

The Light To Φως



Holy Apostles Greek
Orthodox Church
Loudoun County, VA

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

A Message from Father George Alexson

"Yet another affront to the Birth of Christ" Who's to blame?



Beloved Parishioners and friends,
I received the advertisement pictured above in mid-October. It was taken by a member of our parish at a local Home Goods store. Needless to say, she was quite upset, and rightly so. A short time later, after another trip to the store, she noticed the sign was gone. Someone, obviously, complained. I wonder to which faith the complainant belongs. The point, however, goes beyond religious affiliation, and speaks to a greater issue, at least for us Christians: how did we allow the secularization of such an important holy day?

When I Googled the question, "Who secularized Christmas?," the first article to appear was authored by a non-Christian titled, "The secularization of Christmas doesn't make it any friendlier to non-Christians." While I am not particularly interested in politically correct assessments, or how non-Christians feel about the celebration of Christmas in our "once-upon-a-time-Christian country," the article does make several thought-provoking points. Here's one that hits the nail on the head 'The Christmas most people celebrate isn't about Christianity...It's about capitalism attempting to reconcile the desire to sell

everyone as much stuff as possible with religious diversity. It's hardly about Jesus as much as it is Santa and reindeer and elves that can be "for everyone."


Whether we like it or not, that is a truly perceptive account of the average American's experience of the Christmas holiday. And for that, I sincerely grieve.


In the Orthodox Church, we begin our preparations for the Incarnation of the God-Man (and not simply the birth of a baby named Jesus) on November 15th, forty days prior to the feast itself. The Christmas fast is not as rigorous as Great Lent or the Dormition fast; nevertheless, as with all fasting, it is there to remind us of how we need/ought to prepare for the advent of our Lord. Fasting, with all its spiritual and ascetic implications, prepares the body and soul, the mind and heart, for the fulness of rejoicing that will arrive with the anticipated feast. To ignore the Christmas fast, or reduce it to a few days in preparation for our "Christmas communion," is to disregard the logic of the Church which always puts things in their proper perspective. Fasting, as explained by the late Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, 'is not a theoretical but truly practical challenge to the great Liar who managed to convince us that we depend on bread alone and built all human knowledge, science and existence on that lie. Fasting is a denunciation of that lie and also the proof that it is a lie. It is highly significant that it was while fasting that Christ met Satan and that He said later that Satan cannot be overcome "but by fasting and prayer."...Yet if one is


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Highlights:

 Capital Campaign —
All about it on page 6

 AHEPA partners
with Toys for Tots
on Dec. 15 in Ashburn

 Sunday School and
Greek School
Christmas Event on
December 16 at church





Metropolis of New Jersey

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church



A Message from Father George Alexson, cont...

Hungry and discovers that he can truly be independent of that hunger, not be destroyed by it but just on the contrary, can transform it into a source of spiritual power and victory, then nothing remains of that great lie in which we have been living since Adam.'

Pre-Christmas festivities and celebrations, from within the context of our Orthodox liturgical logic, are a deception which divert our attention from the intentional meaning of the holy day. Perhaps the problem lies in the fact, that too many "Christians" fail to comprehend the profound spiritual and theological implications of the day itself. St. Gregory Palamas, for example, in a Christmas homily, "On the Saving Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ," spells out, just in the vocabulary used to introduce his subject, how we should correctly understand exactly what is happening on Christmas day. St. Gregory writes, "This is the Festival of the virgin birth! Our address must be exalted therefore in accordance with the greatness of the feast, and enter into the mystery, as far as this is accessible and permissible...that something of its inner power might be revealed even to us...The pre-eternal and uncircumscribed and almighty Word is now born according to the flesh, without home, without shelter, without dwelling, and placed as a babe in the manger, seen by men's eyes, touched by their hands, and wrapped in layers of swaddling bands. He is not a spiritual creature coming into being after previously not existing; nor flesh which is brought to birth but will soon perish; nor flesh and mind united to form a rational creature, but God and flesh mingled unconfusedly by the divine Mind to form the existence of one theandric hypostasis, who entered the Virgin's womb for a time...Not only is His divinity inscrutable, but the manner in which He was united with flesh is past understanding, His condescension unsurpassable, and the human nature He assumed divinely, ineffably sublime, and so far above

