Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

_I will lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade upon your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore._

—Psalm 121

The Truth of the world is that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is always with us and always protecting our souls for everlasting life. No matter the challenge, or pandemic, or isolation, or illness, or loneliness, or marital strife, or difficulties with children, or drug abuse, or poverty, or riches, or times of jubilation—Jesus is always standing right beside us.

Of course, this pandemic shows the frailty of all human constructs.

Of course, all of creation is renewed and all of humankind given salvation and the opportunity for eternal life through the resurrection of Christ.

It is through faith in Christ and the life of the Church that we build a relationship with God and with our brothers and sisters.

As we prepare for the coming year, with all the challenges and hopes yet ahead, please consider the importance of our St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in your life. The ministries and outreach opportunities of our parish need each of us to offer the best of our time, the best of our talents, and the best of our treasure.

Thank you to all of our faithful stewards who offered so much this past year to help us weather the challenges and continue to offer the Gospel and love of Christ to the community around us!

Please fill out and return the enclosed stewardship/member card or fill one out online in our membership section: www.stnickaa.org/pledge-form-2021.html.

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to bless you and our St. Nicholas community.

With Love in Christ,

Fr. Nicolaos H. Kotsis

_Parish Priest_