

**Volume 25, Issue 3**  
**May - July 2021**

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**See our Special Holy Week Supplement**



# THE NEWS FROM ST. NEKTARIOS

## RICHNESS IN OUR LIFE OF FAITH

By Fr. Andreas Houpos

As we entered Holy Week, we saw a resurgence of church attendance. As the COVID-19 numbers plummeted in the months following, this trend continued and we also were able to see an increase of social fellowship and other in-person activities that had long been dormant. Now, we find ourselves in another familiar place: the doldrums of summer.

A return to "normalcy" means that individuals and families are again doing those things that they do during the summer months: vacations, visiting relatives, and in general recuperating from the rest of the year.

What coincides with this, usually, is a lull in church attendance as people travel and get away to enjoy themselves a bit. Now, this piece is not a "We don't take vacation from church!" sermon. But it would be an omission to not at least point out that, for the conscientious Orthodox Christian, time away is usually informed by the presence or proximity of an Orthodox parish or monastery in the place being visited. If there is none available, total time away from church is, hopefully, limited. A voluntary separation from the worshipping community, let alone the Eucharist, is not something that should be palatable to us—if it is, let this reminder reignite the dwindling furnace of our conscience in this regard.

But as for taking time to rest, this is something worthy of our consideration. In our society, which is hedonistic (in promoting the love of pleasure), consumeristic (in promoting acquisition and gratification), and egotistic (in promoting self-love), vacationing and recuperation are seen almost as God-given rights. "Take a break, you deserve it!" "Let loose!" "It's 5:00 somewhere!" This culture of comfort and escapism is one to which we are easily drawn, since it appeals to our appetites and fear of pain and discomfort.

For people who do not have Christ, it

is understandable that a descent into cynicism and hedonism would be the default mode of approaching life. But for those of us who claim to be Christian, what does it say about us when we give into the seduction of the world? When we lead a life increasingly obsessed with comfort and pleasure, rather than striving for self-denial and the Cross to which Christ calls those who would follow him? When we who say "Through the Cross, joy has come into the whole world" seek joy in other places?

Unsurprisingly, it is in the lives of the saints that we find the Church's

**"... these celebrations thunder and flash like a barrage of splendid summer fireworks, declaring the virtues of Christian focus, sobriety, and love for God in the lives of the saints."**

approach to rest and rejuvenation. We perhaps need to look no further than this account told of St. Anthony, considered the father of monasticism and strict ascetical struggle:

"A hunter in the desert saw Father Anthony enjoying himself with the brethren and he was shocked. Wanting to show him that it was necessary sometimes to meet the needs of the brethren, the old man said to him, 'Put an arrow in your bow and shoot it.' So he did. The old man then said, 'Shoot another,' and he did so. Then the old man said, 'Shoot yet again,' and the hunter replied 'If I bend my bow so much I will break it.' Then the old man said to him, 'It is the same with the work of God. If we stretch the brethren beyond measure they will soon break. Sometimes it is necessary to come down to meet their needs.' When he heard these words the hunter was pierced by compunction and, greatly edified by the old man,

he went away. As for the brethren, they went home strengthened."

In short, what this vignette tells us is that 1) our work should be the "work of God", 2) that rest is granted to us in brief condescension to our weakness, 3) and this happens so that we can continue to do the work of God with greater focus and strength.

So, this becomes an opportunity for us to conduct a self-examination. To what degree are we mastered by our desire (and thus feel entitled) to be comfortable? Can we take steps to convert entitlement to gratitude?

What can we do to clearly see the Cross, not numbing escapism and hedonism, as the source of our joy?

In the summer months, we celebrate the joy-filled feast of the Holy Apostles. We also celebrate a number of beloved saints throughout the month of July. It is as if the Church is giving us every opportunity to delight in the Cross, by bringing to our minds the many martyrs commemorated in that month. And, of course, at the beginning of August, we are invited to join in a two-week fast and frequent supplication to the Mother of God, as we approach the memorial of her falling asleep on the 15th. All of these celebrations thunder and flash like a barrage of splendid summer fireworks, declaring the virtues of Christian focus, sobriety, and love for God in the lives of the saints.

