I hope and pray that everyone has a blessed, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

I want to address you on the Sacrament of Marriage in the Orthodox Church. I chose this topic for my first article of the new year because I was just exposed to three different stories about marriage that were in the news. We need to understand what the Church teaches about marriage.

The first alarming statistic was that in the year 2013 there were more unmarried adults than ever in history. The facts are that 51 percent of adults are not married. The result of marriage, as we know, is that two committed people in a relationship, for us that is a husband and wife, may have children. The New York Times stated that, “for women under 30, most births are outside of marriage.” The U.S. Census Bureau data showed that 36 percent of all birth in 2011 were born outside of marriage. What is even more alarming is that 72 percent of African American children will be born out of wedlock.

The second issue was that marriage is just an old-fashioned fad. We are now in the modern world and there really is no need for people to be married as husband and wife. There is something wrong with you if you are not willing to accept same-sex marriages, open marriages, polygamy, etc.

The third issue about marriage was a political issue. They state that it is up to the government to uphold the practice of marriage. I will address all three of these issues more extensively, but the political issue really got my attention. Politicians are elected from among us to create laws that govern civil society, not to teach or try to legislate morality. It is the Church that needs to teach morality, and theology that gives order and meaning to life. We have gone so far away from our country’s roots that, politically, everyday we try to destroy the faith community; i.e., the recent court case of the cross of the 1950s war memorial that an atheist wanted removed because he finds it offensive. Really?! To what part of love, sacrifice, justice, peace, hope, and life eternal does he object? (This is a subject for a future article.)

Marriage in the Orthodox Church is that sacrament which sanctifies the union of a man and woman who desire to share each other’s life and seek fullness of life and salvation as one entity. The betrothal and exchange of the rings are a pledge and commitment to each and together in Christ. The crowning and exchange of the crowns, in a very real sense, demonstrate that the husband and wife form a kingdom which enables them to mutually inherit God’s Heavenly Kingdom. When that union is blessed by the Church, they receive the grace of God. They are given the privilege of creating a new family and sharing in the creative love and power of God, both physical and spiritual.

The act of marriage is the commitment of love for one another. Saint Paul writes extensively about love, especially in the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians, which he concludes by stating emphatically, “So, faith, hope, love abide, the three, but the greatest of these is love.” There are three Greek words for love—agape, phil-

(Continued on page 13)
CLERGY
Rev. Protopresbyter Konstantinos A. Pavlakos, Proistamenos  cell 571-213-1109  frcostas@stkchurch.com
home 703-239-2627

STAFF
Assistant Financial Officer  Anna Vassilopoulos  703-671-1515  avassilopoulos@stkchurch.com
Choir Director  John Doulis  703-899-4131  jdoulis@aol.com
Hellenic Education Center Director  Presv. Eleni Alexopoulou  703-671-7715  ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com
Information Technology  Theodoros Theocharis  703-671-1515  ttheoch@kinteracomm.com
Protosalti  James Loizou  703-356-8220  dimitri14@verizon.net
Secretary/Teacher  Sophia Tsangali  703-671-1515  sttsangali@stkchurch.com

PARISH COUNCIL
Kelly Alexis  703-909-2256  kalexis76@gmail.com  George Moshos  202-409-2302  gmoshos@aol.com
Andrea Ballard  703-250-5419  andreaballard1@verizon.net  Bill Polizos  571-434-7790  polizos@att.com
Chris Christou  703-533-0055  cachris2@hotmail.com  Bill Porter  703-901-2404  beporter1@verizon.net
Dr. John Demakis  703-319-1610  demakis9931@gmail.com  Jim Stoucker  703-690-1050  jstoucker@verizon.net
Artemis Dimopoulos  703-642-6065  internationalvoa@verizon.net  Pierre Tavoularis  703-573-6235  ptavoularis@cox.net
Peter Karounas  703-321-3009  pkarounos@aol.com  Daphne Vaccarello  703-830-0892  dvac.mories@verizon.net
Nick Larigakis  703-909-9078  nlarigakis@ahiworld.org  Maria Vargas  703-812-0286  maria@chrisandmaria.com
Costas Mavromatakis  571-344-3634  cgm387@gmail.com  Maria Wills  703-948-7950  mwills28@verizon.net
Mallamo Mavromatakis  703-830-0224  minoanone@gmail.com

SCHOOLS AND STUDIES
Bible Study (Saturdays)  Gregory McKinney  571-338-6929  dintym@hotmail.com
Bible Study (Sundays)  Bill Polizos  571-434-7790  polizos@att.com
Catechetical (Sunday) School, Adult  Bill Polizos  571-434-7790  polizos@att.com
Catechetical (Sunday) School, Youth  George Charuhas, Principal  703-999-2109  george.charuhas@longandfoster.com
Women’s Book Club  Fay Mpras  703-865-5776  faympras@gmail.com

