

62 YEARS



SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Message from FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS, PROTOPRESBYTER

K O I N O N I A

Here we go again another Ecclesiastical year has come to a close, and the summer has come to an end. Vacations are over, the kids are back to school, and life is becoming a routine again. September is a month that brings with it cooler temperatures, we had 2 hot and humid months in July and August. It has been a great year filled with anticipation, surprises, and a lot of success. In the last Ecclesiastical year, I'm really amazed at what we have accomplished throughout this year. We did great amounts of renovations to our facilities. We put new roofs on all our buildings, we installed new boilers, and new air conditioning units in all our buildings. We also installed new LED lighting in the Church, Plateia, and Educational Center. I could go on and on with the subject of Renovations of our Facilities but it would take a few more pages.

It was great to see our Sunday school and Greek school programs growing and reaping the fruits of their labor. Great opportunities challenged our young people, and we will continue to give them more opportunities to increase their faith and knowledge within the Church. We are also reminded that parental guidance and commitment is always needed when we deal with the youth of our Parish. Whether it be bringing the kids to Church, Sunday school, Greek school, G.O.Y.A., J.O.Y, and Dance, we expect the Parents to play a major role in their commitment to their children." We can lead a horse to water but we can't make it drink". As parents you need to set up your priorities. You have to ask yourselves, Is the Church a major priority in the life of your children? With due respect, our children lack in worship, in faith and in knowledge. We are slowly losing our children to the pleasures of this world. We are teaching our children that living a materialistic world is the way to go. That is not the way and the path to take if you want to live a spiritual life in Christ. God is not an idea or a piece of information. God is someone to know, and to introduce our children too. I keep hearing from people, "That the Parents fault if the children don't attend church. There is some truth to that, but I would like to add, that Parents have to know God first, they have to instill and show their children that they love the Lord. Children are taught by example. For example, many of our children who come to church on Sunday's are transported by their parents, but their parents are not in church to worship with them. Usually it is a grandparent that brings the children to church. In one way it's great that the children come to church, but it would be much better for the children to be with their parents together worshipping in the church. I know that a lot of our young adults who grew up in St. Nicholas, had the opportunity to attend church with their parents because the Church was in walking distance. The Church was their life? But now things have changed, our young families have left the Greek town area and are living outside of Highland town in other towns and cities.



I'm still thankful that our Young married couples are still around and play a major role in the progress and success of our Community. I really enjoy when I see our young married couples coming to church on Sunday's with their children. That is the right path to take, because your children will always benefit from that tremendously. September is also the month when our Youth Group gets into action. I want to take this opportunity to thank our Head Advisor

Rita and her excellent staff of Advisors for the support and dedication that they exemplified throughout the year to the GOYANS. I also would like to thank the parents for their sacrifice, their time and effort to bring their children to the meetings, to Church, basketball practices and to all the many activities that they attended last year. I hope and pray that we continue to see growth and excitement in this area, because if we don't support our children and the youth programs we failed to deliver the future for our children. I would like to thank the Hellenic Golden Coins Dancers and their Instructors Stacey and Antonios Georgakis for their participation in all the Dance activities and practices. They performed so beautifully during the Festival. Just to remind everyone that our Hellenic Golden Coins Dancers took second place in the Metropolis Dance Festival that was held in Annapolis, Maryland last year in January. I would like to see more and more of our young children enrolling in the Hellenic Golden Coins Dance group. That really shows our pride in our children when they represent our Community in all their activities. Also in the month of September we have all the Church Organizations and all Ethnic Societies blooming again. Our Ladies Philoptochos Society, the St. Nicholas "Diamonds", the Ladies Chios Society, the United Ladies Chios Society, the Rhodian Society "Diagoras", the Peloponnesian Society, The Macedonian Society, The Carpathian Society, will begin their meetings and events during the 2017 and 2018 year. If I missed any other Organization please forgive me because there are so many.

During the month of September we also have the members of our St. Nicholas Choir back in action. We will be able to hear their beautiful angelic voices glorifying God and making us feel the need to praise and glorify Him spiritually. But before I close



Μήνυμα Από τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικό

with my comments, their are certain important areas that we need to pay our utmost attention. Number 1: The importance of our children attending and participating in Church and other activities. We need our Kids who have graduated from Sunday school, to join our Church Choir, or help with the Sunday School classes as Teachers Aids. Our Choir is getting smaller and smaller as years go by. We need new voices, and new people to get involved. This year we are trying to create a new Youth Choir and we hope with help of the parents and young people we can create a new and exciting environment for our children and the future of St. Nicholas. All this can be done if we get our act together. Number 2: We need to pay more attention to our Church Stewardship Program. This is where we are lacking the most. We all should know that this program is the heart and bloodline of our Parish. Don't look towards, Festivals, Concerts, Dances, and Dinners, to take care of the Financial responsibilities of the Church, because the way I see it we always have a problem finding people to help out with these events every year. We are too busy doing other things than paying attention to Church matters which should be our main priority after our children and families. We should make our Church a priority in our lives. Just imagine if we had no Church to worship in or to come to a Community event and to know that it's canceled because the Church is closed. In that case where do we go to congregate? Just keep that in mind when you make your contribution to the church through your Stewardship Pledge this year. It is important that we support our church. If you are

over 18 years of age and you have a job then you are required to fill out a Stewardship Pledge card to the church. This includes Young Adults, Married Couples, and Elderly. There is just one exemption, and that is if you are enrolled and attending College, all we ask is that you fill out a Pledge Card, so we can communicate with you through our yearly mailings. This will give every student the opportunity to know what's happening in their Parish. Number 3: During the months of September, October, and November, we are always looking for new Candidates for the Parish Council. If anyone is interested please contact Fr. Michael. We must all realize the importance of being on the Parish Council of the Church. We will be sending out information concerning the Parish Council Elections that will be held in December in the coming months. This year we have 5 positions on the Parish Council to fill. That means we are looking for five or more special people who are willing to devote their time and talents to their Church. In the past we have had the pleasure of putting Young professionals on the Parish Council and we were very happy that they came on board and showed their love and dedication to their church. So on this note, I am inviting and challenging all our Young people who have an interest in their Church to run for this year's Parish Council Elections.

Again, I would like to welcome back everyone to a new and exciting Ecclesiastical Year and may our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless all of you and bring you abundant joy and energy for this new and exciting challenging year.

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΗΡΙΟ ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΠΑΤΕΡΑ ΜΙΧΑΗΛ

Άλλη μια εκκλησιαστική χρονιά έφτασε στο τέλος της, όπως τέλειωσε και το καλοκαίρι. Οι διακοπές τέλειωσαν, τα παιδιά επέστρεψαν στο σχολείο και η ζωή πήρε και πάλι τη ρουτίνα της. Ο Σεπτέμβριος είναι ένας μήνας που φέρνει μαζί του πιο δροσερές θερμοκρασίες, είχαμε 2 μήνες με ζέστη και υγρασία, τον Ιούλιο και τον Αύγουστο. Είχαμε όμως και έναν υπέροχο χρόνο, γεμάτο προσδοκίες, εκπλήξεις και μεγάλες επιτυχίες. Είμαι πραγματικά έκπληκτος με αυτά που πετύχαμε καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια της τελευταίας εκκλησιαστικής χρονιάς. Κάναμε μεγάλες ανακαινήσεις στις εγκαταστάσεις μας. Βάλαμε νέες στέγες σε όλα τα κτίριά μας, εγκαταστήσαμε νέους λέβητες και μηχανήματα κλιματισμού σε όλα τα κτίριά μας. Εγκαταστήσαμε επίσης νέο φωτισμό LED στην Εκκλησία, την Πλατεία και το Εκπαιδευτικό Κέντρο. Θα μπορούσα να συνεχίσω με το θέμα των ανακαινήσεων των εγκαταστάσεων μας, αλλά θα χρειαζόμουν μερικές σελίδες ακόμη.

Ήταν υπέροχο να βλέπουμε να διδάσκονται τα προγράμματα του Κατηχητικού και του Ελληνικού μας σχολείου και στη συνέχεια να δρέπουν τους καρπούς της εργασίας τους. Μεγάλες ευκαιρίες πρόκλησης δόθηκαν στους νέους μας και θα συνεχίσουμε να τους προσφέρουμε περισσότερες ευκαιρίες για να αυξήσουμε την πίστη και τη γνώση τους όσον αφορά την Εκκλησία. Υπενθυμίζεται επίσης ότι η καθοδήγηση και η δέσμευση των γονέων είναι πάντα απαραίτητες όταν ασχολούμαστε με τη νεολαία της Ενορίας μας. Είτε πρόκειται να φέρουν τα παιδιά στην Εκκλησία, στο Κατηχητικό Σχολείο, στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο,

στη GOYA, στο JOY ή στο Χορευτικό Όμιλο. Περιμένουμε από τους γονείς να παίξουν σημαντικό ρόλο στη δέσμευσή τους για τα παιδιά τους: "Μπορούμε να οδηγήσουμε το άλογο στο νερό, αλλά δεν μπορούμε να το πιέσουμε να πιεί". Ως γονείς πρέπει να ορίσετε τις προτεραιότητές σας.

Θα πρέπει να αναρωτηθείτε, κατέχει η Εκκλησία βασική προτεραιότητα στη ζωή των παιδιών σας; Με όλο το σεβασμό, τα παιδιά μας στερούνται λατρείας, πίστης και γνώσης. Σιγά-σιγά χάνουμε τα παιδιά μας εξ αιτίας των απολαύσεων αυτού του κόσμου. Εμείς είμαστε εκείνοι που διδάσκουμε στα παιδιά μας ότι ο τρόπος ζωής είναι ο υλιστικός τρόπος που ζούμε, και πρέπει να τον ακολουθήσουν. Αυτός δεν είναι ούτε ο τρόπος ούτε ο δρόμος που πρέπει να πάρετε αν θέλετε να ζήσετε μια πνευματική ζωή εν Χριστώ. Ο Θεός δεν είναι κάποια ιδέα ή κάποια πληροφορία. Ο Θεός είναι κάποιος που γνωρίζει και που συστήνεται στα παιδιά μας. Πολλές φορές ακούω από τον κόσμο: Ότι είναι λάθος των γονέων αν τα παιδιά δεν παρενδρίσκονται στην εκκλησία. Υπάρχει κάποια αλήθεια γι' αυτό, αλλά θα ήθελα να προσθέσω ότι πρέπει οι γονείς πρώτα να γνωρίσουν τον Θεό, και μετά να ενσταλάξουν και να δείξουν στα παιδιά τους ότι αγαπούν τον Κύριο. Τα παιδιά διδάσκονται από το παράδειγμα. Για παράδειγμα, πολλά από τα παιδιά που έρχονται στην εκκλησία την Κυριακή τα φέρνουν οι γονείς τους, αλλά οι γονείς τους δεν είναι στην εκκλησία για να εκκλησιαστούν μαζί τους. Συνήθως είναι κάποιος παππούς ή γιαγιά που εκκλησιάζεται με τα παιδιά. Κατά κάποιο τρόπο είναι πολύ ωραίο ότι τα παιδιά έρχονται στην εκκλησία, αλλά θα ήταν πολύ καλύτερα, για τα παιδιά,

να εκκλησιάζονται μαζί με τους γονείς τους. Ξέρω ότι πολλοί νέοι ενήλικες που μεγάλωσαν στον Άγιο Νικόλαο είχαν την ευκαιρία να έρχονται στην εκκλησία με τους γονείς τους, επειδή η Εκκλησία βρισκόταν σε κοντινή απόσταση. Η Εκκλησία ήταν η ζωή τους! Αλλά τώρα τα πράγματα έχουν αλλάξει, οι νέες οικογένειες έχουν εγκαταλείψει την ελληνική πόλη και ζουν έξω από την πόλη του Highlandtown, σε άλλες πόλεις. Όμως είμαι ευγνώμων που τα νεαρά παντρεμένα ζευγάρια μας βρίσκονται ακόμα κοντά μας και παίζουν σημαντικό ρόλο στην πρόοδο και την επιτυχία της Κοινότητάς μας. Μου αρέσει πραγματικά όταν βλέπω τα νεαρά παντρεμένα ζευγάρια να έρχονται στην εκκλησία την Κυριακή με τα παιδιά τους. Αυτός είναι ο σωστός δρόμος που πρέπει να ακολουθήσετε, διότι τα παιδιά σας θα επωφελοούνται πάντα από αυτό. Ο Σεπτέμβριος είναι επίσης ο μήνας κατά τον οποίο η νεολαία μας θα δραστηριοποιηθεί. Θέλω να επωφεληθώ αυτής της ευκαιρίας για να ευχαριστήσω την επικεφαλής σύμβουλο της Νεολαίας μας Ρίτα Κουϊντέρο και το εξαιρετικό προσωπικό των βοηθών της, για την υποστήριξη και την αφοσίωση που έδειξαν παραδειγματικά καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια του έτους στους νέους μας. Θα ήθελα επίσης να ευχαριστήσω τους γονείς για τη θυσία, τον χρόνο και την προσπάθειά τους που έφεραν τα παιδιά τους στις συνεδριάσεις, στην Εκκλησία, στις πρόβες του Μάσκετ και σε όλες τις πολλές και διάφορες δραστηριότητες που παρακολούθησαν πέρυσι. Ελπίζω και προσεύχομαι να συνεχίσουμε να βλέπουμε την ανάπτυξη και τον ενθουσιασμό σε αυτόν τον τομέα, διότι αν δεν υποστηρίξουμε τα

Μήνυμα Από τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικό (cont.)

