I was at Walmart, walking through the cosmetic aisle, when I noticed a myriad of products labeled “revive and revitalize”—all promising a new and younger look. These products were for the skin, hands, feet, and face. This reminded me of the coming new year. We want to rejuvenate ourselves. We want to change ourselves and renew our relationships.

As we enter yet another new year, we hear from Gospel pericope after Epiphany, a message of personal renewal, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17). How appropriate, given this time of year, when people commit themselves to various kinds of personal and collective resolutions. Many people resolve to lose weight or change bad habits such as smoking. Others plan to reconcile with people with whom they have had bitter arguments. Still others set personal financial goals to make more money, invest more for their retirement, or set aside adequate funds for college. Whatever the case, a new year can be an exciting time to make positive changes in one’s life.

So what about this “changing of one’s mind over to God”—what the spiritual tradition of our Holy Orthodox Church calls metanoia or repentance? Is this a new year’s resolution or do we best relegate it to the period of Lent? In truth, Holy Lent is not only the 40-day preparatory period for Holy Week and Pascha, but it also serves as a model of ascetic living for how we should live daily—for every day and week culminate into the Feast of Feasts, our Lord’s Resurrection, which we celebrate each Sunday. How we live our lives—the ways we think, the choices we make, and the behaviors we adopt—should be reflections of our Lord’s life, in which seemingly bitter defeats end as victories. The only way to experience the utter and sublime internal joyfulness of divine victory is to constantly renew our hearts over to God through repentance.

As the Greek roots of the word indicate, metanoia is a voluntary and conscientious effort to change the abnormality of wrong thinking within us into the normality of right thinking. As Orthodox Christian Tradition teaches, the demons are utterly powerless until they find a “host” (a mind) willing to entertain their nonsensical and whimsical suggestions (that is, temptations) and pass them as definitive reality. In this way, man adopts a thinking completely foreign to him, but very much enticing, which can lead him and especially others to catastrophic and irreversible damage. A mind that rests comfortably in the remembrance and thought of God, however, has distanced itself from wrongful thoughts and has received divine grace and peace. It has changed its focus from oneself to the Lord and has spared itself the tragic insistence upon stress as a normal way of life. Man’s heart is never at peace until he abides in the truth of God, until he changes his thoughts to reflect his true desires and expectations. Saint Augustine of Hippo said it best when he prayed to God, “You have formed us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in You.”

Why should we repent and so change ourselves this new year? Because the Kingdom of God is intensely before us at every moment. At every moment, Christ calls out with
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Staff
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Choir Director  Nick Kyrus  703-981-2526 nbkyrus@comcast.net
Hellenic Education Center Director  Presv. Eleni Alexopoulou  703-671-7715 ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com
Maintenance Supervisor  Roberto Medina  703-671-1515 rmedina@stkchurch.com
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Women’s Book Club  Despina Raizes  703-216-8176 2draizes@gmail.com

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Facebook  Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church  Gregory McKinney  dintym@hotmail.com
GOYA (ages 13-18)  Panos Lagos  frcostas@stkchurch.com
GRACE  Fr. Costa Pavlakos, Spiritual Advisor  703-671-1515 greekdancecd@gmail.com
Greek Dance  Aris and Anna Yortzidis, Instructors  757-218-6991
Greek School Auxiliary  TBD  http://www.stkhec.org
Hellenic Education Center  Greek School and Paideia Preschool  703-671-7715
doris@alumni.virginia.edu
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Single Parent Fellowship  Angela Kallas-Miller  frcostas@stkchurch.com
Website  Presv. Pauline Pavlakos, Webmaster  przpauline@stkchurch.com
YAL (Young Adult League)  Faye (Fotini) Anson  fanson38@yahoo.com

PARISH COUNCIL

SCHOOLS AND STUDIES

MINISTRIES
WE BEGIN THE NEW YEAR with great enthusiasm, optimism, and reverence as we anticipate what lies ahead; fully confident God’s hand will guide and protect us. As we all know, one of our greatest blessings at Saint Katherine is the fact that we are endowed with an abundance of loving ministries whose growth and development enables you, our parishioners, to further participate in the life of the Church. We encourage everyone to get involved with a ministry or ministries of your choice...the experiences that await you are as rewarding as they are memorable—and for some, they can be life transforming! With over 50 ministries in our community from which to choose, the opportunities for involvement are limitless and we encourage everyone...particularly those who have been waiting for just the “right moment”...to make this the year you join in and help yourself as well as our community by participating in our ministries!

