



# *The Voice*

Sept.  
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  
10:00 AM

**Bible Study**  
Every 2nd & 4th  
Wednesday  
10:30 AM

**GOYA**  
last Sunday  
12:00 noon

**Adult**  
**Dance Classes**  
Ann Athans

**Book Store**  
Chayse Cloonan

**F.I.S.H.E.R. Men**  
Aaron Knapp  
Every 1st & 3rd Monday  
6:00 PM

**Philoptochos**

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Vice President  
Helen Penkosky

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**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.



Every September we are reminded of the opportunities to grow in Christ through the ministries of our Saint Nicholas parish. We have time devoted to the worship of our Lord in our Sunday Divine Liturgies and scheduled weekday services. We gather for Christian fellowship after services. We visit neighboring parishes and celebrate their parish feast days most often at evening Great Vespers services. Recently, I represented our parish at Saint Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church and at Saint Mary's Antiochian Church family for their Great Vespers and Artoklasia.

When we worship as a church family we raise our voices in praise, thanksgiving and prayer; we hear the scriptures, ask for forgiveness and our Lord's mercy. At the Divine Liturgies we recharge our spiritual being with the unending power from our risen Lord in the Eucharist, Holy Communion, the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We gather not to be entertained or to impress each other but to worship our Lord and Savior.

The new Ecclesiastical Year begins on September 1st. Many of our children participated in the blessing of their backpacks in August prior to the beginning of the new public school year. Our Sunday school begins September 7<sup>th</sup>. I will be blessing the children in the school house at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Philoptochos also begins their program year this month with a new time of 10 am on the first Saturday of the month. We are proud of the philanthropic mission of our ladies Philoptochos Society. It is often referred to as the "right arm of the church." This is because Philoptochos is not just one of the parish ministries. It is much more than that. Philoptochos expresses the gift of giving, the gift of caring, love, and concern for the parish. Their philanthropy represents who we are at Saint Nicholas to the outside world. At the same time, Philoptochos is always there to assure the success of our own parish.

Our Discover Orthodoxy classes continue. This past week we concentrated on the Proskomide service in preparation for each Divine Liturgy. I invite you to join us for our worship services, classes, programs and activities this new Ecclesiastical Year.

## **READ THE BIBLE:**

"Night and day let not the word of God be absent from your mouth."  
-- *St. Athanasios the Great*





## Nativity of the Theotokos

September 8

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

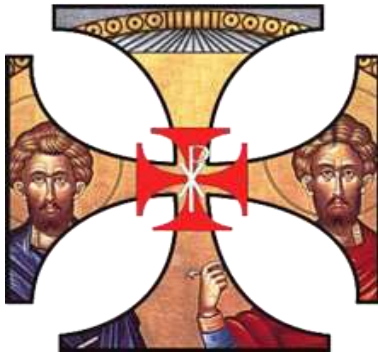
According to the story found in this book, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks.

As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

There is No door that God can't open.  
 No chain that God can't break.  
 No mountain that God can't move.  
 No prayer that God can't answer.

When life feels overwhelming and the worries of control creep in, remember: God's power has no limits. Let go of the things you cannot control. Give them to God. God will make a way. He did it before, He will do it again. Trust His timing.

Dear God, please open all doors for the person reading this. Amen.



# Philoptochos

Hope all of you had a wonderful summer. Welcome back.

Let's start this new year by supporting the Philoptochos throughout the year. Philoptochos is an organization that assists anyone in need.

By helping, you will be doing God's work.

We need volunteers to commit sponsoring a coffee hour. Two or three people can sponsor one together. You can make it as simple as you like. Please see the schedule posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Also assistance is needed in setting up before and cleaning up afterwards. Please let Stacey Louka know how you can help in any way. I will do my best to assist wherever I am needed. Coffee hour is an important time for everyone to socialize and welcome new members and visitors after church.

The first meeting of the Philotochos will be (first) Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the church hall. Please plan to attend. Please think about becoming a member. Annual dues are \$30.00. If you have any questions, please see Stacey Louka or any member.

May all of you have a healthy and Blessed year.

**"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever"**  
**(Hebrews 13:8)**

In Christ,  
Helen Penkosky

**"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."**  
**-FDR**

Worrying doesn't take away tomorrow's troubles,  
it takes away today's peace.

# Your Stewardship

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

## STEWARDSHIP = COMMITMENT

How do you feel about making a commitment? That could be a promise or an oath and at times one can be unsure about having to make a commitment. The First Commandment is an oath that as Orthodox Christians “you love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength”.

As stewards we acknowledge this oath through the generosity of the giving of our Time, Talent, and Treasure, the backbone of our stewardship. How much is that you may ask. A helpful question would be: “how do I thank God for my many blessings?”.

Only you have the answer to this question. God helps you with the answer as He has one rule and that is we give with joy and thanksgiving for what He has done for us. We are to be faithful and do our best for Him.

If you have not submitted your 2025 stewardship form, please do so at your earliest convenience as it is never too late. Thank you to the many who have submitted their 2025 form.

With Love in Christ,

Sharon Colonis

Stewardship Chair

*“In every gift let your face be cheerful and  
sanctify your tithe with gladness.”*

(Wisdom of Sirach 35:8)

## 2025 Stewardship Reminder

*We are grateful to those who completed, or are completing, their financial pledge for 2025. To those who have not yet pledged or sent in a donation, please take a moment to do so. Your Stewardship gift reflects your appreciation for God's many blessings.*



# Parishioner Happenings



Father Andrew blessed the back packs as the children get ready for school to start. Sunday School will begin September 7th.



