



The Light To Φως



Holy Apostles Greek
Orthodox Church
Loudoun County, VA

Volume 11, Issue 6
Nov — Dec 2016

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

A Message from Father George Alexson

"Lord, I have heard Your report and was afraid; I considered Your works and was greatly astonished"

"I behold a new and wondrous mystery! My ears resound to the shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but loudly chanting a heavenly hymn! The angels sing! The archangels blend their voices in harmony! The cherubim resound their joyful praise! The Seraphim exalt His glory! All join to praise this holy feast. He who is above now, for our salvation, dwells here below; and we, who were lowly, are exalted by divine mercy! Today Bethlehem resembles heaven, hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices and, in place of the sun, witnessing the rising of the Sun of Justice! Ask not how this is accomplished, for where God wills, the order of nature is overturned. For He willed He had the powers He descended. He saved. All things move in obedience to God. And so the kings have come, and they have seen the heavenly King that has come upon the earth, not bringing with Him angels, nor archangels, nor thrones, nor dominions, nor powers, nor principalities, but, treading a new and solitary path, He has come forth from a spotless womb. Yet He has not forsaken His angels, nor left them deprived of His care, nor because of His incarnation has He ceased being God. And behold kings have come, that they might serve the Leader of the Hosts of Heaven; Women, that they might adore Him Who was born of a woman so that He might change the pains of childbirth into joy; Virgins, to the Son of the Virgin.... Infants, that they may adore Him who became a little child, so that out of the mouths of infants He might perfect praise; Children, to the Child who raised up martyrs through the rage of Herod; Men, to Him who became man that He might heal the miseries of His servants; Shepherds, to the Good Shepherd who has laid down His life for His sheep; Priests, to Him who has become a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek; Servants, to Him who took upon Himself the form of a servant, that He might bless our stewardship with the reward of freedom (*Philippians 2:7*); Fishermen, to the Fisher of humanity; Publicans, to Him who from among them named a chosen evangelist; Sinful women, to Him who exposed His feet to the tears of the repentant woman; And that I may embrace them all together, all sinners have come, that they may look upon the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! I hold in my arms the cradle of Christ! For this is all my hope! This is my life! This is my salvation! And bearing it I come, and having from its power received the gift of speech, I too, with the angels and shepherds, sing:

"Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace to men of good will!"

St. John Chrysostom on the Great Feast of Christmas

Beloved Parishioners and Friends,

It gives me great joy to greet you in this issue of the "Fos" as the Presiding Priest of the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church. I am certain most of you have heard by now, that our beloved Spiritual Father and Hierarch, His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos, on his visit to us for the celebrations of the tenth anniversary of our founding, granted us the name, Holy Apostles Church. We are grateful to him and, with great enthusiasm now embark on this new phase of our life as a parish in the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey. With faith and courage we embrace all the challenges that face us, especially two most important: continued growth and the search for a permanent home for our community. What better time to begin this new chapter in our history than the sacred period of Christmas Lent. The spiritual preparation for the celebration of our Lord's Incarnation began on the 15th of November. As with any Lenten period, it is a time for prayer, fasting, contemplation, alms giving, and all those elements that create in us a more intense determination to enter into the joy of our Lord.

For that reason I have included in my message this magnificent passage from a sermon preached by the greatest preacher of all, St. John Chrysostom. I encourage you to read it and re-read it, until every word pierces your heart and there, in the deep recesses of your inner being, you are able to meet our Savior and experience the joy of the Kingdom to which His birth has restored us. Let us strive to make the words, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will," a cheerful noise in a world thirsting for God, the Gospel, salvation, peace, love and true happiness. If we can make this call a reality in our life and the life of our humble parish, God will make it possible for us to share the message with all who "have ears to hear."

I take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Christmas Lent and a truly joyful and spiritually rewarding celebration of our Lord's birth. Peace and love to all!

Fr. George

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Highlights:

- Holy Apostles Community Christmas Party, Dec. 11, 1-5pm, Bungalow Lakehouse in Sterling.
- Annual Visit to the Loudoun County Youth Shelter by Hope and Joy and GOYA, Dec. 10.
- The Light / To Fos has been updated to reflect our new name. However, until our legal name change is complete, please continue to make any checks out to GOPLC as before.