Over the course of the last year, you have noticed numerous enhancements to our physical plant. Those improvements will continue in the coming year, principal among them being the need for a new roof at the base of the dome of our church. A recent inspection revealed that putting this off any longer would be unwise. As our history indicates, we can also expect the “normal” maintenance challenges with our multiple HVAC and other electrical systems. In short, as you have heard me say time and again, our agenda will be to continue to attend to the infrastructure and other needs of our Church.

As always, our ability to address all our needs...for ministries, maintenance, and many other requirements, derives directly from your generosity as stewards of our community. Obviously, we can accomplish only as much as our treasury permits. In all humility, I respectfully urge you all to reflect on the loving and caring environment that so many of you have helped create and foster within our community over the years and open your hearts accordingly as you consider your donations for the coming year. Please check out our new donations page on our church website for further giving opportunities.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and welcome all newly elected members of our Parish Council, including returning members Nick Larigakis, Mallamo Mavromatakis, Dr. Jerry Rich, and Maria Vargas; returning former members Dr. John Demakis and Pierre Tavoularis and, in particular, newcomers Tony Alexis, Mark Cherpes, and Jon Ziu.

We ask for your prayers to guide us as we work on your behalf to continue to elevate and improve our community for all parishioners. On behalf of our Parish Council, I wish you all a most Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Your servant in Christ,

President, Parish Council

AHEPA DERZIS CHAPTER 438 GUS MOSHOS MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The drawing for the Gus Moshos Memorial Christmas Raffle was held December 13, 2016. There were 7 prize winners for this ticket-limited sellout raffle of $7,500. The 1st Prize of $5,000 went to Andrea Russo, the 2nd Prize of $1,500 went to Irene Moshos, Prizes 3 through 7 for $200 each went to Dena Contompassis, Mike Bakatsias, Cosmos Bells, George Boosalis, and Fr. Costa Pavlakos.

The proceeds from this raffle are used to support AHEPA charities throughout the Hellenic Community. These include Saint Katherine Church and its fundraisers, Vacation Bible Camp, Church Missions, College Scholarships awarded to local high school seniors, and the rebuilding of Saint Nicholas Church near Ground Zero in New York City.

The P. N. Derzis Chapter 438 sincerely thanks the Hellenic Community and the Brothers of AHEPA for making this year’s Gus Moshos Christmas Raffle a great success!
CATECHETICAL (SUNDAY) SCHOOL

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Sunday School students shared a wonderful Christmas season, starting with a beautiful presentation of Jesus’ birth at the annual Christmas pageant! A great big thank you to Karen Polizos, Sophia Tsangali, John Doulos, Chris Skenteris, Sherry Maggio, Roberto, and all the wonderful parents for their help and support!

We concluded December with our Giving Tree donations to St. Innocent Orphanage and assembling survival kits and gift bags for the homeless and delivering them on Christmas morning.

January is the month for 7th-12th graders to register for the Oratorical Festival. Please encourage your children to participate and learn even more about their Orthodox faith in this very special event. Festival dates are still unknown.

January 15 is Youth Church Duty and Maria Wuerker will be our Captain and Epistle reader. Thank you, Maria! Additional Sunday School students are needed to help.

We have a new and very special event planned for January 22. Colette Kalvesmaki, a teacher of iconography and founder of the Center for Byzantine Material Arts, will visit to give our older students (7th-12th grades) a lesson/demonstration. Encourage your children to attend on this day. They wouldn’t want to miss this event!

Please inform your children’s godparents to mark their calendars for Godparent’s Sunday on February 5. Children will have the opportunity to introduce their godparents to their teachers and worship together in Divine Liturgy. Refreshments will be provided following Liturgy.

Bible Jeopardy is back! Thank you to Tori and Todd Carr for hosting this educational game for grades 1-3 on February 12.

Finally, it is not too early to start planning for Vacation Bible Camp, scheduled for June 26-30. Our theme for this year is Going for the Gold! and we will study the Feasts of the Triumph of Christ and His Church. We need teachers and volunteers for our children to participate in this amazing week! If you are available and interested in helping either before or during VBC week, please contact Eleni Porter at beporter1@verizon.net.

