THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY/THEOPHANY

WE CAN TRULY SAY GOODBYE to the old year and welcome a time to renew ourselves, our families, and our homes with the celebration of Epiphany. I do not know about you, but I always want to start a new day with washing. I know if we do not take time to daily wash away our sins and reflect on the path of life that the Lord commands us to live, we are not clean. If we are not clean, frankly, we just look and smell bad.

I would like us to focus on spiritual well-being. It also needs to be cleansed and properly taken care of. Thus, our Lord provides us the opportunity to be renewed liturgically through His Church—looking good inside and out. The Church heralds this move towards Epiphany spiritually, as it did with the feast of the Nativity, in the sense of Kairos. We go spiritually in the sense that we are to be present at the River Jordan where the Father will manifest the Son. A hymn from the Sunday that precedes Epiphany signals the movement in this way, “Go ye, O angelic powers, moving on from Bethlehem, we shall go, guided by the angels, towards the river where the Father will manifest his Son.”

Think of it this way—just as the angels were present and men called, too, to be at the Lord’s nativity, likewise the angels accompany His entrance into the Jordan and man is called to witness the event. The Church also moves us towards the feast by working on our understanding of that great Mystery, Holy Baptism. This is done on the eve of the feast. The dual meaning of Baptism is given in the hymns. We are reminded that Baptism is for the purification and remission of sins, but it is also for the illumination and participation in the life of the Holy Spirit.

Yet, being mindful of the message of Christ’s baptism, we must be careful to not reduce this feast to a simple commemoration of Christ’s baptism and the foreshadowing of our own. Our meditation and our prayer must not be simply one of petition, a prayer and a hope for the forgiveness of sins. Rather, it must be first and foremost one of praise and thanksgiving to God. Finally, the feast of Epiphany is a feast that brings us more deeply into the identity, the work, and the mystery of Christ. In order to be prepared for the Baptism offered by Christ we must become moral and repent of our sins. We learn that we must be upright in heart and in outward action, purifying ourselves in this way.

It is also true that the context of this feast is set by the Feast of the Nativity and fast that precede both. We have undergone the preparation of the Advent fast and we have reflected on the coming of the Messiah in studying the Feast of the Nativity. And now with this feast of Epiphany we see Him revealed plainly to the world. Theophany also gives us an opportunity to consider the Holy Trinity and to consider the glory that is Christ’s. In the event of Christ’s baptism, the Beloved Son steps into the Jordan, while the Father’s voice is heard stating “this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased,” and the Spirit confirms the words of the Father. This is a Theophany. God is revealed. Christ is glorified. For us what is revealed is more than the.

(Continued on page 8)
CLERGY
Rev. Protopresbyter Konstantinos A. Pavlakos, Proistamenos 703-239-2627
Rev. Presbyter Zisis Lappas, Assistant Priest 703-671-1515 phone 703-671-1385 facsimile

STAFF
Bookkeeper Lisa Mikhalevsky 703-671-1515 x106
Choir Director John Slanta 703-307-0142
Hellenic Education Center Director TBD
Maintenance Supervisor Juan Colet 571-212-5273
Protospathi Nick Mpras 703-560-7714
Secretary/Teacher Sophia Tsangali 703-671-1515

2020 PARISH COUNCIL (2021 COUNCIL NOT YET RATIFIED)
President Ray Vazquez 703-728-7091
Vice President Mark Cherpes 703-281-1198
Secretary Bill Polizos 571-434-7790
Treasurer George Moratis 703-774-6180

SCHOOLS AND STUDIES
Bible Study (English) Bill Polizos 571-434-7790
Bible Study (Weekday) Ioannis Gkigkitzis, Ph.D.
Catechetical (Sunday) School, Youth Christina Vazquez 703-728-2657
Journey to Orthodoxy James Jatras 202-375-1007

