THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS

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 heavens, 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

The persons involved in the story of Christ’s birth were all quite different. Mary and Joseph were humble travelers seeking a place of shelter. The shepherds were simple men of the land tending their flocks. The wise men were wealthy and aristocratic foreigners wandering in a strange land. Yet, each of them shared a common characteristic. They opened their hearts to the actions of the Lord who mysteriously led them to the village of Bethlehem. Each of them permitted God to act in their lives. Mary and Joseph were willing to change their whole life to nurture and protect the child Jesus. The shepherds were willing to hear the words of the angels. The wise men were willing to follow the star. We remember them to this day because they opened their hearts and trusted in the Lord.

The story of the birth of Christ and its true significance are 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 by 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 coming 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 the 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.

(Continued on page 4, column 2)
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ONCE AGAIN, we find ourselves at year’s end and it is only natural to look back and contemplate the year that has passed all too quickly. I’m pleased to report that 2016 has nevertheless been a productive year in many respects and we have continued to be blessed as a community in countless ways. In fact, as I reflect upon these blessings, I’m reminded of the joy a child experiences on Christmas morning...“so many packages...where to begin?” Consider some of the bountiful gifts we enjoy....”

First and foremost, our spiritual program continues to sustain our community. We are blessed and enriched by our celebrations of the Liturgy and the sacramental life of our Church continues to thrive further enabling our community to grow closer to God and to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Our Hellenic Education Center and Catechetical School programs continue to serve our community’s educational needs and we are excited that our Kindergarten is on target to open in September 2017. We also have over 50 ministries that flourish thanks to the hard work and dedication of so many of our parishioners. Our festivals were successful and we were also gratified that our Annual Dinner Gala, paying tribute to such stalwarts of our community as John Agnos and Pierre Tavoularis, was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. On a personal note, I cannot begin to thank so many of you who have willingly helped your Church whenever you are called.

Arguably, a major, and certainly very visible, accomplishment this year has been the renovation of the front entrance to our church. The new steps, sidewalks, and stone walls surrounding the church are nothing short of breathtaking. We also made a number of other significant enhancements or capital improvements during 2016:

- New Point of Sale system enabling credit card purchases and inventory control
- New Doors for our Senior Center opening to a newly poured 25’ x 22’ patio and sidewalk
- New cost effective LED lighting in the sanctuary, parking lot, and on church buildings
- Handicap entrance to Church repaired and re-paved
- New icemaker procured for Chelpon Hall
- A new digital camera system further enhancing our Hellenic Education Center’s security
- New lockers for our preschool
- New state-of-the-art coffee maker significantly enhancing our kitchen operations
- Landscaping programs have begun
- New giving kiosk in the Narthex and revamped website giving page have been launched
- New HVAC unit acquired for Meletis Charuhas Center

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to acknowledge the generosity of benefactors who made several of the above improvements possible. Although we respect their desire for anonymity, their charity and kindness, as well as our sincere gratitude, cannot be overstated.

While we may take a measure of justifiable pride in these and other accomplishments, we also remain cognizant that our responsibility to maintain and continue to improve our physical plant is ongoing. Indeed, we do not lack for future initiatives, including: resurfacing our church parking lot, replacing church speakers, improving flooring systems and renovating bathrooms in our Meletis Charuhas Center, replacing the floor in Chelpon Hall, completing the repair and stone resurfacing of the retaining walls at the rear of the church, replacing the fence along our parking lot, acquiring mobile refrigeration units for festival operations, installing a metal covering to the dome of our church, and applying a new rubber membrane to the flat part of the church roof at the base of the dome. Beyond attention to our physical surroundings, we will continue to focus on providing all parishioners the maximum opportunity to further participate in the life of our Church.

The end of the year also marks the departure of two valuable Parish Council members—Mary Varlas and Bill Polizos, who have faithfully served for two and six years respectively. Mary has made many contributions and Bill has served in an exemplary manner on our Executive Committee and as Parish Council Secretary for the last four years. I thank them both for their dedicated service to our Church and community.