MINISTRIES
Acolytes  Anastasios Galatis and Daniel McKinney
AHEPA #438 (P. Derzis)  Angelo Toutsis, President  703-281-0843  antovi@verizon.net
Bookstore  Frances Kalavritinos, Manager  703-671-1515
Book Reviews  Gregory McKinney, Contributor  571-338-6929  dintym@hotmail.com
Daughters of Penelope Helle #283  Karen Polizos, President  571-434-7790  kpilizos@naifa.org
DOXA  Presv. Pauline Pavlakos, Editor  703-239-2627  przpauline@stkchurch.com
Facebook  Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church  Gregory McKinney  dintym@hotmail.com
GOYA (ages 13-18)  Christina Kosmasos, President  571-271-6411  christinar37@gmail.com
GRACE  Fr. Costa Pavlakos, Spiritual Advisor  703-671-1515  frcostas@stkchurch.com
Greek Dance  Aris and Anna Yortzidis, Instructors  757-218-6991  greekdancedc@gmail.com
Greek School Auxiliary  Martha Lampros, President  703-536-4860  mmlampros@msn.com
HOPE (ages 7 and under)  Toula Christou, Director  703-533-0055  tmchristou@yahoo.com
JOY (ages 8-12)  Tina Papamichael, Director  703-536-4711  athena02@verizon.net
Listserv (email list)  Presv. Pauline Pavlakos, Administrator  703-239-2627  przpauline@stkchurch.com
Missions and Outreach  Dr. John Demakis, Chairman  703-319-1610  demakis9931@gmail.com
OCF (College Ministry)  Fr. Costa Pavlakos, Spiritual Advisor  703-671-1515  frcostas@stkchurch.com
Parish Committees, List of  http://saint-katherines.org/about_us/parish-committees
Philoptochos  Eleni Kanakos, President  703-938-8360  ekanakos@aol.com
Safeway eScrip  Elvira Garnett, Coordinator  703-425-3675  villa45@hotmail.com
Single Parent Fellowship  Andrea Katsenes, Coordinator  andrea.katsenes@verizon.net
Website  Presv. Pauline Pavlakos, Webmaster  703-239-2627  przpauline@stkchurch.com
YAL (Young Adult League)  Olivia Carr  401-633-2072  SaintKatherineYAL@stkchurch.com
ON A DAILY BASIS, the plethora of activities swirling throughout our community is a constant source of wonder and a joy to behold. This was particularly evident over the recent holiday season on one cold and rather dreary December morning when I visited our church. So, allow me to paint a verbal picture for you of this day in the life of our community. As you will see, the canvas for this verbal picture of our community’s activities must, of necessity, be broad. It is intended as a tribute to the efforts of all those whose efforts benefit our ministries, our community and beyond.

Immediately upon entering the Hellenic Education Center, I was confronted with the sweet cacophony of children’s voices as one of our preschool teachers led her group of 3-year-olds from one class to another with the mild admonition, “We are walking, not running.” As I stopped to admire the disciplined manner in which she was leading her students, I also heard another class down the hall singing Christmas carols. At the opposite end of the hall, another group of children wearing red Santa hats emerged, smiles on their faces and the joy of the holiday season upon them. The children were adorable and the teachers ever attentive as always.

As I turned to walk away, I passed by a room where our Women’s Book Club was meeting and earnestly engaged in discussion of their current volume. A few steps later, I noticed Father Costa ministering to the needs of a parishioner in his office. In another office, I saw volunteers busily preparing the latest edition of *DOXA* for its mailing to parishioners. Shortly thereafter, I went up to the kitchen and found members of our Ladies Philoptochos busily preparing for their forthcoming Christmas Bake Sale. The aromas were overwhelmingly pleasant and I leapt at the chance to “sample” the goods. Needless to say, everything was delicious! As I had several meetings that day, I was present later that afternoon as parents began arriving to drop their children off for their Greek School lessons; and later that same evening, Adult Greek School classes were held.

Of course, the image I portray would not be complete without mentioning the heart and soul of our community – our spiritual and liturgical life. Although there were no services on this particular day, Saints Barbara and Nicholas were to be honored within the next 72 hours, followed thereafter by both Liturgies on Sunday. Indeed, no canvas depicting community life would ever be complete without our beautiful sanctuary as the background.

As I apply the final brush strokes to this canvas of life on a given day in our Saint Katherine community, I also reflect upon the breadth and depth of significant activity within the last two months alone—the Monumental Missions Walk, liturgical observances for 13 feast days, including the Feast Day of Saint Katherine, a visit from His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos, a theatrical performance of *Socrates Now*, the OCAMPR medical convention, the EFGOCM Choir Conference, feeding the poor at the local homeless shelter, a visit to the National Gallery of Art for a tour of the famous *Heaven and Earth: Art of Byzantium from Greek Collections* exhibit, our children’s annual Christmas Pageant, our Annual Community Dinner Gala featuring ceremonies honoring our veterans, a visit from the President of The National Hellenic Museum and the opportunity for parishioners to participate in the museum’s Oral History Project, and many, many other activities.

There may come a time in the future when we are able to communicate with each other using the full spectrum of our five senses—sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste. Until then, my words appearing on the “canvas” above hopefully convey the diversity and richness of activity and how fortunate and blessed we all are to be members of the Saint Katherine community.

As the New Year lays before us, my most fervent prayer is that all our activities and ministries continue to thrive and develop and that everyone in our parish fully participates in the life of the Church and enjoys all the blessings God has bestowed upon us.

Your servant in Christ,

[Signature]

President, Parish Council
CATECHETICAL (SUNDAY) SCHOOL
When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Saint Matthew 3:16-17).

