



The Voice

May
2026





The Voice is published monthly by
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Meetings

Parish Council
3rd Tuesday
6:30 PM

Philoptochos
1st Saturday
10:00 AM

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

GOYA
last Sunday
12:00 noon

Book Store
Chayse Cloonan

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

Discover Orthodoxy
Every 2nd & 4th Monday
6:30 PM

Philoptochos

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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.

**Christ is Risen! Christos Anesti!
Truly He is Risen! Alithos Anesti!**

We exchange this greeting from Pascha, the day of our Lord's Resurrection, for forty days until His Ascension. In like manner we do not kneel in prayer until the three great prayers of kneeling at the Great Vespers of the feast of Pentecost. The week after Pascha, Renewal or Bright Week, was celebrated as a fast-free week. After the rigor of Great Lent this joyous celebration is welcome; especially the joy in our hearts knowing that the celebration is for our Lord's Resurrection.

We rejoice at this, 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! We tend to forget this as is evident at the dip in attendance on Thomas Sunday. Our obligation for prayer is a continuing one. Listen to the admonition of Saint John of Kronstadt who lived in 18th - 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!

It was a blessing to have our entire parish and community participate in the Holy Week and Pascha services. Christ has risen from the dead as He foretold, bestowing upon us eternal life and great mercy!



Feast of the Holy Great Sovereigns 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 October 28 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.

Continued



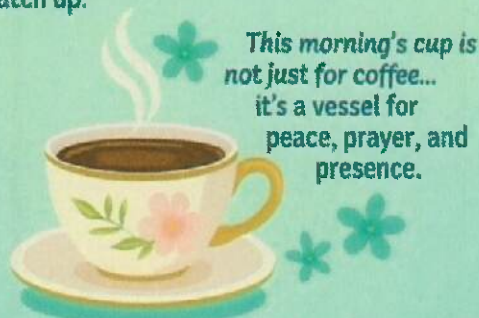
In 325 he gathered the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, which he himself personally addressed. In 324, in the ancient city of Byzantium, he laid the foundations of the new capital of his realm, and solemnly inaugurated it on May 11, 330, naming it after himself, Constantinople. Since the throne of the imperial rule was transferred to Constantinople 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.

Good Morning, Sweet Soul

YOU CANNOT POUR FROM AN EMPTY CUP.

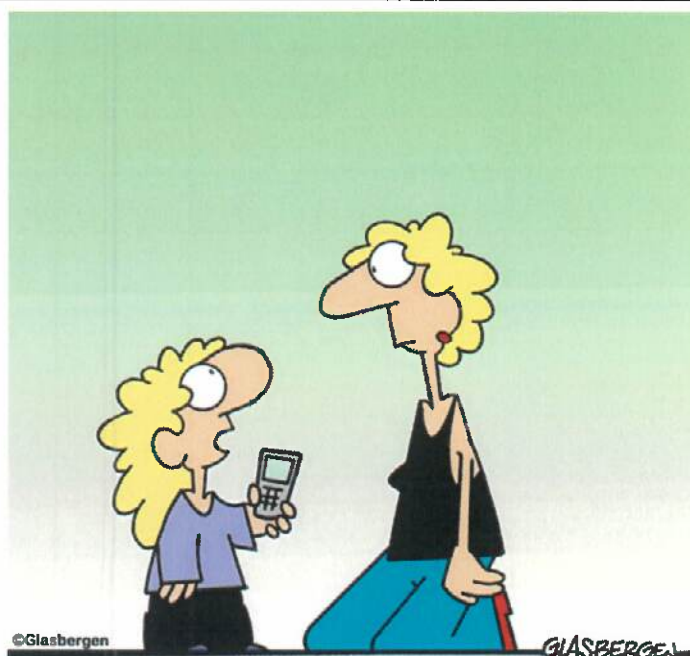
Take a deep breath. Sit still. Let your soul catch up.



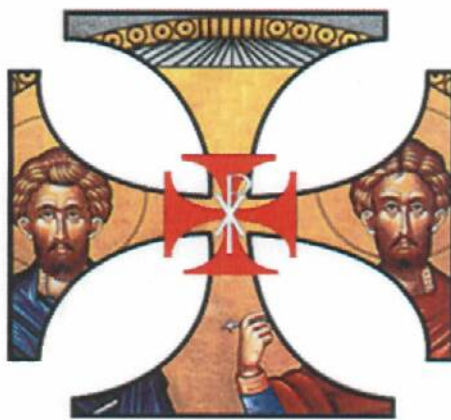
This morning's cup is not just for coffee... it's a vessel for peace, prayer, and presence.