Weekday Liturgical Schedule for Oct and Nov, 2018

Tuesday, Dec. 4 St. Barbara	8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy
Thursday, Dec. 6 St. Nicholas	8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, Dec. 12 St. Spyridon	8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy
Monday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve	10:00 AM, Great Hours
Monday, Dec. 24 Christmas Liturgy	7:00 PM, Christmas Orthros. 8:30 PM, Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
Thursday, Dec. 27	8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, Jan. 1	8:45 AM, Orthros. 10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy Circumcision of our Lord, St. Basil, New Year's Day
Friday, Jan. 4 Eve of Theophany	10:00 AM, Reading of the Great Hours
Monday, Jan. 7 St. John the Baptist	8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy
Thursday, Jan. 17 St. Anthony	8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, Jan. 30 Three Hierarchs	8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy

Merry Christmas



Metropolis of New Jersey

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church



A Message from Father George Alexson, cont...

all thought and speech, that it does not admit of any comparison with creation.”

This is but a small portion from St. Gregory’s homily, but, surely, you will agree that it puts the Nativity of Christ in a perspective proper to its grandeur and significance, “for us men and for our salvation.”

How is it, then, that we so readily discredit the importance of this magnificent holy day by ignoring the Church’s call to prepare for the feast properly, through fasting and prayer?

Many of you protest: what about our parties at work, school, social organizations, etc., and, there’s Santa Claus to consider, and presents for the children? What about them, indeed? We, in our Orthodox tradition, have from Christmas day until the eve of Theophany to celebrate, during which time fasting is not permitted in honor of the feast. But, as the protests grow louder...Yes, of course, I know that in our secularized environment, we, too, have bought into the myths about Santa and chimneys, elves and reindeers, and, after all, Christmas is for the kids anyway! (undoubtedly, one of the most unfortunate assertions commonly made).

I write these things aware of the fact that some may accuse me of being the unrealistic “grinch” who tried to steal Christmas. I accept the risk, because I care more about the spiritual cultivation of souls in my care, than pampering and encouraging erroneous practices that stand in opposition to our holy Faith. After all, the gross secularization of Christmas should be offensive to all Christians. The sign above appeared in October, and most stores trot out Christmas decorations about the same time, sufficient proof that merchants effortlessly place profits above piety. While there are a lot of things about the holiday that make me happy, most of all the manner in which children, with their innate innocence and child-likeness, celebrate. But, if we neglect to emphasize the spiritual aspect of this

great holy day, even with (perhaps I should say, especially with) our children, are we not setting foundations in their life built on sand? If they are raised to believe that pre-Christmas parties, emphasis on gift-giving and all the other secular trappings, are the norm, when will they be introduced to the authentic meaning of Christ’s Incarnation?

I say, it is never too late to put things right. For that reason, I refuse to attend pre-Christmas parties and, I go out of my way to underscore the need for fasting and prayer as the only legitimate way to prepare for Christmas. I make no apologies for this, and I invite whoever is of like mind, to join me in this effort. Truly, I pray our Lord, to give us all the courage, strength and wisdom to, “not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will” (Rom 12:2).

You see, my beloved, the question, “Who secularized Christmas,” is not always in the past tense. Every generation of Christian parents and priests must ask, will we, too, secularize Christmas, or, will we be transformed by the renewing of our life in accordance with the sober and thoughtful traditions of our holy Church? The answer is ours alone to give. Thus, with these few thoughts, I offer my best wishes that all who so desire, will experience this Christmas Lent as a time for growth in faith, love and commitment to Christ, our Church and one another. Amen!

Fr. George A. Alexson





Metropolis of New Jersey

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church



Message from the Parish Council President

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

I hope everyone in the Holy Apostles family had a joyful Thanksgiving Holiday.

Every Fall our ministries start up new and exciting programming, and this year is no exception. I sincerely appreciate the dedication and enthusiasm of our ministry leaders and volunteers. And I encourage everyone to seek out the ministry(s) that interests you and get involved. Ministry participation is important to our church, but incredibly rewarding for everyone who takes part as it gives you an outlet for exploring and expressing your faith as well as your love for our parish.

