



# The Light



Volume 2, Issue 2



To Fos



March/April 2008

*The newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County*



METROPOLIS OF  
NEW JERSEY

## *Lenten Message*

Beloved in Christ,

I greet you with the kiss of peace, and the Good News that Christ is in our midst!

Great Lent is the portion of the year which we offer to God as first fruits in thanksgiving for His steadfast love and mercy. We depart from the cares of the world on a journey to the Resurrection and eternity. We will be strengthened in our journey by recommitment to regular prayer, self control, the reading of Holy Scripture, and almsgiving. Our Lenten journey should also include an increased emphasis on the liturgical life of the Church. It is in communal worship that we are most powerfully reminded of our participation in the Body of CHRIST. As participants in the death and Resurrection of Christ, we should view the whole of Creation and every aspect of our life in it as an offering to God.

As we spend more time in communal worship, we should be sharing our spiritual strength with one another, focusing our thoughts and energies on humility, repentance, forgiveness, thanksgiving, and

the glorification of God, whose mercy and steadfast love we are reminded of so eloquently in the divine services of the season. After all, whatever spiritual strength we may have is not ours, but due to God's Grace. In offering it and all our gifts to the service of one another we are making an offering to God, from Whom all good things come. Our offering is not a payment. Our offering is a sign of the new way of being to which the Lord has called us. It is this change in being for which He came into the world. We are called to the utter rejection of the values of the world, in favor of the completely and totally selfless love made manifest by our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no room in the life in Christ for the judgement of others, deceit, or any of the qualities of meanness to which we are prone.

The incomprehensible condescension of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ to endure the Holy Passion for our sakes must move us to radically alter our priorities, to refocus our lives and renew our commitment to the One who IS, Christ our God. May your Lenten journey bear plentiful spiritual fruit which will avail for salvation.

Your servant in Christ,

*Father John Kalantzis*

### **INSIDE:**

- Visit by Metropolitan Evangelos
- Lent & Holy Week Schedules
- HOPE/JOY/GOYA
- Greek Language School
- Philoptochos Update
- Stewardship Update

*The Light* will be published every two months by the communications committee of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County. The next deadline for content is April 15. Contact Steve Lunceford (dslunceford@gmail.com) or Susan Dorn (ssdorn@aol.com) for details.

The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County  
21580 Atlantic Blvd., Building D, Unit 160  
Dulles, VA 20166.

[www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org](http://www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org)

## Blessed: His Eminence, Metropolitan Evangelos Celebrates Divine Liturgy at The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County

Over 300 parishioners gathered to witness yet another first at the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun, as His Eminence Evangelos, the Hierarch of the Metropolis of New Jersey, and our spiritual leader in the church, served as celebrant of a special Divine Liturgy service on Sunday February 24th, 2008.



Church stewards and visitors took part in a special service assisted by Father John Kalantzis and Father Alexander Webster, where the Metropolitan delivered Communion and provided a sermon that offered much encouragement for our young parish to continue to grow and help spread the Orthodox faith. The Metropolitan's visit helped with that charge, drawing attention from the *Loudoun Easterner*, which featured a story on its front page, helping raise awareness for our parish and our faith throughout the county.

The Metropolitan's visit also coincided with Stewardship Sunday.

After the service, parishioners and guests were treated to a delicious lunch catered and generously donated by the Amphora Restaurant Group. His Eminence



was seated at a special table during the luncheon and was able to meet many families, children and individuals who were happy to be in his presence.

The night before, over 150 people gathered to welcome his Eminence and have dinner with him at the River



Creek Country Club in Leesburg. That night, the Metropolitan also delivered a speech where he encouraged us all to share our Orthodox faith with others. By bringing more people to Orthodoxy we do a service not only to our faith, our church and ourselves, but to God Almighty. Although we are a Greek Orthodox Parish, we welcome people of all backgrounds and faiths because there is room for all in the Orthodox church.



The Greek Orthodox Parish has been blessed to have His Eminence in our presence twice in just 18 months. We hope our continued growth will ensure the Metropolitan will make many more visits to our Parish in the years to come.

