



# JULY-AUGUST

(A COMBINED ISSUE)

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



**GREEK ORTHODOX  
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY**

**KOINONIA**

## Message from Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos, Protopresbyter

### THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS (AUGUST 15th)

After the Holy Spirit had come down from heaven upon the apostles, they went to preach the Gospel and establish the Holy Church in every nation.

Mary also traveled to other cities. When the holy apostle John became Bishop of Ephesus, Mary went there and lived in his house for some time.

Most of the time, however, Mary lived in Jerusalem, on Mount Zion. She was greatly loved and revered by all the members of the Holy Church. The Virgin Mary was the holiest person on earth, because Christ our God had dwelt in her womb. She had been His early mother and He had given her many gifts of grace.

But everyone must die sooner or later, no matter how holy they are. The time came for Mary to die also. But Christ had already conquered death for us.

Now, we know that everyone will rise from the grave just as Christ did on Holy Pascha. For this reason, we no longer say that a believing Orthodox Christian “dies”; we say that they “repose” or “fall asleep”, because we know that death is only a sleep, it is only for a while, and everyone will rise again someday. This is what the word “Dormition” means: to go to sleep for a while.

So, the time came for Mary to repose also, and one day, while she was praying, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she would repose in three days.

Mary was overjoyed to hear that she would repose, for she longed to be with Christ in heaven. She called all the Christians in Jerusalem to come to her so she could bid them farewell. To the women that

lived in her house as nuns, she gave pieces of her clothing as remembrances. Word was sent to the

Apostle James, who was Bishop of Jerusalem, and Mary told him where she was to be buried. All her relatives and the faithful of the Holy Church began to gather. They wept in sorrow, but Mary comforted them telling them that it would be better for them to rejoice than to weep, for Christ’s followers do not fear death.

Mary wanted to see the apostles once more before she reposed, so she prayed to God and He answered her. By a great miracle, God transported the apostles to Jerusalem, to the bedside of the holy virgin.

Mary peacefully reposed, with joy and hope, at the ninth hour of the day. She was carried with honor to her family’s tomb at the

foot of the Mount of Olives. By God’s will, only the Apostle Thomas had not been brought to Mary’s bedside, but he came to Jerusalem as soon as he heard about her repose. God had caused this because He wanted to give the Holy Church a special revelation. Thomas begged the apostles to open Mary’s tomb so that he could see her one last time. When they opened her grave, it was empty. Christ had taken Mary’s body to heaven also. Thus, we know that she is alive and already raised from the dead and she constantly prays for all Orthodox people, and helps us in time of trouble.

Because of this revelation, the apostles and the first Christians understood that they were to give special honor to the Virgin Mary and call on her in prayer for help.



*The Dormition of the Theotokos.*

# PARAKLESIS TO THE VIRGIN MARY

Throughout our Church history, no woman has been more loved, more lauded and more cherished than the Blessed Virgin Mary. She herself foretold it: "For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed." (Luke 1:48) In beautiful poetic-hymnography, which is characteristic of Byzantine Chant in the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Theotokos, the Mother of God is honored and esteemed for her unique role in the salvation of the human race. Through her, the Word of God became flesh and the Infinite became, as it were finite. Humanity took on divine presence and Divinity took on humanity. The Theotokos is the vehicle, par excellence of humility and obedience and thus a supreme example of redeemed mankind.

As the Mother of our Lord, she is our greatest ally and our most fervent intercessor, "for...the prayer of the righteous has great power in its effects." (James 5:16) During the Paraklesis Service, we ask the Most Holy Theotokos to save us just as those drowning reach out to those on dry land. Let us then seek with confidence the help and intercession of the

Mother of Light, Mary, the Mother of our Lord.

Let us also honor the Mother of our Lord, as many others before us have, by coming and participating in the Paraklesis Services, so that we can all praise the Mother of our Lord with Hymn and song.

**KOIMISIS — August 1-15  
PRAYER FOR THE LIVING  
LET US PRAY FOR GRACE, LIFE,  
PEACE, HEALTH, SALVATION,  
PROTECTION, FORGIVENESS  
AND REMISSION OF THE SINS  
OF THESE THY SERVANTS:**

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## PROTOPRESBYTER FR. MICHAEL PASTRIKOS, PASTOR

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[www.stnicholasmd.org](http://www.stnicholasmd.org)

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL

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LIA KARAGIANNOPOULOS, NURSERY & PRE-K  
YANA KARABELAS & NIKI CANNING, KINDERGARTEN  
PENNY GERAPETritis, FIRST GRADE  
ANTONIA SFIRIOU, SECOND GRADE  
PHAEDRA AVGERINOS, THIRD GRADE  
GEORGE KARAGIANNOPOULOS, FOURTH GRADE  
CHRISTINA ARAVIAKIS, FOURTH GRADE  
VOULA G. SAKELAKIS, FIFTH GRADE  
CHRISSE COSSIS, SIXTH GRADE  
VASILI FILIPPOU, SEVENTH GRADE  
EFFIE CANNING, EIGHTH GRADE  
ELIAS COSSIS & ADAM AGAPIOS, NINTH GRADE  
EMILY COSSIS, TENTH GRADE & CO-DIRECTOR  
SOFIA GERAPETritis, CO-DIRECTOR

