

# THE LIGHT

*"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." – John 8*

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Festival Award Recipients**

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July 2021**

**Graduation  
Announcements**

**Holy Apostles  
Greek Orthodox Church**

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www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org

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Dulles, VA 20166



## **Forty...Fifty...Twelve? - by Fr. Cosmas**

Few of us are remembering to say, "Christ is Risen!" anymore. Indeed, the "light" of the Paschal season has begun to wane a little, and we are now looking for the next feast days to celebrate in our Church calendar. On June 10th, which falls 40 days after Pascha, we will celebrate the Ascension of our Lord. The Feastday of the Ascension is often overlooked and "undercelebrated" perhaps as it always falls on a Thursday.

But Ascension is a miraculous feast during which we remember the fact that the Resurrected Christ ascends to heaven, as a perfect human being, and places our humanity in the presence and Communion of the Holy Trinity. On June 20th, which falls 50 days after Pascha, we will celebrate Pentecost.

On Pentecost we remember the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. Through the grace and

*cont'd p.9*

# Message from the Parish Council President

Χριστός Ανέστη, Christ Has Truly Risen. As you remember, last year we celebrated this joyous occasion with only a limited few allowed in church to provide livestream for our parishioners at home. This year was so nice to see everyone that returned to services. We pray that we will soon return to the sites and sounds of a full church as your Parish Council keeps a watchful eye for changes in state COVID regulations.



First and foremost, on behalf of the Parish Council and the entire Holy Apostles community, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Fr. Cosmas, Presvytera Michelle and their whole family for joining our family and leading us through our Holy Week services.

I especially want to thank fellow parishioners for their unwavering work during this Lenten season: Marilena Cherpes and Lisa Orphanides for the amazing job with the flowers and church decoration; The Lansdell family for being our chanters/choir (with special guest appearance by the Kendrat ladies); Our Altar Servers for their assistance with services; our Office Manager, Lia Economou and webmaster Maria Zangos, for keeping parishioners up to date with service schedules and other important information; the Ladies of Philoptochos for coordinating our Bakesale; and all the additional people that put in the hard hours to make everything go smoothly. Last, but not least, thank you to Pavlo Kesari for donating the rental of the big screen TVs, allowing us to expand our viewing areas to the upper level of our building. If utilizing the classroom space for expanded seating is more frequently requested, the PC will look into purchasing a permanent large screen TV for that space.

Congratulations to all our 2021 Catechetical School students for participation and moving speeches in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. We are especially proud of Athena Lansdell and Stephen Economou for winning the Senior Division at the State level, and being awarded 2nd place and Honorable Mention respectively at the Metropolis level competition. Congratulations for all your efforts and wonderful representation of our parish!

A quick land update: The pandemic effected our county offices as well, so the process for all departments to review/accept land changes was at a snail's pace over the past year. I'm happy to report that the small land sale/subdivision of the approx. 1.7 AC of our property has been approved by Loudoun County. The closing should happen quickly. With this sale and parking agreement in perpetuity with Rooney Properties, we are excited to move forward with the next steps.

Finally, the Parish Council is currently preparing for our Spring General Assembly. Date and important information will be posted soon.

I pray for your continued health and well-being.

Con Sofologis - Parish Council President; con.sofologis@verizon.net

## **St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival** **Metropolis of New Jersey Awards**



The Metropolis level of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival was held virtually on Saturday, May 22, 2021 hosted by St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Bethesda, Maryland. Our very own Stephen Economou and Athena Lansdell, representing all Greek Orthodox Churches in Virginia in the Senior Division, competed for a position at the National Festival of the Archdiocese. Out of 8 speakers from across the NJ Diocese, Stephen received an Honorable Mention award and Athena was the Runner-Up/Alternate. There was a tie for first place so the judges had their work cut out for them! Congratulations to Stephen and Athena for their success in achieving such a high level in this inspiring competition! We look forward to hearing more amazing orations next year. We also thank Greg and Ashley Joiner, our 2021 Oratorical Festival Directors.





