JOURNEY THROUGH ORTHODOXY

THE FAMOUS RALPH WALDO EMERSON SAID, “Life is a journey, not a destination.” This famous quote is not theologically correct for us Orthodox Christians. Yes, it is true that life is a journey and we know what our destination will be. We have a choice of where we want to go—heaven or hell.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus helps us to walk in the right direction on our journey to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so has granted the Son also to have life in himself, and has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment.

The Orthodox Church leads her people on the path of salvation. Our parish of Saint Katherine is a great example and witness to us and all others that we are on a journey to God. How will you journey through life to the destination of salvation?

I know that some try to walk alone on their journey. They do not need any other person or church to tell them what is right or wrong, good or evil. Their judgment falls on what others think about them or their doings. It is fine to live a journey of life if it does not bother anybody else! This journey of one, or self, becomes a satanic practice. This is what Lucifer uses to gain a soul in his kingdom of doom. Remember that even Christ was tempted by Satan to take that journey of death.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will give his angels charge of you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! for it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’” Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.

Let us examine the devil’s journey. We need the bread of wheat and the bread of money to live. The problem with Satan’s bread is that it only takes care of the body.

(Continued on page 12)
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey
Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
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3149 Glen Carlyn Road
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Journey to Orthodoxy James Jatras
Women’s Book Club Despina Raizes 703-216-8176 2draizes@gmail.com

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Facebook Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church Gregory McKinney
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GRACE Fr. Costa Pavlakos, Spiritual Advisor 703-671-1515 frcostas@stkchurch.com
Greek Dance Aris and Anna Vortzidis, Instructors 757-218-6991
Greek School Auxiliary Martha Lampros, President 703-536-4860 mmlampros@msn.com
Hellenic Education Center Greek School and Paideia Preschool 703-671-7715 http://www.stkhec.org
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toullam@gmail.com
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YAL (Young Adult League) Faye (Fotini) Anson fanson38@yahoo.com
AS WE BEGIN THE YEAR IN EARNEST, a glance at our crowded church calendar quickly reveals an abundance of diverse activity with something for everyone. Indeed, our calendar serves as the most singular and graphic depiction of the multiple blessings we enjoy by enumerating the multiple opportunities available to everyone for further participation in the life of our Church.

First and foremost, we are a family. Within the framework of our community, we laugh and cry, rejoice and sympathize in each other’s triumphs and setbacks. We worship together and enjoy a rich liturgical schedule. While our calendar is filled with a multitude of various spiritual events, I always look forward to Pascha and the opportunity for the spiritual renewal our Lord’s resurrection inspires. Our parish also gathers twice yearly at General Assemblies, typically held in March and October. These important gatherings provide everyone an opportunity to gain a further understanding of issues facing our community and participate in its governance, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

We are blessed with an educational system within our community that is second to none. The calendar reveals classes conducted literally every day of the week! Our Catechetical School is blessed with enthusiastic teachers instructing our children in their faith, while our Bible Study and Journey to Orthodoxy classes provide further religious educational opportunities for adults. Please note our Oratorical Festival takes place on March 6 and always showcases the talents of our children’s public speaking abilities. Our Hellenic Education Center’s Paideia Preschool lovingly guides our youngest children as they take their first steps down the path of educational, spiritual, and cultural instruction. Our Greek School instructs over 200 students in language skills. Our adult language programs also thrive with twice weekly classes and attendance is at an all-time high. The quarterly HEC lecture series brings speakers of considerable academic stature to our community whose topics cover a broad range of interesting topics—the next lecture takes place on February 18 at 7:00pm. The Apokreatiko Glendi is the school’s most significant fundraiser and takes place on Saturday, March 12... everyone is invited!

