



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

FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



*"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."
Matthew 16:24*

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

ORGANIZATIONS AND MINISTRIES

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Beloved St.
Nicholas family,

It is with great excitement and gratitude to God that I humbly greet you at the start of the new Ecclesiastical

and Academic School year. I pray that everyone had a very restful summer and that you are renewed, strengthened, and ready to start a new year!

As we step into this new year, I want to encourage each of our families to walk this journey together alongside our parish community. Looking ahead to what awaits us, we are confronted by a simple reality: raising an Orthodox Christian family takes substantial time, effort, and sacrifice. To these three pillars, I also add "faith" as a foundational element. The fears, worries, and anxieties of parenthood can sometimes look like a mountain too difficult to traverse. Here at St. Nicholas, alongside our priests,

schools, ministries, and programs, we are fully committed to walking this uphill journey with you and your precious family. Every journey leads to a destination, and for our parish, that goal is clear: to nurture, educate, and inspire our faithful within our Hellenic Orthodox Christian ethos and sacred liturgical life.

I would like to humbly suggest three ways our faith can help guide your family this New Ecclesiastical Year:

1. Make the Divine Liturgy Your Family's Anchor: Attending Divine Liturgy together is foundational for family life. Just as attending basketball practice or guitar lessons once a month

"...raising an Orthodox Christian family takes substantial time, effort, and sacrifice."

wouldn't show true dedication, our commitment to faith must be more than a vague cultural

memory. It needs to

be practical, active, and tangible. Our Orthodox liturgical life is rich and healing; when we pray together as a family, we open the door to God's grace—making life's difficulties meaningful and our joys complete.

Sunday Liturgy, along with our Church School, is a profound blessing for our youth. Let us make attending a priority!

2. Feed Your Soul Daily: We live in a fast-paced world, constantly running to keep up. Yet faith is not meant to add to our anxiety—it is meant to bring us peace. Taking time to pause and pray with your children is one of the greatest gifts you can offer your family. Bringing faith into daily life can be simple: praying the Jesus Prayer, reading a chapter of Scripture or a Saint's life, standing quietly before your icons, or listening to an Orthodox podcast or audiobook in the car. These small moments invite God's presence into our routine and ground us. By nurturing our spiritual life, we move from being reactive to proactive—allowing a prayerful mindset to guide us through life's everyday challenges, offenses, and temptations.

3. Building Bridges Through Conversation: In the rush of daily life, it is easy for meaningful communication to slip away. Too often, our conversations with our children fall into routine, surface-level questions like "How was school?" that yield one-word answers.

Just as we do in prayer, we need to quiet our minds and connect with intention, depth, and love. When we slow down to truly see and listen to one another, routine interactions transform into lasting memories. Let us pause, look up and treasure our family members and friends as the precious gifts from God they truly are.

It is my heartfelt prayer, together with Fr. Alexandros and the entire Parish Council, that this year is not just a typical new beginning, but one that renews us, our relationships, and our connection to God. May our Lord bless all of you with health and peace. Thank you for entrusting your little ones into our care.

With Love in Christ,



Fr. Aristidis Garinis

Economos, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church
Flushing, NY





We all desire to be with God and to follow in His footsteps and the footsteps of the saints.

Christ even tells us, "Whoever wants to be my

disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

What does it mean to "pick up our cross"? This is a phrase that we often hear and use when someone is going through a personal struggle. However, the meaning behind this verse goes far deeper.

In Chapter 16 of the Gospel of Matthew, Christ is speaking to His disciples and asks St. Peter who he

thinks Christ is.

Peter responds, telling Him that He is the Christ.

Immediately after this, Christ

begins to teach them and prophesy

about His coming death: that He must suffer, be rejected, and be buried, and then on the third day, rise from the dead. Peter responds by telling Him that He is wrong. This is when Christ

rebukes Peter and tells him, "You are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." It is after this that Christ says: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Imagine how alarming it would have been to hear this! The cross was a symbol of death meant to instill fear into those who saw it; it represented an excruciatingly long and torturous execution. Those found guilty of a crime would be hung on a cross outside the city so that those entering would see the punishment that awaited them if they broke the law. In the case of Christ, He was made to carry His cross to the place of His death.

However, today this is not the only meaning we hold. Where

there was once despair, there is now hope; where there was once sorrow, there is now joy; where there was once death, there is

now life. The change in

the meaning of the cross is due entirely to the actions of Christ.

Christ is telling His disciples that the path He walks leads to His death and

**"You are not
mindful of the things
of God, but the things of
men."**

ultimately His Resurrection. For us, it is an image of what it means to be a Christian and to be fully committed to Christ. To be committed to Christ means to be "Christ-like" in every place and with every person. How do we know what is "Christ-like"? He tells us explicitly in the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth... Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."

Christ carried His cross to Golgotha to be crucified, but that was not the end. What seemed to be an event of despair and anguish turned into hope and triumph. Similarly, as we carry our cross to our own Golgotha, we represent Christ no matter the circumstance.

Our suffering and our pain are not the end, but only a part of our life. The struggles we face—whether inward and outward, external pressures or persecutions—are all transformed. The burden of carrying our cross changes because it is not just us who

carry our cross, but Christ carrying it along with us.

God bless you all,

Fr. Alexandros Douvres

Fr. Alexandros Douvres





On the Cover: Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Featured on the cover of this issue is our parish's beautiful and solemn celebration of the Universal Elevation of the Holy Cross, celebrated annually on September 14th.

Adorned with vibrant, fragrant flowers and traditional sweet basil—recalling the miraculous scent that guided Saint Helen to the discovery of the True Cross in Jerusalem—the Precious Cross stands prominently before the Royal Doors. In the accompanying photograph, Rev. Ekonomos Aristidis Garinis and Rev. Presbyter Alexandros Douvres process through the sanctuary with incense and prayer, elevating the Cross to the four corners of the church as the faithful join together in chanting, "O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance."

Anchored by the words of the Gospel of Saint Matthew—"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24)—this iconic moment serves as a powerful reminder for the start of our new Ecclesiastical Year. The Cross is not merely a historical symbol, but our living anchor. Through Christ's sacrifice and glorious Resurrection, what was once an instrument of despair has been transformed into a tree of life, bringing joy, hope, and eternal redemption to the entire world.

May the sight of the Precious Cross inspire our parish community to walk faithfully in Christ's footsteps throughout the coming year.

ON THE COVER

GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT, ANCHORED IN FAITH



Dear St. Nicholas Family,

As the autumn air cools and the vibrant leaves begin to turn, our church family enters a season rich with fresh starts. September marks not only the beginning of a new academic calendar for our students, but also the start of the new Ecclesiastical Year in our Orthodox Church. It is a natural time for reflection, renewal, and stepping into new beginnings.

This issue of *The Ark* reflects a parish brimming with life, faith, and purposeful community. From the solemn beauty of our cover featuring the Universal Elevation of the Holy Cross—a timeless reminder of Christ’s invitation to take up our cross and follow Him—to the extraordinary, historic day when 28 catechumens were united to the Body of Christ through Holy Baptism and Chrismation, God is moving in dynamic ways within our midst.

A vibrant parish, however,

relies on the heart and hands of its people. We see this spirit exemplified in our Archdiocesan District Servant Leadership Award honorees, Kostas Mallios and Nia Condoleon, whose faithful diakonia inspires us all. We see it in the charitable outreach and loving hands of our Philoptochos, in our youngest Little Angels discovering the joy of fellowship with their parents, in our Hellenic School students learning Greek dance and heritage, in our Men’s League gathering for Oktoberfest and community projects, and in our parish delegates representing St. Nicholas at the national Clergy-Laity Congress. We also carry in our hearts our young adults who gathered for our College Prayer Service, sending them off into the world anchored in faith.

As we look ahead, we invite every parishioner—whether you have been a member for decades or have recently walked through our doors—to

offer a renewed commitment of time to God. Growth in our spiritual journey happens when we actively engage in the life of the Church: through regular participation in the Holy Sacraments, personal prayer, and connection with our parish ministries.

If you have ever considered joining a ministry, attending a fellowship event, or getting more involved, let this season be your invitation. Please do not be afraid or hesitant to reach out, ask questions, or take that first step. There is a place for everyone at St. Nicholas, and your unique presence enriches our entire community.

May God bless you and your loved ones with health, peace, and spiritual strength in this new ecclesiastical year!

In Christ’s love,

Olga Dakis

Editor, *The ARK*

4TH ANNUAL SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARDS BANQUET

We congratulate our Archdiocesan District Servant Leadership Award recipients **Kosta Mallios** and **Nia Condoleon**! We thank them for all of their hard work and dedication to our St. Nicholas Parish! God bless them and all who work diligently for their love of Christ and His Church!



BIENNIAL CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS

ST. NICHOLAS DELEGATION ATTENDS THE BIENNIAL CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS

Delegates from St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church represented our parish community at the Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Joined by our parish clergy, lay delegates gathered with hierarchs, clergy, and parish leaders from across the nation to deliberate on the administrative, educational, and spiritual life of the Church.

