

The Light To Φως



Greek Orthodox Parish
of Loudoun County

Volume 6, Issue 2
March-April 2013

The bi-monthly newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County

A Message from Father George Alexson



Like millions of people world-wide, I, too, was glued to the television on March 13th when I heard that white smoke was billowing from the Sistene Chapel, announcing the election of a new Pope. Prior to the election, usually while following the evening news, I was interested to hear what Roman Catholics from all walks of life were hoping for in the new Pontiff. A variety of suggestions were expressed: 'I want him to bring the Church into the 21st century,' 'he needs to address the scandals facing the Church,' or, 'he must be able to relate to young people.' These are, prima facie, reasonable ambitions. But, what is really meant by statements like these? To begin, the Church--because she is a living organism, the Body of Christ--is as physically present "in" the 21st century as any other living being. Perhaps a more accurate inquiry would concern not the "in" but the "how;" that is, how does the Church manifest her presence in today's world. More often than not, when we hear words like "modernize" and "relate to" connected to the Church, what is actually meant is something like this: the Church has failed to "adjust" to the myriad social, ideological and cultural changes that we experience in the here and now.

Apparently, the new Pope is not wholly unaware of the feelings of many of his people. In his first Mass in the Sistene Chapel following his election he declared: "If we do not confess to Christ, what would we be? We would end up a compassionless NGO. What would happen would be like when children make sand castles and then it all falls down."

I congratulate the Pope for these words wisely spoken. Like all Christians, Orthodox and Roman Catholic, he knows well the conviction expressed by St. Paul the Apostle: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). What this means is that our Lord is forever the paradigm by which all conduct in all spheres of our life is measured. This is especially true for the spiritual and moral consciousness of the Church. "Times" may change; attitudes may vary; but the moral law of God as represented in the life and work of the Savior and His Church remains immutable. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Mt. 24:35). And, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill" (Mt. 5:17).

It comes as no surprise then, that following his election the Pope was described by some media outlets as a "doctrinal conservative." Well, now is the time for unequivocal clarity: for Orthodox, and I believe for Roman Catholics as well, "doctrinal liberal" is an empty phrase. We need to affirm without hesitation the principle that, doctrine/dogma is equal to Truth, capitalized because truth is not a philosophical or scientific system for us, but the very Person of Christ Himself. The doctrines of the Church are not up for debate. They express truths about God, the Church and the God-man relationship that are both factual and universal. Of course, we are free to either accept or reject them; but, do we have the right to expect the Church to deny/ revise the Truth that has guided her for over two thousand years simply because the "times have changed"? In the words of our Lord, "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad" (Mt. 12:30).

As such, all dogmas defined by the Church (guided by the Holy Spirit into all truth as promised by our Lord, cf. John 16, 13) are applicable in all times and places. Whether teachings on how we define God as Trinity; on the moral and spiritual life-style required for active membership in the Body of Christ; dogmas on the role of the Virgin Mary and the saints, iconography, etc.; all have but one underlying principle: to witness to the purpose of the Messiah's advent: "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus

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Highlights:

- Making Palm Crosses on Saturday of Lazarus, April 27th.
- Philoptochos Luncheon and Fashion Show is Saturday, May 18.
- The Mother-Daughter Tea is Sunday, June 2.



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President's Message



I would like to start my first message as Parish Council President by introducing your 2013 Parish Council. I have a great amount of respect for these individuals, and I know they will be great representatives of our church. Please join me in congratulating the Parish Council members, and as always, do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

- ◆ **Constantine Sofologis**, *President*
- ◆ **Marina Blair**, *Vice President*
- ◆ **Cynthia Smith**, *Secretary*
- ◆ **Dean Coulopoulos**, *Treasurer*
- ◆ **Angelo Tjoumas**, *Assistant Treasurer*
- ◆ **Bill Aubin, Craig Dodson, Susan Dorn, Vasilis Fotopoulos, Andrew Kaffes, and Paul Orphanides**, *Parish Council*

The Parish held its fifth annual Taste of Greece at the Ashburn Firehouse. It was a success and we were able to pull off another amazing event with great food and fun for the community. The word of mouth praise that I'm hearing throughout Eastern Loudoun County proves that the Taste of Greece will be an annual event for years to come. I'd like to thank event Chairman Bill Aubin and his team who made sure the event was executed successfully. We would also like to thank our wonderful Greek dancers who did a great job, and our devoted volunteers who helped cook, serve food, park cars, and clean up during the event.

