“IF YOU’RE SUFFERING, you must have done something bad. God must be punishing you.” That must be one of the oldest lies in history. These lies can be traced back to one of the oldest and most misunderstood stories in the Bible—the story of Job. As I’m sure you know, Job was a man who lost everything. The Book of Job is not mainly about his loss, but how he tried to process his loss with the help of three religious friends.

Much of what Job’s friends told him is exactly what we hear today. While Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar did not condemn God, they did accuse and condemn Job. They were wrong to do so, as it was not God’s or Job’s fault that the terrible events had taken place. Let’s not forget that none of these men had a revelation of the Devil.

“How convenient to blame the Devil,” you may say. “Surely God could have stopped Satan. Surely God set up Job by boasting about him.” Actually neither is true. Satan came gunning for him. “And the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?’” (Job 1:8).

Satan had set his heart against Job. “So why didn’t God stop the Devil?” Good question. We might also ask, “Why doesn’t God stop earthquakes or famines or wars?” The answer is that not everything that happens is God’s responsibility. He left the planet in Adam’s control and Adam handed it to the Devil. Satan went for Job because he could. When God said, “Behold, all the he has is in your power” (Job 1:12) and “Behold, he is in your power” (Job 2:6), He wasn’t handing Job over to Satan—God doesn’t make deals with the Devil! He was simply stating a fact. “The whole world is in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19).

God does not give and take away. The only thing He’ll take away from you is your sin, shame, and sickness. Don’t ever compare yourself to Job! Jesus didn’t die on the cross to give you Job’s life, but His life. It is Christ who lives in you, not Job. God does not inflict death and sickness on us to teach us things. God is more than capable of disciplining (i.e., training) us through His Word (2 Timothy 3:16).

Only a man ignorant of Jesus and His work on the cross would say that God punishes us for our sin. Eliphaz was such a man. God said of him, “You have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.” Anyone who says your hardships are God’s punishments is, like Eliphaz, not speaking of God rightly.

Later, Eliphaz suggested that Job would receive the blessings of God if he was worthy of them. Indeed, Job began to think exactly this way. “Look at all I’ve done.” This is equally absurd. God is not beholden to any of us. God blesses us in accordance with the riches of His grace, not the merits of our performance.

Why is Job’s story in the Bible? It is not there so we can look to him as a role model (we have Jesus!), but so that we might learn from his example. Those who don’t learn by example tend to learn by experience and experience is a harsh teacher. For those of you who would rather not learn the hard way, here’s the lesson: It is always Satan’s intention to harm us; it is always God’s intention to bless us. When you confuse the (Continued on page 7)
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Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey
Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
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703-671-1515 phone
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Greek Dance (Byzantio) Aris and Anna Yortzidis, Instructors 757-218-6991 greekdancecd@gmail.com
Greek School Auxiliary TBD
Paideia Mary Liakos mddliakos@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
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FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

I HOPE EVERYONE had a well-rested summer and an opportunity to take time off with family and friends.

Our Treasurer, George Moratis, has prepared a mid-year financial report for this DOXA edition (see page 4 for the full report). Through the Grace of God, the support of our parishioners, and the internal financial controls we have recently implemented, our financial position is strong. To further secure our financial position, we are actively seeking to refinance our current loan for a longer term and lower interest rates.

Our strong year to date performance enables us to support our day-to-day ordinary expenses, but it is not enough to address several critical needs of our church, namely:

1) Repayment of the $1.95M loan.
2) Preventing water damage to our icons in the dome.
3) Repaving of our parking lot, and
4) Completion of the iconography around the choir loft.

This month, we are formally launching our Capital Campaign. We will do so on strong footing thanks to the initial pledges of a core group of donors. Over a three-year period, the Capital Campaign will raise the funds for the four main goals outlined above and other needs of our parish.

The Capital Campaign's success will require each of us to contribute a sum in addition to our stewardship commitment. “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). After each Sunday Divine Liturgy, we will have a Capital Campaign table to discuss and share program details and answer questions.

Here is why the Capital Campaign is needed:

1) Existing stewardship alone only covers 40% of the overall church’s costs and expenses. 2) Two festivals and hall rentals cover the remaining 60% of our expenses.
3) The revenue primarily goes to support day-to-day expenses, resulting in an inability to address significant maintenance of our facilities.

On my family’s trip to Greece this summer, we had the opportunity to visit the island of Aegina and the church of Saint Nektarios. Upon entering the large church, we saw scaffolding in the middle of the church. Maintenance work was underway. As I stood there, I understood that the maintenance was not only for the parishioners there, but the visitors as well.

Like the church in Aegina, Saint Katherine serves both our parishioners and many visitors. The maintenance and beautification of our church is both for us and our visitors, who may be in our church for the first time. “So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:19-22).