παιδιά μας και τα προγράμματα της νεολαίας δεν επιτύχαμε το μέλλον για τα παιδιά μας. Θα ήθελα να ευχαριστήσω τους χορευτές των Ελληνικών Χρυσών Φλουριών και τους εκπαιδευτές τους, Αναστασία Λιορείση και Αντώνιο Γεωργάκη, για τη συμμετοχή τους σε όλες τις παραστάσεις και πρόβες του Χορού. Παρουσίασαν τους χορούς τόσο όμορφα κατά τη διάρκεια του Φεστιβάλ. Μια παρένθυση εδώ, για να υπενθυμίσω σε όλους ότι ο Χορευτικός μας Όμιλος ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΧΡΥΣΑ ΦΛΟΥΡΙΑ βραβεύθηκε στη δεύτερη θέση, στο Φεστιβάλ Χορού της Μητροπόλεως, που πραγματοποιήθηκε πέρυσι τον Ιανουάριο στην Αννάπολη του Μέριλαντ. Θα ήθελα να δω όλο και περισσότερα από τα μικρά παιδιά μας να εγγραφούν στο Χορευτικό μας Όμιλο ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΧΡΥΣΑ ΦΛΟΥΡΙΑ. Η πράξη αυτή δείχνει πραγματικά την υπερηφάνεια μας στα παιδιά μας όταν εκπροσωπούν την Κοινότητά μας σε όλες τις εκδηλώσεις της. Επίσης, τον Σεπτέμβριο, ξεκινούν τα προγράμματά τους όλες οι εκκλησιαστικές οργανώσεις και όλοι οι τοπικοί Εθνικοί Σύλλογοι. Η Φιλόπρωτος, τα «Διαμάντια» του Αγίου Νικολάου, Ο Γυναικεῖος Σύλλογος Χιωτών, τα Ηνωμένα Χιακά Σωματεία, ο Ροδιακός Σύλλογος «Διαγόρας», ο Πελοποννησιακός Σύλλογος, ο Μακεδονικός Σύλλογος, ο Σύλλογος Ολυμπιτών Καρπάθου, θα ξεκινήσουν τις συνεδριάσεις τους και τις εκδηλώσεις τους του 2017 και 2018. Εάν ξέχασα οποιαδήποτε άλλη οργάνωση παρακαλώ συγχωρήστε με γιατί υπάρχουν τόσες πολλές.

Τον Σεπτέμβριο θα ξαναγυρίσουν επίσης τα μέλη της Εκκλησιαστικής Χορωδίας του Αγίου Νικολάου. Θα μπορούσαμε να ακούσουμε τις όμορφες αγγελικές τους φωνές που δοξάζουν τον Θεό και μας κάνουν να αισθανόμαστε την ανάγκη να Τον δοξάζουμε και κυρίως να Τον δοξάζουμε πνευματικά. Αλλά πριν τελειώσω με τα σχόλιά μου, είναι ορισμένοι σημαντικοί τομείς που πρέπει να δώσουμε τη μέγιστη προσοχή μας. Νο 1: Τη σημασία να παρακολουθούν και να συμμετέχουν

τα παιδιά μας σε Εκκλησιαστικές και άλλες δραστηριότητες. Χρειαζόμαστε τα παιδιά, που έχουν αποφοιτήσει από το Κατηχητικό Σχολείο, να συμμετάσχουν στην Εκκλησιαστική μας Χορωδία ή να βοηθήσουν στις τάξεις του Κατηχητικού Σχολείου ως βοηθοί του διδακτικού προσωπικού. Η Χορωδία μας μικραίνει και πάει όσο περνούν τα χρόνια. Χρειαζόμαστε νέες φωνές και νέους ανθρώπους να συμμετέχουν. Φέτος προσπαθούμε να δημιουργήσουμε μια νέα Χορωδία Νέων, και ελπίζουμε, με τη βοήθεια των γονέων και των νέων, να δημιουργήσουμε ένα νέο και ενθουσιώδες περιβάλλον για τα παιδιά μας και το μέλλον του Αγίου Νικολάου. Όλα αυτά μπορούν να γίνουν, αν αν το θελήσουμε όλοι μαζί, ενωμένοι, με την καρδιά μας. Νο 2: Πρέπει να δώσουμε μεγαλύτερη προσοχή στο Πρόγραμμα της Εθελοντικής Προσφοράς της Εκκλησίας μας. Σε αυτό το τομέα υστερούμε πολύ. Όλοι πρέπει να γνωρίζουν ότι το πρόγραμμα αυτό είναι η καρδιά και ο παλμός της Ενορίας μας. Μην περιμένετε από φεστιβάλ, συναυλίες, χορούς, και δείπνα, να καλύψουν τις οικονομικές ανάγκες και ευθύνες της Εκκλησίας, διότι όπως το βλέπω, κάθε χρόνο, έχουμε πάντα πρόβλημα να βρούμε ανθρώπους να βοηθήσουν με αυτές τις εκδηλώσεις. Είμαστε πολύ απασχολημένοι με άλλα πράγματα εκτός από του να δίνουμε προσοχή στα θέματα της Εκκλησίας που θάπρεπε να είναι η κύρια προτεραιότητα μας μετά από τα παιδιά και τις οικογένειές μας. Πρέπει η Εκκλησία μας να έχει τη προτεραιότητα στη ζωή μας. Φανταστείτε εάν δεν είχαμε την Εκκλησία, να προσκυνήσουμε ή να ερχόμασταν σε κάποιο κοινωνικό μυστήριο ή γεγονός, και να μεθαίναμε ότι ακυρώθηκε επειδή η Εκκλησία είναι κλειστή. Σε αυτή την περίπτωση που πάμε να εκκλησιαστούμε; Απλά να το έχετε κατά νου, όταν θα συμπληρώσετε την Κάρτα της Εθελοντικής σας Προσφοράς προς την Εκκλησία. Είναι σημαντικό να σπηρίζουμε την εκκλησία μας. Αν είστε άνω

των 18 ετών και δουλεύετε, τότε θα πρέπει να συμπληρώσετε την Κάρτα της Εθελοντικής σας Προσφοράς προς την Εκκλησία. Αυτό περιλαμβάνει νεαρούς ενήλικες, παντρεμένα ζευγάρια και ηλικιωμένους. Υπάρχει μόνο μία εξαίρεση, και αυτή είναι αν έχετε εγγραφεί και φοιτάτε σε Πανεπιστήμιο ή Κολλέγιο, το μόνο που ζητάμε από εσάς είναι να συμπληρώσετε μια κάρτα, ώστε να μπορούμε να επικοινωνούμε μαζί σας μέσω της ετήσιας αλληλογραφίας μας. Έτσι δίνουμε σε κάθε φοιτητή τη δυνατότητα να γνωρίζει τι συμβαίνει στην Ενορία τους. Νο 3: Κατά τους μήνες Σεπτέμβριο, Οκτώβριο και Νοέμβριο, ζητάμε να βρούμε πάντα νέους υποψήφιους για το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο. Αν κάποιος ενδιαφέρεται παρακαλώ να επικοινωνήσει με τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ. Πρέπει όλοι να συνειδητοποιήσετε πόσο σημαντικό είναι να συμμετέχετε στο Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο της Εκκλησίας. Θα σας ταχυδρομήσουμε τις πληροφορίες σχετικά με τις Κοινοτικές εκλογές του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου που θα πραγματοποιηθούν το Δεκέμβριο, εντός των επομένων μηνών. Φέτος πρέπει να συμπληρωθούν 5 θέσεις στο Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο. Αυτό σημαίνει ότι ψάχνουμε για πέντε ή περισσότερα άτομα που να είναι πρόθυμα και ικανά να αφιερώσουν το χρόνο και το ταλέντο τους στην Εκκλησία τους. Στο παρελθόν είχαμε τη χαρά να βάλουν υπηγηφίότητα νέοι, επαγγελματίες για το Κοινοτικό Συμβούλιο και ήμασταν πολύ χαρούμενοι που ήρθαν και έδειξαν την αγάπη και την αφοσίωσή τους στην εκκλησία τους. Έτσι, με αυτό το μήνυμα, καλώ και προκαλώ όλους τους νέους μας που ενδιαφέρονται για την Εκκλησία τους να βάλουν υποψηφίότητα για τις φετινές Εκλογές του Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου.

Και πάλι, θα ήθελα να σας καλωσορίσω όλους στο νέο Εκκλησιαστικό Έτος και να σας ευχηθώ ο Κύριος και Σωτήρας μας Ιησούς Χριστός να σας ευλογεί, και να σας χαρίζει υγεία, χαρά και ενέργεια, τούτη τη νέα εκκλησιαστική χρονιά.

2017 Festival Raffle Winners

\$100.00 Raffle Winners

1st Prize: No. 531

2nd Prize: No. 54

3rd Prize: No. 755

\$5.00 Raffle Winners

1st Prize: No. 2060

2nd Prize: No. 2916

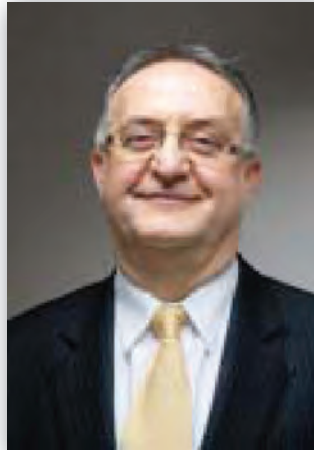


Message from

DEMOS ANASTASIADES, PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT / ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟ

On Sunday, August 28, 2017, we quietly walked up the slate covered steps and through the large ornate oak doors into St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Hartford, Connecticut to participate in the Divine Liturgy with its parishioners. Just three days earlier, my daughter Kristina and her mother, Nancy, had arrived a day in advance of Kristina's scheduled dorm move-in date and combined student/parent orientation to get a feel of the area and to visit St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral. It was a priority of ours and Kristina's that she find an Orthodox Church where she could worship near the University of Hartford, where she is matriculating. On Thursday, before journeying to the university, Kristina and her mother drove to St. George Cathedral. There they were warmly greeted by the church secretary, Elaine. Even with the telephone ringing and many tasks at hand, Elaine took the time to give a tour of the church and its facilities. As they toured, Kristina talked about her interests, her major but more importantly about her desire to continue to teach Sunday School. Ms. Elaine listened and promised to send the presiding priest, Rev. Dr. George Zugravu and the Sunday School Director her contact information. After visiting the church and a sincere "Call me if you ever need anything" from Ms. Elaine, they had some final dorm room shopping to complete and a busy weekend ahead. Kristina thought she would not hear from anyone until the following week. However, the very next day she was contacted by the Sunday School director and had to kindly reply that she was still participating in orientation and would return her call when the events were over. Little did we know this eager response from the Sunday School director would foreshadow the coming embrace that we would experience.

As so many parents know, the idea of sending your child off to college whether locally or out of state is a daunting task. We all worry if we are making the right decision but more importantly we worry if our child will be successful, happy and safe. After I arrived on Friday to help with the dorm move-in and attend parent orientation, I found myself giving my daughter advice, cautioning her against walking alone and every perceived evil that a father could think of to reassure myself that everything would be okay. After helping her hang her last picture on her dorm wall on Saturday evening, my wife and I kissed her goodnight and promised to return in the morning to escort her to St. George, extending the trip so to be there as long as possible before we said our goodbyes.



As we sat in the pews, I began to focus intently on Rev. Dr. George's sermon to honor the feast day of Saint Phanourios. Rev. Dr. George talked about the miracles of Saint Phanourios in helping those that were spirituality lost find God. He even told of a personal story of losing some precious books on a train but to have them recovered after praying to Saint Phanourios. And then Rev. Dr. George did something unexpected, he exclaimed with much joy that Saint Phanourios had brought to the church a student who was attending the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford, and asked Kristina to stand. He explained how

Elaine the church secretary sent him an email on Thursday about Kristina and welcomed her to the congregation. He continues by saying that "Saint Phanourios has lead Kristina to her new spiritual home here, and to you Mom and Day, do not worry, because Saint Phanourios will take care of her." My wife choked back tears and I had a lump in my throat after hearing those reassuring words. Instead of promising us that the St. George parishioners would look after her, he reminded us that God and the Saints are always present in our lives, watching over us. With those words, I was reminded that man is flawed no matter how well-meaning his intention; but God is always there, ready to love and to forgive us no matter how imperfect we are.

