DO NOT DEPERSONALIZE CHRISTMAS

IN THE NATIVITY NARRATIVE of Saint Matthew, we are introduced to the Magi (Wise Men), who studied the stars and came from the East to Jerusalem. If we are willing to reflect for a moment, I think that we can catch glimpses of ourselves in the journey of these men. In a deep sense, they reflect the many dimensions of our own individual journeys of faith. If we do not make our personal journey to be present with the Christ child and offer our gifts to Him, how can we know the true meaning of Christmas?

“The story of the birth of Christ and its true significance is often clouded by the commercialism of the season. There is a very frenzied pace to these days which can so easily depersonalize us and dampen the true joy of the season. The stores tempt us for weeks on end to buy this thing or buy that thing. Some of us prefer to speak of the ‘Holiday Season’ rather than of Christmas. Many schools have forbidden the remembrance of Christ’s birth in the classroom. Yes, throughout our society, many fail to remember that the birth of Christ is truly at the heart of the Christmas celebrations.

What can we do? Let us remember that the season celebrates the love of God revealed in the coming of Christ. For those with faith, the colored lights, the green trees, the wreaths, and the flowers are the symbols of the joy of Christmas. Let us celebrate the joy of Christ’s coming!

Let us share the love of God with others. Christ has come to bear witness to our Father’s love for us. We too can share this love with others, especially with the poor and less fortunate among us. We can be sensitive to those who cannot easily celebrate because of a loss in their lives. Let us be the ambassadors of God who share His care and philanthropy.

Let us seek the Lord with an open heart as the shepherds and Wise Men did. This means that we find opportunities for prayer and meditation, for reading the Scriptures related to Christ’s coming. This means that we can make Christmas a special day by participating in the Divine Liturgy and by receiving Holy Communion with reverence for God, with faith and with love” (Fr. Thomas FitzGerald).

We will have the opportunity to personalize Christmas by donating coats for several homeless shelters through the Philoptocos’ and Daughters of Penelope’s winter philanthropy project. We will put together hygiene kits for Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter (every organization of the church has been asked to donate to this project). We will collect diapers for needy mothers with infants on December 7. We will “Feed and Clothe the Homeless in DC” through GOYA’s yearly project (put the bags together on December 23 and distribute them in DC before liturgy on Christmas morning). We will give three baskets from the Greek School PTA to needy families.

In this same way, that star calls each of us, as it did the Magi, to begin a life-long journey to meet Jesus Christ, to acknowledge Him, and make Him a part of our lives. In doing so, however, we need to acknowledge with honesty and forthrightness (Continued on page 15, column 2)
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Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey
Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
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Website Pres. Pauline Pavlakos, Webmaster 703-239-2627 przpauline@stkchurch.com
YAL (Young Adult League) TBD SaintKatherineYAL@stkchurch.com
FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JIM STOUCKER

AS YET ANOTHER YEAR COMES TO A CLOSE, I marvel at how quickly time has passed this year. To be sure, 2014 has been a challenging year in many respects, particularly given the string of seemingly endless maintenance challenges we have experienced this year. It is no surprise our physical plant—which encompasses over 25,000 square feet of interior space on over five acres of land with multiple electrical and mechanical systems, as well as numerous appliances, monitoring devices and utilities—requires continual attention. Over the course of this year, we repaired/replaced major kitchen appliances (ice maker, walk-in refrigerator, and freezer), potholes and resealed/restriped our parking lot, replaced stage curtains, dealt with leaking roofs in the church and Meletis Charuhas Center, sound system failures, broken water mains, failures in multiple other systems such as air conditioning, fire alarm, fire suppression, and elevators. We met these challenges successfully and have also been blessed by the generosity of several parishioners who have graciously donated to these maintenance efforts. We are appreciative and humbled by their generosity. In fact, we remain profoundly grateful to all parishioners of our community who selflessly give of themselves time and again in support of our beloved Church.

Yet in spite of these challenges above, as always, we have much for which to be grateful . . .

Our community enjoys a robust spiritual program. We are blessed by the presence of our Proistamenos Fr. Konstantinos Pavlakos and enriched by our celebrations of the Liturgy and our sacramental life continues to thrive. This year also marked our first opportunity to host Pan-Orthodox Vespers on the Sunday of Orthodoxy—a great blessing and joy to behold. After many years, our prayers were answered and our parish was further blessed to be granted the pastoral assistance of Fr. Panagiotis Hanley.

The overwhelming response (over 300 enthusiastic attendees) to our inaugural Easter Lamb Roast and Picnic after the Agape Service on Easter morning marked the beginning of an exciting new tradition in our parish. Parishioners enjoyed a traditional Greek Easter, including roast lamb on the spit, pastitsio, spanakopita, tiropita, and much more. The food was exceptional and many parishioners who failed to attend have vowed not to miss it next year.

We were again blessed by two extraordinarily successful festivals. Our Spring Festival in June set earnings records and our Fall Festival was also very successful. As always, the key to our success in such events rests with a band of dedicated volunteers. We were also fortunate enough to secure a very special exhibit from the National Hellenic Museum in Chicago featuring the history of the Marathon which was on display during the festival. Visitors and parishioners alike were captivated by the exhibit. Our Hellenic Education Center also took advantage of the opportunity and used the exhibit to educate our children in their culture.