MINISTRIES
Acolytes Dimitri and Lucas Solomos 703-358-1785
AHEPA #438 (P. Derzis) George Vassilopoulos 703-437-9218
Bookstore Georgia McKinney, Manager
Online Bookstore https://st-katherine-fcva-bookstore.square.site/
Book Club (Saint Genevieve) Victoria Cherpes 703-310-8651
Book Review Gregory McKinney 703-310-8651
Daughters of Penelope Helle #283 Maria Tikoff Vargas 703-812-0286
DOXA Presv. Pauline Pavlakos, Editor 703-239-2627
GOYA (7th-12th grades) President TBD
Greek Dance (Byzantino) Aris and Anna Yortzidis, Instructors 757-218-6991
Greek School PTA Andri Orphanides, President 703-727-4285
Hellenic Education Center Greek School and Paideia Preschool 703-671-7715
HOPE (ages 7 and under) Doris Mentsis, Coordinator
JOY (ages 8-12) Vaitisa Bousbouras, Coordinator 703-239-2627
Listserv (church email list) Presv. Pauline Pavlakos, Administrator 703-338-8823
Missions and Outreach Dr. John Demakis, Chairman 703-319-1610
Moms, Pops & Tots (up to age 4) Irene Sakkas 703-338-8823
OCF (College Ministry) Zack Long 703-2223-1701
Paideia TBD
Philoptochos Mary Varlas 703-965-4161
Social Media Social Media Coordinator
Stewardship Andrea Ballard 703-250-5419
Website Presv. Pauline Pavlakos, Webmaster 703-239-2627
YAL (Young Adult League) Faye (Fotini) Anson
2021 New Year’s Checklist

Every New Year we enter into the tradition of coming up with New Year’s resolutions. With COVID, some of the usual resolutions are unlikely to be made. For example, going to the gym is unlikely. By February, many of us are breaking resolutions and finding excuses to break them.

In 2009, Atul Gawande wrote a book called the Checklist Manifesto.

“In riveting stories, Gawande takes us from Austria, where an emergency checklist saved a drowning victim who had spent half an hour underwater, to Michigan, where a cleanliness checklist in intensive care units virtually eliminated a type of deadly hospital infection. He explains how checklists actually work to prompt striking and immediate improvements.”

~ Amazon

Atul’s book inspired me to come up with a Saint Katherine checklist. Checklists are easy and they can help us stay focused. The checklist can be taped to your refrigerator door or other area where you can look at it daily. Feel free to add to the checklist or adapt it. Here is mine:

My 2021 Checklist

- Keep our Clergy in my prayers daily
- Keep my family in my prayers daily
- Complete my 2021 Stewardship Pledge Form
- Attend at least one Bible study (virtually) a month
- Attend Liturgy as often as possible (physically or virtually)
- Support OCMC
- Support at least one local mission
- Support Philoptochos
- Support Daughters of Penelope
- Support AHEPA
- Call at least one person weekly in the community and check in on them

I pray that 2021 brings you health and prosperity. I pray that we can all be together this coming Pascha and celebrate as one community.

Feel free to reach out to me or anyone on the Parish Council if you need assistance during this difficult time.

In Christ,
Ray Vazquez
CATECHETICAL (SUNDAY) SCHOOL

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Although we were not sure how our students would be able to study our faith this year, I am thankful for countless blessings that have allowed our students, parents, and families to study the faith together at home. This year we started off with all of our students participating in a study of Christ’s parables. With the help of Fr. Costas, Fr. Nikolas, and our Sunday School teachers, families were able to view a video introducing each parable. Additionally, readings, crafts, and activities were sent to each family and posted online for our community.

As Fr. Costas has mentioned many times, our ministry has not stopped. We were also blessed in 2020 with a weekly Bible study for our older students and we finished off the year watching last year’s Christmas Pageant.

As we begin 2021, we start with a new set of lessons and activities aimed to help each of our Sunday School students understand various aspects of our faith. If you are not on the Sunday School email list, please reach out to Christina Vazquez at czvmail2@gmail.com. If you are on the email list, I hope that you look forward to the weekly emails.

GOYA (13-18 year olds)

WE PRAY THAT everyone had a safe and healthy Christmas and enjoys a happy New Year.

The GOYAns worked hard this Christmas fulfilling the traditions of giving! From honoring our loved ones at the cemetery to delivering 200 bags to the homeless on Christmas morning, we have not forgotten what we have been called to do nor the real reason for the season. We want to humbly thank everyone for their contributions, donations, and support for both these projects. Once again, our parish shows that they support our youth.

We sadly said farewell to Fr. Nikolas and wish him nothing but the best!