### AFTERNOON GREEK SCHOOL

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CHARA RONTOLI-BACHER, TEACHER  
CHRISOVALANDOU DIAKOKOMNINOS, TEACHER  
DESPINA CHATZAKOU-LARENTZOS, TEACHER  
DR. ANASTACIA CHRYSSOS-LIVADITIS, TEACHER  
GEORGIOS PAPACHARALAMPOUS, TEACHER

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SOPHIA GERAPETritis, ASSISTANT TREASURER

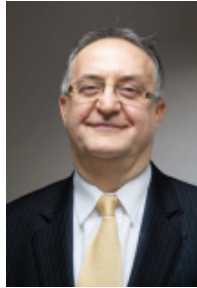
## MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH PRESIDENT

Dear Parishioners:

Once again, the community of Saint Nicholas presented an amazing festival. The weather was fantastic, and the large crowds each day allowed us to host one of the most popular festivals in the Baltimore area.

The decision to host a portion of the activities at our Church location was very successful. Our visitors, finding the Church open, were delighted with the tours as well as the return of the religious table, both staffed by devoted and knowledgeable Orthodox Christian volunteers. I noticed many young people taking an interest in our church, wanting to learn more about our Orthodox faith. The Plateia complex was busy offering new features such as a buffet dining room on the second floor, whole lambs on the spit and gyro machines on the field.

I am extremely grateful to all of the individuals involved with this year's Festival. Planning for this annual event began immediately after the close of the previous year's festival. The delicious homemade Greek food and pastries were lauded as the best ever tasted, and this was due to the cooperation and outstanding support that was offered by our faithful and loving volunteers. A huge thank you to the dedicated volunteers who continue to devote many hours in the preparation of this spectacular event. Without you, there would



be no festival.

There are too many persons, organizations and business entities to thank individually—festival Chairpersons, donors, pastry makers, food preparers, chefs, servers, publication specialists, entertainment committee, dance groups and coordinators, raffle sellers and buyers, security volunteers, supply managers, finance staff, set-up volunteers, and everyone who contributed in any way to assure the success of our Festival. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude and thanks, and may God grant continued health to you and your families.

If you were not involved, then you missed out on a wonderful opportunity to be a part of our church's growth. By volunteering, one becomes a follower of Christ and comes closer to one's fellow parishioners. Sure it is hard work and long hours, but all of our efforts are offered up to God. The festival is not only to generate funds for the operation of our Church but also to exemplify our love and faith to our Lord, to showcase our beloved Saint Nicholas Church, and to share our Greek traditions with those who appreciate our fine ethnic cuisine.

Hope to see everyone volunteering next year for another successful Festival! God Bless.

In Christ,

**Demos Anastasiades, Parish Council President**

## ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑΣ

(Αγαπητοί ενορίτες,

Άλλη μια φορά η κοινότητα του Αγίου Νικολάου παρουσίασε ένα καταπληκτικό φεστιβάλ. Ο καιρός ήταν υπέροχος και η καθημερινή προσέλευση του κόσμου μας επέτρεψε να φιλοξενήσουμε ένα από τα μεγαλύτερα φεστιβάλ στην περιοχή της Βαλτιμόρης.

Η απόφαση να φιλοξενήσουμε ένα μέρος των δραστηριοτήτων στο χώρο της εκκλησίας ήταν πολύ επιτυχής. Οι επισκέπτες μας βρίσκοντας ανοιχτό τον χώρο της εκκλησίας εμείναν πολύ ικανοποιημένοι από την ξενάγηση καθώς επίσης και από την παρουσία της Αγίας Τράπεζας που στελεχώνεται από καταρτισμένους και αφοσιωμένους εθελοντές της Ορθόδοξης Ελληνικής Πίστεως. Παρατήρησα πολλούς νέους ανθρώπους να ενδιαφέρονται για την εκκλησία μας, που θέλουν να μάθουν περισσότερα σχετικά με την Ορθόδοξη πίστη μας. Στο συγκρότημα της Πλατείας ήταν απασχολημένο πολύ προσωπικό προσφέροντας καινούριες παροχές, όπως μπουφέ στο δωμάτιο της τραπεζαρίας στο δεύτερο όροφο, αρνί σουβλάς και γύρο στον προαύλιο χώρο.

Είμαι ιδιαίτερα ευγνώμων στον καθένα χωριστά που συμμετείχε σε αυτό το ετήσιο φεστιβάλ. Ο προγραμματισμός και οι προετοιμασίες για αυτό το ετήσιο γεγονός αμέσως μετά τη λήξη του προηγούμενου. Το νόστιμο σπιτικό φαγητό και τα γλυκά αρτοποιήματα επαινήθησαν ως τα καλύτερα φαγητά ως τώρα, γεγονός που οφείλεται στη συνεργασία και στην αξιοθαύμαστη υποστήριξη των πιστών και αγαπητών μας εθελοντών. Ένα τεράστιο ευχαριστώ στους αφοσιωμένους εθελοντές, οι οποίοι συνεχίζουν να αφιερώνουν πολλές ώρες στην προετοιμασία αυτού του θαυμαστικού φεστιβάλ. Χωρίς εσένα δε θα τα

καταφέραμε!