Our ministries occupy considerable space in our calendar. Our youth groups—JOY, HOPE, and GOYA—all abound with activity, ranging from sporting events to field trips and many other opportunities for our children to interact with each other as they are nurtured through our faith. As a community, we spend time with those less fortunate with monthly visits to provide meals at homeless shelters. Throughout the year, there are numerous collections for food pantries and diaper and coat drives by groups like our Philoptochos, Missions ministry and the Daughters of Penelope. The Order of AHEPA Chapter 438 meets monthly on Tuesdays. Among its many civic and charitable endeavors, members gather each Memorial Day to place flags on the graves of Greek-American service members interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Our Kairos Prison Ministry gathers to bake cookies for inmates several times throughout the year. The Tastes of the Mediterranean event sponsored by the DOP on February 5 raises funds for the Fisher House Foundation and other charities. Our Missions ministry meets monthly on Tuesdays, sponsors missions all over the world, and conducts multiple events throughout the year such as the Monumental Missions Walk held on October 15 this year. The ladies of Philoptochos tirelessly work throughout the year to fulfill their mission of love to the community. Their bake sales are held periodically throughout the year and the Thanksgiving and Valentine’s (February 11) Luncheons provided for seniors are always memorable feasts greatly appreciated by those in attendance. Speaking of seniors, our Seniors Kentro remains a wonderful location for seniors to gather to enjoy each other’s company on a daily basis from 9:00am–3:00pm in a hospitable environment featuring comfortable furnishings and a large screen television with satellite programming from Greece.

Of course, no discussion of events in our community would be complete without mention of our Greek Festivals which occur the first weekend in June and October. Beyond serving as the principle fundraisers for our community, they provide us all an opportunity to serve together in support of our Church. These are major undertakings and I would encourage all of you to commit your entire family to serve in some capacity at our Festivals this year. You will work hard, but you will also witness the great love and devotion that make these events so successful.

We continually focus on our Stewardship ministry, but provide particular emphasis on Stewardship Sunday, usually held in November. Your generous financial donations, as well as those of your time and talent, are vital to sustain our community throughout the year. Our Community’s Annual Dinner Gala—Sunday, November 6 at the Hilton McLean Hotel—gives us the opportunity to gather in the spirit of friendship and reflection to consider our many blessings and also to honor deserving parishioners for their service to our community.

This overview of what lies ahead for our community is hardly exhaustive or complete and is intended to serve as a reminder of the richness and diversity of our community’s life. I look forward to seeing you all at many of these events.

Your servant in Christ,

[Signature]

President, Parish Council
CATECHETICAL (SUNDAY) SCHOOL

Congratulations to the winners of the Bible Jeopardy game in the 1st-3rd grade division! And thank you to all the Godparents who came to Godparent Sunday. We are truly thankful for who you are and all you do!

Upcoming Dates and Events. On February 7, Sunday School students will donate and fill 100 Friday Food bags for the needy children at Garfield ES in Springfield. Thank you Celeste Morris, Marietta Morris, and Daphne Papa-michael for coordinating this project!

Students have church duty on February 14. Thanks to Chloe Edgington for volunteering to be the Captain/Epistle Reader. We need two additional Sunday School students to serve that day (3 GOYAns will help also). All others can sing in the choir, serve in the altar, or worship in the pews.

"Can't we come back to camp next week?" “No I’m sorry...but, you can come back next year!” It is time to start planning our 2016 Vacation Bible Camp! Camp is scheduled for June 27-July 1. We need great teachers and volunteers for our children to participate in this amazing week! This is also a great opportunity for teenagers who need volunteer hours. Please let Vicki Mowery (mowerycrew@gmail.com) or Eleni Porter (beporter1@verizon.net) know if you are interested in helping.

In March, Sunday School students will participate in the Oratorical Festival in Founders’ Hall from 9:00am-10:00am. Grades 7-12 will orate on March 6 and the younger grades will do so on March 13. Thank you to Diane Quebral for volunteering to be the Festival Chair! Please join us and support our youth in expressing their faith!

JOY (ages 8-12)

Join us at Tyson’s Corner Center Ice Rink on Saturday, February 6 at 2:30pm. Please RSVP to Toula Cristou (toulamm@gmail.com) by Friday, February 5, so that she knows how many tickets to purchase.

