

# The Light To Φως



**Holy Apostles Greek  
Orthodox Church**  
Loudoun County, VA

Volume 13, Issue 2  
Mar — Apr 2017

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

## A Message from Father George Alexson

*"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup."*

(I Cor. 11:28)



Beloved Parishioners and Friends,

When I was a boy, participation in the Eucharist (Holy Communion) was infrequent, no more than three to four times a year. Of course, the Divine Liturgy was being celebrated every Sunday, and on holy days. We attended church every Sunday, but the "tradition" passed on to us by our forefathers and mothers was such that, in order to take Holy Communion one must be "worthy," a state which the average Orthodox Christian, at least in those days, considered difficult to achieve. As a result, the call, "with fear of God, with faith and love," drew few participants to the chalice at any given Liturgy. Nor was preparation for Holy Communion easy back then. It required at least a week of very strict fasting, including no movies, dances or activities considered unseemly when preparing for such a sacred undertaking. It was an extreme—infrequent Communion—borne out of a piety that was not well informed and certainly not within the tradition of the early Church. Nevertheless, it was a form of piety that reminded us that approaching the chalice was an enormous responsibility and risk, grounded in the warning given by St. Paul to the Corinthians, "For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (I Cor. 11:20).

It might be interesting, of course, to inquire as to why previous generations believed that strict fasting, especially without the Sacrament of Confession, could somehow "make" a person worthy those three or four times a year. Perhaps there is an answer, but searching for it is beyond the scope of this message. Suffice it to say that, in those days we didn't question our elders; that, too, was risky.

Somewhere in the late 1960's the trend began to change, in what we might call a "Eucharistic revival," that began with the writings of the late Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, a prominent Orthodox theologian in the western hemisphere. A prolific author, Fr. Alexander has left us a treasure house of books and articles explaining the profound depths of Orthodox liturgical theology. One quote on the significance of the Eucharist will help us understand the direction of his message: "The Eucharist of Christ and Christ the Eucharist is the "breakthrough" that brings us to the table in the Kingdom, raises us to heaven, and makes us partakers of the divine food. For eucharist—thanksgiving and praise—is the very form and content of the new life that God granted us when in Christ He reconciled us with Himself. The reconciliation, the forgiveness, the power of life—all this has its purpose and fulfillment in this new state of being, this new style of life which is the Eucharist, the only real life of creation with God and in God, the only true relationship between God and the world."

The emphasis on Eucharistic renewal in our parishes was a positive, all be it a gradual, step in the spiritual re-awakening of the faithful. This admonition of St. John Cassian on the danger of avoiding the Eucharist is useful. He writes, "We must not avoid communion because we deem ourselves to be sinful. We must approach it more often for the healing of the soul and the purification of the spirit, but with such humility and faith that considering ourselves unworthy . . . we would desire even more the medicine for our wounds."

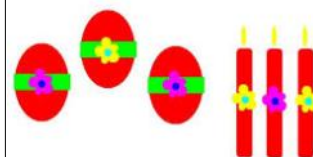
### Inside this issue:

Message from the Parish President	3
Stewardship	4
Kid's Corner	6
Sunday School	8
Hope/JOY	9
GOYA	11
Orthodox Book Club	15
Philoptochos	16
PAREA	17
AHEPA	19

### Highlights:

- April 1, Annual Church Spring Cleaning, 9 am-1pm
- April 8, Saturday of Lazarus service followed by assembling of palm crosses and an interactive Resurrection Egg activity by the Lansdell Family
- April 14, Decorate the Epitaphio, 9am
- April 16, Easter Sunday

**ΚΑΛΟ ΠΑΣΧΑ!**





## A Message from Father George Alexson cont..

Otherwise it is impossible to receive communion once a year, as certain people do . . . considering the sanctification of heavenly Mysteries as available only to saints. It is better to think that by giving us grace, the sacrament makes us pure and holy. Such people manifest more pride than humility . . . for when they receive, they think of themselves as worthy. It is much better if, in humility of heart, knowing that we are never worthy of the Holy Mysteries we would receive them every Sunday for the healing of our diseases, rather than, blinded by pride, think that after one year we become worthy of receiving them."

Cassian's explanation is noteworthy, and should be taken seriously. Yet, with the twentieth century revival in frequent Communion came the danger of presumption: that is, the rush to receive whether or not one is truly prepared. Indeed, I have even heard some claim that it is our "right" to receive, no matter the circumstances. Obviously, such statements are made from ignorance and can be spiritually harmful. A careful reading of the prayers in preparation for Holy Communion will quickly disabuse anyone of this false notion. Thus, the question, are we preparing ourselves properly for the chalice is immensely important, especially for those approaching frequently. St. Paul required examination of conscience as a prerequisite. Ancient liturgies also included corporate confession of sins, followed by prayers of forgiveness. Over the years, the Church acquired methods and prayers to assist us in approaching the Chalice with reverence, respect and awe. Following is a list of helpful steps (not suggestions) we should be practicing when preparing for Holy Communion.

First, every effort must be made to attend the Liturgy on time! There is nothing more disrespectful to the Lord and the Eucharist than arriving a few minutes before the invitation to receive. This is a practice that has gone on for too long. Those guilty of this sin are forewarned. Their attitude is no better than that of our Lord's betrayer, whose fate was indeed terrible.

Examination of conscience: have I sinned before God, the Church (in regards to matters of faith and belief), neighbor and myself. The Sacrament of Confession is a gift given to us by Christ Himself, to reconcile us to His Father, the Church and one another (St. John 20:21-23). Avoiding Confession because of fear and embarrassment is an inexcusable peril that endangers the soul and denies the Lord's command (confession can be made to one's parish priest or another confessor of one's choosing). Preparation for confession is available at church and on line.

Prior to approaching the chalice, we should forgive all who have hurt us and ask forgiveness from those we have hurt (Matthew 5:24).

Fasting and abstinence: We should try to keep the Wednesday and Friday fast (especially from meat), as well as the fasting periods defined by the Church (unless medical reasons prevent this). And, we must keep a total fast from midnight until Communion (in other words, on the day of Communion we are to drink and eat nothing until after we partake of the Sacrament. The only exceptions to this are for medical reasons and young children).

Finally, we should read the Pre-Communion prayers before approaching the chalice. They can be found in most Orthodox prayer books and on line.

I conclude, my beloved, with this post-Communion prayer of St. Symeon, which sums up the great recompense awaiting us when we partake of the Lord's Body and Blood correctly and reverently:

"Lord Jesus Christ our God, may Thy sacred body be for me unto life everlasting, and Thy precious blood unto remission of sins. May this Eucharist be for me unto joy, health and gladness. And at Thy dread second coming, account me, a sinner, worthy to stand on the right hand of Thy glory: By the prayers of Thy most holy Mother, and of all the saints."

May the joy of the Lord be with us every day of our life and may His Kingdom be the reality that keeps us firmly in His way. God's blessing and mercy upon us all!  
Amen.

