



FEBRUARY/ ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ 2011

*A Monthly Publication of the
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.
520 S. Ponca Street, Baltimore, MD 21224*

KOINONIA

Pastoral Message

WHY I BELIEVE IN GOD

Someone once asked me to preach on, "Why I believe in God". I thought it would be an easy task. Ideas began to flash before me...thoughts of theology, arguments I learned in defending existence of God, and works I studied that affirmed my belief and faith. But then I realized I believed in God...long before theology became important to me. I knew that it is necessary for me to breathe and that without air I would die. I was nurtured in a home where simple prayers were recited daily, icons were displayed throughout, the smell of incense filled the air, and faith in action. I was taken to church and that seemed right to me. I felt at home in my church and never questioned my faith.

I love Christ and am grateful for the gift of Grace enabling me to work out my salvation. I recalled that in an American court, a person is presumed innocent until he is proven guilty. So it is with my own belief in God. Instead of saying I will not believe in God until his existence is proved, I will continue to believe, until it is proven that there is no God. The Bible does not attempt to prove God's existence. The first words are: "IN THE BEGINNING GOD"...and it goes on to give us a progressive revelation of God. Some great Saints in the Bible had spec-

tacular conversions...Matthew, the tax collector, Zaccheus the tax collector of Jericho, Mary the Harlot, and the



Saint Symeon holding Baby Jesus

Apostle Paul. Examples in our age might include, Thomas Jefferson, a great intellectual whom many describe as agnostic, whom I believe was a believer in God...C.S. Lewis of recent times and many more.

For most of us God is just there. We seldom give it a second thought. Some go away to school and we become confused...we see the church and the faithful leading double standards.

We take note of inconsistencies that have nothing to do with the belief in God. Pain and suffering cause us to ask painful questions about God's love and we simply do not understand. Most of us cannot explain the composition of water, but we drink it. None of us know what electricity is, but we use it. Who can understand the process of love? Yet many have given their lives in sacrifice because they loved. Though we cannot explain God, most of us agree with Christopher Morley..." I had a thousand questions to ask God; but when I met him, they all fled and didn't seem to matter." To say I believe in God means more than just an intellectual assent to the existence of God. It means to trust in

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Pastoral Message

WHY I BELIEVE IN GOD

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Him and to commit our lives to His will. We trust in God because we know our own weaknesses and inadequacies.

As long as we feel sufficient to ourselves we do not need God; we call upon our own god. No person ever really discovers God until there is a felt need in his life that only God can fill. *Until you need him, you won't have him...* We sometimes say it is our duty to go to church, and it is; but few go for this reason. I would prefer that no one come to church just for a sense of duty. A duty-bound Christian is not a committed soul.

The ones who come just from a sense of duty come to criticize. They won't sense the presence of God. When one sings in the liturgy, one senses the voice that rings out of devotion and need and not a duty hymn. You have expressed your belief in God in the Creed...there is much more to it than that. When Peter confessed, "Lord Save Me", Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. When

you say I need you God, that is belief. Simply going through the motions of lighting candles and making token gifts to the church is not belief. And the superstitious belief is dangerous. Just making the cross three times, bowing like a robot, belief is deeper than that.

The nominal Christians are in danger of losing their salvation. Belief begins by knowing God. I hear a person say, I believe in so and so...why, because of an acquaintance. God has revealed himself to us...there is a matter of struggling in ourselves. Never know all of Him. Stand before the ocean, now carry me, taste the salt, I know not the entire ocean.

The man who came to Jesus... "Lord, I know I have no faith, help me to believe..." Worship, prayer, confession and bible reading will enable us to meet and know the God of whom we have said since childhood...I BELIEVE.

By Rev. William Chiganos

(As reprinted from www.goarch.org)

PROTOPRESBYTER FR. MICHAEL PASTRIKOS, PASTOR
CHURCH OFFICE TELEPHONE: 410-633-5020 — CHURCH FAX: 410-633-4352
CELL: 443-742-8314
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Triodion: The First of Four Sundays before Pascha

By Bill Poulos

This year's Triodion, the ten-week season of spiritual preparation that precedes Pascha, begins on Sunday, February 13th. The Triodion and the liturgical hymn book used during the period, also called the Triodion or Book of Three Odes, both derive their names from the fact that the Canons sung during this period have three rather than the usual nine odes.

The Pre-Lenten portion of Triodion is twenty two days which includes four Sundays that teach valuable spiritual principles intended to guide and strengthen us through Great Lent. The primary spiritual theme of each of these Sundays is found in the Gospel reading for the day.

The fourth Sunday before Lent is called the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee because the day's Gospel recounts Jesus' parable about the contrasting manner of the two men's prayer in the Temple (Lk. 18: 10-14). We learn from Him that the correct attitude for one who desires to draw near to God and to obtain His mercy is one of humility, contrition and sincere repentance. The Lord condemns the Pharisee's self-righteousness and arrogant pride.

The following Sunday the Church offers us the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk. 15: 11-32). We are entreated in the Gospel to return from 'the far country' of sin and estrangement from God to our true, lost spiritual home where we are assured of our Heavenly Father's loving embrace and unconditional forgiveness.

The parable assures us that nothing, no failure of ours, no sin of ours is powerful enough to separate us from His love and not only will our rejection of those things alien to God's will be accepted by Him, but also be a cause of great heavenly joy.

The next Sunday of Triodion is called Meat Fare Sunday because during the following week the Church prescribes abstention from meat as a gradual entrance into the rigorous Lenten fasting to follow.

The spiritual emphasis of the day is the Last Judgment at the Lord's Second Coming. The Gospel reading commemorates these events through Christ's parable of the sheep and the goats. (Mt. 25: 31-46). In it the Lord explains that He will separate the sheep (the righteous who will be saved) from the goats (those condemned) on the basis of the love and mercy each person has or has not demonstrated to those in need.

The Church's emphasis on The Last Judgment is intended to remind us of two very important truths.

