BEING RENEWED

WE ARE ABOUT TO EMBARK on a new calendar year—2018. What I pray for this new year is that all of us accept Jesus’ command to be renewed. The Lord speaks to us in the present tense, not something that we could do regarding the future. We hear His words, “But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator” (Colossians 3:16).

This is as a time that I invite you to be participants in the life of your Church. This year’s theme for stewardship has to do with working with all our heart to be living Orthodox Christians, not just by name, but by deeds. I want to share a little bit about the life of two men who are wonderful examples stewardship.

Saint Phocas was a gardener and Saint Euphrosinos was a cook. They are not known as “Phocas the Great” or “Euphrosinos the Theologian.” Known instead by the work they did, they became saints of the Church. We know that service to God and His Church is sacred, and because of this we strive to serve and support the Church. But is it possible for our work to be sacred? Can we be Christian stewards of our work? According to Saint Porphyrios, “At your work, whatever it may be, you can become a saint through meekness, patience, and love.”

In the second chapter of the Old Testament Book of Genesis we read, “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” God put man in the garden to work. It is part of God’s plan for us that we work. In Exodus we read, “Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest….” The world has changed, very few of us are called to work the land, and our work week may not be six days, yet we are created and called by God to work, and we can serve him through our work.

Some are blessed to follow a career path that brings satisfaction. Others may work in a position that may not appear to be spiritually or emotionally fulfilling. In whatever type of work we find ourselves, our work can become sacred when we dedicate it to God. In the words of Mother Theresa, “Wherever God has put you, that is your vocation. It is not what we do, but how much love we put into it.”

Life on earth is a gift. The work we do is also a gift, if we see it as an opportunity to serve God and others. Saint Paul instructs us, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men….” (Colossians 3:23). When we see our work in this way, we are able to become Christian stewards of our work.

Stewardship of work teaches us that we don’t own our work, our position, our title. We are only stewards of a position for a period of time. We are responsible to fulfill our duties and also to prepare it for the person that will follow us in that position. We may also have the opportunity to mentor the person who will assume our position when we move on, empowering them to apply their particular gifts and talents to take

(Continued on page 14)
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey
Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church

www.saint-katherines.org
3149 Glen Carlyn Road
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-671-1515 phone
703-671-1385 facsimile

CLERGY
Rev. Protopresbyter Konstantinos A. Pavlakos, Proistamenos  cell 571-213-1109, home 703-239-2627 frcostas@stkchurch.com

STAFF
Bookkeeper Lori Nelson 703-671-1515 lnelson@stkchurch.com
Choir Director Nick Kyrous 703-981-2526 nbkyrous@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
Protopsalti James Loizou 703-356-8220 dimitri14@verizon.net
Secretary/Teacher Sophia Tsangali 703-671-1515 sttsangali@stkchurch.com
Youth Director/Pastoral Assistant Nick Junes 703-671-1515 njunes@stkchurch.com

PARISH COUNCIL
President, Jim Stoucker 703-690-1050 jstoucker@verizon.net
Vice President, Nick Larigakis 703-909-9078 nlarigakis@ahiworld.com
Secretary, Maria Vargas 703-812-0286 maria@chrisandmaria.com
Treasurer, Maria Wills 703-409-3041 mwills28@verizon.net

Tony Alexis 703-599-8608 tony@gopaideia.org
Mark Cherpes 703-281-1198 markcherpes@yahoo.com
Dr. John Demakis 703-319-1610 demakis9931@gmail.com
Chris Euripides 703-477-7101 ceuripides@gmail.com
Rosemary Filou 703-405-6212 rosemary@verizon.net

SCHOOLS AND STUDIES
Bible Study (Sundays) Bill Polizos 571-434-7790 polizos@att.com
Catechetical (Sunday) School, Youth Bill Porter 703-901-2404 beporter1@verizon.net
Journey to Orthodoxy James Jatras jim@globalstrategicpr.com
Women’s Book Club Despina Raizes 703-216-8176 2draizes@gmail.com

MINISTRIES
Acolytes Joseph Pashiardis and Teddy Stathopoulos, Captains
AHPEA #438 (P. Derzis) Alan White 703-888-7666 winsomealan@aol.com
Bookstore Georgia McKinney, Manager 703-437-9218 dintym@gmail.com
Book Review Gregory McKinney, Contributor steward1310@gmail.com
Daughters of Penelope Helle #283 Barbara Kolto  703-250-7486 bklt@aol.com
DOXA Presv. Pauline Pavlakos, Editor 703-239-2627 przpauline@stkchurch.com
Facebook Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church Gregory McKinney dintym@hotmail.com
GOYA (7th-12th grades) Maria Wuerker, President
GRACE Fr. Costa Pavlakos, Spiritual Advisor 703-671-1515 frcostas@stkchurch.com
Greek Dance Aris and Anna Vortzidis, Instructors 757-218-6991 greekdancedc@gmail.com
Greek School Auxiliary TBD
Paideia Mary Liakos mliakos@aol.com
Hellenic Education Center Greek School and Paideia Preschool 703-671-7715 http://www stkhec.org
HOPE (ages 7 and under) Doris Mentis, Coordinator doris@alumni.virginia.edu
JOY (ages 8-12) Vaita Bousbouras, Coordinator vbsbouras@yahoo.com
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
Moms, Pops & Tots (up to age 4) Irene Sakkas 703-338-8823 irenesakkas@gmail.com
OCF (College Ministry) Fr. Costa Pavlakos, Spiritual Advisor 703-671-1515 frcostas@stkchurch.com
Philoptochos Mary Varlas 703-965-4161 mary.varlas@yahoo.com
Prison Ministry (Kairos) Dennis Garbis 202-437-7299 digarbis@envids.com
Website Presv. Pauline Pavlakos, Webmaster 703-239-2627 przpauline@stkchurch.com
YAL (Young Adult League) Faye (notini) Anson fason38@yahoo.com
AS MY TERM OF SERVICE on the Parish Council comes to an end, allow me to begin my last article by posing a question....Why do we serve?

