THERE IS A PERSON who has changed the world from sorrow to joy, that person is Jesus Christ. We refer to Him as the Son of Man, Son of God, Son of the Father, Savior, King, Lord, Son of David, King of Israel, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Jesus Christ, Master, Friend, My Lord My God.

He is both human and divine. The truth of history speaks for itself that one person makes a difference in this world and the world to come. It is important to remember and consider just Whose birth we celebrate on Christmas. Hebrews begins by stating that God had, in earlier times spoken to the fathers by the prophets, but now He had spoken to us by His Son (v.1-2). Concerning His Son:

• He is heir of all things (v.2)
• Through Him, the Father made the ages (v.2), the earth and the heavens (v.10), and all that exists (John 1:3)
• He is the radiance of the Father’s Glory (v.3, 1 Timothy 6:16)
• He is the engraving of the Father’s substance (v.3)
• He brings forth all things by the message of His Power (v.3)
• He sits at the Right Hand of the Majesty on High (v.3)
• In other places, the Son is described as follows regarding His Divinity:
  • He is before all things (Colossians 1:17)
  • In Him all things consisted (Colossians 1:17)

Jesus was born so that we may be restored to our original Beauty, so that we may once again be in communion with the creator.

Christ enthroned between the Cherubim in heaven wasn’t available to help us in the misery of our sins. For the Law required that the penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23) and God can’t die (Hebrews 1:12). Therefore, God needed to become man so that He could satisfy the penalty of the Law on our behalf. And that is where the Christmas story begins: Almighty God took on humanity in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

This is the meaning of Christmas. It starts with one little baby born in Bethlehem. Very similar to the Resurrected Christ (Revelation 1:12-17). After speaking to the shepherds, there appeared with the angel a multitude of other angels (v.13), probably with similar appearance, praising God and saying (v.14) Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace, among men of goodwill!

To first satisfy the penalty of the Law (which was death), the Messiah needed to be born under the Law to redeem those who were under the Law (v. 4-5). So, the Almighty God came as a helpless child in the womb of the Virgin Mary. The entire Trinity was involved: the Holy Spirit came upon Mary; the power of the Highest (i.e., God the Father) overshadowed her;

(Continued on page 14, column 2)
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FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Parishioners,

It’s hard to believe that we’re nearing the end of the year and I’m sure everyone is busy getting ready for the holidays. However, I hope you will take the time to participate in many of the programs and activities we have planned for the final month of 2018.

As you know, we help the homeless throughout the year donating food, clothing, diapers and more, but the needs of the poor take on an urgency during this season of giving. Our GOYAn s have been hard at work preparing bags of toiletries and other items for the homeless, which they will distribute in the District on Christmas morning. Special thanks to the Philoptochos for supplying the dental products for the bags and to everyone else who generously donates to the many missions and outreach projects sponsored by our community.

I hope you all will be able to attend our annual Christmas pageant, to be held on December 9 after Liturgy. Students from our Catechetical (Sunday) and Greek Schools put on a heartwarming performance of the Nativity story, complete with carols in English and Greek. You won’t want to miss this special presentation!

Finally, I’d like to wish everyone at Saint Katherine a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, with all God’s blessings in the year to come.

Yours in Christ’s service,

George Moshos

STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE

A young man had taken his girlfriend to a high-priced restaurant. As the young couple looked over the menu the young woman scanned the prices of the entrees and then turning to the young man she asked, “How much do you love me?” Continuing to scan the menu, the young man replied, “Probably more than the corned beef, but not as much as the broiled lobster.” Stewardship is not about calculations or portions or percentages. It can’t be reduced to a number of hours of service or dollars offered. Stewardship is a way of life. As Orthodox Christians, we are called to a new way of seeing things—a new way of life. Our stewardship is obedience to the greatest commandment to “love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.” We are called to bring others to commit their lives to Jesus Christ in such a way that leads to the joy of knowing Him personally and profoundly. As Orthodox Christians, we see the world as God’s gift, as a sacrament of God’s presence and a means of communion with Him. And so we are able to offer the world back to God in thanksgiving as we say in every Divine Liturgy “Thine own of Thine own we offer to thee....” (Stewardship Ministries, Department of Stewardship, Outreach, and Evangelism Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America)

The Stewardship campaign for 2019 will begin in January. Have you fulfilled your pledge for 2018? Wishing you a very blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year! The complete list of 2018 stewards will be printed in the February 2019 DOXA.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Who We are and What We Believe: A Journey through Examination of the Orthodox Faith Guided by the Words of the Nicene Creed

Using colorful PowerPoint® slide presentations, we discuss questions such as: What are we stating we believe when we recite the various articles of the Creed? What does it mean to be Orthodox? What were the thoughts, intentions, and historical context facing the Creed’s authors in the 4th century when it was written? How do our beliefs differ from those of other Christian denominations and other world religions?

The objective is to broaden the understanding of our own Orthodox faith and deepen our spiritual outlooks. Taking each line of the Creed we will explore its historical context, Biblical foundations, theological meaning, and relationship to our venerable Orthodox Traditions. We will explore the significance of the Creed for how we live our faith now as individuals and as “one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church.”

