



The Light



Volume 2, Issue 5

✠ To Fos ✠

September/October 2008

The newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County



METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

Odyssey

As you read this I'll be on my way to Iraq. This may seem very strange to you. After all, why should a Greek Orthodox priest go to a war zone? The answer is that if that Orthodox priest is a United States Navy chaplain who is ordered to go there, then that is what he does. I am indeed a Naval Officer, a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy. How did this come to be? After com-

pleting seminary at our Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline Massachusetts, and being ordained to the priesthood by Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver (my home diocese from which I went to seminary) I was assigned as proestamenos (head parish priest) of Kimisis Tis Theotokou (Dormition of the Theotokos) Greek Orthodox Church in Southampton, New York. We lived and worked on the east end of Long Island for two years. During that time it became clear that we would soon be transferred to a larger parish. Presbyteria and I had talked about the possibility of serving our nation in the Chaplain Corps while we were at seminary, but realized I would need a couple of years of experience in a parish first in order to continue my development as a priest and to be effective as a chaplain. So when the time came to be reassigned to a larger parish, instead, I asked the Archbishop if I could have permission to join the Navy. A priest must have the written permission of his metropolitan and of the Archbishop in order to join the military services. I received permission to do so, and Presbyteria and I decided on the Navy as the service I would join. I had already received my Masters of Divinity from Holy Cross, had two years of pastoral experience in Southampton at Kimisis, had received permission from my ecclesiastical superiors, and was physically fit for service, so I was screened, qualified, and commissioned as a Lieutenant, Junior Grade (equivalent to a First Lieutenant in the Army or Air Force) in the United States Navy. I was sent to Navy Chaplain School at Newport, Rhode Island for two months of training. Having successfully completed the training, we were sent to our first assignment, in Okinawa, Japan. The boys were 3, 5, and 7 years old at the time. I was assigned to Headquarters Battalion, Third Marine Division. We lived in government housing (built from steel reinforced concrete, which was good considering the 200 mile an hour winds associated with the super-typhoons they get there), and the boys went to Department of Defense schools on base. There were approximately 50000 American service members in Okinawa at the time. In addition to my responsibilities as chaplain to the 1000 Marines of Headquarters Battalion and their families, I was the only Orthodox priest on the island. As such, I was proestamenos of Saint Nicholas chapel, a beautiful worship space designated for our use, which sat atop a mountain overlooking the South China Sea. It is a room which seats about 50 people, has a lovely, hand carved icon screen, a small altar, and all the equipment necessary to celebrate the services of the Orthodox Church. All these things are provided by the

military, so that Orthodox Christian service members and their families may have the opportunity to worship according to their faith requirements. This is key to understanding why Orthodox priests serve in the military. The government of the United States is constitutionally required to make no law restricting the free exercise of religion or establishing religion. That's in the First Amendment, the first clause of the Bill of Rights. By virtue of their service, military members are presented with inherent barriers to the free exercise of religion. So, when the government causes such barriers (for example, sending a sailor where he cannot observe the requirements of his faith) then the government is responsible to make a reasonable effort to overcome those barriers. The government chose, since before the establishment of the Nation, to create chaplaincies for the purpose of providing religious services to military members, whether at sea or in the field. The Navy and Army Chaplaincies were established in 1775, and chaplains have served since then. The Navy chaplaincy was established right after the Marine Corps in 1775, and though there is no cause-and-effect relationship, Navy chaplains do serve with the Marines, the Navy, and the Coast Guard. In addition to the Constitutional and regulatory requirement to accommodate religion, the government also has a moral responsibility to make a good faith effort to meet the basic human needs of the people who serve. Chaplains support that effort as well. The third requirement of the government which chaplains support is that of professional support. Commanders must ensure that they receive professional advice as they make important decisions effecting the lives of so many. Chaplains support that requirement as well. So, back to my story. We served in Okinawa for 3 years. During that time, we had about 50 parishioners at Saint Nicholas chapel. That number varied as people came and went from the island, as their assignments were completed. Families were assigned for 3 years, and individuals for 1 year at that time, so there was quite a bit of turnover in the community. You get used to that part of military life, because no one stays in the same assignment of more than 3 years usually. After 3 great years in Okinawa, it was time for us to move on to our next assignment. The Navy Chaplain Corps had assigned Father Bill Bartz and his family to Okinawa, so I was able to turn over responsibility for our beautiful chapel community to him. We left Okinawa for our next destination: Lemoore, California. That's a Naval Air Station about 45 minutes from Fresno. I was to be the Carrier Air Wing Eleven chaplain. We moved into humble base housing (a beautiful double wide) and the boys went to the California schools on base. I was away most of the time, because elements of the Air Wing were located at various bases up and down the coast, so I was visiting them when we weren't deployed. The Air Wing rode the great air craft carrier USS Carl Vinson. After two months in Lemoore, our Air Wing left for a six month deployment on the Vinson. That was in the summer of 2001. As we rounded the tip of India in mid-September, we were horrified to watch to news reports of the attacks of 9/11. Instead of proceeding to our original destination in the Persian Gulf, we sailed off the coast of Pakistan,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

