



# The Light



Volume 5, Issue 4

✠ To Fos ✠

September/October 2011

*The newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County*



## *“Make a new beginning”*

The expression, “make a new beginning,” is found frequently in the literature of the desert fathers. It is their way of encouraging their spiritual children to continue their ascetic struggles, in spite of their many and recur-

ring failures. A new beginning brings hope; it inspires new and more zealous efforts in our daily struggle for perfection. It reminds us that everyone can be made new by grace and, that progress is assured only by genuine spiritual endeavor.

Every year our Church calls us to a new beginning on September 1st, known as the Indiction or the “Beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year.” The month of August, in agrarian circles, marks the end of the harvest. September ushers in the beginning of a new year when the cycle of planting and harvesting starts all over again. The Church utilizes this opportunity to remind us that we, too, are expected to bear fruit for the Kingdom, as Christ so often encouraged His disciples. Thus, with a new ecclesiastical year we begin our journey anew through the sacred events so important in the history of our salvation.

The beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year is observed with much solemnity in our Orthodox Church, with

the celebration of the Liturgy and special prayers. It is interesting to note that, thirteen days later we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, on September 14. Here we are reminded that no new beginning is ever possible without Christ and the cross. This message is brought out quite effectively by St. Barsanuphius in his response to a brother monk on how he might make a new beginning. St. Barsanuphius writes: “...if you want to make a beginning for repentance, learn what the adulterous woman did: in her tears, she washed the feet of the Master. Weeping washes a person from sins, but it comes with toil, together with great effort and patience...and by renouncing oneself, as the Lord said: ‘If any want to follow me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.’”

In order for us to make a new beginning, then, we must be prepared to weep for our failures and, with humility, effort and patience, equal to that of the sinful woman, courageously take the first step to a new life in Christ. This new life will be marked by the peace, love, joy and hope promised by our Lord to all who willingly exchange self-will for His will. Come, then, my beloved faithful, and let us make a new beginning that will increase and strengthen our commitment to Christ and community. May His peace reign among us forever!

Father George Alexson

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*The Light* will be published every two months by the communications committee of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County. Contact Susan Dorn (ssdorn@aol.com) for details.

The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County  
21580 Atlantic Blvd., Building D, Unit 160  
Dulles, VA 20166  
[www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org](http://www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org)

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# HOPE & JOY

Greetings! It is hard to believe, but summer is over, and school is starting! Along with school comes HOPE/JOY, and many fun and meaningful activities for our children. Here are some of our upcoming activities and meetings:

First, HOPE/JOY is responsible for all the coffee hours in September. Please contact Sophia Orfanides (manganiti@hotmail.com) to sign up. Here are the remaining dates:

**Sunday Sept. 18**

**Sunday Sept. 25**

We don't have coverage for most of the Sundays yet, so please let us know if you can help us out! Thank you so much for your help.

Second, we will be walking in the Good Shepherd Alliance Walk for the Homeless on September 17, 2011. This activity is not just a good time. It provides us with the opportunity to talk with and teach our children about homelessness. Sign up at [www.goodshepherdalliance.org](http://www.goodshepherdalliance.org). Please sign up 10 days before the walk to receive a walk T-Shirt. Walkers are encouraged to solicit sponsors for walking proceeds to support homeless shelters. Please come and show your support and donation for the homeless by walking with us. Each family can sign up on an individual basis and we as HOPE/JOY can meet and walk together. Please let us know if you have signed up for this wonderful event.

Third, we will be having monthly meetings. Sophia and I will be sending out memos with the dates/times of these meetings. Generally speaking, we do a craft or other religious activity, and have pizza for dinner.

Fourth, in late November, early December, our children will be visiting Sunrise Assisted Living/Independent Living Center and Loudoun youth Shelter. We will sing and visit with the homeless children and the seniors. Those of us who have participated in this activity have been very moved by the experience.

We look forward to seeing you at activities the fall! If you are new to HOPE/JOY and are interested in participating with your children, please contact Eleni Hadjimichael (eleniadamis@gmail.com) or Sophia Orfanides (manganiti@hotmail.com). HOPE/JOY is open to children in Kindergarten through 6th grade. We would love for your children to participate!

