



# DECEMBER/ ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ 2009

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520 S. Ponca Street, Baltimore, MD 21224

SAIN  
T NICHOLAS

## Message from Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos

### WHY CHRISTMAS IS BECOMING LESS “HOLY”

I wonder at times, WHY? Christmas has become a commercialized event, instead of being the true gift of humanity. We Christians, have allowed this tragedy to happen. We have gone away from the true essence of why we celebrate Christmas. One thing that we should agree together, and we hear this all the time, that Christmas is becoming less and less “HOLY” and more and more “WORLDLY.”

Let me take you back in time when we were children decades ago, when our parents got us ready on Christmas Eve or Christmas day to go to Church. Those were memorable times. I can personally remember the aromas that were coming from the kitchen. My mother would slave all day in the kitchen cooking the traditional meal that would be served on Christmas Day. The house was decorated and the atmosphere was pleasant. But in my house, attending the Christmas Liturgy was the main thing on the agenda. It wasn't the traditional family meal where everyone got together and had a good time watching television, playing games, or waiting and anticipating the food to be brought to the table.

That didn't happen in my house! First, before going to Church we had to receive the blessings from our parents, ask forgiveness from them, and then go to Church to celebrate the Birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. What really made my Christmas, was that we went to Church as a family, and we received Holy Communion together. This was the highlight of the day. This is what made the celebration so special in our home and I'm sure in thousands of other homes.

But today this spirit is slowly fading, something is missing. Our society has gone the opposite way. I personally see the Christmas spirit becoming less and less popular. Growing up we tried our best to stay awake to catch a glimpse of Santa Claus and gazed with delight at the homes decorated with lights and the white snow all around the neighborhoods. For too many of us, Christmas Day is just another day. To others, it is a day of just having fun and entertainment. As we grow up, we begin

to realize another element of the Holiday, and we now have become more accepting and more sensitive to the commercial aspect of the holiday. The wonder grew harder and harder to find, the warmth in our hearts susceptible to the draftiness of the world. We must realize that what we had back then

in our younger years, we are not experiencing these same feelings. I wonder about our children's children, how will they face their first experiences of Christmas. That really depends on the parents, and what is being taught at home.

We can see the struggle that we have today to preserve “The Christmas Spirit.” Christmas throughout the ages provides a litmus test for our souls and how we understand what it means to be a Christian and to live in this world at the same time. We must make

sacrifices and personal decisions in our lives. Some might agree or disagree, but I'm pretty sure that if we focus on Christ “FIRST” everything will work out perfectly and our spirit will surely be filled with love and hope.

We all have to accept, that since commercialization has come into the picture, Christmas is not what it used to be. I believe that Christmas is a Holiday that we share ourselves with others. That's what Christ did. There is nothing wrong, in going out and buying gifts for friends and family, but it is also great to buy a gift or gifts for people who we don't know. Let's get back to the basics and the old times where Christ came first in our lives. We all have the time to enjoy and entertain ourselves, in fact that is what we do. We don't think of Christmas as a Holy day but just as a fun day. We need to overcome that, we need to think more spiritual and accept Christmas “Present.” We each have to ask ourselves what Christmas really means, and how we are going to celebrate it this year.

You want to know my suggestion, is that we celebrate this Christmas Day by bringing our families to church, and receiving the Body and Blood



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# Μήνυμα από τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Λ. Παστορικό

## ΓΙΑΤΙ ΤΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ ΧΑΝΟΥΝ ΤΗΝ «ΑΓΙΟΤΗΤΑ» ΤΟΥΣ

Μερικές φορές διερωτώμαι: ΓΙΑΤΙ; Τα Χριστούγεννα έχουν καταντήσει ένα εμπορικό γεγονός, αντί να είναι το σημαντικότερο δώρο της ανθρωπότητας. Εμείς οι Χριστιανοί, έχουμε επιτρέψει να γίνεται αυτό το τραγικό λάθος. Έχουμε ξεφύγει από το αληθινό νόημα της εορτής των Χριστουγέννων. Για ένα πράγμα θα πρέπει να συμφωνούμε όλοι μας, που το ακούμε ολοένα, ότι τα Χριστούγεννα γίνονται όλο και λιγότερο «ΆΓΙΑ» και αντιθέτως όλο και περισσότερο «ΥΛΙΚΑ».

Επιτρέψτε μου να σας οδηγήσω στο παρελθόν, όταν είμαστε παιδιά, δεκάδες χρόνια πίσω, όταν οι γονείς μας μας ετοίμαζαν να πάμε στην Εκκλησία την Παραμονή των Χριστουγέννων. Είναι αξέχαστες εποχές. Προσωπικά θυμάμαι τις μυρωδιές που έρχονταν από την κουζίνα. Η μητέρα μου καταγινόταν όλη μέρα στην κουζίνα να ετοιμάσει το παραδοσιακό γεύμα που θα σερβιζούσε τα Χριστούγεννα. Το σπίτι ήταν στολισμένο και η ατμόσφαιρα ήταν ευχάριστη. Άλλα στο σπίτι μας το σημαντικότερο γεγονός ήταν να πάμε στην Εκκλησία για την Χριστουγεννάτικη Λειτουργία. Δεν ήταν το παραδοσιακό οικογενειακό γεύμα που όλοι θα μαζεύονταν να διασκεδάσουν, παρακολουθώντας τηλεόραση, παίζοντες παιχνίδια ή περιμένοντας να γευθούν το γεύμα.

Στο σπίτι μας δεν υπήρχε περίπτωση να γινόταν αυτό. Πρώτα απ' όλα πριν πάμε στην εκκλησία έπρεπε να πάρουμε τις ευλογίες των γονιών μας, να λάβουμε την συγχώρεσή τους, και μετά να πάμε στην εκκλησία να

εορτάσουμε την γέννηση του Σωτήρα μας Ιησού Χριστού. Τι πραγματικά με ευχαριστούσε ιδιαίτερα τα Χριστούγεννα, ήταν που πηγαίναμε στην εκκλησία όλοι μαζί σαν οικογένεια, και λαμβάναμε Θεία Κοινωνία. Ήταν το σημαντικότερο γεγονός της ημέρας. Αυτό έκανε την εορτή ακόμη μεγαλύτερη στο σπίτι μας, και είμαι σίγουρος και χιλιάδων άλλων ανθρώπων.

Στις ημέρες μας όμως το πνεύμα αυτό σβήνει με αργό ωμό, και μερικές φορές δεν υπάρχει. Η κοινωνία μας έχει ακολουθήσει αντίθετη κατεύθυνση. Προσωπική μου γνώμη είναι ότι το Πνεύμα των Χριστουγέννων γίνεται όλο και λιγότερο δημοφιλές. Μεγαλώνοντας προσπαθούσαμε όσο μπορούσαμε να μείνουμε άγρυπνοι να δούμε τον Αϊ Βασίλη, να δούμε με θαυμασμό τα σπίτια στολισμένα με τα φώτα, όπως και τις χιονισμένες γειτονιές. Για πολλούς από εμάς η Ημέρα των Χριστουγέννων, είναι απλά μια άλλη ημέρα. Για άλλους πάλι, είναι μια ημέρα διασκέδασης. Άλλα όσο μεγαλώνουμε αρχίζουμε να αντιλαμβανόμαστε και μια άλλη όψη της Εορτής. Γινόμαστε πιο δεκτικοί και πιο ευαίσθητοι στην εμπορική πλευρά της εορτής. Βρίσκουμε το θαύμα όλο και πιο δύσκολα, η ζεστασία στις καρδιές μας όλο και πιο ευπαθής στο ρεύμα της κοινωνίας που ξούμε. Πρέπει να καταλάβουμε ότι ότι αισθανόμαστε τότε που είμαστε παιδιά, δεν το αισθανόμαστε σήμερα. Διερωτώμαι τι θα γίνει με τα παιδιά των παιδιών μας: πως θα αντιμετωπίσουν την πρώτη τους εμπειρία των

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# Μήνυμα από τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Λ. Παστορικό

## ΓΙΑΤΙ ΤΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ ΧΑΝΟΥΝ ΤΗΝ «ΑΓΙΟΤΗΤΑ» ΤΟΥΣ

**Συνέχεια από την σελίδα 2**

Χριτουγέννων; Τούτο εξαρτάται από τους γονείς, και τι μαθαίνουν από το σπίτι.

Είναι φανερό η μάχη που δύνονται εμείς σήμερα για να διατηρήσουμε «Το Πνεύμα των Χριστουγέννων». Τα Χριστούγεννα μέσω των αιώνων είναι ένα καθαρό πείραμα για τις ψυχές μας και ένας τρόπος να καταλάβουμε τι σημαίνει να είσαι Χριστιανός και να ζεις σε τούτο το κόσμο κατ' αυτόν τον τρόπο. Πρέπει να κάνουμε θυσίες και να πέρνουμε προσωπικές αποφάσεις για την ζωή μας. Μερικοί μπορεί να συμφωνούν και μερικοί να διαφωνούν, αλλά είμαι απόλυτα σίγουρος, ότι αν ο Χριστός είναι το επίκεντρο της πίστης μας, τότε όλα θα πάνε κατ' ευχήν και το πνεύμα μας θα ξεχειλίσει από αγάπη και ελπίδα.