Looking forward, the youth of STK will begin the year with the swearing-in of the GOYA officers. The date will be announced in the app. We pray that we may bring a tiny bit of normalcy to them as we continue to patiently wait the end of this pandemic.

GREEK SCHOOL

ΜΕ ΤΗΝ ΕΝΑΡΞΗ ΤΗΣ ΚΑΙΝΟΥΡΓΙΑΣ ΧΡΟΝΙΑΣ ΤΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ μας Σχολείο ευχάριστος σε όλους τους ενορίτες μας Ευτυχές κι Ευλογημένο το Νέο Έτος! Ολόκληρος ο μαθητοκόσμος μας ρίχνεται στην Ελληνομάθεια με φτερά αετού, έχοντας βάλει στόχο να πετά ψηλά στα αιθέρια, με πυξίδα την αγάπη, την πρόοδο και την αρετή. Και νοιώθει, ότι η ζωή του, με τέτοια γνώση, δεν αιωρείται ποτέ στο κενό, αλλά εμπνέεται και στηρίζεται πάντοτε στον στοργικό Θεό.

Ο Ιανουάριος είναι ο αγαπημένος μήνας εκπαιδευτικών και μαθητών. Γιατί όμως; Διότι, τον μήνα αυτόν, και ειδικότερα προς το τέλος του, στις 30 Ιανουαρίου, τιμούμε τους πολιούχους, προστάτες αγίους της εκπαίδευσης, που είναι οι Τρεις Μέγιστοι Φωστήρες της Οικουμένης: ο Άγιος Βασίλειος ο Μέγας, ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος και ο Άγιος Γρηγόριος ο Θεολόγος. Ας τους μοιάσουμε κι εμείς. Ας κάνουμε κτήμα μας όσα περισσότερα μπορέσουμε να αντλήσουμε από την σωστή, αγία σοφία, που τους διέπνεε και διακατείχε. Περισσότερα για τους μεγάλους αυτούς Πατέρες της Εκκλησίας μας και των Ελληνικών Γραμμάτων θα πούμε στις τάξεις μας.

WITH THE BEGINNING of the New Year, our Greek School wishes all our parishioners a Happy and Blessed New Year! All our students come to school to learn from our excellent teachers and from the books the Greek language, the Greek civilization, and customs and generally speaking the Greek, dedicated always to our merciful God.

January is a special month for our teachers and students, because this month we celebrate the Three Hierarchs, Saint Basil the Great, Saint John Chrysostom, and Saint Gregory the Theologian, who are the protectors and patron Saints of the Greek Letters and education. Let us all of us have these Three Fathers of the Church and Great Educators to be the best examples in our life! More on the Three Hierarchs in class.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES

January 8 and 9
Vasilopita Cutting for teachers and students.

January 29 and 30
The Three Hierarchs Celebration in class

January 30
Divine Liturgy/Artoklasia for the Three Hierarchs in church

February 5 and 6
Reports Cards

February 1 to March 22
Registration for the Ellinomatheia exams

May 18, 19, and 20
Ellinomatheia exams
BOOKSTORE
LOOKING FOR A FUN WAY to enrich your children’s understanding of Orthodoxy? Consider purchasing one of our beautifully illustrated mini books to help your little ones learn about the feast days and saints of January. To celebrate the first of January, there is The Story of the Vasilopita and for the sixth of January, you can read about Christ’s baptism. Girls will especially enjoy the book about Saint Genevieve, who is the patron saint of Paris and whose memory we keep on January 3. The books are geared for children aged 4-7, but really can be enjoyed by older ones as well.

A must-have for adults to get through the pandemic, we have A Pocket Prayer Book for Orthodox Christians, which contains the standard daily prayers of Orthodox Christians, plus prayers for many special needs and circumstances. It includes concise spiritual helps and factual lists, as well as a helpful guide to prepare oneself for Holy Confession, and the prayers of preparation for Holy Communion.

We are online at st-katherine-fcva-bookstore.square.site.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY
IN THIS TIME OF SOCIAL DISTANCING, let us continue our weekly Adult Bible Study class online. Using colorful PowerPoint slide presentations, we will discuss how Scripture informs our Orthodox Faith and Tradition. Each session will focus on various biblical and theological topics with an emphasis on their development, historical context and meaning for us today as Orthodox Christians. Join us each Thursday evening from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. If you are not already on Bill Polizos’ invitation list, please send your email address to bp3175@att.com so that you will receive invitations to the Zoom classes.

