CAN YOU STATE YOUR FAITH ON A BUSINESS CARD?

I saw a wonderfully presented commercial on t.v. that was a solicitation to buy 500 business cards for $9.99. They would even help you with the design of the card so that you would stand out from your competitors and be the one people would call.

I thought, “What could I put on my church business card that would inspire people to call Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church for their spiritual needs instead of any other priest, minister, pastor, rabbi, or imam?”

While thinking about this, I was reminded of an event that occurred 27 years ago. When I was assigned to serve the parish of Saints Constantine and Helen in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the local ministerial association was most welcoming. They had a tradition that monthly there would be a meeting at the home of one of the members. I was asked if Presvytera and I would host the next meeting at our home. I said that we would do it and would serve baklava. I was told that it was the best attended meeting in a very long time. Upon leaving the meeting, the other clerics started giving me their business cards. The last person to leave was the newly assigned Baptist minister. He said, “Sorry, Fr. Costa, I don’t have a card yet.” I replied, “Don’t worry, I haven’t had time to get mine printed either.” We both focused on the counter where the cards were laid. One card said, “Bible Preaching Church.” The next said “Spirit-Filled Church” . . . “Mission Oriented” . . . “Loving, Caring, Welcoming.” “Well,” I said to my new Baptist friend, “I have a serious problem.” “What?” he asked. “I don’t know how I could ever fit the description of my church on a business card. The Orthodox Church has no limits on the charismata of the Christian faith. Even if we put all these cards together, they wouldn’t fit.”

Have you ever read an ad in the classifieds? It is like trying to figure out a mystery. Here are some interpretations of the ads. If the ad says, quaint, it means old. If it says, contemporary design, it means a converted garage. One-of-a-kind means condemned, completely remodeled means since the flood, interactive community means there’s graffiti on your fence, conveniently located means built on a freeway interchange, energy efficient means built near a nuclear power plant. Step-saver kitchen means you can’t open the refrigerator and oven doors at the same time. If the ad says you’ll love it, you probably won’t. Cae vat em pior (let the buyer beware!)

What would our card say? Jesus Christ would say it in one word, “Love.” Jesus removed the mystery, then He lifted the ecclesiastical fog and made it clear that what is said by God is meant by God. So, I think the next time I print cards, I will put that one word—“Love.” “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.”

Happy Valentine’s Day,
Fr. Costa
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey  
Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church  
www.saint-katherines.org  
3149 Glen Carlyn Road  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
703-671-1515 phone  
703-671-1385 facsimile

CLERGY
Rev. Protopresbyter Konstantinos A. Pavlakos, Proistamenos  
Rev. Presbyter Panagiotis Hanley

STAFF
Assistant Financial Officer
Anna Vassilopoulos  
Choir Director
John Doulis  
Hellenic Education Center Director
Presv. Eleni Alexopoulou  
Information Technology
Theodoros Theocharis  
Protopsalti
James Loizou  
Secretary/Teacher
Sophia Tsangali

PARISH COUNCIL (2015 COUNCIL NOT YET RATIFIED)
President, Jim Stoucker  
Vice President, Maria Wills  
Secretary, Bill Polizos  
Treasurer, Maria Vargas

SCHOOLS AND STUDIES
Bible Study (Sundays)  
Catechetical (Sunday) School, Adult  
Catechetical (Sunday) School, Youth  
Women’s Book Club

MINISTRIES
Acolytes

AHEPA #438 (P. Derzis)
Angelo Toutsi, President  
Bookstore
Frances Kalavritinos, Manager  
Book Reviews
Gregory McKinney, Contributor  
Daughters of Penelope Helle #283
Karen Polizos, President  
DOXA
Presv. Pauline Pavlakos, Editor

Facebook
Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church  
GOYA (ages 13-18)
Demetri Karounos, President  
GRACE
Fr. Costa Pavlakos, Spiritual Advisor  
Greek Dance
Aris and Anna Yortzidis, Instructors  
Greek School Auxiliary
Martha Lampros, President  
Hellenic Education Center
Greek School and Paideia Preschool  
HOPE (ages 7 and under)
Vaitsa Bousbouras  
JOY (ages 8-12)
Toula Christou, Director  
Listserv (email list)
Presv. Pauline Pavlakos, Administrator  
Missions and Outreach
Dr. John Demakis, Chairman  
OCF (College Ministry)
Fr. Costa Pavlakos, Spiritual Advisor  
Philoptochos
Eleni Kanakos, President  
Prison Ministry
Dennis Garbis  
Safeway eScrip
Presv. Pauline Pavlakos  
Single Parent Fellowship
Andrea Katsenes, Coordinator  
Website
Presv. Pauline Pavlakos, Webmaster  
YAL (Young Adult League)
Faye (Fotini) Anson
FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Stewardship is a spiritual expression of faith whose primary purpose is to promote spiritual growth—a growth in Grace and a more fully developed faith leading ultimately to our salvation.

This definition of stewardship is the most spiritually meaningful I have ever heard. After all, first and foremost, we are stewards of our faith and it follows logically that our good stewardship is a part of what can lead to our ultimate salvation. We are taught stewardship can be fulfilled in any number of ways, through gifts of your personal time, talents and/or financial gifts. In a very real sense therefore, stewardship is about involvement—in every aspect of our community’s life.

As I discussed last month, parishioners who donate their time and talents in support of church projects and ministries are absolutely vital to our success as a community and again I urge everyone to consider increasing their level of involvement in the coming year. We are blessed with multiple ministries that enrich our community and afford everyone opportunities to more fully participate in the life of the Church. Our dedicated volunteers play an integral part in the life of our parish; without that support, more than mere budgets discussed below would be negatively affected.