AS JANUARY BEGINS, our classes will focus on the Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The celebration of Epiphany and its significance will be emphasized.

Our choir director, Mr. John Doulis, will begin music with our Seventh through Twelfth Grade classes where he will go into hymnology. This follows our September through December music classes for First through Sixth Grades. Please see him for details and also watch for information in the church bulletins.

Through the curricular studies and activities within our classrooms, the systematic music instruction led by Mr. Doulis, and the forthcoming annual Jeopardy experience prepared by Mr. John Moses, our aim is to provide a full, spiritually nurturing, and absorbing catechism for our youth. We look forward to the 2014 New Year. May God bless us as we endeavor to glorify Him in His vineyard here at Saint Katherine.

Peace to all who are in Christ Jesus (1 Peter 5:14).

GOYA
GOYA will resume basketball practices starting on January 9. We currently have the gym reserved for Thursdays at 7pm and Sundays, January 12 and 19 following second liturgy. Please check your emails for any updates.

GOYA will participate in the annual Epiphany Celebration and Retrieval of the Cross in Ocean City, Maryland on Saturday, January 11. Additional information will be disseminated as soon as it is received.

GOYA will cook for and serve the homeless at Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter on Tuesday, January 14. Mrs. Evdoxia Mitchell has, once again, agreed to be the chef for this event. Parents and advisors (the sous chefs) will start cooking at noon. Presv. Pauline will deliver the food at 4:00pm and GOYAns will serve two seatings—one at 5:15pm and the other at 6:00pm.

GOYA plans to go skiing on Saturday, January 18. More information will be emailed when it is available.

GOYA has Church Duty during second liturgy on Sunday, January 19. Maggie Goldsmith will be the GOYA Captain and Epistle Reader.

GOYA will participate in the Saints Constantine and Helen, Richmond Basketball Tournament on Saturday and Sunday, February 1 and 2. The deadline to participate and pay is Thursday, January 23, as we must turn in our rooming lists on the 24th. The cost is $95 per GOYAn.

GMU OCF
Fr. Costa will meet with Orthodox Christian Fellowship students at the Johnson Center, Room 239H (Campus Ministries Office) at George Mason University on Tuesday, January 21 and Friday, January 31, 2:00pm-4:00pm. Northern Virginia Community College students are welcome to join us. Please tell your Orthodox friends about this ministry and this meeting. Parents, please tell your college student. If you need a ride to church, please contact Fr. Costa (frcostas@stkchurch.com or 703-671-1515) and he will arrange transportation.

BE THE BEE
The Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Y2AM) has a weekly series of short, informative, entertaining, and spiritually beneficial videos, available on YouTube. The series, Be the Bee, is named after a metaphor associated with Elder Paisios of Mount Athos (+1994) and explores ways that we can all focus on what is good and beautiful in our everyday lives.

New episodes are released every Thursday afternoon. Viewers can access the channel by searching “Y2AM” on YouTube or going to www.youtube.com/user/y2am.

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION RETRIEVAL OF THE CROSS (A Family Event)
You are cordially invited to
The 2014 Epiphany Celebration
Saturday, January 11
8:45am Orthros
10:00am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
8805 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842
Retrieval of the Cross from the Ocean
Luncheon to Follow
(Details will be emailed and posted on the church website when received.)
In the month of January we celebrate the feast of the Three Hierarchs, Saint Basil the Great, Saint Gregory the Theologian, and Saint John Chrysostom, also known as “Greek Letters Day.” But why do we associate “Greek Letters Day” with the Three Hierarchs and their feast? First, it underlines the importance of education. The Three Hierarchs were among the best educated people of their time, with a wide breadth of knowledge both in theology and the sciences. Second, it highlights the fact that faith and science are not opposites, but one can serve the other. If one studies their work, one sees theology and science in dialogue. And third, their talents from God were used not for their own personal interest but for the edification of the Christian community and the world around them. Theological teaching and pastoral sensitivity, philanthropy and outreach are only some of the indelible marks that these Great Hierarchs have left behind.

In his 2005 encyclical on the Feast of the Three Hierarchs, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios wrote, “In studying the lives of the Three Hierarchs and their families, we are strongly impressed by the importance that Hellenic paideia had for them. Thus, it is fitting that our commemoration on this day includes a celebration of Greek Letters. The significance of this recognition of our spiritual and intellectual heritage rests not only in the preservation of a way of life and thought that offers a true and beautiful synergy of mind and soul, but also in the emphasis that a wide breadth of education, a true paideia, is needed to cultivate young lives and guide them in the path of a fulfilled life. As families and parents, and as Greek Orthodox parishes, our focus should be on fully educating our children and youth by guiding them both in the Orthodox faith and in a universal and centuries old tradition of learning like the Hellenic one, that will help them mature as good and productive members of society as well as citizens of the Kingdom of God. As we celebrate this Feast of the Three Hierarchs, I kindly ask you to follow the examples of their lives and strive to make your homes and families places of true learning and of illumination in the faith. In your homes and parishes may you labor for the spiritual well-being of your children by providing them quality education, instructing them in their cultural and spiritual heritage, and ‘bringing them up in the paideia and instruction of the Lord’ (Ephesians 6:4)” [http://www.goarch.org/news/2005-01-25-threehierarchs].