Fr. George



## Liturgical Services for Holy Week and Pascha, 2017

April 8	8:45 AM, Orthros, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
Raising of Lazarus	
April 9	8:45 AM, Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Palm Sunday	7:00 PM, Bridegroom Orthros
April 10	7:00 PM, Bridegroom Orthros
Holy Monday	
April 11	9:30 AM, Preaantified Liturgy
Holy Tuesday	7:00 PM, Bridegroom Orthros
April 12	3:00 PM, Holy Unction Service
Holy Wednesday	7:00 PM, Orthros for Holy Thursday
April 13	9:30 AM, Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
Holy Thursday	7:00 PM, Orthros and Holy Passion of our Lord
April 14	9:00 AM, Great Hours
Holy Friday	3:00 PM, Vespers of the Apokathelosis
	7:00 PM, Orthros and Lamentations at the Tomb
April 15	9:30 AM, Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
Holy Saturday	11:00 PM, Canon Preceding the Resurrection
	12 Midnight, Resurrection & Orthros & Divine Liturgy
April 16	11:00 AM, Vespers of Love
Pascha/Easter Sunday	



## Message from the Parish Council President



Dear members of the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church,

As the new President of the Parish Council, I thought it appropriate to take a moment to provide a brief update regarding some of the events and changes that have occurred during the past few weeks.

First, I wish to thank our former President, Nick Kass, and former Parish Council members, Sofia Kouiroukidis and Ava Walter, for their sincere dedication to the Parish Council (PC) and our beloved Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church. Their invaluable service to our Parish Council and various ministries is greatly appreciated.

If you attended the last Special General Assembly meeting, you know that we discussed the two properties that the PC and Future Planning Committee were interested in; the parcel of land on Russell Branch Pkwy/Ashburn and the existing Christ Our Savior Church in Sterling. With an approximate 2/3<sup>rd</sup> to 1/3<sup>rd</sup> vote, the Stewards of our parish voted against continuing the vetting process of the Christ Our Savior Church and we therefore withdrew our offer.

To paraphrase a passage I read recently; When God takes something out of your hands, it is only to make room for something better that He has for you. Our Faith in Him brought us to these crossroads. Our continued faith in Him assures us that we are on the right path.

The property at Russell Branch Pkwy is still being considered, but due in part to some additional requirements by Loudoun County, the negotiation is somewhat stalled at this time. Although we will continue to monitor Russell Branch, it is the intent of the Future Planning Committee and the PC to continue searching for and vetting appropriate opportunities as they are discovered. We will suspend those efforts during Lent and until after Pascha.

We also discussed the need to continue our efforts to collect Stewardship Pledge Cards from our parishioners who have yet to submit one. It is vitally important for all of us to financially support our beloved church in any way we can and with any amount we are comfortable with. It's kind of like saving for your child's college fund, or your retirement... it's not necessarily how much you save each week, the important thing is that you *do save something* each week.

To coincide with our Stewardship efforts, we are also actively pursuing our Fundraising efforts. You were recently informed about the Amazon Smile program where you can name our church as the recipient of a donation from purchases on Amazon.com. And after a brief hiatus, we are also working on organizing a Fall Taste of Greece at the newly renovated Ashburn Firehouse! We will provide updates as soon as possible.

### Are You Ready For Some Gyro?!

Lastly, I am honored and humbled by the faith and support of Fr. George and our Parish Council to have me continue our journey as the President of the PC. I also wish to acknowledge two new members of our Parish Council, Tom Skuce and Greg Cherpes. Our new Executive Committee members are: Greg Joiner, VP; Maria Zangos, Treasurer; George Mokhiber, Assist. Treasurer; Nick Spyros, Secretary.

Please offer your congratulations and support, when you see them next, at church.

In Christ's service,

Paul Orphanides  
Parish Council President  
[porphanides@myselectproperties.com](mailto:porphanides@myselectproperties.com)



## Stewardship

February's Stewardship Sunday proved to be a great success, yielding a huge influx of pledges for 2017. With each and every pledge we get closer and closer to the possibility of getting a new church.

The Stewardship Committee has also been busy hosting some fun activities over the past couple months and planning more to come. In February we had a fun kids' bowling outing thanks to Christy Lisciandro as well as a great dinner for the adults at Mediterranean Breeze, organized by Nick Spyros. It's at these events where I truly see our wonderful fellowship and enjoyment of one another as a church family shine through. Thank you to all the organizers, and to everyone for participating! We have more events planned over the next couple months to include a Mother-Daughter Tea in April and possibly a Father-Son Nationals baseball game this Summer. Please join us...I promise you'll have a great time!!

We are at a pivotal time in our church's journey as we explore options and possibilities to purchase land and build a new church. Your stewardship is key to our success. For those of you who have pledged for 2017, thank you so much for your commitment. I know there are also many of you who give generously throughout the year, however do not fill out a pledge card. It is incredibly important that you submit a pledge card with your planned contribution. This is the only way we can forecast our financial position as we work with banks and lenders for our future growth.

Thank you to everyone for all you give in time, money, and love to our wonderful church. I hope to see you at our next Stewardship social event, and please...don't forget to fill out your pledge card!!

In God's Service,

Ron Baldinger

Chair, Stewardship Committee

[ron.baldinger@gmail.com](mailto:ron.baldinger@gmail.com)

### 2017 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES AS OF 05 March 2017

Katarzyna Abousamra	John and Patricia Galanis	Olivia and James Morris
Rev. Father George and Presvytera Joanna Alexson	Lampros and Aikaterina Georgakopoulos and Aikaterina Markou	Paul and Lisa Orphanides
Spiro and Efty Anthony	Anthony and Carol Georgelas	Panayiotis and Cynthia Panagopoulos
John and Kristina Ayoub	Savvas and Rachael Georgopoulos	Maria Pappas
Vasilios Bakopanos	Jim and Cynthia Glakas	Jonathan and Janet Perezous
Ronald and Mina Baldinger	Mike and Eleni Hadjimichael	Hristos and Evanna Petrakis
George and Karen Banks	Richard Haylor	Loiza Pieri
Steve and Ergini Batistatos -Martnshn	Greg and Ashley Joiner	Jerry and Helen Pollatos
Alexia Blair	Andrew and Vasiliki Kaffes	Pete Pontikis
Robert and Marina Blair	George Kaladze	Despina Psomiades
Elizabeth Bouzis	Alex and Debbie Kangelaris	Emanuel and Marilyn Rouvelas
Chad and Julie Burke	Mercina Karagiorgis	Michael and Larissa Sivy
Deacon Harry and Maria Chelpon	Nicholas and Constantina Kass	Thomas and Archelle Skuce
Mikhail Chelpon	Bill and Kathy Kendrat	Jeff and Cynthia Smith
Greg and Marilena Cherpes	John and Nancy Koory	Kathy Sparkman
Edward and Alexis Cleveland	Nikolaos and Sofia Kouiroukides	Nick and Elizabeth Spyros
Panayiotis and Athanasia Dacey	Marianne Koukli - Voyages	Stavros and Virginia Stephanakis
Georgia and Charles Dimitras and Charles Silkett	Michael and Effie Koutsourais	Moska Stratis
David and Susan Dorn	Hal and Alexandra Lampros	Peter Thomas
John and Maria Drapas	Bret and Denise Lansdell	Angelo and Anna Tjoumas
Dean and Lia Economou	Nikoleta Lelis	Maria Tsapos
Vasilios and Joan Fotopoulos	John and Christy Lisciandro	George Vardaxis
James and Christine Freire	Milton and Mary Magos	Todd and Ava Walter
Chrysanthé Freire	Angelike Maoury	Maria Zangos
Gary and Lillian Funk	George and Debra Mokhiber	Nicholas and Carol Zangos

### 2017 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE (ALL PLEDGES JANUARY- DECEMBER 2017)

#### 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 2017 (through December 2017)

**You may pay via cash, check or online using PayPal at [www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org](http://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 cont..

