I hope that even just the mention of the birth of our Lord brings us the same overwhelming joy that we experienced when we welcomed the birth of our own child. I hope that all our senses are awakened. The smell of pine from the tree, the sight of our decorated homes (inside and out), and the pile of gifts under our tree. The commemoration of Christmas starts with all of us first knowing the Biblical account. I challenge you to take some time with your family and sit read the Bible and share what this means to you and to the world. Below is an excerpt.

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:4-7).

Jesus was born in order to pay the price for the things we have done wrong—sins. God sent His only son to be the atonement for all our sins so that we would not be separated from God. Without Jesus, we would all die for our sins. We inherited our sinful nature from the first human beings God created—Adam and Eve. While being fully God and yet fully man, Jesus came into the world as an infant to save us all.

Most Christmas traditions vary in significance and symbolic meaning. For example, we exchange gifts because God sent us the most precious gift: His only Son. Also, three wisemen visited Jesus and brought gifts as well. A poem titled A Visit from St. Nicholas, penned in 1822, popularized the tradition of exchanging gifts too.

This time of the COVID-19 pandemic has brought us so many struggles. Our expression of faith is being tested. People think because we are not freely being able to attend church, that people will give up and ignore their relationship with Christ. I am not of that mind set. I believe we will seek out any opportunity to be together as the body of Christ. No epidemic can stop the reality that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son... (John 3:16). This gift of hope and life is so precious that it is stored in our heart and soul.

Christmas for me is the reality of life filled with praise and thankfulness for what God has done for us. I love to sing the Christmas hymns:

Kontakion (Third Tone)

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 7)
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YAL (Young Adult League)  Faye (Fotini) Anson  fanson38@yahoo.com
PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

The 1947 classic holiday movie resonates more this year than ever. George Bailey, the iconic character in the movie, goes through trials and tribulations and is gifted with the opportunity to see how life would have been without him. It was hard for George to see the benefit of his good deeds when evaluated by the lens of a particular day. In several cases, George felt alone in a struggle that seemed to be fruitless and go unappreciated. Yet, George sees the impact and the movie ends with an outpouring of kindness demonstrating the thankfulness of all those in the town whom George had served.

I sometimes wonder, what would our community be if there was no Saint Katherine Church established here? Where would folks have gotten baptized, married, held funerals, and celebrated liturgy? Who would have taken care of the needs of the homeless in the area? Who would have sent missionaries across the globe to help and be a witness for Christ? The metropolitan area our church services is vast. We have parishioners that span at least four counties. One church, four counties, that is a tough mission, yet our church has been here for many decades serving the needs of all.

I also wonder, what would our community be without our faithful stewards? Who would have contributed to our beautiful icons? Who would have given tireless of time for all of the fundraisers held over the years? Who would have shared our beautiful culture with the surrounding community? We have been blessed by so many that have made the works of our church possible.

For a brief moment in time this year, our doors were closed. Closed by a pandemic the world has not seen in over 100 years. That brief closure gave us a taste of not having our Church could feel like. It was a bitter taste, especially when it came during Pascha. We now come to the great Feast of the Nativity. Our church is open. Plans are in the work for our traditional homeless gift bags and delivery to food shelters. Those in need will not have to experience what Christmas would be like without Saint Katherine. This is a blessing.

Keeping our doors open financially has been a challenge this year. The inability to open the church fully, the cancellation of hall rentals, and the cancellation of two festivals has reduced the savings and made our budget tough. Yet, despite the economic impact of the pandemic, many in our community have not forgotten Saint Katherine. The contributions received have helped close a gap that was totally unexpected. However, a significant gap still remains.

While George Bailey needed the help of Angels to see the bright side, we have been blessed to see that bright side over the last several months. The donations that have been received this year could not have come at a better time. Recently we mailed the Christmas offering envelopes to the community. Please do not forget to return these envelopes at your earliest convenience. Your contribution this year will be one of the most important in our Church’s history.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

FROM THE DESK OF FR. NIKOLAS

"Beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow concerning His promise, as some count slowness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:8-9

Dearest in Christ,

While I would prefer to do this in-person, I will do my best to offer some final words to you all through this medium, with a feeling of what can only be described as ‘joyful sorrow’ (χαρμολύπη). One could say that it has ‘only’ been 15 months since I entered into the service of this parish, but that measurement of time fails to offer any true measurement of what has been experienced. Throughout our journey together, the terrain has changed dramatically, and it has changed quite unexpectedly. Despite this, our time together remains something I consider precious and invaluable. I can say with sincerity that this has been one of the most formative passages of time in my life.