Σας εύχομαι Καλή Χρονιά γεμάτη υγεία, ειρήνη, αγάπη, και πρόοδο! 

**WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EPIPHANY AND THEOPHANY?**

Even though these words are often used interchangeably, there is a difference. The term Epiphany describes a revelation or manifestation. Theophany is a more specific term, describing the revelation or manifestation of God (note the word “Theo”).

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**SAINT KATHERINE PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

**PLEASE CONSIDER LISTING** your profession or business on our church website. An order form is available at http://www.saint-misc_forms. The cost per year is $25 for a professional listing and $100 for a business listing. All listings will be reviewed and acceptance will be determined at the discretion of the Business Directory Committee. The directory is online at http://www.saint-katherines.org/about_us/business-and-professional-directory. A printed version of the directory will be distributed annually with listing additions available quarterly.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

March 10-16, 2014

Mission Trip to Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Havana, Cuba

Details forthcoming.
ΚΑΛΩΣΟΡΙΣΕ ΚΑΙΝΟΥΡΓΙΕ ΧΡΟΝΕ!

Σοφία Α. Τσαγκάλη

Καλημέρα στην καινούργια χρονιά που σε λίγο ανατέλλει! Καλημέρα στην καινούργια γειά! Καλημέρα στη ζωή και στη χαρά, στα νέα άνερα, στα οράματα και στις ελπίδες!

Ας τον καλημερίσουμε όλοι με όρεξη και ζοντάνια τον καινούργιο χρόνο. Ας τον κοιτάξουμε με λάφυρα στα μάτια, με εμπιστοσύνη και θάρρος, έτσι απόλυτο, ολοκάθαρο, μαγευτικό μέσα στις υποχρεώσεις του, που πρόβαλε από τον αναπορισμό του παλιού χρόνου και αγκάλιασε την γη μας.

Μας ήρθε από την αγκαλά του Θεού, όπου βασιλεύει ακόμα η αιονοστίτη και θα ξαναναγορισεί στην ιδια αγκαλά, πυρομόντους από τους πόνους μας, τους κόσμους μας και τις χαρές μας. Καλημέρα στον καινούργιο χρόνο, έτσι όπως μας ήρθε από την αγκαλά του Θεού απόλυτο, αγνος, λευκός σαν το χόνι και σαν το άγνωστο, αλλά καθώς κάθε χρόνο έφανε την ευτυχία που έφθασε και έτσι έφθασε καθώς κάθε χρόνο μας από την αγαπή του θανάτου και από τον αγαπή του θανάτου, μας ανθελνόμενοι καθώς μεταφέρονται στην καθημερινή ευτυχία και από την αγάπη του θαυμασμού και από την αγάπη του θαυμασμού. Εάν θα δώρα δώσουμε, άσπιλο και πάνω άσπιλος, όταν θα καθημερινή ευτυχίας και από την αγάπη του θαυμασμού και από την αγάπη του θαυμασμού ήρθε.

Οι κάθειρες και κάθε πάροικος θα μας δώρα για ευτυχίας και από την αγάπη του θαυμασμού και από την αγάπη του θαυμασμού. Η άνεμος του θαυμασμού και από την αγάπη του θαυμασμού και από την αγάπη του θαυμασμού ήρθε στον θαυμασμό και από την αγάπη του θαυμασμού και από την αγάπη του θαυμασμού. Η άνεμος του θαυμασμού και από την αγάπη του θαυμασμού και από την αγάπη του θαυμασμού ήρθε στον θαυμασμό και από την αγάπη του θαυμασμού και από την αγάπη του θαυμασμού.

Μια αυτή η διάσταση θα κινηθεί η πνευμή μας, η θέληση μας θα εκφραστεί θα προσπαθήσουμε να αγαπήσουμε τους αδελφούς μας και τους εχθρούς μας, θα αγοριστείται θα εξηρεύσουμε τα πεδία που έχουμε και θα εχθροσώμευται, θα δημιουργήσουμε τις γυναίκες μας, θα αφηγηθούμε, με την χαρά και θα χαρούμε τον Ουράνο. Όλα αυτά λοιπόν θα μας θέσει τον καινούργιο χρόνος.

(Continued on page 13)
**REGISTRY**

**Baptisms**
Elias (November 30)
son of Peter and Laura Floros
Godparent: George Floros

Isla June (December 14)
daughter of Enea and Katezin Zaro
Godparent: Nikolaos Zaro

Alaina (December 14)
daughter of Adam and Melissa Jones
Godparent: Stella Michel

**Chrismation**
Adam Jones (December 14)
son of Bryan and Peggy Jones
Sponsor: Gary Michel

**Funerals**
Mihail Ziu (November 22)
George Apostolou (November 23)
May their memories be eternal.

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**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.

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**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**
This year’s Adult Bible Study sessions focus on the Old Testament Prophets. Who were they? What did they have to say? Did they predict the future? What do they tell us about the Old Testament view of God? What do they tell us about Jesus Christ? We will have an overview of prophecy, investigating what we can know about the Prophets themselves, their historical context, and their importance in Holy Tradition. We will explore specific books to determine what they have in common as well as what makes each of them unique. Our goal will be to better understand how the Prophets, and the Bible in general, are relevant for each of us today and how they support our faith in Jesus Christ.

