PRESENTING OURSELVES TO THE LORD

WE, AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD and inheritors of His Kingdom, have the inner urge to be in the presence of God. The distance between heaven and earth has been bridged by the birth of Jesus Christ. Therefore, through the fulfillment of scripture and expression of our belief, we have liturgical practices and traditions that fulfill our commitment to God.

We need to be proactive to place ourselves before the Lord. Read Isaiah 6:1-12. Isaiah saw the Lord sitting on His Throne in the Temple. Seraphim stood above Him saying, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His Glory”, while the Temple was filled with smoke. Isaiah thought he would die for having seen God and for having unclean lips, but an angel touched his mouth with a live coal from the altar and caused his sin to be forgiven (Isaiah 6:1-7). Then the Lord asked, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Isaiah volunteered! The Lord then told Isaiah, “Go tell this people: ‘keep on listening, but do not perceive; keep on looking, but do not understand.’ Render the hearts of this people fat, their ears heavy and their eyes smeared, lest they see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and return and be healed” (Isaiah 6:8-10).

You may not have realized you too have made, and continue to make, choices to be with the Lord, for yourselves and your family. One beautiful way we present our children and ourselves before the Lord is the 40-day blessing. We do this blessing because it was the custom of the Jewish faith to offer to God our first-born child to be dedicated in the service of the Lord. Two people met Joseph, Mary, and Jesus at the Presentation—Simeon and Anna. Simeon was a very old man who was righteous and devout and who looked for the consolation of Israel. It had been revealed to him that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah (Luke 2:25-26). According to traditional sources, Simeon was over 200 years old and had been a translator of the Septuagint (the Hebrew Old Testament translated into Greek). The Apostle Matthias was chosen once as a student of Simeon; thus, Matthias was one of the oldest of the Twelve Apostles. Simeon took the infant Jesus in his arms and prophesied concerning the mystery which for ages had been hidden in God: that the Gentiles were to be fellow heirs and fellow members of the Body of Christ and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel (Ephesians 3:4-11, Colossians 1:26). With his Lord in his arms, he then asked his Lord to let him depart this life in peace after waiting so long to see his Salvation (Luke 2:29-30). Other sources add that Simeon’s eyes were opened, like Elisha’s servant’s eyes (2 Kings 6:15-17), and he saw angels, standing in a circle around Him, like bodyguards standing by their King. Simeon then blessed Joseph and Mary and prophesied again about the impact Jesus was to have and about “a sign that shall be spoken against”, which would later come to be the Cross (Luke 2:34-35, 1 Corinthians 1:18-23). One might wonder who was presenting whom. Was Simeon presenting Jesus in the Temple or was Jesus presenting Simeon to His Father (“let your servant depart in peace”) after a long and very fruitful life?

The Prophetess Anna had lived for 84 years as a widow who did not leave the Temple but served God with fasting and prayers day and night (Luke 2:36-38). If she was at least 15 when she married and lived with her husband for 7 years before he died (Luke 2:36, 37), this would make her at least 106 years old. She spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Israel. Anna had undoubtedly known Mary during the 10+ years that

(Continued on page 14)
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PARISH COUNCIL ASKS THAT YOU MAKE YOUR ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

We hope that all of you are healthy and well during this Pandemic. With the rollout of the vaccine, we remain hopeful that we will soon turn the corner and once again worship together. We thank all who responded to the Christmas call to action for donations. It could not have come at a better time to help the church meet its obligations.

This month’s article is a call to action to complete a pledge to share in the support and work of our Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Katherine. Thanks to your generous commitments, we surpassed our stewardship financial goal for 2020. As we begin 2021, your support of Saint Katherine is even more important due to the uncertainties we continue to face as a result of the pandemic. While the hope of the vaccine is here, there is still significant uncertainty on our ability to rent our halls and conduct festivals that have become necessary elements to maintain the church’s financial stability.

Why is completing and returning your pledge form so important? Your pledge will give the Parish Council an ability to forecast the financial health of the church. Your pledge will permit us to determine whether a funding surplus or shortcoming is expected and enable us to take proactive steps to address any expected difficulties in meeting our financial obligations. Completion of the pledge card is also important because it also lets us know what expertise, interests, and hobbies you and your family members have. This information permits us to further shape our ministries, call on volunteers with specific talents, and learn more about our stewards.

Our ministries continue to proceed despite social restrictions. In 2021, we will continue to emphasize our Bible studies, Sunday School and Greek School programs, and GOYA activities. We will once again begin Paideia in-person schooling.

All of us on the Parish Council understand that a level of uncertainty exists in many of our parishioners’ lives. Several parishioners have experienced COVID and many have lost employment or even had to close their businesses due to the Pandemic. We understand the financial hardship. We understand that the uncertainty in your lives is significant. Saint Katherine is here for you. No one has been turned away in their hour of need. Don’t hesitate to reach out to Fr. Costas or any member of the Parish Council if you need help. We are here for you!

For those of us in the community that can afford to make a pledge, please fill out your stewardship pledge card (available on page 17 of this issue).

Here are some frequently asked questions and statements regarding stewardship pledges:

Q1. I don’t know if I can meet a commitment; should I fill out a pledge card?
A1. The pledge is a target. You can choose a stretch pledge or a reasonable pledge that you can afford. You can exceed the pledge over the year, you can also adjust your pledge. The pledge simply gives the church an understanding of where stewardship will be this year.

Q2. How much should I pledge?
A2. Your pledge is a personal matter. Pledge an amount that is reasonable for your personal budget. Our previous estimate for an average pledge amount to help the church meet its obligation is approximately $1,596 for the year.

