



The Light



Volume 5, Issue 5

✠ To Fos ✠

November/December 2011

The newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County



METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

Beloved Parishioners,

A glance at the church calendar reminds us that the month of November abounds in the commemoration of some of Orthodoxy's greatest saints. On November 21st, for example, we celebrate the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple.

Here we are reminded by the troparion for the day, "Today is the prelude of God's good will and the heralding of the salvation of mankind."

For us living in this great country there is yet another day set aside, although not found on the liturgical calendar, during which we celebrate God's good will and love. This year, on November 24th, we will be called, as a nation "under God," to observe one of the most loved of our national holidays, Thanksgiving.

We are called to give thanks even though there is so much turmoil in our world and society. Hunger, poverty, ever increasing foreclosures on homes, unemployment, the threat of terrorism at home and abroad, seemingly unending and meaningless wars, increasing distress in and distrust with all levels of government, our financial institutions and the ability of our leaders to find solutions to the problems affecting so many of our fellow citizens. Yet, on Thanksgiving Day millions of Americans will sit down to enjoy the fellowship of family and friends. And, they will raise their voices to thank God for what is acknowledged universally as life in the greatest country in the world.

Is there a way, however, that we can enhance the meaningfulness of our celebrations on this day? Certainly, we can do something to provide a meal for the less fortunate, perhaps even volunteer at a soup kitchen. But, is there not something beyond even these good deeds? I believe there is.

First, we need to remember and honor the Source of every good and perfect gift that we receive and enjoy in our daily lives. We must not forget that whether in abundance or in deprivation the watchful eye of God never closes. If there is love it is because He taught us how to love and expects us to share His love with one another. If there is hunger or hurt, He expects His people to take care "of the least of these My brethren." There is the possibility of salvation because He was willing to send His only-begotten Son so the world might know the truth in all its fullness and the power of love in all its grandeur.

Thanksgiving Day need not be solely a secular holiday. We can sanctify this day by recognizing God, the Holy Trinity, as the well spring of all that is good, useful, sacred and sanctifying in a world that too often forgets Him and focuses with too much energy on material goods, while neglecting the spiritual power of Christ's transfiguring grace. Let us give thanks in the true meaning of the word, expressed ultimately in the Eucharist: "We praise Thee, we bless Thee, and we give thanks unto Thee, our God."

INSIDE:

- *From the Parish Council President*
- *Catechetical School*
- *Philoptochos*
- *GOYA*
- *Contact List*

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

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From the Parish Council President

The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County is brimming with activity now that school is going again. As always, there are many efforts underway behind the scenes designed to enhance your experience at the Church, expand our ministries, and define the future of our Parish as we continue to grow.

Both our Sunday School and Greek School are in full swing. It's not too late to sign your children up for either of these schools, so please check the website for details if you'd like your children to participate. Right now, full time planning is underway for the Taste of Greece in February 2012, and the 4th Annual GOPLC Greek Festival scheduled for May 2012. Both of these efforts require quite a bit of planning and we are in need of volunteers to help with both. If you are interested in helping with the Taste of Greece planning, please contact Angelo Tjoumas at angelo852@verizon.net. For help with the Greek Festival in May, please contact Craig Dodson at flat6bkr@yahoo.com.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

I have to interrupt my train of thought here to make a plea. I've closely examined what is going on behind the scenes at our Parish...and let me break down for you the efforts that are constantly being worked by a few of our volunteers (in no particular order):

1. Festival Committee
2. Taste of Greece Committee
3. Stewardship Committee
4. Marketing Committee
5. Future Planning Committee
6. Fundraising Committee
7. Religious Activities Committee
8. GOYA
9. HOPE/JOY
10. Greek Dance
11. Sunday School

12. Philoptochos
13. St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival
14. Journey to Orthodoxy
15. etc., etc.

Why do I mention this? It's important that you all understand what the few behind the scenes dedicating their time and efforts are dealing with. We have 131 families as Stewards of our Parish. That is approximately 260 adults...and this doesn't include those who attend our Parish on a regular basis who have not filled out Stewardship Cards this year. By my count there are approximately 30 additional families who are supporting us...or another 60 or so adults are regular attendees. So, out of approximately 320 adults who are members of our Parish...less than 10% are helping with the above committees and ministries on a regular basis. We have approximately 20-25 adults doing 95% of the work involved with all of the committees and ministries you see above on a volunteer basis. Some are committing up to 20 hours a week on top of their work and family obligations to keep our Parish running.

