

**Volume 25, Issue 2  
March / April 2021**

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# THE NEWS FROM ST. NEKTARIOS

## RICHNESS IN OUR LIFE OF FAITH

By Fr. Andreas Houpos

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

March and April bring a special richness to our life of faith. We have seen the Great Forty Days get underway in earnest, and we are marching along to the beat of the Lenten rhythm as we advance to the blessings of Holy Week and Pascha. May God make us worthy to see these holy days!

In March we celebrated the feast of the Annunciation—Εὐαγγελισμός, *evangelismos*, “good news”—the feast that proclaims the beginning and summary of our salvation: that the eternal Word of God (Jesus) entered time and space, taking on flesh from the Virgin Mary at her humble consent. In this moment like none other in the history of the world, we are given a glimpse of God’s exceedingly great love for us. Even the Archangel Gabriel, the messenger, stands “amazed” and “at a loss and perplexed”, as our hymns express.

This year also marked the 200th

anniversary of Greek Independence, also celebrated on March 25. The significance of the date for many of our parishioners’ ancestors was not one of simple coincidence, but of providence. That the Hellenic peoples might cast off the oppression of centuries would be linked with the beginning of our eternal salvation was no small thing.

**“... we can look to these ancient and vibrant traditions and experiences to give us encouragement and strength for the work ahead.”**

Furthermore, it was seen as another intervention by the “Champion General” (ἡ ὑπέρμαχος στρατηγός), who had long ago thwarted threats against the Romaioi (the “Byzantines”), and inspired our still-standing practice of chanting the Akathist Hymn during these holy days.

April brings us into the final half of the Fast and Holy Week, and the new month of May will meet us with Great and Holy Pascha. In honoring these long-standing and sanctified traditions of our forefathers in Christ—whether we are generations-long Orthodox, or newly-received converts—we strengthen and solidify our identity as followers of Christ who maintain the

Apostolic Faith. Our effort, with God’s help, to live out this Faith in our twenty-first century reality here in Charlotte continues to attract those seeking the faith “once and for all delivered to the saints”.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will begin to see and hear much in our parish about our efforts to encourage these healthy roots deeper into the soil of Charlotte. As we begin in earnest to use our collective resources to build our new ministry center, we can look to these ancient and vibrant traditions and experiences to give us encouragement and strength for the work ahead. May it be blessed. ❖

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After the year we have all been through, what a heightened appreciation we have for what our Lord has done for us. On Forgiveness Sunday, the Church invites us to enter into the possibility and blessing of forgiving and being forgiven.

We ask your forgiveness and pray God’s forgiveness upon you as well, as we enter into the Great and Holy Forty Days of the Fast.

In Christ,  
Fr. Andreas and Fr. Nektarios



## ***A Thank you from Allegro Foundation***

Dear Father Andreas, Father Nektarios and St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church I hope you are doing well!

I wanted to express our sincerest gratitude for your donation to Allegro Foundation . . . . A Champion for Children with Disabilities.

Your contribution makes an impact and means so much to Allegro especially in such an uncertain time. Your donation will allow us to continue the important teaching methodology that we use in our programs for children living with disabilities!

Allegro Foundation thanks you for your support!

With Sincere Appreciation,

Pat Farmer  
Founder/President

***Allegro*** Foundation  
*... a Champion for Children with Disabilities*

CHARLOTTE MEDIA GROUP 2020  
**SMALL BUSINESS  
PERSON  
OF THE  
year  
FINALIST**  
St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox  
Church | Church Mouse

## **FOCUS ON OUR COMMUNITY**

***Celebrations, Milestones, Comfort & Support***

### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

John Pat KS Joe Johanna Edward Tina DG Theona  
Helen & Richard Chuck Handsel Mason Robin & Benny John & Elaine  
Jennifer & family Elestheria Mary Catherine Jack Melton family Tish  
Joanne Christina Stephen Phil & Ronnie John & Michelle & family MP & MSR  
Glen Cheryl & Brian Paul

Our First Responders, those on the front lines during this Pandemic and those suffering from Covid-19 and other illnesses throughout the entire world

### **FOR THOSE IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY**

Helene Buddy Jordan Krassimire Nicholas Michael Constantine Zack  
Matthew Amanda Danielle Anton