Message from the Parish Council President – Marina Blair



"Compel yourselves; say the prayer; close your mouths to criticism; place doors and locks against unnecessary words. Time passes and does not come back, and woe to us if time goes by without spiritual profit."

Elder Ephraim of Philotheou

Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

With God's grace, my two terms on the Parish Council, a total of 6 years, are coming to an end with the New Year. Soon, we will be waiting to hear from His Eminence, Metropolitan Evangelos, that the membership of the new Parish Council has been ratified.

I can attest that the last two years have been an extraordinary, spiritual and emotional journey. They have brought us closer together and ready to face any future challenges with deep faith, spirituality, and splendid teamwork. I thank our Lord for each and every one of you. I feel deeply humbled that we were blessed with our name, the Holy Apostles, that our Building Fund has skyrocketed and will continue to grow, and our efforts in pursuit of land are surely turning from a vision into reality. All our Ministries, Committees and Organizations have done outstandingly well! New Ellinomatheia and Archdiocese curricula for the enhancement of the Greek School have been established. By the grace of our Lord, everything is falling into place!

I wish to wholeheartedly thank Father George and Presvytera Joanna for their guidance, our awesome Parish Council, and all our church family, for giving me the opportunity to serve our Lord, and all of you! I have no doubt that the new President will be fabulous and our church will continue to thrive. I also wish to thank my family, Robert, Alexia and George for their tremendous support and patience with me!

I would like to wish you all, health, and personal fulfillment. May our Lord continue to bless our efforts! Have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed, Healthy and Joyous New Year!

Marina A. Blair

Parish Council President

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

blairmarina@gmail.com

(703-349-1842)

Thank you to Greg Cherpes for all his support, time, and efforts on behalf of this Parish Council, as he is stepping down this year. Greg, your contributions have been commendable and appreciated. Also, thank you to Lia Economou, who, though she will continue to work for the church as our Office Manager, is stepping down from her responsibilities as the Stewardship Chair. Lia has worked diligently in this position for four years now. Her devotion to the Stewardship program, and her unceasing efforts to grow our pledges has helped our Church immensely. Ron Baldinger has kindly agreed to step in as the new Stewardship Chair. Ron has an excellent background and I am sure he will do exceptionally well! Thank you Ron! Thank you also to Smaro Karakatsanis for chairing our Dance Troupe for the last couple of years! Smaro, your efforts and work are greatly appreciated. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Maria Plevrakis, who will take over the position. Greg Joiner is not only the grand Treasurer of the Parish Council, he is also responsible for the Commemorative Album and The FOS. Starting in February, Peter and Cindy Panagopoulos will be joining the team and helping out with The FOS! We are very happy to have Peter and Cindy on board!

And last, but certainly not least, Nick Kass says farewell to the Parish Council in the new year. Nick is a man with extraordinary talents and deep faith, and I am hoping that in the future he will join the PC again. Thank you Nick for your kindness, generosity, and unwavering support.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

November 1, 2016

Rev. Protopresbyter George Alexson
Mrs. Marina Blair, President and
Esteemed Members of the Parish Council
and Dedicated Orthodox Faithful of the
Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Apostles
21580 Atlantic Blvd.
Building D., Unit 160
Dulles, VA 20166

My Beloved,

I pray this letter finds all of you well both physically and spiritually experiencing all of God's Heavenly blessings.

It is with much joy that I write to you to thank all of you for a most beautiful and warm parish visit this past weekend as we came together to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County. I congratulate all of the dedicated Orthodox faithful of Loudoun County for your commitment and hard work to ensure that this auspicious occasion in the life of your parish was properly observed and celebrated.

As I announced, with tremendous jubilation on Sunday, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, I canonically and formally named your beloved parish as the **Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Apostles**. It is my prayer that Christ our God, through the intercessions of the Holy Apostles, continues to enlighten you and to grant all of you strength as you continue to offer the Good News to the people of Loudoun County and as you steadily progress towards the realization of your dream, the construction of a beautiful Byzantine Church and Community Center to call your own.

