ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH WEEKLY ONLINE BULLETIN

We are a Christ-centered community that welcomes all to worship, to pray, to serve others and to learn our Orthodox faith

View PDF

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

May 24th

Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Council

8:00 AM
ORTHROS

9:00 AM
DIVINE LITURGY

Click the icon to read about the Saint(s).

ATTENDANCE
May 17: 132 people
2025 Average: 117 people
Full Attendance Report

Digital Chant Stand
Services Online
click on calendar date
for reading of service

ALSO ONLINE

Narthex Servers:

ALEXI
and
NECTOR

Chanters:

CHARLIE MARGE
TERI STEVENS

We wish to thank Carol Bearse and Brian MacIntosh for hosting last week's fellowship hour.

Sunday, May 24, 2026 | Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

DIAKONIA

A National Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

REFLECTIONS FROM TODAY'S READING – *John 17:1-13* | Fr. George Parsenios

Today's Gospel reading from John 17 is the concluding section of the long Farewell Discourse that Jesus delivers in John 13–17. Two things deserve attention from this discourse. First, Jesus bids farewell to his disciples in the same way that Old Testament patriarchs do prior to their deaths. Moses and others consoled their followers, offered commandments to live by, and reminded their followers of God's plans. Jesus follows this pattern closely. Second, the farewell of Jesus differs from other biblical farewells in that Jesus stresses his continuing presence even more than his departure. Even as he bids them farewell, he emphasizes that he is going nowhere. He washes the disciples' feet, so they "have a part with him" (John 13). They are united to him like branches are to a vine (John 15:5). Even as they suffer and are hated by the world, their suffering unites them to Jesus, and they will be supported by the Holy Spirit as they suffer (John 15:20). All this recalls Jesus' teaching that as long as we eat his flesh and drink his blood, we abide in him and he abides in us (John 6:54). Even though he says that he is no longer in the world, he still promises to be with us until the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). But the continuing presence of Jesus is not confined to our life on earth. He tells his disciples in John 14:3, "I go and prepare a place for you; I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." Christ remains with us on earth, while also preparing us to dwell with him forever in heavenly joy. Let us strive ever more to live this heavenly life on earth.

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

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

Scan for today's service text

bit.ly/parishtexts

PRAYER LIST

Click on the list above to offer your prayers for those in need of prayer

PRAYER IN TIME OF NEED

Printable Version

Christ's joy

PRAYER FOR THOSE GOING THROUGH DEPRESSION

READ MORE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR NOTES:

June 7th: Tentative last day of classes

HELP BRING THE GOSPEL TO LIFE – DAILY:

We're looking for volunteers to help Fr. George share a short daily Bible reading with our parish. If you have a heart for Scripture and a few minutes a day, this is a simple and powerful way to serve. Young adults especially encouraged and all are welcome. Interested? Reach out to Mary at office@stnicholaslex.org.

GRADUATES: WE WANT TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE!!!!

This is a call to ALL who are High School and College Seniors!! We need to have your names, a little write up about yourself (a recent picture, your plans for the future, going on for further education and your involvement here at St. Nicholas) in order to have these names appear in the Weekly Bulletin. If we do not have your name and this information, you will not be able to be acknowledged as a graduate on June 7, during Sunday School graduation.

Please take the time and give our office a call or better yet, send an e-mail with all the information we are asking.

Thank you.

BE THE INVITATION:

RECORD A WEEKLY ST. NICHOLAS VIDEO

Our parish is inviting ***you*** to help welcome others to Divine Liturgy in a simple and meaningful way.

Each week, parishioners record a short video invitation connected to the Sunday Gospel, just 10–20 seconds, spoken from the heart.

How it works:

- Scan the QR code to sign up for a date and view sample scripts (or create your own)
- Record a short video on your phone
- Speak naturally (like inviting a friend)
- Upload your video (due 5 days before your Sunday)

No need to be perfect. Joy, warmth, and authenticity matter most.

Each video posted also helps support our parish through a special grant opportunity.

Thank you for helping us share the love of Christ and build connection in our community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: ELENI SALEDAS (ESALEDAS@GMAIL.COM)

Keep submitting the volunteer hours!

