

St. Nicholas Newsletter

May 2024

Holy Week & Bright Week

Holy Wednesday May 1st - Sacrament of Holy Unction **6pm**

Holy Thursday May 2nd - Vespereal Liturgy **10am**, 12 Passion Gospels **6pm**

Holy Friday May 3rd - Royal Hours **10am**, Unnailing Vespers **6pm**, Lamentations **7pm**

Our Journey through Great Lent & Holy Week—2024

May you and your family be encouraged to increase your participation in the Life of the Church by attending as many services during Great Lent and Holy Week as possible. This is an opportunity that the Church provides us: to demonstrate our desire for God who desires to offer salvation to us, His beloved faithful!



Holy Saturday May 4th - Vespereal Liturgy **10am**, Paschal Orthros & Liturgy followed by Fellowship **10pm**

Pascha Sunday, May 5th - Agape Vespers & Fellowship **1pm**

Bright Tuesday May 7th - Paschal Vespers **6pm**

Bright Thursday May 9th - Paschal Vespers **6pm**

Click the image above to view the entire schedule for Great Lent and Holy Week along with explanations of the various services.

Celebrations

God grant you many years!

Birthdays

Todd Keesee - *May 1st*

Fr. Paul Fuller - *May 2nd*

Aidan Wilson - *May 2nd*

Caleb Wicker - *May 6th*

Don Lourie - *May 10th*

Nina Lawrence - *May 11th*

Lily Tippit - *May 12th*

Nikifor Paunov - *May 16th*

Nancy Brown - *May 19th*

Eric Carender - *May 20th*

Laura Evans - *May 27th*

Steve Kolokithas - *May 28th*

Namedays

Isaiah Hale - *May 9th* Prophet Isaiah

Gina Waters - *May 21st* St. Helen

Wedding Anniversaries

Adnan & Paula Haydar - *May 3rd*

Erik & Nina Lawrence - *May 4th*

Jackson & Abigail Bliss - *May 19th*

Tom & Kate Salem - *May 24th*

based on returned 2024 stewardship & membership forms

2024 Stewardship & Membership Forms

2024 Stewardship & Membership forms are currently available. Please prayerfully consider what you are willing and able to financially contribute to the operation and functioning of our growing parish community to support its various ministries and services. This is an annual responsibility of everyone in our parish!

Access the print or online form by clicking the image below.



*Make your
Financial
Pledge Here*



*Stewardship
2024*

St. Emelia

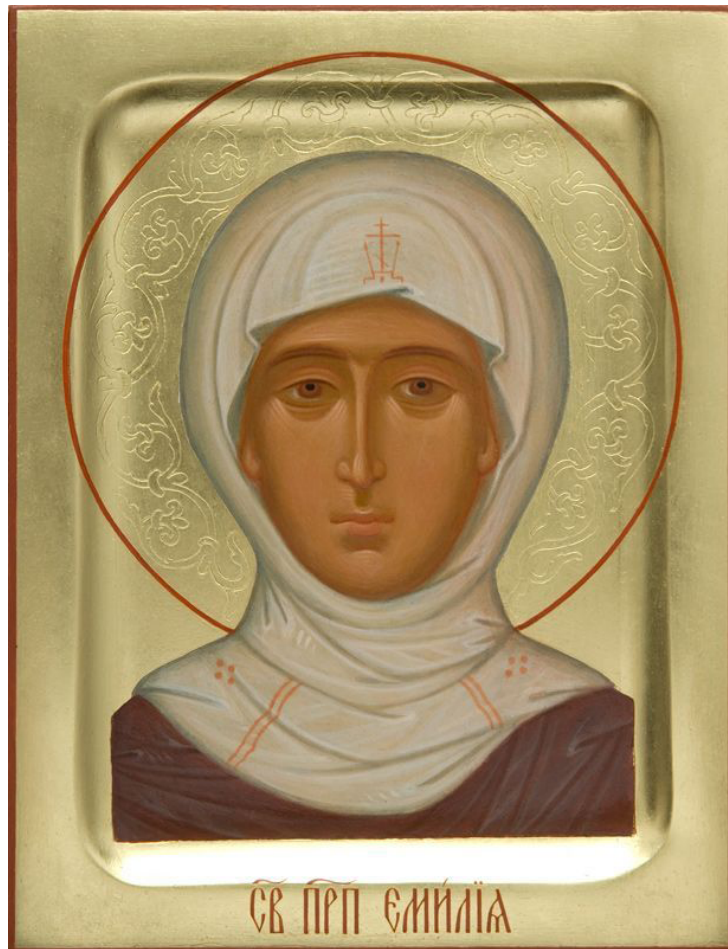
Mother of Basil the Great

May 9th

There are precious few descriptions of Saint Emily's life. She was the daughter of a martyr and the daughter-in-law of Macrina the Elder. Along with her husband Basil the Elder, she gave birth to ten children. She instilled the Orthodox faith in her children, teaching them to pray and devote their lives to the service of the Church. As a result of her zealous yet maternal instruction of her children, five of them are commemorated as saints on the calendar of the Church: Saints Macrina, Basil, Peter of Sebaste, Gregory of Nyssa, and Theosebia, a deaconess. Therefore, Saint Emily is often called without exaggeration "the mother of saints."

