CHRIST IS RISEN!

CHRIST IS RISEN! No announcement ever made in the history of the world has been more important. No announcement—no words—are more vital to each of us individually or to all of us in communion with one another than the promise which these joy-filled words hold out to all mankind. Because Christ is risen, and because victory over death and sin has already been won for us, we have no one and nothing to fear in this life or the next. Never again will any Christian have to face an uncertain tomorrow alone, for the Risen Christ has gone before us to prepare a way for us. Regardless of how overwhelming the forces of death, sin, and evil which come to block our way, we have the divine assurance of victory through the Risen Christ. On the night of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I experience the power of great joy—a joy that assures me that all of us are participants in His Victory.

CHRIST IS RISEN! The Resurrection tells us that we Christians have a living Lord. He is alive now. He will live and reign forever. He Who loves His creation is with His Father, and we can turn to Him in every need, in every emotion, in every heartache.

CHRIST IS RISEN! The Resurrection makes it perfectly clear that death has been conquered. The empty tomb has extinguished the fears and terrors of death. Death has a new name. Death is now the “falling asleep” of us and our loved ones.

CHRIST IS RISEN! The Lord’s Resurrection is our assurance that we will have our own resurrection. Everybody buried in the earth who has been obedient to God’s commandments shall one day rise again, just as Christ did. This is not wishful thinking. This is the truth of the Lord’s word.

CHRIST IS RISEN! Today we are reminded about our promise of life eternal. The Resurrection captures that promise. It solidifies that promise into a Resurrection theology that Christians are expected to live by, a theology for life here and in the hereafter.

CHRIST IS RISEN! The Lord’s Resurrection is a spiritual liberation and the passage from the vicious circle of dependency on the outward world, from material values that corrupt with time to the eternal values of the Kingdom of the Risen Christ, where man learns to work together with God—the Source of true and life-giving Love.

CHRIST IS RISEN! The Lord’s Resurrection means partaking of the saving Sacrifice of Christ. Going up to the Cross in His Humility, the Son of God gave Himself as a sacrifice, so that we might hasten to follow Christ on our path of the Cross and accept His gift of eternal life, the gift of the Resurrection.

Come all and let us proclaim to the world that CHRIST IS RISEN. Let our candles burn brightly. Let us be illuminated with the joy of the Resurrection.

It is my prayer that the light of the Resurrection will scatter any remaining shadows lurking in our hearts and fill them with the life-giving rays of the love and mercy of God.

Christos Anesti,
Fr. Costa
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey
Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
www.saint-katherines.org
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Catechetical (Sunday) School, Youth  Bill Porter  703-901-2404  weporter1@fcps.edu
Journey to Orthodoxy  James Jatras
Women’s Book Club  Despina Raizes  703-216-8176  2draizes@gmail.com

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JOY (ages 8-12)  Toula Christou, Coordinator  703-533-0055  HOPE_St_Katherine@yahoo.com
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YAL (Young Adult League)  Faye (Fotini) Anson  703-883-8823  fanson38@yahoo.com
CHRISTOS ANESTI! I hope each of you had a most blessed and joyous Pascha and that the spiritual renewal we all experienced comforts and sustains you and yours throughout the year.

In the midst of all the renewal, joy and hope this time of the year brings, I recently read a very sobering article distributed by *The Orthodox Christian Network* that gave me considerable opportunity for reflection. That Greek Orthodoxy is changing and quickly becoming less ethnic was not news. Of greater concern were Archdiocese Registry Statistics revealing that marriages in the Church are at record lows in America. In fact, the tendency to marry outside the Church is increasing to the point that if the decline continues over the next 20 years, only a handful of weddings will be conducted in a typical parish annually. The greater fear is that even those who do marry in the Church will not participate in parish life. This affects our children and is further revealed in the fact that baptisms are also at recorded lows in America.

The article concludes the abundance of “mixed” marriages (over 85%) is *not* the problem. In fact, the same Registry statistics reveal that the divorce rate is often higher in marriages where both partners are Orthodox. Rather, “our children need a world that teaches that marriage is the most ascetic experience that we can live as Orthodox Christians. It is about real love, sacrifice, and humility. It is about surrendering all that we are and giving it away so that our spouse and family can flourish....”

Here’s the good news: there is a place where the world referred to above is readily at hand—we have such a community here at Saint Katherine, thanks be to God! It is in abundance everywhere you turn in this parish...our rich liturgical life, our wealth of educational offerings, our immensely diverse ministries, and the great blessing we all enjoy in the fellowship we have with each other! This last point is particularly significant because our love for each other must always be evident to visitors so as to enable us to more readily welcome new and younger families ultimately ensuring our continued viability as a community. Such an environment cannot be “decreed”...it is nurtured and developed through the actions of each and every parishioner in our community. All of us play a role and all of us are responsible to foster not only a welcoming attitude, but also to participate fully in the life of our Church as often as possible.

So let’s talk about some opportunities for involvement and events occurring in the coming month or so. Our GOYA Basketball Tournament takes place the first full weekend of May. Please come out and support the youth of our community...they represent one of the most enduring ministries of our community and I congratulate our GOYAns, parents, advisors, and coaches for their ceaseless efforts to ensure the success of this tournament and extend our community’s hospitality to everyone participating.

