



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



Or Current Resident

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
220 North Walnut St.
Youngstown, OH 44503

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October-November 2019 Pastoral Message

By Rev. Fr. Joseph Z. DiStefano



Love, Dedication and Hard Work: The Brightest Colors of this Fall Season

Ahhh Fall...the pumpkins, the leaves, the crisp air and...Church Renovations!

In honor of our upcoming Centennial celebration in December, there are many renovation projects underway at St. Nicholas this Fall. The Church interior has received a fresh coat of paint. We will be getting new carpeting for the Nave and new porcelain tiles for the Altar and Solea. The Church pews are being refinished and look brand new. The main chandelier has received an electronic upgrade, and, let's not forget our iconography project that will soon cover every wall of our worship space.

In addition to the renovation projects, our Philoptochos, Kitchen Angels, Parish Council and Centennial Committee members are all busy at work to make our 100th Anniversary events beautiful, memorable and meaningful. His Eminence Metropolitan Savas will be with us from December 5th-8th. There will be Church Services, Banquets, and the first Greek Dance that we have hosted in a long, long time!

Our primary Fall fundraising event will be our very first Wine Tasting event on October 26th. This event will showcase premiere wines available for sampling and purchase, delicious food pairings, as well as three specialty craft beer offerings from our neighbors, The Noble Creature Cask House micro-brewery.

In short, in addition to all of the beautiful colors we'll be seeing this Fall, we'll also be seeing one heck of a lot of love, dedication and hard work for our beloved St. Nicholas Church! Love, dedication and hard work, I believe, are the brightest, most beautiful colors - pleasing to our eyes, as well as to the Lord's.

I am truly excited, pleased and humbled by the efforts of all our St. Nicholas people. I feel it an honor to serve the spiritual needs of our parish and parishioners. And, I am so happy that I will be among you all when you rejoice and give thanks to God that He has blessed your love, dedication and hard work all these years by keeping our little Church safe and healthy.

So, please, in addition to all of the hard work it will take to complete these projects and put on these events, do let yourselves rejoice. Have fun! Dance! You've all earned it! And, together, let us all give thanks and praise to our Good Lord that He has blessed all of your love, dedication and hard work all of these many years by keeping our little church safe and healthy.

In love and the Lord's Service,

+Fr. Joe DiStefano



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

220 N. Walnut St. Youngstown, OH 44503 • 330-743-5493 • We're on facebook!

PRESBYTER

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Socrates Kolitsos
Vice-President	Tom Mikulka
Treasurer	George Gulgas
Financial Secretary	Mary Dimitriou
Members	Nick Catsoules
	Jonathan Cambouris
	Bill Dalambakis
	Larry Frangos
	Brett Roberts
	Barb Senanefes
	Ypapanti Trikilis
	Ruth Lynn Stillerman
	Kaliopy Vavoulas

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

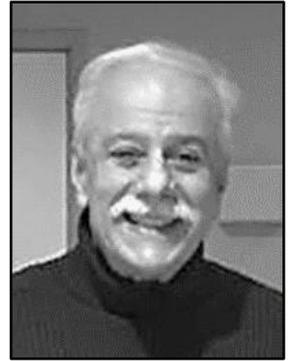
Philoptochos President	Helen Mays
Seniors	George Mays
Cantor	Larry Frangos
Altar Boy Director	Nick Catsoules
Religious Education	Claudia DeRhodes
Summerfest	Bill Dalambakis
Outreach/Evangelism	Barb Senanefes
Stewardship Committee	Nick Catsoules
	Jamie Coutras
	Mary Dimitriou
	Sue Kalochorites
Choir Director	Dr. Nick Pappas

St. Nicholas Parishioners Who Have Signed a 2018-19 Stewardship Pledge Card – 74 Pledges as of September 22 – Representing \$49,030 of Our Approx. \$120,000 Budget (41%)