As parents, we often relish in our child's success. But my wife and I cannot take all the credit for our daughter's love of God and her desire to share that love by teaching Sunday School. The credit is shared with each Sunday School teacher and aide who fostered her love of God from the time she was a kindergartner until her graduation from Sunday School. The credit is shared with Vasilis Philippou, the Sunday School teacher she assisted as an aide and the Sunday School Directors, Sophia Gerapetritis and Phaedra Avgerinos who encouraged her and believed in her. The credit is shared with Father Manuel J. Burdusi who baptized and nurtured her and the Rev. Father Michael L. Pastrikos, who counseled her as a young adult and all the Priests that she met attending Divine Liturgy at different Orthodox parishes and at the CYC Camp and Ionian Village. The credit is shared with all the St. Nicholas parishioners who witness their faith each Sunday and lead by example and not just words. As we hugged and kissed her goodbye on Sunday, I was full of peace, but more importantly I was grateful that she was raised as an Orthodox Christian within the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and Community.

In Christ,
Demos Anastasiades, Parish Council President

Την Κυριακή, 27 Αυγούστου, 2017, ανεβήκαμε ήσυχα τα από σχιστόλιθο σκαλοπάτια που μας οδήγησαν στις μεγάλες ξύλινες από οξιά πόρτες του Καθεδρικού Ναού του Αγίου Γεωργίου, στο Χάρφορντ, Κανέκτικατ, για να εκκλησιαστούμε με τους ενορίτες του. Μόλις τρεις μέρες νωρίτερα, η κόρη μου, η Χριστίνα και η μητέρα της, η Νάνσυ, Χέφτασαν μία ημέρα πριν από την προγραμματισμένη περιήγηση της Χριστίνας και από το συνδυασμένο προσανατολισμό φοιτητών / γονέων για να πάρουν μια ιδέα της περιοχής και να επισκεφτούν τον Καθεδρικό Ναό του Αγίου Γεωργίου . Ήταν δική μου προτεραιότητα και της Χριστίνας να είναι κοντά σε μια Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία, όπου θα μπορούσε να εκκλησιάζεται, κοντά στο πανεπιστήμιο του Hartford, που θα φοιτούσε. Την Πέμπτη, πριν ξεκινήσουν για το πανεπιστήμιο, η Χριστίνα και η μητέρα της πήγαν στον Καθεδρικό Ναό του Αγίου Γεωργίου. Εκεί τις καλωσόρισε θερμά η Γραμματέας της Εκκλησίας, Ελένη, παρόλο που το τηλέφωνο καλούσε και ήταν ολοφάνερο ότι ήταν πολύ απασχολημένη. Η κα. Elaine πήρε το χρόνο να τις ξεναγήσει στην εκκλησία και τις εγκαταστάσεις της. Όπως περιόδευε, η Χριστίνα μίλησε για τα μεγάλα της ενδιαφέροντά, αλλά περισσότερο για την πιο σημαντική επιθυμία της να συνεχίσει να διδάσκει στο Κατηχητικό Σχολείο. Η κ. Ελένη την άκουσε και υποσχέθηκε να ενημερώσει και να δώσει τα στοιχεία επικοινωνίας της στον Ιερατικώς Προϊστάμενο, τον Αιδεσ. Dr. George Zugravu και τον Διευθυντή του Κατηχητικού Σχολείου. Με κάποια ψώνια που έπρεπε να κάνει για το δωμάτιό της και να φτιάξει το δωμάτιό της, και επίσης με ένα πολυάσχολο Σαββατοκύριακο μπροστά της, η Χριστίνα έλεγε ότι δεν θέλει να ακούσει από κανέναν μέχρι την επόμενη εβδομάδα.

Όπως γνωρίζουν πολλοί γονείς, η ιδέα της αποστολής του παιδιού τους στο κολέγιο, είτε τοπικά είτε εκτός πολιτείας, είναι κάτι το αποθαρρυντικό. Όλοι μας ανησυχούμε εάν κάνουμε τη σωστή απόφαση αλλά το πιο σημαντικό μας ανησυχεί εάν το παιδί μας θα είναι επιτυχές, ευτυχισμένο και ασφαλές. Αφού έφτασα την Παρασκευή για να βοηθήσω με την μετακόμηση στο φοιτητικό της δωμάτιο και να παρακολουθήσω τον προσανατολισμό των γονέων, έπιασα τον εαυτό μου να δίνει συμβουλές στην κόρη μου, προειδοποιώντας την να μην περπατά μόνη της, προειδοποιώντας της ενάντια σε κάθε αντιλειπτό κακό που ένας πατέρας μπορεί να σκεφθεί, απλά και μόνο για να βεβαιωθώ ότι όλα θα είναι εντάξει. Μετά που τη βοήθησα να κρεμάσει και το τελευταίο κάδρο, το Σαββάτο το βράδυ, την φιλήσαμε την καληνυχτήσαμε και υποσχθήκαμε να επιστρέψουμε το πρωί να πάμε να εκκλησιαστούμε στον Άγιο Γεώργιο για να την συστήσουμε στον Ιερέα και ίσως συναντούσαμε και τον Διευθυντή του Κατηχητικού Σχολείου.

Όπως καθόμασταν στα στασίδια, άρχισα να επικεντρώνομαι με προσήλωση στο κήρυγμα του Αιδ. Δρ. Γεωργίου προς τιμή της ημέρας της εορτής του Αγίου Φανουρίου. Ο Αιδεσ. Δρ. Γιώργος μίλησε για τα θαύματα του Αγίου Φανουρίου βοηθώντας εκείνους που είχαν χάσει τη πνευματικότητα του Θεού. Μας είπε ακόμη και μια

προσωπική του ιστορία όταν έχασε μερικά πολύτιμα βιβλία σε ένα τρένο, αλλά τα βρήκε μετά που προσευχήθηκε στον Άγιο Φανούριο. Και τότε ο Αιδεσ. Δρ. Γεώργιος έκανε κάτι αναπάντεχο, άρχισε να μιλάει για το πώς ο Άγιος Φανούριος έφερε στην εκκλησία σήμερα, μια φοιτήτρια, που φοιτά στο Πανεπιστήμιο του Χάρτφορντ, στο Hartt , τη Σχολή Μουσικής, και ζήτησε από τη Χριστίνα να σταθεί. Εξήγησε, πως η Ελένη του έστειλε την Πέμπτη ένα e-mail σχετικά με την Χριστίνα, και την καλωσόρισε στην εκκλησία. Ο Διευθυντής του Κατηχητικού Σχολείου καθόταν πίσω μας και ήσχα έσκυψε και ψιθύρισε. Τειά σου Χριστίνα, είμαι αυτός που σου έστειλα το μήνυμα χθές. Ο Αιδεσ. Δρ. Γιώργος είπε επίσης καθησυχαστικά λόγια για εμάς τους γονείς που καθόμασταν δίπλα της και μας είπε να μην ανησυχούμε γιατί ο Άγιος Φανουριός θα την προστατεύει. Η σύζυγός μου κατάπνυξε τα δάκρυά της, και εγώ είχα ένα κόμπο στο λαιμό όταν άκουσα αυτά τα λόγια. Αντί να υποσχεθεί ότι ο Προστάτης της Ενορίας, ο Άγιος Γεώργιος, θα την φροντίζει, μας υπενθύμισε ότι ο Θεός και οι Άγιοι είναι πάντα παρόντες στη ζωή μας και μας προστατεύουν. Με αυτά τα λόγια, μου θύμησε ότι ο άνθρωπος είναι τρομαγμένος ανεξάρτητα από το πόσο καλή σημασία έχει η πρόθεσή του. Ο Θεός είναι πάντα εκεί, έτοιμος να μας αγαπά και να μας συγχωρεί, δεν έχει σημασία πόσο ατελής είμαστε.

Ως γονείς συχνά απολαμβάνουμε την επιτυχία του παιδιού μας. Αλλά δεν μπορούμε να λάβουμε το εκατό τοις εκατό της αγάπης της κόρης μας για το Θεό και την επιθυμία της να μοιραστεί αυτή την αγάπη διδάσκοντας στο Κατηχητικό Σχολείο. Η αναγνώριση αυτή μοιράζεται με κάθε δάσκαλο του Κατηχητικού Σχολείου και τους βοηθούς που της εμπύσησαν την αγάπη της για τον Θεό από τότε που ήταν στο νηπιαγωγείο μέχρι την αποφοίτησή της από το Κατηχητικό. Η αναγνώριση απευθύνεται από κοινού στον Βασίλη Φιλίππου, το δάσκαλο του Κατηχητικού Σχολείου που βοηθούσε ως βοηθός και τις Διευθύντριες του Κατηχητικού Σχολείου, Σοφία Γεραπετρίτη και Φαίδρα Αυγερινού οι οποίες την ενθάρρυναν και πίστεψαν σ αυτήν. Η αναγνώριση μοιράζεται επίσης με τον Πατέρα Εμμανουήλ Ι. Βουρδούση ο οποίος την βάπτισε και τον Αιδεσ. πατέρα Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικό, που την συμβούλευε ως νεαρή ενήλικα, αλλά και με όλους τους Ιερείς που συναντήθηκε σε Θεία Λειτουργία σε διαφορετικές ορθόδοξες ενορίες ή στο CYC Camp ή στο Ιονικό χωριό. Η αναγνώριση μοιράζεται με όλους τους ενορίτες του Αγίου Νικολάου, που εκκλησιαάζονται κάθε Κυριακή και δίνουν το παράδειγμα αυτοπροσώπως και όχι μόνο με λόγια. Όπως αγκαλιαστήκαμε και φιληθήκαμε για να πούμε το αντίο την Κυριακή, ήμουν τόσο πολύ υπερήφανος, αλλά το πιο σημαντικό ήμουν υπερήφανος που ανατράφηκε ως Ορθόδοξη Χριστιανή στην Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία και Κοινότητα του Αγίου Νικολάου.

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****Send photos from your September Baptisms and Weddings for inclusion in our newest section of the Koinonia - Announcements!**

Please email to adrienne@kosaridesign.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE: KOINONIA DEADLINE

Please submit your article(s) to the Koinonia staff by the deadline stated below:

**ISSUE MONTH: OCTOBER 2017 -
SUBMISSIONS DUE: SEPTEMBER 20th**

Please email your article(s) to: msalpeas@stnicholasmd.org

Articles are due no later than the 20th of each month. If they are received after the deadline they will be published in the following month's issue.

All articles must be proofread and color corrected prior to submission.

Thank you



Nativity of the Theotokos

Courtesy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
www.goarch.org



Introduction

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on September 8 each year. The Feast commemorates the birth of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Biblical Story

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

According to the story found in this book, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest

who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks.

As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

Icon of the Feast

The icon of the Nativity of the Theotokos presents to us the central figures of Saints Joachim and Anna, Mary's parents, and the Mother of our Lord as an infant. Saint Anna is in the middle of the icon with her right hand extended toward her daughter. Likewise, Saint Joachim, Mary's father, is gazing upon the young child with his right hand extended toward her. Anna is surrounded by attendants who have assisted with the birth.

The icon directs attention to Mary as the central figure in this feast. It also acknowledges the joy that was felt by Joachim and Anna as new parents with a child received through a promise from God. The liturgical texts of the feast acknowledge this joy and confirm the special role of Mary as the Mother of the Incarnate God, Jesus Christ. In this event, another step is made in sacred history in preparation for the entrance of Christ into the world.

The icon and the feast also acknowledge a transition from barrenness to life. This was but another foreshadowing of what would be offered through Christ, the transformation from death to eternal life.

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

The Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which is conducted on the morning of the Feast and preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast. Scripture readings for the Feast are the following: At Vespers: Genesis 28:10-17; Ezekiel 43:27—44:4; Proverbs 9:1-11. At the Matins: Luke 1:39-49, 56. At the Divine Liturgy: Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΗΣ

Charlottesville 2017

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Sisterhood, Faculty and Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools, Directors and Participants of all of the Youth Organizations, and all devout Orthodox Christians of the Greek Orthodox Communities of our Holy Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved,

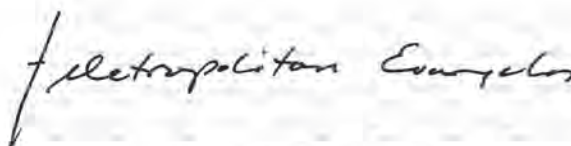
“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28). These words of St. Paul hold an immeasurable value both to our spiritual lives as well as that of our basic moral fiber as Orthodox Christians who believe in the One, True God. Moreover, these words help to express and convey the teachings of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, who called all to unity and to love one another.

