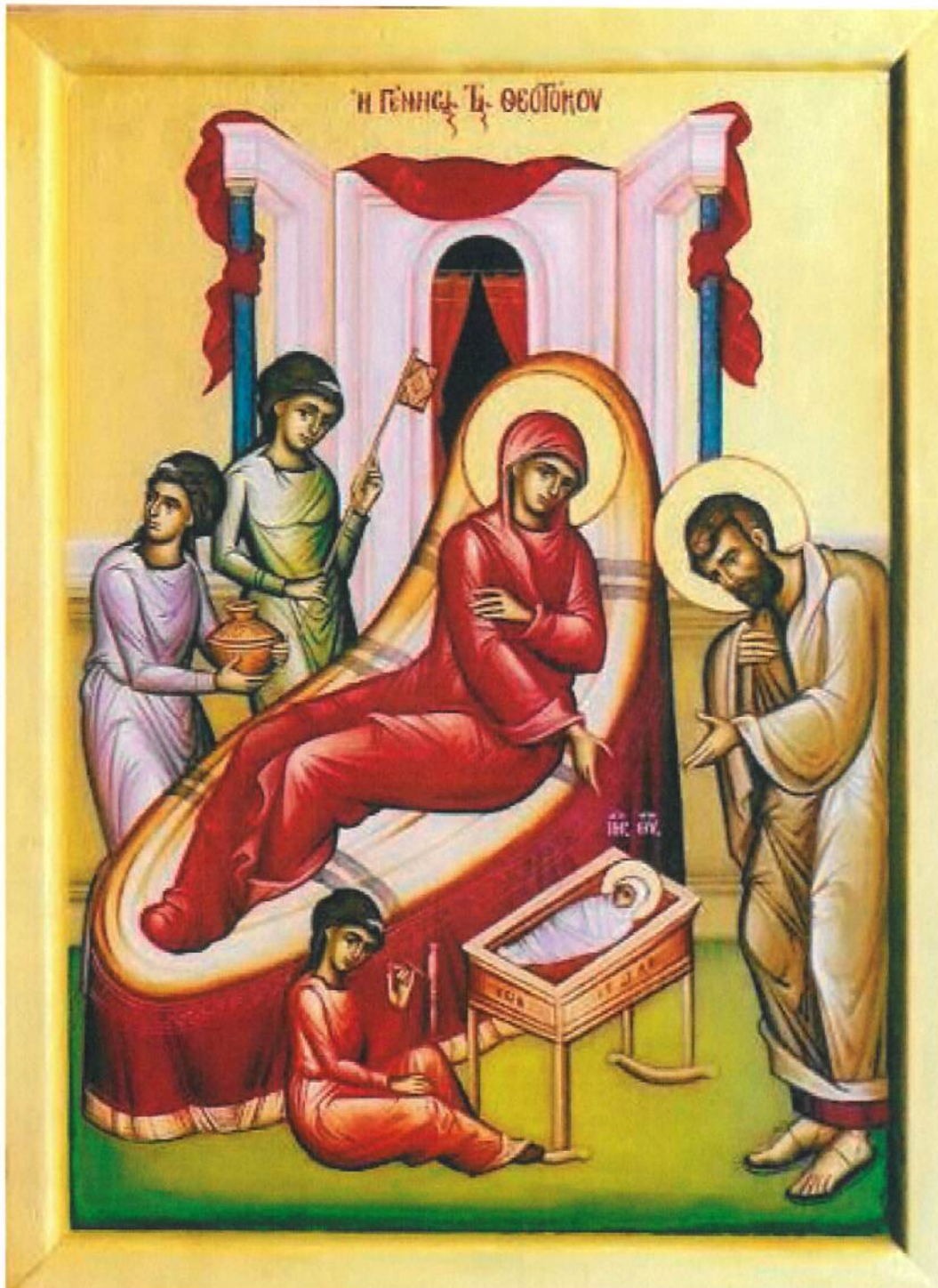




# *The Voice*

Sept.  
2026





*The Voice* is published monthly by  
**SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
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 Fort Pierce, FL 34981  
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**The Rev. Father Andrew Maginas**

