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Message from Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos

OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW

As the year 2009, came to a close we now welcome the year 2010. Let us look back in time and remember the positive things that happened during that year. It was not very exciting nor was it productive. Our Economy did not produce what the government expected. There are millions of people that are jobless and there are millions of people still homeless. And now with the earthquake that tragically killed thousands of people on the Island of Haiti, how can we rebound from disasters like these.

Have you ever heard this phrase: OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW.....If you were to read this phrase, what would be your interpretation. I read in a financial magazine this quote,

“What we consider old and outdated may actually be our most prized possessions.”

I also remember the simple words from a classic children’s song to “Make new friends but keep the old”, or this quote, “Fashions fade, but style is eternal.” What do we really understand about these phrases and quotes. What are they trying to tell us.

There is a reason why I mentioned “Out with the Old and In with the New” because that is what we do, we throw things away that seem old fashion to us. But, if we take it for what it’s worth, should we discard Old Tradition to find out that the New Traditions give no meaning or definition. This is why I chose this topic because it relates to all of us, some in a negative way, and some in a positive way. I’m sure you have heard people say, “Because this is old we need to throw it away.” Or I have no use for this old thing any more it just takes up space. Not everything Old needs to be thrown away or discarded. In this article I will show you many things that are Old but yet still interesting. There is some truth that when something gets to be old fashion we tend to misunderstand its value. If we take the ‘BIBLE’ (Old and New Testament) should we throw it away because it is too old. The Statue of Liberty which stands in the New York Harbor as our symbol of freedom, should we destroy it because it is too old. The world’s History is old so should we do away with this rich history and start new because it is too old.

In the name of Modernism, should we throw out the Nicene Creed, the Ecumenical Councils and their rules and Cannons. Should we do away with our Sacraments, our Divine Liturgy, for the sake

of modernism. Within the space of a generation, Apostasy will have replaced the beauty and truths of our Church. We need to Wake Up, and smell the fresh aroma of the burning incense.

Are we ashamed of the old truths, our traditions and customs. What has happened to our sense of pride, our understanding, and commitment to God and the Church. We don’t need to throw out or disregard everything that’s old, all we need to do is come back to the Church and renew our lives in Christ. In our generation, we always think that something new will always attract the mind and soul. There is truth to that but something new doesn’t always bring us greatness, sometimes it brings us negative results. That’s why I mentioned above about having a balance in our lives. To keep the things that are old and to integrate the things that are new.

What we truly need to do is to respect, honor, and admire what our Ancestors went through in their life’s journey that brought this world to what it stands for today. But, in the meantime we should also re-evaluate our old self. There is a passage in the Bible that reads: “So get rid of your old self” Ephesians 4:22-24, and you are probably wondering why would the Bible write such a blunt command. Why do we need to do that to get rid of our Old self. Interesting words, defined it means to take away something that brings to you destruction.

There is truth to those words, but what we really need is to balance the Old with the New. The key ‘word’ to our spiritual fulfillment is ‘Balance’. Once we make this change to find the right balance in our life, we have to put God as the center of our focus, our center of attention at all times. We need to understand that we are supposed to live a life that is Holy, putting God first even before our family. That is why God created us, to Worship Him, to Love Him, and to Glorify Him. When we have accomplished this task, then life just seems to make more sense. We will begin to see life from a new perspective and with a new meaning. So now, we see the difference between Old and New. What we need to understand is that in today’s society we are too busy thinking of ourselves, and forgetting about others.

We are taught from childhood to look out for ourselves, ME, ME, ME. We are constantly bom-

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KOINONIA

ΟΙ ΕΠΤΑ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ

**ΠΡΩΤΗ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ—
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΙΑΣ (Ιω. 1:43-52)**

Την Κυριακή αυτή εορτάζουμε την αναστήλωση των Αγίων Εικόνων στην Εκκλησία, σύμφωνα με την απόφαση της Εβδόμης Οικουμενικής Συνόδου (787). Η Εκκλησία απεφάσισε όπως η εορτή αυτή εορτάζεται την πρώτη Κυριακή της Σαρακοστής, ως Κυριακή της Ορθοδοξίας, αρχίζοντας από τις 11 Μαρτίου του 843. Την Κυριακή αυτή κάθε χρόνο εορτάζεται ο θρίαμβος της Ορθόδοξης πίστης με τελετή. Η Εικόνα του Χριστού, σύμφωνα με τον Άγιο Ιωάννη της Δαμασκού, είναι η ευκρινής βεβαίωση και η υπενθύμιση του γεγονότος της Ενσάρκωσης, που έχει ζωτική σημασία για την σωτηρία των πιστών, μια βεβαιότητα που επικρατεί μέχρι σήμερα στην Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία. Η εορτή της ημέρας συμπεριλαμβάνει την περιφορά της Εικόνας του Χριστού μέσα στον Ιερό Ναό με μεγαλοπρέπεια και σοβαρότητα. Η Κυριακή της Ορθοδοξίας καλεί τους πιστούς να επαναφοσιωθούν στην βαθεία σημασία της πίστης τους και να φωνάζουν ομόφωνα «Είς Κύριος, μια πίστη, εν βάπτισμα, ένας Θεός και Πατέρας όλων μας».

**ΔΕΥΤΕΡΗ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ—
ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΛΑΜΑ (Μάρζου 2:1-12)**

Την Κυριακή αυτή εορτάζουμε τη ζωή του Αγίου Γρηγορίου του Παλαμά (14ος αιώνας). Η Εκκλησία έχει καθιερώσει αυτή τη Κυριακή στον Άγιο Γρηγόριο για την Ορθόδοξη πίστη του, τις θεολογικές του γνώσεις, την ενάρετη ζωή του, τα θαύματα και τις προσπάθειές του να διευκρινίσει τα ορθόδοξα διδάγματα όσον αφορά το θέμα του Ησυχασμού. Ησυχασμός ήταν ένα σύστημα μυστηριισμού που διαδόθηκε στο Όρος Άθως από τους Μοναχούς του 14ου αιώνα, οι οποίοι πίστευαν ότι ο άνθρωπος ήταν ικανός, με πολύ ασκητισμό και πρακτική βασιμμένη στην απόλυτη ησυχία σώματος και ψυχής, να φθάσουν στο όραμα του Αγίου Φωτός, με την πραγματική διάκριση ουσίας και έργων του Θεού. Ο Άγιος Γρηγόριος

διεκρίθη για τις προσπάθειές του να ερμηνεύσει την διαφορά μεταξύ του σωστού διδάγματος και αυτής της θεωρίας. Ο Γρηγόριος αφοσιώθηκε στην ασκητική ζωή, στην προσευχή και στην νηστεία, που ανήκουν στην Σαρακοστή.

**ΤΡΙΤΗ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ—ΤΗΣ
ΣΤΑΥΡΟΠΡΟΣΚΥΝΗΣΕΩΣ (Μάρζου 8:34-38; 9:1).**

Την Κυριακή αυτή εορτάζεται ο σεβάσμιος Σταυρός και η Σταύρωση του Ιησού Χριστού. Ο Σταυρός αυτός καθ' αυτός παίρνει νόημα και σεβασμό εξ αιτίας της Σταυρώσεως του Χριστού πάνω σ' αυτόν. Ως εκ τούτου, είτε αναφέρεται σε ύμνους ή προσευχές ο Σταυρός χωρίς τον Χριστό, δεν θα είχε σημασία ούτε θέση στην Χριστιανοσύνη. Το Προσκύνημα του Σταυρού στο μέσον της Σαρακοστής σκοπό έχει να υπενθυμίσει στους πιστούς την Σταύρωση του Χριστού. Έτσι, τα εδάφια του Ευαγγελίου και οι ύμνοι αναφέρονται στα Πάθη, και τα δεινά που υπέφερε ο Ιησούς Χριστός. Τα εδάφια που διαβάζονται αυτήν την ημέρα επαναλαμβάνουν την πρόσκληση του Χριστού στο Χριστιανό να αφιερώσει τη ζωή του, λέγοντας «εάν κάποιος με ακολουθήσει, πρέπει να αρνηθεί την ύπαρξή του, να σηκώσει το σταυρό του και να με ακολουθήσει (Χριστός)» (34-35).

1. Να απαρνηθεί την υπεροψία του και την ανυπακοή του στα σχέδια του Θεού.
2. Να σηκώσει τον προσωπικό του σταυρό (τα βάσανα της ζωής) με υπομονή, πίστη και να δεχθεί το θέλημα του Θεού χωρίς παράπονο ότι το φορτίο είναι πολύ βαρύ, έχοντας λοιπόν απαρνηθεί τον εαυτό του και σηκώνοντας τον σταυρό του οδηγείται στην απόφαση να ακολουθήσει το Χριστό.

Αυτά τα τρία εθελοντικά βήματα είναι η σύνδεση που δεν μπορεί να αποσπαστεί το ένα από το άλλο, διότι η βασική δύναμη για να την επίτευξη τους είναι η Χάρη του Θεού, την οποία ο άνθρωπος πάντα επικαλείται. Το Προσκύνημα του Σταυρού

Συνέχεια στην σελίδα 3

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ΟΙ ΕΠΤΑ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ

εκφράζεται από τους πιστούς με προσευχή, νηστεία, ελεημοσύνη και συγχώρηση των αμαρτιών των άλλων. Την Κυριακή αυτή το Προσκήνιο του Σταυρού εορτάζεται με ειδική τελετή μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία κατά την οποία η σημασία του Σταυρού μας οδηγεί στην Ανάσταση του Χριστού.

ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ— ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΚΛΙΜΑΚΟΣ (Μάρκου 9:17-31).