Q3. Can I direct my pledge to a specific expense?
A3. Yes, you can. However, please note that we would prefer you pledge to the operating account so we can cover the variety of expenses the church incurs. You could make two or more pledges to direct your contributions.

Q4. Does my pledge count if I did it online?
A4. Yes, due to the inability of many of our parishioners to attend church, the online stewardship pledge will work in lieu of a pledge card.

Q5. I completed a pledge card last year; do I have to do that every year?
A5. Yes. We cannot assume your pledge this year based on last year’s pledge card.

Q6. Can I make a pledge on behalf of someone in my family?
A6. Yes, please indicate the pledge is in memory of or for someone else in your family so that we can record it accurately in our systems.

Thank you in advance for completing your pledge!

Ray Vazquez  George Moratis
Parish Council President  Parish Council Treasurer
Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

February 21, we start the Triodion*, a period of preparation that directs us to Great Lent. This is the beginning of our hard work for Lent; hard work that will aim our desires, extend our persistence, and even experiment with our feelings. The experiments that we will go all the way through are a once-a-year remembrance of the effort that is vital to dedicated and genuine Christian living.

The texts of the Triodion are of self-discovery, of self-examination, of self-discovery, repentance, and we see that the Triodion begins four weeks earlier than the actual Fast starts. We start today with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the idea of sincere repentance and virtual-repentance, two various types, and how we move towards actual repentance and how we deal with meekness and whether we have real humility or not.

On this Sunday, the Gospel reading is the parable given by the Lord about the virtues of repentance and humility. It shows how much these virtues are dear to God, even more than the apparent sacrifices and worship. Consequently, the Church warns that the cornerstone of Great Lent is the humility with a spirit of repentance. Settling the Gospel of the Publican and Pharisee is mostly to emphasize humility.

When St. Macarius was asked, “What is the greatest virtue.” He replied, “Just as arrogance brought down an angel from the highest and caused the first humans to fall, so does humility raise the person endowed with it from the lowest pit”.

Saint Isaac the Syrian says on humility, “The one who sighs every day because of his sins is greater than one who raises the dead. It is better to deserve beholding one’s sins than beholding angels”.

Anyone who views himself as being sinless falls in delusion and pride (1 John 8:1). We are in constant need to cry unto God with the Publican “God, be merciful to me a sinner” (Luke 18:13). No matter how many virtues we acquire, let us always remember that we are sinners and ask God for mercy and forgiveness.

Have a blessed Triodion!

*The word Triodion is a Greek word meaning three odes, that is, three stanzas. The word «οτιδή» refers to stanzas of praise or hymns, from the verb of στίμω “to sing”. This period has been called “Triodion” because the Canons (hymns) of 9 odes (stanzas) are replaced with the liturgical book with Canons of 3 odes called the “The Triodion”.

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FROM THE DESK OF FR. ZISIS

Brethren let us not pray like the Pharisee: for he who exalts himself shall be humbled. Let us humble ourselves before God, and with fasting cry aloud as did the Publican: God be merciful to us sinners.

FR. ZISIS LAPPAS’ BIO

Fr. Zisis Lappas was born and raised in Xanthi Greece, in an Orthodox environment influenced by the Mother Church of Constantinople. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Finance from the Technological Educational Institute of Central Macedonia which is a University in Northern Greece. He worked in the fields of accounting, marketing, and customer care in Greece for a couple years before he moved to the States. He holds the rank of Staff Sergeant of The Hellenic Armed Forces in the Greek Army which he served according to his Constitutional obligations.

In 2009, Fr. Zisis met his American-born future wife Georgia Christina of North Andover, MA and they have been inseparable ever since. They are blessed to have a daughter named Ioanna Maria.

To fulfill a calling to the Priesthood, in 2014 he then enrolled at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA for a Master of Divinity (M. Div.) and continued for a Master of Theology (M.Th.) in Patristics in the same school.

During his studies in the Seminary, Fr. Zisis worked for three years as a lay assistant, as a Greek teacher at the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Catherine in Braintree, MA, and participated actively in parish life receiving great experience before his ordination.

He was ordained to the Holy Diaconate by His Eminence former Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey on February 23, 2020 at Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Asbury Park, NJ and to the Holy Priesthood on March 15, 2020 at Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Hamilton, NJ.

Afterword, during the pandemic Fr. Zisis served for nine months for the Holy Metropolis of Boston with the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, serving the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Catherine in Braintree, MA, as well as the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George in Lowell, MA.

In addition to giving back to his community, Fr. Zisis and Presvytera Georgia served and supported the local food pantry and homeless shelters of the Northshore Boston area.

He loves community life, the Sacraments, the liturgical life of the Church, ministry endeavors, outreach, and friendships. He has powerful faith, and determination to express the greater good of the Gospel.

He thanks our Trinitarian God for the ministry he has been given, and the ability to bring the reality of Christ’s true presence and His love into people’s lives.

Welcome Fr. Zisis, Presv. Georgia, and Ioanna!
CATECHETICAL (SUNDAY) SCHOOL

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS and parents have started the new year exploring various topics as they relate to our faith. We have started the year examining various topics appropriate to the various age groups.

Although the virtual school year is not how we imagined our students would continue to learn, I want to take a moment and thank all of our parents who receive the weekly emails and ensure that their children are learning and studying our faith at home. As a high school teacher, I know how hard it is to have our students learn in a virtual format. The school year has had its challenges, but I am thankful we have been able to continue our studies at home. If you are not receiving the weekly emails, please send me an email at czymail2@gmail.com.

