



The Light To Φως



Holy Apostles Greek
Orthodox Church
Loudoun County, VA

Volume 14, Issue 5
Sep-Oct 2019

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

A Message from Father George Alexson



Beloved Parishioners and Friends,

Abba John the Short said: "It is not possible to build a house from the top down; one must build it from the foundation to the top." "What does this saying mean?" his disciples asked him. The Elder replied: "The foundation is your neighbor, whom you must win over to Christ by your love—and this must be done first; for on him depend all the commandments of Christ" (The Evergetinos).


We in the Orthodox Christian world are fortunate to have as part of our spiritual inheritance the wisdom of the desert fathers and mothers. Their spiritual struggles enlightened not only their lives, but provide for all of us examples on our path to salvation. We need only to take the time to read their works, and apply their lessons to our own life.


The scriptural passage upon which Abba John establishes his teaching is found in Mark 12: 30- 31: "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." Holy Scripture preserves many commandments given us by God, but our Lord identifies love of His Father and our neighbor as the most important of all. The holy Apostles understood this well. They spared no sacrifices in their witness to the Gospel in order to build up the Body of Christ, His Church. Following the Ascension of our Lord, they went out into a hostile world, to fearlessly teach and preach the majestic principles of a Gospel heretofore unheard of for its emphasis on love, self-sacrifice, humility, obedience, patience, and all the other virtues expected of humanity created in the "image and likeness of God." In his First Epistle to the Corinthians St. Paul describes the life, dangers and risks he and his fellow Apostles suffered in order to preach the Word: "We are fools for Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are honored, but we are dishonored. To this very hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. We work hard with our own hands. When we are vilified, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it;..." (4:11). All of this the beloved Disciples endured so that they could, "equip the saints [meaning all baptized Christians] for works of ministry, to build up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12).

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Highlights:

 Introduction to Orthodoxy: Part One; Wednesdays through Nov. 13 at church, 7-8:30pm

 Hasapiko Happy Hour: Adult Greek Dance and Fellowship, starting Oct. 4 at church, 7-8pm class, 8-9pm drinks and appetizers

 50th Anniversary Dinner for Father George, Sunday, Oct. 27, details on page 14

 Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 24 after the Liturgy





Metropolis of New Jersey

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church



A Message from Father George Alexson, cont...

Our parish, fittingly named after the Holy Apostles, continues their work for the very same reasons: we love the Lord with every fiber of our being and, we desire with all our heart and soul to worship Him. This worship, however, must be translated into works of love for our neighbor, to win him/her over to Christ, so that His Body, His Church might flourish, and provide the environment and means for the salvation of all who thirst for Truth and righteousness. As a parish we have come a long way from our humble beginnings. We now stand at the most important juncture of our history: property of our own and a new and exciting possibility for a church and center that will serve to bring us together for worship and fellowship. We are all called to reach out to one another and to our neighbors, Orthodox Christians as well as those searching for the Word of Truth, so that we may successfully build our house from top to bottom. The foundations were established some thirteen years ago. Let us continue to labor with all our resources, to set the new foundations, build the walls, and raise a roof that will send a mighty message throughout the county that we are here to, "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:19-20).

Weekday Liturgical Schedule for October and November , 2019

| | |
|--|---|
| October 18 | 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy |
| St. Luke | |
| October 26 | 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy |
| St. Dimitrios | |
| November 8 | 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy |
| Archangels Michael & Gabriel | |
| November 21 | 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy |
| Entrance of the Theotokos Into the Temple | |
| November 25 | 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy |
| St. Katherine the Great | |
| November 30 | 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy |
| St. Andrew | |

May the Lord, by His grace and compassion
make it so! May we love one another enough,
that we may confess
His name and work
together for His glory!

Peace and grace to all!

Fr. George A. Alexson





Message from the Parish Council President

My Fellow Parishioners,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Summer and is settling into the Fall routine!

It has been so great to see our church's youth gather for another rewarding year of Sunday School. I want to congratulate Denise Lansdell on a successful kickoff and thank her for her work over the summer getting the teachers and classrooms ready. If you missed the registration, it is never too late to sign up. Please see Denise or any Parish Council member at church and we will make sure your child gets registered.

