

The Light To Φως



Holy Apostles Greek
Orthodox Church
Loudoun County, VA

2020, Issue 4
Jul-Aug

The bi-monthly newsletter of the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

A Message from Father George Alexson

WHY ALL LIFE MATTERS



Beloved Parishioners and Friends,

I pray this edition of The Light finds you all in good health. I have no doubt that we have been living through the most trying time of our life. A virus, a silent killer that strikes without warning, has taken over a half million people worldwide to the grave. Millions of people are out of work; the global economy is on the brink of depression and, the experts, medical and financial, tell us that things could get worse. As though that were not enough to try the patience and resilience of the average American, our country was thrown into yet another upheaval by the brutal death of George Floyd at the hands of an out of control policeman. There is no way his death can be justified, just as there is no way we can justify what followed in the wake of his death. The gratuitous violence

against the police and many of our fellow citizens; the looting and wanton destruction of property was, is and always shall be an unwarranted, criminal, and inexcusable reaction, no matter how terrible the initial offence. The authorities—Governors, mayors, city officials, and police—are all guilty of dereliction of duty and betrayal of office, for allowing the wanton devastation of businesses and property that took place throughout the country. Churches and synagogues were attacked and desecrated by crazed mobs, reminiscent of communist era militant atheists. More recently, there have even been demands that traditional depictions of our Lord, in icons and statues, be destroyed, ostensibly because a “white” Jesus is a racist symbol. I fear our country is on the brink of a collective mental breakdown. I attribute this to the fact that our world, especially the West (and most especially America) has been undergoing a moral and spiritual breakdown for several years. No nation can revolt against the natural order established by God in creation and expect to flourish and survive. Neither time nor space permit me to address all the vexing problems that have led to this moral confusion and desolation. For now, I want to focus on one remedy that could help resolve our differences regarding the matter of race. Race is, according to one definition, “a grouping of humans based on shared physical or social qualities into categories generally viewed as distinct by society.” A Google search of the terms “race” and “human race” offer numerous definitions, none of which draw from the most important source, the Bible. According to Scripture, there is but one race, created by God in the persons of Adam and Eve. Most important of all, “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness (Gen. 1:26); in the next verse we read: “God created man

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During these difficult times, we thank our Parish Council and Father George who continue to offer services via live streaming and conduct our church's day-to-day operations. Thank you also to our parishioners who continue to support our church through online giving:

www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/

Happy Summer

Happy Summer





Metropolis of New Jersey

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church



A Message from Father George Alexson cont..

in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Gen. 1:27).

This is all that should matter. Differences in color, language, geographical location are not ontological categories, as is the image of God in man. The fact that we are all created in the image of God means that every human being is a living icon of the living God. This central fact, embedded in our theological anthropology, is emphasized liturgically in the Orthodox Church, through the act of censuring. Whenever the deacon or priest, during our liturgical services, censes the icons he always censes the people as well. This is to remind us that we are created with the imprint of God’s image in our very being, and that we are a “temple of the Holy Spirit” (I Cor. 3:16). Can you imagine how difficult it would (or ought to) be for us to harm or disrespect one another if we truly recognized the divine image in every human being? To physically abuse one’s sister or brother; to curse, or, in any way attempt to harm a fellow human being, would be an act of desecration of God’s image. This is why I believe that racism, in all its dreadful and violent manifestations, should be recognized as a modern/contemporary form of iconoclasm, no less harmful or divisive than the destruction of icons in Byzantine times. In Byzantium, iconoclasm was rejected by the Fathers of the Church, because in denying the use of icons iconoclasts were ultimately denying the Incarnation of Christ. With racism, we are denying the authenticity of God’s word—that all human beings are in His Image with a potential to be in His likeness (in virtue and morality). This great truth of Scripture must become the corner stone of our discussion on the coexistence of humanity. Without it, we are left with narratives that more often than not distort and misrepresent historical realities, while attempting to justify violence and hatred that in the end, lead to further alienation and dissension. Without Christ there is no path to peace. I call on every Christian in our country to hear the word of the Lord and proclaim it loud and clear: “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear

Weekday Liturgical Schedule for August, 2020

(August 1	Beginning of the Dormition Fast
August 3	Paraklesis to the Theotokos, 7:00 PM
August 6	Orthros, 9:00 AM. Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM
Transfiguration	
August 7	Paraklesis to the Theotokos, 7:00 PM
August 10	Paraklesis to the Theotokos, 7:00 PM
August 12	Paraklesis to the Theotokos, 7:00 PM
August 14	Great Vespers, 7:00 PM
August 15	Orthros, 9:00 AM. Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM
Dormition of the Theotokos	
August 29	Orthros, 9:00 AM. Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM
Beheading of St. John the Baptist	