We are now at a critical stage in establishing a permanent home in Loudoun County. Our Holy Apostles parishioners have given almost \$1.3M to our Capital Campaign! This amazing milestone was made possible through the many donations we've received, both big and small. I would like to thank everyone for their generosity and also extend a very special thank you to the anonymous benefactor who donated a beautiful home to our parish. In November, we sold that home for over \$567,000 and that money went directly to our Capital Campaign.

Additionally, we're continuing the work needed for getting the purchase contract signed with the land developer. Once the purchase contract is signed, external fundraising can begin in earnest, and we'll also reach out to parishioners who could not attend a fireside chat last Spring. If you are interested in getting the latest and necessary information, including donating stock to the Capital Campaign, please contact Lia Economou (liaecon@comcast.net).

Stewardship is important to building our permanent home in Loudoun County. It's also important to pay current operating costs (e.g., rent, utilities, employee payroll). If your name is not listed on the Stewardship Pledge list on pg. 4, please contact Ron Baldinger (ron.baldinger@gmail.com) – all it takes is filling out a pledge card. If you have already done so, thank you, and please be sure to fulfill your pledge by year's end so we can ensure we function properly through the holidays and the new year, and are given a loan for the property we're pursuing. You can fulfill your pledge many different ways, including via a tax deductible stock donation.

Finally, on November 11th we held our Fall General Assembly. During the meeting, we had an informative Q&A with our Land Agent, Pete Ebert, and nominated parishioners for the Parish Council, Audit, and Election Committees. Please join me in congratulating Irene Thomas, Greg Cherpes, and Rebecca Rallis, who accepted nominations for the Parish Council. Elections will be held on December 2nd.

I wish everyone in the Holy Apostles family a blessed holiday season.

Greg Joiner
Parish Council President
gregjoiner@gmail.com





Stewardship

My Fellow Parishioners

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

With this in mind, I ask that each of you look into your heart and ask yourself, "Have I given what I can to the church? Have I given my stewardship? My time? My talent?" It can be easy to think that someone else may give and that someone else can offer up their pledge. But the truth is, in order to run the church and enjoy the many ministries we have, we need everybody's support. Without everyone's stewardship our church can't operate.

As always, I would like to say Thank You for your tremendous generosity. We have a wonderful community of stewards who selflessly give their time, talent and financial support in order for our church to exist and continue to grow.

As we bring 2018 to a close, I ask all of you to revisit your pledge for this year and ensure it is fulfilled. There also several stewards who have yet to provide any payments to date for their 2018 pledge. If you have any questions about your pledge for the year or need to make an adjustment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please look at the list of stewards, if you do not see your name on this list — Simply fill out a pledge card or contact Ron Baldinger so we can ensure you are counted!

During this busy holiday season, please take a moment to consider your pledge for 2019. If you are not already a steward, please take a moment to fill out the pledge card below for next year. You can submit it to me by email or in person at church, or to any of our church officers who will ensure I get it. It is the stewardship and devoted support of our parishioners that allow our church not only to operate, but to plan and grow every year through the grace of God.

Your Stewardship Committee is beginning to plan events for 2019. We look forward to more wonderful events enjoyed together as a church family. More to follow very soon!

I thank you for your generosity, support and faith.

In God's service
Ron and Mina Baldinger
Stewardship Committee 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.

F



Stewardship, cont...

Pledge List as of November 1, 2018. 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.