We would also like to thank Fr. George and Nick Zangos for initiating Fr. Sergius' visit from St. Tikhon's Monastery. The Myrrh-Streaming Icon of St. Anna, which our parish had the opportunity to venerate, was a spiritually powerful introduction to Lent. As we are preparing ourselves for the sobering weeks that will lead to our Lord's passion, we pray that our hearts will be filled with humility and forgiveness.

On behalf of the Parish Council and our Church community, I would like to express our sincerest appreciation for the outstanding presentation of our Sunday School/Oratorical Festival participants.

- ◆ **Elementary Level:** Maria Mantalvanos
- ◆ **Junior Level:** Annamaria Kendrat
- ◆ **Senior Level:** Jon Emch and Melanie Kangelaris



Volunteers serve up savory meals at Taste of Greece.

The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County is extremely proud to have you as our representatives at the Virginia District Finals. May God bless you!

The 2013 Stewardship year is underway, and we have some big goals in order to continue our expansion. So, if you have not yet filled out a 2013 Stewardship Card, please do so as soon as possible.

In His service,

Con Sofologis
Parish Council President



Our youth dance group entertains the crowd with traditional folkdances.

Fr. George's message continued

Christ" (John 1:17). There are two properties intrinsic to Truth that set Christ as truth apart from everything else: the Truth sets us free (John 8:32) and it sanctifies us (John 17:19). Sanctification opens to us the possibility/necessity of maturing in the "mind" and life of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16), while true freedom exposes the madness of evil and the joy of "slavery" in God.

The Christian definition of good and evil cannot/will not change with the "times." Neither "modern" attitudes, "cultural shifts" or political legislation can change the fact that abortion, euthanasia, sexual deviancy, pornography (to list but a few of the indecencies challenging the moral fabric of contemporary society) remain innately impossible alternatives to the life in Christ. What was prohibited by God on Mt. Sinai and perfected in grace by our Lord remains forbidden today. All attempts to modify the spiritual and moral insight and authority of the Law have but one destination-- further alienation from God and continued moral and spiritual decline. The Church, in the words of St. Paul, is forever obliged to exhort all peoples to meditate on, "whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report..." (Philip. 4:8).

As the Pope said, if we fail to preach Christ...what is the reason for our existence? Either we witness to the Truth or remain silent; there is no middle ground. If we remain silent, we allow the "times" and the evil thereof to accomplish what has always failed in the past: to marginalize and silence our witness to the Gospel. I have no doubt that as time passes, the tribulations of the Church and Her faithful will increase. Indeed, a new age of martyrs is always a possibility. Nevertheless, we pray that God, in all times through all things, will give us the courage to witness to the Truth with faith and love.



Stewardship

Our Stewardship program continues to grow as we welcome many new families to our Parish each month. On Sunday, March 17th the Stewardship Committee sponsored Stewardship Sunday. We gave an update on our Stewardship program and announced several upcoming events. Ava Walter, a parishioner and Stewardship Committee member, also gave a moving testimonial which is included in this newsletter. If you missed hearing it in person, it is definitely worth the read!

Stewardship contributions go toward the overall operations of our Parish and its Ministries. **A new pledge card must be submitted each calendar year.** You can find one in this newsletter and at church in the Fellowship area. We have received over 50 pledge cards from our wonderfully committed stewards and hope to receive over 100. We greatly appreciate your continued support of our Parish!

Here is a recap of the events organized by members of the Stewardship Committee as part of our "O-W-E" Stewardship initiative (Outreach, Welcome, Embrace).

WELCOME our new parishioners

"Coffee and Cupcakes" – Throughout the year the Stewardship Committee will invite all new parishioners to get together for fellowship and to learn more about our Parish and its Ministries. Members of the Stewardship Committee and their families will also be in attendance to welcome our new friends and serve as a resource from within our community.

EMBRACE our stewards

Father-Son Fishing Outing – The Father-Son fishing outing for stewards is scheduled for Saturday, April 6 at 8:30am at Claude Moore Park in Sterling, VA. A special thank you to Raul Puertas for planning and coordinating this event. If you have any ideas for a future Father-Son event please see Lia Economou.