Our job tending to the needs of our community is an ongoing and immensely rewarding ministry that requires everyone’s support...whether that support is realized in the form of your participation in our ministries, or in the form of your stewardship contributions of time, talent and treasure...preferably all of the above.

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!

Your servant in Christ,

President, Parish Council
CATECHETICAL (SUNDAY) SCHOOL

Thank you to the Sunday School families who raised $290 for much-needed snacks at Carlin Springs Elementary School!

Thank you, students, for participating in National Make a Difference Day by writing notes of appreciation and support to our military and to Tina Papamichael for leading this project. What a blessing you are to our community!

Finally, a thank you to George Moratis, his 7th and 8th grade class, and to all who donated kitchen and cleaning supplies for the Bailey’s Crossroads Community Shelter.

On Sunday, December 4, “The Giving Tree” will be set up at the entry of our Sunday School. This year, we will support the Santa’s Helpers program at Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage. Monetary contributions will support their Christmas celebration with food, decorations, gift wrapping, and special Mexican holiday traditions. No amount is too little to show our love at Christmas to orphans around the world.

Sunday, December 4, Rehearsal. We will have our Christmas Pageant rehearsal, with a pizza party after Liturgy!

Sunday, December 11, Pageant. Our Christmas Pageant will take place on Sunday, December 11, 12:00pm-1:30pm in Chelpon (Founders’) Hall, followed by a reception in the Meletis Charuhas Hall.

Sunday, December 18, Youth Church Duty Sunday. Sunday, December 18, is Youth Church Duty Sunday and, after liturgy, we will assemble hygiene and survival kits for Bailey’s Crossroads Community Shelter.

Friday, December 23 and Sunday, December 25. We will help GOYA with their annual Feed and Clothe the Homeless on Christmas Day in DC ministry. Starting at 6:30pm on December 23, we will make sandwiches and pack lunch and gift bags. At 8:00am on Christmas morning, we will meet in the Meletis Charuhas Hall, pack vehicles, and drive into DC to distribute the bags. Come be a part of this gracious opportunity!!

Just as a reminder, there will be no Sunday School classes on December 11, December 25, or January 1. Classes will resume on January 8. And remember, it’s never too late to register your children for Sunday School!

Merry Christmas!!

(Continued from page 1)

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.

I wish one and all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Yours in Christ’s service,

Fr. Costas

GOYA (saint-katherines.org/ministries/groups/goya)

GOYA will have their Christmas Party on December 3, 4:00pm, at the home of Stratis and Niko Bohle.

GOYA will help assemble hygiene and emergency kits for Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter on Sunday, December 11, following Liturgy. (GOYA donates shampoo and conditioner every year.)

Church Youth Duty Sunday is December 18 and Stephanie Vazquez, GOYA 1st Vice President, is the Captain and Epistle Reader. All GOYAns are expected to serve the church that day by serving church duty, singing in the choir, serving in the altar, or praying in the pews. Proceeds from the second tray will be used for our Feed and Clothe the Homeless in DC on Christmas Day ministry.

GOYA will once again Feed and Clothe the Homeless in DC on Christmas Day. We will start at 6:30pm on Friday, December 23, by signing Christmas cards stuffed with McDonald’s gift cards, making sandwiches and filling bags with those cards and sandwiches, and many other items. A list of donors will be in next month’s DOXA. Then, we will meet at 8:00am in the Meletis Charuhas Hall on Christmas morning to pack vehicles, drive into DC, and distribute the bags. We will be back in time for the 10:00am Christmas Liturgy.

Congratulations to our basketball teams! They have represented us well this fall season.