Praying that our loving Lord continues to bless all of you and your beloved community, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings

† EVANGELOS
Metropolitan of New Jersey

Pictures from the 10th Anniversary Gala and Hierarchical Liturgy





Pictures from the Hierarchical Liturgy



Various pictures from the 10th Anniversary Gala, Hierarchical Liturgy, and after church festivities, from Metropolitan Evangelos's visit on October 27th, 2016



Stewardship

As the famous saying goes, all good things must come to an end. And so it goes with my term as the Stewardship Committee Chair. It has been my humble privilege to serve as the Chair for the past 4 years. I thank all of you for your support and encouragement over the years.

When I was first asked to become the Stewardship Committee Chair, I was skeptical to say the least. I was 100% committed to our church and wanted to see it grow, but the tasks required seemed daunting. I would have to develop a committee, learn a new software system to track our pledges and membership, welcome new members while embracing existing parishioners, plan stewardship events, and manage the largest revenue item in our annual budget. How was I, a mother of 3 young kids and already serving on the Parish Council, going to accomplish this?

I prayed about it for a few days and God gave me the answer. It was very simple really. There was a great need in our parish and I had been tasked to fill it. There is no greater work than for the glory of God and our church, so I prayed God would grant me the wisdom and strength to develop our Stewardship program to the best of my ability. I encourage you all to pray for God's guidance to help you find ways to get involved in our church and make a difference.

We have seen a lot of growth since my tenure, but there is much more work to be done.

I am happy to announce that effective January 1, 2017, Ron Baldinger who has been a faithful steward almost since the beginning of our church, will be taking my place. Ron and I are working hard together to make a seamless transition and I will continue to support him and the Committee in whatever way I can.

I am confident that Ron will continue to move our Stewardship program in the right direction and he has the skills and enthusiasm necessary for growth. Please help me congratulate Ron on this important position.

Our parish is strong and vibrant thanks to all of you. I have been blessed to lead the Stewardship effort and get to know our Stewards as my own family. May God bless you, your families, and our church.

In God's Service,

Lia Economou

Chair, Stewardship Committee

liaecon@comcast.net



Families enjoying pizza and wine at Quattro Goomba's Winery on Oct. 14

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.greekorthodoxloudoun.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 Sunday Presentation

by Lia Economou, Stewardship Committee Chair, November 13, 2016

I'd like to first thank the Stewardship Committee for all the work they have done this year planning the many events we have had: Adult Wine Night, Family Bowling, Mother-Daughter Tea, Parish Picnic, Quattro Goomba's Winery family night, plus 2 Stewardship Sundays.

The Committee members are Kristina Ayoub, Bill Bakopanos, Mina Baldinger, Marina Blair, Julie Burke, Christy Lisciandro, and Nick Spyros. Thank you for giving our church your time and talents this year.

Stewardship or membership to our church is made up of 3 parts.

TIME: The one thing we all have is time, okay maybe not a lot of it, but we all have it. And we decide where to spend it. Giving of your time is part of your membership to this church, it has to be a priority or it will never fit in your busy schedule. I recently had a Steward who has a young child call me, and she said that it would be hard for her to volunteer at church because of her little one, but if there was anything she could do from home she was willing. So she helped with the Parish Christmas Card mailing, stuffing envelopes, right from home. That's exactly the spirit we are talking about. If you don't make "time" for the church, then you are telling God that HE is not a priority in your life.

TALENT: God has given each of us talents. What better place to use them then at our church! Can you sew? I'm sure there are Christmas pageant costumes that can use some TLC. How about helping decorate the boards in our church hall? You can sing? Join the choir! Again, you have the choice where to apply your talents in your life. Whatever your specific talent is, there is a group here that can use it. See me after church and let's match your talent to the right need in our parish.

