DOXA
The monthly newsletter of
Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
Volume 14, Number 1
JANUARY 2016

MAY THE FORCE (THE HOLY SPIRIT) BE WITH YOU!

And when Jesus was baptized, He came up immediately out of the water. And suddenly the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:13).

The baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of his public ministry. This event is recorded in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. A person can abide in Christ, accomplish His commandments, and be in communion with God the Father only by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in his life. Spiritual life is life in, with, and by the Holy Spirit of God.

“If you love me [says Christ], you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter to be with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:15-17). “When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth...He will glorify me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine...” (John 16:12-15).

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and is sent into the world through Christ so that human persons an fulfill God’s will in their lives and be like Christ. The spiritual fathers of the Orthodox Church say that the Holy Spirit makes people to be “Christ’s,” that is, “the anointed,” children of God. This also is the teaching of the apostles in the New Testament writings:

“But you have been anointed by the Holy One and you know all things...and the unction [chrisma] you have received from Him abides in you...His anointing teaches you about everything and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you, abide in Him...And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He has given us...By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His own Spirit” (1 John 2:20-27, 3:24, 4:13).

This teaching of Saint John is the same teaching as that of Saint Paul. “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us...Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit which dwells in you...for if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” (Romans 5:5; 8:1ff; cf. 1 Corinthians 2, 6, 12-14; Galatians 5).

It is the classical teaching of the Orthodox Church, made popular in recent times by Saint Seraphim of Sarov (19th c.), that the very essence of Christian spiritual life,

(Continued on page 12, column 2)
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JOY (ages 8-12)  Toula Christou, Director  703-533-0055 tmchristou@yahoo.com
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THE YEAR JUST ENDED was successful as your Parish Council continued to effectively address the needs of our community. As we begin 2016, we look ahead with great anticipation for a productive and prosperous new year in service to our parish. We are grateful to you all for affording us the opportunity to serve our community—it is truly our honor and privilege.

Our community has been very blessed and we can look back on the numerous accomplishments of previous years with a measure of justifiable pride. However, our challenges endure and we must continue to remain vigilant as we address the needs of our Church. Indeed, there will be no shortage of challenges as we prepare to consider such things as a Capital Campaign to reduce our debt, and repairs and improvements to our physical plant, including, but not limited to, new steps to the entrance of our church, a new roof for the church, enhanced climate control in the sanctuary, and parking lot resurfacing. These are only a few of the issues your Parish Council will address in the coming months. As always, we will continue to keep you abreast of developments and encourage your questions and comments.

While there is never a shortage of “things to do,” there is always a need for volunteers in multiple areas throughout our community. We remain blessed with an abundance of ministries which provide us all an opportunity to further engage in the life of our Church. I ask all of you to examine your interests and volunteer in service to your Church and community in the coming year. I can assure you that the rewards of serving your community are immeasurable.

I’d also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Parish Council members Maria Wills, Rosemary Filou, Chris Euripides and Costas Mavromatakis. We are all most appreciative of your willingness to serve our community as part of our Parish Council.

On behalf of our Parish Council, I’d like to wish all of you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Your servant in Christ,

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT


EPIPHANY CELEBRATION
(A Family Event)

You are cordially invited to the 2016 Epiphany Celebration

Saturday, January 9

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
8805 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD

8:45am Orthros
10:00am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
12:00pm Blessing of the Waters in the Ocean and Diving for the Retrieval of the Cross

Free Round Top Beef Lunch and Greek Pastries in Church Hall

Ἀπολυτίκιον
Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζόμενον σου Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθη προσκύνησις· τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοι, ἀγαπητόν σου Ὑιόν ὄνομάζουσα· καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἶδι περιστέρας, ἐβεβαίον τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλὲς. Ὅ ἐπιφανείς Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας δόξα σοι.

Apolytikion
As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You.
CATECHETICAL (SUNDAY) SCHOOL

Sunday School students shared a wonderful Christmas season together. We want to thank John Doulis for teaching our students the beautiful Christmas songs, Sophia Tsangali and Karen Polizos for helping coordinate our Christmas program, Chris Skenteris for his work on the pageant costumes, and Ruth Fisseha for all her help with the Pageant reception. Many thanks as well to Sherry Maggio for organizing our Giving Tree project once again.

January is time for Oratorical Festival registration for 7th-12th grades. Please encourage your children to participate and learn more about their Orthodox Faith in this special event. The Oratorical Festival takes place on March 6 for grades 7-12, and March 13 for our younger grades.

