

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

August 16th

11th Sunday of Matthew

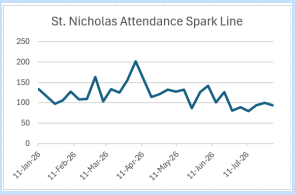
8:00 AM
ORTHROS

9:00 AM
DIVINE LITURGY



ALSO ONLINE

ATTENDANCE
August 9: 93
2025 Average: 117
(Click graph for report)



FELLOWSHIP HOUR
Thank you to **DiOrio Family** for hosting last week.

Sunday, August 16, 2026 | The Eleventh Sunday of Matthew

DIAKONIA

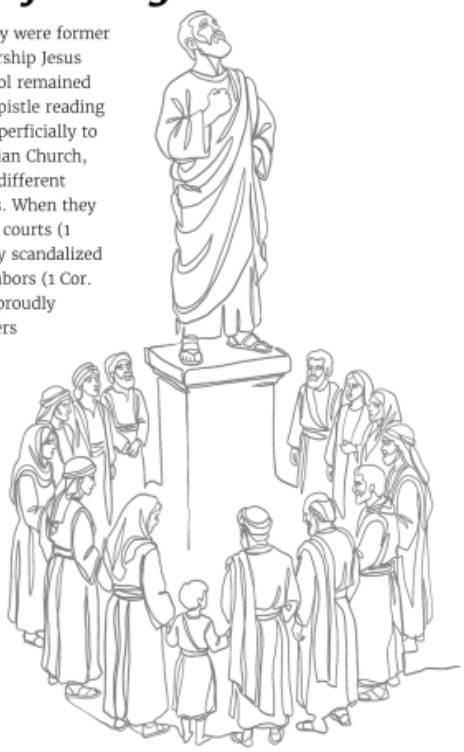
A National Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

REFLECTIONS FROM TODAY'S READING | *I Corinthians 9:2-12*

Fr. George Parsenios (HCHC '96)

The false idol of the selfish ego

The Christians in first-century Corinth were confused. They were former pagans who set aside their idols and their false gods to worship Jesus Christ, but their conversion was not complete. One final idol remained to be banished—the false god of their own egos. Today's epistle reading comes from 1 Corinthians, a letter where St. Paul seems superficially to deal with a dozen different problems afflicting the Corinthian Church, but he really addresses just a single problem with a dozen different symptoms—the self-centered arrogance of the Corinthians. When they had a dispute, they dragged fellow Christians into the civic courts (1 Cor. 6). When they had immoral relationships, they blithely scandalized not only their fellow Christians, but even their pagan neighbors (1 Cor. 5). When they gathered for meals, the wealthier members proudly demanded places of honor, allowing less prominent believers to go hungry (1 Cor. 11). In today's epistle reading, St. Paul responds to this arrogance by listing all the rights and freedoms that he himself could claim, but which refuses to demand for the sake of concord in the Church. In our own families and friendships—and especially in our Churches—we must also carefully weigh our words and actions, lest our selfish egos and ambitions create division in the place of peace. In our parishes, for instance, the most qualified people often refuse to serve on parish councils, because parish council debates often devolve into clashes between egos instead of pursuing the common good. Christian marriages also must be inspired by a spirit of mutual sacrifice, and not by a spirit of selfishness, with one spouse only giving and the other only taking. In all of our relationships, we must seek first to serve and not be served, imitating the self-sacrifice of our Lord and the humility of the great Apostle Paul.



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

Sealed by the Lord

PRAYER FOR THOSE GOING THROUGH DEPRESSION

READ MORE

Follow us @stnicholaslex

ON ALL SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow and like us! We like you!

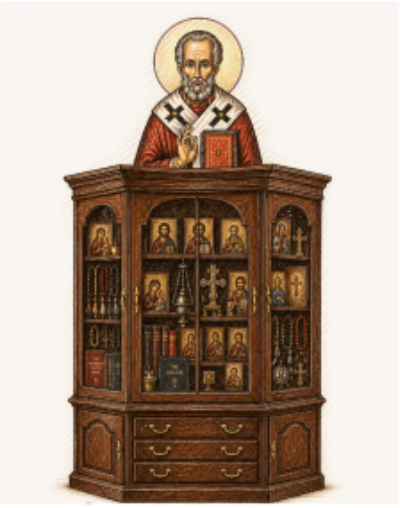
ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Dolmathes Workshop!!!

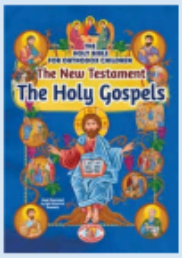
As you have seen through several emails, our church is having a one day festival on September 26th. Thus, we need many hands to help us prepare our delicious food. We are holding a Dolmathes workshop on **Thursday, August 20th at 10 AM** in the church hall. Please RSVP to Maria Zallas if you can attend - 617-571-6977 or zallas.maria@gmail.com.

