



The Light To Φως



Greek Orthodox Parish
Of Loudoun County

Volume 6, Issue 1
January-February 2013

The bi-monthly newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County

A Message from Father George Alexson

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Rom. 12:2)



The conclusion of the year 2012 was not a particularly happy one. The nation was stunned and saddened by the massacre of the innocents and teachers in a school in Connecticut. We all grieved, prayed and continue to mourn this senseless loss, while our politicians and the country are engaged in a fierce debate on gun control. When and how it will end is anyone's guess.

It was also an election year. The President won re-election. As for Congress, there were winners and losers. We pray that God will bless and guide them all, with wisdom and courage to do the right thing for our country and world.

On the ballot in many states appeared several controversial issues, from same-sex marriage to gambling. Unfortunately, the divisive issue of same-sex marriage won the day in several states, so that now the sacred bond of marriage has been completely redefined and no longer adheres to the Biblical definition given by God Himself. This tragic decision is further complicated by the

dis-unity among our Christian churches regarding the meaning and purpose of marriage. No greater example of this exists at present, than the announcement made by representatives of the so-called "National Cathedral" in Washington to wit, same sex marriages will now be blessed there in "religious ceremonies."

This decision made by the Episcopal clergy (I hesitate to refer to them any longer as a church) is in direct conflict with the moral and spiritual life of the Christian Faith. It betrays everything the Holy Gospels teach regarding fidelity to the Word of God and the summons to, "be transformed...to the good and acceptable and perfect will of God." I grieve that the leadership of the Episcopal creed has seen fit to separate from the Christian faith and tradition; now they are completely conformed and assimilated with everything that is sinful, unacceptable and imperfect according to the mind of the fallen world.

There was a time when the Orthodox Church maintained a hopeful and healthy dialogue with Episcopal clergy and theologians. Now, all we can do is summon them to repent and return to the authentic faith of the Church established by our Lord and His Apostles. Any attempt to continue a dialogue as though we were equals in a common bond of Christian belief would be a travesty. Throughout the years the Episcopalians have made too many unilateral decisions regarding faith and morals that we can never accept. To pretend that they do not matter flies in the face of everything we Orthodox cherish and live as the uninterrupted treasure of our spiritual life and existence. We must maintain the Truth as we have received it. We must steadfastly refuse to conform to this fallen world. We must heed the warning of the great Father of our Church, St. Maximus the Confessor, who writes, "A mind distant from God becomes either demonic or bestial." Let us pray that our Lord will give us all, clergy and laity, the courage and strength to stand fast and witness, without hesitation, to the Faith and Gospel that transforms and saves all who seek the truth in Christ. Let us remain, for the sake of the world, Orthodox, in everything this word conveys, lest we deprive ourselves and the world of the one place where the demonic and bestial can be met face to face and, through the power of Christ, healed and saved. His Church, my beloved, exists precisely for this reason: that we may forever know and be reminded that, "to be conformed to" the world and "to be transformed" in Christ are mutually exclusive endeavors. Pray we will be led by the Holy Spirit to continue on the right path. The grace of our Lord be with us all!

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President's Message

This will be my last newsletter entry as your President of the Parish Council. I know I told you all that with my last message, but the ratification of our Parish Council Elections are due back any day now ... and until we're ratified I had to stay in office. However, your next message from the President of the Parish Council will be from your new President. It will not be me because as I said before, our bylaws very intelligently limit the Presidency to three consecutive years in a row. I will still be on the Parish Council for one more year, however.

I am going to repeat this paragraph from my last message because it is so relevant. As your Vice President for our first three years, and President for the last three years, I wanted to thank you all for your support and kindness during that time. The countless private emails, phone calls, and conversations I've had with so many of you are sincerely appreciated. Your support and kind words have been heart felt by my entire family and have made it easy for me to dedicate so much time and effort to our Parish. I sincerely appreciate all of your support, and am secure in the knowledge that you will support your next President as well.

Speaking of elections, I'd like to congratulate Craig Dodson for being elected to the Parish Council for a 3-year term! Craig has been a tireless supporter behind the scenes since the beginning, and we look forward to working with him as a member of the Parish Council. I'd also like to congratulate both Susan Dorn (our current Secretary) and Con Sofologis (our current Vice President) for their re-election to the Parish Council. They have both been great contributors to both the Parish Council and

the Church as a whole since our beginnings and we look forward to continuing our work with them.