from where our strike group eventually delivered the American response to the terrorists in Afghanistan. While on the carrier, as Air Wing chaplain I was responsible for the 1800 sailors we brought aboard. In addition, I was the only Orthodox priest aboard, so had responsibility for ministering to the Orthodox on board. Out of a crew of about 6000, there were 6 Orthodox Christians identified. They worked on different shifts (Carriers work 24 hours a day, so about 40% of the crew works nights and sleeps days). So I celebrated two divine liturgies a week, one for the day shift and one for the night shift. The Navy provided a chapel and all the gear needed. In addition to our Orthodox services, the Vinson's command religious program included over 60 other services and bible studies each week! All this so that the sailors aboard would have access to the support of their faith during that difficult war-time deployment. Thankfully, we returned from that deployment after 6 months without any combat losses. Of course it had been difficult for our families coping with the shock and changes of life caused by 9/11 in our absence, and it is difficult to be away for that long under the best of circumstances. Our family was blessed, because while I was away, Michelle and the boys were attending the Greek Orthodox Church in Fresno, where they received great support and Christian love from a wonderful priest and community (those of you who were at the picnic this year met Father Jim Pappas, Presbyter Donna and their beautiful family). So upon our return I was busy helping our sailors and their families return to a more normal life. This was a two year assignment. Our next set of orders took us from Central California to Chicago, Illinois, and Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes. This is where all sailors go for basic training. Because recruits cannot leave the base during their 8 weeks of basic training, the Navy ensures that there is a full program of religious ministry on the base. Thousands of recruits attended services every week. As you can imagine, there is something about basic training that inspires fervent religiosity! Seriously, basic training is a time of self-discovery when it is important to have religious advisors available. Considering the average age of recruits is 18 years old, and the amount of pressure they experience in training, so different from what they are used to, it is a very good thing to have a robust religious program available to them. We have a beautifully equipped Orthodox chapel at Great Lakes, complete with all the gear you would normally find in a large Orthodox church. Of course the number of attendees at services varies considerably, as the entire recruit population of the base turns over every 8 weeks. While assigned to Great Lakes, we lived in government housing built in the mid-60's, and the boys went to local schools. We were at that assignment for 2 years when the opportunity opened to serve on the staff of the Chief of Navy Chaplains. So we moved to Falls Church, Virginia, and I went to work on the staff of the senior chaplain in the Navy, a 2-star admiral. My job was in plans, policy and operations. I was responsible for answering questions from the fleet and elsewhere about Navy policy with regard to religion. With my colleagues, I was responsible for writing those policies. About midway through my tour here, my responsibilities were adjusted to include development and implementation of a strategic plan for religious ministry in the Department of the Navy. We authored and began execution of that plan, with the support of the Secretary of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. This was the first time the Department of the Navy (DON) had ever received such high level support for the planning effort. In another development, I was asked by the metropolitan vicar Father Costa if I'd be able to help out with the new parish starting in Loudoun County. This was a great blessing for me, as it is so important for a priest to be in the altar regularly, celebrating the Liturgy and preaching the Gospel. I didn't have any chapel responsibilities at the Chief's office, because it isn't that kind of job, so I'd been filling in around the metropolis on an ad hoc basis. That is fun for awhile, but one soon yearns for stability. So our wonderful Loud-