To date collectively an impressive 1,711 hours of your time has been submitted! Thank you to those who have already responded. All this volunteer work shows that St. Nicholas is truly is willing to give their time and talents to fulfill our mission. Your volunteer hours are appreciated not only within our welcoming church community, but by the broader Lexington community that is home to St. Nicholas. Hours volunteered from April 1, 2025 through July 2026 not previously provided should be included. Your name(s) and hours should be sent to: dawn@dawnmckenna.org

By submitting your hours in service to St Nicholas Church you are helping to reach the town's collective goal of 250k hours volunteered in honor of 250th Anniversary of the Nation! Whether you are attending a meeting, providing feedback, or supporting others, you make St. Nicholas a better place Learn about VO250 at: lex250.org

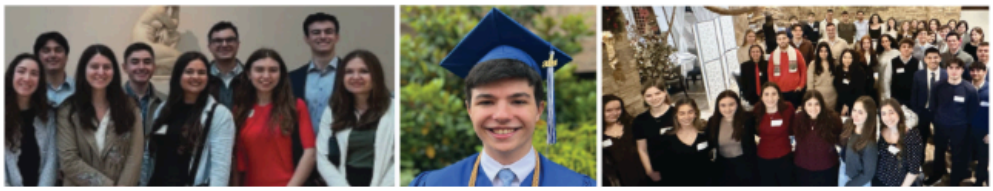
Want to see how our efforts fit into the broader VO250 efforts? Come to the next Arch Lighting ceremony on Sunday, March 15th 7 pm at the arch located at 1625 Massachusetts Avenue near the Police Station. Get your hours in before the Arch Lighting ceremony in April.

Guidelines: Any age volunteer is acceptable.. Every hour is important so whether it is one or more hours volunteered, please submit them as they add up quickly. Questions to same email.The hours will collectively be listed under St Nicholas Church so there is no need to list the specific tasks or breakdown. Approximation of hours is ok if unsure. As long as you don't get paid for what you did, add the hours.

Unsure if your volunteer time should counts: It probably does if through St. Nicholas. If ensure, ask Dawn dawn@dawnmckenna.org.

FAITH
An Endowment for Orthodoxy & Hellenism

College Scholarships for Greek Orthodox Students



For over twenty years, the FAITH Endowment has awarded scholarships to Greek Orthodox students, and we are happy to announce that the 2026 FAITH Scholarship for Academic Excellence application is now available at: **thefaithendowment.org/scholarships**.

Applicants must be graduating high school seniors enrolling in a 4-year accredited U.S. university this fall and a member of a Greek Orthodox parish. The submission deadline is **June 26th, 2026**.

Through the FAITH Scholarship for Academic Excellence program, FAITH awards merit-based scholarships to exemplary young people in the Hellenic-American Greek Orthodox community who achieve academic excellence and are actively involved in their church and community. To date, our FAITH Scholar network has grown to include nearly 1,000 young Greek-American leaders from across the United States who are making their campuses, parishes, communities and beyond a better place.

Project Mexico Update

From June 22 to June 30 several members from St. Nicholas will be part of a Project Mexico mission team in conjunction with St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church in Newport, RI heading to Mexico to build a home for a family in need. For over thirty years Project Mexico has been building

homes for some of the most impoverished families in Northern Mexico. We are asking for your participation in this trip through your prayers and financial support. If you would like to make a donation to our mission team or to an individual member of the team to help cover the participation costs please click on the following link:

Donate Here!

Any excess funds that we raise through this link will go to Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage. Please keep the St. Nicholas mission team members: Bob DeVasto, Andoni Katos, Demetri Katos, Olivia Tanionos, Melanie Tanionos, and Nicholas Zervoglos along with the other team members in your prayers as they prepare for this trip.

MINISTRIES

Strategic Planning Update

(Click the Strategic Plan Implementation report below)

Strategic Plan Implementation Update
May 3, 2026

Religious Education	Co-Captains: Maria Decoulos and Judy Gray
Accomplishments	Holy Friday retreat held on April 10th.
Plan	Bible study on the Gospel of St. Matthew to resume soon. Student presentation planned for June Graduation.

Stewardship and Engagement	Co-Captains: Penelope Tzougros and Stephanie DeVasto
Accomplishments	Reviewed highlights of the Youth Stewardship and Stewardship Programs book
Plan for Next Month	Present findings to the Strategic Implementation Team. Complete evaluation of adult and youth stewardship programs Finalize adult and youth stewardship program.

Renovation Program	Co-Captains: Carol Bearse and Bob DeVasto
Accomplishments	Identified four attorneys to review the lot definition and the Dover amendment impact on our plans. Video and photos of the new addition available at Spring GA. Completed website and brochure format for capital campaign.
Plan for Next Month	Start fundraising in May.