Let me give you some examples to help you understand how so few people are starting to be over-worked:

Mike Koutsourais is our Stewardship Committee Chairperson...he just "volunteered" for the job with some heavy coaxing from me. Mike also teaches Sunday School with his wife Effie. Oh...and Mike is also on the Parish Council. Mike needs a team to help with Stewardship...right now, he only has Lia Economou.

Speaking of Effie...she teaches Sunday School with Mike, and also co-Chairs our GOYA group along with Debbie Kangelaris.

Debbie co-chairs GOYA and also co-Chairs our Greek Dance Troup with Sophia Orfanides...Sophia also co-Chairs our HOPE/JOY group with Eleni Hadjimichael.

Breaking this chain...lets look at Cynthia Smith. Cynthia is President of Philoptochos, Chairperson of the Religious Activities Committee, runs our coffee hour every week, and is a major contributor to

From the Parish Council President (continued)

Breakfast with Santa, Taste of Greece, and the Greek Festival every year...she is at these events sun up to sun down every day they are running. Oh, Cynthia is on the Parish Council also.

How about Nick Spyros...our Legal Advisor, member of the Parish Council, and "Entertainment Sub-Committee" chairperson on the Festival Committee. He's also on the Future Planning Committee.

Lia Economou...she volunteers as our Office Manager helping Fr. George and myself during the week with administrative stuff, she has also spearheaded our transition to ParishSoft for keeping our Stewardship information straight, will help Mike with Stewardship, is on the Parish Council, etc., etc.

With apologies to some of our other very hard workers like Susan Dorn, Vasilis Fotopolous, Spiro Anthony, Niki Lelis, Nick Zangos, Marina Blair, and others... I think you all get my point. We have 20-25 people doing multiple jobs within the Parish...sometimes 3 to 4 jobs each. I say again...WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As a Vice President in my everyday working life, I've seen this formula fail time and time again. The small number of volunteers we currently have doing the job of triple the number of people actually needed is a recipe for disaster. Right now their desire and love for the Church and our Parish drives them through the long days and working weekends. How long can we keep this up? If we could get 30-40 more volunteers to step up and help with some of these very important committees and ministries, the results would be outstanding for all of us. Otherwise, there will be balls dropped, we will lose volunteers who will just plain get burned out.

Please...if you have the time, let us know if you can help. Email me at aubinb@verizon.net or call my cell at 703.625.4484 if you have any questions, or would like to volunteer.

Thank you all...

With Gratitude in Christ,

Bill

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Catechetical School

Beloved Orthodox Christians; greetings in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

This year's Sunday school participation has been the largest ever in the short history of our parish. As of the writing of this article we have 105 children registered for Sunday school, from Pre-K through the 12th grade, and 20 dedicated staff members. This is just another indication of how far we have grown in just 5 short years. These children are like seeds which, if properly nurtured, will grow and will one day become the leaders of our community. They must be well-cared for and nourished in order to thrive and be healthy. We as parents do our best day-in and day-out. However, I'm not just talking about their physical needs, but their spiritual needs as well. Our focus and commitment is to introduce them to the Word of God. In John 1:14 the Apostle writes; "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us". The Word became a living entity in the form of His Son, Jesus Christ. As we approach this holiday season, we need to be mindful of this. The commercialism that exists in our society can be quite overwhelming. The modern day Orthodox Christian family needs to re-focus and re-set our priorities. I'm happy and proud to see this in our humble parish every Sunday through the enthusiasm of our children, and the parents who bring them to church. Please get involved with your children's spiritual growth and ask them what they learn each Sunday. Read the Bible, discuss with them the things of God and the practices of our Orthodox faith, and allow the Word of God to become a living entity in your home and in your life.