If we are successful in our Capital Campaign, our church will be financially strong, our facilities will be properly maintained, and the beautification will be complete, which will benefit us, our children and their children, all to the glory of God.

Your servant in Christ,
Ray Vasquez
President, Parish Council

FALL FESTIVAL 2019
OCTOBER 4-6 | 11am-9pm
Live Music by Golden Flame

We need volunteers for the festival! We are using SignUp.com to organize volunteers for our upcoming Fall Festival, October 4-6.

Here’s how it works in 3 easy steps:

1) Click https://signup.com/go/HqZxrRC to see our SignUp. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
2) Sign up! It’s easy—you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address when signing up, please contact Ray Vazquez at rayvazquez1@aol.com or 703-728-7091 and he can sign you up manually.
SAINT KATHERINE FINANCIAL REPORT

The following are key financial details of our Parish and the Hellenic Education Center as of June 30, 2019.

PARISH (six months ended June 30):
- Since January 1, 2019 we have retired debt of $45,388 including extra principal of $10,100;
- Bank balances as of June 30, 2019 totaled $436,000 including $274,000 in the operations account;
- Stewardship/Candle/Tray collections are greater by 3% thus far compared to 2018;
- Spring Festival net profit (income less expense) was $105,000 in 2019 and $58,100 in 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish - (January 1 - June 30)</th>
<th>Actual Unaudited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship/Candles and Trays</td>
<td>$ 403,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental Revenue</td>
<td>92,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising Events</td>
<td>121,755</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>41,236</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>658,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expense</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Ministries</td>
<td>61,317</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clergy/Staff Costs</td>
<td>243,633</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
<td>170,977</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>55,497</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mortgage Interest Expense</td>
<td>37,349</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td>568,773</td>
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<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td>$ 89,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Balances at 12/31/18 &amp; 6/30/19</strong></td>
<td>$ 221,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BB&amp;T Loan (Debt) at 12/31/18 &amp; 6/30/19</strong></td>
<td>$ 1,999,156</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HELENISTIC EDUCATION CENTER (twelve months ended June 30):
- Paideia and Greek School ended the year with 45 and 121 students, respectively;
- Tuition income increased in both schools and overall 15% compared to FY 2018;
- Net income increased to $138,000 in FY 2019 with ending cash balance of $214,053.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hellenic Education Center</th>
<th>Actual Unaudited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 1 - June 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paideia Tuitions</td>
<td>$ 416,051</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greek School</td>
<td>103,102</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>19,550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>22,382</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>561,085</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expense</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll - Paideia</td>
<td>370,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll - Greek School</td>
<td>125,118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll Taxes</td>
<td>37,908</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Operating Expenses</td>
<td>47,330</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td>581,165</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td>$ (20,080)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Balances at June 30, 18/19</strong></td>
<td>$ 32,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prepaid Tuition at June 30, 18/19</strong></td>
<td>$ 30,098</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We appreciate everyone's generosity and support of our church and Her missions.

Respectfully submitted by George Moratis, Treasurer
PAIDEIA PRESCHOOL

PAIDEIA STUDENTS HAD A BLAST over the summer with a lot of fun projects from finger painting to exploring the ocean and the mysteries of the seas to discovering fantastic facts about sea life. Every day was a unique experience. The highlight of each day ranged from playing indoor in the large hall to exercise large muscles and outdoor with bubbles listening to the chirping of the birds.

Thanks to our wonderful staff, the summer program helped our students enrich their vocabulary, understand patterns and motifs, and not only that. Though reading beautiful story books and sharing ideas in circle time prepares them for their next developmental stage, so does the nurturing environment which builds connections with their peers. Such an environment promotes happiness and will sustain them forever.

Special thank you to Fr. Costa for teaching our kids about the liturgy and the liturgical objects used. In this way, he exposed them to the precious teachings of our faith and filled their hearts with the love of Christ. Saint Katherine has been the home for so many children, continuing the tradition of our ancestors since 1969.

Paideia Preschool and Nursery Enrollment. For more information about the Paideia preschool and nursery, their program, enrollment, hours of operation and special rates, please contact the director, Ms. Eleni Alexopoulou, at ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com. To see the grounds and have a tour you will need to make an appointment. You may also visit our Hellenic Education Center website at www.stkhec.org to access the registration and school entry forms (health form).

Greek School Enrollment. Our students are blessed to have such a great program offered in our community. Modern Greek is taught in levels from pre-K to adults. Our experienced and trained staff teach it as a second/foreign language to heritage or non-heritage speakers. A student may choose to stay in the program until he/she reaches the proficiency levels of his/her desire which may lead to certifications. Hellenic Education Center offers Ellinomatheia (e-ll-i-no-ma-thei-a=Learning of Greek) preparation classes A1-C1.