Christos and Tracey Alexandrou	Nikolaos and Sofia Kouiroukidis
Dimitri and Cheryl Alexson	Michael and Effie Koutsourais
Rev. Father George and Presvytera Joanna Alexson	Helen Kyriazi
Eugene and Ursula Anemojanis	Hal and Alexandra Lampros
William and Nancy Aubin	Nikoleta Lelis
John and Kristina Ayoub	John and Christy Lisciandro
Vasilios Bakopanos	Robert and Kristine Lorentz
Ronald and Mina Baldinger	Milton and Mary Magos
Steve and Ergini Batistatos-Martnishn	Zachary and Paula Malachias
Robert and Marina Blair	Dimitra and Nicolas Mantalvanos
Chad and Julie Burke	Angelike Maoury
William and Smaro Caras	Pete Margaros and Kiki Georges
Deacon Harry and Maria Chelpon	Mark and Meredith Matheos
Greg and Marilena Cherpes	Hercules Michas
Edward and Alexis Cleveland	George and Debra Mokhiber
Matthew Cleveland	Olivia and James Morris
Dean and Maria Coulopoulos	Travis and Christy Munley
Panayiotis and Athanasia Dacey	Paul and Lisa Orphanides
Paul and Mea Danigelis	Panayiotis and Cynthia Panagopoulos
Art Dimopoulos	Bill and Beth Papanastasiou
David and Susan Dorn	George Pappas
John and Maria Drapas	Maria Pappas
Dean and Lia Economou	Jonathan and Janet Perezous
Carole Elkari	Loiza Pieri
Vasilios and Joan Fotopoulos	Maria Plevrakis
Chrysanthé Freire	Jerry and Helen Pollatos
James and Christine Freire	Arqilea and Majlinda Polo
Gary and Lillian Funk	Rebecca Rallis
Bill and Evelyn Gacis	Elias and Vasilia Ravaris
John and Pat Galanis	Vladimir and Galina Repin
Anthony and Carol Georgelas	Emanuel and Marilyn Rouvelas
Jim and Cynthia Glakas	Stratis and Maria Sapuntzakis
Joanna Green	Michael and Larissa Sivy
Demosthenis Grivas	Thomas and Archelle Skuce
Mike and Eleni Hadjimichael	Jeff and Cynthia Smith
Nadim and Vera Hawa	Constantine Sofologis
Nicholas and Asha Ioanou	Nick and Elizabeth Spyros
Greg and Ashley Joiner	Sarah Spyros
Andrew and Vasiliki Kaffes	David and Anna Strafford
George Kaladze	Moska Stratis
Themis Kalaris	Dwaine and Irene Thomas
Alex and Debbie Kangelaris	Peter Thomas
Pete and Sylvia Karagiorgis	Angelo and Anna Tjoumas
Evangelos and Carol Karagiorgis	Maria Tsapos
Mercina Karagiorgis	George and Timea Zangos
Pete and Constance Kayafas	Maria Zangos
Bill and Kathy Kendrat	Nicholas and Carol Zangos
Daniel Kishi	

a valuable message from the...
HOLY APOSTLES MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



The **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN – PHASE I** train on a *fast track*! Here are some **amazing results**:

- In the first **30 days**, we added more than **\$800,000** taking us to over **\$1.3 million**
 - This represents nearly **60% of our total PHASE I goal**
- Over **50 families** have contributed so far with individual commitments as high as **\$500,000**

Your fellow parishioners have spoken and it's a powerful message! But, we have a long way to go! It's only the first step, take a look:

PHASE I – LAND ACQUISITION

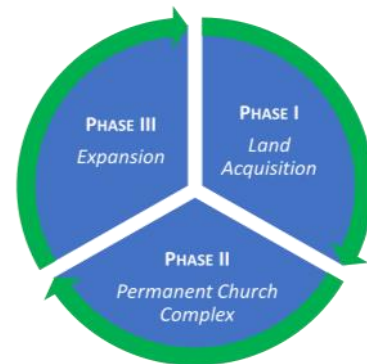
Acquiring the property just off Claiborne Parkway in Ashburn, a feasibility study, general renderings, and initial development.

PHASE II – PERMANENT CHURCH COMPLEX

After a Design Stage with all ministries, groups, and parishioners, requirements will drive defining the key needs of our new home

PHASE III – EXPANSION

The Phase II Design Stage and Capital Campaign Phase II & III success will define details and requirements for our long-term needs



HOW YOU CAN HELP – NETWORK BASED GIVING



If we tap into our resources, it's amazing what we can achieve! Here are some ideas to help you raise money for your church!

- Talk to **family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors** about helping!
- Are you part of a **professional organization** that can help?
- Do you have **connections** with other **charities** who can support us?
- Your **employer** may have a **charitable giving program**, right?



