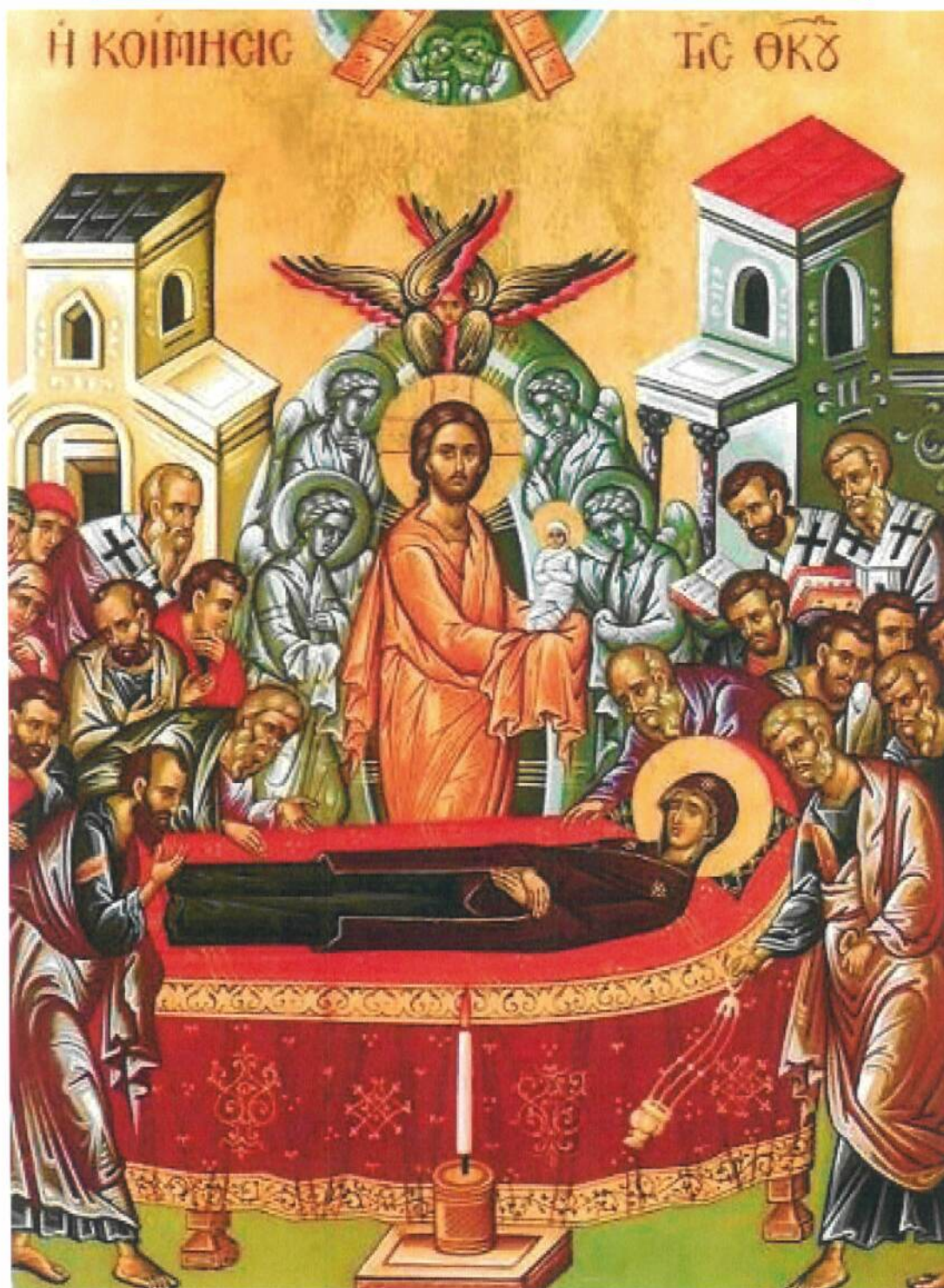




The Voice

August
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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Vice President
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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.

Our Life of Worship

The Early Church was characterized by the fact that its members were primarily a worshipping community. Whatever sprang from the life of the Early Church was the direct result of its devotion to God and its effort to do His will.