Thanks to excellent preparation and up-to-date linguistic teaching methodologies used in the classroom, our success rate is a 100%. Students with a B1 level certification are eligible for the Seal of Biliteracy in Virginia and Maryland public high schools. This award is acknowledged at graduation and may be added as another accomplishment on college applications and even allows students to test out of language requirement!

Textbooks. Geia Xara Series (Papaloizos) and Klik (Center of Greek Language).

Software. A new software platform (Ellinopoula) will be used this year as a pilot program.

Tuition. A new online system is in place in order to make payments easier. The greater benefit of it is the flexibility to track it yourself and update it as needed.

Classes begin September 6 and 7 for the pre-k to C1. Adult classes will begin September 10 and 12. For more information on the registration form or other information, you may visit our website at www.stkhec.org or, alternatively, you may contact the director at ealexopoulou@stkchurch.com for an appointment. New students are welcome! A child doesn’t need to speak Greek to join the program.

We look forward to a very productive and fun school year!
Kenya Update by Mary VanMullekom. Consecration! As Orthodox Christians, all of us have heard the word “consecration” and most of us are familiar with the definition of the word: the act of making or declaring something, typically a church, SACRED! However, it is safe to say that not all Orthodox Christians have had the privilege and distinct honor of taking part in the actual consecration of a church. That is mostly a true statement, but not true and an honor of taking part in the actual consecration of a church. This monument shall remain a testament of God’s love, transcending distance, cultural, and language barriers! A place of worship of the faithful and a true miracle! A monument to God’s everlasting presence among us and a labor of love transcending distance, cultural, and language barriers! This monument shall remain a testament of God’s love, providence and His abundant Blessings to our parish and to our distant Kenyan brothers and sisters.

Fr. Costas and two of your fellow parishioners (Effie Wingate and me) travelled to Kenya to witness this wondrous consecration, but they were not alone in their mission. The prayers and well wishes of each one of you, the parishioners of our beloved Saint Katherine, travelled with us to Saint Katherine in Kaluli, Meru, Kenya. Each one of you was there with us through your generous donations, your support, your love, and your prayers. YOUR generosity made the completion of this church possible and each of you witnessed the blessed event of the consecration. Each one of you lit the blessed candle that will remain lit on the Holy Altar of Saint Katherine in Kaluli. Each one of you interacted with the people and received the blessings and prayers of a grateful and thankful congregation and a most grateful and humble Bishop Neophytos performing his very first consecration since his appointment as the Bishop of Nyeri and Mt. Kenya.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I would be remiss if I did not share with you a small excerpt from the Bishop’s speech following the consecration. As you read his words, you will no doubt feel his abundant love and gratitude for our Saint Katherine community here in Falls Church, Virginia. Further, I am sure you will feel that you were there with us taking part in the consecration of this Holy Church that you helped build:

“...I cannot forever forget to thank Rev. Father Constantine Pavlakos, Mary VanMullekom, Effie Wingate and of course all our amazing brothers and sisters of Saint Katherine Orthodox Church in Virginia, United States of America, for their sacrificial love and financial support toward the construction of this holy church. Your generous donations toward the construction of this church and more so, your presence here today during the consecration of this holy church is a testimony of your love for us and your mission to spread the Gospel of Christ in the whole world. This is exactly an expression in action of that oneness, that unity of ecclesia when we say: our Church is One, Holy Catholic, and Apostolic. Let me tell you from the bottom of my heart that through your support, the gospel of Christ has been written and preached in this tiny village in Kenya in the County of Meru. Through your generous support many people both Orthodox and non-Orthodox cannot avoid seeing and marveling at what the Lord has done. Through your support many souls have been touched by seeing the house of the Lord rising up in this valley. This church has changed not only the hearts and minds of the people living in this Country but the entire lives of the people living here because of the presence of this holy building. From this day onwards, this church becomes the candle, light of the village that cannot be hidden. This gospel, or rather this church is a testimony in herself that she will manifest the glory of God to the people living here unto the ages of ages... Amen.”

Alaska Mission Trip by Betty and John Slanta. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5) was the theme for Mission Team Yukon Wilderness Camp. We were part of an Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) youth teaching, held July 21-31, serving the youth of Pilot Station, Marshall, and Mountain Village in southwestern Alaska, along the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. We camped on the Atchuelinguk River, Yupik for “clear water.” (The Orthodox Church credits Saint Yakov, born on Atka Island of a Russian father and native mother, for sailing up the Yukon River bringing natives into the Orthodox Christian faith.)