ADULT CATECHETICAL LESSONS (ACL)
NEW CLASS: HISTORY OF RELIGION TRADITIONS AND SCRIPTURES

This course seeks to help better understand the rich and complex ways that religions function in historic and contemporary contexts by exploring the faith systems of Christianity (Protestantism, Catholicism), Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and others.

Today’s pluralistic society involves numerous and ongoing contacts among people of different faiths. A major challenge for Orthodox Christians is to articulate theologically correct approaches to people of other religions. We will explore a view of the major world religions from an Orthodox Christian perspective. Our guide will be to seek understanding, in depth, of the teachings of world religions beyond a shallow appreciation which fosters misunderstanding.

Humanity was gradually prepared for the revelation of the fullness of Truth in Christ. This is witnessed in the Old Testament and in the “ spermatikos logos” of natural revelation. “Seeds” existed in antiquity but the natural revelation of Truth was incomplete. The fullness of Truth was made manifest in Christ. Jesus Christ, who broke through and “once and for all entered history,” is the fulfillment of non-Christian religions that were seeking the Light, the Life, and the Way to the Truth.

We meet on Wednesdays at 7:15pm. If you are interested in attending this course, please join us on Zoom and email Fr. Costas at frcostas@stkchurch.com and Ioannis Gkigkitzis at igkigkitzis@nvcc.edu for further information and to add you to the group.

Our other catechetical lessons are as follow:
- Fridays 3:30pm Book of Revelation
- Saturdays 3:30pm Philokalia

FACEBOOK PAGES
- Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
- Youth Ministry of Saint Katherine’s
- Saint Katherine Ladies Philoptochos Society of Falls Church, VA

WEBSITES
- Ahepa438.org AHEPA Chapter 438
- www stkhec.org Hellenic Education Center

If your church organization has a Facebook page or website that is not listed above, please email it to przpauleine@stkchurch.com for inclusion in DOXA (our monthly newsletter) or on our website.
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER (OCMC), Missionary updates are listed below.

**Deacon Thomas Manuel** and his family will return to Guatemala by early January. Dn. Thomas served Liturgy at Saint Katherine a month ago and has been a regular visitor. He has been asked by Archbishop Elpidophoros to start Spanish Language Liturgies when he returns from Guatemala in two years. Stay tuned!!

**Fr. John Chakos** and his wife are looking to return to Guatemala by February and will sponsor a mission team in March or November 2021. We have been blessed to have Fr. Chakos be the main speaker at two of our OCMC Dinners.

Jesse Brandow was named Director of the Clergy School (Seminary) in Guatemala. His wife, Juanita, continues her online medical school studies. Jesse has been a frequent visitor to Saint Katherine and we have supported his mission from the beginning.

**Dr. Bill Black** spoke on Dependency of Mission Clergy in a recent Zoom conference with Washington DC Orthodox. He continues to teach at Makarios Seminary in Kenya.

**Fr. Chris and Matushka Jen Moore** held a Zoom series on their life and clergy in South Korea.

**Pre-field missionaries Candelario family and Elaine Piniat** will be leaving for Sweden by March 2021. Elaine and the Candelarios will be doing internet and youth (college) ministry in Sweden.

**The Surianians family** is preparing for ministry in Albania.

Virtual mission teams, which are on hold due to COVID-19, were held with clergy from Alaska, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana and Korea.

Keep checking the OCMC website (https://www.ocmc.org) for more virtual missionary visits or virtual mission teams via Zoom!

A Spanish Ministry Conference was held December 13-14, 2020. Guidance on starting a Spanish-speaking parish ministry was expanded.

Videos on OCMC ministries can be viewed on https://www.youtube.com/user/OrthodoxMissions.

**HOMELESS SHELTER**

**Hygiene and Survival Kits.** For the last 10-12 years, our Saint Katherine Mission and Outreach Committee has been putting together Hygiene and Survival Kits for the Bailey’s Crossroads Shelter. The Shelter has come to depend on this annual gift from Saint Katherine. These kits are given to the homeless when they cannot be housed in the homeless shelter because of lack of space—especially in the winter months. Each of our church organizations contributes important elements to the kits such as woolen hats, woolen gloves, and woolen socks, as well as shaving equipment, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. This year the shelter also asked us to include woolen blankets. The shelter was very thankful again this year that we were able to donate the requested items.

