

The Light To Φως



Holy Apostles Greek
Orthodox Church
Loudoun County, VA

2020, Issue 2
Mar-Apr

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

A Message from Father George Alexson

Our Road to Emmaus



‘And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” (Luke 24:32)

Beloved Parishioners and Friends,

This post-Resurrection passage from St. Luke’s Gospel is a powerful reminder of how a meeting with the Lord can transform our life. There is but one thing needed: an attentive ear and an open heart.

Let’s begin by considering the range of emotions experienced by the two disciples during this encounter. As they walked with Jesus, their emotional scale vacillated from the depths of despondency to bewilderment and, eventually, to the majestic heights of spiritual joy.

Verse seventeen describes them as σκυθρωπός—that is, grim-faced, looking sad, dejected. It was in this condition that the Risen Lord joined them on their way to Emmaus. For them, the events in Jerusalem—His trial, conviction, public humiliation and crucifixion—were a heart rending disaster, dashing all their hopes that, “it was He who was going to redeem Israel.” Their sorrow, however, was tempered by even stranger events: “Certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early...did not find His body...saying that they had seen a vision of angels who said He was alive!” This news “astonished” them, “And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them,” (Luke 24:11). It wasn’t enough to dispel their despair.

After joining them on the road and inquiring as to the cause of their palpable dejection, the Master admonishes them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” At this point, the disciples are given a crash course in scriptural hermeneutics: “And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

St. John Chrysostom, commenting on how Jesus must have unveiled the hidden meanings of the word to them, writes, “And therefore our Lord goes on to show that all these things did not happen in a common way, but from the predestined purpose of God. Hence it follows, And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, he expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself: As if He said, Since you are slow I will render you quick, by explaining to you the mysteries of the Scriptures.” Chrysostom suggests, for example, that Jesus must have employed passages like that concerning the sacrifice of Abraham who, “when releasing Isaac he sacrificed the ram, prefigured Christ’s sacrifice. But in the other writings of the Prophets also there are scattered about mysteries of Christ’s cross and the resurrection.”

When the three travelers finally reached Emmaus, they invited the Lord to stay with them, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” Jesus accepted their invitation, knowing what would follow: “Now when it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.”

Chrysostom reminds us that it was not their bodily eyes that were opened, but their spiritual eyes. St. Augustine comments, “For they walked not with their eyes shut, but there was something within them which did not permit them to know that which they saw, which a mist, darkness, or some kind of moisture, frequently occasions. Not that the Lord was not able to transform His flesh that it should be really a different

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During these difficult times, we thank our Parish Council and Father George who continue to offer services via live streaming and conduct our church’s day-to-day operations. Thank you also to our parishioners who continue to support our church through online giving:

www.holyapostlesgreekoorthodox.org/givingnow





Metropolis of New Jersey

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church



A Message from Father George Alexson cont..

form from that which they were accustomed to behold; since in truth also before His passion, He was transfigured in the mount, so that His face was bright as the sun. But it was not so now. For we do not unfitly take this obstacle in the sight to have been caused by Satan, that Jesus might not be known. But still it was so permitted by Christ up to the sacrament of the bread, that by partaking of the unity of His body, the obstacle of the enemy might be understood to be removed, so that Christ might be known."

St. Augustine does well to remind us that the Evil One thrives on distorting our view of the Lord. But we needn't fear his feeble powers, "for what is impossible for man is possible with God." When the heart is prepared to receive Him, He will enter gladly and open our eyes. The blessed Theophylact, commenting on this passage, says, "But He also implies another thing, that the eyes of those who receive the sacred bread are opened that they should know Christ. For the Lord's flesh has in it a great and ineffable power." As soon as He vanished from their sight, the two disciples recalled not only their conversation with Christ but the essential phenomenon caused by it: "And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" Καιομένη (from the original Greek text), that is, burning, is used metaphorically. It is the same word used to describe the "burning bush" where Moses first encountered the word of God (Exodus 3:1-4). As on Mount Horeb, the Word, without consuming their hearts as would a natural fire, begins to sear into the depths of their consciousness the power of Christ's presence: "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death" (Philip. 3:10). The word warmed their hearts, slowly thawing their doubts, while their eyes were opened by the breaking of the bread, an action with eucharistic connotations: "O Master who loves mankind, who for our sakes didst die and rise again, and gave us these awesome and life-creating Mysteries for the good and sanctification of our souls and bodies; let them be for the healing of soul and body, the repelling of every adversary, the illumining of the eyes of my heart, the peace of my spiritual powers, a faith unashamed, a love unfeigned, the fulfilling of wisdom, the observing of Thy commandments, the receiving of Thy divine grace, and the attaining of Thy Kingdom" (excerpt from a post communion prayer).