Our mission team of six supported clergy and villagers at the Saints Yakov and Vladimir Summer Camp, always held to coincide with the feast days of St. Yakov (St. Jacob Netsvetov) (July 26) and St. Vladimir (July 28).

Our mission team members ranged in age from 25 to 77; we served 64 youth at the camp, discussed drug dependence, the Jesus Prayer, made prayer bracelets, learned about monasticism, wrote in prayer journals, learned about Saints Yakov and Vladimir, made stained glass crosses from paper and crayon shavings, held daily prayers, Vespers, and Liturgy. During camp, Fr. Maxim Isaac of Marshall gave a talk on drug and alcohol prevention, on our guardian angel, and vestments and clergy vesting prayers prior to liturgy.

The Pilot Station church is named Holy Transfiguration, so we did a lesson of the Feast of the Transfiguration and sang the Troparion of the Feast Day, which is celebrated August 19 on the Julian calendar. We ate Alaskan ice cream (akutaq), moose, beaver, goose, tundra tea, and salmon.

Team members participated in a Yupik dance and after-
LUCIFER, MAN OF THE WORLD. I found this passage in a book I call "Job 2.0." I agree with her assessment.

Under 13 Basketball and Soccer Clinics. If you are interested in basketball and/or soccer clinics, please contact James Kontzamanys (jkontzaman@aol.com) for basketball and Harry Karageorge (hkarageorge@verizon.net) for soccer. The schedule is Thursdays 6:45pm-8:00pm: Sept. 12 (basketball), Sept. 19 (soccer), and Sept. 26 (basketball).

(Continued from page 1)
REGISTRY

**Baptisms**

Alexander (June 30)  
son of Jason and Pauline Ruck  
Godparent: Steve Parasidis

Nicolas (June 6)  
son of George Daoud and Veronica Ahmad  
Godparent: Annamaria Kendrat

Riley Lucas (July 13)  
son of Sean and Colleen Meehan  
Godparent: Lauren Wichser

Congratulations!

**Funerals**

Alexis Koussoglou (June 22),  
Ioannina, Greece

Konstantina Kapetanakis (June 25)

Anastasios (Tasie) Anton (July 2)

Vasiliki White (July 8)  
Athens, Greece

Paul Elias Tompros (July 26)

Michael Zuppas (August 13)

May their memory be eternal.

**Weddings**

Tricia B. Lauchengco  
and  
Konstantinos D. Tzaferis (July 6)  
Koumbaros: Thomas Veltsistas

Alison Madeline Stein  
and  
Dimitrios Nikolas Wiener (July 7)  
Koumbara: Maria C. Wiener

Eleftheria Vassilia Papadopoulos  
and  
Matthew Gerald Constable (July 13)  
Koumaroi: Sophia Petrou and Isaac Ballinger

Jacqueline Ly  
and  
Dean Jack Phass III (August 17)  
Koumbara: Alexandra Mandarino

Sue-Ann Beiruty  
and  
Jano R. Carlson (August 20)  
Koumbara: Sandy Beiruty

Congratulations!

(Continued from page 6)

wards, team members sang a “Memory eternal” in both Slavonic and English in memory of villagers who died recently.

**OCMC 2019 Benefit Dinner Final Report.** Our books are closed on the 2019 OCMC benefit dinner. We raised $24,100 for the OCMC. This is the largest amount we have ever accomplished. Let’s do better next year! The date for our next OCMC Benefit dinner is Sunday, May 3, 2020. Mark your calendars!!

**Cooking for the Homeless Shelter.** We usually serve dinner at the shelter on the third Tuesday of each month. For those interested in participating, email Dr. John Demakis at demakis9931@gmail.com.

**Hygiene and Survival Kits.** Letters have been sent to each church organization asking them to contribute specific items to the kits. The kits are used during the winter months when the shelter cannot house everyone who comes in. They are given a hygiene and survival kit and sent to a local auditorium for the night. The items for the survival kits are due Sunday, November 17.

**Special Needs of the Homeless Shelter.** There is a great need for completely black pants (slacks or chinos) for both men and women. Also, the shelter is very low on full-size toiletries. For Welcome Home Baskets, they like to be able to give full-size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and body wash. If people are looking to really maximize the impact of their donation, it is easy enough to buy a few of the 3-in-1 bottles. Please bring these to our community center’s foyer on Sundays.