Mark the following dates on your calendars:

Jan 10 Feed the Homeless at Bailey’s Shelter
Jan 15-16 Annual Trip to NYC
Jan 21-22 Saints C&H, Richmond Tournament
Feb 12 GOYA Church Duty
Mar 18 Cosmic Bowling
Apr 22-23 Our Tournament
Apr 23 GOYA Church Duty
Apr 29-30 Saint Demetrios, Baltimore Tournament
May 6-7 Saint Nicholas, Baltimore Tournament
May 13-15 Saints C&H, Annapolis Tournament
July 2-8 Camp Good Shepherd, Hartfield, VA

All teenagers of our community are encouraged to join GOYA. Please email GOYA_St_Katherine@msn.com with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

BOOKSTORE

Looking for ways to reduce the stress of the holiday season? Come shop at Saint Katherine Bookstore and get in the proper Christmas spirit! For the children, we have wonderful mini-books about the Feast of Lights, Orthodox-style advent calendars, and icons of Saint Nicholas. Orthodox activity books full of stickers and scenes to color are also available for young and old alike. Adults can enrich their prayer lives with Nativity readings from Saint John Chrysostom and other church elders. We hope to get coffee grown by our newly baptized Orthodox brothers and sisters in Uganda and Kenya. Stop by and pay us a visit!
Paideia Preschool students learning Greek while playing and celebrating American traditions: Λ=ΛΟΥΛΟΥΔΙ, Ι=ΙΝΔΙΑΝΟΣ, Κ=ΚΟΥΚΟΥΒΑΓΙΑ, Μ=ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗ, Π=ΠΙΑΝΟ, Φ=ΦΙΛΟΙ, Ε=ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ

We like to visit Saint Katherine to pray, receive communion and eat the antidoron! Very tasty...like no other bread! Family Fun Night was very succesful...and fun for younger and older!

Book presentation and book signing by Manos Gavras, author of the book FISTIKIOS. Teacher workshop learning to use new tools such as “Quizlet”.

For information on any HEC program or an open house date, please contact the HEC director at 703-671-7715 or ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com.
I say, therefore, that there is no creature (toad, scorpion, or serpent) so noxious to man as the gods. Let them answer my charge if they can. It may well be that, instead of answering, they’ll strike me mad or leprous or turn me into beast, bird, or tree. But will not all the world then know (and the gods will know it knows) that this is because they have no answer? (p. 250)

If you don’t know Clive Staples Lewis (1998-1963) beyond his popular The Chronicles of Narnia and their movie adaptations, you’re missing out! He was a scholar in English, Medieval, and Renaissance literature and taught at both Oxford and Cambridge. His flair for articulating complex ideas in clear and common language allowed him to reach a vast audience beyond the university. His works (including Mere Christianity, The Four Loves, The Great Divorce, The Screwtape Letters, and Narnia) continue to attract new readers. An intellectual giant, he remains one of history’s most influential Christian apologists. There is a very good Facebook page devoted to him, The Official C.S. Lewis Group.

Till We Have Faces, written in 1956, was Lewis’ last novel, the product of an accomplished story-teller with a mature soul. He masterfully weaves together themes and threads of fables gathered from a lifetime spent mining the riches of Western literature, theology, and myth. The book is ostensibly a retelling of Cupid and Psyche through the eyes and experiences of Psyche’s sister, Orual. Written as her autobiography, Lewis’ novel spans the lives of these two royal sisters. Their father is Trom, the king of Glome, a city-state “to the east” whose patron goddess is Ungit, the local face of Aphrodite. The sisters start their lives as pawns in a castle bereft of a male heir and circumstances to the east whose patron goddess is Ungit, as her autobiography, Lewis’ novel spans the lives of these pawns in a castle bereft of a male heir and circumstances.

In her heart, Orual never abandons the search for Psyche. Her raging voice is the voice of Job from the Old Testament. Once she sees that the Fox’s lessons in reason and virtue cannot light the darkness that swallowed up Psyche, Orual demands answers and wrestles with the higher powers.