The diverse elements comprising our community are vast. Our Sanctuary, adorned with its incredibly iconography, is arguably one of the most beautiful to be found anywhere! (I have seen people moved to tears upon entering.) We are greatly blessed with dedicated clergy who nourish us spiritually. The efforts of other parish employees are also critical to successful parish life. Our catechetical programs are highly successful and the educational programs offered by our Hellenic Education Center are among the best anywhere, featuring innovative curriculums taught by a highly educated and dedicated faculty. Our physical plant consists of 3 major buildings in excess of 25,000 square feet. We have 14 HVAC systems in our complex as well as significant equipment resources and countless other mechanical, electrical and IT systems and alarms, all necessary for the day to day operations of our community. Of course, routine maintenance, ongoing upkeep and capital reinvestment for our community’s infrastructure is a never ending task—much as the upkeep and improvement of our own homes is for all of us.

We now come to the vital aspect of stewardship that enables us to pay our bills—financial support from you, our parishioners and I would like to address this matter frankly and directly. Before proceeding, a review of our Church’s finances will be useful. A further discussion about how our collective generosity can make a significant difference in our community will follow.

The 2015 Church operating budget is over $1.2M and is broken down into 4 principle components: Ministries, Staff, Recurring expenses (mortgage, utilities, insurance, etc.) and Infrastructure (maintenance, capital improvements, etc.). Predictably, ‘people’ and paying our monthly obligations remain our largest expenses. Overall, it takes over $100,000 per month to run our community. Since some parishioners have told me they have difficulty relating to larger budgetary numbers, it is even more revealing to take a slightly different look at what it costs to run Saint Katherine … on a daily basis:

Ministries - $371/day | Staff - $1,284/day | Recurring expenses - $1,277/day | Infrastructure - $388/day
(staff costs, volunteers and donations not included)
Total daily operating expenses - $3,320

Noteworthy expenditures within the components above include:

Office/Church Supplies - $190/day | Utilities - $210/day | Fund Raising - $318/day | Church Mortgage - $391/day
Archdiocese Commitment - $252/day | Routine Maintenance - $142/day | Capital Improvements - $240/day
Paper, postage, candles, etc. | Yes, it costs money to make money...

Now let’s take a look our projected revenues to see what we must generate each day to pay our bills (numbers in parenthesis represent percentage of our overall budget):

Stewardship - $1,466/day (44%) | Candles & Trays - $356/day (11%) | Rentals - $603/day (18%)
Other Donations - $184/day (6%) | Fundraising (festivals, etc.) - $712/day (21%)

Additionally, for the 2014-2015 school year ending June 2015, our Hellenic Education Center (HEC) budget is more than $360,000 per year—or $983/day. Interestingly, the HEC (Greek School, Paideia Bilingual Preschool and Adult Education) covers approximately 90% of its expenses from tuition and the remainder from fund raising activities (like the Apokreatiko Glendi).

By comparison, our parish’s largest source of revenue (44%) comes from our Stewardship program, but we must rely on fundraising activities (festivals and rentals, etc.) for almost 40% of our operational budget. I would be remiss if I didn’t point out that relying on fund raising for that large a portion of our budget is somewhat risky, particularly since weather can be a major factor in the success of many fund raising activities. It is clear, therefore, our ultimate objective must be to attain 100% of our operating budget solely from our Stewardship program. Once that is achieved, proceeds generated from fundraising activities could be used for such things as mortgage reduction, or other purposes throughout the community. Even if we attained “only” 90% of operational costs (as in the case of the HEC above), we would realize over $560,000 in additional stewardship revenues this year alone! As but one example, if we sustained increased stewardship at such a rate for a mere 4 years, we could pay off our mortgage 20 years ahead of schedule. Imagine the realm of the possible for additional religious programs and good works throughout our community thereafter! At this juncture, I hope most of you reading this are asking, “Where do I sign up?!!” So how can we effect this change?

(Continued on page 14)
GMU OCF
GMU OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship) will meet on Tuesdays, February 10 at 3:00pm and February 24, at 10:00am, in room 239H of the Johnson Center at GMU. Bring an Orthodox friend with you. Hope to see you there!

GOYA
GOYA WILL PARTICIPATE in the Teenage Lock-In on February 13-14. The lock-in will begin at 9:00pm on Friday, February 13 and end at 9:00am on Saturday, February 14. Thomas Manuel, Youth Director at the Annunciation Cathedral in Norfolk, will lead the lock-in. The theme is Of Cupid and Hearts: The True Meaning of Saint Valentine’s Day. There is no cost for this event. Please email Presv. Pauline at przpauline@stkchurch.org if you would like to participate or have any questions. We need a final count by Monday, February 9 (for food and supplies).

GOYA will participate in the Saints Constantine and Helen, Richmond Basketball tournament January 31-February 1. GOYA boys have basketball practice at 6:30pm on Wednesdays, February 4, 11, 18, and 25 and following the second liturgy’s coffee hour on Sunday, February 8. Girls will resume practice in March.

HOPE (ages 8-12)
HOPE WILL MEET in Founders’ Hall on Sunday, February 8, following the second liturgy. They will make a banner.

TEEN LOCK-IN
FEBRUARY 13-14
All teens of our community are invited to a lock-in from 7:00pm on Friday, February 13 to 9:00am on Saturday, February 14, in the Meletis Charuhas Center.

Thomas Manuel, Youth Director at the Annunciation Cathedral in Norfolk, will lead the lock-in. The theme of the lock-in is . . .

Of Cupid and Hearts: The True Meaning of Saint Valentine’s Day
There is no cost for this event. Please join us!

BRING A SLEEPING BAG!