The Clergy-Laity Congress serves as the highest legislative body of the Archdiocese, bringing together representatives from every parish to share best practices, review archdiocesan ministries, and address key

initiatives for growth, youth outreach, and parish administration.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our clergy and parish representatives for their time, leadership, and dedicated voice on behalf of St. Nicholas Flushing. Their active involvement ensures that our parish remains deeply connected to the broader mission and future of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



HISTORIC DAY AT ST. NICHOLAS G.O. SHRINE CHURCH

28 CATECHUMENS WELCOMED INTO THE ORTHODOX FAITH

On Sunday, September 27, 2026, the sanctuary of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church in Flushing, New York, resonated with holy joy as 28 catechumens were united to the Body of Christ through the sacred mysteries of Holy Baptism and Chrismation. Presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the historic liturgy marked a major milestone in Orthodox Christian outreach across the Western Hemisphere.

The sacrament was the culmination of dedicated evangelical work led by Archimandrite Chrysostomos and Fr. Samuel Davis. Their missional efforts have focused on bringing the ancient Orthodox faith to diverse communities, ministering particularly to the African Diaspora across the Americas, the West Indies, and the Caribbean, as well as to African immigrants.

The Archbishop warmly welcomed the new converts into full communion, reminding all present of the universal call to salvation:

“And now I say to you: This is your Church. This is your family. This is your home.”

— His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros





MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Dear Parish
Family of St.
Nicholas,

I write to you
with a full
heart—with
wonderful
news about
the life of
our parish,
and with an

honest appeal about the home that holds all
of that life.

The good news is that St. Nicholas is
thriving. Our schools are opening again
this September. The WSS School has more
than 350 children. The Doulaveris Day Care
program has close to 50 little ones. Our
two-, three-, and four-year-old programs
are lovingly nurtured by devoted teachers.
Our Greek Afternoon School continues to
pass on language, faith, and culture. We
have 26 basketball teams registered across
GOYA and the Biddy Leagues. More than
100 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts call this
parish home. Our Philoptochos serves with
generosity and compassion. Our seniors
gather here in fellowship. The Men's
League and AHEPA remain vital parts of the
life of this community. Young and old are
growing, serving, and belonging here. This
church is alive!

The hard news is that the building
sheltering all of this is 54 years old, and it
needs us now. Water has come through the
ceiling. Tiles are stained and failing. Floors
have been wet, and the dome is leaking as
well. An aging facility cannot wait. If we do
not protect it, the cost will only grow, and
the space our children, our seniors, and our

whole community depend on will suffer.

Two years ago, we began the Tree of Life
initiative. By the grace of God and the
generosity of so many of you, we have
raised \$750,000. We thank every person
who has already given. However, we still
need at least another \$750,000 to do this
work properly.

If you have not yet contributed, please find
it in your heart to do so.

If you have already given, thank you—and
if you are able to give a little more, may
God bless you.

This invitation is for everyone: the young
and the old, those who worship here every
Sunday, and those who have moved away.
St. Nicholas will always be your home.
The faith that was planted here still lives
here. The children who fill these halls,
the seniors who gather here, and every
ministry that serves from this place still
need a sound roof over their heads.

Please help us take care of this house of
God.

With deep gratitude,

Jimmy Athanasopoulos

Jimmy Athanasopoulos
President, Parish Council
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church
Flushing, NY





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"



Beloved St. Nicholas Parishioners,

I write to you all with great enthusiasm concerning our beloved St. Nicholas parish. First and foremost, we give thanks and glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for all of His blessings on our community. We are privileged to gather together frequently for our liturgical services, our ministries, our educational institutions, and the various opportunities offered for fellowship. The work of our parish truly has an impact on the countless people who enter our doors. I humbly write this letter of appeal in order to ask each of our families to support our ministry with True Stewardship.

What is True Stewardship?

Are we stewards of the parish? You might say, “Yes, we offered our \$600.” This answer is a narrow way of understanding the importance of stewardship and what we are called to as Orthodox Christians. “Stewardship” is a word that evokes a sense of responsibility and care for that which we have been entrusted. We have all been entrusted with our local parish of St. Nicholas—both clergy and laity. The generations before us walked door to door, from very humble beginnings, and through their blood, sweat, and tears, they entrusted us with a spiritual home. St. Nicholas today is in our hands and in our care. True Stewardship is about offering three things to our parish: Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Time. Time is precious to each of us, especially in the hustle and bustle of New York. The time that we offer back to Christ is also a loving sacrifice. Instead of spending time on things that aren’t essential, we can devote it to the Lord. This might look like budgeting time to come to Liturgy with the family, attending a Paraklesis service and Bible study, volunteering with one of our many ministries, and looking for ways to give back. The idea is to engage with the life of our parish in a spirit of offering. Our time is a gift given to us by God to do good and to grow in our faith. Offering time to our spiritual home is a beautiful witness of True Stewardship.

Talent. In his letter to the Corinthians (12:27), St. Paul describes the Church as the “Body of Christ,” which has many members. Each of us is a member of the Church and a member of Christ’s body. The members of our body perform different functions, but they all serve a purpose. What is our purpose in our local parish of St. Nicholas? What gifts or talents has God given us so that we can contribute to the life of our parish? Each of us uniquely serves a purpose beyond being spectators as we come and go in church. Our parish has many ministries that are open to us all. For some, the work of Philoptochos and taking care of those in need speaks to their heart. For others, learning how to chant and participate in the liturgical services is important. Whatever it may be, the life of the parish is vibrant and is calling everyone to offer their talents back to the Lord. As we read in Psalm 116, “What

can I offer back to the Lord for all of the blessings He has given to me?" Cultivating our talents for the Lord is a beautiful example of True Stewardship.

Treasure. Our financial offering to the parish is very important. As True Stewards, we are asked to take on the responsibility of caring for the present and the future of our parish. The Church is not a business in a traditional sense. However, without the thoughtful and serious contributions of the faithful, both the buildings and ministry suffer. As True Stewards, we should learn to budget for our parish, not out of obligation, but rather out of love. We tend to spend our time, talent, and treasure on the things we love most in the world. Above all else should be our love for Christ, our families, and of course our spiritual family, our parish. We humbly ask, in the spirit of True Stewardship, that each of you consider in your hearts, each according to their means, offering a meaningful financial gift to the parish. This could be a one-time gift or an ongoing gift to your parish. For those who are tech-friendly, you can use our parish REALM app to set up an ongoing weekly or monthly offering. This offering is a necessity for the daily operations of our parish, and we are calling for your support. Your thoughtful financial offering is an example of True Stewardship.

Included in this letter are two necessary opportunities for each of us to engage with and offer toward our parish in an impactful way:

- **STEWARDSHIP** (most essential for our daily operations)
- **TREE OF LIFE** (restricted funds for the roof renovation)

I thank you for your attention to this important matter. May our St. Nicholas parish always be a place you and your families call home.

With love in Christ,



Economos Fr. Aristidis Garinis
Proistamenos

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF ST. NICHOLAS

Philoptochos Society: Faith in Action

Welcome back to the new Ecclesiastical Year!

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is ready to continue the important work of Philoptochos. During the summer months, we assisted several Social Services cases as they came to our attention.

At the annual Pentecost breakfast we host for the community, we were delighted to award two scholarships to Christina Kantlis and John Balis. These high school seniors carried out philanthropic deeds in their own ways, beautifully mimicking the mission of Philoptochos. We are very proud of our youth and congratulate all of our applicants.

We thank our parishioners for their generous support at our first bake sale of the year on September 20th, where we raised over \$2,000 for our treasury to continue assisting those in need.

On October 8th, please join us for our first general meeting, where you will have the opportunity to greet one another and enjoy refreshments while learning more about the wonderful work we do. You will also receive our new calendar highlighting all that we

have planned for the coming year.

It will be wonderful to see you, and we encourage your participation and assistance at all of our events. We are always grateful for your support and commitment to our many endeavors!





ST. NICHOLAS
LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS
INVITES YOU TO

The Philoptochos Social

Sip, Socialize, Support & Have Fun!!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

7:00 P.M.

SARANTAKOS HALL

COME MINGLE, COME ENJOY, COME DISCOVER

- MEET NEW FRIENDS
- ENJOY COCKTAILS AND APPETIZERS
- DISCOVER WHAT WE DO

**A BEAUTIFUL EVENING TOGETHER AND AN
OPPORTUNITY TO SEE WHAT PHILOPTOCHOS
IS ALL ABOUT**

BRING A FRIEND



THE MEN'S LEAGUE

Men's League & AHEPA's Festival Highlights

The St. Nicholas Men's League invites all parishioners and community members to join in supporting our upcoming fellowship and charity events!

Annual Oktoberfest ("With a Greek Flair"): Postponed due to the recent Nor'easter, our annual Oktoberfest will now take place on Sunday, October 17, 2026, beginning at 11:00 AM at 196-10 Northern Blvd. Enjoy German beer, German and Greek food, desserts, kids' activities, and live music by The Good Time Band playing from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Annual Blood Drive: Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 2, 2026, as the Men's League sponsors our yearly community blood drive. Give the gift of life and support local healthcare needs.





Veterans Day Fellowship Night: Celebrate and honor our veterans on November 11, 2026, at 7:00 PM at Laterna Estiatorio (47-20 Bell Blvd, Bayside, NY). Tickets are \$125.00 per person and include delicious food, an open bar, and great company as we raise funds for our community.