Rest. Pray. Breathe. Be still.

Let the world wait while you refill—because you deserve the same care you give so freely to others.



"If I send my prayer as a text message, will I get a faster reply?"



Philoptochos

After a long spiritual journey through Lent and Holy Week, hope all of you had a wonderful Pascha celebration.

This culminated with an Easter luncheon after Easter Sunday morning (Agape) service. A special thanks to Ann Athans for organizing his event. Thanks to those who worked in the kitchen and those who decorated the hall to make it so festive for this occasion. Also thanks to those who brought a cover dish or a dessert for everyone to enjoy. What a grand ending to Pascha celebration.

On Holy Thursday morning, we, (Helen P. - Paul M. – Helen F.) had the pleasure and honor of dying the red eggs to be distributed to everyone after Easter services. Thanks to several Philoptochos ladies who came to oil and bag the eggs. Most of all, thanks to Maria Miller for donating 20 Doz. eggs.

We will continue coffee hours during the summer months. Coffee Hours: You only need to bring one item for any given Sunday. Illona C. will be away during May. Helen P. will fill in for her. Coffee hours are very important to our church family. We need everyone to assist with coffee hours.

Philoptochos' next meeting will tentatively be the first Saturday in September. Confirmation to follow. This would be an excellent opportunity to become a member. Please plan to attend this important meeting. We meet once a month. Annual dues are \$30.00.

Mother's Day (May 10th) – Happy Mother's Day to all mothers and grandmothers.

Until next time, keep a song in your heart and a safe and happy summer.
God's blessing to all of you.

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

In Christ,
Helen Penkosky

Your Stewardship

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Since the end of Holy Week, I keep reflecting on a paragraph from the Holy Monday evening service. I want to share it with you and hope it also has special meaning for you:

Come, faithful, let us labor with zeal for the Master. For He shares out His wealth to His stewards; as each is able, then, let us augment the talent of grace. One will embellish wisdom with good works; another will perform a splendid liturgy. The believer will convey the word to the uninitiated, while yet another will distribute wealth to the indigent. Thus shall we increase what is ours in trust, and as stewards of grace merit the Master's joy. O Christ, as loving God, deem us worthy of this joy!

To me this illustrates that in whatever way, in which we as stewards are able to share, God is all knowing and will shine His Grace on us. Glory to God!

Asking for your time and talent is part of stewardship which is the foundation of our parish; enabling St. Nicholas to fulfill its mission of spreading the Word of Christ, and your treasure to support her ministries and charities throughout the year.

Some of our parishoners have plans to return to their northern homes. While away, a reminder to please continue to support your Stewardship Pledge. Use our website www.stnicholasfp.com to safely use your debit/credit card or your checking/savings account.

With Love in Christ,
Sharon Colonis
Stewardship Chair

I believe in God.

Not because someone raised me to.