CHAT TODAY!

To learn more about how you can help, schedule a **FIRESIDE CHAT** today! About **35% of our Stewards** experienced a session and found it to be a great **information exchange**. Your **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN volunteers, fellow parishioners**, have poured **over 5,000 hours** into this effort. Isn't it worth just **60 minutes of your time** to help decide our **FUTURE**, through our **FAITH**, making it available **FOR ALL**?



Greek School Program

Ellinomatheia:

October 7, 2018 – June 7, 2019

(Every Sunday at 2:00PM)

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

Elementary School program

(Every Wednesday 5:00-6:45PM)

October 17, 2018 – June 5, 2019)

Grammar-translation-conversation classroom:

Based on age appropriate material, (PreK-K through 7th grade) the focus is on “natural language”, and habit formation which is the key to learning. During conversation, when students make mistakes, teachers will gently correct them; when they use the language correctly, they will be praised. In this way, at the end of each class the students are able to determine a grammatical rule for themselves.

Learning Greek with Theater (various ages)

Every other Sunday (2:00 – 3:45PM)

(October 28, 2018 – June 9, 2019) The objective is to simply learn the language with a communicative approach. Students learn by action. With the help of the teachers the students will work on a theater project which will be presented to the public at the end of the school year.

Greek Language Workshops

Express Greek

Weekend Workshops throughout the year for adults and high schoolers (Each workshop lasts five hours and includes variety of material. The focus is on the composition of phrases and conversation – Students may choose to attend as many workshops as they wish) Minimum participation 5 students per workshop. Dates and time to be arranged between teachers and interested students.

For Further details please contact:

- Ergini Martnishn: (All programs)

ergini@aol.com, 703-6524426

- Vicky Kalograni: (Elementary school

program) vickykalograni@gmail.com

- Athanasia Dacey; (Ellinomatheia

program) sdacey@comcast.net



Altar Boy oath of service and blessing given by Father George on October 14, 2018.



GOYA

We started this Fall with many great events for our GOYAnS. In October and November, our GOYAnS were invited to and attended dinner/dances at St. George in Bethesda, MD, St. Sophia in DC, and St. Katherine in Falls Church as part of each church's regional GOYA basketball tournament weekend. It was a great opportunity for our GOYAnS to have fun with each other and meet other Orthodox teens from our area. This opportunity is especially wonderful for our teens as we do not have our own facility to offer such events. Another great reason to move to our own church campus! Our children deserve it!

Our GOYAnS also participated in two "Career and Faith" discussions. In October we featured our Stewards Paul Orphanides of Keller Williams Realty, a past President of the Parish Council, and Lisa Branner Orphanides of Marriott International, a current Parish Council member. In November we featured our Stewards Con Sofologis, formerly in the US Secret Service, a past President of the Parish Council and a current PC member, and Ron Baldinger, an American Airlines pilot and former US Air Force pilot, and current Stewardship Chair. All gave great insights into their careers and how their faith has played a part in their business decisions. We thank them for sharing their wisdom and lessons learned!

Our GOYAnS also had a service opportunity in November to assist our Philoptochos bake spanakopitas and tiropitas for their annual bake sale.

In December we will have a GOYA Alumni College Discussion where we invite recent GOYA alums to share their college experience and tips for success post high school.

We wish our teens and their families a blessed Christmas!

In God's service,

Lia Economou

GOYA Advisor

liaecon@comcast.net



Hope and Joy

Happy Fall, Hope & Joy families!

We were pleased to kick off our 2018-2019 season with a meeting at the church on October 1st.

For our meeting activity we did one recommended by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America called "Building a House for Jesus". The objective of the activity is for young people to realize that their body is a temple where Christ lives, and that they need to continually clean it so God can shine through them in all they do.

The activity worked like this: children were broken up into small groups and each group was given a brown paper bag filled with a variety of materials (e.g., play dough, straws, sticks, yarn, popsicle sticks) and asked to build a beautiful house for Jesus using only the materials in the bag. Each group showed off their creation after it was complete, describing why it was a good house for Jesus to live in.

