

Please submit material to the church office before the 15th of each month for review and inclusion in the next month's issue. Thank you.

Graceway Village

As a community we have been supporting Graceway Village for over 3 years. We started serving 300 meals and as the need grew, we have been supplying 500 meals per month. During this time, we have enjoyed support from the board and the community with both time and treasure. At this point we had to shift to providing just the 500 chicken entrees monthly. However we are also in need of assistance in maintaining this worthwhile endeavor. For just a \$33.00 donation you can feed 40 people. That is .83 cents per person. Please consider this worthwhile cause and if you are able to donate, please send this to the office indicating Graceway Village. I want to thank everyone thus far for their valuable support. I hope we can continue this worthwhile program. Thank you.

- Paul Maneos



A Message from Father Andrew



We are in the final two weeks of Great Lent and then we experience Holy Week. When we attend the Presanctified Liturgy during Great Lent we see that we are already in a subdued mode of worship. The Altar coverings and the vestments are the penitential colors of the weekdays of Great Lent and Holy Week.

Palm Sunday we celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. He entered in humility as the crowd laid down palm branches and sang, "Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Holy Unction is celebrated on Holy Wednesday because of our need for forgiveness and spiritual healing. At the conclusion of this service the faithful who are baptized or chrismated into the Orthodox faith are anointed with the Holy Unction.

Holy Thursday opens with a reminder of the shameful betrayal of Christ by Judas Iscariot. As the morning vespers Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil begins, the thought of the betrayal still lingers, but is combined with readings and hymns which speak of the Mystical, or Last, Supper, and the institution of the Eucharist.

Holy Thursday evening, we hear Twelve Gospel accounts of the suffering and crucifixion of Christ, all of them contributing to the complete picture of the final events of His life among us. The atmosphere in the church is one of hushed sorrow and tragedy as the words of Pilate and the cries of the mob demanding Christ's death are recalled.

Holy Friday is a day of strict fast. In the evening the Lamentations service anticipates Jesus' resurrection.

Holy Saturday we hope and wait for the resurrection. We celebrate the vespers Divine Liturgy in the morning and chant, "Arise O God and Judge the earth, for to Thee belong all the nations." Finally, at the midnight service, we celebrate our Lord's glorious Resurrection.

Please see the schedule for all of the Holy Week and Pascha services and join us for our Holy Week journey to our Lord's glorious resurrection!



The F.I.S.H.E.R Men

The FISHERMEN greet you with warm regards and gratitude. We thank you for providing us place and purpose and look forward to serving you in faith and fidelity. A few things on the horizon await us in April.

We will be resuming our painting of the hall. Thanks for going easy on the walls during the festival! Our next charity project will also begin soon; helping raise funds for the Graceway meals. Look for us during coffee hour on the last Sunday every month; we will have a table where you can donate to the Graceway fund. Lastly, we hope to coordinate a family and friends cookout once Lent is over. This will most likely be in the field behind the schoolhouse. Keep an eye out for a flyer advertising the event with details.

Reminder that we meet the 1st and 3rd of every month; often in the hall, but sometimes we gather around the fire pit outside. Meetings start at 6 pm and are open to any man over the age 18.

Thanks for all the support and encouragement. May Christ bless your struggles this Lenten season.

Aaron Knapp
772-563-8782

A fact is information minus emotion. An opinion is information plus experience.

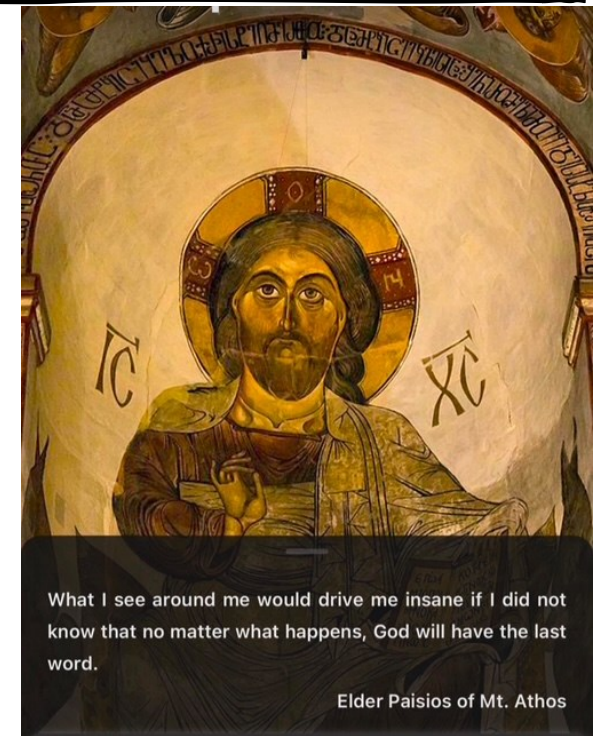
Ignorance is an opinion lacking information. And stupidity is an opinion that ignores fact.