Όλοι μας έχουμε δεχθεί ότι η εμπορικότητα έχει επικρατήσει και ότι τα Χριστούγεννα δεν έχουν την σημασία που είχαν. Πιστεύω ότι τα Χριστούγεννα είναι μια εορτή που μοιραζόμαστε με τους δικούς μας και με άλλους. Αυτό πιστεύω ότι έκανε ο Χριστός. Δεν είναι λάθος να αγοράζουμε δώρα για άλλους, για φίλους και συγγενείς, αλλά είναι εξ ίσου και ίσως σημαντικότερο να αγοράζουμε δώρα για αγνώστους. Άλλα ας γνωρίσουμε πίσω στα βασικά και στο παρελθόν που ο Χριστός πρωτοήλθε στη ζωή μας. Όλοι βρίσκουμε χρόνο να χαρούμε και να διασκεδάσουμε, και στη προγματικότητα αυτό κάνουμε. Δεν θεωρούμε τα Χριστούγεννα ως Ημέρα Αγία αλλά σαν ημέρα διασκέδασης. Πρέπει να αποβάλουμε αυτή την άποψη,

πρέπει να σκεφθούμε περισσότερο πνευματικά και να δεχθούμε τα Χριστούγεννα σαν «Δώρο». Ας αναρωτηθούμε, τι πραγματικά σημαίνουν τα Χριστούγεννα, και με ποιόν τρόπο θα τα εορτάσουμε εφέτος;

Θέλετε να μάθετε τι προτείνω; Προτείνω να εορτάσετε τα Χριστούγεννα φέροντας τις οικογένειές σας στην εκκλησία, και να λάβετε το Σώμα και το Αίμα του Κυρίου με το μυστήριο της Θείας Ευχαριστίας. Κατόπιν να εορτάσετε το πατροπαράδοτο Χριστουγεννιάτικο Δείπνο, και να ανοίξετε τα δώρα σας. Ας ξεκινήσουμε σωστά, και ας ακολουθήσουμε την πορεία που πραγματικά θα φέρει αγάπη, χαρά και ευτυχία. Αν ακολουθήσουμε πιστά το στόχο μας, τότε θα έχουμε την εμπειρία να δούμε πολλά περισσότερα Χριστούγεννα στο Μέλλον.

Κλείνοντας, ελπίζω και προσεύχομαι ότι κατά τη διάρκεια των Εορτών θα κάνουμε τη σωστή επιλογή και θα πάρουμε τις σωστές αποφάσεις ακολουθώντας τις παιανιδόσεις της Χριστιανικής Ορθοδοξίας. Που είναι να εκκλησιαζόμαστε με τις οικογένειές μας, την Παραμονή των Χριστουγέννων και την Ημέρα των Χριστουγέννων. Είναι ο μόνος σωστός τρόπος που οι Χριστιανοί εορτάζουν την «Γέννηση του Χριστού» και ο μόνος τρόπος για να καταλάβουμε ότι ο Χριστός είναι πράγματι το επίκεντρο της Πίστης μας και ο Πυρήνας της ζωής μας.

**Με τις ευλογίες του Θεού σας εύχομαι καλά Χριστούγεννα!**  
**Πατήρ Μιχαήλ Λ. Παστορικός**

## Reflections on the Incarnation

**By Bill Poulos Th. M.**

The Second and Third Articles of the Nicene Creed proclaim the profound mystery of the Incarnation, which the Church celebrates as The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Christmas). The articles instruct us in the Church's unshakable witness that the eternal Son of God in a supreme act of love for humanity emptied Himself and by the power of the Holy Spirit entered His creation through the womb of the Virgin Mary and received a complete and full human nature from her. As the term Theotokos (God Bearer) implies, the Panagia gave birth to not only an infant child but also eternal God the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

Orthodox doctrine, indeed all authentic Christian doctrine, is that the incarnate Christ was true God and true man possessing in His single Person two perfect natures that exist in Him without separation or confusion. Accordingly, Jesus Christ, the Church insists, was endowed with two perfect wills and energies, human and divine. The Lord's act of receiving the fullness of our human nature enabled the redemption of mankind from the sin, corruption and death that resulted from our fall in Adam. Our salvation was made possible because He identified Himself with every aspect of our humanity. On the Cross our Lord willingly accepted the death that was the penalty for our sins and made atonement for our transgressions. Through His Resurrection, He overcame death and restored our fellowship with our Creator and enabled us to once again grow in the image and likeness of God and inherit eternal life.

These statements about the Christ' Incarnation are not the exclusive province of the clergy or theologians. They are, rather, essential elements in our salvation — the reason we celebrate Christmas. Many of the early Fathers of the Church including Sts. Irenaeus, Athanasius and Gregory of Nyssa placed the highest emphasis on Jesus' birth as the primary reason for our salvation that culminated in and was perfected by

His other redemptive acts. They realized that once He joined Himself to our humanity our salvation was assured because the divine image was restored in us and our deification, our partaking of and transformation by the divine nature, would once again be possible.

The English word "Incarnation" is derived from the Latin word that means "to become flesh." The assumption of flesh; that is, the fullness of our human nature, by Christ, the eternal Word of God, is reflected in the complete name given Christmas by the Church: The Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

How wondrous, how amazing, how incomprehensible that God should become man! It is this great mystery that we attempt to fathom as we in the Spirit gaze upon and contemplate the traditional Orthodox icon of The Nativity. We see in it the familiar and beloved elements of St. Luke's Gospel narrative of the Lord's Birth — the Virgin looking lovingly at the baby Jesus in the manger, the single radiant star guiding the Magi, the angel announcing to the shepherd the glad tidings of the Redeemers' birth, etc.

But what we must always remember is that the helpless child we see wrapped in swaddling clothes is the promised Messiah, the prophesied Savior of the world and the Only Begotten Son of God; Who, in utter and unfathomable humility, gave Himself in order to destroy the power of Satan, ransom fallen humanity and establish the kingdom of Heaven. This is dramatically symbolized in the icon by the contrast of the Christ Child's white clothing against the darkness of the cave in which He is laid.

The inexplicable union of divinity with humanity in order to bring about the redemption not only of the human race but

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# COMMUNITY NEWS - KOINOTIKA NEA

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Happy Holidays to all!!! First of all I would like to thank Dr. Grace Cordts from Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center for coming to our last meeting and speaking to us about “aging gracefully.” She was very informative and answered a lot of questions from the audience.

Second, I would like to thank Double T Diner’s John Korologos, Nora Kefalas and Stella Koukides for providing the dinner and the dessert for the evening.

**Dec. 1-13** - Collecting items for the **family crisis center**. (I think the name says it all). We will be collecting soaps, shampoos, conditioners, body wash, toothpaste and toothbrushes, laundry detergent, fabric softener. These are very essential items that the shelter needs.

**Dec. 2nd** - General Meeting 7 pm – Wine Night – Everyone Welcome.

**Dec. 3rd** - We are having a fun filled evening “Ladies Night Out” at Liberatore’s in White Marsh. Please support this cause, as all proceeds will benefit our food account, which is depleting.

**Dec. 5th** - St. Nicholas Vesper services. Don’t forget to bring your Lenten desserts and other Lenten foods for the reception after the service. Since it’s a Saturday evening we should have a lot of people come to honor St. Nicholas.

**Dec. 6th** - St. Nicholas Day Liturgy and then coffee hour sponsored by the Philoptohos again.

**Dec. 19th** - Our annual Christmas Tea will be held from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Fellowship Hall in the Market Place next to our church. Please come and enjoy a fun filled afternoon and bring your friends. Since it’s so early in the afternoon we are also providing a light lunch of assorted sandwiches. Donation is \$5.00.

**January 6th** - General Meeting 7 pm – Annual Christmas Party/Gift Exchange

**Important:** The Philoxenia house is in need of two televisions, each one costing about \$500.00. If someone is interested in donating one, please call Zoe Perdikakis @ 410-908-1556. Even if you would like to donate part of it, we would greatly appreciate it. Maybe you and your friends can pitch in and get one together? Think about it.

Due to the existing economy we have had a lot of people come forth and seek our help for food, medicine, shelter etc. I have never realized how many needy people are out there in our own community. For the last two months we have taken in less in donations and fundraising than we have been giving out, helping our fellow man. So, this Holiday season please give your donation to your local chapter, in this case St. Nicholas Philoptohos. The people we help are forever grateful.

Looking forward to January please mark your calendar for our Bull Roast that will take place Saturday, January 16th at Jimmy’s Seafood. We urge you to support this evening, as the proceeds will go toward the account that has been set up for the church needs.

**Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season!**  
Zoe Perdikakis, President

## NEA TΗΣ ΦΙΛΟΠΤΩΧΟΥ

Ευχόμεθα Καλές Εορτές σε όλους!! Έχ μέρους της Φιλοπτώχου μας πρώτα θα ήθελα να ευχαριστήσω την Ιατρό Grace Cordts από το Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center η οποία παρευρέθη εις την συνεδρίαση μας και μας μίλησε με το σχετικό θέμα «γερονόντας ευχάριστα». Η ομιλία της ήταν πολύ ενημερωτική και απάντησε σε πολλές ερωτήσεις από τις παρευρισκόμενες.

Επίσης θα ήθελα να ευχαριστήσω τον Κο Ιωάννη Κορολόγο από το Double T Diner καθώς και τις κυρίες Νόρα Κεφάλα και Στέλλα Κουκίδη δια την προσφορά του δείπνου και των γλυκών (επιδόρπια) για αυτήν την βραδιά.