After the year-and-a-half we have all experienced, many of us will be taking much-needed time for rest and renewal. May we do so with a spirit of gratitude and condescension to our weakness—not with a spirit of entitlement—and with an aim to let it help us better do the work of God when we reconvene for the beginning of the new ecclesiastical year in September.

With prayers for a safe, healthy, joyous, and godly summer for you all,

Fr. Andreas

## Spotlight on our photographers



Photographers often go unrecognized because they are always behind the camera so at the request of several parishioners, Kim agreed to be photographed if John would be in the photo with her.

Thank you Kim Sheree' Braswell for your hard work and dedication over the last 21 years and to John Cosmas for willingly helping at Kim's request.

Please enjoy the separate, Holy Week Insert photographed by Kim and John. Thank you to Lisa Weber for the photo above.

Thank you also to Fr. Nektarios for your continued contributions to our Facebook page and your amazing talent, some of which is included in the Holy Week insert as well as the newsletter.



## FOCUS ON OUR COMMUNITY

### Celebrations, Milestones, Comfort & Support

#### IN OUR PRAYERS

Aphroula John Pat KS Joe Johanna Edward Tina Theona Helen & Richard DG Chuck Handset  
Mason Robin & Benny John & Elaine Jennifer & family Eleftheria Mary Catherine Grant Jack  
Phyllis Melton family Tish Joanne Christina Stephen Phil & Ronnie John & Michelle & family MP MSR  
Glen Cheryl & Brian Paul John T. John D. Terry

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 Bessie and Costa Vrettos on the birth of their grandson, Bennett Scott Vrettos  
born to Kaycey & Athan Vrettos

To Anna and Matt Thompson on the birth of Zoey's brother, Demetri Antonio and 40 day blessing

To Emily and David Hanegraaff on their Chrismations, Orthodox marriage and  
the baptism of their son, Grace Davidson

To Tina Yateem and Connor Higgins on their marriage

To Dimitra and Red Farha on the baptism of their daughter, Stephanie Anne "Stavroula"

To Niveen and George Alyateem on the baptism of their son, Rami George

To Miglena and Enrique Dimitrova on the birth their daughter, Charlotte Sky Dimitrova  
and the 40 day blessing

To Julianne and Steven Rossman on the birth of their daughter, Nora Louise and the 40 day blessing

To the Ivanova family on the 40 day blessing of Madlen Ivanova and son, Daniel

To Delilah and Alaa Kobercy on the birth of Selena's sister, Maya Alaa and the 40 day blessing

To Elena and Sam Burrus on the birth of their daughter, Vaia McNeill

To Cannon and Zack Walker on the birth of their daughter, Cayden Sarah

To Olesya and Dustin Holland on the birth of Nadia's sister, Alexandra Faith "Sasha" and the 40 day blessing

To Stephanie and Trevor Adams on the birth of Elias' brother, James and the 40 day blessing

To Dwayne Cogdill on his baptism

To Luda and Victor Odeychuk on the birth, 40 day blessing and baptism of their daughter, Victoria Victorivna

To Stavroula Koutsoupas and John Couchell on their marriage

#### WITH SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF OUR BELOVED BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

To the Levantis family on the repose of their beloved mother and grandmother, Despina Levantis

To the Politis family on the passing of Athina's husband, Angelo

To the Megremis family on the passing of Tommy Megremis

To Presbytera Anthoula Constantelos Manuel and the Manuel and Kushner families on the passing of  
Reverend Father Chrysostom Manuel of Fayetteville

To Presbytera Dianthe and the Livanos family on the passing of Reverend Fr. George Livanos  
of All Saints Greek Orthodox Church in Canonsburg

To the Pakuris family on the passing of Katherine's husband, Chris

To the Thevaos family on the passing of John's wife, Adele

#### IN APPRECIATION

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.