May God Bless you all!

In His Service,
Nick Zangos
Catechetical School Director

2012 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE GOPLC	2012 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE – GREEK ORTHODOX PARISH OF LOUDOUN COUNTY
Name: _____	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.
Total Amt: \$ _____ <i>(for Jan 2012 – Dec 2012)</i>	Out of our love and gratitude for all His blessings, we would like to pledge AN HOUR'S PAY PER WEEK (i.e. 2.5% of annual household income) or the amount of \$ _____ for the year 2012.
Payment frequency: ___ Annual ___ Semi-annual ___ Quarterly ___ Monthly ___ Weekly	This amount will be paid as follows: <input type="checkbox"/> Annually <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly
CUT and KEEP this portion for YOUR RECORDS	Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____ Phone: _____
	Your pledge is strictly confidential. PLEASE Complete Other Side →

**Please join us for a special Stewardship Sunday luncheon
after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday November 13, 2011**

The Philoptochos

Oh the beauty of fall, with the trees turning the beautiful shades of red, orange and yellow. It's the start of those short days and longer nights. If only the rain will stop and the snow stay away. School is well under way and the fall sports season rolls on.

We are more than just a bunch of ladies that bake for Yiayia's Bake Shop and sell bread at Easter time. We are faithful, loving ladies that help our Parish and provide assistance for those in need. We are sending letters and care packages to your college students and making up Orthodox packets for our Orthodox troops. We are gathering gift cards for The Loudoun Area Women's Shelter and doing a whole lot more.

Did you know that we are also a part of the Children's AGAPE Foundation of the Greater Washington Area Philoptochos Societies? The mission of this group is to provide help for Orthodox children needing medical treatment but without the resources to afford it. The annual Agape Tea is the major fundraiser for this part of Philoptochos. Last month we helped a family cover some of their medical bills. There are more needy families out there and we will be busy in the coming months.

Please mark your calendars for the events coming later this fall and winter:

November 12 – We have invited Robert Krantz, noted author of "Falling in Love with Sophia and Divine Liturgy" to come to our church where he will speak and sign copies of his book.

December 11- Breakfast with Santa. Watch for more details as they are developed.

Taste of Greece is coming in February. Early in February we need help baking pastries for this event.

Keep in mind, we all work together for one goal.

He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. - Ephesians 4:16



GOYA

Our GOYA is off to a great start! We have a full calendar for the next few months. In September, we joined the HOPE and JOY for the 7th Annual One Mile Walk for the Homeless along with the Good Shepherd Alliance. We had several families join us from our parish. It was a very fulfilling experience and enjoyed some fellowship. Also in September, the GOYA went apple picking at Crooked Run Orchard in Purcellville, then baked and sold apple pies as a fundraiser. It was a great success!

On September 25th we had our 1st official GOYA meeting and elected our officers. Our new executive officers are: President-George Daoud, Vice President-Melanie Kangelaris, Secretaries-Eleni Orfanides and Gianni Kouiroukidis, Historian-Alexandra Dacey and Lauren Funk, Seargent-at-Arms-Annamaria Kendrat. Congratulations to all our officers. We are confident that they will do a great job this year!

October 2nd we opened our ongoing food pantry in which our parish will join us to offer food to those in need. We have started with a Thanksgiving food drive and will be delivering the food to the Loudoun Food Pantry for Thanksgiving meals to those less fortunate.

November 6th or 13th we will be sponsoring our 1st Adopt-a-Yiayia-Pappou event (to be discussed at our next meeting).