Altemese, Dan & Ann	Gagasoulis, Sophie	Noday, Richard & Teddi
Argeras, Ernest & Stella	Giazikis, Efrosini	Panagopoulos, Thomas
Artiste Joseph & Francine	Gulgas, George	Papakirk, Demetrios & Rubena
Boggs, Mr. & Mrs. Rick	Hadzigeorge, Michael & Kaye	Pappas, Dr. Nicholas & Dorothea
Boyanowski, Kevin & Mariann	Harris, Olga	Roberts, Brett & Stacey
Brahos, Demetrios	Hazimihalis, Eleni	Samonas, Steve
Cambouris, Jonathan	Jickess, Dean & Chrissy	Santamas, Demos & Roula
Cassimatis, Louis & Antoinette	Jickess, James & Ann	Santelli, Sandy
Catsoules, Nicholas	Kalochoritis, Susan	Schulz, Leni
Cecil, Vic & Maria	Karras, Chris & Demetra	Sebest, Jeffery & Mary
Cherol, Alfred & Chrissie	Kermetz, Richard & Katherine	Senanefes, Barbara
Cominos, Emanuel & Gerry	Klimis, Gust & Anna	Senanefes, Charles N.
Coutris, George & Jamie	Kolitsos, Socrates	Sirigas, Valerie
Coutris, Steve & Penelopi	Kyprianou, Ted & Patricia A.	Stamos, Pete
Demetri, Gregory	Kyprianou, Patricia M.	Stillerman, Ruth Lynn
Demetri, Tom	Macchio, John & Marie	Thomas, Peter
DeRhodes, Doug & Claudia	Malactaris/Long, Joseph & Gerry	Thompson, Thelma
Dibo, Khalil & Donna	Mandis, Barbara	Trikilis – Sisalouis, Ypapanti
Dimitriou, Drs. George & Maria	Marcum, Robert & Elena	Troumouliaris, A. / Vavoulas, K.
Dimitriou, Mary	Mayer, Dale, Maria & Kyriakos	Tsikouris, Michael & Maria
Dimitriou, Kiki	Mayorga, Bessie	Tsikouris, Pete & Alexis
DiStefano, Fr. Joe & Prs. Melanie	Mays, George & Helen	Vasila, Thomas & Melinda
Economous, Dr. Dean & Barbara	Mikulka, Tom & Angela	Vouvalis, John & Barbara
Economous, Vasilios & JoAnn	Milano, Sylvia	Vouvalis, Nicholas & Grace
Frangos, Helen	Nicozisis, Dr. Jonathan & Eleni	

From the Desk of the Parish Council President

October-November 2019



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May this short message find you in good health. Can you believe it's Fall and the leaves are turning? Where does the time go? Summer just started in May. I reflect further and say "oh my God, it seems like just yesterday I was 17 and enrolling at Youngstown State University, where does the time go?"

In less than a month I will be $\frac{3}{4}$ of a century old and in the last quarter of my life...or less, only God knows! So live life to its fullest, totally committed to God and through Him showing and sharing love with all.

The year of our 100th anniversary has brought about many positive changes, and our faith-filled congregation has stepped up in so many ways. Through their talent, connections, financial support and, most of all, love. The needs of a Church are never-ending and yet the faithful continue to come together to do their part through their commitment and dedication to God's will.

My heart busts with happiness when I see our youth surrounded with love and encouragement by all. When I reflect on so many thoughts and memories of those who brought us to this stage of our history, and here we are in our second century beginnings. God is still writing our story!

No matter our situation or condition, never forget we are not alone. Thus, we must begin everyday with gratitude and love for our God and continue to live as He wills. For we have all been blessed so much in the way of gifts that it is our responsibility to enhance as a thankful response to another day to serve our God and make this Church, community and nation all it could be. It is the Lord's love that gathers and guides us, and may we find hope and strength in praising and serving our God

Saturday, October 26th will be a special day for us to celebrate life with our families and friends at a first-class wine taste here at St. Nick's. This is a first for us and a warm-up for the big weekend of St. Nicholas' celebration of the past 100 years and a powerful official kickoff to our second hundred years.

What I am referring to is Dec. 5,6,7 & 8 - St. Nicholas Church's annual Great Vespers and reception and the next day's Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas' name day and reception, with a dance that evening featuring the very popular "Filarakia." Saturday evening will be our 100th Anniversary cocktail hour and dinner, and on Sunday December 8th, a Divine Liturgy followed by a luncheon. His Eminence, Metropolitan Savas will be with us the entire week! So, make plans now, put it on your calendar and call your friends and family to come and celebrate as a family of God.

Life has many ups and downs, constant struggles and challenges. Don't let it wear you down. Think positive, pray, and prepare in humility and meekness for better days ahead, because you are a child of God and fully of His love, mercies and exciting blessings. With all the projects inside our Church, we have had services in the hall, just like in the past when the Church was being built. Thank you to those who have gone above and beyond to get the projects in the Church completed and on time.