Make reservations on our website to attend the Liturgy and read the requirements from the Metropolis. You can also continue to watch our services via livestream on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxAOirhXmBQMTvczrujQY4g/live>

in the ear, preach on the housetops” (Matt. 10:27), to wit, let us proclaim with all our heart and thunderous voices, drowning out the din of hateful mantras, that the greatest commandment is, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

May the grace of the Holy Spirit bestow on us the courage, wisdom and good sense to speak this truth, lest all be lost for our lack of trust in Him.

Fr. George A. Alexson





Metropolis of New Jersey

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church



Message from the Parish Council President, Constantine Sofologis



Welcome back! Let me be the first to welcome you back to Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church. It seems like forever ago we prayed together or said hello to parishioners and friends in our fellowship hall, but like they say, nothing is easy. Though we were able to be led in prayer by Fr. George through livestream, praying together is much more satisfying. Throughout the spring, the Parish Council worked tirelessly to put in place all the requirements set forth by His Eminence Evangelos, CDC, as well as those directed by the Virginia Department of Health. It wasn't easy, but we do this out of love for one another. Wearing a face covering is not only a regulation, but it shows respect and care for your fellow parishioners. Please visit our webpage if you would like to read the full document of requirements for parishes in the Metropolis of New Jersey.

I would also like to thank the parishioners that participated in our pre-opening survey. Though we must follow the guidelines, getting your feedback gave us the opportunity to answer those questions that were of most concern.

Due to the restrictions on the size of gatherings and direction from His Eminence, we will not be able to hold a Spring General Assembly due to the limited capacity allowed in our church, but the Parish Council is preparing a detailed report to parishioners on our current budget, stewardship report, ministries update and future planning committee. The UPR requires a minimum attendance for certain votes, so at this time, there will be no motions for votes presented, but we also want to hear your thoughts, so an avenue for you to submit questions will be explained in the upcoming message.

Finally, please be patient with us. The Parish Council is trying very hard to provide a safe environment for you to come together and celebrate our Lord. We may not all agree on the regulations, but we still need to follow them.

I pray for your continued health and well-being.

In His service,
Con Sofologis
Parish Council President
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church
con.sofologis@verizon.net





Stewardship

Hello Fellow Stewards!

Thank you for being a part of the future of Holy Apostles with your Stewardship Commitment and donations. As always, I cannot overstate how important and appreciated your contributions are to our church.

We have missed seeing you all in person and look forward to when we will see you again. All things considered, we have been doing pretty well with contributions this year, though we are a little behind from where we were this time last year. It's so important that you continue to fulfill your pledge.

To make an even greater impact, please consider participating in this year's 2020 Challenge. That is where you commit to paying an extra \$20 per month for the year (this would add \$240 to your existing pledge). Many thanks to all of you who have signed up for the challenge already!

Even though we have been virtual for several months and just reopened the church, we still have bills to pay and ministries to support. This year has been a challenging year and now more than ever we depend on our faith.

If you would like to step up to the 2020 Challenge just send an email to stewardship@hagoc.org. and we will take care of the rest. If you haven't filled out a pledge card I can take care of that with an email as well.

Giving to the Church is an opportunity – an opportunity to examine our priorities and values. It is an opportunity to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It is an opportunity to participate in the work of God. (excerpted from Stewardship Ministries on goarch.com)

We hope to have a Stewardship event later in the Fall, an outdoor function to bring everyone back together. We will not be having our annual picnic in August due to the ongoing concern over the Coronavirus.

As always, thank you for your incredible generosity. May God bless you and your family.

In God's service,
Ron Baldinger, Stewardship Chair
Mina Baldinger Co-Chair
ron.baldinger@gmail.com



Circle areas of expertise or interest:

Youth Groups and Classes

Hope & Joy
GOYA

Greek Dance Instruction
Greek School
Sunday School

Groups and Ministries

AHEPA
Altar Service
Choir

Ladies Philoptochos
Orthodox Book Club
PAREA lunch group
Parish Newsletter
Social Events
Stewardship Committee
Visiting Elderly

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE (PLEDGE FOR JAN-DEC) HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

In faith, prayer and sacrifice, my family and I wish to share in the support and work of the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church. We would like to pledge the amount of

\$_____ for the year _____ (through December)

You may pay via cash, check or online at www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org.