The first to apologize is the bravest. The first to forgive is the strongest. And the first to forget is the happiest...

According to an ancient tradition, it is said that Lazarus was thirty years old when the Lord raised him; then he lived another thirty years on Cyprus and there reposed in the Lord. It is furthermore related that after he was raised from the dead, he never laughed till the end of his life, but that once only, when he saw someone stealing a clay vessel, he smiled and said, "Clay stealing clay." His grave is situated in the city of Kition, having the inscription: "Lazarus the four days dead and friend of Christ." In 890 his sacred relics were transferred to Constantinople by Emperor Leo the Wise, at which time undoubtedly the Emperor composed his stichera for Vespers, "Wishing to behold the tomb of Lazarus . . ."

Palm Sunday Luncheon tickets on sale now.

Pope Francis to children in Singapore: "All religions are paths to reach God. They are —to make a comparison—like different languages, different dialects, to get there. But God is God for everyone. If you start to fight saying 'my religion is more important than yours, mine is true and yours isn't', where will this lead us? There is only one God, and each of us has a language to arrive at God. Some are Sheik, Muslim, Hindu, Christians; they are different ways to God."





Lazarus Saturday

April 12

Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, the friends of the Lord Jesus, had given Him hospitality and served Him many times (Luke 10:38-42; John 12:2-3). They were from Bethany, a village of Judea. This village is situated in the eastern parts by the foothills of the Mount of Olives, about two Roman miles from Jerusalem. When Lazarus - whose name is a Hellenized form of "Eleazar," which means "God has helped," became ill some days before the saving Passion, his sisters had this report taken to our Saviour, Who was then in Galilee. Nonetheless, He tarried yet two more days until Lazarus died; then He said to His disciples, "Let us go into Judea that I might awake My friend who sleepeth." By this, of course, He meant the deep sleep of death. On arriving at Bethany, He consoled the sisters of Lazarus, who was already four days dead. Jesus groaned in spirit and was troubled at the death of His beloved friend. He asked, "Where have ye laid his body?" and He wept over him. When He drew nigh to the tomb, He commanded that they remove the stone, and He lifted up His eyes, and giving thanks to God the Father, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." And he that had been dead four days came forth immediately, bound hand and foot with the grave clothes, and Jesus said to those standing there, "Loose him, and let him go." This is the supernatural wonder wrought by the Saviour that we celebrate on this day.



Philoptochos



Greetings,

Once again our meeting date had to be changed due to April events. The date was changed to March 29, 2025 and I hope most of you were able to receive the email or hear the announcement regarding the change. April 5th, the first Saturday of the month, St. Nicholas is sponsoring the Oratorical Festival and Philoptochos is hosting. Please see Stacey Louka or Helen Fiorentinos to offer some time to help with preparations.

April 12, the second Saturday of the month is Lazarus Saturday. After Divine Liturgy there will be a pancake breakfast followed by the making of the palm crosses. Much help is needed by our youth, tweens, teens, and adults. Come and enjoy this community gathering. Upon completion of cross making, all youth will go into the church for confession.

April 17, after Holy Thursday Divine Liturgy, the red eggs will be oiled and wrapped. Please volunteer some time.

Elections for Philoptochos officers and board members will take place on May 3rd. If you are interested in being an elective, please see Joani Mihalakos (203-437-2104) or Maria Ferguson (732-552-7870) for information. Please attend this final meeting and be involved in the election. It is our last meeting until September, 2025.

Again, thank you to all who helped with the Philoptochos table for the festival. A total of \$473 was collected. Well done! We would be delighted to welcome new members. There are no demands; by paying the annual dues you are already making a difference. Come join us!

With Love in Christ,
Sharon Colonis – Vice President

**“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due
Season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”
(Galatians 6:9)**

Stewardship

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What does the word steward or stewardship mean to you? Perhaps it could mean a way of serving, being in charge of someone or something, a caretaker of property. My thought leads to the word hospitality. We are asked to be hospitable in many ways when it comes to our church and welcoming to our parishioners and to those in our community, serving others.

Jesus asks us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit those in prison. How are we to manage all of this? It brings us back to the word serve. During this season of Great and Holy Lent we call on our individual strength and ability to make the effort to accomplish such good deeds.

St. Nicholas Church has many to serve and also many works that need to be cared for. This is where the word stewardship is visible and we are asked to cheerfully and prayerfully participate in this endeavor. Please take the time to reflect on what you and your families can offer in Time, Talent, and Treasure. Together we all make a huge impact on our church and community.

If you are new to St. Nicholas Church or have any questions regarding the Stewardship Program, please text me at 860-460-5194, or email at sdcolonis@gmail.com.