**Δεκεμβρίου 1-13** - Συλλογή ειδών υγιεινής δια το Family Crisis Center – κέντρον οικογενειακής κρίσεως. (Νομίζω ότι η ονομασία του εννοεί όλον τον σκοπό του.) Θα συλλέγωμε σαμπουάν για τα μαλλιά, σαπούνια για το σώμα, οδοντόπαστες, οδοντόβουρτσες, σαπούνι για το πλύσιμο των ρούχων, μαλακτικό για τα μαλλιά και ρούχα. Αυτά είναι πολύ σημαντικά πρόγλυμα που χρειάζονται και χρησιμοποιούνται στο Family Crisis Center, το οποίο στεγάζει μητέρες με παιδιά ακόμα και βρέφη.

**Δεκεμβρίου 2** - Συνεδρίαση – 7 μμ.

**Δεκεμβρίου 3** - Θα έχωμε μία ευχάριστη βραδιά που ονομάζεται

«Βραδιά Εξόδου των Κυριών» εις το εστιατόριο Liberatore’s στο White Marsh. Σας παρακαλούμε να υποστηρίξετε αυτό το σκοπό, διότι όλα τα έσοδα θα είναι για το Food Account το οποίο αδειάζει σημαντικά λόγω τών αναγκών.

**Δεκεμβρίου 5** - Εσπερινός του Αγίου Νικολάου. Παρακαλούμε μην ξεχάσετε να φέρετε τα νηστήσιμα γλυκά σας και άλλα νηστήσιμα φρυγάτα για την δεξιώσιν μετά από τον εσπερινό. Επειδή είναι Σάββατο βράδυ περιμένωμε πολύ κόσμο να έρθει να τιμήσει τον Άγιο Νικόλαο.

**Δεκεμβρίου 6** - Πανήγυρις του Αγίου Νικολάου. Ο καφές μετά από την Θεία Λειτουργία θα προσφερθεί από την Φιλόπτωχο.

**Δεκεμβρίου 19** - 12 μμ - 3 μμ. Το ετήσιο Χριστουγεννιάτικο Τσάι θα λάβητε χώρα στο Κοινωνικό κέντρο (Μαρκέτα) δίπλα στην Εκκλησία. Σας προσκαλούμε να έρθετε και να απολαύσετε ένα ευχάριστο απόγευμα εσείς και οι φίλες σας. Επειδή είναι νωρίς το απόγευμα θα έχωμε ένα ελαφρό γεύμα με διάφορα είδη σάντουντς. Είσοδος \$5.

**Ιανουάριος 6** - Συνεδρίαση – 7 μμ – Χριστουγεννιάτικο Πάρτυ - Ανταλλαγή δώρων.

**Εκκλησια** - Το οίκημα της Φιλοξενίας χρειάζεται δύο τηλεοράσεις. Εάν κάποιος έχει την καλή διάθεση να δωρίσει μία δύναται να επικοινωνήσει με την Πρόεδρο κυρία Ζωή Περδικάκη στο 410-908-1556. Είναι δεκτή και η εν μέρει δωρεά σας, και θα εκτιμηθῇ πολύ. Μπορείτε να συμμετέχετε και με άλλους φίλους σας στην προσφορά σας.

Αύριο της δύσκολης οικονομικής καταστάσεως η οπία επικρατεί, έχουμε πολλές περιπτώσεις ανθρώπων που ζητούν βοήθεια από την Φιλόπτωχο, για φαγητό, για φάρμακα, για στέγαση, και άλλες πολύ λυπηρές καταστάσεις ανάγκης. Εγώ προσωπικά δεν φανταζούμεν ότι υπάρχουν τόσοι άνθρωποι με τόσες ανάγκες στην Κοινότητα μας.

Τους τελευταίους μήνες τα έσοδα από δωρεές έχουν λιγοστέψει καθώς και οι εκδηλώσεις της Φιλόπτωχου, με αποτέλεσμα να δίνουμε περισσότερα για βοήθεια από ότι έχουμε εισπράξει. Δι’αυτόν τον λόγο σας απευθύνουμε παράκληση, τώρα που είναι οι εορτές των Χριστουγέννων να προσφέρετε τις δωρεές σας στην Φιλόπτωχο σας, την Φιλόπτωχο του Αγίου Νικολάου. Οι άνθρωποι που βοηθούμε είναι ευγγάμιονες για πάντα.

Κοιτάζοντας μπροστά στον Ιανουάριο μήνα, παρακαλούμε όπως σημειώσετε στο ημερολόγιο σας το Bull Roast μας το οποίο θα γίνη το Σάββατο, Ιανουάριον 16η στο Jimmy’s Seafood. Λεπτομέρειες στο επόμενο τεύχος της Κοινονίας. Σας προτρέπεται να υποστηρίξετε αυτήν την βραδιά. Τα έσοδα θα διατεθούν στο λογαριασμό ο οποίος έχει ορισθή διά τις ανάγκες της εκκλησίας μας.

**Ένχομε σε όλους Υγεία και Καλές Εορτές!**  
Ζωή Περδικάκη, Πρόεδρος

## PHILOPTOCHOS FUNDRAISER

The St. Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos Society is having a fun filled evening of dining and holiday shopping. It will take place on December 3, 2009 at Liberatore's Ristorante in Perry Hall. The cost of the ticket is \$30.00 and it includes a four-course dinner served buffet style.

There will be a variety of vendors ranging from jewelry, food and décor. For tickets, please call Patty Orfanos at 410-497-5521, Nora Kefalas at 410-661-2853 or Renee Themelis at 410-790-2775.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday school will present a short Christmas Program on Sunday, December 20th after church services in the Large Hall. We look forward to having everyone take a break from the holiday rush and remember about whom this season is really about. Won't you join us as you watch your child/grandchild perform on this beautiful occasion. Coffee and desserts will be offered. We would also like to remind the parents to make sure their son/daughter brings a gift to the program so we can send them to the children at St. Basil's Academy in Garrison, New York.

Just a reminder that on Sunday, December 27th, we will not be having Sunday school classes. Classes will start again on Sunday, January 3rd. We always look forward to seeing everyone in church during this beautiful time of the year.

We the Sunday school teachers, aides and administration, want to wish everyone at St. Nicholas a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year 2010.

# COMMUNITY NEWS - KOINOTIKA NEA

## GREEK SCHOOL PTA NEWS

It is hard to believe that we are already into the month of December, 2009 and Thanksgiving is behind us. The Greek School students have been working diligently on their language skills and if you celebrated OXI day with us, you would have witnessed firsthand their hard work and dedication.

In today's rapidly changing economy, I strongly feel that St. Nicholas Greek School is helping to prepare its students for those challenges ahead. How? By developing a strong sense of self-worth and the confidence in its students so that they know that if they work hard, they can achieve anything. Also, many of our students, from a very young age, learn how to present themselves, recite poems, sing and dance in front of an audience. Our children feel such confidence being out there on stage with their peers, and performing, which we cannot take for granted. Many of us, however, do take for granted that a majority of our parishioners are bilingual. But just walk outside the doors of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and you will encounter children struggling to speak, read and write English in our schools today.

A study completed by the Georgia Department of Education, showed that children in the third grade, who took a second language, when tested for language proficiency were making significant progress toward the goal of becoming fluent users. Those same students were exceeding expectations in their ability to comprehend and speak the languages they were learning. Furthermore, the study found that those same students scored significantly higher on the math portion of tests than students not learning a second language. The study went even further and compared high school students SAT-verbal scores of students who had taken four or five years of foreign language to those students who had taken four or five years of any other subject and found the first groups SAT-verbal scores were higher. The study also showed that students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, but took a foreign language, performed just as well on their SAT-verbal scores as their more fortunate peers.

What is the conclusion? Simple: learning a foreign language helps our children to succeed not just in school today, but in the years to come. In today's job market and in the future, there will be more job opportunities for the children and young adults who can read, write and speak two languages.

So, is it a sacrifice for our parents to drive from their home in White Marsh, Perry Hall, Pasadena or Towson to St. Nicholas Greek School? You bet, but those parents understand that children need friendly competition to succeed and a network of Greek friends to support their goals and desires. As the world pushes us to Americanize, these parents realize the importance of preserving our Greek culture and language. And thus, the drive through the rain, traffic and sunny days **is worth it**; especially when your child takes pride in being able to speak, read and write Greek fluently upon their graduation from St. Nicholas Greek School.

## TRIP TO THE WALTER'S ART MUSEUM ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

### **Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece.**

On Sunday, December 6th after church services, travel back in time with the Walter's Art Museum and join us for a private guided tour of the exhibit, Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece. Explore the role of heroes in society with over 100 works of art, an interactive quiz and life-size shrine. The St. Nicholas Greek School is sponsoring two private 1-hour guided tours for children, their parents and other adults. Admission is free into the Walter's Art Museum and transportation is being provided at no cost to our parishioners. Seating on the bus is limited, so please sign-up at the church. A sign-up sheet has been clearly provided on the table in the atrium. Any questions please contact Nancy Anastasiades at 410-337-7180 or email her at [demos@comcast.net](mailto:demos@comcast.net). The following is an itinerary of the day's events.