### **Parish Council**

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**GraceWay Village**  
 Paul Maneos

**Library**  
 Elizabeth Demko

**Stewardship**  
 Sharon Colonis  
 Robert Rieffel

### **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**

**President**  
 Stacey Louka

**Vice President**  
 Helen Penkosky

**Recording**  
**Secretary**  
 Joani Mihalakos

**Corresponding**  
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 St Nicholas Greek Ortho-  
 dox 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 distinguishing feature of a Greek Orthodox parish is that it is a worshipping community. Our greatest reason for existence is to provide a house of worship for our Greek Orthodox faith. Our faith in our Lord challenges us to greater spiritual heights. He guides our every step when we turn to Him. The most important of all the services of our Church is the Divine Liturgy which we celebrate on Sundays and holy days. In the Divine Liturgy we raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving, hear the scriptures, proclaim our faith, ask forgiveness and our Lord's mercy as we prepare to receive the Holy Eucharist, Holy Communion, the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

When we worship as a church family we lift our voices in praise, thanksgiving, and prayer. We meet each Sunday, the Lord's Day, for one central reason, not to be entertained, or to impress our friends and neighbors, but to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our worship is what sets us apart from the world and sets us between "heaven and earth."

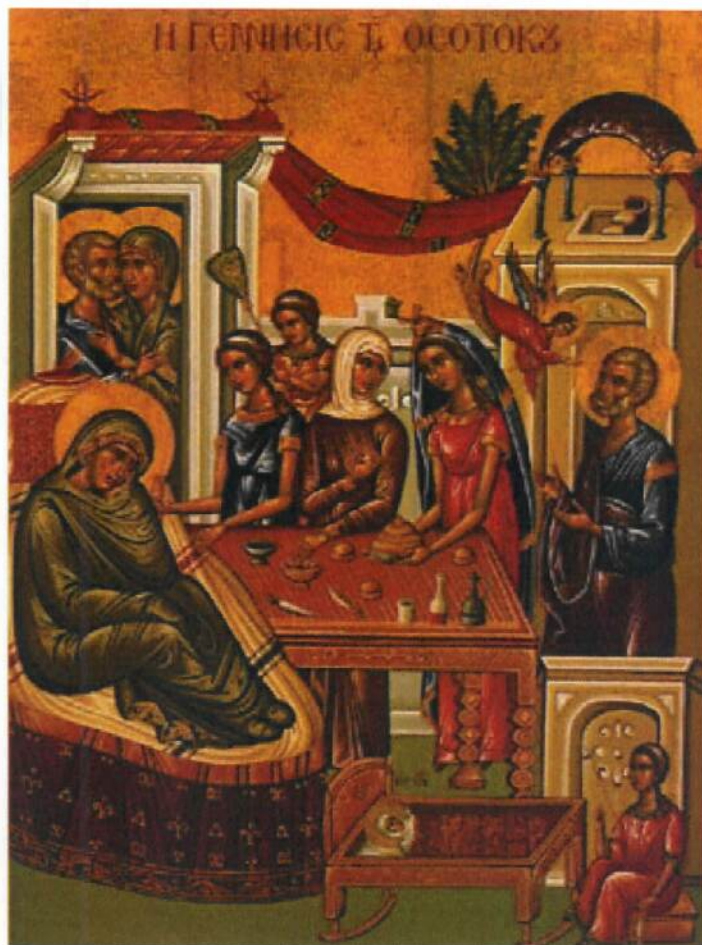
The essence of our worship is that it is a Liturgy. The meaning of this word comes from the Greek, the *work of the people*. There is no thought of entertainment or showmanship contained in true liturgy. It is simply, the work of all who have gathered to pray together. We hear not the voices of individuals when we pray as a community, but our collective voices and hearts expressing their love of God and praise of Him. Whether "on key" or "flat," weak or strong, young or old, we sing and pray the Divine Liturgy together. Our hearts cry out to our creator and the prayer of our heart is always on key, booming out, and ageless.

