



The Light To Φως



Holy Apostles Greek
Orthodox Church
Loudoun County, VA

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

A Message from Father George Alexson



“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32)

Beloved Parishioners and Friends,

Our annual Great Lenten journey is quickly coming to an end. Soon, the somber days of Holy Week will be upon us. Beginning with Lazarus Saturday, we will recapitulate liturgically and spiritually the dreadful consequences of Christ's betrayal, trial, crucifixion and death. Happily, the biblical narrative, as we all know, does not end at the guarded tomb. The courageous women who first found the tomb empty, followed by the Disciples, and together with St. Paul, all assure us, “Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep” (I Cor. 15:20). Soon the awe-inspiring ring of millions of voices world-wide will confirm the authenticity of the message: Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

In John 14, Jesus speaks to the Disciples about His Father's house and the “many rooms” where He will prepare a place for them and all who believe in Him. Jesus assures them that they “know the place where I am going.” Thomas, however, protests: “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” It is here that the Master reveals Himself unequivocally, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

For Christians, truth is not a hypothesis begging for interpretation. Nor is it another philosophical system competing for our attention, to entertain our intellectual curiosity. When believers speak of the truth, they acknowledge that Truth is the very Incarnate Logos of God the Father. Lepers are not cleansed by a theory, the blind and lame are not healed by a supposition, nor are the dead raised by philosophical conjecture. Sin, that ruinous missing of the mark toward perfection, is not purged by anything but the Truth, Who alone can proclaim, “Your sins are forgiven, go and sin no more.” Thus, the Lord assures us, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

When Jesus spoke these words His listeners asserted that they were free, because they were Abraham's descendants. Once again the Master sets the record straight: “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”

Truth, freedom and slavery, are among the most powerful words in our human vocabulary. For believers their meaning is unique and unequivocal. Truth is Christ, His Gospel, and His way of life. Freedom is a gift expressing God's love, an invitation to love Him because He loved us first. Love, however, cannot be coerced; it must be born from the exercise of my free will. Either I love Him or, I love

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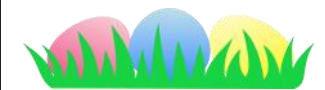
Palm Sunday Fish Dinner at Holy Apostles, April 1, Deadline to order on our website is March 27
holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org



Holy Week and Easter services, April 2-8



Stewardship Sunday, April 22, Hear an update on our Stewardship program





A Message from Father George Alexson cont..

something else. It is that “something else” that all too often leads inexorably to slavery. “Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters” (Mt. 12:30).

Everything we are called to do during Great Lent—fast, pray, acts of charity—is done with one purpose in mind, “to gather with Christ.” In the New Testament this word—gather/synago--contains eschatological implications, meaning that we come to Christ because He is our Savior, here, now and forever. We gather with Him, because apart from Him there is no antidote to the sting of death. “Where, o death, is your victory? Where, o death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Cor. 15: 55-56).

My beloved, at the beginning of Great Lent we heard this beautiful kontakion chanted in all our churches: “My soul, my soul, arise! Why are you sleeping? The end is drawing near, and you will be confounded. Awake, then, and be watchful, that Christ our God may spare you, Who is everywhere present and fills all things.”

Now is the time for vigilance, for self-examination and confession; now is the time to, “...love the Bridegroom...keep our lamps aflame with virtues and true faith, so that we, like the wise virgins of the Lord, may be ready to enter with Him into the marriage feast. For the Bridegroom, as God, grants unto all an incorruptible crown” (Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday).

May our Lord make it so! May He give us grace, courage and strength to take up our cross daily and follow Him, through every faith-challenging Golgotha and beyond, to the victory and joy of His Resurrection, a resurrection that can be ours if we but gather with Him.