Υπάρχουν πάρα πολλά άτομα, οργανισμοί και επιχειρήσεις που επιθυμώ να ευχαριστήσω -προέδρους, ευεργέτες, ζαχαροπλάστες, μάγειρες, βοηθούς μαγειρών, σεβιτόρους, υπεύθυνους δημοσίων σχέσεων, την επιτροπή ψυχαγωγίας, χορευτικά συγκροτήματα και συντονιστές, πωλητές λωταρίας και αγοραστές, εθελοντές ασφαλείας, προμηθευτές, οικονομολόγους, κάθε είδους εθελοντές και όλους όσους συνέβαλαν με οποιονδήποτε τρόπο, για να εξασφαλίσουν την επιτυχία του Φεστιβάλ μας. Παρακαλώ να δεχτείτε την ειλικρινή ευγνωμοσύνη και τις ευχαριστίες μου, και ο Θεός να δίνει υγεία σε σας και στις οικογένειές σας

Αν δεν ήσασταν εκεί, χάσατε μια θαυμάσια ευκαιρία να γίνετε μέρος της εκκλησιαστικής μας δύναμης. Μέσω του εθελοντισμού κανείς γίνεται οπαδός του Χριστού και έρχεται πιο κοντά στους ενορίτες. Ασφαλώς κάτι τέτοιο περιλαμβάνει πολύωρη και κοπιαστική δουλειά, αλλά σκεφτείτε πως όλες μας οι προσπάθειες προσφέρονται στο Θεό. Το Φεστιβάλ είναι όχι μόνο για να δημιουργήσει κεφάλαια για τη λειτουργία της Εκκλησίας μας, αλλά και για να αναδείξει την αγάπη και την πίστη στον Κύριό μας, να προβάλλει την αγαπημένη μας εκκλησία του Αγίου Νικολάου, και να αποτελέσει το έναυσμα ώστε να μοιραστούμε την ελληνική παράδοση με εκείνους που εκτιμούν την εκλεπτυσμένη εθνική γαστρονομία.

Ελπίζουμε, τη χρονιά που θα έρθει, να σας δούμε όλους να συνεισφέρετε ξανά σε ένα ακόμα επιτυχημένο Φεστιβάλ! Ο Θεός να σας ευλογεί.

**Δήμος Αναστασιάδης, Πρόεδρος της Ενορίας του Συμβουλίου**

## ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ ΒΑΛΤΙΜΟΡΗ, ΜΕΡΥΛΑΝΤ

### ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΕΛΕΥΣΗ--ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ, ΙΟΥΛΙΟΥ 13, 2014

Σύμφωνα με τους κανονισμούς των Κοινοτήτων της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής, καλούμε Γενική Συνέλευση των μελών, την Κυριακή, 13<sup>η</sup> Ιουλίου, 2014, μετά το πέρας της Θείας Λειτουργίας.

Σύμφωνα με τους Κανονισμούς, όσοι επιθυμούν να συμμετέχουν στην Συνέλευση και να ψηφίσουν, οφείλουν να έχουν εκπληρώσει τις προς την Κοινότητα οικονομικές τους υποχρεώσεις μέχρι και την ημέρα της Συνέλευσης.

#### ΗΜΕΡΗΣΙΑ ΔΙΑΤΑΞΗ

1. Προσευχή από τον Ιερέα, Αιδεσ. Μιχαήλ Λ. Παστρικό
2. Έναρξη της Συνέλευσης από τον Πρόεδρο της Κοινότητας κ. Δήμος Αναστασιάδης
3. Εκλογή Προέδρου και Γραμματέα της παρούσας Γενικής Συνέλευσης
4. Ανάγνωση και επικύρωση των πρακτικών της προηγούμενης Γενικής Συνέλευσης
5. Έκθεση από τον Πρόεδρο της Κοινότητας, κ. Δήμος Αναστασιάδης
6. Έκθεση από τον Ταμία της Κοινότητας
7. Έκθεση εξόδων έτους 2013 και συζήτηση σχετικά με την μη πληρωμή του οφειλομένου ποσού σύμφωνα με τους νόμους του προγράμματος της Αρχιεπισκοπής ως προς όφελος των κληρικών.
8. Έκθεση από τον Ιερέα
9. Έκθεση Εξελεγκτικής Επιτροπής
10. Έκθεση της Επιτροπής του "Φεστιβάλ 2014"
11. Έκθεση από την Επιτροπή της "ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑΣ"
12. Έκθεση της Εθελοντικής Προσφοράς
13. Έκθεση της Επιτροπής Αναδείξεως Υποψηφίων για το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο
14. Εκλογή Εφορευτικής Επιτροπής
15. Παλαιές Υποθέσεις
16. Νέες Υποθέσεις
17. Λήξη της Συνέλευσης και Προσευχή