The unfortunate and heinous violence that has taken place this past week in Charlottesville, Virginia is nothing other than the work of the devil who always seeks to divide humanity which is made in the image and likeness of God. Violence of any sort, no matter who initiates or perpetuates it, is to be condemned since violence has no place in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, the spreading of hatred and detestation based on one’s race, ethnic identity, or creed is condemned in the strongest of terms since it is contrary to the teachings of the Church. Every one of us is endowed with the gift of life and, as such, the gift of our personhood from the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-Giving, and Undivided Trinity. Thus, rejecting the value of one’s personhood based on these factors is tantamount to the rejection of Christ Himself.

Besides life itself, the greatest gift which we were given by God is that of our free will. It is our responsibility to use this free will to love others and, in this way, love God since He loved us to the extent to grant us this freedom and to offer us the gift of salvation through Christ. Therefore, I exhort you, as we seek to fully comprehend these tragic events, to continually remain focused in committing yourselves to living the Gospel of Christ and the

teachings of the Orthodox Church so that we may stand against any and all violence and discrimination whether it is expressed in word or deed. Praying that the Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with you always, I remain,

With Paternal Love and Blessings,



† EVANGELOS
Metropolitan of New Jersey



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

IT TAKES A DEDICATED PERSON TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE

If you are interested in becoming an active member of the St. Nicholas Parish Council and want to know more about what it takes to be active in your Church and Community, please contact Fr. Michael for more information. Perhaps you are talented in youth development, marketing, fundraising, website development, finances, management, catering, education, or other activities. If you are interested,



we really need parishioners that care about their Church, and have the time, and talent to offer their services for the continued success of St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas is a very active Community, and we would like to keep the progress going in the right direction. We have come so far, and we can't afford to go backwards, we need to go forward and continue the success that the previous Priests, and Parish Councils have done in the past as well as the present. We need more of the Young Adults of the Parish to step up to the plate and offer their time, talent, and treasure. Become a Catalyst and let us bridge our ideas for the future of St. Nicholas. We need to work together and to empower each other to develop programs for the elderly, for our Youth, and to create a mission and outreach program for the parish. You can become a part of the solution and make a difference by becoming involved in your Church and Community.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY - Director of Music Ministries

**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church is seeking
AN EXPERIENCED CHOIR DIRECTOR
TO FILL THE IMMEDIATE POSITION OF
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES FOR OUR PARISH.**



The St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox parish is one of 59 parishes that belong to the Metropolis of New Jersey. We are located in the heart of Baltimore's Greektown and have been serving the people of Baltimore and the surrounding areas for over 60 years.

The Director of Music Ministries works independently under general direction and is expected to exercise initiative, discretion and judgment in executing the requirements of this position to the benefit of St. Nicholas parish. This is a part-time position, approximately 10 hours per week; more time required during Holy week and Christmas. The Choir is actively in service from September 1st through May 31st.

The Director of Music Ministries is responsible for the ongoing development and direction of the parish Choir and these responsibilities include Choir direction during weekly Sunday Divine Liturgy, Holy week services and Christmas services. The Director is also responsible for compiling and maintaining the Choir Music Library, care and maintenance of the Choir room, loft, books and robes; working with the Parish Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to develop of the annual Choir budget; recruiting and mentoring Choir members; scheduling/directing Choir rehearsals; sending out weekly notices and announcements, and other related tasks.

Additionally, the Director will represent St. Nicholas parish by attending the Annual National Forum of Greek Orthodox Musicians and the Eastern Federation (New Jersey Metropolis) with the Choir.

Successful candidates will meet the following knowledge, skills and abilities:

- Bachelor of Music degree (B.A. or B.M.) with an emphasis in Choral or Vocal performance or equivalent.
- Minimum three (3) years' experience conducting in a chamber choir setting.
- Knowledge of the Byzantine Chant, Orthodox Services and rubrics; Greek Orthodox parishioner preferred but not required
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills; able to lead and mentor a group. Greek language verbal/written understanding (preferred, but not required).
- Able and willing to work evenings and weekends as needed; available to work Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. required as well as for Holy Week and Friday evenings during Lent.

To apply for this position, please email a cover letter with salary requirements and resume to the attention of the St. Nicholas Human Resources Manager at: skrauer@totalfocushr.com, or fax to 443-330-3950.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

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Ανακοίνωση Τύπου

Πληροφορίες: Γραφείο Τύπου
Σταύρος Παπαγερμανός
Tel: (212) 570-3530
pressoffice@goarch.org

ΠΡΟΣ ΑΜΕΣΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΠΟΙΗΣΗ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ. 702

† Β Α Ρ Θ Ο Λ Ο Μ Α Ι Ο Σ
ΕΛΕΩΙ ΘΕΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣ
ΝΕΑΣ ΡΩΜΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ
ΠΑΝΤΙ ΤΩ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΙ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΧΑΡΙΝ, ΕΙΡΗΝΗΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΛΕΟΣ
ΠΑΡΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΗΜΙΟΥΡΓΟΥ ΠΑΣΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΤΙΣΕΩΣ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ
ΚΑΙ ΘΕΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ

Άδελφοί και τέκνα ἐν Κυρίῳ,

Χάριτι Θεοῦ εἰσερχόμεθα σήμερον εἰς τὸ νέον ἐκκλησιαστικὸν ἔτος, συνεχίζοντας «διὰ τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντος ἡμᾶς»[1] συμμαρτυρεῖν καὶ λόγον διδόναι «περὶ τῆς ἐν ἡμῖν ἐλπίδος»[2], ζῶντες ἐν Ἐκκλησίᾳ, ἐν Χριστῷ καὶ κατὰ Χριστόν, ὁ Ὅποιος ἐπηγγείλατο νὰ εἶναι μαζί μας «πάσας τὰς ἡμέρας ἕως τῆς συντελείας τοῦ αἰῶνος»[3].

Παρήλθον εικοσιοκτὼ ἔτη ἀπὸ τῆς, συνοδικῆς ἀποφάσεως, καθιέρωσιν ὑπὸ τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τῆς ἑορτῆς τῆς Ἰνδίκτου ὡς «Ἡμέρας προστασίας τοῦ περιβάλλοντος», κατὰ τὴν ὁποίαν ἐν τῷ Ἱερῷ Κέντρῳ τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας ἀναπέμπονται εὐχαὶ καὶ ἱκεσίαι «ὑπὲρ τῆς ὅλης δημιουργίας». Ἡ σχετικὴ πατριαρχικὴ ἐγκύκλιος ἐκάλεσε σύμπαντα τὸν ὀρθόδοξον καὶ τὸν λοιπὸν χριστιανικὸν κόσμον, ὅπως ἀναπέμπῃ κατὰ τὴν ἡμέραν αὐτὴν εὐχαριστηρίους δεήσεις πρὸς τὸν Κτίστην τῶν ὄλων διὰ τὸ «μέγα δῶρον τῆς Δημιουργίας»[4] καὶ ἱκεσίας διὰ τὴν προστασίαν αὐτῆς.

Ἐκφράζομεν τὴν χαρὰν καὶ τὴν ἱκανοποίησιν τῆς ἡμετέρας Μετριότητος διὰ τὴν ἀπήχησιν καὶ τὴν πλουσίαν καρποφορίαν τῆς ἐν λόγῳ πρωτοβουλίας τῆς Κωνσταντινουπολίτιδος Ἐκκλησίας. Ἀνεδειξάμεν τὰς πνευματικὰς ρίζας τῆς οἰκολογικῆς κρίσεως καὶ τὴν ἀνάγκην μετα-νοίας καὶ ἐπανεραρχήσεως τῶν ἀξιών τοῦ συγχρόνου ἀνθρώπου. Ἐβεβαιώθη, ὅτι ἡ ἐκμετάλλευσις καὶ ἡ καταστροφὴ τῆς κτίσεως ἀποτελοῦν διαστρέβλωσιν καὶ κακὴν ἀλλοίωσιν τοῦ χριστιανικοῦ ἥθους καὶ ὄχι ἀναγκαίαν συνέπειαν τῆς βιβλικῆς ἐντολῆς «αὐξάνεσθε καὶ πληθύνεσθε...»[5], ὅτι ἡ ἀντιοικολογικὴ συμπεριφορὰ εἶναι προσβολὴ τοῦ Δημιουργοῦ καὶ ἀθέτησις τῶν ἐντολῶν Του, καὶ ὅτι λειτουργεῖ κατὰ τοῦ ἀληθοῦς προορισμοῦ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Δὲν εἶναι δυνατόν νὰ ὑπάρξῃ βιώσιμος ἀνάπτυξις εἰς βάρος τῶν πνευματικῶν ἀξιών καὶ τοῦ φυσικοῦ περιβάλλοντος.

Ἡ Ἁγία τοῦ Χριστοῦ Μεγάλῃ Ἐκκλησίᾳ προέβαλε καὶ προβάλλει τὸ οἰκοφιλικὸν δυναμικὸν τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου ἡμῶν πίστεως, ἀναδεικνύουσα τὴν εὐχαριστιακὴν χρῆσιν τῆς κτίσεως, τὴν λειτουργίαν τοῦ πιστοῦ ὡς «ἱερέως» τῆς Δημιουργίας, ὁ ὅποιος ἀδιαλείπτως ἀναφέρει αὐτὴν εἰς τὸν Κτίστην τῶν ἀπάντων, καὶ τὴν ἀνυπέβλητον ἀξίαν τοῦ ἀσκητικοῦ πνεύματος, ὡς ἀντιδότου κατὰ τοῦ συγχρόνου εὐδαιμονισμοῦ. Ὄντως, ὁ σεβασμὸς τῆς δημιουργίας ἀνήκει εἰς τὸν πυρῆνα τῆς ὀρθοδόξου παραδόσεως.

Προκαλεῖ ἰδιαίτεραν ἀνησυχίαν τὸ γεγονός ὅτι, ἐνῶ εἶναι βέβαιον ὅτι ἡ οἰκολογικὴ κρίσις συνεχῶς ἐπιτείνεται, ἡ ἀνθρωπότης, ἐν ὀνόματι τῆς οικονομικῆς ἀναπτύξεως καὶ τῶν τεχνολογικῶν ἐφαρμογῶν, κωφεύει εἰς τὰς πανταχόθεν ἐκκλήσεις πρὸς ριζικὴν ἀλλαγὴν συμπεριφορᾶς ἀπέναντι εἰς τὴν κτίσιν. Εἶναι προφανές ὅτι ἡ προϊοῦσα ἀλλοίωσις τοῦ φυσικοῦ περιβάλλοντος ἀποτελεῖ συνέπειαν ἑνὸς συγκεκριμένου προτύπου οικονομικῆς ἀναπτύξεως, τὸ ὁποῖον ἀδιαφορεῖ διὰ τὰς ἀντιοικολογικὰς ἐπιπτώσεις του. Τὰ βραχυπρόθεσμα ὀφέλη ἀπὸ τὴν ἄνοδον τοῦ βιοτικοῦ ἐπιπέδου εἰς ὠρισμένας περιοχὰς τῆς ὑψηλῆς, ἀπλῶς ἐπικαλύπτουν τὴν ἀλογίαν τῆς ἐκμεταλλεύσεως καὶ συλήσεως τῆς δημιουργίας. Ἡ οικονομικὴ δραστηριότης, ἡ ὁποία δὲν σέβεται τὸν οἶκον τῆς ζωῆς, εἶναι οἰκο-ανομία καὶ ὄχι οἰκο-νομία. Ὁ ἄκρατος οἰκονομισμὸς τῆς παγκοσμιοποιήσεως συμπορεύεται σήμερον μὲ τὴν ἀλματώδη ἀνάπτυξιν τῆς ἐπιστήμης καὶ τῆς τεχνολογίας, ἡ ὁποία, παρὰ τὰ πολλὰ εὐεργετήματά της, συνοδεύεται ἀπὸ ἔπαρσιν ἐναντι τῆς φύσεως καὶ ὀδηγεῖ εἰς ποικιλομόρφους ἐκμεταλλεύσεις αὐτῆς. Ὁ σύγχρονος ἀνθρώπος γνωρίζει, ἀλλὰ δρᾷ ὡς νὰ μὴ ἐγνώριζε. Γνωρίζει ὅτι ἡ φύσις δὲν αὐτοανακατασκευάζεται εἰς τὸ διηκεκές, ἀδιαφορεῖ ὁμως διὰ τὰς ἀρνητικὰς

συνεπείας του «τεχνοπωλίου» δια τὸ περιβάλλον. Αὐτὸ τὸ ὄντως ἐκρηκτικὸν μίγμα τοῦ ἀκράτου οἰκονομισμοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἐπιστημονισμοῦ, ἤτοι τῆς ἀπεριορίστου ἐμπιστοσύνης εἰς τὴν δύναμιν τῆς ἐπιστήμης καὶ τῆς τεχνολογίας, ἐπιτείνει τοὺς κινδύνους διὰ τὴν ἀκεραιότητα τῆς δημιουργίας καὶ διὰ τὸν ἄνθρωπον.