oun community was indeed a great blessing for me as a priest. After 3 years on the staff of the Chief of Navy Chaplains, it is now time for me to return to an operational assignment. Officers who spend too much time ashore are not eligible for promotion, so the Navy tries to ensure that officers have the opportunity to serve aboard ships or in the field on a regular basis. The current plan is that I am to be assigned to a joint billet in Iraq for 8 months, followed by a year of post graduate education at Quantico, Virginia. These two assignments will make me competitive for promotion, for which I will be eligible during my time at the Marine Corps Command and Staff school in Quantico. Of course, an added bonus for our family is that during the next two years we won't have to move! This way, both Evan and George will have the opportunity to graduate from the high school they've been attending for the last 3 years. After that, we shall see. It is not possible to plan too far ahead, given all the variables. With regard to my assignment in Iraq, here are a few facts. Michelle and the boys cannot accompany me, because, obviously, Iraq is a war zone. Families only accompany service members when the assignment is to a location where there is an established American presence and a peaceful, safe environment. It is as yet unclear exactly what my responsibilities will entail while I'm over there, but I feel certain that I will have the opportunity to minister to Orthodox Christian Marines, sailors, soldiers, and airmen who are assigned to the region. I've been in theater (the theater of operations, ie, Iraq, Kuwait, etc) 2 other times, not counting the trip on the Vinson. I toured through Al Anbar province during the Christmas season in 2006, delivering Orthodox services in all the major troop concentration areas. I visited Kuwait the following year during August for the same purpose. The military goes to great lengths to ensure that service members have a chance to worship according to their faith traditions. We Orthodox chaplains are part of that effort. There are three Greek Orthodox priests on active duty in the Navy, nine Orthodox priests in the Navy (including the other jurisdictions) and about 25 Orthodox priests throughout all the armed services on active duty. We provide Orthodox ministry to the Orthodox, facilitate for the faith requirements of those of other faiths (helping them identify chaplains or other resources by which they can exercise their faith), care for all service members by delivering counseling that is based on the trust earned through the shared experience of military service and characterized by complete confidentiality, and support the command by offering professional advice on the command religious program and the effects of religion on the mission. So, in response to the 3 requirements the military has: religious accommodation, human care, and professional support, the Navy Chaplain Corps delivers: facilitation of the religious needs of all, provision of faith specific religious services, care for all, and advice to the command. These are the foundations of military chaplaincy. With respect for all, a clear understanding of boundaries, and certainty as to who I am as an Orthodox priest, I am able to represent our faith in the military. I believe it is important that Orthodox Christians who have received so many blessings from life in America owe it to this nation to offer our priests to service as a sign of our appreciation, and an icon of our citizenship. Citizenship is not simple about rights. It is also about responsibilities. We must give back, so that the country may continue to be a beacon of freedom and opportunity for all. I believe that this is in complete harmony with our calling to humble, self-sacrificial Christian service. Though I will be far away physically, we are united in Christ. I ask that you continue to pray for me as I pray for you. It is indeed a sacrifice to be apart from you, as I have grown to love you all. But I deem it to be a worthy sacrifice. Michelle and the boys will be with you while I am gone.

I know that you will take good care of them.

In Christ, Father John

Save The Date...

A look ahead to the upcoming spiritual, social and educational activities

September

Sunday September 28th	Orthros Divine Liturgy	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
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October

Wednesday October 1st	First Day of Classes for Children's Greek Language School For more information please contact Susan Dorn (ssdorn@aol.com) or visit our Greek Language School section online	5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Thursday October 2nd	First Day of Classes for Children's Greek Language School For more information please contact Susan Dorn (ssdorn@aol.com) or visit our Greek Language School section online	5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Saturday October 4th	HOPE & Joy Meeting Please join us for a HOPE & Joy meeting where we will prepare for our visit to the Sunrise Assisted Living Home. We'll be making crafts for the residents and begin practicing Christmas Carols.	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Sunday October 5th	Orthros Divine Liturgy Greek Dancing will begin right after coffee.	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Tuesday October 7th	First Day of Classes for Adult Greek Language School For more information please contact Susan Dorn (ssdorn@aol.com) or visit our Greek Language School section online	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Sunday October 12th	Orthros Divine Liturgy	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Monday October 13th	The Ladies Philoptochos Meeting Please join Philoptochos President Niki Lelis (nlelis@cox.net) and VP Cynthia Smith (silvercps@hotmail.com), and all the Ladies of the Philoptochos for their monthly meeting.	7:30 PM
Sunday October 19th	Orthros Divine Liturgy	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Saturday October 25th	HOPE & Joy Meeting Please join us on this day as we begin to prepare for our visit to Loudoun Hospital Pediatric patients.	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Sunday October 26th	Orthros Divine Liturgy	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