Email przpauline@stkchurch.org by February 9 if you would like to attend and/or if you have any questions or concerns.

HEC FUNDRAISER
Chick-fil-A Seven Corners is hosting a Spirit Night for the Hellenic Education Center on Wednesday, February 4, 5:30pm-7:30pm. Come in for dinner, drop your receipt in the designated box, and HEC will receive 15% of your purchase.

This promotion is only being offered at Chick-fil-A at Seven Corners, 6108C Arlington Blvd., Falls Church.
ΕΜΕΙΣ ΟΙ ΧΡΙΣΤΙΑΝΟΙ ΟΤΩΔΗΤΟΤΕ ΓΝΩΡΙΖΟΥΜΕ ΠΟΛΛΟΥΣ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΥΣ ΑΓΙΟΥΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΜΟΣ, ΚΑΘΩΣ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΣ ΒΙΟΣ ΤΟΥΣ, ΑΛΛΑ ΥΠΑΡΧΟΥΝ ΚΑΙ ΆΛΛΟΙ, ΠΟΥ ΔΕΝ ΤΟΥΣ ΑΓΝΙΖΟΥΜΕ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΟΛΥ, ΥΙ' ΑΥΤΟ ΑΞΕΖΙ ΝΙ ΤΟΥΣ ΜΆΘΟΥΜΕ ΚΙ ΑΥΤΟΙ, ΌΠΩΣ ΠΑΡΑΔΕΙΓΜΑΤΙΣΤΟΥ ΧΆΡΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗ ΆΓΙΟ ΠΑΡΘΕΝΙΟΝ Γ'. ΓΙΑ ΝΑ ΔΙΑΤΡΗΘΗ Η ΠΙΣΤΗ ΣΤΟΝ ΗΣΩΧ ΧΡΙΣΤΟ ΚΑΙ Η ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ ΣΤΟ ΕΘΝΟ, ΔΕΝ ΧΡΕΙΑΖΟΝΤΑΙ ΜΌΝΟ ΘΥΣΙΕΣ ΣΤΑ ΠΕΔΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΜΑΧΩΝ, ΑΛΛΑ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΩΝΕΣ ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΙΚΟΙ, ΠΟΥ ΔΙΕΞΑΓΟΝΤΑΙ ΑΠΟ ΜΕΓΑΛΑ ΤΟΝ ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΟΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΗΜΑ, ΌΠΩΣ ΑΥΤΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΟΥ ΠΑΡΘΕΝΙΟΥ Γ'.

Ο ΝΕΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΑΣ ΠΑΡΘΕΝΙΟΣ ΚΑΤΑΓΟΤΑΝ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΜΥΤΙΛΗΝΗ, Ο ΚΑΛΟΣ ΘΕΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΆΡΙΣΕ ΓΟΝΕΙΣ ΠΙΣΤΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΝΑΡΕΤΩΝ, ΟΙ ΟΠΟΙΟΙ ΥΙ' ΆΛΛΟ ΠΟΛΥΤΙΜΟ ΘΕΟΡΑΚΙΟ ΚΑΙ ΜΆΛΙΣΤΑ ΚΑΤΑ ΤΑ ΈΤΗ ΤΗΣ ΠΙΚΡΗΣ ΔΟΥΛΕΙΑΣ, ΤΟΥ ΕΝΑΡΕΤΟΥ, ΟΙ ΟΠΟΙΟΙ ΩΣ ΑΛΛΟ ΠΟΛΥΤΙΜΟ ΘΗΣΑΥΡΟ ΚΑΙ ΜΥΤΙΛΗΝΗ. Ο ΚΑΛΟΣ ΘΕΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΆΡΙΣΕ ΓΟΝΕΙΣ ΠΙΣΤΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΆΣΚΑΛΟΥΣ ΕΝΟΤΗΤΑΣ ΦΩΤΙΣΜΟΥ ΧΆΡΟΝ. Ο ΠΑΡΘΕΝΙΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΕΜΑΘΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΠΑΤΡΙΔΑ ΤΟΥ ΤΑ ΙΕΡΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΝ ΠΡΟΣΗΛΩΣΗ ΣΤΗΝ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ. ΜΙΚΡΟΣ ΜΕΤΕΔΩΣΑΝ ΤΗΝ ΑΓΑΠΗ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟΝ ΘΕΟ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΝ ΕΥΛΑΒΕΙΑ ΜΆΛΙΣΤΑ ΚΑΤΑ ΤΑ ΈΤΗ ΤΗΣ ΠΙΚΡΗΣ ΔΟΥΛΕΙΑΣ, ΤΟΥ ΕΝΑΡΕΤΟΥ, ΟΙ ΟΠΟΙΟΙ ΩΣ ΑΛΛΟ ΠΟΛΥΤΙΜΟ ΘΗΣΑΥΡΟ ΚΑΙ ΜΥΤΙΛΗΝΗ. Ο ΚΑΛΟΣ ΘΕΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΆΡΙΣΕ ΓΟΝΕΙΣ ΠΙΣΤΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΆΣΚΑΛΟΥΣ ΕΝΟΤΗΤΑΣ ΦΩΤΙΣΜΟΥ ΧΆΡΟΝ.