### **CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES**

To Sarah and Gregory Poole on the birth (1/2) & 40 day blessing (2/11) of Yate's and  
Hugh's sister, Vivian Sophia Poole

To Kate & John Williams on the birth (1/3) & 40 day blessing (2/19) of their son, Daniel Val  
To Jonah Capousis on his baptism

To Marissa & Will Davidson on the baptism of Parker & Benny's brother, Lucas Lawrence (Lukey)  
To Chris Franks on his chrismation

To Anastasia Chrysanthie Dellinger & Patrick Griffin Boruta on their engagement  
To the Church Mouse Kit-n-Kaboodle Resale Store on being nominated  
as Small Business of the Year

To the Abolina/Bilotto family on their move to Florida

### **WITH SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING**

#### **OF OUR BELOVED BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST**

To the Triantis and Tsiabassis families on the repose of their  
husband and father, John Phillip Triantis

To the Kroustallis family on the repose of Anastasia's husband, John

To the Keramidas, Demetriou, Smaragdis, and Chinboukas families on the repose  
of their beloved wife and mother, Helen Keramidas

To the Rizk family on the repose of Victor's brother-in-law, Michael Mardoukh, in Lebanon

To the Bates family on the repose of Luda's father and Jessica's grandfather, Anatoly Kleshev

To the Demoratska and Meyor families on the repose of Tetiana's mother, Olga Domoratska

To the Knickerbocker, Herndon and Choucalas families on the repose of Spencer's cousin,  
Marian Herndon-Choucalas

To the Nassif and Azar families on the repose of Irma's mother, Elaine Nicola Fares, in Lebanon

To the Kleto, Kontoulas & Budds families on the repose of their beloved mother and grandmother,  
Dafni Karras

### **IN APPRECIATION**

Thank you to Kim Braswell, John Cosmas, Fr. Nektarios Karantonis, Depsina Gallis and Helen Giles for the photos in this month's newsletter. All Photos courtesy of Kim Braswell unless otherwise noted.

Thanks to Diane Gilbert and Copycat for printing the  
Church Bulletin and Newsletter.

Please contact Kim Braswell at [kclewell@stnektarios.org](mailto:kclewell@stnektarios.org)  
with information we may share with the community or to add someone to the prayer list.  
Please contact the office to request a clergy visit.

## THANK YOU LETTER FROM RANFURLY HOMES - NASSAU, BAHAMAS

Dear Community of Saint Nektarios,

I am writing in regard to The Saint Nektarios Endowment donation to Ranfurly Homes for Children in Nassau, Bahamas. So much has happened in the past year and a half at Ranfurly. Immediately following the devastation of Hurricane Dorian, the Ranfurly Home's resident numbers doubled overnight taking in children who had lost family and been displaced due to the storm and acting as a collection and distribution center for relief supplies to other children's homes and hurricane evacuee shelters. This was followed by the dangers and restrictions of Covid-19, which greatly affected The Bahamas resulting in an island wide shut-down for much of 2020, and limiting Ranfurly's access to supplies, staff, volunteer support, schools and confining Ranfurly residents to the campus full-time.

Over the course of the past year, we helped reunite some of the Hurricane Dorian displaced children with family members now once again able to shelter and care for them. Also, some of the younger children have recently returned to Grand Bahama to the newly renovated Children's Home there, which they had been originally displaced from. We continue to provide care for about 25 children, several of which are Hurricane Dorian Survivors, all were the victims of abuse and neglect before coming to us. Much of the challenge of the past year has been assisting the children as they transitioned to remote learning due to Covid and helping former residents as they turn 18 to settle into the wider community, finding accommodation and employment. One such young man, Kendron, is a Dorian Survivor who was highlighted in our last newsletter which I will also forward to you, our website also has more information which you may find interesting - <https://ranfurlyhome.org/>.