We are losing a special personality from the Parish Council this year. Lia Economou decided not to run for re-election and her intelligence, calm demeanor, and bubbly personality will be sorely missed for sure. However, the good news is that Lia has been hired to take over the new Office Manager role that the General Assembly approved in November, and will continue to serve as our Stewardship Committee Chairperson ... both jobs that we badly need her for. I wanted to thank Lia personally for all of the hard work that she and her husband, Dean, have done for our Parish over the years. Their contributions have had a huge impact on our growth.

Our next big thing before the celebration of Easter is the 5th Annual Taste of Greece! This year's winter event will be held February 15-17 at the Ashburn Firehouse again (we will also be holding a Taste of Greece in the fall). Look in this newsletter, weekly bulletins, and in your email for volunteer opportunities. I will also be asking for the grass roots marketing campaign again ... please let all of your friends, family, and neighbors know!

Thank you again for all of your support over the years, and I'll see you at the Taste of Greece!

With Gratitude in Christ,
-Bill

Time for the 5th Annual Taste of Greece!

It is that time of year again where we put on our biggest fundraising event for the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County! Last year we broke records in the amount of food sold as well as gross and net profit, and we're hoping to do even better this year. Our success, as always is tied to our volunteers. Without your help, we will not be successful, and we need more help than ever this year as we are expecting record crowds. The word is out in Eastern Loudoun County...the Taste of Greece is the President's Week-end place to be!

The Taste of Greece will be held 15-17 February at the same location, the Ashburn Firehouse on Ashburn Road. Here is the event website:

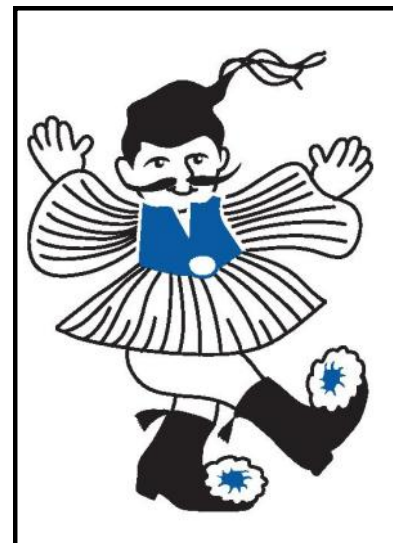
www.greekfestivalloudoun.org

We need volunteers to help with setup (starting on Thursday, 14 Feb), running the event, and of course...the ever important and thankless job of cleanup on Sunday evening. We've automated our signup this year online to help us track our volunteers better. For any shifts that you or your family and friends can help us with, please go to the following link and sign up for one (or more) of the available shifts:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10CoA48A5AE22AA8-taste

We sincerely appreciate your help and support for the Taste of Greece. Put the dates on your Facebook page and email all your local friends and family. I've attached a jpeg file of our flyer that you can use to post online...please help us with this grassroots advertising campaign. In the fellowship area of the Church you'll also see a donations board. Any donations/food items that you can sponsor would be much appreciated. The less money we spend on food upfront, the more money our Church makes! Looking forward to seeing you all there!

For any questions, please contact **Bill Aubin** at aubinb@verizon.net or 703.625.4484.





Stewardship

Happy New Year to our many wonderful stewards! We also welcome all the new families who have joined us in the past few months. It is wonderful to see so many new families worshipping in our Parish.

In 2012, we had 127 Stewardship families and collected over \$132,000 in total Stewardship contributions. Thank you! Contribution statements for 2012 will be mailed in February. If you don't receive a statement please contact me at liaecon@comcast.net. We are also collecting 2013 Stewardship Pledge Cards, which can be found in the church Fellowship area and in the Narthex. A 2013 Stewardship Pledge Card is also included in this newsletter.

With the new year comes a continued focus on the launch of our Stewardship initiative called "O-W-E;" Outreach, Welcome, Embrace.

Outreach: We will expand our advertising to reach out to potential parishioners. Sharing information about our location, services, and Ministries is key to attracting new families.