Classes are held every Sunday that Catechetical School is in session at 9:30am in the board room of the Meletis Charuhas Center. Please contact Bill Polizos at 571-434-7790 or polizos@att.com for more information.

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**ΧΩΡΙΣ ΑΓΑΠΗ**
Οι καλές πράξεις, πρώτα αρέσουν σε εκείνους που τις κάνουν και μετά στους άλλους. Τα νόστιμα φαγητά, νόστιμα τα κάνει μόνο το αλάτι. Έτσι και τις καλές μας πράξεις, νόστιμες και καλές τις κάνει η αγάπη.

Η αγάπη δίνει ζωή και νοστιμάδα στο καλό. Αν κανές παρημοίασε όλες τις καλές πράξεις που κάνουμε σαν άνθρωποι με μέλη του σώματός μας, την αγάπη θα πρέπει να την παρημοιάσει με την καρδιά. Ήταν όταν όλο το σώμα, ζωντανό και σε υγεία το κρατεί η καρδιά, έτσι και εκείνη που δίνει ζωή και αξία σε όλα τα καλά είναι η αγάπη.

Και όταν στην καρδιά του άνθρώπου μπεί η αγάπη, όλα σε αυτόν γίνονται όμορφα και φωτεινά! Ανοίγουν στο φώς του Θεού! Και γεμίζουν με το φώς του Θεού!

Το να έχεις αγάπη είναι πιο μεγάλο, πιο ιερό και πιο σημαντικό ακόμη και από το να πιστεύεις στον Θεό και να μιλάς συνεχώς γι’ Αυτόν.

Και να το ξέρεις!

Χωρίς αγάπη, δεν έχεις δικαίωμα, όστε να μιλάς για τον Χριστό, ούτε να πιστεύεις σε Αυτόν.

+ O N.M.
Family Fun Night!

Join Our Family Night!
...fun, dancing and a delicious dinner!

Saturday • January 25, 2014
5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
3149 Glen Carlyn Road • Falls Church, VA

★ Cash Bar ★
★ John Henry Band & DJ Pete ★
★ Spin Art Machine Craft ★
★ Traditional Greek Dance Performances ★
★ Raffle Tickets (1 for $5, 3 for $10, 7 for $20) ★
Win great prizes - restaurant gift certificates, electronics, and more!

Adults $30 • Children $10 • Kids 5 & under FREE
NEW! BUY TICKETS ON-LINE at www.DCGreeks.com

All proceeds benefit
THE SAINT KATHERINE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PAIDEIA BILINGUAL PRESCHOOL AND NURSERY

To reserve a seat and purchase your raffle tickets, call or email today...space is limited!
paideiaffn@gmail.com or call 757-218-6991
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<td>Epiphany Celebration in Ocean City, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday after Theophany Vasilopita Sunday</td>
<td>5:00pm Greek School Tutoring Class</td>
<td>GOYA Cooking for, and Feeding, the Homeless at Bailey’s Adult Greek School</td>
<td>10:30am Women’s Book Club</td>
<td>Adult Greek School</td>
<td>5:00pm Greek School</td>
<td>9:30am Greek School GOYA Sketch Club</td>
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<td>8:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>7:30pm Deuteri Deutera</td>
<td>6:00pm Introductory II</td>
<td>6pm Conversational Greek</td>
<td>6:00pm Intermediate</td>
<td>7:00pm GOYA B-Ball</td>
<td>9:30am Challenge Liturgy at Saint George GOYA Ski Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am Orthros and Cathecetical School</td>
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<td>7:30pm Introductory I</td>
<td>7pm Greek Folk Dance</td>
<td>7:30pm Parish Council</td>
<td>7:45pm Basketball (HEC Parents)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am Single Parent Fellowship</td>
<td>10:30am Divine Liturgy Daughters of Penelope Lunch Meeting</td>
<td>8:00pm Missions</td>
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<td>Parish Council</td>
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<td>10:30am Divine Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th Sunday of Luke (Ten Lepers)</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Day (Office Closed)</td>
<td>2:00pm GMU OCF Adult Greek School</td>
<td>6pm Conversational Greek</td>
<td>Adult Greek School</td>
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<td>9:30am Greek School</td>
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<td>8:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>(Office Closed)</td>
<td>6:00pm Introductory II</td>
<td>7pm Greek Folk Dance</td>
<td>6:00pm Intermediate</td>
<td>5pm Family Fun Night</td>
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<td>10:30am Divine Liturgy GOYA Church Duty Philoptochos Meeting</td>
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<td>20:00pm Philoptochos Metropolitan Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th Sunday of Luke (Zaccheus)</td>
<td>5:00pm Greek School Tutoring Class</td>
<td>Adult Greek School</td>
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Please check the online calendar, http://saint-katherines.org/calendar, for the most current information.
PHILOPTOCHOS  (by Eleni Kanakos, President)
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR. I hope all of you enjoyed the holidays with your families. I wish the New Year brings health, happiness, and peace to all.