Please tell your children’s godparents to mark their calendars for Godparent’s Sunday on January 31. Children will have the opportunity to worship together with their godparents, and have their godparents meet their Sunday School teachers. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

Bible Jeopardy is back! Thank you to Tori Carr for planning this event for grades 1-3 on January 24.

Finally, even though it is winter, it is not too early to start planning for Vacation Bible Camp! Camp is scheduled for June 27-July 1. We need great teachers and volunteers for our children to participate in this amazing week. Please let Vicki Mowery (mowerycrew@gmail.com) or Eleni Porter (beporter1@verizon.net) know if you are interested in helping.

As we make our resolutions this New Year, please try to make Sunday School a priority in your children’s lives. Happy New Year to all!

HOPE

Let’s meet at the movies!! Come and watch Norm of the North on Saturday, January 23, at Tysons Corner Center around 3:00pm (the exact movie time will be announced in early January). Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 19 to Vaita.Bousbouras@yahoo.com.

Goya

Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? (Matthew 25:36-40).

Goya would like to thank everyone who helped with their annual Feed and Clothe the Homeless in DC on Christmas Day ministry. The list of donors will be in the February DOXA because, as this newsletter went to print, we were waiting for confirmation of some donations.

January 9, Epiphany Celebration in Ocean City. Our region’s Epiphany Celebration will be on Saturday, January 9 at Saint George in Ocean City. GOYAns will participate in the Divine Liturgy at 10:00am and then proceed to the beach for the Blessing of the Ocean Waters and Diving for the Cross. Please see additional information on page 3.

January 10, Church Duty and Meeting. GOYA has church duty on January 10. Theo Karounos is the GOYA Captain and Epistle Reader. We need 2 other GOYAns to help with Church Duty (3 Sunday School students will also help). All other GOYAns are expected to sing in the choir, serve in the altar, or worship in the pews.

January 12, Feed the Homeless at Bailey’s Crossroads. GOYA parents and advisors will cook dinner, starting at 10:30am, in the kitchen of the Meletis Charuhas Center. Thank you to head chef, Evdoxia Mitchell. GOYAns will serve two seatings (5:00pm and 6:00pm) at Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter, 3525 Moncure Avenue.

January 17-18, Trip to NYC. GOYAns will travel to New York City, January 17-18. We will visit the World Trade Center, the Saint Nicholas Shrine, Astoria, and more. If you would like to participate, please RSVP to GOYA_St_Katherine@msn.com ASAP.

SS. Constantine and Helen, Richmond Basketball Tournament, February 6-7. Our basketball teams will participate in the SS. Constantine and Helen, Richmond Basketball tournament. This is our “away” tournament, so we will spend Saturday night in a hotel. You must RSVP to GOYA_St_Katherine@msn.com no later than Saturday, January 19. Information has been sent via email and more is forthcoming.

Starting January 10, GOYA will have boys’ basketball practice on Sundays following coffee, and girls and boys will have basketball practice on Thursdays at 6:30pm.

Some future GOYA dates to put on your calendar are: March 26: Cosmic Bowling at Bowl America, Burke April 8-10: Lock-In, Camp Piankatank, Hartfield, VA May 7-8: Our Basketball Tournament

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

Goya wishes everyone a New Year filled with love, health, and happiness.

The Byzantio Greek Dance and Cultural Arts Program offers Greek folk dance lessons on Tuesdays, 6:30pm-7:30pm, for all youth ages 4 and up. The adult performing group practices on Sundays, 6:00pm-7:30pm.

Please contact Aris and Anna Yortzidis at greekdancedc@gmail.com for more information or visit the website at www.byzantio.org to download registration forms.
Kindergarten class to begin fall of 2016. As the new calendar year begins, the HEC staff and Board of Education are proud to announce the expansion of our educational offerings to the community of Saint Katherine with a Kindergarten program to begin Fall of 2016. We anticipate members of the community and surrounding area will take advantage of a faith based, bilingual educational environment structured to provide an enriching curriculum that will prepare children for success in the first grade and beyond.

We are particularly excited to expand our bilingual educational offerings to this next level and do so with the knowledge that our Paideia Preschool students have reported great scholastic success and we have been most pleased to report that many of our graduates participate in honor classes in their new schools. We believe this is yet another indicator that our educational offerings focused on a knowledge of our language, history, culture and faith will continue to serve our youth as they prepare for greater academic success throughout their lives.