**Clothes for Area Shelters.** Please bring new or clean used clothes the second Sunday of each month and they will be taken to a shelter. Please leave clothes in the foyer of the community center.
<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><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ecclesiastical New Year</strong>&lt;br&gt;9:00am Orthros&lt;br&gt;10:00am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;12:00pm Book Club</td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Labor Day</strong> (Office Closed)</td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>37</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nativity of the Theotokos</strong>&lt;br&gt;9:00am Orthros&lt;br&gt;10:00am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;12:00pm DOP&lt;br&gt;5:30pm Adlt Greek Dance</td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>6:00pm GOYA Girls’ Basketball Practice&lt;br&gt;7:30pm Deuteri Deutera&lt;br&gt;7:30pm Sons’ Basketball&lt;br&gt;8:00pm YAL Basketball</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>5pm Youth Conv. Greek&lt;br&gt;5pm Adult Beg. I Greek&lt;br&gt;7pm Adult Beg. II Greek&lt;br&gt;6:30pm Yth Greek Dance&lt;br&gt;7:30pm Missions&lt;br&gt;8:00pm AHEPA</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunday after Holy Cross</strong>&lt;br&gt;8:00am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;9:30am Orthros and Catechetical Schools&lt;br&gt;10:30am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;12:30pm Philoptochos&lt;br&gt;5:30pm Adlt Greek Dance</td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>6:00pm GOYA Girls’ Basketball Practice&lt;br&gt;7:30pm Sons’ Basketball&lt;br&gt;8:00pm YAL Basketball</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sophia and Her Three Daughters&lt;br&gt;9:30am Orthros&lt;br&gt;10:30am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;5pm Youth Conv. Greek&lt;br&gt;5pm Adult Beg. I Greek&lt;br&gt;7pm Adult Beg. II Greek&lt;br&gt;6:30pm Yth Greek Dance</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td><strong>1st Sunday of Luke</strong>&lt;br&gt;8:00am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;9:30am Orthros and Catechetical Schools&lt;br&gt;10:30am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;5:30pm Adlt Greek Dance</td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
<td><strong>6:00pm GOYA Girls’ Basketball Practice&lt;br&gt;7:30pm Sons’ Basketball&lt;br&gt;8:00pm YAL Basketball</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td><strong>5pm Youth Conv. Greek&lt;br&gt;5pm Adult Beg. I Greek&lt;br&gt;7pm Adult Beg. II Greek&lt;br&gt;6:30pm Yth Greek Dance&lt;br&gt;7:00pm Parish Council</strong></td>
<td><strong>25</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>29</strong></td>
<td><strong>2nd Sunday of Luke</strong>&lt;br&gt;8:00am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;9:30am Orthros and Catechetical Schools&lt;br&gt;10:30am Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;5:30pm Adlt Greek Dance</td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>6:00pm GOYA Girls’ Basketball Practice&lt;br&gt;7:30pm Sons’ Basketball&lt;br&gt;8:00pm YAL Basketball</strong></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
<td><strong>6:00pm GOYA Girls’ Basketball Practice&lt;br&gt;7:30pm Sons’ Basketball&lt;br&gt;8:00pm YAL Basketball</strong></td>
<td><strong>October 4</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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*Please check the online calendar, [http://saint-katherines.org/calendar](http://saint-katherines.org/calendar), for the most current information.*
PHILOPTOCHOS by Mary K. Varlas

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR. I am looking forward to continuing with Ladies the great work we have dedicated ourselves to and plan on growing via new initiatives throughout the coming year. Our newly elected board members are Patty Karounos, Tina Papamichael, Elvira Garnett, Lisa Christacos, Linda Moratis, Niki Tsakonas Bouloukos, Daphne Papamichael, Demetra Vroustouris, Tori DeSatnick Carr, Anastasia Kanakos Katsakos, Sophia Varlas Bohle, Paulette Hatfield, Eugenia Vroustouris, Linda Jouvanis, Margaret Schwarz, and Eleni Kanakos (Advisor), are ready to welcome everyone into this wonderful organization and to faithfully serve within our community.

There are many philanthropic endeavors in which we participate, not only within our own community, but through our New Jersey Metropolis and our National Ladies Philoptochos. “Rise Against Hunger” is the latest philanthropic initiative adopted by numerous metropolises in the United States. We are one of those and plan on hosting the event on Sunday, January 12, 2020 after church service. Currently, we have committed to creating 10,000 meals for global distribution. Our goal through our church community donations and volunteerism is 25,000 meals to be packed by as many volunteers as possible that day. More information will be available to you starting Sunday, September 8 at our Philoptochos table during Coffee Hour. This is an opportunity for everyone to make a difference in the lives of many!