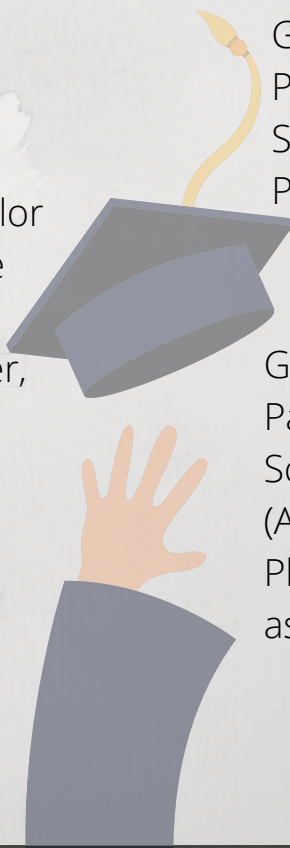
# CONGRATULATIONS, 2021 GRADUATES!

Graduate: Alexandra Dorn  
Parents: David and Susan Dorn  
School: East Carolina University, Bachelor  
of Science Nursing and Honors College  
Graduate  
Plans: ICU Nurse, Vidant Medical Center,  
Greenville, North Carolina

Graduate: Vangeli Hadjimichael  
Parents: Mike and Eleni Hadjimichael  
School: South Lakes High School  
(Reston, VA)  
Plans: Christopher Newport University

Graduate: Mikey Baldinger  
Parents: Ron and Mina Baldinger  
School: United States Air Force Academy  
Plans: Begin career as a military officer

Graduate: Athena Lansdell  
Parents: Bret and Denise Landsell  
School: Stone Bridge High School  
(Ashburn, VA)  
Plans: Belmont University in Nashville, TN  
as a Motion Pictures major



# Sunday School

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Christos Anesti!

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all. First, I am so grateful for Kristine Lorentz, Valerie Avramides, Athanasia Dacey, Brandi Lahanas, Angelo Dacey and Luke Kendrat for stepping up last fall to teach in our Sunday School, albeit in cyberspace. They worked very hard to come up with wonderful virtual video lessons each and every Sunday for our Catechetical School during this difficult Covid-19 situation. It took up so much of their time and effort, and it did not go unnoticed. What is also wonderful about this is that these lessons are still available for each class in Google Classroom! That way, students can learn about our Orthodox Faith anytime.

Next, thank you to all the students of Holy Apostles Sunday School! It's been such a blessing to know you and watch you grow up in the church these last several years. Personally, my heart is filled with joy thinking about each class I taught: the lessons, the prayers, your questions, and the fun games! You are all beautiful children of God! Please do not ever let go of your Orthodox Christian faith and keep learning whenever you can!

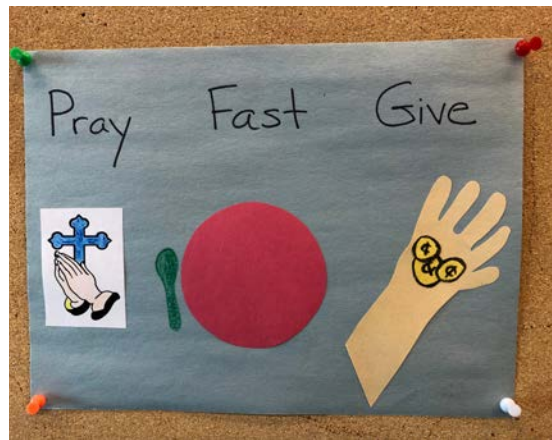
Lastly, thank you to the parents. It is an even more difficult road it seems these days not having a normal Church routine, so please stay vigilant and keep your light shining brightly at home so that your families all thrive in the Orthodox faith. I wish you all well and pray you continue to learn along with your children.

May God grant our Holy Apostles Sunday School many years! I know Father Cosmas will be a faithful guide to you all and I wish the entire community all the best!

With love in Christ,

Denise Lansdell

deniseinvirginia@gmail.com



## Hope and Joy

It was our honor and pleasure to take part as a ministry in the March 26th salutations services. Each participating family brought a bouquet of flowers to adorn the icon of the Theotokos. Also, Madison Joiner and Ben Joiner read aloud the Theotokos prayer and Jesus prayer, respectively. Great job to you both! Having this special role in the salutations services every year is a beautiful and meaningful tradition – thank you, Hope & Joy families!

