Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church

October 18, 2026

Rev. Economos Aristidis Garinis, Proistamenos

Rev. Presbyter Alexandros Douvres

Office (718) 357-4200 - Email info@stnicholasflushing.org -www.stnicholasflushing.org

Εὐαγγελιστὴς Λουκᾶς - Luke the Evangelist

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον· πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας ᾅδου ἐῤῥύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Τοῦ Εὐαγγελιστοῦ

Ἀπόστολε Ἅγιε καὶ Εὐαγγελιστὰ Λουκᾶ, πρέσβευε τῷ ἐλεήμονι Θεῷ, ἵνα πταισμάτων ἄφεσιν, παράσχῃ ταῖς ψυχαῖς ἡμῶν.

Κοντάκιον

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία, πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε, μὴ παρίδῃς, ἁμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον, ὡς ἀγαθή, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι· Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεῦσον εἰς ἱκεσίαν, ἡ προστατεύουσα ἀεί, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμώντων σε.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted the great mercy.

For the Evangelist

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, make intercession to our merciful God, that He grant our souls forgiveness of offenses.

Kontakion

O Protection of Christians that never falls, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΜΑ (Κολ. 4:5 11, 14 18)

Ἀδελφοί, ἐν σοφίᾳ περιπατεῖτε πρὸς τοὺς ἔξω, τὸν καιρὸν ἐξαγοραζόμενοι. ὁ λόγος ὑμῶν πάντοτε ἐν χάριτι, ἅλατι ἠρτυμένος, εἰδέναι πῶς δεῖ ὑμᾶς ἑνὶ ἑκάστῳ ἀποκρίνεσθαι. Τὰ κατ᾽ ἐμὲ πάντα γνωρίσει ὑμῖν Τυχικὸς ὁ ἀγαπητὸς ἀδελφὸς καὶ πιστὸς διάκονος καὶ σύνδουλος ἐν Κυρίῳ, ὃν ἔπεμψα πρὸς ὑμᾶς εἰς αὐτὸ τοῦτο, ἵνα γνῷ τὰ περὶ ὑμῶν καὶ παρακαλέσῃ τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν, σὺν Ὀνησίμῳ τῷ πιστῷ καὶ ἀγαπητῷ ἀδελφῷ, ὅς ἐστιν ἐξ ὑμῶν· πάντα ὑμῖν γνωριοῦσι τὰ ὧδε. Ἀσπάζεται ὑμᾶς Ἀρίσταρχος ὁ συναιχμάλωτός μου, καὶ Μᾶρκος ὁ ἀνεψιὸς Βαρνάβα, περὶ οὗ ἐλάβετε ἐντολάς· ἐὰν ἔλθῃ πρὸς ὑμᾶς, δέξασθε αὐτόν, καὶ Ἰησοῦς ὁ λεγόμενος Ἰοῦστος, οἱ ὄντες ἐκ περιτομῆς, οὗτοι μόνοι συνεργοὶ εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, οἵτινες ἐγενήθησάν μοι παρηγορία. ἀσπάζεται ὑμᾶς Λουκᾶς ὁ ἰατρὸς ὁ ἀγαπητὸς καὶ Δημᾶς. ἀσπάσασθε τοὺς ἐν Λαοδικείᾳ ἀδελφοὺς καὶ Νυμφᾶν καὶ τὴν κατ᾽ οἶκον αὐτοῦ ἐκκλησίαν· καὶ ὅταν ἀναγνωσθῇ παρ᾽ ὑμῖν ἡ ἐπιστολή, ποιήσατε ἵνα καὶ ἐν τῇ Λαοδικέων ἐκκλησίᾳ ἀναγνωσθῇ, καὶ τὴν ἐκ Λαοδικείας ἵνα καὶ ὑμεῖς ἀναγνῶτε. καὶ εἴπατε Ἀρχίππῳ· βλέπε τὴν διακονίαν ἣν παρέλαβες ἐν Κυρίῳ, ἵνα αὐτὴν πληροῖς. Ὁ ἀσπασμὸς τῇ ἐμῇ χειρὶ Παύλου. μνημονεύετέ μου τῶν δεσμῶν. Ἡ χάρις μεθ᾽ ὑμῶν· ἀμήν.