Όλα τα μέλη της Κοινότητας προτρέπονται να παρουσιαστούν και να λάβουν μέρος στη Συνέλευση, διότι θα συζητηθούν θέματα σοβαρά. Επίσης σαν μέλη της Κοινότητας του Αγίου Νικολάου, είναι καθήκον μας να συμμετέχουμε στις Συνελεύσεις και να εκφράζουμε την υποστήριξή μας για το καλό της Κοινότητας. Η παρουσία σας είναι απαραίτητη για να έχουμε απαρτία και να αρχίσει η Συνέλευση. Παρακαλείστε να συμμετέχετε.

Από τον Ιερέα και το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο του Αγίου Νικολάου  
30 Ιουνίου 2014

**SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**BALTIMORE MARYLAND**

**NOTICE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY--SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2014**

Pursuant to the regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (UPR), the date of the General Assembly meeting has been scheduled for **Sunday, July 13, 2014 immediately after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.**

Also, according to the UPR, those persons wishing to participate and vote must pay their Stewardship up to the date of the Assembly. A regular member of the Parish who is already enrolled in the Parish register but has neglected to pay his/her stewardship may pay the same day and before the beginning of the Assembly in order to participate and vote.

**AGENDA**

1. Invocation by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos
2. Call to order by the Parish Council President Mr. Demos Anastasiades
3. Election of Chairman and Secretary for the Assembly
4. Reading and ratification of the minutes of the previous General Assembly
5. Parish Council President report
6. Treasurer's financial report
7. Report of the 2013 Budget Expenses and discussion of the unpaid financial obligation to the Archdiocese Benefits Program Assessment as mandated by the UPR.
8. Priest's report
9. Auditing Committee Report
10. Final 2014 Festival Committee report
11. Plateia Report
12. Stewardship Report.
13. Formation of Nominating Committee
14. Nomination of the Election Committee members
15. Nomination of the Audit Committee members
16. Old Business
17. New Business
18. Closing of the Meeting and Benediction

All members of the Community are urged to attend this important Parish Assembly meeting. It is also our duty as members of the Community of Saint Nicholas to come and offer our support for the progress of the community. Your presence is mandatory to establish a quorum. PLEASE ATTEND.

From the Priest and Parish Council of Saint Nicholas  
June 30, 2014

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

# Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

**520 South Ponca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21224**

Any student whose family is a member in good standing in the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 520 South Ponca Street, Baltimore, Maryland who is a high school senior and is continuing their education at a four year college or a two year college will be eligible to apply for the award. Please provide a copy of the college or university acceptance letter.

The Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church will award the scholarship from the Koutsonouris Memorial Scholarship to a student of the Saint Nicholas Community. The following criteria will be used in selecting the winner:

- 1. Financial Need**
- 2. Good Character**
- 3. Academics**
- 4. Leadership in School**
- 5. Service to your church community**

In order for your application to be processed and accepted, the following items must be enclosed in one envelope.

- 1. Fully completed application**
- 2. Must provide official copy of High School or College Transcripts**
- 3. A recent photograph of yourself**
- 4. Short Essay: Please provide the reviewing committee an essay no longer than 300 words explaining your plan of study, ambition and career goals.  
Kindly remit a statement that qualifies you as Greek descent.**
- 5. Scholarship will be awarded to one student in the amount of \$1,000.**
- 6. Rising high school seniors or continuous higher education applicants will only be considered.**

Completed applications are due in the Saint Nicholas Church office no later than Thursday, July 31, 2014. You will be notified of the results. Award will be presented at Saint Nicholas Church on Sunday, September 14, 2014. The recipient will be expected to be present to receive their award.

Applications may be obtained from the church office, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Thank you.

**The Saint Nicholas Scholarship Committee,  
Spiros Minas,  
Dino Frangos,  
Kyriakos Stamoulis**



## PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

The Parish Life Committee (PLC) will hold its first meeting of the new Ecclesiastical year on Wednesday, August 27th at 7 pm in the Board Room. It is mandatory that all ministries and organizations of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and outside organizations which utilize the church building for meetings and events send a representative to attend and to present their upcoming 2014-2015 calendar of events.

Also, no church ministry or church organization may place an event on the church's calendar with the approval of the Parish Life Committee or the Parish Council directly. This includes day trips as well. If an organization misses a PLC meeting, then the organization must seek the approval of the Parish Council for the event. Events cannot be placed on the church's calendar without the approval of the PLC or the Parish Council.

Also, the Parish Council requests that meetings be held Mondays through Thursdays so to reduce the necessity of having the church open on Friday and Saturday evenings. Paid rentals, weddings, baptism and funerals are the exception.

Again, the purpose of the PLC is to help coordinate the activities of all organizations so there will be no conflicts or overlapping of events.

Please check the church's website at [www.stnicholasmd.org](http://www.stnicholasmd.org) and view the calendar for any potential scheduling conflicts before requesting an event to be placed on the calendar.