BOOKSTORE

START OFF THE NEW YEAR PROPERLY with an Icon Calendar! You can check the saints of the week and follow the Gospel and Epistle readings of the day. In addition to feeding you soul, you can nourish your body with recipes from the new cookbooks we carry. This month, we are featuring the famous cookbook of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Charleston, South Carolina. It contains old family recipes from Jim Stoucker’s mother and yiayia, so you know the cookbook is a winner. We are expanding our collection of books on how to raise Orthodox children. Come see what we have on the shelves. As always, we have children’s activity books in Greek and English.

GOYA (saint-katherines.org/ministries/groups/goya)

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 should be available soon.

January 10, Feed the Homeless at Bailey’s Crossroads. GOYA parents and advisors will cook dinner, starting at 12:00pm, in the kitchen of the Meletis Charuhhas Center on Tuesday, January 10. GOYAns will serve the homeless at 6:00pm at Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter, 3525 Moncure Avenue. Please arrive no later than 5:45pm. (Please note the shelter has changed their practice and there will only be one seating this year.)

January 15, Youth Church Duty. Maria Wuerker will be the Sunday School Church Duty Captain and Epistle Reader. All GOYAns are expected to serve the church that day by serving church duty, singing in the choir, serving in the altar, or worshiping in the pews.

January 15-16, Trip to NYC. Following liturgy, GOYAns will travel to New York City, January 15-16. We will have a personal tour of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center and visit Astoria, and more. A $50 deposit is due by Monday, January 2 to hold your spot (please make check payable to Saint Katherine GOYA and mail to the church). The final payment is due Wednesday, January 11. The total cost will be determined once we know how many people will participate and will be emailed no later than January 6. Please note that you must have turned in your health/registration form and be caught up with dues and other payments in order to go on this trip.

January 21-22, SS. Constantine and Helen, Richmond Basketball Tournament. Our Boys B and Girls B teams will participate in this tournament. Saturday games will once again be held in the Brock Center at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA. Sunday championship games will be held in the Cathedral’s Dombalis Hall. More details, including directions, schedule of events, and hotel accommodations should be available soon.

All teenagers of our community are encouraged to join GOYA. Please email GOYA_St_Katherine@msn.com if you have any ideas for GOYA events, would like to volunteer, or would like to receive GOYA emails.

Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

- Feb 12 | GOYA Church Duty
- Mar 18 | Cosmic Bowling
- Apr 22-23 | Our Tournament
- Apr 23 | GOYA Church Duty
- Apr 29-30 | Saint Demetrios, Baltimore Tournament
- May 6-7 | Saint Nicholas, Baltimore Tournament
- May 13-15 | Saints C&H, Annapolis Tournament
- July 2-8 | Camp Good Shepherd, Hartfield, VA

GOYA wishes everyone a New Year filled with love, health, and happiness.
2017-2018 Saint Katherine Bilingual Kindergarten. 2017 being the ninth year of operation for Paideia preschool, we would like to thank the community of Saint Katherine for the endless support and genuine interest in the continuing effort to educate our youth in the Greek language and heritage. At the same time, it is with great joy that we begin a new initiative, our first Kindergarten class for 2017-18 school year. We are looking forward to the commitment and dedication from the parents whose children will be eligible in the fall. We ask that each and everyone of you advocates for the new program in the community and outside the community.

Saint Katherine Bilingual Kindergarten is open to 5 and 6 year olds of all faiths and ethnicities. We combine modern curricula with the tradition of Hellenic education through scientific inquiry, language immersion, and Orthodox Christian values. Our Greek immersion program is unique in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area.

Our mission is to develop curious, compassionate citizens of the world. We believe that children reach their highest levels of academic achievement when physical, emotional, spiritual, and cognitive domains are engaged and challenged. Our holistic approach to education, framed in scientific inquiry and multilingualism, results in creative, critical-minded young people prepared to solve the problems of the future.

“The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled.” ~Plutarch

Year-Round Program for Paideia Students. If you are new to the community and you are interested in enrolling your child to the Paideia bilingual preschool ages 2-5, which operates all year, please contact us for information. For the summer months, priority will be given to our current students. Anyone else will be considered on a first come-first served basis. The application/registration form can be downloaded from the HEC website (www.stkhec.org).

Greek School Program in January. The Greek school students will participate at the Metropolis Greek Letters Day program which will take place on Sunday, January 22, at 4:00pm at Saint Nicholas Church, Baltimore. Students and their families are invited to support this effort as we would like to honor the legacy of the Three Hierarchs. Saint Basil, Saint Chrysostom, and Saint Gregory of Nyssa are a great inspiration for our youth to be the best they can be, be selective making their choices in life, and always follow the message of Christ to commit deeds of humility and philanthropy.