I wrote at length last month about AHEPA’s plans over the Memorial Day weekend to honor those Greek American service members buried at Arlington National Cemetery by placing a wreath at each gravesite. Again, let me mention what a great opportunity this will be for community members and their families to participate in this moving and powerful experience providing a life lesson in the sacrifice others have made in order to preserve the precious freedoms we all cherish. Please stop by the AHEPA table after liturgy on Sundays for more information.

Finally, our Spring Festival will take place June 3–5. To those who have not participated in some time...come join us! Yes, it can be hectic and stressful at times, but on the other hand, it is a rewarding weekend for the entire family as we work shoulder to shoulder with fellow parishioners who step forward for one reason—the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and of our Church. By having this festival, we are able to reach out to our local community in sharing our heritage and love of our Church. We are also supporting the various ministries and needs of our community along with giving back to those charities who depend on us. So, to those who have been away from the Festival scene for some time, we invite you back to join us. Please call a friend, spouse, cousin, or koumbaro and join us! We need you...in fact, we all need one another. This is what the Church...and our community...are all about!

God bless you all!

Your servant in Christ,

[Signature]

President, Parish Council
CATECHETICAL (SUNDAY) SCHOOL
CHRISTOS ANESTI!

Thank you to our 5th and 6th grade class and their parents for organizing an extremely successful clothing drive that benefited Head Start. What a blessed Lenten season Sunday School experienced in April as we not only learned more about Great Lent, but also practiced our Faith in giving. Our 4th grade class made beautiful Easter cards that they sent in care packages to the children of St. Basil’s Academy. Also in April, our classes made placemats for the Kairos prison ministry.

Thank you to those families who participated in the potluck and palm cross making on Saturday of Lazarus.

We will collect OCMC coin boxes on May 8. May 8 will also be the last Church Youth Duty Sunday of the school year for our students in grades 7-12.

As we approach the end of our 2015-2016 Catechetical School year, we are thankful for the opportunity to have taught our youth about their Orthodox Faith. We appreciate the commitment of our Sunday School parents in making Catechetical School a priority in your lives.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday School commencement on May 22. Join us as we recognize our graduating seniors as they take this exciting next step in their lives.

We want to thank all of our teachers for their hard work and dedication to our children this school year! Sadly, our Sunday School staff will see Pierre Tavoularis, Daphne Papamichael, and Tina Papamichael retire from teaching this year after many, many years of service. We have been truly blessed by their positive impact on our youth in teaching them how to live their Faith.

GOYA
CHRISTOS ANESTI!

Our GOYA’s basketball tournament will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 7-8. Saturday’s games will be held at Hoops Plus, 45496 Ruritan Circle, Sterling, VA 20164. Saturday evening events, dinner and dancing, will be held at Saint Katherine. Sunday’s games (and lunch) will be at Saint Katherine. Come support our youth!

Church Youth Duty Sunday is May 8. Alex Cameron is Captain and Epistle Reader. Other GOYAns and Sunday School students will help with the church duties.

Please mark your calendars with the following:
May 14-15: SS. C&H, Annapolis Tournament
June 28: Orthodox Youth Day at Kings Dominion
July 10-16: Camp Good Shepherd Virginia

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, July 10 - Saturday, July 16
Camp Good Shepherd: Virginia
Camp Plankatank, Hartfield, VA
Ages 11-18

For registration information, please contact Fr. Costas at frcostas@stkchurch.com.

REGIONAL ORATORICAL FESTIVAL
Above: Stephanie Vazquez and Other Senior Division Participants
Below Left: Zoe Gould and Eleni Rouvelas (Junior Division)
A letter from a Paideia parent:

Pres. Eleni:
Having parent teacher conferences this morning (April 12) compelled me to want to reach out to you to let you know how happy we are with the school. We love all of Ava’s teachers and appreciate how attentive and loving they all are towards Ava. Ava is really happy and that gives us great joy. As new parents, it is so hard to leave your little one, but we can honestly say that we have peace during the day while we are at work knowing that Ava is very well taken care of. We can’t say enough terrific things about all the staff. They, and you, have created a very special and nurturing environment for our kids, and we feel so blessed to be a part of this community.

With gratitude,
Joseph and Carolyn Perez

We would like to share what a joy it was for our pre-K class and their teachers to sing in Greek and English at the grand opening of the Senior Center. Our children look at our seniors as their own pappou and yiayia and they definitely enjoyed the handmade koulourakia at the end of the program! Thank you for letting our children being part of this community.

There are 42 children enrolled in Paideia currently.

**Year-Round Paideia.** Program dates are July 5 through September 2. A few more spaces are available. If interested, please contact us.

**Greek School News.** We are blessed to be the only Exam Center for Ellinomatheia in the greater Washington area. The exams will take place May 10-May 12. Every year, our students have 100% success. Of the 53 students that have applied 30 are from our program. We wish all the students good luck and always to excel.