Ashley Joiner

ashleydjoiner@gmail.com





PHILOPTOCHOS IS SUPPORTING  
LOUDOUN ABUSED WOMENS SHELTER (LAWS) BY RAFFLING

## A FAMILY PICNIC BASKET & COOLER

All proceeds go to LAWS.

Please note - items being raffled have been donated.



Tickets on Sale until June 13, 2021 - \$10 each

Purchase online at <http://www.hagoc.org/raffle>

Items in basket-cooler:

2 bottles of wine	2 bottles of Craft Beer	2 bottles of Soda
2 bottles of Water	Pamper Chef Electric Wine Opener	Bag- Chocolate Chip Cookies
Hummus	Jar- Whole Mixed Olives	Box- Cheese Sticks
Can of Dolmas	Bag- Cheddar Crisps	Marinated Artichokes
Halva Bars	Bag- Pistachios Nuts	Marinated French Beans
Can of Virginia Peanuts	Box- Olive Oil & Sea Salt Crackers	Bag of Stick Pretzels
Jar- Spanish Style Tapas	Box- Cheese Sticks	Bag- Caramel Popcorn
Iberico Chorizo Sausage	Jar- Honey Mustard Dip	Package Cocktail Napkins
Chocolate Covered Macadamias	Package of Plasticware	Package of Plates
2 Thermal Wine Glasses	Picnic Basket & Thermal Bag	

Family Picnic Basket and Cooler a \$150.00 value  
Please contact Niki Lelis with questions: [nlelis1@gmail.com](mailto:nlelis1@gmail.com)





Georgia Drapas and Stephen Economou read prayers on behalf of GOYA at the 4th Salutations to the Theotokos service

## GOYA

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen! We pray everyone had a blessed Easter!

Thank you to our GOYA President, Athena Lansdell, for coordinating a food drive for Loudoun Hunger Relief in April. Here is an update from Athena about the success of the collection:

"Everyone went above and beyond - we received a full carload of grocery bags and delivered them! I am seriously thankful to all the GOYAns and their families who participated and put in effort to help those who are less fortunate, especially during these unprecedented times. It was a great service project to do in the spirit of almsgiving and Great Lent so a special thank you goes to everyone who made it a success!"

We also thank Georgia Drapas and Stephen Economou for reading the prayers on behalf of GOYA at the 4th Salutations to the Theotokos service, and for all the GOYAns who attended with their families.

A fun GOYA event was hiking at Manassas National Battlefield Park and dinner afterward at Coal Fire. We thank GOYA Special Events Coordinator, Georgia Drapas, for coordinating the outing, and all who participated. It was great to be together again!

Lastly we congratulate our GOYAns Athena Lansdell and Stephen Economou who competed at the Metropolis level St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival on May 22, 2021. Athena placed 2nd (in the entire NJ Diocese!) and Stephen was awarded Honorable Mention. They did an amazing job representing our parish and speaking about their faith. We are blessed to have our youth continue to qualify at the highest level in our Diocese, year after year. It is truly a commendable feat for such a small parish!

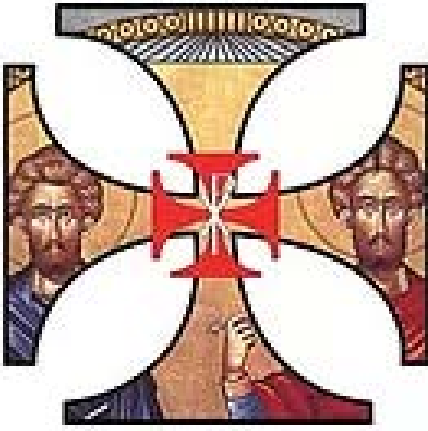
Next we are planning an end-of-year party on June 6th at the home of Father Cosmas and Presvytera Michelle. We look forward to celebrating this event with our graduates, Athena Lansdell and Vangeli Hadjimichael, and wish them well in their college endeavors! All upcoming teens and their parents are also invited to this event. Contact me for details: [liaecon@comcast.net](mailto:liaecon@comcast.net).