The First is that all who have fallen asleep in the Lord are assured of the Resurrection to eternal life. It is no accident that the first Saturday of the Souls falls the day before the Sunday of the Last Judgment.

Secondly, the Church wishes to soberly remind and warn us that Christ's judgment is real and that a primary basis for His judgment is whether or not we have, in accordance with His commandments, ministered to those who are sick, suffering and in despair.

Finally, we are forcefully reminded that Christ identified Himself fully with our human nature and all of humanity, especially the 'least' of us.

The final Sunday before Lent is called Cheese fare Sunday because the Church prescribes the elimination of dairy products from the following Monday to Easter Sunday. The expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise is commemorated on this day in order to dramatically illustrate the dreadful consequences of sin.

In the Gospel for the day (Mt. 6: 14-21) Christ sets forth three of the most important conditions for overcoming the destructive power of sin in our lives - forgiveness of others, fasting and the renunciation of earthly pleasures, pursuits and rewards. The Lord's emphasis on the necessity of forgiving others as a prerequisite of His forgiving our sins is the reason Cheese Fare Sunday is also called Forgiveness Sunday.

With this last Sunday of the Pre-Lenten portion of Triodion, on which our Lord reminds us that where our treasure is there will our hearts be also, we must all look into our own hearts as we prepare them to embark on the joyous, though difficult, Lenten journey to encounter the Risen Christ.

Στοχασμοί για το Τριώδιο

Εφέτος το Τριώδιο, η εποχή πνευματικής προετοιμασίας των δέκα εβδομάδων που προηγούνται του Πάσχα, αρχίζει τις 13 Φεβρουαρίου. Το λειτουργικό βιβλίο των Ύμνων, που χρησιμοποιεί η Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία κατά την διάρκεια του Τριωδίου, ονομάζεται επίσης «Το Τριώδιον» ή το «Βιβλίο των τριών Ωδών». Παίρνει το όνομά του από το γεγονός ότι, κατά την διάρκεια του Τριωδίου, πολλοί από τους Κανόνες περιέχονται μόνον τρεις ωδές αντί από τις συνηθισμένες εννέα.

Το αρχικό μέρος του Τριωδίου αποτελείται από 22 ημέρες, ή τέσσερις διαδοχικές Κυριακές. Στο διάστημα αυτό, διδάσκονται σημαντικά μαθήματα μετάνοιας και άλλων πνευματικών αρχών, που προετοιμάζουν τους πιστούς για την Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή. Το κυρίως πνευματικό θέμα αυτών των Κυριακών βρίσκεται στην περικοπή του Ευαγγελίου που διαβάζεται εκείνη την ημέρα.

Η τέταρτη Κυριακή πριν από την Σαρακοστή ονομάζεται «Κυριακή του Τελώνου και Φαρισαίου», από την Ευαγγελική περικοπή που αναφέρεται στην παραβολή του Ιησού για τον αντίθετο τρόπο προσευχής στο Ναό των δύο ανδρών (του Τελώνου και του Φαρισαίου) (κατά Λουκά 18 10-14). Η παραβολή αυτή μας προειδοποιεί ότι ο σωστός τρόπος να πλησιάσει κάποιος τον Θεό, να Του ζητήσει έλεος, είναι να το πράξει με ταπεινότητα, και ειλικρινή μετάνοια, όπως ο Τελώνης. Η αυτοδικαιολογία και η περηφάνεια του Φαρισαίου κρίνονται και κατακρίνονται από τον Κύριο.

Την επομένη Κυριακή η Εκκλησία μας αναφέρεται στην παραβολή του Ασωτού Υιού (κατά Λουκά 15, 11-32). Καθώς συνεχίζομε την προετοιμασία μας για την Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή, η Εκκλησία μας ζητά να επιστρέψουμε από «την μακρινή χώρα» της αμαρτίας και του χωρισμού μας από τον Θεό, στο αληθινό, αλλά χαμένο, πνευματικό μας σπίτι, όπου μας περιμένει η στοργική αγκαλιά και η άνευ όρων συγχώρηση και αγάπη του «ουράνιου Πατέρα μας». Η παραβολή αυτή μας βεβαιώνει ότι τίποτε δεν μπορεί να σταθεί ικανό να μας απομακρύνει από την αγάπη του Θεού.

Η επομένη Κυριακή ονομάζεται της Απόκρεω, γιατί την εβδομάδα που ακολουθεί η Εκκλησία απαγορεύει το κρέας, σαν μία σταδιακή είσοδο στην αυστηρή νηστεία που ακολουθεί.

Η πνευματική έμφαση της ημέρας είναι, η Ημέρα της Κρίσεως, ή η Δευτέρα Παρουσία. Η Ευαγγελική περικοπή αναφέρεται στη Δευτέρα Παρουσία του Κυρίου μας και στην Ημέρα της Κρίσεως, χρησιμοποιώντας την παραβολή των προβάτων και των εριφίων (κατά Ματθαίον 25, 31-46). Σ' αυτήν ο Κύριος εξηγεί ότι θα χωρίσει τα πρόβατα (τους καλούς) από τα ερίφια (τους κακούς) με κριτήριο την αγάπη και την ευσπλαχνία που έδειξε ή δεν έδειξε έκαστος εξ αυτών, σε αυτούς που είχαν ανάγκη.

Η έμφαση που δίνει η Εκκλησία μας στην Ημέρα της Κρίσεως έχει στόχο να μας υπενθυμίσει δύο πολύ σημαντικές αλήθειες.

Η πρώτη είναι ότι, όλοι όσοι πέθαναν και όσοι θα πεθάνουν εν Κυρίω, είναι βέβαιο ότι η Ανάσταση οδηγεί προς την αιώνια ζωή. Δεν είναι τυχαίο, το ότι το πρώτο Ψυχοσάββατο είναι την παραμονή της Κυριακής της Κρίσεως.