The obvious answer for most of us is that we love our Church. I draw considerable inspiration from so many of you, whose rich legacy of selfless service to the community speaks volumes; people like John Vlachos and John Harocopos of blessed memory; Irene Burton, Pierre Tavoularis, Jim Nicholakos, Dr John Demakis, Eleni Kanakos, John Agnos, and Mike Mpras. Indeed, their exemplary service and commitment, as well as the service of all who serve our Church, should serve as an inspiration to us all and provides the perfect segue to my parting comments as your Parish Council President.

Your community needs you! Hopefully, the next generation of leaders is reading these words because YOU must step forward to serve and assume the reins of leadership in our community. Get involved! Take an active interest in your community. The abundance of ministries at Saint Katherine is among our greatest blessings, providing everyone the opportunity to further participate in the life of our church. Among your many choices is our Parish Council, a very special ministry whose calling requires your sole focus in a manner that benefits our holy Church to the exclusion of all other considerations or individual agendas.

Many of our parishioners have worked long and hard to establish a loving and caring community—the charge to those who follow them is not merely to preserve that legacy, but to enhance it. It must never fall victim to complacency; the pursuit of excellence must always be our objective. Community service has many rewards; among them, the enormous pleasure and satisfaction derived from helping people. Perhaps the only thing that transcends that is the great comfort in the knowledge that our service enables our community to endure for generations to come.

I have been involved with most of our ministries and applaud them all for their invaluable service to our parish. I particularly wish to acclaim our educational ministries. Besides our Liturgical life, the most important thing we do is educate our children, the next generation and future leaders of our community. Our Hellenic Education Center has become a most dynamic ministry within our church providing a compelling and nurturing Orthodox Christian learning environment affording cultural, religious, and language instruction second to none. I am especially grateful to our teachers and our Board of Education for their tireless work and dedication in making this a blessed reality. Religious education in our community is especially noteworthy. I commend our Catechetical School and their group of wonderful teachers, as well as our Adult Bible Study class and the Journey to Orthodoxy class taught to newcomers and converts as vital and exemplary ministries at Saint Katherine.

We should also delight in the inspired work of our Missions and Outreach Ministry which continues its multifaceted approach to fulfilling the Great Commission of Christ to go and “make disciples of all nations.” This legacy was further enhanced by the recent mission trip to Kenya, led by Fr. Costas, to benefit the work and ministries of Bishop Neofitos and to help build a church for his parishioners. Their precious gift in return for our service was to name their church after Saint Katherine. The trip was documented extensively on social media and was a tremendous source of inspiration for our local community and Orthodox Christians everywhere. We rejoice in the words of Saint John Chrysostom knowing that “…the universe is our Parish.”

Our Stewardship ministry is crucial to our community—it is our great hope and challenge for the future. We must tirelessly pursue achieving our ultimate objective of attaining 100% of our operational budget solely from our Stewardship program (which currently provides about 45% of our budget). By doing so and weaning ourselves from reliance on fundraisers (such as festivals which can often prove risky due to weather considerations), the realm of the possible is limitless. To put this in the proper perspective, even if we attained “only” 75% of operational costs through increased Stewardship contributions, we would still realize over $435,000 in additional stewardship revenues this year alone! Our mortgage would be paid off in 4.5 years and the opportunity for additional religious programs and good works throughout our community thereafter would be incredible! Please consider these words as you prayerfully contemplate your stewardship commitment going forward.

Serving in any capacity can be demanding and trying at times. However, as I reflect upon my tenure, I can tell you that every time I became discouraged about a contentious matter or dealt with some controversy, God always provided an opportunity to reflect on the positive side of life in our incredible community. Writing these columns has always been rewarding. Once in particular, I recall receiving a most unexpected phone call at home from a parishioner who called to thank me after reading one of my articles to the community saying that a particular
WHAT IS THE ONE THING we think of when we think about New Years? New Year’s Resolutions! We get really excited and set goals for the upcoming year, but how long do we stick to our resolutions? Maybe a month or two if we are lucky! This year we should all really stop and consider setting goals for 2018. It is important to have goals; they give us drive, motivation, and something to work toward. Most successful people in the world have goals, and the more specific they are then the more likely they are to come to fruition.

Maybe we set goals for school, like a particular GPA we want, or maybe we set goals for sports, like starting on a team or scoring a specific number of goals—no pun intended! Maybe we want to start exercising or working out and we have goals about going to gym or lifting a certain amount of weight. Maybe there is a book we have always wanted to read or a craft we have always wanted to pursue like playing guitar. All of these goals are fine, good, and healthy, but what about spiritual goals? Do we stop to consider our spiritual goals?

What kinds of spiritual goals can we set for ourselves? I think a good goal is to get our parents to bring us to church and Sunday School at least once a month. If we are already doing that, then increase it to 2 or 3 or 4 times. Another good goal is to start a gratitude journal. Each day we wake up and write down 5 or 6 things we are grateful for. This is a great form of prayer and nourishes our relationship with God. Another goal is to commit to going to some type of youth overnight event. We have a Lenten Retreat (3/10), Camp Good Shepherd (7/8), Project Mexico (7/18), and Ionian Village! Lastly, during Lent, try to come to at least one Holy Week service that you normally don’t go to. Tell your parents you want to come on Tuesday night for the Bridegroom service!

GOYA
All Saint Katherine youth in 7th grade or higher are encouraged to join GOYA! All that is required is a good attitude, a completed Health and Registration Form (found on the Saint Katherine website), and an annual GOYA registration fee of $30 (made out to Saint Katherine GOYA). Please email Nick at njunes@stkchurch.com for all information!

GOYA JANUARY CALENDAR
Wednesdays, 6:30pm-8:00pm Boys basketball practice
Thursdays, 6:30pm-8:00pm Girls basketball practice
Jan. 14, Sunday: Youth Church Duty and GOYA Meeting
Jan. 20-21, Saturday-Sunday: Richmond Tournament
Jan. 23, Tuesday, 5-7pm: GOYA Cooking for Homeless

Lenten Retreat: March 9-11. This is a VA-wide GOYA Lenten Retreat on the Eastern Shore! Experience faith, fellowship, and fun with other GOYAns for the weekend! Price is TBD. Contact njunes@stkchurch.com.