We look forward to seeing you at the first meeting.

**The PLC Committee Members**

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer. In the meantime Philoptochos continues to prepare food for Our Daily Bread and helping those less fortunate.

In July, 2014, we attended our National Philoptochos Biennial Convention in Philadelphia. Congratulations to all our members and supporters for our Philoptochos received two awards. First place award for increasing membership by 66 percent and a second award for fulfilling all our National and Metropolis Commitments.

On August 14, 2014 after vespers, we will be hosting the reception along with the coffee hour on August 15th. Everyone is welcomed!

The Philoptochos newsletter and dates for the coming year will be mailed out the middle of August, 2014.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in September, 2014.

*Nora Kefalas, President*

## FESTIVAL NEWS

A big thank you to all those who helped make this year's festival a success. A special thank you to those generous individuals who made contributions and all those volunteers who worked so hard. A detailed report will be given at the General Assembly meeting scheduled for July 13, 2014.

Raffle Winners were as follows:

### \$100.00 TICKET

1ST PRIZE \$15,000 #75  
2ND PRIZE \$ 3,000 #67  
3RD PRIZE \$ 2,000 #571

### \$5 TICKET

1ST PRIZE \$3,000 #4026

## 2ND PRIZE \$1,500 #1369

Special Thank You: To Ikaros Restaurant for re-paving and re-striping St. Nicholas' church parking lot.

To Pat's Pizza for supplying the pizzas for all the Greek School Programs through-out the entire 2013-2014 school year.

To Maria D's, located at 111 North Crain Highway for supplying the pizzas for the Vacation Bible School's celebration luncheon on Friday, June 27, 2014.

## GREEKTOWN CDC

**A message from Colonel John E. Gavrilis, CEO**

The Greektown CDC congratulates the Saint Nicholas Greek Folk festival chairman, Frank Mitsos, his committee and all the volunteers for putting on another successful festival. This event promotes our Greek heritage, religion and our community.

Our community is brighter and cleaner thanks to the City. Responding to the Greektown CDC's request, they repaired the street lights and replaced the decorative brickwork in the 4700 blk Eastern Avenue. Also we would like to thank the City for providing the mechanical street sweeper that's been seen on Eastern Avenue and our side streets.

A meeting on the development of Pemco was held June 11, 2014 at St. Nicholas Church. Our board member, Theo Harris, represented the Greektown CDC at this important meeting. A full report of the development options was presented. A combination of residential units, small business strip and a large anchor was suggested. Questions on environmental concerns will be addressed at a later meeting by the developer. We will keep you informed when a community wide meeting is scheduled. Residents and businesses in Greektown will have input in this development project.

On June 25, 2014 the Greektown CDC was able to sponsor nearly over 60 kids and chaperones from our Greek community to attend an Orioles game on Buddies Nite. We thank Ernie Rafailides, Free State Gun Range, Dr. Savas Tsakiris, Gus Lambrow, Aris Melissaratos, and O'Connor Liquors, who supported this effort with their generous donations.

A quiet zone is being sought to keep nuisance train horns from being activated in the late evenings and early morning. A meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2014, 7pm at the East Baltimore Church of God, 800 Oldham Street. Officials from the City will be present to hear your concerns.

Mark your calendar **August 5, 2014 @ 7pm**, each year our office coordinates the National Night Out event in Greektown. This event promotes neighborhood camaraderie and good relations with our local police officers. This year we will be hosting the event at the Gloria Hertzfelt playground (Lehigh and Gough Street). If you are interested in helping your community please call our office 410-327-3306 and ask for Lori or John.

### Save the Date!

**Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church  
520 South Ponca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21224**

**Join us as we celebrate our 60th Anniversary!**

**Saturday, December 6, 2014**

**Grand Banquet**

**Further Details Forthcoming!!!**

## JULY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**Tuesday, July 1:** Ss. Cosmas and Damianos the Unmercenaries: Orthros 8:45 a.m. , Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, July 6:** Fourth Sunday of Matthew: Orthros 8:45, Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday, July 13:** Sunday of the Holy Fathers: Orthros 8:45, Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday, July 20:** Sixth Sunday of Matthew, St. Elias the Prophet: Orthros 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Monday, July 21:** Great Vesper Service at Ss. Mary Magdalene

and Markella( Darlington, Md.) at 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 22:** Ss. Mary Magdalene, the Myrrbearer and Markella of Chios: Orthros 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

**Saturday, July 26:** St. Paraskevi of Rome: Orthros 8:45, Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, July 27:** Seventh Sunday of Matthew: St. Pantelemon the Great Martyr: Orthros 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

**Monday, July 28:** St. Irene Chrysovalantou: Orthros 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, July 1-August 1:** Greek School Summer Camp, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with half day and full-day options.

**Sunday, July 13:** General Assembly to be held after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

**Tuesday, July 15:** Festival Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, July 31:** Deadline for Scholarship Program, Applications available in the church office.