**Xenia Barcan,**  
daughter of  
Petrou and Sarah Barcan,  
was baptized  
August 16th.



**Mary Ann Zaloumis,** a long time parishioner at St. Nicholas,  
passed away August 4 in Fairfax, Virginia.  
Our condolences to her family and friends.  
May her memory be eternal.

## Saint Nicholas Bookstore

We have the new stock in the bookstore: Icons of Christ, the Theotokos, Saint John the Forerunner and more are available for your prayer corner! We also have Incense, Censers and 33-knot prayer ropes.

**Stop by during the  
coffee hour and see!**

St. John of Damascus in his work, Exposition of the Orthodox Faith, wrote: "For our God, who has brought us from nothing into being, is more properly our Father than they who have begotten us, but who have received from Him both their being and their power to beget". Wisdom isn't found in the teaching of our fathers or mothers, alone, the traditions of our nations, alone, our own intuitions of who we ought to seek wisdom from, alone. It is not until we see traditions, teachings, and intuitions, sweetened by the Holy Spirit, who is the treasury of blessings and giver of life, that we can affirmatively say "this is blessed".

The west isn't simply a direction, nor, simply a region where 19% of us image bearers reside, it's actually commonplace to be viewed as a place of liberation... "a place of liberation", the idea itself is soldered into our minds. I'm speaking of primarily, the deepness of which it is embedded. Almost like the roots that remain of a once removed oak tree. Making the building of a new structure atop of them profoundly difficult. One must hack at these thick husks until they give way and the ground may be properly tended to, in preparation for something new to be built, or perhaps even planted and grown. The necessary acknowledgment of the need to cut this idea out is much less pronounced to see. What is more haunting is the lie that this idea and archetype of a "liberated world" bears a sort of "enlightened" means of reasoning. In this case, it's more like the sharpest needle and finest thread, woven into our minds. A blonde hair laying on a carpet, present, but almost completely undetectable. Many of us have no idea that the way we think, the way we go about reflecting on hard questions and striking answers, the cobbled path of how we "reason", is laden with breadcrumbs that guide us right into pride and vainglory, making what we once called "reason" and "logic", leading up to what (hopefully) is a recognition of our stumbling, a farce. The dry eye of a brother or sister, medicated with wisdom, refreshing it of its burning and pain, restoring clear sight, has the advantage of both the struggle and the grace of God's welling flow of healing. The struggle is almost like a baby learning to walk, stumbling about and such. The medicine, being the hand, God's hand of course, that cradles ours, that guides our steps. Only through the struggle and medicine do we find the vision of our souls sharpened.







A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all"

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL !

B I. B L. E. simply means: **B**asic **I**nstructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth!



The Greek Orthodox Ladies  
**PHILOPTOCHOS  
SOCIETY**

## Mother of Every Mother

**By: His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos**

National Philoptochos Spiritual Advisor

### Model of Motherhood

Panaghia's motherhood is prayer, offering, and love. In her, every woman finds a holy example.

### Mother of Every Mother

The Theotokos understands the joys and sorrows of motherhood. She raised Christ with love and watched Him walk the road to the Cross. Her motherhood is not just biological—it is spiritual, eternal, and full of prayer.

**Today's challenge:** Whether you are a mother, daughter, godmother, or spiritual friend—find one woman today to encourage or support.



**February 20, 21 and 22, 2025**

### BEST EVER SENIOR CITIZEN JOKE

A little silver-haired lady calls her neighbor and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started."

Her neighbor asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The little silver-haired lady says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster."

Her neighbor decides to go over and help with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says,

"First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster."

He takes her hand and says, "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then," he said with a deep sigh...

"Let's put all the Corn Flakes back in the box."



Words to heal the soul

**Due to inflation  
you can now eat  
food that has been  
on the floor for up  
to 7.3 seconds.**

## Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to pressure clean the concrete car stops in the parking lot and to clean the marquee sign in the front and/or any other areas that need cleaning.

# September 2025

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

<b>Sunday Services:</b> <b>8:45 AM-Orthros</b> <b>10:00 AM-Liturgy</b>	<b>1 Ecclesiastical New Year</b>  6:00 PM FISHER Men	2	3	4	5	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM-Philoptochos
<b>7 Sunday Before Holy Cross</b>  <b>- Sunday School Begins</b> <b>- Grand-parents Day</b>	<b>8 Nativity of the Theotokos</b> 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM-Liturgy 6:30 PM-Discover Orthodoxy	9	<b>10</b> 10:30 AM-Bible Study  6:30 PM-Parish Council	11	12	13
<b>14 Elevation of the Holy Cross</b>	<b>15</b>  6:00 PM-FISHER Men	16	17	18	19	20
<b>21 Sunday After Holy Cross</b>	<b>22</b>  6:30 PM-Discover Orthodoxy	23	<b>2</b>  10:30 AM-Bible Study	25	<b>26 St. John the Theologian</b> 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM-Liturgy 6:00 PM--Festival Committee mtg.	<b>27</b> 8:30 AM GraceWay Prep
<b>28 1st Sunday of Luke</b>  12:00 Noon-GraceWay Cooking	29	30				