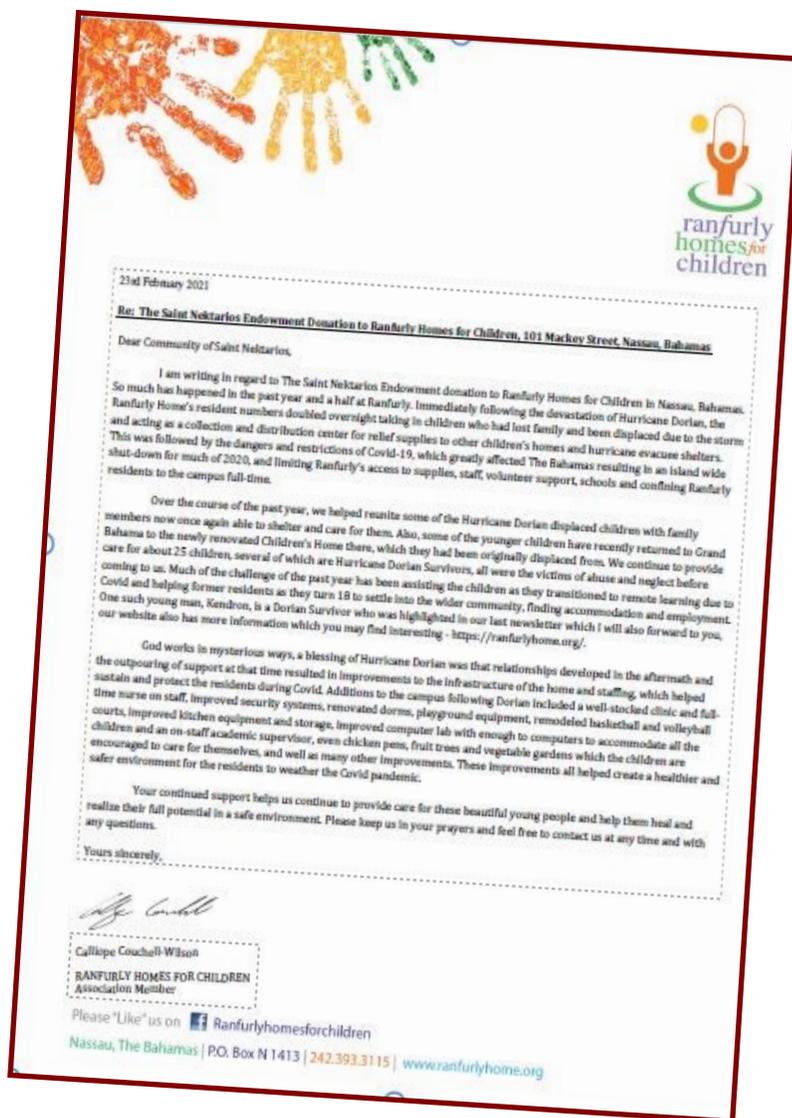
God works in mysterious ways, a blessing of Hurricane Dorian was that relationships developed in the aftermath and the outpouring of support at that time resulted in improvements to the infrastructure of the home and staffing, which helped sustain and protect the residents during Covid. Additions to the campus following Dorian included a well-stocked clinic and full-time nurse on staff, improved security systems, renovated dorms, playground equipment, remodeled basketball and volleyball courts, improved kitchen equipment and storage, improved computer lab with

enough to computers to accommodate all the children and an on-staff academic supervisor, even chicken pens, fruit trees and vegetable gardens which the children are encouraged to care for themselves, and well as many other improvements. These improvements all helped create a healthier and safer environment for the residents to weather the Covid pandemic.

Your continued support helps us continue to provide care for these beautiful young people and help them heal and realize their full potential in a safe environment. Please keep us in your prayers and feel free to contact us at any time and with any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Calliope Couchell-Wilson  
RANFURLY HOMES FOR CHILDREN Association Member



# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA HAS BEGUN



## Moments from our Services

(Clockwise from top left)

Small Blessing of the Water (3/1),

Small Compline & Salutations

( 3/9),

Saturday of Souls & Memorial

Services (3/6, 3/13, 3/20),

Paraklesis Service (3/11),

Forgiveness Vespers (3/14),

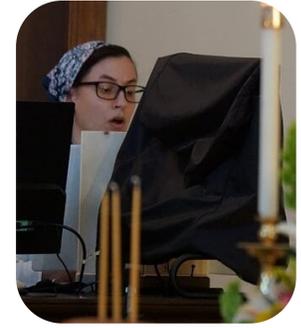
Holy Unction (3/15)

Sunday of Orthodoxy (3/22) and

The Annunciation (3/25)