# FAREWELL TO DEACON STEPHEN & DIAKONISSA SHERRY POTTER

Dear St. Nektarios Reverend Fathers,  
Parish Council, and members of the Church,

As most of you know, Sherry and I have moved out of the Charlotte area to be closer to Sherry's mother who is dealing with challenges to her health. We are just over the NC border in Martinsville, VA. It is difficult to express how much we will miss seeing you all and attending St. Nektarios Church, after being a part of the amazing God-Blessed growth since we joined in 2002! From attending Divine Liturgy in "half" the Spiritual Life Center to the now glorious Church building; it has been a remarkable journey with you all, Fr. Steve, Fr. John, Fr. Paul and now Fr. Nektarios and Fr. Andreas. The special coffee hour on our last day and beautiful gift basket (that felt like it weighed 50lbs.) were more than we ever expected. So many of you came over to get a hug, picture, and to wish us well. It was a bitter sweet day. The basket filled with all kinds of goodies will keep us supplied with food and drinks for a while with pasta, sauces, rice, nuts, jams, marinated veggies, soups, cookies, and our favorite things Hawaiian coffee, flavored teas, and chocolate! The letter opener will always remind us of you every time we open a letter or bill to pay. And the gift cards came in handy to get things we needed for the new house. Also, thank you for the **beautiful icon** presented to us; (it is already hanging in a special place in our new home). You went way over the top and we are very humbled by the love you showed us. Deacon Stephen looks forward to continuing to serve as Lay Deacon at St. Katherine's in Burlington, as he is able.

You all have been and always will be family to us. Please forgive us of any transgressions or grief we have caused over the many years. We thank you for your prayers, as you will be in ours.

With much Love,  
Deacon Stephen and  
Diakonissa Sherry



**Above two photos:**  
Deacon Stephen and Diakonissa Sherry  
with their God family

The photos at left and below are from memories of Deacon  
Stephen and Diakonissa Sherry over the years.



Baptism on the lake



# FINANCIAL MATTERS



## Quick Notes

**Paycheck Protection Program** — Our loan received in 2020 in the amount of \$102,300 was forgiven in the spring of 2021.

### Mortgage

- Mortgage Balance: \$475,679
- Interest payments are made monthly: 3.350 APR
- **Next principal payment of \$110,000 is due July 15**
- Balance due in full January 15, 2022

### What is the different between my Stewardship Pledge and my Building For Generations Family Commitment?

- Your **Stewardship Pledge** is an annual pledge that supports the operations of the parish (payroll, youth programs, utilities and routine property maintenance, liturgical services, hospitality, etc.). Our stewardship budget is \$846,435 for 2021.
- Your **Family Commitment** is a three-year pledge to build the new Ministry Center and renovate the Spiritual Life Center. This is addition to your annual stewardship pledge. Our goal is to raise \$8,875,000 in pledges.

### Summer Months

Please make regular, monthly stewardship offerings to keep our cash flow steady.

## Stewardship Statistics as of June 21, 2021



## So You Know . . .

### January to June 21, 2021 Operating Income and Expense Report

Stewardship Received	\$ 374,872
Other Income Received	\$ <u>109,493</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 484,365</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b> (paid and accrued)	<b>\$ - <u>533,720</u></b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ - 49,355</b>
<b>Average Monthly Expenses</b>	<b>\$91,619</b>

## ST. NEKTARIOS MINISTRY CENTER FAMILY COMMITMENTS

We pray that each person will make a sacrificial gift with love and with faith in our future.

### How to determine your sacrificial gift to build the Ministry Center

**PRAY...** that our Lord blesses our undertakings in peace and brings them to successful conclusion. In that prayer, ask — *Lord, what do You want to do through me?*

**REFLECT...** on gratitude and generosity and how the gifts God has bestowed upon us may be put to His glory. Discern what your sacrificial gift should be.