TREASURE: Every year we ask you to fill out a pledge card. This is the amount of Stewardship you are committing to pay toward our annual budget. The good news is this year, all of you who turned in a card, pledged a total of \$178,000. That is a record high, and we thank you for committing your treasures to the church to help pay our bills. The problem is right now, of that \$178,000 pledged, we have \$15,872 outstanding. Imagine having a budget for the year, as the church does, you are just 7 weeks away from year-end, and you are over \$15,000 short. Many of you are on weekly or monthly payment plans, and I thank you for continuing to stay current with your pledge. I know we can count on you to continue that to complete your pledge by year-end. Our church has basically been surviving on your regular payments.

For those of you who are not paying your full pledge, this is a big problem for our church. We cannot continue the practice of waiting until December 31 to get your stewardship and get us out of the red at the last minute. The church is here for you every day of the week, not just on Sundays, holidays, funerals, weddings and baptisms. But it can't continue to be here for you every day if your membership is not being paid.

Stewardship should be paid in a lump sum at the beginning of the year, or if you can't afford to do that, then in weekly or monthly payments so the church has the income it needs throughout the year. Please see me so we can work out your payment and we can get that \$15,872 that the church is counting on down to zero.

In conclusion, let me ask you a few questions, and please repeat with "I Will."

- ◆ Who is going to give of their time to our church? (parishioners respond: "I will")
- ◆ Who is going to make our church their priority and not just a Sunday event? (parishioners respond: "I will")
- ◆ Who is going to examine their own talents and offer them to our church? (parishioners respond: "I will")
- ◆ Who is going to pay their full membership pledge to this church by December 1? (parishioners respond: "I will")

Yes, YOU will because if God was standing in front of you right now and asked you to support HIS church, you wouldn't say no. You would say, "I will."

Thank you.





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Stewardship Sunday Parishioner Testimonial

Ron and Mina Baldinger

Our family found GOPLC in 2007 when we moved to South Riding, Va. We are a military family and have grown accustomed to moving every 2-3 years, each time having to find a church to fit our family's needs. Of course, if a Greek Orthodox church was available, that would be our first stop, however, many times this was not an option. Often we would attend a non-denominational service on base, ensuring we were in attendance on the occasion an orthodox priest would visit. We were so fortunate to find this church and community in 2007 and immensely enjoyed our time becoming part of the GOPLC family. After only 1 year, however, the Air Force decided it was time for us to move on. In 2008, we moved to Germany, then to Spokane, Washington. During those 4 years away, we made a decision to continue to be members of the church because we wanted to see it thrive, we wanted to maintain our sense of belonging to the church and we loved the church and hoped to return to it one day. We maintained our stewardship through the entire time away because it was so important to us.

Twenty-five years of moving around proved to be a challenge to us as an Orthodox family. We were excited when we heard in 2012, after 4 years away, that we would be moving back to the area but this time we would be all the way in Maryland. We actually tried several other churches in the area but never felt welcomed like we did here at the GOPLC. There is just something very unique about the friendliness of the people, even though there were several new faces here, everyone was still very welcoming and many people remembered us. We quickly realized the commute was well worth being part of the church family we had found 3 moves earlier and had stayed connected to.

We have tried to be involved as we can be. There are so many thriving ministries in the church and people are always so welcoming and friendly so it is easy to feel a part of the church. Ron is a member of the AHEPA, I have started being more active in the Philoptocos, last time we lived here my daughter was a part of the Greek School, my kids attend the Sunday School, we have worked the Greek festivals and we are slowly getting more and more involved. I recently was asked to join the Stewardship Committee and felt honored that I was asked to join.

I think our family is very typical of the modern Orthodox family. I was born and raised into a Greek Orthodox family. My church was immigrant based and my father came from Greece after WW II. My mom is not Greek and converted to Orthodoxy. When Ron and I got married, Ron converted to Orthodoxy but it was a decision he had to make for himself, not for me. We chose to raise our kids in the Orthodox faith, and while my kids do not understand the Greek language they can appreciate the traditions of the church and of our culture. I think our church is a wonderful mixture of old Greek, new Greek and converts. That is the face of the modern Greek church.