I hope all our GOYAns and their families have a wonderful summer. If you have a teenager or rising teenager, please reach out to me for more information about GOYA and to join our fantastic group this Fall!

In God's service,  
Lia Economou  
GOYA Advisor  
[liaecon@comcast.net](mailto:liaecon@comcast.net)



# Philoptochos



I hope everyone had a blessed Lenten journey and Pascha. It was nice to see some familiar faces in person during the many church services these past few months.

Thank you for the generous support we received for our baked goods sale. I thank Lisa Orphanides for her dedication and time. I would also like to thank Lisa, Alexandra Jesuele and Niki Lelis for dying and wrapping eggs. As always, your support helps us take care of those in need and fulfill our Metropolis commitments.

Our LAWS fundraiser is taking place now! Philoptochos has put together a lovely picnic basket filled with wine, beer and many treats for a complete and enjoyable day out. Thank you Cynthia Smith and Anna Tjoumas for your contributions. If you haven't already purchased a raffle ticket, please do so on our [website](#)! All proceeds from the raffle will support the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter in Leesburg.

We have had a busy year despite COVID restrictions. We have conducted our meetings via ZOOM, but hope to get together one afternoon this summer for a fun event at a winery. Please check our Holy Apostles website for updates.

I hope everyone has a relaxing and fun summer.

Alexis Cleveland

[apcphiloptochos@gmail.com](mailto:apcphiloptochos@gmail.com)

## Stewardship

Christos Anesti! I hope you enjoyed a beautiful and uplifting Holy Week and were able to attend some services in person. A huge thank you to Con, our Parish Council President, Lisa, our Vice-President and the entire Parish Council for making Holy Week a very smooth operation despite the challenges of Covid 19.

We thank you for your continued support of the Stewardship Program. Despite the challenges of Covid 19, you have remained steadfast in your commitment to the church. We recently sent out emails about our Stewardship Campaign called "The Three Pennies Challenge". The goal is to give 3 pennies of every dollar you earn, essentially giving 3% as your Stewardship commitment. We have listed on our website more about this program. The Three Pennies Challenge is a step in the right direction to build our Stewardship so we can become self-sufficient without relying so heavily on fundraisers.

Have you ever considered making charitable donations to the church using appreciated stocks? It is a very easy process and is a true win-win for the church and for your tax return. Please reach out to Ron Baldinger, [stewardship@hagoc.org](mailto:stewardship@hagoc.org), if you want to



to know more. if you haven't yet, please fill out a pledge card online at: <https://www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/givingnow>. Make sure you select "stewardship 2021") or just send me an email telling me your 2021 pledge and I will take care of the rest!

Finally, as always, we thank you for your incredible generosity. May God bless you and your family as we return to a normal world. We look forward to a wonderful summer and fingers are crossed that we will once again have our Parish Picnic in just a few short months!

In your service,

Ron and Mina Baldinger, HAGOC Stewardship Chairs  
[ron.baldinger@gmail.com](mailto:ron.baldinger@gmail.com)



# STEWARDSHIP

## The Three Pennies Challenge



If you were walking down the street and saw 3 pennies on the ground, would you stop to pick them up?

Probably Not!...how much of a difference can 3 pennies make?

Take the 3 Pennies Challenge and find out!

We are asking our families to consider offering at least 3 Pennies out of every 1 dollar of their monthly income to support our Church. You keep 97 cents!...and you give just 3 Pennies to support your Church!

Click on the videos and information provided below to learn more, and take the 3 Pennies Challenge.



Honor the Lord with your wealth,  
with the firstfruits of all your crops.  
**Proverbs 3:9**



### How Do We Give?

Giving our First Fruits to God...not giving left-overs from our disposable income!

Trying to give God 10% back as it says in the Bible (see below)

Begin by trying to give at least 3%

That's just 3 Pennies out of every \$1...and that's the 3 Pennies Challenge!