**COMMIT...** to the future of the St. Nektarios community so we may provide the resources for all to grow in worship, service, witness and fellowship—today and in the generations to come.

### NOT EQUAL GIFTS, BUT EQUAL SACRIFICE.

Equal giving is never the goal at St. Nektarios, but rather to come together as a church community – each sacrificing to achieve our vision. There is a role in this Capital Campaign for everyone in the church and each contribution enables our success.

*Let your commitment to this campaign ensure our legacy for the future generations to foster community, to grow in faith, to support each other, and to serve beyond ourselves.*



### THREE-YEAR GIFT GUIDE

Total Commitment	Monthly Offering
\$ 54,000	1,500
36,000	1,000
27,000	750
18,000	500
14,400	400
10,800	300
7,200	200
3,600	100
1,800	50
900	25
720	20

# ST. NEKTARIOS 5K

It is by the grace of God and the generous hearts of many of our supporters, donors and participants, the St. Nektarios Taking Steps 5K Walk/Run was able to net a total of \$44,000 raised to help the homeless women and children of the shelter.

The money has been distributed to the 3 beneficiaries of the event. The 3 beneficiaries are all focused on helping the homeless women and children of Charlotte in a different capacity.

The 3 beneficiaries and their purpose are outlined to the right.

Despite the many challenges we were faced with in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic (financial, social distancing, spiritual struggles and many others) the love and generosity of many to support the people in need continued.

We extend our love and gratitude to everyone that participated in the virtual race; the donors, the supporters and the sponsors for making it happen. I extend my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the amazing 5K committee that dedicated their time throughout the year and never gave up; Dan Wixon, Mike Burgan, Theodora Sexstone, Dennis Kokenes, Fr. Paul Tshakis, Joe Tristano and the St. Nektarios Office Support (Evelyn Klund, Silva Awaimrin, Sofia Nicolopoulos) that made this happen despite all the obstacles and the uncertainty that 2020 brought.

To our business sponsors in 2020, thank you very much:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| AHEPA  | Nick and Chris Miller Charity Fund              |
| Ballantyne Jewelers                          | PLP Property, LLC                               |
| Carolinas Center for Oral and Facial Surgery | Showmars  |
| Charlotte Gastroenterology & Hepatology      | The Metrolina Phoenician Club                   |
| Chris & Kelli's Giving Fund                  | The Pappas Foundation, Peter, Claire and Thomas |
| Constantine G. Gianakopoulos, DDS, PA        | Tim Tassopoulos Giving Fund                     |
| Copy Cat Printing                            | Tri-State Trading                               |
| Gaston Community Foundation                  | Venn Law Group                                  |
| Harcros Chemicals                            | YARA Inc.                                       |
| Lee Olive Law Firm                           | Zentra  |

Mark your calendar for the 2021 5K Walk/Run event. We hope to host a live event in addition to the virtual event on Saturday, November 20, 2021.

**Kholoud Alyateem**  
**5K Race Director**

## ABOUT OUR BENEFICIARIES

### Shelter Health Services

Health issue can cause and prolong homelessness and become a barriers to self-sufficiency, education and upward mobility. The Shelter Health Services Clinic, located at the Salvation Army Center of Hope Shelter, provides free healthcare and medical service to the uninsured, homeless women and children who live there. Your Taking steps Race Sponsorship helps provide this free healthcare to more than, 1,000 women and children per year.



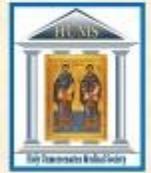
### St. Hermione Home

Many pregnant homeless women have no place to turn...and nowhere to live. Some are first-time mothers with limited parenting skills, while some lack vocational skills to find a good job. The St. Hermione Home offers a warm and nurturing environment, spiritual support, vocational training, parenting classes and counseling. Including adoption services, if the mother so chooses. Construction on the St. Hermione Home is fully funded, and the ground-breaking will take place in the fall of 2020. Your Taking Steps Race Sponsorship helps to support all the services to be provided by the St. Hermione Home.