Classes are held most Sundays at 9:00am in the board room located in the education building. For questions, please contact Bill Polizos at 571-434-7790 or polizos@att.com. All are welcome!
CATECHETICAL SCHOOL
On December 2nd, the Giving Tree will be set up by the entry of our Sunday School. This year we will be supporting the Santa’s Helpers Program at the St. Innocent Orphanage for Boys in Mexico. Monetary contributions will support their Orthodox 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. James 1:27 says, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

Sunday, December 2: Christmas Pageant rehearsal in Chelpon Hall (after Liturgy) with a pizza/doughnut party! Survival Kits Assembly after Liturgy in big hall.
Sunday, December 9: Christmas Pageant, 12pm-2pm in Chelpon Hall, followed by a reception.
Sunday, December 16: Youth Church Duty Sunday.
Sunday, December 23 and Tuesday, December 25: We will help GOYA with their annual Feed and Clothe the Homeless on Christmas Day in DC ministry. Starting at 6:00pm on Sunday, December 23, we will make sandwiches and pack lunches 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 the gracious opportunity!!

There will be no Sunday School classes on December 9, December 23, and December 30. Classes will resume on January 6. Remember, it’s never too late to register your children for Sunday School! Merry Christmas!!

GOYA
Our GOYA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT was a great success thanks to our volunteers and donors! Congratulations to Girls A and B, and Boys B teams for 1st place and Boys A team for 3rd place! Congratulations to Jim Stoucker for his years of service to our Saint Katherine community. Upcoming events: Saint Nicholas tournament 12/1-2, assemble survival kits 12/2, GOYA Christmas party 12/7, Arlington Cemetery wreath laying 12/15, Youth Sunday and meeting 12/16, and assemble Christmas bags 12/23. For further information about GOYA events, email SaintKatherineGOYA@aol.com. We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

JOURNEY TO ORTHODOXY
Our Journey to Orthodoxy class for adults meets on Sundays, 9:00am-10:00am in the Seniors Kentro in the basement of Chelpon Hall. The class is held in an informal discussion format and designed for non-Orthodox inquirers into Orthodoxy as well as for Orthodox Christians who want to know more about the teachings, practices, history, and contemporary life of our Orthodox Church. It is also recommended for intending or newly married couples, especially where one spouse is not Orthodox. Text is provided. Please contact Jim Jatras at heraclius13@gmail.com or 202-375-1007 or Dr. John Demakis at demakis9931@gmail.com for additional information.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN GREEK
Our Greek Bible Study, on the Catechetical Lectures of Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, led by Professor Ioannis Gkigkitzis, will meet on Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19, 7:00pm in the board room.

When a trial comes upon you unexpectedly, do not blame the person through whom it came but try to discover the reason why it came, and then you will find a way of dealing with it. For whether through this person or through someone else you had in any case to drink the wormwood of God’s judgments.
PAIDEIA PRESCHOOL
SAINT KATHERINE PAIDEIA PRESCHOOL, the only Greek-English bilingual nursery and preschool in the greater Washington area, successfully organized its annual Family Fun Night fundraiser which was a lot of fun for our families and our young children! All proceeds will benefit our HEC programs and many books were collected for our school library. Special thanks go out to our wonderful PTA and to all the parents who volunteered for the event. Your commitment and dedication is greatly appreciated!

October offered a lot of opportunities for interesting topics to be discussed and explored in the classroom; OXI DAY, Halloween parade and costume Show and Tell, Field trip to the Pumpkin Patch and lots of fun projects!!!

We would like to welcome 3 new families to the community and our Paideia family!

You may join our program year-round. Learn more about it at our open-house days or contact us at 703-671-7715 or ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com. You may visit our website at www.stkhec.org.

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS
FROM THE BOOK EXHIBIT at the HEC lobby, students listened to Greek story books and picked their own to read at home. Thank you Hellenic Book Club for visiting us!

Working on speaking and presentational skills, Greek School students practice shopping at the “Peripetero” (Greek kiosk). As we implement our new curriculum, great emphasis is given in all the levels on speaking and listening as Greek is taught as a second or foreign language. Through language and the myth of Athena and Poseidon the students were taught about the olive tree and its products. Our trained staff engages the students in meaningful cultural and linguistic activities!

GREEK LANGUAGE CLASSES FOR YOUNG AND OLDER…!
JOIN OUR OUTSTANDING GREEK LANGUAGE PROGRAM for a great learning experience. We offer classes for PreK to adults. Our excellent teaching staff, using student-centered activities, makes each student’s experience unique! To schedule an appointment and to enroll for a class contact ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com or call at 703-671-7715.