**Dinner for the Shelter.** Thank you to Fr. Costa for cooking the meals for the shelter on Tuesday, December 15! Thanks to sous-chef, Karen Polizos, as well. We also thank Tassos Sakkas, Mary VanMullekom, Candice Johnson, and John and Betty Slanta for taking the food to the shelter. We were told the residents enjoyed the meals!

**Bi-Annual Diaper Drive.** Our Mission and Outreach Committee collected 86 packages of wipes, 74 packages/boxes of diapers, and monetary donations for the MaRiH Center on Duke Street in Alexandria, VA. The MaRiH Center opened in 1974 to serve pregnant women and their children in the Northern Virginia area and has been helping women in crisis pregnancies ever since. Thank you, Saint Katherine’s community for your generous donations to women and their children. And thank you to John and Betty Slanta for organizing our diaper drive.

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**ORTHODOX OBSERVER NEWS**

_The Orthodox Observer_, the national publication of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, functions as the primary news and information connection and is a direct link between the Archdiocese, the Metropolises, parishes, and individual parishioners.

Subscribe: https://form.123formbuilder.com/5464087
Archives: https://www.goarch.org/departments/pressoffice/observer-archives
# JANUARY 2021

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<td>1 Saint Basil the Great New Year’s Day 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>3 Sunday before Theophany 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>5 Eve of Theophany 7:00pm Vesperal Liturgy and Agiasmos</td>
<td>6 Holy Theophany 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy and Agiasmo</td>
<td>7 Synaxis of Saint John the Baptist 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 7pm Adult Int. II Greek 7pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom</td>
<td>8 3:30pm ACL Book of Revelation via Zoom 5:00pm Greek School</td>
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<td>10 Sunday after Theophany 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy Cutting of the Vasilopita Swearing In of 2021 Parish Council and Election of Officers 4:00pm DOP Meeting</td>
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<td>12 5pm Youth Conv. Greek 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek 7:00pm Paraklesis to the Holy Trinity in Defense from the Pandemic</td>
<td>13 7:15pm Traditions and Scriptures via Zoom</td>
<td>14 7pm Adult Int. II Greek 7pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom</td>
<td>15 3:30pm ACL Book of Revelation 5:00pm Greek School</td>
<td>9 9:30am Greek School 3:30pm ACL Philokalia via Zoom</td>
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<td>17 12th Sunday of Luke Anthony the Great 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>18 MLK, Jr. Day (Office Closed)</td>
<td>19 5pm Youth Conv. Greek 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek 7:00pm Paraklesis to the Holy Trinity in Defense from the Pandemic</td>
<td>20 7:15pm Traditions and Scriptures via Zoom</td>
<td>21 12pm Deadline for February DOXA 7pm Adult Int. II Greek 7pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom</td>
<td>22 3:30pm ACL Book of Revelation 5:00pm Greek School</td>
<td>23 9:30am Greek School 3:30pm ACL Philokalia via Zoom</td>
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<td>24 14th Sunday of Luke 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>25 Gregory the Theologian 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>26 5pm Youth Conv. Greek 7pm Adult Beg. II Greek 7:00pm Paraklesis to the Holy Trinity in Defense from the Pandemic</td>
<td>27 7:15pm Traditions and Scriptures via Zoom</td>
<td>28 7pm Adult Int. II Greek 7pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom</td>
<td>29 3:30pm ACL Book of Revelation 5:00pm Greek School</td>
<td>30 Three Hierarchs 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Greek School 3:30pm ACL Philokalia via Zoom</td>
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<td>31 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
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Αυτόν τον χρόνο, οι προηγούμενοι χρόνοι (πολύ χειρότερος ο τελευταίος) έτσι καινούριος με τις 365 ημέρες και με τις εκατοντάδες χιλιάδες στιγμές του μας δίνει πολλές ευκαιρίες για αγώνα και προκοπή. Ας δράξουμε να τις διεκπεραιώσουμε με πρόοδο και επιμέλεια. Βέβαια, δεν είναι στο χέρι μας να κανονίσουμε εμείς τα γεγονότα της καινούργιας χρονιάς που θα συμβούν. Είναι όμως στο χέρι μας οι σκέψεις και τα έργα μας, καθώς και ό,τι περνά απ' τον νου και την καρδιά μας. Ό,τι δηλαδή θα κάνει όμορφες και καθαρές ή και το αντίθετο τις σελίδες του βιβλίου της καινούργιας χρονιάς. Τότε, όπως μας έχουν ευχηθεί, θα είναι χαρούμενος και ευτυχισμένος ο καινούργιος χρόνος. Με την καινούργια λοιπόν λοιπόν ας επιθυμούμε να διαφυλάξουμε την νέα χρονιά με αγώνα αισιόδοξο και χαρούμενο. Αν λοιπόν αγωνιζόμαστε έτσι, τότε η καρδιά μας θα μένει πάντα νέα, γιατί κάθε άσχημο και κακό την λυπεί, την μαραίνει και καταστρέφει την δροσιά της, την δημιουργικότητά της, την δύναμή της.