Now is also a great time for your child to join one of our faith-based youth groups. Each meets monthly throughout the school year and provides our children an opportunity to learn more about the faith through fun activities and fellowship with their fellow young Christians. Please contact Ashley Joiner for children in grades K-6 and Lia Economou for children in grades 7-12. A special thank you to all of our parents who have volunteered to co-run our youth events this year!

The Future Planning Committee continues to be busy developing our permanent home in Loudoun County. I am pleased to announce that we signed a letter of intent to sell up to two acres of land adjacent to the Toll Brothers building to Rooney Properties. This non-binding agreement sets the framework for negotiations of a purchase contract. After receiving two letters of intent from interested parties, the PC felt the Rooney offer was best for our community as it was for less acreage, at a higher price per acre, and provides for shared

parking. Once the purchase contract is finalized, it will be presented to the General Assembly and our Metropolitan for approval.

Please keep an eye out for an announcement regarding our Fall GA date, likely in late October or early November. In addition to presenting the terms of the sale contract, we will also be soliciting nominations for next year's Parish Council members, auditors, and election officials (ballot counters). Please consider volunteering for one of these rewarding roles within our church!

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Property Tour and Gyro Cookout after church on Sunday, September 22nd. Despite the heat, we had over 50 parishioners attend! Everyone enjoyed touring our land and talking to Parish Council and Future Planning Committee members, all while enjoying a delicious gyro. A special thank you to Mediterranean Breeze Restaurant for helping cook the gyro and for their donation of pita bread. Also thank you to our servers Con Sofologis and Nick Spyros.

Finally I wanted to remind everyone of our upcoming Dinner Honoring Fr. George Alexson and 50 Years in the Priesthood on Sunday, October 27, 2019. For more details and to reserve your place, please see the form on page 14 or visit our table during coffee hour.

In Him,
Greg Joiner
Parish Council President
gregjoiner@gmail.com



Congratulations Father George on 50 Years in the Priesthood!

August 17, 1969 - 2019





Stewardship

We had a great gathering at our Annual Church Picnic this year. We had beautiful weather and amazing fellowship. As we look to the fall and the final months of 2019 please make sure you complete your stewardship pledge for the year. Another great way to be a steward is to volunteer your time. We are always looking for people to participate in one of the many ministries our church offers - Sunday School, GOYA, Hope, Joy just to name a few.

Please mark your calendar for November 24th - That will be our Fall Stewardship Sunday!

Thank you again for all your support of our church and for your stewardship.

Ron and Mina Baldinger
Stewardship Chairs
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.

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Stewardship cont...