Best wishes on behalf of the Hellenic Education Center staff for prosperity and peace to all! Καλή Χρονιά και με υγεία το νέο έτος. Εκ μέρους του προσωπικού του Ελληνικού Κέντρου Εκπαίδευσης ευχόμαστε η καινούρια χρονιά να φέρει πρόοδο και ειρήνη σε όλους!

Please contact the HEC director (ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com or 703-671-7715) for information on any HEC program or an open house date.

Pictures from the Paideia Christmas Program . . . Our students performed, danced, and sang in both Greek and English. Congratulations to the teachers and students!

The Byzantio Greek Dance and Cultural Arts Program offers Greek folk dance lessons for grades Kindergarten and up. Dance practice for school-age dancers is on Tuesdays, 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Meletis Charuhas Hall. Adult dance practice is held on Sundays, 6:00pm-7:30pm, in Chelpon (Founders’) Hall.
**FILM REVIEWS**

**The Life of Christ, Imagined?**


*The Visual Bible: The Gospel of John.* Rated PG-13. 2 hours 5 minutes. Toronto Film Studios, 14 November 2003 (USA) Stars: Henry Ian Cusick, Daniel Kash, Christopher Plummer


How do we see Jesus in our own minds? How do we imagine him to be? We all wish we could see the face of this God-Man, even the Rolling Stones acknowledged that. The movie industry has been happy to obligate that desire on a regular basis, but their films say as much or more about the era of their making and the vision and values of the film’s production team as about the Gospel story.

*The Greatest Story Ever Told* was nominated for five Academy Awards in its day. The breathtaking cinematography of its dry desert setting is wonderful, but it is the American desert in Arizona with grand vistas and wind-sculpted stone. Heston feels right at home here, as does John Wayne in his one cameo appearance. Lots of Hollywood stars, saints and sinners alike, show up in this production. But the Nordic Max Von Sydow is an odd Jesus. Bereft of charisma and wearing an air of mauldin compassion, it’s hard to imagine exactly who would be willing to follow Him to death. If the historical Jesus in fact mirrored in Von Sydow’s interpretation, maybe His followers heard a similarly stirring soundtrack during His miracles and that’s what helped convince them of His divinity.

*Killing Jesus* appears to be a remake of *The Greatest Story* given how it chooses to depict the same elements from the Gospel. Except there is only one low-key miracle and Jesus seems to be figuring out who he is and what he’s supposed to be doing on-the-fly. Even the post-Resurrection events are a little blurry. The actor playing Jesus here is the only one in the three films who looks and sounds like a son of Abraham, much easier for Sleiman given that he is by birth Lebanese and Muslim. This Jesus is a trouble-maker and agitator who finds the inner steel to confront the authorities because of their treatment of his beloved mentor and cousin, John the Baptistizer.

*The Visual Bible: The Gospel of John* is the only film that doesn’t reinterpret the story of Christ. It can’t because its script is nothing but the verbatim Gospel of John in its Good News translation. Sure, lots of the actors have English accents, but the settings are mostly genuine. Cusick presents a balanced Jesus, accessible, but with flashes of brilliance and danger. Very well done overall!

Watching these films back-to-back reaffirmed for me that the true vision of Christ exists only in the Church and with its unvarnished Holy Scriptures and Traditions. Beware of imposters!

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1. *I Just Want to See His Face.* Exile on Main Street, 1972.
REGISTRY

**Baptisms**
Virginia Galadriel (December 4)
daughter of George and Anastasia Galanis
Godparent: Nikolaos Dimopoulos

Natalia Riki (December 10)
daughter of Stephen Perlik and Patti Oehmke
Godparent: Frances Kalavritinos

Sarah Buchanan (December 17)
daughter of Lowell Buchanan and Ara Walters
Godparents: Bill and Eleni Porter

Leonidas (December 18)
son of Szymon Sawicki and Eugenia Koulizakis
Godparent: Sophia Tsangali

Nikoletta Christian (December 18)
daughter of Stavros Christopoulos and Maria Minguzzi
Godparents: Alexander Karousos and Gerasimina Toumazatos

Congratulations!

**Chrismation**
Samantha Tannure (November 13)
daughter of Jorge Tannure and Sandra Fabbris
Sponsor: Irene Komninou

Congratulations!