#### **Itinerary**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 12:00 pm - 12:20 pm | Lunch (on your own); Students/Families should bring their own lunch to eat at the church or on the Yellow bus. Trash bags will be provided on the bus as well as water bottles and snacks. |
| 12:20 pm - 12:40 pm | Board Yellow Bus for the Walter's Art Gallery outside of St. Nicholas Church. Drive to Walter's Art Gallery. (5 miles, approximately 14 minutes)   |

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece. Private Tour for St. Nicholas children and their parents/chaperones. Free Time for Adult Group. Adults may tour the other exhibits or have a bite to eat at the Museum Café or visit the Museum Shop.

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece. Private Tour for St. Nicholas Adult Members. Free Time for St. Nicholas children; may tour the rest of the Museum or play at the Family Art Center, which offers hand-on art activities for school children and families alike.

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Board Bus for Return to St. Nicholas Church; Drive to St. Nicholas Church for conclusion of program. (5 miles, approximately 14 minutes)

## **ST. NICHOLAS NAME DAY SERVICES**

On Saturday, December 5th at 7 pm, Vespers will be celebrated along with visiting priests from our sister parishes. Join us for this beautiful service as we sing praises and hymns to our patron saint, Saint Nicholas Archbishop of Myra in Lycia. Following the vespers, a reception hosted by our Ladies Philoptochos Society, will follow in the large hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. If possible, please bring a dessert or nistisimo dish for the reception.

On Sunday, December 6th, the services will begin at 8:45 am with Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am. Coffee and dessert Reception will follow and once be hosted by the Philoptochos Society.

*Troparion: A model of faith and the image of gentleness, the example of your life has shown you forth to your sheepfold to be a master of temperance. You obtained thus through being lowly, gifts from on high, and riches through poverty. Nicholas, our Father and our Hierarch, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.*

## **ΜΕΓΑΣ ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ**

Το Σάββατο, 5 Δεκεμβρίου στις 7 μ.μ. θα γίνει ο Μέγας Εσπερινός της Παραμονής της εορτής του Προστάτου Αγίου της Κοινότητάς μας, Αγίου Νικολάου. Θα χοροστατήσουν όλοι οι Ορθόδοξοι Ιερείς της Πειραιεύς μας. Παρακαλείστε να συμμετέχετε στην Ακολουθία, όπου θα ψαλλούν ωραιότατοι ύμνοι και προσευχές προς τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Μήτρων της Λυκίας. Οι κυρίες της Φιλοπτώχου της Ενορίας μας θα παραθέσουν Δεξίωση για όλους στην Κοινοτική Αίθουσα μετά το πέρας της Ακολουθίας. Μπορείτε να φέρετε και εσείς το νηστήσιμο γλυκυκόμισα σας για την Δεξίωση.

Την Κυριακή, 6 Δεκεμβρίου ο Ορθόδοξος θα αρχίσει στις 8:45 και η Θεία Λειτουργία στις 10:00 π.μ. Μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία οι κυρίες της Φιλοπτώχου θα προσφέρουν γλυκά, καφέ και αναχυπτικά σε όλους τους παρευρισκομένους.

*Τροπαριών - Κανόνα πίστεως και εικόνα πραότητος, εγκρατείας διδάσκαλον ανέδειξε σε τη ποίμνη σου η των πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια, Δια τούτο εκτήσω τη ταπεινώσει τα νηυλά, τη πτωχεία τα πλούσια, Πάτερ Ιερόχα Νικόλαε, πρέσβενε Χριστώ τω θεώ, σωθήναι τας ψυχάς ημών.*

## **PLATEIA FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

### **THRU OCTOBER 31, 2009**

For your information since October 13, 2006, we have raised \$1,203,246.36 and spent \$1,040,680.47. During Loan Payoff, Phase 1, which ended August 6, 2007, we raised \$945,761.46 and spent \$849,373.52. During the Master Plan Design, Phase 2, we raised \$257,484.90 and spent \$191,306.95.

We have a detailed design, including material and equipment specifications. Current estimate to complete ONLY the first floor according to the design specifications is about \$1.2 million.

We have \$162,665.89 in available funds, we project about \$300,000 in receivable and we're in the process of securing a loan for \$500,000.00.

For us to complete the first floor and to begin generating some positive cash flow, additional funds must be raised. As you stuff the stockings on your holiday list with year-end tax deductible gifts, please don't forget the Saint Nicholas Plateia Fundraising Committee.

We thank you and wish you "a Joyous Christmas and a Healthy New Year!"

*The Plateia Committee*

# COMMUNITY NEWS - KOINOTIKA NEA

## ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΗ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΑΠΟΠΕΡΑΤΩΣΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑΣ

### MEXPI KAI THN 31η ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ, 2009

Προς ενημέρωσή σας θέλουμε να σας γνωρίσουμε ότι από τις 13 Οκτωβρίου, 2006, έχουν εισπραχθεί \$1,203,246.36 εκ των οποίων έχουν δαπανηθεί \$1,040,680.47. Το πρώτο Πλάνο συμπληρώθηκε όταν εξοφλήσαμε το Δάνειο, στις 6 Αυγούστου, 2007, ήτοι εισπράξαμε \$945,761.46 και ξοδέψαμε \$849,373.52. Συνεχίσαμε με το 2ο Πλάνο και εσπράξαμε το ποσόν των \$257,484.90, εκ των οποίων χοημάτων ξοδέψαμε \$191,306.95.

Υπάρχου λεπτομερές σχεδιάγραμμα, που περιλαμβάνει υλικά και λεπτομερή διαφάνεια εξόδων, που υπολογίζει την αποπεράτωση του πρώτου MONON ορόφου, ο οποίος θα κοστίσει σύμφωνα πάντα με το σχέδιο \$1.2 εκατομμύριο Δολλάρια.

Το ποσόν που διαθέτουμε σήμερα ανέρχεται στις \$162,665.89, υπολογίζουμε να λάβουμε περίπου \$300,000, και επίσης βρισκόμαστε στις διαδικασίες να πάρουμε δάνειο \$500,000.

Η άποψή μας είναι να τελειώσει ο πρώτος όροφος, για να αρχίσουμε να έχουμε ένα σταθερό εισόδημα, αλλά για να φθάσουμε στο σημείο αυτό χρειάζονται κι άλλα χρήματα. Καθώς λοιπόν θα επιμάζετε τα Χριστουγεννιάτικα Δώρα σας, στον κατάλογο των δώρων που θα καταλογίσετε στην Φορολογική σας δήλωση, μην ξεχάσετε να συμπεριλάβετε την Δωρεά σας για την Πλατεία του Αγίου Νικολάου.

Σας ευχαριστούμε και σας ευχόμαστε «Χαρούμενα Χριστούγεννα και με Υγεία ο Καινούργιος Χρόνος!»

*Ex της Επιτροπής.*

### RHODIAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND "DIAGORAS"

Diagoras once again presents "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, December 12th from 10 am to 1 pm at St. Nicholas Church Fellowship Hall in the Market Place. Breakfast treats, crafts; gifts and a picture with Santa await all who attend. All children 12 and under from St. Nicholas church and our surrounding sister parishes are welcome to attend. Please R.S.V.P. to Maria Angelou at 443-865-0851 or e-mail diagoras3@msn.com to let us know how many children to expect so we can plan accordingly.

For information on what is happening and any upcoming events within the Diagoras organization, you can visit our web site at [www.diagorasmd.org](http://www.diagorasmd.org).

### DONATE A POINSETTIA FOR THE CHURCH AND PLACE YOUR NAME IN THE 2009 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Once again you have the opportunity to help beautify our church during the upcoming Holiday season by buying a beautiful Christmas Poinsettia. The cost is still \$20 per plant.

Also, if you want to include your family name in the 2009 Community Christmas Card, simply complete the form below and return it to the church office by December 6th. The cost for the card is \$20.

Please specify your choice below and fill out the form by checking the box of your choice and/or choices. Please include your donation. Thank you very much.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

POINSETTIAS (# \_\_\_\_ ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Board and all the members of Diagoras wish to extend to everyone a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year 2010.

### "COME AND SEE"... WHAT STEWARDSHIP IS ABOUT!

When Jesus called His disciples, we read that Philip brought Nathaniel to Jesus, telling him to "Come and See." We also read in the New Testament of the Samaritan Woman at the well who left her bucket and went to tell the people to "Come and See..."

We extend this same invitation to you to Come and See the world as God's gift to you. We are not owners but only stewards of God's many blessings. In the words of Gregory the Theologian, "...however much you bring to him, always more remains. Nor will you give anything that is your own; for all things flow from God (Or 14.22)."

Come and See what the Church can become with your time, talent and treasure dedicated to the Lord's ministries. Our parish will become more than we ever imagined—not maintaining ministries, but growing ministries made possible by your support.

Come and See God work through your talents, skills and experience, as well as your financial support. Your offering to Christ and His Church can do as much as you empower it to do. We give to Christ and His Church not according to our means but according to our love for Him.

Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God. Come and see what we can do together with your support.

Please give prayerful consideration to the commitment you are making for your Stewardship pledge for 2010. A check mailed to the church is meaningless unless it is accompanied by your presence, by your willingness to serve, by your prayers, and by your commitment. Giving is not a substitute for commitment - it is an expression of your commitment. "Come and see the works of God, He is awesome" (Psalm 66:5).

The Stewardship Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended the program and luncheon last month. Once again, we thank all the volunteers who took the time to speak either in church or downstairs at the short program. Also we extend our appreciation and Thanks to those who prepared and served the food, to our donors, to our Greek School Teachers, and to Fr. Michael.

