



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ

REV. FR. MICHAEL EACCARINO, PROTOPRESBYTER

REV. FR. VASILEIOS TSOURLIS, ASSISTANT PRIEST

Official Press Release regarding Epiphany 2012

TARPON SPRINGS, FL (January 10, 2012) – We thank you for covering the Theophany Epiphany Celebration this year. As you know, on January 6th we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus Christ by St. John the Baptist in the River Jordan.

For the first time in our 106 year Epiphany history, four young men will be named as the 2012 cross retrievers.

All the young men who participated but specifically four of the youth have blessings for persevering and in some form “retrieved” the Holy Cross. Miros Petru, Louis Mailisand, Jared Alissandratos and Alexi Lake are all recognized as Epiphany Cross Retrievers 2012.

Miros Petru and Louis Mailisand are 17 year old cousins that attend Tarpon Springs High School. Jared Alissandratos is 16 years old also attending Tarpon Springs High School. Alexi Lake is 16 years old and attends Gulf High School.

We do not want everyone to think we investigated all these films and pictures. This isn't a court of law. We took what we saw, what everyone saw, what people shared with us. We made the decision in consensus at the direction of our spiritual leader, our Archbishop, that this would be the best way to honor the boys.

Please keep in mind, the true meaning of Theophany is not about ‘who got the cross’. The dive for the cross recreates the baptism of Jesus Christ. The dive is a culmination of church services commemorating this glorious occurrence in our faith.

We look forward to next year's celebration, God willing.

Rev. Fr. Michael Eaccarino, Protopresbyter