December 2nd we will be having our 2nd annual "Deck the Halls" Christmas party at our church hall to have fellowship and decorate the Church's social hall.

Also in December we are hoping to bake and sell traditional Greek cookies as our 2nd fundraiser. (Date TBA)

December 18th is the 6th Annual Christmas Pageant in which our GOYAn's always play major roles.

As you can see we are keeping our GOYAn's happily busy! If you are interested in signing up your teen for our very active GOYA program, registration forms are available each Sunday. The cost to join this year is \$15. Please contact Debbie Kangelaris (kangelaris@msn.com) or Effie Koutsourais (emkouts1@aol.com).



Congratulations to our GOYA High School graduates (Class of 2011):

Dionissios- Alex Batistatos (last years VA state winner of the St. John's Oratorical Festival) is currently attending McGill University in Montreal, Canada and majoring in Philosophy and Theology.

Kristin Broening (Former GOYA V.P.) is currently attending Northern Virginia Community College and majoring in Liberal Arts.

May God bless you in your schooling and future careers. Our parish misses you and we look forward to hearing about your succesful college careers!

Fellowship Hour

Everyone enjoys Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy each Sunday. Earlier this year we established that each of the various ministries would “adopt” two months during the year to supply the food items for Fellowship Hour. If you are a member of those ministries and not “the leader” please do your part to contribute to the efforts of that ministry to supply food and help set up and clean up.

If you are not part of those ministries, you can still help. If you want to celebrate an event or sponsor a special Sunday Coffee Hour, please do. Contact Cynthia Smith at silvercps@hotmail.com to schedule your Coffee Hour. Remember the Parish provides the coffee, juice, the cups and all the other paper good. We also have serving trays and utensils.

If everyone does their part we can continue to enjoy a beautiful Fellowship Hour. Here is the Fellowship Hour Schedule for 2011-2012:

2011

November- Greek School

December – Sunday School – Breakfast with Santa 11 Dec (Philoptochos)

2012

January – Hope/Joy

February- GOYA

March- Greek School-Independence Day!

April- Sunday School

May- Philoptochos

June- Parish Council

Taste of Greece - CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Our Taste of Greece is February 17-19, 2012 at the Ashburn Volunteer Fire Department. Volunteers are needed for the following days to work the event and do step, breakdown and clean-up:

Thursday, February 16 – set up

Friday, February 17 – set up, event staffing, clean-up

Saturday, February 18 – set up, event staffing, clean-up

Sunday, February 19 – set up, event staffing, clean-up and breakdown

Contact Angelo Tjoumas to volunteer at angelo852@verizon.net

4th Annual

Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County

TASTE OF GREECE

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

FRIDAY

February 17

4:00PM – 9:00PM

SATURDAY

February 18

11:00AM – 9:00PM

SUNDAY

February 19

11:00AM – 8:00PM

(We will be serving snow or shine!)

Enjoy a variety of delicious Greek dishes including: **Gyros**—America's favorite Greek style sandwich, **Souvlaki**—chicken kabobs, **Pastitsio**—Greek style lasagna, **Spanakopita**—deep dish spinach pie, **Moussaka**—a creamy, egg-plant casserole, **Greek salad**, **Baklava**—a traditional Greek dessert, and other various Greek Desserts, **Greek coffee**. Kids meals available.

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ATTENTION all employed by Loudoun County, Fire and Rescue Personnel, and Active Military Personnel: Present your badge and receive a **\$1.00 discount** on all platters ordered.

For more information visit www.GreekOrthodoxLoudoun.org.