The Saint Katherine Ladies Philoptochos is fully vested in our community and to growing the stewardship of our chapter. Ladies of all ages, please join us! We are currently 184 members strong. This is a drop in the bucket considering the size of our community. Let’s continue to increase our presence within this community and beyond. Everyone is welcome! Philanthropy is a lifetime commitment and has no age limit. It is a way of life. It is what our Lord and Savior wishes for all his children to express to one another continuously. Therefore, we hope that any woman aged 18+ will become a steward of this most prodigious organization. All new stewards may submit the suggested $50 stewardship by mailing their check to Saint Katherine Ladies Philoptochos, 3149 Glen Carlyn Road, Falls Church, VA 22041. You may also mail your renewal in at this time. Please remember that the stewardship is an annual membership effective from January through December annually. Also, you may stop by our Philoptochos table during Coffee Hour with your Ladies Philoptochos Stewardship.

ST. GENEVIEVE ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB

SAINT GENEVIEVE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB is currently reading Wounded By Love: The Life and Wisdom of Saint Porphyrios. We hope you can join us on Sunday, September 1 following Divine Liturgy. If you would like to be included on our mailing list or for more information, contact victoriacherpes@gmail.com.

DAUGHTERS OF PENEOPE by Maria T. Vargas

DEAR SISTERS AND FRIENDS, we hope everyone had a wonderful summer! Helle Chapter looks forward to 2019-2020. We have a very exciting year planned!

Our first meeting is September 8, right after church. Please plan to be there; we will go over the calendar for the year, talk about planned events and new priorities, AND we will sip mimosas and eat brunch (provided by your Chapter board) while we do it! It will be a great way to kick off the year.

A few other important Fall dates and activities:

• We are beginning our coat drive now. This annual event, done jointly with the Philoptochos, will deliver new coats to children and families in our region by November 1. Daphne Papamichael is chairing this year’s coat drive. Please be on the lookout for an email with the sign-up for sizes and styles needed; we will be collecting coats at church (during the week and on Sundays) in September and October.

• We will sell herbs at the festival in October. We would also like to raffle off a few other items. If you have something to donate, please let Rosalie Georgeadis (rgorgeadis@hotmail.com) know. If you can help with this fundraiser at the festival, there will be a sign up at our September meeting or contact Barbara Koltos (bklt@aol.com).

• We will initiate new members into our chapter at our meeting on October 13. If you know of someone who would like to join, please contact Rosalie.

On behalf of your new slate of officers, we are excited for 2020! Many thanks to Barbara Koltos, our outgoing President, for her leadership.

Look forward to seeing everyone September 8!

AHEPA CORNER by George Vassilopoulos

DEAR BROTHERS OF AHEPA CHAPTER 438, Telling you that accepting the Presidency of the Chapter 348 Peter N. Derzis is a humbling experience would be an understatement. However, it is very comforting to know that we have a group of very capable officers to assist me in this difficult task.

The support of the Chapter’s Officers and the Board of Governors, however, is not enough. What is more important is the Brothers’ support and commitment in meeting our community endeavors. In the near future we will detail our Chapter’s established goals. In order to meet them and succeed, your contribution, your hard work, and your dedication is of paramount importance.

The Chapter cannot function without your active and participating involvement in our many planned events. To

(Continued on page 13, column 1)
ALL AROUND THE TOWN

by Joanna Bose

VLADIMIR THE GREAT

A COMMEMORATION OF THE FALL OF CONSTANTINOPLE in 1453 was held at Saint Sophia on May 11 this year. Included in the program were readings of historical events, as well as a variety of musical offerings, as guest chanters joined the Saint Sophia Choir directed by master chanter George Theodoridis, along with the very special Pharos Ensemble. The event was called “Polis, the City”.

Starting with Byzantine liturgical music, secular music of Byzantium and then traditional post-Byzantine songs of Asia Minor, the program also paid homage to the catastrophes of Smyrna and Pontos. Each song—and the choice of songs was a feat of creative genius—expressed the profound sadness of enormous loss. What Constantinople stood for and symbolized was the seat of Orthodoxy, the Byzantine Empire in essence, but also the cultural repository of what had been developed through centuries. So different kinds of music had emerged.

As one listened, one could experience both the καημό (sorrow) the lyrics expressed coupled with a lively beat or dance-like rhythm that offset the sorrow. Perhaps it was precisely this ability to hold both sorrow and delight in one’s mind simultaneously that helped foster a resilience and determination in those who survived, building up the will to persist and prevail.

What rang out as the pure sound of this idea was the voice of Erini Tornesaki. Her voice has a clarity and quality to it that has to be heard live. Such a voice elicits a spontaneous and unrestrained emotion. I believe her voice brought down the cathedral that night. It was that brilliant.

Pharos Ensemble has four excellent musicians: a laouto-player, vocalist, percussion, and qanun (a stringed instrument like a harp, played horizontally.) Two guest musicians rounded out the incredible and unbelievably emotional musical experience-playing cello and a Pontian lyra.