GOYA

GOYA had another very successful Feed and Clothe the Homeless in DC on Christmas Day. Thank you to our generous donors: Joanna Alexis (monetary donation); Peter and Martha Bota, Metro 29 Diner (lunchmeats and rolls); Federal News Radio 1500AM (lip balm); GOYA (sweatpants, $5 McDonald’s gift cards, and large shopping bags); Brian Kelleher, General Manager, Hilton McLean Tysons Corner (individually wrapped cookies); Nick Larigakis (monetary donation); C. Dean Metropoulos (Hostess products); Fr. Costa and Presv. Pauline (drinks); Philoptochos (protein bars), Saint Katherine parishioners through the second tray on December 13 (monetary donations); and Don and Maria Wills (chips and Christmas cards). We wouldn’t have been able to fill 200 bags with so many items for the homeless without you! Thank you to Presv. Pauline Pavlakos and Maria Wills for organizing this project every year and their countless trips to purchase, and pick up, donated items. Thanks also to Mr. Nick Larigakis for all his efforts.

SS. Constantine and Helen, Richmond Basketball Tournament, February 6-7. Our Girls A and Boys B teams will participate in the Saints Constantine and Helen, Richmond Basketball Tournament on February 6-7. Please note we will NOT have practice on Thursday, February 4.

GOYA Welcomes Parent Advisors. GOYA welcomes Mrs. Sophia Bohle and Mrs. Irene Tzafolias as parent advisors. We are very excited!

Some Future GOYA Dates
March 12-13: Saint Demetrios, Baltimore Tournament
March 26: Cosmic Bowling at Bowl America, Burke
April 8-10: Lock-In, Camp Piankatank, Hartfield, VA
May 7-8: Our Basketball Tournament
July 10-16: Camp Good Shepherd, Virginia

If you would like more information, have any ideas for GOYA events, or would like to volunteer, please email GOYA_St_Katherine@msn.com.

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, July 10 - Saturday, July 16
Camp Good Shepherd: Virginia
Camp Piankatank, Hartfield, VA
Ages 11-18

Daily Worship
Swimming
Crafts
Camp Activities
Orthodox Lessons

BYZANTIO

Greek Dance & Cultural Arts Program
Established 2012 - Εγκαινιασμός 2012

The Byzantio Greek Dance and Cultural Arts Program offers Greek folk dance lessons on Tuesdays, 6:30pm-7:30pm, for all youth ages 4 and up. The adult performing group practices on Sundays, 6:00pm-7:30pm. Please contact Aris and Anna Yortzidis at greekdancedc@gmail.com for more information or visit the website at www.byzantio.org to download registration forms.
HELENIC EDUCATION CENTER
Eleni Alexopoulou

AS THE NEW YEAR 2016 BEGINS, we are excited to see our programs grow with more students enrolled. We would like to extend a warm welcome to 4 new students in Paideia Preschool raising our student body to 34. Most importantly, we are thankful for the new members of Saint Katherine.

Paideia Preschool (New Year-Round Program). We are also pleased to announce the commencement of a pilot program that will provide year-round Paideia Preschool beginning summer of 2016. Due to space limitations, enrollment will be limited to the first 15 students. Priority will be given on a first come-first served basis.

Kindergarten Class to Begin Fall 2016. The HEC staff and Board of Education are proud to announce the expansion of our educational offerings to the community of Saint Katherine with a Kindergarten program to begin Fall of 2016. We anticipate members of the community and surrounding area will take advantage of a faith based, bilingual educational environment structured to provide an enriching curriculum that will prepare children for success in the first grade and beyond.

Credit-by-Exam Program of Arlington Public Schools. Credit-by-Exam measures students’ foreign language proficiency (Greek) in order to award up to four school foreign language credits. Students 7-12 are eligible to take the exam.

Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy will be awarded to Arlington Public School students who pass all required End-of-Course Assessments in English at the proficient or higher level (11th grade SOL) and who score an intermediate-mid level or higher in another language (Greek) on a nationally-normed exam. Students who are finishing the Middle School or are in High School should consider taking the Assessment or showing the Ellinomathiea Proficiency as proof.

Prometheus Award. We would like to congratulate all our students for taking and successfully passing the Ellinomathiea Exam. On January 31, the Prometheas Society awarded the students who passed the Ellinomathiea Exam with the highest scores (Athena Butler-Christodoulou, Suzanna Lampros, and Sophia Georgakopoulos) with a $240 Award which they will equally share.

Recommendation Letter towards Honor Class. Please know that we are honored to write recommendation letters for students who would like to enroll in Honor Roll Programs at their school. Our language program provides students with a rigorous academic background and skills toward a well-rounded personality.