YOUNG ADULTS
Our Young Adult Ministry is for young adults, young professionals, college grads, new transplants, etc.! For more information, please contact Nick at njunes@stkchurch.com.

YAL JANUARY CALENDAR
Jan. 8, Monday, 7:30pm: Defteri Deftera Sandwich Making and Basketball
Jan. 20, Saturday, 1:00pm-4:00pm: Museum of the Bible Tour and Fellowship with Saint Sophia YAL

JOY / HOPE
Join us for a movie night (movie TBD) at 6:00pm on Thursday, January 25 in the Seniors’ Kentro at Saint Katherine. The kids are off of school Friday, January 26. Email njunes@stkchurch.com for more information.

Here at Saint Katherine we have ministries for youth who aren’t of GOYA age! I strongly encourage these youngsters, and all of our youth, to register and attend Sunday School. This is the best way for our youth and parents to be involved, learn, and establish relationships! Please contact Irene Sakkas (irenesakkas@gmail.com) for Moms, Pops & Tots (40 days to age 4), Doris Mentis (doris@alumni.virginig.edu) for HOPE (7 years & younger), and Vaitsa Bousbouras (vbsbourbrous@yahoo.com) for JOY (ages 8-12).

ALTAR BOYS
Group 1: 1/14, 1/28, 2/11, 2/25, 3/11, 3/25, 4/1
Group 2: 1/7, 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/18, 4/1

LENTEN PARENT AND FAMILY RETREAT
MARCH 17-18
It is with great joy that we have Dr. Phillip Mamalakis, LMFT coming to Saint Katherine the weekend of March 17-18. Dr. Mamalakis is professor of Pastoral Care at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, a licensed marriage and family therapist, author of the new book Parenting Toward the Kingdom: Orthodox Christian Principles for Child-Rearing, and father of six children. He will lead an interactive retreat on Parenting and Living Our Faith in Our Homes on Saturday and will preach on Sunday. It will be a free-will offering with daycare provided for a small fee. Ages 13 and up are welcome! Email njunes@stkchurch.com for more details.

CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD - VA
JULY 8-14
Our annual summer camp will be held Sunday through Saturday, July 8-14! Spend a week at Camp Piankatank doing everything from kayaking to Orthodox discussion to dance-offs. This summer camp is organized and directed by local VA Youth Directors and priests.
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, John Doulis, Chris Skenteris, Sher-ry Maggio, Roberto, and all the wonderful teachers and parents for their help and support! We concluded December with our Giving Tree donations to the St. Innocent Orphanage, assembling survival kits for our local shelter, and assembling and delivering gift bags for DC’s homeless.

Saturday, January 6 – Epiphany Liturgy – please plan on attending

Sunday, January 7 – Classes resume. January is the month for students in grades 7-12 to register for the Oratorical Festival. Forms will be provided on January 7. Please encourage your children to participate and learn even more about their Orthodox faith through this very special event. The dates for the Festival are:

March 4 – Grades 1-6
March 18 – Grade 7-12

Topics for grades 1-6 will be provided by their teachers. The 2018 topics for grades 7-12 can be found at: https://www.goarch.org/-/2018-st-john-chrysostom-oratorical-festival-topics?inheritRedirect=true.

Sunday, January 14 – Youth Church Duty – We need a volunteer to read the Epistle!!

Tuesday, January 23 – Grades 7-12 serve dinner at shelter.

Please inform your children’s godparents to mark their calendars for Godparent’s Sunday on February 4. Children will have the opportunity to introduce them to their teachers and worship together in Divine Liturgy. Refreshments will be provided following Liturgy.

Finally, it is not too early to start planning for Vacation Bible Camp (VBC), scheduled for June 18-22. We need teachers and volunteers for our children to participate in this amazing week! If you are available/interested in helping either before or during VBC week, please contact Eleni Porter at beporter1@verizon.net.

The Greek Embassy in D.C. recently hosted leading members of a team of experts who worked on restoring the Holy Edicule, the tomb of Christ in Jerusalem. Thanks to the dedication and research of the National Technical University of Athens, which determined what type of work had to be done in order to save the structure from collapsing, and with funding from some private donors in the amount of 6 million euros, the work was completed before Easter of 2017.

The foundations were critically eroded due to years of water seepage and structural deterioration. The “edicule” or little house is a small structure inside the church of the Holy Sepulchre which encompasses the remains of a cave that from the 4th century A.D. has been considered the tomb of Jesus. With care and patience, layers of damaged materials were peeled back to reveal what was there at the very beginning. The slab covering the tomb was removed. There were also frescoes painted near the tomb itself.

Archeologists think that around 2,000 years ago, the site was the location of a limestone quarry that eventually housed tombs of the Jewish upper class. It was here that a Roman temple was built in the 2nd century which was razed by Constantine, the first Christian emperor of Rome, in 324 A.D. to reveal what we now believe is the Tomb of Christ.

The evening’s presentations included presentations from many of those who had worked on this project. Each person expressed their profound emotional response to working at the holy site.

I am happy to report that since the National Geographic Society was also involved in some capacity on this work, they have an exhibition that opened in November and will continue in D.C. until August 2018. This is described as a virtual tour which gives the history of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Hopefully it also includes closeups of the frescoes!

By all accounts, this would be a wonderful way to see this very special place.
**Greek School News.** The project below is an example of the implementation of the new methodologies used in our Greek School classes. This Christmas project included the construction of a concept map by the students in order to inquire on the various traditions from around the world of how Christmas is celebrated. The class particularly focused on the following countries: Greece, Italy, USA, and Australia. After watching a video which demonstrated those traditions, the students were asked to prepare a concept map comparing Greece-Italy and USA-Australia.

Concept maps facilitate the students to organize their knowledge on a subject, encourage them to work as a team, and most importantly give them a platform to use their language skills. In the past five years, while great emphasis has been given to the training of our teachers, the philosophy of the Greek program has shifted to reach out all the students regardless of their level of proficiency or cultural background. In addition, the children are taught of the Greek Orthodox faith, the Greek customs, and amazing traditions which sustained the Greek-American communities up to date.