**Funerals**
Vasilius Pierrakos (December 14)
in Skala, Laconia, Greece
Paraskeve Litis Koumarianos (December 19)

May their memory be eternal.

(Continued from page 1)

passionate resolve, faith, and courage to revitalize. The opportunity here today may not be here tomorrow, so the immediacy of a sound decision is of primary importance. Encounters with God happen continuously, but we remain oblivious to such “meetings” because of our lukewarm disposition and disinterestedness throughout life. Nothing seems to burn brightly within us except a desire for pleasures and achievements that are short-lived. The Kingdom of God does not faze us—it is simply a myth, an afterthought for many. At any moment within history, the grace of God, experienced as kairos, can penetrate into our limited reality and transform it back into the reality for which it was created, to be penetrated by God’s presence. In order to experience this grace, to receive a taste of heaven, and to touch the garment of Christ like the woman with the issue of blood (Luke 8:43-48) and so “touch” God, we need to adopt the thinking of Christ and so transform and expand our limited and erroneous thoughts. We need to repent—correct ourselves, be enlightened, and then unite ourselves to God.

Christ calls us all, brothers and sisters, to embrace the Kingdom of God at the beginning of this new year, to turn away from anything and everything that leads us away from the Lord and to redirect our steps toward the “One needful.” He is as close to, or as far away from, us as we want Him to be. Let us change what needs to be changed within us, and let us hold on to what needs to be held onto, that this year may be the best year ever for us, in our individual and collective pilgrimages to the Kingdom of God.

During this time of the Epiphany of our Lord, we too can take every opportunity to be participants in the myriad of ways the Church offers us to revitalize our lives.

Happy New Year!

(Continued from page 1, column 2)

A VERY WARM THANK you is extended to Linda Jouvanis who continuously beautifies our church. Just look around and you will see her handiwork—decorations around the relics in the narthex, decorations on the pulpit, decorated dwarf trees on the solea and by the adult baptistry, decorated trees outside the main doors to the church, etc. Thank you, Linda, for your stewardship of talent.

(Continued from page 6, column 2)

κρίμα! Ναι, γιατί λέμε ότι οποιος σκέπτεται και ζει εξω από την αλήθεια του Χριστού, βασανίζεται. Οποιος όμως κατευθύνει τη ζωή του με την αλήθεια του Χριστού, παρέχεται με ασφάλεια και επιτυχία και η αλήθεια του Χριστού επηρεάζει κάθε ζήτημα της ζωής μας, βεβαιώς και το επάγγελμα.

Ευλογημένη χρονιά λοιπόν με φάρο πάντα την αλήθεια του Χριστού!
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 2017 operating expenses of our Church are approximately $1,500 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: __________________
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 ________________________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Saint Basil the Great Sunday before Theophany New Year’s Day 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>2 7:30pm Sons Practice 8:00pm YAL Practice</td>
<td>3 Paideia Resumes 5pm Conversational Greek 6:30pm Grk Folk Dance 7pm Adult Conv. Greek</td>
<td>4 10:30am Book Club 6:30pm GOYA Practice 8:30pm HEC Parents Basketball</td>
<td>5 Eve of Epiphany 7:00pm Divine Liturgy and Agiasmos</td>
<td>6 Holy Epiphany 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy and Agiasmos 5:00pm Greek School 5pm Adult Conv. Greek</td>
<td>7 Synaxis of John the Baptist 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Greek School</td>
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<td>8 Sunday after Theophany 9:00am Orthros and Catechetical School 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12pm DOP Meeting 6pm Adult Grk Fk Dance</td>
<td>9 7:30pm Deuteri Deutera 7:30pm Sons Practice 8:00pm YAL Practice</td>
<td>10 GOYA Feeding the Homeless at Bailey’s (12:00pm cooking, 6:00pm serving) 5pm Conversational Greek 6:30pm Grk Folk Dance 7pm Adult Conv. Greek 7:30pm Missions</td>
<td>11 6:30pm GOYA Practice 8:30pm HEC Parents Basketball</td>
<td>12 7pm Adult Conv. Greek 7:00pm Gentle Exercise 7:30pm Choir</td>
<td>13 5:00pm Greek School 5pm Adult Conv. Greek</td>
<td>14 9:30am Greek School</td>
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<td>15 12th Sunday of Luke 9:00am Orthros and C.S. 10:00am Divine Liturgy Youth Church Duty</td>
<td>16 Martin Luther King Day GOYA Trip to NYC 7:30pm Sons Practice 8:00pm YAL Practice</td>
<td>17 Anthony the Great 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 5pm Conversational Greek 6:30pm Grk Folk Dance 7pm Adult Conv. Greek 8:00pm AHEPA</td>
<td>18 10:30am Book Club 6:30pm GOYA Practice 7:30pm Parish Council 8:30pm HEC Parents Basketball</td>
<td>19 7pm Adult Conv. Greek 7:00pm Gentle Exercise 7:30pm Choir</td>
<td>20 5:00pm Greek School 5pm Adult Conv. Greek</td>
<td>21 9:30am Greek School SS. C&amp;H, Richmond Basketball Tournament</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 15th Sunday of Luke 9:00am Orthros and C.S. 10:00am Divine Liturgy SS. C&amp;H, Richmond Basketball Tournament</td>
<td>23 7:30pm Sons Practice 8:00pm YAL Practice</td>
<td>24 5pm Conversational Greek 6:30pm Grk Folk Dance 7pm Adult Conv. Greek</td>
<td>25 6:30pm GOYA Practice 8:30pm HEC Parents Basketball</td>
<td>26 7pm Adult Conv. Greek 7:00pm Gentle Exercise 7:30pm Choir</td>
<td>27 5:00pm Greek School 5pm Adult Conv. Greek</td>
<td>28 9:30am Greek School</td>
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<td>29 Sunday of the Canaanite 9:00am Orthros and Catechetical School 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>30 Three Hierarchs 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 7:30pm Sons Practice 8:00pm YAL Practice</td>
<td>31 5pm Conversational Greek 6:30pm Grk Folk Dance 7pm Adult Conv. Greek</td>
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Please check the online calendar, [http://saint-katherines.org/calendar](http://saint-katherines.org/calendar), for the most current information.
PHILOPTOCHOS (by Eleni Kanakos, President)