We would like to congratulate our students Niko Papa-vassiliou and Athena Butler-Christodoulou for successfully passing the Arlington County Exam in Modern Greek which was offered this year for the first time. Since they passed the exam with the highest score, they will receive 4 High School credits which they can use toward their academic program.

HEC is leading an initiative to collect the names of 200 students who are currently attending a middle school in Fairfax County. If we have these names by May, the county will offer the Credit-by-Exam program in the fall of 2016. If you like to find out more, please contact Anne Pelekasis at pelekasisgreece@yahoo.com.

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**BOOK REVIEW**

Gregory McKinney


Forget the English word “apology” when you hear talk of Christian apologetics. *Apologia (απολογία)* in classical times had nothing to do with saying, “I’m sorry.” Rather, it points to the legal proceeding where reasoned arguments, supported by sound evidence, are intended to produce compelling proofs and yield a favorable judgment.

Christianity has always valued good apologetics, but today there is an even greater need. The apostolic faith is being challenged on every possible front. Secularists, atheists, statist, and fundamentalists, as well as free-thinkers and libertines of all persuasions, take shots at us every hour of every day, especially in social media. And many of the pious Orthodox who nominate themselves as internet apologists prove to be uncharitably combative and shallowly catechized, a hazard to themselves and others.

This is precisely where Dr. Azarvan’s volume proves its value. His assembly of 21 short essays from a variety of priests, monastics, and academics strikes a proper tone of “pastoral theology” (much in the style we hear from Pope Francis) tempered by academic depth and thoughtfulness. Many of the essayists will be familiar from Orthodox books of recent vintage (Dr. Kyriacos Markides, Fr. Lawrence Farley, Mother Melania, Dr. David Ford, and Fr. (Dr.) Josiah Trenham) and podcasts, blogs, and Facebook feeds (Fr. Jonathan Tobias, Dr. Eugenia Constantinou, Fr. John Whiteford, and Dr. Robert Arakaki).

A broad range of topics are examined from the Eastern point-of-view: the reality of God; the historical Jesus and the Resurrection; the relationship of Church and Scripture; salvation as a process, not an event; the goal of Theosis as it flows from the Sacraments and the lived Christian ethic; Mary and the saints; and the heaven and hell we make for ourselves. This variety and the quality of each author’s own footnoted *apologia* work hard toward living up to the book’s stated goal:

. . . a growing number of people are turning away from Christianity and, indeed, religious faith altogether . . . this edited volume re-introduces Christianity to a modern audience. It presents a more authentic, experiential side of Christianity to the religious skeptic; a side that eschews blind faith, legalism, and judgment; a side that is rarely given a hearing in the ongoing debate with today’s skeptics. Re-Introducing Christianity is also directed at modern Christians, and refutes their most frequently expressed criticisms . . . (back cover)

Will Azarvan’s collection convict and convince the Jerry Falwell Jr’s., the Bill Mahers, and the Penn Jillette’s of the
ΠΙΣΤΟΙ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΓΝΩΜΟΝΕΣ
Σοφία Δ. Τσαγκάλη

Τα Πλήθη του Κυρίου συγκλονίζουν ολόκληρη την ανθρωπότητα! Και η δική μας ψυχή πονάει και με θέσος στέκεται εμπρός στα πάνωπά του Κυρίου Πάθη. Οι ιεροί ναι μάς καλούν να παρακολουθήσουμε με κατάνυξη και να βιώσουμε την ματωτική πορεία του θεού Διδασκάλου προς τον Γολγόθα. Η κάθε μέρα της Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας μόσχ αποκαλύπτει καινονυχίες, πηγές του θεού δράματος, καθώς μέσα στον ιερό ναό, με ανοιχτό το βιβλιαρό της Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας, παρακολουθούμε προσεκτικά. Με πολλή ευλάβεια, την ώρα αυτή, ας δούμε μερικά σημεία του Κυρίου Πάθη του Κυρίου, που είναι σημαντικά και στουδιά.

Ένας μαθητής Τον προδιδεί. Σκεφτήκαμε ποτέ πόσο οδυνορώς πόνος πλήγμασε την ψυχή του Κυρίου, όταν ένας αγαπημένος του μαθητή τον πρόδωσε. Εκλεκτός ανάμεσα στους εκλεκτούς ήταν και ο ιόδας, άλλα αυτός ο πρόδωτος. Ας τον προσφέρουμε να μας καταλάβει αυτό που θυμόμαστε. Ας βλέπουμε το πλήρες το μοναδικό. Στον ιερό ναό, θα τον πείσουμε και θα τον καταφέρουμε. Ας τον προσφέρουμε στον θεό, και θα τον πείσουμε. Ας τον προσφέρουμε στον θεό.

Η εγκατάλειψη του ακόμη και από αυτούς το πιο πιστούς του φίλου. Σκεφτήκαμε τους τρόπους τους, που έπαιζαν στον θεό. Ας ανανεώσουμε τα τα σημεία τους, τα πτώση τους, τα στεφάνια τους. Ας τον προσφέρουμε στον θεό, και ας τον πείσουμε. Ας τον προσφέρουμε στον θεό, και ας τον πείσουμε.