November

Sunday November 2nd	Orthros Divine Liturgy	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Saturday November 8th	2nd Anniversary Dinner - Dance and Silent Auction Please SAVE THE DATE for our 3rd Annual Dinner Dance at the River Creek Country Club. More details to follow...	TBD
Sunday November 9th	Orthros Divine Liturgy	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Monday November 10th	The Ladies Philoptochos Meeting Please join Philoptochos President Niki Lelis (nlelis@cox.net) and VP Cynthia Smith (silvercps@hotmail.com), and all the Ladies of the Philoptochos for their monthly meeting.	7:30 PM

Capital Building Campaign – “For the Glory of God”

“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” – Mark 8:34

During this second year of our existence, and in continuation of the work and sacrifice that has brought us to this point, we propose to embark on a major capital project to build a Byzantine-style Greek Orthodox Church to worship our great Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the necessary facilities in order to increase opportunities for religious education, fellowship and the growth of our ministries.

At the dawn of the third Christian millennium, a new and holy task appears before our faithful parishioners. As our grandparents and parents were faithful in their time, so too must we be faithful in our time. In the past few years, inspired by the activity witnessed in the growth of our parish and its ministries, let us embark on a project that will impact the lives and souls of thousands of people over many generations -- and for all eternity!



Phase I of the project is to acquire land, perform civil, architectural and structural design, and construct the Community Center. The Community Center will be used as a temporary house of worship in addition to its use for educational, social and business functions. To begin Phase I of the project, the goal is to raise \$3.0 million through pledges fulfilled and gifts offered over a period of five years. To be successful, we will need the true sacrifice of all our stewards. Participation is the most important component! In justice, we seek gifts of equal sacrifice, not equal amounts. Only you can measure the abundance of blessings you have received and are able to return in time, talent and treasure for God's work as we unite to continue the mission of Jesus Christ through The Greek Orthodox Church Parish of Loudoun County, Virginia.

‘Thank You’ to those that have pledged their support for our Capital Building Campaign. If you have not submitted your pledge, please make this a priority today. We need true sacrifice of ALL or our families in order to meet our goal.

Capital Building Fund Contributors

Major Benefactor (\$100,000)

Anonymous #1

Grand Contributor (\$25,000)

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Koutsourais

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Economou

Contributor (\$10,000)

AHEPA #438

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Zangos

Mr. & Mrs. Vasilis Fotopoulos

Ms. Nikoleta Lelis

Mr. & Mrs. Christos Alexandrou

GOPLC Greek School

Donor (\$5,000)

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Kyriazi

GOPLC Philoptochos

Kennedy Foundation

Contributor Categories

Arch-Contributor - \$1,000,000

Major Patron - \$500,000

Grand Benefactor - \$250,000

Major Benefactor - \$100,000

Benefactor - \$50,000

Grand Contributor - \$25,000

Contributor - \$10,000

Donor - \$5,000

Capital Building Campaign: “For the Glory of God” Pledge Form

Please make your check payable to the Greek Orthodox Parish LC Building Fund

I am honored to assist the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County, Virginia.

I am interested in becoming a/an _____ contributor.

I/we therefore pledge to the campaign as follows:

Total Pledge: \$ _____

Down Payment: \$ _____

Balance Due: \$ _____

I/we prefer to pay the balance: ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-Annually ☐ Annually

Over a period of: ☐ 1 year ☐ 2 years ☐ 3 years ☐ 4 years ☐ 5 years ☐ Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Donors may make tax-deductible commitments to the Capital Building Campaign in the form of pledges, cash, property, securities, real estate, and planned gifts such as life insurance and bequests. Pledges can be fulfilled over a five-year period, in whatever increments are most appropriate to you. All gifts, regardless of the amount, are very much appreciated and can be applied to future memorial or naming gift opportunities.