Ο ΠΑΡΘΕΝΙΟΣ ΥΠΕΝΗΛΙΚΟΣ ΤΗΝ ΥΠΟΔΟΥΛΗ ΕΘΝΟΥΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΗΜΑΤΑ, ΑΛΛΑ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΩΝΕΣ ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΙΚΟΙ, ΠΟΥ ΔΙΕΞΑΓΟΝΤΑΙ ΑΠΟ ΜΕΓΑΛΑ ΤΟΝ ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΟΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΗΜΑ, ΌΠΩΣ ΑΥΤΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΟΥ ΠΑΡΘΕΝΙΟΥ Γ' ΑΝΑΣΤΗΜΑ. Ο ΠΑΡΘΕΝΙΟΣ ΑΝΤΑΠΟΚΡΙΘΗΚΕ. ΈΧΙΝΟΥΝ ΝΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΑΘΗ ΘΑΕΡΗΚΟΤΑΝ ΚΑΡΠΟΣ. ΚΑΙ ΠΡΑΓΜΑΤΙ Ο ΠΑΡΘΕΝΙΟΣ ΑΝΑΤΑΠΟΚΡΙΘΗΚΕ. ΈΧΙΝΟΥΝ ΝΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΑΘΗ ΘΑΕΡΗΚΟΤΑΝ ΚΑΡΠΟΣ. ΚΑΙ ΠΡΑΓΜΑΤΙ Ο ΠΑΡΘΕΝΙΟΣ ΑΝΑΤΑΠΟΚΡΙΘΗΚΕ. ΈΧΙΝΟΥΝ ΝΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΑΘΗ ΘΑΕΡΗΚΟΤΑΝ ΚΑΡΠΟΣ.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, February 1, 2015
Greek Letters Day after second Divine Liturgy

SECOND HELLENIC EDUCATION CENTER LECTURE
Tuesday, February 10 at 7:30pm

Topic: The History of Marriage Ritual in Constantinople and Its Influence in the Mediterranean World

Dr. Gabriel Radle, a research fellow at Dumbarton Oaks of Harvard University, has studied over 100 manuscripts of Byzantine marriage rites. He is currently writing the first major book on the history of marriage ritual in the medieval Hellenic world. His talk will share some of the highlights of his research, such as how the imperial weddings of Constantinople influenced the marriage ceremony throughout the Mediterranean world. He will also show how some ancient Palestinian customs for blessing the consummation are still part of the Orthodox wedding service, even if their meaning has changed over time.

FAQ FOR ELLINOMATEIA EXAM

1. What is Ellinomatheia Exam? It is a set of Exams that students can take at the end of the school year. Each year, the dates for the Exams are announced by the Examination Center in Thessaloniki and the applicants have a notice in advance about when to apply.

Exam Dates for 2015
A1, A2, B1 Tuesday, May 19, 2015
B2, Γ1 Wednesday, May 20, 2015
Γ2 Thursday, May 21, 2015

2. Why take the Exam? Once the candidate has successfully passed the exams, he/she receives a certificate that proves the level of proficiency in the Greek language.

3. How may the students use this certificate? Many universities accept, as of now, this certificate as proof of knowledge of a foreign language. The students may be eligible to receive credits and test out a language course.

PROMETHEAS AWARDS

The Prometheas Award is given to three graduating students every year who pass the Ellinomatheia Exam with the highest score and also for displaying an exemplary behavior in the school and the classroom.

The following students were awarded by Prometheas:
The ceremony was held at Saint George in Bethesda, MD on Friday, January at 8:00pm.
~ Apostolos Georgakopoulos (A2)
~ Nicholas Papavassiliou (A1)
~ Sophia Pelekasis (A1)

Congratulations to all the students who passed the exam successfully!!! You make us very proud!!!

Ελληνομάθεια 2014
A1 Επίπεδο (για παιδιά από 8 έως 12 ετών)
~ Yanni Bills – Γιάννης Μπίλς
~ Kalli Dinos – Κάλλη Δίνος
~ Susanna Lampros – Σούζα Λάμπρος
~ Demitri Moschou – Δημήτριος Μόσχου
~ Moshos Moschou – Μόσχος Μόσχου
~ Pashalia Moschou – Πασχαλία Μόσχου
~ Dimitrios Owen – Δημήτριος Όουεν
~ Ernestos Owen – Ερνέστος Όουεν
~ Maria Papas – Μαρία Πάπας
~ Nicholas Papavassiliou – Νικόλαος Παπαβασιλείου
~ Sophia Pelekasis – Σοφία Πελεκάση

A2 Επίπεδο (για εφήβους και ενηλίκους)
~ George Pekarsky – Γιώργος Πεκάρσκη

B1 Επίπεδο
~ Efimia Petalas – Εφη Πεταλά
~ Maria Papas – Μαρία Παπά

APOKREATIKO GLENDI

The Apokreatiko Glendi is February 21, 5:30pm-11:00pm. Tickets are $45 for adults and $15 for kids, ages 4-13. You may purchase your tickets online at www.glendi2015.eventbrite.com or contact us at stkgreeksschoolpta@gmail.com. All proceeds benefit HEC.
I was one of 14 men of KAIROS who attended a weekend reunion on January 10th at the Greensville Correctional Center. We arrived at the “Center” at 7:30am and had to wait for the changing of the guards and a complete head count of all inmates before we were allowed entrance into the facility. This process took approximately 45 minutes and is very typical to gain entrance to a prison. This process required us to go through 9 sets of bar doors. Once inside the facility it took another 60 minutes for each of the three Housing Units to release the men to come to the gymnasium where the day’s events were to take place.

We started with the “morning prayer” in the KAIROS Handbook followed by two songs played by the Prison Christian Band. The study topics for the day were: Pride, Humility, Envy, Hate, and Slothfulness. Lunch was served in the gymnasium at 11:00am and dinner was served at 4:00pm. In my opinion the food was barely palatable, but apparently the men thought otherwise because everyone was trading parts of their “tray” for different things. Some traded away their salad, some traded their dessert (jello), others traded their spaghetti. Some traded away their entire meal. I haven’t found out just what they were trading for because I was afraid to ask. It was quite a scene.