Η ανθρωπότητα ενός ευεργετημένου λαού. Ας συνοψίσουμε τώρα. Ας προσέξουμε στο χριστιανισμό, στον οποίο αναφέρεται ο θεολόγος της εκκλησίας. Ας τον προσφέρουμε στον θεό, και ας τον πείσουμε. Ας τον προσφέρουμε στον θεό, και ας τον πείσουμε.

Διονύσιος Σολωμός

Please remember that the Ellinomathia Examinations (Greek Exams) will be given at Saint Katherine Greek School on the following dates:

- Tuesday, May 10: Levels A1 (for children 8-12 yrs. old), A1 for teenagers and adults, A2 and B1;
- Wednesday, May 11: Levels B2 and G1;
- Thursday, May 12: Level: G2.

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

REGISTRY

**Baptism**
Samantha (Smaragda) Kaye (April 15)  
dughter of Terrence Allen and  
Sandra Lynn Abraham  
Godparent: Anna (Anastasia) Pagonakis-Zigouris

**Chrismations**
Jorge Brignoni (March 27)  
son of Don Bartolome Brignoni Santoni and  
Dona Mara Gomez  
Sponsor: Dr. John G. Demakis

Petros Abraha (April 24)  
son of Abraha Gillamichael and Genet Tsehaye  
Sponsor: Eleni Boosalis

**Congratulations!**

**Funerals**
Constantine Giannoukos (March 21)  
Kaneli Papagiannopoulou (March 23,  
Niata, Laconia, Greece)  
Mary D. Capsalis (April 9)  
Alice Sabbagh (April 9)  
Constantin Zikas (April 14,  
Saint George, Media, PA)  
Peter A. Kapsidelis (April 15,  
Saint George, Bethesda, MD)

May their memory be eternal.

**AHEPA 2016 GREEK CUISINE RAFFLE**
The prize drawing for AHEPA #238’s 2016 Greek Cuisine Raffle will be held on AHEPA Sunday, May 15—only two weeks away. The number of participating DC Metropolitan Area restaurants serving the finest in both Greek and American cuisine has been expanded so that the total of redeemable gift certificates is now valued at $1,500. This year we will have 3 raffle winners ($500 each).

Tickets are being sold following the liturgy every Sunday up through AHEPA Sunday, May 15 at the incredible price of only $20 each or 6 for $100. With the purchase of a raffle ticket, you will also receive a redeemable coupon entitling you to a one-time discount of 20 percent on the total food purchase at Nostos Restaurant, located at Tysons Corner.

All proceeds from this raffle are used to support AHEPA charities, both locally and throughout the world. These include Saint Katherine 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. All of this is in addition to AHEPA #438’s tradition of supporting Saint Katherine in its fundraising efforts.

Please help us in our support of charitable endeavors on behalf of Hellenic communities worldwide by your purchase of these restaurant raffle tickets. In addition to ticket availability following the Sunday liturgies, you may contacting Alan White at winsomealan@aol.com or 703-888-7666.

Fr. Costa will meet with GMU Orthodox Christian students and staff in room 239H of the Johnson Center at GMU on Tuesday, May 10, 11:00pm–1:00pm. Please stop by. He’d love to see you before the semester ends.

**SAINT KATHERINE LIVE!**
Did you know that we have a live feed from our church? Relatives and friends from far away can watch a sacrament. If you are sick and cannot make it to a service, you can still participate. Sign in to the church website, saint-katherines.org, and click on the red “Saint Katherine Live!” button in the right-hand column.

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

Joanna Bose

THE HILLWOOD ESTATE MUSEUM

HAVING NEVER MANAGED TO VISIT one of the most beautiful estates in the area, it was awe-inspiring to come up the hill and see the blooming azaleas and flowering trees on a bright spring day. This mansion boasts some very ornate gardens, a Russian-style dacha, Japanese gardens, and rose gardens all carefully planned to complement the mansion.

I was initially curious to see the work of Russian artist Konstantin Makovsky, who was called “The Tsar’s Painter.” In his painting titled A Boyar Wedding Feast, we see a tableau vivant or life scene from an era of Russian history that was really magnificent for its splendor and opulence. This scene would be dated around the 1660s.

Painted in 1883, and enormous in size, it depicts the marriage of two boyar families, the ruling nobility which was prominent and powerful up until the time of Peter the Great, who was crowned in 1682. Peter wanted to modernize the boyars and imposed a “beard tax” of 100 rubles on those who insisted on having long beards! He also wanted to encourage the nobility to dress in modern European style, but given the elegance of the woven silks and elaborate head-dresses, their resistance to change was understandable.

Makovsky paints a beautiful scene where the bride and groom are being encouraged to kiss so as to dispel the bitterness of the wine that’s being enjoyed. As painter to the Tsar, he was also serving as historian to a nostalgic time in the late 1800s when Russians were looking back at their glorious past. This scene is absolutely entrancing.

The other Russian treasures at the museum that are amazing are the icons, religious artifacts, and two beautiful Fabergé eggs. The icons are particularly engrossing as they show the same kind of sensibility in reproduction of a holy figure as our own Greek icons, but often with a slight difference. The faces of the Blessed Panagia and those of our Lord Jesus are often, in my view, softer and less rigid than in some of our iconography.

