

EPIPHANY 2010 CROSS DIVER'S PACKET



**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Monday, November 30, 2009**

**May be handed into St. Nicholas Greek
Orthodox Cathedral Administrative Office
OR
officially postmarked by this date**

NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS AND CROSS DIVERS

Re: 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 9, 2010**, 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.

EPIPHANY DIVER APPLICATION

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, November 30, 2009.

Please note:

(All application MUST be turned in by November 30, 2009. Please note the date carefully, as applications received after the deadline date will not be accepted.)

Please Print:

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

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

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

_____ Date: _____

Church you regularly attend: _____

Where located? _____

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

Name of Siblings:

Age: _____

Age: _____

Age: _____

Age: _____

Age: _____

Person to contact in case of emergency: _____

Relationship: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

School Attending: _____ Level: _____

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.

3. Do you take, use, or participate in trafficking of illegal drugs?
Yes _____ No _____.
4. Are you currently taking any medications? _____ If yes, please list:
_____.

5. Are you allergic to any medications? _____ if yes, please list:
_____.

6. 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. *Please note: If you are 18 years old, you must also, individually, be a member in good standing according to the Church's Uniform Parish Regulations.*

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

8. 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 on Monday, November 30, 2009 or be officially postmarked by this date. NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED!

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parish Priest: _____ Date: _____

Epiphany Participants Rules

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

1. REQUIREMENTS:

- 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. Letter from 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. Must be 16 to 18 years of age. Copy of Birth Certificate and Baptism Certificate must be provided.
- c. If participant is 18 years of age you must also individually be a member in good standing according to the Church's Uniform Parish Regulations.
- d. If married, marriage must have been blessed in a Greek Orthodox Church.
- e. Must attend all divers' meetings in order to participate.
- f. Must register and attend your Parish Catechetical "Sunday School" program. A letter from your Parish Priest verifying your registration and attendance in your catechetical program is required.
- g. Must establish a "Buddy System" with one or more other divers before diving ceremony.
- h. Must wear white tennis shoes and a dark swimsuit during the Holy Procession. (No Speedo-type bathing suit.)
- i. Must participate in the Holy Procession from the Cathedral to Spring Bayou and Return to the Cathedral after the Cross Diving Ceremony.
- j. Must participate in the traditional singing of "In Jordan" with the Cross retriever. (Music will be distributed at the divers' religious orientation meeting.)
- k. Previous Cross retrievers are not eligible to participate.
- l. **APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE BOTH DIVER'S AND PARENTS' SIGNATURES.**

2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS:

- a. Must abide by all Participant Rules and oral instructions given by the Epiphany Events Chairman and Directors.

- 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 6th.
- d. Must exercise Christian principles of fair play at all times.
- e. At all times must be courteous and articulate with observers and members of the news media during picture taking and interviews. Profanity or inappropriate language is not acceptable nor will it be tolerated. Always remember that Epiphany divers represent our Orthodox Faith.
- f. Must be courteous and articulate when addressing observers and members of the news media during picture taking and interviews.
- h. 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 30th, 2009 or postmarked by this date.
NO EXCEPTIONS!
- 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.

3. MANDATORY RELIGIOUS INDOCTRINATION FOR EPIPHANY CROSS DIVERS:

MUST ATTEND AT LEAST ONE SESSION. CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Saturday, December 5th – 10:00a.m. to 11:00 a.m., at
St. Nicholas Cathedral

Saturday, December 12th – 4:00p.m. to 5:00p.m., at
St. Nicholas Cathedral

Also, there will be a mandatory meeting for all divers on Saturday, January 2nd.
Time and location to be announced

2010 Epiphany Diver's Dance Photo Request

At the 2010 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 30, 2009. Any questions, please contact Alex Artzner at (727) 430-0012 or send email to artzner19@hotmail.com. Be sure to put "Epiphany Picture" as the subject of the email.

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.