Classes include:

Youth
Tuesday, Conversational, 5:00pm-6:30pm (grades K-8)
Friday, 5:00-7:00 (grades PreK-8)
Saturday, 9:30am-1:30pm (grades PreK-8)

Adults
Tuesday, Beginners I, 5:00pm-7:00pm
Beginners II, 7:00pm-9:00pm
Thursday, Intermediate, 7:00pm-9:00pm
Friday, Conversational Adult, 5:00pm-7:00pm

CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN OCEAN CITY ON DECEMBER 15
Please join us for a Christmas Concert on December 15, 4:00pm, at the Ocean City Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased on Ticketmaster or at the Ocean City Convention Center. Come early so that Santa and a special guest can greet you. Santa will distribute candy in the lobby following the concert.

The joy and hope of Christmas, through the narration of Tony Christ (father of Brian who died of a heroin overdose on December 15, 2004), will be shared with everyone. Over 100,000 children died due to opioids in 10 years. This concert is being provided in hopes that we can work together to prevent any chance of devastating drug usage in your home from every happening.
Project Mexico 2019. Hello, fellow laborers in Christ! Yes, the time has come to prepare for our 5th annual trip to Rosarito, Mexico to build a home for a needy family. Our reserved date for the trip is July 30 to August 5, 2019, and we have reserved 10 slots. We have already filled 3 of them, so sign up quickly to get yours! To join the team, we need a $120 deposit by December 7, 2018 to keep our slots open! Contact Bill Porter at weporter1@fcps.edu or 703-901-2404 as soon as possible for further details.

Guatemala. By the time this issue of DOXA is published, the Guatemala team will have returned. This was one of the OCMC’s short-term teams (10 days). The team was a medical team and worked at the new Guatemala medical clinic in Aguacate. The team included our own Betty Slanta and her brother-in-law, Mike Bosworth, an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). They have a list of special needs for the clinic. A full report will be published in next month’s DOXA.

OCMC Dinner, May 5, 2019. Our annual fundraising dinner for the Orthodox Christian Missions Center (OCMC) will be held on Sunday, May 5 in the main hall of our community center. Our main speaker will be Fr. Louis Christopulos of Saint Katherine Church in Greenwood Village, Colorado. Fr. Lou had been the Vice President of the OCMC Board for six years. He has vast experience in missions. Details will be in future DOXA issues. Please keep the date open.

Food Pantry Ministry. Our second collection of the year for our local food pantry occurred on Sunday, October 28. We are pleased to report that over 1,600 pounds of food were collected. This is our highest total in the six years that we have been collecting food for the Pantry. We want to thank Marilyn Rouvelas and her daughter-in-law, Rebecca, for coordinating these collections. This required handing out the blue bags in church on Sundays, transporting the food to the Food Pantry, and helping unload and shelve the food. Thank you Marilyn and Rebecca for the many hours you contributed to this wonderful ministry! Starting in 2019, Bill Porter will coordinate the food collection for the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry serves over 300 hundred families in the Bailey’s Crossroads area. If you would like to make a cash donation to the Food Pantry, make your check out to Saint Katherine and on the memo line write “Food Pantry.” They can always use cash donations to supplement food donations.

Diaper Drive Ministry. Our semi-annual diaper drive will be held on Sunday, December 9. Please bring disposable diapers, sizes newborn to 6 (no pull ups), and drop them off in the Meletis Charuhas Center foyer that morning. Volunteers from our Mission and Outreach Committee will deliver the diapers to three centers in the area for young unwed mothers who need assistance. This is very helpful to the mothers since federal food stamps cannot be used for diapers. Sara Buchanan will coordinate. Thanks to Georgia McKinney who has coordinated our prior diaper drives.

CULMORE CLINIC MINISTRY

The Culmore Clinic is the free clinic for those without health insurance. It is located at the Columbia Crossroads Church down the street from Saint Katherine. It serves almost 400 patients a year. We have supported the Clinic almost from its inception about 7 years ago. Several of our members serve as volunteers there. Fr. Costa is on their advisory board and Dr. John Demakis is on their Executive Board. It had its Open House Thursday, November 8. The Culmore Clinic is now open two days a week. In March of 2019 it will move to the First Christian Church on Rt. 7 and will be open three days a week—Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. If you are interested in volunteering at the clinic, please contact Dr. John Demakis at demakis9931@gmail.com. If you would like to donate to the Clinic, please make checks out to Saint Katherine and in the memo section, write Culmore Clinic.

BAILEY’S CROSSROADS SHELTER MINISTRY

Hygiene and Survival Kits. We are pleased to report that all items for the Hygiene and Survival Kits for the Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter have been delivered to Saint Katherine (and a week ahead of time!). This includes woolen hats, socks, gloves, hand warmers, razors and shaving cream, soap and wash cloths, and power bars. On Sunday, December 2, our Sunday School children will assemble 300 hygiene and survival kits which will be delivered to the shelter that same day. The Shelter gives these to people who they cannot house and must send to community auditoriums for the evening. Thanks to all the church organizations who each contributed to the kits.

Other Needs of Homeless Shelter. Please see the Saint Katherine website for other needs of the Homeless Shelter.

NEXXT MEETING: The next meeting of our Missions and Outreach Committee will be Tuesday, December 11, 7:30pm, in the Conference Room of our Community Center. All are welcome to attend.