EPISTLE READING (Col. 4:5 11, 14 18)

Brethren, conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer every one. Tychicus will tell you all about my affairs; he is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that he may know how you are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of yourselves. They will tell you of everything that has taken place. Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions if he comes to you, receive him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Give my greetings to the brethren at Laodicea, and to Nymphas and the church in his house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord." I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my fetters. Grace be with you. Amen.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΚΟ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΜΑ (ΛΟΥΚ. 10:16 21)

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τοῖς ἑαυτοῦ μαθηταῖς· Ὁ ἀκούων ὑμῶν ἐμοῦ ἀκούει, καὶ ὁ ἀθετῶν ὑμᾶς ἐμὲ ἀθετεῖ· ὁ δὲ ἐμὲ ἀθετῶν ἀθετεῖ τὸν ἀποστείλαντά με. Ὑπέστρεψαν δὲ οἱ ἑβδομήκοντα μετὰ χαρᾶς λέγοντες· Κύριε, καὶ τὰ δαιμόνια ὑποτάσσεται ἡμῖν ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου. Εἶπε δὲ αὐτοῖς· ἐθεώρουν τὸν σατανᾶν ὡς ἀστραπὴν ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ πεσόντα. ἰδοὺ δίδωμι ὑμῖν τὴν ἐξουσίαν τοῦ πατεῖν ἐπάνω ὄφεων καὶ σκορπίων καὶ ἐπὶ πᾶσαν τὴν δύναμιν τοῦ ἐχθροῦ, καὶ οὐδὲν ὑμᾶς οὐ μὴ ἀδικήσῃ. πλὴν ἐν τούτῳ μὴ χαίρετε, ὅτι τὰ πνεύματα ὑμῖν ὑποτάσσεται· χαίρετε δὲ ὅτι τὰ ὀνόματα ὑμῶν ἐγράφη ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς. Ἐν αὐτῇ τῇ ὥρᾳ ἠγαλλιάσατο τῷ πνεύματι ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν· ἐξομολογοῦμαί σοι, πάτερ, κύριε τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καὶ τῆς γῆς, ὅτι ἀπέκρυψας ταῦτα ἀπὸ σοφῶν καὶ συνετῶν, καὶ ἀπεκάλυψας αὐτὰ νηπίοις· ναί, ὁ πατήρ, ὅτι οὕτως ἐγένετο εὐδοκία ἔμπροσθέν σου.

GOSPEL READING (LK. 10:16 21)

The Lord said to his disciples, “He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.” The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” In that same hour he rejoiced in the spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yes, Father, for so it was well-pleasing before you.”

EORTOLOGION

OCTOBER 2026

Oct 2 FRI
SS. Cyprian and Justina
Αγ. Κυπριανό και Ιουστίνας
8:00 a.m. Orthros/ 9:00 a.m. Liturgy

Oct 4 SUN
2nd Sunday of Luke
Β' Κυριακή Λουκά
7:30 a.m. Orthros/ 8:45 a.m. Liturgy
Second Liturgy 10:45 a.m.

Oct 7 WED
Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Παράκληση της Θεοτόκου
7:00 p.m.
Discovering Orthodoxy Class

Oct 11 SUN
Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Synod
Κυριακή της Ζ΄ Οικουμενικής Συνόδου
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 a.m. Liturgy

Oct 14 WED
Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Παράκληση της Θεοτόκου
7:00 p.m.
Discovering Orthodoxy Class

Oct 18 SUN
St. Luke the Apostle
Αγ. Ευαγγελιστή Λουκά
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 a.m. Liturgy
Second Liturgy 10:45 a.m.

Oct 20 TUE
St. Gerasimos of Kephalonia
Αγ. Γερασίμου
8:00 a.m. Orthros/ 9:00 a.m. Liturgy

Oct 21 WED
Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Παράκληση της Θεοτόκου
7:00 p.m.
Discovering Orthodoxy Class

Oct 23 FRI
St. Iakovos the Apostle
Αγ. Αποστόλου Ιακώβου
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 a.m. Liturgy

Oct 25 SUN
6th Sunday of Luke
ΣΤ' Λουκᾶ
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 a.m. Liturgy
Second Liturgy 10:45 a.m.
Athletic Sunday

Oct 26 MON
St. Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer
Αγ. Δημητρίου Μυροβλήτης
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 a.m. Liturgy

Oct 28 WED
Holy Protection of the Theotokos
Αγίας Σκέπης της Θεοτόκου
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 a.m. Liturgy

Oct 31 SAT
Great Vespers of the Holy Anargyroi
Μ. Εσπερινός Αγ. Αναργύρων
7:00 p.m.



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH



BRONZE DEDICATION LEAF	**$2,000**
SILVER DEDICATION LEAF	**$5,000**
GOLD DEDICATION LEAF	**$10,000**
BENEFACTOR DOVE	**$25,000**
GREAT BENEFACTOR STONE	**$50,000**

Please consider supporting our Renovation For Our Future project to continue passing the torch of Orthodox faith and Hellenism to our future generations.