*Yours in Christ,  
The Stewardship Committee*

### «ΕΛΑΤΕ ΝΑ ΙΔΕΙΤΕ»...

### ΤΙ ΕΙΝΑΙ Η ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑ

Όταν ο Χριστός κάλεσε τους αποστόλους Του, διαβάζουμε ότι ο Φίλιππος ἐφέρε μαζί του τον Ναθαναήλ στον Ιησού, λέγοντάς του «έλα να ιδείς». Επίσης διαβάζουμε στην Καινή Διαθήκη για την Σαμαριτίδα που βρισκόταν στο πηγάδι, η οποία ἀφήσε την στάμνα της και ἔτρεξε να πει στο κόσμο «ελάτε να ιδείτε...»

Στέλουμε και εμείς με τη σειρά μας το ίδιο προσκλητήριο σε εσάς, να έλθετε να ιδείτε τον κόσμο ως δώρο του Θεού σε εσάς. Δεν είμαστε ιδιοκτήτες αλλά απλοί οικονόμοι του Θεού. Στα λόγια του Γρηγορίου του Θεολόγου, «....όμως όσο περισσότερα του προσφέρετε, πάντα περισσότερα απομένουν. Ούτε ό,τι δίνετε είναι δικά σας, διότι όλα τα αγαθά προέρχονται από το Θεό (Ορ 14.22).»

Ελάτε να δείτε τι μπορεί να κάνει η εκκλησία όταν διαθέσετε το χρόνο σας, το ταλέντο σας και την οικονομική σας ενίσχυση προς τις διάφορες αποστολές του Κυρίου. Η Κοινότητά μας θα γίνει πολύ καλλιτερή από ότι φαντάζεστε, όχι μόνο να διατηρούνται τα υπάρχοντα προγράμματα, αλλά να αναπτύνουνται κατά πολύ, χάρις στη δική σας υποστήριξη.

Ελάτε να ιδείτε το έργο του Θεού με τις δικές σας επιδεξιότητες, ταλέντα και εμπειρίες, και με την δική σας οικονομική υποστήριξη. Η προσφορά σας προς τον Χριστό και την Εκκλησία Του μπορούν να αποδώσουν όσα εσείς εξουσιοδοτείτε να γίνουν. Προσφέρουμε στο Χριστό και την Εκκλησία Του όχι σύμφωνα με τα πόσα έχουμε αλλά σύμφωνα με την αγάπη προς Εκείνουν.



# COMMUNITY NEWS - KOINOTIKA NEA

Η Εθελοντική Προσφορά είναι μια ευκαιρία να εξετάσουμε τις προτεραιότητές μας και τις αξίες μας, να εκφράσουμε τις ευχαριστίες μας, και να προσφέρουμε με την χαρδιά μας. Μας επιτρέπει να συμμετάσχουμε στο έργο του Θεού. Ελάτε να ιδείτε τι μπορούμε να φτιάξουμε όλοι μαζί με την υποστήριξή σας.

Σας παρακαλούμε να σκεφτείτε σοβαρά πώς συμπληρώσετε την κάρτα της Εθελοντικής σας Προσφοράς για το 2010. Αν ταχυδομήσετε την επιταγή σας στην εκκλησία είναι ανώφελο χωρίς την παρονοία σας, χωρίς την προθυμία σας να υπηρετήσετε το Θεό, χωρίς την προσευχή σας, και χωρίς την υπόσχεσή σας. Η δωρεά δεν είναι το υποκατάστατο για την υπόσχεση - είναι μια έκφραση της υπόσχεσης. «Ελάτε να ιδείτε τα έργα του Θεού, είναι φοβερός»...

Η Επιτροπή της Εθελοντικής Προσφοράς θάθελε επ' ευκαιρία να ευχαριστήσει όλους που παρευρέθησαν στο πρόγραμμα και το γεύμα τον περασμένο μήνα. Για μια φορά ακόμη ευχαριστούμε όλους τους εθελοντές που μίλησαν και στην Εκκλησία και στη Κοινωνική αίθουσα κατά τη διάρκεια του σύντομου προγράμματος. Επίσης θέλουμε να επεκτείνουμε τις ευχαριστίες μας και την εκτίμησή μας σε όλους εκείνους που δώρησαν και ετοίμασαν τα φαγητά και εκείνους που τα σέρβιραν, στις δασκάλες του Ελληνικού μας Σχολείου και τέλος στον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ.

*Με την εν Χριστώ Αγάπη  
Από την Επιτροπή της Εθελοντικής Προσφοράς.*

## PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

The concept of the Parish Life Committee is to help prevent scheduling conflicts of the Church Social Halls, and it works. It can only work flawlessly when we all share that same concept. That is why it is necessary for each Organization of the Church to have a representative at each meeting, which is held on the first Thursday of each month.

The next PLC meeting will take place on Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 7 pm. Hope to see all organizations represented.

If you need to get in touch with me, here is my new e-mail address: [jimmydemetrie@verizon.net](mailto:jimmydemetrie@verizon.net).

*Jimmy S. Kosmas, Chairman*

## GREEKTOWN CDC

### A message from John E. Gavrilis, CEO

The Eastern Underpass mural is finally complete! We can now all enjoy the Greek dancers, Greek priest, church, and Greek themed colors welcoming people into Greektown. This is just another positive step in our revitalization process in keeping our community a destination. The Greektown CDC is currently focused on a large scale Greek themed development that will compliment the recent aesthetic improvements to our underpass and City streets.

## KOINONIA E-MAILED DIRECTLY TO YOU

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

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

### Επιστούμε την προσοχή όλων των μελών μας

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

We understand the difficulties people are having paying bills and saving energy. The Greektown CDC has partnered with many organizations and city agencies whose mission is to help residents earn benefits and provide resources. The Baltimore Cash Campaign is located at the Southeast CDC and can be helpful to those in need. Please feel free to call them at 410-342-3234, ext 22 for assistance. Feel free to call the Greektown CDC at 410-327-3306 if you have any questions.

Please remember to call 911 and 311 for all crime related instances and spread the word to your fellow parishioners to dial immediately when witnessing an incident. This includes reporting any illegal dumping and loitering as soon as you witness any occurrence. Please remember to check on your elderly neighbors these cold months. The Greektown CDC wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Xronia Polla!

*John E. Gavrilis*

## Mark your calendars for the 57th Annual Saint Nicholas Name Day Banquet and Family Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 12, 2009

**8:00PM - 2:00AM**

**Large Social Hall**

**Pikilia mezzedakia will be served - Cash Bar**

**Music by Dionysos from New York**

**Donation will be \$40.00 per person**

**Seats are limited to first come first serve**

**Chairmen for this event are**

**Taki Papadopoulos and Yianni Sfakianoudis**

**For table reservations, call the church office at 410-633-5020**

## ΧΟΡΟΕΣΠΕΡΙΔΑ ΕΠΙ ΤΗ ΟΝΟΜΑΣΤΙΚΗ ΕΩΡΗ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ

Η 57η ετήσια Χοροεσπερίδα της Κοινωνίτας μας θα γίνει στις 12 Δεκεμβρίου, στη Κοινωνική αίθουσα, από 8:00 μ.μ. έως 2:00 π.μ. Τιμή εισιτηρίου \$40 το άτομο. Στη τιμή συμπεριλαμβάνονται ποικιλία μεζεδάκια, και μουσική από την Ορχήστρα της Νέας Υόρκης, ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΣ. Πληρώνετε το ποτό σας. Ο αριθμός των θέσεων είναι περιορισμένος για αυτό παρακαλείστε να κλείσετε τις θέσεις σας εγκαίρως τηλεφωνώντας στο Κοινωνικό Γραφείο 410-633-5050 ή στους υπευθύνους κ. Τάκη Παπαδόπουλο και κ. Γιάννη Σφακιανούδη.