THE ST. NICHOLAS GIFT NOOK



GRAND OPENING GIFT

Newly Released Orthodox Children's Bible



In collaboration with The St. Nicholas Library, we have a limited number of the new Potamitis Publishing large format *"The Holy Bible for Orthodox Children"*
(Free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis while supply lasts)

To request a copy, speak with Eleni Saledas or email The St. Nicholas Library.

Stop by and explore a curated selection of authentic Orthodox treasures
icons · books · prayer ropes · bracelets · crosses · gifts for every occasion

OUR INAUGURAL COLLECTION IS SOURCED DIRECTLY FROM:



Gregoriou Monastery
Mount Athos



Timios Prodromos Monastery
Akritochori, Greece



Draw Near Designs
Original Orthodox artwork

Scan to Pay · The Honor System

The Gift Nook operates on the honor system.

Our preferred payment method is scanning the QR code. Select "St. Nicholas Bookstore / Gift Nook" and specify what you purchased in the memo field.

Cash or checks are also welcome. Write down what you purchased and place the envelope in the drop box next to the cabinet.

Everyone is Invited!



Canobie Lake Park

Sunday Sept 6
(after service)



$55 per person; age 3 and under Free

2026 GYROFEST
BANNER SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Dear Families and Friends of St. Nicholas,

Our annual Gyrofest is coming up on **September 26**! As one of our parish's largest community outreach and fundraising events, it brings people together while supporting the ministries and mission of our church.

Please consider the opportunity to participate in our Banner Sponsorship Program. Banners will be prominently displayed inside the festival tent throughout the event.

There are two sponsorship options:

- **$300 – Individual Banner Sponsorship**

Display your business name, family name, memorial or a personal message on your own banner. If you sponsored a banner previously, we'll reuse your existing banner unless you'd like to make changes.

- **$125 – Friends & Families Banner**

Have your name included on a shared banner recognizing the many families and friends whose support helps make Gyrofest possible.

Your generosity directly contributes to the success of this important fundraiser and helps us continue serving both our parish and the wider community.

Please complete the order form by September 11, 2026.

Form instructions:

1. Please choose a banner type and scan/send completed form to Maria Decoulos
2. Logos and images must be submitted as camera-ready art or as electronic files. Acceptable electronic files should all be at least 300 dpi in the following formats: PDF, PNG, JPEG, TIFF and emailed to Maddison Kokkinos
3. Payments can be made by check to "St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church" memo GYROFEST. For ONLINE payments, scroll to Gyro Festival Donation.

Thank you for your continued support and for being an important part of our Gyrofest family. We are truly grateful for your generosity and look forward to seeing you on September 26!

The 2026 Gyrofest Marketing Team
(Maria Decoulos, Angelina Le, Sophia Le, Stasi Le, Maddison Kokkinos, Bridget McMahon)

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

Gyro Fest

Outdoor Festival • Free Admission

September 26, 2026 • 11 AM - 9 PM
17 Meriam St., Lexington, MA

- Gyro (Chicken & Beef)
- Spanakopita
- Salad
- Dolmathes
- Loukoumades
- Frappes
- Pastries
- Beer & Wine
- Greek Spirits



Live Greek Music 5-9 PM

For more information:
office@stnicholaslex.org
www.stnicholaslex.org
(781) 862-6453

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY® is now

Blood Cancer United

Charity Navigator ★★★★ FOUR-STAR

Dear St. Nicholas Family,

It's that time of year that I participate in a Triathlon event 🏊🚴🏃 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society/Blood Cancer United, to raise money to fight blood cancer. The new name "Blood Cancer United" was adopted to clarify that they support research for ALL blood cancers, not just Leukemia and Lymphoma.

This year, I am dedicating my event in honor of a dear and longtime friend, Presvytera Elaine from St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox church in Weston, which many of us know. She is bravely battling a very aggressive form of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) and has a challenging road ahead.

First and foremost, I am asking for your fervent prayers for Presvytera Elaine, that God grant her strength as she goes through this challenging time and for healing and a full recovery. And second, I ask for your support to fund important cutting edge research that helps saves lives.





My heartfelt Thanks for your past support and consideration for this important cause. A Tax-Deductible donation can be made by clicking on the link below or scanning the QR code above.
https://pages.lls.org/tnt/team/yourway26/ykatsarake

With Much Gratitude and Appreciation.
-Yiota Katsarakes

New Sunday School year starts on September 13!

Please fill out the registration form online or find a hard copy in the church narthex and hall so we can plan for the year. As always, we welcome you to become part of the Sunday School ministry.

This year we will introduce a new curriculum created by the Department of Religious Education of GOARCH. For more information, see Judy Gray or Maria Decoulos.



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.

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
- 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.



FOOD DONATIONS WANTED

Please share your non-perishable, unexpired food items in the food donation cart in St Irene's Hall.