Welcome: Members of our Stewardship Committee are actively contacting and reaching out to new parishioners and engaging them in our Parish. We are also updating materials about our church and Ministries for new families and visitors.

Embrace: Activities and events are being planned to share in fellowship and strengthen relationships amongst our stewards. The Stewardship Committee will also be soliciting your feedback on the Ministries we offer and improvements that can be made to continue to strengthen and grow our Parish.

The Stewardship Committee spearheads all of these efforts, however your help is also needed. It's as simple as welcoming a new parishioner. Make it a goal to meet someone new each Sunday. You would be amazed how much we all have in common! You can also get involved with any Ministry within our Parish. Help plan an event, send out a mailing, or volunteer at our upcoming Taste of Greece. There is something for everyone. We all can't do everything, but everyone can do one thing. Find your passion and give of your time and talents, the true meaning of your Stewardship to our Parish.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and the Stewardship Committee in 2013. We have much to accomplish, but we are blessed by God and tasked by Him to do so.

In His Service,

Lia Economou
Stewardship Chair

"With the new year comes a continued focus on the launch of our Stewardship initiative called 'O-W-E' Outreach, Welcome, Embrace."

2013 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE GOPLC

Name: _____

Total Amt: \$ _____
(for Jan 2013 – Dec 2013)

Payment frequency:

___ Annual ___ Semi-annual
___ Quarterly ___ Monthly
___ Weekly

CUT and KEEP
this portion
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2013 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE – GREEK ORTHODOX PARISH OF LOUDOUN COUNTY

In faith, prayer and sacrifice, my family and I wish to share in the support and work of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County, Virginia.

Out of our love and gratitude for all His blessings, we would like to pledge AN HOUR'S PAY PER WEEK (i.e. 2.5% of annual household income) or the amount of \$ _____ for the year 2013.

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**.



HOPE / JOY

Welcome to HOPE/JOY!

HOPE (Holy Orthodox Primary Education, grades K-2) and JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth, grades 3-6) are ministries of the Orthodox Church. HOPE/JOY are not organizations or clubs, but are a gathering of the faithful of the Church who share the same grades, ages, and common interests. The mission of HOPE/JOY is to strengthen the relationship of young Orthodox Christians with our Lord through worship, fellowship, service and witness.

The program works to educate and edify young members of the Church, encouraging them to become active sacramental participants in the life of the Body of Christ. These ministries offer our young Orthodox Christians the opportunity to experience the Faith, ultimately leading them to salvation. HOPE/JOY are but no means to this end; they must not stand alone, but rather be incorporated into the life of the Church and its mission. We generally meet once a month, and in addition to meetings we have activities, such as visiting a youth shelter, and going ice-skating.

Hope/Joy has been a busy group! Last September, our first activity was a walk for the homeless. We also visited the Loudoun Youth Shelter at Christmas time. We brought gifts for the children, sang Christmas carols and gave them cookies. This is an annual event for our children. We had over 20 children and families participate. Hope/Joy also had its'

monthly meetings, and we made seasonal crafts. Our own dear Father George attends our meetings, and we are fortunate to have him with us.

Our next meeting is Friday, February 8, 2013 at 5:30 pm at the church. We will have a potluck dinner, with each family bringing a child-friendly dish to share. We will also have drinks and dessert, also potluck style.

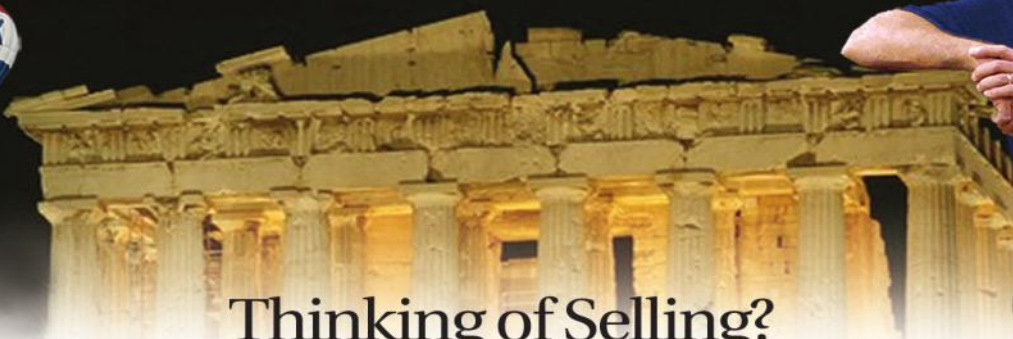
Hope/Joy meets every month on the 2nd Friday, at 5:30 pm, at the church, unless we notify you otherwise. Here are our meeting dates for the Spring semester:

- ◆ January 27: Ice Skating
- ◆ February 8: Potluck Dinner and a craft
- ◆ March 8: Regular meeting at 5:30 at church; more details to follow
- ◆ April: No meeting due to Lent
- ◆ May 10: Activity to be announced

If you are interested in Hope/Joy for your children, please contact Maria Drapas at 703-542-5480, or Eleni Hadjimichael at 703-657-0308. We can also be contacted via email:

Eleni-eleniadamis@gmail.com or Maria-markamaria@yahoo.com.

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Sunday School

God's Fine Balance

It has been said that to try to understand the Holy Trinity, you can lose your mind; to deny It you will lose your soul! The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit! Three persons in one! It is a great mystery! No one has ever questioned the gender of the Father as it is written; the Father is a masculine figure. Likewise, the Son, is obviously a male gender; otherwise Scripture would reference this person as either a "daughter" or a "child". However, what about the Holy Spirit; also referenced as the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, the Giver of Life and various other titles? Who or what is it? These are some of the issues raised in our Senior Catechetical class that we have tried to discuss.

In the Creation story of Genesis we read that God made both "male" and "female" and He saw that it was good. One can understand the role of man as being attributive to that of the Father and the Son. However, where is the feminine model? Some Fathers of the Church, and later theological commentators, have suggested feminine and maternal characteristics to the role of the Holy Spirit within the Trinity. As God has given us a male model to follow through His Son, a feminine model has been given through the Theotokos.

In many cultures the female is viewed as a lesser human being, and here, in our "modern society", in order to compensate we have gone overboard and elevated her as equal to man. The question is

not one of equality; who is smarter, stronger, and ultimately better, but rather what are our each individual roles? As we distinguish mighty Saints of God, we recognize that many of them are women. In fact it's been documented that many male Saints had a women guiding and inspiring them. After all, has not a woman been responsible for every great Saint that has walked this earth? Let us not destroy His creation; God has taken everything into consideration.

As we look at today's society we see gender roles changing quickly; most noticeably with the acceptance of "same sex marriages". The Sacrament of marriage is one in which the two genders created by God become one. How dare we overstep the bounds set by our heavenly Father, by His Word (Jesus), and through the power of the Life-Giving Spirit, to reflect anything different? As our children grow and go into the world to become great leaders of our society, let us pray that the Faith they carry will endure and prevail. God has created a fine balance, let's not mess it up!

Many thanks to the 3rd-4th grade catechetical school teacher, my wife Carol, for sharing her thoughts, especially, with regards to the prayer of the Holy Spirit, and being there to help inspire me.

In His service,

Nicholas Zangos
GOPLC-Catechetical
School Director



AHEPA

John Galanis Honored by Milwaukee Community

(Excerpt from The AHEPAN Magazine, Winter 2012)

John Galanis, a steward of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County, and father of parishioner, Lia Economou, was honored by Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at a testimonial dinner on October 6, 2012 for his "decades of service to the community, including his work for AHEPA at the local and national levels." Representing AHEPA at the event were Supreme Vice President Anthony Kouzounis, Supreme Governor Nick Kavadas, Past Supreme Governor Tom Gober, and AHEPA Milwaukee Chapter 43 President Tim Stasinoulis. Mr. Galanis is a member of the AHEPA National Board of Trustees.

"We sincerely congratulate Brother Galanis for all the accolades he received this evening," said Supreme Vice President Kouzounis. "He is truly deserving of them all, and his contributions to the community at large are invaluable."



(L-R): Chapter 43 President Tim Stasinoulis, Supreme Vice President Anthony Kouzounis, Board of Trustees Member and Honoree John Galanis, and Past Supreme Governor Tom Gober.