Αντιθέτως, η καθαρή χριστιανική ζωή, ο αγώνας της αρετής, η παραμονή στο φως του Χριστού και στην συντροφιά Του, εμπλουτίζει με όλες τις ομορφιές και τις χάρες. Έτσι, θα μας ενεργήσει και εμπλουτίσει την καρδιά μας και θα μας ενεργήσει και εμπλουτίσει την καρδιά μας, καθώς και τις χάρες μας. Ας τον ξεκινήσουμε με μεγαλύτερη αισιοδοξία. Όπως και οι προηγούμενοι χρόνοι (πολύ χειρότερος ο τελευταίος) έτσι καινούριος με τις 365 ημέρες και με τις εκατοντάδες χιλιάδες στιγμές του μας δίνει πολλές ευκαιρίες για αγώνα και προκοπή. Ας δράξουμε να τις διεκπεραιώσουμε με επιδεξιότητα και αυτοσυγκέντρωση, είτε είναι ατομικές ευκαιρίες, είτε οικογενειακές, είτε στα σχολικά/πανεπιστημιακά θρανία, είτε εθνικές. Ας τις διεκπεραιώσουμε με πρόοδο και επιμέλεια.
I PRAY THAT 2021 will be filled with love, health, happiness and togetherness. The saying, “Out with the old, in with the new” has great meaning for all of us. I can say with ease that I look forward to putting 2020 behind us, but not without expressing my gratitude to all of you for your support of Philoptochos through the pandemic. We accomplished many goals and mostly exceeded our own expectations. The resiliency of our parish is astounding! I am so proud to belong to this community and am hopeful that our Philoptochos mission will continue to grow and benefit those in need. Before we know it, our next campaign Feed Our Neighbor will be upon us. More information will follow.

In the interim, please take a moment to submit your 2021 Philoptochos Stewardship. You should receive a renewal notice shortly. If you are new to Philoptochos, you may download a copy of the Stewardship Application from the church website. All Ladies Philoptochos correspondence should be mailed to Mary Varlas, 14685 John Ewell Court, Centreville, VA 20121. Also, please schedule to attend our next Philoptochos General Meeting via Zoom on January 17, 2021. An email reminder with details will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Thank you for your generosity.

WHEN PHILOPTOCHOS SEES PAIN AND SUFFERING, we strive to offer comfort.

WHEN PHILOPTOCHOS SEES HUNGER, we aspire to offer sustenance.

WHEN PHILOPTOCHOS SEES DESPAIR, we seek to offer hope.

Fundraiser Sponsored by Daughters of Penelope

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Valentine’s Virtual Wine Tasting
Saturday, February 6, 2021, 6-7pm

Helle Chapter 283 invites you to a red, white, and sparkly Valentine’s Virtual Wine Tasting & Appetizer event. Thanks to our partners, Vienna Vintner and Souvlaki Bar. Proceeds will support local food banks.

Please click on the link below to learn more and sign up:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ca9a92ba5f58-taste

If you have questions, please contact
Karen Polizos 571-216-4099 or Patty Leto 703-609-0385

Join us in sharing the love to help feed those in need.