After moving around for 25 years, it can be really tough to be the new person. It can be challenging to make friends, to break into established groups and to be accepted. And unfortunately, Greek churches can often be the hardest to break into. But not the GOPLC. I don't know what it is but this church exudes warmth, perhaps it is the leadership because we have some extremely friendly, welcoming members who work to bring you into the fold. After 25 years, it can be tiring to be the new person. That is why it was a no brainer to come back to this church. We now live in the Lorton/Alexandria area, this is about a 45 minute drive for us. It would be more convenient to go to St. Katherine's but we don't. We make the drive because I know that when I get here, I will be greeted by every single family that I see when I come through the door, that people will ask about my family/kids and that people know who I am. That means A LOT to me.

I strongly encourage you to get involved. Share your talents and your strengths with the church. I have seen this church grow in our absence and it is amazing how many people and programs we have. It is amazing when I see so many people show up to our annual gala, our Greek festivals, our church picnics, the Goya talent show, the laying of the wreaths at Arlington Cemetery and so many other events. There is a lot of passion for our church and its survival.

We know that so many of you feel just as we do and know how incredibly blessed we are to be part of this family. That is why we've never stopped giving since first coming to this church, whether we were down the street or across the globe. Thank you so much for this opportunity to speak and share our story. We thank every one of you for all you do and hope you will continue to give so we can continue to grow our church.

Sunday School

By the Grace of our Lord and the prayers of our Father George our Sunday School has started a new academic year filled with spiritually invigorating programs and activities

SEPARATION OF HUMAN BEINGS FROM GOD IS THE GREATEST CRISIS OF ALL: This is THE message our Sunday School teachers underscore during this period of Advent. We live through times of global challenges and disasters, moral decline and confusion, actions of injustice and cruelty; it is only through staying close to our Heavenly Father that we will survive; our children have a lot of questions and look up to us for answers; Let us all try and become good examples for our youth through actions of humility, repentance, metanoia and sophrosyne; we need everyone's cooperation and assistance toward reaching our goal which to realize that the greatest crisis of all is the separation of human beings from God; let us not forget that He made himself as vulnerable as a baby, came to us in human form, shared our suffering, held the weight of our wrongdoing and offered to us the hope of life. Please join our Sunday School efforts to convey this message to our children during this Advent Season!

ORTHODOX LITURGY BOOK FOR THE YOUNG ONES: Our Sunday School is preparing a series of events and activities that will assist our youth, throughout the year gain an understanding of who the HOLY APOSTLES are how much they helped Christianity to spread and their «role» as our church's Patron saints. To help the cost of these activities Presvytera Joanna has been helping our School's fundraising effort by selling the «Orthodox Liturgy Book for the young ones» with great success! THANK YOU, Presvytera! Also, a huge THANK YOU goes to all of you, brothers and sisters in Christ, beloved parishioners, for all your support and for purchasing so many books from Presvytera!

OFFERING OF PROSFORA FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER: Two years ago, our Sunday School came up with the idea to offer the Prosfora needed for all Divine Liturgies that take place in the month of December. This year Father George and Presvytera Joanna brought the December Prosfora to our church on behalf of our School – THANK YOU, Father George and Presvytera!

OFFERING TOKENS OF APPRECIATION TO THE ELDERLY: Our Sunday School will once again join the «Parea» and «Goya» and prepare trays with goodies for our beloved seniors. It is with great appreciation and care that under the direction of Presvytera Joanna these trays are prepared on the day our Sunday School children have their Christmas story presentation rehearsal; this is a special day for all and we feel blessed we are part of this nice gesture!

Merry Christmas to all and a Blessed 2017!

Ergini Martnishn (ergini@aol.com)
Sunday School Director



AHEPA

Holy Apostles Community Christmas Party Hosted by AHEPA 542!

The date is Sunday, December 11 at the Bungalow Lake House from 1pm to 5pm. Tickets are \$35 per adult (\$40 at the door) and \$10 per child. Santa and gifts for kids. Raffle prizes for adults. Please see our table at church.

