



The Voice

**August
2025**





The Voice is published monthly by
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

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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
GOYA
 last Sunday
 12:00 noon
Adult
Dance Classes
 Ann Athans
Book Store
 Kathy Beasley
Prison Ministry
 Shannon Foreman

Philoptochos

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 Aaron Knapp
 Every 1st & 3rd Monday
 6:00 PM

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stnicholasfp.com

Facebook
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 St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Ft Pierce, FL

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.

A Message from Father Andrew

We are at the beginning of the fifteen days of August devoted to the Panagia. The period is known in Greek as “Dekapentavgousto” meaning “Fifteen Days in August”. This is a time of increased prayer, both individual and as a community at the scheduled Paraklesis services, where we offer the names of our loved ones in prayers for their health and salvation.

During Dekapentavgousto we remember the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior on August 6th. We will celebrate the Divine Liturgy on that day and following our tradition also bless the grapes at the conclusion of the Liturgy.

Earlier this summer at the Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy-Laity Assembly & Philoptochos Conference in Charleston, South Carolina, our new metropolitan, His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos, had the new antimensions distributed. The antimension is a special cloth upon which the icon of our Lord’s burial is depicted. A photo of our new antimension is included here. Antimensions are used in the consecration of the altar and are thus sanctified. When the parish I served in West Palm Beach was consecrated in the 1980s, the bishop used many antimensions. They remained on the altar for forty days and the Divine Liturgy was celebrated upon them. Afterwards they went to the Archdiocese to be prepared for the parishes. The bishop signs each antimension and affixes his seal on it. Often the name of the parish and the date of the consecration are also placed on the antimension.

Each antimension is encased in a wine-colored cloth called the iliton to protect it. The icon of the four evangelists is placed in each corner. There are two angels on either side of Jesus ready for burial. The angel on the left is holding the cross with the inscription “The King of Glory.” This title is given to Jesus Christ in the Orthodox Christian tradition and references Psalm 23 (24): “Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in....Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of Glory.”

The antimension is folded and kept on the Holy Altar under the Holy Gospel. After the reading of the Gospel in the Divine Liturgy it is opened on the Altar and the Divine Liturgy proceeds with the Chalice and Paten placed on it at the Great Entrance. The authority of the bishop to the parish and the priest to celebrate the Liturgy is the Antimension. So with the new metropolitan, the new antimension bearing his name is presented.





Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15)

Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at once to the house of the Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction as was meet, and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God.

With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulchre, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. But one Jew, moved by malice, audaciously stretched forth his hand upon the bed and immediately received from divine judgment the wages of his audacity. Those daring hands were severed by an invisible blow. But when he repented and asked forgiveness, his hands were restored. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens.

These things has the Church received from the traditions of the Fathers, who have composed many hymns out of reverence, to the glory of the Mother of our God (see Oct. 3 and 4).



Philoptochos

Greetings,

Hoping everyone has been enjoying a busy summer! The fall season will be starting soon and also some cooler weather.

Philoptochos will be starting their monthly meetings on Saturday, September 6, 2025 at 11:00 am in the church hall. We urge all the ladies of our parish to make the decision to become a member of Philoptochos and embrace its meaning which is "Friends of the Needy".

On August 17, 2025 St. Nicholas is holding Ministry Sunday following the Divine Liturgy in the church hall. Visit the Philoptochos table and make the decision to become a member. We welcome new members; you are needed to contribute ideas for the many fundraisers held during the year. These funds make it possible to provide for the many who need assistance. Seeing the joy we are able to provide to our neighbors and other charities then brings us blessings from our Lord.

We are asking for someone to volunteer to write the monthly article for The Voice. It is not difficult and I am happy to guide and/or answer any questions. Your annual dues are only \$30 and can be collected at any meeting by Sharon Colonis, Treasurer. Looking forward to seeing our old and new members on September 6th !