GREEK SCHOOL – ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ

Namaeze kai Pali sto Elliniki mas Scholio. Perase koi olas enas mtnas apod to kon Konuros Xrono. Kanontas mia sasost koybynta me ton easo mas, bavoume to sumptepasa, an exroume na xrismopoioume kalala, demyumikia ki euarchrista tis 8.760 wres tou. Kai sygkerymeriama emas edw auto pou mas evdisafere, einai h iadiptetita tou Ellinikou Scholou. Dplade, na mhn afinjoume na peneidei o chrwmos mas, potein diavabhume Ellinikia sto spiti, h anatolikidamme peri te diáleimma kai to fafgo kai to paignidhi, oton o kairos einai kalos kai bavainoume exw kai mia diathese euarchristi. Gi auto as mhn xechoume pote kerdizonita ato kade leppto Ellinikon, prosthsetume demyumikia sto 8.760 wres pródodo kai prokopht.


Oi elengoi prooodo tha ddothei stous goweseis twn mabhthn mas sto 12 kai 13 Fevrouarion. Afousi touso upograhamoi ois goweseis, prptei na tono epistrepousme sto sumwomteru dunato sto daskalio/daschala tou paiidiou tou.

HERE WE ARE AGAIN IN OUR GREEK SCHOOL. One month of the new year has already passed. If we ask ourselves, do we use its 8,760 hours creatively and pleasantly? Do we study our Greek at home, in class or online without thinking and without creativity? We must not forget that win-

BOOK REVIEW

Gregory McKinney


In Thy Presence is one of the most remarkable books of Orthodox spirituality that I can remember reading. It is composed of two separate essays, one written in the Easter season of 1960 when Fr. Gillet was 67, and the other at Easter ten year later. The later essay, Limitless Love, is presented first, which initially seemed odd. It is soaring spiritual prose, wherein Fr. Gillet had the audacity to write it as a message spoken from God’s point-of-view and in His first-person voice.

Is it true, My child, that thou desirpest nothing other than love? - It is true, Lord. - Is it true that thou desirpest only to love and be loved? - It is true, Lord. - Then, My child, because thou hast this thirst, come thou to the waters. Come to the primal water. Come and drink at the Source. (20)

The second essay, Thy Presence Today, pales in comparison at first glance. But then the reader realizes that this is the practical one, the one discusses the practice of spiritual disciplines and thinking through the lessons of Church and Scripture. It is this vine-dressing by the 67-year-old Gillet that yields up the fruit ten years later. Give me the sweetest fruit first, and once I’m hooked, only then show me the effort needed to produce it.

Limitless Love can pierce the reader’s heart with the invitation to enter into an intimate relationship with Lord Love as surely as Fr. Gillet’s own soul must have been transfigured in that Love.

For I am Supreme love, universal love, absolute love, infinite love. If, now, I rather stress the word Limitless, it is to awaken in your minds the perception of something unlimited, of a love which, like a violent wind, like a hurricane, comes to breakdown all obstacles. I am that love which nothing can stop, which cannot be contained or restrained by anything. (17)

I have read several of Fr. Gillet’s books over the years, including the excellent The Year of Grace of the Lord. In my mind, In Thy Presence elevates him to another level.

My beloved ones are found on diverse planes, at different levels. But I am the Beloved of all. I am found on all planes and at all levels. I am for all. I am the Shepherd who lets no sheep go astray without seeking for it. I am with you from the beginning. Your life is Mine. Speak with My voice. Speak with the voice of Love, and utter the words of Love. I shall put My words into your mouths. (74)

Fr. Louis Gillet, also Lev Gillet, (1980+) was a convert to the Orthodox faith between the World Wars through the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and was received into the Orthodox Church in Paris. In 1928, he organized the first French language Orthodox parish in France. Gillet also wrote under the pseudonym “A Monk of the Eastern Church”.

(Continued on page 15)
BOOKSTORE

THE WINTRY DAYS OF FEBRUARY are the perfect time to put some logs on the fire, light some candles, and curl up with a good book. Consider reading Everyday Saints, the story of five young men from non-religious backgrounds who joined a monastery in Communist Russia in 1984. This easy-to-read tale relates what these men experienced and some of the “everyday saints” they met. The author says, “In this book I want to tell you about this beautiful new world of mine, where we live by laws completely different from those in ‘normal’ worldly life—a world of light and love, full of wondrous discoveries, hope, happiness, trials and triumphs, where even our defeats acquire profound significance: a world in which, above all, we can always sense powerful manifestations of divine strength and comfort.”

For little ones, we have the saints of the month, St. Dorothy and St. Philotei, both wealthy ladies who gave up their riches to serve Christ, and St. Christos the Gardener who was martyred for his faith during Ottoman rule.

GOYA (7th-12th grades)

WE ARE COMING BACK! Our GOYA board will be meeting soon to finally kick off some events and start planning for when we get the GREEN light. It’s time we focused on the needs of the kids and the many blessings they bring to our parish. We have already been patient for a long time and we ask everyone to continue being patient for just a little while longer, as we wait for the vaccines to be distributed and restrictions to be lifted. We can’t wait to see everyone! Stay tuned!

We want to take our turn in welcoming Fr. Zisis to our community and are excited to see his contributions to our amazing youth.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

DURING THIS TIME OF SOCIAL DISTANCING, let us continue our weekly online Adult Bible Studies on the Gospel of Luke and the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. 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 to receive weekly invitations to the Zoom classes.

ADULT CATECHETICAL LESSONS (ACL)

HISTORY OF RELIGION TRADITIONS AND SCRIPTURES

THIS COURSE SEeks TO HELP better understand the rich and complex ways that religions function in historic and contemporary contexts. We meet on Wednesdays at 7:15pm. If you are interested in attending this course, please email Ioannis Gkigkitzis at igkigkitzis@nvcc.edu for further information and to add you to the group.

