ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PARISH MINISTRIES

Sunday Worship Services

Orthros 8:15 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
17 Meriam Street
Lexington, MA 02420
781.862.6453
office@stnicholaslex.org

www.stnicholaslex.org

St. Nicholas GOC of Lexington MA
Each year the Metropolis of Boston Ministry Award is given to an individual or couple who have shown extraordinary effort and dedication for the progress of their parish. Since the inception of this award program 25 years ago, a dinner banquet is also held to honor the services of these men and women. All the parishes under the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston gather to celebrate these individuals and witness the presentation of the Ministry Awards by his Eminence.

The Metropolis Ministry Award recipients from St. Nicholas:

1987 - Frank & Elaine Crosby  
1988 - Nicholas & Ann Damales  
1989 - James & Effie Zisson  
1990 - John & Nina Pantazis  
1991 - George & Mary Zarandis  
1992 - Theodore & Christine Vallas  
1993 - Efthemia Zervogolos  
1994 - Plato Spilios  
1995 - Gus & Gloria Doukas  
1996 - Andy & Nancy Vasilakis  
1997 - Peter Philliou  
1998 - Bill & Pamela Brown  
1999 - Anesti Ghanotakis  
2000 - Basil Vafiades  
2001 - Robert & Stephanie DeVasto  
2002 - Frank Fotis  
2003 - Maria Neyland  
2004 - David & Monica Vafiades  
2005 - Aspasia Mary Correia  
2006 - John & Amelia Yanakis  
2007 - John & Felia Proakis  
2008 - Mark & Sandra Miminos  
2009 - Emmanuel J. Rempelakis  
2010 - Christopher Kokkinos  
2011 - James & Maria Decoulos  
2012 - Lou & Pam Saledas  
2013 - Costas & Lela Digenis  
2014 - Tony & Judy Gray  
2015 - Penelope Tzougros  
2016 - Jim & Helen Pitarys  
2017 - Leo & Lariza Panagiotou  
2018 - Bill Nimee  
2019 - George & Alyssa Psyhojos

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston Ministry Awards

Great Feasts of the Church:

- September 8: Nativity of the Theotokos
- September 14: Elevation of the Holy Cross
- November 21: Presentation of Theotokos to the Temple
- December 25: Nativity of Christ
- January 6: Theophany (Baptism of Our Lord)
- February 2: Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple
- March 25: Annunciation
- Sunday before Pascha: Palm Sunday
- Great and Holy Pascha: Pascha
- Forty days after Pascha: Ascension
- Fifty days after Pascha: Pentecost
- August 6: Transfiguration
- August 15: Dormition of the Theotokos
PARISH MINISTRIES

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- Stewardship 9
- Technology 10
- YOUTH: (GOYA, Hope/Joy, 40-4, Basketball) 10

PLEASE SEE INSERT FOR CURRENT MINISTRY LEADERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

For calendar changes, event updates and planned activities, please check Facebook (St. Nicholas GOC of Lexington MA), church website and weekly bulletins or see Father Demetri with questions.
AGAPE
This ministry group provides the opportunity for senior parishioners to get together with friends, meet new people, enjoy fellowship over coffee and pastry, as well as plan enjoyable events. The activities are informative, interesting and fun. Events/projects: Lecture series, museum visits.

ALTAR BOYS/SERVERS
It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve our Lord in the Holy Sanctuary. Boys from 4th grade through high school are encouraged to serve. This does not mean that this ministry stops at the completion of high school. We encourage men of all ages, who feel that they have a calling in serving Him in the Holy of Holies, to do so. Altar boys and servers benefit from learning teamwork and humility. Please encourage your son, grandson, father or grandfather to help serve Christ through this wonderful opportunity. Events/projects: Baseball games, outings.

BOOK OF THE MONTH
Once a book about our faith is selected, the meetings take place monthly. Events/projects: Dinner gatherings to discuss books along with our faith in our lives.

BOOKSTORE
The bookstore is open on the third Sunday of the month. Icons, books, CDs, prayer ropes, and other small items can be purchased at the bookstore...or items may be ordered too.