Greek School

Wishing you a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year 2013!
Καλή Χρονιά με υγεία, χαρά, και ο Θεός πάντα μαζί μας!

As you are aware, Greek School has started and the teachers have been working closely and hard with all their students. The new policies/procedures, changes and new books, Papaloizos curriculum, which I had explained in my previous article, have been successful. The students are enjoying and becoming more acclimated using the new book series and are eager and look forward to their work assignments. They are understanding a lot more and when class is dismissed as they wait to be picked up, they look forward on playing "Greek Spelling Bee"!

It's always nice to hear positive remarks. For example, one student had an ophthalmologist appointment, got her eyes dilated and instead of her staying home, as she had the option from her parents, she was willing to come to Greek class to sit and listen to the lesson. That's "priceless"!

In the beginning of October, on the first day of Greek School, Agiasmo/Blessing took place by Father George and all the Greek School students and teachers were blessed.

In December, our Greek School students, recited a beautiful and meaningful Poem about "Christouli" which was followed by the Christmas Pageant.

On February 5th, 5:00 -6:30 p.m., we will be having our First Fundraiser at Sports Bounce in conjunction with Philoptochos. "Fun Family Night". Sport Bounce of Loudoun is located at 44710 Cape Ct., Suite # 116, Ashburn, VA 20147. This is a family event/fun for all children. Please bring/tell your friends too. Spread the word it's for everyone!!!! Prepaid tickets per child are \$8.00 or \$ 10.00 at the door. This is our FIRST fundraiser and I truly hope it will be a success and possibly make it an annual fundraiser!

On March 24th, following Divine Liturgy, our students will be performing for Greek Independence Day. All parishioners are encouraged to stay to watch our students who have worked very hard.

On March 27th and 28th, there will be no classes due to Loudoun County Spring Break. As a reminder, we follow Loudoun County schedule.

Learning Greek or any other language especially if it's not spoken at home, is not easy but yet, with the hard work of the teachers, willingness of parents to bring their child, participation and the new curriculum, we are very proud and pleased. Thank you for supporting our Greek School.

Be safe and keep warm!

For additional information or questions, kindly contact Vasilia Ravaris, Greek School Director at 703-779-4929 or via email: vasilia@live.com.



Greek School students participate in the Parish Christmas Pageant.



Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County Men's Bible Study

First and Third Tuesday of the Month
7:00pm - 8:30pm at the Church

If you have any questions please feel free to contact:

Father George - 703-314-6421 or frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com
or Nick Spyros - 703-357-7367 or nlspyros@yahoo.com



Philoptochos

A happy, blessed and prosperous New Year to all from all of us at GOPLC Philoptochos.

The fall and Christmas holidays rolled by quickly this year, and our Philoptochos chapter has been as busy as ever. And, as many of you know, although I am expecting in early March, we have many winter and spring activities planned, many of which are regular annual events. There is something for everyone in our upcoming activities, and if you have a couple of hours to lend a helping hand with planning, logistics, or creating materials, we welcome and appreciate your help and participation.

Some of the events planned in 2013 include:

- ◆ Membership coffee — *February 3rd*
- ◆ Fun Family Night at Sport Bounce of Loudoun to benefit our Greek School and Philoptochos — *February 5th*
- ◆ Yiayia's Bake Shop and Philoptochos Bookstore at Taste of Greece — *February 15-17*
- ◆ Wear Red Sunday to fight heart disease in women — *February 24*
- ◆ Annual gift card drive to benefit LAWS, the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter (tentative) — *March 2013*
- ◆ Annual Easter Card (tentative) — *April 2013*
- ◆ Spring trip to Aghia Skepi monastery in Pennsylvania (tentative) — *April 2013*
- ◆ Annual Easter church flowers — *April/May 2013*
- ◆ Annual Fashion Show — *Saturday, May 18, 2013 at River Creek Country Club, in Leesburg*

The fall and holidays were a very busy time for all. A few parish families took the time on an early November Saturday to travel to Aghia Skepi monastery in Pennsylvania. By all accounts this was a memorable trip and a great opportunity for fellowship and renewal prior to the hectic pace of the holidays.