Our other catechetical lessons are as follow:

- Fridays 3:30pm  Book of Revelation
- Saturdays 3:30pm  Philokalia

ANGELS AND MUSIC by Joanna Bose

IN THE ORTHROS OR MATINS part of the Sunday liturgy on January 10, following the Theophany, praises are heaped on the risen Lord, in this way:

Praise Him with the sound of trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre. And then, Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and flute. It continues: Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with triumphant cymbals; let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

In these words, which we hear repeated so as to be internalized, imbibed, breathed in, as it were (πάντα πνεύμα), we are brought into a space where prayer, praise, dance, singing and music-playing; our whole “earthly” bodies (and minds) are encouraged to participate in the joys of worship. There’s an emphasis on Joy in the worship! With music, all kinds of sounds and instruments—harp, timbrels, strings, cymbals, flutes and voices—we are brought into a place of divinity that can effectively take us out of ourselves and into a sphere that is truly sublime.

All these invocations invite us to imagine and connect with the divine presences of angels as they surround the Theotokos and the Lord our God.

In fact, the word “hymn”, the noun “humnos” can be explained as a derivative of the verb-root that we see in the (Continued on page 7)
MISSIONS AND OUTREACH
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:19)

NEWS FROM THE OCMC

**OCMC Position Vacancies Filled.** The OCMC recently filled both the Finance Director and Missionary Recruitment Officer positions. Jason Sterling, a finance officer with Motorola and non-profit financial positions, was recently named the OCMC Finance Director. The position of Missionary Recruitment Officer was filled by Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak, formerly Director of Admissions for St. Vladimir’s Seminary, Director of Communications for the Orthodox Church in America, and Project Manager/Grant Writer for Syndesmos.

**OCMC Missionaries to Guatemala.** OCMC missionaries Deacon Thomas and Diakonissa Elizabeth Manuel, along with their 10-month-old son, Vasili, will return to the Guatemala mission field in early February 2021, after having quarantined in southern Mexico at the end of January. Dn. Thomas will teach at the seminary in Aguacate, Guatemala and assist with teaching lay leaders at parish and regional retreats. Part of his job as a teacher at the seminary will be to prepare course work and translate texts from English to Spanish. Diakonissa Elizabeth will use her experience teaching elementary through high school students to encourage children’s ministry in the village of Aguacate. She will also chant and expand the music repertoire of the women’s choir in Aguacate and communities in Guatemala and Southern Mexico to encourage full participation during the Divine Liturgy. Deacon Thomas celebrated Liturgy at Saint Katherine recently.

**OCMC Missionary Bill Black.** Dr. Bill Black, OCMC’s missionary in Kenya, teaches at both the Orthodox Patriarchal Ecclesiastical School of Makarios III and St. Paul’s University (a private school in Kenya). He teaches the courses “Trends in Modern Theology” and “Early Patristic Theology” online, at St. Paul’s. At Seminary, Dr. Black is teaching ‘Comparative Religions’, and the course on ‘Stewardship’, based on his upcoming book entitled ‘Raising Up Good Stewards: God’s People Using God’s Money for God’s Glory’. All seminary classes are online, with students using the online platform “Whatsapp!” However, the students do not have laptop computers, so all their studies are done with mobile phones. Dr. Black is from the Virginia area and came to our Saint Katherine Missionary Dinner not long ago.

BAILEY’S CROSSROADS HOMELESS SHELTER

THANKS AGAIN TO FR. COSTA who cooked 50 meals on January 26 for the Shelter. Taso Sakkas was his sous-chef. The shelter told us the people loved the food. Thanks again Fr. Costa and Taso. God bless you! Thanks also to John and Betty Slanta and Taso for taking the food to the shelter.

Bailey’s Shelter, located near Columbia Pike and Seminary Road, is a multi-service facility housing a shelter and permanent supportive housing, 48 beds for adult men or women and four 4 medical respite beds for homeless adults discharged from hospitals that need additional care. The shelter opened in November 2019, and replaced the shelter on Columbia Pike, across from the Pollo Campero restaurant, and was in use since the 1980s.

Saint Katherine parishioners provide nutritious monthly meals and serve the residents. However, during the pandemic, we cannot serve the adults in the shelter.

FOOD PANTRY AND DIAPER COLLECTION

Future issues of DOXA will have dates for our next Food Pantry and Diaper Collections.

(Continued from page 6)

“huphainein” or “weave” in the metaphorical sense of “web” or “fabric” of song. The word “humnos” is related to a metaphor that likens the fabric-worker to the rhapsoidos “rhapsode”, the etymology of which can be explained as “he who sews together the songs”.

It should also be noted here that another meaning of “rhapsode” is an Ancient Greek minstrel or reciter of epic poems.

And so it is that the weaving of praise including song and music, is a multi-layered and ultimate worship of our God.

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The painting of an Angel (on page 6) by the master Andrei Rublev c1411, is part of the larger icon of the Old Testament Trinity, which is considered the highest achievement in Russian iconography. “This detail contains the essence of Rublev’s magic, conveying a clear impression of his profoundly spiritual yet restrained and entirely unsentimental approach. Its deeply emotional power depends largely on the skill with which Rublev selected his soft yet deep and essentially luminous colours, blending them to produce extremely harmonious effects while, at the same time, setting off the grace of his firm yet delicate and flowing line.” (Rice, T.T., Russian Icons, Spring Books, 1963, p. 30)
PAIDEIA PRESCHOOL

WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that the Paideia Preschool will reopen February 1, 2021. The program is part of the mission of our church and will be offered to families within the Saint Katherine community as well as those outside. There are two enrollment options—part-time (3 days/week) and full-time (5 days/week) for children between the ages of 2-5. Initial enrollment will be limited, with the plan to incrementally add classes to accommodate demand. Our hope is to incorporate infant care in the not too distant future and we are currently in the process of applying for the proper licensure.