Here is one song arranged by George Theodoridis and sung together with Ms. Tornesaki which links the far-reaching influence of Constantinople as The City.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE IS TAKEN

Woe to us, alas to us, the Turks have taken the City.
They took the throne of the King and the Ruler changed.
The churches sing dirges, the monasteries cry and St. John Chrysostom Cries and is lashed.
Do not cry, do not cry, O my St. John And be not lashed.
The Roman Empire has passed. The Roman Empire is taken.
The Roman Empire may have passed, yet flourishes and bears more.

It was Vladimir the Great, the grand Prince and ruler of Kievan Rus, who decided in the year 988 that he wanted to abolish all forms of pagan worship and unite his people under a new faith. He sent emissaries west and east. Those who went to Constantinople came back telling of not knowing whether they were in Heaven or on earth. They had visited Hagia Sophia.

Prince Vladimir set to work to build his own Santa Sophia in Kiev. In the dome in Kiev’s Saint Sophia, we see Christ Pantocrator surrounded by Archangels, his hand lifted in blessing. Mosaics and beautiful icons like the icon Our Lady of Vladimir painted by iconographers from Constantinople, established the Orthodox faith very firmly in Russia. And so it came that the Russians went on to adopt the Orthodox faith, constructing their own incredible cathedrals and churches, and developing beautiful iconography.
BOOKSTORE
Prayer ropes have been used since the early days of the Church. We learn from the writings of our Church Fathers and Mothers that the faithful began gathering small pebbles or seeds and moving them from one spot or container to another as they said their prayers or did their prostrations. The story is told of a monk who decided to make knots in a rope, which he could use in carrying out his daily rule of prayer. But the devil kept untying the knots he made in the rope, frustrating the poor monk’s efforts. Then an angel appeared and taught the monk a special kind of knot that consists of ties of interlocked crosses, and these knots the devil was unable to unravel.

The bookstore carries prayer ropes in a variety of forms and sizes. Our most popular are ropes with 33 knots of black silk, black symbolizing repentance. We also have in stock prayer ropes comprised of wooden beads or hematite stones. Available also are ropes made of beads from the dried flower of a plant called Tears of the Mother of God. We are sure to have one that fits your prayer preferences.

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FAITH
A Journey Through the Orthodox Faith Guided by the Words of the Bible
This Year’s Topic: The Gospel of Luke

Using colorful PowerPoint® slide presentations, we will discuss how Scripture informs our Orthodox faith and traditions. All are welcome!

Saint Luke is the writer of both the Gospel that bears his name and the Acts of the Apostles. This means that he is the author of over a quarter of the text of the New Testament. He tells the Gospel story of the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, and, in Acts, he describes the earliest developments and growth of the Church. In addition, he was a fellow missionary with St. Paul, spreading Christianity throughout the Roman empire. Tradition also proclaims that Luke was the first iconographer. His Gospel is a defense of faith, proclaiming the universal message that Jesus Christ is the culmination of salvation history. Join us as we explore how Luke’s Gospel compares with the other Gospels and writings of the New Testament, what it tells us about Jesus, how he was understood in the first century, as well as what this story means for us today for our faith and life.

Classes are held every Sunday at 9:30am, beginning on September 22, and are held in Board Room of the Hellenic Education Center. Please contact call Bill Polizos at 571-434-7790 or polizos@att.com with any questions.

TWO UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUNG ADULTS
Oct. 4-6, Atlanta, Conference for Orthodox Young Professionals ages 21-39 looking for ways to connect more deeply with their faith and fellow Orthodox Christians. Visit https://www.connectororthodox.org for more info.

Nov. 1-2, Bethesda, DOXACON Faith and Fandom Conference. The keynote speaker is Steven Christoforou and Fr. Andrew Damick will also be speaking. Visit www.doxacon.org for more information.

CONGRATS!
Senior, Georgia Katsapis (right) and sophomore, Eleni Katsapis (left), daughters of Efthymios and Christine Katsapis, were on the Varsity Softball team with Bishop O’Connell High School. The Bishop O’Connell team won the Virginia State Championship this year in late May. Congratulations! Georgia and Eleni also played travel softball with the Arlington Sage.
repeat, we need you to donate a small fraction of time to support the Chapter’s aspirations. Keep in mind that no matter how hard the Officers of the Chapter work they cannot and should not be doing it by themselves. Brothers, if you do not participate, no matter what is accomplished they cannot and should not be doing it by themselves. Brothers, if you do not participate, no matter what is accomplished they cannot and should not be doing it by themselves. Brothers, if you do not participate, no matter what is accomplished they cannot and should not be doing it by themselves. Brothers, if you do not participate, no matter what is accomplished they cannot and should not be doing it by themselves. Brothers, if you do not participate, no matter what is accomplished they cannot and should not be doing it by themselves. Brothers, if you do not participate, no matter what is accomplished they cannot and should not be doing it by themselves. Brothers, if you do not participate, no matter what is accomplished they cannot and should not be doing it by themselves. Brothers, if you do not participate, no matter what is accomplished they cannot and should not be doing it by themselves. Brothers, if you do not participate, no matter what is accomplished they cannot and should not be doing it by themselves. Brothers, if you do not participate, no matter what is accomplished they cannot and should not be doing it by themselves. Brothers, if you do not participate, no matter what is accomplished they cannot and should not be doing it by themselves.
Stewards of the Faith: All Things are Possible to the One Who Believes in Christ