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

This year’s Christmas Luncheon and Fashion Show was very special. We honored Mary Drakoulis, an amazing woman who has faithfully served the Lord and devoted her life to Him and the missions of which she is so passionate. Thank you, Mary, for all you have done for the Philoptochos, for our Church, and for the community. I would also like to thank Trish Kapsidelis and all the ladies that helped make this event a great success.

On Sunday, January 15, after the liturgy, we will have our first meeting in the board room. I hope to see all of you there.

On Thursday, February 9, 12:00pm-3:00pm, we will have our annual Seniors’ Valentine’s Day Luncheon in the Meletis Charuhas Hall. Contact Mary Drakoulis (703-273-4159) or me (703-938-8360, ekanakos@aol.com) for reservations. 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.

As we start this year, let’s work together to increase our stewardship, our participation, and our efforts as a whole. I know that together we can make 2017 another amazing year!

DAUGHTERS OF PENEOPE (by Karen Polizos, President)

IT WAS NICE TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS with our Sisters and guests who attended Helle Chapter’s Christmas luncheon at Cedar Knoll. It was lovely and festive, with a roaring fire in the dining area and a tall decorated Christmas tree. Thank you to Kelly Gull for coordinating it for us. Several of us visited with DOP Grand President Jan Spanos while she was in the DC area for Capital Hill meetings and to attend Hermione Chapter Christmas luncheon.

We have much to look forward to in 2017. Our Tastes of the Mediterranean fundraiser is Friday, February 10, and we look forward to a successful event. Details are shown in the box below. Our next monthly chapter meeting will be held Sunday, January 8, immediately after church service.

On behalf of all Sisters in Helle Chapter, we wish you and your families a healthy and happy new year!

Tastes of the Mediterranean

Friday, February 10, 2017 | 7pm-10pm
Meletis Charuhas Community Center

Join the Daughters of Penelope for an evening of wine tasting, appetizers, and live Greek music.

Proceeds benefit DOP Philanthropies and Fisher House Foundation

Tickets - $30
Contact Karen Polizos (571-434-7790) or Rosalie Georgeadis (703-532-1723)

TICKETS GO ON SALE SUNDAY, JANUARY 8!

Ευτυχισμένο το νέο έτος!
OCMC 2017 Teams Announced. We have received the list of countries for the 2017 mission teams. There are seventeen teams to Albania, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya (six separate teams), Mexico, and Alaska. These teams include teaching, construction, and health care. For a full list and dates go to OCMC.org. Please consider applying for a mission team. They are traditionally 2-3 weeks long. Several of our Saint Katherine parishioners have gone on teams and can share their experiences. Our community will be very supportive.