Regards,

Eleni Hadjimichael and Sophia Orfanides



# Greek Language School

## Greek Language School Registration has Begun!

The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun is offering Greek language classes for children and adults. For children, registrations are being accepted now for classes that will begin in October 2011. Classes will be offered for children who pre-K (4 years old) to High School and will be tailored to fit all learning levels. All children, regardless of their exposure to the language, are welcome. The tuition for Parish stewards is \$350 for the first child and \$300 for each additional child. Non-steward tuition is \$400 for each child. Make checks payable to the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County, please write Greek School in the memo. Checks and registration forms can be mailed to the church Attention: Vasilia Ravaris, Greek School Director or given to her or a parish council member directly on Sundays. There is also an envelope marked Completed Forms which is on the Greek School Board where Coffee Hour is held.

The Greek Orthodox Parish also encourages adults who want to learn Greek or want to refresh their knowledge of the language to enroll in our adult language classes. The tuition for Parish stewards adults is \$350 for one adult and \$300 for a spouse (\$650 per couple). Non-steward tuition is \$400 for each adult. Make checks payable to the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County, please write Greek School in the memo. Checks can be mailed to the church or given to a parish council member on Sundays.

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The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County  
Greek School Registration Form  
2011 – 2012 School Year

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

**Registration Information:** Please complete the following information. If you are registering more than one child kindly complete a separate registration form for each child. **Please complete entire form. Thank you!**

Student (Greek) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's grade in school for the 2011-2012 school year: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Greek Language Information:**

Is Greek the child's first language? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Is Greek spoken at home? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Has the child attended Greek school in the past? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, how many years? \_\_\_\_\_ Years

Greek school classes will be offered from 5:00-6:45pm on Wednesday and Thursday  
Which day do you prefer: \_\_\_ Wednesday \_\_\_ Thursday \_\_\_ Either day \_\_\_

**Payment Information:**

**Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County Stewards:**

\*\$350 for the first child (adult)

\*\$300 for each additional child (adult)

**Non-Stewards:**

\*\$400 for first child (adult)

\*\$400 for each additional child (adult) - NO discount for additional children (adult)

*Make checks payable to the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County, please write "Greek School" in Memo section.* Please Address all enrollments to:

The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County  
Attention: Vasilia Ravaris, Greek School Director  
21580 Atlantic Boulevard, Bldg D, Unit 160, Dulles, VA 20166

# The Philoptochos

It's hard to believe that it's September and school has started. Where did our summer go? Now that our little ones are at school we all can get back into the swing of helping and growing in our fellowship.

Philoptochos feels that when our college bound students leave for school, they may lose touch with our church. To let them know we are thinking about them, we would like to send them all a little care package with a few items to help them grow in their belief. The package will include an Icon, a prayer or two, and the address of the Greek Orthodox Church nearest to their college. We would like for all of the parents to email us the name(s) of their college students and their mailing address as well as the names of the colleges you are supporting. Later in the year, another care package will go to them. It's our way of letting them know their church family is thinking and praying for them.

Our 3rd annual luncheon and fashion show is on 24 September at River Creek Club House. Once again Efty Anthony and her team have done a wonderful job. Cache Fashions will supply the ladies' fashions and Lord & Taylor will bring the fashions for our little ones. We have vendor tables for all to do a little shopping. We also will be selling raffle tickets which will give you a chance at least 10 wonderful gifts, from Restaurant Certificates to Hair Salon Certificates.

At the Fashion Show, we will be introducing our new community project to help our Military folks. We are going to put together a pouch which will include an Icon, prayer book, Holy water and one or two other items. We will be taking donations to help cover the cost of this. We feel this will be a wonderful way to show our Orthodox troops our love and support for what they are doing, and helping them grow in the faith of Our Lord.

Our Philoptochos meetings are now on the first Monday of each month, at 7:00 pm at church. We hope to have a special speaker or event every other month. If you happen to know of a speaker that would be interesting for our ladies, please let me know. We hope you can attend our meeting. If your time is short, then please keep up to date on what we are doing on our blog at: <http://goplcp.wordpress.com/>.

All the best for a wonderful and safe Fall.

*Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God  
Of love and peace will be with you. -2Corinthians 13:11*

God Bless,  
Cynthia Smith  
President of Philoptochos

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## Coffee Hour Schedule

Our Fellowship Hour is now being sponsored by our various Parish Ministries and groups. If individuals want to schedule a Fellowship Hour, you may do so by contacting Cynthia Smith at [silvercps@hotmail.com](mailto:silvercps@hotmail.com).

