



## Nicholas George Harbatis

April 30, 1926 - March 7, 2016

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Father Nicholas George Harbatis, age 89, of St. Johns, passed away peacefully on March 7, 2016 with his family by his side. It was exactly 67 years to the day of his ordination as a Priest. He was born and grew up in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. He studied Theology at Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Mass, and after his graduation he stayed on and served as the school's choir director. He later received a BS in Education from Wayne State University. He met his wife to be, Mary Mamangakis at a Cretan Dance and the two were married on January 23, 1949. Shortly after, Nicholas was ordained as a Priest in the Greek Orthodox Church. The couple settled in Woburn, Mass, where Father Nick was first assigned to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. Father Nick moved to new assignments in many different places including: Detroit, Tampa, Miami, and Astoria, New York, and started the Greek Orthodox Metropolis Summer Camp in Rose City, Michigan. However, he spent most of his career at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Detroit, where he served for more than 32 years, retiring in 1999. He stayed busy in his retirement with interim assignments in Chattanooga and Nashville, and substituting in other area parishes when called on by the Archbishop. He had been a resident of St. Johns since 2012. Father Nick was a dedicated Priest, a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Mary Harbatis. He is survived by a daughter, Donna

Bacon and her husband Dr. William Bacon of St. Johns; a son, Chris Harbatis and his wife Rosann of Montverde, FL; grandchildren, Jesse Bacon, Dr. Louise Bacon, Jonathan Bacon, Nicholas Bacon & Kimberly Gunning, and great grandchildren, Ajani, Kaleb, Sotiri, & Amina. Funeral services will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, with the Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church with Metropolitan Alexios, Bishop Dimitrios, and Father Nick Luoh officiating. Interment will follow at San Lorenzo Cemetery. A visitation will be held from 6 to 7 pm on Tuesday at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, donations in Father Nick's memory can be made to: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 2940 County Road 214, St Augustine, FL 32084, The Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp, or The St. Nicholas Scholarship Fund at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 760 W Wattles Rd, Troy, MI, 48098. St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

FN

“ Dear Donna & family, On behalf of the entire Nicholson family, please accept our most heartfelt sympathies of the passing of your sweet father. He was truly one of our favorite people and the best and dearest friend to our dad. I can hardly think of Father Nick without thinking of our dad and how connected they were in spirit, life and friendship. His legacy will live on indefinitely. Eternal be his memory. With love and warmest regards, Connie Nicholson and family.

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**Family of Connie Nicholson** - March 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Sincere condolences to the family, friends and parishioners of Fr. Nick. He was a beloved pastor at St. Nick in Detroit and Troy. He conducted our brother Nicks funeral service, married our daughter at St. Nick in Troy and chrismated Joyce at St. Andrew in Florida. Anthony had many fond memories of Fr. Nick including: his role as a modern-day model of a Greek Orthodox priest in America; being dynamic, and highly involved in the family and social life in the U.S. rather than an old-fashioned, old country cleric; highly authentic priest who, at the same time, was street smart and able to relate to everyone whatever their socioeconomic level; facilitating Joyces chrismation was a seminal moment in the spiritual growth and progression of our family. Indeed, his memory shall be eternal.

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**Drs. Anthony and Joyce Kales** - March 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ I am very sorry to hear of the loss of your father. He was a very caring, and dedicated person, both in his professional life, but especially his personal one; he was an amazing man! I won't pretend to know what you're going through, but what has helped me deal with the loss of those I love is turning to the Scriptures, something that has been a real source of comfort. One Scripture that gives me hope is John 11:25, which says, " Jesus said to...: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life." I hope that this verse will also comfort you and, I hope you and your family can get through this difficult time. Please accept my condolences for the loss of your beloved father, grandpa and friend. Sincerely, Meryl

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**Meryl** - March 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM