

Volume 7  
Issue 6

# The Ecclesia

October  
2021



A publication of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Youngstown, Ohio

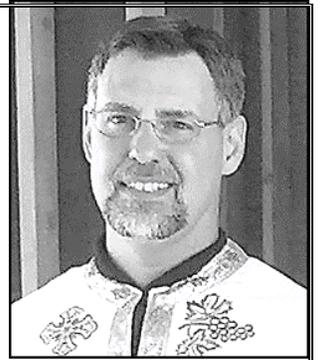
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# October Pastoral Message 2021

By Rev. Fr. Joseph Z. DiStefano



## The Unchangeable in the Changing Seasons

“Autumn” only occurs once in the Bible. In Jude 1:12, false teachers are compared to “autumn trees without fruit,” implying that autumn should be a fruitful season, the most abundant of the year.

I have some very special memories of Autumn, some I’m willing to share, some I keep all to myself. Somehow, they all involve beautiful moments in the midst of the decay and decline of nature in the season. I suppose that’s how life is. When life’s autumn arrives, we look back and better understand the way God led us; but we still have work to do – perhaps our best and fullest work. Our autumn is meant to be a fruitful season.

The seasons come and go, but God remains unchanged and unchanging. “LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God” (Psalm 90:1-2).

There’s a lot of unwelcome change in our world. Moral and societal changes bother us most when we turn on our television or read the newspaper. We’re painfully aware that our children are growing up in a world far different from the one we knew when we were their age.

And personal changes - children leaving home, the passing of dear friends, and the slow, steady decline in our vitality and health. Sometimes we feel outdated at work. But amid all the changes, one thing, one person, never changes - our eternal God.

Here’s a line from a poem by Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847) entitled “Abide with Me”: “Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day; Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away: Change and decay in all around I see. O Thou who changest not, abide with me!”

God does not change! His life is always the same. His character is always dependable. His truth, ways, and purposes do not change. His Son does not change. He’s the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). His children will enjoy His fellowship a million years from now. The world may fade, the stars may fall, the seasons may change, and winter may come. But the God who has been our help in ages past is our hope for years to come. In Him we have permanence, stability, joy unshakable, and life unending.

The autumn of life is a great time to focus on God’s wonderful blessings - family, friends, strength, shelter, provision, guidance, care, fruitful ministry, opportunities to serve, more time to pray and study His Word, and eternal life still to come. During life’s autumn, we have a richer perspective and can count more blessings than ever before.

Autumn is a good time to focus on our commitment to God. Some of the saddest words in the Bible are in Jeremiah 8:20, “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” If you’ve never really made a commitment to Jesus Christ, do it now, while there is still time. If you *are* a follower of Christ, remember to remain close to Him during the shifting seasons of life. During autumn, we all know that winter lies ahead, but if winter comes, can spring be far behind?

# FALL GREEK-TO-GO!

**October 8-9 • 11am-7pm**

**While Supplies Last!**

**Drive Thru Only • Credit/Debit Cards Only**

***Preorders Begin on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>***

## Menu

### Meal Items

**LAMB DINNER.....\$16**  
Includes Rice and Green Beans

**ATHENIAN CHICKEN DINNER.....\$14**  
Includes Rice and Green Beans

**PLAKI FISH DINNER.....\$15**  
Includes Rice and Green Beans

**BAKED FISH DINNER.....\$15**  
Includes Rice and Green Beans

**PASTICHIO –**  
Frozen, unbaked with baking instructions

**½ Pan.....\$50**

**¼ Pan.....\$30**

**SPANIKOPITA – ½ Pan.....\$35**  
Frozen, unbaked w/baking instructions

**GYRO / SOUVLAKI SANDWICHES**  
Includes tomato, onion and tzaziki on a pita  
Souvlaki available in pork or chicken

**Individual Sandwiches.....\$8**

### FRIES

**Large.....\$6**

**Small.....\$4**

### Pastries

**BAKLAVA – 4 Pieces.....\$12**

**GALATOBOUREKO – 4 Pieces.....\$12**

**KOULOURLIA – 1 Dozen.....\$7**

**PAXIMADIA - 1 Dozen.....\$7**

## St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

220 N. Walnut St.  
Youngstown, OH 44503

To pre-order call 330-743-5493

or go to [www.stnicksyou.com](http://www.stnicksyou.com)

# ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

220 N. Walnut St. Youngstown, OH 44503 • 330-743-5493 • www.stnicksyou.com • Like us on Facebook!

## PRESBYTER

Rev. Fr. Joseph Z. DiStefano • 724-304-1230 • frjdistefano@yahoo.com

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b>President</b>	Socrates Kolitsos
<b>Vice-President</b>	Tom Mikulka
<b>Treasurer</b>	George Gulgas
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Mary Dimitriou
<b>Members</b>	Nick Catsoules Bill Dalambakis Larry Frangos Joseph Malactaris Brett Roberts Barb Senanefes Ruth Lynn Stillerman Kaliopy Vavoulas

## PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

<b>Philoptochos President</b>	Helen Mays
<b>Cantors</b>	Larry Frangos Mike Tsikouris
<b>Choir Director</b>	Pres. Melanie DiStefano
<b>Altar Boy Directors</b>	Nick Catsoules Tom Pappas
<b>Religious Education</b>	Pres. Melanie DiStefano
<b>Summerfest</b>	Bill Dalambakis Brett Roberts
<b>Stewardship Chairs</b>	Nick Catsoules Kaliopy Vavoulas

Fall Book Study:

## Introducing the Orthodox Church *It's Faith and Life*

*Have you ever wanted to know more about our  
Orthodox faith?*

*Have you ever wondered why we believe  
what we do?*

*Now is your opportunity to learn!*

**Wednesdays at 6:30pm  
in the Church Hall**

## Table Talks

### Sundays, After Church in the Hall

An opportunity to have an edifying discussion with Fr. Joseph on a variety of topics related to our faith. For 10 minutes in the Church Hall after everyone gets their coffee and snacks. Topics for each Table Talk will be posted in that Sunday's bulletin.

## Choir Practice

### Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the Church

We are working on traditional, simple, a-cappella arrangements in order to lead the congregation in song during worship. Come lend your voice to the choir! Contact Pres. Melanie if you have any questions: 724-304-1230 / jmmsfam@yahoo.com.

## Men's Prayer Breakfast

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of Every Month**

10-11am

**Yankee Kitchen Restaurant**

6635 Market St., Youngstown

***Come for Prayer, Fellowship  
and Food!***



**2021 Fall Schedule:**

October 16<sup>th</sup>

November 20<sup>th</sup>

December 18<sup>th</sup>

# From the Desk of the Parish Council President

## September 2021

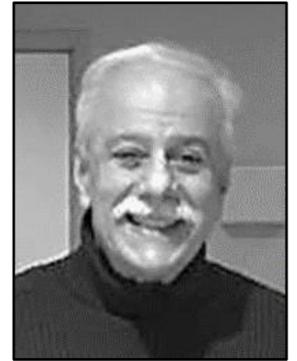
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope and pray you and your families are in good health and enjoying life as you should.

I just came home to write this message and I am in a pensive mood. I just came from paying my respects for a lady that radiated love always with her words, actions, deeds and smile. A true believer and lover and follower of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Her name was Irene and she died just a few days before her name day, the day the saint

she was named after was being honored. My mind is saddened for her yet I know where she is, and she is being warmly received with the words "Welcome home good and faithful servant". To add to my heartfelt sorrow, a special young man, Peter, that I have known and loved for 20 years suddenly passed away. He too was met by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and was warmly and lovingly welcomed "home". May their memories be eternal.



This continues to stress to us how important and precious every day is. We don't know what tomorrow will bring. Today may be the last time we speak or see each other. So let this be a thought and part of our life. Love one another, do unto all as you would want others to do to you. Live the life our redeemer has called us to live. Greet people with a warm smile and let them feel loved, special, accepted for everyone has value but needs to know others appreciate them. Remember if we are on the right path, there is joy and peace in our life journey.

We are living in a very challenging time in history and there is a lot of anxiety, confusion, division, suspicion and distrust. God is not the God of confusion! That tells me the trials we have today are from the fallen angel and his followers. It tells me we are in the midst of the final confrontations. The church and God has been challenged before but it seems that this could be it. It seems like we are in a never-ending trip, in a spiral of time and it keeps picking up speed. It could be like getting caught in a tsunami. Are we in a moral tsunami today? Are we strong enough, deeply rooted in our faith and attached to the living vine to survive the battle? Make your cross and continue to move in life with the Lord as your strength and your trustworthy guide. True children of God, living a godly life and having confidence in Him is who we are.

Let me move on from my thoughts of the day and remind you of our church's next fundraiser, the "Greek to Go", October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. More information will follow and let's support our churches efforts to accomplish all missions and needed projects to keep this, our church alive and well for many years to come. We look forward to seeing you all there supporting the efforts and helping where needed.