This is a grand fable for adults, a story spun for those who question but have not given up on Heaven.
REGISTRY

**Baptisms**
- George (November 5)
  son of Tom Soulos and Yianna Kehaiov
  Godparent: Michael Reisis
- Lillian “Lily” (November 27)
  daughter of Justin and Jena Clarkson Brooks
  Godparent: Joanna Kosmides Edwards

Congratulations!

**Funerals**
- Genevieve Apostolakis (November 10)
- Panagiota (Toula) Tsiolis (November 17)
- George Bilidas (November 21)

May their memory be eternal.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Please join us as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord:

**Friday, December 23**
9:30 am Orthros and Great Hours

**Saturday, December 24**
7:00pm Vesperal Liturgy

**Sunday, December 25**
9:00am Orthros
10:00am Divine Liturgy

Christ is born! Glorify Him!
Χριστός Γεννάται! Δοξάσατε!

WHY SHOULD WE GO TO CHURCH CAMP?

We live in a busy, bustling and modern world where we are constantly kept occupied by a million and one things. Though we have technology to help us through our busy schedules filled with work, school, sports, clubs, etc. instead of making life simpler it seems rather to speed up the pace of our busy lives. Within the maelstrom of this busy lifestyle, of constantly adjusting schedules and racing from one event or place to another to be on time, oftentimes the things that are most important to life are unknowingly pushed to the side. Our Orthodox faith is unconsciously placed on the back burner of life or reserved to one hour on Sunday mornings and other occasional events. We cannot rely on schools to teach our children the faith, but rather we must do it ourselves. As a people of a faith of Holy Tradition and many traditions stemming from our Hellenic heritage, we must be careful and conscious of what we are handing down to the next generation. The term “tradition” simply means to pass down from one generation to the next. The most beautiful, the most precious thing in existence that we can pass to the next generation, the one tradition is most needful, is our faith in Jesus Christ, Who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

One may ask, “How then can we pass on our faith to the next generation? What is the best way to do this?” One simple word—CAMP. It is at camp where our children will be able to encounter the Risen Christ, just as St. Paul encountered Him on the road to Damascus, and to inscribe Him onto the tablets of their hearts (Proverbs 7:4). It is at camp where all the distractions of the world are put aside and where campers can encounter God and learn about Him. Not only through the beauty of nature around them will of camp is centered around Christ and camp where children learn the essentials that faith into their daily lives. And, of make true and lasting friendships, meet blast. Most importantly, it is at camp begin to take ownership of the faith im-through the Holy Sacraments. Camp is our Tradition and educating the next been blessed to have our very own camp summer. Do not miss out on this won-children go to camp and grow in their
Saint Katherine Ladies Philoptochos

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE
December 11th and 18th after Divine Liturgy

☐ DECEMBER 11TH
☐ DECEMBER 18TH

NAME______________________________
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To place your order, please email LPbakesale@yahoo.com; or, call Mary Varlas at 703-965-4161.

❖

Mail checks to:
Saint Katherine Ladies Philoptochos
Attn: Mary Varlas
3149 Glen Carlyn Road
Falls Church, VA 22041

www.PageBorders.net
## DECEMBER 2016

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<td><strong>10th Sunday of Luke Barbara the Great Martyr</strong>&lt;br&gt;9:00am Orthros and Catechetical School&lt;br&gt;10:00am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;Diaper Drive&lt;br&gt;Christmas Pageant Rehearsal</td>
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<td><strong>Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker</strong>&lt;br&gt;9:30am Orthros&lt;br&gt;10:30 am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;5pm Conversational Greek&lt;br&gt;6:30pm Grk Folk Dance&lt;br&gt;7pm Adult Conv. Greek</td>
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<td><strong>7pm Adult Conv. Greek&lt;br&gt;7:00pm Gentle Exercise&lt;br&gt;7:30pm Choir</strong></td>
<td><strong>11:00am Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon and Fashion Show at Army Navy Country Club, Arlington</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Eve of the Nativity Christmas Eve&lt;br&gt;7:00pm Vesperal Liturgy</strong></td>
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<td><strong>25 Holy Nativity Christmas Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;9:00am Orthros&lt;br&gt;10:00am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;8:00am GOYA Feeding the Homeless in DC</td>
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<td><strong>6:30pm GOYA Practice&lt;br&gt;8:30pm HEC Parents Practice</strong></td>
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*Please check the online calendar, [http://saint-katherines.org/calendar](http://saint-katherines.org/calendar), for the most current information.*
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 Barton and all of you who donated food, and all the other volunteers who made our Seniors’ Thanksgiving Luncheon a wonderful event. Many thanks to Diane Argerson and all volunteers for a beautiful reception for our church’s feastday celebration.