With Love in Christ,
Sharon Colonis, Stewardship Chair

“You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.”
(2 Corinthians 9:11)



**“WITH GOD, ALL THINGS
ARE POSSIBLE !!!”**

Thank you to ALL for a most successful 2025 Saint Nicholas Greek Festival! We were blessed with 3 days of beautiful weather and the people turned out to enjoy it.

As coordinating chairman, I would like to extend my warm heartfelt gratitude of appreciation for your participation, help and support in making our 2025 Saint Nicholas Greek Festival an extremely wonderful and successful event.

Our event is a jewel on the Treasure Coast on the southeast coast of Florida. It is an important part of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox church's community engagement and those people who attended, thoroughly enjoyed the Greek foods, music, dancing, pastries, and church tours, etc.

The feedback we received on our church social media Facebook page is exploding with overwhelming, delightful, enthusiastic, and incredibly positive comments about their experience at our Saint Nicholas Greek Festival.

All of you parishioners and volunteers worked extremely hard to share our Greek culture with our guests. Greeting them with kindness, smiles and make them feel welcome to our church home.

It was truly a pleasure working with you all on the 45th annual Greek Festival. Special thanks, especially to all the co-chairman of each booth, for their unwavering support. I appreciate your kind donations of time, money, hard work, and sacrifices.

We look forward to working with you all again, GOD willing. Bravo Sas!!

**“We fought the good fight, we finished the race,
and we kept the faith.”**

“Well done good and faithful servants!”

With thankful regards,
Dean Sfikas (2025 Greek Festival coordinating chairman)

Parishioner Happenings



Notice any familiar faces?

Out of the archives comes this gem!! The date handwritten at the top looks to be March 2, 1980 or 1982. See if you can guess who these lovely ladies (and handsome lad) are before checking the answer at the bottom of the page.

All of us older folks know all about living on the edge, we used to answer the phone without knowing who it was.



The next **AHEPA** meeting is scheduled for April 29 at 7:00 PM

Pictured top to bottom: Ann Athans, Mary Black (Mancini), Sophia Mar-gettis, Mary Miller, Joyce Terezakis and Billy Athans.

From the Treasurer, Bob Azari

Starbucks or Church?

Starbucks

Our local Starbucks sells many coffee and tea drinks. For example:

Cappuccino (venti size) \$5.83 including tax

Blonde Vanilla Latte (grande size) \$6.37 including tax

If we bought one of these two drinks each day, our average cost would be \$6.10 per day.

Church

Let's compare this to the operating cost of our Church:

Church Daily Cost* \$6.09 (tax-free!)

Conclusion

It costs almost an identical daily amount to have our beautiful Church or a Starbucks drink!

If our stewards could contribute this amount per day on average, we would not only balance our budget, but we would have a surplus due to other income like interest, candles and our festival.

Food for thought!

Based on 2025 Budget, Total Expenses divided by 151 stewards and 365 days per year.

Includes cost for our priest, contracted personnel, building maintenance, utilities, insurance, Archdiocese etc.

Excludes capital & special projects, other expenses, planned giving.



April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:00 PM - Presanctified Liturgy	3	4 6:00 PM - Akathist Hymn & Potluck Dinner	5 11:00 AM - District Oratorical Festival
6 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt 9:00 AM - Matins 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy 1	7 6:00 PM - FISHER Men	8 Confessions - call for appointment 7:00 PM - Council Meeting	9 9:00 AM - Presanctified Liturgy 11:00 AM - Bible Study Confessions - call for appointment	10	11	12 Lazarus Saturday 9:00 AM - Matins 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy Breakfast, Palm folding, children's confessions
13 Palm Sunday 8:45 AM - Matins 9:45 AM - Divine Liturgy Palm Sunday Luncheon 6:00 PM Bridegroom Service	14 Holy Monday 6:00 PM Bridegroom Service	15 Holy Tuesday 6:00 PM Bridegroom Service	16 Holy Wednesday 6:00 PM - Holy Unction	17 Holy Thursday 9:00 AM - Vesperal Divine Liturgy 6:00 PM - Holy Passion (The 12 Gospels)	18 Holy Friday 9:00 AM - Royal Hours 3:00 PM - Un-nailing Vespers 6:00 PM - Lamentations	19 Holy Saturday 9:00 AM - Vesperal Divine Liturgy 11:00 PM - Resurrection Service
20 Great and Holy Pascha 11:00 AM - Agape Vespers Pascha Luncheon	21 6:00 PM - FISHER Men	22	23	24	25	26 8:30 AM - Graceway Prep
27 Thomas Sunday 9:00 AM - Matins 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy	28 6:00 PM - Addiction Support Group 7:00 PM - Discover Orthodoxy	29 7:00 PM - AHEPA meeting	30			
	8				9	