Αυτή την Κυριακή εορτάζεται ο Άγιος Ιωάννης της Κλίμακος (6ος αιώνας) που είναι ο συγγραφέας της Κλίμακος του Παραδείσου. Το βιβλίο αυτό περιέχει 30 κεφάλαια, και κάθε κεφάλαιο είναι ένα σκαλοπάτι παραπάνω που οδηγεί στη πιστή και ευσεβή ζωή της κλίμακας της Χριστιανικής ζωής. Το πνεύμα μετανοίας και αφοσίωσης στο Χριστό κυριαρχεί στην κεντρική ιδέα του βιβλίου, μαζί με τις μοναχικές αξίες και τανάπαλι. Σαν μοναχός στο Μοναστήρι του Σινά ήταν ασκητής και συγγραφέας της πνευματικής ζωής. Τα βήματα αυτά της κλίμακας όπως παρατίθενται από τον Άγιο Ιωάννη σκοπό έχουν να εξασκούνται ειδικά από τον Χριστιανό κατά την διάρκεια της περιόδου της Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής. Κάθε σκαλοπάτι που οδηγεί στην κορυφή της σκάλας, και είναι η άκρη της αληθινής έννοιας της Χριστιανικής ζωής.

ΠΕΜΠΤΗ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΜΑΡΙΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΙΓΥΠΤΙΑΣ (Μάρκου 10:32-45)

Την Κυριακή αυτή αναπολούμε την ζωή της Αγίας Μαρίας της Αιγυπτίας, η οποία είναι το λαμπρό παράδειγμα μετανοίας της από την αμαρτία, που κατόρθωσε με προσευχή και νηστεία. Έζησε μια ζωή αμαρτωλή για πολλά χρόνια, αλλά προσυλιτίστηκε στην Χριστιανική ζωή. Πήγε στην έρημο να ζήσει ασκητική ζωή για πολλά χρόνια, με προσευχή, νηστεία και μετάνοια για την προηγουμένη αμαρτωλή της ζωή, και εκεί πέθανε. Η ζωή της Αγίας Μαρίας εξηγεί παραδειγματικά την πεποίθησή της για το Χριστό, που της έδωσε το κίνητρο να αλλάξει την ζωή της με την μετάνοια από αμαρτωλή σε αγία. Η αντίληψή της όσον αφορά την μετάνοια δεν περιελάμβανε την αλλαγή μικροπραγμάτων στη ζωή της, αλλά μια ρυζική αλλαγή ολοκλήρου του χαρακτήρα της και της σκέψης της. Η Εκκλησία τιμά την μνήμη της Αγίας Μαρίας διότι παραδέχθηκε τις αμαρτίες της, και την χρησιμοποιεί ως παράδειγμα για το πως κάποιος μπορεί να ελευθερωθεί από την σκλαβιά και το βάρος των αμαρτιών του. Αυτή η αναγνώριση της αμαρτίας είναι πολύ σημαντική κατά την περίοδο της Σαρακοστής για τον πιστό, διότι είναι το μέσον αυτοελέγχου και της προετοιμασίας για μια καλλίτερη και ενάρετη ζωή εν αναμονή της Σταυρώσεως και Αναστάσεως του Χριστού.

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΒΑΙΩΝ (ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ 12:12-18)

Την Κυριακή αυτή εορτάζεται η θριαμβευτική είσοδος του Ιησού Χριστού στην Ιερουσαλήμ. Οι κάτοικοι της Ιερουσαλήμ υποδέχθηκαν τον Χριστό ως βασιλέα, και ως εκ τούτου, πήραν κλαδιά δάφνης και Τον υποδέχθηκαν, στρώνοντας τις δάφνες στο πέρασμά Του. Οι άνθρωποι ενθουσιασμένοι ζητωκραύαζαν την προφητεία του Ζαχαρία «Ωσαννά» Ευλογημένος είναι εκείνος που επικαλείται το όνομα του Κυρίου, ακόμη και ο Βασιλεύς του Ισραήλ.». (ν.13; Ζαχ. 9:9). Η εορτή του Εβραϊκού Πάσχα έφερε μεγάλο πλήθος εβραίων και προσυλιτισμένων εβραίων στην Ιερουσαλήμ. Είχαν ακούσει για τα θαύματα και το λόγο του Χριστού, ειδικότερα για την ανάσταση του Λαζάρου. Όλα τα γεγονότα που είχαν σχέση με το Χριστό αντανάκλασαν τότε, στον ερχομό του Μεσσία. Τούτο εξόργισε τους αρχιερείς και τους φαρισαίους. Ως συνήθως ο Χριστός πήγε στο Τέμπλο να προσευχηθεί και να διδάξει. Το ίδιο απόγευμα ο Χριστός ανεχώρησε για τη Μπέθαν. Το έθιμο να μοιράζει η Εκκλησία δάφνες την Κυριακή των Βαΐων προέρχεται από την πράξη του κόσμου που έστρωνε δάφνες για να περάσει ο Χριστός, και ακόμη συμβολίζει για τους Χριστιανούς την νίκη του Χριστού κατά των δυνάμεων του σατανά και του θανάτου.

ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΑ

Στην περίοδο της Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής περιλαμβάνονται και οι ημέρες της Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας. Είναι ο καιρός που οι Χριστιανοί αφού έχουν περάσει την Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή με προσευχή και νηστεία πλησιάζουν την εορτή των εορτών, να εορτάσουν τα Πάθη του Χριστού και την Ανάστασή Του. Κατά τη διάρκεια της Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής οι πιστοί ζουν σύμφωνα με τα ιδεώδη και τα πρότυπα αυτής της περιόδου εν όψει του φαιτός του Πάσχα. Για το λόγο αυτό η Υμνολογία όλης της Τεσσαρακοστής, ειδικά της Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας, αναφέρεται στην Ανάσταση του Χριστού σαν βάση της Χριστιανικής Πίστεως. Κάθε ημέρα της Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας είναι αφιερωμένη στα Γεγονότα και τα διδάγματα του Χριστού που έγιναν την τελευταία Του Εβδομάδα επί γης. Οι πιστοί που συμμετέχουν στις Ακολουθίες αυτής της εβδομάδας συναισθάνονται το καθήκον προς τον ίδιο τον εαυτό τους αλλά και προς τους γύρω τους, να προσευχηθούν, να νηστεύουν, να προσφέρουν ελεημοσύνη, συγχώρηση των αμαρτιών των άλλων, με άλλα λόγια συμμετέχοντας αισθάνονται ημέρα με την ημέρα, στο πνεύμα του Ευαγγελίου του Χριστού.

Η ΣΗΜΑΣΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ

Η Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή πριν το Πάσχα είναι ο χρόνος που ο

Συνέχεια στην σελίδα 4

Message from Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos

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barded by television, that we need this or that to make us happy. The concept and the goal of television through its advertisements is to make us forget about the rest of the world and just think about ourselves. How can anyone think only of themselves when we see examples of tragedies, abductions, terrorism, murder, rape, unexplained wars, tsunamis, earthquakes, famines, and other destructive events that happen all around us. How can we be so uncompassionate to these things. I can only think of one person who is behind all of that, and that is Satan. What we need to get ahead in this world is positive direction. But where do we look for that direction? We could only find this guidance and direction by searching and accepting our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

HERE I AM!

**I stand at the door and knock
If anyone hears my voice
and opens the door,
I will come in and eat with him,
and he with me. (Revelations 3:20)**

The word grace means 'undeserved favor'. It means God is offering you something you could never provide for yourself: forgiveness of sins and eternal life. God's gift to you is free. You do not have to work for a gift. All you have to do is joyfully receive it.

Have a blessed Great Lenten Period and may your hearts and souls be filled with health and love.

Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos

**COUNTDOWN TO THE
ST. NICHOLAS GREEK
FOLK FESTIVAL**

JUNE 10,11,12,13, 2010

5 MONTHS

ΟΙ ΕΠΤΑ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ

Συνέχεια από την σελίδα 3

Χριστιανός συμμετέχει ολοκληρωτικά και προετοιμάζεται να δοξάσει και να υμνήσει το Θεό σαν Κύριο και Σωτήρα. Η Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή είναι το «εργαστήριο» που ο χαρακτήρας του πιστού πνευματικά επεξεργάζεται και ενδυναμώνεται, που η ζωή του επαναφοσιώνεται στις αρχές και τα ιδεώδη του Ευαγγελίου, που η πίστη μεσουρανάει στα βάθη της πεποιθήσεως της ζωής, που η απάθεια και αδιαφορία μεταμορφώνονται σε σθεναρές πράξεις πίστης και καλών έργων. Η Τεσσαρακοστή δεν λαμβάνει χώρα για αυτή καθ' αυτή την Τεσσαρακοστή, διότι η νηστεία δεν γίνεται μόνον για να νηστεύουμε. Είναι το μέσο με το οποίο και για το οποίο ο κάθε πιστός προετοιμάζεται να φθάσει στο σημείο να

δεχθεί και να επιτύχει το κάλεσμα του Σωτήρα του. Ως εκ τούτου, η σημασία της Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής τιμάται ιδιαίτερα, όχι μόνον από τους μοναχούς που σταδιακά παρατείνουν τις ημέρες της Τεσσαρακοστής, αλλά επίσης και από τον απλό κόσμο, αν και δεν τηρούν ολόκληρο το χρονικό αυτό διάστημα. Έτσι η Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή είναι το ιερό εκπαιδευτήριο της Εκκλησίας που ο πιστός συμμετέχει ως μέλος του Μυστικού Σώματος του Χριστού, και από καιρού εις καιρό να αναπτύσει τα πρότυπα της πίστης και τις ηθικές αρχές της Χριστιανικής ζωής. Ο απότερος σκοπός του πιστού κατά τη διάρκεια της Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής είναι «ξεχάστε το παρελθόν και εντεινέτε την προσοχή σας στο τι έγκειται μπροστά, δώστε έμφαση στο στόχο της επιβράβευσης του καλέσματος του Θεού και του Ιησού Χριστού», Φιλίππ. 3:13-14.