After the presentations, I told them that while all the houses are beautiful, I knew of an even more beautiful, more perfect house – each one of them. We talked about how Christ lives in each of us, and thus it's important to comport ourselves in a godly way.

It's never too late to join Hope & Joy! This ministry is for all children ages 5-12, and it's designed to lay a foundation of Orthodox Faith early in life. It's also a terrific opportunity for our children to have fun and make friends at Holy Apostles! During the 2018-2019 school year we'll meet at church from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the following dates: October 1st, November 5th, December 3rd, January 7th, February 4th, May 6th, and June 3rd. To sign up or with questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at ashleydjoiner@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Ashley Joiner
Director, Hope & Joy



Is Today's Real Estate Market "ALL GREEK" to You?

Buying or Selling, I Speak the Language

**Don't Let Your Home
Fall Into Ruins While
You Wait For a Buyer!**

**My Experience
Is Your
Advantage!**



PAUL ORPHANIDES

paulO@novahometeam.com

703.929.0811 | www.novahometeam.com

Keller Williams Loudoun Gateway, 20130 Lakeview Center Plaza, Ashburn, VA 20147



CERTIFIED DIVORCE
PROPERTY EXPERT





Philoptochos

Philoptochos continues to actively support the church with our time, talent, and treasure. We enthusiastically participate at church and support projects locally, nationally and globally. Everyone is invited and welcome to join our philanthropic organization. You have the choice of how involved you would like to be. We encourage your support.

We had our first happy hour in September at Burton's. Thanks to everyone who came out for a fun evening. We hope to have more in the New Year.

November found us preparing pitas for our annual Thanksgiving sale and gathering holiday food bags for Loudoun Hunger Relief. Thanks to all who came to help and for your generosity. Those in need will truly appreciate your thoughtfulness. Many children go hungry on weekends and during school breaks. We put together snack packs for children who accompany their moms at Women Giving Back. We plan to give them out when we volunteer in December. Check the calendar and come out to join us!

We will once again be offering vasilopitas and tsourekia for your Christmas and New Year tables. Don't forget to place your order!

As always we wish you all a blessed Christmas and a new year filled with good health, happiness and peace in our world.

With my deepest gratitude,

Alexis Cleveland, apcphiloptochos@gmail.com



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PAREA

Beloved PAREA family!

Happy and blessed seventh Anniversary to our PAREA!

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all our PAREA friends for your incredibly loyal participation throughout the years! *"It is difficult to imagine a month without our PAREA!"* said one of our PAREA friends! *"We feel at home, it is such a warm environment!"* said another! We celebrate birthdays, name days and other important events in our lives. As a family. Because PAREA is our family!

On December 16th, our PAREA will again this year be offering platters with sweet treats to the elders of our church. **HOPE** and **JOY** are working hard to prepare the Christmas cards that will accompany the platters. A huge thank you to all our wonderful bakers who offer their time and talents in preparation of these very tasty and thoughtful treats!

As we celebrate our 7th anniversary on **December 4th**, our PAREA gathering will take place at the **Blair house** (47753 Allegheny circle, Potomac Falls, VA, 20165), with a **fasting potluck luncheon**. Please come and join us! RSVP to Marina (703-349-1842 or blairmarina@gmail.com)

From all of us here at PAREA, we wish all our parishioners **Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!** Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Ευτυχισμένος ο Καινούργιος Χρόνος!

Marina Blair
PAREA Chair
blairmarina@gmail.com
703-349-1842



PAREA Lunch at OPA





Capital Women's Care Ashburn, we provide exceptional care for every season of your life.

We are one of 55 [Capital Women's Care](#) locations. CWC is the largest and most successful OBGYN practice in the mid-Atlantic region. Here at Capital Women's Care Ashburn, we strive to give you the care you desire, regardless of your needs, and always provide a place where you can feel understood and prioritized.

We're so excited to meet you and provide you with the tools to help you live your best, healthiest life.

Meet Dr. Nadim Hawa

MD, MS, FACOG, FACS

Dr. Hawa earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Neuroscience (1999, 2001) at the American University of Beirut. He later received his medical training at the University of Balamand in Lebanon (2005). He moved to the USA in 2006 and joined the obstetrics and gynecology residency program at The George Washington University Hospital (2010). He later pursued a fellowship in advanced laparoscopic and robotic surgery through the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL) at GWUH (2011). He is board certified and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the American College of Surgeons.