Η δεύτερη είναι ότι η Εκκλησία επιθυμεί να μας προειδοποιήσει, ότι η Δευτέρα Παρουσία σίγουρα θα έλθει. Η Κρίση του Κυρίου θα βασίζεται στο αν, σύμφωνα με τις

Συνέχεια στην σελίδα 9

COMMUNITY NEWS - ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΑ ΝΕΑ

GODPARENT SUNDAY

On Sunday, February 6th, the Community will celebrate Godparent/Godchild Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to make plans with their godchildren to attend and receive Holy Communion together.

THANK YOU!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the ladies who came along and sang the KALANTA at the homes of our Parishioners. We had a great time! All the proceeds went to support our Church's expenses.

KALI CHRONIA, KAI TOU XRONOU!

Roza Cornias

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΗΡΙΑ!

Μέσω της ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΣ θέλω να ευχαριστήσω όλες τις κυρίες που με συνόδευσαν και είπαμε τα ΚΑΛΑΝΤΑ στα σπίτια πολλών ενοριτών μας. Διασκεδάσαμε και περάσαμε μια αξέχαστη βραδιά. Όλα τα έσοδα πήγαν για υποστήριξη του ταμείου της Εκκλησίας μας.

Ρόζα Κόρνια

SAINT NICHOLAS "DIAMONDS" SENIOR GROUP.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February the 8, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at Saint Nicholas Social Hall. We have a lot to discuss so keep the date in mind.

We are planning on having the following upcoming events:

A Luncheon celebrating our Patron Saints, SS Constantine & Helen, on Sunday May 22, 2011 at the Saint Nicholas Social Hall with Lunch and entertainment. Donation is \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under 10 years old. **Boat Cruise** on Tuesday, June 21st. The cost will be \$ 47.00 per person and it includes the boat fare, luncheon, DJ, and 2 hour tour around the harbor .

Trip to Niagara Falls — Scheduled for September 15th through the 19th 5 days 4 nights. Please book your space early. For more information please contact Mrs. Rose Tsakalos at 410-282-2940.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

We are in the midst of winter and our philanthropic works are continuing as usual. Chickens have been prepared for Our Daily Bread during our regular schedule, every third week of each month. This year a different person undertakes this task each month and in this manner everyone is involved, and it seems to be going very well.

Hospital visitations are also in full swing and this year also a different person along with a partner visit hospitals and nursing homes.

We have no February meeting but our next meeting is set for March 2nd at 7:00 pm, which is also our "Ice Cream Night Social".

The next big event for Philoptochos is our Apokreatiko Glendi, which takes place on Saturday, March 5th. Please see the larger ad in this issue of the Koinonia for more information. We encourage everyone that comes to dress up in a costume. The proceeds from this evening will be going toward the Philoxenia House to offset the maintenance expenses for the house.

Reminder: For those of you who have not yet paid your dues please do so because as you all know this year on May 4th we have elections and you must be a paid member to vote. Keep well and stay warm. So much looking forward to spring-time!!!!!!!!!!!!

Zoe Perdikakis, President

THE MARYLAND GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

INVITES YOU TO ITS ANNUAL FUND RAISING DANCE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2011

AT SAINT NICHOLAS SOCIAL HALL

FROM 8 PM. TO 2:00 AM.

MUSIC BY APOLLONIA

DINNER & CASH BAR

DONATION \$40.00 PER PERSON

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL MANOLIS THEOHARIS 410-790-7542

NEA ΤΗΣ ΦΙΛΟΠΤΟΧΟΥ

Βρισκόμαστε ήδη την μέση του χειμώνα και οι φιλανθρωπικές δραστηριότητες μας συνεχίζονται. Οί κότες μαγειρεύονται στον ίδιο ρυθμό. Κάθε τρίτη εβδομάδα του μηνός μια διαφορετική κυρία με το γκρουπ το δικός της τις ετομάζουν για το Daily Bread "Άρτος επιούσιος" όπου πηγαίνουν καθημερινά οι φτωχοί και οι άστεγοι για ένα πιάτο ζεστό φαγητό.

Το ίδιο και με τις επισκέψεις στα νοσοκομεία και γηροκομεία όπου δίνουν μεγάλη χαρά στα άτομα που βρίσκονται εκεί.

Συνεδρίαση τον μήνα Φεβρουάριο δεν θα έχουμε και η συνεδρίαση τον Μάρτιο θα είναι στις δύο (2) του μηνός με μια βραδιά παγωτού.

Η επόμενη μεγάλη, και πολύ σπουδαία εκδήλωση είναι τό Αποκριάτικο Γλέντι στις πέντε (5) Μαρτίου και θα θέλαμε να έλθετε όλοι να περασσουμε μιά όμορφη οικογενειακή βραδιά. Ενθαρύνουμε όλους εσάς να έρθετε μεταμφιεσμένοι! Τα έσοδα απο την εκδήλωση αυτή θα διατεθούν για το σπίτι της Φιλοξενίας.

Υπενθύμιση: Για όσες κυρίες δεν έχετε πληρώσει την ετήσια συνδρομή, καλό θα ήταν να το κάνετε σύντομα γιατί φέτος τον Μάιο (4) έχουμε εκλογές και δεν θα μπορέστε να ψηφίσετε εάν δεν είστε εντάξει με την συνδρομή σας για αυτό το χρόνο.

Ευχομαι να περνάτε ένα καλό χειμώνα και με το καλό να μας έρθει η άνοιξη!!

Ζωή Πεοδικάκη, Πρόεδρος

BALTIMORE GREEK WEEK

THE MEDITERRANEAN DIET:

A GREEK JOURNEY THROUGH FOOD

The Baltimore-Piraeus Sister City Committee invite you to attend Baltimore's 1st Annual Greek Week from March 20th – 27th. Featured events include wine tastings, lectures on the

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COMMUNITY NEWS - KOINOTIKA NEA

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical FESTIVAL
Introduced in 1983, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides Greek Orthodox teenagers the opportunity to write and talk about their faith. The Oratorical Festival Program begins at the parish level and is divided into three divisions:



- Elementary Division (local festival only) for students in grades 4–6
- Junior Division for students in grades 7–9
- Senior Division for student in grades 10–12.