We look forward to every opportunity to worship our Lord. Do not wait for a special invitation to participate. The purpose of our gathering is to pray and sing together in worship. The leaders, whether bishop, priest, choir or chanters, are not entertaining us but leading us as we worship together.

Join us each Lord's Day, raise your voices together in prayers and hymns. Bring your children, grandchildren, godchildren and encourage them. Remember, we set the moral tone for our families; we teach through our practices as we pass on our faith and traditions. We enable the generations to come to experience this same special feeling of being between "heaven and earth."

The new Ecclesiastical Year begins September 1<sup>st</sup>. We heard the message for the new year from His All Holiness, our Patriarch Bartholomew at the Divine Liturgy. I urge you to read and study this moving message. It is available by clicking on 'Sunday Bulletin' on our Saint Nicholas website home page <https://stnicholasfp.com>.

This coming Sunday we will continue registration for our Saint Nicholas ministries for the new Ecclesiastical Year which begins September 1<sup>st</sup>. Sunday School will begin the following Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> with the lesson in church before Holy Communion and continuing afterwards in the classrooms.



## **The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary (September 8)**

According to the ancient tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was born of barren and aged parents, Joachim and Anna, about the year 16 or 17 before the birth of Christ. Joachim was descended from the royal line of David, of the tribe of Judah. Anna was of the priestly tribe of Levi, a daughter of the priest Matthan and Mary, his wife.

### **Apolytikion of Nativity of the Theotokos**

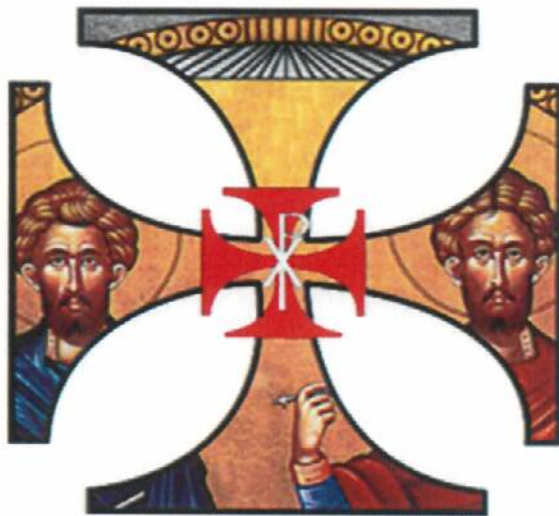
Fourth Tone

Your birth, O Theotokos, brought joy to the whole world, for from you dawned the sun of righteousness, Christ our God. Freeing us from the curse, He gave us His blessings. Abolishing death, He granted us eternal life.

### **Kontakion of Nativity of the Theotokos**

Fourth Tone

In your holy birth, Immaculate One, Joachim and Anna were rid of the shame of childlessness; Adam and Eve of the corruption of death. And so your people, free of the guilt of their sins, celebrate crying: "The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, who nourishes our life."



# Philoptochos

Welcome back to all of you who have been away for the summer. Hope you had a wonderful one. Let's start this year volunteering to help the Philoptochos and the church.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Philoptochos, we are part of the National organization and known as Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. Our important mission is to provide assistance to those in need.

In order to meet these goals, we have fundraisings throughout the year. We ask all of you to support these functions planned by this society. We will keep you informed as to what is decided at our meetings.

Coffee hour after church is one important function. Volunteers are needed to bring food items and paper supplies. Help is also needed to set up and clean up afterwards. You do not have to be a member to participate. Please be generous with your monetary donations.

Ladies, please consider becoming a member of the Philoptochos. It can be very rewarding and gives us a chance to get together. Our meetings are once a month. Annual dues are \$30.00. Part of these dues are sent to the National.

Due to the Labor Day week-end, our next monthly meeting will be the second Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 10:00am in the church hall.

Until next time, keep a smile on your face.  
God's blessings to all of you.

In Christ,  
Helen Penkosky

The word "nun" is just the letter "n" doing a cartwheel.

