



The Voice

May
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

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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

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

1st & 3rd
 Monday
 6:00 PM

GOYA

last Sunday
 12:00 noon

Adult

Dance Classes

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 Orthodox Church
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Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

We rejoice at Pascha, the celebration of celebrations. We must, however, remain alert. We must not become complacent. The time for prayer does not end with the completion of the Great Lent and Holy Week! Our obligation for prayer is a continuing one. Listen to the admonition of Saint John of Kronstadt who lived in 19th century:

"Do not spare yourself, but pray earnestly, even if you have been working hard all day. Do not be negligent in prayer; address God throughout your prayer from your whole heart, for it is a duty you owe to him. Having put your hand to the plow, do not look back. If you allow yourself to pray carelessly, and not from your heart, you will not fall asleep – if you are praying at night – until you have wiped out your sin by tears."

Our prayers continue even during this time of celebration. Now past the Sunday of Saint Thomas, one week after Pascha, we have resumed Wednesday and Friday fast days. We fast each week on Wednesday remembering our Lord's betrayal and Friday, His Crucifixion. We continue this weekly fasting as a spiritual discipline that helps us focus our thoughts on Jesus Christ, our Savior. This also reminds us to be diligent and faithful in our prayer life.

We pray acknowledging our faults and asking the Lord to help us overcome them. No one is without fault. When we say "I have done nothing wrong" we are fooling ourselves. Having sinned in thought, word, or deed we need to pray for forgiveness and strength to overcome our sins. When we speak an unkind word about another we must "pray earnestly," asking for the courage to overcome the sin of using another person to excuse our own lack of charity. It is indeed easy to point at another's weaknesses or accuse another of grievous errors while pompously not seeing our own shortcomings. Use every opportunity to pray for yourself and your neighbor!

Christ has risen from the dead as He foretold, bestowing upon us eternal life and great mercy!



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

F.I.S.H.E.R. stands for **F**aith, **I**ntegrity, **S**ervice, **H**ospitality, **E**fficiency, **R**esponsibility.

Faith: trusting what God has revealed is true.

Integrity: withstanding pressure without harm.

Service: giving time and talents to the community.

Hospitality: joyfully sharing what we have.

Efficiency: doing much with little.

Responsibility: addressing issues, even if we did not cause them.

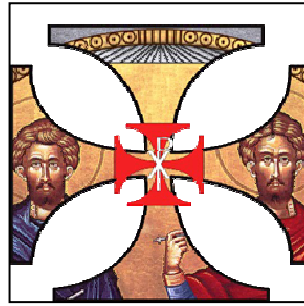
Almost every problem in the world is a result of misguided men; slavery to passions; selfish hearts. Only Christ can bring the ultimate solution to life but we can do one thing; put our own life in order. If we take Jesus into our heart, repent our sins, and try to live in accordance with God's commandments, we have done a great service to the entire world.

In this spirit, the FISHER Men seek to improve one another and put one small facet of creation in order, ourselves."

**"A brother aided by his brother
is like a strong and fortified city,
and he is strong like a well-founded palace."**

- Proverbs 18;19

Philoptochos



**Christ is Risen!
Truly He is Risen!**

DATE CHANGE: MAY 10, 2025 MEETING @ 11:00 AM Due to the Meet & Greet Function for Fr. Andrew and Presvytera Eleni on May 3, 2025

The month of May is the last meeting until September. It is important that all members attend as voting for new Officers and Board Members will take place. Thank you to Helen Penkosky and Illona Christie for offering to host this meeting with a light luncheon.

Even though meetings are paused until September, if ever there is an individual who has questions or comments regarding the works of Philoptochos or becoming a member, please contact any member. If there is an individual needing assistance, do not hesitate to contact a member. Names of officers are listed in The Voice.

Philoptochos wishes everyone a safe, happy, and blessed summer. See you in the fall!

**Together we are sharing the love of Christ
in word and deed.
(Colossians 3:17)**

Your Stewardship

Psalm 115:3 (OSB) **What shall I give back to the Lord for all he rendered to me.**

As of this writing, about one hundred families have returned stewardship cards. We have over two hundred names in our parish directory and close to three hundred on our mailing list. There is a great disparity between the number of those who have made a commitment to regularly give and support the work of the church and those who are not yet committed and only giving occasionally. As always we should be guided by Holy Scripture in our thoughts and actions, so consider the following if you have not returned a stewardship card.