**Paideia Preschool News.** From our Christmas Pageant, Paideia Paschalites and Maimoudakia presenting their gifts to baby Jesus singing with their sweet voices the song “The Little Drummer Boy” and placing their drums before him in a symbolic way.

The children and our Paideia staff would like to wish you for a prosperous New Year with the blessings of God to shower and protect all. To get a glimpse of the Christmas activities, please visit https://youtu.be/0DC0282YGtQ.

**ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΟΙ ΜΑΡΤΥΡΕΣ**

(Συνέχεια από το τέλος του Νοεμβρίου 2017)

Όπως είχαμε πει στο προπετρασμένο τέλος του Νοεμβρίου του 2017, η Ακαδημία Αθηνών το έτος 1949 ανέπεμψε το χρυσό μετάλλιο της Ακαδημίας στους μάρτυρες Ελλήνων ιερέων. Η ανάγνωση του έλαβε χώρα την 29η Δεκεμβρίου του 1949 και την παραβιάσει.


(Continued on page 8)
REGISTRY

Baptism
Niki Emorfia (December 23)
daughter of Dimitrios and Argyro Moustakas
Godparent: Kostas Kalpos

Congratulations!

Funerals
Helen A. Christ (October 27)
Charalambos Bakopanos (November 3)
Mary P. Summers (November 15)
Rev. Fr. Elias Mentis (November 25)
(at St. Athanasios, Gulf Shores, Alabama)
Stephen (Stelios) Venets (November 27)
Demetrios J. Gadonas (November 30)

May their memory be eternal.

JANUARY CHURCH DUTY ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 7, 2018</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Mallamo Mavromatakis</td>
<td>Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pierre Tavoularis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Maria Vargas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Stoucker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 14, 2018</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Maria Vargas</td>
<td>Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chris Euripides</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Jerry Rich</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Stoucker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21, 2018</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Maria Wills</td>
<td>Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. John Demakis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chris Euripides</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>John Ziu</td>
<td>Youth Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 28, 2017</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Nick Larigakis</td>
<td>Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Stoucker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pierre Tavoularis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AHEPA-DOP HOLIDAY SOCIAL

The AHEPA-DOP FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION was held in Chelpin Hall on December 9 as a holiday social for networking by DOP Helle Chapter 283 and AHEPA P. Derzis 438 and to honor all their members for their contributions to Saint Katherine, the Hellenic Community, and to each other. The hall and the tables were superbly decorated by the Daughters with Christmas cheer and they quickly brought everyone to a festive mood. Special thanks go to GOYA and Antoinette Koltos for servicing the aperitif, salad, and fine food that was provided by Nostos Restaurant and Brother AHEPAN Peter Pagonis. Opening comments to the evenings social were provided by DOP President Barbara Koltos and AHEPAN Angelo Toutsi. We were thoroughly entertained with background Christmas Music by Brother John Doulis and by the Yorktown High School Choir caroling Christmas Music. The evening ended with Greek Dancing. The AHEPA family thanks all for participating and making the evening a great success. Χρόνια Πολλά!

CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE

Two, never used, in-ground, side by side cemetery plots (Section 6, Block P, Lot 19, Site #1 & #2). Perpetual Care. Current cemetery selling price is $4,600.00 each. However, due to permanent relocation, the asking price is $3,780.00 each.

The location is Garden of Serenity, Fairfax Memorial Park, Braddock Road, Fairfax.

If interested, please call Peter at 703-507-2229 (cell).
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 Saint 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 _____________________________________________ Email: ___________________________
Address ____________________________________________ Phone: ___________________________
City, State, Zip ______________________________________

PLEAS NOTE: The 2018 operating expenses of our Church are approximately $1,500 per family.

Signature                          Date

Please make your 2018 pledge today!

(Continued from page 6)

Kindergarten Class 2018-2019. Registration for the Kindergarten class coming up this fall is now open. Children who are of Kindergarten age by September 30, 2018 or who don’t meet the age criteria but have attended preschool may be eligible for consideration. Please contact us for more information!

For information on any HEC program, Paideia Preschool, Greek School, or Adult Language classes, please contact Eleni Alexopoulou (ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com or 703-671-7715).

Kαλή Χρονιά και με αγάπη και ειρήνη το 2018!

May the new year 2018 be prosperous and peaceful for all of us and the world!

(Continued from page 6)

Πνευματικοί αστέρες στο Ελληνορθόδοξο στερέωμα της οικουμένης! Ίσως ήταν άνθρωποι ολίγων γραμμάτων, αλλά είχαν μέσα τους το ηρωϊκό πνεύμα, ήταν άνθρωποι αρετής και θυσίας! Όποια σελίδα του έθνους μας και αν ανοίξουμε, θα δούμε το ράσο του Ορθοδόξου Έλληνα κληρικού να πρωτοστατεί στα έργα της θυσίας. Ας εκτιμήσουμε λοιπόν και ας θαυμάσουμε τις μεγάλες αυτές μορφές του Ορθοδόξου Ελληνικού κλήρου.

Η Ακαδημία, το ανώτατο αυτό πνευματικό ιδρύμα της Πατρίδας, ορθά τιμήσε τους σεμνούς ιερείς, οι οποίοι παρέμειναν μέχρι τη θυσίας προσηλωμένοι στο καθήκον τους. Άλλα και στην δική μας σκέψη πρέπει να στηθούν ημιαυτοί που είχαν το θάρρος να προσφέρουν την ζωή τους για τα ιδανικά τους στα ιδανικά της φυλής μας!

Με πολλή ευγνωμοσύνη ας γεμίσει η ψυχή μας με τη θυσία αυτών των μαρτύρων! Το αίμα τους ας ποτίσει το δέντρο της ελευθερίας! Χάρη σ’αυτούς εμείς σήμερα είμαστε ελεύθεροι! Η ευγνωμοσύνη ας εποπτεύεται με τη μήνυση του παραδείγματος των, που ουσιαστικά είναι η αγάπη της θυσίας, χάριν του Κυρίου!