But just as time remains an inaccurate measurement of experience, so will these words fail at expressing the tremendous gratitude I feel towards all of you who have welcomed, supported, and encouraged me throughout my priesthood here. Before all others, I must direct my thanks to Father Costas Pavlakos, who has not only been a co-sojourner and elder brother to me but has cultivated the culture here; one which has been embracing of both me and my family. The communal spirit of endurance and persistence that this parish maintains is evidence of Father’s leadership and your collective solidarity. These times have defined the community and it has been my privilege to play a small part in those definitions.

As your priest, I have been humbled to offer prayers on your behalf. I have been overjoyed to bear sacramental witness to you. I have been honored to sit at the table (physical and virtual) with you. I am strengthened by your tireless efforts to remain faithful (against all odds). I am inspired by your endless love for the greater community. I am sobered by your thirst for His Living Water. Wherever I go from here, know that I bring you with me.

That said, in the words of my own Spiritual Father, I leave you with the following:

If you meet me and forget me, you have lost nothing.
But if you meet Christ and forget Him, you have lost everything.

Through the prayers of our beloved and Great-Martyr Katherine, may this parish continue to be “the salt of the earth...the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14).

Yours in He Who Is,
Fr. Nikolas
GOYA (13-18 year olds)
Our amazing GOYANS are still moving forward with our two most honorable service projects this month. The Wreath Laying at National Cemetery on December 12 is a newer tradition honoring our lost parish members with a Trisagion Service. We thank all who have purchased a wreath in memory of their loved ones. You still have time to help - $35 for a wreath can be purchased by emailing SaintKatherineGOYA@stkchurch.com. Please make sure to add the name of the person we are honoring.

The second project is our homeless project. We feel we can do this in a safe and socially distant way. We will assemble bags on the 23rd at 6:00pm and meet at church at 7:30pm Christmas morning to pack our cars and distribute them, as is tradition. We are so blessed to have so many people reach out to us and thank everyone for their donations and help.

Decorate your home and help GOYA fundraise for service activities and youth programs by going to GiftItForward.com and entering the code STKATHVA001.

Lastly, on behalf of the advisors and kids, we wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Christmas. We join with everyone in prayer that 2021 will bring us back to some kind of normalcy and that we can once again be together, not just in spirit, but physically as well.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY
In this time of social distancing, let us continue our weekly Adult Bible Study class online. Using colorful PowerPoint slide presentations, we will discuss how Scripture informs our Orthodox Faith and Tradition. Each session will focus on various biblical and theological topics with an emphasis on their development, historical context and meaning for us today as Orthodox Christians. Join us each Thursday evening from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. If you are not already on Bill Polizos’ invitation list, please send your email address to bp3175@att.com so that you will receive invitations to the Zoom classes.

ADULT CATECHETICAL LESSONS (ACL)
Please take note of the Zoom meeting times for our Adult Catechetical Lessons:
Philokalia: Saturdays at 11:00am
Book of Revelation: Saturdays at 3:00pm
Join the Zoom meeting at https://zoom.us/j/8252477604
Meeting ID: 825 247 7604 | Password: 916443

BOOKSTORE
We are happy to announce that the bookstore is now open online! You can purchase a select number of books and icons at https://st-katherine-fcva-bookstore.square.site/. You can have items shipped directly to you for a small fee or pick them up at the check-in desk at Sunday liturgy. Payments will need to be paid by credit or debit card.

We will take special orders, but cannot guarantee prompt delivery times, given the challenges our vendors are facing because of the pandemic.

All of us here at Saint Katherine pray that Father Nikolas, Presvytera Katherine, Stamatis, and Leonios will have a fruitful ministry as they begin their assignment in Yonkers, New York. I am happy that their request to be closer to family is coming to fruition. I know that Father Nikolas will be an excellent proistomenos and a faithful servant in our Holy Archdiocese. They will start their new assignment on January 1, 2021.