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## The Philoptochos

The Philoptochos is starting 2008 with a flurry of activity. On Saturday February 9, we held a membership tea at our parish church. I would like to thank all the ladies that brought food; truly delicious. Everyone who attended the tea had a good time. On behalf of the Philoptochos I would like to welcome our new members: Lia Economou, Francis George, Trisha Kantsios, Ellen Lieberman, Maria Mollo, and Anna Tjoumas.

During the month of February, the Philoptochos held a drive for the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter and it was very successful. We would like to thank everyone in our community who donated items.

During March and into April, the Philoptochos will be soliciting monetary donations for flowers and other items needed during Lent and Holy Week. We will also be accepting pre-orders for our Easter Bake Sale.

Ladies, please mark your calendars for Saturday May 17th from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for 'The Philoptochos' first Luncheon and Fashion Show at the Rivercreek Country Club in Leesburg. This is a great event, and open to all, so be sure to ask friends to attend!

The next few Philoptochos meetings will be held on March 11th, April 8th, May 13th and June 10th from 7:30 to 9:00 pm at our church. I hope all members will attend.

*If you're interested in the Philoptochos, please contact President Niki Lelis at 703-713-9498 or by email at [nlelis@cox.net](mailto:nlelis@cox.net)*

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## GOYA

The Greek Orthodox Youth Association continues to grow! We had a meeting on Saturday, February 9th at the Tsitos Home. Approximately 15 GOYANS attended. We made posters in preparation for the Metropolitan's visit in late February and enjoyed games and fellowship.

We are looking at going to a Capitols Game in March. April's event has yet to be planned, but will hopefully be a hike or campout. In May we are exploring attending

the "Greek Olympics" in New Jersey as well as having a one-day retreat with Father John.

Come join us if you are 12 or older, in grades 6-12. Any additional questions, contact Dee Koutris ([dkoutris@yahoo.com](mailto:dkoutris@yahoo.com)) or Karen Tsitos ([ktstitos@verizon.net](mailto:ktstitos@verizon.net)).

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## HOPE & JOY

Hope and Joy got together on Saturday, February 16th for our 2nd annual ice skating and pizza party at Ashburn Ice House. We had a great time, kids and adults too! Thank you to everyone who attended and helped out with setting up, cleaning up and bringing drinks. Our events are only successful because of your help and participation.



Our next meeting will be Saturday March 29th at the church from 3 - 5p.m. We will be working on activities for our visit to the Good Shepherd Alliance Homeless Shelter for women and children in Leesburg. Our theme will be "Fruits of the Spirit". We will share some of these "fruits" with them in hopes of lifting their spirits! This visit is planned for Friday, April 4th from 7 - 8:30pm.

For more information, please check out our website or call Kathy Kendrat at 703-669-5865.

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## Spring is a Busy Time for the Greek Language School

The Greek Language School is preparing for our upcoming Greek Independence Day celebration in church on March 30th. The children will read poems and sing songs in honor of this March 25th holiday. Greek Language School children are also progressing well with their studies despite their weekly shifting classrooms! Parents, please note there will be NO CLASSES the week of spring break, March 17-21. There will also be NO CLASSES held during Holy Week, April 21-25. The last week of classes will be the week of May 19-23, and certificates will be handed out to students in church on May 25th.

Many parishioners have expressed interest in participating in conversational adult Greek Language classes. While the church would like to add this class, the ongoing construction in the church during the week creates a classroom issue. With that in mind, it has been decided that Greek language classes for adults will be

offered beginning in the fall of 2008. Registration will take place the same time as Greek language classes for the children. Look for more information in future newsletters.



Any questions regarding the Greek language school can be directed to Parish Council member Susan Dorn at [ssdorn@aol.com](mailto:ssdorn@aol.com).

## Support Philoptochos Collection for Lent & Holy Week

The Philoptochos is soliciting contributions to assist with the cost of flowers and other items needed during Lent and Holy Week. Philoptochos members will be manning a table after church services during the month of March and first half of April.