As we prepare to reopen, we are updating procedures, schedules, and the Parent Handbook to ensure the health and safety of the children, which is one of our top priorities. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions regarding enrollment.

Email: hec-admissions@stkchurch.com
Phone: 703-671-1515

JOURNEY TO ORTHODOXY

BEGINNING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, the “Journey to Orthodoxy” class for adults will resume ONLINE via Zoom, on Monday evenings from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. Designed for non-Orthodox inquirers into Orthodoxy as well as for Orthodox Christians who want to know more about the teachings, practices, history, and contemporary life of our Orthodox Church, this class is also recommended for intending or newly married couples, especially where one spouse is not Orthodox. The class will follow an informal discussion format.

For further information, to receive links to class materials and be placed on the Zoom invitation list, contact the teachers, John Demakis (demakis9931@gmail.com), Jim Jatras (heraclius13@gmail.com or 202-375-1007), or the Zoom technical coordinator James Class (classj@gmail.com). Treasures of Orthodoxy is a series of pamphlets written for the non-Orthodox, especially those who are considering becoming members of the Orthodox Church and who wish to deepen their appreciation of her faith, worship, and traditions. The pamphlets are authored by Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald, a faculty member of Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology. The pamphlet titles are as follow:

1. Introduction - Introduces the non-Orthodox to Orthodox Christianity.
2. House of God - Describes the interior of the church building.
3. Worship - Discusses the form and characteristics of Orthodox worship.
4. Liturgy - Describes the meaning and celebration of the Eucharist.
5. Sacraments - Describes the meaning and importance of liturgical life.
6. Special Services and Blessings - Describes the non-sacramental services which contribute to spiritual life.
7. Teachings - Outlines the salient points of doctrine and basic credal affirmations.
8. Spirituality - Discusses the meaning of theosis as the goal of Christian life.
9. History - Sketches the great epochs of Orthodoxy.
10. The Church - Outlines the procedure for becoming a member of the Orthodox Church.

EVENING WITH THE SAINTS
Family Pizza Night and Presentations
Friday, February 19 | 6:00pm

Join us for our 2nd “Evening with the Saints” in the Meletis Charuhas Hall

Limited Seating | Reservations Required
Email frcostas@stkchurch.com by February 18 with the number of people in your party.
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<td>1 Paideia Preschool to Reopen 7:00pm Journey to Orthodox via Zoom</td>
<td>2 Presentation of Our Lord 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 5pm Youth Conv. Greek 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek 7:00pm Paraklesis to the Holy Trinity in Defense from the Pandemic</td>
<td>3 7:15pm Traditions and Scriptures via Zoom</td>
<td>4 7pm Adult Int. II Greek 7pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom</td>
<td>5 3:30pm ACL Book of Revelation via Zoom 5:00pm Greek School</td>
<td>6 9:30am Greek School 3:30pm ACL Philokalia via Zoom 6:00pm DOP Love is in the Air Fundraiser</td>
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<td>7 16\text{th} Sunday of Matthew 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>8 7:00pm Journey to Orthodox via Zoom</td>
<td>9 5pm Youth Conv. Greek 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek 7:00pm Paraklesis to the Holy Trinity in Defense from the Pandemic</td>
<td>10 7:15pm Traditions and Scriptures via Zoom</td>
<td>11 7pm Adult Int. II Greek 7pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom</td>
<td>12 3:30pm ACL Book of Revelation via Zoom 5:00pm Greek School</td>
<td>13 9:30am Greek School 3:30pm ACL Philokalia via Zoom</td>
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<td>14 Sunday of the Canaanite 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 1:00pm DOP via Zoom</td>
<td>15 President’s Day (Office Closed)</td>
<td>16 5pm Youth Conv. Greek 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek 7:00pm Paraklesis to the Holy Trinity in Defense from the Pandemic</td>
<td>17 7:15pm Traditions and Scriptures via Zoom</td>
<td>18 7pm Adult Int. II Greek 7pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom</td>
<td>19 3:30pm ACL Book of Revelation 5:00pm Greek School 6:00pm Family Night with the Saints (Pizza and Presentation)</td>
<td>20 9:30am Greek School 3:30pm ACL Philokalia via Zoom</td>
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<td>21 Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee Triodion Begins 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>22 7:00pm Journey to Orthodox via Zoom</td>
<td>23 5pm Youth Conv. Greek 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek 7:00pm Paraklesis to the Holy Trinity in Defense from the Pandemic</td>
<td>24 7:15pm Traditions and Scriptures via Zoom</td>
<td>25 7pm Adult Int. II Greek 7pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom</td>
<td>26 3:30pm ACL Book of Revelation 5:00pm Greek School</td>
<td>27 9:30am Greek School 3:30pm ACL Philokalia via Zoom</td>
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<td>28 Sunday of the Prodigal Son 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>6 1st Saturday of souls 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</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