# Your Stewardship

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to September and the beginning of some cooler, fall weather. September means we are nearing the 4th quarter of 2026 and we need to continue our support in order to finish the year strong. This is a reminder that we check on our stewardship pledge. Are we up to date on our pledge? Have we missed some weeks? Will we be able to catch up on those missed weeks? Will we reach the 2026 budgeted goal of \$205,000?

There is a wonderful brochure in the Narthex that will help us with some of the answers. It is titled "Rise Up and Build". Please take one as you enter the Narthex and read the words of Nehemiah, a leader from the Old Testament.

If you have not yet sent in a Stewardship Form, please consider doing so at your earliest convenience. It is never too late.

May we all strive to be good and faithful Stewards by supporting our Church and ministries. Thank you for your continued generosity and love of St. Nicholas Church.

***"God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them."***  
(Hebrews 6:10)

With Love in Christ,

Sharon Colonis

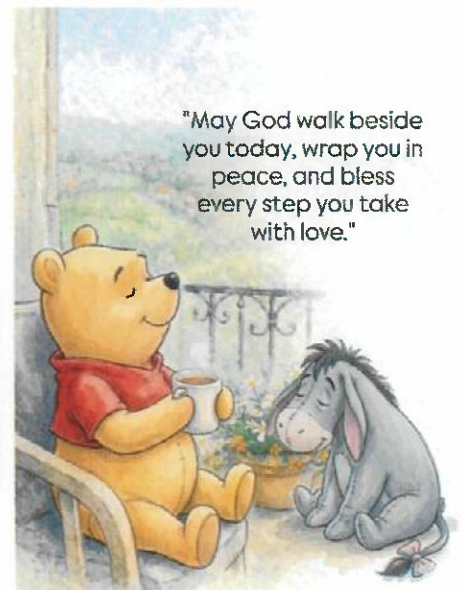


I have to get this one posted  
before the weekend starts or the  
pun doesn't work!

Thank God It's...



"May God walk beside  
you today, wrap you in  
peace, and bless  
every step you take  
with love."





I want to take a moment and give an update on the work being done in conjunction with Graceway Village. With the help of many volunteers and donations we have been able to support providing a full meal to 500 homeless individuals monthly. Working with St James Orthodox Church in Port St. Lucie adds an additional 500 meals a month to help people in need.

Our reputation for providing quality and quantity is very welcome and appreciated. I have been to the facility many times during distribution. The saddest thing to see even with this contribution day to day necessities are still an issue. Even bottled water when available is considered a gift for many homeless people.

We have been fortunate this past year to get help in doing this endeavor. Besides our great volunteers on both Saturday and Sunday the Church provides the Chicken and other items. The Philoptochos has been providing rice monthly. In addition to a donation that provides the vegetables monthly.

I cannot thank everyone enough for the help to make this happen. We are always in need to offset the costs to the Church and any donation big or small would be helpful in keeping this program. A donation of \$40.00 can feed as many as 40 people. At a restaurant, these days that is usually the cost for one person. We are always looking for donations and/or Volunteers. Please let me know if you can help.

Thank you to everyone who makes this possible. I look forward to hearing from you.

Paul Maneos

If Apple made a car, would it still have Windows?

If you pour ice water on a hot dog, does it become a chili dog?

Light bulbs were such a good idea they became a symbol for a good idea.

Taxes are just a yearly subscription to the country you live in.

Childhood is the free trial.

# From the Treasurer

Greetings from the beautiful Greek island of Karpathos!

Here's a summary of our Church's income and expenses from January through July of 2026:

|                            |                 |                                        |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Income                     | \$154,431       |                                        |
| Minus expenses             | <u>-178,907</u> |                                        |
| Equals Net Profit (Loss)   | (24,476)        | (with parentheses this is a loss)      |
| Plus Other Income          | <u>+95,730</u>  |                                        |
| Equals Total Profit (Loss) | 71,254          | (with no parentheses this is a profit) |

We expect this profit to decline over the final five months of the year due to upcoming insurance payments, maintenance/renovation projects, and an anticipated August shortfall before our "snowbird" parishioners return.