Paideia Preschool (new year-round program). We are also pleased to announce the commencement of a pilot program that will provide a year-round Paideia Preschool program beginning summer of 2016. Due to space limitations, enrollment will be limited to 15 students. Priority will be given on a first come-first serve basis due to space limitations. Interested parents are encouraged to contact me for additional information.

Greek Letters Day. Greek Letters Day is coming up January 30. The HEC Greek Language Program will highlight the importance of the celebration with college students as guest-speakers from the University of Maryland and a short talk by Dr. Lyvia Pararas, Professor of Modern Greek studies. More information will follow in the forthcoming Sunday bulletin.

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

For more information or an open house date, please contact the HEC director at ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com or call at 703-671-7715. You may also visit our website at www.stkhec.org or follow us on Facebook to “like” our page and make a comment on our posts. If you already have subscribed on Facebook please type “Hellenic Education Center” on the search engine.

We wish all a great year with health and happiness.

Καλή Χρονιά και ευλογημένος ο καινούριος χρόνος!

BOOK REVIEW

Gregory McKinney


Of these two “owner’s manuals for love and marriage,” The Four Loves is the most practical and accessible. Lewis sees four types of human love: 1) Storge (Gk: στοργή), the bonds of parent/child, bloodline, and tribe. 2) Philia (Gk: φιλία), the rare love between true friends with shared interests and personal compatibility. 3) Eros (Gk: ἔρως), a bond at once romantic and erotic, but more than raw sexuality. However, Lewis finds these three loves to be incomplete, each containing the seed of its own undoing:

We may give our human loves the unconditional allegiance which we owe only to God. Then they become gods: then they become demons. Then they will destroy us, and also destroy themselves. For natural loves that are allowed to become gods do not remain loves. They are still called so, but can become in fact complicated forms of hatred.

The “natural loves” can all fail us if they remain untransformed by the fourth love, Agape (Gk: ἀγάπη), the love that endures and forgives regardless of changing circumstances, a love ever expanding and deepening. Lewis sees agape as a specifically Christian virtue, being exemplified by the unconditional love of God.

But Divine Gift-love in the man enables him to love what is not naturally lovable; lepers, criminals, enemies, morons, the sulky, the superior and the sneering.

Evdokimov’s The Sacrament of Love takes the theme of transformation-through-agape to an altogether deeper level. He produces a challenging and deep examination of the synthesis of Eros and Agape and their role in the deification of man and woman. Evdokimov demonstrates how the love of Christ for His Church illumines and conflates the vocations of both the monastic and the married. His vision of Christianity’s radical equality (and necessity) of the sexes within creation and the God-given root of proper gender roles forms the basis for a transformative “Nuptial Priesthood.”

The time has come to assert the fullness of matrimony, its state of grace...The true monk will rejoice in this, for he, more than anyone else, is able to discern the real value of marriage. Its path is narrow, perhaps the most narrow of all, since there are two that walk upon it (p. 70).

(Continued on page 12, column 1)
Among the most important things we do for our departed loved ones is honor their memory with our traditional Memorial Service. In an effort to more effectively meet your needs during these special occasions, we have engaged the support of our Saint Katherine Ladies Philoptochos Society to assist you with sponsoring your Memorial Service Coffee Hour. In order to ensure that your Memorial Service Coffee Hour request will be fulfilled, please contact Mary Varlas (703-965-4161) or Eleni Kananos (703-969-8364) 72 hours prior to the occasion. Donations should be made directly to Saint Katherine.

Journey to Orthodoxy Class resumes

Our Journey to Orthodoxy class for adults is being offered again starting on Sunday, January 10. The class is 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. It is also recommended for intending or newly married couples, especially where one spouse is not Orthodox, but everyone is welcome!

Journey to Orthodoxy is held in an informal discussion format. The class is an ideal opportunity for those who might have questions about:

- Why does our Church believes as it does and how is Orthodoxy similar to and different from other Christian confessions and other religions?
- What is the meaning and purpose of our liturgical practices, the icons, the Church calendar, feasts and fasts, and their importance for our daily lives?
- What is the history of Orthodoxy, and what is the Church’s mission today?

Text is provided free of charge. We meet 9am-10am (concurrently with Sunday School) in the Seniors’ Kentro on the ground floor of Founders’ Hall. For further information contact the teachers, Dr. John Demakis (demakis9931@gmail.com) or Jim Jatras (heraclius13@gmail.com 202-375-1007).