Stewardship is a major source of our Saint Katherine revenue. Stewardship contributions pay for the maintenance of our buildings and grounds, salaries for our priest and staff, office supplies and technology that allow us to communicate with our parishioners, contributions to our Archdiocese that support the resources available to us and other Orthodox churches, our budgets for religious education, youth and other ministries of our vibrant community. It is not too late to pledge for 2019 if you have not yet done so. Stewardship pledge cards are available in the narthex. Thank you to those who continue to fulfill their 2019 pledges.

~ Andrea Ballard (andreaballard1@verizon.net)

JOIN US FOR OUR PARISH RETREAT
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
9:30am-3:00pm

Theme: God and Lucifer Battle Again!
Speaker: Del Staecker, Orthodox Writer

Location: Chelpon Hall
Time: 9:30am - 3:00pm
Registration Fee: $20.00

Lunch | Breakout Sessions
Copy of Job 2.0 God and Lucifer Battle Again for a Single Soul

RSVP: frcostas@stkchurch.com
CATECHETICAL (SUNDAY) SCHOOL
THE FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL is September 15. We will start with prayer at 9:15am in the Meletis Charuhas Hall and classes will begin at 9:30am. Complete the registration form in the next column and submit it to the Church Office or at the Sunday School registration table in the foyer of the hall on September 1 or 8. Registration forms will also be available at that table on those days.

GOYA
WELCOME BACK! We hope you all had a great summer. The 2019-2020 GOYA officers are President Iliana Tzafolias, 1st VP Anna Moratis, 2nd VP Stratis Bohle, Recording Secretary Peter Stathis, Corresponding Secretary Kate Cherpes, Treasurer Maria Karageorge, Historians Maria Papas and Mia Tzafolias, Social Coordinator Evi Euripides, Asst. Social Coordinator Yianni Koukides, and Sgt. at Arms Stephano Stathis! Upcoming events: September 8 GOYA meeting, September 14 Saint Demetrios “Shake it Up Tournament”, and November 2-3 Saint Katherine Tournament. For information regarding GOYA, email SaintKatherineGOYA@aol.com.

BYZANTIO GREEK DANCE
SAINT KATHERINE OFFERS GREEK FOLK DANCE LESSONS through the Byzantio Greek Dance and Cultural Arts Program. Lessons for Grades K-12 are offered on Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm-7:30pm, starting September 10. Lessons for adults are held on Sundays 5:30pm-7:30pm. Please contact Aris and Anna at greekdancedc@gmail.com or 757-218-6991, or visit www.byzantio.org for more information including practice dates, times, and registration forms.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP
SAINT KATHERINE VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2019 was a lot of fun! Our children spent a week together learning all about the Theotokos. Every day brought our campers closer together in their faith and in friendships. We also learned about our Orthodox Traditions. We baked Prosphora which we offered for the Liturgy of the Transfiguration. We made Koliva and held a Memorial Service for our departed family members and, finally, we baked Artoklasia. We hope your kids will join us for next year’s Vacation Bible Camp!

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION
2019-2020 School Year
Student Name ____________________________
Birth Date ________________________________
Baptismal Name __________________________
Name (feast) day __________________________
Did student attend Sunday School last year? _____
If so, what grade? ______
Name(s) of Parents __________________________
Student’s Home Address ____________________
Email (parent) ____________________________
Email (student) ____________________________
Home Phone ______________________________
Cell Phone (parent) ________________________
If not available in an emergency contact (cell number and relationship) ________________________
Cell Phone (student) _______________________
Email (parent) ____________________________
Email (student) ____________________________
Allergies or Other Medical Concerns: ________________
I can volunteer for the following activities (please circle 2).
Christmas Pageant (December 15)
Godparent Sunday (February 2)
Oratorical Festival (date TBD)
Saturday of Lazarus (April 11)
Commencement (May 17)
Vacation Bible Camp (June 22-26)
ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
Please expedite. Dated material.