Our attendance has been good in spite of a little confusion. One member has only missed because he has a difficult time sitting on the metal seats for a period of time, so I take him antidoron.

I remind you to keep our shut-ins and those who are ill in your prayers. It was good to see Leni Schultz recovered and Tom Panagopoulos, her brother in Church. They have always been such supportive members. Just as it was good to have Pete Panis the last several weeks and in good health, receiving Holy Communion. JoAnn Economous is in a speedy recovery after knee surgery and sends her best. Please keep our little altar boy Christophoros in your prayers. I believe we need to pray for each other.

In November, we celebrate the Presentation of the Theotokos to the temple. The main emphasis of this event was God preparing the Virgin Mary to be the living temple of His Son. During these special days of prayer and Thanksgiving, we should make every effort to attend Divine Liturgy, to pray in the House of God for ourselves, our families, our nation and most of all, to glorify and thank God for His infinite goodness and love for us.

With Deep-rooted Love and Respect for You All, my Family,

Socrates Kolitsos

P.S. "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good spirit lead me on level ground." (Ps 143:10)

Can't make it to a Bible Study?

Zoom in!

Zoom is an internet conferencing service that allows people to either log on to a meeting via the internet or call in via phone.

zoom



You can attend Fr. Joe's Bible Studies or Pres. Melanie's Women's Group discussions from the comfort of your own home, or anywhere you have access to a computer, smartphone or ipad.

You can participate face-to-face with those in the meeting, or you can simply watch from your computer, ipad or smartphone screen. You can call in or you can just listen online.

Here's How: 1. Go to the Zoom website - <https://zoom.us>

2. Sign up for Zoom – it's free!

3. When it's time to join the class, either:

a. Dial +1 720 707 2699 to call in -or-

b. Sign in at the Zoom website and click on "join a meeting"

4. You will be prompted for a meeting ID. It will always be: 724 304 1230

(Fr. Joe's cell phone number)

5. Boom! You're in. You can participate in the discussion, or you can mute your audio or even turn off your video and just watch the meeting.

The Youngstown-Warren Chapter of The Society of St. John Chrysostom
In cooperation with The Basilica and National Shrine
of Our Lady of Lebanon

Presents

"Lives of the Priests' Wives"

(Panel Discussion)



Thursday, October 3, 2019

6:00 p.m. Maronite Daily Liturgy

**6:30-8:00 p.m. Refreshments, Business Meeting and
Panel Discussion**

The Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon

2759 N. Lipkey Rd. North Jackson, OH 44451 • (330) 538-3351

Host: Chorbishop Anthony Spinosa

Moderator: Presbyteria Melanie DiStefano

*Join us as we invite several priests' wives from different Orthodox &
Eastern Catholic churches to share their stories about their daily lives.*

The Church Fathers “Reboot”

Bible Study with Fr. Joe

“Who were the Church Fathers? What did they contribute to our faith?”

A six-part Series

Anti-Nicene Fathers **The Didache** Irenaeus *Desert Fathers & Mothers*
Gregory of Nyssa Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers **John Chrysostom**
Maximus the Confessor *Basil of Caesarea* Augustine of Hippo

“Reboot” Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Sunday, Oct. 13 th	12:00 pm	Introduction
Tuesday, Oct. 15 th	6:30 pm	The Apostolic Fathers & Apologists
Tuesday, Oct. 22 nd	6:30 pm	The Alexandrians & North Africans
Tuesday, Nov. 5 th	6:30 pm	The Desert Fathers & Mothers
Tuesday, Nov. 12 th	6:30 pm	The Greek & Latin Fathers of the 4 th & 5 th Centuries
Tuesday, Nov. 19 th	6:30 pm	The Greek Fathers of the 6 th & 8 th Centuries

You can attend each discussion in person, or by Zoom internet conferencing. See the ad in this Ecclesia for details!

Women's Group Book Study

NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

Dormition of
the Theotokos

THE TRANSFIGURATION

Pentecost

The

Ascension
Palm Sunday

The Annunciation

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Entry of the

Theotokos in the
Temple

The Nativity
of Our Lord

Theophany

The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple

Study the Great Feasts of Our Faith

The Church Liturgical Year is laden with beautiful opportunities to worship the Lord and remember the transformative acts He imbues in our history and our personal faith experience. Everything has its fulfillment in Great and Holy Pascha – the Resurrection of our Lord. However, aside from Pascha and The Nativity, many Orthodox Christians miss out on the celebrations of the 11 other Great Feasts.