Mother-Daughter Tea – On Sunday, June 2, 2013 we will have a Mother-Daughter Tea for stewards and their daughters at the home of Lia Economou. Mothers and daughters of all ages are invited. This is a wonderful opportunity for the mothers to get to know one another better as well as our children. Look for an emailed invitation in May with all the details.

Lastly, as you read Ava Walter's testimonial which can be found on

the following page, my hope is that her personal experience will serve as a reminder to all of us how much the church provides for us in our time of need and why it's so important that we give back. Thank you to Ava Walter, my Stewardship Committee, and our many stewards who show their love and commitment to our church every day.

In God's service,

Lia Economou
Stewardship Chair

HOPE / JOY

HOPE/JOY has had, and will continue to have, a busy year. As detailed in previous newsletters, our children have participated in a walk for the homeless and have visited a youth shelter. They also participated in meetings at the church, with Father George in attendance, to help lead the children in spiritual lessons. The children have made plenty of crafts including fall trees and thankful turkeys and even decorated cookies for Valentine's Day. For fun, we went ice-skating in January and had dinner at Chick-Fil-A in March. While we will not have a regular meeting in April due to Great Lent, our children traditionally help with making palm crosses for Palm Sunday, usually done on Lazarus Saturday.

We have wonderful parents, without whom Hope/Joy would not exist. If you have been wondering about Hope/Joy and want more information or would like to volunteer to help lead some activities, please contact either myself or my co-director, Maria Drapas. We would love to hear from you! Eleni can be reached at eleniadamis@gmail.com, and Maria's email address is markamaria@yahoo.com. Also, check out our bulletin board in the church hall!

Best regards,

Eleni Adamis Hadjimichael & Maria Drapas
Hope/Joy Co-Directors

2013

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE GOPLC

Name: _____

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2013 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE – GREEK ORTHODOX PARISH OF LOUDOUN COUNTY

In faith, prayer and sacrifice, my family and I wish to share in the support and work of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County, Virginia.

Out of our love and gratitude for all His blessings, we would like to pledge AN HOUR'S PAY PER WEEK (i.e. 2.5% of annual household income) or the amount of \$_____ for the year 2013.

This amount will be paid as follows:

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

Name: _____

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Your pledge is **strictly confidential**.



GOYA

For those new to our Church, GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth Association) is the youth group for 13-18 year olds. We are active in four elements: Worship, Witness, Service and Fellowship.

We maintain an on-going food pantry collection, which is delivered to local food and homeless shelters. During Lent, we will be collecting LAUNDRY and CLEANING SUPPLIES. As always, food is welcome too. We thank our Parish for all of their generous donations.

In January, we prepared bag lunches for the Homeless Shelter in Leesburg. The food and hyperthermia center donations were greatly welcomed at the Leesburg Center, since they were down to very few meals. Some of our Yiayias and our former GOYAns who were on break from college joined in the fun. During the Taste of Greece, our GOYAns served in various areas and some performed in our dance troupe.

Our now annual Talent Show was in February. The GOYAns hosted a dinner for the Yiayias and Pappous in our Parish. There were 40 people seated at tables in our hall. The fellowship between the generations was wonderful and the goal of this event! After dinner, the Yiayias, Pappous and GOYAn families enjoyed a talent show presented by many of our GOYAns and siblings. We watched performances on a guitar, flute, trombone, tuba, keyboard, a marimba solo, a vocal number from Les Mis and Greek folk dances. To keep the show moving between acts, trivia kept the audience entertained.

The beautiful part of coordinating this program was the outpouring of the GOYAns to step up to make it happen. They designed the flyers and programs, encouraged the Yiayias and Pappous to attend, offered their various talents, MC'd the show, set up and cleaned up. We appreciated all our GOYAn families who assisted with the cooking, setting up all the tables and clean up. We look forward to another talent show next year.

During Lent, Father George will be joining us for some Lenten Talks to help us travel through this great period. The discussions will be after Liturgy on March 31st and April 14th. Please plan to attend.

We will be ending the year with some very exciting activities. If you would like more information on GOYA, check the Ministries section on the Church website.

Debbie Kangelaris,
GOYA Director

Stewardship Sunday Testimonial – Given By Ava Walter

In 2011 I became engaged to a wonderful, kind, true southern gentleman. Todd Walter. All of a sudden our lives and families - including our daughters from previous marriages were going to be blended. We discussed schools and visitation schedules, his military career, our new home, where the girls' rooms would be, the possibility of having more children. And our faith.