Come out, enjoy good food and fellowship, and help us make a positive impact!

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

THE ST. NICHOLAS

MEN'S LEAGUE

PRESENTS

AN EVENING OF

FOOD, DRINK, and FELLOWSHIP

LATERNA
— ESTIATORIO —

47-20 BELL BLVD
BAYSIDE, NY 11361

DATE NOVEMBER 11, 2026	TIME 7:00 PM	COST \$125.00 PER PERSON
--	---------------------------------------	--

DELICIOUS FOOD	OPEN BAR	GREAT COMPANY
------------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------------

Good Food. Great Drinks. Stronger Together.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

Email: GKakivelis@gmail.com
to join or for more information.

2027 AGAPE GALA

Join us on January 30, 2027, for the Agape Gala as we gather to celebrate and honor the wonderful ministries and dedicated community work at St. Nicholas Greek

Orthodox Shrine Church in Flushing. It will be an inspirational evening of gratitude, fellowship, and faith. Registration is now open! You can easily reserve your spot



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 (12 & under): \$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>



or purchase a sponsorship through the Realm app, by scanning the QR code on our flyer, or by visiting our website directly at stnicholasflushing.org/upcoming-events.



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 (circle 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

PHILOKALIA ANTONIOS I. CRASSIDES BOOKSTORE

The Ark October 2026

Welcome back, Saint Nicholas parishioners, from your summer vacations, and a blessed autumn season! Already September is coming to a close, and what an important month it is—not only academically, but spiritually as well! For starters, we just celebrated the new Ecclesiastical Church year on September 1st.

In commemoration of this, and in memory of their beloved father and Pappou, the Philokalia Antonios I. Crassides Bookstore recently held a breakfast for the parish after Divine Liturgy. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who pitched in to help feed the multitudes that came!

Since the establishment of the bookstore 15 years ago, through the generous donation of both time and money, it has grown exponentially. What was once a rolling bookcase in the Narthex is now a well-stocked room of Orthodox tomes, icons, and prayer ropes, to name a few. At the bookstore, we strive to feed not only the mind, but even more importantly, the soul.

It is no coincidence that the bookstore is in such close proximity to us as we exit the nave of the church, where we all hear the Good News on a weekly basis and are offered the Holy Body and Sacred Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the Holy Mysteries. In the turbulent world in which we live, where the cable news streams 24/7 through our cell phones, cable, and laptops, and entertainment can be accessed with the click of a button, why not instead seek the unchanging and eternal comfort of the Living Word Himself? News can inform us, certainly, but it can also disturb our hearts and minds.

Instead of our phones, we should hold on to the Book of Psalms or an Akathist. Rather than spending wasteful hours wearing our fingers to the bone scrolling for secular answers to our problems, we should hold onto our prayer ropes, fall down before our icons, and seek wisdom and healing from the Physician who cures all forms of physical and spiritual maladies.

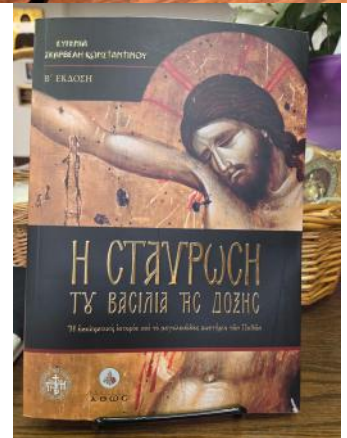
Please stop by to see our new arrivals!

Let us end this article with the wise words of one of our most articulate saints, the golden-tongued St. John Chrysostom:

“There is nothing more worthwhile than to pray to God

and converse with Him, for prayer unites us with God and makes us His companions. What light is to the eyes, this is what prayer is to the soul.”

A blessed and fruitful end of the year to all!





Ιερός Ναός Αγίου Νικολάου Flushing NY

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church

ΜΑΘΗΜΑΤΑ BYZANTINΗΣ ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗΣ

Γνωρίστε την τέχνη της ψαλτικής και την παράδοση της Εκκλησίας

- Τμήματα για αρχάριους και προχωρημένους
- Εκμάθηση βυζαντινής σημειογραφίας
- Θεωρία και πρακτική εξάσκηση
- Εκκλησιαστικοί ύμνοι και ψαλτική τέχνη
- Προετοιμασία για χορωδία και αναλόγιο

Byzantine Music Lessons

Discover the art of Byzantine chant and the tradition of the Church

- Classes for beginners and advanced students
- Learning Byzantine notation
- Theory and practical training
- Church hymns and the art of chanting
- Preparation for the church choir

Classes begin: Thursday, October 1, 7:00 p.m.
Έναρξη μαθημάτων: Πέμπτη, 1 Οκτωβρίου, 19:00



www.stnicholasflushing.org



HELLENIC ORTHODOX LIFE ACADEMY

The H.O.L.A. (Hellenic Orthodox Learning & Activities) program at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church is dedicated to providing a safe, engaging, and enriching environment for our youth. Designed to support families in our parish community, H.O.L.A. offers quality care and structured activities that encourage learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

Flexible Care Options

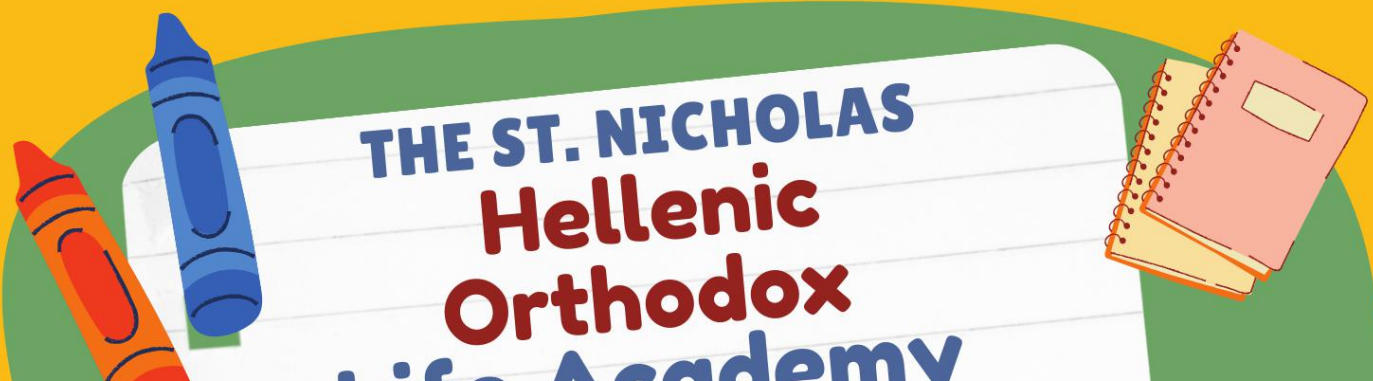
To better serve our busy families, we are pleased to offer flexible drop-in options:

Single Extra Days: If you need coverage or assistance for just a single day, optional extra days are available at \$45 per day.

Half-Day Coverage: On days when the parish school has a half day, our program remains open for anyone who wishes to bring their child, also at the rate of \$45 per day.

We look forward to welcoming your children and supporting our parish families throughout the school year!





THE ST. NICHOLAS Hellenic Orthodox Life Academy

The Hellenic Orthodox Life Academy is an innovative afterschool enrichment program that meets daily and gives students the opportunity to engage in educational fun activities while practicing the Greek language. The program offers a range of academic components: culture, language, arts, and recreation which allows children to grow physically and socially while connecting with their Greek heritage.



WHAT WE PROVIDE:

- Time for Homework
- Language Supplemental Help
- Art and Crafts
- Christian Orthodox Life Session

- **OPTIONAL EXTRA DAYS, \$40.00 A SESSION**
- **OPEN ON SCHOOL HALF DAYS, 11:45AM-3:00PM**
- **PROGRAM BEGINS SEPTEMBER 9, 2027**

Register Online:
www.stnicholasflushing.org

For more information:
718.357.4200

holastnicholas@gmail.com
info@stnicholasflushing.org



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine church
196-10 Northern Blvd, Flushing, NY 11356



LITTLE ANGELS MOMMY & ME

Looking for fun ways to bond with your little one?

Come join our weekly Mommy & Me classes! We offer a safe, joyful environment where your child can explore sounds, textures, and social interactions—all while safely anchored by your side. It is the highlight of the week for both parents and kids!

We cannot wait to welcome you and your little one to our circle.

Class Details:

Ages: 0–2.5 years old

Schedule: Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Start Date: Wednesday, September 16th

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

LITTLE ANGELS

MOMMY & ME PROGRAM

For Children Ages 0-2.5



About the Program

Program Director Margarita Eleftheriadis

Our "Little Angels" program is a vibrant, faith-centered ministry designed for our youngest parishioners (infants through Pre-K) and their caregivers.

It's more than just a playgroup—it's a place for moms, dads, and grandparents to connect, share experiences, and build lifelong friendships within our St. Nicholas family.

Classes

- Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Featuring:

- Creative Music and Movement
- Greek songs and themes
- Sensory Stimulation
- Arts and Crafts
- Early Social Interaction
- Great opportunity to meet other families.