THE SEVEN SUNDAYS OF GREAT LENT

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT— SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY (John 1:43-53)

This Sunday commemorates the return of the Icons into the churches, according to the decision of the Seventh Ecumenical Synod (787). The Church determined that this celebration would take place each year on the first Sunday of Lent, as Sunday of Orthodoxy, starting March 11, 843. On this Sunday every year, the triumph of the faith of Orthodoxy is celebrated with ceremony. The Icon of Christ, according to St. John Damascus, is a distinct affirmation and a reminder of the fact of His Incarnation, which has a vital significance for the salvation of the faithful, an affirmation that prevails to this day in the Orthodox Church. The celebration of the day includes the procession with the Icon of Christ around the inside of the church with pomp and reverence. The Sunday of Orthodoxy calls upon the people to rededicate themselves to the deep meaning of their faith and to declare in unison, “One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all”.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT— ST. GREGORY PALAMAS (March 2:1-12)

This Sunday commemorates the life of St. Gregory Palamas (14th century). The Church dedicates this Sunday to St. Gregory for his Orthodox faith, theological knowledge, virtuous life, miracles and his efforts to clarify the Orthodox teaching on the subject of Hesychasm (from the Greek, meaning quiet). Hesychasm was a system of mysticism propagated on Mt. Athos by 14th century monks who believed that man was able, through an elaborate system of ascetic practices based upon perfect quiet of body and mind, to arrive at the vision of the divine light, with the real distinction between the essence and the operations of God. Gregory became noted for his efforts to explain the difference between the correct teaching and this theory. Gregory was dedicated to an ascetic life of prayer and fasting, which are practices of Lent.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT— ADORATION OF THE CROSS (Mark 8:34-38; 9:1)

This Sunday commemorates the venerable Cross and the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The Cross as such takes on meaning and adoration because of the Crucifixion of Christ upon it. Therefore, whether it be in hymns or prayers, it is understood that the Cross without Christ has no meaning or place in Christianity. The adoration of the Cross in the middle of Great Lent is to remind the faithful in advance of the Crucifixion of Christ. Therefore, the passages from the Bible and the hymnology refer to the Passions, the sufferings, of Jesus Christ: The passages read this day repeat the calling of the Christian by Christ to dedicate his life, for “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me (Christ)” (v.34-35).

This verse clearly indicates the kind of dedication, which is needed by the Christian in three steps:

1. To renounce his arrogance and disobedience to God's Plan,

2. To lift up his personal cross (the difficulties of life) with patience, faith and the full acceptance of the Will of God without complaint that the burden is too heavy; having denied himself and lifted up his cross leads him to the,

3. Decision to follow Christ

These three voluntary steps are three links, which cannot be separated from each other, because the main power to accomplish them is the Grace of God, which man always invokes. The Adoration of the Cross is expressed by the faithful through prayer, fasting, almsgiving and the forgiveness of the trespasses of others. On this Sunday, the Adoration of the Cross is commemorated with a special service following the Divine Liturgy in which the significance of the Cross is that it leads to the Resurrection of Christ.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT— ST. JOHN OF THE CLIMAX (Mark 9:17-31)

This Sunday commemorates St. John of the Climax (6th century) who is the writer of the book called “The Ladder (climax) of Paradise”. This book contains 30 chapters, with each chapter as a step leading up to a faithful and pious life as the climax of a Christian life. The spirit of repentance and devotion to Christ dominates the essence of this book, along with the monastic virtues and vices. He was an ascetic and writer on the spiritual life as a monk-abbot of Sinai Monastery. These steps of the ladder as set forth by St. John are to be practiced by the Christian especially during this period of the Great Lent. Each step leading to the top step of the ladder is the climactic essence of the true meaning of a Christian life.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT— ST. MARY OF EGYPT (Mark 10: 32-45)

This Sunday commemorates the life of St. Mary of Egypt, who is a shining example of repentance from sin through prayer and fasting. She lived a sinful life for many years, but was converted to a Christian life. She went into the wilderness to live as ascetic life for many years, praying and fasting in repentance of her previous sinful life, and dying there. St. Mary's life exemplifies her conviction about Christ, which motivated the changing of her life from sin to holiness through repentance. Her understanding of repentance involved not a mere change from small things in her life, but an extreme change of entire attitude and thoughts. The Church commemorates St. Mary for her recognition of her own sins as an example of how one can free oneself from the slavery and burden of wrongdoings. This recognition of sin is imperative during Lent for the faithful as a means of self-examination and preparation for a more virtuous life in anticipation of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Christ.

PALM SUNDAY (John 12 12-18)

This Sunday commemorates the triumphant entrance of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. The people of Jerusalem received Christ as a king, and, therefore, took branches of palms and went out to meet Him, laying down the palms in His path. The people cried

THE SEVEN SUNDAYS OF GREAT LENT

Continued from page 4

out the prophecy of Zechariah: "Hossana! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel" (v.13, of Zechariah 9:0). The celebration of the Jewish Passover brought crowds of Jews and converted Jews to Jerusalem. They had heard of the works and words of Christ, especially about the resurrection of Lazarus. All the events related to Christ had a Messianic meaning for the Jews at the time. This vexed the high priests and pharisees. As usual, Christ went to the Temple to pray and teach. That evening Christ departed for Bethany. The tradition of the Church of distributing palms on this Sunday comes from the act of the people in placing the branches of palms in front of Christ, and henceforth symbolizes for the Christian the victory of Christ over evil forces and death.

HOLY WEEK

The period of Great Lent includes the days of Holy Week. This is the time when Christians who went through the whole period of Lent in prayer and fasting approach the Feast of Feasts to celebrate the Passions of Christ and His Resurrection. During the entire Lent, the faithful try to practice and live the ideals and standards of this period in the light of Easter. This is why the Hymnology of the entire period of Lent, especially during Holy Week, refers to the Resurrection of Christ as the center of the Christian Faith. Each day of Holy Week is dedicated to the Events and teachings of Christ during His last week on earth. The faithful who participate in the services of this week are more conscious of their duties to themselves and to their neighbors through fasting, praying, giving alms, forgiving the trespasses of others; in other words, participating day by day, in the spirit of the Gospel of Christ.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GREAT LENT

Great Lent before Easter is when the Christian participates fully in preparing himself to praise and glorify his God as Lord

and Savior. Great Lent is like a "workshop" where the character of the faithful is spiritually uplifted and strengthened; where his life is rededicated to the principles and ideals of the Gospel; where the faith culminates in deep conviction of life; where apathy and disinterest turn into vigorous activities of faith and good works. Lent is not for the sake of Lent itself, as fasting is not for the sake of fasting. But they are means by which and for which the individual believer prepares himself to reach for, accept and attain the calling of his Savior. Therefore, the significance of Great Lent is highly appraised, not only by the monks who gradually increased the length of time of the Lent, but also by the lay people themselves, although they do not observe the full length of time. As such, Great Lent is the sacred Institute of the Church to serve the individual believer in participating as a member of the Mystical Body of Christ, and, from time to time, to improve the standards of faith and morals in his Christian life. The deep intent of the believer during the Great Lent is "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus", Philippians 3:13-14.

DONATIONS FOR LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2010

Once again we are looking for parishioners who want to help by donating any of the items listed below that are needed during Lent, Holy Week and Easter. **Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.**

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR TABLE

1st Sunday of Lent—February 21st & Sunday of Orthodoxy
2nd Sunday of Lent—February 28th
3rd Sunday of Lent—March 7th
4th Sunday of Lent—March 14th
5th Sunday of Lent—March 21st
Palm Sunday—March 28th
Holy Thursday—April 1st
Holy Saturday—April 3rd

WREATHS FOR THE ICON OF THE ANNUNCIATION

1st Salutations—February 19th
2nd Salutations—February 26th
3rd Salutations—March 5th
Adoration of the Holy Cross —
Annunciation Icon—March 25th
4th Salutations—March 12th

WREATHS ARE NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Akathistos Hymn Icon – March 19th
Palm Sunday Icon - March 28th
Palm Sunday Proskinitari
Nymphios Icon –
Holy Thursday Stefania for the top of the Cross
Holy Thursday Stefania for the base of the Cross
Crucifixion Icon
Resurrection/Lavaro
Resurrection Icon

INCENSE FOR LENT AND FOR HOLY WEEK

Saturday of Lazarus Breakfast after Communion.- The Greek School PTA
Easter Egg Hunt for children – The Greek School PTA
Palms and Decorations for Palm Sunday
Holy Wednesday Unction Supplies
Good Friday Sheet
Holy Saturday Laurel & Bay leaves
Iconostasion decorations
Easter Eggs

The list will be available in the church office. Please stop by and talk to Maria Salpeas if you are interested in donating any of the above items.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

16th Annual

LENTEN RETREAT

Sponsored by the

"Growing in Faith" Bible Study

The Greatest Love Story Ever Told:

The Depth of God's Love and Our Response

With retreat master

Rev. Theodore Dorrance

And a special concert by

Eikona

The nationally renowned Orthodox chanting trio

on

Saturday, March 20, 2010

Retreat – 9 am to 3:30 pm (in the church)

Eikona Concert – 4 to 5 pm in the Annunciation

Orthodox Center

\$30 per person for retreat and concert

(Includes continental breakfast and lunch)

Registration deadline is March 10th.

After March 13th, Reg. will be \$35. Concert only, cost is \$15.

For Registration Form and questions contact:

Jeanne Tsakalos at 410-252-6021

Or go to www.goannun.org click on "2010 Retreat"

COMMUNITY NEWS - ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΑ ΝΕΑ

STEWARDSHIP

The Woman Who offered Precious Ointment

There's a principle found throughout the Scriptures concerning giving, it says:

When you give, you gain what you cannot buy with your money.

In Mark 14:3-9, a woman gave Jesus a gift of precious ointment. There were some present who called her gift a "waste". They said the ointment could have been sold and the money given to the poor. Jesus rebuked their hypocrisy, for gifts given from the heart are always accepted by the Lord. This woman gave Jesus something precious, her best gift, the best she could do.

When you give to the church, is your gift merely a token gift or is it, a generous gift, coming from your heart filled with love? Notice what else Jesus said about this woman's gift: "I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her." She couldn't buy that kind of testimony for any amount of money; but giving obtained it for her.