Todd grew up in a Southern Baptist home. I grew up in a mixed household - my mother is Greek and my father is Iranian. I was taught to love God and believe in Christ but we did not attend church regularly. I am an Orthodox Christian. It was important for us to worship together as a family. Todd had been to an Orthodox church one Sunday while visiting my godson in Philadelphia. He was quiet afterwards and didn't understand why it was so ornate. We decided to start coming to this Parish for answers after we were encouraged by my very sweet next door neighbor, Marina Blair.

Soon we were coming very regularly. People became familiar. My younger daughter Lina and I would sadly leave Todd & Katlyn behind while we received communion. We asked Father George about our wedding and he was adamant that Todd not convert to Orthodoxy for the wrong reasons, but that he truly understood and embraced the faith first. Soon after we married, Katlyn and Todd began Orthodoxy classes here at church with Father George and some other parishioners. My husband and oldest daughter were Chrismated (became Orthodox) on Saturday May 19th 2012. My thea Georgia is Todd's (Thomas) nouna and Marina is Katlyn's (Katerina) nouna. We are so blessed.

For us, raising a family in our church has been so important. We literally have hundreds of extended family members. Each of you are fundamental role models for our children. In this regard, Todd says our community is just like his childhood...every neighbor his mom knew also had spanking rights! Our situation may be slightly unique because we are a blended family but all of our children absolutely need the structure, guidance, and unconditional love this church provides. There are too many negative influences out in the world today.

That is my family's story. The truth is, our involvement in this church has largely been influenced by the gentle encouragement of very special families and a strong presiding priest who is always available to answer our spiritual questions. Todd & I hope that other families can find a home in this Parish as we have. With consistent stewardship we will continue to grow and flourish as a community. Please support our church!



(L-R): Ava, Demetri, Katlyn, Lina, Todd, and cat Cyrus

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Sunday School

The Catechetical staff of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County was honored to sponsor a pre-Lenten retreat with our guest speaker, Igumen Fr. Sergius, Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA. We welcomed Fr. Sergius into our Parish with the Blessings of Metropolitan Evangelos and Fr. George, on Saturday February 23, 2013, and he presented a talk on "Prayer and Fasting". The lecture was well attended, not only by our parishioners, but also by the faithful of other Orthodox parishes. Fr. Sergius shared with us his vast knowledge on this topic, through Scripture and Orthodox Practices, as well as his experiences as a monk in preparing for Great Lent.

In addition, his traveling companion, Brother Anthony, set up a table and made available various books, icons, incense and other religious items for purchase by the attendees. Last but not least, Fr. Sergius blessed us by bringing to our church the Holy Myrrh Bearing Icon of St. Anna for veneration and anointment with her Holy Myrrh. She was truly a Blessing to all. On Sunday, Fr. Sergius co-celebrated Holy Liturgy with Fr. George and again provided an opportunity for the faithful to venerate the Holy Icon and be anointed with her Myrrh. We were all blessed by this experience!

The following week, the Catechetical school celebrated the parish's St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. This year the participants, as always, presented magnificent speeches regarding their Orthodox faith.

Maria Mantalvanos, a 4th grader, represented the elementary level (4th-6th grade) and gave a powerful testimony regarding her Faith. Annamaria Kendrat, an 8th grader in the junior division (7th-9th grade) spoke on the topic of "Come Receive the Light" and how Christ illuminates us when we receive Him in our hearts. Jon Emch and Melanie Kangelaris, both in the senior division, (10th-12th grade) chose the topic regarding the significance of St. Ephraim's prayer. All the children and their speeches were quite moving and they each achieved great recognition and scores from our honorable judges; Chris Gavras, Bill Polizos, Sofia Tsangalis and George Zangos. It was decided that Annamaria, Jon and Melanie be sent as our parish finalists to represent our Church at the Division Finals to be held at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church at Newport News, VA to be held on April 20, 2013. May God grant them all His Grace!

As you can see, besides the magnificent work of all the Catechetical school teachers and staff we all continue to be involved in His continued ministries bringing forth His light to all. Thank you for your continued support.

In His Service,

Nicholas Zangos

Catechetical School Director



Jon Emch, Nick Zangos, Maria Mantalvanos, Melanie Kangelaris and Annamaria Kendrat, participants of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, stand before Father George.



