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St. Nicholas Melkite Catholic Church
5715 Lake Ida Road, Delray Beach, FL 33484
Sunday Melkite Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy at 11:00 am
Saturday Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy at 4:00 pm

Exarch Gabriel N. Ghanoum, Pastor
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Parish Office Tel: 561.499.3161
Email: parish@stnicholasmelkite.org
Eli Khouri & Carmen Hajj
Parish Council Co-Chairs
www.stnicholasmelkite.org
Confessions: By Appointment

Meat Fare Sunday * Sunday, February 16, 2020 -2019 * احد مرفع اللحم
Troparion: Let all in heaven rejoice and all on earth be glade, for the Lord has exerted power with His arm: By death He has trampled upon Death and has become the firstborn from the dead. He has delivered us from the bosom of Hades and has granted to the world great mercy.
Kondakion of Meat Fare: O God, when You shall come down upon earth in your glory, every creature shall tremble before You. A river of fire shall flow before your judgment-seat, the books shall be opened and all secrets revealed. On that day, O Just Judge, deliver me from eternal fire and make me worthy to stand at your right!

Message From Father Gabriel...

Acts of Mercy©

"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)
Webster's dictionary defines mercy in three ways: A compassion shown to an offender; A blessing that is an act of divine favor; Compassionate treatment for those in distress.

Mercy is something that God longs for us to lavish onto others. **We are given countless opportunities to show mercy:** taking care of our elderly parents, mentoring, volunteering, sponsoring a child, showing understanding, giving, forgiving, etc... Do we take care of others with kind words and kind deeds regularly? **There is no greater test of our true religion than our behavior in giving and caring towards others.**

In times of crisis, our true humanity comes in; we show love for God by serving one another in times of need. Take for example the devastating earthquake in Haiti, everyone has showed their compassion towards helping their fellow brothers who are in despair. However, Haiti was also in great need before the disastrous event. Do we only need a crisis to show our humanity? Humanity needs to be exercised in our everyday life as a discipline; **the way of life of a heart-full heart.**

In today's Gospel, Jesus separated the Sheep from the Goats, those with heart-full hearts (the sheep), showed humanity and doing good as a way of living, versus those with hardened-hearts (the goats), who paid no attention to helping others because they were self absorbed. To both He said "whatever you did for the least of my little brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25: 40)

There was a priest walking down the street with one of his parishioners and they saw a beggar lying on the side of the street. The parishioner said to the priest, "God is supposed to be a loving God." The priest said, "He is." "Then why doesn't God do something about it?" pointing to the beggar in the gutter. The priest answered, "He is. Didn't He just call him to your attention?"

There are two kinds of people: those who lift and those who lean. Which class are you in as you go down life's road? Do you ask others to share your burden and load, or are you a lifter who helps others share their portion of labor, toil and care? **Are you noticing who God is calling to your attention today?**

"The mind grows by taking in, but the heart grows by giving out;
and it is important to maintain a balanced life." (Warren Wiersbe)

Special Offerings

BLESSINGS & WELLBEING of:

. Ray & Joe Stonbely and family
 . Francis & Johnpaul McIntoch & Michael & Eva Sica
 Maurice Rahal, Aldo & Sylvie Lombardo, Albert Ghanoum,
 George Ged, Bob Shaheen, Joe & Jeanine Achaia, Gaby
 Zakkour, Emil Kasses, Dr. Bishara Faris, Marilyn Barbary,
 Anthony Antaki, Samira Ajlouny
 . All who are helping with the Golf Tournament & the Food Festival
BIRTHDAY: Donna DeMato & Dr. Nick fakhoury
WED - ANNIVERSARY: Fayez & Christine Nicolas (16-yrs)

Liturgy Memorials

. Ned Basil Stonbely, by Ray & Joe Stonbely
 . Violet Stonbely, by Ray & Joe Stonbely
 . Ned Stonbely, Jr., by Ray & Joe Stonbely
 . George Soubhi Esper, by Ray & Joe Stonbely
 . Antoinette Esper, by Ray & Joe Stonbely
 . Myleen Ged, by Marty & Kim Ged and family
 . Bill Toole
 . Eliza Bahi . Badie Kattoura

RELIGIOUS FORMATION - Regular class

EPISTLE: 1Cor 8:8-13 & 9:1-2

PROKIMENON: *My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.*

Brethren, food does not commend us to God. For neither shall we gain any advantage if we eat, nor suffer any loss if we do not. And yet, beware lest perhaps this right of yours become a stumbling-block to the weak. For if a man sees you who "have knowledge" sitting at table in a place dedicated to idols, will not his conscience, weak as it is, be emboldened to eat idol offerings? And through your "knowledge" the weak one will perish, the brother for whom Christ died. Now, when you sin in this way against the brethren and wound their weak conscience, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food scandalizes my brother, I will never again eat any more meat so as not to scandalize my brother. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? And if to others I am not an apostle, yet to you I am. For you are the seal set upon my apostleship in the Lord.



The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the Evangelist 25: 31-46 (The Last Judgment)

The Lord said, "At that time when the Son of Man shall come in his majesty, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory; and before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and he will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the king will say to those on his right hand, Come, blessed of my Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; naked and you covered me; sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the just will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you to drink? And when did we see you a stranger, and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?' And answering, the King will say to them, 'Amen I say to you, every time you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me.' Then he will say to those on his left hand, 'Go away from me, accursed ones, into the everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his ministers. For I was hungry, and you did not give me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take me in; naked and you did not clothe me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Amen I say to you as long as you did not do it for one of these least ones, you did not do it for me.' And these will go into everlasting punishment, but the just into everlasting life."