You may wonder which income sources cover the Church's expenses. Currently the primary sources are:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Stewardship        | 60% |
| Festival           | 60% |
| Candles            | 11% |
| Interest/dividends | 7%  |

(these figures exceed 100% because the Church currently has a year-to-date profit)

In late 2023, the parish council began investing the Church's assets. We started with money market mutual funds and certificates of deposit (CDs), then expanded into U.S. government bonds and stock funds, including Fidelity index funds and actively managed funds.

Let's review the key reasons for investing:

## (1) Generate income

During 2024, 2025 and 2026 year to date we have earned a total of \$71,669 to help pay Church expenses. This comes primarily from money market funds and CDs. In the future this will also come from US Government bonds.

## (2) Beat inflation

Just like your personal expenses increase with inflation, so do the Church's expenses (salaries, utilities, maintenance, supplies etc.). The Church's stock market investments can be expected to beat inflation, since they represent ownership in real businesses that can raise prices, increase productivity, and grow their earnings over time.

For example, the S&P 500 index is up more than 12% year to date in 2026, well outpacing inflation.

## (3) Grow wealth via compounding

Famed investor Warren Buffet once said, "My life has been a product of compound interest. Nothing more. Nothing less. And nothing brilliant."

Another quote is "compound interest is a consistent and reliable investing tool. The earlier you begin, the greater your results" (Andy Newell, NBOI)

Continued



(From the Treasurer continued)

(4) Fund major goals

We have been slowly and gradually investing in the stock market starting in May of 2024. If we can remain patient during the stock market's ups and downs and continue to invest, we expect that in 10-20 years we can accumulate a large sum of money for our Church.

Our Archdiocese invests a large portion of its assets in the stock market, approximately 35% at the end of 2024.

Stay tuned for future discussions about "Planned Giving" and the Church's Endowment Fund which are related to investing.

Cindy and I retired early and are spending time in Greece in part because of our own investing success. We hope our Church can achieve similar results over the next 10 to 20 years. We look forward to seeing everyone when we return in late September!

-Bob Azari



# Parishioner Happenings



## Blessing of the Backpacks Back-to-School 2026



Father Andrew blessed the boat *Imagine* at the Fort Pierce Marina, marking a special beginning for parishioner Rena Trotter and her new business, Cool Cat Charters. The blessing celebrated not only the launch of the boat, but also the exciting kickoff of Rena's new venture and the parish community's support for the new endeavor.

# Today is Ministry Sunday

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.

# September 2026

3

|                                                                                 |                                                                                |                                                                              |                                       |           |           |                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday<br>Services:<br>8:45 AM-<br>Orthros<br>10:00 AM-<br>Liturgy              |                                                                                | 1                                                                            | 2                                     | 3         | 4         | 5                                                                                               |
| <b>6</b> 14th Sunday<br>of Matthew<br>Ministry Sign Up                          | <b>7</b> Labor Day<br>3:00 PM -<br>FISHER Men<br>(all families are<br>welcome) | <b>8</b> Nativity<br>of the<br>Theotokos<br>9 AM - Othros<br>10 AM - Liturgy | <b>9</b><br>10:30 AM -<br>Bible Study | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br>10:00 AM -<br>Philoptochos<br><br>12 - 5:00 PM -<br>District GOYA<br>In Boca Raton |
| <b>13</b> Sunday<br>Before Holy<br>Cross<br>Sunday<br>School Begins             | <b>14</b> The<br>Elevation of the<br>Cross<br><br>(no service<br>today)        | <b>15</b>                                                                    | <b>16</b>                             | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b>                                                                                       |
| <b>20</b> Sunday<br>After Holy<br>Cross                                         | <b>21</b><br><br>6:00 PM -<br>FISHER Men                                       | <b>22</b><br><br>6:30 - Council<br>Meeting                                   | <b>23</b>                             | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b><br>9:00 AM -<br>GraceWay Prep.                                                        |
| <b>27</b> 1st Sunday<br>of Luke<br><br>GraceWay<br>Cooking after<br>coffee hour | <b>28</b><br><br>6:30 PM -<br>Discover<br>Orthodoxy                            | <b>29</b>                                                                    | <b>30</b>                             |           |           |                                                                                                 |