Just last month, in November, our community gathered for another successful annual Dinner Gala and we took great pleasure in honoring our Ladies Philoptocho Society and Dr. John Demakis for their distinctive service to the community.

Ministries are one of the great attributes of our community and new ministries are constantly formed at Saint Katherine. Among the newest is a non-denominational and Christ centered prison ministry. The members come from all walks of life, and emphasize God’s unconditional love, forgiveness, mercy, and salvation that Christ’s death and resurrection bring. Chairman Dennis Garbis has given touching testament about this ministry and how moving it is to witness the acceptance of God’s grace as one seeks forgiveness.

The Byzantio Greek Dance and Cultural Arts program is also a relative new comer in its second year offering Greek folk dance lessons at Saint Katherine to children and adults. Their programs are comprehensive and robust. We have all witnessed great strides in the children’s abilities and eagerly look forward to their future performances. Parishioners Aris and Anna Yortzidis have done a marvelous job and welcome one and all.

As we take stock of our many blessings, we also remain cognizant that our responsibility to maintain and continue to improve our physical plant is ongoing. Future projects include landscaping, resurfacing our Church parking lot, replacing the roof at the base of the Church dome, improving lighting and flooring systems within our Meletis Charuhas Center, acquiring mobile refrigeration units for festival operations, constructing sidewalks and repairing retaining walls around Church, renovating bathrooms in Founders’ Hall and addressing the continuing need for additional storage. Beyond attention to our physical surroundings, we will continue to focus on improving our stewardship and ministries so as to provide all parishioners the maximum opportunity to further participate in the life of our Church.

The end of the year also marks the departure of Maria Wills, Costas Mavromatakis, and Andrea Ballard who have faithfully served on our Parish Council over the past 6 years. I thank all of you for your dedicated service to your Church and our community. You will be missed.

Our job tending to the needs of our community is an ongoing and immensely rewarding ministry. On behalf of our Parish Council, I wish to thank the entire community for your support and for giving us all the opportunity to serve our parish. We wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous, and Healthy New Year! Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Ευτυχές το Νέο Έτος!
JOY (ages 8-12)
JOY WELCOMES ALL CHILDREN AGES 8-12 to join our group. We have many exciting activities planned this year: outings to theater, ice skating, roller skating, and movie nights. If you would like to be on our email list, please email Toula Christou at tmchristou@yahoo.com.

HOPE (ages 7 and under)
IS YOUR CHILD INTERESTED IN JOINING HOPE? The Holy Orthodox Primary Education ministry is an opportunity for children (ages 7 and under) to meet, socialize, and interact with one another. HOPE children will have fun through crafts, games, and special events while learning about their Orthodox faith. On Sunday, December 7, after the second liturgy in Founders’ Hall, the activity will be Christmas Rotations including games and prizes for the children! Please contact Patricia Rader at pagrader@yahoo.com to register.

YAL
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, our YAL will hold a fall retreat, after the Divine Liturgy, in the HEC building. Lunch will be served during the retreat. There is no charge. Please RSVP to Fr. Panagiotis at 571-421-6595 or frphanley@stkchurch.com.

GMU OCF
OCF (ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP) is the official collegiate campus ministry program under the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America. Fr. Costa is the spiritual advisor for OCF at GMU. We will meet on December 10, 3:00pm-5:00pm in room 239H of the Johnson Center. Try to stop by!

GOYA
GOYA HAS CHURCH DUTY on Sunday, December 14 during second liturgy. Vasiliki Topping will serve as GOYA Captain and Epistle Reader. We need five additional volunteers. Please show up no later than 10:25am. Basketball practices are on Sundays, December 7, 14, and 28 following liturgy (boys); Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17 starting at 6:30pm (boys); and Thursdays, December 4, 11, and 18 starting at 6:00pm (girls).

The Byzantino Greek Dance and Cultural Arts Program will be offering Greek folk dance lessons at Saint Katherine on Tuesdays, 6:30pm-7:30pm, for all youth ages 4 and up. The Adult performing group will practice on Sundays from 6:00pm-7:30 pm. Please contact Aris and Anna Yortzidis at greekdancedc@gmail.com for more information or visit the website at www.byzantino.org to download registration forms.
"IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE that we present to the Greek teachers in the United States the Checkpoint B Curriculum for the teaching of Greek as a foreign language, which builds upon and continues the Checkpoint A Curriculum, published in 2012. This endeavor wouldn’t have been possible hadn’t been for the support and encouragement of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America.” (Maria Makedon, Director, Direct Archdiocesan District office of Education)

As with Checkpoint A Curriculum, the Checkpoint B Curriculum is the result of a long and extremely productive collaboration between the Institute of Modern Greek Studies (Manolis Triandaphyllidis Foundation) of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Direct Archdiocesan District office of Education of the Greek Archdiocese of America. This collaboration began in 2008, in the course of the preparation of the annual Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek for Regents credits and has continued growing ever since.

The Curriculum is in adherence with the standards of the New York State Education Department for the teaching of foreign languages (LOTE) as described in the Syllabus: Modern Languages for Communication of the New York State Department of Education. The annual Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek leads to credit acquisition for students who successfully take it.

According to the New York State Education Department, the purpose of foreign language teaching is to enable the students to communicate effectively with speakers of other languages, taking into consideration the “when, how, why, to whom, and what about.” The NYSED sets five general objectives for the teaching of foreign languages, which are specified in the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning: Preparing for the 21st Century. The national standards are fully aligned with the New York State Learning Standards for Languages Other Than English (LOTE) and the Syllabus: Modern Languages for Communication. These five general objectives, known as the Five Cs (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, Communities) are interrelated and describe what students ought to know and be able to do in the foreign language learning. Here are some examples.

Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions; understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics; present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics. For example, students role play the purchasing of clothes, food, etc., correspond with Greek students via mail and email about school, daily routine, their interest, etc., fill out simple forms, such us passport appli-

(Continued on page 15, column 2)
ME ΘΕΟΝΟΣ, ΑΚΕΡΑΙΟΤΗΤΑ ΚΑΙ ΧΑΡΗ ΘΕΟΥ
Σοφία Α. Τσαγκάλη

(Συνέχεια από το προηγούμενο)

BOOK REVIEW
Gregory McKinney

READING THE CHURCH FATHERS—AN APPRECIATION


Christians are quick to urge each other to read the Bible. And so should we, there are harvests beyond measure within. But what can one expect to gain when one invests time and effort in working through the “shoots and branches,” the writings of the faithful men and women of the unified Church of the first thousand years?

If read with an open heart and mind, one sees a structured Body of Christ, an institution spanning centuries, but touching individual lives in each particular moment. One sees ascetics, presbyters, and bishops, first and foremost, who lived and preached their theology as embodiments of the Good Shepherd tending His flock. One finds one’s ancestors in the Faith, two or three of whom will speak to your heart as your closest friends. One stops imposing one’s modern vanities on how the Bible’s words are to be lived out. One sees men and women for whom grace was costly—their lives, their fortunes, their aspirations, their very being was given over to God.

Either Payton or Bettenson can help you find the Father who speaks to you. Both feature short passages quoting a multitude of Church Fathers, from the immediate successors of the Apostles—such as Justin Martyr and Ignatius of Antioch—through Fathers alive during the Third and Fourth Ecumenical Councils—Basil, Gregory of Nyssa, Cyril of Alexandria and Augustine. The majority of Fathers featured are from the Christian East, but the West is well represented by Hilary, Jerome, Augustine, among others. Payton goes further in time, ending in the 8th century with John of Damascus. The readings are coupled with brief introductory biographies that will provide enough context and background for most readers.

One of the most effective parts of Bettenson’s books is his thematic grouping of the excerpts. One can move from Father to Father reading only about “The Person and Work of Christ,” “The Holy Trinity,” “The Eucharist” and so on. This method allows you to see the subtle unfolding of doctrine over the first centuries of the united Church and at the same time the continuity of patristic

(Continued on page 14, column 2)
(Continued on page 15, column 2)
REGISTRY

**Weddings**
Daphne Papamichael
and
Timothy Brian Nichols (November 1)
Koumbara: Tina C. Moshos

Sarah Christine Fiebig
and
Alexander Hercules Georgiades (November 8)
Koumbaros: Jason Christopher Georgiades

Artemis Dimitra Anagnos
and
Joseph Rade Naretto, II (November 15)
Koumbaros: Naoum Elias Anagnos

Congratulations! Na mas zisoun!

**Baptisms**
Alexa Natasha (October 19)
daughter of Gary W. Scott and Eleni N. Boosalis
Godparents: George, Panagiota, and Maria Papas

Achilles Nikolaos (October 19)
son of Nikolaos and Gissel Ploutis
Godparents: Demetrios and Stavroula Kokkinis

Ava Rose (October 25)
daughter of Joseph John and Carolyn Estelle Perez
Godparents: Arthur and Maria Lampros

**Baptisms (cont’d.)**
Leo Dennis (November 22)
son of Andrew and Adriana Jouvanis Scafetta
Godparent: Gabriella Oyer

Katie (Adult) (November 23)
daughter of Daniel and Patricia Chase
Godparent: Christina Vazquez

Nikoletta Christiana (November 23)
daughter of Stavros and Maria Christopoulos
Godmother: Rosa Borroun

Vittoria (November 23)
daughter of Justin and Rosa Borroun
Godparent: Maria Christopoulos

Sofiah Marie (November 28)
daughter of Grant and Alenah Riffle
Godparent: Tino Tsutras

Nicholas Charan (November 29)
son of Subir Jossan and Eleni Maria Boosalis Jossan
Godparents: Maria Papageorgiou and Stacie N. Boosalis

**Funerals**
Ourania Tsakonas Aliferis (October 16)
Marie R. Fumich (November 10)
Paraskevi (Voula) DeSatnick Morlock, (November 14)
Peter Harry Karageorge (November 18)

May their memories be eternal.
OCMC Board Meeting. The semi-annual board meeting of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) took place in Saint Augustine, Florida, November 10-12, 2014. Dr. John Demakis, Chair of the OCMC Health Care Committee, attended. Highlights of the meeting included: 1) The OCMC presently has 18 long-term missionaries in 7 countries around the world and another 12 in training (one of those, Jesse Brandow, recently visited Saint Katherine); 2) Nineteen short-term teams (139 individuals) were sent in 2014 to 9 countries around the world. Our own Mary VanMullekom is one of them, see below; 3) New bylaws were adopted to signify our relationship with the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops (the previous bylaws were adopted under SCOBA).