Outreach, Evangelism, and Welcoming (OEW)	Team Members: Emily Babalas, Charlie Marge, Nicholas Zervoglos
Plan for Next Month	Focused on building the team. New members are welcome.

Thank you to all the co-captains and team members for the great progress on implementing the strategic planning goals.

Community Transformation Team

Dear parishioners,

We are pleased to announce that we are moving forward with Phase 2 of the Design and Development. This phase involves hiring the engineers to look at our design before going before the Design Review Board for the town of Lexington. We will have more details at the May 4 General Assembly. We also hope to launch our Capital Campaign in May. Thank you for your ongoing support and patience.

Thank you,
Carol

Please check out our **website** where we provide all the latest information and developments regarding the transformation of our facility.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Bearse Mackintosh.

Stewardship

April 2026

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen!

I am happy to report the following data on our pledges/giving since January 1, 2026:

# of Piedges (indiv/fam)	Pledge amt (total)	# of indiv/ fam paid	Amt paid (total)	% Amt paid (total)	Remainder to goal
44	$105,182.00	94	$111,905.98	51%	$108,094.02

Easter is by far one of the most beautiful and powerful times of the year - we saw our community come together in church - not only prayerfully, but to clean and prepare as well. Children, young adults, and the ladies of the church decorated the Kouvouklion, while others contributed to both meals held on Easter Sunday (after the Anastasi and Agape services). As the years go by, the love emanating from our community ever grows! I am so pleased to see that this past Holy Week truly exemplified our ability to provide our time, talents, and treasure!

Quick links:

- Want to sign up for a church ministry? Fill out this survey: https://app.onechurchsoftware.com/stnicholaslex/forms/8
- Want to submit a pledge? Go to https://stnicholaslex.onechurchsoftware.com/, log in, and follow the prompts under the "$ Giving" tab
- Want to give a donation?
  - OPTION 1: If you already have a One Church account, submit an offering by going to https://stnicholaslex.onechurchsoftware.com/, log in, click Give Now (in the gray bar on the left of your screen), and follow the prompts
  - OPTION 2: If you don't have a One Church account, submit an offering by going to https://app.onechurchsoftware.com/stnicholaslex/egiving and follow the prompts
  - OPTION 3: Mail in a check/cash to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 17 Meriam Street, Lexington, MA, 02420
- Questions? Contact stewardship@stnicholaslex.org

For those who have pledged and/or given thus far - THANK YOU!!

Alexis Papathanasiou (Dr. Alexis Zallas, DVM)
Stewardship Chair

APRIL 2026 UPDATE

Philoptochos

Click for the 2025-26 Philoptocos Meeting Schedule

St. Irene's Philoptocos Stewards as of April 5, 2026

PHILOPTOCOS NEWS and UPDATES:

We had a very successful bake sale on Patriots Day on our front lawn. We sold baklava, loukoumathes and frappes, with a profit of $1,355!!

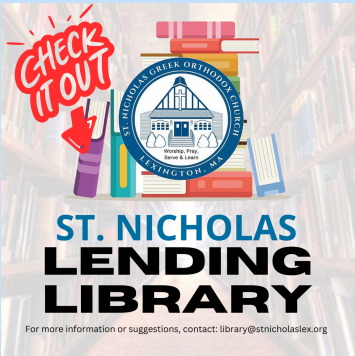
We had a 2-year memorial lunch for **Sandra Miminos** during the Spring General Assembly where we provided flowers and sandwiches. May her memory be eternal.

Your Philoptochos supported several charities this month: Hellenic College/Holy Cross $550. Project Mexico $1500. Priest Discretionary Fund $500. Pan Mass Challenge $400.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR PAINT NIGHT OCTOBER 16th:
Philoptochos is hosting a Sip and Paint Night with the artist, Katerina Delegas, who will guide us through creating our individual paintings. No experience necessary! Come and join us for a really fun evening and support your Philoptochos! Sure to be lots of fun!

Our next meeting will be **Monday, June 1 at 5:30 pm**. **Charlene Colt** has graciously invited us to her home for this final potluck meeting. Come and join us!

Lending Library



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY:

Spiritual Counsels of Saint Paisios (6 vol. set) now available! St. Paisios the New (1924-1994) was one of the most loved and revered Elders of our times. Living as a monk on Mount Athos, he spent his nights in prayer and his days guiding, consoling, healing, and giving spiritual rest to countless people who took shelter in him. The wise spiritual counsels of the Elder have been collected in these six volumes under the following titles: **With Pain and Love for Contemporary Man, Spiritual Awakening, Spiritual Struggle, Family Life, Passions and Virtues, On Prayer**.