The final result in this miraculous encounter was to set them back on the road to Jerusalem, where they "found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, 'the Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon. And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of the bread.'"

At the beginning of Lent we heard this solemn plea chanted,

Weekday Liturgical Schedule for Holy Week and Pascha, 2020

April 11 Raising of Lazarus	Orthros, 8:15 A.M. Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
April 12 Palm Sunday Palm Sunday Eve	Orthros, 8:45 A.M. Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. Orthros, 7:00 P.M.
April 13 Holy Monday	Orthros, 7:00 P.M.
April 14 Holy Tuesday	Orthros, 7:00 P.M.
April 15 Holy Wednesday	Sacrament of Holy Unction, 3:00 P.M. Orthros, 7:00 P.M.
April 16 Holy Thursday	Vespers and Liturgy (Mystical Supper), 9:30 A.M. Orthros (12 Passion Gospels), 7:00 P.M.
April 17 Holy Friday	Reading of the Royal Hours, 9:00 A.M. Vespers of the Apokathelosis, 3:00 P.M. Orthros and Lamentations at the Tomb, 7:00 P.M.
April 18 Holy Saturday	Vespers and Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. Midnight Office of the Resurrection, 11:00 P.M. The Resurrection of our Lord, 12:00 Midnight Resurrection Orthros and Divine Liturgy
April 19 Holy and Great Pascha	Vespers of Love, 11:00 A.M.

✠
While the church is currently closed to parishioners due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), all services will continue and can be viewed via live streaming at https://twitter.com/HolyApostles_VA.

*Schedule subject to change

following the Gospel reading in Orthros: *Open to me the doors of repentance, o Lifegiver; For my spirit rises early to pray towards Thy holy Temple, bearing the temple of my body all defiled. But in Thy compassion, deliver me, purify me by the lovingkindness of Thy mercy.* If, indeed, we successfully passed through those doors, struggling to "take up our cross" to follow Him—"And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal. 5:24)—we will have passed, by the end of our Lenten journey, from death to life "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (John 5:24). When, at midnight on Pascha, we reach out with our paschal candle to receive the light, we, too, like Cleopas and his companion, will be unable to sit idly by, but will be stirred by the Spirit to go out into the world to proclaim, "Christ is Risen, Truly, He is Risen."

May our Lord give us a blessed Holy Week and a glorious Pascha!

Fr. George



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΗΣ

Pastoral Message March 23, 2020

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy

Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Sisterhood, Faculty and Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools, Directors and Participants of all Youth Organizations, and all devout Orthodox Christians of the Communities of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved in the Lord,

I pray this letter finds you all both physically and spiritually well during these challenging times as we continue our Lenten Journey towards Pascha.

Words can scarcely describe the depth of the current situation being experienced throughout this country and the world regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The issues that have stemmed from this pandemic have tested the confidence of governments, the determination of communities, the resolve of the strong, the endurance of the frail, and the faith of all people.

In these trying times, it can be difficult for some to keep their faith when all they see around them is panic. Yet even as the world is burdened with uneasiness, we as Orthodox Christians must nevertheless remain steadfast in our faith for "God is with us". In the midst of society's despondency, we must recognize that God never abandons us and in the throes of the world's despair, we must project the hope of the Resurrection. How we conduct ourselves is a direct reflection of our personal faith. We cannot give in to sentiments of sensationalism nor can we allow ourselves to be overcome by terror. Instead, we must reflect on the words of our Father when He says, "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10).