BULLETIN ADS RENEWAL

Courtesy reminder - Kindly renew your bulletin ads and pay your annual renewal dues to:
Dr. Nick Fakhoury or Carmen. We do accept Credit Cards. **Thank you for your continuous support!**

SECOND COLLECTION

St. Nicholas' Parish Council has carefully studied the church's ongoing expenses. Many volunteers help with much work on an ongoing basis; *To share this collective stewardship, we find it necessary to have a: 2nd collection on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month to go toward the BUILDING FUND MORTGAGE Commitment*
Monthly 2nd Collections: February 2nd & 16th of the month
 If you wish to make arrangement to pay by Credit Card, please contact Samir Risk @ 954.561.5138

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, Feb. 28: 12th Annual Golf T
Friday, March 6: 2nd Friday of Lent
Saturday, March 14th: Mediterranean Food Festival
Sunday, April 5: Palm Sun. Parish Showcase Bake Sale
Holy Week & Easter, April 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Saturday, April 25 or May 2: Spring Hafleh

In all things... remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

SUPER BOWL POOL WINNERS

5th Annual Super Bowl Pool Winners are:

1st Quarter: Dr. Sami Dagher /\$75
2nd Quarter: Matthew Rahal /\$75
3rd Quarter: Matthew Rahal / \$75
4th Quarter: Laurice Lutfey / \$225

Event Net Proceeds / \$415

to Benefit the Church Building Fund.
 Congrats to the Winners!

It was a fun, Men's Club parishioners awareness event for our ongoing Building Fund cooperation. Thank You to All who Supported!! Your support is always greatly appreciated! Thank You to the Men's Club for doing an Awesome Job!!!

St. Nicholas 1st Annual Mediterranean Food Festival Saturday, March 14, 2020

11:30 am - 8:30 pm

Excitement is in the air....! This Festival will put us on the map, and will help show the beauty of our heritage, culture and faith. Thank you for being always present for your church and community. The Food Festival presents an opportunity to showcase our community's delicious and savory food and divine desserts... This is an event open to the public. Everyone is invited to participate in helping out in various capacities. We ask each and every one to give us a hand to bring this festival to the success we are aiming and hoping for. We will have a work schedule and a plan of action very soon. Kindly let us know how you can help. Please stop by the Festival Project table to sign-up. More details to follow soon...

12th Annual Golf Tournament



We welcome early registration and sponsorship inquiries for our 12th Annual Golf Tournament On Feb. 28, 2020 as we return to the celebrated Boca Country Club of the Waldorf Astoria Resorts. The event includes a delightful Cocktail Reception and Dinner Party which are open to non-golfers as well! **BUT at this time we can only wait list the Dinner Only Reservations.** We greatly appreciate Ged Lawyers, LLC and the Ged Family for being our Corporate Title Sponsor since our church 1st tournament!

SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE

We are collecting items & Certificates for the Silent Auction and the Raffle...

We need your help to solicit these valuable items. (Donation Form & Solicitation Letter are available). We ask you to try to reach out to businesses you patronize or where you know somebody who can help you solicit (Restaurants Dining Certificates, Salons, Spa, Art Galleries, Hotels getaway, Travel agencies, Wine & Spirits, Jewelry & Costume Jewelry, Memorabilia of any kind, Sports, Movie or Theater Tickets, Artwork ...)
Feel free to use your imagination, if you wish to put a basket together for the Raffle or the Silent Auction. Please let us know how you can help, we are counting on you! We welcome your input, suggestions and ideas!!! We need everything brought in N Later than Sunday, February 3rd. Email us - golf@stnicholasmelkite.org Your help is greatly appreciated!

CHURCH FINANCIAL CORNER

As we continue to grow as a prayerful and supportive community thanks to your presence and efforts, we want to share with you our monthly church expenses.

Financial Summary for the month of January 2020 - Total Income (Gen. Collection & Bldg Fund) \$26,492*
Expenses: Mortgage Payment: \$12,500 Operating Expenses: \$5,418
Total Expenses: \$17,918 Surplus: \$8,574

*Deposits from the Golf Tournament Registrations boosted this month Building Fund income. For any questions, please contact Samir Risk: Risksamf@gmail.com

WITH DEEP APPRECIATION

It is with heartfelt and deep appreciation for the 20 Ladies, parishioners and friends of St. Nicholas Church, who came from far and near (all the way from Fort Lauderdale) to help prepare food for the much anticipated Mediterranean Food Festival. We gathered this past Thursday in the church kitchen to stuff and roll approximately 2500 rolls of vegetarian grape vine leaves. It was an awesome day filled with great fellowship and laughter! Thank You Ladies & God Bless your Hands!!!



GED LAWYERS CLIENTS APPRECIATION EVENT

Ged Lawyers, are having clients appreciation Hafla on Saturday, February 29th, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm . You and a guest are cordially invited. Traditional food, drinks and entertainment Proudly sponsored by the law firm RSVF contact Roberta at rmcowell@gedlawyers.com or 561.995.1966 Ocean Sky Resort & Hotel 4060 Galt Ocean Drive, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 33308 Flyer available in the Church Hall