Last fall, New Jersey and New York experienced destruction and devastation with the passing of Hurricane Sandy. In response to the call of our Metropolis of NJ Philoptochos, our chapter donated approximately \$750 to special Metropolis funds for Sandy victims, and collected and sent a little over \$600 in gift cards. Our gratitude goes to all who contributed in these efforts. Our fellow Orthodox communities felt our solidarity, and, most im-

portantly, our assistance let them know that they were not forgotten.

With December and the Christmas holidays in full swing, we hosted our annual Breakfast with Santa, on December 9, 2012. This was a great family event that brought adults and kids together for a fun Sunday visit with Santa. Our sincere thanks go to all those who made this event possible, from coordinating food, to impersonating the main attraction.

Also in December, the Ladies baked sweets that were put together in assorted trays and delivered to the elderly in assisted living facilities. Our gesture of goodwill was very much appreciated by the recipients' families. Our many thanks go to all the ladies who baked and put together the trays at our December meeting.

We closed the year with our annual bake sale of tsoureki and vasilopita, with strong sales benefiting both Aghia Skepi Monastery and our chapter.

With the new year in full force, we have two activities in the works for early February: Membership Coffee and Fun Family Night at Sport Bounce of Loudoun to benefit our Greek School and our chapter. A report on these events will be in our next newsletter.

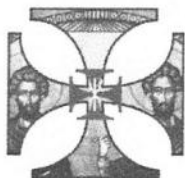
As always, Yiayia's Bake Shop will be selling its signature desserts and Greek coffee at Taste of Greece, February 15-17. Yiayia's Bake Shop has a separate volunteer sign-up. Our Bake Shop is fun! To help at the Bake Shop visit www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60Bo444A5AB2CA64-yiayias We thank you for your time!

With warmest wishes for good health in the New Year,

Loula Lagadinou
GOPLC Philoptochos President
Loula@angelic.com



Annual Breakfast with Santa, on December 9, 2012.



GOPLC

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Matthew 25:35

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Submit one form per family per year

Please sign me up for the following:

\$_____ \$30.00 Philoptochos membership (primary member)
— includes National Philoptochos Society membership card

\$_____ Additional gift membership at \$30.00 for _____ (name)
— includes National Philoptochos Society membership card

\$_____ Additional donation to the GOPLC Philoptochos Society A suggested amount is \$150 per family but any amount is welcome and appreciated. All funds raised directly benefit our church's philanthropic activities and are 100% tax deductible. See the back of this form for more details on how contributions were spent last year.

\$_____ **TOTAL** Please make your checks payable to GOPLC Philoptochos Society

--- OR ---

Charge the total to my credit card: (circle one) VISA / MC / DISCOVER (no AmEx)

Card Number: _____ CCV#: _____ Expiration: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

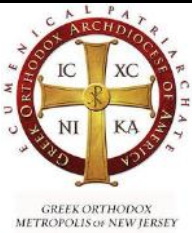
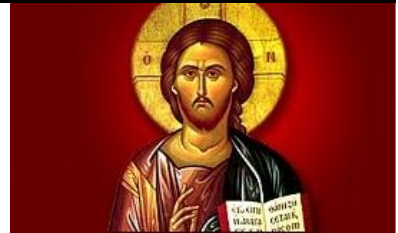
Address: _____

Phone: _____ ☐ Please contact me regarding meetings and ways that I may volunteer with Philoptochos.

Please give membership form and to Loula Lagadinos or Maria Mollo, or send to:
Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County Philoptochos Society
Attention: Membership, 21580 Atlantic Blvd. Building D, Unit 160, Dulles, VA 20166

For questions regarding Philoptochos membership contact Loula Lagadinos at Loula@angelic.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF GOPLC PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY!

**The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County**21580 Atlantic Blvd., Building D, Unit 160
Dulles, VA 20166www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org

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Advertising: Paul Orphanides (porphanides@myselectproperties.com) If you are interested in advertising in the next issue of The Light, please contact Paul Orphanides.

Parea

Happy and Blessed New Year to all our Parishioners from our PAREA!