CHURCH SCHOOL
Pre-K through High School
The purpose of this parish ministry is to encourage the children and youth of our community to grow in the very foundation of our Orthodox faith. It teaches Christ’s love and His examples of how to live our lives as well as the worship practices of the Greek Orthodox Christian faith. Events/projects: Oratorical festivals, Penpals with Project Mexico students, stewardship involvement, Feast presentations, retreats, Christmas story pageant, end-of-year picnic.
50 YEAR STRATEGIC PLANNING & VISION LEADERSHIP
This committee is taking us into the next chapter our church history. Over the next two years (2019-2021), they will have the charge of gathering a consensus from our parishioners on what shall be done with our facilities: remodel, rebuild or relocate. They also are responsible for taking the step of recommending the different needs/skills/technology required to form additional subcommittees.

FLOWERS
This ministry maintains the cleanliness and upgrades to the kouvouklion that is used during Pascha. They decide on the flower arrangements; explore new ways of decorating the icons and manage the protective coverings for the Liturgical Cloths that are underneath the decorated icons.

GREEK SCHOOL
Pre-K through High School
The philosophy of the St. Nicholas Greek School is to offer a program to students from Pre-K to Level 7 that includes the teaching of the Greek language, Hellenic culture, history, and our Greek Orthodox faith. The program provides a learning environment that is supportive and structured to provide the best opportunities for each student to develop his/her individual potential to the fullest. Events/projects: Speeches and songs in Greek, presentations, retreats, Apokriatiko Glendi.

One day, a person complained to his priest that the Church and Christianity is one continual “give, give, give.” To which the priest replied, “Thank you very much for the finest definition of Christianity I have ever heard. You’re right, Christianity is all about a constant “give, give, give.” God giving His only Son to the world to show His unconditional love. His Son Jesus giving His life on the cross to forgive our sins and destroy death. Then our Lord's disciples giving all they had to make sure God's Good News of love was preached to all people everywhere. They not only gave away their homes and businesses, but even gave up their lives as martyrs in gratitude to God!
Parish Family!
ORTHODOXY IN ACTION
This ministry’s mission is to engage the St. Nicholas community so that parishioners can increase their time and talent commitments to fulfill the mission of the church. It will create and nurture opportunities within the Orthodox community and community at large and combine efforts with other ministries at St. Nicholas. Events/projects: Field, lectures, game nights, movie nights, emergency drives for IOCC.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS
This ministry is dedicated and focused on the physical, mental and spiritual health of our parish family members and friends. The ministry offers educational lecture series and support groups for various areas requested by parishioners. Events/projects: Monthly health walks, exercise classes, presentations, lectures.

GREEK DANCE GROUP
The dance group is part of the enrichment curriculum for the St. Nicholas Greek School where the children also participate in Greek folk dance instruction. We encourage other children from the community to join our dance groups. There are two groups, one for younger children and one for the older children. Dance practice takes place on Saturday mornings. Events/projects: Dance performances at Apokriatiko Glendi and other events, March 25 celebration.

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
Philoptochos is a national Greek Orthodox women’s organization established eighty years ago to work through the parishes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese to assist those in need. Its expanded mission is to preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christianity and the Orthodox Christian family, and traditions. Events/projects: Fundraising, grant making to various local, national and international charities, hosting feast day gatherings.

ORTHODOX LIFE SERIES
This new session of series covers topics of interest to the parish community. Several readings are provided each week and discussion on the readings and other related questions are covered in open and interactive gatherings. Meetings take place once a week in the evening.

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PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Council members represent our parish and the Orthodox Christian faith. As leaders of the community, Parish Council members are responsible for overseeing all the administrative, financial and day-to-day functions of the church and parish house, as well as planning for the future of the church. Serving on the Parish Council ministry is also a calling to represent Christ to all whom they meet in all aspects of life. **Events/projects:** Administering to all the needs of St. Nicholas, hosting feast day receptions and community gatherings.

PARISH NIGHT
Parish Night is the first Friday of each month. The evening typically begins with a meatless potluck dinner at 6pm and this is followed by an activity that brings us together as a parish family, so we may grow in both fellowship and faith. Often there are separate breakout sessions for JOY/ HOPE, GOYA, and adults. **Events/projects:** Monthly (Sept - May) evening activity for the entire Parish family.

PROSFORO BAKING
This ministry is dedicated to providing the prosforo ((bread that is offered for the Holy Eucharist) and used during all our services at St. Nicholas. If you would like to bake, please sign up on the bulletin board. **Events/projects:** weekly gift of prosforo, learning workshops, parish baking on Saturday of Lazarus.

