

Xristos Anetsi! Christ is Risen!

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, St. Nicholas Philoptochos has formed a nutritional, social outreach and financial assistance task force. We are pleased to provide parishioners with the resources that they need during this most unprecedented time in our lives. Please contact Philoptochos@StNicholasTroy.org or call the Church office at 248-362-9575 if you need assistance or would like to help.

Below is a brief description of the task forces. If you or someone you know could benefit, please do not hesitate to reach out. All communication will remain confidential.

- **Nutritional task force:** Provides assistance in obtaining groceries, pharmacy pickup/delivery, or links to online delivery services. This group is also supporting FOCUS Detroit by packing lunches for children and local food pantries through donations. (see the section "How can I help" for more information)
- **Social Outreach task force:** Provides a friendly voice to chat and can provide emotional support during this unusual time.
- **Financial task force:** Provides financial assistance for bills, groceries and other monthly expenses. In addition, provides assistance navigating the myriad of government programs available. What is available?
 - A recap of the CARES Act tax relief bill is available.
 - Stimulus payments and what to do if you are not required to file or have not filed your income tax returns for 2019 or 2018, information can be found on irs.gov/Covid19.
 - Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans and other funding resources available for small business owners, contract employees and the otherwise self-employed individual from the Small Business Administration (SBA), information can be found at SBA.gov/ppp.
- **Masks:** In addition to the task forces, we are also making masks.

How can I help?

If you would like to join us in our call to action, we welcome everyone! Here are some ways to get involved:

- **Donate food to local food pantries virtually through Amazon by ordering and sending items from their wish list.**
 - Open Hands food pantry wish list
https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/2XQWHB081ZXEW/ref=cm_sw_em_r_z_g_wb
 - Lighthouse of Oakland County wish list
<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/313DFQNBJPQ90?type=wishlist&filter=all&sort=priority&viewType=list>
- **Pack brown bag lunches for children for FOCUS Detroit.**
 - We are teaming up with FOCUS Detroit to pack approximately 120 lunches for a couple weekends in May. Please let us know if you would like to pack some lunches from your home and we will coordinate delivery.
- **Do you sew, knit or crochet blankets or have cotton fabric?**
 - We are looking for people to help make masks and prayer blankets.
 - We are also in need of cotton fabric for masks.
- **We are accepting monetary donations that will support all of these initiatives. Donations can be mailed to the Church office, attention Philoptochos or made online at <http://www.stnicholastroy.org/> using the Donate button and selecting 16-Philoptochos for payment code.**