Parish Council Elections will be held on Sunday, December 2.
Το θέμα, που ακολουθεί, είναι βασισμένο στην αιγογελατή περικόπτη του ευαγγελιστή Ματθαίου, κεφάλαιο 2, στίχοι 1-12, «Το δέ θήσης γεννηθέντος, εν Βηθλεέμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας...και άνοιξαν τους θησαυρούς αυτών προσήγαγαν αυτοί δύο, χρυσόν και λίβανον και σμύρναν...».

Διαβάζοντας την περικόπτη αυτή, διάφορες σκέψεις έρχονται στον νου μας. Ήσυχα, ο αστέρας, που οδήγησε τους Μάγους να υιοθετήσουν την επιμονή τους για το μακρινό ταξίδι, με τα τότε φτωχικά μέσα που διέθεταν. Πολλοί από τους θρησκευτικούς οικισμούς, και ίσως, και η ευλάβεια τους, η χάρα τους να δουν τον Μεσσία, τον Σωτήρα του κόσμου, και τόσες άλλες σκέψεις συλλογισμάτως.

Εμείς όμως, θα σταθούμε στα δώρα που πρόσφεραν οι Τρεις Μάγοι, επειδή τα δώρα αυτά ήταν ο,τι πολυτιμότερο είχε η Ανατολή; χρυσόν και λίβανον και σμύρναν.

Εμείς σήμερα, ως χριστιανοί, που τον παραδεχόμαστε Θεό και Σωτήρα μας, θα θα θα προσφέρουμε νοερά, επισκέπτες ευλάβειες στην σάγη ή στην οικία του;

Θα έλεγα, έτη απάλα, για πρώτο δώρο, την καρδιά μας, δηλαδή ολόκληρη την αγάπη μας, γιατί πρώτα εκείνος μας αγάπησε και ήρεμο κοσμοποτόθης στην γη με την εναρκτώση του, την διδαχή του, την σταύρωση του... για την συντροφία μας. Μας έκανε και πάλι πανίδα του Θεού και μάς ύστερη στον ουρανό. Εκτός της καρδιάς μας, τί άλλο να του δώσουμε, αφού άλλωστε εκείνος μας την ζητήσει, «δος μοι ιεί στην καρδιάν;» (Παροιμ. 23:26). Ή αλλού, ολόκληρη την αγάπη μας, την ψυχή μας, την δυνάμη μας, την διάνοια μας, (Λουκᾶ 10:27). Αγάπη λοιπόν παντοτινή, αιώνια, εφ’ άσον θα συνεχιστεί με περισσότερη ζέση στον ουρανό;

Ενα άλλο πολύτιμο δώρο, είναι η υποκοπή μας! Να υποτάξουμε το δικό μας θέλημα στο δικό του. Να του λέμε πάντοτε με το στόμα μας (την προσευχή μας), με την καρδιά μας (την θέληση μας), με την δύναμη μας (τον αγώνα μας) και με ολόκληρη την ζωή μας, όπως παλαιότερα ο προφήτης, «λάλει, Κύριε, όπως ο οδύλος σου», (ΑΒασιλείων 3:10). Εντός Κύριε, θα λές, θα διατάξεις κι εγώ πρόθυμο, παντού και πάντοτε θα υπακούω σε όλα. Θα εφαρμόζω το θέλημά σου με όλες τις λεπτομέρειες.

Τρίτο δώρο μπορεί και πρέπει να είναι το ύψιστο παλαιό Μασή! Να είναι όλη μας η προσπάθεια και η φροντίδα μας να γνωρίσουμε και άλλοι συνάδριστοι μας τον Χριστό ως Σωτήρα. Να τον πλησίασουμε στην ταπεινή φάτνη του και να μιμηθούμε τον Θεό Βρέφος, ή αυτό, που η ευλάβεια τους, η χάρα τους να δουν τον Μεσσία, τον Σωτήρα του κόσμου, και τόσες άλλες σκέψεις συλλογισμάτως.

Τρία δώρα λοιπόν πολύτιμα, όχι υλικά, αλλά πνευματικά, τα οποία δεν υπολογίζονται με χρήματα, αλλά με της καρδιάς του ξέλι. Γ’ αυτό και είναι πολυτιμότερα και από εκείνα που πρόσφεραν τότε οι ευγενείς Μάγοι. Πώς άνθρωποι διά μέσου των αιώνων πρόσφεραν δώρα στον Χριστό, μωράδες, εκατομμύρια και μάζες με αυτούς στη συνέχεια κι εμείς, οι χριστιανοί του 2018. Το θαυμαστό όμως είναι ότι τα δώρα αυτά, προσφέροντας εκ μέρους μας στο Θείο Βρέφος της Βηθλεήμ, δεν ωφελούν εκείνο, αλλά εμείς τους ιδίους που τα προσφέρουμε. Επιστρέφουμε σε μας ως ασφαλίες πορείας ζωής, ως ευλογία και χάρη, ως ευτυχία ισόδο και αιώνια.