Therefore, I implore each and every one of you, do all you can to nurture your faith during these unsure times. When you arise, offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God that He blessed you with another day saying,

"Glory to You, King, God Almighty, who through Your divine and loving providence have consented that I, an unworthy sinner, should rise from sleep and obtain entrance into Your holy house. Accept, Lord, the voice of my prayer as You accept those of Your holy and spiritual powers; and that not through my defiled lips, but from a pure heart and humble spirit, praise may be offered to You so that I also, with the bright lamp of my soul, may become a companion of the wise virgins and glorify You, God the Word, who is glorified in the Father and the Spirit. Amen."



During the course of your day, set aside some time to pray to God and to develop a relationship with Him. When you sit down to eat a meal with your family, thank God for everything He has given to you. When you prepare to go to sleep, thank God for having given you the opportunity to experience His blessings once again saying,

"Lord our God, whatever sins I have committed this day, in word, deed or thought, forgive me, for You are good and love all people. Grant me a peaceful and undisturbed sleep. Protect me from every abuse and plot of the evil one. Raise me up in due time that I may glorify You, for You are blessed, together with Your only begotten Son, and Your all-holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen."

Bring all of your troubles and concerns to Him because He will listen and will strengthen you as needed. As much as possible, keep prayer at the center of your lives because the strength of prayer cannot be underestimated. Furthermore, pray in your home together as a family and make your own home, as St. Paul emphasizes, "κατ' οἶκον ἐκκλησίαν" (Rom. 16:5), that is, a church in the home. Though your homes can never substitute the traditional Eucharistic gathering of the entire community, you can nevertheless bring the spirit of the Apostle's words to fruition by praying and offering thanksgiving to God together as a family.

In the coming days and weeks there will be, undoubtedly, more times of anxiety, but it is at precisely those moments when we will need to pray for the strength and fortitude of God to sustain our faith. There will also come a time when this fierce virus will finally come under control and eventually will come to an end. When this happens, it is imperative that you return to your traditional participation in the Holy Sacraments and in the life of your Communities.

My beloved, even as we continue to be bombarded with the troubling news that has been emanating out of various news sources, do not lose faith and continue to pray. Let us always keep close to our hearts the words of St. Paul, *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"* (Rom. 15:13). Finally, let us all turn towards our common Mother, the Theotokos, who is *"the bodily health's restoration"* as we petition her to intercede for our health and protection. Praying that our loving Lord continues to guard each of you during these difficult times and that the Theotokos protects you all, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

† EVANGELOS
Metropolitan of New Jersey



Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church



Message from the Parish Council President, Constantine Sofologis



Fellow parishioners,

Fellow parishioners, I am honored and humbled to serve as the President of the Parish Council. I thank the past President, Greg Joiner, for his leadership, devotion, and many efforts for the good of our parish.

Lenten Season is upon us and with the recent COVID-19 epidemic, Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church has had to adjust from the way we traditionally participate in services. The recent mandate by Governor Northam has prohibited the gathering of over 10 persons, including houses of worship. In abiding by state laws, as well as direction from the Archdiocese, Father George and the Parish Council are working to provide alternative methods to continue your participation in our services.

Please be sure to visit our webpage for a complete list of days and times, as well as how you can view via live streaming video. You can also find ways to continue ongoing support of our church and these services.

I would briefly like to update you on a few things going on. First, our new Parish Council has been ratified by His Eminence and sworn in by Fr. George. Please join me in welcoming new members Ed Cleveland, Anna Dimitriou, and Maria Plevrakis. We also thank the outgoing members, Greg Joiner (President), Maria Zangos (Treasurer), and Nick Zangos who completed their terms and served many years with dedication and love for our parish.

Second, I would also like to recognize Taste of Greece Chairman Bill Aubin for coordinating another successful year. Our parish youth dancers were a huge hit again and all the volunteers worked tirelessly to provide an amazing experience for our Loudoun community. I am happy to say, after the bills were paid, we realized a profit of over \$21,000.

Third, progress on our future home continues. As approved at the last General Assembly, the contract to sell a small portion of our land to Rooney Properties was approved by His Eminence and we are now pending closing on the sale. Simultaneously, the Future Planning Committee is working with our consultants to put together the initial site plan for our property. This plan is to only identify building placement, parking and easements, as required by the county. These plans do not go into specific building design or floorplan, but only where the approximate building size can be efficiently placed on the property based on the geological studies. Any designs will be a later discussion for a General Assembly vote and His Eminence's approval.