- ☐ BRONZE LEAF $2,000
- ☐ SILVER LEAF $5,000
- ☐ GOLD LEAF $10,000
- ☐ DOVE $25,000
- ☐ STONE $50,000

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLEASE PRINT INSCRIPTION CLEARLY. 3 LINES (33 CHARACTERS MAX)

_____

_____

_____

"SO LET EACH ONE GIVE AS HE PURPOSES IN HIS HEART; NOT GRUDGINGLY OR OUT OF NECESSITY; FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER"

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

REQUESTS THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE AT
THE

Agape Gala

Honoring our
St. Nicholas Parish Ministries

Saturday, January 30, 2027

LEONARD'S PALAZZO OF GREAT NECK, NY

6:00 P.M. FELLOWSHIP- 7:00 P.M. DINNER

ADULTS: $175 YOUNG ADULTS (13-17): $125 CHILDREN (under 12): $75

ROOTED IN *Faith* UNITED IN *Christ*

Music by: International Sounds
Black Tie Optional
Featuring Chance Auction

Make your reservations online:

Irene Hotzoglou: 516-330-2299
Eleni Stathopoulos: 917-273-8084

https://www.stnicholasflushing.org/upcoming-events

SAINT NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH
FLUSHING • NEW YORK

Agape Gala

Honoring our St. Nicholas Parish Ministries

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2027

LEONARD'S PALAZZO OF GREAT NECK, NY

	Sponsorship Level	Price	Complimentary Tickets	Benefits / Journal Listing
☐	Great Benefactor	$10,000	10	Listing in Program as Great Benefactor
☐	Benefactor	$5,000	6	Listing in Program as Benefactor
☐	Grand Sponsor	$2,500	4	Listing in Program as Grand Sponsor
☐	Sponsor	$1,000	2	Listing in Program as Sponsor
☐	Platinum	$500	0	Listing in Program as Platinum

YOUR DONATION IS 100% TAX DEDUCTABLE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Payment Information	Please make checks payable to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church		
Payment Method (cirlce one)	Cash	Check	Credit card

Your generous support and sponsorships will help our beloved St. Nicholas Church restore its historic roof and other much needed repairs. Our cherished church needs our help to protect its future.

If you wish to pay for your tickets or sponsorship by credit card please scan the QR Code or visit our website.
https://www.stnicholasflushing.org/upcoming-events

CONTACT: Christopher Fillos (646) 678-2892 - • Harry Yanakis (718) 545-3570

196-10 NORTHERN BLVD, FLUSHING, NY 11358
WWW.STNICHOLASFLUSHING.ORG | INFO@STNICHOLASFLUSHING.ORG
T 718.357.4200 | F 718 357.5692

The St. Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos Society

invites you to

Phyllo with Philoptochos

A delightful evening dedicated to mastering the art of homemade Greek Phyllo dough. Learn traditional rolling and folding techniques in this hands-on workshop! (Note: Workshop focus is technique, not final tasting).

DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: SARANTAKOS HALL



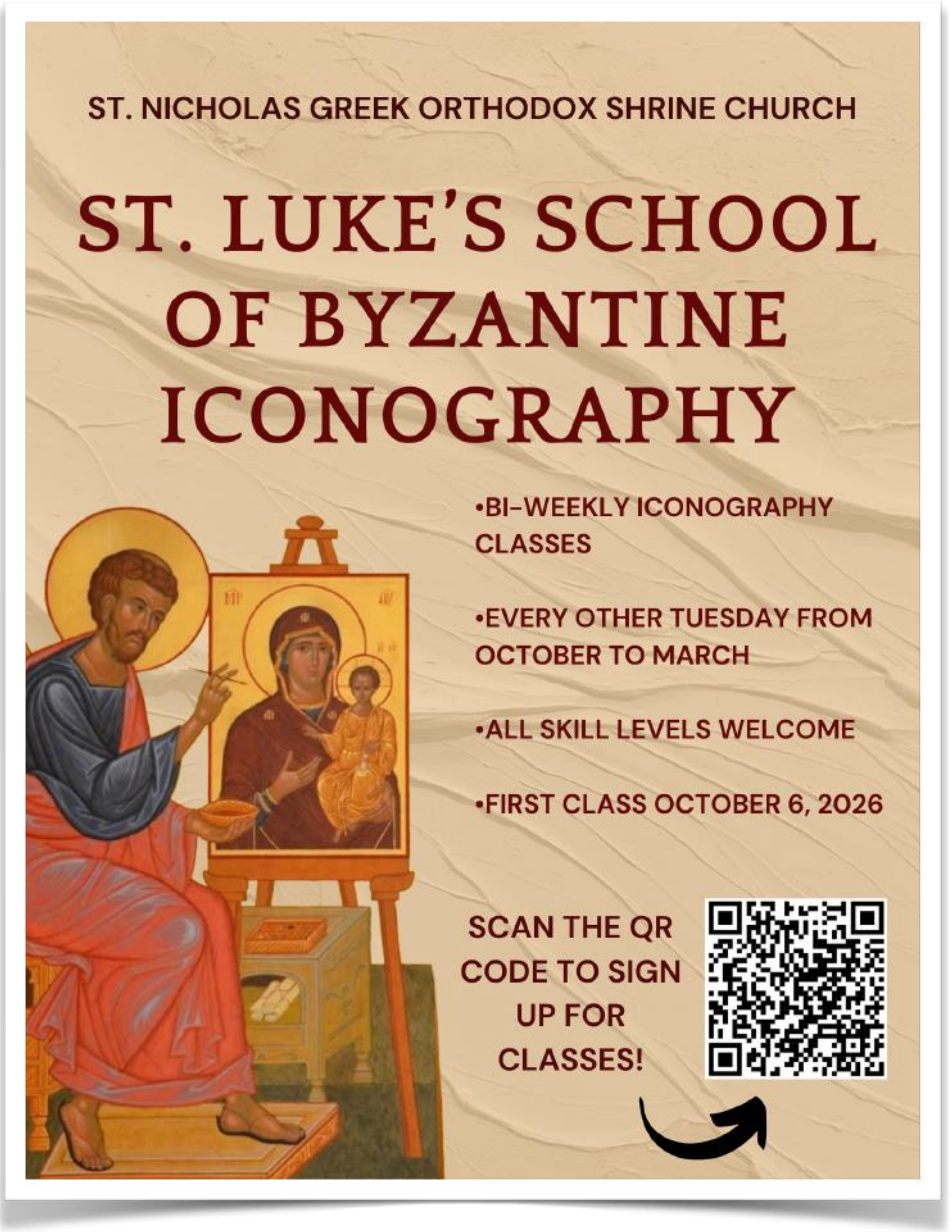
RSVP BY: 10/19

Athina: 347-804-8813

Penelope: 646-852-0969

So we can prepare.

Please bring your own large mixing bowl, measuring cup and rolling pin/stick. We will supply the rest!



Reserve Sarantakos Hall

Looking for the perfect spot to celebrate? **Sarantakos Hall** at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church in Flushing is open for rentals! From baptisms and milestone birthdays to big family celebrations, we've got the space to host your special day—without the heavenly price tag.

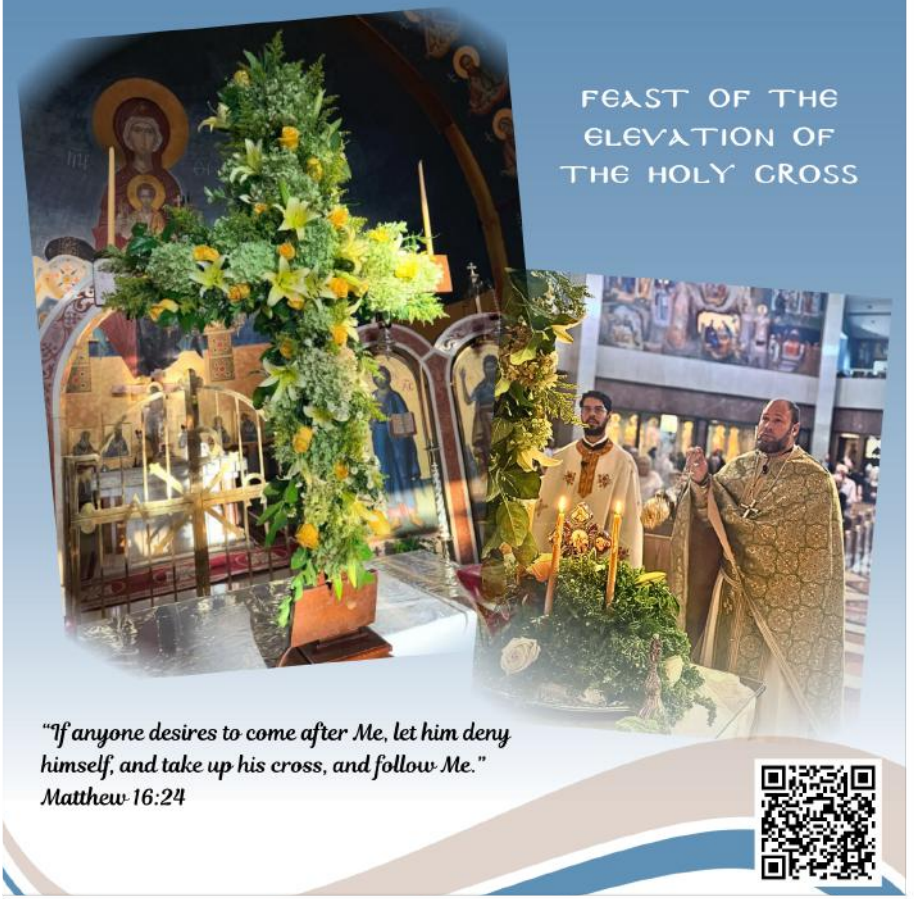
📞 Ready to party? Call the church office today 718-357-4200 to reserve your date!