Photo courtesy of John Cosmas



Kim S. Braswell



Fr. Nektarios Karantonis



Photos courtesy of Kim S. Braswell



unless otherwise noted



# PARISH COOKOUT GRAB AND GO LUNCH

We held our first outdoor gathering of the year on Meatfare Sunday, March 7, 2021 following the Divine Liturgy. Many thanks to the Parish Council for organizing this event and to George Gallis assisted by his son Vasili for cooking this fabulous meal. We hope it will be the start of many more special



times together as a community. Last year was difficult for us to have events like this due to the COVID-19 pandemic regulations in place. Thank you to all who participated in bringing this event to fruition and to everyone who came out to help us celebrate the beginning of our Journey to Pascha. Wishing you all a blessed 40 days! ❖

George & Vasili Gallis (left) cooking for our Grab-n-Go lunch presented by our Parish Council Members.  
Pictured above are parishioners, Teddy Poulos, Despina Gallis & Christina Bonderer.

# ICE CREAM SOCIAL ~ 3-14-21

Overall 2020 was a tough year for many people and it's been hard not to be able to spend time with our St. Nektarios family and to be allowed to gather as we once did.

On the positive side, the streaming has given us a chance to virtually "attend" services. Streaming sessions offered us educational opportunities and ministry gatherings that we may not have been able to attend due to scheduling conflicts, social distancing or sickness. In some ways it has brought us closer.

We are so thankful that after a year of quarantine we have been able to hold two outdoor gatherings, the first being our Grab and Go Cookout on Sunday, March 7th presented by the Parish Council. Then on March 14th following the Forgiveness Vespers, we enjoyed an Ice Cream Social on the plaza.

The Forgiveness Vespers itself was emotional for many as we lined the sanctuary and one by one asked each other for forgiveness. Not only were there tears of repentance but tears of joy as well, because we were able to see so many from our community and to talk in person as a group.

The warmer weather was perfect and the ambience of light just before sunset created a relaxing atmosphere to lighten our mood. Thank you to everyone who came out for the service and the social.

Wishing you all a Blessed Journey to the Resurrection!

Kim Sheree' Braswell



## WEEKDAY SERVICES DURING THE FAST

During the Great Forty Days, we offer up the Great Compline on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. “Compline” is derived from the Latin term from which we get the word “complete”; the compline service marks the end, or completion, of a calendar day. The Greek term is *apodeipnon*, which means “after supper”. In other words, these are prayers said before retiring for sleep. “Small” Compline is part of the daily cycle of services throughout the year. During the Great Fast, we begin to use the “Great” Compline, which is characterized by its greater length and multitude of psalm readings and hymns. Each evening of the first week of the Fast, different sections of the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete are chanted in Great Compline as well. As with the other nighttime services, the theme of Compline has to do with trusting in God’s providence and seeking forgiveness for our offenses.

On Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., we offer a Presanctified Liturgy. It is “Presanctified” because the Holy Gifts (bread and wine) were sanctified at the previous Sunday’s Divine Liturgy and saved for later. This is because the centuries-long practice of the Church is to not permit the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on weekdays during the Fast (with the exception of the Feast of the Annunciation). The Presanctified service preceded by the Ninth Hour, consists of the first part of Vespers, and the parts of the

Divine Liturgy that follow the consecration of the Holy Gifts. This service is offered as a way for the faithful, who are maintaining their fast, to partake of the Bread of Life—that is, of Holy Communion—during this season of intensified spiritual struggle.



Photo courtesy of Kim S. Braswell

On Fridays at 7:00 p.m., we offer the Small Compline with the Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos. The Akathist is broken down into four sections that are chanted in sequence over the first four Fridays of the fast. On the fifth Friday, it is chanted in its entirety. The popular name for this service is “Salutations”, as the Akathist Hymn stanzas are replete with the salutation to Mary, «Χαῖρε!» (“Hail!” or “Rejoice!”). This splendid work of poetry, which explores and expresses the great miracle of the Annunciation and its implications, comes to us from perhaps as far back as the fifth century, but gained prominence when Constantinople was saved by a miracle of the Virgin Mary in the seventh century. ❖

## LENT, LUNCH & LEARN

Lent, Lunch and Learn is a series of discussions started by Gerry Clonaris some years back. His vision was to gather for lunch while learning about our faith during the Lenten period.