We will have our meeting after church on January 19. On January 26, we are hosting The Washington Metropolitan Tea from 2:00pm-5:00pm in the Meletis Charuhas Hall. Everyone is welcome. Kathy Cavallo and Trish Kapsidelis are chairing the event. Please RSVP by January 20 to Kathy (703-978-1539 or kcavallo1@aol.com) or Trish (703-356-5905 or tgk1413@yahoo.com). We also ask that you please bring something to share to help make our tea a success. Items most enjoyed are mini-sandwiches and desserts. We hope that you can attend!

Our Annual Senior’s Valentine’s Day Luncheon is scheduled for February 13, 12:00pm-3:00pm, in the Meletis Charuhas Hall. Please call Evdoxia Mitchell, chairman, at 703-256-4115 for reservations. You may also contact me at 703-938-8360 or ekanakos@aol.com. We look forward to seeing all of you there!

I would like to extend a warm thanks to all the ladies who helped make our Christmas Bake Sale a huge success. We could not do it without your hard work and dedication!

Please remember to send in your 2014 stewardship. Thanks to those of you who have already done so.

As we start this new year, let’s work together to increase our stewardship, our participation, and our efforts as a whole. I know that, together, we can make 2014 another amazing year!

WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB
WE WISH GOD’S BLESSINGS for everyone in the New Year! We will meet on Wednesdays, January 15 and 29 at 10:30am. You can join us at any time during the year. If you are interested in joining, please email faympras@gmail.com. We meet every other Wednesday in the Hellenic Education Center, except for certain holidays.

BOOKSTORE
AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE!! All Christmas items—books, cards, ornaments—are 50 percent off during the month of January!

The bookstore is open most Sundays after each liturgy. You may also call Sophia Tsangali at 703-671-1515 if you would like to visit during the week. As always, we thank you for your continued patronage and support. Saint Katherine Bookstore is a mission of Saint Katherine Church. May the Lord grant you many blessings in the New Year!

SINGLE PARENT FELLOWSHIP
SINGLE PARENT FELLOWSHIP will meet on Sunday, January 12, 9:30am. All single parents are welcome. Contact Andrea Katsenes at andrea.katsenes@verizon.net, if you have any questions.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELlope  (by Karen Polizos, President)
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
In spite of the snow and cold temperatures, our Christmas Nutcracker Tea at Oatlands Plantation and the Vienna Boys Choir Concert were lovely holiday outings enjoyed by all who attended. Our thanks to Lynn Francis and Kathy Cavallo for planning such fun events. We have collected more winter jackets and hoodies and will be delivering them to area shelters for children and teens. Thanks to all who donated to this winter coat drive and to Kathy Cavallo for her tireless work in helping those in need in our community. Our next meeting will be held at the church on Sunday, January 12, following second Liturgy. We’ll enjoy a light lunch of soups and salad, breads, and dessert.

From all the Sisters in Helle Chapter #283, may you receive many blessings and much health and happiness in 2014!

AHEPA
AHEPA CHAPTER #438 will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 8:00pm in the Meletis Charuhas Hall.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!
Student applications are now available for the Washington Metropolitan Area 44th AHEPA Scholarship program. Students eligible for an award will be honored at this year’s Awards Program on May 18, 2014 at the Hilton Washington, DC/Rockville Hotel in Rockville, MD. This program has honored 1,508 students and awarded $804,975 in scholarships.

To be considered for a scholarship award, you must: 1) be affiliated with either the AHEPA family or the Greek Orthodox Church; 2) be a graduating high school senior; 3) have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B average or better); and 4) have participated in extracurricular activities and/or lettered or received awards in varsity interscholastic sports.

Applications are available in the Church Office and on the church website. For more information, contact Karen Polizos at kpolizos@naifa.org or 571-434-7790.

Your application promises to make this year’s program better than ever!
OCMC Benefit Dinner, Sunday, February 9. Our annual OCMC benefit dinner will be held at Saint Katherine on Sunday, February 9. We are honored to have Fr. Luke Veronis as our main speaker. His topic will be Capturing the Spirit of Missions: Kenya, Albania and the World! Fr. Luke has served as a long-term missionary in Kenya and in Albania with Archbishop Anastasios. He will share his experiences in these countries and tell us what we can do to help Orthodox missions around the world. 6:00pm cocktails and 7:00pm dinner. Tickets: $50 for adults, $30 for children ages 5-17, and free for children under 4. Please contact Dr. John Demakis (demakis9931@gmail.com), Skip Mercereau (jwmster@gmail.com), or Betty Slanta (slanta@verizon.com).

Report from OCMC Semi-Annual Meeting in St. Augustine, Florida. The fall 2013 Meeting of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) Board of Directors was held at the OCMC Missionary and Training and Administration Building in St. Augustine, Florida from November 11-13, 2013. The main decisions were:

1. A committee was formed to investigate a Missionary Endowment Fund to help fund the long-term missionaries, who currently must raise their own support. Long-term OCMC missionaries are presently in Alaska, Albania, Guatemala, Kenya, Moldova, Mongolia, Romania, and Tanzania. A complete list of all long term missionaries are on the OCMC web page, OCMC.org. Please keep them in your prayers.