Nick Zangos, Carol Zangos, Father George Alexson, and guest speaker Father Sergius of the Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA, surround the Holy Myrrh Bearing Icon of St. Anna.

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Holy Week & Easter Schedule

April 27	Sunday of Lazarus	Orthros, 8:15 am Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am
April 28	Palm Sunday Palm Sunday Evening	Orthros, 8:15 am Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am Bridegroom Matins, 7:00 pm
April 29	Holy Monday	Bridegroom Matins, 7:00 pm
April 30	Holy Tuesday	Bridegroom Matins, 7:00 pm
May 1	Holy Wednesday	Sacrament of Holy Unction, 3:00 pm Matins preparing for the Mystical Supper, 7:00 pm
May 2	Holy Thursday	Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil, 9:30 am Matins and reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels, 7:00 pm
May 3	Holy Friday	Reading of the Royal Hours, 9:30 am Vespers: Apokathelosis--Descent from the Cross, 3:00 pm Matins and Lamentations at the Tomb, 7:00 pm
May 4	Holy Saturday	Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil, 9:30 am Matins of the Resurrection, 11:00 pm Resurrection of our Lord, 12 Midnight
May 5	Great and Holy Pascha	Vespers of Love, 11:00 am
May 6	Renewal Monday, St. George	Orthros, 8:15 am Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am
May 10	Zoodochos Pege, Life-Giving Font	Orthros, 8:15 am Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am

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EASTER FLOWERS 2013

Beloved Parishioners & Friends,
Please consider making a donation to help us to decorate
our Church for Holy Week and Easter.
Your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

The average cost of flowers is around \$2,500.00
Your donations will go towards the following:

- Arrangements for the Salutations to the Theotokos
- Daffodils for the Veneration of the Cross
- Palms and flower arrangements for Palm Sunday
- Icon Frames for Palm Sunday, Bridegroom Services & the Resurrection
- Wreath for the Cross on Holy Thursday
- Decoration of the Kouvouklion – Epitaphio
- Rose petals for Holy Friday & Holy Saturday
- Large Candles for the Alter and Epitaphio
- Lilies and flowers for Holy Pascha

Thank you for your support and generosity!



EASTER FLOWERS 2013

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

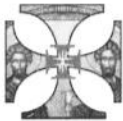
Donation Amount: _____ Cash ^{circle} Check Charge

Name on Card: _____

Card No: _____ Expiration: _____



Please complete and return to the attention of GOPLC Philoptochos
Questions? Maria Mollo, Marina Blair or philoptochos@greekorthodoxloudoun.org



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PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY



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Rev. Fr. George Alexson



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Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We want to share with you some of the new and exciting things happening in our Philoptochos Society. We have a new president, and many exciting new goals.

We aim to include all parish families in our extended family in support of our philanthropic work. We accept memberships and contributions throughout the year. Your support directly benefits our church and those most in need in our parish and our community in Loudoun County. All contributions are confidential, tax deductible, and greatly appreciated.

We are planning for some exciting events during the year, the crown jewel of which is always our Ladies Fashion Show. It is being planned for Saturday, May 18, 2013 and you will be receiving more information and ways in which you can be involved during the year as plans are worked out.

Throughout the year, you will hear about fundraising programs targeted at our many philanthropic endeavors. We greatly appreciate your generosity and support. None of these programs and activities would happen without you!

Thanks to the generosity of our Philoptochos Ladies in past years, we have been able to reach out to our church community and to our community in Loudoun County.

Your generosity supports the following:

<i>Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter (LAWS)</i>	<i>GOYA Greek Dancing Troupe</i>
<i>AGAPE children's medical fund</i>	<i>Christmas & Easter Flowers</i>
<i>The poor, the aged, the sick, the handicapped, those needing special assistance</i>	

We are hoping that you will consider a contribution to our Philoptochos above and beyond membership. We suggest a donation of **\$150 per family**, but **ANY** amount is appreciated. Please see the reverse side for payment details. Also please remember your contribution is confidential and fully **tax deductible**.

Thank you for your continued support! The fabric of our community is stronger when we can open our hearts and give selflessly to those who need us the most. Our community is stronger because of YOU!