Our Christmas Luncheon and Fashion Show will be held on Saturday, December 10, 11:00am-3:00pm at the Army Navy Country Club, 1700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington. Philoptochos will honor Mary Drakoulis for her service to Philoptochos and our community. The ticket price is $50 for adults and $20 for children 12 years old and under. Spouses and friends are welcome. Call Chrysoula Pappas (703-827-5435) or Trish Kapsidelis (703-356-5906) for reservations. The deadline is Thursday, December 1.

Our Christmas Bake Sales are on Sundays, December 11 and 18, following liturgy. Please contact Mary Varlas (703-965-4161 or LPbakesale@yahoo.com) with your orders. (The order form is on page 8 of this newsletter.) The deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 11.

On behalf of our Philoptochos, thank you to all of you who donated jackets this winter for the homeless children.

A special thank you to Presvytera Pauline for designing, printing, and donating the paper for our new Philoptochos directory which was distributed at the Thanksgiving Luncheon. Please contact her with any changes (703-239-2627 or przpauline@stkchurch.com). More directories will be available at meetings.

There will not be a meeting during the month of December. Our next meeting is on Sunday, January 15, 2017 after the Liturgy. 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 very Merry Christmas, and a blessed, healthy, and Happy New Year! We look forward to a successful 2017 for the Ladies of Philoptochos!

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE (by Karen Polizos, President)
Our November Meeting was well attended to warmly welcome Eleni Abatzis, Stella Brackman, Vanna Panagoulia, and Effie Wingate into Helle Chapter. December is a busy month with holiday celebrations, so we will not hold a December chapter meeting. With holiday spirit, Helle Chapter Sisters and guests will gather for a Christmas luncheon on Saturday, December 3, at Cedar Knoll restaurant in Alexandria. We have also been invited to meet DOP Grand President Jan Spanos on December 10, when she is in the DC area attending our sister Hermione Chapter’s Christmas luncheon held at Saint Sophia Cathedral.

Please save the date of Friday, February 10 for our third annual Tastes of the Mediterranean, 7:00pm-10:00pm. Planning is underway and we look forward to another successful event! Proceeds will benefit Fisher House Foundation and other Daughters of Penelope philanthropic efforts.

On behalf of Helle Chapter, we wish you and your families a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

SAINT KATHERINE LIVE!
Did you know that we have a live feed from our church? Relatives and friends from far away can watch a sacrament. If you are sick and cannot make it to a service, you can still participate. Sign in to the church website, saint-katherines.org, and click on the red “Saint Katherine Live!” button in the right-hand column.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW, DECEMBER 10, 11am
Army Navy Country Club, 1700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington
Donation: $50 | Children 12 and Under: $20
Reservation Deadline: December 1
Raffle and Door Prizes | Fashions by Bloomingdales
For reservation information, contact Chrysoula Pappas 703-827-5435 or Trish Kapsidelis 703-356-5905
Mail checks, payable to Saint Katherine Philoptochos, along with your name and contact information to Chrysoula Pappas, 7716 Fallstaff Road, McLean, VA 22102
Hosted by Saint Katherine Philoptochos. All proceeds to benefit Philoptochos charities.
OCMC 2017 Teams Announced. The Orthodox Christian Mission Center has released their list of short-term teams for 2017. There are 17 teams to 6 countries. They include teams for health care, youth work, and teaching. The full list can be found on OCMC.org. Please prayerfully consider joining one of the teams. They are usually 2-3 weeks in duration. Many members of Saint Katherine have served on a team and would be happy to give you more information. Our community has always supported the short-term teams.