## AUGUST LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**Friday, August 1:** Paraklesis Service: 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, August 3:** 8th Sunday of Matthew: Orthros 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Monday, August 4:** Paraklesis Service: 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, August 6:** Feast of Holy Transfiguration: Orthros 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

**Wednesday Evening, Paraklesis Service:** 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, August 8:** Paraklesis Service: 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, August 10: 9th Sunday of Matthew:** Orthros 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Monday, August 11: Paraklesis Service:** 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, August 13: Paraklesis Service:** 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, August 14:** Great Vesper Service (Eve of the Dormition): 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, August 15:** The Feast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary: Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, August 17:** 10th Sunday of Matthew: Orthros 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday, August 24:** 11th Sunday of Matthew: Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Friday, August 29:** The Beheading of St. John the Baptist: Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, August 31:** 12th Sunday of Matthew: Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

A REMINDER TO ALL PARISHIONERS: THE FIRST 15 DAYS OF AUGUST ARE STRICT FASTING DAYS. NO MEAT OR DAIRY PRODUCTS ARE TO BE CONSUMED.

DURING THE PARAKLESIS SERVICES, FR. MICHAEL WILL BE COMMEMORATING THE NAMES OF THE LIVING. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THE NAMES ARE READABLE.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!  
COME TO CHURCH,  
JOIN THE ACTIVITIES!



# GREEK FOLK FESTIVAL 2014



*Thanks to our volunteers, the dancing groups and the weather on our side the festival was one of the best ever!  
Και του Χρόνου!*



## ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF BALTIMORE

A church that is **ALIVE**  
needs the generous sacrificial support  
of those who love it.

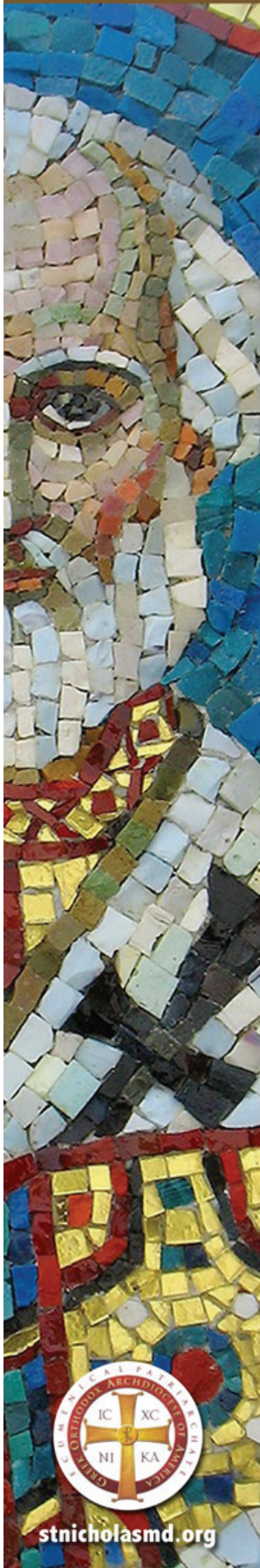
*Only a dead church demands no sacrifice.*

Join us  
by  
making  
your  
pledge to

**GOD**

today to  
continue  
**HIS**  
**Mission.**

offer your  
Time, Talent,  
& Treasure



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2014



## ***“Where Jesus” Love Is One-of-a Kind”***

God’s Spirit of love and acceptance was felt throughout the church halls of Saint Nicholas during our annual Vacation Bible School Program, June 23th through June 27th. God’s Spirit was infectious as more than 40 children learned about *“Where Jesus” Love Is One-of-a Kind*” and how big and accepting His love is for us. The theme, “Weird Animals” guided our youngsters through a week of learning how God made us and that each person is a unique creation of God’s. They also learned that God loves us no matter what, even when we make mistakes and do something wrong.

The young caring adults, teenagers and GOYA members of our Parish were instrumental in making the week fun. And as always, tasty lunches were prepared by capable church volunteers of our Saint Nicholas church.

Our sincere thanks to all the parents who gave priority and enrolled their children in this learning experience of our Church, to the contributors who donated materials, food and to all the volunteers who cheerfully manned each aspect of the program. Everyone involved was responsible for its success: we could not have accomplished this without them. We look forward to working with them once again next year. May God continue to bless them all.



*All the best,  
Phaedra Avgerinos and Nancy Anastasiades,  
Co-Chairpersons*

# St. Nicholas Square Event & Cultural Center



## The Best Kept Secret in Baltimore

- Banquets                      Anniversary Parties
- Receptions                  Graduations
- Auctions                      Company Holidays
- Theater                        Retirement Parties
- Concerts                      Mercy Meals
- Conferences                 Family Reunions

Welcome to the St. Nicholas Square Event & Cultural Center at Baltimore, Maryland, a premier reception and banquet facility. Our elegant, sophisticated atmosphere will make your event a truly memorable one. Our state of the art facility comfortably accommodates up to 200 guests including plenty of free parking. You'll also find the food incredibly delicious, the service impeccable and the staff very gracious. So whether you're planning a wedding reception, a trade show, an anniversary celebration, a company holiday gathering, a class or family reunion, a business meeting or any event, we're confident our staff will make your event a huge success.