STEWARDSHIP
This ministry involves the complete participation of each household from our parish family. We are all called to give our time, talent and treasures to our Lord and to His church. Through this ministry, we have had parish family gatherings over meals to talk about who we are and what we are called to be. This ministry hosts presentations and lectures to help our families with issues and situations outside of our Church life too. **Events/projects:** Lecture series, welcoming of visitors and new parishioners, Stewardship Appreciation Sunday.
TECHNOLOGY
The technology committee is committed to improving the safety of information and upkeep of our computers, network server, video capabilities (local and online) and burglar alarm. Regular back-ups and updates of all church files are managed by this committee so staff and ministry leaders have appropriate access to the server.

YOUTH (GOYA, JOY/HOPE, 40-4)
The mission of the various youth groups is to lead our young people into experiencing the Holy Orthodox faith. By developing a personal relationship with our Lord and becoming active sacramental members of the living church, our young people will be equipped with tools necessary to assist them in their journey toward salvation. The ministry teams consist of the parish priest and dedicated volunteers.

Events/projects: outings, retreats, church vigils, youth basketball teams.

YOUTH (JOY/GOYA BASKETBALL)
The youth basketball program at St. Nicholas seeks to provide the kids and parents of St. Nicholas more opportunities to get to know each other, get to know kids and parents of surrounding parishes, and provide another platform to reinforce our Orthodox values in an every-day setting that the kids are familiar with.
PATRON SAINTS

First and foremost one/all should pray to God, who is the source of all things. In the Orthodox Church, a patron saint is regarded as the intercessor and advocate in heaven of a nation, place, craft, activity, class or person. Since the time of the early Christians up to the present, a vast number of patron saints have been recorded. Taken from Orthodoxwiki.org

For a good end to one’s life—Holy Archangel Michael (Nov 8), St. Niphon, Patriarch of Constantinople (Aug 11) For animals and livestock—Holy Martyr Mamas (Sept 2) Saints Speasippus, Eleusippus, Meleusippus: horses (Jan 16), St. George: cattle & herds (April 23), St. Modestus of Jerusalem (Dec 18), St. Parthenius of Radovizlos: cattle (Jul 21), St. Tryphon: geese (Feb 1) For captives and court cases—St. George the Great Martyr (Apr 23), St. Onuphrius the Great (June 12), St. Simeon the God-Receiver (Feb 3) For care and protection of infants—St. Stylianos (Nov 26) For children—St. Nicholas of Myra (Dec 6) For church chanting—St. John Koukouzelis (Oct 1), St. Romanos the Melodist (Oct 1) For ears—St. Spyridon the Wonderworker (Dec 12) For eyes—St. Lucia of Sicily (Dec 13), St. Paraskevi (Jul 26) For finding employment—St. Xenia of St. Petersburg (Jan 24) For finding things—St. Menas the Great Martyr of Egypt (Nov 11), St. Phanourios the Great Martyr (Aug 27) For headaches—Holy New Martyr Demas of Smyrna (Apr 10) For help against quick temper and despondency—St. Tikhon of Zadonsk (Aug 13) For help in distress or poverty—St. John the Almsgiver of Alexandria (Nov 12), St. Martin of Tours, the Merciful (Nov 12), St. Nicholas of Myra (Dec 6) For horns and intestinal disorders—Holy Martyr Artemius of Antioch (Oct 20), St. Artemius of Verkola (June 23, Oct 20) For iconographers—St. Luke the Apostle and Evangelist (Oct 18), St. John Damascus (Dec 4) For marital difficulties—Holy Martyrs Shamuna, Guria and Habib (Nov 15), Saints Peter and Febronia of Muron: also for newlyweds (June 25) For mental disorders—St. Anastasia (Oct 12), St. Gerasimos of Cephalonia: the possessed (Aug 16), St. Naum of Ochrid (June 20) For patient endurance of affliction—Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebastia: especially in freezing cold weather, Holy Forty-two Martyrs of Amorion, Righteous Job the Much-suffering (May 6), St. Eustathius Placidas & Family (Sept 20) For physicians—St. Panteleimon (Jul 27), The Holy Unmercenary St. Gerasimos the New Ascetic (Oct 20), St. Michael of Synnada (May 23) For protection of gardens against pests—Holy Martyr Tryphon: also for hunters and Patron of Moscow (Feb 1) For safe childbirth—St. Eleutherios (Aug 4, Dec 15) For soldiers—Holy Archangel Michael (Nov 8), St. Barbara the Great Martyr (Dec 4), St. George the Martyr For spiritual help, consolation and compunction—St. Alexios the Man of God (Mar 17), St. Ephraim the Syrian (Jan 28), St. Seraphim of Arov (Jan 2) For stone workers—Holy Martyrs Florus and Laurus (Aug 18) For teeth—St. Antipas of Pergamum (Apr 11) For the kitchen and home—St. Euphrosynos the Cook (Sept 11), St. Juliana Lazarevskaia (Jan 2) For the throat—St. Blaise of Sebaste (Feb 11) For trading—St. Paraskevi (Jul 26) For travelers—St. Nicholas: in general, and specifically for sea travel (Dec 6), St. Niphon, Patriarch of Constantinople: for safety at sea (Aug 11) For workers in hospitals—Holy Unmercenary, St. Dositheus, Disciple of Abba Dorotheus (Feb 19) For young people—Holy Great Martyr Demetrios the Wonderworker (Oct 26) To have a child—St. Anna, Mother of the Theotokos (Sept 9), St. Elizabeth, Mother of the Forerunner (Sept 5), St. Irene Chrysovolantou (Jul 28), St. Sabbas the Sanctified of Palestine (Dec 5), St. Symeon the Myhrr-streamer, father of St. Savva of Serbia (Feb 13)
The Gift of Time