Checks can also be sent to Philoptochos, c/o Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County, 21580 Atlantic Blvd., Unit 160, Bldg. D, Dulles, Va. 20166.



The items the Philoptochos with contributions will include:

- Wreaths for each Salutation Service (12 in total)
- Wreaths for Akathis, Bridegroom, Nymphios Service
- Daffodils for Sunday of the Cross
- Palms for Palm Sunday
- Wreath for the Crucifixion on Holy Thursday evening
- Epitaphio flowers
- Resurrection Icon Wreath
- Easter lily plans
- Eggs

### Coffee Hour Schedule

#### March

- 2 Dimitri & Jolanda Kesari
- 9 OPEN - Volunteer Needed
- 16 Niki Lelis
- 23 Helen and Bill Demestihias
- 30 OPEN - Volunteer Needed

#### April

- 6 Vasilis and Joan Fotopoulos
- 13 Bill & Nancy Aubin
- 20 GOYA
- 27 OPEN - Volunteer Needed

#### May

- 4 Greek School
- 11 OPEN - Volunteer Needed
- 18 Jani and Georga Paci
- 25 Angelo and Anna Tjoumas



To sponsor a Coffee Hour, contact Cynthia Smith at 703-478-0522 or [silvercps@hotmail.com](mailto:silvercps@hotmail.com)

We would like to extend a special Thank You to Amphora Catering who sponsored our luncheon with Metropolitan Evangelos on February 24th.

## Trisagion Prayer

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy  
Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy  
Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy  
Immortal, have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and forevermore, Amen.

All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us.  
Lord, forgive our sins.

Master, pardon our transgressions.  
Holy One,  
visit and heal our infirmities, for the  
glory of Your Name.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,



Lord have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and forevermore, Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy Name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and  
forgive us our trespasses,


as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil.


Amen.

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## On the Sunday of Orthodoxy

*Fr. John Kalantzis*

Do you believe that God has power? Do you believe that our worship connects us to the power of God? Do you really believe it? Is that power as real to you as the power we manipulate through technology a thousand times a day. Are we as sure of God's power as we are of water pouring from the faucet when we turn the knob? Are we as sure of God's power as we are of flicking the switch and seeing the lights turn on. Let's think about it for a moment. What passes for conventional wisdom these days sees the post-modern world in which we live as a world in which faith no longer plays as important a role as it once did; God has become absent from the public forum because faith just doesn't have a place in the important discussions anymore.

The old debates of the faith seem silly in comparison to a discussion of some current scientific issue, for example, global warming. Why did they get so riled up about this or that heresy way back then. What's the difference, if you can't prove any of it anyway? Global terror, now that's an issue. Who cares if people use icons to help them in worship. How much more efficient are we in cutting costs because of worship? Can we get greater accuracy of measurements through worship? No. We don't have faith anymore because we don't need it. It isn't germane anymore. The world has turned.

Well, this is all kind of an exaggeration to make this point: modern men and women actually have a lot of faith. It's just not recognized as such. In fact, people haven't really changed that much down the ages. In this generation we've just fooled ourselves into thinking we're so much different and better and smarter than those who've gone before, yet our mental habits haven't changed from the days when Paul traveled the Mediterranean. In those days, if you couldn't see it, or understand it, then it must have to do with the supernatural. Today we have just chosen to place our faith elsewhere. We place our faith in technology. We can't see it, we don't understand it, yet we use it to explain everything in our lives, whether empirical analysis applies or not.

Brothers and sisters, we Christians must ask ourselves if we believe in God's power as implicitly as we believe in the power of electricity. We must ask ourselves if we believe in the effectiveness of God's power just as surely as we believe in the effectiveness of stepping on the gas pedal. If our faith in God is as real to us as these other beliefs we hold without even thinking about them, then our outlook must change. If we believe like that, then faith and the issues of worship are no longer trivial, but take center stage. If we really believe that correct worship is important, because God is involved and God's power is not to be trifled with, then we are going to make the effort to understand how correct worship is arrived at. If we believe in God and His power as strongly as we believe in the measurable, then the issues of the faith become the most important issues that there are.