### Stewardship Sunday Parishioner Testimonial by Tom and Elpida Skuce

#### 1. How you found our church and when

We were introduced to the Parish through the Kendrat Family during a local theater production of "Little Women". Elpida, Zoe, and I were in the production with Annamaria Kendrat. At the end of the production we hosted the cast party at our house where Kathy Kendrat shared early church history with Elpida. The Sunday before Christmas, 2013, was our first visit to the Parish.

#### 2. What has transpired in your life since you joined (i.e. moving away but maintaining your membership, then relocating back)

Since we've been at this Parish we've been through Catechism, been Baptized and Chrismated (the entire family all at the same time); our son Matthew's fiancé, Isabella Galliano, converted to Orthodoxy; then Elpida and I were remarried through the mystical and pure Orthodoxy marriage sacrament on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Shortly after that our son Matthew and his fiancé Bella were blessed through the mystical and pure Orthodoxy marriage sacrament on May 24, 2015 (two days before Elpida and my Protestant Wedding day of May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1984)

#### 3. How you have been involved in our church (festivals, Stewardship Committee, AHEPA, GOYA, etc.)

Elpida: after 6-months of training from the choir director of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church in Winchester, VA., Father asked Elpida to be the choir director at our church, she has helped with Hope & Joy, GOYA, and VCC, and helped in baking prosforo, and is now making candles for the church

Tom: joined the Parish Council (2015-2016) serving in the Treasurer's role, and on the Future Planning Committee, as well as oversight for GOYA. He provided new treasury collection procedures streamlining the Sunday Collection and Tally process; has assisted with some minor facility repairs, upgrades to the Parish Office computer equipment, as well as upgrades to the Parish sound system. We all helped with last year's Greek Festival.

Unfortunately, he had to step away from the Parish Council for health reasons.

He is, however on the mend and now is in training with the chanters.

Zoe: Involved with GOYA and church choir, plus helps mom with prosforo baking and helps around the church with odds and ends, i.e., painting, cleaning, whatever needs doing

#### 4. What our church means to you and what you like best about it

For Tom, what he likes best about this Parish is the "welcoming environment." From the first day we stepped into this Parish, we have been welcomed and embraced. We enjoy the culture too. The Greek community is so passionate and ever changing.

We had been Protestant (of all sorts) for most of our lives. Elpida was searching for something, she didn't even know what until she met Annamaria and Kathy. Orthodoxy has opened up so much for us. Elpida and Zoe especially enjoy visiting St. Nina's Orthodox Monastery in Union City, MD. We can't really begin to share what God has done in our lives and hearts because of the Orthodox Church.

#### 5. What Stewardship means to you and why it is important for you and your family

One of our favorite verses in the Bible is Matthew 6:31-33 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you."

One real good way to check where my heart is, is to look at two things, my calendar, (how do I spend my time), and my bank account, (how do I spend my money?).

I try to remember stewardship as just that, being a steward, a good steward of things that are not mine.

Example: Elpida goes to substitute teach each day. Does she own the school? Does she own the classroom, or anything in it, the materials, the children, the curriculum? No. She goes, she does what she's asked to the best of her ability, and she goes home. She doesn't own anything at the school. She is entrusted with the children, and all that that includes. Does she have any right to do what she wants there? No. Does she have to give account? Yes!

The same principle works with all I have in our home, all the stuff, the time, the money. Nothing belongs to me. I am supposed to be faithful to use it to the glory of the Father for His purposes. It's ALL His. Someday I will stand and give account for it all.

Mark 12 tells the story of the poor widow who gives all. Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they gave out of their abundance but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood." According to the Fathers, the Lord accounts the value of a gift not by how much is given, but by how much is kept back. Thus the poor widow is counted to have given a great gift, having kept nothing for herself. Those who give out of their abundance but keep plenty for themselves are counted by God to have given very little.

God takes note what we give. Acts 10:4 it is recorded that an angel of God came to Cornelius in a vision and says to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God." Cornelius was a centurion, not a Jew. Yet it is recorded he feared God and gave generously to the people and prayed to God always. And, God noticed!

As Protestants most of our lives, we have been taught to Tithe. Tom and I began practicing giving 10% right off the top of our income before we even looked at the bills. We have continued to stretch ourselves in this area by increasing little bit by little bit. In times of feast and in times of famine, we kept giving. In 2012, Tom was out of work for almost a year. We kept giving. By God's mercy and grace, He provided everyday all we needed.

#### 6. Encourage other Stewards to get involved as you have and increase their stewardship for our future

Share our financial loss of '12-'13. Share the challenges of trying to find a way out, the struggles and temptations of wanting to stop tithing (frankly because it's not preached in Orthodoxy), and put it away in our own bank account, but, in the end remaining true and seeing God's provision, day after day, month after month, year after year.

So I keep telling myself, check your heart. Where is your treasure? Check your calendar. Check your bank account. Where are you spending your time? Where are you spending your money?

It's really about our heart, and about what kind of fruit comes from my life. Script says in Luke 6:45 - A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. And, you can tell by the fruit of a tree if it's good or bad.

As a Christian we are told not only to listen to God's Word, but practice doing it! So whatever opinion we have about giving, the Kingdom Principle stands true. Whatever we sow, that we will reap. We want to keep sowing generously, so we will reap generously!





## Kids Corner



### Let the Little Children Come to Me

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14) Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew declares 2017 to be The Year of Protection of the Sacredness of Childhood |

Children's Bible Reader Online:

<http://cbr.goarch.org/>

Orthodoxy and Our Youth

<https://www.goarch.org/-/orthodoxy-and-our-youth>

\*Source of the article: Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

### The Ten Commandments



1. *I am the Lord your God.  
You shall not have other gods except me.*
2. *Do not have fake idols or believe in false gods.  
Worship only Christ.*
3. *Do not say God's name without serious reason.*
4. *Work six days of the week and give the seventh day to God.*
5. *Respect your father and mother.*
6. *Do not kill anyone or anything, not even a bug.  
All life is precious and from God.*
7. *Honor marriage between one man and one woman.*
8. *Do not steal.*
9. *Do not tell lies.*
10. *Do not be jealous of others.*



Make this your  
"Home for the Holidays"

COMING SOON in Belmont Country Club!  
19957 Augusta Village Place, Ashburn VA

Establishing relationships that grow and last a lifetime.