God be with you for blessed are those who believe and live their faith.

Socrates Kolitsos

President

Parish Council

P.S. "The goal is to rise spiritually, not simply to avoid sin". St. Paisios of Mt. Athos

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

# October 2021

September '21							November '21							December '21						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30			28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> 2nd Sunday of Luke Orth 9am / Liturgy 10am	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Choir Practice 6:30pm	<b>6</b> Bible Study 6:30pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Fall Greek-to-Go Food Fest	<b>9</b> Fall Greek-to-Go Food Fest
					Wine Allowed	
<b>10</b> 3rd Sunday of Luke Orth 9am / Liturgy 10am	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Choir Practice 6:30pm	<b>13</b> Bible Study 6:30pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Strict Fast	<b>16</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast 10am Yankee Kitchen
					Wine Allowed	
<b>17</b> 7th Ecumenical Council Orth 9am / Liturgy 10am	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Choir Practice 6:30pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Strict Fast	<b>23</b>
					Strict Fast	
<b>24</b> 6th Sunday of Luke Orth 9am / Liturgy 10am	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Choir Practice 6:30pm	<b>27</b> Bible Study 6:30pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Strict Fast	<b>30</b>
					Strict Fast	
<b>31</b> 5th Sunday of Luke Orth 9am / Liturgy 10am Youth Sunday Teaching Liturgy		Notes				

## St. Nicholas Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale ~ Order your pastry in time for the Christmas Holidays

We will accept order beginning October 1, 2021 and the Deadline is November 30, 2021 ~

Pick-up date is December 4, 2021. Don't miss out on ordering those favorite cookies that you enjoyed during the Summer Fest!



Baklava - \$30.00 Dozen or \$3.00 each

A classic Greek pastry made with phyllo dough that is layered with cinnamon spiced nut filling and topped with a sweet syrup



Finikia - \$10.00 dozen or \$1.00 each

Little biscuit cookies spiced with cinnamon and cloves - soaked in honey syrup, sprinkled with chopped nuts.



Kourabiedes - \$10.00 dozen or \$1.00 each

Greek butter cookies made with confectioner's sugar and additional confectioner's sugar added on top.

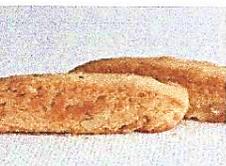


Pasta Flora - \$20.00 dozen or \$2.00 each A light cookie like crust with strawberry or apricot jam filling.



Koulourakia - \$7.00 dozen

A butter cookie shaped into a twist and sometimes sprinkled with sesame seeds.



Paximadia - \$7.00 dozen

This cookie is similar to the Italian biscotti, usually cinnamon flavor and twice baked.

We will also sell an **Assortment package ~ \$21.00** ~ package will contain 3 Baklava, 2 Kourambiedes, 3 Finikia and 2 Pasta Floras

We have for sale a **½ pan frozen Baklava (unbaked) \$35.00** with baking instructions and syrup.

We will have for sale a **½ pan frozen Spanakopita (unbaked) \$35.00** with baking instruction.

We will have **½ pan frozen pastitsio (unbaked) \$50.00** with baking instructions.

We will have **¼ pan frozen pastitsio (unbaked) \$30.00** with baking instructions.

To place your order call Mays - 330-783-1714 or the Church - 330-743-5493 leave your name and number and we will call back.

**St. Nicholas Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale ~220 N. Walnut Street**  
**Order your pastry in time for the Christmas Holidays**

We will accept order beginning October 1, 2021 and the  
Deadline date is November 30, 2021

Pick-up date is December 4, 2021 ~ 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Baklava # OF DOZENS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ or Each \_\_\_\_\_ x \$3.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Finikia # OF DOZENS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ or Each \_\_\_\_\_ x \$1.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Kourabiedes # OF DOZENS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ or Each \_\_\_\_\_ x \$1.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Pasta Flora # OF DOZENS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ or Each \_\_\_\_\_ x \$2.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Koulourakia # OF DOZENS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Paximadia # OF DOZENS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Assortment Package #- \_\_\_\_\_ x \$21.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Pan of Baklava - \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ unbaked - with baking instructions

Pan of Spanakopita \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ frozen - with baking instructions

Pan of Pastisio Large \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ frozen - with baking instructions

Pan of Pastisio ½ size \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ frozen - with baking instructions

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Merry Christmas*  
*Thank You*