The day finished off with a “forgiveness” ceremony. We finished the day’s activities at 7:00pm. The day was long but rewarding to both the men inside and to the KAIROS team.

The reunion weekends are very important because they are not as structured as other weekends and provide a lot of time for discussion. It’s where the guys begin to open up and express their fears, concerns, and, in some cases, remorse for their crimes. One individual admitted to committing a murder. In his mind it was wrong, but justified because the man he killed was the man who killed his wife. (There’s more to the story, but as you can see the case is not as clear cut as one would expect.)

Upcoming events are a four-day KAIROS weekend at the Sussex Facility (Level 5 - Maximum Security) on March 19 - 22 and a four-day KAIROS event at the Greensville Correctional Center (Level 3 – Medium Security) on April 16 - 19.

We will have details on the cookies and the prayer chain in the next issue of DOXA.

**The Byzantio Greek Dance and Cultural Arts Program’s Greek folk dance lessons for all youth ages 4 and up are on Tuesdays, 6:30pm-7:30pm. The Adult performing group practices on Sundays from 6:00pm-7:30. Please visit byzantio.org or contact Aris and Anna Yortzidis at greekdancedc@gmail.com for more information.**

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**REGISTRY**

**Baptisms**

Fay (January 10)  
daughter of Nikolaos and Evdoxia (Mpras) Vasilarakis  
Godparent: Taxiarhia Aliki Mitchell

Anastasia Elizabeth (January 10)  
dughter of Constantine and Oleta Louise Vassilopoulos  
Godparents: Themis and Sophia Tzamarias

Sophia Anne (January 11)  
dughter of Clinton and Maria (Kalpos) Irby  
Godparent: Alexandra Reid

**Chrisimation**

Oleta Louise (Thomas) Vassilopoulos  
daughter of John V. and Eunice Elizabeth Thomas  
Sponsor: Dimitrios Vassilopoulos

Na mas zisoun.

**Funerals**

Paraskevi (Voula) DeSatnick Morlock (Dec. 29)  
Ermioni Mazaraki (December 29)  
Dr. Spiro C. Manolas (December 30)  
Maria G. Stratakos (December 31)  
Angeline Kalavritinos (Jan. 6, St. Sophia, DC)  
William Salavatis (January 14)  
Tasia Thomas (Jan, Athens, Greece)

May their memory be eternal.
Second Trip to Cuba, April 30-May 8. Fr. Costa will lead a team of 20 individuals, including four priests for the second Cuba Mission Trip. The team has been chosen. The team will split into three groups. They will participate in the 1st of May parade in Havana with the Saint Nicholas parish of Havana. They will then break into 3 teams: one team will stay in Havana to assist with preparing the new and first only Orthodox monastery in Cuba to receive monks and train priests, another will travel to Ranchuano to the Saint George the New Martyr parish to assist with building/building/cleaning the church building, and the third team will travel to Holguin in Guantanamo to visit the Orthodox parish of Saint Paraskevi. They will have Bible studies, make icons and incense, and participate in the Divine Liturgy with respective parishioners. They will also play baseball—USA vs. Cuba! Please keep the team in your prayers. If you would like to donate to the Cuba Mission Trip, please make out checks to Saint Katherine and note “Cuba Mission” in the memo section.

Project Mexico Mission Trip, August 13-19. Fr. Panagioti has confirmed the dates for the Project Mexico trip are August 13-19, 2015. The team will stay at the St. Innocent Orthodox Orphanage near Tijuana, Mexico. Work may include helping to build a small home for the needy or working at the Orphanage. There are 10 slots available. Please contact Fr. Panagioti or Ray Vazquez to sign up.

OCMC Benefit Dinner, April 26. This year’s OCMC benefit dinner will feature Rev. John Chakos who is our long-term missionary in Guatemala. Fr. Chakos has served for many years in Pittsburgh, but now he and his wife are working with the new Orthodox Church in Guatemala. His topic will be Orthodox in the Guatemalan Highlands: A Light Shines Brightly. He will share news of the exciting events occurring in Guatemala as thousands are converting to Orthodoxy. Learn how the Church is ministering to them. Save the date! In the next issue of DOXA, we will have ticket information.

Kenya Mission Trip Update. In our last issue, we reported on our short-term missionary, Mary VanMullenkam, to Kenya with the OCMC. While there, Mary taught at several Orthodox schools of higher education. At the request of Archbishop Makarios of Kenya, our Saint Katherine parish will send $500 to the Saint Mary’s Teacher’s Training College in Nakuru, Kenya to help support the education of Keneth Kipruto.

Mission Lecture Schedule. As we have done the last several years, following the first four Salutation services, our Missions committee will sponsor a special lecture series on missions. Our schedule for 2015 is as follows:

- Feb. 27 Kenya Mission Trip (Mary Van Hollenkam)
- March 6 Cuba Mission Trip (Fr. Costa and team)
- March 13 Project Mexico Trip (Fr. Panagioti and team)
- March 20 Alaska Trip (Natalie Gabarino)

Come enjoy refreshments and listen to where our Saint Katherine people have gone and about their experiences.

Monumental Mission Walk 2015. Eleni Porter and her committee are working out the final arrangements for our 2015 mission walk on the National Mall (on a Saturday in September or October). The exact date is now being finalized with the National Park Service. This year’s walk will be around the Tidal Basin. Details will appear in next month’s DOXA.