DIANE BOONE

LUXURY EXPERT. ACHIEVING EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS



19957 Augusta Village Place, Belmont CC



dianeboone.ttrsir.com • 703-216-9999 • diane@dianeboone.com



## Family Bowling Event

On President's Day afternoon, 6 families participated in our 3rd annual Family Bowling event at Bowl America in Herndon. The kids had fun making up special names for themselves on the scoreboard. We had "Savage", "Magician" and "Panther" bowling on one board alone! The overall high scorer for the day was Raymond A. who claimed a decisive victory over his sister and father.

A special thanks to Christy Lisciandro of the Stewardship Committee for organizing this event.



# Barakat

## ORTHODONTICS

Beautiful Smiles, Brighter futures...

17 years in the Potomac Falls/Sterling area

- \* No Charge for Initial Consultation
- \* Invisalign, Invisalign Teen and Esthetic braces
- \* Flexible Financing
- \* Extended Hours, Convenient Location (Across Dulles Town Center Mall)
- \* Friendly, knowledgeable staff

**\*Voted Top Orthodontist:**

Washingtonian, Northern Virginia & Virginia Living Magazines



Dr. Rana Barakat and her Family



Member  
American  
Association of  
Orthodontists

**703-433-9330**  
**www.BarakatOrtho.com**



DIPLOMATE  
AMERICAN BOARD  
OF ORTHODONTICS



## Sunday School

### FEAST OF ANNUNCIATION AND GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

On March 25<sup>th</sup> the Hellenes and Philhellenes, all over the world, celebrate this significant day of Hellenism and Orthodoxy, the Greek Independence Day and the Feast of the Annunciation!

It is our duty to honor and remember our ancestors and the great heritage we received from them. More than 2,500 years ago the people of Greece started to formulate the ideas that now serve as the foundation for our system of government, science, philosophy, law, literature, and art. The gift of Greek culture to the world is priceless. Also priceless is the message that Greek Independence Day sends to the world: In 1821, after nearly 200 years of foreign rule, the people of Greece rose against the Ottoman rule and regained freedom. Their cause was celebrated throughout the world at the time, and continues to inspire us today.

Theodoros Kolokotronis, a faithful man and a Greek hero of 1821, used to say that he fought against the Turks «Για του Χριστού την πίστη την αγία και της πατρίδος την Ελευθερία», Our ancestors fought against the Ottomans in defense of their Faith and Freedom which is manifested by the fact that on March 25<sup>th</sup> we, the Orthodox Greeks, in addition to the Greek Independence Day, we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation which is about another message, this time given by God's angel to the Theotokos and through our Theotokos to all human kind!

It is our responsibility to pass our Greek heritage and Orthodox faith to our children and grandchildren.

Ergini Martnihsn

Sunday School Director

[ergini@aol.com](mailto:ergini@aol.com)



A fun night of fellowship at the Mediterranean Breeze restaurant, sponsored by the Stewardship Committee



## Hope and Joy

Hope and Joy is celebrating Pascha this spring with fun, meaningful, and educational activities for our children to take part in.



First, on March 10 we participated in the church's salutations ceremony. That is when, during Lent, the children offer a flower to the Virgin Mary, acknowledging her unimaginable sacrifice and pain in preparation of Easter. All services during Lent are special, but this one is very symbolic for our children.

Next, on March 18 we gathered at the Walter Family residence to prepare prosfora, and enjoy fellowship over a Lenten luncheon. We made several loaves of prosfora for our church as well as many beautiful memories! We learned from our choir director, Elpida Skuce and Presbytera Ioanna Alexson.

Then, on April 8, after the Saturday of Lazarus Service, we will be assembling palm crosses with the other ministries and our wonderful parishioners. Afterward, the Lansdell Family will guide us through an interactive resurrection egg lesson.

Last but certainly not least, on Holy Friday, April 14, Hope and Joy will be assisting the flower girls who will have a procession before the Epitaphio.

We wish all of you a blessed Pascha!

Ashley Joiner ([ashleydjoiner@gmail.com](mailto:ashleydjoiner@gmail.com))  
& Ava Walter ([avamwalter@gmail.com](mailto:avamwalter@gmail.com))

## Sunday of Orthodoxy

On Sunday March 5th, we celebrated **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. The Feast is kept in memory of the final defeat of Iconoclasm and the restoration of the icons to the churches.





## 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.greekorthodoxloudoun.org](http://www.greekorthodoxloudoun.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.



## GOYA

Kali Sarakosti!

As we commence our lent journey, we pray that our Lord gives us and our youth the strength to overcome all worldly passions. A recent article from the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries stated: "It can be easy to focus on the negative side of Lent: abstaining from certain foods and drinks. Yet the next 40 days aren't a movement away from anything. Instead, they're a movement towards something. Or, better yet, a movement towards someone: **Christ**. And this movement to Christ isn't limited to what we eat and when we go to Church services. Every moment can be a part of our Journey to Pascha."

With that in mind, our GOYAns are expected to participate in all or as many holy services as possible leading to Pascha. The GOYAns will participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> Salutation service on March 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 7pm. They will be involved in the church Spring Cleaning on April 1<sup>st</sup>, Palm Folding on Saturday of Lazarus on April 7<sup>th</sup>, decorating the Epitaphio on Good Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and all other services leading to Pascha on Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. We are fortunate this year that our Spring vacation will be lined up with the Holy week leading to Pascha. What a blessing!

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the GOYAns organized an amazing spiritual/talent show to honor the Yiayias and Pappous of our church. All parishioners were invited to enjoy a homemade luncheon prepared by our amazing GOYA Parent Chefs and served by our GOYAns. We all enjoyed watching our GOYAns shine through presenting their research on their favorite Orthodox Saint (please read their articles included in this FOS Newsletter), playing violin (Andreas Voyages was phenomenal!), singing and guitar playing by (Christina Kendrat, Lizzie Emch and our guest Sophia Abousamra brought tears of joy and amazement), superb Singing Hymns (Annamaria, Luke and Christina Kendrat), organizing a Spiritual Trivia Game (Zoe Skuce and Athena Lansdell), and cheering for our Master of Ceremony (Yanni Kourioukidis and Luke Kendrat). We thank Father George, Presvytera, the new PC President, Mr. Nicholas Kass, his wife Dina and all his family for attending, Mrs. Marina Blair as well as many more wonderful parishioners who took time to cheer for our talented youth and inspire them to excel in everything they do in the name of our Lord.

On Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, GOYAns and GOYA Parents met at Christy Liscandro's home in Ashburn to prepare for GOYA Consignment Store Fundraiser which took place on March 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Theresa in Ashburn from 8am to 5pm. It was an amazing production line watching the GOYAns sorting clothes and toys by age group, placing price tags and GOYA Parents steaming and ironing all donated items. Our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all who participated in this fundraiser and special thanks to Christy for hosting the event. Profits of this fundraiser will go to the Church Building Fund.