I pray for your continued health and well being during these trying times.

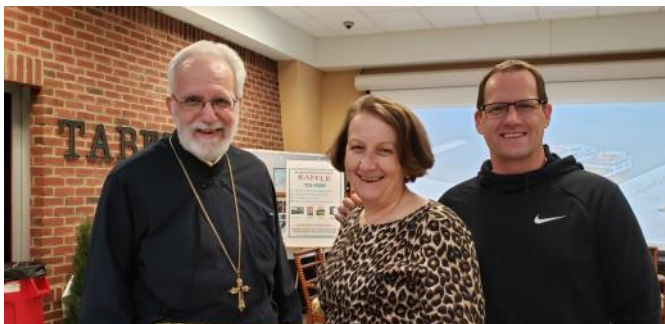
In His service,
Con Sofologis
Parish Council President
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church
con.sofologis@verizon.net



Members of the 2020 Parish Council take the Oath of Office on Sunday, March 1.

Thank you to:

- Our many parishioners who volunteered
- Our Junior and Senior Dance Troupes and Director
- Taste of Greece Sponsors
- Taste of Greece Journal Advertisers





Taste of Greece cont...





Stewardship

My Fellow Parishioners

Wishing everyone a Good Lent and Pascha!

In God's service,
Ron Baldinger, Stewardship Chair
Mina Baldinger Co-Chair

PLEDGED STEWARDS as of 14 March 2020

* Denotes 2020 Challenge Participant

Marina Afentakis
Dimitri and Cheryl Alexson
Rev. Father George and Presvytera Joanna Alexson
Eleni Aliozi
William and Nancy Aubin
John and Kristina Ayoub
* Ronald and Mina Baldinger
Christopher and Maria Billis
Chad and Julie Burke
Deacon Harry and Maria Chelpon
Mikhail Chelpon
* Greg and Marilena Cherpes
Edward and Alexis Cleveland
Matthew Cleveland
Blake and Paras Copenhaver
Dean and Maria Coulopoulos
Panayiotis and Athanasia Dacey
Aristos and Anna Dimitriou
Art Dimopoulos
Dean and Lia Economou
Vasilios and Joan Fotopoulos
Bill and Evelyn Gacis



Jim and Cynthia Glakas
Alissa Iatridis
Greg and Ashley Joiner
George Kaladze
Aspacia Karageorge
Mercina Karagiorgis
Pete Kayafas
Helen Kyriazi
Harry and Brandi Lahanas
Hal and Alexandra Lampros
* Nikoleta Lelis
John and Christy Lisciandro
Eleni Malliaros Levy
Angelike Maoury
Marilena Mavrodopoulou
George and Louise Mikeses
George and Debra Mokhiber
Nicholas and Phaedra Myseros
Marios and Sophia Orfanides
Paul and Lisa Orphanides
Panayiotis and Cynthia Panagopoulos
Alexander and Bessie Papas
George and Coleen Pappas
Jonathan and Janet Perezous
Loiza Pieri
Maria Plevrakis
Jerry and Helen Pollatos
Despina Psomiades
George Ralis and Rebecca Malone
Rebecca Rallis
Travis and Christie Rebok
Emanuel and Marilyn Rouvelas
Stratis and Maria Sapuntzakis
* Constantine Sofologis
Jaime and Annette Spicciati
Nick and Elizabeth Spyros
Ben and Vera Stewart
Angelo and Anna Tjoumas
Doug and Stefania Whittington
* Maria Zangos
* Nicholas and Carol Zangos

Circle areas of expertise or interest:

Youth Groups and Classes

Hope & Joy
GOYA
Greek Dance Instruction
Greek School
Sunday School

Groups and Ministries

AHEPA
Altar Service
Choir
Ladies Philoptochos
Orthodox Book Club
PAREA lunch group
Parish Newsletter
Social Events
Stewardship Committee
Visiting Elderly

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE (PLEDGE FOR JAN-DEC) HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

In faith, prayer and sacrifice, my family and I wish to share in the support and work of the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church. We would like to pledge the amount of

\$_____ for the year _____ (through December)
You may pay via cash, check or online at www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org.