I have only focused on things Russian; the museum showcases French porcelain, tapestries, and many more beautiful objets d’art. At this time of year, it’s a wonderful place to explore.

Thank you to the parents and children who attended the Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day at Capitol Hill on April 13 organized by AHI. “On the 195th anniversary of Greece’s Independence, we celebrate the friendship between our countries and honor the contributions that the Greek Americans have made to our national character,” said Mr. Obama as he proclaimed Greek Independence Day a National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy.

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

Please renew your stewardship for 2016 before 2016-2017 registration begins.

(Continued from page 5, column 1)

world? Most likely not. The committed antagonist will continue in his willful dismissiveness and ignorance. But if you want a book on Orthodoxy to give to an inquisitive “spiritual” friend or a questioning college student, Re-Introducing Christianity will do very, very nicely.

Dr. Amir Azarvan is an Assistant Professor of political science at Georgia Gwinnett College. His primary research interests focus on human rights and religion, notably the intersection between political science and Eastern Christian theology.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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| **1 HOLY PASCHA**  
11:00am Agape Service  
Easter Egg Hunt | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | | 5pm Conversational Grk  
6:00pm Grk Folk Dance  
6:30pm Adult Beg. Greek  
7:30pm Missions | 8:00pm HEC Basketball | 6:30pm GOYA B-Ball  
7:00pm Adult Int. Greek | 5:00pm Greek School  
5:00pm Adult Conversational Greek | 9:30am Greek School  
GOYA Basketball Tournament |
| 8 Sunday of Thomas  
Mother’s Day  
9:00am Orthros and Catechetical School  
10:00am Divine Liturgy  
12:00pm Single Parents Youth Church Duty Sunday  
GOYA B-Ball Tourney | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| | 6:30pm DOP  
8:00pm YAL Deuteri Deutera | 11:00am GMU OCF in Room 239H of the Johnson Center  
5pm Conversational Grk  
6:00pm Grk Folk Dance  
6:30pm Adult Beg. Greek  
8:00pm AHEPA Ellinomathia Exams | Ellinomathia Exams | 6:30pm GOYA B-Ball  
7:00pm Adult Int. Greek | 5:00pm Greek School  
5:00pm Adult Conversational Greek | 9:30am Greek School  
SS. C&H, Annapolis Basketball Tournament through Sunday |
| 15 Sunday of the Myrrhbearers  
AHEPA Sunday  
9:00am Orthros and Catechetical School  
10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Mother’s Day Continental Breakfast  
SS Teachers’ EOY Lunch  
6pm Adult Greek Dance | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| | | 5pm Conversational Grk  
6:00pm Grk Folk Dance  
6:30pm Adult Beg. Greek | 7:30pm Parish Council  
8:00pm HEC Basketball | 7:00pm Adult Int. Greek | 5:00pm Greek School  
5:00pm Adult Conversational Greek | Saints Constantine and Helen  
9:30am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy  
9:30am Greek School |
| 22 Sunday of the Paralytic  
9:00am Orthros and Catechetical School  
10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Catechetical (Sunday) School Commencement  
12:00pm Philoptochos  
6pm Adult Greek Dance | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | | 5pm Conversational Grk  
6:00pm Grk Folk Dance  
6:30pm Adult Beg. Greek | 8:00pm HEC Basketball | 7:00pm Adult Int. Greek | 5:00pm Greek School  
5:00pm Adult Conversational Greek | |
| 29 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman  
9:00am Orthros  
10:00am Divine Liturgy | 30 | 31 | June 1 | June 2 | | |
| | Memorial Day (Office Closed)  
10:00am Trisagion Prayers at Nat’l Memorial Park | 5pm Conversational Grk  
6:00pm Grk Folk Dance  
6:30pm Adult Beg. Greek | | 7:00pm Adult Int. Greek | |

Please check the online calendar, [http://saint-katherines.org/calendar](http://saint-katherines.org/calendar), for the most current information.
PHILOPTOCHOS
Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen! I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter holiday. Thanks to all the ladies for a successful bake sale. Your hard work certainly paid off and I am grateful for your hard work and dedication. Many thanks to Mary Varlas for her tireless efforts to sell our pastries via email-orders. A special thank you to Strati Varlas for his tireless help during the bake sale. We could not have done it without him!

I am excited to continue working with all of you again as we prepare for our Spring Festival. Everyone is welcome. This is a great opportunity for all of us to get to know each other better, so please join us!

The Ladies of Philoptochos are hosting a Continental Breakfast on Sunday, May 15 after the Liturgy, in honor of Mother’s Day. Everyone is welcome! (We will celebrate on this day since GOYA will be hosting our Saint Katherine tournament on Sunday, May 8.) We will also host a Father’s Day Continental Breakfast on Sunday, June 19 after the Liturgy. Please join us!

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, May 22, after the Liturgy. I hope to see you there!