MY DEAREST SAINT KATHERINE PHILOPTOCHOS SISTERS AND PARISHIONERS,

It has been a busy start to the year already. We have been diligently working on our new calendar year by helping many people in and around our community. The need for assistance within the homeless community, those struck by COVID-19 and/or the effects of COVID to employment, and the local area food banks has risen. On January 19th, our Chapter 1092 voted to distribute $10,000 to various organizations whose mission is to meet the needs of those individuals mentioned above. The recipients are Culmore Clinic, Arlington Food Assistance Center, Britepaths, World Central Kitchen, Miriam’s Kitchen, and Central Union Mission. For the last few months, we have been working on another project, “Feed Our Neighbors”, that will bring pantry items, vegetables, gift cards, and personal care items to one hundred families surrounding our community in the middle of February. The project is costing our chapter $10,000 and is replacing last year’s “Rise Against Hunger”. More information will be shared shortly. All Philoptochos members should have received the renewal applications which were sent the first week of January. Membership is Philanthropy. Please send in your renewals. For those of you who are not yet members, please consider joining us! All women over 18 years of age who have been baptized Christian Orthodox or are married to a Christian Orthodox may be a member. It is through your membership, donations, bake sales, and cookbook sales that we have been able to carry on with our missions and take care of different initiatives. The application is available on page 17. You may also call Mary Varlas at 703-965-4161. Again, please fill out your application and mail it in. Since we are still under CDC and state mandated restrictions, you may also send it directly to my home address at 14685 John Ewell Court, Centreville, VA 20121. Our National and Metropolis Philoptochos suggest that we finish collecting stewardship dues by the end of the 1st Quarter of each new year. Last year we totaled 190 members and, in 2019, we finished with 206 members. For our size of church community we should have at least 350 members. Hopefully when the pandemic is under control we can put some social events together to explain in person our mission and the need for every female to be part of the Philoptochos.

Wishing all a blessed month! Praying to see everyone again soon.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE
Maria T. Vargas, President

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU that joined our January meeting and heard Dean Chelpon talk about strategies for dealing with COVID. We appreciated Dean’s insights and actionable advice (including meditative breathing using the Jesus prayer). His talk also sparked questions and a discussion among those attending. Thanks, Dean!

Please plan to join our next meeting on February 14 at 1:00. Although it is a zoom meeting, you can call in as well. Join us if you can! Our meetings are a nice chance to see each other, reconnect, and draw strength from fellow sisters.

We also hope everyone in the Saint Katherine community is able to join us for our Valentine’s virtual wine tasting event, “Love is in the Air”, on February 6. We are partnering with Vienna Vinter and Souvlaki Bar for the food and wine. In addition to great food and drinks, there will be a trivia game and short presentations describing the wines. Proceeds will go to local area food banks. Sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ca9a92ba5f58-taste. The deadline to sign up is February 3. Thanks to Patty Leto and Karen Polizos for organizing. As a Chapter, we are supporting a national Daughters of Penelope project—Limbitless Solutions (https://limbitless-solutions.org/). We will discuss this more at upcoming meetings.

AHEPA

THE LAST ACTION OF THE CHAPTER last year was the Gus Moshos Raffle drawing on December 22nd. Following are the seven lucky winners: 1st prize Mary Catherine Moshos, 2nd prize Nick Agnos, 3rd prize Spiro Zissios, 4th prize Frank Agnos, 5th prize Joanne Alexis, 6th prize Megan Mayer, and 7th prize Sheila Jones.

This year we are starting with a virtual race/walk. Mark your calendars for the week of March 22–26, any day, any time. The Peter N. Derzis Chapter 438 is hosting a fundraising virtual 5km/1 mile race/walk event. Proceeds will be donated towards the training of service dogs for wounded warriors suffering from PTSD. The event, like most events these days, will be virtual. You decide which day and time to run/walk. When you finish, log into the site provided below and let us know so we can send you the commemorative T-shirt if you chose delivery via USPS. You may claim it from the Church Office starting Monday, March 29. Sponsors are welcome. We offer 3 levels of sponsorship and a booster level:

- Gold for a donation of $750.00
- Silver for a donation of $500.00
- Bronze for a donation of $250.00
- A Booster can be anyone contributing $50.00 and above and a complimentary T-shirt will be provided.

For registration and more information, please go to www.ahepa438.org.
2020 STEWARDS

SHOWN BELOW is a list of families and individuals who participated in the well as the Dollar More A Day campaign, through December 31, 2020. As such, please contact Lisa Mikhalievsky at accounting@stkchurc.com or 703-671-1515 with any questions.

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<td>Ms Daniela Candakis</td>
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<td>Jano Carlson and Sue-Anne Beiruty</td>
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Ms Constance Miller
M/M Marwan Mina
Mrs Evi đổmita Mitchell
M/M Louis Mitchell
Mrs Kate Mitchell-Tombras
M/Dr Demetris Moris
Mr William Moore
M/M George Moralis
Mrs Paraskevi Morlock
M/M Ralph Morris
M/M John Moschopoulos
Mr Stylianos Moschou and
Eftihios Raptis
Mr George Moshos
Mrs Irene Moshos
Lt Col/Mrs Matthew Mowery
Mr Emmanuel Mparas
Mr/Dr Michael Mparas
M/M Nicholas Mparas
M/M Kenneth (Ages) Myers
M/M Nicholas Myerson
Ms Irene Napliotis
Ms Maria Napliotis
Joanna Newton
M/M Veldon L Newton
M/M Demetrios Nikolaou
Mrs Demetra Nightingale
M/M Stavros Nikolaou
Ms Francine Nisbit
M/M Nicholas Nisit
Dr/Dr Constantine Nontas
Mr/Dr Scott Nuzum
M/M Demetrios Nicholakos
Joanna Newton
M/M Emanuel Rouvelas
Mrs Irene Rousos
M/M Dimitri Roumais
M/M Stefanos Roulakis
M/M Thomas Rooney
M/M George Roiniotis
Dr/Mrs Jerry Rich
Mrs Sophia Rantis
M/M Anthony Quebral
Mr Nicholas Psaros and
Mrs Stella Pristouris
Leah Price
M/M Nicholas Ploutis
Dr/Dr John Polizos
M/M Nicholas Nightingale
Ms Pantelis Nikolaou
Mrs Helen Nikolaou
Mrs Androula Pikralidid"
GOOD STEWARDSHIP is about realizing that God has blessed you and that He is expecting you to bless others with those same gifts. It is about acknowledging the influence and power of God in your life. It is about thanking God through His Church for everything. We hope you have received your Stewardship Pledge form for 2021.