Email: SaintNicholasLittleAngels@gmail.com
718-357-4200 - www.stnicholasflushing.org





(Photo caption: From our fun field trip to the Queens Zoo!)



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ST. STEPHANOS YOUNG ADULTS

APPLE PICKING

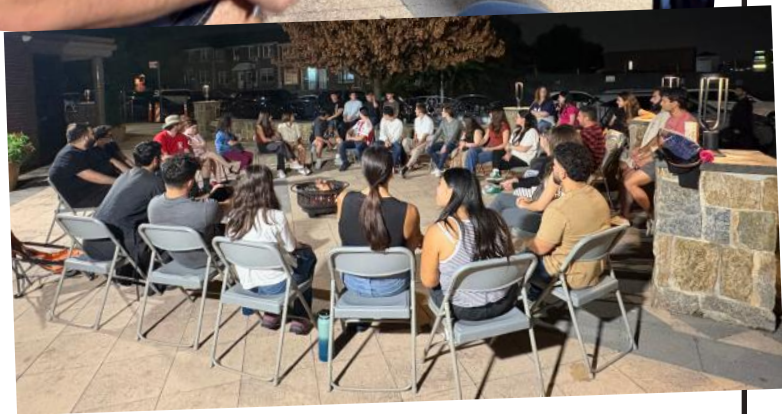
11 AM

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17TH

ROSE HILL FARM
19 ROSE HILL, RED HOOK, NY



RSVP VIA GOOGLE FORM



The St. Stephanos Young Adult Group is a vibrant and active group for Orthodox adults ages 18-35.

We have many opportunities for connection and community including our weekly Tuesday night Bible studies and Friday night Greek dance classes, along with our other monthly events.

In September we held our S'mores chat which included a spiritual talk from Fr. Alex as well as s'mores and fellowship. We are looking forward to an outdoor movie night and apple picking in October!

St. Stephanos Young Adults

GREEK DANCING

Grab your dancing shoes and join the circle!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 AT 7PM
IN THE SARANTAKOS HALL
JOIN THE WHATSAPP GROUP FOR UPDATES!

Join our WhatsApp group here!



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

ST. LUKE'S SCHOOL OF BYZANTINE ICONOGRAPHY



•BI-WEEKLY ICONOGRAPHY
CLASSES

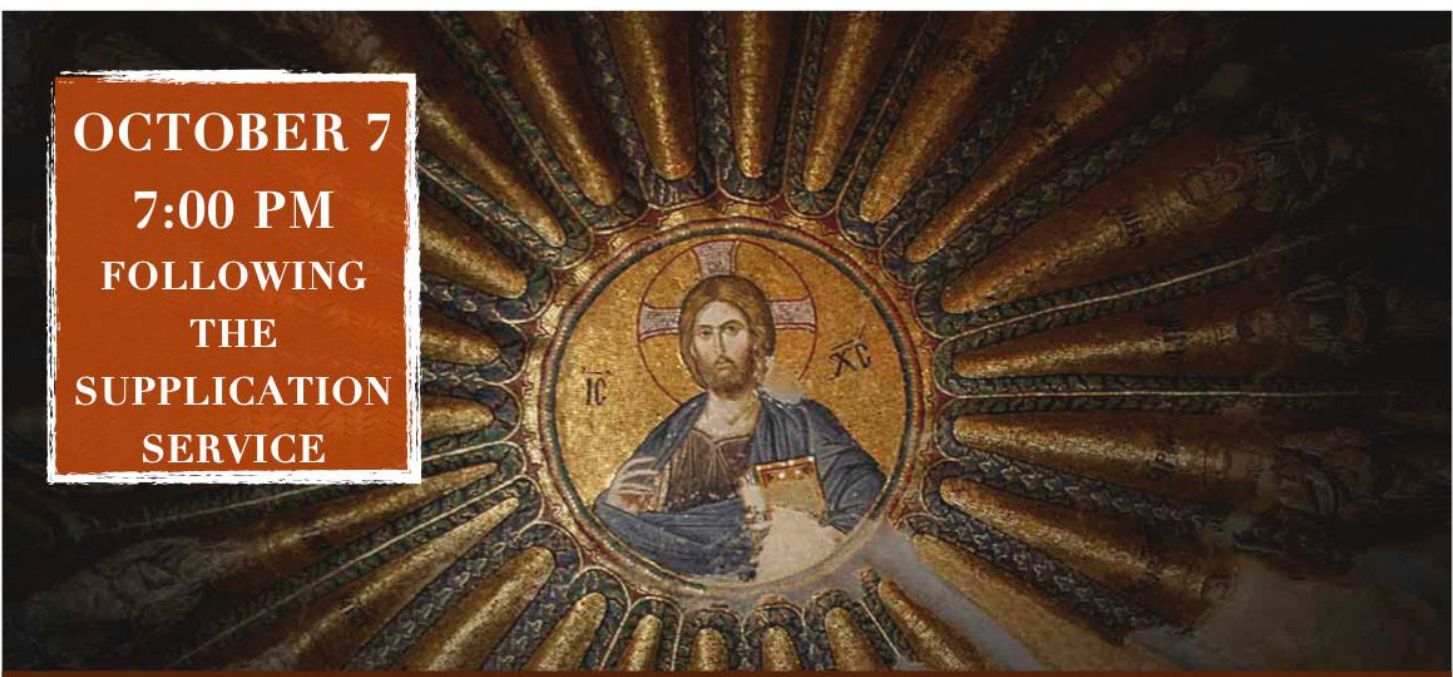
•EVERY OTHER TUESDAY FROM
OCTOBER TO MARCH

•ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME

•FIRST CLASS OCTOBER 6, 2026

SCAN THE QR
CODE TO SIGN
UP FOR
CLASSES!





OCTOBER 7

7:00 PM

**FOLLOWING
THE
SUPPLICATION
SERVICE**

Discovering Orthodoxy Class:

A catechism for Orthodox and those inquiring about the faith

Catechism is Christian instruction which includes lessons on the history, teachings and spiritual practices of the Orthodox Christian Church.

What is Orthodoxy?

Where did it come from?

What does it mean to live as an Orthodox Christian today?

These are some of the questions that we will be discussing during our time together.

**Classes meet every Wednesday evening after the Supplication Service to
the Theotokos**

Literature requirements:

The Orthodox Study Bible

Introducing the Orthodox Church: Anthony Coniaris

A Commentary on the Divine Liturgy: St. Nicholas Cabasilas

The Orthodox Way: Bishop Kallistos Ware

These books will be in stock at our parish bookstore.

TO APXONTAPIKI THE ARCHONTARIKI MUSIC FOOD ΠΑΡΕΑ

The Archontariki is a monthly gathering of our senior parishioners. At St. Nicholas, we strive to reach out to all ages and offer opportunity for community fellowship and engagement. Please encourage your loved ones to participate in this wonderful new program. Please rsvp with the Church office. Thank you!

JOIN US!!
THURSDAY, October 15th at
12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

**Ελάτε να μας κάνετε
παρέα!!!**



A FUNDRAISER FOR
ST NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH
FLUSHING, NEW YORK

NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T

DIAMONDS ARE A CROOK'S BEST FRIEND...

AN INTERACTIVE
MYSTERY DINNER

A NIGHT OF
MYSTERY,
INTRIGUE &
DELICIOUS
DINING!



6:00 PM



SARANTAKOS
HALL



SUNDAY
OCT 11, 2026



196-10 NORTHERN BLVD
FLUSHING

The crowd was hushed as the museum proprietor got ready to unveil the prized display of the evening, the Stomach of the Ocean Diamond, only to find it had been stolen while the crowd mingled in ignorant bliss. Now it is up to you, your guests, and the detective to find the thief and restore the diamond to its rightful place to get the unveiling back on track!

SOLVE THE CRIME. SAVE THE DIAMOND. SUPPORT OUR CHURCH.



\$100 PER
PERSON

DELICIOUS FAMILY STYLE DINNER
WINE & BEER INCLUDED

PROCEEDS BENEFIT
St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Flushing

HOSTED BY
The Mystery Co.

SCAN TO RESERVE





Ιερός Ναός Αγίου Νικολάου Flushing NY

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church

WELCOME BACK TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING EVERYONE BACK TO OUR SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL.
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED AFTER HOLY COMMUNION DURING
THE DIVINE LITURGY.

APPROXIMATE START TIME IS 10:00AM AND APPROXIMATE END TIME IS AROUND
10:45AM.

