



# SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Nicolaos H. Kotsis

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It's hard to put into words what we have experienced this year. For some of our parishioners it might have been a job loss, cut in pay, the need to work remotely or teach their children at home. COVID also impacted our church. Our ability to hold in person services impacted our ability to conduct church and Greek school, plan activities for our GOYA, HOPE and JOY children's groups and give parishioners the ability to totally experience the church services— be it by seeing the icons, hearing the cantors, smelling the incense, receiving holy communion and venerating the icons. Unfortunately, COVID has also impacted us financially. We have seen a decrease in our stewardship and pangare/candles donations.

The pandemic has required us to become more creative in how we provide services. Our church has been rearranged to ensure that we can practice social distancing but still have in person services. Many of our weekday services have been identified for parishioners over the age of 50 in an effort to make them feel more comfortable coming to church. Many of our organizations have been holding their meetings via ZOOM—parish council, GOYA and Philoptochos to name a few. As a parish we continue to look at ways we can continue to engage our parishioners and keep them involved in the church.

This year Father Alex was also promoted to priest at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Farmington, MI. Our goal is to secure a replacement for Father Alex so that we can continue to provide the additional services/groups that he was able to spearhead during his tenure with St. Nicholas. Father Alex was also able to significantly improve the technology of the church. In order to maintain all of the progress he made, we will need to retain the services of an information technology professional.

What do all of these things mean? We continue to need your financial support this year and in 2021. A 2021 stewardship/member card is enclosed for you to complete and return to the church in the enclosed envelope. We are also encouraging parishioners to use our online form. We understand that every household has different abilities to contribute to our church, and we recognize that every contribution no matter how big or small is equally important to both your household and our parish. We have provided a chart for guidance as you reflect on your stewardship amount for 2021.

Although this year has provided many challenges for us personally and as a parish, we believe that it has provided us the opportunity to reprioritize our life and put things that are most important first: family and faith.

May God continue to bless you and your family,  
The Stewardship Committee