With prayers for a blessed and joyous Pascha,

Fr. George



Weekday Liturgical Schedule, April and May 2018

April 1 Palm Sunday	Orthros, 8:45 AM. Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM Bridegroom Matins, 7:00 PM
April 2 Holy Monday	Bridegroom Matins, 7:00PM
April 3 Holy Tuesday	Bridegroom Matins, 7:00 PM
April 4 Holy Wednesday	Sacrament of Holy Unction, 3:00 PM Orthros of Holy Thursday, 7:00 PM (Holy Unction anointing after service)
April 5 Holy Thursday	Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil, 9:30 AM Orthros and reading of Twelve Passion Gospels, 7:00 PM
April 6 Holy Friday	Reading of the Royal Hours, 9:00 AM Vespers of the Apokathilosis, 3:00 PM Orthros and Lamentations at Tomb of Christ, 7:00 PM
April 7 Holy Saturday	Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil, 9:30 AM Orthros of the Resurrection, 11:00 PM Resurrection and Divine Liturgy, 12 Midnight
April 8 Pascha	Agape (Love) Vespers, 11:00 AM
April 13 Zoodochos Pege	Divine Liturgy, 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM
April 23 St. George	Divine Liturgy, 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM
May 8 St. John the Theologian	Divine Liturgy, 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM
May 21 Sts. Constantine & Helen	Divine Liturgy, 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM



Metropolis of New Jersey

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church



Message from the Parish Council President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm humbled to be writing this article as your new Parish Council President, especially during this blessed season of Great Lent.

Allow me to share a little about me: I grew up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and attended the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church there. I studied at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Systems Engineering in 2003. After graduating, I moved to Fairfax and began work for AMS, now CGI. For the past 10 years, I've worked as a scientist for BBN Technologies, a division of Raytheon. My wife Ashley and I met in high school and married in 2005 at the Annunciation in Winston-Salem.

We've been parishioners at Holy Apostles for around 7 years, and in that time, I've had various roles on the Parish Council, designed the FOS, and been a member of our AHEPA chapter, while Ashley has co-directed our Hope & Joy junior youth group. Taking part and leadership in these ministries has been rewarding for us both, but at the end of the day we're most thankful that we can bring up our children, Madison (age 9) and Ben (5), at Holy Apostles – a vibrant and faithful community that has such strong leadership from Fr. George and whose parishioners demonstrate such dedication at spreading Orthodoxy and God's love.

In my brief time in office, we've already taken two big steps toward solidifying our parish's future.

First, our 2018 Taste of Greece was one of our most successful events ever, not only in terms of fundraising (*we calculated initial revenues of about \$50,000 in food and beverage sales, raffle sales, advertising sales, and donations*), but also in terms of community impact. This three-day event, attended by over 1,600 people, was a unique opportunity to share our faith and Holy Apostles with all of Loudoun County and beyond. In fact, the event was filmed for a LocalDVM.com news feature and we were visited by Congresswoman Barbara Comstock who sent out a tweet.

None of it would have been possible without the many, many people who dedicated their time, talent, and treasure to making it a success, in particular Taste of Greece Chair George Mokhiber – who established a vision and leadership, and who

spent countless hours in dedicated service – as well as Taste of Greece Co-Chair Niki Lelis, the Taste of Greece Committee Leaders, and event volunteers, including the Greek Dance Troupe. Together we rose to the challenge; having successful events like Taste of Greece is crucial to the growth of our church.

Second, at the 2018 Spring General Assembly (GA), the Future Planning Committee or FPC, led by Nick Spyros, along with the Parish Council Treasurer, Maria Zangos, and the Stewardship Chair, Mina Baldinger, presented the details of the LOI we signed to purchase 7+ acres off Claiborne Parkway. The parishioners in attendance shared personal stories about their vision for our permanent home in Loudoun County, and asked thoughtful questions of Nick, Maria, and Mina, who did a thorough job explaining why the FPC feels the Claiborne property is a great fit for Holy Apostles, along with details on how we will pay for it. In the end, the GA voted unanimously to authorize the FPC to spend up to \$50,000 to perform a phase 1 study of the property, which will include a concept plan, in order to determine if it's the right fit for our future parish.