## APPLICATION FORM FOR CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

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CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE/ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE/ΚΙΝΗΤΟ: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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 MR AGAPIOS DIAMANTIS  
 MR/MRS AKALESTOS EMMANUEL  
 MR/MRS ALEXANDROU JOHN  
 MR/MRS ANASTASIADES DEMOS &  
 MRS ANDREWS MARIA  
 MR/MRS ANGELOS MARK  
 MR ANGELOU EVANGELOS E  
 MRS ARAVIDES ANNA  
 MISS ARGIRAKIS ANGELICA  
 MIS ATHOS JANET  
 MR/MRS AVGERINOS GEORGE AND  
 MR/MRS BETINIS EMMANUEL  
 MRS BISBIKIS HELEN  
 MRS BOURGOUTZIS EKATERINI  
 MR/MRS BOUYOUKAS JOHN & FOTINI  
 MR/MRS CAVOURAS STANLEY  
 MR/MRS CHAGETAS JAMES &  
 MR/MRS CHRISOVERGIS GEORGE &  
 MR/MRS CHRIST TRACY &  
 MR/MRS CHUVALAS DIMITRA  
 MR/MRS CORNIAS MARK  
 MIS CORNIAS SEVASTI  
 MR/MRS CORNIAS LARRY &  
 MR COSSIS ELIAS  
 MR CURTIS STEVE  
 MISS DARDAMANIS FOTINI  
 MR/MRS DIACOLOUKAS GUS & MARY  
 MR/MRS DIAKOKMINNOS KOSMAS  
 MR/MRS DIMITRIADES NIKOLAOS &  
 MR DOUKSAS NIKOLAS  
 MR/MRS EFTIMIOU NICHOLAS  
 MR/MRS FAKAS JAMES  
 MR/MRS FANTIS STEVE  
 MR/MRS FILIPPOU EMMANUEL  
 MR/MRS FORAKIS MICHAEL  
 MR/MRS FOTINOS GERASIMOS-  
 MR/MRS FOTIS KONSTANT&  
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 MR/MRS FRANGOS CONSTANTINE  
 COL/MRS GAVRILIS JOHN &  
 MR/MRS GEORGALAS NICHOLAS  
 MRS GEORGE PELENEPE  
 MR GEORGIOW JAMES  
 MRS GERAPETRITES FOTINI  
 MR/MRS GIAKOUAKIS STELLA  
 MR/MRS GIANNAKOULIAS GEORGE  
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 HALKIAN "SAINT"  
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 MRS HATZIKOSMOS AMALIA  
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 MR/MRS KAMBOUPOULU STELIOS  
 MR/MRS KANELLOPOULOS JOHN  
 MR KAPOUDAS DIMITRIOS  
 MISS KARABELAS IOANNA  
 MR/MRS KARAGIANNIS DEMETRIOS  
 MRS KARAGIANNOPOU LIA  
 MR KARAMANLIDES ANTONIOS  
 MR KARAMIHALIS GEORGE  
 MS KARAS EVELYN  
 MR/MRS KASTELLORIZIOS KONSTANTINO  
 MR/MRS KATSAROS EMMANUEL  
 MR/MRS KAZAMIAS GUS  
 MR/MRS KELLEY SHAWN &  
 MR/MRS KIMOS JAMES  
 MR/MRS KLOSTERIDES MICHAEL &  
 MR KOLIOFITS DEMETRIOS  
 MRS KONDYLAS COSTAS  
 MRS KONTOYIANIS MARGARET  
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 MR KOSMAS SAM  
 MISS KOSTALAS CHRISOULA  
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 MRS KOUTSONOURIS MARIA  
 MR/MRS KOVIOS PETE  
 MR LALLAS JOHN  
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 MRS LVGOUMENOS ALEXANDRA  
 MR/MRS MAKRIS MICHAEL &  
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 MR/MRS MASTROMANOLI MANUEL  
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 MR/MRS MELIOTIS ALEKOS &  
 MR/MRS MINADAKIS NIKOLAOS -  
 MR/MRS MONIODIS MICHAEL  
 DR/MRS MONOPOLIS SPYROS  
 MR/MRS NARLIS EPAMINONTAS  
 MR/MRS NISTAZOS EFSTRATIOS  
 MRS ORFANOS MARIA  
 MR/MRS PANTELIDES GABRIEL

MR AGAPALOGLOU KONSTANTINE  
 MR/MRS AGAPIOS NICHOLAS  
 MR/MRS ALAFASSOS SPYROS &  
 MRS AMARANTIDIS PARTHENIA  
 MRS ANASTASIS FOTINI  
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 MR ANGELOU MICHAEL  
 MR ANTARTIS NIKOLAOS  
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 MR/MRS ARGIROPOULOS WILLIAM  
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 MRS CEDERAKIS OREANTHI  
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 MRS FOUKAS VASILIOS  
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 MR/MRS JANKOWIAK DAVID & MARY  
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 MRS KALIS EUGENIA  
 MR/MRS KAMINARIS DEMETRIOS  
 MR KAPETANAKOS ELIAS  
 MR/MRS KAPUTSOS SYLVIA  
 MR/MRS KARAGEORGOS DEMETRIOS  
 MRS KARAGIANNIS SEVASTI  
 MR/MRS KARAHALIS GEORGE &  
 MR/MRS KARAHALIS TIM & CAROL  
 MR/MRS KARANIKOLIS NICK  
 MR/MRS KARELLAS EMANUEL  
 KATAVENON SOCIETY "AGIA  
 MR/MRS KATSAROS GEORGE  
 MR/MRS KEFALAS MIKE & NORA  
 MR/MRS KEVAS GEORGE &  
 MR/MRS KLOSTERIDES SPIROS &  
 MR/MRS KOLENDRIANOS JOHN  
 MR/MRS KOLOTOS DORA  
 MR KONTOS GEORGEC  
 MR/MRS KORNIAIS KALUOPE  
 MR/MRS KOSMAS DEMETRIOS  
 MR KOSMOS GEORGE  
 MRS KOSTARAS DESPINA  
 MR KOUKIDES GEORGIOS  
 MR/MRS KOULOUMBRIIS IOANNIS  
 MR/MRS KOUTELIS ADAMANTIOS  
 MR/MRS KOUTSANTONIS GEORGE  
 MS KOUTSOURIS ANASTASIA  
 MR/MRS LAGADINOS GEORGE &  
 MR/MRS LAZAROU JOHN & ZOE  
 MR/MRS LERICOS PERRY AND  
 MR/MRS LIVADITIS JOHN &  
 MR MAKE DIMITRIUS  
 MRS MARKAKIS MARY  
 MR/MRS MARVELIS VASILIOS  
 MR/MRS MASTROVASILIS IOANNIS &  
 MR/MRS MAVRODONTIS ZAHARIAS  
 MR/MRS MAVROULIS KYRIAKOS-  
 MR MERITIS ALEXANDROS  
 MR/MRS MIMAROS STAVROS  
 MR/MRS MITOS FRANK  
 MR/MRS MONIODIS MICHAEL &  
 MRS MOSKONAS VASILIKI  
 MR/MRS NICOLAIDIAS VASILIOS &  
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 MRS ASHBY ATHELENE  
 MR/MRS AVGERINOS DEMETRIOS  
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 MR/MRS GEORGALAS MICHAEL &  
 MR/MRS GEORGAS GEORGE &  
 MR/MRS GEORGIOU ARCHODOULA  
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 MR/MRS GIKAS PETER  
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 MR/MRS GRABAU KEVIN  
 MRS HALIKIAS ANASTASIA  
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 MR/MRS HARTOFILIS NICK & SYLVIA  
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 MR/MRS HAZIMINAS JOULIA  
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 MR/MRS KAIKIS CLEMIS  
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 MR/MRS KAPOUDAS MARIA  
 MR/MRS KARABELAS PANAGIOTIS  
 MR/MRS KARAGIANNIS DEMETRIOS  
 MISS KARAGIANNIS SHOSHANA  
 MR/MRS KARAIAS KONSTANTINO  
 MRS KARAHALIS ELEFTHERIA  
 MR/MRS KARANIKOLIS GUS & KRISTY  
 MR/MRS KAROUTSOS GEORGE  
 MR/MRS KATRIS ANTONIOS &  
 MR/MRS KATSAROS STELIOS  
 MR/MRS KELEPESIS VASILIOS &  
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 MS KOLOTOS MARIA  
 MR/MRS KONTODIUS KONSTANTINO  
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 MR MOELLER PATRICIA ZOE  
 MR/MRS MONIODIS STEVE  
 MS MOUHTOURIS VASILIKI  
 MR NICOLARAMIS MICHAEL  
 MR/MRS NYCHIS VASILIOS  
 MS ORFANoudams EMILY  
 MRS PANTAZONIS MARY  
 MR/MRS PAPADEMETRIOU SMARAGDI

# STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES FOR 2009

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 MR/MRS PAPAGEORGIOU SOCRATES  
 MRS PAPAROUNIS PAULINE  
 MR PAPPAFOTIS SPERO  
 MR/MRS PARTHEMOS DINO &  
 MR/MRS PATERAKIS CHARLES &  
 MR/MRS PATRAS PETE  
 MR/MRS PEARCE ANTHONY &  
 MRS PETRIDES ANNA  
 MR/MRS PHILIPPOU KOSMAS  
 MR/MRS PIKOUNIS GEORGE E.  
 MR/MRS POPOMARONIS WILLIAM &  
 MRS PROAKIS HELEN  
 MR/MRS RAFAILIDES THOMAS &  
 MR/MRS REPPAS IRODOTOS  
 MR/MRS ROBERTS BRIAN  
 MR/MRS ROLOGAS STAVROS  
 MR/MRS ROROS PETE & NIKKI  
 MR/MRS ROSSIS GEORGE  
 MR/MRS ROUSSOS JOHN  
 MR/MRS SALIARIS PANAGIOTIS  
 MRS SAMARAS- WILMA  
 MR/MRS SARIOGLOU ATHANASIOS  
 MRS SAZAKLIS ANTONIOS  
 MR/MRS SFAKLANAKIS ELIAS & IRENE  
 MR/MRS SFIKAS VASILIKI  
 MR/MRS SIGAMBRIS HARRY  
 MR/MRS SKORDALOS VASILIOS  
 MR/MRS SOPHOCLEOUS PROKOPIS  
 MR/MRS SOURANIS STANLEY  
 MRS SPYROPOULOS RENA  
 MR/MRS STAKIAS GEORGE  
 MR STAMATOPOULOS NICK  
 MRS STAMIDES SOFIA  
 MR/MRS STAVLAS MICHAEL  
 MRS STAVERAKIS GUS  
 MR/MRS STEWART JOHN  
 MR/MRS SYROPOULOS NICHOLAS  
 MRS TAHINOS STEPHANIE  
 MRS TARATSIDES ATHENA  
 MR/MRS TETTERIS STEVE  
 MR/MRS THEMELIS CONSTANTINE  
 MR/MRS TRIANTAFILLOS COSTAS  
 MR/MRS TRINTIS BASILIOS &  
 MR/MRS TSAKALAS STEVEN  
 MR/MRS TSAKIRIS SAVVAS  
 MR/MRS TSAMPOS GEORGE  
 MR/MRS TSIRONIS NICK &  
 MRS VASILAKOPOULO ANASTASIA  
 MR/MRS VASILIOS FRANK  
 MRS VAVAKAS KIRIAKI  
 MR/MRS VERUHIS APOSTOLOS &  
 MR/MRS VOXAKIS ANGELO  
 MRS WOODS- VICTOR &  
 MR/MRS YIANNOURIS VASSOS &  
 MR/MRS ZISSIMOS GUS PETE -