Θυσία λοιπόν και για πάντα κοντά στον Κύριο Ιησού για να μας χαρίσει και την φετινή χρονιά με υγεία, χαρά, ευλογία!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saint Basil the Great New Year’ Day</strong> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5pm Adult Beg. I Greek 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek</td>
<td>6:30pm GOYA Boys’ Basketball Practice 8pm HEC Parents B-ball</td>
<td>6:30pm GOYA Girls’ Basketball Practice 7:00pm Adult Int. Greek 7:30pm Choir</td>
<td>6:30pm GOYA Girls’ Basketball Practice 7:00pm Adult Int. Greek 7:30pm Choir</td>
<td>6:30pm GOYA Girls’ Basketball Practice 7:00pm Adult Int. Greek 7:30pm Choir</td>
<td>9:00am Div. Liturgy and Agiassmos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synaxis of John the Baptist 9:00am Orthros and Catechetical School 10:00am Divine Liturgy Vasilopita Sunday</td>
<td>7:30pm Deuteri Deutera 7:30pm Sons’ B-ball 8:00pm YAL B-Ball</td>
<td>5pm Adult Beg. I Greek 6:30 Greek Dance K-8 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek 7:30pm Missions 8:00pm AHEPA Mtg.</td>
<td>6:30pm GOYA Boys’ Basketball Practice 8pm HEC Parents B-ball</td>
<td>6:30pm GOYA Girls’ Basketball Practice 7:00pm Adult Int. Greek 7:30pm Choir</td>
<td>5:00pm Greek School 5pm Adult Conv. Greek</td>
<td>9:00am Greek School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday after Theophany 9:00am Orthros and Catechetical School 10:00am Divine Liturgy Youth Church Duty GOYA Meeting DOP Meeting</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Day (Office Closed) 7:30pm Sons’ B-ball 8:00pm YAL B-Ball</td>
<td>5pm Adult Beg. I Greek 6:30 Greek Dance K-8 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek</td>
<td>Anthony the Great 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 6:30pm GOYA Boys’ Basketball Practice 7:30pm Parish Council 8pm HEC Parents B-ball</td>
<td>6:30pm GOYA Girls’ Basketball Practice 7:00pm Adult Int. Greek 7:30pm Choir</td>
<td>5:00pm Greek School 5pm Adult Conv. Greek</td>
<td>9:00am Greek School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th Sunday of Luke 9:00am Orthros and Catechetical School 10:00am Divine Liturgy Philoptochos Meeting 6pm Adult Grk Flk Dnce</td>
<td>7:30pm Sons’ B-ball 8:00pm YAL B-Ball</td>
<td>5pm Adult Beg. I Greek 5pm GOYA Cooking for Homeless Grades 7-12 Serving Dinner at the Shelter 6:30 Greek Dance K-8 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek</td>
<td>6:30pm GOYA Boys’ Basketball Practice 8pm HEC Parents B-ball</td>
<td>Gregory the Theologian 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 6:30pm GOYA Girls’ Basketball Practice 6pm JOY/HOPE Movie 7:00pm Adult Int. Greek 7:30pm Choir</td>
<td>5:00pm Greek School 5pm Adult Conv. Greek</td>
<td>9:00am Greek School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee Triodion Begins 9:00am Orthros and Catechetical School 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>7:30pm Sons’ B-ball 8:00pm YAL B-Ball</td>
<td>Three Hierarchs 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 5pm Adult Beg. I Greek 6:30 Greek Dance K-8 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek</td>
<td>6:30pm GOYA Boys’ Basketball Practice 8pm HEC Parents B-ball</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please check the online calendar, http://saint-katherines.org/calendar, for the most current information.*
Dear Sisters:
The New Year is here and I know that that the Daughters have a lot of challenges to meet. I know that with your effort and dedication we will accomplish all.

I wish to say thank you because you have always been by my side providing me your support. Because of your help, the Daughters of Penelope have been able to flourish this past year. I consider myself very lucky for belonging to such a great organization. The Christmas celebration was a wonderful success and working with our AHEPA brothers Allan White, Angelo Toutsi, and George Vasilopoulos was a worthwhile experience. Also thank you to GOYA for all of their help.

At our meeting on Sunday, January 14, 2018 in the Board Room, we will discuss upcoming events especially the February 16 Tastes of the Mediterranean and our tea in April.

Wishing you a happy year full of much success and happiness.

In Theta Pi,
Barbara Koltos

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE
With a new year come bigger challenges and opportunities. Beat the challenges and grab the opportunities with an equal zeal.

PHILOPTOCHOS
I wish all our parishioners a healthy and happy New Year. Hopefully, all of you had a wonderful Christmas.

I would like to close out 2017 with an expression of thanks to all our ladies who provided sweet and savory goods for Saint Katherine Vespers. I would also like to mention the wonderful success of our Annual Ladies Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon. My sincere appreciation goes to Mary Smaragdis, Anastasia Kanakos, Sophia S. Varlas, Patty Karounos, Dena Contompasis, and Niki Tsakonas. These ladies were instrumental in delivering to us an unforgettable event. I cannot leave out the generosity of all the contributors of our amazing raffle prizes and our guests. For the first time, we decided to put a Christmas bag on each table, which was so generously filled with funds by our luncheon attendees. These funds have already helped our local food bank. We also auctioned off the orchid centerpieces which provided funds to our social services missions. I’m happy to announce that we are already planning next year’s Christmas Luncheon and hope to present to everyone another amazing afternoon of fellowship, Christmas cheer, and generosity!

I’m happy to report that our Christmas bake sale was a great success. Thank you to all our ladies that baked, packaged, and sold. Without you we could not have done it. I appreciate the fact that anytime I call these ladies they are always ready, willing, and able to work together as our Dream Baking Team.

I hope we are all ready for another wonderful new year. May we be blessed with God’s grace and may our mission continue to grow in order to provide to all those in need.

Love in Christ,
Mary K. Varlas

BOOK REVIEW
Gregory McKinney


As a vice, pride gets all the publicity. The proud are at once admired and distained. They are elected to public office, serve as captains of industry, and are elevated to icons of popular culture. When they crash and burn, we revel in the flames. The worldly rewards and dangers of pride are on regular display. But then, we piou good folk, setting ourselves against the powerful and prideful, stand and declaim: “God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican” (Luke 18:11). And so, without discernment and repentance, we can wallow in our vainglory and will end having damned ourselves.