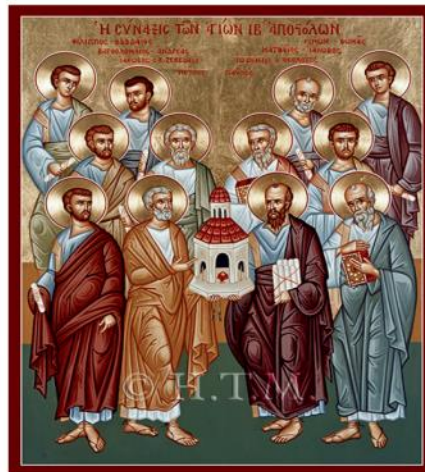


Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

Family Christmas Luncheon

Delicious Food

Presents for the Kids



Raffle

Appearance by Santa

Sunday, December 11th from 1-5 pm

Bungalow Lakehouse

Tickets: Adults \$35 (\$40 at the door) | Kids \$10

Purchase tickets online at

<https://mkt.com/ahepa542/christmas-luncheon>



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Hope and Joy

Our HOPE and JOY junior youth group is having fun, making friends, and exploring the faith!

We started the year by learning about Orthodoxy from Father George, and we kicked off the fall season by celebrating the visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos. The children learned about the traditions associated with his visit; took a group photo and created a custom photo frame for him as a gift; and beautified the church by planting new flowers in the planters at the front door.

As Thanksgiving approached, we prepared for our annual visit to Tall Oaks Assisted Living in Reston. The children created home-made ornaments for the residents, and sang Christmas Carols as well as armed forces anthems in honor of Veteran's Day. The seniors were delighted by the children's kindness!

Also this fall we supported Loudoun Interfaith's Thanksgiving Bags program, donating food items to help needy families prepare a delicious holiday meal.

In December we'll prepare for a visit to the Loudoun County Youth Shelter. We've visited there before to bring gifts, cheer, and most importantly Christ's love into the lives of some very needy adolescents. And in the New Year, we look forward to supporting the newly established Hellenic Cultural Music and Arts Center (HCMAC) of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey. For more information about the Loudoun County Youth Shelter, or the new HCMAC youth program, feel free to contact Ava or Ashley.

Thank you for your continued support of HOPE and JOY and the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church.

Wishing you and your family all of Christ's blessings this Holy season,

Ashley Joiner (ashleydjoiner@gmail.com)

& Ava Walter (avamwalter@gmail.com)

Hope and Joy Co-Directors



Our children sang for at Tall Oaks Assisted Living



The seniors enjoyed spending time with our children



The Tall Oaks residents watched the children perform



The children made crafts as gifts for the seniors



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

November 7, 2016

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy
Dedicated Parents of our Beloved Youth of the
Northern New Jersey and Delaware Valley Regions of the
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved,

"...but be filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord..."

Ephesians 5:19

We are surrounded by music in our daily spiritual lives. Our faith is filled with hymns and praises to our Lord, feeding our souls and bringing us ever closer to God. This beautiful phenomenon is especially noticeable in our Parishes when our cherished Youth are singing in the Choir during the Divine Liturgy or singing traditional Greek songs during a March 25th Greek School presentation.

For many years, it has been my dream to establish a Metropolis-wide Youth Choir, Band and Chorale. To this end, and to further develop and preserve the best of our Orthodox and Hellenic Cultural Heritage, I am hereby pleased to announce the establishment of the **Hellenic Cultural Music and Arts Center** of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey.

The purpose of the Hellenic Cultural Music and Arts Center (HCMAC) is to make available quality instruction in Ecclesiastical and Greek Music and the Performing Arts to all members of the Greek-American Community, beginning in the Northern New Jersey and Delaware Valley Regions of our Holy Metropolis, and gradually expanding to Maryland and Virginia. The HCMAC will operate on a non-profit basis, which will permit us to offer high quality instruction at a low cost, making it possible for all members of the Community to participate in its program.

The HCMAC will offer a wide range of instruction in music and the performing arts including: **Byzantine Ecclesiastical Music, Adult and Youth Choral, Piano, Guitar, Theory of Music, a Concert Band, Voice and Dance, including Ballet.** The program offered will be tailored to meet the specific needs and interest of our Young people.



Instruction will be held at various locations throughout New Jersey and Greater Philadelphia so that travel time will be kept to a minimum. Additional and special courses of instruction are offered when interest is expressed in them. This program is designed to provide the students with a well-grounded base in and appreciation of music and the performing arts, and for the most talented, an opportunity to prepare for more advanced training and a professional career.