For example, did you know that Lenten actually means “springtime”. Fr. Andreas reminded us of this during one of his livestreams. He also mentioned that our

fellow Orthodox Christians in Australia, for example, are actually about to experience winter and that perhaps, a better name might be The Great 40 Days. I attended a couple of these over the years and they are packed with so much good information that it is hard to write it all down. I am thankful that this year they were recorded and we are able to replay all of these classes.

One of the positive sides of the Covid-19 is being able to watch these Adult Religious Education classes no matter when they are offered, if you were unable to attend. The downside, of course is that you cannot ask questions. However, Fr. Andreas welcomes any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact him through the church office.

We have many opportunities to learn about our faith whether it be Lent, Lunch & Learn, Maryann Zitsos’ Wednesday Bible Study, Fr. Nektarios’ book study or our Wednesday study on the Seven Deadly Sins. Please check our website, missal or bulletin for available classes and may we all study to show ourselves approved as the word of God recommends.



Kim Sheree’ Braswell

# ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN NETWORK ~ SERIES WITH CHRISTINA HANEGRAAFF



Welcome to the myOCN Community Monday night Icon Series: an alternating live interactive video program series exploring our nature and purpose as Christians, Orthodox Christians and living Icons of Christ. Led by Christina Hanegraaff and Father Dimitrios Lee, this weekly series of presentations and discussions on alternating Mondays from 7pm-8pm EST, began on February 1st and will continue

through April 26th as we complete our journey toward Pascha.

This bi-weekly series explores what it means to be a Created Icon, and how that unique understanding provides deeper insight into a simple but important question: "Why am I a Christian?" Her guest list has included Fr. Barnabus Powell, Dn. Dr. Stephen Muse, Dr. Nathan Jacobs, Author Frederica Matthews-Green, Fr. Paul Tsahakis and her father, Hank Hanegraaff, also known as, The Bible Answer Man.

It's not too late to join the conversation! The series continues as Christina welcomes Hank Hanegraaff on Monday, April 26th. You can join by registering at:

<https://myocn.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/monday-night-icon-series>

You may watch previous sessions at the address below:  
<https://myocn.net/created-icon-with-christina-hanegraaff-why-am-i-a-christian/>

Christina Hanegraaff is currently working on a Masters in Pastoral Care and Counseling at Antiochian House of



Studies which has been one of the most rewarding programs of her life. Christina loves delving more and more into Orthodoxy and Orthopraxy and is looking forward to growing deeper in shared faith through dialogue on myOCN!

Tune into her sessions on every other Monday at 7pm EST to talk about what it means to be a Created Icon. ❖

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<https://myocn.net/created-icon>



## LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

**455 Families — Lives Touched**

***A BIG "THANK YOU"***

*to our members that came out on February 19th to the Loaves & Fishes Warehouse to pack boxes of non-perishable food items for families and individuals in need.*

*In the 2.5 hours allotted, the ladies packed 455 boxes to serve a family for one week. Thank you to everyone who gave of their time.*

***Be on the lookout for our next volunteer opportunity.***



# SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY ~ 3-21-21



Photos courtesy of John Cosmas

## The Triumph of Orthodoxy Procession of Icons Takes on a Different Look in 2021

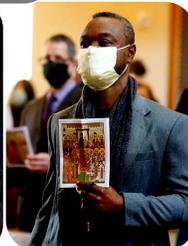
The first Sunday of Lent commemorates the importance of restoring our holy icons to our churches and within our worship. We hold the procession in remembrance of the “triumphant procession made on March 11, 842 from the Church of the Theotokos in Blachernai to Hagia Sophia, where a Liturgy was celebrated to mark the restoration of icons.” (Sunday of Orthodoxy - [www.goarch.org/sunday-of-orthodoxy](http://www.goarch.org/sunday-of-orthodoxy))

At St. Nektarios this year, the congregation and youth remained in their seats, holding their icons reverently as the procession took place. Our Clergy, altar servers and acolytes (Michael and Thomas Keretsis) were accompanied by our Parish Council and Philoptochos Presidents (Charles Hubbard and Niki Kleto) with our St. Phoebe Attendants (Sophia Tefakis and Mary Tash) and six of our Archon members (Costa Vrettos, Sam Kleto, Pete Couchell, Gerry Clonaris, Terry Sarantou).