OCMC Meeting, November 2017. During the November 12-16, OCMC Semi-Annual Meeting held in Chicago, new officers were elected, including our own Betty Slanta as National Secretary. OCMC long-term veteran missionaries Nathan and Gabriella Hoppe provided a retreat on their work in Albania. Also, Day in the Life video stories from OCMC missionaries Jesse Brandow in Guatemala and Fr. Deacon Stephanos and Diakonissa Alexandria Ritsi in Albania, gave board members a review of their work and witness in the Lord’s vineyard.

OCMC Annual Benefit Dinner, April 30. Our annual OCMC Benefit Dinner will be Sunday, April 30. We will be honored to have Fr. Martin Ritsi, the Director of the OCMC, as our main speaker. This has been an exciting year for the OCMC. Orthodox churches have been started in several new countries by the OCMC. Come and hear the exciting things going on in the world of Orthodoxy. We will also have a silent auction (last year’s was so successful). We will auction off items from the many countries that OCMC has sent teams. Details regarding the dinner will be provided in an upcoming issue of DOXA.

Missions Presentations after Salutation Services. Missions presentations will again be offered after the first four Friday Salutation (Heretismi) services. These lectures are an excellent opportunity to keep up with what is going on around the Orthodox world. The dates and topics are: March 3 (still open), March 10 (Jesse Brandow, on leave from Guatemala, will share the exciting events there, including the fact that thousands of Mayan Indians are converting to Orthodoxy), March 17 (Bill and Eleni Porter have led two teams to Project Mexico and will lead another this summer [see next column]), and March 24 (Betty and John Slanta will share their experiences in Alaska).

Kenya Mission Team, October 2017. We have been invited by Bishop Neofitos of Kenya to visit his country and diocese in October of 2017. Fr. Costa will lead our team which will participate in teaching at the church school and helping build the school. Details are now being worked out and will be published in DOXA as soon as available. This should be an exciting experience. The Bishop did a mission retreat here in 2016 and impressed all with his humility and missionary zeal. We will keep you posted!

Project Mexico, August 16-22. Our group registration for Home Building 2017 has been confirmed. Our dates are August 16-22 for 10 participants. Our team will stay at St. Innocence Orphanage outside of Tijuana. They will work at building homes for the poor and homeless nearby. If you are interested in going, please contact Bill or Eleni Porter at beporter1@verizon.net. A non-refundable deposit of $100 per participant is due on or before January 31 or our registered spots will be released to those on the waiting list. The balance of $440 per participant is due on or before April 30. If our balance is not paid by April 30, our group is at risk of losing its spots to those on the waiting list.

December Diaper Drive. On Sunday, December 4, we had our semi-annual diaper drive. Four SUVs full of diapers were collected and distributed to three area shelters for women with children. The diapers are much appreciated by the shelters since diapers cannot be bought with federal food funds. They asked us to thank the parishioners of Saint Katherine.

Around the World of Christian Orthodoxy. One of the active members of our Missions Committee, Joan Markessini, has written a wonderful book, Around the World of Orthodox Christianity. She recently received the following note from Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, “I have been looking with the greatest pleasure at your book Around the World of Orthodox Christianity. The photography is excellent, and the text is highly informative. I am glad that you were able to include my own monastery of St John the Theologian on Patmos. Many congratulations and with my prayers and blessing.” Ms. Markessini’s book is available in our bookstore.

HOMELESS SHELTER

Thank You for Hygiene and Survival Kit Items. Over 250 hygiene and survival kits were assembled by our Sunday School students and delivered to Bailey’s Shelter. Cotton caps, gloves, socks, hand warmers, shaving cream, razors, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo/conditioner, etc, were provided by various church organizations. (Thank you!) These kits are given to homeless people when the shelter is full and cannot accept any more people.

Clothes and Toiletries. We continue to collect new and used (clean) clothes and unopened toiletries for the shelter every week. Please bring the items to the foyer of our community center. Thanks to all the families who help transport the items every week.
ARISTOTLE AND HAPPINESS

At a recent Research Symposium held at the Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies, a variety of topics were presented. Given the incredible level at which these scholars were discussing their subjects, the only one I felt even in the slightest able to write about in any “simplified” way was the one titled “Aristotelian Piety Reconsidered.” Joachim Aufderheide, lecturer in Philosophy at King’s College, London, started with this passage from the Nicomachean Ethics X:

And the person active in accordance with intelligence, and taking care of it, seems to be in the most excellent condition and most dear to the gods. For if any attention is paid to human affairs by the gods, as it is thought, it would also be reasonable if they both delight in what is most excellent and closest in kind to them (and that would be intelligence) and benefit in return those who love this most of all and honour it, because they pay attention to what is dear to the gods, and acting correctly and finely. And that all this is true of the wise person most of all is not unclear; therefore he is most dear to the gods. And it is likely that the very same person is also superlatively happy; so that, in this way too, the wise person would be happy most of all.