**September-HOPE/JOY**

**October-GOYA**

**November-Greek School**

**December-Sunday School**

**January- HOPE/JOY**

**February - GOYA**

**March-Greek School - Independence Day!**

**April -Sunday School**

**May - Philoptochos**

**June - Parish Council**

**July- Philoptochos**

**August- Parish Council**

The Ladies Philoptochos of The Greek Orthodox Parish Of Loudoun  
Is holding the Third Annual



# Luncheon and Fashion Show

**Saturday, September 24, 2011**

**11:00AM - 3:30PM**

(Cash Bar - 11AM-12PM )

**River Creek Country Club**

43800 Olympic Blvd, Leesburg, VA

**\$35.00 per person; \$19.00 for children under 11 years old; children under 4 year are free**

- ☞ Cocktails and lunch with friends and family in beautiful surroundings
- ☞ Variety of vendor exhibits and sales by participating members of our community
- ☞ Ladies' Fashions by **Caché Boutique**
- ☞ Our raffle with a number of lovely items
- ☞ Children's Fashions by **Lord & Taylor**

**For information contact Yana Arvanitis (703) 582-5337, e-mail:Yarvanitis@Yahoo.com**  
**Reservations can be mailed to: Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County**  
**21580 Atlantic Blvd., Building D, Unit 160, Dulles, VA 20166**

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## Make Your Reservations By September 10, 2011

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Children: Under 11 years \_\_\_\_\_ Under 4 years: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Vegetarians: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Paid by: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: GOPLC Philoptochos - We accept Visa, Master Card, Discover Card

Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Address on card: \_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2012 Christian Stewardship

**“Come and See!”**

Beloved in Christ:

**You are invited to join the Stewards of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County on Sunday, November 13, 2011 by attending the Divine Liturgy and Stewardship Sunday Luncheon.** This Sunday is dedicated to spiritually reinvigorating and renewing our commitment to the Church in preparation for the challenges we will face in the New Year 2012.



***The Orthodox Christian Stewardship Program*** allows our Parish to meet the financial needs of its annual Ministries and Operating Budget. Consequently, our parishioners are Stewards of The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County, rather than dues payers, and they accept direct responsibility for the financial support and progress of our Church and its mission. Your free will Orthodox Christian Stewardship commitment is a vital part of advancing the work of Christ and our Orthodox Faith in our Parish and our Church at large.

As we consider God's blessings, Orthodox Christian Stewardship reminds us that the gifts God has bestowed upon us are not our own; that we have a trusteeship over them and not an ownership. Stewardship is acknowledging that God is the source of each gift that has been received and each possession that has been accumulated. Stewardship means to give a portion back to God, as a direct way of expressing our thanksgiving to Him for these gifts.

We ask that you prayerfully consider your 2012 Orthodox Christian Stewardship Commitment, commensurate with your resources and your gratitude for the bounties and blessings our Lord has bestowed on you. The financial level at which you arrive should be a spiritual expression of gratitude and love to God for all you have received.

**We invite you to attend the Divine Liturgy and Stewardship Sunday Luncheon on Sunday November 13, 2011** and place your Commitment Card in the offering tray at church or return it by mail.

We offer you our personal gratitude, beforehand, for your generosity and partnership in Christ's work of salvation.