My sincerest thanks to Nick, Maria, and Mina for preparing this in-depth presentation and for the work and careful consideration they'll do as part of the property study, and to the GA for voting to take this major step in the future of our church. The Parish Council will keep the Holy Apostles community up to date on the FPC's progress, and will meet with all of our parishioners in smaller groups to discuss plans in more detail. Should you have any questions, or would like to find out how you can help us reach our goal through donations to the building fund, through stewardship, and/or through fundraising, please reach out to me or anyone on the Parish Council.

Again, I'm honored to be your Parish Council President, and look forward to working with each and every one of you to further the success of Holy Apostles by building upon the outstanding work that's already been done – tireless dedication from Fr. George and Presvytera Joanna, outreach by our many and exciting ministries, and devotion from our parishioners.

In Christ,
Greg Joiner
Parish Council President



Stewardship

Greetings Parishioners!

Our church is busy making plans for the future and once again are looking at purchasing land and building our future church home. Now more than ever we need to commit our financial resources to the church. Just a few years ago, when I was a parishioner and not the Stewardship Chair, I didn't understand the importance of filling out my pledge card. I was giving my monthly donation faithfully, so what did it matter if I filled out a pledge card? Well, I have come to find out that it most definitely matters, for many reasons. The first thing it does is to help us know we have enough money coming in to pay the bills for the church (lights, rent, ministries, staff support — all the things we enjoy on a daily basis). It also allows us to plan for the future and to show our financial strength to lenders. A big factor in securing a loan is having a strong show of stewardship. In a church like ours, EVERY PLEDGE MATTERS.

We are working on ways to make sure filling out a pledge card is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1 - Go on the church website and hit the link to print up a stewardship card and turn it in or send to the church.

2 - While at church, fill out your stewardship card and turn it in to myself, my wife Mina or any Parish Council Member. We also have a basket for stewardship pledges by the office.

3 - Make a pledge via Paypal (which is linked on our website) and make sure you state it is a stewardship payment. Then we can have you fill out a card the next time we see you!

We appreciate your support.

Have a blessed Lenten season.

Ron Baldinger

Stewardship Chair

ron.baldinger@gmail.com



Circle areas of expertise or interest:

Youth Groups and Classes

Hope & Joy

GOYA

Greek Dance Instruction

Greek School

Sunday School

Groups and Ministries

AHEPA

Altar Service

Choir

Ladies Philoptochos

Orthodox Book Club

PAREA lunch group

Parish Newsletter

Social Events

Stewardship Committee

Visiting Elderly

2018 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE (PLEDGE FOR JAN-DEC 2018) 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 2018 (through December 2018)

You may pay via cash, check or online using PayPal 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.



Stewardship

Members with a Pledge Card submitted as of 12 March 2018

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>
Alexson	Dimitri and Cheryl	Pappas	Maria
Alexson	Rev. Father George and Presvytera Joanna	Pieri	Loiza
Anemojanis	Eugene and Ursula	Polo	Arqilea and Majlinda
Aubin	William and Nancy	Rallis	Rebecca
Baldinger	Ronald and Mina	Ravaris	Elias and Vasilia
Batistatos-Martnishn	Steve and Ergini	Rouvelas	Emanuel and Marilyn
Burke	Chad and Julie	Skuce	Thomas and Archelle
Caras	William and Smaro	Smith	Jeff and Cynthia
Chelpon	Deacon Harry and Maria	Sofologis	Constantine
Cherpes	Greg and Marilena	Spyros	Nick and Elizabeth
Cleveland	Edward and Alexis	Strafford	David and Anna
Cleveland	Matthew	Stratis	Moska
Coulopoulos	Dean and Maria	Thomas	Dwayne and Irene
Dacey	Panayiotis and Athanasia	Thomas	Peter
Dimopoulos	Art	Tjoumas	Angelo and Anna
Dorn	David and Susan	Zangos	Maria
Drapas	John and Maria	Zangos	Nicholas and Carol
Economou	Dean and Lia		
Fotopoulos	Vasilios and Joan		
Funk	Gary and Lillian		
Gacis	Bill and Evelyn		
Glakas	Jim and Cynthia		
Green	Joanna		
Hadjimichael	Mike and Eleni		
Ioanou	Nicholas and Asha		
Joiner	Greg and Ashley		
Kaffes	Andrew and Vasiliki		
Kaladze	George		
Kayafas	Pete and Constance		
Kendrat	Bill and Kathy		
Koutsourais	Michael and Effie		
Lampros	Hal and Alexandra		
Leis	Nikoleta		
Lisciandro	John and Christy		
Malachias	Zachary and Paula		
Margaros	Pete		
Matheos	Mark and Meredith		
Mokhiber	George and Debra		
Morris	Olivia and James		
Orphanides	Paul and Lisa		