This means that we have to do business in a completely different way. The accounting mentality can no longer drive decision making. Because the soul is real, and its condition must be accounted for. Cost reduction is no more important than sin reduction. Because sin is an affront to God, whose power is real. Quality of life in eternity is a real issue, much more real than the quality of our existence during this transitory time on earth.

When the Christian people of the 8th and 9th centuries struggled with iconoclasm, the rejection of icons as tools of worship, that struggle mattered. And it matters today. Those who reject the use of God's creation in the worship of God have lost an important facet of Christian understanding. They have fallen into the dualistic trap of ancient Greek philosophers who shunned the material in favor of the spiritual. They have lost sight of the fact that the Incarnation of our



Lord brings the created into contact with the Creator in an intimate way. When they reject the use of the material world in worship, they reject Christ's humanity. This means they are no longer Christian.

I know this is harsh, and goes against our instinct to be inclusive and open. But we dare not minimize these issues, for fear of losing our own faith in the reality of God's power, and its presence, His presence, in the worship which we have received from the generations.

Christian men and women through the ages dedicated their lives to the preservation of the truth. These saints gave themselves to torture and death, so that we might inherit the fullness of Christ's revelation, which is unchanging for all time. We dare not trivialize their sacrifice. We dare not ignore our responsibility to future generations to be as committed to the defense of the truth, to the living of the truth, as they were. We must embrace the call of God to honor His Holy Name. We must embrace the example of the saints through the ages who have shown us the way. We must make personal the decree proclaimed by the holy fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council, who faithfully reinstated the use of icons in proper worship. Their synodical decree rings down through the ages like thunder rumbling across the plains --

*As the Prophets beheld, as the apostles taught,*

*as the Church received, as the Teachers dogmatized,*

*as the Universe agreed, as Grace illumined,*

*as the Truth was revealed, as falsehood passed away,*

*as Wisdom presented, as Christ awarded,*

*Thus we declare, thus we assert,*

*thus we proclaim Christ our true God*

*and honor His saints,*

*in words, in writings,*

*in thoughts, in sacrifices,*

*in churches, in holy icons.*

*On the one hand, worshipping and reverencing Christ as God and Lord;*

*and on the other hand, honoring and venerating His saints, as true servants of the same Lord.*

*This is the Faith of the Apostles.*

*This is the Faith of the Fathers.*

*This is the Faith of the Orthodox.*

*This is the Faith which has established the Universe. Amen.*

# Save The Date...

*A look ahead to the upcoming spiritual, social and educational activities of our parish.*

## March

(Including Lenten Schedule)

Sunday March 2nd	Orthros Divine Liturgy	8:30 AM- 10 AM
Thursday March 6th	Parish Council Meeting All are welcome to join us for the March Parish Council meeting @ the Church.	6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Sunday March 9th	Orthros Divine Liturgy: Sunday of Forgiveness	8:30 AM- 10 AM
Monday March 10th	Great Lent Begins Clean Monday: Strict Fast	
Tuesday March 11th	Philoptochos Meeting Meets every 2nd Tuesday of each month. Please contact Niki Lelis for details.	7:30 PM – 9 PM
Friday March 14	First Salutations to the Virgin Mary followed by Adult Catechesis	7 PM
Sunday March 16th	Orthros Divine Liturgy Sunday of Orthodoxy - Students Bring Icons to Church for Procession	8:30 AM 10 AM
Friday March 21	Second Salutations to the Virgin Mary followed by Adult Catechesis	7 PM
Sunday March 23rd	Orthros Divine Liturgy Second Sunday of Lent: St. Gregory Palamas (No Sunday School)	8:30 AM 10 AM
Tuesday March 25	Annunciation	
Friday March 28	Third Salutations to the Virgin Mary followed by Adult Catechesis	7 PM
Sunday March 30	Orthros Divine Liturgy Greek School Independence Celebration Third Sunday of Lent: Veneration of the Cross	8:30 AM 10 AM 11:30 AM

## April

(Including Holy Week Schedule)