Archbishop Elpidophoros has assigned Father Zisis Lappas as our new assistant priest, starting January 1, 2021. We look forward to welcoming him and his family. I will send more information about Father Zisis when the Archdiocese provides it.

~Fr. Costas

FACEBOOK PAGES
• Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
• Youth Ministry of Saint Katherine’s
• Saint Katherine Ladies Philoptochos Society of Falls Church, VA

WEBSITES
• Ahepa438.org    AHEPA Chapter 438
• www.stkhec.org    Hellenic Education Center

If your church organization has a Facebook page or website that is not listed above, please email it to przpauline@stkchurch.com for inclusion in DOXA (our monthly newsletter) or on our website.
CHRISTMAS IS COMING! Christ is born in Bethlehem! Due to coronavirus, our school’s Christmas celebration this year will be celebrated in a different way—every class in its classroom on December 18 and 19. We will also sing Christmas Carols in class. When singing the Christmas Carols, we give and receive joy, and keep this beautiful tradition of ours alive!

Merry Christmas to all! Καλά Χριστούγεννα σε όλους!

Please make note of the following dates:
- December 05  Teachers’ Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
- December 18  Christmas Celebration in class
- December 19  Christmas Celebration in class
- December 22 to 31 Christmas Break – No classes
- January 1 and 2  New Year’s Break – No classes

*No Liturgy on Christmas Day due to COVID-19 regulations.*
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER (OCMC). OCMC Fall 2020 meeting was held virtually, from 16-18, via Zoom. Highlights included:

A. The virtual “Trek-4-Missions: netted $152,000 and new donors were added. The OCMC is hosting “virtual mission teams” on a digital platform with OCMC missionaries in the field. The OCMC staff is also working virtually from their homes. Over $100,000 in funding was raised for COVID-19 aid to 11 different dioceses in 35 countries for theological education, orphanages, and church planting.

B. The number of OCMC missionaries dropped from 32 to 24 long-term missionaries in the field; the number directly attributable to COVID-19, except for one missionary who got married and left the mission field. This was the first year there were no “in-person” mission teams sponsored by OCMC. Some others cannot return to their country field cannot due to COVID-19.

C. The open OCMC jobs, Missionary Recruiting and Financial Director positions will soon be filled. OCMC finances are strong despite COVID-19, over 30% above last year.

D. Metropolitan Athenagoras of Mexico and South America discussed his efforts towards evangelizing future Orthodox Christians in Panama, Cuba, Venezuela, Columbia, Puerto Rico, Martinique, Nicaragua, and Belize. The Roman Catholic Church in the region is losing 40,000 to 50,000 members every day since 1998. The Metropolis of Mexico and South America is the only Metropolis that is growing. Three Auxiliary Bishops were recently elected to assist Metropolitan Athenagoras. Seven clergy in Guatemala and Southern Mexico serve tens of thousands of Orthodox faithful. Jesse Brandow, missionary in Guatemala, was recently named Director of the Clergy Mission School in Guatemala; the Guatemala missionaries are using ZOOM to teach courses. Metropolitan Athenagoras encouraged the OCMC to in addition to send clergy missionaries, establish trade schools to train the faithful to open small businesses.

E. New Development Director, Dan Christopulos, provided a review of OCMC operations. The new OCMC website, ocmc.org, and new app were established this summer. The next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 11-12, 2021.

BAILEY’S CROSSROADS SHELTER

Feeding the Homeless. Our Mission and Outreach Committee took dinner to the shelter on November 17. Fr. Costas once again cooked the meal and the people at the shelter loved the food. Thanks again, Fr. Costa. Our next feeding will be on Tuesday, December 15 and Fr. Costas will cook again.

Hygiene and Survival Kits. Every church organization has been asked to contribute critical items in the Hygiene and Survival Kits. They will be delivered the first of week of December. These kits are given to the homeless who have to be turned away from the shelter when no more beds are available. Our Mission and Outreach Committee has been doing this for over 10 years. The Shelter has been most thankful.

FOOD PANTRY

On Sunday November 15th, members of our mission committee delivered over 500 pounds of food to our local Food Pantry at the Columbia Baptist Church down the block from Saint Katherine. Thank you to so many parishioners who brought bags of food to church that morning. Thanks so much to John and Betty Slanta, Gregory and Georgia McKinney, Pete Ziu, and Dr. John and Katherine Demakis who took the food to the pantry.