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, GOYA sponsored a Spring Bake Sale Fundraiser to benefit the Church Building Fund and the Orthodox Monasteries in Pennsylvania. We thank the GOYA Parents and GOYAns who put on their baking hats and made Lenten and non-Lenten items.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, GOYA is planning a sleepover visit to Agia Skepi Monastery on the weekend of April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please be on the lookout for more details on the trip specifics as time gets closer. In the meantime, email Sofia Kourioukidis at [kkouriouk@gmail.com](mailto:kkouriouk@gmail.com) at your earliest convenience if you are interested in joining the GOYAns and their parents. Each family is responsible for driving themselves, but we can coordinate following each other to and back from the monastery. Our special thanks and gratitude to our key coordinator Mrs. Athanasia Dacey for contacting the monastery and arranging all the necessary logistics during our stay.

May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and your family with good health and peace of mind and may the Panagia protect us all and light up our youth's path always. Thank you for your continued support as we proceed with our mission to serve the Lord, its church and its community.

With much love and gratitude,

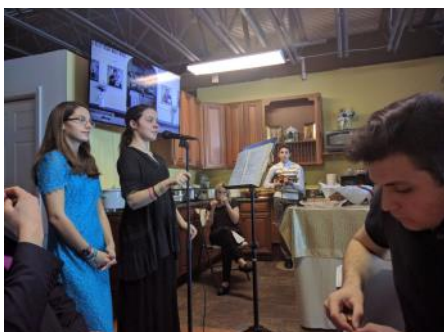
Sofia Kourioukidis

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



GOYA 6<sup>TH</sup> Annual Talent Show

## GOYA cont..



GOYA 6<sup>TH</sup> Annual Talent Show



## GOYA cont..



GOYA 6<sup>TH</sup> Annual Talent Show



Preparation for the GOYA Consignment Store Fundraiser for March 11th.

## GOYA cont..

### Meaning of the Holy Apostles Icon from My Own Spectacles

By Alexandros Kouiroukidis



One of Jesus' last wishes before he died on the cross hundreds and hundreds of years ago was for the Holy Apostles to spread the faith throughout the world for it to be spoken, chanted, sung, and for hymns to range through the mountains and hills in the Middle East. The Twelve Apostles took upon his wish and sought out to enlighten people with new or known knowledge about the Orthodox Christian faith. Twelve single Apostles would change history and the Christian faith forever.

The word Apostle, which literally means "one who is sent out", is a perfect term for what the Holy Apostles stand for. The Holy Apostles were sent out by God to spread the faith and the beliefs of the Orthodox Christian way. Courage was a quality that was held within the Twelve Apostles and that is something that we must hold as a church. We have been named the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church for a reason. I think that we have been honored with this name to replicate the responsibilities of the Apostles and set out to secure a permanent home that we can pray and honor God so we can be noticed in the eyes of society.

Our mission it to continue to spread the word, just with a bigger ambience that will derive from the altar, narthex, and pews that will be filled with joyous souls. This is what I imagine our church will do for us and all we can do is take action and pray for our church, and our faith to be heard in the streets of Virginia and even the East Coast. I believe that we have a responsibility that has been given to us by God himself and I think it is time that we fulfill it. Thank You!

"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom do I fear. The Lord is my life and my refuge, of whom am I afraid." Psalm 27:1

### SAINT ANTHONY

By Raymond Aousamra



Our venerable and god bearing father Saint Anthony the great was born in upper Egypt in 254 AD. He was known as the Anthony of Egypt, and Anthony of the desert. He was a leader among the desert fathers who were Christian monks in the Egyptian deserts in the 3rd and 4th AD. The Orthodox Church celebrates his feast on January 17. When he was eighteen years of age, his parents died, leaving him guardian of his younger and only sister, Dious. Six months later, Anthony entered the church to hear the Gospel, in which our Lord speaks to the rich young man, "If you would be perfect, go sell all you have, give to the poor and come follow me."

Saint Antonios loved providing, and giving currency to the poor. Although he had no titles or positions, his holiness marked him on ones whose wisdom must be respected.

Arianism, in Christianity, is a Christological concept that asserts that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was begotten by God the Father at a point in time, is distinct from the Father and is therefore subordinate to the Father, but the Son is also God. Saint Antonios' witness led to the eventual and complete elimination of Arianism.

Saint Anthony founded no monastery. His rule consisted simply of prayers and manual work. He told his disciples that just as Christ was a carpenter and Paul was a tent maker, they also had to keep their hands busy to escape temptations. He also assigned a uniform to the monks. This was a garb of white linen reaching below the knees and a thick belt of leather. This pattern is seen today in many monastic orders all over the world. From every part of the world, people came to him, even to the innermost part of the desert, seeking cures of the body, mind, and soul, monks came to him for his sympathy and practical living.

In 356 A.D., Saint Anthony died at the age of one hundred and five, but his place of burial was never revealed by the two monks, Marcarius and Amatas, who buried him.

The church remembers Saint Antonios as a brave, courageous, and giving Saint. He loved everyone, and didn't have a lot of problems. Let's remember him with this quote: "Our life and our death is with our neighbor. If we gain our brother, we have gained God, but if we scandalize our brother, we have sinned against Christ."

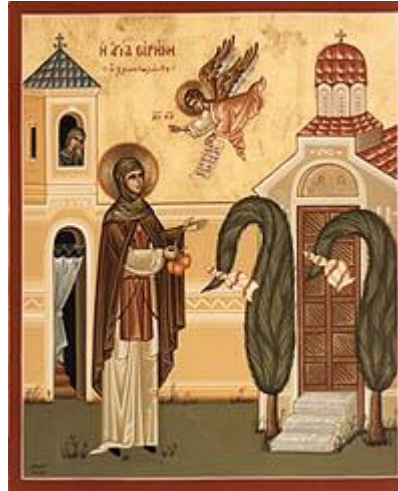


## GOYA cont..

### The Value of Ellinomatheia & The Blessing of My Guardian Angel Xrysoblantou

By

Angelo Dacey



It is with great pleasure that we are all gathered here in our GOYA 6th Annual Talent Show to celebrate another year in honoring our pappoudes and yiayiades and allowing us to showcase our talents.

First off, I wanted to share with you the importance of learning our beautiful and rich Greek language. Our Greek Orthodox religion, our rich culture, and our Greek language are three vital characteristics of our identity. With the help of God and the countless hours of studying, I was able to pass the B2 exam level of Ellinomatheia this past May.

In previous years under the guidance and instruction of my teacher, Kyria Athanasia, I was able to acquire levels A1 and B1 as well. the levels A1 and A2 are basic (elementary) knowledge of the language, B1 is intermediate (middle school) knowledge and B2 is considered very good (high school) knowledge of the language. I look forward to continuing to learn and hopefully acquire at least one more certificate, the G1, that shows excellent (college level) knowledge of the language.