Your giving does not stop when you put a check in your Stewardship envelope. Your giving continues to live on as a testimony to God's presence. Your money is transformed into the service of Orthodoxy on the parish, Archdiocesan, Metropolis and Patriarchal level. You can't put a price on that. You cannot buy an eternal soul, but through giving you can make eternity possible for your soul, your family's and for others. You cannot buy the blessings of God, but through giving you can release God's blessing through the Church.

Today, are you giving in the spirit of the woman who anointed Jesus with the costly ointment? Have you increased your Stewardship Commitment for 2010 over 2009's? If you haven't maybe you should reconsider. Does your giving reflect generosity of spirit, which provides blessings that "money cannot buy"? Is your Stewardship Commitment for 2010 a loving gift, a generous gift, and a gift coming from your heart?

Let's all join hearts and hands today in the Body of Christ and give our best to the work of the Lord for 2010. May the Lord say about you: He has given his best, she has given her best.

From the Stewardship Committee

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

To all church affiliated and non-church affiliated organizations that offer Scholarships. Please submit to Maria - msalpeas@stnicholas.org or to Emily emce3@aol.com the name of your organization, the scholarship name, where they can pick up an application and your deadline. This way high school seniors and undergraduates know what scholarships are available. **The Deadline for submitting this information to be published in the March Koinonia is February 12, 2010.**

To the college bound seniors and undergraduates, here are a few sites that can be accessed to get more information about other Scholarship money that is available. If you will be graduating from a Baltimore City Public High School you can go to: www.collegeboundfoundation.org and click on Last Dollar Grant application. Deadline - March 1, 2010. Here is another agency that offers either grants or interest-free loans to Maryland residents pursuing graduate, undergraduate or vocational studies at accredited institutions in the United States. It is <http://www.centrlsb.org>. They charge NO FEES for any program offered. Another site many students may already know is: www.fastweb.com

Please be careful when you visit sites that offer scholar-

ships and/or grants and they ask you for money or a fee, more than likely they are not legitimate.

CONGRATULATIONS - ELLINAKIA

We would like to congratulate the St. Nicholas Ellinakia Dance Group for taking Second Place in the Primary Group at the Greek Folk Dance Festival competition that took place on January 16, 17 and 18 at Sts. Constantine & Helen in Annapolis.

We are so proud of the Ellinakia dancers for all of their hard work! To the parents, we want to thank all of you for your continued commitment to the group.

After a much needed break, we will resume practice on Monday, February 8th at 6 pm! See all of you then. Check back next month for pictures of our award winning Ellinakia.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Let us not forget that Sunday, February 21st is Sunday of Orthodoxy and the First Sunday of the Great Fast. All of our students will be participating in the procession of Icons in the church at the end of the Divine Liturgy. We ask all the students who have their own personal icon to bring them in so they can proudly share in the public veneration of the holy icons. We should be thankful to the Empress Theodora for her wisdom and faith in restoring the holy icons back in the Church of Christ so people can continue to venerate them to this date. We do not worship the icons as if they were gods, we simply venerate them out of love as images of whom they represent. Thousands of years ago (and even today), people who could not read were drawn to these icons because to them, these images became the bible in picture form.

Once again the Sunday School staff is also preparing for the **Annual Lenten Spaghetti Luncheon on Sunday, February 21st**. This will be held in the Large Hall after church services. The cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for kids 12 and under. We invite all of our families to come and support the only fundraising event that the Sunday School sponsors. Also on Saturday, February 20th, our young students will be participating in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. It will begin at 10:30 am with registration and speeches will start at 11:00 am. Topics have already been distributed to the students. We encourage all students to inspire not only themselves and their peers but their parents/grandparents...and... what they learned from their own grandparents by writing about what they have learned from their parents/grandparents.

JOY NEWS

Happy New Year to everyone from the advisors, parents and children of the St. Nicholas JOY program. Inclement weather forced us to cancel our December meeting but we kicked off 2010 with a fun and educational gathering on January 23rd in the Fellowship Center. Our next meeting is on the calendar for Saturday, February 13th from 12 to 2 pm in the Small Hall.

Parents of children ages 6 to 12 are encouraged to bring their kids for an afternoon of fellowship and fun.

Please call Popi Angelos at 410-971-4857 or e-mail at knangelos@comcast.net with any questions.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Thanks to all who supported our Bull and Oyster Roast at Jimmy's Seafood last month. It also turned out to be a gathering of Raven fans anxious to cheer their team to victory as everyone watched the game. Even though the Ravens lost that night, there were three lucky winners of our Raffle drawing. They were: 1st Prize-Gift Basket - Lillian Eliou;

COMMUNITY NEWS - ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΑ ΝΕΑ

2nd Prize-Gift Basket – Zoe Perdikakis; 3rd Prize-Basket of Cheer – Patty Orfanos. Congratulations to all of them.

This must be a lucky year for Lillian Eliou because she also received the gold cross when she found the coin in her Vasilopita that was distributed to all the parishioners by Philoptochos.

Looking ahead into February:

Wednesday, February 3rd—General Meeting – 7 pm

Saturday, February 13th—AΠΟΚΡΙΑΤΙΚΟ DINNER DANCE. Dinner—7 pm to 8:30 pm, Dance—9 pm to 1 am. Music by Apollonia—Adults \$25—Children under 10—\$5.00—Don't forget your costume!

Monday, February 15th—Kathara Deftera—After the Compline Service, join us in the Large Hall for a Potluck Lenten Dinner—please bring your favorite nistisimo dish.

Wishing everyone Kali Sarakosti.
Zoe Perdikakis, President

P.L.C. News

The next Parish Life Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 4th at 7 pm. All organization representatives are asked to attend whether or not they have submitted their event calendars. Please contact Jimmy Kosmas at jimmydemetrie@verizon.net or Kelly Angelos at knangelos@comcast.net if you have questions. Please remember to have your events on the church calendar, you must be present at these monthly meetings. Thank you.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE.

ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS:

ALL ABOARD TO A TRIP OF A LIFETIME:

We are very pleased to announce, that the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, is planning a trip to the Holy Lands (Jerusalem) sometime this summer. Fr. Michael, has received many calls from parishioners asking questions about the trip. He is very grateful for the interest and enthusiasm that the people have expressed in the last few months. But, in order for this excursion to be successful, we need to do our homework. Fr. Michael, has taken many groups to the Holy Lands throughout his ministry, and he knows through experience that there is a lot of work to be done to prepare for this trip. The first thing that we need to do, is to schedule a meeting date for everyone interested. So the first scheduled meeting will take place at the Church on Friday, February 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. This will give everyone the opportunity to express their thoughts and desires.

If interested, come to the first scheduled meeting.

Hoping to see everyone there.

Respectfully,

Fr. Michael L. Pastrokios, Protospresbyter

ΠΡΟΣΚΗΝΥΜΑ ΣΤΟΥΣ ΑΓΙΟΥΣ ΤΟΠΟΥΣ

Παρακαλώ την προσοχή όλων των ενοριτών μας.

Όλοι μπορείτε να λάβετε μέρος στο Ταξίδι.

Βρισκόμαστε στην ευχάριστη θέση να ανακοινώσουμε ότι η Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Κοινότητα του Αγίου Νικολάου προγραμματίζει ταξίδι για τους Αγίους Τόπους (Ιεροσόλημα) για το καλοκαίρι. Πολλοί έχουν τηλεφωνήσει στον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ και ζητούν να μάθουν λεπτομέρειες για το ταξίδι. Χαιρετά ιδιαίτερα για το ενδιαφέρον και τον ενθουσιασμό που εκφράζει ο κόσμος τους τελευταίους μήνες. Αλλά, για να έχει επιτυχία το ταξίδι, χρειάζομαστε μελέτη και δουλειά. Ο Πατήρ Μιχαήλ έχει κάνει πολλά τέτοια ομαδικά ταξίδια στους Αγίους Τόπους στα χρόνια της ιεροσύνης του και γνωρίζει ότι χρειάζεται ακόμη πολύ μελέτη για το προγραμματισμό του ταξιδιού.

Το πρώτο πράγμα που πρέπει να γίνει είναι μια συνεδρίαση με όλους όσοι ενδιαφέρονται να λάβουν

μέρος. Η πρώτη λοιπόν συνεδρίαση θα γίνει την Παρασκευή, 12 Φεβρουαρίου, 2010 στις 7 μ.μ. Έτσι όλοι θα έχουν την ευκαιρία να πουν τη γνώμη τους και τις επιθυμίες τους.

Αν λοιπόν ενδιαφέρεστε ελάτε στην πρώτη συνεδρίαση.
Πατήρ Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικός

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK FOLK FESTIVAL FOOD & PASTRY PREPARATION SCHEDULE

All women and men of our parish are invited to join in the preparation of the food and pastries for our upcoming June festival. If you can volunteer a couple of hours each day and become a part of the group of people that prepare the items listed below, your skills would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the church office at 410-633-5020 or you may call Roza Cornias at 410-633-2805. Leave your name, phone number and what day/days you can work.

In addition, if any parishioner is interested in making a monetary donation that will be used for the purchase of the ingredients for either the food or the pastries, please contact Roza Cornias.

Please note that all preparations **will begin at 9:00 am each day** in the kitchen /large hall. Here is the schedule:

Tuesday, April 6th—Tiropites

Wednesday, April 7th—Baklava

Monday, April 12th—Galaktobouriko

Tuesday, April 13th—Spanakopites

Wednesday, April 14th—Spanakopites

Monday, April 19th—Kataifi

Tuesday, April 20th—Dolmades

Wednesday, April 21st—Dolmades

Wednesday, May 5th—Kourabietes/Finikia

Thursday, May 6th—Koulourakia/Ahladakia

Monday, May 10th—Diples (Xerotigana)

Wednesday, May 19th—Tsourekia

Wednesday, May 26th—Pastitsio

Thursday, May 27th—Pastitsio

Wednesday, June 2nd—Mousaka

Thursday, June 3rd—Mousaka

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΠΡΟΕΤΟΙΜΑΣΙΑΣ ΦΑΓΗΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΑ ΓΛΥΚΙΣΜΑΤΩΝ

Όσες κυρίες και δεσποινίδες (και άνδρες) που μπορούν και επιθυμούν να βοηθήσουν στις προετοιμασίες, παρακαλούνται να τηλεφωνούν στο Γραφείο της Κοινότητας (τηλ: 410-633-5020) και να δηλώνουν το όνομά τους, το τηλέφωνό τους και τις ημέρες που μπορούν να βοηθήσουν ή να επικοινωνούν με την επεύθυνη, κ. Ρόζα Κόρνια στο τηλέφωνο - 410-633-2805.