THE ARK

SAINT NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

REV. ECONOMOS ARISTIDIS GARINIS, PASTOR
REV. PRESBYTER ALEXANDROS DOUVRES

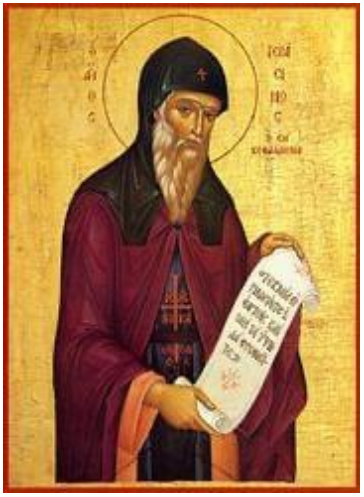
Sept-Oct-Nov 2026 Volume 2, Issue 3
stnicholasflushing.org



NOTICE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Date: Sunday, November 8, 2026
Time: Immediately following the Divine Liturgy
Location: Michelis Cultural Center (Petros Sarantakos Hall)
Your presence and participation are highly valued as we gather to discuss our community's future.

KIDS BULLETIN PAGE



SAINT GERASIMOS: BUILDING 'NEW JERUSALEM'

Saint Gerasimos was a very rich man who decided to give up everything to live simply and pray. After traveling to holy places like Jerusalem and living in a cave on the island of Kefalonia, his life changed in the year **1560**.

A NEW HOME IN OMALA VALLEY

Gerasimos moved to a quiet, green area called the **Omala Valley**. He found an old, broken-down church there. The saint didn't wait! He immediately started working to make it beautiful again.

1. **He fixed the old church.** He lovingly rebuilt the small, ruined chapel.
2. **He started a monastery** (a special home for people who dedicate their lives to God).
3. **He called it "New Jerusalem,"** because it reminded him of the holy city where he once lived.

Soon, many **nuns** (women dedicated to prayer) came to live with him and learn. For the next **19 years**, St. Gerasimos worked hard, prayed constantly, and used his special gift from God to **heal the sick and help troubled people** on the island.

He didn't just rebuild the church; he also dug **three wells** for water and planted **three big plane trees** that are still standing today! These trees are almost **465 years old**! They are a living reminder of the good work Saint Gerasimos started. St. Gerasimos' feast day is celebrated on Tuesday 10/20.

Word Search

ASCETIC
CAVE
CHAPEL
CHURCH
DIVINE
FEAST
GERASIMOS
GREECE
HEALING
HERMIT
HOLY
ICON
KEFALONIA
MIRACLES
MONASTERY
OCTOBER
ORTHODOX
PATRON
PILGRIMAGE
RELICS
SAINT
SHRINE
VENERABLE

I	E	H	R	X	T	E	H	A	L	N	Y	R	A	G
X	G	E	V	E	N	E	R	A	B	L	E	C	M	E
O	N	R	C	H	A	P	E	L	I	O	L	H	T	R
D	P	M	E	L	U	N	N	C	N	Y	E	U	S	A
O	I	O	I	E	I	O	U	C	I	P	H	R	A	S
H	L	N	I	R	C	K	H	N	A	T	X	C	E	I
T	G	A	H	I	I	E	G	O	P	V	E	H	F	M
R	R	S	L	E	L	S	A	S	C	A	E	C	I	O
O	I	T	R	A	O	T	A	A	O	T	T	C	S	S
H	M	E	L	E	S	I	L	I	D	R	O	R	Y	A
C	A	R	N	C	N	M	O	A	K	I	O	B	O	E
H	G	Y	I	T	T	R	I	L	E	H	V	T	E	N
Y	E	L	L	C	K	E	F	A	L	O	N	I	A	R
S	E	S	S	O	L	H	O	E	X	C	E	A	N	I
R	H	G	N	R	H	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	S	E