DIAPER DRIVE, DECEMBER 20

The Washington, DC Mission & Outreach Committee is hosting a Diaper and Baby Wipes Drive on Sunday, December 20, 9:00am to 11:00am. Please bring all sizes of disposable diapers to the circular drive in front of Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church for collection. Diapers of all sizes and wipes will be donated to The Maria Center in Alexandria, a pregnancy assistance center.

WE WISH EVERYONE A BLESSED NATIVITY AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.
ΔΟΧΑΣΜΕΝΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ
Sophia D. Tsangali

ΕΚΕΙΝΗ ΤΗΝ ΆΝΤΙΑ ΝΥΧΤΑ κατέβηκε ο ουρανός στη γη! Τα δέ πλήθη των Ἀγγέλων γεμίζουν από έκπληξη, Μήπως και πάλι βρίσκονται μπροστά στον Μέγα, Πανάγιο Κύριο τους; Άλλα πού είναι όλη εκείνη η ουράνια δόξα Του; Πού είναι ο θρόνος Του με το απεριγράπτο μεγαλείο Του; Εδώ τώρα δεν υπάρχει δόξα, δεν υπάρχει μεγαλείο, ούτε θεϊκή δύναμη υπάρχει. Γι αυτό η έλλειψη αυτή μας κάνει να αναπτύζουμε τον καιρό εκείνο, που το Άγιο Νήπιο, Θεός κραταιός και πάνσοφος, δημιουργούσε το σύμπαν!

Και όμως! Την νύχτα αυτή την άνη, όπου η φτώχεια δεν είναι δυνατόν να περιγραφεί, μία άλλη δόξα σφίγγει εκβαθμιστικό φως ολόγυρα Του! Αντικρύζουμε τον Κύριο του ουρανού Βρέφος, τυλιγμένο σε πενήρα στάργανα, πάνω στα χμιρα της Φάτνης. Αντικρύζουμε τον σταυλό των ζώων, τον σταυλό της Γέννησης του Χριστού μας. Δεν είναι καλοπριμέσιος, όπως μας τον παρουσιάζουν οι αγιογράφοι με την αγιογραφική τους τέχνη. Δεν είναι ευπρεπιμένος, ένα υγρό στρατία είναι, όπου ο Θεός των Αγγέλων ταπεινώνεται, για να μπορέσουμε εμείς να αγγίζουμε την θέωση. Αν αναλογιστούμε αυτό το μεγαλείο του Πλαστοσυρώνου μας, τότε στ’ αλήθεια μένουμε εκατοτικού μπροστά στην χώρα σύνορα αγάπη Του!

Την στιγμή που προχωρούμε να Τον προσκυνήσουμε στην χιουμορία Του στρομβιή, ας μας καταπληξίζει λοιπόν το θείο βάθμος Του. Η θεική δόξα του Κυρίου των Δυνάμεων πάιρνει εδώ στη γη μια άλλη όμη. Αστράφτει μέσα στα μεσάνυχτα του κόσμου με την αυστηρήτητα θεική της ταπεινώσης και της αγάπης Του. Αυτό κάνει και τους Αγγέλους του ουρανού να ξεπύποταν σε θρησκευτικό ύμνο: "δόξα εν υψίστοις Θεών και επί γης ειρήνη εν ανθρώποις ευδοκία". Ποιος μπορεί ποτέ να υπολογίσει το μεγαλείο αυτό της Θείας Φάτνης;

Σε όλο τον κόσμο η νύχτα της Βιβλίας Γέννησης είναι νύχτα νοσταλγική. Είναι νύχτα επιθυμητή. Η φλόγα των βοσκών της Βηθλεέμ που ακούγεται τόσο μελωδικά μέσα στη νυχτερινή γαλήνη... Το αστέρι που λάμπει στην άγαλμά του για να οδηγήσει τους Μάγους στη Βηθλεέμ... Όλα αυτά μας συγκινούν και ιδιαίτερα μας συνεπτείρουν ακόμα και όταν αδιαφορούμε για τον Σωτήρα Χριστό μας.