When her son Naucratius suddenly died at the age of twenty-seven, she was consoled by her eldest daughter Macrina. Macrina reminded her that it is not befitting to a Christian to "mourn as those who have no hope" and inspired her to hope courageously in the resurrection vouchsafed to us by the Pascha of the Lord.

After her children left home, Saint Emily was persuaded by Macrina to forsake the world. Together they founded a monastery for women. Emily divided the family property among her children and freed her slaves. Retaining only some meager possessions, she and Macrina withdrew to a secluded family property in Pontus, picturesquely located on the banks of the Iris River and not far from Saint Basil's wilderness abode. A number of liberated female slaves desired to join the pair, and a convent was formed. They lived under one roof and held everything in common: They ate, worked, and prayed together, serving the Lord in with a singular purpose. They were so eager to advance in virtue that they regarded fasting as food and poverty as riches. The harmony of this model community of women was unspoiled by anger, jealousy, hatred, or pride. Indeed, as the Church sings of monastics, they lived like angels in the flesh.



Living in this manner for many years, Emily reached old age. When an illness signaled her departure from this world, her son Peter came to her side. Together with Macrina, he tended to his mother in her last days. As the oldest and the youngest, Macrina and Peter held a special place in Emily's heart.

Before committing her soul to the Lord, she raised her voice to heaven, saying, "To you, O Lord, I give the first fruits and the tithe of the fruit of my womb. The first fruit is my first-born daughter, and the tithe is this, my youngest son. Let these be for you a rightly acceptable sacrifice, and let your holiness descend upon them!" Saint Emily was buried as she had requested, with her husband in the chapel of their estate in Annesi, where Naucratius had also been laid to rest.

And He Rose Again From The Dead on the Third Day, According to the Scriptures

Christ is risen from the dead! This is the main proclamation of the Christian faith. It forms the heart of the Church's preaching, worship and spiritual life. "... if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Cor 15:14).

The Orthodox Church believes in Christ's real death and his actual resurrection. Resurrection, however, does not simply mean bodily resuscitation. Neither the Gospel nor the Church teaches that Jesus was lying dead and then was biologically revived and walked around in the same way that he did before he was killed. In a word, the Gospel does not say that the angel moved the stone from the tomb in order to let Jesus out. The angel moved the stone to reveal that Jesus was not there (Mk 16; Mt 28).

In his resurrection Jesus is in a new and glorious form. He appears in different places immediately. He is difficult to recognize (Lk 24:16; Jn 20:14). He eats and drinks to show that he is not a ghost (Lk 24:30, 39). He allows himself to be touched (Jn 20: 27, 21:9). And yet he appears in the midst of disciples, "the doors being shut" (Jn 20:19, 26). And he "vanishes out of their sight" (Lk 24:31). Christ indeed is risen, but his resurrected humanity is full of life and divinity. It is humanity in the new form of the eternal life of the Kingdom of God.

Thus it is with the resurrection of the dead: What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. Thus, it is written, the first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam [i.e. Christ] became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual which is first but the physical, then the spiritual.

The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man from heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have home the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the



image of the man of heaven (1 Cor 15:42-50).

The resurrection of Christ is the first fruits of the resurrection of all humanity. It is the fulfillment of the Old Testament, "according to the Scriptures" where it is written, "For Thou doest not give me up unto Sheol [that is, the realm of death], or let Thy Godly one see corruption" (Ps 16:10; Acts 2:25-36). In Christ all expectations and hopes are filled: O Death, where is your sting? O Sheol, where is your victory? (Hos 13:14).

He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces ... It will be said on that day: "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation" (Isa 25:8-9).

Come, let us return to the Lord: For He has torn, that He may heal us; He has stricken, and He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live before Him (Hos 6:1-2).

Thus says the Lord God: Behold I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people ... And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live ... (Ez 37:12-14).

Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen!

Excerpt taken from "The Orthodox Faith, Volume I, Doctrine" by Fr. Thomas Hopko

Paschal Greetings in Various Languages

It is customary to greet Orthodox Christians with the paschal greeting during the Paschal Season; we've included a few to know below:

<u>Language</u>	<u>Greeting</u>	<u>Response</u>
English	Christ is risen!	Truly, He is risen!
Arabic	Al Masseh qam!	Haqqan qam!
Greek	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Romanian	Hristos a inviat!	Adevărat a inviat!
Russian	Khristos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Spanish	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!
Ukranian	Khristos voskres!	Voistinu voskres!