Pledge List as of September 19, 2019.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Anemojanis Eugene and Ursula | Koutsourais Michael and Effie |
| Anthony Spiro and Efty | Kyriazi Helen |
| Ayoub John and Kristina | Lampros Hal and Alexandra |
| Bakopanos Vasilios | Lansdell Bret and Denise |
| Baldinger Ronald and Mina | Lelis Nikoleta |
| Batistatos-Martnishn Steve and Ergini | Lisciandro John and Christy |
| Burke Chad and Julie | Lorentz Robert and Kristine |
| Caras William and Smaro | Malachias Zachary and Paula |
| Chelpon Deacon Harry and Maria | Maoury Angelike |
| Cherpes Greg and Marilena | Margaros Kiki Georges and Pete |
| Cleveland Edward and Alexis | Michas Hercules |
| Cleveland Matthew | Mokhiber George and Debra |
| Copenhaver Blake and Paras | Morris Olivia and James |
| Couloupoulos Dean and Maria | Orphanides Paul and Lisa |
| Dacey Panayiotis and Athanasia | Panagopoulos Panayiotis and Cynthia |
| Danigelis Paul and Mea | Pappas George and Coleen |
| Dimitriou Aristos and Anna | Pappas Maria |
| Dimitropoulos George and Elina | Perezous Jonathan and Janet |
| Dinos Evie Cavros and Steve | Pieri Loiza |
| Dobbins Pauline | Plevrakis Maria |
| Dorn David and Susan | Pollatos Jerry and Helen |
| Drapas John and Maria | Pontikis Pete |
| Economou Dean and Lia | Powell Russell and Holly Ann |
| Ferssizidis Charalambos and Panagiota | Psomiades Despina |
| Fotopoulos Vasilios and Joan | Pullman Keith |
| Funk Gary and Lillian | Ralis Rebecca Malone and George |
| Gacis Bill and Evelyn | Ralis Rebecca |
| Glakas Jim and Cynthia | Reilly Chris and Stacy |
| Green Joanna | Rouvelas Emanuel and Marilyn |
| Grinnan Michael and Sophia | Sapuntzakis Stratis and Maria |
| Hadjimichael Mike and Eleni | Smith Jeff and Cynthia |
| Iatridis Alissa | Sofologis Constantine |
| Iliadis Gabriel and Julia | Spyros Nick and Elizabeth |
| Ioanou Nicholas and Asha | Stephanakis Stavros and Virginia |
| Jesuele Neil and Alexandra | Thomas Dwaine and Irene |
| Joiner Greg and Ashley | Thomas Peter |
| Kalaris Themis | Vlachopoulos Vasileios and Jenny |
| Kalograni Vasiliki | Whittington Doug and Stefania |
| Karagiorgis Mercina | Zangos George and Timea |
| Kayafas Pete | Zangos Maria |
| Kendrat Bill and Kathy | Zangos Nicholas and Carol |
| Kesari Dimitri and Jolanda | |

If you do not see your name on this list and are a stewardship contributor, please fill out the pledge card in this newsletter or contact the Stewardship Chair, Ron Baldinger: ron.baldinger@gmail.com.

Capital Campaign



HAVE YOU HEARD?

We signed a letter of intent (LOI), an intention to purchase that is non-binding, with Rooney Properties. Rooney Properties wants to build a parking lot on up to 2 acres adjacent to the Toll Brothers building for approximately \$500,000 an acre and will share the parking lot with us.

This LOI sets the framework for negotiations of a purchase contract of which we have begun. Once the purchase contract is finalized, it will be presented for approval to the parish at a General Assembly, and also to Metropolitan Evangelos.

How can you help?

Make a donation so we can begin building!

Together, we can do this!



Donate

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



Annual Parish Picnic

August 25, 2019



Annual Parish Picnic Cont...



GOYA

I hope that all our GOYA teenagers and their families had a great Summer and smooth return to school!

Our new Officers for the 2019-2020 school year met in August and brainstormed ideas for the upcoming year. They are a great group and a wonderful representation of our Holy Apostles youth!

On September 8, the new Board took the Oath of Office and received a blessing from Father George. We congratulate our new Officers and wish them a successful and blessed term.

Then we held our first pizza party on September 15th at the home of GOYAns Paris and Stephen Economou. Fun was had by all as we socialized, got to know one another better with games, welcomed new teenagers, and planned additional events. Our goal this year is to engage in activities that are not only fun but also spiritually fulfilling and charitable for the community.

GOYA offers a lot of different activities for all interests with primary input by the kids, plus guidance by myself and Father George. If your teenager is interested in joining GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America), please email me!

In God's service,

Lia Economou
GOYA Advisor

liaecon@comcast.net





Greek School Program

Registration is now open for our 2019-2020 Programs.

Greek School

Focus is on "natural language" and habit formation. Learning Greek with Theater is also included in the curriculum.

Express Greek for Adults

Weekend workshops focusing on the composition of phrases and conversation. Choose as many workshops as you wish. Minimum participation 5 students per workshop.

Ellinomatheia Certificate

Curriculum focuses on preparing students for the Examination Program for the various levels of Certificate of Attainment in the Greek Language.

For questions, please contact Maria Zangos at milihandra@comcast.net



Sunday School

Our Sunday School Blessing took place on September 8th.





