

CHECKLIST BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

You must have each line Completed and Checked before submitting your Application. The application will be returned if not completed.

Please use this Checklist as the Cover Sheet when you submit your application.

- ___ Completed Application (All questions answered)
- ___ Application Signed by Applicant, Parent(s)/Guardian, & Priest
- ___ Letter or Certificate of Good Standing in your Church from Parish Priest
- ___ Verification for Birth and Baptismal Certificates will be signed by Parish Priest
- ___ Signed Waiver Form (Waiver is attached separately-check with your church liaison)
- ___ Photo ID
- ___ 300 to 500 Word Essay and Video on Epiphany
- ___ Invite all Parents to all Divers' meetings
- ___ Signature of your Church Epiphany liaison
- ___ \$50 Refundable Deposit (To assure Dinghies are returned)
- ___ *Remember that paperwork completed last year and given to the Church office, was shredded after Epiphany. Therefore, you need to complete all paper work you completed previously, because it will need to be done again for this year. The letter of Good Standing will be printed for you. Be sure this is done in a timely manner, **prior** to the deadline date.

2018 TARPON SPRINGS EPIPHANY DIVE APPLICATION

*Application – accompanied by \$50.00 refundable application fee – must be received at the St. Nicholas office by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 1, 2017**. All information must be completely filled in, **written neatly and printed**.*

Name: _____ **Age as of Jan. 6, 2018** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone numbers (include area code):

Home: _____ **Diver cell:** _____

Parent cell: _____ **Email Address:** _____

alt email address: _____

Date & Place of Birth (include copy of birth certificate): _____

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

Emergency contact if different from parent/guardian: _____

Relationship to diver: _____ **Phone:** _____

School Attending: _____ **Grade:** _____

Parish family is steward of (must include Letter of Good Standing from parish):

Please tell us how you participate in the life of your local parish (use separate sheet if needed):

DIVER CERTIFICATION

All questions must be answered truthfully. Submitted information will be kept strictly confidential

1. Do you consider yourself good swimmer? ____ List all swimming accomplishment and training (Use separate sheet if needed) _____
2. Have you been arrested or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor? ____ if yes, please list all offenses. (Use separate sheet if needed): _____
3. Are you currently having health/medication concerns that might affect your safety when diving? If yes, please list (use separate sheet if needed): _____
4. Are you allergic to any medications? If Yes ____ please list (use separate sheet if needed): _____
5. State Photo ID is required as proof of local, full time residency (please include copy).
6. Previously been an Epiphany diver? _____. If yes, which years: _____.
7. Divers must submit a 300 to 500-word essay, in English. It must be typed, using a 12 font, such as *Times New Roman*. Be sure to omit names of family members, acquaintances or other identifying information in the essay. *This year, divers will also create a 4 to 5-minute video expressing the thoughts in their essay.* The essay and video should explain the diver’s thoughts and perspectives of the following:

His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios, blessed the waters and the divers last year with this loving prayer:

Through Wisdom of You, the All Mighty God, our Creator, we pray to You, Who sanctified the waters and Who sanctifies our lives, to give Your special blessings to these young men who have readied themselves through prayer and proper preparation, to retrieve the victorious symbols of Your most precious and Life-Giving Cross from these waters. Guide them always that they may prove to be worthy examples to their peers, their family and all the members of this community, through their faith they demonstrate in You, and through the love they demonstrate toward others.

As you read this prayer, and prepare to participate in Epiphany as divers, how do you identify yourself as a member of our Orthodox faith,

IMPORTANT – Please read and sign the following:

I, _____, have truthfully completed this Application and have read the rules of participation and agree to abide by them. I acknowledge that completion of this application does not ensure my eligibility to participate as an Epiphany Diver. I accept and understand that the Epiphany Divers’ Committee will review all applications, and that all decisions regarding eligibility made by the committee are final. I understand that applications must be signed and received at the St. Nicholas Cathedral Office by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 1, 2017 and that applications will not be accepted after this deadline. I furthermore understand that a refundable deposit of fifty dollars (\$50.00) is required and that any misrepresentation or failure to follow the rules and regulations will result in disqualification and forfeiture of the deposit.

Applicant Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Signature of Parish Priest: _____

2018 EPIPHANY DIVERS RULES

(Please retain these rules for you to refer to. DO NOT return with your application)

Participants in the Epiphany events/retrieval of the Cross-must adhere to the following rules:

1. TO BE ELIGIBLE:

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

2. REQUIREMENTS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS:

- a. A letter signed by the Parish Priest, stating that diver and parents are members in good standing is required of all divers.
- b. Copy of Birth and Baptismal Certificates (or official transcripts) must be provided.
- c. Application MUST be returned with properly signed copies of:
 1. Epiphany Diver Application
 2. Diver Certification
 3. Waiver
 4. Essay
 5. This application MUST be returned to the St. Nicholas Cathedral office no later than **Friday, December 1, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.** There will be no exceptions for any reason – hardship or otherwise.
- d. Application must include both diver and parent(s)/guardian(s) signatures.
- e. Diver must be an active participant of their respective parish.
- f. All divers and/or their families are to be active STEWARDS – along with being frequent and active communicants of their parishes.
- g. All divers must attend the Divine Liturgy of Epiphany, January 6, 2018. Reserved seating will be available for all Divers on the Solea on Epiphany morning. All divers should prepare for and receive the Eucharist at their home parish on January 3, 2018.
- h. Divers must participate in the Holy Procession from the Cathedral to Spring Bayou and return to the Cathedral, following the Cross-Diving Ceremony.
- i. Divers must participate in the traditional singing of “In Jordan” with the Cross retriever. (Hymn will be distributed at the Divers’ religious ed. class.)
- j. All Divers are required to assist in the pick-up on Dec 31st and return delivery of Epiphany dinghies on Jan. 8th. Sat.
- k. All Divers must establish a “Buddy System” with one or more other divers before the diving ceremony.
- l. All Divers must wear dark swim trunks (no Speedo-type briefs).
- m. Divers asked to participate at the Blessing of the Fleet at the Sponge Docks on January 5, 2018.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS.

- a. All must exercise Orthodox Christian principle of fair play at all times. There will be zero tolerance for profanity and/or “trash talking”.
- b. Must assist the Epiphany Glendi Committee in setting up for the Glendi.
- c. All must wear the official Epiphany Divers T-Shirt provided for them during all events of January 6th.
- d. All must abide by all Divers’ Rules and oral instructions given by Epiphany Events Chairman and Directors.
- e. All must be courteous and articulate when addressing observers and members of the news media, during picture taking and interviews.
- f. All divers are required to assist in the pick-up and delivery of the Epiphany dinghies.

4. Epiphany Cross divers must attend a mandatory Orientation meeting that will take place in the St. Nicholas Cathedral on Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

Please note that if there are any special circumstances that hinder your participation in this event and you would like special consideration, please submit your request, in writing, to the 2018 Epiphany Review Committee, as soon as you receive this packet. This request can be mailed to:

St. Nicholas 2017/2018 Epiphany Celebration Committee
Attention: Application and Review Sub-Committee
17 East Tarpon Ave., Tarpon Springs, Fl. 34689

You may also deliver written concerns in person to the above address on weekdays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 pm. We look forward to your participation.

The 2018 Epiphany Committee