At the end of the procession, Fr. Andreas acknowledged the youth in the pews to stand with their icons. Thank you to John Cosmas for taking these beautiful photos.

*“And let us honor and venerate the holy icons of Christ, of his most pure Mother, and of all the saints . . .” (from Vespers)*

Evelyn Klund



# ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS



Above photo submitted by Fr. Nektarios Karantonis



For this year's Annunciation, Father Nektarios served in Winston-Salem on the March 24th Vespers service (above picture) and Fr. Andreas served on the actual feast day of March 25th in Winston-Salem at the Annunciation Cathedral. Also pictured here are photos from March 25th at our own parish's celebration. The Annunciation of the Theotokos is the day when the Archangel Gabriel came to Mary and told her a son was to be born to her and his name would be Jesus, the Son of God and that the Holy Spirit would descend upon her. In her obedience she said, "Let it be as you have said." We celebrate this day in remembrance of the obedience of a young unwed girl who was just 13 at the time. Theotokos means "God-bearer". What a great faith she had and we owe her great honor.



Following the Divine Liturgy, we gathered in the fellowship hall for a small reception of a cold, fresh cod salad as fish is allowed on this day. We also had vegetables. All were served in small containers due to Covid-19 restrictions. May we all be as brave, faithful and obedient as the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin, Mary.

Kim Sheree' Braswell



# WORKING IN HIS VINEYARD: CAMPUS CLEANUP



Thanks to Tim Shelton for the above photos!

Fr. Andreas and our Parish Council invited members of the community to come together on Saturday, March 27, to do some spring cleaning of our beautiful campus. Tim Shelton, our Property Manager, helped direct the various projects—cleaning, pruning, planting, and erecting a fence. A number of people helped clean inside the church as well. The same day, our Philoptochos also invited members to clean Kuykendall Road, which was adopted by Philoptochos on behalf of our entire parish. Many thanks to all who participated! There will be more work to do in the future, so stay alert for those announcements. ❖

# FINANCIAL MATTERS

## Stewardship as of March 27, 2021



*A Beacon of Christian  
Love*



## Thank You for your Commitment of Treasure

- ◆ In thanksgiving to our Lord for our Blessings
  - ◆ To continue our loving support of God and mankind
- As of March 25, we have received 627 auto-renewed and new pledges totalling \$801,857 towards our Parish Operations in support of our ministries. We are on our way to our 2021 goal of \$846,435.

## Making Your Offerings

In that we are still limited as to the number of people who may bring their offerings to church directly, we wish to remind you of **e-giving** opportunities to remember the church and its ministries.

## Offering Reports

Offering Reports will be mailed within the next week. Please carefully review for accuracy the amount we have posted as your 2021 stewardship pledge. If we have posted the wrong amount, we ask that you contact the office with the correct information. You may call or send an email to [office@stnektarios.org](mailto:office@stnektarios.org).

## ELECTRONIC GIVING Quick, Easy, and Secure Options



### BILL PAY

Use your bank's on-line Bill Pay Service. Just list the church as one of your single or recurring payments. There is no charge to you or to the church.

### WEBSITE GIVING

- ◆ Visit our website at [www.stnektarios.org](http://www.stnektarios.org)
- ◆ Select the "Online Giving" tab



### GIVING APP

Use your smartphone to make convenient one-time or recurring donations in 3 easy steps after you download the free app:

**GIVE+** on the App Store and  
**GivePlus** on Google Play



- ◆ Search for St. Nektarios and follow the prompts
- ◆ Select among the funds and amount to give
- ◆ Provide debit/credit card or checking/savings account information.



## Stewardship Sunday March 28, 2021

On a simple tray sat a mundane expanding file folder that holds our combined pledge documents. Just a simple folder labeled, "Stewardship 2021".

In thanksgiving, we offered our pledges to our Lord, returning to Him what is His. In connecting the mundane to our Lord's ministry, Fr. Andreas shared how our stewardship pledges allow our ministries to succeed and provide for our church home for God's Glory.

In prayer we asked for our Lord to accept these gifts, bless and multiply them unto the living out of the Gospel. On Monday the 29th we received an email that a parishioner's company would match their gift for 2020, so God is already multiplying these gifts. Praise God for His faithfulness.



Photo by Evelyn Klund

Let us be transformed as we care for one another and serve our neighbors.