Hope and Joy

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

This school year, we're going to do things a little differently than last year:

- Some activities will involve both HOPE age (age 5-8) and JOY age (age 9-12) children (just like last year), but some activities will be custom for each age group. This custom programming is sure to be highly relevant and enjoyable for our kids!
- I can't manage this new approach alone, and luckily, many of our ministry families have volunteered to "host" activities throughout the year! Huge thanks to them!

Below are details on the October activities. If you have any questions about the new approach, HOPE and JOY in general, etc., please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

In Him,

Ashley Joiner
Director, Hope & Joy
ashleydjoiner@gmail.com



October Activities:

- Stefania Whittington will host the meeting for the HOPE age children (ages 5-8) on October 6th at 1pm. Location: Cox Farms in Centreville, VA. Activity: Fall Festival (petting zoo, hay ride, pumpkin picking, picnic, etc.) RSVP to Stefania (kstefania@gmail.com).
- Katerina Utley will host the meeting for the JOY age children (ages 9-12) on October 12th at 4pm at ZavaZone. RSVP to Katerina (ekatutley@gmail.com).

September JOY meeting on Sept. 7th

hosted by Cynthia Panagopoulos





Philoptochos

We have come to the end of summer, and have entered a new Ecclesiastical Year. As this new year welcomes us, there is no better time to renew our commitment to our Lord and our Holy Apostles Church.

Philoptochos continues to actively support the church with our time, talent and treasure. We always welcome everyone of all ages to our Philanthropic Ministry which serves our Church and Loudoun community.

Kindly consider being part of a fun, dynamic, and energetic group of women who are committed to helping our parish grow, our building become a reality and helping the needs of our Loudoun community.

We look forward to this new year and with your help, we will.

With gratitude,

Alexis Cleveland

apcphiloptochos@gmail.com



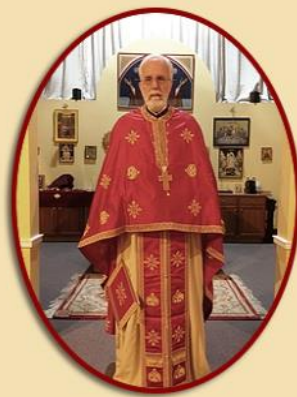
Authentic Greek Food in the Heart of Great Falls!

Chef Eugenia & her family bring Greek home cooking to Northern Virginia. Open Tuesday to Sunday for lunch & dinner. Catering & take-out available.

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



***Congratulations to
Father George Alexson
for 50 Years in the Priesthood!***



Join us for a dinner celebration to
honor Father George
Sunday, October 27, 2019
6:00pm
Belmont Country Club
19661 Belmont Manor Ln. Ashburn, VA 20147

\$80 Adults/\$20 Children

Hors d'oeuvres, plated dinner with wine service, cash bar

Choice Of:

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Oven Roasted Filet Mignon | Chicken Breast | Pan Seared Salmon |
| chardonnay & grain | stuffed with spinach and Feta | Roasted Baby Potatoes with smoked |
| mustard demi-glace | Sundried tomato and basil cream | bacon and onions, |
| Yukon gold mashed potatoes | Caramelized Onion and herb risotto | Wilted spinach |
| Asparagus | Baby Carrots & Marsala Sauce | Lemon Vinaigrette |

For more details or to reserve online visit:

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

A table will be set up after liturgy on Sundays until October 13th if you prefer to reserve in person.

Do you shop at Amazon.com?



If so, you can help our Church receive donations, just by shopping! Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of orders to a selected charity.

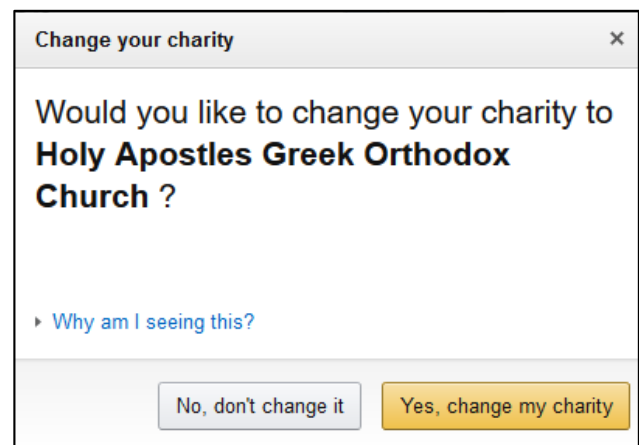
The Fundraising Committee has added our Church as one of the available charities on Amazon Smile.