The top speakers in the Junior and Senior Divisions advance to the district level. Two finalists in each district division represent the district at the Metropolis Oratorical Festival. The top speaker in each metropolis division is then selected to participate in the Archdiocese Finals, which is

hosted by a different metropolis each year.

All eighteen finalists at the Archdiocese Finals participate in a weekend of activities, the highlight of which is the delivery of their speeches on Saturday morning. The Oratorical Festival Scholarship Foundation provides college scholarships in the amount of \$2,000, \$1,500, and \$1,000 to the top three speakers in each division. In addition, those finalists who receive a rank of Honorable Mention are awarded a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond.

Our Sunday School is preparing to host its own Parish Oratorical Festival in March. The topics have been distributed to the students. We look forward to having all of our students participate in this program. Scholarship money at our local parish level will be awarded to the top 3 students in the Junior and Senior Divisions.

GODPARENTS SUNDAY

Sunday, February 6th is Godparent's Sunday. Please remember to invite your Godparent/s to come to church so both of you can participate in the Divine Liturgy and prepare to receive Holy Communion.

Mediterranean Diet & Greek Wine, Greek buffets, discounted food specials, Greek movies, paintings by local artists, trivia games, & much more! Visit <http://baltimoregreece.org> for the schedule of events. Interested in participating? Contact Eleni Peltsems at 443-857-5544 or Angela Argirakis at 443-690-8512.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is doxology, praise, thanksgiving, confession, supplication and intercession to God. "When I prayed I was new," wrote a great theologian of Christian antiquity, "but when I stopped praying I became old." Prayer is the way to renewal and spiritual life. Prayer is aliveness to God. Prayer is strength, refreshment, and joy. Through the grace of God and our disciplined efforts prayer lifts us up from our isolation to a conscious, loving communion with God in which everything is experienced in a new light. Prayer becomes a personal dialogue with God, a spiritual breathing of the soul, a foretaste of the bliss of God's kingdom. As we pray deeply within our hearts we grow in prayer.

By the grace of God we suddenly catch a glimpse of the miracle of the presence of the Holy Spirit working within us. At first it is only a spark but later it becomes a flame freeing and energizing our whole being. To experience the fire of God's holy love, to give it space within us to do its cleansing and healing work as a breath of the Holy Spirit, and to use it as light and power for daily living — such are the goals as well as the fruits of true prayer.

Reprinted from www.goarch.org

GREEKTOWN CDC

Our neighborhood was reported in a recent Johns Hopkins University study. It was found to be one of the most resilient communities during this tough economy. This is good news for Greektown homeowners and businesses.

The Healthy Neighborhoods Program is scheduled to kick off again. The Greektown community was recently approved to have access to this program, which offers financial incentives for both current homeowners and potential homebuyers. Call our office 410-327-3306 and ask for Jason to find out if

your home is on one of our target blocks.

The Greektown CDC has been instrumental in having over 400 citations issued for sanitation and other code violations in our neighborhood during 2010. Our efforts and partnership with the City's Housing Department and Code Enforcement has been successful in making our neighborhood a better place to live. Residents are encouraged to report any illegal dumping call 911 as soon as it occurs.

With the New Year, there are many upcoming events and projects that we would love to have your help and participation. If you would like to volunteer, please call our office or visit our website. The next Greektown CDC Neighborhood Forum will take place on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 6 pm at St. Nicholas. Please call our office for the agenda. We hope to see you there!

Please remember to call 911 for all crime related issues, emergencies, including illegal trash dumping and loitering. Call 311 for non-emergencies and to request City services. Be sure to check on your elderly neighbors during these cold months and offer to shovel their sidewalks after a storm. Kindness goes a long way.

Visit our website at www.greektowncdc.org

Believe in your community!

*John E. Gavrillis
Chief Executive Offi*

FESTIVAL LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

The first meeting of the 2011 Festival committee are scheduled for **Thursday February 10**, weather permitting. If there is bad weather, the meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 17**. The following month's meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 10, 2011**. All meetings will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. in the Large Social Hall.

The festival committee is interested in hearing fresh ideas and is inviting all festival leaders and volunteers to come and share them at these meetings. We need everyone's input to make this another great festival. Remember—this festival is OUR festival, and your ideas are important. See you there!

Frank Mitsos

2011 Festival Chairperson

Hold the Dates—June 9, 10, 11, 12, 2011!!

COMMUNITY NEWS - ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΑ ΝΕΑ

NEA TOY ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟΥ

Τη Κυριακή, 23 Ιανουαρίου 2011, Ελληνικά Σχολεία της περιοχής Βαλτιμόρης, Αννάπολης και Ουάσιγκτων, παρουσίασαν εορταστικό πρόγραμμα με την ευκαιρία της εορτής των Τριών Ιεραρχών και της εβδομάδας των Ελληνικών Γραμμάτων.

Η εκδήλωση αυτή, πρωτοβουλία του Σεβασμιωτάτου Αρχιεπισκόπου Νέας Ιερσής, κ.κ. Ευγγέλου, έγινε στον ιερό ναό του Αγίου Γεωργίου στο Βεθέσντα.

Το Σχολείο μας εκπροσώπησαν με μεγάλη επιτυχία τα ακόλουθα παιδιά:

Αγγελής, Μιχαήλ
Αγγελή, Ειρήνη
Γιακουμάκη, Φλώρα
Πρωτόπαπα, Ειρήνη
Βασιλαράκης, Χρήστος
Καλαμαράς, Παναγιώτης
Αναστασιάδη, Χριστίνα
Αναστασιάδης, Στέλιος
Μαρνέρη, Νία

Από τη στήλη αυτή θέλουμε να συγχαρούμε τα παιδιά του Σχολείου μας για την θαυμάσια απόδοση των ρόλων τους. Ευχόμαστε πάντοτε, με τον ίδιο αξιόπαινο τρόπο, να εκπροσωπούν την Κοινότητα του Αγίου Νικολάου.

Θερμές ευχαριστίες ανήκουν επίσης στο Σύλλογο Γονέων και Δασκάλων και την Πρόεδρό του, κ. Νάνσυ Αναστασιάδη για την προθυμία να νοικιάσουν λεωφορείο και να διευκολύνουν έτσι όλους όσους συμμετείχαν στον εορτασμό αυτό.

Είθε οι Τρεις μας Ιεράρχες να προστατεύουν πάντοτε μαθητές και δασκάλους και να τους οδηγούν στο δρόμο της γνώσης και της αρετής.

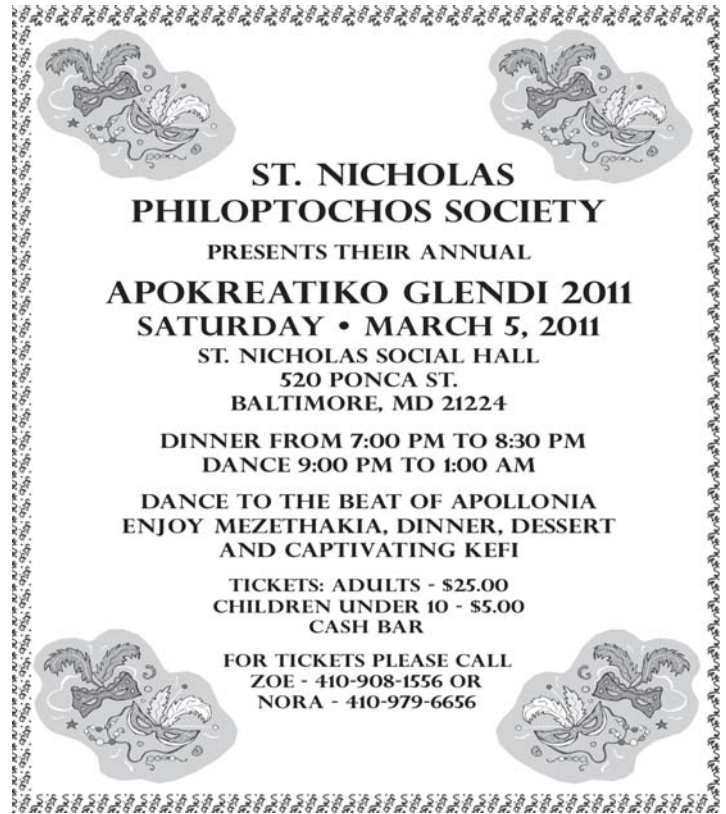
Ελένη Λούβρου-Μονόπωλη

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

The St. Nicholas Greek School students were honored to participate in a community celebration of the Three Hierarchs at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Bethesda, Md. on Sunday, January 23rd.

Our 6th grade students made us proud by performing a wonderful skit. They were natural actors on the stage, delighting the audience. The student's final performance was a song performed by the 6th graders and other students from the Greek School. Everyone in attendance enjoyed their performance.

We are especially thankful to those parents who agreed to allow their children to perform at this noteworthy event and to represent St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in such an amazing way. We are so proud of our students. The students are as follows: Irene Angelos, Michael Angelos, Flora Giakoumakis, Irene Protopapas, Panagiotis Kalamaras, Christos Vasilarakis, Kristina Anastasiades, Stelios Anastasiades and Nia Marneris.



**ST. NICHOLAS
PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY**
 PRESENTS THEIR ANNUAL
APOKREATIKO GLENDI 2011
SATURDAY • MARCH 5, 2011
 ST. NICHOLAS SOCIAL HALL
 520 PONCA ST.
 BALTIMORE, MD 21224

DINNER FROM 7:00 PM TO 8:30 PM
DANCE 9:00 PM TO 1:00 AM

DANCE TO THE BEAT OF APOLLONIA
ENJOY MEZETHAKIA, DINNER, DESSERT
AND CAPTIVATING KEFI

TICKETS: ADULTS - \$25.00
CHILDREN UNDER 10 - \$5.00
CASH BAR

FOR TICKETS PLEASE CALL
ZOE - 410-908-1556 OR
NORA - 410-979-6656

Rhodian Society of Maryland 'Diagoras'

will hosts its

Annual Bull & Shrimp Feast

at

UAW Local 239 Hall
 1010 S. Oldham Street
 Baltimore, MD 21224

on

Sunday February 27, 2011
from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

There will be plenty of food, fun and music.
 So join us for a great time and bring the family!

Anyone interested in purchasing a table or tickets,
 please see John Fotiou or call
 Maria Angelou @ 443-865-0851.

The cost is \$38.00 per person.

See you there!

COUNTDOWN TO THE ST. NICHOLAS GREEK FOLK FESTIVAL

JUNE 9-12, 2011

5 MONTHS



Νεα του Ελληνικού Σχολείου — Greek School News



The parents from left to right are as follows: Kalliopi Angelos, Estathios Kalamaras, Demos Anastasiades, Angela Vasilarakis and Nick Vasilarakis.

Students of St. Nicholas Greek School.

Eleni Monopolis and the Minister Of Education from the Greek Embassy welcoming the students of St. Nicholas Greek School.



STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES FOR 2011

MRS AGELOPAS SOPHIE
 MR/MRS AMARANTIDIS HARALAMBOS
 MR/MRS ANGELOS JOHN & IRENE
 MR/MRS ARGIRAKIS PANTELIS &
 MR/MRS ATSA LIS GUS
 MRS BOUDOURIS ASIMINA
 MR/MRS CHRISOMALLIS JOHN & TERI
 MS CHUVALAS DIMITRA
 MR CORNIAS NICHOLAS
 MR/MRS DIACOLOUKAS GUS & MARY
 MR/MRS FILIPIDIS NICHOLAS
 MRS GEORGALAS GRAMMATIKI
 MR/MRS GIAKOU MAKIS STELLA
 MR/MRS GLAVAS SOCRATES
 MRS HATZIKOSMAS AMALIA
 MRS JOHNS ASPASIA
 MR/MRS KAIKIS ANDREW
 MR/MRS KAMBA NOPOULO STELIOS
 MR KAPETANAKOS ELIAS
 MR/MRS KARAGIANNIS PAVLOS & JO
 MRS KASTRUNES DOLORES
 MR/MRS KOLENDRIANOS JOHN
 MR/MRS KOROLOGOS JOHN &
 MRS KOULATOS ANASTASIA
 MS LALLAS EVE
 MR/MRS LEWIS HOWARDE.
 MR/MRS MASTROMINAS MINAS
 MR/MRS MAYER FRANCIS &
 MR/MRS MOELLER PATRICIA ZOE
 MRS NICOLAIDIS MARIA
 MRS ORFANOS MARIA
 MR/MRS PAPA VASILIOU THARRENOS &
 MR/MRS PATRAS LEONARD N.
 MR/MRS PROAKIS KOULA
 MR/MRS SALIARIS ANASTASIOS
 MRS SERAFIS MARY
 MR/MRS SOPHOCLEOUS PROKOPIS
 MRS SOURANIS PARASKEVI
 MRS STAMATHIS KIKI
 MR/MRS SZULIMOWSKI HENRY
 MR TARATSIDES GEORGE
 MR/MRS THOMAS MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS TRIPOLITIS NINA
 MR/MRS TSAKALOS JEANETTE
 MRS VASILAKOPOULO ANASTASIA
 MRS VOURVOULAS SOPHIA

MR/MRS AHLADIOTIS JOHN & EFFIE
 MR/MRS ANASTASIADES DEMOS &
 MR ANGELOU MICHAEL
 MR/MRS ARGYRAKIS MICHAEL &
 MRS BALOMAS PATRICIA
 MRS CARDIGES ANN
 MRS CHRIST STASA
 MRS CONWAY ROSE
 MRS CORNIAS CALLIOPI
 MRS ELIOPOULOS ANNA
 MR/MRS FOTIOU JOHN
 MRS GEORGAS MARIA
 MRS GIANNAKOULIAS DIONISIA
 MRS HARRIS THEO
 MRS HAZARIDES KOSTAS
 MS JOHNS HELEN
 MRS KAITIS DESPINA
 MR/MRS KAMINARIS BARBARA
 MR/MRS KAPUTSOS MARSHALL
 MR KARAMANLIDES ANTONIOS
 MR/MRS KELLEY-CHRIST SHAWN &
 MR/MRS KOLIADIS EMMANUEL &
 MR/MRS KOSMAS DEMETRIOS
 MR/MRS KOUTSANTONIS DEMETRIOS
 MR LALLAS JOHN
 MRS LYGOUMENOS ALEXANDRA
 MRS MATTHEWS ANN
 MR/MRS MILLETT & ALEX EARL &
 MR/MRS MONIODIS MICHAEL
 MR NICOLARAKIS MICHAEL
 MR/MRS ORFANOS MICHAEL
 MR/MRS PAPPAS JOHN
 MRS PETRIDES ANNA
 MR/MRS ROUSSOS ANTHONY
 MRS SALPEAS MARIA
 MR/MRS SFAKIANAKIS ELIAS & IRENE
 DR/MRS SOPHOCLEUS GREGORY
 MR/MRS SOURANIS MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS STAVRAKIS JIMMY
 MRS TAHINOS STEPHANIE
 MR/MRS THEMELIS STELLA
 MRS TREANTAFELLO HELEN
 MR/MRS TRIPOLITIS JOSEPH &
 MRS TSAKALOS ROSE
 MS VATAKIS TESSIE
 MR/MRS YIANAKIS STEVE

MR/MRS ALEVROGIANNIS GEORGE &
 MR ANDERSON EMANUEL P. JR.
 MR/MRS ARGETAKIS GEORGE &
 MRS ASHBY ATHELENE
 MR BATES SAM
 MR/MRS CEDERAKIS OREANTHI
 MR/MRS CHRIST PHILIP
 MR/MRS CORNIAS MICHAEL C.
 MR/MRS CORNIAS TONY N.
 MRS FAKAS ZENOVIA
 MR/MRS FRANGOS JOHN
 MS GEORGAS ANTHIE
 MR/MRS GIANNAS STYLIANOS
 MR/MRS HARRIS SPYROS
 MR/MRS HIGGS MATTHEW
 MR KABUROPOULOS PETE
 MR/MRS KALAMBIHIS ALEXANDROS
 MRS KAPETANAKOS SOULA
 MR/MRS KARAGIANNIS DEMETRIOS
 MR KARAMANLIDES KYRIAKOS
 MR/MRS KIMOS JAMES
 MR KONSTANT ANGELO
 MR/MRS KOSTOS JOHN &
 MRS KOUTSONOURIS MARIA
 MS LAMBROW VIRGINIA
 MR/MRS MACH LEON J. &
 MR/MRS MAVRODONTIS ZAHARIAS
 MR/MRS MILLON EDWARD &
 MISS MONIODIS PANAGIOTA
 MR/MRS NISTAZOS NICKOLAS Z.
 MR/MRS PAPADOPOULOS EFSTATHIOS
 MR/MRS PATINIOTIS PANAGIOTIS &
 MR/MRS PIKOUNIS JOHN & DEBBIE
 MR/MRS SAKPAZIS IOANNIS
 MRS SARIGIANIS CHRISTINE
 MR SOLLON JOHN JAMES
 MR/MRS SOULIKAS GEORGE &
 MS SPYROPOULOS RENA
 MRS STRAKES KATHERINE
 MR/MRS TAKOS STEVE
 MR THEMELIS JOHN
 MR/MRS TRIANTAFILLOS COSTAS
 MRS TSAKALAS JULIE
 MR/MRS TSAMPOS GEORGE
 MR/MRS VERGOS GEORGE &
 MR/MRS ZISSIMOS GUS PETE -