OCAMPR. The annual OCAMPR meeting (Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology and Religion) was held at our seminary in Brookline, Massachusetts, November 3-5. The topic was On Pain and Suffering. The presentations were excellent.

The Keynote and Plenary talks, Workshops and Papers (27 total presentations) are posted online at Ancient Faith Radio. Some have a video component which includes the slides from the presentations. You may find the talks posted on http://www.ancientfaith.com/specials/ocampr_2016_on_pain_and_suffering and Ancient Faith’s YouTube channel, https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZxCUWw2kdo14I1R0oaJFsG3zQvvP05X.

Culmore Clinic. The Culmore Clinic celebrated its five-year anniversary on Thursday, November 10. The Culmore Clinic is a free clinic for those without health insurance. It meets in Columbia Baptist Church down the block from Saint Katherine. It cares for 350 patients. Several faith-based groups, including Saint Katherine support the clinic. Fr. Costa is on their Advisory Board and Dr. Demakis is on their Executive Committee. If you would like to make a donation to help care for those without health insurance, please make out your check to Saint Katherine and write “Culmore Clinic” on the memo line.

Diaper Drive, December 4. Our next diaper drive will take place on Sunday, December 4. 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, sizes newborn to 6. No pull-ups, please.

OCMC Annual Benefit Dinner, April 30, 2017. Our annual OCMC Benefit Dinner will be on Sunday, April 30, 2017. Saint Katherine sponsors this fundraising dinner every year. We are proud to announce that our main speaker will be Fr. Martin Ritzi, the Director of the OCMC. We will also have a silent auction featuring items from the many countries that the OCMC has missionaries. More details to follow. Please save the date.

Project Mexico Dates Set, August 16-22. Our group registration for Home Building 2017 has been confirmed for August 16-22 for 10 participants. Please contact Bill or Eleni Porter at beporter1@verizon.net, if you are interested in participating. A non-refundable deposit of $100.00 per participant is due on or before January 31 or our registered spots will be released to those on the waiting list. The balance of $440.00 per participant is due on or before April 30. If our balance is not paid by April 30, our group is at risk for losing its spots to those on the waiting list.

HOMELESS SHELTER

Hygiene and Survival Kits. Each organization of our parish was asked to collect items for the hygiene and survival kits to be distributed to those for whom there is not enough room at Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter during the winter months. The items will be assembled by our Sunday School students on Sunday, December 18 and delivered to the shelter. Thanks to all who have contributed.

Clothing and Toiletries. We continue to collect new and used (clean) clothes and unopened toiletries for the shelter every week. Please bring the items to the foyer of our community center. Thanks to all the families who help transport the items every week.

2016 STEWARDSHIP FORM

If you have not yet fulfilled (or made) a stewardship commitment to your church for the year 2016, please take a moment and do so now.

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

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: ____________________________________________________

Telephone Number: ___________________ Email address: ______________
WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB

The Women’s Book Club will begin careful reading and discussion of a new book, *The Way of a Pilgrim*, on Wednesday, December 14, 10:30 to noon, lower level of the cultural center. Current and new club members welcome!! While we are starting a new book, the book itself is old, a classic work on Orthodox spirituality. This book chronicles the unknown author’s journey in the mid-19th century through Russia and Siberia visiting monasteries and shrines of saints to discover how to “pray without ceasing.” This extraordinary account penetrates to the soul of Eastern Christianity. You will enjoy reading this book and thoughtfully discussing it with others. There are a number of different editions available. The one the book club will use is translated by Olga Savin, with a foreword by Fr. Thomas Hopko. The book may be purchased at Saint Katherine Bookstore online at amazon.com or after liturgy. If you plan to attend, contact Despina Raizes at 2draizes@gmail.com and she will send you discussion questions for the December 14 meeting.