MEMORIALS

Athanasia Anastos
Eleni Anastos
Eraclis Anastos
Helen Katsiamides
Chris Katsiamides
Nikolaos Kranidis
John Livadaros
Gregory T. Pexos
Gregory Pexos
Thomas Pexos
Theodore Tsiamtsiouris

ΜΝΗΜΟΣΥΝΑ

Αθανασίας Ανάστου
Ελένης Ανάστου
Ηρακλέους Ανάστου
Ελένης Κατσιαμίδου
Χρήστου Κατσιαμίδου
Νικολάου Κρανίδη
Ιωάννου Λειβαδάρου
Γρηγορίου Θωμά Παίξου
Γρηγορίου Παίξου
Θωμά Παίξου
Θεοδώρου Τσιαμτσιούρη

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Son of Treanthi Korkokios
Saturday, October 24, 2026 at 11:00 A.M.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Sophia Capito & Nicholas Kerastos
Saturday, October 24, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Following the 1st & 2nd Divine Liturgy's this morning everyone is invited to the Sarantakos Hall for coffee and fellowship.

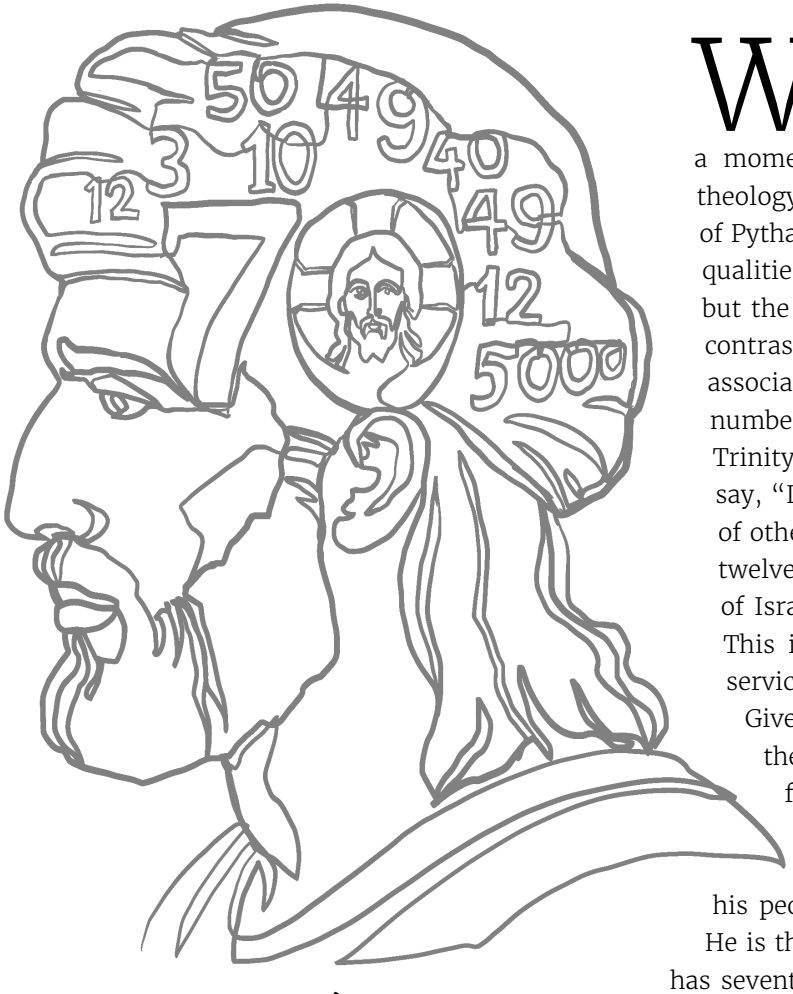
1st Liturgy sponsored by Agia Skepi.
2nd Liturgy sponsored by the Livadaros Family in memory of John Livadaros.

DIAKONIA

A National Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

REFLECTIONS FROM TODAY'S READING | *Luke 10:16-21*

Fr. George Parsenios (HCHC '96)



"What's in a number?"