Step 1: To get started, go to our website www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org and click on the **Go to smile.amazon.com** button on our website to select our Church or go to this link directly:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-5712523>

Step 2: Sign in using your Amazon credentials

Step 3: Click on the **Yes, change my charity button**



You will now see, as shown below, that you have selected our Church as your charity.



You will receive a confirmation email that you have selected our Church.

Important: Always remember when you shop at Amazon to go use the <https://smile.amazon.com> link and confirm that the charity you are supporting is our Church.

**Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church**

21580 Atlantic Blvd., Building D, Unit 160

Dulles, VA 20166

www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org**CLERGY**

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Rev. Father George Alexson | | 703-314-6421 | frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com |
| Deacon | Deacon Harry Chelpon | | |

STAFF

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Office Manager | Lia Economou | 703-421-3812 | liaecon@comcast.net |
| Protopsalti | Nick Grivas | | papounico3@aim.com |

PARISH COUNCIL

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| President | Greg Joiner | | gregjoiner@gmail.com |
| Vice President | Lisa Orphanides | | lisa.branner@marriott.com |
| Secretary | Niki Lelis | | nlelis1@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Maria Zangos | | milihandra@comcast.net |
| Additional Members | | | |
| Mina Baldinger | mina.baldinger68@gmail.com | Con Sofologis | csofologis@verizon.net |
| Greg Cherpes | gcherpes@yahoo.com | Irene Thomas | irene.thomas1@verizon.net |
| Kathy Kendrat | kmkendrat@aol.com | Nick Zangos | achsah1@cox.net |
| Rebecca Rallis | rallisr@aol.com | | |

SCHOOLS

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--|----------------------------|
| Ellinomatheia Program | Athanasia Dacey | | sdacey@comcast.net |
| Greek School | Maria Zangos | | milihandra@comcast.net |
| Sunday School | Denise Lansdell | | deniseinvirginia@gmail.com |

MINISTRIES, COMMITTEES, AND ASSOCIATIONS

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| AHEPA Μόλον Λαβέ Chapter 542 | Chad Burke | | info@ahepa542.org |
| Altar Boys | Sub-Deacon Michael Sivy | | hawmih1108@gmail.com |
| Altar Fund | Fr. George Alexson | | frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com |
| Church Choir | Bret Lansdell | | deniseinvirginia@gmail.com |
| Epitaphio/Flowers Committee | Mariana Korulaki | | k.mariana@hotmail.com |
| | Presvytera Joanna | | frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com |
| Festival Committee | George Mokhiber | | gencapadvisors@outlook.com |
| Future Planning Committee | Nick Spyros | | nlspyros@yahoo.com |
| Gala Committee | Kristina Ayoub | | ktsiakos@yahoo.com |
| | Asha Ioanou | | nicholas.asha@gmail.com |
| GOYA | Lia Economou | | liaecon@comcast.net |
| GOYA Boys' Basketball Team | Dimitrios Stratakis | | dimitrstratakis@verizon.net |
| Greek Dance Troupe | Maria Plevrakis | | maroudi@hotmail.com |
| HOPE and JOY | Ashley Joiner | | ashleyjoiner@gmail.com |
| Philoptochos | Alexis Cleveland | | apcpiloptochos@gmail.com |
| Prosfora | Effie Koutsourais | | emkouts1@aol.com |
| Stewardship Committee | Ron Baldinger | | ron.baldinger@gmail.com |
| Vacation Church Camp | Bret and Denise Landsell | | deniseinvirginia@gmail.com |
| Webmaster | Maria Zangos | | milihandra@comcast.net |