Learn more on how these Feasts give special meaning and purpose to your life in Christ.

September 19th - October 31st

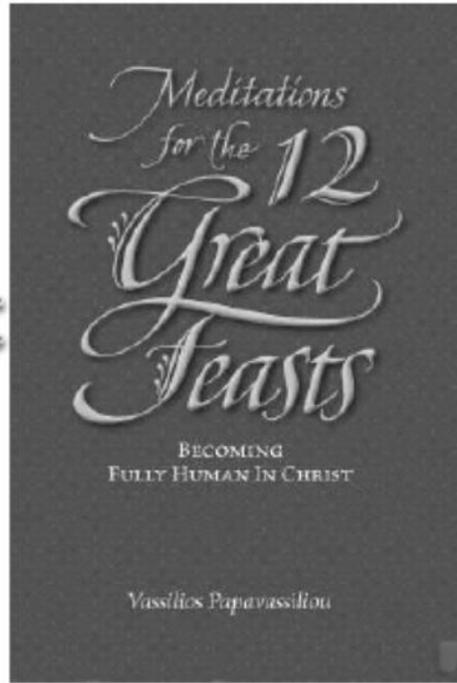
Thursday Evenings

6:30 pm – 7:45 pm

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Annex Building

Contact Pres Melanie at jmmsfam@yahoo.com with questions.

Books are \$10 Each.





CELEBRATING
100
YEARS



COME JOIN THE FESTIVITIES AT
ST. NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

220 N. Walnut Street
Youngstown, OH 44503

WINE & BEER
TASTING EVENT
October 26, 2019
5:30pm – 8:30pm
Cost \$35.00

Plus:
❖ Food Pairings
❖ Silent Auction

Features:

Beer Provided By



Wine Provided By



TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

(330) 783 - 1714 OR (330) 207 - 8727 OR (330) 799 - 8725

St. Nicholas Centennial Renovation

The background of the page features two faint, stylized icons. On the left is the Virgin Mary, depicted in a dark robe with a halo, holding a book. On the right is St. Nicholas, shown with a long beard and a halo, holding a book with Greek text. The icons are rendered in a light, monochromatic style.

Donations are being accepted for the following projects:

Pew Refinishing

We are refinishing each of our 24 pews. Each pew will be stripped, sanded and refinished. The cost per pew is \$1000. You can donate any amount to this project, or, if you would like to donate for an entire pew, you can have the refinishing of it dedicated to your family or loved ones with a small plaque. Checks payable to St. Nicholas Church, memo: "Pew Refinishing."

Altar / Solea Tile

The Philoptochos has raised money for new carpeting in the Church. We will also be installing tile in the Altar area and on the Solea (area in front of the iconostasis). The cost is projected to be under \$15,000. Checks payable to St. Nicholas Church, memo: "Tile Project."

Iconography

The iconography project to cover the walls of the Church is underway. There is still space left for some full body icons (\$700 ea.), and face medallions (\$370 ea.). There are also other, special icons planned whose cost will vary. For more information, contact Kaliopy Vavoulas – 330-318-2867.

Announcements for October-November 2019

Fall Hayride & Pumpkin Picking

Sunday, October 13th
After Church

at Molnar Farms

3115 E. Western Reserve Road
Poland, Ohio 44514

Not just for kids! All ages welcome!

Corn Maze • Farmer's Market • Festive Fall Décor

Rain date: Sunday, October 20th

St. Nicholas Feast Day Vespers

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019, 6:30pm

As always, we ask our parishioners for
pastry donations toward our celebration.

*Please bring pastries before 6:00pm on
Thursday evening, Dec. 5th.*

Notice of Fall General Assembly

Sunday, November 10th

11:30 AM in the Social Hall

CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!

*There's no better way to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church than to yell OPA!*

Yes, let's dance the night away with the band:

TA FILARAKIA

Friday, December 6th, 2019 in our Church Hall.

This is a "save-the-date" so pass it on!

(More information to follow)

OPA! OPA! OPA! OPA! OPA! OPA! OPA! OPA! OPA! OPA!



Join the St. Nicholas Church Family
for a



Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 10, 2019
Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

Roast Turkey
Sweet Potato Casserole
Vegetable
Cranberry Sauce
Pumpkin Cake Dessert
Coffee and Rolls

Plan to attend this delicious meal with your family and friends!