This amount will be paid as follows:

☐ Annually ☐ Semi-annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Your pledge is strictly confidential.

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STEWARDSHIP 2020 CHALLENGE!!

GIVE AN EXTRA \$20 per MONTH

GIVE 20 HOURS OF TIME AND TALENT



**PUT YOUR NAME ON THE
STEWARDSHIP 2020 CHALLENGE LIST!!**

**Email: stewardship@hagoc.org
TO SAY YOU ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!!**

Once you accept

- 1. Your stewardship pledge will be increased by \$20 per month**
- 2. You will be put on the Stewardship 2020 Challenge list to be published in Church Newsletters and Mailings**
- 3. You can embark on your 20 hours for 2020**
- 4. YOU will immediately make an even BIGGER positive impact on the future of our church!**



EXCITING NEWS!

His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos has approved the purchase contract by Rooney Properties for up to 2 acres of our property, at approximately \$500,000 an acre, to build a parking lot that they will share with us. With this approval, we can now move forward with the closing of the contract and submit our construction plans for approval to Loudoun County.

But wait, there's more! Our Capital Campaign has reached a new milestone, \$1.5 million! Thank you to all the generous parishioners who made contributions and donated stock to our campaign. For those who have not contributed or want to donate more, stay tuned for news of Phase II of our Capital Campaign in which you can make history by supporting our ground breaking.

How can you help?

Make a donation so we can begin building!

Consider donating stock and giving yourself and your future home a tax-deductible gift!

Together, we can do this!



Donate

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



Sunday School

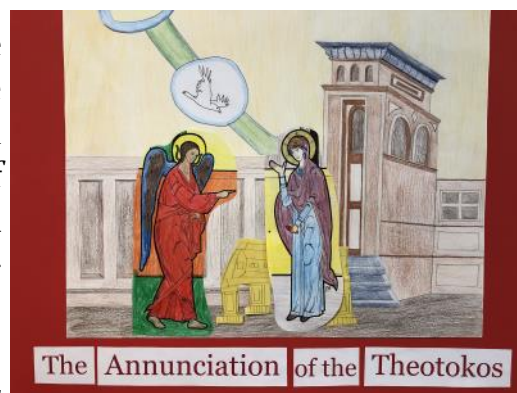
Our Holy Apostles Sunday School students are continuing to learn about what they witness every Sunday, most especially during this Triodion period through our journey from Great Lent, Holy Week to Pascha. We recently participated in the **Triumph of Orthodoxy Icon Procession** in which all our children held their favorite icons from home and celebrated the reinstitution of Icons just as our brothers and sisters in Christ did on the first Sunday of Lent in 843 A.D.



We also wrote **Easter Greeting Cards for Prisoners** across the United States through the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. In addition, there was a donation campaign attached to it this year as part of an Alpha Omega Award service project that our Scouts facilitated.



On March 15th, our youth contributed towards the celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos by providing a poster version of the Icon as a visual part of Ellinomatheia's presentation of the feast. Thank you to Christa Reilly, Marianna Drapas, John Economou, Madison Joiner, and Rosemary and Hazel Lorentz .



Lastly, we ask that all families 'Save the Date' for our Summer **Vacation Church Camp!** The theme this year will be **ICONS: Windows into Heaven** and is set for June 22-26, 2020 from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm. Please mark your calendars, and keep an eye out for our registration forms. Registration will be due May 29th, 2020 so that T-shirts and supplies can be ordered in a timely fashion. (Fees will increase if registration is past deadline.) Every year, our staff works hard to prepare an exciting week of learning and fun at church. VCC is a wonderful way to learn about Orthodox Christianity through lessons, music and crafts. All students ages 4-12 are welcome to contemplate God through "Windows into Heaven" and learn about Orthodoxy by spiritually visual prayer, that is the Icon.

Denise Lansdell

deniseinvirginia@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE!

VACATION CHURCH CAMP 2020

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church



ICONS: Windows Into Heaven

June 22nd - 26th (9:00 am – 12:30 pm)

Lessons, Music, Crafts, Games, Skits

Deadline for Registration and T-shirt Order: May 29th

Contact:

Denise Lansdell deniseinvirginia@gmail.com or Kristine Lorentz Kristine.Lorentz@gmail.com

We are in need of Teachers and Assistants!