We will have our Annual Phoitochoches Luncheon on Saturday, June 11, 1:00pm at Nostos Restaurant (8100 Boone Blvd., Vienna, VA 22182). Tickets are $40 per person, which includes tax and gratuity. Beer and wine may be purchased separately. Reservations and prepayment is required by June 1. Please RSVP to Mary Drakoulis (mary drak3@gmail.com or 703-273-4159).

Thank you to all those who have sent in their stewardships. If you have not yet sent it in, please do so soon.

Happy Mother’s Day!

BOOKSTORE
Please join us on June 5, for a book and author signing featuring Saint Katherine authors, Marilyn Rouvelas and Dr. Joan Markessini. The signing will take place after Liturgy and during the Spring Festival. Marilyn has co-authored St. Anthony the Great, a beautifully illustrated children’s book that tells the story of the father of Christian monasticism, who lived in the Egyptian desert just 250 years after Jesus’ lifetime. Dr. Markessini’s book, Around the World of Orthodox Christianity—Five Hundred Million Strong: The Unifying Aesthetic Beauty, contains awe-inspiring photographs and brief histories of Orthodox churches and monasteries throughout North America, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. Congratulations to Marilyn and Joan for their outstanding accomplishments!

SINGLE PARENT FELLOWSHIP
Single parents will meet on May 8, during coffee hour. Please join us as we gather in fellowship to share ideas, resources, and your thoughts as single Orthodox Christian parents. Please contact Angela Kallas-Miller (agapiang@gmail.com) for more information.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE (by Karen Polizos, President)
Our next Monthly Chapter Meeting will be held on Monday evening, May 9, at 6:30pm in the board room. This is our last meeting of the business year and we will be voting for the Helle Chapter Board of Officers for the 2016-2017 year. All Sisters are encouraged to attend. We welcome Victoria Cherpes into Helle Chapter! If you would like to learn more about the Daughters of Penelope and Helle Chapter, please contact Rosalie Georgeadis at 703-532-1723 or Karen Polizos at 571-434-7790. We welcome new members!

Our Healthy Heart, Healthy Lifestyles event held on April 10 was a wonderful success. Thanks to everyone who attended, asked great questions of Dr. Berger, and to AHEPA Peter Derzis Chapter for partnering with us to bring this educational opportunity to our community.

Helle Chapter will continue to collect crib sheets/cot sheets for infant cribs and toddler cots used in the Head Start/Early Head Start programs in Fairfax County through the month of May. Please bring your donations to our May meeting, or drop off at the church office to the attention of Daughters of Penelope. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Checks should be made payable to DOP Helle 283 and mailed to Karen Polizos, 903 Holly Creek Drive, Great Falls, VA 22066. Our other Lenten projects included serving at the Bailey’s Crossroads Shelter on April 12 and supporting Saint Katherine’s Saturday of Lazarus project. We also look forward to presenting Helle Chapter’s Hellenism Award to two graduating students of the Saint Katherine Greek School at their graduation ceremony.

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY
On behalf of the Chairman of Kairos of Northern Virginia, great appreciation is given to the Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church community for their baking of 275 dozen cookies for the Sussex and Greensville Prisons. The cookies are an integral part of the overall program in that it not only serves to attract participants but it also keeps them in the program to completion.

The most recent program, K-60 Greensville took place Thursday, April 14-Sunday, April 17. Forty offenders completed the program. The offenders’ educational backgrounds included one individual who had a PhD, to others who were illiterate. There have been Atheists, Buddhists, Wiccans, Muslims, and Jewish participants who attend these programs. The common thread amongst all these individuals is their desire to make a change in their lives. Most see the love and forgiveness God provides as their best avenue to obtain a fresh start.

I would like to especially thank the whole John Ziu family for all their hard work and dedication! They have helped the program immensely.
**OCCM Fundraising Dinner, May 15.** Our annual OCMC fundraising dinner will take place on May 15 at Saints Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church in Potomac, MD. The main speaker will be Fr. John Chakos, our missionary priest in Guatemala. His topic this year will be *Guatemala Mission Faces East: The Next Step in Conversion.* The Orthodox Church is growing rapidly in Guatemala. New churches are being built and a major new Orthodox medical center is almost complete. Several Orthodox health care teams have been sent there by the OCMC. Come and hear the amazing things going on in Guatemala. Fr. Chakos was a long-time Greek Orthodox priest in Pittsburgh. The evening will begin with Pan-Orthodox Vespers at 4:30pm, hors d’oeuvres and silent auction at 5:15pm, and the mission dinner and Missionary presentation at 6:00pm. All proceeds benefit the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). Tickets: $55.00 for adults; $30 under 22; and children under 6, FREE. Get a table for 10 for $500! The reservation deadline is May 12. For more information, please contact Dr. John Demakis (demakis9931@gmail.com) or Betty Slanta (slanta@verizon.net). Please make checks payable to Saints Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church in Potomac, MD 20854. Write Mission Banquet, Attn: B. Slanta on the envelope.

**OCMC Board Meeting, May 9-11.** Dr. John Demakis and Betty Slanta will represent our parish and our Missions and Outreach Committee at OCMC’s semi-annual board meeting, May 9-11 in Saint Augustine, FL. They will give a full report in the next DOXA.