Food Pantry, February 22 and May 17. We will again collect food for our local food pantry on Sundays, February 22 and May 17. We will pass out our own blue cloth collection bags the two Sundays before each collection date. Please bring the food in the cloth bags on the collection dates only. At every collection thus far, we have collected more than 1,000 pounds of food. At our last collection, we surpassed the 1,200 pound mark.

HOMELESS SHELTER

Cooking for the Shelter. The following church organizations have agreed to cook for the shelter over the next four months. If your organization would like to participate in this worthy project, please contact Dr. John Demakis at demakis9931@gmail.com

- February 17 Missions and Outreach Committee
- March 17 Adult Bible Class
- April 14 Daughters of Penelope
- May 19 GOYA

Clothes and Toiletries. We continue to collect new or clean used clothes and unopened toiletries for the shelter. Please bring your items to the foyer of the Meletis Charuhas Hall. Please be generous. During the winter months, there is a more pressing need.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that Metropolitan Kallistos Ware will visit Saint Katherine on June 13-14. He will be here for the whole week to participate in the Orientale Lumen Conference—a joint Orthodox Catholic dialogue. On Saturday, June 13, he will participate in Vespers at Saint Katherine and make a major presentation following the service. A light dinner will be served. On Sunday, June 14, His Eminence will officiate at the Divine Liturgy at Saint Katherine. More details to follow.

Next Missions and Outreach Committee Meeting, February 11. Our next Missions and Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 7:00pm in the Board Room. See you there!
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<td>1 16th Sunday of Luke Publican and the Pharisee Triodion Begins</td>
<td>2 Presentation of Our Lord</td>
<td>3 6:30pm Grk Folk Dance</td>
<td>4 5:30pm-7:30pm HEC Fundraiser at Chick-fil-A, F.C. 6:30pm GOYA Boys’ B-ball</td>
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<td>6 5:00pm Greek School</td>
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<td>11 10:30am Women’s Book Club</td>
<td>12 12:00pm Seniors’ Valentine’s Day Luncheon</td>
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<td>16 Presidents’ Day</td>
<td>17 6:30pm Grk Folk Dance</td>
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<td>19 6pm GOYA Girls’ B-ball</td>
<td>20 5:00pm Greek School</td>
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<td>22 Cheesefare Sunday</td>
<td>23 Great Lent Begins Kathara Deutera Clean Monday</td>
<td>24 10:00am GMU OCF</td>
<td>25 10:30am Women’s Book Club</td>
<td>26 6pm GOYA Girls’ B-Ball</td>
<td>27 5:00pm Greek School</td>
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12pm Deadline for March DOXA

1st Saturday of Souls
9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy
9:30am Greek School

1st Salutations Missions Lecture
PHILOPTOCHOS (by Eleni Kanakos, President)

ON BEHALF OF THE PHILOPTOCHOS, I would like to thank our community for the generous donations made to Saint Basil's Academy. Your contributions make a significant difference in the lives of these children.

Our annual Valentine’s Day Luncheon will be held on Thursday, February 12, 12:00pm to 3:00pm in the Meletis Charuhlas Hall. Everyone is welcome! To make reservations, please call Mary Drakoulis at 703-273-4159 or me at 703-938-8360. We look forward to seeing all of you there!

Our Easter bake sale will be held on 3 days: Sunday, March 29, 12:00pm-1:00pm; Palm Sunday, April 5, 9:30am-10:30am and 12:00pm-1:30pm; and Wednesday, April 8, following the afternoon Holy Uction service. We will start taking orders for Tsourekia and Easter sweets at the beginning of March. To place your orders, please call Mary Varlas at 703-965-4161 or email her at LPbakesale@yahoo.com. Order forms will be emailed to you so that you can conveniently pre-order your baked goods. Forms can also be picked up at the church. We hope that you can help us in preparing for the Easter bake sale, so please let us know if you are available to help bake and/or work at the bake sale.

As we start the New Year, please send in your 2015 Stewardship. Also, please send your $100 donation for the rebuilding of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and Shrine at Ground Zero in NYC.

As always, thank you kindly for your support! Have a Happy Valentines Day and I look forward to seeing you at the Luncheon!

DAUGHTERS OF PENEOPE (by Karen Polizos, President)

OUR NEXT MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING will be on Sunday, February 8, following the second liturgy. We will meet in the board room and light appetizers will be served.

Thank you, in advance, to the Saint Katherine community for supporting our Tastes of the Mediterranean fundraiser on February 6! See details in the highlighted announcement below. Helle Chapter will prepare and serve dinner at the Bailey’s Crossroads Shelter Tuesday, April 14, and we need about eight volunteers. Please contact Karen Polizos, 571-434-7790, if you would like to help.

Helle Chapter 2015 annual dues of $40 are due by March 31. Please don’t delay in sending your dues.

Tastes of the Mediterranean
February 6, 7pm-10pm

Join the Daughters of Penelope for an evening of wine tasting, appetizers, and Greek music on Friday, February 6, 7pm-10pm. Proceeds will benefit Fisher House Foundation for Wounded Warriors and their families.

Place: Meletis Charuhlas Community Center
Cost: $25 for advance sales, $30 at the door

BOOKSTORE

The Lenten Triodion begins on February 1, 2015. This month we are featuring three books to aid you in your Lenten journey toward Pascha on April 12, 2015.

The Morning Offering by Abbot Tryphon. Thousands of readers and listeners have benefited from the fatherly wisdom and insight of The Morning Offering, the blog and podcast of Abbot Tryphon of All-Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, Washington. Now Abbot Tryphon’s reflections on faith and contemporary life have been collected in book form, with one entry for each day of the year. Start your day with The Morning Offering and keep yourself oriented toward Christ all through the day.