DR/MRS PAPADIMITRIOU NICHOLAS  
 MR/MRS PAPAGEORGIOU CAREY  
 MR/MRS PAPASTEFANOU STAMATIOS  
 MR/MRS PAPPAS VASILIS &  
 MRS PASSAS CHRISAVGI  
 MR/MRS PATNIOTIS PANAGIOTIS &  
 MR/MRS PATRAS STEPHEN  
 SOCIETY PELOPS PAN-  
 MR/MRS PETROPOULOS DEMETRIOS  
 MR PHILIPPPOU PHILIP  
 MR/MRS PIKOUNIS EMMANUEL  
 MR/MRS POULOS WILLIAM  
 MRS PROAKIS KOULA  
 MR/MRS RANDITAS PETROS  
 MR/MRS RICHARDSON JAMES  
 MRS ROGERS RUBY  
 MRS ROROS EUGENIA  
 MR. ROROS PETE JOHN  
 MRS ROSSIS-BARNES TSAMBIKA  
 MR/MRS ROXANIS DEAN & SOULA  
 MR/MRS SALIARIS ANASTASIOS  
 MR/MRS SARANTINOS SANDY  
 MR SARIOGLOU NIKOLAOS  
 MR/MRS SAZAKLIS GEORGE &  
 MR/MRS SFAKIANOUDIS JOHN  
 MR/MRS SFIRIOU ANTONIOS  
 MRS SIMPSON KELLIE  
 MR/MRS SMOURIANIS JOHN & TINA  
 MR/MRS SOULIKAS GEORGE &  
 MR/MRS SOURANIS MICHAEL &  
 MR/MRS STAKIAS PETE &  
 MS STAKIAS STELLA  
 MISS STAMIDES SOPHIA  
 MR/MRS STAMIDIS ANASTASIOS  
 MR/MRS STAVLAS NIKOLAOS &  
 MR/MRS STAVERAKIS FILIPPOS &  
 MRS STRAKES KATHERINE  
 MR/MRS SYROPOULOS KONSTANTINO  
 MR/MRS TAKOS STEVE  
 MR/MRS TASKER-GIOKA DAMIANOS  
 MISS THEMELIS STELLA  
 MR/MRS THEOHARIS EMMANUEL  
 MRS TRIANTAFILELOS PETE  
 MRS TRIPOLITIS JOSEPH &  
 MS TSAKALOS JEANETTE  
 MRS TSAMBIKOS IRENE  
 MR/MRS TSAPALAS PAUL  
 MR/MRS TUNANIDAS STELLA  
 MVS VASILAKOPOULO IRENE  
 MR/MRS VASILIOS YIANNIS &  
 MR/MRS VENETIS DIMITRIOS &  
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 MRS XINTAS MARY  
 MR/MRS ZDZIERA STEVE  
 MRS ZOULIS JOHN &

MR/MRS PAPADOPOULOS EFSTATHIOS  
 MR/MRS PAPAGEORGIOU GEORGE &  
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 MR/MRS PAPPAS JOHN  
 MR PASTRIKOS JEFFREY  
 MR/MRS PATRAS NICK & DORA  
 MRS PATRIAKAKOS PANAGIOTA  
 MR/MRS PEITSEMESES IRENE  
 MR/MRS PETROU GEORGE &  
 MR/MRS PIKOUNIS JOHN & DEBBIE  
 MR/MRS POLIKANDRIOTIS KONSTANTINO  
 MR/MRS PRASSEAS JAMES  
 MR/MRS PROTOPAPAS VASILIS &  
 MR/MRS REDA ELENI  
 MRS RIZAS MARIA  
 MR/MRS ROGERS BART AND  
 MR/MRS ROROS GEORGE I.  
 MR/MRS ROROS GEORGE W.  
 MR/MRS ROUFAS VASILIS  
 MRS SADIK ARIEGETA  
 MR/MRS SALIARIS- KONSTANTINO  
 MR/MRS SARIGIANIS- JOANNA C.  
 MR/MRS SARIOGLOU PETE &  
 MR/MRS SEBAFIS STEVE & MARY  
 MR/MRS SFAKIANOUDIS GEORGE K.  
 MR/MRS SHIFFLETT - MICHAEL &  
 MR/MRS SISKOS STEFANOS  
 MR SOLLON JOHN JAMES  
 MR/MRS SOULIKAS JAMES & JOAN  
 MR/MRS SOURANIS NICHOLAS &  
 MR/MRS STAKIAS MICHAEL  
 MRS STATHIAS KIKI  
 MISS STAMIDES CHRISOULA  
 MR STAMOULIS KYRIAKOS  
 MR/MRS STAVLAS JERRY  
 MR/MRS STEFANIDIS DEMETRIOS &  
 MR/MRS STRATAKOS LEONIDAS &  
 MR/MRS SZULIMOWSKI HENRY  
 MR TAMARIS ELEFTHERIOS  
 MR/MRS TASSIS PETER &  
 MR THEMELIS JOHN  
 MR/MRS TOPOUZOGLOU ANASTASIOS &  
 MS TRIKOURIS JOANNE  
 MRS TRIPOLITIS NINA  
 MRS TSAKALOS ROSE  
 MISS TSAMOURAS ANGELIKI A.  
 MR/MRS TSAPALAS THEODORE &  
 UNITED CHIOS SOCIETY  
 MR/MRS VASILAKOPOULO SPIROS  
 MS VATAKIS TESSIE  
 MR/MRS VERENAKIS MICHAEL &  
 MR/MRS VOURVOULAS SOPHIA  
 MR/MRS VOXAKIS GEORGE  
 MR/MRS XIOPOLITIDIS ANTONIOS  
 MRS ZERVAS HELEN

MR/MRS PAPAFOTIS ALEX  
 MR/MRS PAPAMINAS ANDREW  
 MR/MRS PAPAVASILIOU THARRENOS &  
 MRS PAROS MARY  
 Rev./MRS PASTRIKOS MICHAEL &  
 MR/MRS PATRAS LEONARD N.  
 MR PAYIAVLAS JOHN  
 MR/MRS PERDIKAKIS GEORGE  
 MRS PHILIPPOU POPI  
 MR/MRS PIKOUNIS JAMES  
 MRS POLITES DESPINA  
 MR/MRS PREARIS MINAS  
 MR PROTOPAPAS KOSTAS  
 MR/MRS REPPAS SOTERIOS  
 MR/MRS RIZAS PAUL  
 MR/MRS ROLOGAS ANASTASIOS  
 MR/MRS ROROS JOHN P.  
 MR/MRS ROROS DIMITRIOS &  
 MR/MRS ROUSSOS ANTHONY  
 MR/MRS SALARIS STEPHEN  
 MRS SALPEAS MARIA  
 MRS SARIGIANNIS CHRISTINE  
 MRS SAZAKLIS EFTHIA  
 MR/MRS SERDENES STYLIANOS &  
 MR/MRS SFAKIANOUDIS KONSTANTINO  
 MR/MRS SIGAMBRIS JOHN &  
 MR/MRS SKANDALIS GEORGE  
 MR/MRS SOLLON NICK &  
 MRS SOURANIS PARASKEVI  
 MR/MRS SPENCER ERIC AND  
 MR/MRS STAKIAS DIMITRIOS  
 MR/MRS STAMATIADIS NIKITAS  
 MRS STAMIDES GEFSI  
 MR/MRS STAMOULIS GEORGE  
 MR/MRS STAVERAKIS JIMMY  
 MR/MRS STEFANON/STAK MICHAEL  
 MR/MRS SVINGOS JAMES JOHN  
 MR/MRS TAGLIAMBURIS NICOLAS  
 MR TARATSIDES GEORGE  
 MR/MRS TAYLOR KEVIN & ELENI  
 JG/MRS THEMELIS JOHN REENE  
 MRS TREANTAFELLOU HELEN  
 MR/MRS TRIKOURIS DEMETRIOS  
 MR/MRS TSAKALAS JULIE  
 MRS TSAKIRIS ANASTASIA  
 MR TSAMPICOS GEORGE  
 MR/MRS TSERKIS VASILIOS &  
 MR/MRS VAILAS PETER  
 MR/MRS VASILARAKIS NICHOLAS  
 MRS VATAKIS ARGYRO  
 MR/MRS VERGOS GEORGE &  
 MR/MRS VOXAKIS JOHN & IRENE  
 MR/MRS WARD ROBERT &  
 MR/MRS YIANAKIS STEVE  
 MR/MRS ZERVOS DEMETRIOS