TABLE OF MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME & PERCENTAGE OF STEWARDSHIP

Monthly Income	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$1,000	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$10
\$2,000	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40	\$20
\$3,000	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60	\$30
\$4,000	\$400	\$360	\$320	\$280	\$240	\$200	\$160	\$120	\$80	\$40
\$5,000	\$500	\$450	\$400	\$350	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$100	\$50
\$6,000	\$600	\$540	\$480	\$420	\$360	\$300	\$240	\$180	\$120	\$60
\$6,500	\$650	\$585	\$520	\$455	\$390	\$325	\$260	\$195	\$130	\$65
\$7,000	\$700	\$630	\$560	\$490	\$420	\$350	\$280	\$210	\$140	\$70
\$7,500	\$750	\$675	\$600	\$525	\$450	\$375	\$300	\$225	\$150	\$75
\$8,000	\$800	\$720	\$640	\$560	\$480	\$400	\$320	\$240	\$160	\$80
\$8,500	\$850	\$765	\$700	\$595	\$510	\$425	\$340	\$255	\$170	\$85
\$9,000	\$900	\$810	\$720	\$630	\$540	\$450	\$360	\$270	\$180	\$90
\$9,500	\$950	\$855	\$760	\$665	\$570	\$475	\$380	\$285	\$190	\$95
\$10,000	\$1,000	\$900	\$800	\$700	\$600	\$500	\$400	\$300	\$200	\$100
\$11,000	\$1,100	\$990	\$883	\$770	\$660	\$550	\$440	\$330	\$220	\$110
\$12,000	\$1,200	\$1,080	\$964	\$840	\$720	\$600	\$480	\$360	\$240	\$120
\$13,000	\$1,300	\$1,170	\$1,044	\$910	\$780	\$650	\$520	\$390	\$260	\$130
\$14,000	\$1,400	\$1,260	\$1,125	\$980	\$840	\$700	\$560	\$420	\$280	\$140
\$15,000	\$1,500	\$1,350	\$1,205	\$1,050	\$900	\$750	\$600	\$450	\$300	\$150

### How do I take the challenge?...

- Keep an open mind and think about your role as Christ's steward.
- Don't decide on a random dollar amount and pay a "membership fee" or make an annual "donation" to the Church.
- Take the 3 Pennies Challenge and offer at least 3% of your household income to support your Church.
- If you have already made your pledge...Thank You! But it's still not too late to take the 3 Pennies Challenge!
- Please make your 2021 Stewardship pledge TODAY!

### STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE & PAYMENT





Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church, Easter 2021

## A MESSAGE FROM FR. COSMAS CONTINUED...

power of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles are prepared and empowered for their great mission, to spread the Gospel of Christ and baptize all nations. At the end of the month on June 30th, we will celebrate our Parish Feast Day, the gathering of the 12 Apostles.

This is, of course, a huge day for our parish, since it's our parish feast day, but what does the celebration of the Holy Apostles really mean to us as Orthodox Christians in America in the 21st century? An "apostle" is literally "one who is sent". Apostles are those Christians who are "sent" into the world to preach the Gospel of Christ. Those Christians who are called to dedicate their lives to the Great Commission of Christ in Matthew 28: 19, to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

This is the calling and "vocation" of all Christians, not just the 12 men we remember on June 30. We are all "sent" into the world to preach the Gospel to the "whole creation" and bring as many as we can to salvation in Christ. As this is the feast day of our newly established Church, how much even more so, should we be conscious of the true meaning and relevance of the Apostles.

We, especially here in Loudoun County, must truly adopt the "apostolic" mind set of the Church. We have to continually ask ourselves, "Am I doing everything I possibly can to bring as many people as possible to salvation in Christ? Am I doing anything to prevent someone from receiving the Gospel of Christ?" Notice that in the Great Commission quoted above from Matthew 28, Christ says, "...make disciples of all nations". He does not say, "...all Greeks who are relocating" or "...all other Orthodox jurisdictions looking for a Church".