Meditations for Great Lent: Reflections on the Triodion by Archimandrite Vassilios Papavassiliou. The Lenten Triodion exhorts us, “Let us observe a fast acceptable and pleasing to the Lord.” Using hymns from the Triodion and the Scripture readings appointed for the season, Meditations for Great Lent shows us how to make our fast acceptable: to fast not only from food but from sin; to fast with love and humility, as a means to an end and not an end in itself. Keep this gem of a book with you to inspire you for the Fast and to dip into for encouragement as you pursue your Lenten journey.

Ladder of Divine Ascent by Saint John Climacus. Saint John Climacus, sixth century abbot of Sinai, compared the spiritual life to a ladder of 30 steps, and explained in detail the challenges presented by each of those steps. This spiritual classic has brought inspiration and edification to every generation since that time. Read every year during Great Lent in monastic refectories, this book has been treasured by both monastics and laymen.

Please visit our church bookstore in the community center after the Liturgy. We carry a wide assortment of Orthodox books, icons, and other items to enrich your spiritual life. Saint Katherine Bookstore is an outreach ministry of St. Katherine Church. We try to be open most Sundays after each Liturgy. If you need to visit the bookstore during the week, please contact the church secretary, Ms. Sophia Tsangali, at 703-671-1515. We thank you for your support of our ministry.

WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB

The Women’s Book Club is beginning a new book titled, Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives by Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica. The book is available at the Saint Katherine bookstore. We will meet this month on Wednesdays, the 11th and 25th, from 10:30am to 12:00pm. New members welcome!! For further information contact Fay Mpras at faympras@gmail.com.

SINGLE PARENTS FELLOWSHIP

ALL SINGLE PARENTS are encouraged to come together at the Coffee Hour following first liturgy on Sunday, February 8. There will be a table reserved for us. So, grab your coffee, get something to eat, and join us.
Saint Katherine offers a grief support group, GRACE (Grief Recovery: Accepting, Coping, and Evolving). For further information, please call Fr. Costa Pavlakos at 703-671-1515.

Thank you to Maria Papageorgiou for contributing articles nearly every month for the last 11 years.


Perhaps those eyes capable of seeing love will be able to see how Christ himself comes out, quietly and invisibly from the sanctuary of the altar, protected by a splendid iconostasis. The singing continues to resound, clouds of incense still rise, the faithful are overcome by their ecstatic contemplation of beauty. But Christ goes out to the church porch, and mingles with the crowd of the poor, the maimed, the cast-off, the embittered, the holy fools. Christ goes to the streets, to prisons, to hospitals and into the shacks. Christ again and again gives his life for his friends. (Mother Maria Skobtsova, p. 71)

How often the biographies and writings of the church fathers of the first Christian centuries are recommended to us and rightly so! Standing on the foundation of Christ, Peter and the apostles, and the martyrs, they discerned the will of the Holy Spirit, determining the legitimate canon of Holy Scripture and the rightful elements of Holy Tradition. But the Spirit-filled lives of holy men and women within Orthodoxy has never slowed, never dimmed, even when the times they lived in seemed darkest.

The late 19th and 20th centuries, given the string of global holocausts coupled with Communist attempts to crush the Church, feels like one of those somber times. Michael Plekon, however, examines the lives of ten “living icons” who fully cooperated with Grace in this period and manifested in themselves the finest fruits of theosis in spite of dislocation, persecution, and death.

The lives of St. Seraphim of Sarov, Mother Maria and Fr. Lev Gillet (perhaps you already know Gillet by his pen name: “a Monk of the Eastern Church”) show the heights of spirituality combined with the depth of Christian charity. Frs. Schmemann, Meyendorff, Bulgakov, and Afanasiev embody the regenerative power of the Church’s intellectual and theological life. They pushed against the layers of platitudes that, over time, had dulled the brilliance of the Orthodox liturgy and sought to reclaim the full spirituality within the highest and best liturgical practices. Plekon doesn’t shy away from the controversies they all caused, including those from the life of Fr. Alexander Men, who was murdered in 1990 by unknown assailants in Moscow.

Why read a book about these modern men and women of faith? Plekon quotes theologian Paul Evdokimov:

By their active presence, lay people continue the liturgy of the Church. By their active presence, they introduce into society and all human relationships the truth of the dogmas they live, thus dislodging the evil and profane elements of the world ... Here is a magnificent definition...by one’s whole being, by one’s whole existence, to become a living theology...the luminous place of the presence of the Parousia, God’s coming again. (p. 280)

Michael Plekon is a professor in religion and culture at City University of NY and a priest in the Orthodox Church in America.
SHOWN BELOW is a list of families and individuals who participated in the 2014 Saint Katherine Stewardship Program through December 31, 2014. Thank you for responding to the needs of our church. Any questions? Contact Anna Vassilopoulos at 703-671-1515.
Many of you have worked faithfully over the years to make our community a very special place, more welcoming and loving – a sanctuary for all Orthodox Christians. You have enhanced our Parish and its ministries in a way that has made Saint Katherine an even more integral part of all our family’s lives. That work continues. Our community may be far from perfect, but it is alive with activity and remarkable in so many respects, offering so much to all of us. (It is always gratifying to hear visitors’ frequent positive remarks about the vibrancy of our community.)