With deepest gratitude,

The GOPLC Philoptochos Society



Philoptochos

Please mark your calendars! Saturday May 18th from 11:00am-2:30pm The Philoptochos Society of The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County's annual Fashion Show & Luncheon at River Creek Country Club. Ladies fashions by Ann Taylor, children's fashions by Gymboree. Amazing raffle prizes this year! Tickets still only \$35 for adults, \$20 for

children ages 11-5, children 4 & under are free! Advance ticket purchase required as there will be no sales at the door. See our booth in the Church lobby April 14 or 21 for sales or contact Maria Mollo or Ava Walter (703) 919-8801.

Luncheon and Fashion Show

Saturday, May 18, 2013

11:00am – 2:30pm

(Cash Bar – 11:00am – 12pm)

River Creek Country Club

43800 Olympic Blvd, Leesburg, VA

\$35.00 per person; \$20.00 for children under 11 years old; children under 4 years are free

- Cocktails and lunch with friends and family in beautiful surroundings
- Variety of vendor exhibits and sales by participating members of our community
- Ladies's Fashions by **Ann Taylor Boutique**
- Our raffle with a number of lovely prizes
- Children's Fashions by **Gymboree**

For information contact Ava Walter (703) 919-8801, e-mail: avamwalter@gmail.com
Reservations can be mailed to: Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County, 21580 Atlantic Blvd., Building D, Unit 160, Dulles, VA. 20166

Make Your Reservations by May 1, 2013

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ No. of Reservations: _____

No. of Children: Under 11 years _____ Under 4 years: _____ No. of Vegetarians: _____

Total Amount: \$ _____ Paid by: Check # _____ Charge: _____ Cash: _____

Make checks payable to: GOPLC Philoptochos – We accept Visa, Master Card, Discover Card

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ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! Christos Anesti!

The GOPLC Ladies Philoptochos invites you to participate in our annual Parish Easter card as we approach the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is an annual event and it is part of our Spring Community project. Half of the proceeds will go towards purchasing Gift Cards to benefit L.A.W.S. (Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter). This year our Easter Card will feature a drawing from one of our Sunday School children with the theme "**Christos Anesti**" and will include the names of all parishioners who participate. With a \$25.00 donation your name will be included in this card and it will be mailed by the Philoptochos to all parishioners.

Please complete the form below and put it in the special box under the Philoptochos Bulletin Board or mail it to the church in the enclosed envelope by Sunday, April 15, 2013.

List your name(s) as you want it printed on the Easter card.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE/EMAIL: _____

Please make checks payable to GOPLC/ LP (abbreviation for The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County/ Ladies Philoptochos) and note "Easter Card" in the memo section. If you have any questions, please contact Niki Lelis or Cynthia Smith. We look forward to sharing your message of love, peace and joy with all of our community during this holy season.

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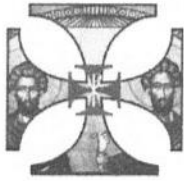
Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Quantity: _____ Total Amount: \$ _____ Check Number: _____

(Payable to GOPLC Ladies Philoptochos. Please note Easter Bread in the memo section.)

CC Number _____ Expiration Date _____



GOPLC

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Matthew 25:35

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Submit one form per family per year

Please sign me up for the following:

\$_____ **\$30.00 Philoptochos membership** (primary member)
— includes National Philoptochos Society membership card

\$_____ **Additional gift membership** at \$30.00 for _____ (name)
— includes National Philoptochos Society membership card

\$_____ **Additional donation to the GOPLC Philoptochos Society** A suggested amount is **\$150** per family but any amount is welcome and appreciated. All funds raised directly benefit our church's philanthropic activities and are **100% tax deductible**. See the back of this form for more details on how contributions were spent last year.

\$_____ **TOTAL** Please make your checks payable to GOPLC Philoptochos Society

--- OR ---

Charge the total to my credit card: (circle one) VISA / MC / DISCOVER (no AmEx)

Card Number: _____ CCV#: _____ Expiration: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ ☐ Please contact me regarding meetings and ways that I may volunteer with Philoptochos.

Please give membership form and to Loula Lagadinos or Maria Mollo, or send to:

Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County Philoptochos Society

Attention: Membership, 21580 Atlantic Blvd. Building D, Unit 160, Dulles, VA 20166

For questions regarding Philoptochos membership contact Loula Lagadinos at Loula@angelic.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF GOPLC PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY!



Member in the Spotlight—Greg Joiner

Where are you from (in the U.S. and your roots in Greece)?