Ας είναι λοιπόν, τα δώρα μας στον νεογέννητο Χριστό, τα παλαιά Χριστούγεννα, ΑΓΑΠΗ, ΥΠΑΚΟΗ, ΕΡΓΟ-ΑΓΑΘΟ! Ευλογημένα Χριστούγεννα!

ΑHEPA Christmas Ornaments. The Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter #438 is proud to announce our 11th Annual Community Christmas Ornament. These collectable ornaments have grown in popularity from year to year and are available for purchase. Our latest limited edition ornament, entitled Theotokos and Child, is a classic and revered icon and mosaic appearing over our sanctuary entrance that, for the first time ever, will be available in the beautiful “sun catcher” format that makes a brilliant display by allowing daylight to further enhance the icon’s classic beauty, enabling its use year round. Manufactured by the same firm that creates the famous White House Christmas ornaments, they make excellent gifts and are the ideal stocking stuffer. Your purchases enable our philanthropy in support of our community and Hellenic ideals! For additional information, call 703-671-7225.
CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE
SAINT KATHERINE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS

☐ Sunday, December 16th
☐ Sunday, December 23rd

**NAME________________________**

**email________________________________**

**phone no.________________________**

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<tr>
<td>Moussaka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pasticchio</td>
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<td>$42.00/half-pan, frozen</td>
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To place your order please email LPbakesale@yahoo.com; or, call Mary Varlas 703-965-4161

**Mail checks to:**
Saint Katherine Ladies Philoptochos
Attn: Mary Varlas
3149 Glen Carlyn Road
Falls Church, VA 22041
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 14th Sunday of Luke 9:00am Orthros and Catechetical Schools 10:00am Divine Liturgy Pageant Rehearsal Assemble Survival Kits Parish Council Elections</td>
<td>3 7:30pm Sons’ Basketball 8:00pm YAL Basketball</td>
<td>4 5pm Youth Conv. Greek 5pm Adult Beg. I Greek 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek</td>
<td>5 6:30pm GOYA Boys’ Basketball Practice 7:00pm Greek Bible Study 8:00pm HEC Parents B-ball</td>
<td>6 Nicholas the Wonder-worker 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 6:30pm GOYA Girls’ Basketball Practice 7:00pm Adult Int. Greek 7:30pm Choir Practice</td>
<td>7 5:00pm Greek School 5pm Adult Conv. Greek GOYA Christmas Party</td>
<td>8 9:30am Greek School AHEPA/DOP Christmas Party</td>
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<td>9 19th Sunday of Luke 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy Christmas Pageant Diaper Drive</td>
<td>10 Christmas Card Deadline 7:30pm Deuteri Deutera 7:30pm Sons’ Basketball 8:00pm YAL Basketball</td>
<td>11 5pm Youth Conv. Greek 5pm Adult Beg. I Greek 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek 7:30pm Missions 8:00pm AHEPA</td>
<td>12 6:30pm GOYA Boys’ Basketball Practice 7:00pm Greek Bible Study 8:00pm HEC Parents B-ball</td>
<td>13 6:30pm GOYA Girls’ Basketball Practice 7:00pm Adult Int. Greek 7:30pm Choir Practice</td>
<td>14 5:00pm Greek School 5pm Adult Conv. Greek 12pm Deadline for January DOXA</td>
<td>15 9:30am Greek School Wreath-Laying at Arlington National Cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 11th Sunday of Luke 9:00am Orthros and Catechetical Schools 10:00am Divine Liturgy Youth Church Duty GOYA Meeting Christmas Bake Sale</td>
<td>17 7:30pm Sons’ Basketball 8:00pm YAL Basketball</td>
<td>18 5pm Youth Conv. Greek 5pm Adult Beg. I Greek 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek 7:30pm Parish Council</td>
<td>19 6:30pm GOYA Boys’ Basketball Practice 7:00pm Greek Bible Study 8:00pm HEC Parents B-ball</td>
<td>20 6:30pm GOYA Girls’ Basketball Practice 7:00pm Adult Int. Greek 7:30pm Choir Practice</td>
<td>21 5:00pm Greek School 5pm Adult Conv. Greek</td>
<td>22 9:30am Greek School</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Sunday before the Nativity of Christ 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy Christmas Bake Sale</td>
<td>24 Christmas Eve 7:00pm Orthros, Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil</td>
<td>25 Holy Nativity Christmas Day 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>30 Sunday after the Nativity of Christ 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>31 New Year’s Eve</td>
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Please check the online calendar, http://saint-katherines.org/calendar, for the most current information.
PHILOPTOCHOS by Mary K. Varlas

A very grateful thank you to all our Philoptochos Dream Baking Team that baked and baked and baked for our festival. Thank you to all our sisters for setting up and working so hard for 3 days during our Fall festival. I wish to thank all non-Philoptochos members who worked equally hard during the 3 days. Another great success. It was another opportunity to create fun memories with our Saint Katherine Family.