For more information and to tour of our facility, please contact Frank Mitsos at 410-294-1253.

St. Nicholas Square Event & Cultural Center  
 701 Quail Street Baltimore, Md. 21224  
 T: 410.294.1253 T:410.633.5020  
[www.stnicholasmd.org](http://www.stnicholasmd.org)

The Lord Baltimore Chapter #364 of AHEPA was proud to present the 2014 Scholarship awards to seven well-deserving students who will be representing the Greek community for many years to come. We want to congratulate all the students and their families for their outstanding work. We would also like to thank Father Michael Pastrokos for his kind words and thoughtfulness during the ceremony. AHEPA is proud to support the Hellenic community.

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) is a service organization founded on July 26, 1922 in Atlanta, Georgia. Its mission is to support Greek-American charities, causes, and communities. It works closely with the Greek Orthodox Church.

All of our Chapter members are very grateful to Father Michael and the entire St. Nicholas Church for their support. The Lord Baltimore Chapter also presented the Church with a \$500 scholarship for the Greek school.

Congratulations to everyone involved for a job well done and we look forward to next year.



*Konstantinos Loukas, Lizeta Argiropoulos, Yianni Kanaras, Pete Christ, George Roros, Samantha Kosmas, Tereza Roros*



## DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM



**In Memory of Mrs. Eugenia Roros**

Mr. and Mrs. Gerasimos Galiatsatos

**In Memory of Mr. Constantine Pantazonis**

Mrs. Maria Pantazonis  
Mrs. Donna Spencer  
Mrs. Voula Christakou  
Mrs. Helen Bisbikis

**In Memory of Mr. Constantine Anagnos and Mrs. & Mrs. George & Mary Papadopoulos**

Mr. and Mrs. James Anagnos

**In Memory of John Kafallas**

Mrs. Popi Filippou  
Mr. and Mrs. Tharrenos Papavasiliou  
Mr. and Mrs. Basilios Trintis  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kefalas  
Ms. Sylvia Rice  
Mr. and Mrs. Gus Diacoloukas  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerasimos Galiatsatos  
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Onasis

**In Memory of Mr. George Sfakianoudis**

Mrs. Georgia Kepreos

**In Memory of Mr. Michael Argyrakis**

Mrs. Despina Argyrakis

**In Memory of Stamatia Kouros**

Mr. & Mrs. Georgos Karamichalis

Mrs. Popi Filippou  
Mrs. Anastasia Vasilakopoulou  
Mrs. Maria Kalambihi  
Mr. & Mrs. John Georgiou  
Ms. Dina Roros  
Mr. & Mrs. John Sakellarakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Basilios Trintis  
Mrs. Kiki Vavakas  
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Diacoloukas  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Yianakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Christ  
Dr. and Mrs. John Stamas  
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Mr. & Mrs. Gerasimos Galiatsatos  
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Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Koukoulas  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Stakias  
Mrs. Athena Neofitou  
Mrs. Zenovia Fakas  
Mrs. Pari Kapsanis  
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Onasis

**In Memory of Dr. Nicholas Papadimitriou**

Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Trikoulis  
Mr. & Mrs. George Katsafanas  
Mr. & Mrs. Kostantinos Hatzidakis  
Mr. & Mrs. William Popomaronis

# The Reality of Caring for the Priest

by Fr. Constantine L. Sitaras

(Reprinted from the *Orthodox Observer*, June, 2014)

At the conclusion of every Divine Liturgy the choir, the chanter and entire congregation prays for the well being of the “one who blesses us and sanctifies us with God’s grace, Lord keep him, in your care for many years.” In essence we pray for the health and care of our priests. Throughout the past years, the Church has understood this responsibility for her clergy with a very serious commitment towards making certain that the priest and his family will have health insurance, that the priest will have a reasonable pension in his older age, and insurances for life, disability and travel.

Forthcoming issues will present articles that explain these individual programs.

## **Caring for the priest and his family?**

The Church must have this responsibility and the Church is each and every local parish, the metropolis and the Archdiocese.

## **How is this “care” made manifest?**

It has been a process that began many years ago, almost from the new establishment of the Archdiocese in America. As the years progressed, the ministry of clergy care became more formalized to the point of various committees being established that have responsibility for the various programs.

## **What does the “care” comprise?**

Of course, as mentioned medical coverage is a basic necessity for life today. Currently the health insurance program includes the clergy and some staff of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and other Orthodox Jurisdictions and functions as the Joint Orthodox Health Plan (The JOHP). In later editions there will be articles explaining the various aspects of the Orthodox Health Plan (which also includes dental coverage and prescription drugs) and also about the current change in America The JOHP has a committee that governs it and has an advisor and an agent who are experts in the health insurance industry.

The Insurance Committee also has responsibility for all the insurances including health disability, life, business travel and spouse survival. In addition to health insurance there is life insurance and an accidental death and dismemberment, business travel accident insurance and spouse survival in case of the untimely death of a priest.