**Project Mexico, July 14-20.** Led by Bill and Eleni Porter, eight members from Saint Katherine will leave on July 13 and serve at Project Mexico from July 14-20. Our team will include several teenagers. They will join other Orthodox Christians from around the United States to assist in building homes for needy families. What a wonderful way to teach our children the importance of helping those less fortunate. We are pleased to report that our Archdiocese’s Leadership 100 has agreed to provide $980 in scholarship to our Saint Katherine team. Thank you! The team, however, is still in need of funds. Please consider supporting them. Please make your checks payable, and mail, to Saint Katherine (write Project Mexico on the memo line).

**Monumental Mission Walk, October 15.** Our fourth annual Monumental Mission Walk is set for Saturday, October 15, starting at 9:00am. We received the permit from the National Park Service to have our tent near the eastern end of the Mall by the American Indian Museum. Our walk will feature monuments at this end of the National Mall. Proceeds will be split with OCMC and local charities. More details to follow. Save the date!

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**Guatemalan Orphan, Carlos Manuel.** We are still raising money to support our adopted orphan Carlos Manuel at the Hogar Orphanage in Guatemala. Our cost per year is $3,650.00. If you wish to help us sponsor Carlos, please send your donation to the church office. Make the checks payable to Saint Katherine and write “Guatemala/Carlos Manuel” in the left memo line.

**Recent Food Pantry Collection.** We are pleased to report that, on April 10, we collected 1,262 pounds of food for our nearby Food Pantry located in the nearby Columbia Baptist Church. The pantry is supported by many other faith-based organizations in the area. Thanks for everyone who brought food to the church. A big thanks to Marilyn and Rebecca Rouvelas who organized a team to transport the food to the shelter and helped store it on the shelves. Our next Food Pantry collection will be on October 16.

**Recent Lenten Retreat with Bishop Neofitos.** We were blessed to have Bishop Neofitos with us from March 16-20. He participated in the Salutations to the Holy Theotokos on Friday, March 18 and spoke briefly at our mission lecture immediately following. On Saturday, March 19, he led our Lenten Retreat with the topic of *Experiencing Christ in Prayer and Fasting.* On Sunday, he officiated at the Divine Liturgy. We were all blessed by his presence. He is the first bishop for the new diocese of Nyeri and North Kenya which lies in the mountains north of Nairobi. His Diocese includes 48 churches and 43 clergy. None of his churches have a finished floor. In future issues, we will report on specific needs of his diocese. His Grace asked Saint Katherine to send a mission team to his diocese in next year (2017). We are actively exploring this wonderful invitation. More to follow in another issue of DOXA.

Below are two “pearls” from His Grace’s presentation:

+ The goal for fasting and prayer is to crucify the desires of the sinful nature and to be controlled by the spirit of God. We should let it humble us before the spirit of God.

+ Fasting and prayer bring us in the presence of God and strengthen us. The Kingdom of God opens us to ourselves.

**Clothing and Toiletries.** We continue to collect new or clean used clothes and unopened toiletries for the shelter year round. Please be generous. We take donations to the shelter every Sunday. The shelter notified us recently that they have many other needs such as cleaning supplies, kitchen supplies, bed sheets and blankets, etc. These are all used as they find apartments for the homeless. Please see the full list at www.nvfs.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=393678. If you wish to donate any of these items, please take them directly to the Bailey’s Crossroads Homeless Shelter at 3526 Moncure Avenue, Falls Church.

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**NEXT MISSIONS MEETING: May 3, 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend!**
May Church Duty Roster

**May 1, 2016**
- Maria Vargas, Captain
- Rosemary Filou
- Bill Polizos

11:00am
- Other Parish Council Members

**May 8, 2016**
- Peter Karounos, Captain
- Bill Polizos
- Maria Wills

9:00am
- Youth Church Duty Day
  - (Alex Cameron, Captain, plus GOYA and Sunday School volunteers)

**May 15, 2016**
- Mary Varlas, Captain
- Chris Euripides
- Costas Mavromatakis
- Mallamo Mavromatakis

9:00am
- Dr. Jerry Rich
- Maria Vargas
- Maria Wills

**May 22, 2016**
- Chris Euripides, Captain
- Peter Karounos
- Dr. Jerry Rich
- Jim Stoucker

9:00am
- Maria Vargas
- Mary Varlas
- Maria Wills

**May 29, 2016**
- Jim Stoucker, Captain
- Chris Euripides
- Rosemary Filou
- Peter Karounos

9:00am
- Nick Larigakis
- Costas Mavromatakis
- Mallamo Mavromatakis

You Can Only Have One Mother

Patient kind and true;  
No other friend in all the world,  
Will be the same to you.  
When other friends forsake you,  
To mother you will return,  
For all her loving kindness,  
She asks nothing in return.  
As we look upon her picture,  
Sweet memories we recall,  
Of a face so full of sunshine,  
And a smile for one and all.  
Sweet Jesus, take this message,  
To our dear mother up above;  
Tell her how we miss her,  
And give her all our love.

- Irish Funeral Prayer -

Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church offers a grief support group, GRACE (Grief Recovery: Accepting, Coping, and Evolving). For further information, please call Fr. Costa Pavlakos at 703-671-1515. Thank you to Maria Papageorgiou for contributing articles nearly every month for the last 11 years.