Επίσης όποιος θέλει να δώσει δωρεά για την αγορά των διαφόρων υλικών για τα φαγητά ή τα γλυκίσματα, μπορεί να επικοινωνήσει με την κ. Κόρνια.

Όλες οι προετοιμασίες θα αρχίζουν στις 9:00 η ώρα π.μ.

- | | | |
|----|-----------|------------------------------|
| 6 | Απριλίου, | Τρίτη—Τυρόπιτες |
| 7 | Απριλίου, | Τετάρτη—Μπακλαβάς |
| 12 | Απριλίου, | Δευτέρα—Γαλακτομπούρικο |
| 13 | Απριλίου, | Τρίτη—Σπανακόπιτες |
| 14 | Απριλίου, | Τετάρτη—Σπανακόπιτες |
| 19 | Απριλίου, | Δευτέρα—Καταΐφι |
| 20 | Απριλίου, | Τρίτη—Ντολμάδες |
| 21 | Απριλίου, | Τετάρτη—Ντολμάδες |
| 5 | Μαΐου, | Τετάρτη—Κουραμπέδες-Φοινίκια |
| 6 | Μαΐου, | Πέμπτη—Κουλουράκια/Αχλαδάκια |
| 10 | Μαΐου, | Δευτέρα—Δίπλες/Ξεροτήγανα |
| 19 | Μαΐου, | Τετάρτη—Τσουρέκια |
| 26 | Μαΐου, | Τετάρτη—Πασίτιο |
| 27 | Μαΐου, | Πέμπτη—Πασίτιο |
| 2 | Ιουνίου, | Τετάρτη—Μουσακάς |
| 3 | Ιουνίου, | Πέμπτη—Μουσακάς |

COMMUNITY NEWS - ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΑ ΝΕΑ

GREEK SCHOOL REUNION DANCE

Parents and former students, on April 9, 2010, the Greek School PTA is having a reunion dance for all of our past students who graduation from St. Nicholas Greek school from prior years. Help us contact you or your son or daughter who attended Greek School in the 60's, 70's, 80', 90's, and the 2000's. Give us your or their most recent address, telephone number and email address. Please fill out the information below and return it to the church office or email it to the Greek School PTA President, Nancy Anastasiades at demos@comcast.net. Thank you.

Γονείς, στις 9 Απριλίου, 2010, Ο Σύλλογος Γονέων και Δασκάλων του Ελληνικού Σχολείου θα έχει Χοροεσπερίδα και Συγκέντρωση όλων των μαθητών που φοίτησαν στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο του Αγίου Νικολάου. Βοηθείστε μας να βρούμε το γιό σας ή την κόρη σας που φοίτησε εδώ τις δεκαετίες του 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 και 2000. Δώστε μας τις διευκύνσεις τους και αν έχουν διεύθυνση στο διαδίκτυο (internet). Παρακαλείστε να συμπληρώσετε το παρακάτω έντυπο και να το επιστρέψετε στο Κοινοτικό Γραφείο ή να το στείλετε με e-mail στην Πρόεδρο του Ρ.Τ.Α. κα. Νάνση Αναστασιάδη στη διεύθυνση demos@comcast.net.

Student's Name:

Student's Maiden Name (if female):

Date Student Graduated or Attended Greek School:

Current Mailing Address:

Current Email Address:

Current Telephone No:

GREEK FOLK FESTIVAL 2010 NEWS

Calling all Festival Leaders and Volunteers!

The first meetings of the 2010 Festival Committee are scheduled for February 11, February 25 and March 11 at 7 pm in the Large Social Hall. The festival committee has begun planning for a bigger and better 2010 festival, which will require more leaders and volunteers for the new expansion areas. We need everyone to work together to make this another great festival.

Please make every effort to attend these meetings and bring your ideas and suggestions. **REMEMBER**—this festival is **OUR** festival and everyone's participation is essential to ensure a successful 2010 festival. Thanks!

Frank Mitsos, 2010 Festival Chairperson

SAVE THE DATES—June 10, 11, 12, & 13, 2010!

GREEKTOWN CDC

A message from John E. Gavrilis, CEO

The Greektown CDC has completed the Strategic Plan Volume 3, which details the community's strategies for the continued revitalization of our neighborhood. The plan emphasizes the need to sustain our progress in quality of life issues and focuses on land use, healthy neighborhoods, mentoring and the Red Line project. The plan will be available online at www.greektownmd.org and hard copies will soon be available at our office.

We are starting this New Year with our Citizens on Patrol walks. Each neighborhood in Baltimore conducts com-

munity walks with police officers to help deter crime and promote community awareness. We will be meeting monthly starting February 10 at 6:30pm Byzantios Bar, 4616 Eastern Avenue. It will be a great place to meet your neighbors and talk about what's going on in your community. Feel free to call Jason at 410-327-3306 for more information.

Please remember to call 911 for all crime related issues and 311 for City services. Be sure to check on your elderly neighbors during these cold months.

Believe in your community!

PLATEIA FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE UPDATE

A thank you to the group of Holiday Carolers for donating \$1,210 (their proceeds) to the Fundraising Committee.

We remain focused on providing a functional building with a cost effective design. Details are still under review in order to minimize change orders once construction begins. Estimates for emergency repairs are being considered and terms for the construction loan from Sun Trust Bank for \$500,000 are being finalized.

Even though under the Uniform Parish Regulations, completion of this project is an obligation of each Parishioner in good standing, financing continues to be a problem. Please won't you consider making a donation for the Plateia Fund now!

Thank you, Plateia Fundraising Committee

Plateia Fundraising Committee, Income Statement for 2009,

Sun Trust Checking Account xxxxxx9469

1/01/09 Checkbook Beginning Balance	\$194,191.95
Sources:	
Pledge Payments & Donations	\$ 15,515.00
St. Nicholas Diamonds	500.00
St. Nicholas Name Day Dance '08	11,000.00
Carolers of 2009	1,033.00
Bingo Night	4,030.00
August 15 th Event	14,113.21
Dividends Earned	116.41
TOTAL CREDITS	\$ 46,307.62
Uses:	
Levin/Brown Assoc.	\$ 20,459.58
Savoy/Brown	2,600.00
JLR Design	7,969.50
Colbert Matz Rosenfelt	7,626.50
North Point Builders	7,920.00
Penniman & Browne	2,237.50
Canton Ornamental	15,972.00
Kelly Engineering Assoc.	2,100.00
Budget Waterproofing	12,900.00
BG&E Contract	3,183.00
August 15 th Event	2,562.05
Bank Fees	150.00
Returned to St. Nicholas	500.00
TOTAL DEBITS	\$ 86,180.13
12/31/09 Checkbook Closing Balance	\$154,319.44

Η ΓΩΝΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΜΑΣ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟΥ

Δίψα για μάθηση!

Δίψα και αγάπη για μάθηση κρύβει στη καρδιά του κάθε μαθητής/μαθήτρια του Ελληνικού Σχολείου. Καμμία ανστηρή επίπληξη από τους γονείς, δεν θα μπορούσε να αναγκάσει κανένα παιδί να έλθει στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο, να συμμετέχει ενεργά, να δίνει ακέραιη την προσοχή του στην τάξη. Τις προάλλες, η κόρη μου Χριστίνα μου έλεγε με ενθουσιασμό για το πόσο ανυπομονεί για το μάθημα χορού της Παρασκευής. Περιέγραφε τη ρώτησα: «Γιατί;» Η απάντησή της, επί λέξει: «Μου αρέσει να χορεύω ελληνικούς χορούς και να μπορώ να βλέπω τις φίλες μου».

Ένα χρόνο μικρότερη από τα άλλα κορίτσια, δεν είναι στην ίδια τάξη με αυτά. Αυτό όμως δεν την έχει εμποδίσει να δημιουργήσει φίλιες. Περιμένει με χαρά τις Παρασκευές το απόγευμα, όταν με την δασκάλα της, κ. Μονόπολη, μπορεί ταυτόχρονα να μαθαίνει ελληνικούς χορούς, να διασκεδάζει, να αστειεύεται. Στο ρυθμό της μουσικής, μαθαίνει μαζί με τα άλλα παιδιά τα βήματα των ελληνικών χορών. Κανένα παιδί δεν παραβλέπεται. Η δασκάλα τους φροντίζει να δείχνει τα βήματα, να τα επαναλαμβάνει μέχρις ότου όλα τα παιδιά γίνουν κάτοχοι του χορού της ημέρας.

Μια Παρασκευή, ένας μαθητής δυσκολευόταν με τα βήματα. Η δασκάλα του ζήτησε να χορέψει κοντά της, παρακολουθώντας τα βήματά της. Ο μαθητής δέχτηκε τη βοήθεια. Προσέχοντας, και προσπαθώντας τα έμαθε. Το πλάτυ χαμόγελο που έλαμψε στο πρόσωπό του έδειξε τη χαρά που ένοιωσε γιατί «τα κατάφερε»!