Collective worship, therefore, was an essential part of everyone's life in the Early Church. It bound each individual to the worshipping community. In short, collective worship defined each person's "Christian identity." We recognize the importance of collective worship to our life today. Here, at Saint Nicholas, we are a worshipping community. This means that just as the Holy Spirit affected the mind and heart of the Early Church, it affects our 21st century Church life. As a community we move towards God in our worship together.

We should be increasingly concerned with our participation. We should seek to understand the real reasons why Christians have been gathering and worshipping together for centuries. We must address some of the shallow excuses that we sometimes use to avoid worship with our church family. Recognize that occasional attendance on Sundays reflects our less than faithful commitment to Jesus Christ.

Just as we quickly seek to repair an unreliable appliance, so we must seek to improve our participation in worship. The solution is simple: ask questions and participate frequently. For just as a reliable refrigerator can make a difference, just as a reliable car is a necessity, so too can interest and participation make a difference in our individual and collective spiritual development.

August first we enter into the fifteen day period of Dekapentavgousto, the special lent devoted to the Theotokos, the Holy Mother of God. On August 15 we celebrate her Dormition, falling asleep in the Lord. During the fourteen days preceding we fast and offer special prayers, Paraklesis -- Supplication services, to the Theotokos. Within this brief lenten season, on August 6, we also celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord. Both are major feast days in the life of our Greek Orthodox Church.

I urge you to make the commitment to participate in the central part of our Church, its prayer life, and worship with us during the special Paraklesis services, Great Vespers, and Divine Liturgy of Dekapentavgous-to.

We ask all students to bring their backpacks to church on Sunday, August 9, for the blessing of the backpacks. Public school begins the next day. Ministry sign-up for the upcoming new ecclesiastical year will be on August 30 and September 6. Lead your children to Christ: don't allow them to languish without God in their lives. Their direction in life rests entirely on all those who are involved with them: parents, godparents, grandparents, uncles, and aunts.



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

Continued



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)

Apolytikion of Dormition of the Theotokos

First Tone

In birth, you preserved your virginity; in death, you did not abandon the world, O Theotokos. As mother of life, you departed to the source of life, delivering our souls from death by your intercessions.

Kontakion of Dormition of the Theotokos

Second Tone

Neither the grave nor death could contain the Theotokos, the unshakable hope, ever vigilant in intercession and protection. As Mother of life, He who dwelt in the ever-virginal womb transposed her to life.

Are oranges named oranges because oranges are orange
or is orange named orange because oranges are orange?



Why are deliveries on a ship called cargo,
but in a car it's called a shipment?



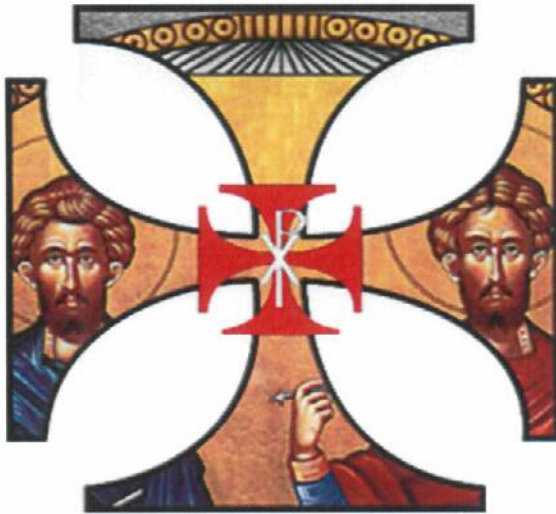
If earth is the third planet from the sun,
doesn't it mean that every country is a third world country?

You know what's crazy: WATER
It can boil you to death, freeze you to death and drown you,
yet you still need it to survive.



If #2 is the most popular pencil,
Why is it still #2?





Philoptochos

Hope all of you are having a wonderful summer.

St. Mary's lent starts on Saturday, August 1st and is observed for two weeks culminating with the holy day of the Dormition of the Theotokos on Saturday, August 15th. Fr. Andrew will serve Divine Liturgy at 10:00am.

MINISTRY SIGN-UP Sunday, August 30th and September 6th

This will take place after liturgy in the church hall during coffee hour. There will be several church ministries to sign up. Please consider becoming a member of the Philoptochos. We are a charitable organization. Our mission is to assist anyone in need. It can be very rewarding. It's also a time for our ladies to get together.