I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to prepare for the B2 exam. It is the duty of us, the younger generation to continue the learning of our beautiful Greek language, and to instill in our hearts the desire to keep learning because it is the only way to keep our culture and Greek Orthodoxy alive and growing.

Next, I would like to share with you a few facts about one of my patron Saints, Agia Eirini of the Xrysobalantou monastery. Agia Eirini was born in Cappadocia, Asia Minor in 828 AD. In her mid to late teenage years she gave up the opportunity for a royal wedding to become a nun at the Xrysobalantou monastery. After many years of prayer and dedication of God, she became the Abbess of the monastery.

Agia Eirini is known mainly for two miracles. First, the three apples from heaven, which were given to her by a sailor who was on his way from the island of Patmos to Constantinople. He was approached by an old man (Saint John the Apostle) who said to him, "when you arrive in the capitol, give these apples to the Patriarch and tell him that God sent them to him from paradise by way of His servant John." Taking out three other apples he said, "give these three to the Abbess of the Xrysobalantou monastery whose name is Eirini. Tell her to eat these in fulfillment of the desire of her soul because now I have brought these from paradise." The apples were soon delivered to Agia Eirini at the monastery. She ate a small piece of the first apple every day for 40 days. That was all she consumed for those 40 days and didn't even eat bread or drink water. She shared the second apple with her nuns. She then kept the last apple for the rest of her life.

The second miracle she's most known for occurred one night when a nun noticed Agia Eirini praying in the outer yard of the monastery. Her feet were not touching the ground, but rather she was standing in the air about two meters above the ground. Near her there were two extremely tall cypress trees. So long as she was praying the two trees bowed down to the ground and waited for her to finish her prayer. These are just two examples of the many miracles of Agia Eirini. She reposed in 932 AD and her feast day is July 28 for the new calendar and August 10 for the old calendar.

The monastery dedicated to her memory in Lykobrysi, Attiki, in Greece is a replica of the original one in Constantinople. It is an old calendar monastery. I have had the blessing of visiting it several times with my family and we are also a subscriber to the monastery's magazine, which is issued every two months and is filled with stories of miracles from all over the world. The monastery also distributes pieces of apples that have been blessed. I urge you all to visit the monastery if you are ever given the opportunity.



## GOYA cont..

### The Positive Impact of Being Tonsured

By Yanni Kouiroukidis

Last year, I experienced an event that marked my transition from childhood to adulthood within the community and my family. I was speechless when I initially received an email from the priest of our church informing me of an event that would change my life in such a positive way. This event has certainly taken me from my childhood mindset to adulthood and so I will be forever grateful and thankful.

The email I received from our priest stated that I was selected and given the honor to be tonsured on June 2016 by His Eminence, the Archbishop of the Metropolis of New Jersey. To be tonsured is to become ordained as a Church Reader, which is the second highest ranking for the minor order in the Greek Orthodox Church. As a reader, you recite the Epistle, you carry out duties assigned to you by the priest, and you are given a special belt to wear with your robe to signify that you are a reader in the church.

It was a memorable day when I walked into the church wearing my business attire feeling excited and nervous. Everyone was greeting me with a, "good luck" or, "this is your call to manhood". I had no idea how the process was being done, so I became even more nervous, but kept myself composed. The bishop announced my name and called me to come up in front of the whole congregation to be tonsured and receive the honor of a Church Reader. The bishop gave an unforgettable speech about the significance of this honor in my life and how it officially transitioned me from childhood to adulthood.

Since then, I have looked at my life with a different perspective. I have realized that a high honor was bestowed on me and I have to meet and exceed the expectations of our priest, my parents, relatives and the whole church community. I must continue to acquire and maintain the qualities of a church reader such as being punctual, honest, responsible, dependable, trustworthy, humble and helpful. These are certainly traits that would enhance my personal growth and keep me on the path of success in life. In order for me to be able to read the Epistle on Sundays, I had to respect punctuality. Similarly, a church reader has to be honest and trustworthy to be able to handle holy books. It is also expected of me to be responsible, humble and helpful. Indeed, these are the virtues that I promised myself to consistently strive to possess throughout my life.

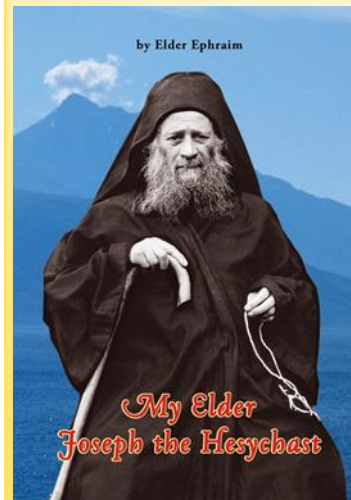
Becoming a reader may not seem a great deal to any other person, but accepting this honor inspired me to look at life through a different lens. I have also become more responsible and realized my purpose in life. I am now ready to look forward for whatever challenge life, or college, throws at me.

## Orthodox Book Club

### We have selected a New Book!

Our new book selection is My Elder Joseph the Hesychast by Elder Ephraim.

This book contains the very personal account of Elder Ephraim telling the life of his Elder Joseph the Hesychast, whose holiness made him one of the most influential monks on the Holy Mountain in the twentieth century



We meet every other Friday at 5:30pm at church. However, due to holy services and Salutation Prayers, the schedule might be altered. Please let Sofia Kouiroukidis know by contacting her at [kkouirouk@gmail.com](mailto:kkouirouk@gmail.com) if you are interested to join our spiritual discussions and so that you can be notified of any changes.

Sincerely,

Sofia Kouiroukidis

## Philoptochos

Our new year started off with an invitation for you to join Philoptochos. The work of Philoptochos is only possible with the support of our membership and church community. With your support, we continue to meet our obligations to the National and Metropolis Philoptochos.

We are grateful for the special support you have given Philoptochos this year. Thank you for your generosity in contributing to the Agape tray in February and for the tray helping those in need of shelter and care on the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

Many thanks to everyone who donated items benefitting Inova Mobile Hope and the work they do on behalf of the children of Loudoun County. We look forward to supporting the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter this May.

We offered tsourekia and pitas for your Pascha celebration. We hope that you were able to join us in the preparation. Thank you to everyone who came out to help.

We thank you for supporting all of our philanthropic efforts and we wish you all a joyous Pascha!

Alexis Cleveland

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



## Parea

Beloved PAREA Family,

Blessings in the Name of our Lord!

Kali Sarakosti!

I would like to thank all the members of our PAREA family for their dedication to PAREA! Our February PAREA was a wonderful gathering at the Mediterranean Breeze.

During the month of April we will not have PAREA because of Holy Week and Easter. With God's grace, our May 2nd PAREA will gather at a new restaurant that the PAREA Vice Chair, Kristina Ayoub, suggested for us: **CAFÉSANO, Dulles Town Center**, 22305 Windmill Parc Dr., Dulles, VA. (Tel: 571.732.2330).

As we are walking in the path of Great Lent and with a heart full of anticipation for our Savior's glorious Resurrection, we should unceasingly warm our hearts with almsgiving. We should never miss the opportunity to help, to feed, to dress and to listen to anyone who needs our support. We should always extend our hands and warmly embrace those in need.