GOYA

Happy Spring! GOYA held our annual “GOYAN’s Got Talent Show” and luncheon in February. We thank all the GOYANs who showed their amazing talents, including drawing beautiful artwork, making ice cream from scratch, singing “True Colors” by Cindy Lauper, playing the Star Wars theme on the saxophone, and one of the hardest talents, public speaking! Thank you also to Eleni Hadjimichael for her help with the sign-up, Athena Lansdell who created the program, and the parents who brought food for the luncheon. A special thank you to Father George, Presvytera Joanna, and the parishioners who joined us to support our GOYANs!

In mid-February many of our GOYANs Greek danced and volunteered at our Taste of Greece. They all did a great job!

March was a very busy month!

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival - On March 1st four of our GOYANs competed at the parish level Oratorical Festival and qualified for the state level competition to be held at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Richmond. Unfortunately the state level competition was cancelled due to COVID-19, but we are nonetheless proud of our children who participated. Congratulations to the Junior Level speakers, Stephen Economou and Jordan Hadjimichael, and the Senior Level speakers, Paris Economou and Athena Lansdell.



Consignment Sale Fundraiser - The GOYANs tagged over 400 items for a children’s consignment sale fundraiser which was to be held in Ashburn. Our thanks to our parishioners who donated the items which will be part of the sale when it is rescheduled.

Once it is safe to get back together, we will plan another outing for the GOYANs, so stay tuned. If your teenager is interested in joining GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America), please email me. All are welcome!

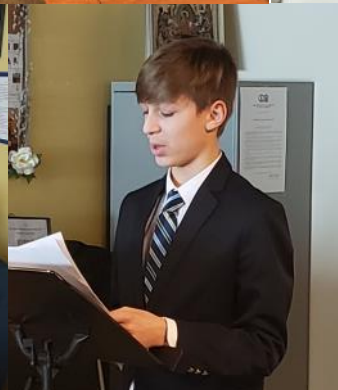
I pray our teenagers, their families, and our Holy Apostles community has a safe and blessed Lent and Pascha.

In God’s service,
Lia Economou
GOYA Advisor
liaecon@comcast.net



GOYANs preparing items for their annual Consignment Sale Fundraiser

GOYAN's Got Talent Show and Luncheon



Hope and Joy

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

On behalf of the HOPE & JOY ministry, I'd like to wish everyone a very blessed Pascha.

Please read on for a summary of the ministry's latest activities:

⇒ Both HOPE children (age 5-8) & JOY children (age 9-12) gathered for "Family Game Night"! Stacy Reilly hosted this activity at church on February 1st. The children were encouraged to bring their favorite board game and/or card game to share and play with their family and other HOPE & JOY families. Huge thanks to Stacy for supplying board games and card games too, and of course for organizing this fun fellowship activity!



Ice Skating at Ashburn Ice House

⇒ Maria Drapas organized on February 22nd for the JOY kids an ice skating activity with pizza lunch at Ashburn Ice House! Maria organized a group discount and she and John Drapas treated the kids to Pomodoro's pizza lunch in the rink. Huge thanks to Maria and John!

⇒ HOPE & JOY children met together at church on March 9th to, with Denise Lansdell, make Easter Cards for the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM), as well as Resurrection Egg Kits (for the children who did not have kits). Making Easter Cards for OCPM is an annual almsgiving opportunity to show our support and encouragement to brothers and sisters in prison that God loves them! Huge thanks to Denise for teaching and sharing with the children such a special message during the season of Pascha!



Easter cards for the OCPM

With questions about the HOPE & JOY ministry, or to sign your children up for an upcoming activity, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

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





Mommy and Me -- Moms of Young Children

Testimonial by Laura Louh

I was very fortunate to grow up at an Orthodox Church filled with kids of all ages. As I grew older, I realized the importance of having Orthodox friends. I was able to relate to them, ask for their



opinion, and had accountability. Since I became a mother four years ago, I began to think about my kids and if they'd experience what I had been blessed with.