For more information, please visit our web site – www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org or contact Michael Koutsourais, Parish Council President, at Mkouts1@aol.com.

Philoptochos

Niki Lelis, President

As the fall begins, the Philoptochos is planning events for the 2008 and 2009 year. The Philoptochos will be continuing our current philanthropic programs, supporting the Loudoun Abused Women’s Shelter, assisting with furniture collections for people leaving the Loudoun Homeless Shelter, and assisting families in need. We will also be continuing our current fund raising activities, bake sales, collections for Lenten and Easter flowers, planning the next Luncheon and Fashion Show and other activities. As we firm up our plans and activities, more information will be provided.

Keep an eye out for more information on the Bookstore.

Our Philoptochos meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm until 9:00 pm at our Parish. The next few meetings will be held on October 13th, November 10th, December 8th, and January 12. I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting. Our meetings are open to all parishioners.

Greek Night at the Club

GREEK ORTHODOX PARISH Of LOUDOUN COUNTY

Dinner- Dance-Silent Auction Celebrating Our 2nd ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, 8 November 2008, 6PM



River Creek Club
43800 Olympic Blvd.
Leesburg, VA 20176

600pm –cocktail hour-hors d'oeuvres
730pm-dinner served

Silent Auction during Cocktail hour
all proceeds go to our Capital Building Fund

Music by DJ Liakos of Asteria Production

RESERVATIONS NEEDED

Contact-Cynthia Smith-703-478-0522
GOPLCevent@gmail.com

Catechetical School

To All The Parents And Guardians Of Our Sunday School Students:

On behalf of all of the Sunday School Teachers, we want to welcome your children to our new academic year. We have lots of great plans for the year. Each teacher has prepared for an exciting school year for their students. We hope that you will encourage your children to attend regularly and that you will participate in their learning by asking questions about what they are learning and reinforcing the topics at home. Many grade levels are memorizing prayers that are essential to our faith. Encourage your students to practice the lines at home and help them with this important process.

We've had some changes to our policies this year. We are currently only accepting pre-school students who are turning 4 by December 31, 2008. In addition, in order to receive a completion certificate in May, students must attend at least 50% of all scheduled classes. Each teacher will be keeping an attendance book to insure proper record keeping. Please encourage your child to attend church school each Sunday. Consistency is critical to learning and retaining the information learned in class.

I'd also like to bring your attention to some policies that are in place to keep our students safe and our space clean. There is no eating upstairs. The space upstairs is used by many different organizations and we need to insure that the floor is kept tidy. Students may not partake in coffee hour foods until Sunday School has ended. In addition, they should finish their propophoro in church before going to class. In addition, students and parents should be in church for the Liturgy and should refrain from going upstairs until Sunday School commences. For their safety, no one should be upstairs unless an organization is using the space. Going along with the safety theme, only children and Sunday School teachers should remain upstairs. Once your child is comfortable, parents should return to church. The Sunday School staff will monitor your children and return them to you after Sunday School. If a child needs to leave early, please notify their teacher. Only parents or guardians may pick up students. If another person is to pick up a child, please provide a note identifying the person and giving permission for the instructor to release your child to this person.

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.

ST. GEORGE TOURNAMENT

The St. George basketball tournament will be held on Saturday October 11th at Hoop Magic Sports Academy in Chantilly, VA. The basketball games will take place from 8:00AM- 5:00PM. At 5:30pm dinner begins at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Bethesda. Then, at 7:30PM Vespers will be held at St. George in Bethesda, MD. At around 8:00PM an Orthodox Bible-Bowl (a kind of Bible jeopardy game) is played until around 9:30PM. After the Bible-Bowl a dance begins and ends at midnight. Since we will not be participating in the games, the entire event will only cost \$10.00 per person.

Here is a broken down schedule for October 11th:

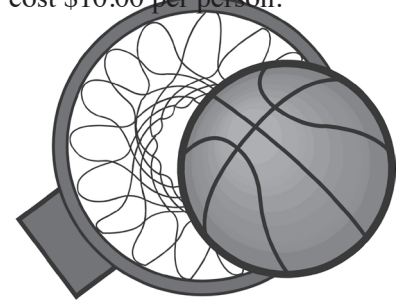
8:00AM- 5:00PM: basketball games at Hoop Magic in Chantilly, VA
(we will decide what time to arrive at the games- NOT at 8:00AM!!)