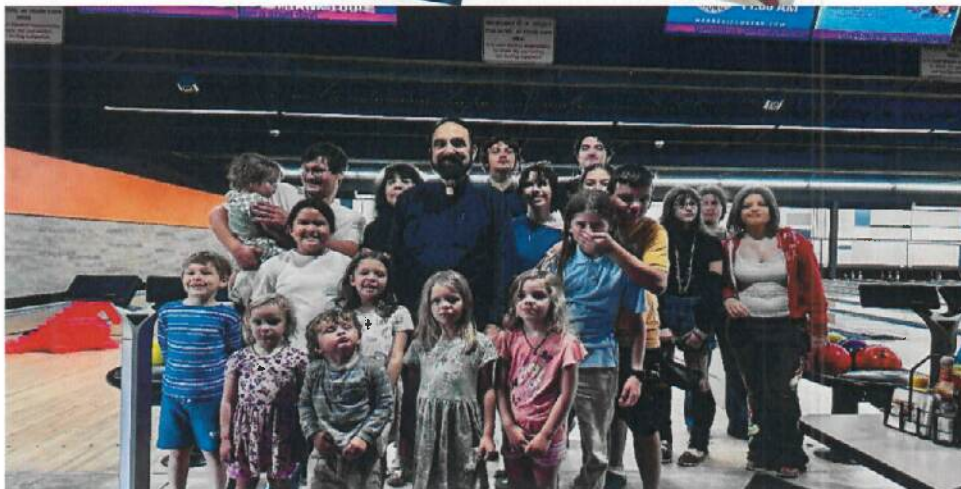
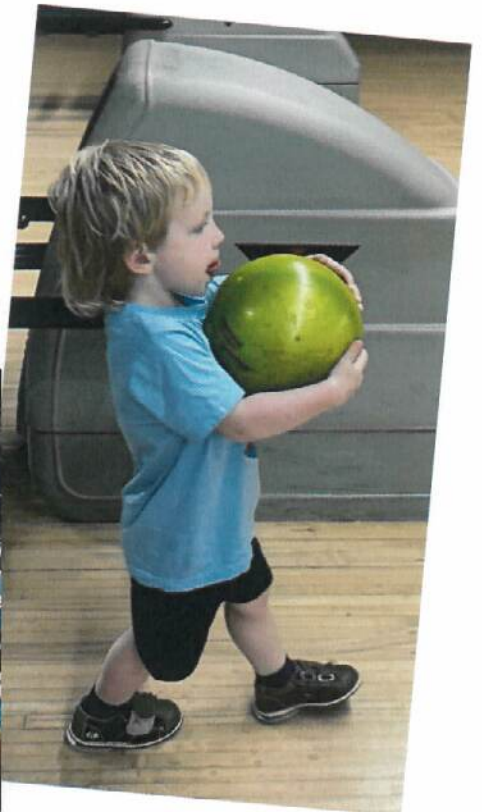
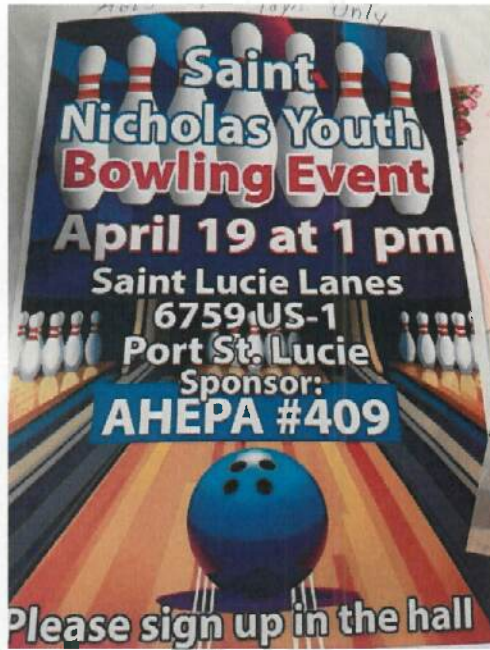
Not because a church told me to.

But because I've actually felt Him show up in my life.

I've seen His hands in things I can't explain.

And nothing is ever going to shake that for me.

Parishioner Happenings





I want to take a moment and talk about GraceWay Village and our community's continuous contribution to the local community, It has been many years that we have been helping to feed numerous homeless people in this community. We average 480 to 500 full meals monthly to local homeless people. I want to thank everyone who has committed both time and treasure to this endeavor. Many people have stepped up with private donations offsetting the rising costs with this. In addition, recently the Philoptochos has agreed to provide the cost of the rice monthly. Many thanks to that great organization.

Please remember that for as little as \$40 you would be able to feed 40 people. As always, we need to add to the volunteers monthly. It takes a few hours on Saturday morning to prepare. In addition, we also need more help on Sundays. It is a few hours after coffee hour. If anyone can help, please feel free to contact me at 484-557-3746 or PaulM44133@aol.com (yes, I still use AOL). Again, many thanks. I look forward to hearing from you;

Thank you!!
Paul Maneos

May 2026

<p>Sunday Services: 8:45 AM-Orthros 10:00 AM-Liturgy</p>						1	2 10:00 AM-Philoptochos
3 Sunday of the Paralytic	4	5	6	7	8	9	
General Assembly	6:00 PM - FISHER Men				7:00 PM - New Women's Group		
10 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Mother's Day Brunch							
17 Sunday of the Blind Man	18	19	20	21 Ascension & Sts. Helen & Constantine	22	23	
	6:00 PM - FISHER Men	6:30 PM - Parish Council Meeting		9:00 AM-Orthros 10:00 AM-Liturgy		GraceWay Prep	
24 Fathers of the 1st Council	25	26	27	28	29	30 Saturday of Souls	
GraceWay Cooking			10:30 AM-Bible Study			9:00 AM-Orthros 10:00 AM-Liturgy	
31 Holy Pentecost	6:30 PM - Discover Orthodoxy						
8:45 AM. Orthros 9:45 AM. Liturgy 11:00AM. Vespers							