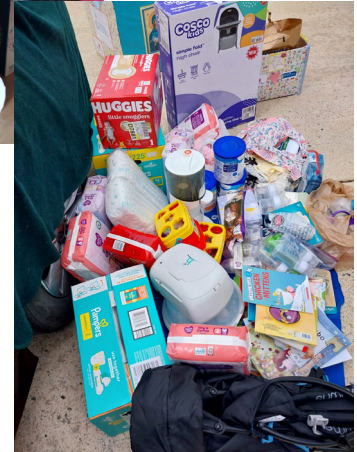


OCLife Donation Drive

Many thanks for the generosity of all from our parish and St. John of Chicago Church who participated in the National Orthodox Baby Shower sponsored by OCLife.

Donations were delivered to Loving Choices and Compassion House, local non-profits; 6 strollers, 1 highchair, 1 car seat, 21 items of baby clothing, 24 baby bottles along with an instant warmer, 12 pacifiers, 1 maternity item, 4 containers of formula, 4 baby toys, 2 crib sheets, 1 blanket, 47 books, 1 diaper bag, a whopping 1,104 diapers, and \$225 in gift cards.

Also, thanks to those who provided evening meals to the residents and staff of Compassion House during the month of March.



Graduation Recognition Day

Congratulations, graduates!

Any graduates of high school, college, post-grad, please email the Church Office (saintnicholasar@gmail.com) by Monday, May 13 with name, degree, awards, and future plans to be included in our Graduation Recognition Day (Sunday, May 19).

This Sunday will also be our recognition and appreciation for our Church School students, teachers, and helpers!






DIocese OF MIAMI AND THE SOUTHEAST
 PRESENTS
PARISH LIFE
CONFERENCE + 2024
 JUNE 12TH-15TH
FAMILY AS ICON
 HOSTED BY ST. STEPHEN CHURCH
 HIRAM, GEORGIA
 GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. PHILIP MAMALAKIS SPEAKER: FR. JOHN OLIVER SPEAKER: FR. JAMES GUIRGUIS


Parish Life Conference 2024

Registration is now open for the Parish Life Conference (PLC) of our diocese. It is being held in Peachtree, Georgia; [click the image above to register and learn more.](#)

Paschal Donations

It is a pious practice to offer an additional donation during the Paschal season for the needs of the parish community.

We ask that donations be offered for the expenses of our NEW church chairs for the nave and overflow area.

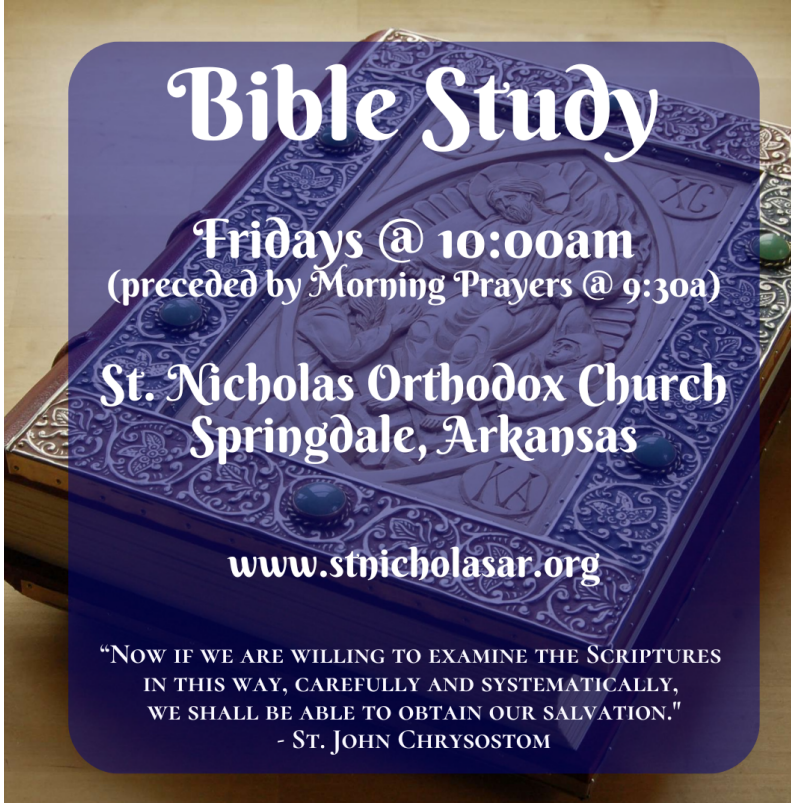
This will cost approx. \$10,000 – a big expense, but a great upgrade for our worship space!

THANK YOU!



Join us for our weekly Bible Study on Friday mornings beginning at
9:30a with Morning Prayers.

We are currently studying the Gospel of St. Matthew.



Bible Study
Fridays @ 10:00am
(preceded by Morning Prayers @ 9:30a)
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
Springdale, Arkansas
www.stnicholasar.org

"NOW IF WE ARE WILLING TO EXAMINE THE SCRIPTURES
IN THIS WAY, CAREFULLY AND SYSTEMATICALLY,
WE SHALL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN OUR SALVATION."
- ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Ministry & Organizational Leaders,

If there is any announcement or advertisement that you would like published in the
St. Nicholas Newsletter, please contact Brea Hale. brehale00@gmail.com

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