He continued by positing that Aristotle argues for the superiority of the theoretical life, the “theoria” or reflection, as the path to happiness, for it is precisely this attribute in humans, the “nous” or intellect, which is the most divine element in us, surpassing everything else in power and honorableness. If this divine faculty is activated in relation to the most honorable objects and most divine objects, the resulting activity will be most honorable and most divine. The practical life, in contrast, comes in second place.

“The activity of the god, excelling in blessedness, will be reflective: and of the human ones, the most nearly akin to it will be productive of superlative happiness.” So, in the end, Aristotle addresses the extent to which the “nous” can be seen as a divine instrument.

Not being a Classics scholar in any way, I beg you to excuse me if this is not clear. Or interesting. The other subjects were even more daunting: “Pollux’ Onomasticon”—an early dictionary which was meant to be read as a book, straight through; and “Constructing Periander in Plutarch’s Symposium of the Seven Sages”—which inferred a depth of knowledge I could never master in my lifetime!

The Center for Hellenic Studies is an incredible place to experience the reassurance that Greek studies are continuing with great fervor and the scholars are wonderfully good humored!
SHOWN BELOW is a list of families and individuals who participated in the 2016 Saint Katherine Stewardship Program through November 30, 2016. Thank you for responding to the needs of our church.

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

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

(Continued on page 14)
Why don’t YOU advertise in the DOXA?
Contact Presvytera Pauline Pavlakos at przpauline@stkchurch.com or 703-239-2627.

Choosing an assisted living community should make you feel good. Aarondale does that and gives you peace of mind!

When you know that someone you care about will be eating well, feeling well, and doing well in every possible way, that’s the day you know true peace of mind. At Aarondale, that’s our goal . . . every single day.

We offer customized levels of care for the evolving needs of today’s senior population, including memory care. No matter what you are looking for, we can meet your needs and exceed your expectations.

Please call us at 703-813-1808 to arrange a tour and let us begin to put your mind at ease.

6929 Matthew Place | Springfield, VA 22151 | www.rci.net
WHY SHOULD WE GO TO CHURCH CAMP?

We live in a busy, bustling and modern world where we are constantly kept occupied by a million and one things. Though we have technology to help us through our busy schedules filled with work, school, sports, clubs, etc. instead of making life simpler it seems rather to speed up the pace of our busy lives. Within the maelstrom of this busy lifestyle, of constantly adjusting schedules and racing from one event or place to another to be on time, oftentimes the things that are most important to life are unknowingly pushed to the side. Our Orthodox faith is unconsciously placed on the back burner of life or reserved to one hour on Sunday mornings and other occasional events. We cannot rely on schools to teach our children the faith, but rather we must do it ourselves. As a people of a faith of Holy Tradition and many traditions stemming from our Hellenic heritage, we must be careful and conscious of what we are handing down to the next generation. The term “tradition” simply means to pass down from one generation to the next. The most beautiful, the most precious thing in existence that we can pass to the next generation, the one tradition most needful, is our faith in Jesus Christ, Who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

One may ask, “How then can we pass on our faith to the next generation? What is the best way to do this?” One simple word—CAMP. It is at camp where our children will be able to encounter the Risen Christ, just as St. Paul encountered Him on the road to Damascus, and to inscribe Him onto the tablets of their hearts (Proverbs 7:4). It is at camp where all the distractions of the campers can encounter God and through the beauty of nature God, but the whole of camp is centered around Christ and our relationship to Him. It is at camp where children learn the essence of their faith, so that they can bring that faith into their daily lives. And, of course, camp is a place where kids make true and lasting friendships, meet new people and simply have a blast.

Most importantly, it is at camp where the distractions of the childhood through the Holy Sacrament for passing on our Tradition, and this year we have been blessed to have our very own camp here in Virginia for the upcoming summer. Do not miss out on this wonderful opportunity to have your children go to camp and grow in their faith.