SEPTEMBER

20 SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION
27 SUNDAY 1ST DAY OF CHURCH SCHOOL
(1ST SUNDAY OF LUKE)



NOVEMBER

1 SUNDAY CLASSES (5TH SUNDAY OF LUKE)
8 SUNDAY CLASSES (7TH SUNDAY OF LUKE)
15 SUNDAY CLASSES (8TH SUNDAY OF LUKE)
22 SUNDAY CLASSES (9TH SUNDAY OF LUKE)
29 SUNDAY NO CLASSES (13TH SUNDAY OF LUKE)

OCTOBER

4 SUNDAY CLASSES (2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE)
11 SUNDAY NO CLASSES- THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL
COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND
18 SUNDAY CLASSES (LUKE THE EVANGELIST)
25 SUNDAY CLASSES (6TH SUNDAY OF LUKE)

DECEMBER

6 SUNDAY CLASSES (ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER)
13 SUNDAY CLASSES (11TH SUNDAY OF LUKE)
20 SUNDAY CLASSES (SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY)
24 THURS EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (CHRISTMAS PAGEANT)
27 SUNDAY NO CLASSES- CHRISTMAS RECESS
SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

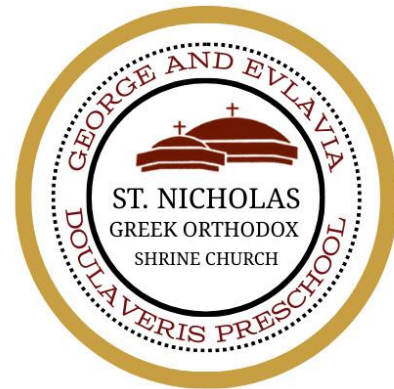


St. Nicholas Church School Schedule






SAINT NICHOLAS Greek Orthodox
Shrine Church



Nurturing Souls, Igniting Intellect.



CHURCH SCHOOL



St. Nicholas Church School Celebrates Graduation, Promotion, and Awards Day

On Sunday, June 14, 2026, the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church community gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of our Church

School students during the annual Graduation, Promotion, and Awards Day ceremony. The event marked the conclusion of another successful year of faith formation, fellowship, and spiritual growth for our students and families. Led by Father Aristidis Garinis, Proistamenos, and our Church School Director Vasilis Poll, the ceremony provided an opportunity to recognize the many individuals whose dedication, service, and commitment help make our Sunday Church School program a vibrant and essential ministry of our parish.

Gratitude to Clergy and Leadership

The celebration began with heartfelt gratitude to our clergy—Father Aristidis, Father Alex, and Father Paul—whose spiritual leadership and guidance continue to inspire our students and families. Special appreciation was also extended to the St. Nicholas Church School Executive Council for their countless hours of service and behind-the-scenes efforts that ensure the success of the program throughout the year. We are deeply grateful to Executive Council members: Rev. Ekonomos Aristidis Garinis, Proistamenos; Ms. Athanasia Maglaras; Ms. Heidi Moustakos; and Ms. Christina Pashos. Their leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our youth help strengthen the foundation of our Church School ministry and support the spiritual growth of future generations.

Recognizing Our Dedicated Educators

A successful Church School program is built upon the dedication of its teachers and assistants, who faithfully share the teachings of our Orthodox

faith each week. This year, we were blessed to have an outstanding team of educators serving our students. We gratefully recognize:

Pre-K and Kindergarten: Ms. Chrisanthy Gringas and Ms. Anna Sakalis

1st Grade: Mr. George Georganes

2nd Grade: Ms. Fotini Haritos

3rd Grade: Ms. Sotiria Fillos and Ms. Aspasia Tavantzis

4th Grade: Ms. Anastasia Gueros

5th Grade: Ms. Anastasia Poll

6th Grade: Mr. Christos Kladeftiras

7th and 8th Grade: Mr. Evangelos Vekios and Teacher Assistant Constantinos Bournias

High School: Mr. Chris Pantazis and Mr. Manny Kratsios

Through their love, patience, and devotion, these teachers help our children develop a deeper understanding of their faith while fostering a lifelong connection to the Church.

Celebrating Our Youth Volunteers

The parish also recognized our remarkable youth volunteers who generously contributed their time and talents throughout the year. Serving as office assistants, classroom helpers, greeters, and community service volunteers, these young adults exemplified the spirit of stewardship and servant leadership.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Ms. Christina Ladikos for her assistance with icons and welcoming parishioners at the door, as well as to:

Hofstra University: Zoe Chionis
Chaminade High School: George Georganes

St. Francis Prep: George Drakoulis, Thalia Panagos, Theo Bliagos, John Chionis, Maria Daskalopoulos, George Demacopoulos, Nikolaos Panagos, Leah Papoutsakis, Ariana Schreiner, Michael Skulikidis, Jerry Stylianou, George Tsempelis, and Yianni Zapantis

Their commitment to serving the Church and supporting younger students is a testament to the strong values of faith, service, and

community cultivated through our parish ministries.

Student Awards & Honors

A highlight of the day was the recognition of students who earned Achievement Awards and Attendance Pins. Students from every grade level were honored for their dedication, participation, and commitment throughout the school year. Following the presentations, each class gathered with their teachers and assistants for commemorative photographs, capturing memories of another meaningful year of learning, friendship, and spiritual growth. These moments reflected the strong bonds formed within our Church School family and the joy of growing together in Christ.

Honoring the Class of 2026

The parish proudly honored the four graduating seniors of the Church School Class of 2026: George Drakoulis, George Georganes, Sophia Karoutsos, and Thalia Panagos. These young men and women have completed their Church School journey and have demonstrated a lasting commitment to their faith, parish, and community.

In recognition of this important milestone, each graduate was presented with an Orthodox Study Bible to accompany them as they continue their spiritual journey and grow in their understanding of God's Word. As they prepare for the next chapter of their lives, we pray that they will remain steadfast in their Orthodox faith and continue to serve Christ and His Church wherever their future paths may lead.

Looking Ahead

As another successful Church School year comes to a close, the St. Nicholas parish family gives thanks to God for the many blessings of the past year. We are grateful to our clergy, Executive Council, teachers, assistants, volunteers, parents, and students whose collective efforts have made this ministry flourish. Together, they have created a nurturing environment where faith, fellowship, service, and learning thrive.

We congratulate all of our students on a

wonderful year and especially our graduating seniors on their accomplishments. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another year of spiritual growth, Christian fellowship, and learning in Christ's Holy Church.









Saint Nicholas Preschool

Written by: Elaine Meskouris



Last June was a very special and memorable time for our Preschool family. We had the joy of coming together for our picnic and celebrating our children. It was the perfect day, with the sun shining and a cool breeze. We had an assortment of age-appropriate outdoor toys—not to mention the bubble machine! All of the children took turns with every activity. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the friendships and memories our children made throughout the year. Seeing the children so happy and having such a great time brought tears to our eyes, knowing that in just a few weeks we would have to say goodbye to our Pre-K graduates. They will remain in our hearts and prayers always.

We also celebrated the Stepping Up Ceremonies: the Two-Year-Olds stepping up to Nursery, and Nursery stepping up to Pre-K. The Pre-Kindergarten ceremony was especially emotional as we admired our precious ones in their caps and gowns, soon to be Kindergarteners. The ceremonies were filled with excitement, happiness, and a few sentimental moments as we watched our little ones proudly walk across the stage. Seeing how much they had grown, learned, and developed throughout the year was truly heartwarming. Each child has grown in their own special way, and we are so proud of their accomplishments. Their smiles, confidence, and excitement

remind us how quickly the Preschool years go by.

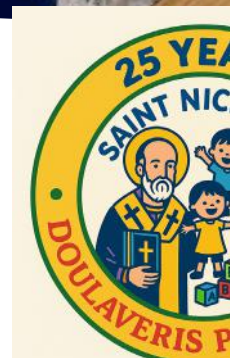
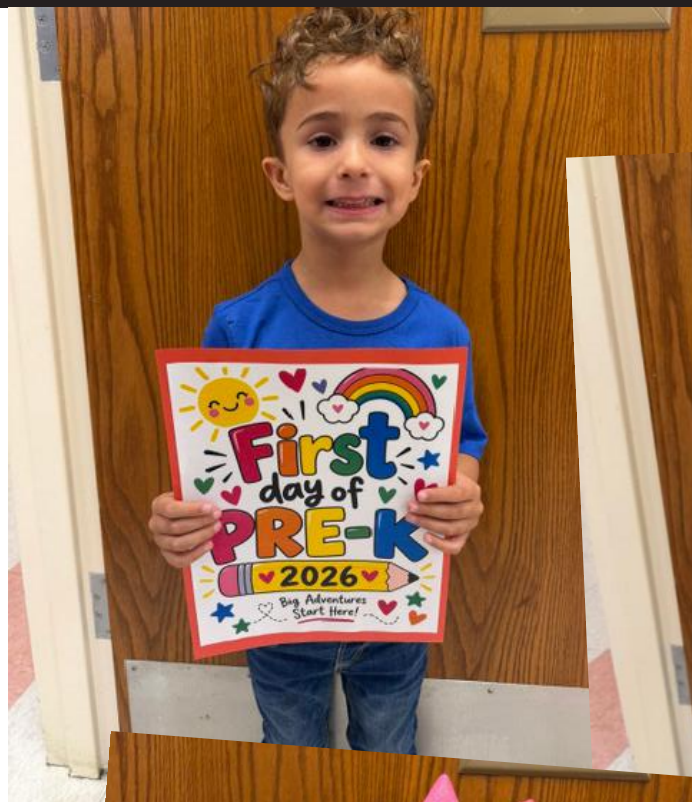
Our children and parents are looking forward to October! The farm trip will be filled with excitement, discovery, and plenty of smiles. It will be wonderful for the children to see the animals up close. White Post Farms of Melville on Long Island features a petting zoo, animal feedings, a giraffe experience, bird aviaries, a monkey barn, a dinosaur exhibit, playgrounds, and seasonal events. Since we are visiting in October, this trip also includes a fun hayride and pumpkin picking. How could our little ones not have a great experience?