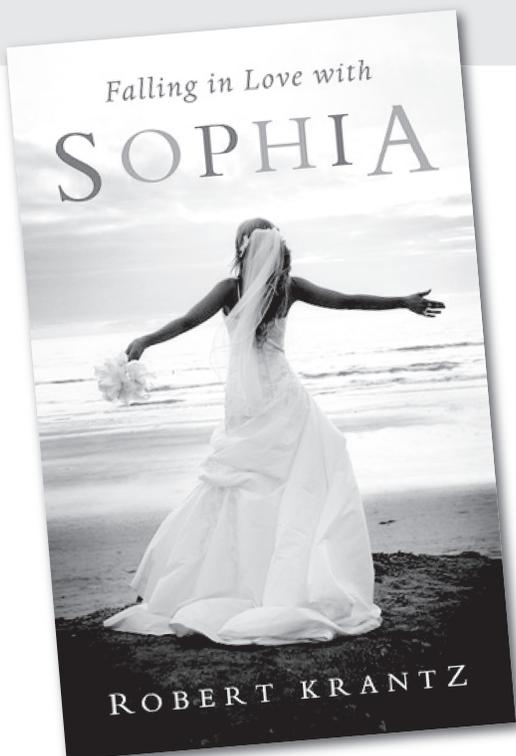


Cash, VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER accepted.

Contact List

Clergy	Father George Alexson	703-314-6421	frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com
Protos-Psalter	Nick Grivas	703-798-7979	papounico3@aim.com
Parish Council President	Bill Aubin	703-625-4484	aubinb@verizon.net
Parish Council Vice President	Vasilis Fotopoulos	703-999-8568	fuhuaxi@gmail.com
Parish Council Secretary	Susan Dorn	571-333-1733	ssdorn@aol.com
Parish Council Treasurer	Niki Lelis	703-608-4064	nlelis1@gmail.com
Parish Council Assistant Treasurer	TBD		
Council Committees Stewardship	Mike Koutsourais	703-669-6857	mkouts@aol.com
Council Committees Fundraising	Paul Orphanides	703-929-0811	porphanides@myselectproperties.com
Greek Festival Committee Chairman	Craig Dobson		flat6bkr@yahoo.com
Council Committees Communications	Susan Dorn	571-333-1733	ssdorn@aol.com
Philoptochos	Cynthia Smith	703-478-0522	silvercps@hotmail.com
Catechetical School Director	Nick Zangos	703-391-6075	sundayschool@greekorthodoxloudoun.org
Catechetical School Assistant Director	Maria Mollo	(703) 966-3560	sundayschool@greekorthodoxloudoun.org
GOYA President	George Daoud	703-669-6857	gdaoud10@aol.com
HOPE / JOY	Eleni Hadjimichael Sophia Orfanides	703-570-0308 540-751-1704	eleniadimas@gmail.com manganiti@hotmail.com
Greek School Director	Vasilia Ravaris	703-779-4929	vasilia@live.com
Website	Maria Mollo	703-966-3560	webmaster@greekorthodoxloudoun.org
Coffee & Fellowship Hour Host	Cynthia Smith	703-478-0522	silvercps@hotmail.com
Religious Committee (Special Events & Services)	Cynthia Smith	703-478-0522	silvercps@hotmail.com

Book Signing with Robert Krantz



**Saturday, November 12
3PM - 5:30 PM**

(Light refreshments will be offered.)

**Greek Orthodox Parish of
Loudoun County**

Robert Krantz is a Greek-American (Krantz was shortened from Karountzos by his grandparents) who has acted in numerous movies, television movies and television shows, along with having written and sold screenplays to major motion pictures studios including Sony, Fox, and Columbia Pictures. Krantz, who graduated from the University of Southern California's Film and Television program, also wrote, produced, and acted in the movie *Do You Wanna Dance?*

Falling in Love with Sophia is the first novel he has written. He hopes to make the book into a movie. It recently became an international best selling book on Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

He has also just released his second book, "*Guide to the Divine Liturgy*".

Currently, Krantz lives with his wife Tricia and their three sons, Chris, Nick and George in Aliso Viejo, California.



For more information, contact: Cynthia Smith, gopladies@gmail.com, 703-408-3367.

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Presented by The Ladies Philoptochos of The Greek Orthodox Parish Of Loudoun



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Coffee Hour Schedule

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

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