Donation \$10.00 Adults
\$5.00 Children

100 Stories for 100 Years



As we are fast approaching our 100th Year of ministry, we would like to collect and feature the stories of our St Nicholas Church members— past and present—who are the true building blocks of our community.

Would you like to share a favorite memory or general experience you have about your beloved home parish? Attached is a simple “Share Questionnaire” to help get you started.

We plan to feature the stories in upcoming issues of “The Ecclesia”; then collect, bind, and promote them as memorial/historical keepsakes for our church centennial celebration.

Questions: Contact Presv. Melanie DiStefano
jmmsfam@yahoo.com (724)304-1229

3 Ways to return the “Share Questionnaire”

- ◆ Submit them by mail to:
Attn: “100 Stories For 100 Years”
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
220 North Walnut Street
Youngstown, Ohio 44502
- ◆ Turn them in at church at the ‘pangari’ in the Narthex. There will be a file box marked “100 Stories For 100 Years” to place them in.
- ◆ Fill out the questionnaire online via our website page link , and email stories to Pres. Melanie at jmmsfam@yahoo.com

“100 Stories for 100 Years” Share Questionnaire

Name: _____

Date: _____

Current City, State: _____

Contact email and/or phone: _____

1. What is your favorite or most significant memory of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church? (2 or 3 sentence summary)

2. What makes St Nicholas Church special to you and/or your family?

3. What about attending St Nicholas Church has helped you feel close to God?

3. Was there a person (s) at St Nicholas who helped you experience or grow in your faith in Jesus Christ, or in your understanding of the Orthodox Christian Faith? Explain:

4. How has being a member of Saint Nicholas' parish helped to shape you?

5. Any additional thoughts you'd like to share? (you may attach ONE additional page if needed)

October 2019

September '19							November '19							December '19						
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	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30						24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 SSJC Priest Wife Panel 6pm at Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine	4	5
6 3rd Sunday of Luke Orthros 9am / Liturgy 10am	7	8	9	10 Womens Group 6:30pm	11	12
13 7th Ecu. Council Orthros 9am / Liturgy 10am Bible Study Intro Hayride & Pumpkin Picking Mohlar Farms	14	15 Bible Study 6:30pm	16	17 Womens Group 6:30pm	18	19 Men's Prayer Breakfast 10am Yankee Kitchen
20 6th Sunday of Luke Orthros 9am / Liturgy 10am Hayride Rain Date	21	22 Bible Study 6:30pm	23	24 Womens Group 6:30pm	25 St. Demetrios Great Vespers 7:00pm at St. Demetrios Warren	26 St. Demetrios Orthros 8:30 / Liturgy 9:30 at St. Demetrios Warren Wine Tasting 5:30-8:30
27 7th Sunday of Luke Orthros 9am / Liturgy 10am	28	29	30	31		
Fr. Joseph at the National Clergy Retreat						
Notes						

November 2019

October '19							December '19							January '20						
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	5		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	6	7	8	9	10	11	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	13	14	15	16	17	18	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	20	21	22	23	24	25	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	27	28	29	30	31		29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Daylight Saving 5th Sunday of Luke Orthros 9am / Liturgy 10am	4	5 Bible Study 6:30pm	6	7 Archangel Michael Great Vespers 6:00pm at Archangel Michael in Campbell, OH	8 Archangel Michael Orthros 8:30 / Liturgy 9:30 at Archangel Michael in Campbell, OH	9
10 8th Sunday of Luke Orthros 9am / Liturgy 10am Thanksgiving Luncheon Fall General Assembly	11	12 Bible Study 6:30pm	13	14 Womens Group 6:30pm	15 Nativity Fast Begins	16 Nativity Prayer Breakfast 10am in Church Hall
17 9th Sunday of Luke Orthros 9am / Liturgy 10am	18	19 Bible Study 6:30pm	20 Entrance of Theotokos Great Vespers 6:30pm	21 Entrance of Theotokos Orthros 9am / Liturgy 10am	22	23
Fish Allowed	Fish Allowed	Fish Allowed	Strict Fast	Womens Group 6:30pm Fish Allowed	Strict Fast	Fish Allowed
24 13th Sunday of Luke Orthros 9am / Liturgy 10am	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30
Fish Allowed	Fish Allowed	Fish Allowed	Strict Fast	Fish Allowed	Strict Fast	Fish Allowed
		Notes				