This amount will be paid as follows:

Annually Semi-annually Quarterly Monthly Weekly

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Your pledge is strictly confidential.

F



Stewardship cont..

Pledge List as of July 10, 2020

Marina Afentakis	Gary and Lillian Funk	Panayiotis and Cynthia Panagopoulos
Dimitri and Cheryl Alexson	Bill and Evelyn Gacis	Alexander and Bessie Papas
Rev. Father George and Presvytera Joanna Alexson	Jim and Cynthia Glakas	George and Coleen Pappas
Eleni Aliozi	Alissa Iatridis	George and Maro Paraskevopoulos
William and Nancy Aubin	Greg and Ashley Joiner	Jonathan and Janet Perezoss
John and Kristina Ayoub	George Kaladze	Loiza Pieri, Courthouse Grill
Vasilios Bakopanos	Aspacia Karageorge	Maria Plevrakis
Ronald and Mina Baldinger	Sylvia Karageorge	Jerry and Helen Pollatos
Christopher and Maria Billis	Mercina Karagiorgis	Despina Psomiades
Chad and Julie Burke	Pete Kayafas	George Ralis and Rebecca Malone
William and Smaro Caras	Bill and Kathy Kendrat	Rebecca Rallis
Deacon Harry and Maria Chelpon	Sotirios and Sofia Kospanos	Travis and Christie Rebok
Mikhail Chelpon	Helen Kyriazi	Chris and Stacy Reilly
Greg and Marilena Cherpes	Harry and Brandi Lahanas	Brandon and Sarah Rice
Edward and Alexis Cleveland	Hal and Alexandra Lampros	Emanuel and Marilyn Rouvelas
Matthew Cleveland	Nikoleta Lelis	Stratis and Maria Sapuntzakis
Meredith Cleveland and Kenneth Hall	John and Christy Lisciandro	Constantine Sofologis
Blake and Paras Copenhaver	Eleni Malliaros Levy	Jaime and Annette Spicciati
Dean and Maria Coulopoulos	Angelike Maoury	Nick and Elizabeth Spyros
Panayiotis and Athanasia Dacey	Marilena Mavrodoulou	Stavros and Virginia Stephanakis
Paul and Mea Danigelis	George and Louise Mikedes	Ben and Vera Stewart
Aristos and Anna Dimitriou	George and Debra Mokhiber	Angelo and Anna Tjoumas
Art Dimopoulos	Olivia and James Morris	Doug and Stefania Whittington
David and Susan Dorn	Nicholas and Phaedra Myseros	Maria Zangos
Dean and Lia Economou	Marios and Sophia Orfanides	Nicholas and Carol Zangos
Vasilios and Joan Fotopoulos	Paul and Lisa Orphanides	

Holy Apostles Steward, Bill Caras' Photograph Featured

JUL/AUG 2020 • VOL. 60, NO. 4

JAPhA[®]

Journal of the American Pharmacists Association



Patient education interventions for prescription opioids
Effect of targeted insurer-mandated prescription monitoring

Pharmacy-based pre-exposure prophylaxis support among pharmacists
Characteristics of studies of pharmacist services

Timeliness of data entry in Wisconsin Immunization Registry
Care coordination and follow-up practices in the community pharmacy

A photograph of the Greek island of Ikaria, taken by our Steward Bill Caras in 2017, was featured on the cover of the July/August issue of JAPhA, *the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*. The beach in the photo is called Seychelles on the southern coast and is one of the most beautiful beaches on the island. Ikaria is known as one of the few Blue Zones on the planet. CNN did a special travel report on this island in 2015 detailing why people there live so long and well.

Bill is a remote order entry (ROE) hospital pharmacist who works from his home in Great Falls, Virginia. He covers several hospitals primarily on the southeast coast of Florida.





STEWARDSHIP 2020 CHALLENGE!!

GIVE AN EXTRA \$20 per MONTH

GIVE 20 HOURS OF TIME AND TALENT



***PUT YOUR NAME ON THE
STEWARDSHIP 2020 CHALLENGE LIST!!***

***Email: stewardship@hagoc.org
TO SAY YOU ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!!***

Once you accept

- 1. Your stewardship pledge will be increased by \$20 per month***
- 2. You will be put on the Stewardship 2020 Challenge list to be published in Church Newsletters and Mailings***
- 3. You can embark on your 20 hours for 2020***
- 4. YOU will immediately make an even BIGGER positive impact on the future of our church!***



Capital Campaign and Property Update!