I grew up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, went to the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and have now lived in Northern Virginia going on 10 years. I was raised in the Orthodox Church. My mother's family is from Skopelos; in fact, my maternal great-grandparents emigrated from Greece through Ellis Island.

Who is in your family?

My wife Ashley and I were married in 2005 at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Winston-Salem by Fr. Dimitri Kangelaris. We have two children, Madison (age 4) and Ben (age 9 months). Most of the members of our extended family are in North Carolina and Florida.

What are your interests/hobbies?

I enjoy watching and going to sports events – especially Washington Nationals games and UVA football and basketball games – and visiting vineyards around Virginia for wine tasting. But mostly I love spending time with my family – having two young children can sometimes be a bit of a handful, but I love playing with them and teaching them new things everyday.

How did you come to our Parish?

We joined the Parish two years ago. We were members of St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church. While we enjoyed being part of that community, the commute into Falls Church was hard for us to make every week with a young child. When we heard about the Parish in Loudoun County, we were excited to visit, and were immediately welcomed by the community, and made fast friends with other families.

What aspects or ministries of our Parish are you involved with?

I help to publish the "The Light" publication, and my wife and I are members of the stewardship committee. Madison attends Sunday School, and I look forward to enrolling Ben as well when he's older.

What are your hopes for the future of our Parish?

I hope that our Parish continues to grow, and that one day soon we build a church that can serve as a beacon for Orthodox Christians in Northern Virginia.

What have you enjoyed most about our Parish?

Since day one, the Parish has been so welcoming of my family. We've made many friends and truly feel like part of the community – in fact, Ben was just baptized in March and we were proud to have our extended family visit the church to share in that special occasion.



*The Joiner Family—This issue's member spotlight!
(L-R): Madison, Ashley, Ben, and Greg*

Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County Men's Bible Study

First and Third Tuesday of the Month
7:00pm - 8:30pm at the Church

If you have any questions please feel free to contact:

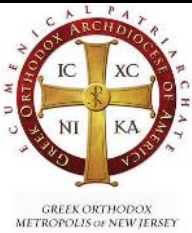
Father George - 703-314-6421 or frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com
or Nick Spyros - 703-357-7367 or nlspyros@yahoo.com

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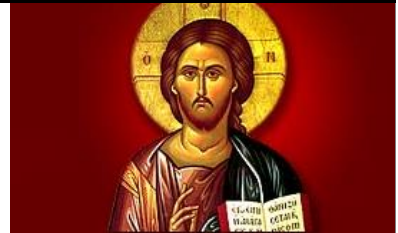
571-271-6246
www.LoudounHousesForSale.com

Keller Williams Realty received the highest numerical score among full service real estate firms for home buyers in this proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2008-2010 Home Buyer/Seller Study. 91/100 Study based on 3,096 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 experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com

**The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County**

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

www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org



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Advertising: Paul Orphanides (porphanides@myselectproperties.com) If you are interested in advertising in the next issue of The Light, please contact Paul Orphanides.

Parea

Regards to all from our PAREA!

February's PAREA was a true celebration of fellowship and of our church community! The Blair family was delighted to host this month's potluck PAREA! The home was filled with the aroma of all the delicious recipes and fabulous desserts that everyone so kindly prepared! Mostly though, we were deeply humbled and thankful for the love, joy and blessing that a gathering of true friends brings together!

After Fr. George blessed the food, we all shared the joy of coming together as a community and as a family and shared a wonderful meal. We thanked God as we celebrated the arrivals of new babies, as well as the contributions of several wonderful people who have touched our hearts with their devotion, kindness and hard work for our Church. Please always remember how precious and important each and every one of you is to our Church and to our PAREA!



Yiannis Kinnas, Father George, Yiannis Kouklis.

As we have now entered the period of Lent, we are blessed to take with us the strong ties that we created, the humility of serving each other and the love and forgiveness that keep us together.

A huge thank you to Betsy Stegbauer for providing precious memories for all of us through her photographs! Please check the PAREA board at the church hall for updates. More photos to come in our next newsletter! Thank you!

In Christ,

Marina Blair
PAREA



Seated: Helen Kyriazi, Marina Blair, Presvytera Joanna, Vasilia Ravaris. Standing: Betsy Stegbauer, Loula Lagadinou, Anna Tjoumas, Janet Perezous, Maria Drapas, Ava Walter, Ioanna Epaminonda, Artemis Scordalakis, Penelope Gioldasis, Saida Eckiram.