Now for some frank talk. Changing the stewardship giving paradigm rests with all of us and depends on our understanding and appreciation of the many advantages so prevalent in our parish. Often, when a new steward comes to our community, one of the first questions asked is “How much is stewardship?” Well, as we all know, there are no “dues” – there is no set amount...your gift of your time, talents and treasures is between you and God…but we certainly encourage involvement in the life of our community to the maximum extent possible. Your generosity in all three areas in recognition of the abundant offerings in our parish is the ultimate expression of your stewardship. To that end, we have approximately 800 families in our community...a simple calculation reveals that – on average – it costs about $1,500 per family to sustain our parish. While many give that amount and more, a majority does not, hence our dependence on fund raising activities. In this context, even slight increases in giving can make a big difference to our community. Furthermore, while we do our best to control costs, our Church is not immune to the yearly increases for goods and services. Please keep in mind that if we all give the same amount each year without taking such factors into consideration, the Church is put at a significant disadvantage and must find other ways to realize those revenues. The sad reality is that many have not increased their donations in over 12 years (since Stewardship began). Please consider this the next time you give and if larger donations of your treasures are not possible, then increased donations of your time and talents will be gratefully accepted.

Hopefully, this slightly more granular look at our budget and candor regarding stewardship, provides you a fresh perspective – not only on our daily needs, but why we must remain diligent stewards. It certainly serves to remind us all how very grateful we are for everyone’s continued support of our community and its diverse ministries. This message is also timely because it is vitally important that everyone submit their stewardship pledge early and make subsequent donations towards fulfillment of that pledge in a timely manner so that we avoid cash flow issues that sometimes occur if revenues and donations are not consistent throughout the year (i.e., contributions traditionally fall off in summer months due to vacation travel by our parishioners).

One of life’s great lessons is learning how to find just the right balance in your life – how much time you devote to all of your life’s activities – family, work, leisure, faith, and in this instance, the matter of stewardship. Only you can determine the right “balance.” So please take a moment to reflect on your blessings and decide on how much of your time, talent and treasures you can provide to your Church and community. Please consider the words of Saint John Chrysostom as you deliberate: “A rich man is not one who has much, but one who gives much. For what he gives away remains his forever.”

On behalf of our Parish Council, I thank all of you for your continuing love and generosity in support of our community and fervently pray you accept this communication in the spirit it is offered!

Your servant in Christ,


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2015 STEWARDSHIP FORM

“Christian Stewardship is learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ’s Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God . . . our active commitment to use all our time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ’s redeeming love . . . caring for the needs of others . . . ” (Williams & McKibben in Oriented Leadership). If you have not yet made a stewardship commitment to your church for the year 2015, 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: ____________________________

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## SUNDAY CHURCH DUTY ROSTER

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Captain</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 1, 2015</td>
<td>Maria Vargas, Captain</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Bill Porter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Artemis Dimopoulos</td>
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<td>Pierre Tavoularis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>George Moshos</td>
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<td>Daphne Vaccarello</td>
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<td>Bill Polizos</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 8, 2015</td>
<td>M. Mavromatakis, Captain</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Dr. Jerry Rich</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chris Christou</td>
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<td>Jim Stoucker</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. John Demakis</td>
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<td>Mary Varlas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nick Larigakis</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 15, 2015</td>
<td>Kelly Alexis, Captain</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Bill Tavoularis</td>
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<td>Chris Christou</td>
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<td>Bill Polizos</td>
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<td>Maria Vargas</td>
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<td>February 8, 2015</td>
<td>Artemis Dimopoulos, Captain</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Bill Tavoularis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kelly Alexis</td>
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<td>Daphne Vaccarello</td>
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<td>Peter Karounos</td>
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<td>Mallamo Mavromatakis</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 15, 2015</td>
<td>Peter Karounos, Captain</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Bill Polizos</td>
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<td></td>
<td>George Moshos</td>
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<td>Jim Stoucker</td>
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<td>Mary Varlas</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22, 2015</td>
<td>Nick Larigakis, Captain</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Mallamo Mavromatakis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alex Cameron, GOYA</td>
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<td>Bill Polizos</td>
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<td>Captain, plus 5 other</td>
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<td>Jim Stoucker</td>
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<td>GOYAns</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22, 2015</td>
<td>Dr. Jerry Rich</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Maria Vargas</td>
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<td>Pierre Tavoularis</td>
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<td>Bill Porter</td>
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<td>Jim Stoucker</td>
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### Apokreatiko Glendi
Saturday, February 21
5:30pm-11:00pm

$45 adults | $15 Kids 4-13

Buffet Dinner, DJ, Dancing, Cash Bar
Photo Booth, Face Painting, Costume Prizes
Raffle with prizes including an iPad mini,
newest American Girl Doll, and much more!

All proceeds benefit the Hellenic Education Center.

For tickets contact:
stkgreekschoolpta@gmail.com
Martha Lampros 703-855-4085
Penny Papas 703-898-4501
Church Office 703-671-1515
www.glendi2015.eventbrite.com

### JOB POSTING

Paideia Preschool is looking for a full-time preschool lead teacher that is English-Greek bilingual. The applicant should have some working experience in a preschool or daycare and hold a degree in Early Childhood Education. The applicant should be able to converse in Greek and be able to teach basic Greek vocabulary on the pre-k level as well as the meaning of major religious feast days and Greek national days as part of the curriculum. Preparation for, and participation of the students in, the Paideia programs is a requirement (i.e., Christmas and Greek National Day programs).

If you are interested, please contact the Paideia Preschool office at 703-671-7715 and leave a message. Alternatively, email ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com with an updated CV with a short description about yourself and why you choose to work for Paideia Preschool.
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Please expedite. Dated material.

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ALL YOU CAN EAT! 10am-2pm  
Adults $15.95, Kids 6-12 $7.95  
Under 6 Free!  
We take reservations for large parties!

PJ Skidoos opened in 1978 and is a Greek family owned “American restaurant” in Fairfax City. We are located west of St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church on Rt. 50.

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Private banquet rooms available for all occasions! Seat up to 150 people.  
Wonderful value & delicious food!  
Beautiful wood bar & dancefloor.  
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