We are currently pending the closing date for the sale of up to 2 acres of our property to Rooney Properties. In the meantime, our Architectural and Land Planning consultants are working to prepare our initial site plan to submit to Loudoun County. This is the first step needed to prepare the land for building. Additional meetings with our parish will be held to review proposed architectural plans.

We are also happy to report that we have total income of \$1,564,969 in our Building Fund. Thank you to all the generous parishioners who made contributions and donated stock to our Capital Campaign.

How can you help?

Make a donation so we can begin building!

Consider donating appreciated stock and giving yourself and your future home a tax-deductible gift!

Together, we can do this!



Donate

<https://www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/capitalcampaign>



GOYA

As my oldest child graduates from GOYA this year while my youngest joins as a new teenager, I reflect back on all the great experiences and friends that have been made. I am incredibly grateful that our church has such a great program for our teenagers and that I have had the privilege of leading them. There are many thanks to give!

Thank you to Father George, the parents, and parishioners who supported our GOYA throughout the year!

Thank you to Father George, Deacon Harry, and Angelo Dacey who joined our Zoom meetings and ran several Sunday School classes during the pandemic!

Thank you to the GOYAnS who participated in our events this year! A special welcome to our new members who are joining: Dimitri Coulopoulos, John Economou, and Donovan Reilly.

Thank you to the outgoing GOYA Board members for all your efforts this year!

Thank you to the GOYAnS who ran for office on the 2020-2021 GOYA Board! We congratulate our new Officers and look forward to your swearing-in ceremony and oath of office in September.

President, Athena Lansdell

Vice President, Maria Moskalli

Secretary, Katie Drapas and Peter Pollatos

Historian, Dora Moskalli and Christa Reilly

Treasurer, Stephen Economou

Special Events Coordinator, Georgia Drapas

Thank you!

If you have a teenager or rising teenager, please consider having them join our GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America). Reach out to me so I can introduce them to our fantastic teens. All are welcome!

I hope you have a great and safe summer. May God bless you and your families.

In God's service,

Lia Economou

GOYA Advisor

liaecon@comcast.net





Philoptochos

I'm writing this article at the end of June. School has ended and summer is just getting started. I don't know what that looks like this year, but whatever you do or wherever you go, I hope it is enjoyable to everyone!

Our Ladies Philoptochos missed some previously scheduled events, but we still tried to come together. We sponsored a cereal drive for Loudoun Hunger Relief and collected over 300 pounds of cereal. Wow! Thank you all so very much for donating to benefit those who are food challenged during this pandemic. Your generosity was overwhelming.

We were also able to schedule two Ladies Virtual Nites Out. It felt so good to "see" everyone and catch up even if it was on our computers.

The world may have changed, but His Word never will. Christ is in our midst.

Be safe and well!

Alexis Cleveland

apcphiloptochos@gmail.com



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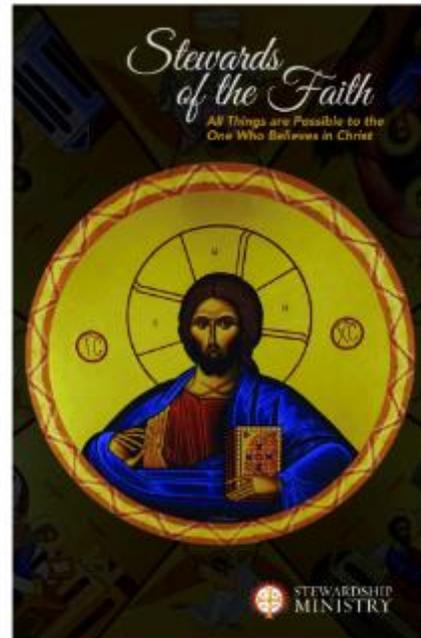
1025 Seneca Road (off Georgetown Pike) in Great Falls, VA 22066
(703) 870 7807 - Visit us on the web: www.ourmomeugenia.com



Ways to Continue to Support Our Church



[https://
www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/
virtual-candle](https://www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/virtual-candle)



[Make a Stewardship Payment](#)



[Donate with PayPal Giving Fund](#)

[https://
www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org
/givingnow](https://www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/givingnow)

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Rebecca Rallis	rallis@aol.com		

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Sunday School	Denise Lansdell		deniseinvirginia@gmail.com

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