Παρακολουθώ για χρόνια τώρα την ίδια σκηνή να επαναλαμβάνεται. Θαυμάζω τη σιγουριά και το παράστημα αυτών των παιδιών. Βλέπω την κόρη μου και το γιο μου και αναρωτιέμαι: «Είναι αυτά τα δικά μου παιδιά;» Είναι ο ίδιος γιος που ήλθε σήμερα σπίτι με σχισμένο παντελόνι και καταλερωμένος; Παρατηρώ τις Παρασκευές τα δικά μου και τα άλλα παιδιά να φέρονται για μισή ώρα σαν δεσποινίδες και κύριοι, καθώς χορεύουν στους ρυθμούς των προγόνων μας. Ίδρωμένα και χαμογελαστά! Τι άλλο θα μπορούσε να επιθυμήσει κανείς;

Έτυχε επίσης να ρίξω τη ματιά μου στις τάξεις Πρώτη και

Δευτέρα και να μιλήσω με την δασκάλα τους, κ. Ευγενία Κανάκη. Η κ. Κανάκη προσπαθεί τα παιδιά να φεύγουν από την τάξη με θετικά συναισθήματα για την ελληνική γλώσσα και το Ελληνικό Σχολείο. Αν και χρειάζεται προσπάθεια από το μέρος των παιδιών για να μάθουν να διαβάζουν και να γράφουν Ελληνικά, η κ. Κανάκη φροντίζει και για λίγη ψυχαγωγία εισάγοντας το παιχνίδι στο μάθημα. Παίζοντας τα παιδιά διασκεδάζουν αλλά και μαθαίνουν. Στα παιχνίδια της τάξης έμφαση δίνεται στο καινούργιο λεξιλόγιο. «Για να παιχτεί καλά το παιχνίδι είναι απαραίτητο τα παιδιά να γνωρίζουν τις νέες λέξεις. Αυτή η προϋπόθεση γίνεται κίνητρο για μεγαλύτερη προσπάθεια μάθησής του. Όλα τα παιδιά θέλουν να νικήσουν, αλλά για να νικήσουν πρέπει να ξέρουν τις καινούργιες λέξεις», λέει η κ. Κανάκη.

Το παιχνίδι είναι επίσης μέρος του προγράμματος στις τάξεις της κ. Βίκυ Καλογράνη. Το χρησιμοποιεί για το καινούργιο λεξιλόγιο και για να διδάξει το αλφάβητο. Με κουκλοθέατρο τα παιδιά μαθαίνουν ελληνικά τραγούδια, ιστορίες, μύθους. Την ώρα του «σνακ» λένε δύο τουλάχιστον προσευχές και ασκούνται στο να χαιροτά το ένα το άλλο στα ελληνικά. Θυμάμαι την ημέρα που ένα παιδάκι είχε τα γενέθλιά του. Όλα, χωρίς καμμία εξαίρεση και διαταγμό, άρχισαν να του τραγουδούν χαρούμενα το «Να ζήσεις... και χρόνια πολλά»!

Όλες οι δασκάλες εργάζονται σκληρά στην προσπάθειά τους να διδάξουν τα παιδιά μας την ελληνική γλώσσα και πολιτισμό. Όμως τα λόγια είναι αδύνατον να περιγράψουν το κλίμα και την εργασία στις τάξεις. Γι αυτό καλώ όποιον γονιό ενδιαφέρεται να εγγράψει το παιδί του στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο να έλθει να παρακολουθήσει το μάθημα (αφού συννενοηθεί με τη δασκάλα της τάξης) και να θαυμάσει από μόνος του. Αν θέλετε το παιδί σας ή το εγγόνι σας να έχει τις εμπειρίες των μαθητών του Ελληνικού μας Σχολείου, μπορείτε να τηλεφωνήσετε στη Διευθύντρια, κ. Μονόπολη, τηλ. 410-633-5020, Δευτέρα μέχρι και Παρασκευή, 3:30-4:20 μ.μ., και να ορίσετε την ημέρα της επίσκεψής σας.

Είμαι βέβαιη ότι θα εκπλαγείτε!

(Μετάφραση από τα αγγλικά, Ελένης Λούβρου-Μονόπολη)

having fun. She strives to incorporate at least 1 to 2 games per class that emphasize the vocabulary they are learning. She said, "That playing a game well and knowing the vocabulary really motivates the students to learn and it gives them motivation to study. They want to win the next time at the game." Teacher, Ms. Vicky Kalograni, also applies the concepts of games when teaching her pre-school and kindergarten students' new vocabulary and when trying to reinforce the Greek Alphabet. She uses puppet shows in her class to teach her students traditional Greek songs, Greek folk stories and fables. She, also, uses snack time to teach at least two prayers to the children and have them practice greeting each other in Greek. I remember one particular moment when it was a child's birthday and everyone started to sing, "Happy Birthday" in Greek. Not a single child hesitated and they enjoyed the class so much. All of our teachers are doing a fantastic job educating our children. However, words cannot accurately describe it. Instead, I encourage anyone who may be interested in sending their child to Greek School to arrange a time to observe the students in class. You will be amazed!!! If you would like your child or grandchild to have the same wonderful experience, please contact our Principal, Mrs. Monopolis at 410-633-5020 Monday through Fridays from 3:00 p.m. to 4:20 p.m. to schedule an appointment to visit the classes while they are in session. Again, you will be amazed!!!

UPCOMING ST. NICHOLAS GREEK SCHOOL EVENTS....PLEASE JOIN US!

Sunday, March 14th—Celebrate Greece's Independence Day with a special program by the students of the Greek School in the large social hall

Saturday, March 27th. Greek School PTA Sponsors the Breakfast for all the Community Children after Holy Communion on the Saturday of Lazarus.

Friday, April 9th, The St. Nicholas PTA Presents An Evening with the Alumnae To benefit the advancement of the St. Nicholas Greek School and St. Nicholas Church
Save the Dates. More information forthcoming.

FOR THE LOVE OF LEARNING

By Nancy Anastasiadis

For the love of learning is what each Greek school student possesses in his or her heart. No amount of berating could get any child to come to school and actively participate and give his/her undivided attention in class. The other day, my daughter, Kristina, was exclaiming to me how much she could not wait until Greek dancing lessons. Curious, I asked her why and she said, "I love Greek dancing and being able to see my friends." Since Kristina is a year younger than most of the female students, she does not attend the same language class. But that has not stopped her from fostering lasting friendships. She looks forward to Fridays afternoons, when under the guidance of Mrs. Monopolis she is able to have fun, learn to dance and joke with her friends. On Fridays, she moves to the rhythm of the music along with her friends as they imitate Mrs. Monopolis' steps. No one is left out. Mrs. Monopolis takes great care to show the steps and review each one until they are mastered. On one particular Friday, a male student was still struggling to master the steps. Mrs. Monopolis kindly called to him and asked for him to stand next to her and to follow carefully. The student willingly accepted the extra help and slowly danced next to his teacher watching intently. And then it came, his broad smile showing how pleased he was with his progress.

I have watched this scenario for years and have marveled at how confident and poised these children seem. I look at my son and daughter and ask myself, "Are these my children?" The same son who came home today with a ripped pants leg and dirt all over?" I blink and watch them and the other children transform for half an hour into ladies and gentlemen as they dance across the floor telling our ancestor's stories with each move. Sweat on their brows and smiles on their faces, what more could you ask for.

I was also fortunate to have a glimpse of the 1st and 2nd graders and to speak with their teacher, Evgenia Kanaki. Mrs. Kanaki really strives for her children to come away from class with positive feelings about the Greek language and Greek School. Even though, the students are working very hard to learn to read and write in Greek, she makes sure that they are

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES FOR 2010

MR/MRS ADAMS MICHAEL
 MR/MRS ALEVIROGIANNIS GEORGE &
 MR/MRS ANDERSON EMANUEL P. JR.
 MR/MRS ARAVIDES NICHOLAS
 MR/MRS ARGIROPOULOS WILLIAM
 MR/MRS ATSIDIS IOANNIS
 MRS BOUDOURIS ASIMINA
 MRS CHRIST STASA
 MR/MRS COLLECTOR DAN &
 MR/MRS CORNIAS MICHAEL C.
 MR/MRS COSSIS MILTON &
 MRS DIMIDES ANNA
 MR/MRS ELIOU ERNEST
 MR/MRS FORAKIS GEORGE
 MS FRANGAKIS IRENE
 MR/MRS GAZONAS-ZIKOU GEORGE
 MRS GIANNAKOULIAS DIONISIA
 MR/MRS GLYKIADIS JOHN &
 MR/MRS HATZIGEORGALI ELEFTHERIOS
 MR/MRS JOHNS ASPASIA
 MR/MRS KAITIS NICHOLAS
 MS. KALOGRANI VASILIKI
 MR KAPETANAKOS ELLAS
 MISS KARABELAS IOANNA
 MR KARAMANLIDES KYRIAKOS
 MRS KASTRUNES DOLORES
 MR/MRS KLOSTERIDIS SPIRO -
 MR/MRS KOSMAS DEMETRIOS
 MR/MRS KOUKIDES HARRY
 MR. LALLAS JOHN
 MR/MRS LEWIS HOWARD E.
 MR/MRS MASTROMINAS MINAS
 MR/MRS MILLETT&ALEX EARL &
 MR/MRS MONIODIS MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS NICOLAIDIS VASILIOS &
 MR/MRS ONASIS THEODORE
 MR/MRS PAPAPOPOULOS Efstathios
 MRS PAROS MARY
 MR PERDIKAKIS GEORGE
 MR/MRS PIKOUNIS EMMANUEL
 MRS PROAKIS KOULA
 MR/MRS ROROS PETE JOHN
 MR/MRS SALARIS STEPHEN
 MRS SARIGIANNIS CHRISTINE
 MR/MRS SFAKIANOUDIS JOHN
 MR/MRS SOPHOCLEOUS PROKOPIS
 MRS SOURANIS PARASKEVI
 MR/MRS STAVRAKIS JIMMY
 MRS TAGLLAMBURIS NICOLAS
 JDG/MRS THEMELIS JOHN & RENEE
 MR/MRS TOPOUZOGLOU ANASTASIOS &
 MR/MRS TRINTIS BASILIOS &
 MR/MRS TSAKALOS JEANNETTE
 MR/MRS VASILAKOPOULOU ANASTASIA
 MR VERGOS JOHN
 MR/MRS YIANAKIS STEVE