Kenya Short-Term Missionary. Mary VanMullekom, one of our Saint Katherine parishioners, left for Kenya on Friday, November 12. She will return on November 23. Mary was chosen by the OCMC for a short-term teaching team to Kenya. The Team will minister in Nairobi, the hub of the Orthodox Church of Kenya, to the students of the Makarios III Seminary, the Orthodox Teachers College of Africa and the St. Clement of Alexandria School by leading classes, tutoring students, and teaching the English language, incorporate Biblical and catechetical truths in lessons, and offer conversational experiences with students who desire to learn English from native English speakers. Mary is also taking a gift of $500 from the people of Saint Katherine to the Seminary for their use. Please keep Mary and her team in your prayers. Contributions can be sent to Saint Katherine and put “Project Mexico” in the memo line.

OCMC Announces Short-Term Teams for 2015. The list for the 2015 teams is posted on our Saint Katherine website. There are teaching, youth work, construction, and health care teams. Please prayerfully consider spending 2-3 weeks as a missionary. Our community will support you!

Monumental Mission Walk. On Saturday, November 15, 82 hardy souls participated in our second annual Monumental Mission Walk for Orthodox missions. They represented eight Orthodox churches in the Metropolitan area. At the start of the walk, the temperature was 37 degrees and there was a brisk northwest wind blowing bringing the wind chill to 28 degrees. Our intrepid tour guides led the participants to seven monuments on the National Mall starting with the Washington Monument and finishing with the Jefferson Memorial. At each stop the tour guides discussed the significance of the monument and gave a brief Christian reflection of each monument. We are happy to report that everyone survived and we are busily making plans for the 2015 Monumental Mission Walk. Thanks to all who participated.

Diaper Drive. We will be collecting diapers on Sunday, December 7. Federal food stamps cannot be used to buy diapers, so this is a great help to mothers with infants. Collections will take place in the foyer of our Community Center. Please bring unopened packages of newborn to 6. No pull ups please.

Collection for Food Pantry. Our last food pantry collection on October 19 brought in over 1,200 pounds of food. Congratulations! We will announce the next date shortly.

Project Mexico Orphan Adopted. Our team to Project Mexico in August, led by Fr. Panagiotis, has requested that we adopt a child, Andres, in the St. Innocent Orphanage. You can find a picture of Andres and his needs on our Saint Katherine website page. Please make checks payable to Saint Katherine and put “Project Mexico” in the memo line.

Visit from Fr. Athenagoras, Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Church in Cuba. Fr. Athenagoras, the chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Church in Cuba, will be visiting our parish through December 22 and will give presentations about the Orthodox Church in Cuba. Details forthcoming.

OCMC Benefit Dinner, April 26. Next year, our OCMC benefit dinner will feature Rev. John Chakos who is our long-term missionary in Guatemala. Fr. Chakos had served for many years in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, but now he and his wife are working with the new Orthodox Church in Guatemala. He will share with us the exciting events occurring in Guatemala as hundreds of thousands are converting to Orthodoxy. Learn how the Church is ministering to them. Save the date!

HOMELESS SHELTER

Serving at the Shelter. Our Mission and Outreach Committee will serve dinner at the shelter in December. The exact date will be published in the church weekly bulletin. GOYA will cook for and serve dinner on January 13.

Hygiene and Survival Kits. Items for the Hygiene and Survival Kits were due on November 23. The kits will be collected for Food Pantry. Our last food pantry collection on October 19 brought in over 1,200 pounds of food.

Clothing and Toiletries. New and clean used clothes and toiletries are collected year round for the shelter. Bring items to the foyer of the Meletis Charuhas Center.

The next meeting of the Missions and Outreach Committee will be on Tuesday, December 9, 7:00pm.
DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, from the 5th-28th, films from Greece by contemporary directors will be shown at the National Gallery of Art’s West Building Lecture Hall, and American University’s Maisi Doyle Theater. The list of directors showcased here includes Yorgos Servetas, Penny Panayotopoulou, Yannis Sakaridis, Athanasios Karanikolas, Elina Psykou, and Thanos Anastopoulos.

Due to the financial crisis that started in 2008, funding for arts projects has been hard to come by, and these movies have been made on very small budgets. And it appears that the title of the Greek Weird Wave (this title conferred by the Guardian of London), first given to “Dogtooth” in 2009, may well apply to this selection in regard to the subject of the films and the presentation of a “reality” as a strange form of reality. Some of the descriptions of these movies bring to mind Samuel Beckett's apocalyptic settings and allegorical nuances.

Perhaps the best known film in the group is the one called “Standing Aside, Watching” (Na kathesai kai na koitais) by Yorgos Servetas. It’s the story of a young actress, Antigone, who leaves the big city to go back to her small village. The mere name Antigone is loaded. In Sophocles’ tragedy of the same name, Antigone cannot and does not look the other way.

Another film which has attracted much attention is “The Eternal Return of Antonis Paraskevas” by Elina Psykou; a commentary on fame and identity.

All the information is at nga.gov: then click on calendar to film programs.

APOLYTIKION
OF THE HOLY NATIVITY
Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

KONTAKION
OF THE HOLY NATIVITY
Today, the Virgin bears Him who is transcendent, and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach. Angels, along with shepherds glorify Him. The Magi make their way to Him by a star. For a new child has been born for us, the God before all ages.