Consider…

**WEEKLY GIVING**

In I Corinthians 16:2 we read, “On the first day of the week, let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper that there be no collections when I come.” Regular stewardship contributions are easier to manage and keep the Church and her ministries in our thoughts and plans. One way to do this is through automatically scheduled payments sent directly from your bank. In this way, we offer back to God the “first fruits” of our labor, realizing that all we possess comes from Him.

**CHEERFUL GIVING**

In II Corinthians 9:7 we read, “Each person should give what he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Consider your weekly expenditures on eating out, coffee, entertainment, etc. Please keep in mind that the expenses of the Church increase every year. For our ministries to grow and Saint Katherine to thrive and to meet expenses, stewardship contributions must also increase each year.

**PROPORTIONATE GIVING**

The more we are given, the more is expected of us. Each steward should determine the percentage of their income that will be committed to Christ and His Church.

Thank you to all who fulfilled their stewardship pledge for 2020. Please prayerfully consider increasing your 2021 stewardship pledge. (See pledge card on page 18 of this issue.)

**Shown below** is a list of families and individuals who participated in the 2021 Saint Katherine Stewardship Program, as well as the Dollar More A Day campaign, through January 20, 2021. Thank you for responding to the needs of our church. Please contact Lisa Mikhalevsky at accounting@stkchurch.com or 703-671-1515 x106 with any questions.

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<th>Mr Donald Adams</th>
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<td>M/M Edward Cameron</td>
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<td>Mrs Ekaterina Gardner</td>
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<td>M/M Nicholas Gasparis</td>
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<td>Dr Evie Cavos</td>
<td>M/M Nicholas Georges</td>
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<td>Mrs Catherine Edgington</td>
<td>M/M Frank Gerow Jr</td>
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<td>M/M George Boosalis</td>
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<td>Mrs Niki Elevarakis</td>
<td>Mrs Helen Gianelos</td>
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<td>Deacon and Mrs Harry Chetpon</td>
<td>Mr Dennis Floros</td>
<td>Mrs Louka Giannouskos</td>
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"...the greatest of these is love."

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
2021 A DOLLAR MORE A DAY CAMPAIGN

Thank you to the following people who contributed to the Dollar More a Day initiative through January 20, 2021. This emergency supplemental stewardship will help us avoid financial crisis. Your church needs your help!

M/M Dean Metropoulos
Rev Costas and Presv Pauline Pavlakos
Col/Mrs James Velezis

O ΙΕΡΟΜΑΡΤΥΣ ΑΓΙΟΣ ΧΑΡΑΛΑΜΠΟΣ
Sophia D. Tsangali

ΚΑΘΕ ΧΡΟΝΟ ΣΤΙΣ 10 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ η εκκλησία μας τιμά την μνήμη του Ιερομάρτυρος Αγίου Χαραλάμπους. Η σκέψη μας την ημέρα αυτή μας μεταφέρει στην εκκλησία των μαρτυρών των τριών πρώτων αιώνων. Ας δούμε πώς έγινε εγκατεστημένη η εκκλησία η οποία απαντάει στην ανάγκη των πιστών. Ας μαςέφησε ότι ακόμη και σήμερα οι ιερείς της εκκλησίας των πρώτων χριστιανικών αιώνων επιβεβαίωσαν την πίστη τους με το μαρτύριο του αίματος. Ο Άγιος Χαράλαμπος δεν αποτέλεσε εξαίρεση. Τον συνέλαβαν, τον βασάνισαν και απεβίωσε το 202 μ.Χ. Στην ιερωσύνη του προστέθηκε και τον Άγιο Καλλικράτη. Ο Άγιος Χαράλαμπος περιμένει να τον μελετήσουμε και να μάθουμε για αυτόν αν δεν ξέρουμε, γιατί περιμένει να μας βοηθήσει. Ας τον γνωρίσουμε καλύτερα και ας ανακαλέσουμε τις προθυμίες του.

Χωρίς λοιπόν αποφασιστική πίστη στον Χριστό μέχρι θανάτου, πώς είναι δυνατόν να είμαστε Χριστιανοί; Ως πιστοί θα πρέπει να συμμετέχουμε στη μαρτύριο της εκκλησίας. Ας πάρουμε κι εμείς κάτι από το παράδειγμα των Αγίων μαρτυρών και ας επικαλεστούμε στις προσευχές μας τον Ιερομάρτυρα Άγιο Χαράλαμπος. Ως χριστιανοί σήμερα διερωτόμαστε, πώς αυτοί οι Άγιοι Μάρτυρες μπόρεσαν και αντιμετώπισαν τους άγριους διωγμούς και υπέθεσαν τον αίματος. Ο Άγιος Χαράλαμπος έβλεπε την ανάγκη της εκκλησίας να γίνει ενίσχυτη και επικεντρωμένη στον Χριστό. Ας προετοιμαστούμε να δεχθούμε το μαρτύριο με χαρά και χωρίς γογγυσμό. Ας μας δώσει την πίστη και την αποφασιστικότητα τους να μας βοηθήσουν να γίνουμε Χριστιανοί προσωπικώς κοινωνικά και στον κόσμο, όπως έκαναν ενώτικοι ενώτικοι και αμακινούσιοι οι άγιοι μαρτύρες.