Εμείς όμως, που ζούμε μέσα στο κλίμα της Ορθόδοξης λατρείας, εμείς που εμβάδουμε και βλέπουμε το μεγαλείο της Γέννησης του Χριστού στη γη, θα πρέπει να μη μείνουμε μόνο στην προσωπική συγκίνηση, αλλά και από την μεγάλη αυτή εκτίμηση της Χριστιανισμός να πάρουμε και να κάνουμε πιστότερα δίκο μας κάτι μεγάλο και πολύμισο. Να επιτρέψουμε στους καταβάθεις μας να κυριαρχήσει η ακτινοβολία της αγάπης Του. Να την αισθανθούμε σαν τον ύλικο να πετάζεται γύρω το για να ζωογονιώσει και να πλημμυρίζει χαρά. Την αίγλη αυτή της ταπεινώσης Του να την κράτησουμε σαν πολικό αστέρι στη ζωή μας. Μίας ζωής που το θείο Βρέφος της Φάτνης θα την παρουσιάσει συνεχώς δημιουργική και φωτεινή στήλη μέσα στο σκοτάδι στης κοινωνίας.

Ετσι λοιπόν τα φετινά Χριστούγεννα θα είναι για μας δοξασμένα και ευλογημένα, γιατί θα είναι γεμάτα από τη δόξα του Θεού που λατρεύουμε. Μία δόξα που φεγγισμένη στα βάθη της ψυχής μας και αναπλάτνησε σε κάθε αδερφό μας που συναντάμε στο διάβα της εφήμερης ζωής μας! Ευλογημένα Χριστούγεννα, πλημμυρισμένα από τη δόξα Του!

Order your 2020 Christmas Ornament, Village Christmas Deliveries, through the AHEPA Store at ahepa438.org/shop. The cost is $20.

(Continued from page 1)

I love to shop for my loved ones, but this year I have let my fingers do the walking (with Amazon). I love the way Presvytera decorates our house, with fond memories being evoked when looking at ornaments from the past and the addition of pictures of new grandchildren. I love that, after Thanksgiving, we continue the “new—17-year-old” tradition of putting up a small “DC” Christmas tree with all the White House ornaments, in addition to our large tree. I love that Christmas is a time of true celebration.

I am mindful that this year is like no other because of this epidemic. I pray that you do not let anything stop you from expressing your love of God. Embrace the true meaning of Christmas.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Constant
The link for the online menu and order form is https://saint-katherine-greek-orthodox-church.square.site/. Order deadline is December 4.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Saint Nicholas 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12pm Flavor of Greece</td>
<td>7 Deadline for Community Christmas Card (p. 7)</td>
<td>8 5pm Youth Conv. Greek 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek 7:00pm Paraklesis to the Holy Trinity in Defense from the Pandemic</td>
<td>9 6:30pm General Assembly via Zoom</td>
<td>10 7pm Adult Int. II Greek 7:00pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom 7pm Teenage Bible Study via Zoom</td>
<td>11 5:00pm Greek School</td>
<td>12 St. Spyridon 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Greek School 12pm GOYA Wreath Laying at National Cemetery 11am ACL Philokalia 3pm ACL-Revelation (both via Zoom)</td>
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<td>13 11th Sunday of Luke 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am Philoptochos Curbside Bake Sale 4pm DOP Zoom Meeting</td>
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<td>15 Feed the Homeless at Bailey’s Shelter 5pm Youth Conv. Greek 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek 7:00pm Paraklesis to the Holy Trinity in Defense from the Pandemic</td>
<td>16 6:00pm PC Exec. Mtg. 7:00pm Parish Council</td>
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<td>20 Sunday before Nativity 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 9:00am Diaper Drive 10:00am Food Drive</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22 7:00pm Paraklesis to the Holy Trinity in Defense from the Pandemic</td>
<td>23 6:00pm GOYA Assembling Bags for Feeding and Clothing the Homeless in DC</td>
<td>24 Christmas Eve 9:00am Great Hours 7:30pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>25 Christmas Day (Office Closed) No Liturgy due to COVID 7:30am GOYA Distributing Bags for Feeding and Clothing the Homeless in DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Sunday after Nativity 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>28</td>
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Please check the online calendar, http://saint-katherines.org/calendar, for the most current information.
PHILOPTOCHOS
Mary K. Varlas, President

Another year of hard work and dedication is coming to an end. No matter how this year has changed our lives, one constant is the work of Ladies Philoptochos. Every campaign, every initiative, every person our mission touches keeps us on the path of our Orthodox faith. We are grateful for the ability to assist those in need. It is our time and the generosity of so many of you which allows us to bring a smile to someone who is lonely, to feed someone who is hungry, to provide safety to someone who is in need of social services, and, to offer hope to the vulnerable. We pray that our efforts have made a few lives easier in their time of need. This year, like no other, brought so many organizations to our doorstep asking for help.