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Sunday of Orthodoxy

On February 25, we celebrated the Feast of Orthodoxy (also known as the Sunday of Orthodoxy or the Triumph of Orthodoxy). This is celebrated on the first Sunday of Great Lent (six Sundays before Pascha) in the liturgical calendar of the Eastern Orthodox Church and of the Byzantine Rite Eastern Catholic Churches. The Feast is kept in memory of the final defeat of iconoclasm and the restoration of the icons to the churches.





Tsougrisma: the Red Egg Easter Game - Article by: N. Gaifyllia

Red eggs (*kokkina avga*) are a traditional part of the Greek Easter celebration. They are lovingly made, either with onion skins or dye and then baked into a *tsourekaki* (the Easter bread), used as table decorations and are the key piece to a fun game called *tsougrisma*, which tests the eggs' strength--and perhaps the players' strategy. The word *tsougrisma* means "clinking together" or "clashing." In Greek, it is τσούγκρισμα, and is pronounced TSOO-grees-mah.

The game requires two players and two red eggs; the goal is to crack the opponent's egg without cracking your own.

How to Play

To play, each player holds a red egg, and one taps the end of her or his egg lightly against the end of the other player's egg. When one egg's end is cracked, the person with the clean egg uses the same end of the egg to try to crack the other end of the opponent's egg.

How to Win

The player who successfully cracks both ends of their opponent's egg is declared the winner and, it is said, will have good luck during the year.

**There are no rules about which end of the egg to tap first, how to hold it or how to tap the egg against the other, and there's never been a method that has been proven to work every time!*

How do you dye Greek Easter eggs?

1. Combine water, onion skins, and vinegar in a pot; bring to a boil. Set aside onions for another use.
2. Remove skins from dye and discard skins. Place eggs in the dye and bring to a boil; cook for 15 minutes.
3. Transfer eggs to a wire rack to dry, about 15 minutes.
4. Rub olive oil onto each egg to make them shiny.



photo: lovingfruits

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Taste of Greece



Thank you to all the volunteers who made this weekend a success!



Taste of Greece cont...

Big Thank you to our talented dancers!





Sunday School

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 2018 ORATORICAL FESTIVAL & PRAYER PARTNERS PROGRAM AT OUR HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY

Dear Parishioners,

Our Holy Apostles Sunday School hosted the Parish Oratorical Festival on March 18, 2018. Our students selected their topics from those announced by our Archdiocese (see to the side).

A panel of 3 judges reviewed and graded each speaker. The speakers in the Elementary Division (Grades 4th to 6th grade) were not judged.



Congratulations to all of our participants!!

Junior Division

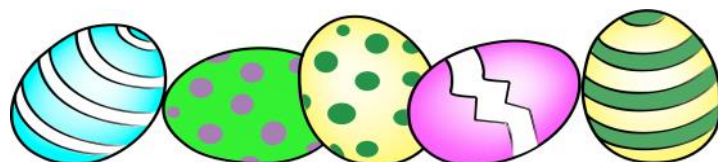
First Place - Athena Lansdell

Second Place - Stephen Economou

Senior Division

First Place - Marlene Ortiz

Second Place - Paris Economou



Topics

Junior Division (Grades 7-9)

1. In John 15:13-15, Jesus teaches about friendship to His disciples. Discuss the importance of friendship in your life.
2. Choose a parable from the Gospel of Luke and discuss how it speaks to our contemporary life.
3. Talk about a time and circumstance when you were in awe and wonder – where you sensed the majesty of God.
4. Discuss how prayer, fasting, serving others, or study of Orthodoxy assists you with your relationship with Christ and the Church.
5. In Mark 2:1-12, four men remove a roof in order to bring a paralytic to Jesus to be healed. How inventive are we in bringing people to Jesus for healing?