5:30-6:00pm: Dinner at St. George

7:30PM: Vespers at St. George in Bethesda, MD

8:00PM-9:30PM: Orthodox Bible-Bowl at St. George

9:30PM-12:00AM: dance at St. George



REMEMBER!!! This is a great opportunity for our church to get involved with other churches and for us to meet new people. We can also get a taste of what basketball tournaments are like in order to plan for the future!

Hoop Magic Sports Academy, 14810 Murdock Street, Chantilly, VA 20151-1018

For more information about Hoop Magic visit www.hoopmagicsa.com

St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817

For more information about St. George and the tournament visit www.stgeorge.org

HOPE&JOY

HOPE&JOY is off to a great start for the 2008/09 year! We had a large turnout of enthusiastic children for our 1st meeting. Due to the downpour of rain, we had to cancel our meeting on September 6th and pack two meetings' activities into one on Sept.13th.

The children were very productive. They made a card for Father John each giving a reason why they loved him. Next, they created a story about him, titled "A Story of the Best Priest Ever!" where each child wrote a part of the story. Then, they made a craft for a HOPE&JOY bulletin, and finally, they practiced singing part of the 135th Psalm to perform in church on Sunday so that they could surprise Father John on his last day before departing to Iraq. WOW, were they busy!

The children faced the challenge of multi-tasking with great enthusiasm and did an exemplary job of completing each task. Thanks SO MUCH to all the moms that were there helping out. It was certainly a team effort!

On Sunday, Sept.14, the HOPE&JOY children gave Father John a heart-warming farewell, presenting him with the card and story they made for him and singing what they learned (in one day!) of the 135th Psalm during Holy Communion. We are all VERY proud of our HOPE&JOY children!

On Saturday, Sept.20th, HOE&JOY, along with several other members of our parish participated in the 4th annual walk-a-thon for the homeless sponsored by the Good Shepherd Alliance. Our group raised over \$600 for this very worthy cause and everyone had a great time. The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun had the highest number of walkers than any other church who participated in the event. Thanks to all who were able to take time out of their busy schedules to participate and represent our parish.

Our upcoming meetings are scheduled on October 4th, Oct.25, & Nov.15. We will be preparing for our visits to the Sunrise Assisted Living Home in Sterling and the Loudoun Hospital pediatric unit. We will be working on making Christmas crafts to take to them and practicing Christmas carols to sing for them on Dec. 6th and 12th respectively. Please check our web site for a detailed schedule of events with dates and times.

Thank you to all of our HOPE&JOY families who participate in our meetings and events. It is because of you all that our HOPE&JOY youth group is so successful in our mission to glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May God continue to bless this ministry!

Announcements

Our Greek Dancing Program has Begun!

Children of all ages, and adults, are welcome to participate in our Greek dancing program Sunday afternoons after Sunday school. Jimmy Hontos, Katie Hontos and Maria Plevrakis will start with the basics and more on to more intricate dances as the year progresses. We hope you and your children will take part of this fun cultural program. For more information contact Jimmy at jimmyhontos@hotmail.com.

Greek Language School Starts its Second Year

Applications are still being accepted for our Greek Language Program. We offer evening classes for children on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Adult classes are held Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm. Classes for children and adults are for all learning levels. For more information visit our web site or contact Susan Dorn at ssdorn@aol.com.

Annetta Fotopoulos, daughter of Vasilis and Joan Fotopoulos began her graduate studies in Chinese Literature at Cornell University this month. Annetta received her BA from Johns Hopkins University in May, and spent the last three months as an intern for the State Department, supporting the U.S. Olympic Coordination Team in Beijing, China.

Silent Auction

At our November 8th dinner dance, the church will hold a Silent Auction. In order to make the Auction a success we are asking our parish members to go out and obtain 2- 3 donations each. For example, a gift certificate to your favorite restaurant, spa, beauty salon, dental service or whatever else you can think of. By asking each family for a few donations, it really adds up. The deadline is November 1st. Below is a donation form for your convenience.