Although our Church has many wonderful organizations and groups, it was missing something. A new group called Mommy and Me was formed. It provides mothers of young children an opportunity for fellowship as well as allowing our children to start friendships with other Orthodox Christians. Since our

group started, we have two monthly events; one for mothers only and one for mothers and their children.

The mom's only events provide mothers with a chance to learn from and support one another. We've shared stories, asked advice, and discussed books about parenting from an orthodox perspective. The moms and children events are play dates that allow our children to play together and grow their friendships.

Our group of mothers includes mothers that work, as well as mothers that stay home. We are currently rotating days for our events in order to try to accommodate as many mothers as possible. While our group is still fairly new, we're looking forward to many more events. If you're interested in joining our email list please contact Rebecca.rallis.holyapostles@gmail.com.

Wishing everyone a Good Lent and Pascha!

-Laura Louh



St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival held at Holy Apostles on March 1, 2020

Congratulations to our Sunday School students who competed in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival on March 1. They were to represent our parish at the Regional level at Sts. Constantine and Helen in Richmond however it was cancelled due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Junior Division: Stephen Economou (1st place), Jordan Hadjimi-chael (2nd place), Senior Division: Paris Economou (1st place), Athena Lansdell (2nd Place). We also congratulate our Elementary students who were not judged but gave amazing speeches: John Economou, Marianna Drapas, and Madison Joiner.



St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival participants in the Elementary, Junior, and Senior divisions



Philoptochos

Our National Philoptochos website describes what we do.

- ◆ When Philoptochos see pain & suffering, we strive to offer comfort.
- ◆ When Philoptochos sees hunger, we aspire to offer sustenance.
- ◆ When Philoptochos sees despair, we seek to offer hope.

As Philoptochos members we do make a difference!

Thank you to all the ladies who volunteered at Taste of Greece. Your continued support, hard work and efforts contributed to the successful event.

Philoptochos and our Holy Apostles parish are working together to make sure everyone knows that they can reach out to us during this time of need with COVID-19. We would like to open the lines of communication to everyone in our parish. Please contact [Father George](mailto:frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com) at frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com or our Office Manager, [Lia Economou](mailto:LiaEconomou@comcast.net) at [liaecon@comcast.net](mailto:LiaEconomou@comcast.net) and we will do our best to offer our assistance.

As we journey through the Lenten period, let's all try to make a difference in someone's life and in our community. May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Wishing you a joyous Easter,
Alexis Cleveland
apcphiloptochos@gmail.com



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Epitaphio Committee

Beloved Parishioners & Friends,

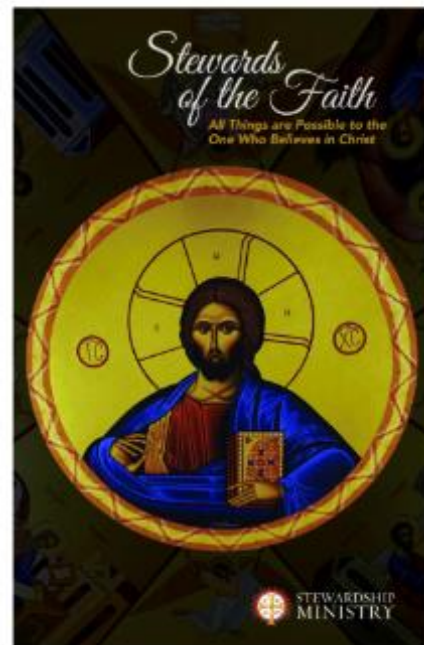
Although the church is closed to parishioners, we continue to decorate our church for the beautiful and inspiring services of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter offered for your viewing via live stream. We are kindly asking you for your generous donations to adorn the Epitaphio. Checks can be made payable to Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church and specify on the memo line "Epitaphio Flowers". Online donations can be made on our webpage at <https://www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/epitaphio-flowers>. If you have any questions please contact Mariana Korulaki at (571) 432-7678. Please visit our website at www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org and go to Ministries to learn more about the Epitaphio Committee.



Ways to Continue to Support Our Church



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Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

21580 Atlantic Blvd., Building D, Unit 160

Dulles, VA 20166

www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org



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