This basket will stay in the Hall and be donated when ever it is full.

If you have any questions please ask Emily Babalas **(edbabalas@gmail.com).**

MINISTRIES

Strategic Planning Update

(Click the Strategic Plan Implementation report below)

Strategic Plan Implementation Update
June 21, 2026

Religious Education	Co-Captains: Maria Decoulos and Judy Gray
Accomplishments	Executed the goal: At least 80% of parish youth completed a revised and updated full academic year Sunday School program with goals and objectives for each grade level. Student presentation planned for June Graduation.
Plan	Consider setting the next set of goals for Religious Education.

Stewardship and Engagement	Co-Captains: Penelope Tzougros and Stephanie DeVasto
Accomplishments	Presented findings to the Strategic Implementation Team. Completed evaluation of adult and youth stewardship programs.
Plan for Next Month	Determine conscious overlap with the Outreach Committee. Finalize adult and youth stewardship program.

Renovation Program	Co-Captains: Carol Bearse and Bob DeVasto
Accomplishments	Completed fundraising brochure to share with potential donors. Reengaged architects to better understand engineering costs. Met Geotech engineer onsite to address conservation items.
Plan for Next Month	Scheduled fundraising planning with the fundraising consultant in July. Start fundraising in July.

Outreach, Evangelism, and Welcoming (OEW)	Team Members: Emily Babalas, Charlie Marge, Nicholas Zervoglos
Plan for Next Month	Project Mexico Trip planned. Several parishioners are participating.

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

Community Transformation Team



CTT (RENOVATION) UPDATE

We have had a busy summer working behind the scenes on contract negotiations with our architect and the engineers involved with our new facility upgrade. We have hired an attorney to oversee these negotiations thus enabling us to sign these contracts by August 1. We hope to have engineering reports completed by October.

We also have had a workshop with our fundraiser, Nick Chakos. He informed us that our brochure and video are almost complete.

We will begin to solicit donations for our Capital Campaign that will support new construction. Stay tuned for more good news.

We want to thank our parishioners for their support and patience. We are moving forward!

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



July 2026

Happy Blessings during the Dormition Fast!

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

# of Pledges (indiv/fam)	Pledge amt (total)	# of indiv/ fam paid	Amt paid (total)	% Amt paid (total)	Remainder to goal
46	$109,282.00	116	$153,390.98	69.72%	$66,609.02

Big things are happening at St. Nicholas! Not only are we in the Dormition Fast, but we also have our biennial Festival - this year we are doing things a bit differently! 1) It's a Gyro Fest, so smaller scale and 2) we are directly engaging the younger generation! As we set up each stand - Gyro, Loukoumades, etc we are pairing an experienced parishioner with someone from the younger generation. These mentor/mentee pairs will work together to develop a plan for their stand and in the future, when the mentor "retires" the mentees will take the torch and develop a new mentor/mentee relationship. While many people associate Stewardship with Treasure (I know, I'm reminding you of it every month), we can't forget Time and Talents. I consider Time and Talens one in the same; you take the time out of your busy schedule to use your talents to benefit our church and community. I can think of no better and beautiful way than to see these mentor/mentee relationships form!! Thank you to everyone in advance for this generous and profound demonstration of Stewardship. Here's to a productive and memorable Gyro Fest 2026!

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

JULY 2026 UPDATE

JUNE 2026 Honor Roll

Philoptochos

Click for the 2026-27 Philoptocos Meeting Schedule

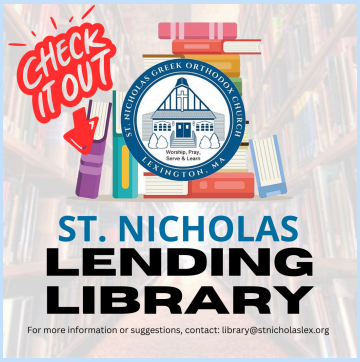
St. Irene's Philoptocos Stewards as of June 21, 2026

Philoptochos Kicks Off a New Year!

First Philoptochos Meeting will be Monday, September 14 at 6 pm with a Pot Luck Dinner.

Lending Library

Fellowship



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.



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:

The St. Irene's Philoptochos invites you to a special evening event!

SIP & PAINT NIGHT!

Sip, paint & have FUN!



October 16, 2026
6:30 PM

St. Irene's Hall
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
17 Meriam Street, Lexington, MA

$50 per person



Event Highlights

- Easy step-by-step painting guided by Art by Katerina
- All art supplies included
- Complimentary beverages & mezedakia
- Take home your very own masterpiece
- No experience necessary

ART by Katerina

For Reservations

Please make checks out to **St. Irene's Philoptochos**. Contact Stephanie DeVasto at (617) 908-9372 or stephbob1976@aol.com for information and tickets.



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.

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church | 17 Meriam Street | Lexington, MA 02420 US

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