The Gospel of Christ is for everyone! Everyone deserves a chance to receive His Gospel. His Gospel is indeed "Good News"...which is what the word "gospel" means. Because His Gospel is not about judgment or condemnation...which would not be very "good news". The Gospel of Christ is a message of love and hope in the mercy of God the Father, the grace of the Holy Spirit, and the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we approach our parish feast day, let's really think about the Apostles and about the apostolic mind set. Let's really think about our ability, as a Church and a parish, to bring all nations to Christ. Let's share the light of the Resurrection with all those around us. Let's think beyond ourselves and outside of our familiar boxes, and push ourselves to show true love and hospitality for as many of God's children as we can. Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

- Fr. Cosmas Halekakis  
Parish Priest



# *Camp Good Shepherd Virginia 2021*

Cost Per Camper:

1 Camper Families: \$450

2 Camper Families: \$425

3+ Camper Families: \$400

July 4th - July 10th

Ages: Completed 5th

Grade - 12th Grade

For questions, please email  
[cgsvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:cgsvirginia@gmail.com) or call Fr. John Manuel  
at (804)615-9065

Official Registration info will be sent out soon.  
Stay tuned!

**Go to our website for more information.**



## Stewardship List as of May 1

Father Cosmas and Presvytera Michelle Halekakis  
Tom and Patti Ayers  
John and Kristina Ayoub  
Vasilios Bakopanos  
Ronald and Mina Baldinger  
Michael and Shawna Bardos  
Steven and Ergini Batistatos-Martnishn  
Chad and Julie Burke  
William and Smaro Caras  
Deacon Harry and Maria Chelpon  
Greg and Marilena Cherpes  
Edward and Alexis Cleveland  
Matthew Cleveland  
Meredith Cleveland and Kenneth Hall  
Dean and Maria Coulopoulos  
Panayiotis and Athanasia Dacey  
Paul and Mea Danigelis  
Aristos and Anna Dimitriou  
John and Maria Drapas  
Dean and Lia Economou  
Chrysanthé Freire  
Bill and Evelyn Gacis  
John and Patricia Galanis  
Angeline Gillas  
Jim and Cynthia Glakas  
Mike and Eleni Hadjimichael  
Alissa Iatridis  
Andrew and Martha Iatridis  
Neil and Alexandra Jesuele  
Greg and Ashley Joiner  
George Kaladze  
Alex and Trisha Kantsios  
Pete Kayafas  
Hal and Alexandra Lampros  
Bret and Denise Lansdell  
Nikoleta Lelis  
John and Christy Lisciandro  
Nick and Laura Louh  
George and Debra Mokhiber  
Olivia and James Morris  
Nicholas and Phaedra Myseros  
Paul and Lisa Orphanides  
Panayiotis and Cynthia Panagopoulos  
George and Coleen Pappas  
Jerry and Helen Pollatos  
Despina Psomiades  
Keith Pullman  
George Ralis and Rebecca Malone  
Rebecca Rallis  
Travis and Christie Rebok  
Brandon and Sarah Rice  
Emanuel and Marilyn Rouvelas  
Stratis and Maria Sapuntzakis  
Jeff and Cynthia Smith  
Constantine Sofologis  
Nick and Elizabeth Spyros  
Dwaine and Irene Thomas  
Doug and Stefania Whittington  
Nicholas and Carol Zangos  
Maria Zangos

## Our mission as Greek Orthodox Christians:

1. We offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God the Holy Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
2. We strive to exist in fellowship and love with all people,
3. We welcome everyone who is looking for a church home and parish family,
4. We endeavor to help those in need and reach out to all those who need: food, shelter, clothing, and comfort,
5. We offer programs and ministries to bring our faithful the fellowship and knowledge of our Faith,
6. We strive to proclaim, teach and live the Orthodox Christian Faith, in all that we think, say, and do.



## UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

- |         |                   |                |
|---------|-------------------|----------------|
| June 9  | Holy Ascension    | - 7pm Vigil    |
| June 19 | Saturday of Souls | - 9am Services |
| June 29 | HOLY APOSTLES     | - 7pm Vigil    |
| July 19 | Prophet Elias     | - 7pm Vigil    |
| July 26 | St. Panteleimon   | - 7pm Vigil    |



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