We started the year, and many of you participated, by providing 25,000+ meals to “Rise Against Hunger”. The energy on that day was simply astounding! It was just the beginning. With God’s Grace, our chapter has provided assistance to a multitude of charitable organizations and individuals: Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, BRAWS, Orthodox Diocese of Nyeri Mt. Kenya, Arlington Food Assistance Center, Miriam’s Kitchen, DC Central Kitchen, Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, Brain Injury Services, Culmore Clinic, Boulder Crest–VA, Spend Yourself Food Pantry, Doorways for Women & Families, Homestretch Inc., Britepaths, MaRiH Center, and other various projects within our community. In total, we humbly donated many tens of thousands of dollars in 2020. All of that would not have been possible without all of you. Thank you for continuing your generosity. Thank you for believing in our mission.

May our Lord and Savior bring peace to all. Merry Christmas!

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE
Maria T. Vargas, President

Happy Holidays! We were glad many of you were able to join us for the celebration of our chapter’s 65th anniversary on November 8. Although our meeting was virtual, we were able to look at many pictures from our Chapter’s history and share memories and stories. Thanks to Karen Polizos assembling and presenting the slides.

Also in November, we held the Taste of Greece Virtual Wine Tasting. It was a fun event and a way for us all to get together virtually to enjoy wine, delicious food, and a trivia game about Greece. We also had a lively presentation on the Greek wines and the vineyard regions in Greece. Most importantly, this was a successful fundraiser to help individuals struggling to feed their families during this pandemic. We raised over $1,600! Proceeds will go to food banks in our local community. We thank Vienna Vintner and Souvlaki Bar for partnering with us and sharing generous proceeds. We want to plan another virtual tasting in early 2021, maybe a Valentine’s event! Thanks to Patty Leto and Karen Polizos for organizing.

For the holidays, Helle Chapter is participating in an effort to send Christmas cards with warm greetings to our troops. Sponsored by USASOA, the goal is to send handwritten cards to members of the military away from home over the holidays. Thanks to all the sisters who eagerly participated in this effort; it was thoughtful way to show our appreciation for their service to our country. Thanks to Diane Argerson and Rosalie Georgeadis for bringing this idea to us.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our December 13 meeting. PLEASE NOTE: we have changed the time of the meeting to 4:00 (instead of 1:00) so that we don’t overlap with other meetings/activities at church. Check your email for the call information, and remember—you don’t need a computer, you can join by phone too.

All the best to all of you and your families this holiday season! Merry Christmas!

AHEPA
George Vassilopoulos, President

I hope this finds you and your loved ones in good health and with a lot of patience to make it through this epidemic. Every week that goes by allows us to fine tune the “Shop” on our website (https://www.ahepa438.org). See page 7 for this year’s ornament. In last month’s DOXA, I informed you that your purchase can be shipped to your house for a small fee. Now you also have the choice to pick up your purchase from Ms. Sophia Tsangali in the Church Office at no additional fee. Just choose your preference before you confirm the purchase and your ornament(s) will be placed in Ms. Tsangali office with your name for pick-up. Thank you, Ms. Tsangali.

Our best fundraiser, the 50/50 “Gus Moshos” Christmas raffle is selling fast with only 35 tickets left. I encourage you not to procrastinate if you plan to support the Chapter in this way and call George Moshos (202-409-2302) or George Vassilopoulos (571-358-1785) to secure a ticket before they are all gone.

It has been a memorable year for the wrong reasons. We will be talking about it to our children and grandchildren for years to come. But this very long year is finally coming to an end without really taking with it all the ills it brought. Hope is on the horizon in the form of vaccines and, with God’s help, I have faith we will see this through.