The Psalm tell us that we are to consider how richly God has blessed us and give back to him in gratitude for all those things he blessed us with: our salvation, our parents and children, our work, our health, our friends, our church, etc. The list is endless.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (OSB) **But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.**

As you consider making your commitment we should do so with a spirit of joy not out of a feeling of forced compliance. We should be a generous as our financial obligations will permit. In the spirit of Lenten disciplines, perhaps there are some things we should give up in order to spiritually enrich our lives.

1 Corinthians 16:2 (OSB) **On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.**

Saint Paul in this letter gives us (and the church at Corinth) this guidance. In this particular verse he was speaking specifically of a collection from the church in Corinth for the saints in Jerusalem, but it could also apply to our weekly support of our own church. It should be a continual (regular) giving, not occasional or sporadic.

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ, 33, of Nazareth, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture and loss of blood.

Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham, was a member of the house of David. He was the Son of the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth, and Mary, his devoted Mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by his mother Mary, his faithful Apostles, numerous disciples and many other followers.

Jesus was self-educated and spent most of his adult life working as a Teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a



Medical Doctor and it is reported that he healed many patients. Up until the time of his death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the good news, healing the sick, touching the lonely, feeding the hungry and helping the poor.

Jesus was most noted for telling parables about His Father's Kingdom and performing miracles, such as feeding over 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, and healing a man who was born blind. On the day before His death, He held a Last Supper, celebrating the Passover Feast, at which He foretold His death.

The body was quickly buried in a stone grave, which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a loyal friend of the family. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder was rolled in front of the Tomb. Roman Soldiers were put on guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did and believe in Him. Donations may be sent to anyone in need.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing 8:45 AM - Matins 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy General Assembly Meeting	5 6:00 PM - F.I.S.H.E.R. Men	6	7
11 Sunday of the 8:45 AM - Matins 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy Mother's Day	12 6:00 PM - Addiction Support Group	13	14 10:30 AM - Bible
18 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman 8:45 AM - Matins 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy Sunday School Graduation	19 6:00 PM - F.I.S.H.E.R. Men	20 7:00 PM - Parish Council	21 Sts. Constan Helen 9:00 AM - Matins 10:00 AM - Divine
25 Sunday of the 8:45 AM - Matins 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy	28 Memorial Day 6:00 PM - Addiction Support	29	30
	8		

2025



Day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 12 noon - 3:00 PM - Meet and Greet with Father Andrew
	8	9 *****District GOYA Junior Olympics at St. Demetrios*****	10 11:00 AM - Philoptochos Meeting
Study	15	16	17
St. Valentine and St. Agatha Liturgy	22	23	24 8:30 AM - Graceway Prep
		9	

Parishioner Happenings



Newly illumined servant Chayse, "Artemios".

Holy Week





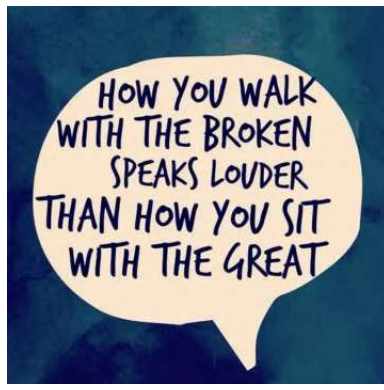
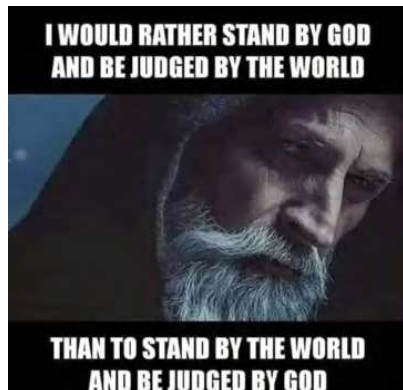
Constantine and Helen, Equal-to-the-Apostles May 21