Senior Division (Grades 10-12)

1. People often say, "It felt right" in order to explain their decisions. How many of our decisions factor in not only our feelings but also the will and commandments of God?
2. Christ's disciples made the commitment to follow Him without knowing what the outcome might be. What does it mean to follow Christ today?
3. How can we have religious conversations on social media in an age of trolling?
4. Christ said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Mark 4:9). The Lord said this with reference to the way we hear the word of God. What is our response?
5. Our lives are saturated with violence, not only in terms of the proliferation of war and terrorism but even as entertainment through movies and video games. In such an environment, how can a Christian cultivate virtues that lead to empathy, peacemaking, and self-sacrifice?





GOYA

Our GOYA has already had a busy year with many fun events, faith-based events, and community service events.

The GOYA social was at the Mantalvanos home in February. Thank you to the Mantalvanos family for hosting and for providing a great dinner! We enjoyed great fellowship and welcomed Spiro Kass, our newest GOYA member.

Also in February our GOYAns volunteered at our parish's Taste of Greece, guiding cars in the parking lot, bringing orders to patrons and cleaning tables. They worked hard and represented our GOYA well! Many of them also performed throughout the weekend with our Greek Dance Troupe. Everyone, including Father George, was so impressed with their skills and the range of dances. It was hard to believe that they only had a few practices and the majority had never Greek danced before! They had so much fun that even when their performance was over, they continued dancing a fast pentozali and other dances, holding hands and smiling together. For those of us who grew up dancing in a Greek dance troupe, or just danced for fun at a Greek festival, this was a true pleasure to watch and brought back happy memories. Thank you GOYAns for representing our church and an important part of our culture. We are so glad you had fun too!

Thank you also to Maria Plevrakis and Jimmy Hontos, our fearless Dance Troupe instructors, who taught our GOYAns and were at every Taste of Greece performance. I would be remiss in not also thanking Aris and Anna Yortzidis from the St. Katherine's church dance troupe. They graciously let us borrow their dancers' costumes for the weekend. The costumes were beautiful and added to our performances.

Our fundraising activity in March was a consignment sale in Ashburn. GOYAns helped collect and prepare gently used children's items donated by parishioners, and Emmanuel Koutsourais worked at the sale to allow GOYA an extra percentage of the sale proceeds. Thank you to the parishioners who donated items, to the GOYAns for preparing

them, to Emmanuel for working at the sale, and to Christy Lisciandro for coordinating the items and welcoming us into her home for pizza and prepping! All of your efforts were a success.

In March GOYAns and their families also enjoyed a Lenten Retreat at our church with Father George followed by a Lenten spaghetti lunch in the hall. Thank you to Father George and to the families who helped set up and serve at the luncheon. We also welcomed our newest GOYAns, John and Maria Polich.

GOYA will continue to be involved in helping our church throughout Lent by preparing the palms for Palm Sunday and decorating the Epitaphio. Post-Easter, GOYA has many fun and faith events planned, a community service project selected by the GOYAns, and a fundraiser. We pray our parishioners have a blessed Pascha!

In God's service,

Lia Economou

GOYA Advisor



GOYAns enjoying a Lenten discussion and luncheon with Father George Alexson



GOYA cont..