Even though we do not have meetings during the summer, we still need to prepare for coffee hours after Sunday liturgy. We need more participation from everyone. Thanks to those who always donate food for coffee hour and continue to do so. You do not have to be a member of the Philoptochos to help. Coffee hours are very important to our church family. This gives us a chance to socialize and welcome newcomers.

Our first meeting of the year will be Saturday, September 5th at 10:00am in the church hall. Plan to attend this important meeting. We will be discussing our fundraising and other activities for the coming year. We welcome new members. Meetings are once a month. Annual dues are \$30.00.

In the meantime, enjoy the rest of your summer.
God's blessings to all of you.

In Christ,
Helen Penkosky

Your Stewardship

Time – Talent – Treasure

The Church has many needs, and all who worship are to contribute according to the blessings they receive from God for the time He gives us, the talents we are blessed with, and the treasure with which He supports us. One of our many needs is for Prosforo (bread for Holy Communion and antidoron) which is used at every Divine Liturgy. There is a small group of faithful women and men who bake weekly to provide for that need.

If you haven't noticed, our church is experiencing a growth in its membership and attendance at Divine Liturgy. This means we have a need for more Prosforo.

If you are a baker and are willing to be added to our rotation of regular bakers, please contact Subdeacon Pamphilos (Robert Rieffel) for more information.

If you are not a baker but would like to learn to bake Prosforo, please contact Subdeacon Pamphilos, and I will be happy to show you how to prepare Prosforo.

You may contact me by email (okeerief@gmail.com), by phone (689-766-4284) or in person after Divine Liturgy at the coffee hour. I will be delighted to tell you everything you need to know to get started on this important ministry of the Church.

Yours, In Christ's Service,
Subdeacon Robert

I saw a quote that said:

How can we judge people for their choices when we know nothing about their options?

It stayed in my mind for a while. Because from the outside, it's always easy to point at someone's life and say they chose wrong.

We look at the outcome, the mistake, the mess, and we think we would have done better. But what we don't see are the closed doors they stood in front of—the pressure, the fear, the limited choices they had at the time. Sometimes what looks like a bad decision to us was the only door they could open.

Judgment is easy when we only see the ending. Compassion starts when we stop and wonder what choices someone actually had.



Parishioner Happenings



Happy 100th Birthday, Angie!

A beautiful 100th birthday celebration for "Angelice Timon" was hosted by her daughter Katherine. Those who attended enjoyed a wonderful celebration and a delicious meal at Tutto Fresca in Port St Lucie, Florida. May GOD grant her many more years.



We express our condolences as **Luz Acosta**, mother of Orlando Martinez, has been called home to the Lord. May her memory be eternal.

Church Picnic

You can't celebrate summer without a picnic! Our thanks to **Ann Athans** for organizing a great day at the beach. And a shoutout to the guys for doing the cooking and heavy lifting.



Ministry Sunday

August 30

September 6

St. Nicholas offers a variety of programs for parishioners to get involved in. From feeding the hungry to dancing in celebration, there is something for everyone. Please attend Ministry Sunday and sign up for a program that interests you.



Donations Needed



Our church is raising funds to purchase two automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to help protect the health and safety of our parish family and all who visit our church. In a cardiac emergency, every second counts, and having AEDs readily available could save a life. If you are able, please consider making a donation of any amount. Your generosity will help us provide this important safety measure for our community. Thank you for your kindness, support, and continued care for one another.

August 2026

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednes-

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday
Services:

8:45 AM-
Orthros

10:00 AM-
Liturgy

1
11:00AM—
Paraclesis
Service

2

3
5:00PM—
Paraclesis
Service
6:00 PM -
FISHER Men

4

5

10:30 AM -
Bible Study

6
Transfiguration
of Our Lord
Orthros 9:00AM
Liturgy
10:00AM

7

8

9
Blessing
of the
Backpacks

10
5:30PM—
Paraclesis
6:30 PM -
Discover
Orthodoxy

11

12

13

14

15
Dormition
of the
Theotokos
Orthros 9:00AM
Liturgy 10:00AM

16

17

6:00 PM -
FISHER Men

18

6:30 PM -
Council
Meeting

19

10:30 AM -
Bible Study

20

21

22

23

24

6:30 PM -
Discover
Orthodoxy

25

26

27

28

29
Beheading of
St John The
Baptist
Orthros 9:00AM
Liturgy 10:00AM

30
Ministry
Sunday

31