2. Michael Colburn, OCMC Linguistics Mission Specialist, described his translation software to help missionaries provide accurate translations of the liturgical texts and rubrics; assisting him is Fr. Seraphim Dedes, music director of St. Nektarios Church, Charlotte, NC, whose AGES Initiatives, Inc., is partnering to develop liturgical software tools to simplify liturgical music translation. The stimulus for recruiting translation services came when a missionary to Africa heard the following, “...if your God is so great, why doesn’t He understand my language?” The liturgical translation program may be used in countries to assist in preaching and serving.

3. OCMC’s Strategic Plan will be updated; the current strategic plan will be used as a reporting model.

4. A request by His Grace Bishop Dimitrios (Couchell), former OCMC Executive Director, to be buried on the grounds of the Mission Center, pending approval of St. John’s County, FL and the city of St. Augustine, FL, was unanimously endorsed by the Board.

5. An OCMC 2014 budget of $2.7M was passed; the OCMC is again this year, in a sound financial position.

6. Missionary resettlement, college savings and retirement plans were also discussed; funds for these savings plans come directly from the missionaries’ fundraising.

Food Pantry Collection, February 9. The next collection for our local food pantry will be on Sunday, February 9. Please bring non-perishable food or canned items to the church on that day. This can include Canned Fruit, Soup, and Canned Pasta, Cereal/Cereal Bars, Peanut Butter, Rice, Spaghetti/Pasta Sauce, Chili, Canned Tomatoes, Tuna, Canned Beans, Canned Vegetables, and Macaroni and Cheese. This list is also on the Saint Katherine website. Please be generous. Get the children involved. What a wonderful way to teach our children to help the less fortunate.

Diaper Collection, December 8. Our semi-annual diaper drive on December 8 brought in approximately 100 packs of diapers. They were taken to several centers including: Alternative House in Tysons, Food for Others in Merrifield, and Catholic Adoption Services in Burke. Thank you for being so generous! Our next diaper collection will be on Palm Sunday, April 13.

OCAMPR Lectures Online. The Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology and Religion held its annual meeting at Saint Katherine November 1-2, 2013. The topic was: The Clinical and Pastoral Care of the Aging Patient. This timely topic was addressed by experts in medicine, psychology, and religion. In addition, the keynote address was delivered by Bishop John of the Antiochian Diocese of Boston and New England. To hear these presentations you can go to OCAMPR.org.

Habitat for Humanity-Future Plans. Our team is now in the process of selecting a site for 2014. In 2012, we were in West Virginia and in 2013, we were in North Carolina. Please watch future issues of DOXAs for the time and place of our 2014 site.

Homeless Shelter:

Hygiene and Survival Kits. On December 15th, after our Christmas Pageant, the children of our Catechetical School put together 250 Hygiene and Survival Kits for the Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter. These kits are important for they are given to the people the shelter cannot house during the winter months. Thanks to all who contributed items.

Feed the Homeless Program. We continue to visit the Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter on a monthly basis. On January 14, our GOYA will prepare the meals and serve two seatings. Our Adult Bible Class will serve in February and our Daughters of Penelope will serve in March. If your organization would like to participate, contact Dr. John Demakis at demakis9931@gmail.com.

Clothes and Toiletries. We continue to collect clothes and toiletries for the shelter. Clothes should be new or, if used, clean. Toiletries should be unopened. Leave them in the foyer of our Meletis Charuhas Cultural Center. They are especially in need of warm clothing during these winter months. Please help.

Mission and Outreach Committee Meetings. All are welcome to attend our monthly meetings. They are usually on the second Tuesday of the month. Check the DOXA to be sure. This month, we will meet on January 14 at 7:00pm. Have a blessed New Year!
It’s funny the way some objects in your life can bring memories of the past rushing back. Every now and again, an object can also bring two starkly different seasons of your life together, and when you contrast these times of your life, it can hurt. Recently, my gold sequin purse pulled together two periods of my life—one when I was newly in love with my late husband, Vassilios, and this latest period, without the love of my life.

Figuring in both periods, were the purse, a Hilton hotel and Father John Tavlarides. On the evening of November 10, I had the pleasure of attending the Saint Katherine annual dinner/dance at the McLean Hilton. (This year’s festivity was especially poignant because our parish honored the veterans among our church members.) To carry my keys, lipstick, cell phone and small comb to the dressy event, I chose one of my vintage evening purses—my gold sequin purse from the mid-1970s. It is an extravagantly glittery number and one that I hadn’t used since the late 1970s. In truth, I haven’t had many occasions on which to dress up since Vassili passed away, but I never seriously considered taking that purse because, to be honest, sequins have been out of fashion until recently.

However, I often took the small evening purse mirror I kept in the gold sequin purse to use with less glitzy evening bags on many other occasions. So, I was familiar with all its contents. Besides the mirror, I always kept a napkin from a New Year’s Eve party we attended in 1976 or 1977—on it was stamped “Hilton.” The party was held at the Hilton in downtown DC and hosted by Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral for its parishioners. At that time, Vassili and I were members of Saint Sophia. Father John Tavlarides was helping us sort out some private matters, and so we got to know him well. We always felt cared for by Father.

At the end of the ’70s, we moved from McLean to Chantilly and, in time, changed our church membership to Saint Katherine. We saw Father John on occasion in the ensuing years, but of course the times became fewer, and then we did not see him at all. I’m sure we were soon a very distant memory for him.