(Continued on page 15, column 1)
CHRISTMAS

Bake Sale - December 14th and 21st
9:30AM – 10:00AM & 11:30AM – 12:30PM

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EMAIL________________________________
PHONE NO.__________________________

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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO “LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS” AND MAIL TO:
SAINT KATHERINE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ATTN: LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS
3149 GLEN CARLYN ROAD
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041

TO ORDER, PLEASE EMAIL
LPBAKESALE@YAHOO.COM
OR CALL MARY VARLAS AT
703-965-4161
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>7:30pm Parish Council</td>
<td>6:30pm Grk Folk Dance Adult Greek School 7:00pm Beginners</td>
<td>6:30pm GOYA Boys’ B-ball 8:00pm HEC Basketball</td>
<td>Barbara the Great Martyr 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 6pm GOYA Girls’ B-ball</td>
<td>5:00pm Greek School Adult Greek School 5:00pm Beginners/Conversation Class</td>
<td>Nicholas the Wonder-worker 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Greek School</td>
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**December 2014**

*Eve of the Nativity Christmas Eve 9:30am Orthros and Great Hours 7:00pm Vesperal Liturgy Holy Nativity Christmas Day 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 8:30am GOYA Feeding the Homeless in DC New Year’s Eve*
PHILOPTOCHOS (by Eleni Kanakos, President)

I HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. It’s the season of giving thanks, so it’s only appropriate that I thank Irene Burton and all of the volunteers who made our Seniors’ Thanksgiving Luncheon a wonderful event. I would also like to thank Denise Garbis for the beautiful cake, Irene Kavros for the pies, Ken Kunec for the entertainment, and Ramona Velezis for the beautiful centerpieces. Thank you to Fr. Costa for the presentation on the Saint Nicholas Shrine at the World Trade Center.

Many thanks to Diane Argerson for a beautiful reception for our Saint Katherine’s nameday celebration and to those who so kindly brought finger foods and desserts for all the guests to enjoy.

Thank you to Mary Varlas for a successful Thanksgiving Bake Sale, and all the ladies who helped make this happen.

Our Christmas Luncheon and Fashion Show will be held at the River Bend Country Club in Great Falls on December 14 at 1:00pm (please note the change in date, time, and location). Spouses and friends are welcome. For reservations call, Trish Kapsidelis at 703-356-5906 or Eleni Kanakos at 703-938-8360. Please don’t forget to bring a door price.

Our Christmas Bake Sale is on Sundays, December 14 and 21, after the liturgies. For your orders, contact Mary Varlas at LPbakesale@yahoo.com or 703-965-4161. Please place your orders as soon as possible to ensure you receive your Vasilopites and assorted sweets.

Our next meeting is on January 18 at 12:30pm. Please mark your calendars.

Just a friendly reminder to send in your stewardship if you haven’t already done so.

I hope that you and your families have a wonderful Christmas holiday, and a blessed, healthy, and a Happy New Year!! Looking forward to a successful 2015 for the Ladies of Philoptochos.

WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB

THE SAINT KATHERINE WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB will meet on Wednesday, December 10, from 10:30am-12:00pm. (Please note the change in date.) Contact Marilyn Rouvelas at mrrouvelas@verizon.net or 703-528-0088, if you have any questions.

2014 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

You are invited to participate in the annual Christmas card of our parish. It will be mailed by the Church Office to everyone on our mailing list for only $25. Please send your name, as you wish it to appear in the card, in English or Greek, and a check payable to Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, to the Church Office no later than Monday, December 8. Thank you.

BOOKSTORE

THE 2015 ICON CALENDAR from Conciliar Press is now available. This 11-inch x12-inch full-color wall calendar features icons depicting the parables and miracles of Christ. It also lists major saint and feast days traditionally celebrated in Orthodox countries around the world (dates are according to the new calendar).

Remember to visit Saint Katherine Bookstore after Sunday liturgies for all your Christmas shopping needs. We have Orthodox Christmas cards and ornaments, as well as gift books, special items for children, CDs, and beautiful icons.

Saint Katherine Bookstore is an outreach ministry of Saint Katherine Church. We try to be open most Sundays after each Liturgy. If you need to visit the bookstore during the week, please contact the church secretary, Ms. Sophia Tsangali, at 703-671-1515.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

(by Karen Polizos, President)

HELLE CHAPTER will celebrate the blessings of Christmas at our Christmas dinner on December 14 at The Greek Taverna in McLean. We will not have a monthly chapter meeting in December.

We want to thank everyone who supported our collection of jackets for homeless and abused children and also thank Kathy Cavallo for her tireless dedication to this effort. Jackets can be donated through Sunday, December 7.

The Daughters of Penelope “Project Recognize” seeks to recognize women of Hellenic descent/Philhellenes who have served or are currently serving in any branch, or in any capacity of the military or Peace Corps. These individuals will be recognized at the DOP 85th National Convention in San Francisco in July 2015. Please contact Karen Polizos for more information.

Mark your calendar now for Helle Chapter’s upcoming fundraiser, Mediterranean Night, on Friday evening, February 6. Bring friends and enjoy Greek music, mezethes, and wine tasting.

On behalf of Helle Chapter 283, we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas. Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
COPING WITH GRIEF AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas arrives like a pretty package full of grief triggers: Empty chairs, missing faces, and silent voices seem to haunt the holidays.