Saint Katherine Ladies Philoptochos

Easter Bake Sale Dates

Sundays, April 17 and 24, following Liturgy

For more information, please email LPbakesale@yahoo.com or call Mary Varlas, 703-965-4161
REGISTRY

**Baptisms**

Phaedra Kristina Konstas (December 5)  
daughter of Erik Doman and Penelope Konstas  
Godparents: Amalia and Kristina Konstas

Margaret Maggy May (December 5)  
daughter of George and Cassandra Caridakis  
Godparents: John and Constance Hall

Kalvinos Calvin (December 5)  
son of Jason and Bethany Kennedy  
Godparents: Eleni and Lauren Mowery

Kassandros Casey (December 5)  
son of Jason and Bethany Kennedy  
Godparents: Eleni and Lauren Mowery

Kallisti Campbell (December 5)  
daughter of Jason and Bethany Kennedy  
Godparents: Eleni and Lauren Mowery

Alexandros (December 13)  
son of Konstantinos and Athina Kohilas  
Godparents: Angela Bisbigianni Pagonis and Vasilis Mavrophilippos

Congratulations!

**Chrismations**

Jason Forrest Kennedy (December 5)  
son of Forrest and Kathleen Kennedy  
Sponsors: Matthew and Vicki Mowery

Bethany Anne Ander-Kennedy (December 5)  
daughter of Michael Patrick and Simone Ander  
Sponsors: Matthew and Vicki Mowery

Congratulations!

**Funeral**

Mary Logas Basiliko (December 10)  
May her memory be eternal.

**Why in the World**

**Do We Kiss the Hand of the Priest?**

The real question is, “Why don’t we kiss more people’s hands?” Kissing the hand of the priest is not an exceptional thing, but rather is the remnant of what was once a perfectly normal custom: showing reverence to our elders by kissing their right hands. There are certainly many people alive today in Greece who remember that the kissing of the hand was the normal and expected way to show reverence not only to the clergy but to parents, grandparents, godparents, and others in authority over us or holding a revered position in our lives. The disappearance of this custom is part of the disintegration of traditional Christian society, which was based on hierarchy, humility, and respect. And based, of course, on love, which does not exist without respect.

When we kiss the hand of the bishop or priest, we are not showing respect to the person of the priest but to his sacred office. The priest as man is a sinner, but the priest as priest represents Christ; he is an icon of Christ. Also, though his hand is unworthy, yet it touches the Most Holy Things—the Precious Body and Blood of the Lord. Furthermore, despite his unworthiness, in Holy Ordination he has received the Grace of God to impart spiritual gifts and blessings. Why would we deprive ourselves of the blessings of our Lord Himself, by not seeking the priest’s blessing?

So when would we ask for a blessing? We typically seek this blessing whenever we greet and bid farewell to our spiritual fathers. Also, we kiss their right hands when we receive the prayer of absolution at Confession or at other prayers. We do not, however, kiss the priest’s hand when receiving Holy Communion, lest we risk an accident with the Holy Chalice.

Source: stgabrielashland.org

**AGES DCS (Digital Chant Stand)**

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

**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.
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: The 2015 operating expenses of our church were approximately $1,475 per family.

Signature                          Date

Family Information:

Also participating in this pledge are the following family members:

Spouse: ________________________________ DOB: ________________
Child: ________________________________ DOB: ________________
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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 ________________________________
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<td>GOYA boys basketball practice Sundays, starting on January 10.</td>
<td>3 Sunday before Epiphany</td>
<td>5 Eve of Epiphany 7:00pm Divine Liturgy and Agiasmos 5pm Conversational Grk 6:30pm Adult Beg. Greek 6:00pm Grk Folk Dance</td>
<td>6 Holy Epiphany 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 8:00pm HEC Basketball</td>
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PHILOPTOCHOS (by Eleni Kanakos, President)

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope you and your families enjoyed the holidays. May the New Year bring health, happiness, and peace to all.

Thank you to Trish Kapsidelis and all the ladies who helped make our Christmas Luncheon and Fashion Show a great success.

Philotocos will pass the second tray on Sunday, January 10. The proceeds will be sent to National Philoptocos who will then send the proceeds from all Philoptocos chapters to Saint Basil Academy. Philoptocos will provide the Vasilopites for the cutting of the Vasilopita in church and sponsor the Coffee Hour afterwards in the Meletis Charuhas Hall.