In our last DOXA, I was able to highlight our work and promised to keep you informed every month as to what new projects we have undertaken. This fall we experienced some very catastrophic events in this country. With your kindness, we raised over $1,055 for Hurricanes Florence and Michael. We were also able to increase our Emergency Fund commitment to our National Philoptochos by $600 and donated the following to the homeless campaign: 300 pairs of thermal socks, 300 woolen caps, 200 packages of toothpaste and 500 toothbrushes. We also donated over 1,100 meals to feed the homeless.

On November 8, Ladies Philoptochos honored our senior citizens with a wonderful Thanksgiving Luncheon. A heartfelt thank you to all that helped make it a memorable event including: Anastasia Katsakos for preparing an incredible feast, Georgia Chronis for the most delicious green beans, Ramona Velezis for the gorgeous floral arrangements, Denise Garbis and Irene Kavros for the delectable desserts, and, to all the ladies that helped throughout the event —Daphne Papamichael, Tina Papamichael, Patty Karounos, Tori Desatnick, Maria Kyriakou, Helen Kosturas, Linda Jouvanis, Eleni Kanakos, and Barbara Spyridakis.

On Saturday, December 1, we will celebrate our Annual Christmas Luncheon at Westwood Country Club in Vienna. I am taking reservations now. Please call me at 703-965-4161 to reserve your table. It is a fun social event and a wonderful time to start off the holiday season with our friends. One of our goals this year is to be to raise funds for Final Salute.

Please don’t forget that our Christmas Bake Sales will take place on Sundays, December 16 and 23, after the Divine Liturgy. Pre-orders are currently being taken by emailing Lpbakesale@yahoo.com or calling Mary Varlas at 703-965-4161.

I wish you a divine Christmas Season.

BOOKSTORE

Angels are our theme this month. The Church Fathers and Mothers tell us angels are messengers of great and wondrous tidings. They reveal mysteries of the faith and enlighten people to know an understand the will of God. Open yourself to the good news of the holy messengers with our angel-theme calendar. We also have new icons of angels in many shapes and sizes. And your Christmas tree wouldn’t be complete without one of our hand-painted glass angel ornaments.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELope by Barbara Koltos

Dear sisters and friends,

First of all Helle Chapter welcomes our new members; Eileen Kozak, Elaine Reed, Joanna Rogers, Deanna Simmons, and Catherine Edgington. On behalf of the Daughters thank you for joining us.

I am very happy to announce that the raffle for Final Salute was a great success. We cleared over $2,097.00 thanks to the generosity of our members and parishioners. I would especially like to thank all those who donated their money and time to make this a worthwhile endeavor.

This Fall our chapter with Saint Katherine’s Philoptochos has worked hard to collect over 100 coats for two local shelters—Homestretch and Second Story. We are grateful for the generosity and thoughtfulness of the members of Saint Katherine’s parish. Maria Vargas, vice president did a wonderful job organizing the event and with the help of Kelly Gull, our corresponding secretary, who set up the signup genie online we had a great response.

We decided that our November/December drive would be to work with BRAWs (Bringing Resources to Aid Women’s Shelters) a local organization whose mission is to bring dignity and empowerment to women and girls living in shelters by providing new undergarments and menstrual products. We were fortunate to have a Stella Pekarsky, a member of Saint Katherine and BRAWs, speak to us at our October meeting, Stella impressed us with the need of their services.

Christmas is near and we are happy to share it with our Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter 438 once again.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Please save the date January 13, 2019 for a talk about health and nutrition by Dr. Pappas (please see box below). It comes at a most critical time, right after we have indulged ourselves during the holidays.

It takes each of us to make a difference for all of us.

~ J. Mutcheson

Culinary Medicine and the Mediterranean Lifestyle

with Chef Amy Riolo and Dr. Sam Pappas

Following Liturgy in Chelpon Hall

on Sunday, January 13

Culinary medicine; the combination of the art of cooking and eating with science, nutrition, and medicine is growing increasingly popular in the United States. Award-winning author/chef Amy Riolo and Dr. Sam Pappas have teamed up to offer the latest culinary and medical inspirations to live and eat with both pleasure and health in mind. During this engaging presentation, they teach the tenants of the Mediterranean lifestyle along with the tips and techniques needed to incorporate culinary medicine into a busy lifestyle.
REGISTRY

**Baptisms**

Thomas Edward (September 30)
son of Jonathan and Betty Publicover
Godparent: Chrissy Tsirikos-Brown

Jeremy Edward Rieger (October 4)
son of Dennis Lee Rieger and Kathleen Ann Waldeck,
Godparent: Euridyce Papadopoulos Patti

Glykeria Ginger Demakos Bell (October 4)
daughter of Peter Demakos and Susan Hirtzer
Godparent: Louizos Papadopoulos

Kaiya Maria Narayan (October 14)
daughter of James Schmidt and Beverly Narayan
Godparent: Kyriaki Theodorou

Katerina (October 27)
daughter of Stefanos and Maria Araviakis
Godparents: Anthony Liam and Keelsey Kontos

Zoey Elizabeth (November 17)
daughter of Alexander John Tompras and
Katharine Stevens Mitchell
Godparents: Tori Carr and Domenic Carr

Geovannie Xavier (November 24)
son of Geovannie Matos and Marcie Diapoulis
Godparents: Nick and Lisa Diapoulis

Natalia Magdalene (November 24)
daughter of John and Olga Karabelas
Godparents: Susanna Lampros and Joshua Kontzias

Congratulations!