Also available to the priest and his family is the Confidential Assistance Program. This service is available to help address personal issues a priest or a member of his household might be facing. It is available by phone-

twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. It also offers legal information, financial information and resources for work-life needs, such as finding a child or elder car in the vicinity of their home. This program is completely confidential. The “care” means a pension plan that will help support the priest in his later years. There are 983 clergy and lay staff of whom 353 are retired. Can you imagine the inequity of their lives if they were not able to sustain themselves in retirement? This would be a grave and serious injustice. Although not a lucrative amount, the priests are able to live. To administer the pension plan there are two committees, the Administration Committee and the Investment Committee. The Administration Committee has responsibility for the accurate and precise implementation of the pension plan keeping it current in meeting the needs of the clergy.

The Investment Committee has responsibility for the pension fund growth. Both committees are comprised of six voting members, three clergy and three experts. A later article in this publication will discuss in more detail the pension plan. It seems, perhaps, unusual to read an article about the temporal needs of clergy and their families but this is a reality that must be addressed.

Certainly, one might ask, how is all of this funded? This is a valid and important question. The communities of the Archdiocese through the stewardship offerings of their faithful parishioners make these programs a reality. Parishes help pay the health insurance premiums for each priest.

There is a monthly Clergy Benefits Obligation to fund the pension, disability, life insurance and other programs. Of course, each priest contributes to his personal pension.

It must be stated that it is not in the nature of the person becoming a priest to concern himself with the reality of his and his family’s earthly needs. With gratitude it must be said that each priest is truly thankful that the Church understands the reality of their needs and attempts to help them in their old age and through life.

“The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind. You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedech.” (Psalm 109/110:4)

A priest forever and the Church will forever make certain that his temporal needs are addressed.

(Fr. Sitaras is a long-time member of the Clergy Benefits Committee. He serves as director of Saint Basil Academy and of The Center for Family Care.)



## JOURNEY OF FAITH PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND, TURKEY, PONTOS & CONSTANTINOPLE

Led by Reverend Father Michael Pastrokos  
of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Baltimore, Maryland



### THE HOLY LAND

Your pilgrimage to the Holy Land will be an unforgettable and spiritually rewarding journey! Visit and venerate Christendom's most sacred sites. See where Jesus spent most of his life and performed the many miracles you have read about in the Bible. Visit the cities of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, and Tiberias! Among the many sites and churches you will see are the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Church of St. Anne and the Pools of Bethesda, the Tomb of the Virgin Mary, the Prison of Christ (Praitonion), the Church of the Holy Apostles and the Church of the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor. Take the cable car up to the Mt. of Temptation Monastery and see the rock that Jesus actually prayed by. Visit the Church of the Nativity and touch the spot where Christ was born! Among the other sites you will see are the Church of Tabgha, Cana, the Church of the Annunciation, the Garden of Agony, the Monastery of St. Gerasimos Iordanitis, Lazarus' Tomb, Church of St. Elisseos and Zacchaeus Tree. Take a boat-ride on the Sea of Galilee and experience a spiritual baptism in the River Jordan. Enjoy a private audience with Patriarch Theophilos III (subject to his availability) and attend midnight Liturgy at the Holy Sepulcher.

### TURKEY

**CONSTANTINOPLE:** Our pilgrimage will take us to Constantinople, the heart of Orthodoxy. Visit the seventeenth-century Greek Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate. Pray at the St. George Cathedral and venerate the Holy Relics of St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom. Participate in a private audience with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (subject to his availability). Visit the most important sites for the Greek Orthodox in Constantinople: Agia Sophia, the Church of the Holy Savior of Chora, Baloukli Monastery and its Underground Shrine of Zoodochos Peghe, Topkapi Palace, which houses the relics of St. John the Baptist, Panagia Blacherna, where the beautiful hymn "Te Ypermacho" was chanted over 1,400 years ago, and the Grand Bazaar.

**PONTUS:** Visit the area of Pontus, on the shores of Turkey's Black Sea and in the Pontic Alps, where Greeks once lived. The Pontic Greeks had a continuous presence in the region of Pontus (modern-day northeastern Turkey), Georgia, and northeastern Anatolia from at least 700 BC until 1922. Like Armenians, Assyrians, and other Ottoman Greeks, the Greeks of Trapezounta suffered widespread massacres and what is now usually termed ethnic cleansing at the beginning of the twentieth century, first from the Young Turks and later from Kemalist forces. Visit the historic monastery of Panagia Soumela near Trapezounta, on the mountains rising up on the south coast of the Black Sea. In 2010 the Turkish government allowed Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to preside at the first historic liturgy there in eighty-eight years. According to tradition, the Monastery of Panagia Soumela was established in AD 386 by the Athenian monks Barnabas and Sofronios on the steep cliffs of Mount Melas, south of the city of Trapezounta (Trabzon) and has for sixteen centuries been the symbol of the Hellenism of Pontus.

**DATES WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY!**

Cloud Tours Inc. 31-09 Newtown Ave., Long Island City, NY 11102

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