Therefore, it is with much anticipated enthusiasm that I appeal to you as Clergy, but especially you the Parents, to encourage your children to participate and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity being offered by our Holy Metropolis of New Jersey. How majestic it will be to hear a Youth Choir of over 100 voices strong or to have our very own Marching Band, comprised of our Orthodox Youth instead of relying on a local High School. The opportunities are endless and worth the effort to explore and realize them. I look forward to your assistance with this vital new Youth Program.

Attached, please find the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Hellenic Cultural Music Art Center Proposal for your information. Finally, Dimitrios and Helen Foustieris will contact you and meet with you in order to explain further the music programs in greater detail.

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

† EVANGELOS
Metropolitan of New Jersey



GOYA

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Well, do we have plenty to be thankful for this year! Congratulations to all our wonderful parishioners for finally being blessed with a name for our future church, Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church. We pray that our Lord will help us in every way to successfully accomplish our mission.

Our GOYAns have completed their "Baby Bottle Fundraiser" to solely benefit the Church Building Fund. They also started "Thanksgiving Cookie Jar Fundraiser" to benefit the Church Building Fund and Cancer Teen America. In December, they will start "Heritage Ornament Fundraiser" to benefit Children Diabetic Association as well as Church Building Fund.

We have been complementing our fundraiser efforts with inviting guest speakers to share their life experiences, spiritual journeys and their views about nowadays' society from an Orthodox point of view. My special thanks to Mr. John Canakaris, Mr. Giannis Mayietis and our next speaker for December will be Mr. Bret Lansdell who will be speaking about leadership skills such as perseverance, courage and confidence.

Congratulations to two of our GOYAns, Angelo Dacey and Alexandros Kouiroukidis, for being Tonsured. It is a double blessing that they received the blessing on the same day our church was blessed with a name by His Eminence Metropolis Evangelos of New Jersey.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of our efforts to benefit our church and its community.

Sincerely,

Sofia Kouiroukidis (kkouirouk@gmail.com),

Lillian Funk, and Christy Lisciandro

GOYA Advisors

<http://greekorthodoxloudoun.org/goya.html>



GOYAns with His Eminence, Metropolitan Evangelos



Mr. Giannis Mayietis speaking to our GOYAns



Angelo Dacey & Alexandros Kouiroukidis being Tonsured



Mr. John Canakaris speaking to our GOYAns

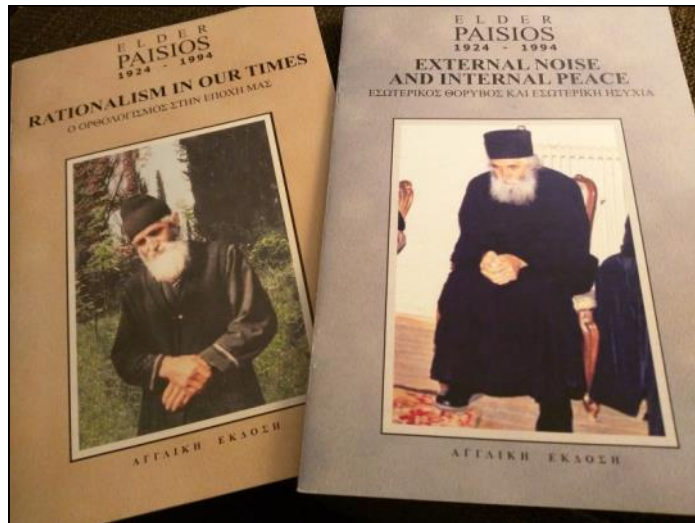
Orthodox Book Club

While waiting to select a new book, the Orthodox Book Club will be reading External Noise and Internal Peace as well as Rationalism in Our Times both by St. Paisios.

We meet every other Friday at 5:30pm at church. Please let Sofia Kouiroukidis know if you are interested to join our spiritual discussions by contacting her at kkouirouk@gmail.com.