In closing, the Chapter’s Executive Board would like to wish all of our members, their families, and the parishioners of Saint Katherine a warm and safe Christmas.

Stay safe, wear a face mask, and keep your distance.
BOOK REVIEW
Gregory McKinney


The Liturgy after the Liturgy is one of those amazing little books that packs so much in so little. As one goal, the book does a masterful job of describing both the ethos and effect of the liturgy on the Orthodox believer and what such a liturgical ethos can mean for Christians of other confessions. The author pulls out meanings that can enrich one’s liturgical experience, as well as how one might speak about liturgy in witness.

Throughout the book, he weaves this examination together with ideas on how the believer might put into practice the transformation he finds in Sunday liturgy during the other six days of the week:

The eucharistic liturgy is not an escape into an inner realm of prayer, a pious turning away from social realities; rather, it calls and sends the faithful to celebrate the “sacrament of the brother” outside the temple in the public marketplace, where the cries of the poor and marginalized are heard. (p. 20)

What is liturgy after liturgy? It is the movement of liturgy into the world after the first movement of eucharistic liturgy in church:

The basic structure of the liturgy is based on two movements: first the people gather for worship, to hear the word of God and eat the bread of life; then, at the end of liturgy they are sent out. Here the worshiping community becomes an evangelizing community. Receiving the eucharistic “bread for pilgrims”, food for missionaries, the faithful become actors of mission. (p. 24)

The Christian life is then, for Fr. Bria, a life of martyr (witness) and mission that looks beyond the accumulated impacts on history and politics. Witness and mission apply to social needs and to the broader culture, but also apply to our willingness to seek commonalities with the heterodox Christians around us. Throughout the book, Fr. Bria explains for us the impacts of Orthodox thought on the World Council of Church’s deliberations during his tenure there. His discussions here highlight the book’s second goal: helping us understand his plea for us to maintain a clear-eyed search for ultimate unity between Christians.

Therefore the ecumenical fellowship exists not only to repair history, to compare the situations of churches, to register doctrines of common reference, to count up the attempts for unions, and to monitor the contacts, dialogues, frustrations, and contradictions. It exists to keep alive the sense of the global history of salvation and the biblical memory of being rooted in God’s covenant with all humanity and all creation. (p. 78)

Fr. Ion Bria reposed in 2002. A Romanian Orthodox, he served in the World Council of Churches from 1973-1994, as executive secretary for mission and relations with member Orthodox churches, then as the director of Renewal and Congregational Life, and finally as director of the Faith and Witness Unit.

A DOLLAR MORE A DAY CAMPAIGN

Thank you to the following people who contributed to the Dollar More a Day initiative through September 30. This emergency supplemental stewardship will help us avoid financial crisis. Your church needs your help!

Mr Peter V Aliferis  M/M Elias (Sophia) Alpos  Capt/Mrs. James Ballard  Hon/Mrs Manuel (Carole) Capsalis  Dr Domenic Carr  M/M Harry (Gayaneh) Contos  Ms Elena Danigelis  Dr/Mrs Harry (Elizabeth) Dinella  Mr Steve Dinos and Dr Evie Cavros  James DeSatriick  Mr Paul Economon  M/M Ronald (Chris Moustaki-) Embry

Mrs Mary Ann Gamble  Mrs Aspasia Georgatos  Glenda D Hassan  M/M Karl (Dorie) Hickson  M/M Andy (Pamela) Kydes  M/M George (Linda) Moratis  M/M Matthew (Vicki) Mowery  Mrs Demetra Nightingale  Mrs Daphne Papamichal and Tim Nichols  Mrs Manie Papamichal  Rev/Mrs Konstantinos (Pauline) Pavlakos  M/M Bill (Karen) Polizos

M/M John (Koula) Polizos  M/M Dorefian Rantis  Dr Haris Riris and Mary Smaragdis  M/M John Slanta  Mrs Olga Stathis  M/M George (Mary) Statopoulos  M/M Panagiotis (Linda) Taousakis  M/M Matthew (Emily) Turner  Hon/Mrs George (Alexandra) Varoutsos  M/M Constantine (Oleta) Vassilopoulos  Col/Mrs James Velezis  Mr Andrew Wiener