Following liturgy on Sunday, January 17, we will have our first meeting of the new year in the board room. I hope to see all of you there.

On Thursday, February 11, 12:00pm-3:00pm, we will have our annual Seniors’ Valentine’s Day Luncheon in the Meletis Charuhas Hall. Please call Mary Drakoulis at 703-273-4159 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 thank you to all ladies who helped make our bake sale a huge success, and to our chairwoman Mary Varlas. We could not do it without everyone’s support.

Our Washington Metropolitan Philoptocos Tea will be hosted by Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Saturday, January 23, 2:00pm-4:00pm (snow date January 30). The speaker will be our own Fr. Costa Pavlakos, who will discuss The Freedom of Orthodoxy in Cuba. If you would like to attend, please reply by January 15 to Mary Dimos at 202-244-5935.

As we start this new year 2016, let us work together to increase our stewardship, our participation, and our efforts as a whole. I know that together we can make 2016 another amazing year!

DAUGHTERS OF PENELlope (by Karen Polizos, President)

HELLE CHAPTER HELD A SPECIAL INITIATION in December and we welcomed new Sisters Kathy Karageorge, Helen Kosturos, Paulina Kosturos, Penny Papas, Sophia Tsangali, Faye Yiannarakis, Athena Zavolas, and Debbie Zavolas! Later in December we enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner at Greek Taverna. Our thanks to Lynn Francis for organizing our holiday outing. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 10, immediately following Liturgy.

Tickets are now available for our 2nd Annual Tastes of the Mediterranean fundraiser on Friday, February 5. Enjoy delicious Greek appetizers, live Greek music by Achilles, and wine tastings by Winestyles of Monclair and Red, White & Bleu. We look forward to another successful event, and hope you will join us for this fun evening!

On behalf of the Daughters of Penelope, we wish you and your families a healthy and happy New Year!

BOOKSTORE

AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE!! Everything in the bookstore is 20 percent off (rounded to the nearest dollar). Christmas items are limited, so visit early for the best selection.

The bookstore is open Sundays after 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. May the Lord grant you many blessings in the New Year!

SINGLE PARENT FELLOWSHIP

SINGLE PARENTS WILL MEET ON JANUARY 10, during coffee hour. Please join us as we gather in fellowship to share ideas, resources and your thoughts as single Orthodox Christian parents. Please contact Angela Kallas-Miller (agapiang@gmail.com) for more information.

AHEPA CHAPTER 438

PETER N. AHEPA CHAPTER 438 thanks Saint Katherine Community, AHEPA Family and guests for participating in our Greek Dining Experience Raffle and making the fundraiser a great success. The drawing for $1,000 in restaurant gift certificates to some very fine Greek Restaurants was held November 22 with Bob Schwenk having the winning ticket number (0298). The proceeds will go toward our many Charities which include Saint Nicholas National Shrine in New York, National Disasters (i.e., Hurricane Sandy), feeding the homeless at Bailey’s Crossroads, Vacation Bible Camp for our youth, Saint Katherine Church, and more. A special thank you for the restaurant gift certificates goes to the following alphabetically listed participating restaurants: Arlington Diner, Anthony’s Restaurant, Athena Pallas, Atlantis Family Restaurant, Eleni’s Greek Taverna, Greek Taverna, Metro 29, Nostos, P.J. Skidoos, and Plaka Grill.
MISSIONS AND OUTREACH
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19)

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

Mission Retreat with New Bishop of Kenya. We are pleased to announce that the newly consecrated Bishop of Nyeri and All Mount Kenya in Kenya, Neofitos, will visit our community the weekend of March 19 and 20. His Grace will lead a retreat in our community center on Saturday, March 19 and will speak at our OCMC dinner that same evening. He will also serve Divine Liturgy the next day. His Grace was elevated in Alexandria by the Patriarch of Alexandria the first week of December. More details will follow.

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

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

Support a Mission Priest (SAMP). Every year, Saint Katherine supports a mission priest. This is a program of the OCMC that encourages parishes and individuals to help an Orthodox priest in a third world country by donating $600 a year to that priest. Although this is not a large amount, it allows a priest to serve full time as a priest without having to work at another job to help his family. The priest we support this year is Fr. Hariton Ndala in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He serves the parish of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary in Kazembe. Fr. Ndala was born in Likasi, Congo in 1962. He was baptized in 1996 by Fr. Meletios (now Bishop Meletios) and in 2007 was ordained to the priesthood. If any family would also like to support a mission priest, please send a check for $600 to OCMC, 220 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086, and specify SAMP. You will receive a brief biography of the priest you support.