MRS AMARANTIDIS PARTHENA
 MR ANGELOPOULOS CHRIS
 MR ARGETAKIS NICHOLAS
 MR/MRS ATHOS JANET
 MRS BILIS AMALIA
 MR/MRS CHALCOUSSIS ANTONIOS
 MS CHRISTAKOU STAVROULA
 MR/MRS CORNIAS MARK
 MR/MRS DEMETRIOS LOUIZOS &
 MR/MRS FAKAS JAMES
 MR/MRS GAZONAS-ZIKOU GEORGE
 MR/MRS GEORGIU JOHN
 MRS GLAVA KIKI
 MR HATZIGEORGALI ANTONIOS
 MR/MRS HONDROULIS ANDREANOS
 MR/MRS KAIKIS CLEMIS
 MS KALIS EUGENIA
 MR KAPETANAKOS FANOURIOS
 MS KARAGIANNIS SHOSHANA
 MS KARAS EVELYN
 MR/MRS KIRBY CHRISTIAN &
 MR/MRS KONTOUDIS KONSTANTINO
 MR/MRS KOUKIDES HARRY
 MR KOUTSOVASILIS ANASTASIOS
 MR/MRS LERICOS PERRY AND
 MR/MRS MASTROMANOLI MANUEL
 MR MAVRONIS NICHOLAS
 MR/MRS MOELLER PATRICIA ZOE
 MRS NEOFITOU ATHINA
 MRS NOMIKOS FANNY
 MR/MRS PAPANAS ANDREW
 MR/MRS PATRAS NICK
 MR/MRS PIKOUNIS JAMES
 MR/MRS SALARIS STEPHEN
 MR SARIOGLOU NIKOLAOS
 MR/MRS SOLLON NICK &
 MR/MRS SOULIKAS JAMES & JOAN
 MR/MRS STAKIAS MICHAEL
 MR SVINGOS JAMES JOHN
 MRS TARATSIDES ATHENA
 MR/MRS THEMELIS JOHN & RENEE
 MR/MRS TRINTIS BASILIOS &
 MR/MRS TSAKALAS STEVEN
 MR/MRS TSAMPOS MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS VIZANARIAS ALEXANDROS
 MR/MRS ZOULIS JOHN &

	PLEGGED	PAYMENTS	BALANCE
TOTALS:	\$74,701.00	\$42,116.00	\$35,585.00



DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM



IN MEMORY OF GARIFALIA (LITSA) KABUROPOULOS

George & Kiki Roros
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Hartofilis
 Michael & Eleni Klosterides
 Mr. & Mrs. Vasilis Roufas
 Ms. Maria Salpeas
 Mr. & Mrs. James Fotinos
 George & Rosa Cornias
 Mr. George Kosmos
 Mrs. Sofoula Frangakis

IN MEMORY OF SOPHIA PAPADOPOULOS

George & Rosa Cornias
 Mrs. Mellie Hazarides
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kevass
 Mr. & Mrs. Pete Sarioglou
 Mrs. Paraskevi Souranis
 Mrs. Sofoula Frangakis

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Sigambris

IN MEMORY OF JOHN PREVAS

Mr. & Mrs. Clemis Kaikis

IN MEORY OF MARION CAMPANARIS

Mr. & Mrs. Richard
 Rzczekowski

IN MEMORY OF

GEORGE MARKOU PERDIKAKIS

George & Rosa Cornias
 George & Zoe Perdikakis &
 Family
 Harry & Joanne Sigambris

IN MEMORY OF PENELOPE GEORGE

John, Eve Lallas

IN MEMORY OF

STAVROULA FORAKIS

Michael & Eleni Klosterides
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Birch

IN MEMORY OF DESPINA SISKOS

Michael & Eleni Klosterides
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Birch

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE PIKOUNIS

Michael & Eleni Klosterides

IN MEMORY OF STAVROULA FORAKIS AND PANAGIOTA PATRIKAKOU

Michael & Effie Moniodis

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE VANIKIOTIS, DIMITRIOS KALIAKOUDAS,

PANOS TARATSIDES & LELA ANGELOU

George & Zoe Perdikakis

IN MEMORY OF FAYE DEMETRIADES & STELLA MELISSARATOS

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Birch

IN MEMORY OF MARY MARKAKIS, WILLIAM RAU

John, Eve Lallas

Στοχασμοί για το Τριώδιο

Συνέχεια από την σελίδα 3

εντολές Του, έχουμε δείξει ειλικρινή αγάπη στους συνανθρώπους μας, ιδίως σε εκείνους που υποφέρουν.

Τέλος η Εκκλησία μας αναγκάζει να θυμόμαστε ότι ο Χριστός ταυτίστηκε πλήρως με την ανθρώπινη φύση, ιδιότερα με τους ελαχίστους εξ ημών.

Η τελευταία Κυριακή, πριν από την Σαρακοστή, λέγεται της Τυροφάγου. Η Εκκλησία συνιστά να αποφύγουμε γαλακτομικά τρόφιμα από την Μ. Δευτέρα μέχρι την Κυριακή του Πάσχα. Η εκδίωξη του Αδάμ και της Εύας από τον παράδεισο μνημονεύεται την ημέρα αυτή για να τονιστεί, με δραματικό τρόπο, η καταστροφική δύναμη και η συνέπεια της αμαρτίας των. Στην ευαγγελική περικοπή της ημέρας (κατά Ματθαίον 6, 14-21) ο Χριστός θέτει δύο από τους πιο σημαντικούς όρους για να ξεπεράσει κανείς την καταστροφική δύναμη της αμαρτίας,

νηστεία και συγχώρεσης. Γι αυτό το λόγο η Κυριακή της Τυροφάγου ονομάζεται και Συγχωρητική Κυριακή.

Την τελευταία αυτή ημέρα, πριν από την Σαρακοστή, η Εκκλησία μας διδάσκει ότι, αν δεν συγχωρήσουμε αυτούς που μας αδίκησαν, ο ουράνιος Πατέρας μας δεν θα μας συγχωρήσει, και ότι, δίνοντας συγχώρεση σε όσους μας αδίκησαν, μιμούμεθα και μεταδίδουμε την αγάπη του Θεού σε σε κάποιον άλλο, με τον καλύτερο τρόπο.