We encourage all parishioners to donate $1 more a day!
**REGISTRY**

**Baptisms**

Helena Shallen Anne (November 22)  
daughter of George and Cynthia Carroll  
Godparent: Karen Polizos

Anastasios Taso Luis (November 23)  
son of George and Diana Trifonas  
Godparent: Demetra C. Sarantis

Lucy Pauline (November 25)  
Daughter of Michael and Christina  
Godparent: Faye Hayes

*Congratulations!*

**Chrismations**

George Charles Scott (November 22)  
son of Donald and Reita Gorman  
Sponsor: Bill Polizos

*Congratulations!*

**Weddings**

Panagiota Christian Patrianakos  
and  
Derrick Christian Cardoso (November 7)  
Koumbaros: Dimitrios Patrianakos

Shallen A. Carroll  
and  
Charles S. Gorman (November 22)  
Koumbaroi: Bill and Karen Polizos

*Congratulations!*

**Funerals**

Costas Pappas (November 9)  
Peter Kouchis (November 24)

*Memory eternal.*
ON A RECENT ZOOM PRESENTATION given by Dr. Polyvia Parara of the Department of Classics at the University of Maryland, a very interesting topic was addressed: the development of the modern Greek mind. The title of the lecture was *The Portrayal of Ancient Greece in the Nineteenth Century: The Parallel Lives of Elisavet Contaxaki’s “Classical Bouquet” and Leon Melas’ “O Gerostathis”*. Never having heard of either writer, but intrigued to learn more, I discovered that Melas had written a very interesting book.

“In the Gerostathis, the history of the Greek nation is identified with that of Classical Greece (i.e., from the 6th century BC - 4th century BC) which is held up as an exemplary era worthy of emulation.” (Harris Athanasiades, *Enlightenment and School History in 19th Century Greece: the Case of Gerostathis by Leon Melas*)

Leon Melas was born into privilege in Constantinople, a member of the intellectual, political and financial élite of 19th century Greek society. After finishing a Law degree, he went on to practice it and rose to such prominence that he helped draft up the very first constitution of Greece in 1844. However, politics disappointed him and he left for London in 1848. It was here that *Gerostathis* was written. (pub.1858)

Years earlier, in 1818, the French writer and statesman Laurent de Jussieu had published a book titled *Simon de Nantua*. This was an educational manual for youth. It was the noteworthy Adamantios Korais who considered this book a priceless educational text, and suggested it be translated into Greek and used in schools. This book inspired Melas.

“The virtuous old man knew that the heart of a child resembles soft wax, which easily receives any impression from without; hence, children’s hearts are shaped according to the good or bad exemplars that lie before them; and thus through imitation they gradually acquire the habit of those they imitate; and finally, the habit becomes to them second nature.” (Melas, 1862c, p. 25)

Here we have an example of how Melas was explaining “creation” to the young mind. Referring to the Old Testament. His pedagogy included Orthodox principles and the Bible as well.

Leon Melas had a brilliant career. Having lived in Odessa in the Russian Empire; travelled to Italy for studies, sojourning in England and France, he returned to Greece to join the National Assembly in 1862. When the Cretan Revolution began in 1866 against the Ottomans, he became president of the Central Commission of Cretans in Athens. In all, he was an exemplary statesman who applied his skills and expertise wherever he determined there was a need. His objective in promoting a solid education was to improve the lot of those who were inheriting a country where, with newfound freedom, they could recreate and reestablish those values that were inherently theirs and which needed to take root and gather strength once again.
SHOWN BELOW is a list of families and individuals who participated in the 2020 Saint Katherine Stewardship Program through November 21, 2020. Thank you for responding to the needs of our church. Please contact Lisa Mikhailovsky at accounting@stkchurch.com or 703-671-1515 x106 with any questions.

A STRONG PARISH PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES for sharing the Good News of Christ, for welcoming those that are searching through stewardship and not rely on festivals to support our church.

When making your pledge for 2021, please consider increasing your stewardship so that we can meet our budget.

Yours in Christ’s service,
Andrea Ballard
(andrea@stkchurch.com)

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SAINT KATHERINE
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
www.saint-katherines.org
3149 Glen Carlyn Road | Falls Church, VA 22041

Return Service Requested

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
Please expedite. Dated material.