For some reason, I decided to use the gold sequin purse for the Saint Katherine dinner/dance this year. The purse that had never, ever, been used since that New Year’s Eve so long ago. Really, I never used it again. (I have several evening purses and, I guess, for some reason, never wanted to use that particular one again.)

When I arrived at the dinner, I looked about and saw Father John at a distant table. Since I hadn’t spoken to him in years, I was certain he wouldn’t remember me, but I wanted to pay my respects. I walked up to him, introduced myself and tried to jog his memory by saying how he helped Vassili and me at the time we were to be married.

Father John then said, “Oh, yes. How did things turn out?” Suddenly my heart sank, and all I could think of was that I wanted Father John to know that we had lived a very fulfilling life together. All I could say was, “Everything was wonderful. We had a beautiful life.” Then I had to speak the sad ending, “Vassili died 12 years ago, though.” Father John said, “I’m so sorry.”

So, the gold sequin purse was destined to come out again—at a Hilton hotel and with Father John Tavlarides in attendance. I don’t know. I’m a believer in things that go beyond what we can understand, and this happening has intrigued me. What is the meaning? Well, I can make up a million beautiful thoughts in my head, but the pure mystery of it takes my breath away. I am in awe of the mystery of life and love.
STEWARDSHIP

SHOWN BELOW is a list of families and individuals who participated in the 2013 Saint Katherine Stewardship Program from November 1-30, 2013. Thank you for responding to the needs of our church. Any questions? Please contact Anna Vassilopoulos at avassilopoulos@stkchurch.com or 703-671-1515.

Ms Joanna Alexis
Rev and Presv Stefanos Alexopoulos
Ms Kelly Bletsis
Mr and Mrs Thomas Cardamone, Jr
Mr and Mrs Pete Chambers
Rev and Presv Theodore Chelpon
Mr Consolatore and Mrs Stamatopoulos
Mrs Anastasia Copeland
Mr Tony Drosos

Mr Antonios Fotelargias
Mr Versilles Johnson
Mr and Mrs Zachary Kontzias
Ms Melissa Mimidis
Ms Stephanie Samergedes
Mr and Mrs Christos Sarantis
Mr Christos Snear and Mrs Dawn Terminella
Mr & Mrs Constantine Vassilopoulos
Mr and Mrs Enea Zaro

2014 STEWARDSHIP FORM

STEWARDSHIP is based on the fact that all that we have and all that we are comes from God. We commit ourselves to stewardship as a way of thanking God for all His blessings—returning to Him a portion of the time, talent, and treasure He has given us. Good stewardship of time means we share some of the 168 hours in a week with God and caring for others. Good stewardship of talent means we identify our talents and use them to glorify God and help other people. Good stewardship of treasure means we give a portion of our income to the Church and other charities. During the year 2014, we ask that everyone consider fulfilling their stewardship on a weekly basis. This will allow our church to better plan activities and expenses.

I (my family) pledge(s) $_______ per week of financial stewardship to Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: __________________________________________________________________________

Telephone and email address: ________________________________________________________________

(Continued from page 1)

One last thing . . . People who are married live longer, are happier, and have more money (Huffington Post, January 10, 2013).

Kali Chronia, 
Fr. Costa

(Continued from page 6), column 1

He has given us. Good stewardship of time means we share some the 168 hours in a week with God and caring for others. Good stewardship of talent means we identify our talents and use them to glorify God and help other people. Good stewardship of treasure means we give a portion of our income to the Church and other charities. During the year 2014, we ask that everyone consider fulfilling their stewardship on a weekly basis. This will allow our church to better plan activities and expenses.

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Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: __________________________________________________________________________

Telephone and email address: ________________________________________________________________

(Continued from page 6, column 2)

. . . the One once more beckons to us: I am the One you seek. . . .I led you in the divine ascent, and descended unto you, emptying Myself for your revelation. I spoke to you of the mystery. I taught you from the scriptures. I am the One, I am the Davidic king, I am the Son of Man, and I am the Mašiah, the Anointed. (p. 232)

Note: Daniel Fanous is a member of St. Mark’s Coptic Orthodox Church in Sydney, Australia.
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<td>George Moshos</td>
<td>Andrea Ballard</td>
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<td>Kelly Alexis</td>
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<td>Mallamo Mavromatakis</td>
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<td>Maria Vargas</td>
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<td>Maggie Goldsmith, GOYA</td>
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<td>Bill Porter</td>
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<td>Dr. George Silis</td>
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Celebrate the life and achievements of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 20. Take a moment to reflect on our spiritual leader, Archbishop Iakovos, of blessed memory, as well.

Archbishop Iakovos of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America had the courage to walk hand in hand with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, Alabama on March 26, 1965. This historic moment was captured on the cover of LIFE Magazine (see the photo to the left).

Both Archbishop Iakovos and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for human rights for all people.

(Please note that the Church Office and schools are closed that day.)
PJ Skidoos is a Greek family-owned restaurant, which has been in Fairfax City for 35 years. We are located west of St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church on Rt. 50.

www.pjskidoos.com
9908 Fairfax Blvd Fairfax, VA 22030 703-591-4515

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

Private banquet rooms available for all occasions! Seat up to 150 people.
Wonderful value & delicious food!
Beautiful wood bar & dancefloor.
Our Greek Head Chef will cater to all tastes!