On October 28, all of the children will come together to celebrate OXI Day. It will be an opportunity for the children to share what they have learned through songs, poems, and presentations. We will proudly listen to our children as they shout "OXI!" and wave their Greek flags with pride and love for Greece. In their own way, even at this young age, they truly understand the culture and meaning of this important holiday. I look forward to sharing many pictures with you in the next Ark edition!





DOULAVERIS PRESCHOOL





Follow us on Instagram
@doulaveris_preschool

and our website:
<https://www.stnicholasdoulaveris.org/>

WILLIAM SPYROPOULOS



A NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS WITH FAITH, JOY, AND PURPOSE

A Message from the Principal

Dear Parishioners,

There is something very special about the beginning of a new school year. After a well-deserved summer vacation, our students, faculty, and families returned renewed, recharged, and ready to begin another journey together. On September 9, the doors of the Wm. Spyropoulos School of St. Nicholas opened once again, and our hallways quickly filled with happy faces, excited voices, warm reunions, and an unmistakable enthusiasm for learning.

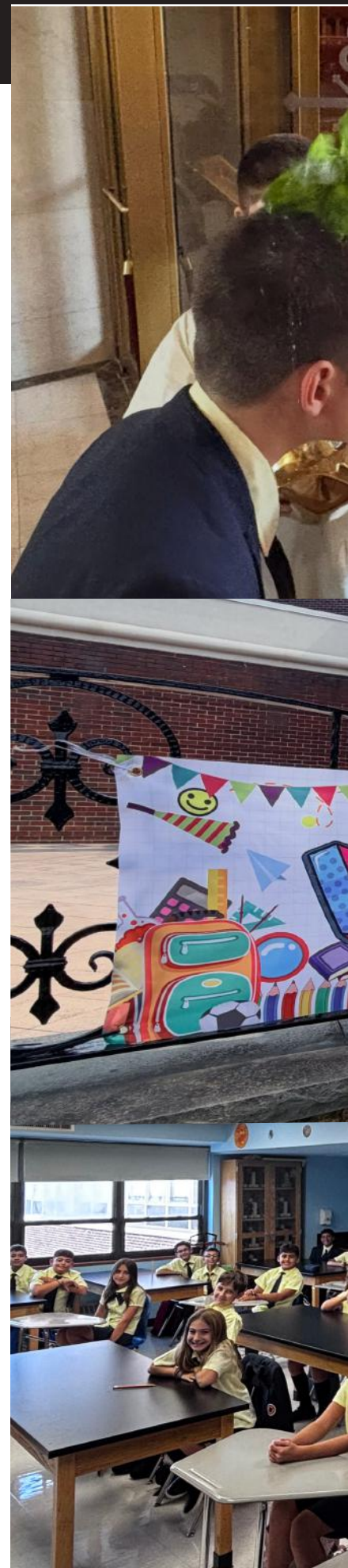
We are especially pleased to welcome several wonderful new additions to both our faculty and student body. They have already begun to become part of our school family, bringing new energy, talents, and ideas to our community. As we begin this year, our goal remains not simply to educate our students academically, but to nurture the whole child - mind, heart, and spirit. We want our children to grow intellectually, socially, emotionally, and spiritually, developing the knowledge and character that will prepare them to become compassionate, responsible, and successful young people.

The first days of school have already given us many reasons to celebrate. On September 15, our PTA welcomed our students with a wonderful school picnic during the lunch periods. Students enjoyed delicious food provided by the PTA while spending time outdoors playing, laughing, and reconnecting with classmates and friends. It was a simple but meaningful celebration of friendship and community and a wonderful way to set a joyful tone for the year ahead.

On September 16, we gathered in our beloved St.

Nicholas Church for the Divine Liturgy and the traditional Agiasmo for the beginning of the school year. Father Aristidis and Father Alexandros blessed our students, faculty, and staff, asking for God's guidance, wisdom, and protection throughout the months ahead. Beginning our academic year in prayer reminds our children of something fundamental to the mission of our school: while we strive for excellence in the classroom, our education is always rooted in our Greek Orthodox faith.

On September 17, we welcomed our parents for Curriculum Night. For one evening, our parents became the students, walking in their children's footsteps from classroom to classroom, meeting teachers, learning about expectations and curriculum, and gaining a glimpse into what a typical school day looks like. The evening reinforced the importance of the partnership among





school, home, and church - a partnership that is essential to the success and well-being of every child.

And this is only the beginning! The months ahead promise to be filled with learning, faith, tradition, and celebration. We look forward to our OXI Day assemblies, school liturgies, Thanksgiving celebrations, classroom projects, trips, athletic and extracurricular activities, and the many opportunities our students will have to discover their talents and share them with others. Before we know it, we will once again enter the beautiful Christmas season, a time that brings a special warmth and excitement to the halls of our school and reminds us of the greatest gift of all, the birth of Christ.

Yet, amid all the celebrations and activities, the heart of our school remains what happens every day: children learning, teachers inspiring, friendships developing, faith deepening, and young people discovering who they are capable

of becoming. Each school year gives us another opportunity to plant seeds - seeds of knowledge, kindness, perseverance, faith, respect, and love. With careful nurturing by our teachers, parents, clergy, and community, we look forward to watching those seeds grow throughout the year.

We are deeply grateful to our St. Nicholas parish community for continuing to embrace and support our school. The relationship between our church and school is one of our greatest blessings. Together, we





preserve not only academic excellence but also the Greek language, our rich Hellenic heritage, our Orthodox faith, and the values that have sustained generations before us.

As we embark upon this new school year, we do so with optimism and high expectations. May it be a year of learning and discovery, friendship and kindness, achievement and growth, faith and gratitude. Above all, may St. Nicholas guide and protect our children, our families, our faculty, our clergy, and our entire community throughout the year ahead.

We look forward to sharing our journey and many accomplishments with you in future editions of The ARK.

Καλή και ευλογημένη σχολική χρονιά!

May we all have a happy, healthy, productive, and blessed school year.

With warmest regards,
Mary Tzallas
Principal

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS!

The Stephen & Areti Cherpelis Hellenic School is excited to welcome our students and families to a new school year filled with Greek language, culture, faith, and traditions!

This year, we are also thrilled to welcome our new team of dedicated teachers, who bring fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and a deep commitment to helping our students learn, grow, and stay connected to their Greek heritage.

Our 2026–2027 academic program offers students rich opportunities to strengthen their Greek language skills while exploring Greek mythology, music, religion and Orthodox traditions, geography, poetry and

excited to have introduced Greek Dance as a core part of our weekly curriculum! Every week, students enjoy dedicated time to learn traditional Greek dances and connect with their culture through music and movement.

We officially kicked off the school year with our traditional Agiasmos service, bringing together our students, teachers, and families to ask for God's blessing for a healthy, joyful, and successful year ahead.

We look forward to a wonderful year of learning, creativity, faith, and Hellenic spirit!

Matina Demeli

Principal, Stephen & Areti Cherpelis Hellenic School



public speaking, the Greek Spelling Bee, and our Student Newspaper. In addition, we are

Website: <http://stnicholashellenicschool.org>
Email: info@stnicholashellenicschool.org



SAINT NICHOLAS Greek Orthodox Shrine Church

SHAPING TOMORROWS
STEWARDS
OF **FAITH**



YOUTH
MINISTRIES

JOY

JOY is excited to begin another wonderful year for our **2nd–4th graders!** Our goal is to provide opportunities for our children to grow in their faith, build friendships, serve others, and have fun together as a community. We encourage all children in grades 2nd–4th to join us and invite their friends to be part of JOY!

Our first event will be the **Fall JOY Games on October 18th from 2:00–4:00 PM** in the Saint Nicholas Cafeteria. Children will enjoy an afternoon filled with fall-themed activities, including a pie-eating contest, bobbing for apples (with tongs!), relay races, and more. Parents are asked to stay for the event, and volunteers are always welcome.

On November 8th, JOY will come together with **Jr. GOYA for a potluck**, giving our children a wonderful time to enjoy good food, fellowship, and connection.

On December 13th, we will celebrate the season with our **Christmas Kindness Challenge**. The children will spread Christmas cheer by creating handmade cards for patients at **St. Mary's Children's Hospital**. This special activity will give our JOY kids an opportunity to brighten someone's day and share the love and kindness of the Christmas



season with children who may be spending the holidays in the hospital.

We are looking forward to a year filled with **faith, friendship, service, and JOY!** All children in grades 2nd–4th are invited to participate, and we hope to see many new and returning faces throughout the year.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact **stnicholasjoy@gmail.com**.



Faith Friends Fun All Year Long!

SAINT NICHOLAS

JOY

JUNIOR ORTHODOX YOUTH
GRADES 2ND - 4TH

All JOY children are invited!

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 18

FALL JOY GAMES

NOVEMBER 8

POTLUCK WITH JR. GOYA

DECEMBER 13

CHRISTMAS KINDNESS CHALLENGE

JANUARY 10

PIZZA MAKING AND VASILOPITA WITH JR. GOYA

FEBRUARY 7

ROLLERSKATING WITH JOY AND JR. GOYA

MARCH 14

CUPCAKE DECORATING CHALLENGE AND MOVIE NIGHT

Play Learn Serve Belong

APRIL 30
LENTEN RETREAT

MAY 28-30
JOY OLYMPICS

Faith in Action Fun in Community!