**Weddings (cont’d.)**

Ekaterini Louizos Papadopoulos
and
Jeremy Edward Rieger (October 13)
Koumbaroi: Glykeria Ginger Bell and
Philippos Papadopoulos

Stephanie Ann Joseph
and
Ilias Tommy Kanakos (October 20)
Koumbara: Anastasia Kanakos Katsakos

Elena Dovens
and
Timothy Brian Vermillion (November 3)
Koumbara: Dianne Bazarian

Sophia P. Varlas
and
Gregory D. Oliver (November 10)
Koumbara: Anastasia Kanakos Katsakos

Erietta F. Patrianakos
and
Kevin T. Webb (November 10)
Koumbaros: Panayiotis Patrianakos

Victoria Kolleen Pagonis
and
Benjamin Joseph Webne (November 11)
Koumbaros: Nicholas Anthony Pagonis

Congratulations!

**Funerals**

Steven S. Koumanelis (September 27)
Athanasiou Gerosideris (October 23)
Frances Pilarinos (October 27)
George Gillespie (October 29)
George John Kontzamanys (November 2)
Holy Trinity, Asimi, Sparta, Greece

May their memory be eternal.
Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot (1796-1875) describes his own work this way: “What I’m searching for is the form, the whole, the value of the tones, shades; which is why, for me, color comes afterwards; for what I love most is the whole, the harmony of tones, whereas color gives us somewhat of a “collision” which I don’t like”. This is my own translation of his writing.

If one wanders through the new exhibit at the National Gallery, it becomes clear what Corot was trying to do both in his landscape and portrait paintings.

In this beautiful portrait titled Woman with a Pearl (1870) we have his version of the Mona Lisa. Her arms are positioned in exactly the same way; the sense of enigma parallels Leonardo’s. The only “pearl” or embellishment this girl has is the lovely garland around her head, like a simple crown. In each of the portraits in this exhibit, the women present themselves as natural beings—true to themselves and existing in an innocent, pure state. There’s no artifice that attaches to them. They exist naturally in the present moment. Here we see somber tones, earthy, with just the skin tone adding a hint of the subtlest peach.

Corot often uses classical themes: the woman at the well with a jug (Rachel at the well); the Muses—Poetry and History; one titled Melancholy, which is very similar to Durer’s. He also paints women with musical instruments and books.

At every turn there’s a sense of quiet contemplation and honesty. Instead of fine silks, Corot’s models wear traditional costumes from Italy, Bulgaria, Algeria, and Greece. Again, these are woven, simple dresses. And the “collision” of color can be seen in the bright reds of some of these costumes. The singular society lady called The Lady in Blue, has her in a fine silk dress; however, she too looks somewhat perturbed as she is painted from the back and looks to the side.

It was his contemporary Charles Baudelaire who wrote in his poem Correspondences (1857):

“Nature is a temple in which living pillars
Sometimes give voice to confused words;
Man passes there through forests of symbols
Which look at him with understanding eyes” (W. Aggeler. Fresno CA. Academy Library Guild)

This translation fails to adequately describe, in my mind, what Baudelaire was referring to about a natural symbiosis between Man and Nature. In fact, what I think he’s saying here is that it is we who try to read the messages—the confusing words—that are emitted when we look at Nature. But that Nature regards Man with a kindly gaze.

And it is the “whole” that Corot manages to capture in his landscapes.

“Just a delicate light that invades the entire painting, without brightening the colors or thickening the chiaroscuro effect.” (Jacques Thuillier, History of Art)

It is my observation that what Corot managed to do was to make the natural rendition of his subjects—both landscapes and studio portraiture- as transparent and natural as possible. So, when I look at the beautiful painting called The Repose, what I see is a wide-eyed girl lying down in a field, looking over her shoulder at the observer as if she were a faun surprised by a hunter. And in the indoor pose of the same type, we have another direct and unselfconscious gaze, casual and unpretentious. This one is titled “Marietta”. But both are equally at ease in their spaces: in the field and in the studio; the faun-like woman and Marietta in Rome.

What is remarkable for me is Corot’s technique. He preceded the Impressionists and I think he exceeded their ambitions. His rendering of light is superior to most Impressionists. Never resorting to impasto or thick layering of paint; he brings to portraiture and landscape painting his unique touch; the tones adapting to the whole subject.

The National Gallery has been enriched by the acquisition of a good number of Corots from the Corcoran Gallery. This is a great exhibit!
BOOK REVIEWS

Maria Ziu and Eleni Ziu


Tears of Repentance is an autobiographical book by a taxi driver in Greece and his interactions with his passengers, neighbors, and family. The stories are inspiring to read, especially because they provide real-life examples of opportunities for repentance and Christian love.