DECEMBER CHURCH DUTY ROSTER

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Names</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 4, 2016</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Chris Euripides, Captain, Rosemary Filou, Bill Polizos, Dr. Jerry Rich</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 11, 2016</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Jim Stoucker, Captain, Rosemary Filou, Peter Karounos, Nick Larigakis</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 18, 2016</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Nick Larigakis, Captain, Peter Karounos, Maria Wills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 25, 2016</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Bill Polizos, Captain, Chris Euripides, Costa Mavromatakis, Mallamo Mavromatakis</td>
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The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438’s 9th annual Christmas ornaments are available for sale during Coffee Hour or by sending requests to antovi@verizon.net or calling 703-929-6110.

DURING THE CHRISTMAS FAST (November 15-December 24), a great saint of the Church is celebrated—Saint Nicholas. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, and is commemorated on December 6. He is also the patron saint of Greece, and the patron saint for students, merchants, and children. Since Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, boats are decorated.

One tradition practiced on the eve of Saint Nicholas’ feast day is for children to leave their shoes outside the front door of their home for Saint Nicholas. In the morning, they find small gifts such as sweets, fruit, toys, and a few coins from him. This symbolizes the great charitable works of this saint. It also commemorates when Saint Nicholas threw gold coins, through the windows of impoverished families, for their daughters’ dowries.

Some gift ideas for children’s shoes are gold coins representing the money he threw into the window of a poor family’s house, something that represents the saint’s devotion to God (a spiritually oriented book, an icon, or prayer rope), something to represent the food he would give to the poor (fruit, nuts, etc.), a toy ship symbolizing the many sailors saved through his prayers.

Another tradition is to do a charitable work or make a donation anonymously, as this is what Saint Nicholas always did. Saint Nicholas models obedience to Christ by feeding the hungry, helping strangers, and caring for prisoners (Matthew 25:35-36).

Join us for Liturgy on Tuesday, December 6, as we celebrate the feast day of Saint Nicholas!
SHOWN BELOW is a list of families and individuals who participated in the 2016 Saint Katherine Stewardship Program through October 31, 2016. Thank you for responding to the needs of our church.

Any questions? Please contact Lori Nelson at lnelson@stkchurch.com or 703-671-1515.

If you have not yet submitted your 2016 pledge, please complete the stewardship form on page 8 and return it to the Church Office as soon as possible.
Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

Thank you for your stewardship of treasure.
Why don’t YOU advertise in the DOXA?
Contact Presvytera Pauline Pavlakos at przpauline@stkchurch.com or 703-239-2627.

Choosing an assisted living community should make you feel good. Aarondale does that and gives you peace of mind!

When you know that someone you care about will be eating well, feeling well, and doing well in every possible way, that’s the day you know true peace of mind. At Aarondale, that’s our goal . . . every single day.

We offer customized levels of care for the evolving needs of today’s senior population, including memory care. No matter what you are looking for, we can meet your needs and exceed your expectations.

Please call us at 703-813-1808 to arrange a tour and let us begin to put your mind at ease.
Dearest Spiritual Children and Fellow Parishioners,

During this joyous festive season, we invite you to participate in the Annual Community Christmas Card of our parish. Our Christmas Card brings us together as a family, expressing prayers and love to all of our brothers and sisters. This service also allows you more time to enjoy the blessings of the Nativity season. Please complete the form below and give it to a church usher or mail it to the Church Office by Sunday, December 12. Write your name(s), in English or Greek, as you would like your listing to appear in the card. This special card will be mailed by the Church Office and your donation is only $25.00. Please make checks payable to “Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church.”

Name: ___________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________________________________________

Looking forward to hearing from you soon, we are,

Sincerely Yours in Our Lord,

Jim Stoucker                                   Rev. Fr. Konstantinos Pavlakos
Parish Council President                       Proistamenos