**12 Ways of Christmas for the Grieving**

1. Don’t put excessive expectations on yourself. Don’t expect the holidays to be the same.
2. Rest. Cut down the Christmas clutter and just get away from the typical, if possible.
3. Rearrange furniture to reduce “absence” reminders.
4. Avoid sugar highs and lows because they naturally induce emotional lows. Also, steer clear of overeating and under-sleeping. Eat well-balanced diets. Some mood enhancing natural foods include yogurt, kefir, green tea, omega-3 rich foods (i.e., salmon, cod liver oil, etc.), and lower sugar dark chocolate.
5. Admit grief. Trying to move forward while denying the reality of grief causes one to fall face forward. Does your face smile while your heart weeps? Give yourself permission to cry. Jesus wept. Weeping releases excessive tension. Address depression; don’t deny it. Pretending the nonexistence of depression only promotes its growth.
6. Forgive and receive forgiveness through Jesus. Release everything to the Lord, including any so-called regrets about your departed loved one. In Loved by Rebecca St. James, the point of God’s abiding love encourages us: “He [Jesus] is ready to…stand in the gap between you and the pain, and to be your constant companion in the dark hours. He loves you.”
7. Reach out to the more burdened and hang around kids this Christmas. It may not feel easy. It may even feel impossible. Ask Jesus to love through you and get your eyes off problems and on to Him and others.
8. Understand the concept of new normalcy. The onset of new traditions and expectations may seem daunting, but God gave you your previous normal. Ask Him to give grace/hope in the face of the new normal. Let Him lead you to a place where you can relax and let Him beam His light on you.
9. Take a “hands off and hands folded” approach to the holidays. Reduce activity and increase connectivity through prayer and Christian companionship. If you’re isolated, try an online prayer group. Stay in touch with your local church.
10. Face and treat chronic health issues. If you feel sick, everything feels worse.
11. Reclaim your Heavenly purpose on Earth. Ask Jesus to grant supernaturally His grace, hope, love, peace, and comfort this holiday season. Then don’t fight His help. Be open to His opening of doors to cope and hope this holiday season. Just receive Jesus. Ask Jesus to give you a Heavenly perspective on Earth. God holds good things for you! He grants you great purpose for your life hereafter...and here, too. Embrace His grace and seek His face. He’s there. I know. In the face of grief, I’m with Him right now.
12. Remember: Trials don’t indicate a reduction in God’s love for you. He loves you and promises to make things right in the end. Spend time focusing on His unchanging love for you.

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

Holidays include lots of grief for relationships/loved ones that left, forsook, or died. But let’s focus on the essence of Christmas: the present of Jesus’ presence in our lives! Wow, may a relationship with Jesus be our miracle and encouragement this Christmas! “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15) Remember: We must choose to receive the gift of salvation by believing, receiving, and following Jesus. Could you think of anything greater than receiving God for Christmas?

Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church offers a grief support group, GRACE (Grief Recovery: Accepting, Coping, and Evolving). For further information, please call Fr. Costa Pavlakos at 703-671-1515. Thank you to Maria Papageorgiou for contributing articles nearly every month for the last 10 years.
site. A museum will also be built for the projected large influx of visitors that will come to the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church quite close to the original location, on the elevated Liberty Park. The church will again house a worshipping congregation. A museum will also be built for the projected large influx of visitors that will come to the site.

Please visit www.stnicholaswtc.org/video to see several pertinent videos. We would suggest viewing The Reconstruction of St. Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center and Rebuild St. Nicholas (a Be the Bee video).

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH stood across Liberty Street from the World Trade Center in New York City. It was completely destroyed in the September 11 attacks in 2001 when the South Tower collapsed. No one was inside when the church was destroyed. Very little of its contents was ever recovered. Among what was eventually found were the damaged icons of St. Dionysios of Zakynthos and Zoodochos Pege and a handful of miscellaneous religious items. A newspaper report said that before the south tower collapsed, part of the airplane’s landing gear was seen resting atop the church.

The plans for rebuilding the World Trade Center complex include building the new Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church quite close to the original location, on the elevated Liberty Park. The church will again house a worshipping congregation. A museum will also be built for the projected large influx of visitors that will come to the site.

Please visit www.stnicholaswtc.org/video to see several pertinent videos. We would suggest viewing The Reconstruction of St. Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center and Rebuild St. Nicholas (a Be the Bee video).
the difficulty of following Christ. However, as with the Magi, we must undertake the journey knowing of its difficulty.

In the Christian life, discouragement comes in many forms. There is discouragement when it seems our prayers are not answered; when we work with honesty and integrity, but see others, who cut corners, prosper and advance; when we endure personal separation and loss; when we need compassion and affirmation and they are not to be found.

But, through the mystery of faithful obedience, the Magi offered themselves and their gifts to Christ, transcending at that moment the difficulties and discouragements of their journey. Having met Christ they were changed men and went home by another route, symbolizing their confidence and trust in the new direction their lives had taken. This same opportunity is given to each of us every Christmas when the star returns again to shine anew in our hearts.

What shall we offer you, O Christ?
Who for our sake appeared on earth as a human?
Every creature made by you offers you thanksgiving.
The angels offer you a hymn,
The heaven, a star,
The Magi, gifts,
The Shepherds, their wonder,
The earth, its cave,
The wilderness, a manger,
And we offer to you, a Virgin Mother.
(Vespers Hymn)

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with love, health, and happiness, I am

Yours in Christ’s service,
Fr. Costas

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dozen cookies and a part of the prayer chain.