Ἡ Ἁγία καὶ Μεγάλη Σύνοδος τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας, σοφῶς καὶ σαφῶς κατανόμασε τοὺς κινδύνους τῆς «ἰδιονομίας τῆς οἰκονομίας», τῆς αὐτονομίσεως αὐτῆς ἀπὸ τὰς ζωτικὰς ἀνάγκας τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, αἱ ὁποῖαι ὑπηρετοῦνται μόνον ἐντὸς βιωσίμου φυσικοῦ περιβάλλοντος, καὶ προέτεινε μίαν οἰκονομίαν «τεθεμελιωμένην εἰς τὰς ἀρχὰς τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου»[6] καὶ τὴν ἀντιμετώπισιν τοῦ συγχρόνου οἰκολογικοῦ προβλήματος «ἐπὶ τῇ βάσει τῶν ἀρχῶν τῆς χριστιανικῆς παραδόσεως»[7]. Ἡ παράδοσις τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ἀπαιτεῖ, ἐνώπιον τῶν συγχρόνων ἀπειλῶν, «ριζικὴν ἀλλαγὴν νοοτροπίας καὶ συμπεριφορᾶς» ἀπέναντι εἰς τὴν κτίσιν, πνεῦμα ἀσκητισμοῦ, «ὀλιγαρκείας καὶ ἐγκρατείας»[8], ἐναντι τῆς «ἀπληστίας»[9], τῆς «θεοποίησεως τῶν ἀναγκῶν καὶ τῆς κτητικῆς στάσεως»[10]. Ἡ Ἁγία καὶ Μεγάλη Σύνοδος ἀνεφέρθη μετ' ἐμφάσεως καὶ εἰς τὰς «κοινωνικὰς διαστάσεις καὶ τὰς τραγικὰς ἐπιπτώσεις τῆς καταστροφῆς τοῦ φυσικοῦ περιβάλλοντος»[11].

Ἀκολουθοῦντες τὰς ἀποφάσεις τῆς Συνόδου ταύτης, ὑπογραμμίζομεν, εἰς τὴν παρούσαν ἐγκύκλιόν μας, τὴν στενὴν συνάφειαν τῶν περιβαλλοντικῶν καὶ τῶν κοινωνικῶν προβλημάτων καὶ τὴν κοινὴν ρίζαν αὐτῶν ἐν τῇ χωρὶς Θεὸν «ἄφρονι καρδίᾳ», ἐν τῇ πτώσει καὶ ἁμαρτίᾳ, ἐν τῇ κακῇ χρήσει τῆς θεοσδότου ἐλευθερίας τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Τῆς καταστροφῆς τῆς φύσεως καὶ τῆς κοινωνίας προηγεῖται πάντοτε μία ἐσωτερικὴ «ἀνατροπὴ τῶν ἀξιών», μία πνευματικὴ καὶ ἠθικὴ καταστροφὴ. Ὄταν τὸ ἔχειν κυριεύσῃ τὸν νοῦν καὶ τὴν καρδίαν μας, τότε ἡ στάσις μας τόσον ἐναντι τοῦ συνανθρώπου, ὅσον καὶ πρὸς τὴν κτίσιν, εἶναι ἀναποφεύκτως κτητικὴ καὶ ἀνοίκειος. Τὸ «σαπρὸν δένδρον» ποιεῖ, κατὰ τὸ Βιβλικόν, πάντοτε «καρποὺς πονηροῦς»[12].

Τονίζομεν, ἀντιστοίχως, ὅτι καὶ ὁ σεβασμὸς πρὸς τὴν κτίσιν καὶ πρὸς τὸν ἄνθρωπον ἔχουν τὴν αὐτὴν πνευματικὴν πηγὴν καὶ ἀφετηρίαν, τὴν ἐν Χριστῷ δηλαδὴ ἀνακαίνισιν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου καὶ τὴν κεχαριτωμένην ἐλευθερίαν του. Ὡς ἡ καταστροφὴ τοῦ περιβάλλοντος καὶ ἡ κοινωνικὴ ἀδικία συμπορεύονται, ἔτσι καὶ ἡ οἰκοφιλικὴ συμπεριφορὰ καὶ ἡ κοινωνικὴ ἀλληλεγγύη εἶναι ἀδιαίρετοι.

Εἶναι αὐτονόητον, ὅτι διὰ τὴν ἀντιμετώπισιν τῆς συγχρόνου πολυδιαστάτου κρίσεως τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, τοῦ πολιτισμοῦ του καὶ τοῦ οἴκου του, ἀπαιτεῖται πολὺπλευρος κινητοποίησις καὶ κοινὴ προσπάθεια. Ὅπως ὅλα τὰ μεγάλα προβλήματα, οὕτω καὶ αἱ σοβοῦσαι ἀλληλοπεριχωρούμεναι κρίσεις τοῦ φυσικοῦ περιβάλλοντος καὶ τῆς κοινωνίας, εἶναι ἀδύνατον νὰ ἀντιμετωπισθοῦν χωρὶς τὴν διαχριστιανικὴν καὶ διαθρησκευτικὴν συνεργασίαν. Ὁ διάλογος εἶναι ἐδῶ πρόσφορος χώρος διὰ νὰ ἀναδειχθοῦν αἱ ὑπάρχουσαι οἰκοφιλικαὶ καὶ κοινωνικαὶ παραδόσεις, διὰ οἰκολογικὴν καὶ κοινωνικὴν εὐαισθητοποίησιν, καθὼς καὶ διὰ ἐποικοδομητικὴν κριτικὴν τῆς ἀποκλειστικῶς τεχνολογικῆς καὶ οἰκονομικῆς προόδου καὶ τῶν ἀτομοκεντρικῶν καὶ κοινωνιοκρατικῶν προτύπων, εἰς βάρος τῆς κτίσεως καὶ τοῦ πολιτισμοῦ τοῦ προσώπου.

Κατακλείοντες, ὑπογραμμίζομεν καὶ ἄλιν τὸ ἀδιαίρετον τοῦ σεβασμοῦ πρὸς τὴν δημιουργίαν καὶ πρὸς τὸ ἀνθρώπινον πρόσωπον, καλοῦμεν πάντας τοὺς ἀνθρώπους καλῆς θελήσεως εἰς τὸν καλὸν ἀγῶνα διὰ τὴν προστασίαν τοῦ φυσικοῦ περιβάλλοντος καὶ τὴν ἐδραΐωσιν τῆς ἀλληλεγγύης, καὶ δεόμεθα πρὸς τὸν ἀγαθοδότην Κύριον, πρεσβείας τῆς Παναγίας τῆς Παμμακαρίστου, νὰ χαρίξῃ εἰς τὰ τέκνα αὐτοῦ «καυσὶν καρδίας ὑπὲρ πάσης τῆς κτίσεως»[13] καὶ «παροξυσμὸν ἀγάπης καὶ καλῶν ἔργων»[14].

,βιζ' Σεπτεμβρίου α'

Ὁ Κωνσταντινουπόλεως

διάπυρος πρὸς Θεὸν εὐχέτης πάντων ὑμῶν

[1] Ρωμ. η', 38

[2] πρβλ. Α' Πέτρ. γ', 15

[3] Ματθ. κη', 20

[4] Ἐγκύκλιος ἐπὶ τῇ ἑορτῇ τῆς Ἰνδίκτου, 1/9/1989

[5] Γεν. α', 22

[6] Ἐγκύκλιος, §15

[7] ὁ. π., §15

[8] Ἡ Ἀποστολὴ τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας εἰς τὸν σύγχρονον κόσμον, §10

[9] ὁ. π., §10

[10] Ἐγκύκλιος, §14

[11] ὁ. π.

[12] Ματθ. ζ', 17

[13] Ἰσαὰκ ὁ Σύρος, Τὰ εὐρεθέντα ἀσκητικά, Λόγος, πα'

[14] Ἐβρ. ι', 24

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Press Release

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TO DIRECT COMMUNICATION
Number. Ref. 702

+BARTHOLOMEW

By God's Mercy Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch
To the Plentitude of the Church: Grace, peace and mercy
From the Creator of All, our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ
(September 1, 2017)

Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord,

With God's grace, today we enter the new ecclesiastical year, even as we continue to provide witness "through him who loved us" (Romans 8.38) and "give an account for the hope that lies in us" (1 Peter 3.15), living in the Church, in Christ and according to Christ, who promised to be with us "all the days of our life, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28.20)

Twenty-eight years have passed since the synodal decree of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to establish the Feast of the Indiction as the "Day of Protection for the Environment," when we offer prayers and supplications at the sacred Center of Orthodoxy "for all creation." The relevant patriarchal encyclical (September 1, 1989) invited all Orthodox and other Christian faithful on this day to lift up prayers of thanksgiving to the Creator of all for "the great gift of Creation" along with petitions for its preservation.

We express our joy and satisfaction for the broad reception and fruitful influence of this initiative by the Church of Constantinople. We demonstrated the spiritual roots of the ecological crisis as well as the need to repent and prioritize the values of contemporary humankind. We affirmed that the exploitation and destruction of creation constitute a perversion and distortion of the Christian ethos, rather than the inevitable consequence of the biblical command to "increase and multiply" (Genesis 1.22), but also that our anti-ecological conduct is an offense to the Creator and a transgression of his commandments, ultimately working against the authentic destiny of the human person. There cannot be any sustainable development at the expense of spiritual values and the natural environment.

The Holy and Great Church of Christ has championed and continues to champion the eco-friendly dynamic of our Orthodox faith, emphasizing the Eucharistic purpose of creation, the response of the faithful as "priest" of creation in an effort to offer it unceasingly to the Creator of all, as well as the principle of asceticism as the response to the modern sense of gratification. Indeed, respect for creation belongs to the very core of our orthodox tradition.

We are especially disturbed by the fact that, while it is clear that the ecological crisis is constantly escalating, in the name of financial growth and technological development, humanity has become oblivious to the global appeals for radical change in our attitude toward creation. It is obvious that the resulting deformation and devastation of the natural environment is a direct consequence of a specific model of economic progress, which is nevertheless indifferent to its ecological repercussions. The short-term benefits dictated by the rise of living standards in some parts of the world simply camouflage the irrationality of abuse and conquest of creation. Corporate business that does not respect the planet as our common home cannot be sanctioned as business at all. The contemporary unrestrained commerce of globalization goes hand-in-hand with the spectacular development of science and technology, which despite manifold advantages is also accompanied by an arrogance over and abuse of nature. Modern man knows this very well, but acts as if he is entirely unaware. We know that nature is not restored and renewed endlessly; yet we ignore the negative implications of "trading" in the environment. This explosive combination of unrestrained commerce and science – that is to say, the

limitless confidence in the power of science and technology – merely increases the risks threatening the integrity of creation and humankind.

The Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church spelled out with wisdom and clarity the dangers of “autonomizing economy” or separating economy from the vital needs of humanity that are only served within a sustainable environment. Instead, it proposed an economy “founded on the principles of the Gospel”¹ in order to address the modern ecological challenge “on the basis of the principles of the Christian tradition.”² In response to the threats of our age, the tradition of the Church demands “a radical change of attitude and conduct”; in response to the ecological crisis, it proposes a spirit of asceticism, “frugality and abstinence”³; in response to our “greed,”⁴ it calls for “the deification of our needs and attitude of acquisition.”⁵ The Holy and Great Council also emphatically referred to the “social dimensions and tragic consequences of destroying the natural environment.”⁶

Therefore, echoing the decisions of this Council, we too underline through this encyclical the close connection between ecological and social issues, as well as their common roots that lie in the “imprudent heart” that is fallen and sinful as well as in the inappropriate use of our God-given values,” by spiritual and ethical damage. When material possessions dominate our heart and mind, then our attitude toward our fellow human beings and toward creation inevitably becomes possessive and abusive. In biblical terms, the “bad tree” always “produces evil fruit.” (Matthew 7.17) Furthermore, by extension, we would underline that respecting creation and other people share the same spiritual source and origin, namely our renewal in Christ and spiritual freedom. Just as environmental destruction is related to social injustice, so too an ecofriendly attitude is inseparable from social solidarity.

What also becomes apparent is that the solution to the multi-faceted contemporary human crisis – namely, the crisis facing human culture and the natural environment – demands a multi-dimensional mobilization and joint effort. Much as every other vital problem, the underlying and interconnected ecological and social crisis cannot possibly be addressed without inter-Christian and inter-religious collaboration. Therefore, dialogue becomes the fertile ground for promoting existing ecofriendly and social traditions in order to stimulate environmental and communal discussion, while at the same time initiating a constructive criticism of progress understood exclusively in technological and economic terms at the expense of creation and civilization.