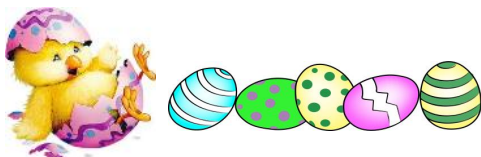
GOYs enjoying a Lenten discussion and luncheon with Father George Alexson



GOYA social and dinner at the Mantalvanos home in February



GOYs preparing items for a consignment sale fundraiser in March





Hope and Joy



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

We hope you are enjoying a beautiful Lenten season thus far. Hope & Joy enjoyed a number of special activities this winter:

In January, we met at church and were delighted to have Fr. George teach us about Theophany. He also blessed us with holy water, which was an incredibly meaningful way to start the new year.

Afterward, as we reflected on the dove at the end of the Theophany story, we made a dove craft. Not only were our paper doves cute, they even flew, just like paper airplanes do!

In February, Fr. George met us at church again, this time to discuss the importance and significance of the upcoming Lent. He also gave each child an icon card of their choosing -- a wonderful token in celebration of the Easter season. We are so grateful for each and every time Fr. George is able to join us for Hope & Joy, and he always goes above and beyond in making the children feel loved and special -- thank you, Fr. George!

We were also joined at the February meeting by Denise Lansdell and her daughter Athena, who presented on Orthodox ministry to prisoners. To support our parish's outreach, the children created Easter cards that will be distributed to prisoners as a reminder of God's love and our prayers. Denise and Athena generously shared with us card making materials and more importantly their time and kind hearts -- thank you, Denise and Athena!

Read on to learn about our plans for spring.

Wishing you all a blessed 2018,
Ashley Joiner and Ava Walter,
Co-Directors of Hope & Joy
(ashleydjoiner@gmail.com) (avamwalter@gmail.com)

Upcoming monthly meetings

(held at church from 6:00pm to 7:15pm)

- April 20
- May 4
- June 1

Upcoming Spring Activities:

- On March 9, in lieu of a regular monthly meeting, Hope & Joy participated as a ministry in the salutations services.
 - Regular monthly meetings are held at church from 6:00pm to 7:15pm. Join us April 20, May 4, and June 1.
- In April, we'll contribute to another of the Philoptocos charitable efforts: the Loudoun Hunger Relief Cereal Drive. Also in April, we'll provide refreshments for the post-liturgy coffee hour.



Kids at our January and February monthly meeting



Philoptochos

We have had a successful start to the new year. We attended a lovely Agape Tea in Annapolis. We enjoyed sharing fellowship at our first happy hour and look forward to another in the spring. We all worked at the successful Taste of Greece.

We completed our February Inova Mobile Hope donation collection for children. We volunteered at Women Giving Back in March and plan on scheduling additional dates to volunteer. We hope you can join us at one of our future events.

Your continued support allows us to help and support our community. Special thanks to Carol Zangos for participating in the first Salutations Service on behalf of Philoptochos.

We wish you a blessed Lent and Easter.

With my deepest gratitude,

Alexis Cleveland

apcphiloptochos@gmail.com



Did you know?

Derived from the Greek, the name Philoptochos means "friends of the poor."

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PAREA

Beloved PAREA family,

As we are walking in the path of Great Lent and Holy Week, our hearts are becoming full of anticipation of our Lord and Savior's glorious Resurrection. Let us all fill our hearts with His light and our souls with warmth as we are ready to again receive the greatest gift ever given to us, the promise of eternal life.

Our PAREA luncheons continue to be blessed with warmth and fellowship. We continue with our great traditions, like our March fasting potluck PAREA at the Blair residence! Please note that due to Holy Week, PAREA will not gather during the month of April. However, with God's grace, the Blair family is deeply honored and humbled to continue another tradition into its 4th year, that of inviting all of you to celebrate Easter Sunday with us at our home. So, please let Marina know if you would like to attend our potluck Easter celebration. We will be very happy to see you here! The pictures below are from our February luncheon!

Our PAREA family would like to wish all of you a Happy Easter! May the blessings of His Resurrection fill your hearts with love and spiritual uplifting.

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



February's lunch at Olive Garden



Do you shop at Amazon.com?



If so, you can help our Church receive donations, just by shopping! Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of orders to a selected charity.