The Church and Social Reform is a book aimed at the student of history, not the reforming activist. It is a highly-structured book, exhaustively researched and documented, yet the writing hits a readable balance between the causal and the academic.

The period Boojamra examines is the turn of the 13th century. The Romans (their self-reference, not today’s term “Byzantines”) had regained Constantinople in 1271 from the Latins of Western Europe. The leadership stumbled badly in its attempt at full Church reunification with the 1274 Union of Lyon. Muslim conquests to the south and east had stripped the reconstituted Empire of much-needed farmland and tax base. Constantinople was flooded with refugees and unable to defend its interests any distance from the city.

Athanasios served two stints as Patriarch under the Emperor Andronikos. Despite generally having the Emperor’s favor and being a strong booster of the Emperor’s central role in establishing and executing comprehensive reforms across society, Athanasios was stymied in almost all his grander intentions. While insistent to a fault in calling the Emperor to be God’s regent on earth, as well as haranguing those within the Church whom he believed to be self-indulgent to make great sacrifices on behalf of the suffering people, he failed to make any sweeping progress in righting society. The empire’s resources were too few, the Emperor’s leadership weaknesses were too great, and the need among the people was too dire. Nevertheless, Athanasios never tired in his attempts to root out corruption and profiteering and see that their society’s scarce resources were shared with equity.

Athanasius was no frustrated sentimentalist or do-gooder. His policies were a call to social justice and action based on evangelical purity, mutuality, and prophetic righteousness. ... Above all, his reforms were a call to action and a continual reminder that “word and work” were inseparable aspects of Christian life and true repentance; the salvation of the empire lay in works, not in belief. (4)

The Patriarch and his earnest rigor were opposed by many among both the secular and sacred elite but made him loved by many of Constantinople’s citizens. His “bottom up” canonization seemed to begin even during his lifetime. His feast day is 28 October.

[Athanasios writes:] “For the sake of [the Kingdom of God] the Lord thought it just to have rich and poor in the world, so that He might make the former heirs of his Kingdom on account of their mercy and compassion, and the latter through a patient and thankful spirit. It is in our power, therefore, ... to gain heaven or hell through our works.” (115)

Saint Athanasios, pray for us!

John Boojamra Ph.D. (+1999) was a nationally recognized and respected Orthodox Christian theologian, scholar, and educator. He served as an Adjunct Professor at St. Vladimir’s Seminary, Executive Secretary of the Orthodox Christian Education Commission, and taught Byzantine and Church history at Fordham University.

Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople (January 25)

Kontakion
O Glorious One, you dispelled the complexities of orators with the words of your theology. You have adorned the Church with the vesture of Orthodoxy woven from on high. Clothed in this, the Church now cries out to your children, with us, “Hail Father, the consummate theological mind.”

Saint Anthony the Great (January 17)

Kontakion
Forsaking the uproars of life O venerable one, you completed your life in quiet, fully imitating the Baptist. Therefore, we honor you with him, O Anthony, Father of Fathers.
Christian Stewardship is . . .

. . . learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ’s Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.
. . . our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ’s redeeming love.
. . . caring for the needs of others.
. . . offering one’s self to God as He offered Himself to us.
. . . what a person does after saying “I believe…”, as proof of that belief.
. . . devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as diocese/metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.

~Williams & McKibben in Oriented Leader

Thank you to all who fulfilled their stewardship pledge for 2020. Please prayerfully consider increasing your 2021 stewardship pledge and contributing to the Dollar More A Day Campaign.

Shown below is a list of families and individuals who participated in the 2020 Saint Katherine Stewardship Program, as well as the Dollar More A Day campaign, through December 23, 2020. Thank you for responding to the needs of our church. Please contact Lisa Mikhailovsky at accounting@stkchurc.com or 703-671-1515 x106 with any questions.

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We encourage all parishioners to donate $1 more a day!

**Weekday Liturgies (9AM Orthros/10AM Liturgy)**

- **January 1**: Saint Basil the Great
- **January 6**: Holy Theophany (Agiasmo)
- **January 7**: Synaxis of Saint John the Baptist
- **January 25**: Saint Gregory the Theologian
- **January 30**: Three Hierarchs

**Vesperal Liturgy and Agiasmo (7:00PM Liturgy)**

- **January 5**: Eve of Theophany

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