ALL JOY CHILDREN ARE INVITED! LET'S MAKE IT A GREAT YEAR! ♥

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL STNICHOLASJOY@GMAIL.COM

YOUTH MINISTRY BBQ SEPT 12TH





Panagia's



*A summer
Learning*



s Garden

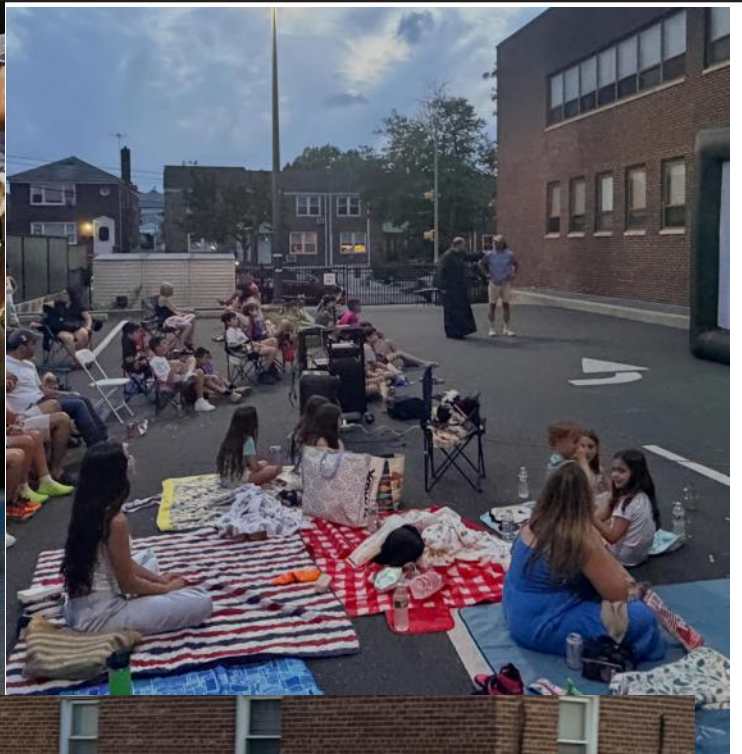


*Summer of Faith, Fellowship,
Learning and FUN!*









MOVIE NIGHT

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

JUNIOR GOYA

MINI GOLF

KICK-OFF EVENT!

**SIBLINGS
WELCOME!**



**SIGN UP
REQUIRED**

**PAYMENT WILL
BE COLLECTED
AT THE EVENT**

**OCT
12**

12:30PM - 2PM

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**COST: \$35 PER CHILD
INCLUDES 1 ROUND OF GOLF,
\$10 ARCADE CARD, & PIZZA**

Jr.GOYA Events

2026 - 2027

10/12	Minigolf
11/8	Jr.GOYA Potluck
11/23	Food Drive - Packing and Organizing
12/5	St. Nicholas Vespers
12/6	Jr.GOYA Fundraiser
1/10	Vasilopita cutting & Pizza making
2/7	Roller Skating Event
3/7	Movie Night & Cupcakes

GOYA Iconography Class

with Nia Condoleon

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH
AT 7:00PM
IN THE CAFETERIA

SCAN QR CODE
TO SIGN UP:



GOYA Events

2026

9/21	*First GOYA Meeting*
9/28	GOYA Meeting
10/12	GOYA Meeting
10/15	Iconography Class
10/19	GOYA Meeting - Volleyball night
10/26	GOYA Meeting
11/9	Potluck Party
11/16	GOYA Meeting
11/23	Food Drive - Organize and Pack Drive
11/24	Food Drive - Delivering Food
11/30	GOYA Meeting - Christmas Photo
12/5	Vespers for St. Nicholas
12/7	GOYA Meeting
12/13	Christmas card sale after church
12/14	GOYA Meeting
12/21	GOYA meeting - 12 days of Christmas

2027

1/9	Ice Skating
1/11	GOYA Meeting - Vasilopita Cutting
1/18	GOYA Meeting
1/25	GOYA Meeting
2/8	GOYA Meeting
2/12	RPM Raceway Event
2/15	GOYA Meeting
2/22	GOYA Meeting - Movie Night & Make your own Pizza
3/8	GOYA Meeting
3/12	Prosforo Making
3/15	GOYA Meeting
3/29	GOYA Meeting
3/30	Fakes Making
3/31	Bible study - Serving Fakes
4/12	GOYA Meeting
4/19	GOYA Meeting
5/10	GOYA Meeting
5/17	GOYA Meeting
5/24	GOYA Meeting
5/29-5/31	Olympics Weekend
6/7	Final GOYA Meeting - Senior GOYA
TBA	GOYA Dance

YOUTH DIRECTOR

MEET OUR NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR!!!

Peter Panopoulos grew up at St. Nicholas and is a proud graduate of the William Spyropoulos School. He participated in JOY, Jr. GOYA, and GOYA and was also an active member of the church's basketball program.

Having experienced firsthand the importance of growing up with a strong connection to the Church and its community, Peter is passionate about giving today's youth that same opportunity. Working along with Father Alex, he hopes to help St. Nicholas continue to grow by creating a welcoming environment where young people can strengthen their faith, build lifelong friendships, and truly feel that the Church is their second home.



COLLEGE PRAYER SERVICE

BLESSINGS FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

This past August, our St. Nicholas parish family gathered for a special Prayer Service and Agiasmos to bless our high school graduates and returning college students as they embark on the new academic year.

Surrounded by family, friends, and clergy, our young adults received prayers for wisdom, safety, discernment, and strength as they prepare to take this next major step in their educational and personal journeys. Whether moving away to campus or commuting locally, we remind our students that St. Nicholas remains their spiritual home, and our prayers follow them

wherever their studies lead.

We wish all our college students a blessed, successful, and inspiring academic year!



AHEPA

Happy Fall, St. Nicholas Family.

The Gus Cherevas Estia-Pindus AHEPA Flushing Chapter will end 2026 on a high note. Out of 31 AHEPA chapters throughout New York State, we were recognized as the 2026 Chapter of the Year. The "KNICKS IN FIVE" magic was still going strong!

On September 24th, we hosted a BBQ reception for the re-elected AHEPA Supreme President and his lodge in Sarantakos Hall. It was well attended, and thanks to The Butcher Bar, we showed them what real Texas BBQ is like.

Although 2026 is not over, we have to say 2027 will be a special year for us. We will be celebrating our 80th anniversary serving the St. Nicholas community. In 1947, Gus Cherevas, along with others, started the chapter. With the protection of St. Nicholas, we are still going strong and will be here for another 80 years!

A few dates to save on your calendars!

On Saturday, November 21, 2026, Empire State District 6 will host a regional banquet with 250+ guests from across the East Coast to honor Nicholas Karacostas for his many years of service and leadership.

On Saturday, March 6, 2027, we will host our Awards Gala at Leonard's Palazzo. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE. Join us as we celebrate three pillars of our community:

Congressman Tom Suozzi: Recipient of the "Pericles Award" for Civic Service and Leadership.

Doctor Lorraine Chrisomalis-Valasiadis: Recipient of the "Presidents' Award" for Community Service.

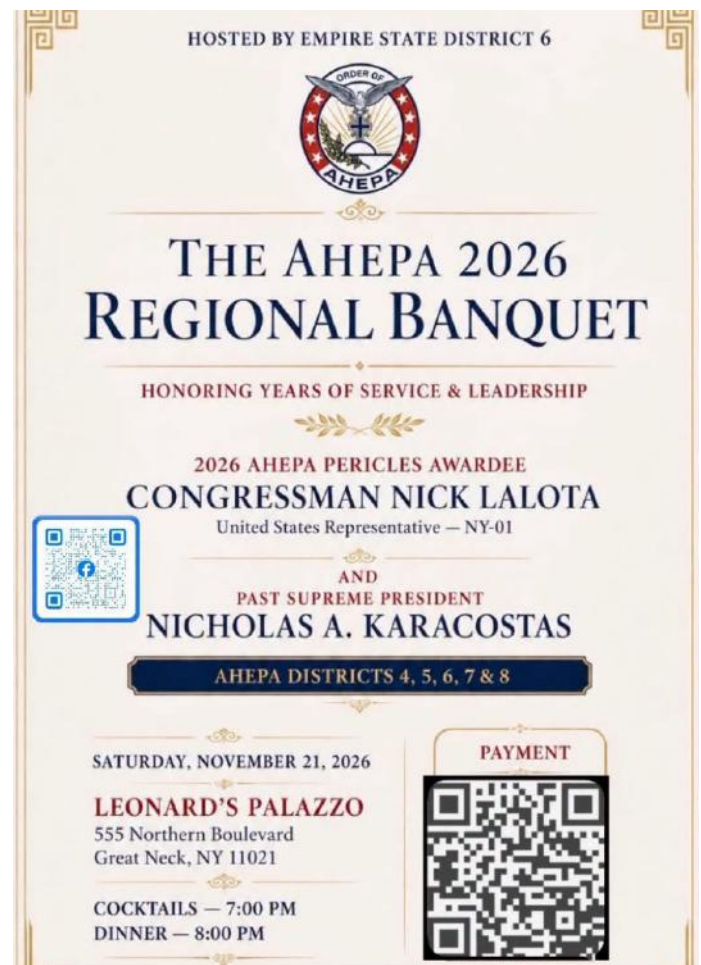
Two-Term Past Supreme Governor & Two-Term Past District 6 Governor Dean Moskos: Recipient of the "Gus Cherevas Legacy Award" for Philanthropy.

