

**EPIPHANY CELEBRATION  
2011  
CROSS DIVER'S PACKET**



**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:  
Monday, November 8, 2010**

**Submit at the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox  
Cathedral Administrative Office @ 17 East Tarpon  
Ave 4pm**

**OR officially postmarked by this date**



# ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ  
REV. FR. MICHAEL EACCARINO, PROTOPRESBYTER

## Submission Checklist

- 3 page Application**
- Respective Priest's signature on page 2 of the application**
- Essay**
- Notarized release form**
- Birth certificate**
- Baptismal certificate**
- Diver's photo**
- \$50.00 refundable deposit**



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## NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS AND CROSS DIVERS

### Re: 2011 Epiphany Celebration Protocol

As you know, Epiphany is right around the corner and the preparations for this glorious event are being finalized. This year, as in the past, the dinghy owners have been very gracious in allowing the use of their dinghies for the cross-diving celebration.

Within days that followed the conclusion of the Epiphany festivities, the cross divers would help return boats back to their owners and return the clergy platform back to the Cathedral. However, over the last few years there has been a lack of support by the cross divers in timely returning the dinghies to their rightful owners. As a result of this lack of support, several dinghy owners are reluctant, and some have refused, to allow the use of their dinghy. This jeopardizes our ability to use the dinghies for future Epiphany events.

Therefore, all divers are required to provide a **\$50.00 REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT** with their application to the Cathedral before they participate as a cross diver. Checks are to be made out to "St. Nicholas Cathedral".

On Saturday, **JANUARY 8, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.**, all divers are required to meet at the Cathedral to help the Epiphany Committee return the dinghies to their rightful owners. **All cross divers who help will have their deposits returned.** Failure to help will result in a forfeiture of their deposit. All forfeited deposits will be donated to the Cathedral.

Please understand that the Cathedral is **NOT** charging divers to participate in Epiphany, however due to previous experiences with the lack of support, we find it necessary to take this action.

## 2011 Epiphany Participants Rules

Participants in the Epiphany events – Holy Cross retrieval – must adhere to the following rules:

### 1. TO BE ELIGIBLE:

- a. Must be a male baptized in the Greek Orthodox Church and a current member in good standing of one of the following local Parishes: Tarpon Springs, Clearwater, Tampa, New Port Richey, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Palm Harbor, Winter Haven, Brooksville, or Lecanto.
- b. Must be 16 to 18 years of age.
- c. If participant is 18 years of age, you must also individually be a member in good standing according to the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese.
- d. If married, marriage must have been blessed in a Greek Orthodox Church.
- e. All previous Cross retrievers are not eligible to participate.

### 2. REQUIREMENTS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS

- a. A letter from the Parish Priest (Parish Secretary) stating that diver and parents are members in good standing is required if a member of a church other than St. Nicholas Cathedral
- b. A copy of Birth Certificate and Baptism Certificate must be provided.
- c. **Must return properly signed copies of the Epiphany Diver Application, Contestant Certification, Release, Essay and copy of birth and Baptismal certificate to the St. Nicholas Cathedral administrative office no later than Monday, November 8th, 2010 or postmarked by this date.**

**NO EXCEPTIONS!**

- d. **APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE BOTH DIVER'S AND PARENT'S SIGNATURES.**
- e. **Must attend the divers' meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm and Sr. GOYA Faith Enrichment from 7pm to 8pm on Wednesday nights in Conference Room #1 at the Pappas Gym in order to participate. Talks begin on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Please NOTE: If you are a member of one of the other Greek Orthodox Churches in the Tampa Bay area you are welcome but not required to attend the GOYA Faith Enrichment on Wednesday nights. You are to attend the Catechetical Ministry as provided by your local parish.**
- f. Must attend the Divine Liturgy of Epiphany and prepare to receive Holy Communion. Reserved seating will be available for all Divers.
- g. Must participate in the Holy Procession from the Cathedral to Spring Bayou and Return to the

Cathedral after the Cross Diving Ceremony.

- h. Must participate in the traditional singing of “In Jordan” with the Cross retriever. (Music will be distributed at the divers’ religious orientation meeting.)
- i. Each diver will be required to provide a \$50.00 deposit. All divers are required to assist in the pick-up and delivery of the Epiphany dinghies. At such time the dinghies are returned the deposit will be returned. Your failure to assist will result in the forfeiture of the deposit. Forfeited deposits will become donations to St. Nicholas. No diver will be denied for the diver’s inability to pay. If this is the case, please contact the Cathedral office.
- j. Must establish a “Buddy System” with one or more other divers before diving ceremony.
- k. Must wear white tennis shoes and a dark swim suit during the Holy Procession. (No Speedo-type bathing suit.)

### 3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS:

- a. Must exercise Christian principles of fair play at all times as discussed at orientation. No profanity will be tolerated.
- b. Must assist the Epiphany Glendi Committee in setting up for the Glendi.
- c. All participants must wear the official Epiphany diver’s T-shirt assigned to them during all events of January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Must abide by all Participant Rules and oral instructions given by the Epiphany Events Chairman and Directors.
- e. Must be courteous and articulate when addressing observers and members of the news media during picture taking and interviews.