In closing, we once again reiterate the inseparable nature of respecting creation and humanity, and we call upon all people of good will to undertake the good struggle for the protection of the natural environment and the establishment of solidarity. May the Lord and giver of all good things, through the intercessions of the all-blessed Mother of God, grant all of you “a burning within your hearts for all creation”⁷ and “a stirring of love and good works.” (Hebrews 10.24)

+ Bartholomew of Constantinople
Your fervent suppliant before God

1 Encyclical of the Holy and Great Council, paragraph 15.

2 Encyclical, paragraph 10.

3 “The Mission of the Orthodox Church in the Contemporary World,” paragraph 10.

4 “The Mission,” paragraph 10.

5 Encyclical, paragraph 14.

6 Encyclical, paragraph 14.

7 Isaac the Syrian, Ascetical Treatises, Homily 81.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Courtesy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

www.goarch.org

Introduction

The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross is celebrated each year on September 14. The Feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine.

Background

In the twentieth year of his reign (326), the Emperor Constantine sent his mother Saint Helen to Jerusalem to venerate the holy places and to find the site of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Cross. Relying upon the oral tradition of the faithful, Saint Helen found the precious Cross together with the crosses of the two thieves crucified with our Lord. However, Helen had no way of determining which was the Cross of Christ.

With the healing of a dying woman who touched one of the crosses, Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem identified the True Cross of Christ. Saint Helen and her court venerated the Precious and Life-Giving Cross along with many others who came to see this great instrument of Redemption.

The Patriarch mounted the ambo (pulpit) and lifted the Cross with both hands so that all of the people gathered could see it. The crowd responded with "Lord have mercy".

This became the occasion of the institution in all of the Churches of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross, not only in memory of the event of the finding of the Cross, but also to celebrate how an instrument of shame was used to overcome death and bring salvation and eternal life.

The Feast is an opportunity outside of the observances of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of this world. This Feast also gives the Church an opportunity to relish the full glory of the Cross as a source of light, hope and victory for Christ's people. It is also a time to celebrate the universality of the work of redemption accomplished through the Cross: the entire universe is seen through the light of the Cross, the new Tree of Life which provides



nourishment for those who have been redeemed in Christ.

Icon of the Feast

The icon of the Feast of the Precious Cross tells the story of the finding of the Cross and of its Exaltation. Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. On each side of the Patriarch are deacons holding candles. The elevated Cross is surrounded and venerated by many clergy and lay people, including Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine. In the background of the icon is a domed structure that represents the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. This church was one of the churches constructed and dedicated by Emperor Constantine on the holy sites of Jerusalem.

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

This Feast of our Lord is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, which is conducted on the day of the feast and preceded by the Matins service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the feast.

On the day of the Feast at the conclusion of the Matins or of the Divine Liturgy, a special service is held. The Cross is placed on a tray surrounded by branches of basil and is taken in solemn procession through the church to the chanting of the Hymn of the Feast. The tray is placed on a table, and the priest takes the Cross and offers petitions from each side of the table, the four directions of the compass. This represents the universal nature of the offering of Christ upon the Cross. As the people respond by chanting "Lord have mercy", the priest raises and lowers the cross, a commemoration of its finding and exaltation. At the conclusion of the service, the people come and venerate the cross and receive the basil from the priest. The basil is used and offered, as it was the fragrant flower growing where the Cross was found.

Scripture readings for the Feast of the Cross are the following: At Vespers: Exodus 15:22-16:1; Proverbs 3:11-18; Isaiah 60:11-16. At the Orthros (Matins): John 12:28-36. At the Divine Liturgy: I Corinthians 1:18-24; John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35.

REGISTRATION FOR GREEK SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 1ST!

Dear parents and/or guardians,

I hope my message finds you all well and that you are enjoying your summertime vacations.

As the beginning of the new School Year is fast approaching for our Greek School, I would like to inform you about the Schedule of our classes and our Calendar. The Blessing of our Greek School will take place in Church on Sunday, September 10th, following the Divine Liturgy, and the lessons will start on the very next day, Monday, September 11th. The registration process will begin on September 1st through the Church's office during normal business hours.

Please see your email for the Registration form, the Schedule of our classes and the Yearly Calendar. The Supply List will be given to the students by their teachers, together with their books, on the 1st day of Greek School.

Please, don't hesitate to contact me for any questions or concerns.

Yours,
Stamatia Ieromonahos
Director of Saint Nicholas Greek School &
President of the Greek School Calendar



Αγαπητοί γονείς και κηδεμόνες,

Ελπίζω το μήνυμά μου να σας βρίσκει όλους καλά και να απολαμβάνετε τις καλοκαιρινές σας διακοπές. Καθώς η έναρξη της καινούργιας σχολικής χρονιάς πλησιάζει με ταχύτατους ρυθμούς, θα ήθελα να σας ενημερώσω για το πρόγραμμα των τάξεών μας και για το Ημερολόγιό μας. Ο Αγιασμός του Ελληνικού μας Σχολείου θα γίνει στην Εκκλησία, την Κυριακή 10 Σεπτεμβρίου, αμέσως μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία, και τα μαθήματα θα ξεκινήσουν την αμέσως επόμενη μέρα, Δευτέρα 11 Σεπτεμβρίου. Οι εγγραφές θα ξεκινήσουν την 1η Σεπτεμβρίου στο γραφείο της Εκκλησίας κατά τη διάρκεια των ωρών λειτουργίας του γραφείου.

Η λίστα με τα σχολικά θα δωθεί στους μαθητές από τις δασκάλες τους την πρώτη μέρα μαθημάτων μαζί με τα βιβλία τους.

Σας παρακαλώ, μην διστάσετε να επικοινωνήσετε μαζί μου για οποιαδήποτε ερώτηση ή ανησυχία σας.

Με εκτίμηση,
Σταματία Ιερομονάχου
Διευθύντρια του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίου Νικολάου &
Πρόεδρος της Σχολικής Επιτροπής

YOUTH PROGRAMS - REGISTRATION SEPTEMBER 10TH

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH YOUTH SUNDAY KICK OFF

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH
AFTER CHURCH IN THE LARGE SOCIAL HALL

Sign up for our



JOY

GOYA

Altar Boys

Choir

Greek School

Religious Education/

Sunday School

Hellenic Golden Coins

YAL

SUNDAY SCHOOL



We hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. As summer slowly comes to an end, we wanted to update you on important Sunday School dates and information.

Sunday School Registration:

Saint Nicholas Sunday School will be starting registration soon. Registration for Sunday School will begin on Sunday September 10 after church in the downstairs small hall. As always, registration for Sunday School is always open, so do not worry if you miss that date. You may register in the Sunday School office if you are registering on or after the first day of Sunday School.

First Day of Sunday School:

The first day of Sunday School is Sunday, September 17. Students should be in church by 10:15. Students are encouraged to sit in the front left pews with the Sunday School teacher who is present.

Grades/Programs offered:

We have programs from Pre-Kindergarten all the way through tenth grade.

Volunteer Opportunities:

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering in the Sunday School program, please contact Phaedra Avgerinos at 443-271-1117. We are always looking for more aides (tenth grade graduates or older/college age students who have never taught before) and teachers (adults, college students with some experience, or young adults who have served as Sunday School aides previously).

Thank you, Saint Nicholas Sunday School

CHOIR NEWS

The **Saint Nicholas Chorus** is looking for new members to join its choir. We have a wonderful choir that sings to praises to our Lord every Sunday. We thank them for their youthful enthusiasm as they bring spiritual joy to all who come to church on Sundays.

If anyone is interested in joining the Saint Nicholas Chorus, please contact the church organist, Pete Bisbikis at 443-803-3547 or email him at peterbisbikis@comcast.net. We have scheduled two rehearsals for **Tuesday, September 12 and Tuesday, September 19**

at 7:00 p.m. Rehearsals will be scheduled on Tuesday evenings twice a month at 7 p.m. Please contact Pete Bisbikis for the actual rehearsal schedule. Looking forward to seeing new faces at the rehearsals.



Saint Nicholas G.O.Y.A congratulates our new board members!

Angelica Quintero, President
Antoni Palas, Vice-President
Genevieve Zdziera, Treasurer
Michael Nikoletos, Recording Secretary
Panayiota Koutsantonis, Corresponding Secretary
Kyriakos Koumoudis, Sergeant of Arms
Mia Chrissomallis and Michael Cejpek, Historians



St. Nicholas • Baltimore, MD

September 10th - Swearing-in

September 10th - Board meeting after church

September 11th - GOYA meeting 6:30pm Greektown Square & Event Center - all new members welcome to register. Feel free to contact Head Advisor, Rita Quintero, 410-627-4532 or stnicholasgoya1@yahoo.com

September 30-October 1st - Our Annual GOYA basketball tournament at The Park School



June 12, 2017, Colonel John E. Gavrilis, Chief of MTA Police received the nationally acclaimed American Public Transit Association Gold Award for security. The Gold Award recognized the Maryland Transit Administration for having the lowest Part I crimes of the top 12 transit agencies in the nation for three years in a row.

Kevin Quinn, Acting Administrator for the MTA and Colonel John E. Gavrilis, Chief of MTA Police

SEPTEMBER: A New Year, A New Beginning

The beginning of the ecclesiastical year may be the appropriate time to be reminded of proper behavior as we participate in the liturgical services of our church. Although those who are regular attendees of Orthodox religious services are knowledgeable and adhere to the accepted procedures, it is their responsibility to be an example to our children and to those who may be new to Orthodoxy.

Essentially, we need only remember that each of us is in the sanctuary to worship and glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We must be mindful of our fellow parishioners and refrain from conversations and greetings; these can be shared following the services during the social hour. Basically, if one follows the directions of the ushers he will know not to enter the sanctuary or walk about at certain times during the Liturgy, such as the delivery of the Homily. Such interruptions are thoughtless and disruptive to all and disrespectful to the priest who is imparting the Word of God that we may be inspired.

Even though it should not need to be mentioned, a simple reminder is offered that our dress and demeanor is to be in accordance with that of attending the House of God: not chewing gum, eating food, crossing our legs, texting, etc.

As we approach the Chalice, we must be focused on receiving the Body and Blood of Christ; not on conversations and greetings among friends, or approaching with hands in pockets.

Our summer vacation of languid days and relaxed rules now concludes. We have been recharged and invigorated. September ushers in a year of regimented schedules, duties, and obligations. Our desire is that the New Year is one of enlightenment for each of us and that every Sunday includes a visit to God's House to worship and thank Him for all the gifts that he bestows upon us.

- Eva Lallas



Η αρχή του εκκλησιαστικού έτους ίσως να είναι η κατάλληλη στιγμή για να υπενθυμίσουμε την σωστή συμπεριφορά όταν συμμετέχουμε στις λειτουργίες της εκκλησίας μας. Αν και όσοι συμμετέχουν τακτικά στις Ορθόδοξες θρησκευτικές λειτουργίες είναι γνώστες και συμμορφώνονται σύμφωνα με τις αποδεκτές διαδικασίες, είναι ευθύνη τους να γίνουν το παράδειγμα στα παιδιά μας και σε όσους μπορεί να είναι νεοσύστατοι στην Ορθοδοξία.

Ουσιαστικά, χρειάζεται μόνο να θυμόμαστε ότι ο καθένας μας βρίσκεται στον ιερό χώρο για να προσκυνήσει και να δοξάσει τον Κύριο μας και Σωτήρα Ιησού Χριστό. Πρέπει να είμαστε προσεκτικοί με τους συν-ενορίτες μας και να αποφεύγουμε τις συνομιλίες και τις χαιρετούρες. Αυτά μπορούν να περιμένουν για μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία κατά τη διάρκεια της κοινωνικής ώρας. Βασικά, αν κάποιος ακολουθεί τις οδηγίες των επιτρόπων θα πρέπει να γνωρίζει ότι δεν πρέπει να εισέρχεται στον ιερό χώρο της εκκλησίας σε συγκεκριμένες χρονικές στιγμές κατά τη διάρκεια της Λειτουργίας, όπως η εκφώνηση του Κηρύγματος. Οι διακοπές αυτές είναι απερίσκεπτες και αναστατώνουν το εκκλησίασμα αλλά είναι και ασέβεια προς τον ιερέα που εκφωνεί τον Λόγο του Θεού από τον οποίο μπορεί κάποιος να εμπνευστεί και να ωφεληθεί.

Ακόμα κι αν δεν θα πρέπει να αναφερθεί, υπενθυμίζουμε απλά ότι η ενδυμασία και η συμπεριφορά μας θα πρέπει να είναι σύμφωνη με αυτή που αρμόζει στη παρουσία του οίκου του Θεού: Όχι τσίχλα, ούτε φαγητό, ούτε να σταυρώνουμε τα πόδια μας, ούτε να στέλνουμε ηλεκτρονικά μηνύματα με το κινητό μας τηλέφωνο κ.λπ. Επίσης όταν πλησιάζουμε για να λάβουμε Θεία Κοινωνία θα πρέπει να επικεντρωνόμαστε στην παραλαβή του Σώματος και του Αίματος του Χριστού. Όχι συζητήσεις και χαιρετισμούς στους φίλους, ή να πλησιάζουμε με τα χέρια στις τσέπες.

