

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

KEEPING, PRACTICING & PROCLAIMING THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH PURE & UNDEFINED SINCE 1970

467 Grandview Avenue, Wyckoff, NJ, 07481 • (201) 652 4774 • www.stnicholasnj.org

†REV. PROTOPRESBYTER BASIL C. GIKAS

AUGUST 3RD, 2025

8TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

ORTHROS 8:30 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 A.M.

EPISTLE: I CORINTHIANS: 1:10-17 (pg. 1308)

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 14:14 -22 (pg. 1162)

WELCOME! *If you are a visitor or a guest, please let us know you better by completing the blue welcome card. You are invited to join us next door for the fellowship hour. We are happy to have you with us!* **Holy Communion (Eucharist) is the highest point of the Divine Liturgy. Holy Communion is reserved for Baptized/Chrismated Orthodox Christians. Please comply with the ushers’ instructions. Patience until ushers directs you out of the pews.** “*All things are done in proper order.*” – Saint Paul

TRISAGION: An **8 year Trisagion** for Emmanuel Pittas, beloved husband of Irene, father of Katherine and her husband John and Michael and his wife Demetra. Grandfather of Alexander, Emmanuel and Nicholas. Beloved brother to Paul and uncle to many dear family members. Eternal be his memory.

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION: The Transfiguration or Metamorphosis of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ is one of the twelve Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church. **On Wednesday, August 6th Orthros will begin at 9:00am and Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:00am.** To all who celebrate Chronia Polla (Many Years)! **Accounts** of the Transfiguration are found in the New Testament: Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-9, Luke 9:28-36, and II Peter 1:16-19. Jesus had gone with His “inner circle” disciples Peter, James and John to Mount Tabor. Christ’s appearance was changed while they watched into a glorious radiant figure. Jesus was transfigured. His face shone like the sun, and His garments became glistening white.

There also appeared Elijah (Elias the Prophet) and Moses, speaking with Jesus. Peter declared how good it was for them to be there and expressed the desire to build three booths for Moses, Elijah, and Christ. While Peter was speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." When the disciples heard this they fell on their faces filled with awe. Jesus came to them and told them to not be afraid. When the three looked up they saw only Jesus. As Jesus and His disciples came down the mountain, He told them not to speak of what they had seen until He had risen from the dead.

The aforementioned reference to the booths could imply that this event occurred during the time of the Feast of Tabernacles when the Jews would be camping out in the fields for the grape harvest. The feast had acquired other associations in the course of its history, including the memory of the wanderings in the wilderness recorded in the Old Testament book of Exodus.

The great event manifests the divinity of Christ, so that the disciples would understand that after His Ascension that He was truly the radiant splendor of the Father and that His Passion was voluntary (Mark 9:2-9). It also shows the possibility of our own theosis-becoming like God.

The Transfiguration event was the subject of some debates between Saint Gregory Palamas and Barlaam of Calabria. Barlaam believed that the light shining from Jesus was created light, while Gregory maintained the disciples were given grace to perceive the **uncreated light of God**. This supported Gregory's larger argument that although we cannot know God in His *essence*, we can know Him in His *energies*, as He reveals Himself.

DEKAPENTAUGOUSTON: The 14-day preparatory period (August 1st thru 14th) of fasting and prayer that we observe in honor of the Feast of the Dormition (Falling asleep) of the All Holy Mother (Panaghia) began Friday, August 1st. At the evening Paraclesis (Supplications) services, we petition Mary to intercede for us to Christ for our well-being and protection. At these services the priest reads the baptismal first names of the living

for their health and well-being. **Panaghia prayer request forms have been mailed to you.** Our Paraclesis services have begun and will continue on August 6th, August 8th, and August 13th beginning at 7:00pm. Also Great Vespers on Thursday, August 14th at 7:00pm and the Dormition of Panaghia on Friday, August 15th with the Orthros service beginning at 9:00am and the Divine Liturgy at 10:00am.

FOR YOUNG EMERGING ADULTS (YEA), INQUIRERS & EVERYONE: Scripture Talk is a **virtual/remote Bible study** with a different Orthodox priest participating in the weekly discussion. **Join us every Tuesday, 7-8pm EST, on Zoom.** We are currently discussing the Gospel of Matthew. Visit www.ScriptureUnveiled.com for the Zoom meeting information. All inquirers and questions are welcome, no commitment is mandatory and participants are free to simply listen or to participate.

LADIES PRAYER GROUP (LPG), meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm VIA ZOOM, and on the 4th Friday of each month in person in our Theotokos Chapel at 1:00 PM. **LADIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US** as we pray informally for our nation, community and specifically for all who need the Lord’s help and healing. Prayer moves God’s hand! Call the Parish Office or contact Irene Ayvas at 201-803-2307 (iayvas@yahoo.com), if you wish to attend and/or request prayer.

E-MAIL URGENT PRAYER CHAIN: Contact the Church Office or Irene Ayvas 201-803-2307 (iayvas@yahoo.com) if you wish to join the 100 faithful on our prayer chain, who are committed to praying for those facing sudden crisis and urgent needs. Emails requesting urgent prayers are circulated as needs arise. It is a simple and powerful way to show our love for others and do “God’s Work”!

OUR 2025 SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK FESTIVAL IS NEAR! We are excited to announce the dates for this year's Saint Nicholas Greek Festival September 19-21, 2025 Friday & Saturday: 12pm-11pm and Sunday: 12pm-7pm. **Spread the word to help make our annual Greek festival a success once again!** **Look out for future e-mails regarding volunteering, donations, and other details.** **Questions? Please contact:** John Tsadilas: jtsadilas@verizon.net; George Bayiokos: bayiokos@aol.com Angelo Lefer: angelo5763@msn.com; Kathy Van Dine: kathyvandine@gmail.com; Charlie Pflager: pfasma5@yahoo.com; Church office: office@stnicholasnj.org

FOR THOSE IN NEED: CENTER FOR FOOD ACTION (CFA) REQUESTS: Supermarket Gift Cards, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Mac & Cheese, Canned Meat, Tuna & Beans, White & Brown Rice, Pasta & Spaghetti Sauce, Hearty Soups/Low Sodium Soups, Canned Fruit & Vegetables, Low Sugar Cereal, 100% Juice, Coffee, Diapers-sizes 2, 3, & 4, Infant Formula & Baby Food, Ensure or Similar Nutritional Drink, Dental Hygiene Products and Toilet paper. A collection basket is placed under the community bulletin board. Thank you for your support!

PLANNED GIVING SUPPORTS CHRIST’S WORK THROUGH LEGACY GIFTS: Eternity is a very long time! So you can perpetuate any Christ centered ministry or program of our parish through a directed gift/donation to our church through your last will & testament, an endowment or a trust. Contact Fr. Bill for info. Inquiries are confidential.

FOR PERSONAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH: We thank all those who have made their Stewardship commitment for 2025! Offer your Stewardship pledge & join the 285 households that have already done so... Let’s reach 300! Your pledged/fulfilled 2025 stewardship offering provides the majority of funding for our parish ministries and empowers followers of Christ to aid people on their path to grow in the grace & knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pledge Cards are available in the Narthex. You can also make your 2025 pledge online by visiting our parish website <https://www.stnicholasnj.org/>