**TOTAL PLEDGED: \$254,152.00; PAYMENTS: \$226,905.66; BALANCE: \$27,246.34**

## Saint Nicholas Church Profit & Loss

January through October, 2009

Ordinary Income/Expense	Expense	
Income		
Candles	74,443.00	
Dances		
Special events	2,150.00	
Dances - Other	10,409.00	
Total Dances	12,559.00	
Donations		
Other Donations	35,777.91	
Flowers Income	665.00	
Christmas Card Income	40.00	
Donations - General	37,677.15	
Donations - Hall	7,550.00	
Donations - Memorial	21,826.00	
Donations - Other	275.00	
Total Donations	103,811.06	
Greek Festival	70,000.00	
Greek school registration	30,325.85	
Interest Income	8,174.56	
Stewardship	199,407.87	
Trays	18,244.00	
Total Income	516,965.34	
Cost of Goods Sold		
Dance Expense	5,177.85	
Festival	6,650.00	
Total CGOS	11,827.85	
Gross Profit	505,137.49	
Expense		
CAPITAL COSTS		
Plateia Expenses	23,459.98	
Total CAPITAL COSTS	23,459.98	
EMPLOYEE COSTS		
1099 Employees	6,758.00	
Health Insurance	35,323.76	
housing	1,720.00	
Organist	2,600.00	
6560 - Payroll Expenses	124,397.99	
Payroll taxes	9,547.16	
Pension	5,000.00	
6050 - Automobile Expense	8,000.00	
Workers Comprehensive	1,456.00	
EMPLOYEE COSTS - Other	64,031.24	
Total EMPLOYEE COSTS	258,834.15	
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION		
Advertising	11,364.50	
6060 - Bank & Credit Card Svc Charges	1,813.97	
Church Supplies	16,427.29	
Clergy Laity Congress	1,139.40	
Flower Donations	1,054.00	
Fair Share	20,500.00	
6260 - Gifts	500.00	
Insurance - General	19,705.59	
6530 - Miscellaneous	5,213.41	
Office Expense	10,972.84	
6610 - Postage and Delivery	2,625.22	
Professional Fees	5,551.50	
Telephone	2,957.35	
6900 - Travel & Entertainment	409.17	
Total GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION	100,234.24	
OCCUPANCY COSTS		
Mainten - Building Maintenance	63,096.90	
Cleaning Halls	200.00	
Ground Rent	157.80	
Janitor's Supplies	4,548.39	
Permits & Licenses	450.00	
Property taxes	125.00	
6940 - Utilities	38,528.47	
Total OCCUPANCY COSTS	107,106.56	
YOUTH AND EDUCATIONAL		
Youth Expense	2,762.57	
Total YOUTH AND EDUCATIONAL	2,762.57	
Expense		
Total Expense	492,397.50	
Net Ordinary Income	12,739.99	
Net Income	12,739.99	

# STEWARSHIP SUNDAY



Members of the Diamonds listening to the speakers from Greek School.



Stewardship Chairman, John Sfakianoudis listens as Konstantinos Pallas, one of the many Greek School Students, gave his speech.



Eleni Pikounis, 5th Grade represented Sunday School at the Stewardship Luncheon.



Pictured are members of the Stewardship Committee along with Fr. Michael and the Greek School Staff.



Many Parishioners came downstairs to listen to the Stewardship Sunday presentation.



Some of our young students from Greek School and Sunday School.

## DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

### **IN MEMORY OF VASILIS KELEPESIS**

Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Hazardis  
Mr. & Mrs. Kosmas Diakokominos

### **IN MEMORY OF BERTHA ROROS**

Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Avgerinos

### **IN MEMORY OF ANASTASIA ECONOMIDES BELL**

Mr. Charles Bell

### **IN MEMORY OF KALLIOPE KARABETIS**

Mrs. Angeliki Karabetis

### **IN MEMORY OF SAVVAS KARDIASMENOS**

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Moniodis

### **IN MEMORY OF AFRODITI YIATRAS**

Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Hazardis

### **IN MEMORY OF LAMBROS NEOFITOU**

Mrs. Athina Neofitou  
Dennis & Margo Koulatsos  
James & Argie Maurakis  
Maria Salpeas & Family

### **IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL NICOLETOS**

Mr. & Mrs. Vasilis Skordalos  
Mr. & Mrs. Vasilis Roufas  
Mr. & Mrs. Kosmas Diakokominos

### **IN MEMORY OF FILA HIMONETOS**

Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Pantelides  
Mrs. Nina Tripolitis  
Mrs. Maria Koutsonouris

### **IN MEMORY OF MARY MARUSIODIS**

Georgia & Stelios Serdenes  
Tony & Nicole Serdenes  
Johnny & Nicole Serdenes  
Mary Beth Serdenes  
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Avgerinos

### **IN MEMORY OF HOMER KEVAS**

Mr. & Mrs. George Tsampos & Family

### **IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL VAGEANOS**

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Takos

### **IN MEMORY OF NICHOLAS T. CORNIAS & TONY C. CORNIAS**

Mrs. Kalliopi T. Cornias

# PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW'S VISIT



Many people waited outside the parking lot at Sts. Constantine and Helen to glimpse and hear Patriarch Bartholomew during his visit to the area.



The Patriarch conducts the services on his visit to Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Annapolis.



At the reception for the Patriarch many of our faithful members representing St. Nicholas along with Fr. Michael were honored to be able to attend.

## **Message from Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos**

### **WHY CHRISTMAS IS BECOMING LESS “HOLY”**

*Continued from page 1*

of our Lord through “Holy Eucharist,” and then celebrate the traditional Christmas Meal, and the opening of the gifts. Let’s start on the right foot, and head to a course that will truly bring us love, joy, and happiness. If we stay true to the purpose, then we will experience and see many more Christmas futures.

In closing, I hope and pray during this Holiday Season that we make the right choice and make the right decisions to follow our Christian Orthodox Traditions. That we attend Church with our families during the Christmas Eve Services and on Christmas Day. This is the only way true Christians celebrate the “Birth of our Lord” and the only way to experience that Christ is truly in our midst and that He is the center of our lives.

***God bless everyone and may you have a wonderful and Blessed Christmas!***

### **REFLECTIONS ON THE INCARNATION**

*Continued from page 3*

also the entire universe is the one supreme meaning of Christmas. The second person of the Trinity without ceasing to be what He was eternally became truly and fully man and was born as a child to a human mother. This miraculous fact is repeatedly emphasized in the Church’s Christmas hymnography. It is nowhere more powerfully expressed than during the Ninth Hour on Christmas Eve when the Church sings, “The Creator now makes Himself to be created” and, “He who holds the whole creation in the hollow of His hand today is born of a Virgin.”

As we proceed through the Nativity Fast towards the feast day of the Lord’s Birth, we must all prayerfully reflect on the meaning and significance of the Incarnation and fervently ask our Savior that He be born as never before into the silent manger of our hearts and that His divine light dispel any darkness that He may find there.

# Liturgical Program & Events for December

## LITURGICAL PROGRAM

### ADVENT FAST CONTINUES

**Saturday, December 5:** ST. NICHOLAS GREAT VESPER SERVICE: 7:00 pm. A Reception will follow.

**Sunday, December 6:** ST. NICHOLAS NAME DAY CELEBRATION: Orthros 8:45 am. Divine Liturgy 10 am. A Reception will follow.

**Wednesday, December 9:** The Conception of the Theotokos Orthros 8:45 am. Divine Liturgy 9:30 am.

**Saturday, December 12:** St. Spyridon the Wonderworker Orthros 8:45 am. Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am.

**STRICT FAST BEGINS FROM DEC. 13TH TIL DEC. 24TH.  
NO MEAT, FISH AND DAIRY PRODUCTS DURING THIS PERIOD.**

**Sunday, December 13:** Eleventh Sunday of Luke: Orthros 8:45 am. Divine Liturgy 10 am.

**Sunday, December 20:** Sunday before the Nativity of our Lord: Orthros 8:45 am. Divine Liturgy 10 am.

**Thursday, December 24:** Christmas Eve Service: Vespers and Divine Liturgy: 7:00 pm.

**Friday, December 25:** The Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Orthros 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy 9:45 am.

*Merry Christmas to Everyone!*

**Sunday, December 27:** Sunday after Nativity: St. Stephen the first Deacon Martyr. Orthros 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am.

**From December 25th until the 31st, IT IS FAST FREE**

**ATTENTION EVERYONE: THE NAME DAY BANQUET OF OUR CHURCH HAS BEEN SCHEDULED ON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 12TH, AT THE ST. NICHOLAS CULTURAL CENTER, FROM 8:00 pm till 2:00 am. PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL CHURCH FESTIVITY.**

**HAPPY NAME DAY TO ALL WHO ARE CELEBRATING.**

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, December 2:** Philoptochos Monthly Meeting 7 pm.

**Thursday, December 3:** Parish Life Committee Meeting (PLC) – 6:30 pm.

**Saturday, December 12:** Breakfast with Santa by Diagoras in the Market Place – 10 am to 1 pm. Nameday Banquet/Family Celebration – Church Social Hall – 8 pm - 2 am.

**Saturday, December 19:** Philoptochos Christmas Tea – in the Market Place – 12 - 3 pm.

**Sunday, December 20:** Sunday School Christmas program after Church.

**WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2010**

## **KOINONIA DEADLINE**

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

**Issue month: January, 2010    Deadline: December 14th**

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

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