Why are there seventy apostles mentioned in today's Gospel reading? The number 70 is not random, and we do well to reflect on its significance for a moment. Numbers, after all, are important in Christian theology and liturgy, but not like they are in the philosophy of Pythagoras. Pythagoras believed that numbers had mystical qualities, and that numbers were not just abstract concepts but the physical building blocks of reality. For Christians, by contrast, certain numbers are important because they are associated with principal moments of divine revelation. The number three, for example, can signify our belief in the Holy Trinity. For this reason, in our liturgical life we very often say, "Lord, have mercy" three times, and we perform a host of other ceremonial actions three times as well. The number twelve is equally important, because there were twelve tribes of Israel, and there were twelve original disciples of Christ. This is why we say, "Lord, have mercy" twelve times in services like Orthros, Great Compline, and many others. Given the importance of these other numbers, what is the significance of the number 70? Two key issues are foremost. First, Moses had a council of seventy elders around him when he led the people of Israel (Numbers 11:16–17). God promised that he would raise up for his people a prophet like Moses, and Jesus is that prophet. He is the "New Moses." If Moses had seventy advisors, Jesus has seventy as well. With a different emphasis, Genesis 10 lists seventy descendants of Noah which means that the world is divided into seventy different nations of people. When Jesus sent out seventy apostles, he symbolized that he was sending his emissaries to every nation of the earth. The seventy of today's Gospel, therefore, is a very important and noteworthy number.

Fr. George Parsenios *is Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.* ***www.hchc.edu***

Diakonia *is made possible by a generous grant from* ***Leadership 100***

Scan for today's service text

bit.ly/parishtexts

FROM THE ORIGINAL GREEK: Apologia (Ἀπολογία)

What does "Apology" mean?

Fr. George Parsenios (HCHC '96)



The Greek term ***apologia*** means something very different from what we imply today by the word "apology." When we apologize for something in English, we express regret for having done it. The Greek sense of "apology" is not an expression of regret, but the opposite. An apology is a defense, an affirmation. Plato and Xenophon gave the title "Apology" to the speech that Socrates delivered to the Athenian jury that convicted him of impiety and sentenced him to death. In keeping with this ancient sense of the word, Christians have long referred to the defense of their faith as "apologetics." ***Apologia*** appears in this usage in the New Testament, as in 1 Peter 3:15: "Always be prepared to make a defense (apologia) to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you." St. Paul also speaks before the governor in Acts 24:10 by saying, "I make my apology," when he responds to accusations about his faith. St. Justin Martyr (150 AD) is recognized as the first dedicated Christian apologist. He wrote two extensive works (*First* and *Second Apologies*) to defend Christianity against its pagan detractors, as well as his *Dialogue with Trypho* to counter Jewish criticism.



St. John of Kronstadt, c. 1890. Public Domain.

THIS WEEK'S LOOK AT CHURCH HISTORY

St. John of Kronstadt

Ben Malian, MTS-Holy Cross 2026

Archpriest John Ilyich Sergiyev, better known as St. John of Kronstadt (d. 10/31/1908), was a leading light of the Orthodox Church in the early 20th Century. A powerful preacher, service-minded pastor, and celebrated wonderworker, he was a married priest serving St. Andrew's Cathedral in Kronstadt, the gritty naval community off St. Petersburg's coast.

There, Fr. John initiated a spiritual revival rooted in the frequent practice of confession and communion. He also opened the "House of Industry," a multi-faceted social relief organization which routinely aided thousands of poor and vulnerable Russians. His spiritual memoir composed during these years, ***My Life in Christ***, is still considered a classic of its genre.

Fr. John's idiosyncrasies lent him an undeniable charisma. He earned the reputation of a holy man throughout Russia, the Orthodox East, and, eventually, the wider world. In 1894, he was summoned to the deathbed of Tsar Alexander III, cementing thereafter his close personal relationship with the Royal Family. Even young St. Silouan, before embarking for Mt. Athos, ventured to Kronstadt to receive this holy man's blessing.

Diakonia *is made possible by a generous grant from* ***Leadership 100*** | ***L100.org***

THE EUCHARIST:

Holy Communion

Father Steven Tsichlis, MDiv-Holy Cross 1978



In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the Lord Jesus gives us everything, giving Himself completely to us. The Word of God not only became flesh for us centuries ago in a far-away country; the Word of God becomes food and drink for us now at every celebration of the Liturgy. The word that best expresses this mystery of God's total offering of Himself to us in love is ***communion***. This is the word that best contains the truth that, in and through Jesus, God wants not only to teach us, instruct us and inspire us, but He wants to become one with us. God desires to be fully and completely united with us so that we will be bound together with Him in a love that will stretch into eternity. This is what St. Paul means when he speaks of life "in Christ" (Galatians 1:22 and 2:20; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 8:1).