Friday April 4	Fourth Salutations to the Virgin Mary followed by Adult Catechesis	7 PM
Sunday April 6	Orthros Divine Liturgy Fourth Sunday of Lent: St. John of the Ladder	8:30 AM 10 AM
Tuesday April 8th	Philoptochos Meeting Meets every 2nd Tuesday of each month. Please contact Niki Lelis for details.	7:30 PM – 9 PM
Friday April 11	The Akathist Hymn to the Virgin Mary followed by Adult Catechesis	7 PM



Sunday April 13	<p><b>Orthros</b>  <b>Divine Liturgy</b>  <b>General Assembly</b>  <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent: Mary of Egypt</b></p>	8:30 AM 10 AM 11:30 AM
Saturday April 19	<p><b>Orthros</b>  <b>Divine Liturgy</b>  <b>Youth Retreat (Prepare Palms)</b>  <b>Saturday of Lazarus:</b> <i>We commemorate the divine love that brought Lazarus back to life – the same love that Christ offers each of us today.</i></p>	9 AM 10 AM Until 4 PM
Sunday April 20	<p><b>Orthros</b>  <b>Palm Sunday:</b> Our Lord's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem  <b>Bridegroom Service</b>  <i>On this and the subsequent two evenings we celebrate the Nymphios or Bridegroom service, focusing on the urgency of our worship and the immanent presence of our Savior.</i></p>	8:30 AM 10 AM 4 PM
Monday April 21	<p><b>Holy Monday: Presanctified Liturgy</b>  <b>Bridegroom Service</b>  <i>The parable of the 10 Virgins</i></p>	10 AM 7 PM
Tuesday April 22	<p><b>Holy Tuesday: Presanctified Liturgy</b>  <b>Bridegroom Service</b>  <i>The sinful woman who anointed Christ (Hymn of Kassiani)</i></p>	10 AM 7 PM
Wednesday April 23	<p><b>Holy Wednesday: Sacrament of Holy Oil (especially for small children)</b>  <b>Sacrament of Holy Oil (eftheleon)</b>  <i>The sacrament of oil or unction is celebrated when we confess our sins and seek to be reconciled to God, in this case, focusing and preparing ourselves for the coming Paschal event. Our attention is focused on Christ as the Physician of our souls and bodies, the ultimate source of all healing.</i></p>	3 PM 7 PM
Thursday April 24	<p><b>Holy Thursday: Orthros</b>  <b>Divine Liturgy of St. Basil</b>  <i>Commemoration of the washing of the disciples' feet by the Lord, the betrayal, the Mystical Supper, and the vigil in the Garden of Gethsemane.</i>  <b>The 12 Gospel Readings</b>  <i>Passion and Crucifixion of the Lord</i></p>	9 AM 10 AM  7 PM
Friday April 25	<p><b>Holy Friday: Royal Hours</b>  <b>Prepare the symbolic tomb (kouvouklion decoration)</b>  <b>Vespers of the Descent from the Cross</b>  <b>Lamentations and Procession of the symbolic tomb of Christ</b>  <i>These services commemorate the un-nailing of the crucified Christ and His burial. In the evening we lament His burial while acknowledging and praising His magnificent condescension.</i></p>	10 AM 11 AM 3 PM 7 PM
Saturday April 26	<p><b>Holy Saturday: Orthros</b>  <b>Divine Liturgy, celebrated from the symbolic tomb</b>  <i>We commemorate Christ's descent into hell so that death itself could be destroyed as we anticipate the Resurrection with holding candles and processing solemnly.</i>  <b>Pre-Resurrection Service</b></p>	9 AM 10 AM  11:30 PM
Sunday April 27	<p><b>Resurrection Celebration</b>  <b>Orthos and Divine Liturgy of Holy Pascha (Easter)</b>  <i>The service begins late at night, in the shadows, with a note of hushed anticipation, which builds until the call to "Come Receive the Light!" rings forth. We then light our candles and read the Gospel of the Resurrection, followed by the exuberant celebration of the Resurrection in hymns. The special radiance places us in the proper orientation for the Divine Liturgy.</i>  <b>Vespers of Love (Agape)</b>  <i>The proclamation of the Resurrection in multiple languages.</i></p>	Midnight 12:30 AM  5 PM

## Have You Made Your 2008 Stewardship Pledge?

The 2008 Stewardship Drive is underway! Thank you to all the families who have made their generous 2008 pledge commitments already. We have 20 new stewardship families this year!