Stewardship. Our school exists because of the benevolence and commitment of the Saint Katherine community. Our efforts to raise the quality of our programs at HEC have become a reality because of this support. Please keep this in mind as you contemplate your stewardship donations to our community for 2016. I would like to remind all parents interested in enrolling their children in any HEC Program that you must be a steward in good standing in order to receive preferred steward rates. Please renew your stewardship for 2016 before 2016-2017 registration.

BOOK REVIEW
Gregory McKinney


An Orthodox priest I follow on Facebook calls this epic tale for thinking adults his “new favorite novel” and it’s currently sold out on Amazon. Not bad for such a quirky yarn.

Set in 15th century Russia (with occasional visions reaching into the modern era), Laurus is the life story of Arseny, a perspicacious child who grows into a healer and penitent monk, an example of the “holy fool” that appears across Russian spirituality.

Arseny is not fully at home in this world. A youthful affair based on desire, pride and possessiveness ends in temporary madness for Arseny and when he recovers, his remorse turns into a quest to save the soul of his beloved through his own extreme contrition. He becomes a wanderer seeking salvation and solitude, but the townspeople he encounters in his travels grow to be possessive of his talents and attention. Their attachment forces him to move on so that he can remain true to his lost beloved, always present to him:

You know, my love, I had simply grown unaccustomed to beauty in my life, he told Ustina. And it unfolds so unexpectedly when crossing the river that I cannot even find the right words. And so on one side of the river I am wallowing in scabs and lice, but on the other there is this beauty. And I am glad to accentuate its grandeur with my wretchedness, since in doing so it is almost as if I am a party to its creation (p. 143).

Arseny’s travels eventually take him to the Holy Land in a company that includes Ambrogio, an Italian who experiences of time is, shall we say, fluid. Trials and loss again lie in store as the party of pilgrims is forced to land in Jaffa:

The Arabs that the pilgrims had hired to protect the caravan wordlessly observed Ambrogio’s work. They had demanded half a ducat from each travel for their services, which seemed too expensive to the pilgrims because the journey to Jerusalem was not really that long. “The journey is not long but it is dangerous,” retorted the Arabs. “Death lurks everywhere here. And life has its costs” (p. 281).

There is a peace and a bright sadness that flows through the narrative. The way Wodolazkin plays with language and time (along with the translator—don’t skip her Forward) makes the work feel freshly contemporary. Yet, its portrayal of the 15th century feels genuine and without affectation and the characters don’t feel like moderns with our shallow sensibilities simply written into another time and place. All in all, a great book to curl up with on a cold midwinter’s night.

Eugene Vodolazkin is an expert in Old Russian literature. Along with numerous academic books and articles, his second novel Laurus won both of Russia’s major literary awards. Vodolazkin and his family live in St. Petersburg.
AGES DCS (Digital Chant Stand)

Have you ever wished you could follow along with the Orthros and other church services? You can view and print pdf files of the texts (in English and English/Greek) for most church services by going to http://agesinitiatives.com/dcs/public/dcs. Links to musical scores are also available. DCS works on computers and mobile devices. Try this out and make your church service experience more interactive!

Among the most important things we do for our departed loved ones is honor their memory with our traditional Memorial Service. In an effort to more effectively meet your needs during these special occasions, we have engaged the support of our Saint Katherine Ladies Philoptochos Society to assist you with sponsoring your Memorial Service Coffee Hour. In order to ensure that your Memorial Service Coffee Hour request will be fulfilled, please contact Mary Varlas (703-965-4161) or Eleni Kanakos (703-969-8364) 72 hours prior to the occasion. Donations should be made directly to Saint Katherine.

SAINT KATHERINE LIVE!