Throughout the book, Katigas shares the reasons he was inspired to lead a humble Christian life and demonstrates his yearning to be more Christ-like. For example, he describes growing up in an impoverished neighborhood, how he was the “dimwit” of his school, struggling with his extended family, and dealing with a neighbor who made his life miserable. Understanding his personal background adds depth to his stories and makes his interactions with others very meaningful.

Katigas has an impact on his passengers because he is compassionate and helps them with their burdens. Among those he helps are a prostitute, a gambler, a doctor, and a little boy. He guides them to repentance and encourages them to follow God’s commandments.

My favorite story is about a neighbor who was a drug addict. The father of two little girls, he was bedridden due to drug use, but Katigas offers to help him and his family. Katigas brings a priest to pray for him and administer the sacrament of Confession. He then takes his neighbor to Mount Athos for additional spiritual healing. Eventually the man recovers, finds a job, and lives a happy life.

The book shows the beauty of how each one of us can make a difference in other people’s lives. However, you are left wondering whether all the individuals he helps during brief taxi cab rides actually go on to turn their lives around. Nonetheless, that in itself is a lesson: we can only attempt to help someone in need and must trust that God will do the rest. I enjoyed the book and would recommend it to high schoolers and young adults. ~Maria Ziu


The Open Door explains the importance of icons in the Orthodox Church. She tells the story from the view of a person walking into a church in different seasons and on different feast days, which I think makes this book more personal to the reader.

Mathewes-Green begins with the icon of Christ of Sinai, or the Pantocrator icon. She then analyzes the facial expression, background, appearance and history of the icon. What I really like is that she goes on to analyze how the Pantocrator icon makes the observer feel. She repeats the same steps with others, including icons of the Resurrection, St. John the Baptist, and the Old Testament Trinity.

The book is an enjoyable and easy read, and makes you realize that the beautiful icons we see in our church are more than just pictures on the wall. They teach the history of Orthodoxy in a unique and wonderful way. ~Eleni Ziu
PREPARING FOR OUR LORD’S NATIVITY

by Phyllis Meshel Onest, M.Div.

FOR THE FIRST FOUR CENTURIES of Christian history the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord was not a separate Church feast. It was celebrated with Epiphany in one great feast of God’s appearance on earth in the form of the human Messiah of Israel. The celebration of the Nativity began to be celebrated on December 25 to offset the pagan festival of the “Invincible Sun” that occurred on that specific day. The Church consciously established it in an attempt to defeat the false religion of the heathens.

The Troparion of the Feast calls us to adore Christ, “the True Sun of Righteousness” (Malachi 4:2), who is Himself worshipped by all elements of nature, rather than worshipping the sun and stars. The three Wise Men or Magi (i.e., Sages) were astronomers, people who studied the stars. Even the Pagan World had a prophecy of the birth of a great king. Saints Gaspar, Melchoir and Balthazar followed the unusual star and became the first non-Jewish people to believe in Christ.

Troparion/Apolytikion 4th Tone.
Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the very Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

Kontakion 3rd Tone,
by St Romanos the Melodist
On this day, the Virgin gives birth unto the Super-essential. To the Unapproachable, earth is providing the grotto. Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. He was born for our salvation, a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God. (Translation by Hieromonk Seraphim Dedes)

Things To Do as a Family
Place an Icon of the Nativity of Christ in a special place in your home. Use it with your children to talk about the Nativity Story and each individual or important item in the icon. Set up a Nativity scene with your children to keep in their room or the family room. Have a family member tell the Nativity story as the Scene is assembled.

Use the Troparion and Kontakion as part of your family’s mealtime and bedtime prayers on Christmas Day, and for the eight days following the feast (the Afterfeast).

Read the Nativity Gospel: Luke 2:1-20. Very young children may enjoy a children’s version of the Nativity story from a Bible Storybook. With younger children, it is best to read the story several times during the week. Consider using the Nativity scene figures to retell the story.

Attend the Vesper-Liturgy on Christmas Eve or the Liturgy on Christmas Day. This will keep the focus of this Holy Day on Christ’s birth and its importance in our life and salvation. Be proactive when making choices.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

(Continued from page 1)
and therefore the Holy One that was born was called the Son of God (Luke 1:35). Because of this, we rightly refer to Mary as the mother of God—not in His divinity, but in His humanity. Because we are sons of God and heirs of God through Christ (Galatians 4:6-7), we have access to the Father by the Spirit through Christ (Ephesians 2:18). By the Spirit of adoption, we cry out, “Abba, Father” as the Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:15-16). This is how Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane: Abba, Father (Mark 14:36). This is how we can pray also as we exercise our role as a kingdom of priests to God the Father (Revelation 1:6). Thus, “the fullness of time” means more than just a good time to do something. It means that the fullness of God has come into time in the Incarnation.

You too can make a difference in the life of the world. I invite you to come and share in the joy of the birth of Jesus Christ. He is the one who make all the difference in the world. See you in Church.

Merry Christmas!
Fr. Costas
Demetry Pikrallidas
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Preeminent Legal Ability and Ethical Standards,
The Highest Legal Rating Possible

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Serious Injury
Traffic and Criminal
Domestic Relations
Wills, Trusts

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