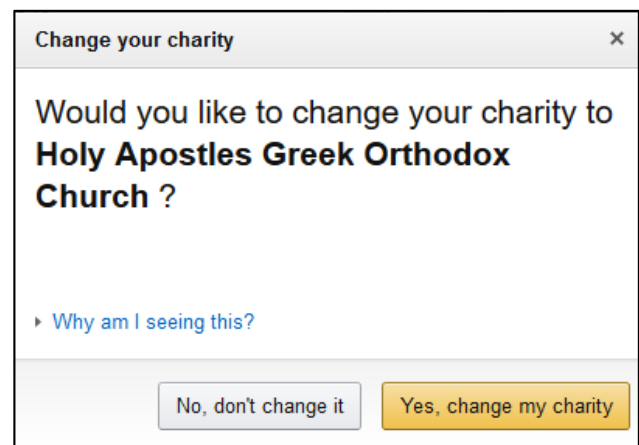
The Fundraising Committee has added our Church as one of the available charities on Amazon Smile.

Step 1: To get started, go to our website www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org and click on the **Go to smile.amazon.com** button on our website to select our Church or go to this link directly:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-5712523>

Step 2: Sign in using your Amazon credentials

Step 3: Click on the **Yes, change my charity button**



You will now see, as shown below, that you have selected our Church as your charity.



You will receive a confirmation email that you have selected our Church.

Important: Always remember when you shop at Amazon to go use the <https://smile.amazon.com> link and confirm that the charity you are supporting is our Church.



Future Planning Committee

We achieved a major milestone getting a step closer to our new home. We signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Toll Brothers to purchase 7.5 acres of prime pre-graded real estate in northern Ashburn within 10 minutes of our current location. On March 11, our General Assembly approved the LOI and to spend up to \$50,000 to perform a Phase 1 Study on the property as well as to engage in preliminary concept design and other stage one marketing materials to facilitate our fundraising efforts.

We are centering our initial campaign around our three-word alliteration **Future, Faith, For All** for us to meet the challenge of moving into our permanent home. We can accomplish anything together if we are willing to accept that we hold our **Future** in our hands, if we have **Faith** that we can accomplish anything we put our minds to and act with a pure and giving heart, and if we are committed to building our church **For All**, which is beyond just ourselves, but for our children and for all Orthodox Christians to partake in the glory of our services, traditions and celebrations, such as the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church Festival held on OUR property.

We are blessed to be currently in negotiations to sign a contract to purchase this property. As our agent, Pete Ebert, clearly stated at this General Assembly, the price of \$300,000 per acre for this pre-graded property is a fantastic deal for us. We save anywhere from \$200,000 - \$400,000 per acre in development and construction costs with this property when compared to the purchase raw land. With this location, we are in one of the wealthiest areas of the country enabling us to obtain greater support from the general community for our fundraising events.

As Father George stated at our General Assembly, we cannot afford to let this opportunity slip through our fingers. If we remain in our current location for too much longer without a vision and plan to move, our parish will atrophy. We cannot allow this to happen. We owe it to our children and our community.

Please stay tuned, as we will have regular updates with summaries from our President, Greg Joiner, multiple Town Hall meetings with each meeting consisting of a

more intimate size of parishioners, and also hold some individual family meeting with those of you interested in supporting our move to a new home.

Please consider how you can help. Volunteer for our fundraising events, please be innovative and let us know of any exciting fundraising events you may have, talk to family and close friends about donating to the building fund, and support our stewardship program. With only 10% of our stewards donating to our building fund, we raised approximately \$500K. Imagine what we can raise with greater participation from the rest of our stewards and family and close friends of our parishioners. **Don't you want to be part of this exciting time?**

Our **Future** is in our hands. Through **Faith** we can accomplish great things – nothing is insurmountable. Coming together **For All** we can remain strong in our commitment to build a church for our children and Orthodox Christians in our community.

Visit our website and stay tuned for further exciting updates.

Blessings,
Nick Spyros
Chair of the Future Planning Committee
nlspyros@yahoo.com



**Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church**

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Dulles, VA 20166

www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org**CLERGY**

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