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

ICON PAINTING WORKSHOP

JUNE 27 - JULY 2
ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

TEODOROS PAPADOPoulos, MASTER ICONOGRAPHER AND EXPERT INSTRUCTOR
WWW.TEODOROSGICONS.COM

FOR ENROLLMENT OR INFO, CONTACT
TASIA PAPPAS
2 0 2 4 9 4 0 4 7 0
TASIASEMAIL@GMAIL.COM
REGISTRY

**Baptisms**
Cyrus Jowkar (January 10)
son of Bakhtyar Jowkar and
Famine Mirzaeea Zoroastrian
Godparent: Pierre Tavoularis

Damianos Christos (January 16)
son of Christos Damianou and
Jessica Andrea Mylonas
Godparent: Marios Damianou Mylonas

Thomas Christos (January 16)
son of Christos Damianou and
Jessica Andrea Mylonas
Godparent: Mark Rigopoulos

Adrianna Grace (January 16)
daughter of Christos Damianou and
Jessica Andrea Mylonas
Godparent: Erica Damianou Mylonas

Nikolas (January 16)
son of Eleftherios (Ted) and
Chidima (Anna) Ioanou
Godparent: Andrea Victoria Villari

Athena Maria (January 17)
daughter of Spiro Roiniotis and Julia Young
Godparent: Eleni Alexopoulou

Sebastian (January 23)
son of Eduardo and Anastasia Cordova
Godparent: Yeugenia Napoli

Matthias (January 23)
son of Michael Dragan and Megan Rebecca Stefanovic
Godparent: Ephraim Brian Clifford Stefanovic

Eve Katerina (January 24)
daughter of Pavel and Stella Pekarsky
Godparent: Maria Kakissis

Congratulations!

**Wedding**
Kelly Ann Muffoletto
and
Theodoros Michail Theodorakoglou (January 24)
Koumbara: Nathalie Marie Theodorakoglou Winters

Congratulations!

**Funerals**
John Nick Calamos (December 30)
George N. Vroustouris (December 31)
Mitzi (Euthemia) P. Natsios (January 3)
Hariklia Ioannou (January 11)
James Eskinzes (January 11)
Charles Zissios (January 15)

May their memory be eternal.

Fr. Costa will meet with
GMU Orthodox Christian
students and staff in room
239H of the Johnson Cen-
ter at GMU on Friday,
February 12, 2pm-4pm and
Wednesday, February 24,
1pm-3pm. Please stop by.
Happy Valentine’s Day!

2015 STATISTICS

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<table>
<thead>
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Saint Katherine Greek School invites you to

Apokreatiko Glendi

Buffet dinner
dj and Dancing
Amazing raffles
Photo booth
Face painting
Costume prizes

Saturday, March 12, 2016
5:30 - 11PM

Snow date: March 13th
(no refunds)

Tickets: $45 Adults $15 Kids (ages 4-13)

All proceeds benefit the Hellenic Education Center of Saint Katherine

Purchase Tickets: apokreatikoglendi2016.eventbrite.com

For more information:
Toula Christou  (703) 346-0265 or toulamm@gmail.com
Patricia Rader  (703) 470-4720 or pagrader@yahoo.com

Family friendly event open to the entire community!
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>9:30am Orthros</td>
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<td>9:30am Orthros</td>
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<td>2:00pm GMU OCF in room 239 Johnson Ctr.</td>
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Please check the online calendar, [http://saint-katherines.org/calendar](http://saint-katherines.org/calendar), for the most current information.
PHILOPTOCHOS (by Eleni Kanakos, President)

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.

Thank you to Noulitsa Mitchell for baking the Vasilopites for our parish’s Cutting of the Vasilopita on Sunday, January 10.

Our annual Senior’s Valentine’s Day Luncheon will be held on Thursday, February 11, 12:00pm-3:00pm, in the Meletis Charuhas 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 next meeting will be Sunday, February 21 after liturgy.

As a reminder, please send in your 2016 Stewardship if you haven’t already done so. As always, thank you kindly for your support!

Happy Valentine’s Day to all!

God bless you!

BOOKSTORE

Please visit our Church bookstore in the community center after liturgy. We carry a wide assortment of Orthodox books, icons, and other items to enrich your spiritual life. We also have items that serve well as gifts.

SINGLE PARENT FELLOWSHIP

SINGLE PARENTS WILL MEET ON FEBRUARY 14, during coffee hour. Please join us as we gather in fellowship to share ideas, resources, and your thoughts as single Orthodox Christian parents. Please contact Angela Kallas-Miller (agapiang@gmail.com) for more information.