Professor DeYoung has written an important book examining this ancient plague, but one especially pernicious for the modern faithful:

The bottom line: Vainglory is a vice for all of us—as tempting now as it was in the fourth century. Love of fame may be the most obvious or extreme form of this, but the truth is, we can all be overly attached to how we appear to others and are acknowledged and approved by them. So philosophers like me can’t get away with mocking celebrities, although that would be easier to write about and certainly a lot more fun. Vainglory is not just other people’s problem; it is our problem. Vainglory is not a sin that specially plagues secular glory-seekers; it is, in an important way, a vice that plagues the Christian life. (6)

DeYoung is one of those modern scholars that I find especially admirable. She weaves together material from the Desert Fathers, Augustine and Aquinas along with thoughtful modern Christian commentators. This gives her writing both breadth and depth.

Her diagnosis is spot on:

We can’t understand vainglory fully without understanding the way this vice misdirects glory to the wrong end: ourselves. And without that form of vainglory in view, we can’t understand its character as a capital vice—the pursuit of a good that we build our life around instead of God. Augustine argued that this is essentially a spiritual problem. When we are vainglorious in this way, we claim exclusively and independently for ourselves what is God’s right and due. This picture of glory can’t be fixed with a trivial tweak: what this picture misses is nothing less than the root of all the capital vices: pride. (124)

So it comes back to pride. Vainglory is a sub-species, a slowly suffocating quicksand to those striving for goodness without seeking self-awareness. Vainglory lays out the method of diagnosis and convincingly suggests a method of treatment, always looking towards the grace of the Great Physician.

Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung is Professor of Philosophy at Calvin College. She is also the author of Glittering Vices: A New Look at the Seven Deadly Sins and Their Remedies, and The Seven Deadly Sins Leader’s Guide: A Survival Guide.
**MISSIONS AND OUTREACH**

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19).*

**Project Mexico 2018.** As of this date, we have 10 of our 15 slots filled and deposits paid for our trip to Project Mexico, July 17-26, 2018 (includes travel days). We want to fill the remaining 5 slots as soon as possible, as we will be making all of our necessary arrangements right after the holidays. This will guarantee us our preferred choices for our lodging in San Diego and our van transportation for Mexico. We will be teaming up again with 120 of our Orthodox friends from around the country, serving our Lord by building at least 4-5 houses in one week for the homeless and needy families of Rosarito, Mexico. You do not want to pass up this opportunity to experience the joy of true Christian service. We will inform you in the near future about some of our plans for raising support for this wonderful mission trip. Please prayerfully consider involvement in this ministry. For more information, you can contact Bill Porter (beporter1@verizon.net) or Nick Junes (njunes@stkchurch.com) for more information. Blessings!

**Kenya Mission Follow-Up Plans.** At Bishop Neofitos of Kenya’s invitation, Saint Katherine will send a small mission of ladies to participate in a women’s conference in Nyeri, Kenya. The mission will be held in late April. In support of this mission and the conference, we are looking to raise $2,000. As part of our fundraiser, we are selling 2018 calendars featuring black and white photos of our October trip to Kenya. We ask for your prayers and support as we plan for our mission.

**OCMC Update.** The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) held its Fall board meeting in Charleston, SC in November. Our own Dr. John Demakis and Betty Slanta are members of the OCMC board. Highlights of the meeting included:

- The OCMC is prepared for expanded OCMC Outreach in 2018—the OCMC is partnering with sister Assembly organizations, Orthodox Christian Fellowship (Real Break), and Project Mexico to encourage Orthodox teens and college-age students to participate on short-term missions. Thomas and Elizabeth Manuel were approved for mission service in Guatemala in 2018. Thomas is the youth director in Norfolk and Elizabeth is a Special Needs teacher.

The board presented ways the OCMC can expand our pool of longer serving Missionaries, including reaching out to the youth at Orthodox Summer Camps and continued partnering with the Assembly of Bishops sister organizations.

Board members were asked to keep the OCMC Board, staff, and missionaries in our prayers and to encourage our clergy to seek qualified candidates for mission service.

**OCMC Benefit Dinner, April 22.** Our annual benefit dinner for the OCMC will be held on Sunday April 22. Details will be presented in the next DOXA. Our benefit dinner in 2017 was the largest ever. We hope to exceed that this year!

**Missions Lectures following Salutation Services.** As has been our custom, presentations by our Saint Katherine members who have gone on mission trips recently will immediately follow the first four Friday Salutations Services during Lent:

- February 23: Kenya Team
- March 2: Kenya Team
- March 16: TBA
- March 23: Project Mexico Team

**BAILEY’S CROSSROADS HOMELESS SHELTER**

**Hygiene and Survival Kits.** On Sunday, December 3 our Sunday School children put together 300 hygiene and survival kits for the homeless shelter. The items for the kits were donated by all our Saint Katherine organizations. The shelter was so pleased to accept them and thanked us profusely.

**Feeding the Homeless.** Our Missions and Outreach Committee served dinner at the shelter on Wednesday, December 20. Our GOYAns will serve dinner on Tuesday, January 23.

**Clothing.** As mentioned in previous issues of DOXA, the shelter is no longer accepting clothing.

**Food Pantry.** We are pleased to report that our GOYAns now help at the Food Pantry at the Baptist Church down the street from Saint Katherine. They help in stocking the pantry and distributing food to the needy. Thank you, Nick Junes, for organizing this!!

**THE HEART OF AFRICA**

God is good! All the time! And all the time…

God is good and that is His nature! WOW!

**THESE WORDS ENCAPSULATE** the profound vibrant living witness of African Orthodoxy on me and my Faith. For my part of the journey, there are so many reasons why I should not have been able to make this trip and indeed I think for all of us there was a parting of the waters enabling us to go. Last year during Bishop Neofitos’ visit to our parish I won the raffle basket filled with souvenirs from Kenya, which is also when I knew I would go on this mission….