Please email the **library** if you have any requests or questions, we'd love to hear from you.

Fellowship

REMINDER:

Do you enjoy a nice cup of coffee and a piece of pastry following each Sunday's Divine Liturgy? Of course, you do. That's why we're asking those who have not sponsored a Sunday fellowship hour in a while to please sign up for the many opening dates available. We all like to chit-chat with our fellow parishioners with a coffee in-hand. So, please step forward. It's real easy…..all you need to bring is some pastry (nothing fancy) and a gallon of milk. The church supplies the rest (napkins, plates, cups, etc.). If you have questions, just call the church office.

Thanks much for answering this appeal. We all will appreciate and thank you.

Hey Ministry Leaders and eBulletin Contributors!

Keep your updates fresh and informative!

*Email any digital photos or updates to **rdiorio18@gmail.com** by noon on Friday, and they will appear in the electronic bulletin. Also be sure to copy **office@stnicholaslex.org** by Wednesday noon if you would like the content to appear in the paper bulletin.*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Celebrate

GREEK AMERICAN NIGHT

at Fenway Park

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026 • 6:45 PM

Tickets: ***Price includes Red Sox Greek soccer jersey!***

Price: ***$35 per ticket (cash or check)***

RSVP: ***Pauline Sager at psager625@gmail.com***

Deadline: ***May 19th***

Make checks payable to: **St. Nicholas Church**.
Red Sox vs. Orioles

or PAY VIA ONE CHURCH:

Go to stnicholaslex.onechurchsoftware.com/give
Select: Fundraiser Event Donation-Red Sox Tickets for Annual Greek Night

Dear Friends and Families of the Greek Community,

The **Hellenic American Academy Foundation** was established with a clear and heartfelt mission: to preserve, strengthen, and grow the legacy of the **Hellenic American Academy** for generations to come.

This year marks a truly special milestone as the **Hellenic American Academy** celebrates its 120th anniversary. For more than a century, the Academy has stood as a cornerstone of our community, educating children in academic excellence while preserving Hellenic culture, language, and Orthodox tradition. As the oldest continuously running Greek American day schools in the country, it has shaped generations of families who continue to carry forward our shared heritage.

Today, the HAA Foundation continues this mission to engage our broader community through outreach, fundraising, and events that bring us together in meaningful ways, ensuring this legacy not only survives, but thrives for future generations.

We are proud to invite you to our debut community celebration:

Lowell Spinners Greek Night at LeLacheur Park in Lowell, MA

Wednesday, June 17th

This special evening is a celebration of Greek heritage, community pride, and local history, where we will honor Lowell's rich Hellenic roots, including a tribute to Harris Agganis, "The Golden Greek," a figure who represents the deep connection between Greek identity and the Lowell community. The first 500 fans will get a Harry Agganis "Golden Greek" bobblehead!

It will be a memorable night at the ballpark, featuring:

* Live Greek music and entertainment by DJ Kostas Blathras
* Exclusive Greek Night baseball jerseys available with ticket purchase (limited quantities for pre-order by **May 17th**!)
* A family-friendly atmosphere, including a Kid Club area with inflatables open throughout the game
* Opportunities to gather and celebrate with Greek families, churches, and organizations from across the region

Please note that jersey pre-orders must be submitted by **Sunday, May 17th**.
To secure your jersey orders and for group tickets, please contact Andre Vlahakis at Andre@LowellSpinners.com.

We warmly encourage participation from your parish, GOYA, YAL, Philoptochos, families, and friends. This is more than a night at the ballpark, it is a celebration of who we are, where we come from, and the legacy we are committed to preserving together.

We would be honored to have you join us!

With gratitude,
The Hellenic American Academy Foundation Board

2026 PAN-MASS CHALLENGE

DONATE TO SUPPORT OUR RIDERS!

100% of All Donations Support Dana Farber and The Jimmy Fund

Elena Proakis Ellis

Donate by scanning the QR code or go to https://profile.pmc.org/EP0203

SCAN ME

Anthony Gray

Donate by scanning the QR code or go to https://profile.pmc.org/AG0489

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Peter Lloyd

Donate by scanning the QR code or go to https://profile.pmc.org/PL0196

SCAN ME

Lou Saledas

Donate by scanning the QR code or go to https://profile.pmc.org/LS0274

SCAN ME

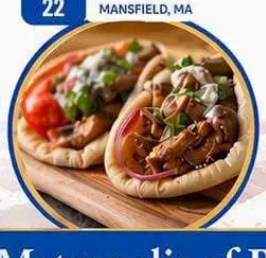
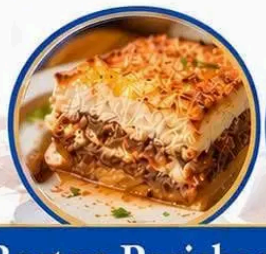
PAN MASS CHALLENGE • August 1-2, 2026