“The greatest gift I ever received,” said a young attorney, “was a gift I got one Christmas from my dad. He gave me a small box with a note inside that said, “Son, this year I will give you 365 hours, one hour every day after dinner. We’ll talk about what you want to talk about, go where you want to go, play what you want to play.”

The young attorney continued, “My dad not only kept the promise of his gift, but he renewed it every year – and it’s the greatest gift I ever had in my life. I am the result of his time.”

The most personal, most appreciated and most unique gift that you can give is the gift of time – Your time. That valuable 24 hours a day that only you can spend. Depending on your profession, your time may be worth hundreds of dollars an hour. But the time you give to another person and the Church is priceless.

Our children need our time, helping shape their lives by word and by example. The time we give to our children is an investment in their lives that is not wasted.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOU GIVE TO ST. NICHOLAS?
TIME & TALENT

Please think about the ministries in which you or your family would like to participate:

THANKSGIVING
_____ Sanctuary & Altar Care
_____ Altar Server/Boys
_____ Baking Prosforo
_____ Bookstore/Library
_____ Choirs -- Youth and Adult
_____ Long term planning
_____ Parish Council
_____ Stewardship

LEARNING
_____ B.I.B.L.E. Group (evening sessions)
_____ Church School
_____ Faith & contemporary issues (lecture serie)
_____ Greek School
_____ Greek Dance

GET – TOGETHERS
_____ Festival
_____ Parish Night
_____ 40 to 4 (Infant - Pre-K)
_____ HOPE (K - 2nd)
_____ JOY (3rd - 6th)
_____ GOYA (7th- 12th)
_____ Agape
_____ Health
_____ Welcoming
_____ Fellowship hour
_____ Dance group
_____ Social: planning events

MAINTENANCE
_____ Building upkeep
_____ Gardening
_____ Snow removal

COMMUNICATING
_____ Church website
_____ Bulletins: weekly/
_____ monthly
_____ Office mailings,
_____ phone response
_____ Social media:
_____ Facebook, YouTube
_____ Publications: parish/
_____ greater community

OUTREACH
_____ Visiting the homebound,
_____ hospitalized or imprisoned
_____ Offering food, clothing,
_____ disaster relief
_____ Mission trips
_____ Philoptochos

Please let us know of a ministry/ministries you are interested in and not listed above by emailing: office@stnicholaslex.org. Thank you!
Christian Stewardship Is...

...learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ’s Church;

it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

...our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ’s redeeming love.

...caring for the needs of others.

...offering one’s self to God as He offered Himself to us.

...what a person does after saying “I believe...”, as proof of that belief.

...devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as parish, as diocese/metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.