AHEPA CHAPTER 438

Peter N. AHEPA Chapter 438 thanks the Saint Katherine community, AHEPA family, and guests for participating in our Christmas Charity Fundraisers. The very successful Gus Moshos Memorial Christmas Raffle awarded $7,500 in prizes. The prize winners were as follows: 1st ($5,000) Jim Stoucker and Roberto Medina, 2nd ($1,500) Olympia Moshos, and 3rd-7th ($200 each) Trish Kapsidelis, Peter Bota, Ed and Christina Anderson, Perry Varoutos, and Edy Rameika. The Christmas Ornaments fundraiser continued to be great stocking stuffers and again we thank the community for their success. The proceeds will go toward our many charities which include Saint Nicholas National Shrine in New York, National Disasters (i.e., Hurricane Sandy), Feeding the Homeless at Bailey’s Crossroads, Vacation Bible Camp for our youth, Saint Katherine Church, Metro Scholarships, and much more.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE (by Karen Polizos, President)

Helle Chapter’s first meeting of the new year was well attended and we enjoyed cutting a Vasilopita. Our next chapter meeting will be held Sunday, February 14, immediately after church.

We are excited about our February 5th Tastes of the Mediterranean fundraiser that will benefit Fisher House Foundation and other DOP philanthropic projects. We hope to have another sold out event! Please contact Karen Polizos for reservations, 571-434-7790.

Please note that Helle Chapter will prepare and serve dinner at Bailey’s Crossroads Shelter in April (not February as noted in last month’s Missions article in the DOXA). April is warmer and after the spring time change, which is better suited for our members to participate. We also look forward to Father Costas’ annual spiritual discussion with our chapter during Great Lent.

If you would like to learn more about the Daughters of Penelope and Helle Chapter, please contact Rosalie Georgeadis (703-532-1723) or Karen Polizos (571-434-7790). We welcome new members!

Tastes of the Mediterranean

Friday, February 5 | 7pm-10pm
Meletis Charuhas Community Center

Join the Daughters of Penelope for an evening of wine tasting, appetizers, and live Greek music. Proceeds benefit Fisher House Foundation and other DOP philanthropies.

$25 Tickets on Sale Now!
Contact Karen Polizos (571-434-7790)
or Rosalie Georgeadis (703-532-1723)

Saint Katherine Philoptochos

2016 Bake Sale Dates

Easter: April 17, 23, and 24
Thanksgiving: November 20
Christmas: December 11 and 18

For more information, please email LPbakesale@yahoo.com or call Mary Varlas, 703-965-4161
Bishop Neofitos of Nyeri and Mount Kenya Region of Kenya to Lead Lenten Retreat, March 19. Saint Katherine is honored to have the newly consecrated bishop of Kenya, His Grace Neofitos, lead our Lenten retreat on Saturday, March 19. We will begin with Divine Liturgy (Third Saturday of Souls) at 10:00am, followed by lunch and the retreat. His Grace will speak on *Experiencing Christ in Fasting and Prayer*. There is no charge for the retreat, but we ask that you confirm your attendance with your name and email to John Demakis (demakis9931@gmail.com) or Betty Slanta (slanta@verizon.net). A free-will offering will be collected for lunch and the retreat. His Grace is a graduate of our Holy Cross School of Theology (class of 2005). He was appointed Deputy Dean of the Makarios III Seminary, Nairobi, Kenya and Director of the Archdiocese Affairs in August 2008. He was elected Bishop of the Diocese of Nyeri and Mount Kenya on November 24, 2015.

Mission Lectures Following Salutation Services. As we have done the last four years, after the first four Friday Salutations Services to the Blessed Theotokos (Heretismi), we will have a special missions lecture. Refreshments will be served. A tentative schedule is as follows: March 18—Kenya, March 25—Alaska, April 1—Cuba, and April 8—Mexico. Come to the services and stay for the exciting presentations. Refreshments will be served.

OCMC Fundraising Dinner, May 15. Our annual fund-raising dinner will take place at Saints Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church in Potomac, Maryland on May 15. Our main speaker will be Fr. John Chakos, missionary priest in Guatemala. Fr. Chakos spoke at the event last year at Saint Katherine and people were so impressed with his missionary zeal and humility that many asked that he return to area for another presentation. Fr. Chakos was a long-time Greek Orthodox priest in Pittsburgh, PA. More details will be available in next month’s *DOXA*.