Your servants in Christ,

Fr. George Alexson  
Proistamenos

Michael Koutsourais  
Chairman, Stewardship Committee

Lia Economou  
Assistant Chairman



# Contact List

<b>Clergy</b>	Father George Alexson	703-314-6421	frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com
<b>Protos-Psalter</b>	Nick Grivas	703-798-7979	papounico3@aim.com
<b>Parish Council President</b>	Bill Aubin	703-625-4484	aubinb@verizon.net
<b>Parish Council Vice President</b>	Vasilis Fotopoulos	703-999-8568	fuhuaxi@gmail.com
<b>Parish Council Secretary</b>	Susan Dorn	571-333-1733	ssdorn@aol.com
<b>Parish Council Treasurer</b>	Niki Lelis	703-608-4064	nlelis1@gmail.com
<b>Parish Council Assistant Treasurer</b>	TBD		
<b>Council Committees Stewardship</b>	Mike Koutsourais	703-669-6857	mkouts@aol.com
<b>Council Committees Fundraising</b>	Paul Orphanides	703-929-0811	porphanides@myselectproperties.com
<b>Greek Festival Committee Chairman</b>	Craig Dobson		flat6bkr@yahoo.com
<b>Council Committees Communications</b>	Susan Dorn	571-333-1733	ssdorn@aol.com
<b>Philoptochos</b>	Cynthia Smith	703-478-0522	silvercps@hotmail.com
<b>Catechetical School Director</b>	Nick Zangos	703-391-6075	achsah1@cox.net
<b>Catechetical School Assistant Director</b>	Melisa Galasso	703-737-6939	mhoff1999@aol.com
<b>GOYA President</b>	Emily Kangelaris	703-742-8737	Kangelaris@msn.com
<b>HOPE / JOY</b>	Eleni Hadjimichael Sophia Orfanides	703-570-0308 540-751-1704	eleniadimas@gmail.com manganiti@hotmail.com
<b>Greek School Director</b>	Vasilia Ravaris	703-779-4929	vasilia@live.com
<b>Website</b>	Maria Mollo	703-966-3560	webmaster@greekorthodoxloudoun.org
<b>Coffee &amp; Fellowship Hour Host</b>	Cynthia Smith	703-478-0522	silvercps@hotmail.com
<b>Religious Committee (Special Events &amp; Services)</b>	Cynthia Smith	703-478-0522	silvercps@hotmail.com

# Catechetical School

On behalf of the Catechetical School teachers and staff, we want to welcome your children to our new academic year. We have many returning teachers and some new ones with great ideas and lesson plans. Students will be memorizing prayers, studying about the Church Saints, reading Bible stories, and learning the essentials of our Orthodox Christian faith.

We are currently accepting pre-school students who will be turning 4 by December 31, 2011. Our schedule will coincide with the Loudoun County public school calendar with several additional church holidays. In order to receive a completion certificate, students must maintain at least 50% attendance. We hope that you will encourage your children to participate regularly and that you will reinforce the topics at home by asking questions and reviewing projects. Consistency is critical to learning and retaining the information taught in class.

We would like to bring some policies to your attention that are in place to keep our children safe and our space clean. Eating is not permitted upstairs and no one should partake in coffee hour until after service has ended. The space is used by several organizations and we need to ensure that the area is kept clean. In addition, students and parents should be in church for the Liturgy and should refrain from going upstairs until Catechetical School has started. You are welcome to lead your child to class, but once instruction begins, please return to the church. The teaching staff will monitor your children and return them to you. If there is a need for a child to leave early, please notify their teachers.

We are very much looking forward to a great year ahead. We hope you will be active in your child's spiritual education. Thank you for your cooperation.

In Christ,

Nick Zangos & Maria Mollo

## Catechetical School Calendar

September 11:	Registration	March 4:	Sunday of Orthodoxy (Students Bring Icons to Church for Procession)
September 18:	Registration	April 8:	No classes (Palm Sunday)
September 25:	Classes Begin	April 15:	No classes (Pascha-Easter)
October 9:	No Classes (Columbus Day)	May 27:	No classes (Memorial Day)
November 27:	No classes (Thanksgiving)	June 10:	(Tentative) Commencement (after Liturgy)
December 25:	No classes (Christmas)		
January 01:	No classes (New Year's)		
January 15:	No classes (Martin Luther King Jr)		
February 5:	Godparents Sunday		
February 19:	No classes (President's Day)		



## The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County Catechetical School Registration Form 2011–2012 School Year

**Registration Information:** Please complete the following information. If you are registering more than one child please fill in a separate registration form for each child.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Date of Birth:    Month\_\_\_\_\_    Day\_\_\_\_\_    Year\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Cell Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Parent e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

If the student is old enough for school, what grade will he/she be enrolled this year?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Grade

Is it reasonable to assume that the student be placed in the same grade in Catechetical School as enrolled in public or private school?    \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If the answer to the question above is no, what Catechetical School grade should he/she be enrolled in this year? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the student attend Catechetical School last year? If so, what grade did he/she complete?    \_\_\_\_\_ Grade

Would You Be Willing To Volunteer For Sunday School Activities On Special Occasions?    \_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_ No

**Note:** Registration for the 2011/2012 school year will take place on September 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>



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### *Coffee Hour Schedule*

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**October- GOYA**