Diaper Collection Largest Ever. Over $1,000 worth of diapers were collected on December 6, our latest Diaper Drive. Thank you. The next diaper drive will be April 24, Palm Sunday.

Food Pantry Collection. Our next collection date is Sunday, January 31. Our last collection in October surpassed 1,500 pounds of food for the less fortunate. What a wonderful way to teach our children to help those in need. Let’s try to beat our record! Please bring non-perishable food or canned items, in the blue cloth bags that will be passed out in church the two Sundays prior, on January 31. Please be generous. There is a list of suggested foods on the Saint Katherine website.

Hygiene and Survival Kits Delivered to Homeless Shelter. On Sunday, December 13 following Divine Liturgy, our Sunday School children assembled over 250 Hygiene and Survival Kits for the Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter. Thanks to all the children who did this so enthusiastically and to the several families who transported the kits to the shelter. Thanks also to all our church groups who so willingly donated the items for the kits. The shelter was so thankful for this beautiful donation. These kits are used in the winter months when the shelter runs out of beds and cannot accept any more homeless.

Cooking Schedule for Homeless Shelter. Below is the tentative schedule for the next six months. Please contact Dr. John Demakis at demakis9931@gmail.com, if your organization would like to serve at the shelter.

January 12: GOYA
February: Daughters of Penelope
March: Philoptochos
April: Adult Bible Class
May: Mission Committee
June: Vacation Bible Camp

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

NEXT MISSION MEETING
Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30pm. Our meetings are open to all. Please join us!!
# JANUARY CHURCH DUTY ROSTER

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<td>Dr. Jerry Rich</td>
<td>Maria Vargas</td>
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<td>Peter Karounos</td>
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<td>January 17, 2016</td>
<td>Mary Varlas</td>
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<td>January 31, 2016</td>
<td>Nick Larigankis</td>
<td>Costas Mavromatakis</td>
<td>Jim Stoucker</td>
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**GRIEVE NOT**

(Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood, 175-186)

What though the radiance which was once so bright  
Be now for ever taken from my sight,  
Though nothing can bring back the hour  
Of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower;  
We will grieve not, rather find  
Strength in what remains behind;  
In the primal sympathy  
Which having been must ever be;  
In the soothing thoughts that spring  
Out of human suffering;  
In the faith that looks through death,  
In years that bring the philosophic mind.

~ William Wordsworth

Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church offers a grief support group, GRACE (Grief Recovery: Accepting, Coping, and Evolving). For further information, please call Fr. Costa Pavlakos at 703-671-1515.

Thank you to Maria Papageorgiou for contributing articles nearly every month for the last 10 years.

(Continued from page 5, column 2)

How beautiful are these visions of man, woman, and God together. How needful it is for the world to see these glories lived out within the apostolic Christian community.

Paul Evdokimov (1901-1970) was a professor of Orthodox theology at the Saint Sergius Institute in Paris.

C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) was a British writer, Christian apologist, and academic who held positions at both Oxford and Cambridge. He is best known for his fictional work, especially The Screwtape Letters and The Chronicles of Narnia, and his non-fiction Christian apologetics, such as Mere Christianity, Miracles, and The Problem of Pain.

(Continued from page 1)

the very essence of life itself, is the “acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God.” Without the Holy Spirit, there is no true life for man.

“In spite of our sinfulness, in spite of the darkness surrounding our souls, the Grace of the Holy Spirit, conferred by baptism in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, still shines in our hearts with the inextinguishable light of Christ…and when the sinner turns to the way of repentance the light smooths away every trace of the sins committed, clothing the former sinner in the garments of incorruption, spun of the Grace of the Holy Spirit. It is this acquisition of the Holy Spirit about which I have been speaking” (Saint Seraphim of Sarov, Conversation with Motovilov).

The Holy Spirit of God is what moves us to be Christ-like. The Power of the Holy Spirit is the grace of working in us, with us, and by us.

I hope that this season of the new year and the celebration of the Epiphany, will bring to each one of us a spirit of renewal, and that we are willing to let the Holy Spirit guide us every moment of our life.

Yours in Christ’s service,

Fr. Costa
SHOWN BELOW is a list of families and individuals who participated in the 2015 Saint Katherine Stewardship Program through November 30, 2015. Thank you for responding to the needs of our church.

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