Until we speak again, let's hope winter will be fast and light.

With warm regards,
Jimmy Papageorgiou

President

Gus Cherevas Estia-Pindus
AHEPA Chapter 326



MAIDS OF ATHENA

Maids of Athena – Pygmalion Chapter #126

This month, the Pygmalion Chapter of the Maids of Athena hosted their first chapter meeting of the year! Sisters gathered to discuss upcoming philanthropic, community, and sisterhood events. To start the year strong, each sister created an "MOA" keychain in her favorite colors. These keychains serve as a subtle daily reminder of the values of our Order: Sisterhood, Service, Citizenship, Hellenism, Family, and Arete (Virtue)!

- October is Breast Cancer Awareness
- Month! Please join the Bayside Maids
- as we continue our annual tradition of
- walking in the Making Strides Against
- Breast Cancer Walk at Flushing Meadows
- Park on October 18th, 2026.
- If anyone is interested in walking
- with us, joining the Maids, learning
- more about our chapter and purpose,
- or collaborating on a community
- event, please reach out to us at
- maidsofathenapyg@gmail.com.

Best regards,

Stephanie Papoutsakis

President, Maids of Athena Chapter #126



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EDUCATION
PHILANTHROPY
SERVICE**

**GUS CHEREVAS
ESTIA-PINDUS 326**

2027, the Gus Cherevas Estia-Pindus AHEPA Chapter 326 celebrates its 80th anniversary of service to the vibrant St. Nicholas Community. Thank you for your support!

Join us!
nycAhepa326.org



GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scout Troop 4212, Saint Nicholas Flushing – A New Year Begins!

Saint Nicholas Girl Scout Troop 4212 is excited to begin another wonderful year! Our multi-level troop welcomes girls in Kindergarten through 8th grade, spanning Daisies through Cadettes. Our goal is to help our Scouts build confidence, try new things, develop leadership skills, serve our church and community, and create lasting friendships through the core values of Girl Scouting.

We kicked off the year by giving back to our Saint Nicholas community, donating and serving lemonade at the Youth Ministry Sign-Up. The girls also participated in a fun and educational first aid lesson with their teddy bears, led by our church's own Presbytera Lea Garinis, a registered nurse. The girls



learned essential basic first aid skills while practicing how to care for their "patients."

We also celebrated

our Annual Girl Scout Ceremony, a special tradition that recognizes each stage of a Girl Scout's





journey:

Girls moving up to the next level were celebrated in our Bridging Ceremony.

Our newest members were officially welcomed through Investiture.

Our returning Girl Scouts renewed their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law during Rededication.

We are looking forward to another year filled with learning, service, sisterhood, new experiences, and plenty of fun as our girls continue to grow into confident, courageous, and caring young leaders!



BOY SCOUTS

Seven Young Men Honored at Eagle Scout Court of Honor

On Saturday, June 13, 2026, our parish community gathered with family, friends, clergy, and community leaders for a truly inspiring Eagle Scout Court of Honor. The event celebrated seven outstanding young men from Troop 268 who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout—the highest honor in Scouting. The ceremony recognized the dedication, perseverance, leadership, and service of John Christian Balis, Andreas Chrysikos, George Drakoulis, Dimitri Efthimiades, Vasilios Katranis, Konstantinos Mihalatos, and Christos Vangelatos.

A Meaningful and Inspiring Ceremony

The evening was beautifully led by Master of Ceremonies Demetri Chronis, whose thoughtful remarks and heartfelt guidance helped make the occasion both meaningful and memorable. The Court of Honor reflected the very best of Scouting: faith, leadership, citizenship, service, and commitment to others. Through the Eagle Charge, the presentation of medals, and tributes from family and friends, the ceremony reminded all in attendance that the Eagle Scout rank is not simply an award, but a lifelong call to lead with integrity and serve with compassion.

A Special Tribute to Scoutmaster Gerry Mihalatos

A particularly emotional and proud moment of the evening was the recognition of Scoutmaster Gerasimos (Gerry) Mihalatos, whose unwavering leadership has guided Troop 268 with dedication, humility, and a deep love for Scouting. For many years, Mr. Mihalatos has invested countless hours mentoring young men, teaching the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law, and helping Scouts grow into confident leaders and faithful members of their communities. Seeing seven

Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle Scout under his leadership was a remarkable testament to his hard work and devotion. Many in attendance were deeply moved by this milestone and proud to witness the impact one committed leader can have on so many young lives.

Honoring an Extraordinary Achievement

The Eagle Scout rank is earned by only a small percentage of Scouts nationwide and represents years of commitment and effort. Each Scout must complete extensive leadership training, earn numerous merit badges, and carry out a significant community service project that benefits others. The accomplishments of these seven young men reflect not only their personal determination, but also the strong support of their families, troop leaders, and parish community.

Distinguished Guests in Attendance

The Court of Honor was further distinguished by the presence of several honored elected officials who joined us to celebrate these young men and recognize their achievements. We were grateful to welcome:

Congresswoman Grace Meng, serving New York's 6th Congressional District

Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein, representing New York State Assembly District 26

New York State Senator John C. Liu, representing the 16th Senate District

Their attendance underscored the importance of Scouting in developing future leaders and strengthening our communities.

Recognizing Families and Supporters

Another touching part of the ceremony was the recognition of the parents and families whose encouragement, sacrifices, and steadfast support helped these Scouts reach this extraordinary milestone. As each Eagle medal was presented, parents were honored for the countless rides, campouts, volunteer hours, and words of encouragement that helped guide their sons along the Scouting trail.

A Proud Moment for Our Parish

Our parish family proudly congratulates John Christian Balis, Andreas Chrysikos, George Drakoulis, Dimitri Efthimiades, Vasilios Katranis, Konstantinos



Mihalatos, and Christos Vangelatos on this remarkable accomplishment. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Scoutmaster Gerry Mihalatos, Master of Ceremonies Demetri Chronis, the troop's leaders and volunteers, and all the families who have supported Troop 268 through the years.

May God Bless Our New Eagle Scouts

May God continue to bless these new Eagle Scouts as they carry forward the values of faith, leadership, service, and character that have guided them throughout their Scouting journey. Their achievements bring great pride to their families, Troop 268, and our entire parish community. As they look toward the future, may they remain steadfast in their commitment to serving God, their families, their communities, and our nation with honor, courage, humility, and faith—inspiring others through their example and leadership.





Troop 268 is sponsored by the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. It was first chartered in 1970& has been providing Troop 268 with the opportunity to participate in the Boy Scout program continuously for over 50 years. In our proud history the Troop has graduated over 100 Eagle Scouts!



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EAGLE SCOUT
COURT OF HONOR

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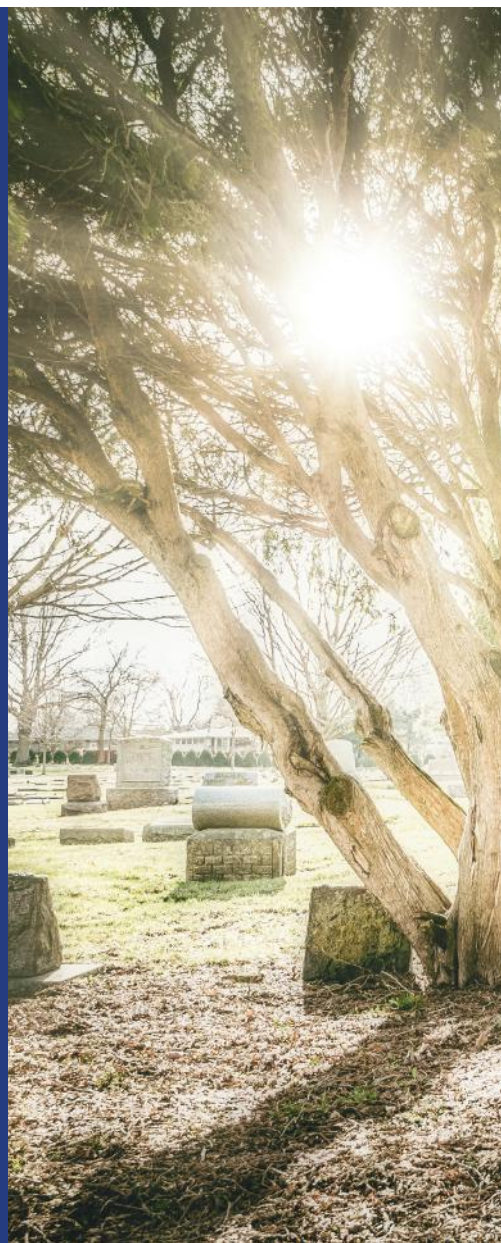
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