The Ladies Philoptochos invites you to join us for a Continental Breakfast in honor of Mother’s Day

Sunday, May 15th after Liturgy
We will celebrate on this day since GOYA will be hosting our Saint Katherine’s tournament on Sunday, May 8th.

In honor of Father’s Day please join us for a Continental Breakfast

Sunday, June 19th after Liturgy

Memorial Day

In Memory

Trisagion Prayers at National Memorial Cemetery
7482 Lee Highway
Falls Church, VA 22042

Monday, May 30
10:00am
in the Greek Section
Shown below is a list of families and individuals who participated in the 2016 Saint Katherine Stewardship Program through March 31, 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.

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

(Continued on page 15)
CHURCH ETIQUETTE

THERE ARE MANY CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS, which are an important part of our worship. Some are cultural and some are pious customs. Please read below for some helpful information.

**Lighting Candles.** Lighting candles is an important part of Orthodox worship. We light them as we pray, making an offering to accompany our prayer. The Orthodox typically light candles when coming into the church.

**The Importance of Punctuality.** The time to arrive in church is before the service starts. If you arrive after the Divine Liturgy begins, observe what is happening and then enter quietly. If the Epistle or Gospel is being read, or the Small or Great Entrance is taking place, wait until it is finished and then quickly find a seat. Try not to interrupt the Liturgy by your entrance. The best way to avoid this situation is to arrive on time.

**“Let Us Attend.”** In Orthodox cultures, crossing one’s legs is taboo and considered very disrespectful. In our North American culture, we tend to cross our legs to get comfortable when sitting. Crossing one’s legs in church is not permitted, not because it is “wrong,” but rather because it is too casual and relaxed for being in church. Remember, sitting in church is a concession, not the normative way of prayer. You surely do not want to get too relaxed and let your minds drift. In fact, when you do sit in church, you should sit attentively. Keep feet on the floor, ready to stand at attention, which is what “let us attend” means.

**Excessive Cosmetics.** Women who wear lipstick to church should blot their lips well before venerating an icon, receiving Holy Communion, or kissing the Cross or a priest’s or bishop’s hand.

**Communicate with God Only during Church Services.** Wait until coffee hour to greet friends and family. It is not appropriate to greet people and have conversations during the services. Talk to God while in church through your prayers, hymns, and thanksgiving. He is waiting to hear from you.

**Leaving before Dismissal.** Leaving church before dismissal deprives us of a blessing. Worship has a beginning, “Blessed is the Kingdom…” and an end, “Let us depart in peace. Leaving immediately after Holy Communion treats the church like a restaurant where we come and go as we please.

**Venerating Icons.** When you enter the church, it is traditional to venerate the icons. Usually, there are icons at the entrance to the church and many churches have icon stands in the front as well. When venerating (kissing) the icon, please be aware that it is improper to kiss an icon on the face.

**Handling the Holy Bread (Antidoron).** After receiving Holy Communion and at the end of the Divine Liturgy, it is customary to receive a piece of holy bread (antidoron)—blessed, but not consecrated, bread. While antidoron is not Holy Communion, it is blessed and, as such, should be eaten carefully so that crumbs do not fall. Both adults and children should always remember to treat and consume the antidoron with respect. (Do you know that “antidoron” means “instead of the Gift”? That is, instead of the gift of Holy Communion.)

**Use Good Judgment for Your Attire.** When attending church services, there are those who feel that God will accept us regardless of our attire. Yes, God does accept us as we are, but what are we doing to prepare ourselves for Him? This is the reason we must take proper care in choosing what to wear to church. We need not be dressed “fancy” to impress others, however, we need to be dressed “respectfully” to present ourselves to God. Preferably, women should wear dresses and men should wear suits or semi-formal attire during the summer season.

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CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

Arabic: Al-Masih-Qam! Hakkan Qam!
French: Le Christ est ressuscité! Vraiment Il est ressuscité!
German: Christus ist auferstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!
Italian: Cristo è risorto! È veramente risorto!
Greek: Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!
Nigerian: Jesu Kristi Ebiliwo! Ezia o Bilwo!
Russian: Khristos Voskrese! Voistimu Voskrese!
Spanish: Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad ha resucitado!
Swahali: Kristo Amefufukka! Kweli Ajukkide!
SAINT KATHERINE VACATION BIBLE CAMP
Sponsored by AHEPA Chapter #438
June 27-July 1 | 10:30am-2:00pm
Ages 4-14

Visit http://saint-katherines.org/assets/files/Flyers/VBC2016.pdf for a brochure and registration form

Vicki Mowery (703-913-3178 or mowerycrew@gmail.com)
Eleni Porter (703-913-9629 or beporter1@verizon.net)
ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
Please expedite. Dated material.

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

PJ Skidoos
The American Way

P.J. Skidoos opened in 1978 and is a Greek family owned “American restaurant” in Fairfax City. We are located west of St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church on Rt. 50.
www.pjskidoos.com
9908 Fairfax Blvd Fairfax, VA 22030 (703)591-4515

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

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