He enjoys the minimally invasive approaches to major surgeries with same day procedures and fast recoveries moving away from traditional open surgeries. He is fluent in English, French, Arabic, and medical Spanish.



"Hi, I'm Dr. Nadim Hawa and I'm here to help you live your healthiest life and guide you to the preventative care that you deserve.

I have studied Gynecology and Obstetrics for over 12 years, and I specialize in minimally invasive surgical procedures. My colleague likes to say that it is, "not your mother's gynecological surgeries anymore," and he's right. The procedures I perform are non-invasive, same day surgeries, and with minimal recovery. My patients are doing regular activities such as driving within 48 hours after their surgery.

I encourage natural birth with minimal intervention. Knowing that Your age, values, beliefs, health, current situation, and future goals all play a role in your obstetrical care.

I'm not here to scold you or pressure you into taking certain medications or undergoing specific procedures, I'm just here to give you the recommendations and guidance you need to live your best, healthiest life – whether you're navigating the best birth control option for you, having menstrual problems, experiencing sexual dysfunction, or going through menopause.

Whatever route we decide to take in your healthcare, I'll be here every step of the way to explain all your options and give my recommendations for what you should consider."



AHEPA

THE AHEPA STORY

AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922 in response to the evils of bigotry and racism that emerged in early 20th century American society. It also helped Greek immigrants assimilate into society. Today, AHEPA brings the ideals of ancient Greece, which includes philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence to the community. Although a majority of the membership is composed of Americans of Greek descent, application for membership is open to anyone who believes in the mission of the organization.

OUR CHAPTER

Founded in 2013, the ΜΟΛΩΝ ΛΑΒΕ Chapter, located in Sterling, VA, in the Washington DC metro area, is one of the fastest growing Chapters in the United States. With a membership ranging in age from the early 20's to the 90's, the Chapter serves over 50 members. Our name is an ancient Greek phrase that dates back to the year 480 BC, at the Battle of Thermopylae. This epic battle took place between a few thousand Greek soldiers and thousands and thousands of invading forces, who greatly outnumbered the Greeks. The leader of the invading force, in an effort to coerce the Greeks into surrender, encouraged King Leonidas, the leader of the 300 Spartans, to surrender and give up their weapons. Leonidas' response? Molon Lave, which translated to Come and Get Them. According to historians, the result of that battle has helped to shape western civilization into what it is today. Molon Lave is a phrase that has inspired throughout the centuries a sense of dignity and pride, and a unique perception of life. Coming from many backgrounds devoted to giving back to the community through many initiatives, we work very closely with the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church with most of the Brothers are also church members. The Chapter also holds monthly meetings, social events, and drives community outreach programs. Thank you very much for visiting us as we look forward to seeing our Chapter continue to grow and further expand its local support efforts.

JOIN TODAY

From its inception AHEPA has been an integral part of the Greek Orthodox Christian community in America. Working hand in hand, AHEPA Chapters throughout the country have made significant contributions to build, remodel, and enhance churches by raising millions of dollars. In fact, the organization is a key component of the efforts to build the St. Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center in New York City, with almost every Chapter, including ours, participating. From community dinners, picnics, social events, and more, AHEPA Chapters are part of the fabric of many parish communities, including ours giving to many Holy Apostles ministries, Capital Campaign, and more.



JOIN THE MOVEMENT



CONNECT
WITH US



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FOLLOW US





Parishioners in the News

Potomac Falls swimmer earns All-American honors

Potomac Falls High School sophomore Janika Perezous has been recognized as an All-America swimmer by the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association (NISCA) for her performance in the 100-yard backstroke during the 2017-18 school year.

She was one of 10 high school freshmen nationwide to receive the designation, Loudoun County Public Schools officials said.

Additionally, Perezous made the USA Swimming Scholastic All-America List. Unlike NISCA All-America status, which is based on athletic performance alone, the USA Swimming honor requires a



Courtesy Photo/Richard Anderson (pfhstheroar.com)
Janika Perezous

combination of athletic achievement and academic excellence: at least one Junior National Qualifying time is needed.