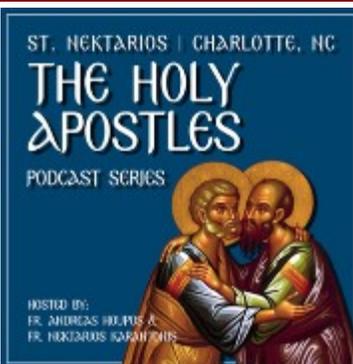
St. Hermione was one of the first Holy Unmercenary saints, the daughter of St. Philip the Deacon, a trained physician who bought a house and established a free medical clinic and housing for the poor.

### The Holy Unmercenaries Medical Society

Throughout our world and here at home, there are men, women and children afflicted by disease, needless suffering, oncoming blindness and death because they lack access to much needed care. The St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church Chapter of HUMS is dedicated to providing this necessary medical care to those in need. The HUMS fellowship of healthcare professionals gives time and talent through missionary work domestically and internationally to provide free medical services. Your Taking Steps Race Sponsorship supports these efforts, and the medications and equipment needed.



## ST. NEKTARIOS' 1ST PODCAST SERIES



Have you ever wanted to know more about the Holy Apostles. Join Fr. Andreas Houpos and Fr. Nektarios Karantonis as they touch on the lives of these men whose voices have "gone out into all the earth." Over six episodes aired in June, they explored the men behind the names. Recordings of all six episodes are available on our website at [www.stnektarios.org/ministries/Adult Religious Education](http://www.stnektarios.org/ministries/Adult Religious Education) or via <https://anchor.fm/stnektarios>.



# VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



## Our Journey through Lent The Veneration of the Holy Cross

As each of the five Sundays of Lent has its own theme, the third Sunday focuses on the Cross of Christ. After the Matins service, the Cross is normally processed around the inside of the nave and then brought to rest in the middle of the Narthex for all to venerate. It encourages the faithful to continue on their Lenten Journey as the Cross is the sign of victory. This year due to the COVID-19 safety guidelines, we were unable to kiss the Cross. Those parishioners able to attend in person, however, were able to prayerfully venerate by bowing before the Cross.



### Hymn of the Veneration

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection we glorify. *(Thrice)*  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.  
And Thy holy Resurrection we glorify.  
Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection we glorify.

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY CAR BLESSING

Young Adult ministry, through a grant from the Telos Project, made blessing bags and held a Car Blessing after the Veneration of the Cross Divine Liturgy on April 4th.

Blessing bags were given to parishioners to have handy in their vehicles when they encounter someone in need. Thank you to all Y.A.M. members who helped pack the bags on Saturday (4/3) and to those who were there on Sunday, including some parents and staff members.

Thank you to Fr. Nektarios and Kim Braswell for the photos. ❖



## BLESSING OF THE WATER ON THE FEAST OF THE LIFE-GIVING SPRING



What a beautiful day for a celebration. We celebrated the Feast of the Life-Giving Spring on Friday, May 7th. We were happy to see so many of the faithful join us at the fountain following Divine Liturgy for an Agiasmos service and blessing. ❖



# YOUNG AT HEART

The Young at Heart were able to gather together at last on May 21st, for a wonderful time of fellowship and fine dining. This time we celebrated birthdays for anyone within the last year since we have been unable to be together as we normally would due to COVID-19 restrictions.



Thank you to Danny Ziozios and his crew for a delicious meal of shrimp creole and rice and to Tim Shelton for assisting in the kitchen. Thank you to our board who set-up and decorated for the event and to Kim Braswell for the photos.