Οι καλοκαιρινές μας διακοπές, των νωχελικών ημερών και χαλαρών κανόνων, τώρα τελειώνουν. Έχουμε επαναφορτιστεί και αναζωογονηθεί. Ο Σεπτέμβριος εγκαινιάζει ένα χρόνο πειθαρχημένων χρονοδιαγραμμάτων, καθηκόντων και υποχρεώσεων. Η επιθυμία μας είναι το νέο έτος να γίνει ο φάρος που θα δώσει φώτιση στον καθένα μας και η κάθε Κυριακή να περιλαμβάνει μια επίσκεψη στο σπίτι του Θεού, να Τον προσκυνήσουμε και να Τον ευχαριστήσουμε για όλα τα δώρα που μας έχει προσφέρει.

- Ευαγγελία Λαλά

Then and Now: Early Christianity's Radical Reshaping of Childhood

by Jennifer Haddad Mosher, from Praxis 2017 Volume 16 Issue 3

Courtesy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
www.goarch.org

Selected excerpts:

Quite simply, Christians believed that, in Jesus, God chose to become a human being—not just an adult human being, but a fetus, an infant, a child, a youth. This meant that all stages of life and development could be united to the divine life—not just those who had come of age or who possessed a certain level of education, or those who understood moral teachings or who could practice certain rites with intention. This meant the image of God existed not only in the thirty-year-old man who could read a scroll aloud in the synagogue, but also in the partially formed embryo in the womb, the completely vulnerable newborn, the frustrating toddler, the awkward tween. How could children, born or unborn, be disposable or objects of abuse, if the spirit of God could dwell in them as fully as in an adult?

.....

While, broadly, we now live in a time when the idea that children deserve protection, attention and care are commonplace, there is simultaneously still a “medley of mutually contradictory definitions of childhood” (as stated in the Patriarchal Proclamation). Consequently, a return to and reaffirmation of Orthodox Christianity’s first radical reorientation toward children is profoundly helpful;



it can act as a compass needle in a very confusing reality.

In our roles as Orthodox parents, teachers and adults in our parishes and neighborhoods, we need to remain rooted in this critical conviction:

God took the indignities and the insecurities of being a child seriously enough that He chose to inhabit them.

The challenges and realities of childhood were worthy of His attention, His presence, His own being. And He did not engage those challenges and realities in isolation, but—even as God—He chose to subject himself to the matrix of pious parents and a wider religious community. We need to be present to children in ways our fast-paced world is not necessarily set up to support. Children need us to share our lives with them. They need us to listen to them, set healthy boundaries for them, share our experiences and struggles with them as it’s appropriate, practice virtue alongside them, support them as they try new things, receive them graciously when they fail and use our wisdom to help them develop their own.

But most of all, they need us to recognize and honor the presence of Christ in them and be willing to make different and perhaps difficult choices as a result.

We would like to thank the ladies that supplied items for the vespers and the next day's coffee hour. It was greatly appreciated and May the blessings of the Theotokos be with you and your families. Due to scheduling, the newly elected board will not be sworn in until Sunday, October 1st. Our first General Meeting will be on Monday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m. Join us for an evening of fellowship. Everyone is welcomed, no need to be a member to attend the meetings and learn about this very dynamic Philanthropic organization that helps those less fortunate. Bring a friend.

“Welcome Back Crab Feast” on Wednesday, September 13th at 6:00p.m Costas Inn, 4100 North Point Blvd. Donation \$45.00 Cash Bar. For tickets or information contact Nora Kefalas 410-979-6656 or Evagelia Saliaris 410-592-8232. All proceeds to benefit Philoptochos Missions.

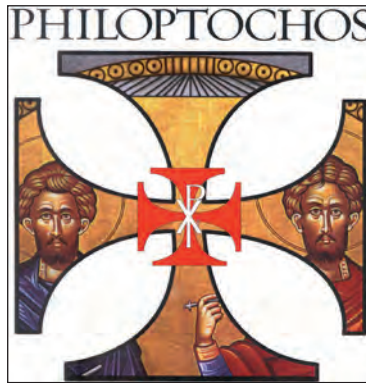
Our mailing with the Philoptochos Calendar of events along with a membership form was delayed due to the fact that all organizations and ministries met to attach their events to the church calendar in order to avoid conflicts. We apologize for the delay and appreciate your understanding. Thank you to those that have supported Philoptochos in the past and present and hope to see some new members at our meetings!

Please note any donations that were made to Philoptochos in memory of a loved one will be posted in next months article. Philoxenia House Update During the summer months in between families, the home underwent some needed renovations. The second floor bathroom tile was replaced, locks were changed, outdoor stairway was painted, exterior power washed and the monthly service we have treated the home for termites.

Our handicap first floor apartment was in high demand due to the fact that the majority of our families were from Kennedy Kreiger Institute this summer. The most difficult position was denying applications knowing these families needed a place to stay. We pray that God grants these families the strength and courage they need and heal their loved ones. God Bless each and everyone who has supported and continues to support the mission of this home.

Θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε τις κυρίες που πρόσφεραν φαγητά και γλυκά για τον εσπερινό της Εορτής της Παναγίας, και για την ώρα του καφέ της επομένης ημέρας, της Κοίμησης της Θεοτόκου. Εκτιμήθηκε ιδιαίτερα η πράξη τους και τους ευχόμαστε η Θεοτόκος να ευλογεί αυτές και τις οικογένειές τους. Λόγω προγραμματισμού, το νεοεκλεγέν Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο δεν θα ορκιστεί μέχρι την Κυριακή 1 Οκτωβρίου. Η πρώτη μας Γενική Συνεδρίαση θα γίνει τη Δευτέρα 11 Σεπτεμβρίου στις 7:00 μ.μ. Σας περιμένουμε. Όλοι είναι ευπρόσδεκτοι, δεν χρειάζεται να είστε μέλος για να παίρνετε μέρος στις συνεδριάσεις και να ενημερώνεστε για αυτή την πολύ δυναμική Φιλανθρωπική οργάνωση που βοηθά τους λιγότερο τυχερούς. Φέρτε και φίλους σας.

“Η Καβουρογαγία του Καλώς ορίσατε “ θα γίνει την Τετάρτη 13 Σεπτεμβρίου στις 6:00 μ.μ. στο Costas Inn, 4100 North Point Blvd. Δωρεά \$ 45.00 το άτομο. Για εισιτήρια ή πληροφορίες επικοινωνήστε με τη Νόρα Κεφάλα 410-979-6656 ή την Ευαγγελία Σαλιάρη 410-592-8232. Όλα τα έσοδα προς όφελος των φιλανθρωπικών αποστολών της Φιλοπτώχου.



Η αλληλογραφία της Φιλοπτώχου που περιλαμβάνει το ετήσιο Ημερολόγιο εκδηλώσεων μαζί με το έντυπο της ετήσιας συνδρομής των μελών, καθυστέρησε λόγω του γεγονότος ότι όλοι οι εκκλησιαστικοί και μη οργανισμοί συνεδρίασαν για να συντονίσουν μεταξύ τους τις εκδηλώσεις τους στο ημερολόγιο της Εκκλησίας, προκειμένου να αποφεύγονται οι συγκρούσεις. Ζητούμε συγγνώμη για την καθυστέρηση και εκτιμούμε την κατανόησή σας. Ευχαριστούμε αυτούς που έχουν υποστηρίξει την Φιλόπτωχο στο παρελθόν,

αλλά και το παρόν, και ελπίζουμε να δούμε νέα μέλη στις συνεδριάσεις μας!

Παρακαλούμε σημειώστε ότι οι δωρεές που έγιναν στην Φιλόπτωχο εις μνήμη κάποιου αγαπημένου σας προσώπου θα ανακοινωθούν στην επόμενη έκδοση της ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΣ. Ενημέρωση –Σπίτι της Φιλοξενίας. Κατά τους καλοκαιρινούς μήνες όταν το σπίτι ήταν άδειο, μεταξύ των οικογενειών που ενοίκιασαν το σπίτι, το σπίτι υπέστη ορισμένες αναγκαίες επιδιορθώσεις. Στο δεύτερο όροφο αντικαταστάθηκαν τα πλακάκια στο πάτωμα του μπάνιου, οι κλειδαριές άλλαξαν, η εξωτερική σκάλα ελαιοχρωματίστηκε, το εξωτερικό του σπιτιού πλύθηκε (power washed) και η Εταιρεία που έρχεται κάθε μήνα και απολυμνεί το κτίριο από τα διάφορα έντομα, απολύμανε το σπίτι διότι παρουσιάστηκαν τερμίτες.

Το διαμέρισμα για αναπήρους του πρώτου ορόφου είχε μεγάλη ζήτηση και το γεγονός αυτό οφείλεται στο ότι η πλειοψηφία των οικογενειών φέτος το καλοκαίρι ήταν από το Ινστιτούτο Kennedy Kreiger. Το πιο δύσκολο ήταν η απόρριψη αυτών των αιτήσεων, γνωρίζοντας ότι αυτές οι οικογένειες χρειάζονταν ένα μέρος για να μείνουν. Προσευχόμαστε και ευχόμαστε ο Θεός να χαρίζει σ' αυτές τις οικογένειες τη δύναμη και το κουράγιο που χρειάζονται, και να θεραπεύσει τα αγαπημένα τους πρόσωπα. Ο Θεός να ευλογεί όλους όσους έχουν υποστηρίξει και συνεχίζουν να στηρίζουν την αποστολή αυτού του Οικήματος.



SAINT NICHOLAS "DIAMONDS"

HAVE A GREAT ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR TO EVERYONE

EVENTS PROGRAM FOR
2017 - 2018

2017

TUESDAY	September 12, 2017	First meeting, 1:00 p.m.
TUESDAY	October 10, 2017	Meeting, 1:00 p.m./Luncheon \$ 10.00
SUNDAY	October 22, 2017	CRAB FEAST 4:00 p.m./St.Nicholas Social Hall
TUESDAY	November 14, 2017	Meeting, 1:00 p.m./ Luncheon \$ 10.00
SUNDAY	November 19, 2017	Memorial Service for departed members
TUESDAY	December 12, 2017	Meeting, 1:00 p.m./Lenten Covered dish

2018

TUESDAY	January 9, 2018	Meeting, 1:00 p.m./Luncheon \$ 10.00
SATURDAY	January 13, 2018	Christmas/New Year's Luncheon at ?
TUESDAY	February 13, 2018	Meeting, 1:00 p.m./Luncheon \$ 10.00
TUESDAY	March 13, 2018	Meeting, 1:00 p.m./Lenten covered dish

NO MEETING IN APRIL -- EASTER !!!!

TUESDAY	May 8, 2018	Last meeting, 1:00 p.m./ Free Luncheon
SUNDAY	May 20, 2018	Patron Saint Celebration/Artoclasia

On Saturday morning, November 18, 2017, we plan to go to the Rainbow Dinner Theatre, in Paradise PA, to see a comedy show. For information please contact Rose Tsakalos at 410-282-2940. Price per person \$ 85.00. includes, transportation, Luncheon and the ticket for the Theatre. If you wish to attend, please contact Mrs. Rose Tsakalos 410-282-2940

Thank you,
Rose Tsakalos - President
Saint Nicholas DIAMONDS

Το Σάββατο, 18 Νοεμβρίου, 2017, προγραμματίζουμε ταξίδιστην Πενσυλβάνια, στο Rainbow Dinner Theatre, να παρακολουθήσουμε τη ξεκαρδιστική κωμωδία. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες επικοινωνήστε με Κ. Ρόζα Τσακάλου (410-282-2940). Κατά γενική απαίτηση τούτο το ταξίδι θα γίνει Σάββατο πρωί για να μπορέσουν να έλθουν και οι εργαζόμενοι. Στοιχίζει \$ 85.00 το άτομο. Συμπεριλαμβάνει το Λεωφορείο, το γεύμα, και το εισιτήριο του Θεάτρου. Αν επιθυμείτε να συμμετέχετε παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε με την κ. Ρόζα Τσακάλου, 410-282-2940.

Σας ευχαριστώ,
Ρόζα Τσακάλου Πρόεδρος
Saint Nicholas DIAMONDS

THE BILINGUAL CENTER IS OPEN!



ST. NICHOLAS
BILINGUAL
EARLY EDUCATION
CENTER

– Now Enrolling Infants
through 5 years olds –



Contact Director Sophia Moshonisiotis
at 410-633-5020, extension 4/ beec@stnicholasmd.org
to schedule a tour of the center and register your child.
Spaces are filling up for a September 2017 placement.