Let us be known as Christians by the love, deep concern, and compassion we embody at St. Nektarios.

Let us honor, worship, and give thanks to God as we consider His blessing in our life.

Let us *"excel in the grace of giving."*

**Let us be a Beacon of Christian Love.**

If you have yet to submit your pledge, it is not too late to do so. ❖

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY~ MARCH 28, 2021 BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

### *Fr. Andreas' Comments and Prayer . . .*

There was discussion and request that we do a blessing of your gifts, of your offerings to your parish and that we do so during the Liturgy which is very fitting. And there was discussion about putting them in a nice basket and decorating it and having everything look very nice and beautiful and "churchy." But I said, no, I want a mundane folder because I want us to see this (pointing to the folder), in the middle of the church. It is these mundane things, the business side of the church, the money we have to collect to pay bills and to keep the lights on, that allow us to be here. This (folder of pledges) transforms into this (beautiful sanctuary) and we cannot state enough how important it is that you give what you can and give faithfully and regularly. And please pledge so that we can budget appropriately. But also to thank you for doing so and to bring it before your eyes and the eyes of the whole community and to remind us all that we need to do this (pledge) to have this (the sanctuary and all events, ministries, etc. of the church).



God blesses it and will bless it. In the coming months, we are all going to be put to the challenge because we have vision. We have dreams to dig our roots deeper here in Charlotte. And as the roots go deeper, a building will rise up and we're going to need to call on all of you, including me, to contribute to this effort, first with prayer, with our dedication and with our material resources to the extent of course that we are able and are willing to challenge ourselves even to do so.

So with this in mind we brought this mundane folder into the middle of the church to remind us all of what is required of us materially and to offer a prayer for the blessing of your gifts that you have given.

*"Heavenly Father, giver of all that is good, provider of all that is needed, Who sent us even your Only Begotten Son, so that those who believe in Him might have eternal life and Who also sent us Your Holy Spirit. You sent it upon Your church and drew humanity toward Yourself by the net of the fishers of men, Your apostles who taught us to give freely and fully for the needs of the church and so now Lord bless and multiply these gifts of Your servants unto the living out of the gospel in this parish. For to You belong all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit now and forever unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

May God bless and multiply your offerings in this Holy community.

## YOUTH MINISTRY — KITE FLY-

Youth Ministries continues to find ways to come together!

Our JOY/HOPE families participated in our first annual Kite Flying event on Sunday, March 14. The Greek tradition of flying kites on Clean Monday was alive and well a day early as families gathered on the plaza. Parents, little ones, and even some of our GOYAns and college students enjoyed seeing their kites take off before Forgiveness Vespers.

After Forgiveness Vespers, our GOYAns met to discuss Lenten questions during the community ice cream social.

Our 7th-12th grade Catechism classes continue to meet online. We are very thankful to the teachers and students for making this possible, we are looking forward to being together even more in the coming weeks and months.

Helen Giles



## St. Mary of Egypt April 1



When Mary was only twelve years old, she left her parents and departed to Alexandria, where she lived a depraved life for seventeen years. Then, moved by curiosity, she went with many pilgrims to Jerusalem, that she might see the Exaltation of the venerable Cross. Even in the Holy City she gave herself over to every kind of licentiousness and drew many into the depth of perdition.

Desiring to go into the church on the day of the Exaltation of the Cross, time and again she perceived a certain invisible power preventing her entrance, whereas the multitude of people about her entered unhindered. Therefore, wounded in heart by this, she decided to change her way of life and reconcile herself to God by means of repentance. Invoking our Lady the Theotokos as her protectress, she asked her to open the way for her to worship the Cross, and vowed that she would renounce the world. And thus, returning once again to the church, she entered easily. When she had worshipped the precious Wood, she departed that same day from Jerusalem and passed over the Jordan. She went into the inner wilderness and for forty-seven years lived a most harsh manner of life, surpassing human strength; alone, she prayed to God alone.

Toward the end of her life, she met a certain hermit named Zosimas, and she related to him her life from the beginning. She requested of him to bring her the immaculate Mysteries that she might partake of them. According to her request, he did this the following year on Holy and Great Thursday. One year after this, Zosimas again went thither and found her dead, laid upon the ground, and letters written in the sand near her which said: "Abba Zosimas, bury here the body of wretched Mary. I died on the very day I partook of the immaculate Mysteries. Pray for me."