The Young at Heart met again in June for another blessed time of fellowship together. The committee planned the event and hosted with a delicious luncheon of pastitsio, salad and garlic bread. Kerry Gionis hosted a cheerful game of Bingo. To the delight of our members, winners received gift cards, snacks and wine. We look forward to seeing all of you again as we anticipate our September meeting to start the ecclesiastical year. ❖

# PHILOPTOCHOS

**PASCHA BAKE SALE 2021**  
 LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY  
 OF ST. NEKTARIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
**KOULOURAKIA**  
 1 DZ COOKIES OR 1 LB TAKE-N-BAKE DOUGH  
**TSOUREKIA**



Hello Ladies,

The Philoptochos ecclesiastical year ended with a flurry of activity as the church was able to reopen and people were ready to attend. We are so thankful to everyone who supported our activities.

What were we up to?

Baking Koulourakia—Palm Sunday Luncheon—Pascha Bake Sale—Holy Tuesday Egg Dyeing—Holy Friday Luminaries—May General Meeting & Board Elections (IN PERSON!!!)—Collection for Baby Bundle—Board Oath of Office

Congratulations to Charlotte Nickolopoulos, our new Philoptochos president. Thank you to Niki Kleto, our out-going president, for your leadership and the work you have done over the last 2 years. We hope everyone has a wonderful summer. Keep an eye out for announcements during the summer and we look forward to seeing everyone in September for our annual dinner meeting. ❖



## 2021-2023 Board

**President:** Charlotte Nickolopoulos

**1st VP:** Madalina Lowen

**2nd VP:** Deidre Lepkowski

**Corr. Sec'y:** Micha Antahades

**Rec. Sec'y:** Sharon Koutroumpis

**Treasurer:** Evelyn Klund

**Asst. Treasurer:** Dee Hatjioannou

**Advisor:** Niki Kleto

**Members:**

Helen Bakos, Katherine Cestrone, Phyllis Gianakopoulos, Renee Keretses, and Christine Maltras



### Pictured above:

Our newly elected 2021-23 Philoptochos Board takes the Oath of Office.

# MINISTRY CENTER GROUND BLESSING

I send heartfelt thanks to all of you who were able to be present with us on Sunday, June 6. His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, presided over the divine services and the blessing of our property in anticipation of our future Ministry Center.

If you were there, then you know we had some unexpected excitement by way of a fire alarm. The timing was such that His Eminence was not able to offer his remarks, and we were not able to call up for the procession, and acknowledge, our Parish Council members, Archons, early Ministry Leaders, and of course our children. But the procession still took place, and the blessing was offered!

Special thanks to our Ground Blessing committee, chaired by Christina Bonderer, and to our administrative staff and other volunteers for their tireless efforts. I also thank Maria Mortis, a member of our Building for Generations Executive Team, for her touching and passionate remarks.

May our next and future steps be pleasing to God, as we move to undertake this important work.

In Christ,  
Fr. Andreas



## Thank you to our Workers

These few photos reflect the many hours of preparations necessary for the Ground Blessing. Thank you to Christina Bonderer, Nadine Rosekrans and their committee who spent days preparing and working behind the scenes for this glorious occasion. ❖



## From Maria Mortis

As we all know, the community of St. Nektarios has always placed an emphasis on our faith-based ministries. As pillars of our church, our ministries have been the foundation of our community outreach and have been the catalyst of our growth over the years. What a blessing to see our humble beginnings of only a handful of ministries grow to now over 50 faith-based ministries. We are honored to have many of the first ministry leaders with us today.

Which brings me to today's ground blessing, a culmination of many years of hard work and a beginning of a new phase for our community. This Ministry Center will be a space to allow our continued growth as well as giving us an opportunity to develop new ones. Thank you to the Ground Blessing committee, who made today's special event a reality.

From a personal note I want to take a moment to share with you what this Ministry Center means to me.

I truly feel this is a special moment for my family in that we have the opportunity to help create this amazing space that will further strengthen our community. This will be one of the few

opportunities we have in our lives to make a direct impact on our future generations.