This great and renowned sovereign of the Christians was the son of Constantius Chlorus (the ruler of the westernmost parts of the Roman empire), and of the blessed Helen. He was born in 272, in (according to some authorities) Naissus of Dardania, a city on the Hellespont. In 306, when his father died, he was proclaimed successor to his throne. In 312, on learning that Maxentius and Maximinus had joined forces against him, he marched into Italy, where, while at the head of his troops, he saw in the sky after midday, beneath the sun, a radiant pillar in the form of a cross with the words: "By this shalt thou conquer." The following night, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him in a dream and declared to him the power of the Cross and its significance. When he arose in the morning, he immediately ordered that a labarum be made (which is a banner or standard of victory over the enemy) in the form of a cross, and he inscribed on it the Name of Jesus Christ. On the 28th Of October, he attacked and mightily conquered Maxentius, who drowned in the Tiber River while fleeing. The following day, Constantine entered Rome in triumph and was proclaimed Emperor of the West by the Senate, while Licinius, his brother-in-law, ruled in the East. But out of malice, Licinius later persecuted the Christians. Constantine fought him once and again, and utterly destroyed him in 324, and in this manner he became monarch over the West and the East. Under him and because of him all the persecutions against the Church ceased. Christianity triumphed and idolatry was overthrown. In 325 he gathered the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea,



which he himself personally addressed. In 324, in the ancient city of Byzantium, he laid the foundations of the new capital of his realm, and solemnly inaugurated it on May 11, 330, naming it after himself, Constantinople. Since the throne of the imperial rule was transferred thither from Rome, it was named New Rome, the inhabitants of its domain were called Romans, and it was considered the continuation of the Roman Empire. Falling ill near Nicomedia, he requested to receive divine Baptism, according to Eusebius (The Life of Constantine. Book IV, 61-62), and also according to Socrates and Sozomen; and when he had been deemed worthy of the Holy Mysteries, he reposed in 337, on May 21 or 22, the day of Pentecost, having lived sixty-five years, of which he ruled for thirty-one years. His remains were transferred to Constantinople and were deposited in the Church of the Holy Apostles, which had been built by him (see Homily XXVI on Second Corinthians by Saint John Chrysostom).

As for his holy mother Helen, after her son had made the Faith of Christ triumphant throughout the Roman Empire, she undertook a journey to Jerusalem and found the Holy Cross on which our Lord was crucified (see Sept. 13 and 14). After this, Saint Helen, in her zeal to glorify Christ, erected churches in Jerusalem at the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, in Bethlehem at the cave where our Saviour was born, another on the Mount of Olives whence He ascended into Heaven, and many others throughout the Holy Land, Cyprus, and elsewhere. She was proclaimed Augusta, her image was stamped upon golden coins, and two cities were named Helenopolis after her in Bithynia and in Palestine. Having been thus glorified for her piety, she departed to the Lord being about eighty years of age, according to some in the year 330, according to others, in 336.



In February, the GraceWay Village Cafe provided 9,634 free, hot meals to 5,157 households, while the Clothing Boutique supplied 247 children from 104 families with 4,830 clothing items.



CLOTHING BOUTIQUE

247 children
104 families
4,830 clothing items

IT'S ALL IN THE NUMBERS



CAFE

9,634 meals
5,157 households

A heartfelt thank you to our committed GraceWay Village family for making our mission and programs a reality!

Together, we are restoring hope and renewing lives!

If you or your organization would like to learn more about our mission and the impact of your support, please visit <https://gracewayvillage.com>


Final PRINTED Issue of the VOICE

The newsletter will change to a digital format beginning with the June issue. 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



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2525 South 25th Street
Fort Pierce, FL 34981
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<p>None of us sit high enough to look down on anybody.</p> <p><i>Paper Quotes</i></p>	<p>The dog you love today was sent to you by the dog you loved yesterday.</p>	<p>WHAT IF WE BEGAN TO TREAT OUR BIBLES THE WAY WE TREAT OUR CELLPHONES?</p> <p>WHAT IF WE...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...CARRIED IT WITH US EVERYWHERE? ...TURNED BACK TO GO GET IT IF WE FORGOT IT? ...CHECKED IT FOR MESSAGES THROUGHOUT THE DAY? ...USED IT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY? ...SPENT AN HOUR OR MORE USING IT EACH DAY? 
<p>Yes, English can be weird.</p> <p>It can be understood through tough thorough thought, though.</p>		

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.

Christ is risen from the dead,
By death, trampling down upon death,
And to those in the tombs
He has granted life!