OCMC Short-Term Teams Set for 2016. The OCMC has published their short-term teams for 2016. A full list was published in the December *DOXA*. Teams usually serve 2-3 weeks. Details can be found on their website at OCMC.org. Please give prayerful consideration to participating in one of the teams in 2016. Many of our Saint Katherine parishioners have participated in teams over the last few years. They can tell you that it can be a life-changing experience. We are pleased to announce that one of our members, Betty Slanta, has been chosen for the July 2016 Alaska short-term team. Congratulations, Betty! Contact Dr. John Demakis (demakis9931@gmail.com) for more information.

Project Mexico, July 14-20. This summer we have the opportunity to once again join other Orthodox Christians from around the country in Mexico to assist in building a home for a needy family. We will stay at the St. Innocent Orphanage where we will provide ministry to the orphans as well as spending time with them playing games and doing arts and crafts. A team from Saint Katherine, headed by Elaine Porter, will be going from July 14-20. If you are interested in going on this life-changing mission trip, please contact Elaine Porter at beporter1@verizon.net.

Monumental Mission Walk, October 15. We received the permit from the National Park Service for our Monumental Mission Walk which will be held on Saturday, October 15. This will be our fourth annual walk for missions. More details to follow, but save the date.

Cooking for and Feeding the Homeless. The tentative schedule for feeding the homeless at Bailey’s Shelter is: February: Adult Bible Class, March: Philoptochos, April: Daughters of Penelope, May: Missions Committee, and June: Vacation Bible Camp. If your organization would like to serve at the shelter, please contact Dr. John Demakis (demakis9931@gmail.com).

Clothing and Toiletries. We continue to collect new or clean used clothes and unopened toiletries for the shelter year round. As the weather becomes colder, the shelter is in special need of warm clothing, coats, hats, gloves, etc. Please be generous. Bring your donations to our community center year round. We take them to the shelter every Sunday. The shelter recently notified us that they could also use bed sheets and blankets for twin beds.

SAMP: Support a Mission Priest! As we asked last month, please consider supporting a mission priest. This is a program of the OCMC that encourages parishes and individuals to help an Orthodox priest in a third-world country by donating $600 per year to that priest. Although this is not a large amount, it allows a priest to serve full-time as a priest without having to work at another job to help his family. If any one would like to support a mission priest, please send a check to the OCMC and specify SAMP. You will receive a brief biography of the priest you support.

Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS) Executives Visit Saint Katherine. Two members of the NVFS attended our January meeting and spoke to our group. Ms. M. Perkins coordinates area groups with the Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter. She came to thank us for the hygiene and survival kits that we delivered to the shelter in December. She said it was a great help to them. She also thanked us for the monthly dinners we serve there and the weekly clothes and toiletries we deliver to them. Ms. M. Hudson, the Community Engagement Specialist with the NVFS, also thanked us for the help we provide to the less fortunate in our area. Their presence gave us an opportunity to have a free ranging discussion on how else we many serve the areas poor and homeless.
FEBRUARY CHURCH DUTY ROSTER

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 7, 2016</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Jim Stoucker, Captain, Kelly Alexis, Chris Euripides, Rosemary Filou</td>
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<td>Bill Polizos, Dr. Jerry Rich, Maria Vargas</td>
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<td>February 14, 2016</td>
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<td>Maria Wills, Captain, Peter Karounos, Nick Larigakis</td>
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<td>Youth Church Duty (Chloe Edgington, Sunday School Captain; plus Sunday School and GOYA volunteers)</td>
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<td>February 21, 2016</td>
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<td>Dr. Jerry Rich, Captain, Chris Euripides, Peter Karounos, Costas Mavromatakis</td>
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<td>Mallamo Mavromatakis, Jim Stoucker, Mary Varlas</td>
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<td>February 28, 2016</td>
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<td>Maria Vargas, Captain, Kelly Alexis, Rosemary Filou, Costas Mavromatakis</td>
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HELENISTIC EVERYTHING!

