

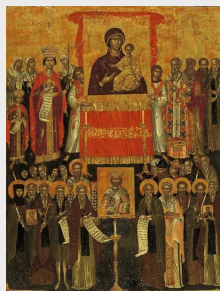


"The Spirit of Christmas"

Icon of the month

As autumn has embraced us, and schools are in full session, October becomes a month for us to review some of the basic teaching of the church. Along with teaching all the basics that we have received over the years, it's important to once again remind everyone about the importance of icons in the life of the Orthodox faithful.

In the month of October, the church has set aside the Sunday that falls between the 11th and the 17th to the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, which was held in the year 787 A.D. in Nicaea. The 375 Bishops came together to settle the question concerning the use of icons, or likenesses, of the Lord, His Mother and the Saints.



The question had troubled the church for six decades, and some people claimed that ignorant Christians were worshipping images in defiance of the commandments of God. They felt that the Icons should be done away with.

At the Seventh Session of the Ecumenical Council on October 13, a definition of faith was read, which said that people were allowed to use images and render honour to them, but not worship them, as worship is to be offered only to God.

As we can see, many icons have been completed over the life of the

Church and are being used as a visual aid in teaching and in offering prayer. The Spirit of Christmas icon that was completed in 2021 has a very specific message to enlighten children and faithful to the Incarnation of our Lord through the inspired Disciples of Christ led by the servant of Christ, Saint Nicholas. With that in mind, please assist the Saint Nicolas - Tele-Santa program and reach out and minister to families the mission of sharing the message of Christ being born and celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.

St. Nicholas - Tele-Santa's to visit Pre-schools, Day Care and Parochial School Classrooms

The Executive Committee would like to remind everyone that last year's successful campaign in reaching children with the message of the "Spirit of Christmas" in classroom settings will be offered again this year. We encourage all Priests, Parents and Parishioners that have such facilities within their Parishes to please introduce the St. Nicholas - Tele-Santa Program to the Directors and Principals of the Schools as soon as possible.

Learning about the Program might excite the possibility of having a St. Nicholas - Tele-Santa Disciple visit the school this year. We need to make plans in advance so times can be coordinated with the classroom teacher. Also, we need time to make sure the teacher can review and understand the discussion about Christmas and to make sure their equipment is capable of hosting a Zoom Call.

The schools that had a visit from a St. Nicholas - Tele-Santa Disciple last year were very happy and surprised with the reactions that the children had, not only the Orthodox Students, but all of the students.

Please reach out and help get more schools involved! If you would like to have the Executive Committee assist in making the contact with the Director or Principal, please contact us by email at officeschannapolis@gmail.com

To read more please click here:

<https://stnicholas-tele-santa.com/about-us/>



To volunteer:

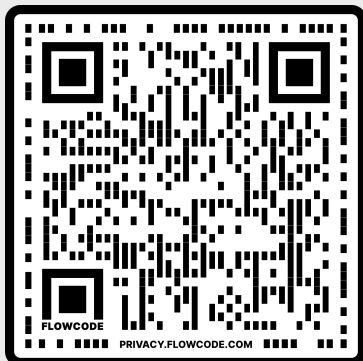
<https://stnicholas-tele-santa.com/volunteer/>

Parent testimonials of the program

“I just asked my granddaughter (6 years old) if she remembered speaking with Santa Claus (St. Nicholas) last year. She did. I asked her if she would like Santa to call this year. With a big smile she replied yes. I recall that Santa spoke to her about St. Nicholas and how he was the first Santa. This is a tremendous outreach program from our Church teaching The Spirit of Christmas”- George Geranios

A message from Santa:

Video message from Santa



Tips for Parents

Making the Sign of the Cross

Practicing prayer at home gives the child a sense of flow when the family comes to worship in the Church.

The beginning of a prayer starts with the sign of the cross, and the ending of a prayer finishes with the sign of the cross. This practice helps in reconfirming the sign of the cross as a part of public and private worship. We use our right hand and put the three fingers together to represent the father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The other two fingers left on the hand represent the two natures of Christ; human and divine.

The child learns that when we do the sign of the cross, we are participating in Liturgical action and movement. The Divine Liturgy is full of movement back and forth, with the priest and the people. Everyone should study and learn the many movements in the Divine Liturgy so that we become richer in our prayer and stronger in our faith.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Heavenly King,

I thank you for St. Nicholas Tele-Santa calling me and sharing the Spirit of Christmas with me.

The Spirit has opened my eyes to see clearly that Your birth is the door to all blessings. The blessing of my parents, family, teachers and community that support my many needs with care and patience.

I pray that the Spirit of Christmas gives me strength to live in Your light throughout the year and all of my life.

Amen

JOIN OUR
COUNTDOWN!



GREETINGS TO YOUR
CHILDREN FOR THEIR
NAME DAY



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Sign Up for a Personalized Virtual Call from Santa for your Children

Don't miss this opportunity to share the
Spirit of Christmas with your family!
December 6th - December 24th 2023



Sign up by QR code OR Visit
our website:

www.stnicholas-tele-santa.com