To read this narrative by Victoria Cherpes, in its entirety (and future reflections by others), please go to http://saint-katherines.org/ministries/service-organizations/missions-and-outreach.
STEWARDSHIP

SHOWN BELOW is a list of families and individuals who participated in the 2017 Saint Katherine Stewardship Program through November 30, 2017. Thank you for responding to the needs of our church.

If you have not yet submitted your 2017 pledge, please do so as soon as possible. You may pledge online today at www.saint-katherines.org/stewardship or at our Giving Kiosk located in the Narthex of the church. Your church and community depend on your stewardship commitment.

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

(Continued on page 13)
(Continued from page 12)

[M/M] Nikolay Markov
Mrs Stasia Mastorakis
Mr Konstantinos Matromakakis
[M/M] Georgios Mavromatakis
Mr Tatsoos McCarthy
[M/M] William McCarthy
M/M Aaron McKain
M/M Gregory McKinney
M/M David Merits
M/M Peter Merits
Dr/Mrs Joseph Michalowicz
Mr/ Ms Gary Michel
M/M Peter Mihos
Ms Eleni Mickle
Mr Brian Miller
M/M Marwan Mina
M/Yannis Mistizia
M/M Usama Mistleh
Mr/Drὔ Hristos Motil
Dr/Mrs Demetrios Panagopoulos
M/M Paris Panagopoulos
Mr Panagiotis Papageorgui
Mrs Anastasia Papageorgiu
M/M Spyridon Papadakis
M/M Cary Prokos
Mr Nick Protopsaltis
M/M Ioannis Provatas
Mrs Sylvia Psarrakis
M/M Nicholas Psarras
M/M Anthony Quebral
M/M Stephen Rader
M/M Mitchel Rathfels
Ms Despina Raizis
M/M Theofanis Rantis
Ms Volatile Releantas
Dr/Mrs Jerry Rich
Dr/Mrs Axel Rizkalla
Mrs Joanna O Rogers
M/M George Roiniotis
Mr Spiro Roriotis and Julia Young
M/M Dimitri Romanos
Mr Stefanos Roukalis
Mrs Irene Roukos
M/M Emanuel Rouvelas
Mr Larry Rouvelas and
Mrs Rebecca Rouvelas
Mrs Evangelia Saborabes
Lillian Salada
Mrs Toula Salavantis
Mrs Aspasia Sapountzis
M/M Christsos Sarantis
M/M George Saritas
Mrs Irene Saris
M/M Michael Saris
Ms Eleni Sava
Mrs Vanessa Savas
M/M Andrew Skatefeta
Alena Scalishe
Ms Anna Schalk
M/M Charles Seal
Mr Andrew Sessions
M/M John Seward
Mr Eric Shiflett and Liliana Penyes
Mrs Bessie Siatis
Mr Perry Siatis
Ms Maria Sidota and
Mr Brett Carlson
Dr Galiliee Silas
Mr Craig M Silman
James Simcox
Mrs Deana Garbis Simons
Mr Nick Pekatos
M/M Nicholas Ploutis
Mr Marios Pirgelas
Mr Dimitros Pasargias
Ms Alexandra Pattaras
M/M Costas Pasasalovis
M/M Andrew K Pavlakos
Rev/Mrs Costas Pavlakos
Ms Adrianna Pavlives
M/Pavel Pekarsky
Mr Marios Psarapas
M/M Theodoras Pelekas
M/M Joseph Perez
Mrs Katherine Pergioma
Dr Kathy Pasaevato
M/M George Petalis
M/M John Petalas
Renee Petro
Col/Mrs Daniel Peyer
Mrs Catherine Phass
Dr Deann Dean Phass
Mr Deann Phass
Dr Sophia Phass
M/M Kyracons Photou
Ms Pezounou Pieri
Androula Piklalidas
Mr Demetros Piklalidas
M/M Alekandros Piklalidas
Mr Dianis Piklalidas
Mrs Frances Piklalidas
M/M Nicholas Ploutis
M/M Bill Polozis
M/M John Polozis
M/M Manolis Ponirakis
Mr Pete Pontzlis
Mr Pete Poutis
Mr John Pors
M/MM William Porter
Mr Pete Poulos
Mrs Anastasia Pratt
Ms Helen J Spanos
M/M John Spanos
Ms Maria Sparracos
Ms Stella Spathopoulos
M/M Antonios Spiliopoulos
M/M James Spirides
M/M Eleftherios Spyridis
Mrs Rhea Stankis
M/M Teophani Stathoulis
Mrs Vasilea Stathoulis
M/M Peter Stathis
M/M George Stathopoulos
Dr/Dr William Steele
M/M Peter Stefanou
Mr Michael Stefanovic
Mr John Stepchank
Mr John Stephanis
M/M Demetrios Stargiou
M/M James Stuckor
Dr/Mrs Tom Stoumbos
M/M Evangelos Stoyas
Mr Ioannis Stratikas
Rev/Mrs Milan Sturgis
M/M Tommie Summers
Mr Costas Stvlos
M/M Gus Stvolis
M/M Marcus Taibott
M/M Alexander Taouakis
M/M Panagiotis Taouakis
Joseph and Wafa Terzis
M/M Pierre Tavourialis
Mrs Elizabeth Taylor
M/M Athanasios Theodoropoulos
Mr Ted Theodorthis
Adele M Thomas Christ Fndtn Inc
M/M Craig Thomas
Mrs Mary Thomas
M/M Thomas Thomou
Robert Thorne
Mrs Alexandra Thornton
M/M Jack Toffon
Anastasia and John Topping
Mr Angelo Tousi
Mr Thomas Tousi
Dr/Mrs Michael Thrados
M/M George Thrados
Mrs Mary Thrados
Mrs Fotini Trikaliotis
M/M Basil Trikais
Dr/Mrs Basil Tripas
Mr Nikolaos Tzakarakis
Ms Sophia Tsangali
Mrs Demetra Tsantes
Mrs Maria Tsipos
Mrs Angelika Tsitsakakis
M/M George Tsespalis
Mr Savas Teimans
Mrs Anna Tsimbidis
Ms Nikia Tsimbidis
Mrs Helen Tsantilas
Mr Tollos Tsoutas
Elizabeth Tursell
M/M Constantine Tzafolias
M/M Thedonas Tzenege
M/M Vasilios Tzenege
M/M Thomas Vaccarello
Ms Nikia Valavanis
M/M Konstadina Valmas
Col/Mrs Nicholas Vanvakiakia
Ms Mary Van Mullekom
Ms Ann Waffa
Dr Ada Van Viole
Ms Catherine Vangeloff
M/M Christopher Vargases
M/M John Varitas
Mrs Sophia Varitas
M/M Stratys Varitas
Hon/Mrs George Varoutos
M/M Constantine Vasipoukis
M/M George Vasilopoulos
M/Ramon Vazquez
M/M George Velitis
M/M Stavros Velitis
Col/Mrs James Velezis
Miss Joanna Veletsis
M/Pete Velitsis
Mr Thomas Veletsis
Mrs Elena Virgadamo
M/M Larry Vrakas
Mr Peppino Vrakas
M/M George Vasilakis
M/M Demetrios Voulouris
M/M Salvatore Voulouris
Rev Christos Wallace
Mr Carter Wilkinson
Mr Andrew Voukis
M/M Donald Wills
Mrs Effie Wingate
Mr/ Ms Keith Woodidge
Mr Jack Wuorier and Effie Triarhos
Mrs Athena Xenofondos
Mr Aedmon Xenos
Mr Jason Yanios
M/M Aris Yortzidis
Mr George Yuvannidis
M/M Nicholas Zacharakos
M/M Albert Zakaib
Mrs Mary Zabia
Mr and Mrs Jonathan Zannis
M/M Elias Zarkadoulas
M/M Enea Zaro
M/M Nicholas Zavolas
Capt/Christ Czomp
M/M John Zissos
Mrs Theotora Ziu
M/M Hristos Zouroulis
M/M Athanasios Zoupas