COMMUNITY NEWS

GREEKTOWN SQUARE & EVENT CENTER

WEDDING RECEPTIONS • ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS • BIRTHDAY PARTIES
NEW YEAR'S EVE • COMPANY GATHERINGS • CLASS OR FAMILY REUNIONS
RETIREMENT PARTIES • BUSINESS MEETINGS



FIRST FLOOR HALL
FOR UP TO 175 GUESTS



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BANQUET HALL**
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OUTDOOR VENUE
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FOR UP TO 1,500 GUESTS

701 QUAIL STREET BALTIMORE, MD 21224 • (410) 294-1253 • WWW.GREEKTOWNSQUARE.COM

News and Events

The Greektown Square & Event Center (Plateia) is excited to report that we now have a website!
Please visit us at greektownsquare.com and let us know what you think.
Email us at info@greektownsquare.com

The Plateia Committee continues to make great strides. Improvements continue to be made. Event bookings are increasing within as well as outside of our community. To keep up with this momentum, our Marketing Committee needs your help in developing our grass roots outreach program. Please consider volunteering your services. We thank you for your continued faith and support.

... SAINT NICHOLAS' BEST KEPT SECRET ...

"My family recently held a Makaria luncheon at your beautiful Platea. From impeccable planning with Frank Mitsos, to serving a delicious meal, we had a wonderful experience with your parishioners at the catering hall. We honored the memory of my mother, Alexandra Lygoumenos, in a setting appropriate for the occasion. My parents were faithful supporters of your Church Community for many years. Your Parish is fortunate to have this extraordinary venue available for all to enjoy. Remember to let your friends know about your accomplishments and your "lovely gem" on Ponca Street!"

- Epatia Lygouymenos Peters

United Chios Societies
Andreas Syggros presents

Annual Fundraiser Dance
Mezedakia, live music, and dancing
Saturday, October 14, 2017

Special guest
Gianna Fafaliou
Rising Star
ANT1 TV



Lefteris Bournias



For ticket information

Kiki Stroumbis 410 952 3679

Vasso Koumoudis 443 844 0802

Donation \$65

\$50 12 yrs and younger

Doors open 8 p.m.

Greektown Square
700 S. Quail Street
Baltimore

Vine and Dine

Enjoy a Tour Of

The Mediterranean Cellars in Warrenton, VA

Sponsored By

The HELLENIC HERITAGE MUSEUM of MARYLAND, INC.

Friday, September 29, 2017

We will tour the facilities, owned by Louis Papadopoulos, featuring a tasting of 12 of their wines and a delicious lunch.

You will have an opportunity to purchase their wines at a 15% discount (wine only) and their olive oils.

The Cost is \$75.00 per Person

The Bus Will Leave the North Parking Lot of The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral at Maryland Avenue and Preston Street at 9:00 A.M. We Will Be Returning Approximately 4:30 P.M.

For Reservations, Call Anna Z. Pappas at 410-296-2522 Or email azplato@verizon.net

Make Checks Payable to HHMM or Hellenic Heritage Museum of Maryland, Inc. and mail with cell phone number and email information to Anna Z. Pappas, 1055 West Joppa Road, #428 Towson, MD 21204



PANOS ILIADIS

Direct from Kilkis Greece

PONTIAN NIGHT

Presented by the: Pontian Society of Maryland

September 30, 2017

Information: Takis Papadopoulos 410-790-7541

Pete Sarioglou: 410-812-4889

Greektown Square
701 Quail Street
Baltimore, MD 21224



Live Music By: **APOLLONIA**



Proceeds to benefit the Philoxenia House & St. Nicholas

AXION CHARITY EVENTS, INC.

P.O. Box 1993
COCKEYSVILLE, MD 21030

July 30, 2017

Dear Friend,

On Sunday, October 1st our Greek community will be hosting a Benefit Concert featuring the renowned Greek Singers, Marinella and Antonis Remos at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront. We are expecting over 900 people to attend the Benefit Concert from Maryland and the surrounding states.

We want to extend to you an opportunity to be part of our event by participating in our Concert Program sponsorship. Proceeds raised through this effort will benefit the ongoing ministries of the Annunciation Cathedral, St. Demetrios, St. Nicholas and Sts. Mary Magdalene & Markella. Our foundation is honored to be able to assist our Greek Orthodox community.

All advertising details are set forth on the Concert Program Ad Sponsorship Form (attachment). **All sponsorship forms, payment and artwork must be received by September 10, 2017.** A receipt will be provided for tax purposes.

Keep in mind, that no contribution is too small. If you are unable to purchase an ad at this time, but would like to be part of this exciting event, tickets are on sale at www.DCGreeks.com. More information can be found at www.axioncharityevents.org and on our Facebook site: [axioncharityevents](https://www.facebook.com/axioncharityevents). Credit cards and Paypal are accepted.

For any questions or assistance, contact Eleni Roros at (443) 621-0587 or Dimi Mexis at (410) 598-6849 or email us.

For those of you who have been our faithful supporter for many years, thank you! We do hope that you will join us as a contributor and for a great evening of Greek music entertainment.

Sincerely,



Eleni Roros



Chuck Paterakis

Concert Committee Co-Chairs

Email: axionconcerts@gmail.com
www.axioncharityevents.org

2017 PLEDGES-\$185,115.00 / Payments-\$166,320.00 / Balance-\$18,795.00

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 MR/MRS ANTONAS NICK
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 MR/MRS BATES SAM
 MR/MRS BIRCIJ PETER
 MS BOULIS ANNA
 MR CAVOURAS STANLEY
 MRS CHRISOMALLIS METAXIA
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2017 PLEDGES-\$185,115.00 / Payments-\$166,320.00 / Balance-\$18,795.00

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 MR/MRS SFIRIOU ANTONIOS
 MR/MRS SISKOS STEFANOS
 MR/MRS SOLLON NICK &
 MRS SOULIKAS EVANGELINE
 MR/MRS SOURANIS MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS STAKIAS DIMITRIOS
 MR/MRS STAMATIADIS NIKITAS
 MR/MRS STAMOULIS KYRIAKOS
 MR/MRS STAVRAKIS DEMETRIOS &
 MR/MRS STRATAKOS LEONIDAS &
 MR/MRS TAGLIAMBURIS JOHN
 MR/MRS TETTERIS STEVE
 MR/MRS THEOHARIS EMMANUEL
 MR/MRS TRIANTAFILOS COSTAS
 MRS TRINTIS THORINA
 MRS TSAKALAS JULIE
 MRS TSAMBIKOS IRENE
 MR/MRS TSEKIS PANTELIS -
 MRS VASILAKOPOULO ANASTASIA
 MS VATAKIS TESSIE
 MR/MRS VERENAKIS MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS VOXAKIS JOHN & IRENE
 MR/MRS YIANAKIS STEVE &
 MR/MRS ZISSIMOS GUS PETE -

MISS PROTOPAPAS MIROFORA
 MR/MRS QUINTERO DENNIS & RITA
 MR RODITIS THEODOROS
 MR/MRS ROROS GEORGE I.
 MR/MRS ROUSSOS ANTHONY
 MR/MRS SAKPAZIS IOANNIS
 MS SALPEAS MARIA
 MRS SARIOGLOU ANASTASIA
 MRS SERAFIS MARY
 MS SFIRIOU ANTONIA
 MR SISKOS ANTONIOS
 MR SOLLON JAMES
 MR/MRS SOULIKAS JAMES & JOAN
 MR/MRS SPENCER ERIC AND
 MR/MRS STAKIAS JOHN &
 MR STAMATOPOULOU NICK
 MR/MRS STAVLAS NIKOLAOS &
 MR STAVROU STAMATIOS G.
 MS STROUMBIS ANGELIKI
 MRS TAHINOS STEPHANIE
 MR THEMELIS JOHN
 MR THEOHARIS GEORGE
 MR/MRS TRIANTAFILOS NICHOLAS
 MR/MRS TRINTIS NICOLAOS &
 MR/MRS TSAKALOS ROSE
 MR/MRS TSAMPOS GEORGE
 MR/MRS TUMMINELLO JOE & TAMMY
 MS VASILAKOPOULO IRENE
 MRS VATAKIS ARGYRO
 MR/MRS VERGOS GEORGE &
 MR/MRS VOXAKIS GEORGE
 MR/MRS ZANDELI - ZHUPA ELISEO - IRINI

MR/MRS PROTOPAPAS EMMANUEL
 MS REDMILES SOPHIA
 MR ROLOGAS STAVROS
 MR/MRS ROROS JOHN P.
 MR/MRS ROXANIS DEAN & SOULA
 MR/MRS SALARIS DEAN &
 MR/MRS SALPEAS EMMANUEL D.
 MR/MRS SARIOGLOU NIKOLAOS &
 MR/MRS SFAKIANOUDIS VASILIS &
 MR/MRS SIGAMBRIS JOHN &
 MR/MRS SKANDALIS GEORGE
 MR SOLLON JOHN JAMES
 MR SOURANIS PARASKEVI
 MR/MRS STAKIAS PETE &
 MR/MRS STAKIAS STELIOS &
 MRS STAMIDES GEFSI
 MR/MRS STAVLAS JERRY
 MR/MRS STEWART JOHN
 MR/MRS SYROPOULOS NICHOLAS
 MR TARATSIDES GEORGE
 MISS THEMELIS STELLA
 MR THEOS ADAM
 MISS TRIKOULIS JOANNE
 MRS TRIPOLITIS EKATERINI
 MS TSAKALOS JEANETTE
 MR/MRS TSAMPOS MICHAEL &
 MR/MRS TZAVARIS STYLIANOS-
 MRS VASILAKOPOULO PARASKEVI
 MRS VAVAKAS KIRIAKI
 MRS VIZANIARIS EVANGELIA
 MR WHELLEY THOMAS
 MR/MRS ZENDELI, ZHUPA ELESEO, IRINI

LITURGICAL PROGRAM

- Friday, September 1 Beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Year
 Orthros: 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, September 3 13th Sunday of St. Matthew - Orthros: 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.
- Friday, September 8 Nativity of the Theotokos - Orthros: 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, September 10 Sunday before the Holy Cross - Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 13 Great Vesper Service on the Feast of the Holy Cross:
 Service will begin at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, September 14 Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
 Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, September 17 Sunday after the Feast of the Holy Cross
 Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, September 24 First Sunday of St. Luke - Orthros 8:45 a.m.
 Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, September 26 Falling Asleep of St. John the Theologian
 Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30



Exaltation of the Holy Cross

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, September 1st - Sunday, September 10th: Greek School Registration

Sunday, September 3rd: Sunday School Registration

Saturday, September 9th: GOYA Shake It Up Basketball Tournament at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church from 8 am to 3 pm.

Saturday, September 9th: The Philoptochos Regional Board meeting starting at 11 am.

Sunday, September 10th: GOYA Swearing-In and GOYA Executive Board Meeting; Greek School Convocation and Youth Sunday Registration for Sunday School, GOYA, & Greek School.

Monday, September 11th: GOYA Monthly Meeting at the Greektown Square & Event Center at 6:30 p.m.; The Ladies Philoptochos Monthly Meeting at 7 p.m. in the large social hall; First Day of the Greek School classes and the Blessing of the Greek School.

Tuesday, September 12th: Diamonds Monthly Meeting at 1 pm; The Hellenic Golden Coins Meet & Greet at 6 pm; Parish Council Monthly Meeting at 7 pm.

Wednesday, September 13th: Greek School Mandatory Back to School Parents meeting at 4:30 pm and 6 pm.; The Ladies Philoptochos Welcome Back Crab Feast.

Wednesday, September 13th: Hellenic Golden Coins Weekly Dance Practice at 6:30 pm

Thursday, September 14th: Hellenic Golden Coins Weekly Dance Practice at 6:30 pm.

Saturday, September 16th: The Ladies Panchian Society meeting starting at 1 pm.

Sunday, September 17th: First Day of Sunday School starting at 10 am.

Thursday, September 28th: GOYA Banner Making for Home Tournament

Friday, September 29th: GOYA Tournament Set-Up

Saturday, September 30th -Sunday, October 1st: GOYA Tournament at The Park School of Baltimore and the Tournament Dance.

Saturday, September 30th: Pontian Night featuring Panos Iliadis direct from Kilkis Greece at the Greektown Square & Event Center. For more information, contact Takis Papadopoulos at 410-790-7541 or Pete Sariogiou at 410-812-4889.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 1st, Benefit Concert featuring the renowned Greek Singers, Marinella and Antonis Remos. For tickets, please contact Eleni Roros at 443-621-0587 or Dimi Mexis at 410-598-6849.

Sunday, October 8th: GOYA Executive Board Meeting

Monday, October 9th: Greek School Closed for Columbus Day

Monday, October 9th: GOYA Monthly Meeting at 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, October 10th: Diamonds Monthly Meeting at 1 pm; Parish Council Meeting at 7 pm.

Saturday, October 14th: Annual United Chios Society Dance.

Friday, October 20th: Hellenic Golden Coins Bingo