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The Greek Orthodox Church of Loudoun County
21580 Atlantic Boulevard
Building D, Unit 160
Dulles, VA 21066

Dear Management:

On behalf of the Greek Orthodox Church of Loudoun County, we would like to invite you to participate in our fund raising initiative for 2008-2009. We need your help and support to make this vision a reality. We are striving to build the first Greek Orthodox Church in Loudoun County.

We are currently worshipping in a warehouse that we have converted into a spiritual place of prayer. Our goal is to build a permanent place of worship.

We will be holding a Silent Auction on November 8, 2008 as one of our main fund raisers. We hope that you will consider supporting this event by donating a gift certificate, merchandise or service.

Thank you for your support of this event. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 703-926-7138/DebraMokhiber@comcast.net

With sincere gratitude,

Debra Mokhiber

Auction Chairperson

Donor or Company Name:

Contact Person:

Phone/E-mail:

Donation Amount/Description:

Sunday School Teachers for 2008-2009 Year

GRADES	TEACHER(S)
PRE-K, K	DONNA LABELLE-EGAN
1	JOANNE CANELLOS
2	VALERIE AVRAMIDES
3-4	CAROL ZANGOS
5-6	MELISA GALASSO
7-8-9	KATHY KENDRAT
10-11-12	NICK ZANGOS

Also, our assistants and/or substitutes will be: Nancy Aubin, Athanasia Dacey, Ioana Epaminondas, Irene Epaminondas, Maria Mollo, and Daphne Papageorge

Stewardship

Have You Made Your 2008 Pledge?

We are quickly approaching the close of this year's stewardship drive and are so close to achieving our 2008 Stewardship Pledge Goal of \$150,000. Thank you to all the families who have made their generous 2008 pledge commitments already. We have 36 new stewardship families this year! However, not every family has returned a 2008 pledge card.

We need the support of **ALL** of our families in order to meet our goal for this year! A strong stewardship program is vital to our parish and enables us to support our parish ministries! Thank you for your pledge and contributions! A pledge card can be found in this newsletter, in the Narthex or online at www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org.

Thanks To Our 2008 Stewards

(*New stewards since last newsletter)

Steve & Kristine Adams
Mark & Andrea Alexander
Peter, George & Steven Alexandrakis
Christos & Tracey Alexandrou
Spiro & Eftychia Anthony
Theodore & Martha Apostolou
Bill & Nancy Aubin
Nick & Lynne Avdellas
Luke & Valerie Avramides
Mitch & Jeanette Aydlette
Ronald & Mina Baldinger
Daniel & Barbara Balkey
Robert & Marina Blair
Tim & Diane Boone
Matthew and Dina Brady
John & Penelope Broening
Chad & Julie Burke
Chris & Joanne Canellos
Pete & Elena Chambers
Greg Cherpes
Nicholas & Hilda Christos
Edward & Alexis Cleveland
Dean & Maria Coulopoulos
Panayiotis & Athanasia Dacey
Chris & Misty Damvakaris
Michael & Sophie Delpierre
William & Helen Demestihias
Aristos & Anna Dimitriou
Christos & Helena Dimitriou
Craig & Marianne Dodson
David & Susan Dorn
John & Maria Drapas
Anna & Bruce Dressel
Dean & Lia Economou
Martin & Donna Egan
Ioanna & Zenon Epaminoda
Carol & James Epperley
Kosta & Irene Fostieris
Vasilios & Joan Fotopoulos
Gary & Lillian Funk
Frank & Melisa Galasso
Francis George

Anthony & Carol Georgelas
Angeline Gillas
Evangelia Gonzales
Nick Grivas
Nick & Dorothy Harris
John & Eugenia Hobson
Katherine Hoenig
Jimmy & Catherine Hontos
Nicholas & Helen Jougras
Andrew & Vasiliki Kaffes
Fr. John & Presv. Michelle Kalantzis
Themis Kalaris
Alex & Trisha Kantsios
Nicholas & Constantina Kass
Bill & Kathy Kendrat
Catherine Kesari
Dimitri & Yolanda Kesari
John & Paula King
Marianne Koukli
Jim & Dee Koutris
Mike & Effie Koutsourais
Michael & Niki Kyriacou
Ernest & Helen Kyriazi
Nick & Elaine Lailis
Alexandra Lampros & Hal Hallet
Nikoleta Lelis
Marc & Ellen Lieberman
Nick, Alice & Nellie Louh
Stephen & Marianne Lunceford
John & Ismini Manuel
Angelike Maoury
Stan & Julie Maoury
Evangelia Mayer
George & Tina Michallas
George & Debra Mokhiber
Louis & Maria Mollo
Greg & Shannon Nerantzis
George & Aurania Nichols
Vasil & Elisabeth Nika
Chris & Katrina Panagides
Aris & Georgia Papadopoulos
Demitrios & Dimitra
Papalabarakopoulos