On behalf of our PAREA family, I would like to wish all, a Joyous and Happy Easter.

In His Everlasting Mercy,

Marina Blair

PAREA Chair

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



*Betty Kass, visiting from Chicago, and Marina Blair*



*Our wonderful PAREA family enjoying a great luncheon at Mediterranean Breeze*





**Eleni Malliaros**  
Short Sales Specialist  
Realtor SFR, VA  
Top Lister Award



**"Highest in Overall Satisfaction for Home Buyers Among National Full Service Real Estate Firms," Three Years in a Row!**

571-271-6246  
[www.LoudounHousesForSale.com](http://www.LoudounHousesForSale.com)



Keller Williams Realty received the highest numerical score among full service real estate firms for home buyers in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2008-2010 Home Buyer/Seller Study. Study based on 1,096 total evaluations measuring 7 firms and measures opinions of individuals who bought a home between March 2009 and April 2010. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed March-May 2010. Your experience may vary. Visit [jdpower.com](http://jdpower.com)



## Epitaphio-Altar Fund Committee



The Epitaphio/Altar Fund Committee Members are in charge once again for decorating our Church for these beautiful and inspiring Lenten / Holy Week / Easter services. Decorating our Church during this special Easter season is a very important and quite sentimental tradition carried through the years by all Greek Orthodox Christians. It helps us to open our hearts, to feel our Lord's Passion and rejoice for His Resurrection. We are kindly asking you for your generous

donations to adorn our Church with beautiful floral arrangements for the celebration of this Paschal Holy Season, as well as helping our Church purchase a brand new much needed wooden Epitaphio (Kouvoklion/Tomb). Please consider making a donation to help decorate with beautiful floral arrangements our Church during Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated and will be TAX DEDUCTIBLE too!

Your check can be made out to GOPLC and please specify on the check that it is for the Epitaphio Flowers.

You are all invited to join us on Holy Friday morning at 9am to decorate the Epitaphio.

If you have any questions please contact Mariana Korulaki at (571) 432-7678.

## Annual Church Spring Cleaning!

Please volunteer your time to help us clean and beautify our Church in preparation for the Holy Week. Your help and time is most appreciated!

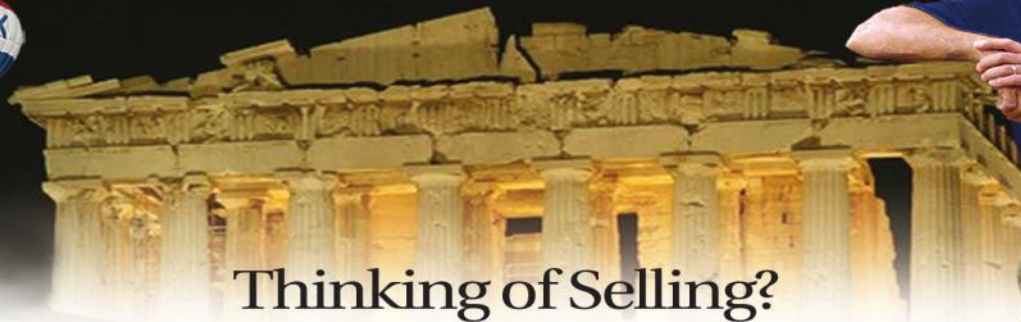


Saturday April 1

9:00am - 1:00pm

Questions: Mariana Korulaki  
(571) 432-7678

# Show Your Home in its Best Light - *My 25 Years of Marketing Experience Will Do It!*



## Thinking of Selling?

Call Today To Find Out What Your Home is Worth!

# PAUL ORPHANIDES

*Buying or Selling, When Talking Real Estate  
"I Speak the Language"*

First Time Buyers | Move Up Buyers | Senior Down Sizing | Investors | New Construction  
Distressed Property Buying & Selling | Certified Distressed Property Expert | Certified Short Sale & Foreclosure Resource

LICENSED IN VIRGINIA

703.929.0811 | porphanides@myselectproperties.com

RE/MAX Select Properties, 20937 Ashburn Road, Suite 200, Ashburn, VA 20147



## AHEPA ΜΟΛΩΝ ΛΑΒΕ Chapter 542

### MEDIA RELEASE

**CONTACT: Pete Margaros**

AHEPA Secretary, #542  
Sterling, VA  
703-493-0897  
info@ahepa542.org



**CONTACT: Sharon Knipmeyer**

Framers Projects/Loudoun School for the Gifted  
44675 Cape Ct, Suite 105  
Ashburn, VA 20147  
703-956-5020  
sknipmeyer@idealschools.org

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### AHEPA Donates \$1,000 to Ashburn Colored School and Museum

**January 9, 2017, Ashburn, VA** – The Sterling ΜΟΛΩΝ ΛΑΒΕ Chapter of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) presented a check for \$1,000 to the students at Loudoun School for the Gifted (LSG) to help with the rehabilitation of the Ashburn Colored School (ACS) and the creation of the adjacent Museum of Education.

The Ashburn Colored School project received attention in October after the building was vandalized and the community rallied around it to repair the damage. The local chapter of AHEPA became aware of the student's endeavors to save the ACS and reached out to support them. Over the next few months, \$1,000 was raised by the organization and today, they presented a check to Deep Sran, the founder of LSG, and his students.

"AHEPA is honored and proud to support a cause that's so closely tied to the roots of our organization," said Dean Economou, Chapter President. "We're very happy to see a successful student based initiative like this create such a high level of awareness in the community."

"We are very grateful to AHEPA for their generous donation to support our efforts to restore the Ashburn Colored School," said LSG founder, Dr. Deep Sran. "The donation will help us restore the schoolhouse and its interior furnishings, and will enable us to open this historic building to the Ashburn and Loudoun communities. With AHEPA's help, we can transform this forgotten space into an important teaching resource."



## AHEPA



### ABOUT AHEPA

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) was founded on July 26, 1922 in response to the evils of bigotry and racism that emerged in early 20th century American society. It also helped Greek immigrants assimilate into society. Today, AHEPA brings the ideals of ancient Greece, which includes philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence to the community.

Founded in 2013, the ΜΟΛΩΝ ΛΑΒΕ Chapter, located in Sterling, VA, is one of the fastest growing chapters in the United States. With a membership ranging in age from the early 20s to the 90s, the chapter serves over 50 members. Coming from many backgrounds devoted to giving back to the community through many initiatives, they work very closely with the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church with most of the Brothers also being church members. To learn more about AHEPA, visit [www.ahepa542.org](http://www.ahepa542.org).

### ABOUT FRAMERS PROJECTS

Framers Projects was created to support Loudoun School for the Gifted students' service and research projects. Their current focus is on the rehabilitation of the Ashburn Colored School and the creation of the Museum of Education.

Loudoun School for the Gifted is a private school for advanced students in grades 6-12 located in Ashburn, Virginia. For more information on the Ashburn Colored School rehabilitation project, Framers Projects, or Loudoun School for the Gifted, visit [www.loudounschooll.org](http://www.loudounschooll.org) or [www.loudounschooll.org/oldschool](http://www.loudounschooll.org/oldschool).

### CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

After only 3 years as an **AHEPA** Chapter, we are proud to announce the inaugural **Nick Jougras Memorial Scholarship Program** for both qualifying High School Juniors and Seniors. For Seniors, **apply** to this first to compliment the 4 tiers of **AHEPA** based scholarships in the Washington DC Metro area. For Juniors, apply to the **AHEPAcademy** first to be eligible to submit your application for this award. The deadline to submit your application is April 18, 2017, so **apply** today!

Check out a **testimonial** from an award recipient from one of our own Chapter 542 families to learn more about the power of many of these **AHEPA** programs.

If you would like to donate to help fund this program, please visit our **online store**.



*Ahepa Chapter 542 – PR Donation event*

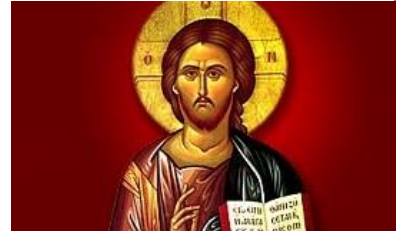


<https://www.ahepa542.org/scholarships/#/chapter-542-scholarship/>



**Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church**  
21580 Atlantic Blvd., Building D, Unit 160  
Dulles, VA 20166

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



The Light is published bi-monthly by the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church, in Loudoun County, Virginia. The next deadline for content is May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. An archive of our newsletters can be found here: <http://greekorthodoxloudoun.org/newsletter.html>.

**Designer:** Cynthia Panagopoulos ([ysshly@yahoo.com](mailto:ysshly@yahoo.com))

**Editor:** Fr. George Alexson ([frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com](mailto:frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com))

**Assistant Editor:** Lia Economou ([liaecon@comcast.net](mailto:liaecon@comcast.net))

**Advertising:** Paul Orphanides ([porphanides@myselectproperties.com](mailto:porphanides@myselectproperties.com))

If you are interested in advertising in the next issue of The Light, please contact Paul Orphanides.

## Ministries Contact List

CLERGY		
Rev. Father George Alexson	<a href="mailto:frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com">frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com</a>	(cell) 703-314-6421
Deacon	Deacon Harry Chelpon	
STAFF		
Office Manager	Lia Economou	<a href="mailto:liaecon@comcast.net">liaecon@comcast.net</a> , 703-421-3812
Protopsalti	Nick Grivas	<a href="mailto:papounico3@aol.com">papounico3@aol.com</a>
PARISH COUNCIL		
President	Paul Orphanides	<a href="mailto:porphanides@myselectproperties.com">porphanides@myselectproperties.com</a>
Vice President	Greg Joiner	<a href="mailto:gregjoiner@gmail.com">gregjoiner@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Nick Spyros	<a href="mailto:nlspyros@yahoo.com">nlspyros@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Maria Zangos	<a href="mailto:miliandra@comcast.net">miliandra@comcast.net</a>
Vice Treasurer	George Mokhiber	<a href="mailto:geodebmok@comcast.net">geodebmok@comcast.net</a>
Additional Members	Nick Zangos	<a href="mailto:achsah@cox.net">achsah@cox.net</a>
	Tom Skuce	<a href="mailto:tskuce@powerconcepts.com">tskuce@powerconcepts.com</a>
	Irene Thomas	<a href="mailto:irene.thomas@verizon.net">irene.thomas@verizon.net</a>
	Greg Cherpes	<a href="mailto:gcherpes@yahoo.com">gcherpes@yahoo.com</a>
SCHOOLS		
Greek School	Vasilisa Ravaris	<a href="mailto:vasilia@live.com">vasilia@live.com</a>
Sunday School	Ergini Martnashn	<a href="mailto:ergini@aol.com">ergini@aol.com</a>
MINISTRIES, COMMITTEES, AND ASSOCIATIONS		
Altar Boys	Fr. George Alexson	<a href="mailto:frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com">frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com</a>
Bible Study Group	Nick Spyros	<a href="mailto:nlspyros@yahoo.com">nlspyros@yahoo.com</a>
Church Choir	Elpida Skuce	<a href="mailto:archelles@yahoo.com">archelles@yahoo.com</a>
Easter Flowers Committee	Mariana Korulaki Presvytera Joanna	<a href="mailto:k.mariana@hotmail.com">k.mariana@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com">frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com</a>
Festival Committee	Greg Cherpes	<a href="mailto:gcherpes@yahoo.com">gcherpes@yahoo.com</a>
Future Planning Committee	Paul Orphanides	<a href="mailto:porphanides@myselectproperties.com">porphanides@myselectproperties.com</a>
Gala Committee	Kristina Ayoub Asha Ioanou	<a href="mailto:ktsiakos@yahoo.com">ktsiakos@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:nicholas.asha@gmail.com">nicholas.asha@gmail.com</a>
GOYA	Sofia Kouiroukidis Lillian Funk	<a href="mailto:KKouirouk@gmail.com">KKouirouk@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:lilyfunk@hotmail.com">lilyfunk@hotmail.com</a>
GOYA Boys' Basketball Team	Dimitrios Stratakis	<a href="mailto:dimitrstratakis@verizon.net">dimitrstratakis@verizon.net</a>
Greek Dance Troupe	Maria Plevrakis	<a href="mailto:maroudi@hotmail.com">maroudi@hotmail.com</a>
HOPE and JOY	Ashley Joiner Ava Walter	<a href="mailto:ashleyjoiner@gmail.com">ashleyjoiner@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:avawalter@gmail.com">avawalter@gmail.com</a>
Molon Lave AHEPA Chapter 542	Dean Economou	<a href="mailto:deaneconomou@gmail.com">deaneconomou@gmail.com</a>
Orthodox Book Club	Sofia Kouiroukidis	<a href="mailto:KKouirouk@gmail.com">KKouirouk@gmail.com</a>
PAREA	Marina Blair Kristina Ayoub	<a href="mailto:blairmarina@gmail.com">blairmarina@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:ktsiakos@yahoo.com">ktsiakos@yahoo.com</a>
Philoptochos	Alexis Cleveland	<a href="mailto:eacleveland@msn.com">eacleveland@msn.com</a>
Prosfora	Fr. George Alexson	<a href="mailto:frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com">frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com</a>
	Effie Koutsourais	<a href="mailto:emkouts@aol.com">emkouts@aol.com</a>
Stewardship Committee	Ron Baldinger	<a href="mailto:ron.baldinger@gmail.com">ron.baldinger@gmail.com</a>
Vacation Church Camp	Denise Lansdell	<a href="mailto:deniseinvirginia@gmail.com">deniseinvirginia@gmail.com</a>
	Asha Ioanou	<a href="mailto:nicholas.asha@gmail.com">nicholas.asha@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Maria Zangos	<a href="mailto:miliandra@comcast.net">miliandra@comcast.net</a>