Living a Eucharistic Life is living with gratitude as the basic stance to the life we have been given. Ultimately, the Liturgy summarizes the life we are called to live in communion with God and is, among other things, a school for Christian living. Within the Liturgy we come to know God, the world, and ourselves through Christ in the Holy Spirit, because the Liturgy communicates the meaning and purpose of life and helps us to understand and internalize both the tragedy of the human condition as well as the limitless expanse and potential of the new life in Christ offered freely to everyone.

Living in a Eucharistic way has everything to do with seeing life as a gift, a gift for which we are forever grateful. It is, after all, not happy people who are grateful, but grateful people who are happy. There should never be a Liturgy that we attend in which we do not come away with this insight for living. There should never be a time that we attend Liturgy when there is not a movement of our heart: from a hardened heart to a grateful heart, from a heart of stone to a heart of flesh, from a heart often filled with resentment or anger or self-righteousness to a heart filled with gratitude, compassion, faith, hope, and love.

FAITH IN ACTION

As you receive Christ in Holy Communion, let your heart move from gratitude to action, bringing His love, compassion, and hope into someone's life this week.

Diakonia *is made possible by a generous grant from* ***Leadership 100*** | ***L100.org***

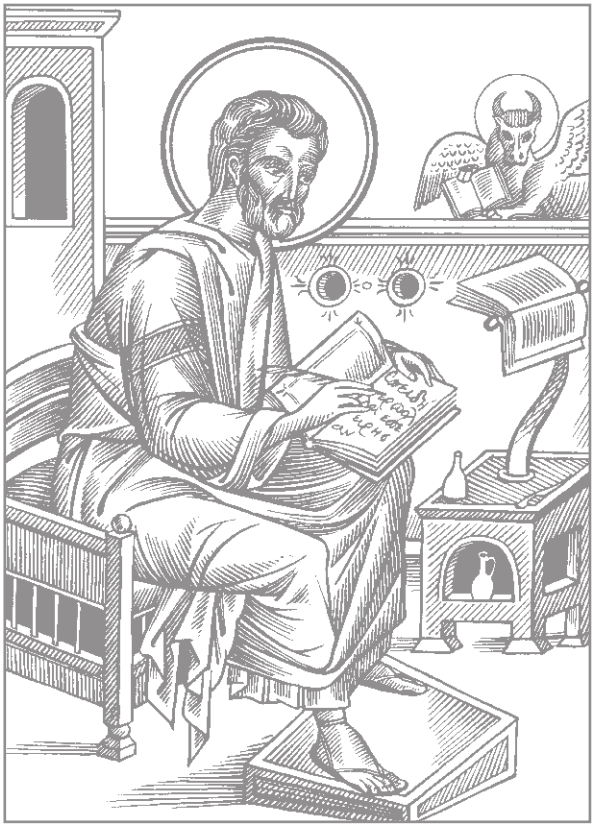


Just For Kids!
(...and the young at heart)

CRACK THE CODE

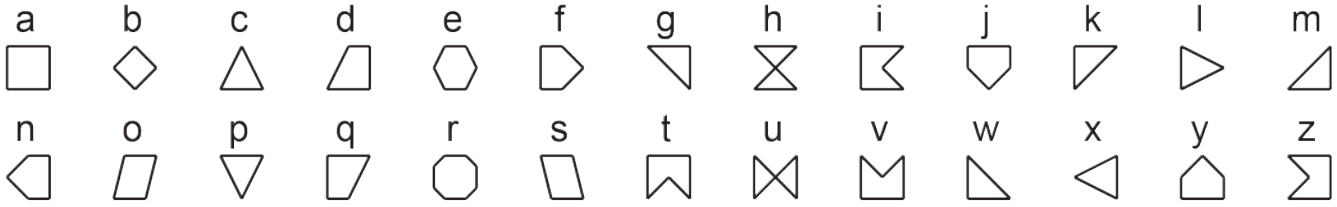
St. Luke the Evangelist

Today, we celebrate St. Luke the Evangelist who was a faithful follower of Christ. Can you crack the secret code and uncover a special fact about this beloved saint? Put your detective skills to work and see how much you can discover about St. Luke! Use the code key to match each symbol with the correct letter of the alphabet. Write the letters in the spaces provided to reveal the hidden fact about St Luke!





CODE KEY:



SECRET MESSAGE: *St. Luke wrote two books of the bible: The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of The Apostles!*

Diakonia *is made possible by a generous grant from* ***Leadership 100***