Joanna Bose

In addition to the exhibition at the National Gallery called *Power and Pathos: Bronze Sculpture of the Hellenistic World*, the months of February and up until the 20th March, when the exhibit closes, are filled with documentaries, panel discussions, films and even performances and discussions on a variety of aspects about Ancient Greece that should have something to interest a person, especially those of us who count our forebears as being Greek. In fact, during the Gallery talk yesterday, I saw that one of the bronzes found off the coast of one island was my mother’s island—Kalymnos, and another town mentioned in relation to one of the *kouros* found in Crete, was the one my father is from!

There’s so much to discover that it’s truly exciting and fills me with enthusiasm! There’s a documentary on the world’s first computer—the Antikythera Mechanism—an object at first overlooked but now believed to be a mechanical computer that was built in ancient Greece. This discovery rewrites the history of technology!

In addition to the world’s first computer is the Ancient Hydraulis, or hydraulic organ, the first musical instrument to use keys! Considered to be the ancestor of the church organ, it was invented by Ctesibius of Alexandria in the 3rd century BC. The hydraulis spread through the Hellenistic and later the Roman world, and eventually bellows were introduced into the mechanism transforming it into a wind instrument. It came through the ages and during the Byzantine Empire, the Emperor Constantine V sent an organ as a gift to Pepin the Short, the first monarch of the Carolingian dynasty, in 757. It then became part of the Catholic Church.

It does not feed the soul. Have you been attending to your soul? The second part is that the devil tempts us to constantly test God. The reality is that we really test ourselves. The third part of the devil’s temptation goes back to where there is no god or that only you are god. Your journey of life is only to serve yourself or just maybe to be fair to a few choice others, like some family but not all family. There are some we just don’t like.

I challenge you to now reconsider and think about which journey you have taken in life. Do you know? Or do you just go with the flow? Journey through your Orthodox faith. This period of instruction, discernment, and spiritual formation also affords you with the opportunity to develop and strengthen your relationship with the parish’s clergy and faithful—those with whom you will worship “in Spirit and truth” and with whom you will share in fellowship as a member of the Body of Christ, the Church. Naturally, it is crucial to “know” what the Church teaches and acquire an “Orthodox mindset” on the intellectual level, so to speak, but it is equally crucial to grow in identifying with the People of God, the worshipping community, through fellowship. One who would claim that he or she “wishes to embrace the faith but doesn’t want to get involved with other people and their lives” falls short in his or her understanding of the Church as the People of God and, as such, has yet to make that internal conversion that must take place before one is received into the Church. As Saint Paul reminds us, “so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:5; see also Ephesians 4:25). In other words, one cannot embrace Orthodox Christianity without embracing Orthodox Christians. This means coming to Church. It also must be noted that embracing the faith involves a “running to” Christ and His Church as the “Ark of Salvation,” rather than a “running away from” something—other than sin. In time, you will be welcomed sacramentally into the Church and continue your ongoing path to the Kingdom of God. Hope this helps, and hope that your “journey to Orthodoxy” is filled with every blessing.

See you at our destination of choice—God’s Kingdom.

Fr. Costa.
SHOWN BELOW is a list of families and individuals who participated in the 2015 Saint Katherine Stewardship Program through December 31, 2015.

Thank you for responding to the needs of our church.

If you have not yet submitted your 2016 pledge, please complete the stewardship form on page 8 and return it to the Church Office as soon as possible. Alternatively, you may pledge online today at www.saint-katherines.org/stewardship. Your Church and community depend on your stewardship commitment.

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

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<td>Lewis Brickates</td>
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<td>Andrew Burton</td>
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For a complete list, please see page 14.
Information is at www.nga.gov/film. Other events—and these include all kinds of topics: The Iliad and Odyssey, Warrior and all the information is there.

(Cocont from page 13)

Most of the documentaries are shown on weekdays in the West Building Lecture Hall. But, there are some on Sundays too. Information is at www.nga.gov/film. Other events—and these include all kinds of topics: The Iliad and Odyssey, Warrior and all the information is there.

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Mrs Anna Tsambidis
Mrs Helen Taintolas
M/M Matthew Turner
M/M Themis Tzamarias
M/M Thomas Vaccarella
Dr/Mrs Charles Valsas
Ms Nikli Vlasavas

(Cocont from page 12)

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