With love in Christ,
Sharon Colonis

"Truly I tell you, whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do for me." (Matt. 24:25)

As long as God keeps
waking you up,
He still has a
plan for you.
Amen

"To be a Christian without prayer
is no more possible than to be alive
without breathing."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Your Stewardship

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you heard the words: Ahhh, summertime, when life is easy! What makes this season easy? Is it the cookouts, picnics, pool parties, vacations? These are all good reasons except for the effect this has on St. Nicholas Church. Attendance to Divine Liturgy lessens with the busyness of summer.

As a result, there is a tendency to forget our responsibility of Stewardship; the means by which we give because God first gave to us. Stewardship is a way of life for Orthodox Christians by supporting our church with love and joy; giving in proportion to the blessings we have received.

We often hear "To Him belong all glory". We become a meaningful participant of these words through our thoughts, actions, and the stewardship of our resources.

If you have submitted your 2025 Stewardship Form, we offer sincere thanks and appreciation. If you have not yet submitted your form, please do so as soon as possible with gratitude for your many blessings. Please feel free to contact me (860-460-5194) with any questions or comments you would like to share.

With Love in Christ,

Sharon Colonis

Stewardship Chair

***"What shall I render to the Lord
For all He has given me?" (Psalm 115.15)***



February 20, 21 and 22, 2025

Lord, when the winds of worry
blow and the waves of life feel
strong, anchor my heart in You.

Remind me that You are my
peace, my refuge, and the calm
within every storm.

Keep me steady, even when I
don't feel strong.

In You, I will not be moved.

Amen.

Parishioner Happenings



Father Andrew holding Xenia, the new-born daughter of Petru and Sarah Barcan.



Father Anastasios Garaboa gave a 40 day blessing to Anastacia Murphy, daughter of Steven and Holly Murphy (& sister of Savina).



Happy 99th Birthday, Ms. Angie!

Pictured with daughter, Katherine, **Angelice Timon** celebrated her 99th birthday



Dr. Sophia Zigouras, granddaughter of Simone Mavrakes, has graduated Einstein College of Medicine. Next, Dr. Zigouras will go on to do her Fellowship at Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey. There she will hone her skills in Colorectal surgery.

At graduation four awards were to be given:

Resident of the Year - awarded to the resident with the most outstanding clinical skills, selected by the surgical faculty.

Golden Apple Award - presented to the most outstanding chief resident, educator, selected by the medical students.

Leo M. Davidoff Society Award of Excellence in Teaching - presented to residents or fellows who have excelled in teaching junior residents and medical students, selected by the surgical faculty.

Jedd B. Sereysky Humanism Prize - given to the chief resident that possesses the characteristics of integrity, respect, friendship and excellence.

Dr. Zigouras won them all! She will go far and may the good Lord guide her on her journey.

Church Picnic



Join us for a heartwarming family
event!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday,
August
10th
Bring your
backpack
to church!



Wishing all students an amazing school year!

August 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sunday Services: 8:45 AM- Matins 10:00 AM- Liturgy					1	2
3 8th Sunday of Matthew	4 5:00 PM Paraklesis 6:00 PM FISHER Men	5	6 Transfiguration 9:00 AM- Matins 10:00 AM- Liturgy Bless Grapes	7	8	9
10 9th Sunday of Matthew Back Pack Blessings	11 <u>Public School Begins</u> 6:00 PM Paraklesis 7:00 PM Discover Orthodoxy	12	13 10:30 AM- Bible Study	14 6:00 PM- Vespers at St. Mary, WPB	15 Dormition of the Theotokos 9:00 AM- Matins 10:00 AM- Liturgy	16
17 10th Sunday of Matthew Ministry Sign-up	18 6:00 PM FISHER Men	19 6:30 PM Parish Council	20	21	22	23
24 11th Sunday of Matthew 31 12th Sunday of Matthew	25 6:30 PM Discover Orthodoxy	26	27 10:30 AM- Bible Study	28	29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist 9:00 AM- Matins 10:00 AM- Liturgy	30