### 3. MANDATORY LOGISTICS MEETING FOR EPIPHANY CROSS DIVERS:

**MUST ATTEND**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 11:00am to 12:30 pm**

**Please note: If there are any special circumstances that hinder your participation in this event and you would like special consideration please submit it in writing to the 2011 Epiphany Celebration Review Committee as soon as you receive this packet. The request can be mailed to**

**St. Nicholas 2011 Epiphany Celebration Committee  
Attention: Application and Review Sub-Committee  
17 East Tarpon Ave.  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689**

**Or it may be delivered in person between the hours of 10am and 4pm  
Monday – Friday.**

**2011 EPIPHANY DIVER APPLICATION**

**(APPLICATION DEADLINE: [Monday, November 8th, 2010 4pm](#))**

**Please Print:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home Phone:** (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell phone of Diver** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell phone of parent** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date & Place of Birth (provide copy of birth certificate):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Person to contact in case of emergency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**School Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Church & Date of your Baptism (provide copy of baptism certificate):**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Church you regularly attend:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where located?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Have you participated as an Epiphany Diver before?** \_\_\_\_\_

**If yes, what year(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**List any hobbies and extra curricular activities:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contestant Certification (ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED honestly. The answers will be kept Confidential).**

1. Are you a good swimmer? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_.

If yes, please list ALL offenses. Use separate sheet if necessary.

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3. Are you currently taking any medications? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please list:  
\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Are you allergic to any medications? \_\_\_\_\_ if yes, please list:  
\_\_\_\_\_.

8. Is your family a Member in Good Standing of your Parish? \_\_\_\_\_. If yes, please attach a **Certificate of Good Standing from the Parish Secretary for churches other than St. Nicholas Cathedral.**

9. Photo ID. (i.e.) driver's license required to show local full time residency.

10. Do you believe that the Orthodox Church is the one, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have truthfully completed the Epiphany Diver Application and have read the rules of participation and agree to abide by them. I acknowledge that the completion of this application does NOT automatically ensure my eligibility to participate as an Epiphany Diver. I accept and understand that the Epiphany Divers' Committee will review all applications, and all decisions regarding eligibility made by the committee are final. I understand that all applications must be signed and received at the St. Nicholas Cathedral Office **by 4:00 p.m., on Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> or be postmarked by this date.** **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED!**

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parish Priest: \_\_\_\_\_

## Epiphany Essay Requirements

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**An essay of approximately 300-500 words must be completed as part of the qualifications to be an Epiphany Diver. Your essay should be typed using Times New Roman in 12 font and double-spaced.**

Using your own thoughts and understandings, please respond to the following questions:

- a. What does Epiphany mean to you and how does the presence of God in our midst relate to your own life?
- b. Considering what Epiphany means to you in your life, why have you chosen to dive for the Cross?
- c. In diving for the Cross, do you consider yourself privileged to dive and if you do, why?

**Please Note: When preparing to complete your essay, please be sure to proof your work and spell check prior to turning it in. Please be sure to adhere to the deadline and turn your essay in with your application.**



## **2011 Epiphany Diver's Dance Photo Request**

**At the 2011 Epiphany Diver's Dance, a slide show will be done showing each diver's photo. This will enable everyone to put a face to a name. Please submit a photo of yourself along with your application. Make sure this photo is appropriate for the slide show.**

You may either:

- A. Put the photo on a CD and label it with your name
- B. Attach the photo, with a paper clip, to your application (or)
- C. Email the picture

If you decide to attach your photo to your application, DO NOT staple it. Please paper clip it with your name on the back and make sure that you have another copy because there is no guarantee that we can return your photo. Include a brief, typed paragraph, add your age, school, future goals (future educational goals, career goals, anything important to you concerning your future), something special about you, or anything you would like to share with the community.

The deadline for the photo is also November 8, 2010. Any questions please contact Alex Artzner at (727) 409-0516 or send email to [artzner19@hotmail.com](mailto:artzner19@hotmail.com). Be sure to put "Epiphany Picture" as the subject of the email.

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

**COVENANT FOR METROPOLIS EVENTS**

Parish City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- I am an Orthodox Christian and attend Church regularly
- I am active in GOYA and/or Catechetical School
- I understand that it is a privilege to be a participant of this event and will represent myself in a Christ-like manner.
- I will participate in all activities during the weekend and remain with my group and be on time.
- I will respect all property including housing, athletics, outdoor, and indoor facilities.
- I will be held personally responsible for my actions.
- I will refrain from using obscenities and using alcohol and illegal drug during the event.
- I understand that if my behavior is not becoming of an Orthodox Christian, I will be asked to leave the event at my expense.
- I will do everything possible to ensure that all games are being played in a Christian manner.
- I will respect others, all adults, Priests, advisors and myself.
- I have read the accompanying rules and will follow them.
- I understand that failure to comply with the covenant and all rules will result in expulsion from this and future events!
- I have participated in: \_\_\_Advent Retreat \_\_\_Lenten Retreat \_\_\_St. Stephens Summer camp \_\_\_Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival this past year:

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Have you ever been asked to leave a parish or Metropolis-sponsored event for disciplinary reasons? \_\_\_No \_\_\_Yes:*

*Please explain:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I agree to this covenant and hereby certify that the above-mentioned information is true and correct.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of GOYAN Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of PARENT Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of PARISH PRIEST Date