Με την τελευταία Κυριακή του Τριωδίου ολοκληρώνεται η προ της Μ. Τεσσαρακοστής περίοδος. Με τις τέσσερις αυτές Κυριακές, η Εκκλησία, με δυνατό και εντυπωσιακό τρόπο, επεξηγεί την ορθή πνευματικότητα, την πειθαρχία και το σεβασμό, απαραίτητα στοιχεία εισαγωγής μας στην Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή, και το χαρούμενο ταξίδι προς το Πάσχα και την Ανάσταση του Κυρίου.

Βασίλης Πούλος

Saint Nicholas Church Profit & Loss January through December 2010

	Jan - Dec 10
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Candles	80,409.00
Dances	
Special events	(290.00)
Dances - Other	9,513.00
Total Dances	9,223.00
Donations	
Other Donations	29,143.52
Flowers Income	1,255.00
Christmas Card Income	20.00
Donations - General	40,855.08
Donations - Hall	6,800.00
Donations - Memorial	36,830.00
Donations - Other	2,080.00
Total Donations	116,983.60
Greek Festival	136,955.00
Greek school registration	30,365.00
Interest Income	47.34
Stewardship	207,669.22
Trays	19,805.00
Total Income	601,457.16
Cost of Goods Sold	
Candle expense	12,267.00
Dance Expense	2,026.67
Festival	9,900.00
6250 · Flowers	687.00
Total COGS	24,880.67
Gross Profit	576,576.49

Saint Nicholas Church Profit & Loss January through December 2010

	Jan - Dec 10
Expense	
4000 · Reconciliation Discrepancies	244.61
CAPITAL COSTS	
Capital Improvements	
Plateia Expenses	114,295.13
Total CAPITAL COSTS	114,295.13
EMPLOYEE COSTS	
1099 Employees	60.00
Health Insurance	48,204.02
Organist	3,250.00
6560 · Payroll Expenses	152,919.56
Payroll taxes	13,297.77
Pension	6,000.00
6050 · Automobile Expense	9,000.00
Temporary Clergy Services	4,075.40
EMPLOYEE COSTS - Other	88,076.02
Total EMPLOYEE COSTS	324,882.77
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION	
Advertising	13,280.00
6060 · Bank & Credit Card Svc Charges	2,149.28
Church Supplies	5,684.65
Clergy Laity Congress	4,825.75
Flower Donations	2,217.50
Fair Share	36,000.00
6260 · Gifts	2,500.00
Insurance - General	21,287.79
6530 · Miscellaneous	1,399.37
Office Expense	18,821.53
Parade	500.00
6610 · Postage and Delivery	5,471.34
Professional Fees	7,500.00
Telephone	3,830.62
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION - Other	425.00
Total GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION	125,892.83
OCCUPANCY COSTS	
Mainten · Building Maintenance	35,318.84
Cleaning Halls	1,160.00
Ground Rent	90.00
Janitor's Supplies	5,374.63
Permits & Licenses	50.00
6940 · Utilities	47,362.69
Total OCCUPANCY COSTS	89,356.16
YOUTH AND EDUCATIONAL	
Youth Expense	481.30
Scholarship	2,000.00
YOUTH AND EDUCATIONAL - Other	3,456.12
Total YOUTH AND EDUCATIONAL	5,937.42
Total Expense	660,608.92
Net Ordinary Income	(84,032.43)
Net Income	(84,032.43)

ΚΟΙΝΟΝΙΑ 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 15th of the current month for the upcoming month's issue.

Issue month: March, 2011 Deadline: February, 15th

You may drop your article to the church office or e-mail it to Father Michael L. Pastrikos, or Tina Harris at: FrMichael@stnicholasmd.org
Tina Harris at: tinachios@msn.com

Liturgical Calendar — February 2011

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND:	Presentation of our Lord. Η Υπαπαντή Του Κυρίου, Orthros 8:45; Divine Liturgy 9:30 am.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH:	Sunday of the Canaanite Woman (Χαναανάας), St. Photios Patriarch of Constantinople. Orthros 8:45; Divine Liturgy 9:30 am.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH:	Saint Haralambos the Great Martyr. Του Αγίου Χαραλάμπου του Μεγαλομάρτυρος, Orthros 8:45; Divine Liturgy 9:30 am.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH:	Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee. (του Τελώνου και Φαρισαίου). The Triodion Begins. (Αρχίζει το Τριώδιο). Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10:00 am. <i>All Foods are permitted throughout the week of February 14th to the 19th. (fast free week).</i>
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH:	Paraklesis Service — 7 pm
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH:	Sunday of the Prodigal Son — Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am. <i>Meatfare Week — All foods are permitted on the other days of this week (February 21st to the 27th) except on Wednesday and Friday.</i>
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH:	First Saturday of the Souls — Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 9:30 am. <i>Memorial services for the departed loved ones will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy.</i>
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH:	Meatfare Sunday Judgment Sunday — Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am. <i>Cheese Fare Week starts from Monday, February 28 to Sunday, March 6th — Dairy products, fish and shellfish are permitted.</i>
SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH:	Second Saturday of the Souls — Orthros 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy 9:30 am.
SUNDAY, MARCH 6TH:	Cheesefare Sunday.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD:	Parish Life Committee Meeting, 7 pm.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH:	GOD PARENTS Sunday.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH:	GOYA meeting, 7 pm.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH:	Diamonds Meeting, 1 pm Church Social Hall.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH:	Maryland Greek Independence Day Fund Raising Dance, 8 pm.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH:	Rhodian Society Diagoras — Bull & Shrimp Roast, 3 to 7 pm UAW Hall.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2ND:	Philoptochos Meeting, 7 pm.
SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH:	Philoptochos Apokreatiko Glendi, Dinner: 7 to 8:30; Dance: 9 pm to 1 am.

KOINONIA

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Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

520 S. PONCA STREET, BALTIMORE, MD 21224

www.stnicholasmmd.org

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