However, not every family has yet returned a 2008 pledge card. As of the end of February we are still short of our Stewardship goal for the year. Out of love and gratitude to God for all His blessings, please pledge to become a steward to share in the support and work of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County. A pledge card follows, and can also be found in the Narthex or online at [www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org](http://www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org).

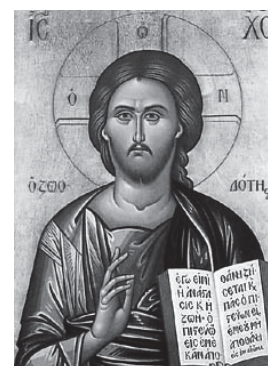
Thank you to all for your continued support of our Parish. If you have any questions about stewardship, please contact Christie Rebok at [crebok@comcast.net](mailto:crebok@comcast.net).



### 2008 Christian Stewardship Pledge

*The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County*  
 21580 Atlantic Blvd., Building D, Unit 160  
 Dulles, VA 20166.

In faith, prayer and sacrifice, my family and I wish to share in the support and work of the **Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County, Virginia**. Out of our love and gratitude to God for all His blessings, we would like to pledge **AN HOUR'S PAY PER WEEK** (i.e. 2.5% of annual household income) or the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the year 2008.



This amount will be paid as follows:

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Your pledge is *strictly confidential*.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

### Family Information

Also participating in this pledge are the following family members:

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

## Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County Contact List

www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org  
21580 Atlantic Blvd., Building D, Unit 160  
Dulles, VA 20166.

### Clergy

Father John Kalantzis      H: 703-992-0996  
FrJohnK@cox.net      C: 224-627-1848

### Parish Council

President: Mike Koutsourais      703-669-6857  
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Vice President: Bill Aubin      703-625-4484  
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Cynthia Smith      703-478-0522  
silvercps@hotmail.com

Kathy Kendrat      703-669-5865

### Council Committees

**Stewardship**  
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crebok@comcast.net

**Fundraising**  
Position available (see Mike Koutsourais)

**Communications**  
Bill Aubin      703-724-4162  
aubinb@comcast.net

### Church Organizations

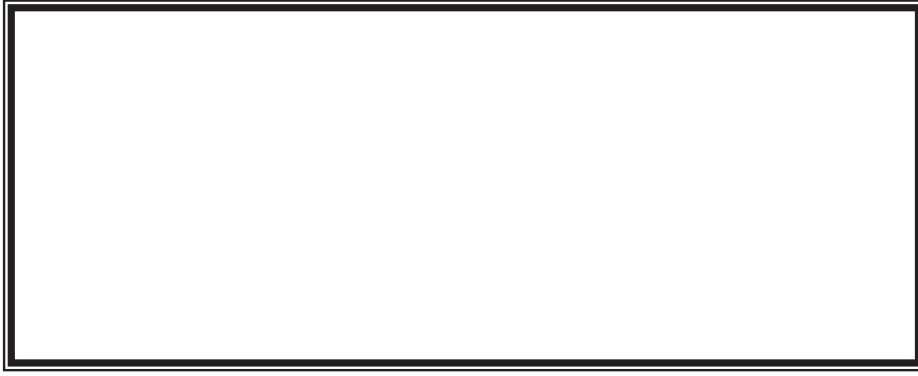
**Philoptochos**  
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nlelis@cox.net

**Catechetical School**  
Nick Zangos      703-391-6075  
achsah1@cox.net

**Proto-Psaltis**  
Nick Grivas      703-798-7979  
Papounico3@aim.com

**JOY/HOPE/GOYA (Youth Ministries)**  
Kathy Kendrat      703-669-5865

**Cultural Activities (Greek Dancing/Greek Language School)**  
Susan Dorn      571-333-1733  
ssdorn@aol.com



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