Her death is reckoned by some to have taken place in 378, by some, in 437, and by others, in 522. She is commemorated also on the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. Her life was recorded by Saint Sophronius of Jerusalem.

<http://www.goarch.org>

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### OUR MISSION:

*St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church is dedicated to the continuation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's ministry of salvation through the proclamation and teaching of the Gospel; through Baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and through loving service to God and to mankind.*

### OUR VISION:

*The community will provide a loving, caring and welcoming environment where all belong and grow in the faith through worship, service, witness, and fellowship.*

## DIRECTORY

**Church Office:** 704-708-4669

**Church Fax:** 704-846-6094

**Email:** [office@stnektarios.org](mailto:office@stnektarios.org)

**Website:** [www.stnektarios.org](http://www.stnektarios.org)

5108 Kuykendall Rd. Charlotte, NC 28270

**Father Andreas Houpos**, Proistamenos

Email: [fr.andreas@stnektarios.org](mailto:fr.andreas@stnektarios.org)

**Father Nektarios Karantonis**, Ephemerios

Cell Phone: 980-829-5215

Email: [frkarantonis@stnektarios.org](mailto:frkarantonis@stnektarios.org)

**Father Steve Dalber**, Pastor Emeritus

Cell Phone: 704-451-6524

Email: [frdalber@stnektarios.org](mailto:frdalber@stnektarios.org)

**Father Paul Tshakis**, Presbyter

**Deacon Stephanos Potter**

### 2021 Parish Council

**President:** Charlie Hubbard

**Vice President:** Christina Bonderer

**Treasurer:** Despina Gallis

**Assist. Treasurer:** Aka Vashakidze

**Secretary:** Nadine Rosekrans

**Assist. Secretary:** Mike Burgan

**Members:** George Bacogeorge,

Elissa Bahanovich, Nadia Francis,

Doug Sistare and Dimitri Triantafyllides

**Parish Administrator**

Evelyn Klund

**Administration Staff**

Silva Awaimrin, Kim Braswell, Samara Clewell

Niki Kleto, and Sofia Nicolopoulos

**Director of Youth Ministries**

Helen Giles

**Property Manager**

Tim Shelton

**Music Directors**

Jeff Clewell, Dina Marinakos-Oara

### Philoptochos Board

**President:** Niki Kleto

**Vice President:** Charlotte Nickolopoulos

**Recording Secretary:** Sharon Koutroumpis

**Corresponding Secretary:** (Vacant)

**Treasurer:** Madalina Lowen

**Ass't. Treasurer:** Evelyn Klund

**Members:** Michaelina Antahades, Helen Bakos

(Email: [philoptochos@stnektarios.org](mailto:philoptochos@stnektarios.org))

## SUNDAYS AT SAINT NEKTARIOS

### Worship

**Matins 8:15 a.m. and**

**Divine Liturgy 9:15 a.m.**

**Youth Catechism:**

Virtual classes began Sept. 20th

**Fellowship Coffee:**

Suspended pending adjustments to COVID-19 measures

### Prosfora

Please contact the church office or Christie Asimos at 704-756-1512 if you would like to provide or sponsor Prosfora.

### Coffee Hour

Please contact the church office if you would like to host or co-host a Coffee Hour on Sunday. Your Stewardship pays for the coffee hour refreshments provided by the Hospitality Ministry Team.

### Flowers

You may donate flowers in honor of a family member's feast day, in memory of a loved one or friend, on the occasion of a holiday, or simply as a gift to the community of St. Nektarios. To donate flower arrangements to be placed at the Iconostasis, St. Nektarios Shrine or in the Narthex for Sunday Services, please contact the church office to reserve a Sunday.

### Sacramental Wine & Pure Olive Oil

You may make a financial gift to help defray the cost of the sacramental wine that is used for Holy Communion. Please note on the memo line of your check or on the envelope "Communion Wine". You may also donate a bottle or can of pure olive oil which is then blessed at the Shrine of St. Nektarios and is offered in the anointing kits. Please feel free to bring this with you to any of our services and give to an usher on duty. For additional information contact the church office.

### UPCOMING DEADLINE

**Newsletter & Bulletin Due Dates:**

Information Due: April 26, 2021

Published: May 18, 2021