A huge thank you to Betsy and Tom Stegbauer for extending their hospitality so graciously to all of us during our December Anniversary gathering of PAREA! Also, thank you to all our parishioners who came! We had such a great time and we enjoyed a bounty of tasty Christmas treats compliments of the Stegbauer family! We all certainly got into the Christmas spirit that day! Father George blessed the food and presented Betsy and Tom with a cross from Greece.

This is exactly what PAREA represents. It is the warmth of the friendships, the connections and ties of our Church family, and the joy of camaraderie and fellowship. Please check the PAREA board at Church. You will find plenty of pictures from our Christmas gathering, along with all the information on where our next PAREA gathering will take place.

With God's grace, we hope and pray that our PAREA will grow even more during our second year of its existence! So, come and join us! With an abundance of blessings and goodwill from PAREA to you and yours for the New Year!



*Spiro Anthony, thank you for taking this picture.
Lia Economou was also with us that day.*

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Member in the Spotlight—Christy Lisciandro

Where are you from?

I grew up in rural New Jersey in Hunterdon County. I attended American University in Washington DC, which is how I ended up in the DC area. My husband and I have lived in Ashburn since 1996. I was raised in the Orthodox Church. I am half Serbian. My mother's grandparents came from an area in Serbia called the Krajina. After all these years, this area is now a part of the country of Croatia. On my father's side I am half Hungarian and half Czech.

Who is in your family?

My husband John and I were married in 1994. We have three boys, Brandon (14), Justin (12) and Matthew (4). Most of the members of our extended family are in New Jersey, South Carolina and Ohio.

What are your interests/hobbies?

As a former Special Education teacher, I really enjoy spending time volunteering at my children's schools. I hope to get back into teaching in the next few years. I love to read. I am currently involved with two book clubs. When I have a little free time I also enjoy taking photographs and scrapbooking. I have kept a family scrapbook since I was expecting my first son.

All five of us love to travel. Our favorite places to go on vacation are Cape May, NJ, Walt Disney World in Florida, and Massanutten Mtn. in Virginia. We also take quite a few trips during the year to visit family. In the future we hope we can all travel to Argentina, the western US, and take a cruise.

How did you come to our Parish?

We were attending St. Mark Orthodox Church in Bethesda for a number of years when our friends, the Aubins, told us about GOPLC. They were very encouraging about what a wonderful mix of people were attending GOPLC, so we decided to give it a try.

What aspects or ministries of our Parish are you involved with?

The boys all attend Sunday School. I am a member of Philoptochos. I have really enjoyed learning how to make Spanakopita and Baklava. Those opportunities have helped me get to know some of the other women in the Parish. I hope to be able to get more involved as my youngest son gets older.

What have you enjoyed most about our Parish?

I have really enjoyed seeing people from church, outside of church. I have run into others from our Parish at the mall, in Target, at Odyssey of the Mind competitions and at Back to School nights. I like knowing that some of the children my sons have met in Sunday School may also attend their public school. They have also had opportunities to see other children from the Parish at sporting events or on their own sports teams. That sense of community was probably the most important factor in my decision to come to GOPLC. I am hopeful some of my friendships and some of the friendships my children have started through the church will continue to grow in the future.



The Lisciandro Family—This issue's member spotlight!

(L-R): Justin, John, Christy, Matthew, and Brandon.



5th Annual

Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County

TASTE OF GREECE

Ashburn Volunteer Fire Rescue Department, Founder's Hall
20688 Ashburn Road, Ashburn, VA 20147

FRIDAY

February 15

4:00PM – 9:00PM

SATURDAY

February 16

11:00AM – 9:00PM

SUNDAY

February 17

11:00AM – 8:00PM

(We will be serving snow or shine!)

FOOD - MUSIC - DANCE

Enjoy a variety delicious Greek dishes including:
Gyros, Souvlaki, Pastitsio, Spanakopita, Greek Salad, Baklava & more!
Kids meals available.



FREE ADMISSION – FREE PARKING
Dine In or Take Out

Curbside Pickup

Call 571-246-0926 or 571-246-2403

Pre-order to-go meals. We will deliver to your car for easy pick-up.
Full menu can be found at www.greekfestivalloudoun.org.
Park in the "CALL AHEAD" reserved parking area for easy pickup.