MR/MRS AGAPIOIS NICHOLAS*
 MR AMARANTIDIS HARRY
 MR/MRS ANGELOS MARK
 MR/MRS ARGEROPOULOS TED &
 MR/MRS ARGYRAKIS MICHAEL &
 MR BATES SAM
 DR/MRS CARDIGES NICHOLAS M. &
 MR/MRS CHRIST PHILIP
 MRS CONWAY ROSE
 MR/MRS CORNIAS MARK
 MR/MRS DERMATIS MINAS
 MR/MRS ECONOMIDES CHRIS &
 MRS FAKAS ZENOVIA
 MR/MRS FOTIADIS NICHOLAS
 MRS FRANGAKIS SOFOULA
 MR/MRS GEORGAS ANTHIE
 MR/MRS GIANNAKOULIAS GEORGE
 MRS GOVASTES CLEOPATRA
 MRS HATZIKOSMAS AMALIA
 MS JOHNS HELEN
 MRS KAITIS DESPINA
 MR/MRS KAMBAPOPOULOU STELIOS
 MR/MRS KAPETANAKOS FANOURIOS &
 MR/MRS KARAGIANNIS DEMETRIOS
 MR KARAMANLIDES ANTONIOS
 MR/MRS KATSAROS MICHAEL
 MR/MRS KOLLADIS EMMANUEL &
 MR KOSMAS NICHOLAS
 MRS KOULATSOS ANASTASIA
 MS LALLAS EVE
 MR/MRS LOIZOU CHRIS
 MR/MRS MASTROVASILIS IOANNIS &
 MR/MRS MINAS GEORGE J.
 MISS MONIODIS PANAGIOTA
 MR NICOLARAKIS MICHAEL
 MR/MRS PADOUSIS JOHN E.
 MR/MRS PAPAGEORGIOU SOCRATES
 MR/MRS PATINIOTIS PANAGIOTIS &
 MR/MRS PERDIKAKIS GEORGE
 MR/MRS PIKOUNIS JAMES
 MRS REDA ELENI
 MR/MRS ROROS GEORGE I.
 MR/MRS SALLARIS ANASTASIOS
 MR/MRS SERAFIS STEVE & MARY
 MR/MRS SIGAMBRIS HARRY
 MR/MRS SOPHOCLEUS GREGORY
 MR/MRS STAMATHIS KIKI
 MRS STRAKES KATHERINE
 MRS TAHINOS STEPHANIE
 MR THEMELIS JOHN
 MRS TREANTAFELLO HELEN
 MRS TRIPOLITIS NINA
 MR/MRS TSAKALOS ROSE
 MR/MRS VASILIOS FRANK
 MR/MRS VERUHIS APOSTOLOS &
 MR/MRS ZERVOS DEMETRIOS

MRS AGELOPAS SOPHIE
 MR/MRS ANASTASIADES DEMOS &
 MR/MRS ANGELOS JOHN & IRENE
 MR/MRS ARGETAKIS GEORGE &
 MR/MRS ATHANASIOU ANTONIOS
 MR/MRS BETINIS EMMANUEL
 MRS CEDERAKIS OREANTHI
 MS CHRISTAKOU STAVROULA
 MRS CORNIAS KALLIOPIT.
 MRS CORNIAS CALLIOPIT.
 MR/MRS DIACOLOUKAS GUS & MARY
 MR/MRS EFTHIMIOU SPIROS &
 MR/MRS FAKAS JAMES
 MR FOTIS GUS
 MR/MRS FRAPAS HELEN
 MR/MRS GEORGIU JOHN
 MR/MRS GIANNAS STYLIANOS
 MR/MRS HANDAKAS PAUL
 MR/MRS HAZARIKIDES KOSTAS
 MR/MRS KAIKIS CLEMIS
 MRS KALIAKOUDAS SOFIA
 MRS KAMINARIS BARBARA
 MR/MRS KAPUTSOS MARSHALL
 MISS KARAGIANNIS SHOSHANA
 MR/MRS KARAS EVELYN
 MR/MRS KELLEY SHAWN &
 MR/MRS KOLIOFOTIS PETROS
 MRS KOSTOPOULOS HARRIET
 MR KOUTSANTONIS THEODORE
 MR/MRS LAMBROW STEPHANIE
 MRS LYGOUMENOS ALEXANDRA
 MR/MRS MAVRONIS NICHOLAS
 MR/MRS MITSOS FRANK
 MR/MRS MONIODIS MICHAEL
 MRS NOMIKOS FANNY
 MR/MRS PANTOULIS NICK
 MR/MRS PAPAVALIIOU THARRENOS &
 MRS PATRIKAKOS PANAGIOTA
 MRS PERELAS STAVROULA
 MR/MRS POULOS WILLIAM
 MR/MRS RIZAS PAUL
 MR/MRS ROUSSOS ANTHONY
 MRS SALPEAS MARIA
 MR/MRS SFAKIANAKIS ELIAS & IRENE
 MR SOLLON JOHN JAMES
 MR/MRS SOULIKAS GEORGE &
 MR/MRS STAMATOPOULOU JOHN
 MR SVINGOS JAMES JOHN
 MR/MRS TAKOS STEVE
 MISS THEMELIS STELLA
 MR/MRS TRIANTAFILLOS COSTAS
 MR/MRS TSAKALAS JULIE
 MRS TSAKIRIS ANASTASIA
 MS VATAKIS TESSIE
 MR/MRS VIZANIARIS ALEXANDROS
 MR/MRS ZISSIMOS GUS PETE-

MR/MRS AHLADIOTIS JOHN & EFFIE
 MRS ANASTASIS FOTINI
 MR ANGELOU MICHAEL
 MISS ARGIRAKIS ANGELICA
 MR/MRS ATSALIS GUS
 MR/MRS BIRCH PETER
 MR CHALCOUSSIS ANTONIOS
 MS CHUVALAS DIMITRA
 MR/MRS CORNIAS GEORGE C.
 MR CORNIAS NICHOLAS
 MISS DIMAS VASILIKI
 MRS ELIOPOULOS ANNA
 MR/MRS FANTIS PENELOPE
 MR/MRS FOTIS GEORGE
 MR/MRS G.C.D.C. GREEKTOWN
 MR/MRS GIAKOUMAKIS NICK
 MR GLAVAS SOCRATES
 MR HATZIGEORGALI ANTONIOS
 MR/MRS HONDROULIS ANDREANOS
 MR/MRS KAIKIS ANDREW
 MS KALIS EUGENIA
 MRS KAPETANAKOS SOULA
 MR/MRS KAPUTSOS SYLVIA
 MR/MRS KARAHALIS GEORGE &
 MRS. KARDIASMENOS METAXIA
 MR/MRS KIMOS JAMES
 MRS KONDYLIS DESPINA
 MR/MRS KOSTOS JOHN &
 MRS KOUTSONOURIS MARIA
 MR/MRS LERICOS PERRY AND
 MR/MRS MASTROMANOLI MANUEL
 MR MERITIS ALEXANDROS
 MR/MRS MOELLER PATRICIA ZOE
 MRS NEOFITOU ATHINA
 OLYMPIAN "OLYMPUS"
 MS PAPADIMITRIOU MARIA
 MR/MRS PAPPAS JOHN
 MR/MRS PELTSEMES IRENE
 MR/MRS PIKOUNIS JOHN & DEBBIE
 MR/MRS PRASSINAS JAMES
 MRS RIZAS MARIA
 MR/MRS ROUSSOS JOHN
 MR/MRS SARANTINOS SANDY
 MR/MRS SFAKIANOUDIS GEORGE K.
 MR/MRS SOLLON NICK &
 MR/MRS SOULIKAS JAMES & JOAN
 MR/MRS STAMOULIS KYRIAKOS
 MR/MRS SZULIMOWSKI HENRY
 MR TARATSIDES GEORGE
 MR/MRS THEOHARIS EMMANUEL
 MR/MRS TRIANTAFILLOS PETE
 MR/MRS TSAKALAS STEVEN
 MR/MRS TSAMPOS MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS VERENAKIS MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS VOXAKIS JOHN & IRENE
 MR/MRS ZOULIS JOHN &

TOTAL PLEDGED: 90,930.00; PAYMENTS: \$42,680.00; BALANCE: \$48,250.00

KOINONIA E-MAILED DIRECTLY TO YOU

If you wish to receive the Koinonia via e-mail instead of waiting for a hard paper copy to arrive in your mailbox, then this application is for you. Many churches have already changed on how their parishioners view their bulletins, monthly newsletters and some general correspondence. We are doing our best to try to keep the cost of printing and mailing the Koinonia to our many parishioners and readers to a minimum. One way to do this is to get the Koinonia directly to you via e-mail. If you still don't have access to a computer, we will continue to mail it to you.

Please take the time to complete the application form and bring it to the church office. Or, simply e-mail your intent that you want to receive the Koinonia via Internet to msalpeas@stnicholasmd.org. Please make sure you include in your e-mail your name, address and a phone number where you can be reached in case there are any questions.

Επιστούμε την προσοχή όλων των μελών μας

Βρισκόμαστε σε μια εποχή υψηλής Τεχνολογίας και για το λόγο αυτό ζητούμε από εσάς, τα μέλη του Αγίου Νικολάου, να μας γνωστοποιήσετε τη Ηλεκτρονική σας διεύθυνση, αν έχετε, διότι με τον τρόπο αυτό θα παίρνουμε όλη την αλληλογραφία της Εκκλησίας μας συντομότερα και δεν θα υπάρχει το κόστος των ταχυδρομικών. Παρακαλείστε λοιπόν να συμπληρώσετε το κάτωθι έντυπο, και να το παραδώσετε στο Κοινοτικό Γραφείο ή να το ταχυδρομήσετε.

APPLICATION FORM FOR CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

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() YES -I would like to receive the Koinonia and any future mailings from St. Nicholas church via my e-mail shown above. Θάθελα να λαβαίνω την αλληλογραφία και την KOINONIA της Εκκλησίας μου με e-mail.