2026 Greek Festivals

IN NEW ENGLAND

Metropolis of Boston

MAY 15-16	ST. PHILIP CHURCH	NASHUA, NH
MAY 22-24	ST. VASILIOS CHURCH	PEABODY, MA
MAY-JUN 29-31	TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH	LOWELL, MA
MAY-JUN 29-31	ANNUNCIATION CHURCH	WOBURN, MA
JUNE 4-7	ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH	ARLINGTON, MA
JUNE 6-7	HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	DANIELSON, CT
JUNE 12-14	HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	LOWELL, MA
JUNE 12-14	TAXIARCHAE CHURCH	WATERTOWN, MA
JUNE 18-21	STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN CHURCH	CAMBRIDGE, MA
JUNE 19-20	ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH	PORTSMOUTH, NH
JUNE 19-21	ST. SPYRIDON CATHEDRAL	WORCESTER, MA
JUNE 20-21	ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH	MANCHESTER, NH
JUNE 25-27	HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	PORTLAND, ME
JUNE 26-28	ST. CATHERINE CHURCH	BRAINTREE, MA
JULY 10-11	ST. GEORGE CHURCH	CENTERVILLE, MA
JULY 10-11	ST. GEORGE CHURCH	DARTMOUTH, MA
JULY 10-12	ST. DEMETRIOS CHURCH	SACO, ME
JULY 11-12	ASSUMPTION CHURCH	IPSWICH, MA
JULY 17-19	ST. SPYRIDON CHURCH	NEWPORT, RI
JULY 24-26	ANNUNCIATION CHURCH	NEWBURYPORT, MA
JULY 25	DORMITION CHURCH	BURLINGTON, VT
AUGUST 21-23	ASSUMPTION CHURCH	PAWTUCKET, RI
AUGUST 22	ST. GREGORY CHURCH	MANSFIELD, MA
AUGUST 22-23	ST. GEORGE CHURCH	PITTSFIELD, MA
AUGUST 29	HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	HOLYOKE, MA
AUGUST 29-30	ASSUMPTION CHURCH	MANCHESTER, NH
SEPT 4-5	ANNUNCIATION CHURCH	DOVER, NH
SEPT 4-5	HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	LEWISTON, ME
SEPT 4-6	ST. GEORGE CHURCH	LYNN, MA
SEPT 4-6	STS. ANARGYROI CHURCH	MARLBOROUGH, MA
SEPT 11-13	ANNUNCIATION CHURCH	CRANSTON, RI
SEPT 11-12	HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	FITCHBURG, MA
SEPT 11-13	DORMITION CHURCH	SOMERVILLE, MA
SEPT 11-13	ST. GEORGE CATHEDRAL	SPRINGFIELD, MA
SEPT 12-13	STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN CHURCH	WEBSTER, MA
SEPT 17-20	ANNUNCIATION CHURCH	BROCKTON, MA
SEPT 17-19	HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	NORWICH, CT
SEPT 18-20	ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL – BOSTON	BROOKLINE, MA
SEPT 18-20	ST. GEORGE CATHEDRAL	MANCHESTER, NH
SEPT 19-20	STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN CHURCH	ANDOVER, MA
SEPT 19-20	ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST – BOSTON	BOSTON, MA
SEPT 25-27	ST. NECTARIOS CHURCH	ROSLINDALE, MA
SEPT 26	HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	CONCORD, NH
OCT 16-17	ST. LUKE CHURCH	EAST LONGMEADOW, MA
NOV 4-6	ST. SOPHIA CHURCH	NEW LONDON, CT
NOV 6-7	HOLY APOSTLES STS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH	HAVERHILL, MA
DEC 5	ST. GEORGE CHURCH	KEENE, NH

Metropolis of Boston Parishes

boston.goarch.org MetropolisofBoston MetropolisofBoston

Mark your calendars: Fall General Assembly: Sunday, November 15th

PLACE A BUSINESS AD?

If you are interested in placing an ad in our weekly bulletin, please contact the church office.

In addition, we welcome supporting you or loved ones who are fundraising for a cause, by publicizing your appeal.

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Try email marketing for free today!