George & Maro
Paraskevopoulos
Sean & Kristen Parkinson
Eleni & Frank Pecjak
Jonathan & Janet Perezous
Andreas & Vicki Pippas
Louis & Athena Poehlman
Jerry & Helen Pollatos
Arqilea & Majlinda Polo
Russell & Holly Powell
Despina Psomiades
Keith Pullman
John & Panajote Qesari
Nicholas & Anastasia Ramfos
Elias & Vasilisa Ravaris
Travis & Christie Rebok
James & Mary Rigas
Alex & Mia Sapountzis
Jeff & Cynthia Smith
Frank Sofocleous
Constantine & Jenny Sofologis
Nick & Elizabeth Spyros
Stavros & Virginia Stephanakis
Peter & Moska Stratis
Silviu Sulita
Angelo & Anna Tjoumas
Mihail & Tanya Tomazos
John Tsaknis
Michael & Maria Tsapos
John & Karen Tsitos
Ronny & Anna VanDyke
Jennifer Vlachopoulos
Elaine & Paul Voketaitis
Rev. Fr. Alexander &
Kathleen Webster
Sami & Wendy Yacoub
Steve & Ianthe Yeatras
George & Timea Zangos
Nicholas & Carol Zangos
Christos & Christina Zirpos

**\$150,000
Goal**

**Pledged
\$140,850**

**Collected
\$104,699**



Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County

21580 Atlantic Blvd.

Unit 160, Building D

Dulles, VA 20166

www.GreekOrthodoxLoudoun.org

2008 Christian Stewardship Pledge

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 to God 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 2008.

This amount will be paid as follows:

() One full payment () Semi-annually () Quarterly () Monthly () Weekly

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

New Member () yes () no My initial offering of \$_____ is attached

Your pledge is **strictly confidential**.

Signature

Date

Family Information

Also participating in this pledge are the following family members:

Spouse: _____ DOB: _____

Child: _____ DOB: _____

Child: _____ DOB: _____

Child: _____ DOB: _____

Child: _____ DOB: _____

Child: _____ DOB: _____

Child: _____ DOB: _____

Please check areas of expertise, interests, and hobbies of family members:

___ Bible Study; ___ Youth Work/Athletics; ___ Catechetical Teaching; ___ Catechetical School;
 ___ Greek Teaching; ___ Greek School; ___ Greek Dance Instruction; ___ Greek Dance; ___ Choir;
 ___ Chanting; ___ Altar Service ___ Scouting; ___ Visiting Elderly/Sick; ___ Cooking/Church Socials;
 ___ Finance/Accounting; ___ Parish Newsletter; ___ Construction; ___ Computers; ___ Gardening;
 ___ Mechanical; ___ Stewardship; ___ Office Work; ___ Web Site/Set-Up/Management;
 ___ Other _____

Coffee Hour Schedule

October

05 Douskalis Family
12 Fotopoulos Family
19 Kathy Sparkman
26 Andrea Pertoso

November

16 Stewardship Sunday

To sponsor a Coffee Hour, contact Cynthia Smith
at 703-478-0522 or silvercps@hotmail.com



The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun welcomes Father George Kokhno who will be administering our Parish in Father John's absence. Father Kokhno is an Archpriest in the Orthodox Church of America. He comes to our Parish from St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, DC. Father George Kokhno was born in Kyiv, Ukraine in 1959 in family of an Orthodox Priest. He graduated from Odessa Theological Seminary in 1982 and continued education in Moscow Theological Academy from 1982-84. He was ordained to priesthood in 1987 in Ukraine and came to the United States in 1992. We are fortunate to have him at our Parish and look forward to his guidance and religious administration.



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