() NO -I do not have an e-mail address. Please continue to mail me the Koinonia and other correspondence at the address shown above. Δεν έχω e-mail. Να συνεχιστεί η αλληλογραφία ταχυδρομικώς.

DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY OF PETE H. CHRIST, JR.

Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Onassis
 Michael & Effie Moniodis
 George & Stavroula Forakis
 Ms. Eugenia Kalis
 Dr. & Mrs. Chris Kotzias
 Milton & Emily Cossis
 In memory of Vasilios Kelepesis
 Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios Nicolaidis

IN MEMORY OF ANNA VAILAS

Maria Salpeas
 John & Angeliki Sfakianoudis
 Ms. Helen Johns
 Ms. Eugenia Kalis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Sfakianoudis

IN MEMORY OF EFTHALIA CHARALAMBOPOULOS

John & Angeliki Sfakianoudis

IN MEMORY OF PANAGIOTIS KARANIKOLIS

Michael & Effie Moniodis

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE & MARY PAPADOPOULOS

Mr. & Mrs. James Anagnos

IN MEMORY OF KARAFILIS DIKAS

Mrs. Athina Neofitou
 Mr. & Mrs. Dionysios Koulatsos
 Ms. Eugenia Kalis

IN MEMORY OF FREDA ANGELOPULOS

Mr. & Mrs. George I. Roros
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Hartofilis
 Maria Salpeas
 Mr. & Mrs. George Sfakianoudis
 Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Damalalas
 Mrs. Despina Kaitis
 Mrs. Koula Proakis
 Ms. Helen Johns
 Mr. George Kosmos
 Mr. & Mrs. Stergos Kosmos
 Mrs. Anna Stavrakis
 Ms. Eugenia Kalis
 George & Charlotte Radu
 Dr. & Mrs. Chris Kotzias

Milton & Emily Cossis

IN MEMORY OF STERGOULA KOTZIAS

Ms. Eugenia Kalis
 Milton & Emily Cossis

IN MEMORY OF STELLA ELEFTHERIOU

Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Damalalas

IN MEMORY OF NICK PROAKIS

Mrs. Koula Proakis

IN MEMORY OF PETER MORALIS

Ms. Eugenia Kalis

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL NIKOLETOS

Ms. Eugenia Kalis

IN MEMORY OF JIMMY & MARY MARUSIODIS

Mr. & Mrs. George Sfakianoudis

DONATIONS IN HONOR

BEST WISHES TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE "JOHN C. THEMELIS" IN HIS RETIREMENT

*Please accept our sincere prayers.
 May our benevolent God bless you
 and your exemplary family
 with abundant good health,
 love and peace. Congratulations!*

The following families offered a monetary gift to Saint Nicholas for Judge John C. Themelis' Retirement Celebration.

- Ms. Helen Karpathiou Johns
- Ms. Maria Salpeas
- Demetrios, Michelle, Eva and Vivi Kaminaris
- Manoli, Joanne and Giota Salpeas

Saint Nicholas Profit & Loss January thru December 2009

January thru December 2009

Ordinary income/Expense	
Income	
Candles	83,952.00
Dances	
Special Events	1,560.88
Dances—Other	23,950.00
Total Dances	25,510.88
Donations	
Other Donations	36,771.20
Flowers Income	1,405.00
Christmas Card Income	1,860.00
Donations General	54,697.15
Donations—Hall	8,000.00
Donations—Memorial	24,061.00
Donations—Other	275.00
Total Donations	127,069.35
Greek Festival	167,000.00
Greek School Registration	31,120.65
Interest Income	8,197.90
Stewardship	245,019.21
Trays	21,106.00
Total Income	708,976.19
Total Income	
Cost of Goods Sold	
Dance Expense	8,719.50
Festival	6,650.00
6250—Flowers	491.20
Greek School Expense	75.00
Total COGS	15,935.70
GROSS PROFIT	693,040.49

Saint Nicholas Profit & Loss January thru December 2009

January thru December 2009

Expense	
CAPITAL COSTS	
Plateia Expenses	23,459.98
Property Purchase	1,554.00
TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS	25,013.98
EMPLOYEE COSTS	
1099 Employees	6,758.00
Health Insurance	41,691.76
Housing	1,720.00
Organist	3,400.00
6560—Payroll Expenses	154,984.82
Payroll Taxes	11,875.57
Pension	6,000.00
6050—Automobile Expenses	9,000.00
Workers Comprehensive	1,456.00
EMPLOYEES COSTS—Other	80,213.74
Total EMPLOYEES COSTS	317,099.89
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION	
Advertising	11,462.50
6060—Bank Service Charges	1,912.84
Church Supplies	19,958.35
Clergy Laity Congress	1,139.40
Flower Donations	1,173.00
Fair Share	50,500.00
6260—Gifts	500.00
Insurance—General	20,782.31
6530—Miscellaneous	4,625.22
Office Expense	9,766.65
6610—Postage & Delivery	2,625.22
Professional Fees	5,873.50
Telephone	3,771.43
6900—Travel & Entertainment	409.17
Total GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION	153,077.40
OCCUPANCY COSTS	
Mainten—Building Maintenance	64,904.20
Cleaning Halls	000.00
Ground Rent	157.80
Janitor's Supplies	5,656.41
Permits & Licenses	450.00
Property Taxes	125.00
6940—Utilities	43,097.42
OCCUPANCY COSTS—Other	1,589.70
Total OCCUPANCY COSTS	116,580.53
YOUTH AND EDUCATIONAL	
Youth Expense	5,260.12
Total YOUTH AND EDUCATIONAL	5,260.12
Total Expenses	617,031.92
Net Ordinary Income	76,008.57
Net Income	76,008.57

KOINONIA DEADLINE

To all of our readers and organizations, please submit your article(s) to the Koinonia staff before the deadline so we can include your news for your upcoming event. All articles or posters are due by the 12th of the current month for the upcoming month's issue.

Issue month: March, 2010 **Deadline:** February 16th

You may drop your article to the church office or e-mail it to Emily Cossis at: emce3@aol.com or Maria Salpeas at: msalpeas@stnicholasmd.org

PAN-PELOPONNESIAN SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE

"PELOPS"

presents

APOKRIATIKO GLENDI

Sat., February 27, 2010

AT THE BEST WESTERN
 BALTIMORE EAST HOTEL

5625 O'Donnell St.

Exit 57 on I-95

8:30-2:00 am

Donation \$60.00 pp

Dinner—Open Bar

For more info call:

Louis Korologos, 410-456-7475

Dimitrios Petropoulos, 410-633-7647

Liturgical Program & Events for February

LITURGICAL PROGRAM

Tuesday, February 2nd: Presentation of our Lord. Η Υπαπαντή του Κυρίου, Orthros 8:45 - Divine Liturgy 9:30 am.

Saturday, February 6th: Saturday of the Souls. Ψυχοσάββατο. Orthros 8:45 - Divine Liturgy 9:30 am.

Sunday, February 7th: MEATFARE SUNDAY (Judgement Sunday) Κυριακή των Απόκρεων. Orthros 8:45 - Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

Tuesday, February 9th: Saint Haralambos the Great Martyr. Του Αγίου Χαράλαμπου του Μεγαλομάρτυρος. Orthros 8:45 - Divine Liturgy 9:30 am.

Saturday, February 13th: Saturday of the Souls. Ψυχοσάββατο. Orthros 8:45 - Divine Liturgy 9:30 am.

Sunday, February 14th: CHEESEFARE SUNDAY (Forgiveness Sunday). Orthros 8:45 - Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

Monday, February 15th: GREAT LENT BEGINS. Αρχεται η Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή. Compline Service, Απόδειπνον, 7:00 pm.

Wednesday, February 17th: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 7:00 p.m. Προηγιασμένη.

Friday, February 19th: First Salutations to the Virgin Mary. Α' Στάση των Χαιρετισμών της Παναγίας 7 pm.

Saturday, February 20th: Saturday of the Souls. Ψυχοσάββατο. Orthros 8:45 - Divine Liturgy 9:30 am.

Sunday, February 21st: Sunday of the Orthodoxy. First Sunday of Lent. Κυριακή της Ορθοδοξίας, 1η Κυριακή των νηστειών. Orthros 8:45 - Divine Liturgy 10:00 am. Procession of the Holy Icons at the end of service.

Sunday Evening, February 21st: PAN-ORTHODOX VESPER SERVICE- 6:00 pm. This is a combined Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers service with all the Orthodox Churches. This year's location is SS Magdeline & Markella Greek Orthodox Church. Reception will follow.

Monday, February 22nd: Compline Service, Απόδειπνον, 7:00 pm.

Wednesday, February 24th: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 7:00 p.m. Προηγιασμένη.

Friday, February 26th: Second Salutations to the Virgin Mary. Β' Στάση των Χαιρετισμών της Παναγίας 7 pm.

Sunday, February 28th: Second Sunday of Lent. St. Gregory Palamas.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, February 1st: GOYA Meeting 7 pm.

Wednesday, February 3rd: Philoptochos Meeting 7 pm.

Thursday, February 4th: Parish Life Committee Meeting, 7 pm

Saturday, February 6th: Karpathian Olympos Brotherhood Dance - 8 pm.

Saturday, February 13th: JOY Gathering, 12 noon to 2 pm - Small Hall

Saturday, February 13th: Philoptochos Apokreatiko/Spaghetti Dinner Dance.

Sunday, February 14th: GODPARENT'S SUNDAY.

Monday February 15th: Philoptochos Kathara Deftera Lenten Potluck Dinner - after Compline Service.

Sunday, February 21st: Sunday School Lenten Spaghetti Luncheon/Oratorical Festival.

KOINONIA

A Monthly Publication of the

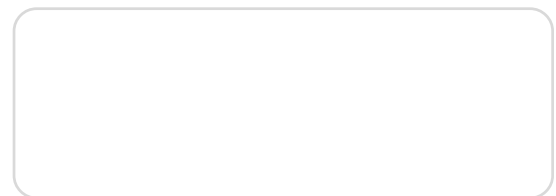
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