In order to create a presence for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey in the ever-growing Social Media, a Metropolis of New Jersey Twitter account has been created. This Twitter account will greatly assist in keeping our faithful informed of the activities, events, and ministries that take place in our Holy Metropolis.

The Metropolis Twitter account is
#GOMetropolisNJ
the position to the next level. Christian stewardship of work also teaches us that we are responsible to those with whom we work and those that may be served by our work. We are called to reflect the light of Christ in their lives, encourage them, support them, and even love them. We are also stewards of our co-workers, inasmuch as we cooperate and support them in their efforts for the good of all.

Saint Phocas the Gardener lived in the late third Century, in the ancient region of Paphlagonia (now northern Turkey). Phocas lived humbly on the sale of fruits and vegetables he grew in his garden. Through his work, Phocas fed the hungry and gave shelter to those in need. Because of his dedication to his work and his generosity to those in need, he became a Christian example to others. Even the non-believers treated him with respect and, by his Christ-like manner, many were drawn to the Christian Faith.

Saint Euphrosynos worked as cook in a monastery in Palestine, serving the brother monks humbly and faithfully. The others were not aware of the depth of his spiritual growth until it was revealed in a dream to a priest-monk of the monastery and then related to the brother monks. Euphrosynos is known to us by his humble work—Saint Euphrosynos the Cook.

In times of trouble or worry, especially over our career, we call upon God to strengthen us, to provide opportunity, and to bring us success. When we achieve some measure of worldly success, it is easy to say to ourselves as we read in the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy 8:17, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But the next verse quickly reminds us, “Remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”

As Christian Stewards we are called to give back to God the “first fruits” of our labor. We support our parish and her ministries in an intentional way and not with only what is left after everything else has been taken care of. In whatever work we do, we are called to give glory to God for the abilities and opportunities he provides. We do this by caring for the work we do, applying our God-given abilities to our work, and by respecting the responsibilities with which we have been entrusted. We do our best and give the glory to God.

Jesus said, “Well done good and faithful servant.”
He did not say, “Well said.”
He did not say, “Well planned.”
He did not say, “Well thought.”
And He did not say, “Well intended.”
But He said, “Well DONE, good and faithful servant.”

The emphasis for us as Christians is in doing. We are called to give the best we have and to do the best we can to promote God’s Kingdom on earth.

I joyfully celebrate this new year with you and all your family. I hope you can make a commitment to be a faithful steward of Saint Katherine.

Kali Chronia,

Th. Costas

(Continued from page 3)

thought I had expressed regarding a personal religious awakening profoundly affected her and her family. What a tremendous gift she gave me and I wasted no time thanking her for her kindness and thoughtfulness! I hope my words have helped you understand the myriad of situations we have all experienced over the course of the last six years. The opportunity to communicate with you in this manner has been a blessing I will always treasure.

As I contemplate the enormity of our work on many vital projects over the years, I know only too well our Parish Council’s tasks are never-ending. Our church’s renovation, acquisition of iconography and mosaics, implementation of new accounting systems, stewardship enhancements, the establishment of our Hellenic Education Center, restructuring our debt, establishing our Seniors Center, installing beautiful landscaping, introducing e-giving, cloud computing, new point of sale systems and multiple physical improvements far too numerous to mention have transformed our church into our home away from home and a model for others to emulate. I am particularly grateful for the invaluable assistance of a core group who served as members of our Executive Committee over the last six years. Beyond their advice and counsel, I am truly blessed by their friendship and my esteem for Nick Larigakis, Art Dimopoulos, Maria Wills, George Moshos, Maria Vargas, and Bill Polizos is difficult to express in mere words. I also thank John Andre, who I could always rely on for help, resources, and advice whenever needed.

(Continued on page 15)
To have been given the opportunity to serve alongside our Proistamenos, Fr. Costas Pavlakos, has been a very special blessing. His enduring compassion and love for everyone in our community has been a source of great inspiration to me and it has been a joy to witness and learn from his Christianity. Indeed, he has helped me become a better Christian.

It has been a singular honor and distinct privilege to serve my Church and community. Saint Katherine will always have a special place in my heart and in my prayers and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to have served you. May God bless you and your families and may God always shine His countenance upon our beloved Saint Katherine.

Your servant in Christ,

[Signature]
President, Parish Council
ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
Please expedite. Dated material.