Perezous had such “cut times” in two events, coupled with a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.50.

Loudoun Times Mirror, September 7, 2018

Stone Bridge Families Ask Board to Reschedule Sunday Morning Commencement Ceremony - Loudoun Now, November 29, 2018

School Board members got an earful Tuesday night from Stone Bridge High School seniors and their parents who are unhappy that the commencement ceremony for the school's class of 2019 is scheduled for a Sunday morning.

The graduation ceremony was initially planned for Tuesday, June 11, but a scheduling conflict prompted school leaders to instead move it to 10 a.m. Sunday, June 9. Loudoun County has commencement ceremonies for 15 public high schools planned over three days, with as many as six ceremonies in one day. But the 11 students, parents and church clergy who approached board members Tuesday night asked that they avoid school events on Sundays.

“Sunday is a day of rest,” said Denise Landell, who contacted 20 churches to let them know of the scheduling conflict between Sunday services and Stone Bridge's commencement ceremony. “I respectfully urge the School Board to work creatively to serve all families of Loudoun County.”

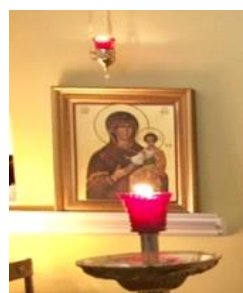
Melissa Parkin, the organist at her church, said she's torn between keeping the Sabbath day holy or attending her commencement ceremony. “My graduation has turned into a big conflict for me.”

Daniel Falrholm, a bishop at the Church of Latter Day Saints, said his congregation includes 40 high school students, many of whom volunteer to help put on the Sunday services. “Please reschedule this date so that my congregation, and people of other faiths that typically worship on Sundays, don't have to choose between graduation and church.”

The School Board did not make any comments about the speakers' requests or take any immediate action.



Offerings for this Year ~ 2018



1) We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the Ladies, Families & Ministries for supporting this Sacred effort by baking or purchasing Prosfora. The following Ladies or Ministries offered 20 Prosfora each for one full Month:

Marina Afentakis	AHEPA	Kathy Kendrat	Mariana Korulaki
Effie Koutsourais	Nellie Louh	Nick & Laura Louh	Philoptochos
Artemis Scordalakis	Sunday School		Maria Tsapos

The following Ladies offered 5-10 Prosfora in honor or in memory of their family members, too: Mercina Karageorge, Denise Lansdell (Summer Camp) & Elpida Skuce

2) *The Wine for Holy Communion donated by Nick & Laura Louh & Mrs Moska Stratis*

3) For all the Candles in the Altar, the Votives for all the Kantilia (Narthex & Iconostasis), (Red Glass Cups, Clear Glass Cups, Plastic Cups, Lighters, Charcoal, Incense, etc.)
Sponsors: Mariana Korulaki, Nick & Laura Louh and Irene Thomas

Thank you so much for your Kindness, Support & Love for our Church!

Rev. Fr. George Alexson, Proistamenos

Effie Koutsourais & Presvytera Joanna Alexson



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.

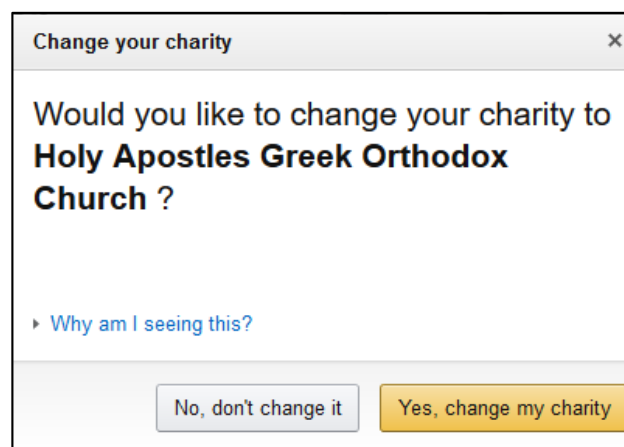
The Fundraising Committee has added our Church as one of the available charities on Amazon Smile.

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

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