We will be displaying the prayer chain in the Church Hall that was used at the aforementioned weekend. Each chain represents a person who prayed a 30-minute increment of time for the participants. From Thursday, October 16 through Sunday, October the 19, people from various local churches, other states, men from other prisons (who are KAIROS Graduates), and even men who are on “Death Row” were praying for the 42 men.

On Sunday, December 7, there will be a meeting after the second church service to commence our planning to support the up-coming events. In order to assist in these efforts we will be seeking persons to lead the cookie effort and the prayer chain. Additionally, we will discuss the process and training required to become a KAIROS member of the inside team.

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thought with modern Orthodoxy. This grouping is lacking in Payton, who simply proceeds along in rough chronological order. However, with his larger typeface and lack of scholarly footnoting, Payton’s book more comfortable for devotional reading.

James R. Payton, Jr. is Professor of History at Redeemer University College, Ontario. Henry Bettenson (1908–1979) was an Oxford-educated Classical scholar, translator and author.
SHOWN BELOW is a list of families and individuals who participated in the 2014 Saint Katherine Stewardship Program through October 31, 2014. Thank you for responding to the needs of our church. Any questions? Contact Anna Vassilopoulos at 703-671-1515.
MM Klaus Luthardt
MM Allen Lubinsky
Mr Joseph MacKeyra
Mrs Aspasia Makrigiorgos
MM Nikolas Makrigiorgos
MM Peter Malek
Miss Gaye Mallia
Ms Rebecca Malone and
Mr George Raisi
Miss Alexandra Pasha Mantandros
Dr Thomas Mandle
Ms Glykeria Manolis
MM Frank Manno
Dr/Mrs Spiros Manolos
MM George Manoleras
Dr/Mrs John Manolis
Mr Naji Manasour
MM Kevork Marachelian
Dr Joan Markessini
MM Peter Marketsos
MM James Marko
MM Christos Markogiannakis
MM John Markogiannakis
Mrs Anne Masters
Mrs Stasia Matrosakis
Mr Constantinios Matrosakakis
MM Georgios Matrosakakis
MM Aaron McKinney
Mr Gregory McKinney
MM David Menitis
Mr Peter Menits
Dr/Mrs Joseph Michaelowicz
MM Peter Michos
MM Brett Miller
MM Marwan Minas
MM Yannis Miatsis
Mrs Evtokia Mitchell
MM Louis Mitchell
MM Demetris Monis
Mr Scott Money and
Mrs Eleanor Gallianakis
Ms Jane Moore
MM William Moore
Mr Nicholas Moraites
MM George Moraitis
MM Christopher Moran
MM Ralph Morris
MM Robert Morrison
Mr John Moscopoulos
Mr Stylianos Moschou and
Mr Pthrewa Rapti
Mrs Anna Moshe
Mr George Mosho
Ms Gina Mosho
Ms Tina Mosho
MM Nicholas Mpos
Ms Mary Mulekom
MM Kenneth Myers
Mrs Nicholas Myers
Mrs Mtzi Natsios
Maj/Mrs Sean Neagle
Mrs Ema Nettles
MM Veldon Newton
MM Demetrios Nichoalos