(Continued from page 1)

Mary grew up in the Temple. The Temple area was not so big that someone could be overlooked for 10 years, especially someone who was known to have regular contact with angels as was the case with Mary.

The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Temple by the Theotokos and Saint Joseph is a practice of faith, we also pre-
February 2, Presentation of our Lord in the Temple

Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16, and 23
7:00pm

During every moment of studying Greek, we add creatively in the 8,760 hours of progress.

January, we would say, was a month with many activities at Greek School. Besides the teaching of the Greek language on which we give more emphasis, we also spoke in class about the Epiphany Day and the Blessing of the Waters, as well as about the Three Hierarchs, Saint Basil the Great, Saint Gregory the Theologian and Saint John Chrysostom, who loved and studied the Greek education so much. Our church honors them every year on January 30, as the protectors and patron saints of the Greek letters and education. On January 30, our students and teachers went to church to honor our patron Saints. We had also an Artoklasia.

**Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendars**
- Feb 1 - Mar 22: Registration for the Ellinomatheia Exams
- February 5 and 6: 1st Semester Exams
- February 12 and 13: Reports Cards Given to Parents

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**DONATION OF BLOOD PRODUCTS TO SAVE LIVES**

Consider donating blood to save a life! It’s not for everyone, but for those who may want, and qualify, to donate, it is a blessing. Donations can either be whole blood, red blood cells, plasma, or platelets.

Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood!

Orthodox hierarchs have recently requested Orthodox Christians to donate blood. Archbishop Elpidophoros of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese asked, in a video [https://www.goarch.org/-/archbishop-elpidophoros-communion-2020](https://www.goarch.org/-/archbishop-elpidophoros-communion-2020), for his parishioners to become blood or plasma donors.

To find out more about donating blood in our area, contact either:

**Inova Blood Donor Services**
1-866-256-6372
[https://www.inovablood.org/](https://www.inovablood.org/)

**Fairfax Chapter of the Red Cross**
1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
[https://www.redcrossblood.org/](https://www.redcrossblood.org/)

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WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA
51ST ANNUAL AHEPA AWARDS
Scholarships for Academic and Athletic Achievement
and
Special Awards for the Most Outstanding Graduates

The program application and student letter
are available on the church website or by clicking here.
Scholarship awards will be presented at a virtual event on Sunday, May 16, 2021.
Completed applications are due no later than Saturday, March 27.

For more information, please contact Karen Polizos
(call or text 571-216-4099 or email polizos@aol.com).
Saint Katherine’s Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society
Falls Church, VA – Chapter 1092

STEWARDSHIP APPLICATION

PHILOPTOCHOS IS A FRIEND OF THOSE IN NEED

For the homeless, the child in pain, for the abused, for the sick, for the devastated and for those in despair...

We support and maintain Philanthropic Programs Nationally and Locally and invite you to become a member. “Live Your Faith – Come Join Us”

NAME______________________________________________________________

NAME OF SPOUSE_____________________________________________________________

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HOME PHONE_________________________ MOBILE PHONE_________________________

E-MAIL ADDRESS____________________________________________

STEWARDSHIP ☐ $50 ☐ $75 ☐ $100

($23 of your stewardship goes directly to our National and Metropolis Philoptochos organizations)

Mail Completed Stewardship Application and check to:

Saint Katherine’s Ladies Philoptochos
3149 Glen Carlyn Road
Falls Church, VA 22041
Saint Katherine
Greek Orthodox Church
3149 Glen Carlyn Road • Falls Church, VA 22041 • Office (703) 671-1515

Annual Stewardship Pledge Card

“A rich man is not one who has much, but one who gives much. For what he gives away remains his forever.” – Saint John Chrysostom

In faith, prayer and sacrifice, my family and I wish to share in the support and work of our Greek Orthodox Church of St. Katherine. Out of our love and gratitude to God for all His blessings, we would like to pledge the amount of $_________________ for the year 20____. This amount will be paid as follows:

$______ annually/semi-annually $______ monthly
$______ quarterly $______ weekly

Payment Method: □ Cash/Check; or □ Visa or MasterCard

Card # ________________________________ Expiration Date: _________ Security Code _________ (3 digits)

Name _____________________________________________ (additional family information requested on reverse)
Address ____________________________________________ Email: ___________________________
City, State, Zip ______________________________________ Phone: ___________________________

PLEASE NOTE: Current operating expenses of our Church are approximately $1,590 per family.

_______________________________
Signature                          Date

Family Information:

Also participating in this pledge are the following family members:

Spouse: ___________________________ DOB: ___________________________
Child: ___________________________ DOB: ___________________________
Child: ___________________________ DOB: ___________________________
Child: ___________________________ DOB: ___________________________
Child: ___________________________ DOB: ___________________________
Child: ___________________________ DOB: ___________________________

Please check areas of expertise, interests, and hobbies of family members.

□ Bible Study  □ Youth work  □ Teaching  □ Sunday School  □ Greek School  □ PreSchool  □ Choir  □ Scouting
□ Visiting Elderly/Sick  □ Cooking Church Socials  □ Finance/Accounting  □ Parish Newsletter  □ Adult Education
□ Construction  □ Computers  □ Gardening  □ Mechanical  □ Stewardship  □ Office Work  □ Legal
□ Web Site/Set-Up/Management  □ Mechanical/Plumbing  □ Other ___________________________

Please make your pledge today!