The Ministry Center will be a home for all parishioners and will provide tools and resources to support us all, at any age, in our spiritual journey. This idea fills me with hope and excitement of the potential we have to better serve God and each other.

But even closer to my heart is what this Ministry Center represents for my 4-year-old daughter and 1-year-old son. I see them having the opportunity to grow their faith through youth education and athletics. I see them interacting with older students that can serve as role models, and with our wiser parishioners...our yiayiathes and pappouthes. It takes a village to raise our children...this community is our village. Having a space where multiple programs can occur at the same time and having our young children witness and interact with this village will be vital in supporting their growth. My hope is that this church, in which they had their 40 day blessings, were baptized into the faith, will remain their home and will be the home of my grandchildren one day. To me, this is what this Ministry Center represents...not the walls, lumber, brick, but of all the opportunity it represents, especially to our children. ❖

# YOUTH MINISTRY

Spring brought us many opportunities to be together again for in person youth ministry.

Our Cub Scout Pack 490 held its annual barbecue, our JOY/HOPE and GOYA participated together in the Ministry Center Ground Blessing for the new ministry center, and our St. Phoebe Ministry held its Reboot Retreat for new and returning participants. We rounded out a year of virtual catechism for 7th-12th grade classes and look forward to being able to teach all grades face-to-face in the fall!

Many thanks to all the youth leaders, teachers, parents, and children of all ages who have helped us continue youth ministry virtually and in person over these last months. ❖



## St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker

July 24

**A**t a very young age, St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker joined the monastic community of Ss. Kosmas and Damian in Constantinople. Her love for Christ was expressed through the compassion she poured upon all people, especially the less fortunate.

The empathy shown by this saint relieved the suffering of the many people to whom she ministered. People from all walks of life heard of her great faith and humility and flocked to her to receive her blessings. The miracles attributed to her through Jesus Christ our Lord are numerous, but can be summed up in her dedication to serve humankind.



It is worthy to note that this saint possessed only one garment her entire life as a monastic. The daily chores expected of her, the changes of weather that would normally bring wear and tear to clothing, never changed the newness of her garment. She would rise from sleep each morning and her clothing would seem as fresh and clean as the day it was made. Even as she aged, the garment remained like new as if the Lord Himself had tailor-made her clothing.

St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker provides an excellent example of sharing her Time, Talents, and Treasure with the Church. Having given her possessions, these worldly Treasures to the poor before she entered the monastery, using her Talents to minister to all people, young and old, the sick and the healthy, offering her Time to pray for others and to bless them, made the people acknowledge her as a true instrument of the Lord.

We must learn from the life of St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker and realize that there is no greater gift to be shared than our love for Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. In the lives of the saints we see how He has rewarded them and that we, too, may participate in His glory. Faithful and committed stewardship must be a result of this love and faith in our Redeemer. It requires effort that is unconditional and total, literally our whole being...if we do not give ourselves to the Lord first, then the Time, Talents, and Treasure we do offer will never be enough!

<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

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

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

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

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**Father Andreas Houpos**, Proistamenos

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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:** Charlotte Nickolopoulos

**1st Vice President:** Madalina Lowen

**2nd Vice President:** Deidre Lepkowski

**Recording Secretary:** Sharon Koutroumpis

**Corr. Secretary:** Michaelina Antahades

**Treasurer:** Evelyn Klund

**Ass't. Treasurer:** Dee Hatjioannou

**Advisor:** Niki Kleto

**Members:** Helen Bakos, Katherine Cestrone,

Phyllis Gianakopoulos, Renee Keretses and

Christine Malatras

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

## SUNDAYS AT SAINT NEKTARIOS

### Worship

**Matins 8:00 a.m. and**

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

**Fellowship Coffee:**

Following Divine Liturgy

### 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: August 17, 2021

Published: August 24, 2021