MM Harry Nikolakos
Ms Virginia Nicolaidis
MM George Nicopoulous
MMs Clayton Nightingale
Mr Gregory Nightingale
MM Stavros Nikolaidos
MM Nicolas Nitsis
Ms Eugenia Nobes
Dr/Mrs Constantine Nonas
M/R Scott Nuzzum
Mrs Roula Oktay
MM Crystalos Orphanides
Mr Evan Owen and
Dr Joanna Athanasopoulos
Owen
MM Anthony Pagonis
MM Kyrakos Pagonis
Mrs Vanna Panagoulias
MM George Pangaleos
MM Nickolas Panteleos
Mr Chris Papachristou
MM George Papantoniou
Dr/Mrs Alexander Papas
MM Panaitoios Papasavvas
Dr/Mrs George Papastergiou
MM Gus Papathanasiou
MM Dennis Papathanasiopoulos
Ms Athina Papathanasiou
Dr/Dr Chris Pappas
MM Jim Panas
MM Dimitrios Parasevopoulos
MM Haralabos Parasevopoulos
MM Charalambos Pathiatis
MM Christos Passakos
MM Dimitris Patriankos
Ms Alexandra Pattaras
MM Matthew Paulson
Rev/Pres Vassos Pavlakos
MM Pavel Pekarsky
MM Nick Pekats
MM Theodoros Pelekas
Mrs Katherine Pergola
Mrs Kathy Pesavento
MM George Petalas
MM John Petelas
Mrs Eli Petrova
Co/Mrs Daniel Peyer
Mrs Catherine Phras
Dr/Mrs Dean Phass
MM Kyriacos Photiou
Mrs Loiza Pieri
Ms Pezzonou Pree
Mrs Androula Pirklidias
Mr Chris Pirklidias
MM Harry Spanos
Ms Helen J. Spanos
MM John Spanos
Ms Stella Spatopoulos
MM Antonios Spataopoulos
MM Eleftherios Spyrakis
MM Nicholas Spyros
Mrs Rhea Stack
Mrs Vasiliki B. Stafiatos
MM Theofanis Stafiatos
Ms Panorea Stalter
MM Nick Stamates
MM John Stamos
MM Apostolos Stamoulis
Ms Stephanie Stanga
Mrs Helen Stassinios
MM Odyseas Stassinios
MM John Statlis
MM Peter Stathis
MM George Stathopoulos
Dr/Dr William Steeal
MM Stefanou
MM Gerasimos Stelatos
Mr John Stepanchuk
MM Demetrios Stergiou
Mrs Kallopi Sergioulis
Mr/Ks Ken Stewart
MM John Stouffer
MM John Stough
Rev/Mrs Milan Sturgis
MM Tommme Summers
MM Nicholas Superina
MM Gus Stivsi
MM Marcus Talbot
Ms Samantha Tannure
MM Alexander Taouasikis
MM Panagiotis Taouasikis
MM Pierre Tavoularis
MM Ted Theocharou
MM Leonidas Theodotiskagiou
MM Athanasias Theodotopoulos
Mr Pantelis Tefaridas
MM Craig Thomas
MM James Thomas
Mr Robert Thompson
MM Gene Thornton
MM Jackson Toof
Dr/Mrs John Topping
MM Philip Tournazatos
Mr Angelo Toteuk
Mr Thomas Tousi
Dr/Mrs Michael Trahos
Mrs Mary Triandris
Mr George Triconas
Ms Fotini Trikakatis
MM Basil Tripas
Mrs Sophia Tsangali
MM George Tsampakas
Mrs Anna Tsirlebi
Mrs Helen Tsinolius
Mr Tobias Tsoutras
MM Constantine Tzeofalias
MM Themis Tzamarias
MM Vasilios Tzeremes
Mr Nick Tziminis
MM Thomas Vaccarelo
Ms Ann Vaffa
Dr/Mrs Charles Valases
Ms Nikky Valavanis
Mr Peter Varmakis
Col/Mrs Nicholas Varnakakis
Ms Catherine Vangelou
Mr Christopher Vergas
MM Stratis Varlas
Ms Sophia Vassasidis
Hon/Mrs George Varoutos
Mrs Olga Varoutos
MM Constantine Vasilopoulos
MM George Vasilopoulos
MM Stelios Vaskitis
MM Ramon Vazquez
MM George Veletis
MM Stavros Veletis
Col/Mrs James Veletis
Mls Joanna Veltisats
Mr Thomas Veltisats
Mr Plus Veletsats
MM Jason Vines
MM Larry Visos
Ms Tina Vokos
MM Joanis Votlcs
MM Demetris Voulouris
MM Emmanuel Voulakis
MM Sakellarios Voulakis
MM George Vouloptiloi
MM Colin Woll
Mrs Galata Whittamere
Mr Carter Wilson and
Mrs Andrea Gevas
Mr Eric Williams
MM Donald Wills
Mr Keith Wooledge
Mr Jack Wuerker and
Mrs Effie Triarhos
Mr Peter Xerihrer
Mrs Allh Kappas
Mr Panagelos
Pres Athena Yanish
Mr Jason Yialos
MM Theodore Yiannarakis
MM Aris Zarkadoula
MM Enea Zaro
MM Nicholas Zavolas
Ms Alexia Ziantz
Capt Christos Zeppet
Mr John Ziu
Mrs Mary Zaku
MM Nicholas Zangos
MM Elias Zarkadoula
MM Enea Zara
MM Nicholas Zavolas
Ms Alexia Ziantz
Capt Christos Zimp
Mr John Ziu
Mrs Theodora Ziu
MM Athanasios Zuphaz
MM Peter Zuppas
### SUNDAY CHURCH DUTY ROSTER

**December 7, 2014**
- **8:00am**:
  - George Moshos, Captain
  - Jim Stoucker
  - Pierre Tavoularis
  - Maria Vargas
- **9:30am**:
  - Costas Mavromatakis, Captain
  - Andrea Ballard
  - Chris Christou
  - Dr. John Demakis
  - Maria Wills

**December 14, 2014**
- **8:00am**:
  - Maria Vargas, Captain
  - Jim Stoucker
  - Pierre Tavoularis
  - Daphne Vaccarello
- **9:30am**:
  - Peter Karounos, Captain
  - Nick Larigakis
  - Bill Polizos
  - Maria Wills

**December 21, 2014**
- **8:00am**:
  - Artemis Dimopoulos, Captain
  - Chris Christou
  - Nick Larigakis
  - Bill Polizos
- **9:30am**:
  - Bill Porter
  - Pierre Tavoularis
  - Daphne Vaccarello

**December 28, 2014**
- **8:00am**:
  - M. Mavromatakis, Captain
  - Andrea Ballard
  - Dr. John Demakis
  - Costas Mavromatakis
- **9:30am**:
  - George Moshos
  - Jim Stoucker
  - Daphne Vaccarello

**One Liturgy Only**

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**The rich man is not the one who has much, but the one who gives much. For what one gives away, he keeps for all eternity. (Saint John Chrysostom)**

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### 2014 STEWARDSHIP FORM

Stewardship is based on the fact that all that we have and all that we are comes from God. We commit ourselves to stewardship as a way of thanking God for all His blessings—returning to Him a portion of the time, talent, and treasure He has given us. *Good stewardship of time* means we share some of the 168 hours in a week with God and caring for others. *Good stewardship of talent* means we identify our talents and use them to glorify God and help other people. *Good stewardship of treasure* means we give a portion of our income to the Church and other charities. If you have not yet made a stewardship commitment to your church for the year 2014, please take a moment and do so now. It's not too late!

I (my family) pledge(s) $_______ of financial stewardship to Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: __________________________________________________

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