Sofia Kouiroukidis

Book Club Coordinator



Philoptochos

November 1st is the feast day for Sts. Cosmas and Damianos. They were called "unmercenary physicians" for their refusal to accept any money for their services. They are the Patron Saints of Philoptochos.

On Sunday, October 23rd we were pleased to present our parish with an icon of our Patron Saints along with a donation of \$15,000 towards the building fund. The following weekend we were given the name of Holy Apostles. Thank you to everyone who helped make the coffee hour during the Metropolitan's visit a memorable one.

We delivered 32 bags filled with Thanksgiving fixings to Loudoun Hunger Relief along with two additional boxes of food. Many heartfelt thanks to all who made it possible and to Hope & Joy for combining efforts to make this such a special event.

Special thanks to everyone who came out to help us bake baklava, spanakopitas and tiropitas. It was a successful bake sale.

We will be holding a warm winter clothing drive with GOYA in December. Details will be coming soon. Please check our website and bulletin.

We wish everyone a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Alexis Cleveland

President Ladies Philoptochos

<http://greekorthodoxloudoun.org/philoptochos.html>

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PAREA

My beloved PAREA family!

Happy fifth Anniversary to our PAREA!

A huge THANK YOU to all our PAREA supporters and friends for your amazing participation and loyalty all these years! Your love and devotion to our PAREA is exemplary!

By the grace of God we have been gathering for five years now and we enjoy fellowship, celebrating Birthdays and Name Days and sharing our news. It has been an incredible time for our church as now we have a name. We are now the Holy Apostles and we are pursuing a piece of land. I would like to thank all our bakers who worked extra hard during the month of June to provide an awesome bake sale, as the revenue goes back to our church and to the Building Fund. We need to continue supporting our Building Fund! Our December PAREA took place at the Amphora in Herndon on December 6 for a fasting luncheon. We thank those who came and celebrated PAREA's 5th anniversary!

With a heart full of appreciation for all of you, I wish you and your loved ones the most blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Joyous New Year!

Marina Blair

PAREA Chair

blairmarina@gmail.com, 703-349-1842 (H)



Our PAREA at Delia's

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Prosfora = Bread for Holy Communion

We need 5 Prosfora every week

4 Prosfora for a Sunday Liturgy & 1 for a Weekday Liturgy

Total: About 240 Prosfora per Year

Liaison: Effie Koutsourais (e-mail: emkouts1@aol.com)



Beloved Parishioners,

What a blessing it is for someone to make a Prosfora or to bring some Wine for Holy Communion! We need about 240 Prosfora every year. If all of us participate by offering 20 Prosfora for a month, we would be called on only every five years to meet this obligation. You can find the recipe on our Church's Web page.

Could your family (if unable to personally make the Prosfora) offer a small donation towards this endeavor? The cost is \$8 per Prosfora (\$ 160 for one full month). Money collected for this effort (we want to make this very clear) will be used to purchase bread only from the Monastery of Agia Skepi - Holy Protection of the Theotokos located in White Haven, PA (your donation is tax deductible).

The Sisters bake exceptionally good Prosfora and, because it is bread used for the Holy Liturgy, it cannot be shipped. Thus, we depend on parishioners who visit the Monastery to bring the Prosfora to us and if anyone plans to visit Agia Skepi, please let us know. We will provide you the funds to bring Prosfora for our beloved parish.

Prosfora can be offered for special occasions: Anniversary, Birthday, Memorial service, Nameday or, for loved ones struggling with illness. When you offer Prosfora, you should submit the names of both the living and deceased to be commemorated by the Fr. George.

For any questions in this effort, please contact Effie Koutsourais or Presvytera Joanna Alexson.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the ladies/families or groups for supporting this sacred effort by baking or purchasing Prosfora.

The following ladies or groups offered 20 Prosfora each for one full month: AHEPA, GOYA with their advisor Sofia Kouiroukidis (They made their own Prosfora), Hope & Joy with their advisor Ava Walte (These young children made an effort to make 20 Prosfora for our Church. Can we follow their example to do the same thing too?), Helen Jougras, Effie Koutsourais, Philoptochos, Sunday School, Artemi Skordalakis, Mrs Maria Tsapos and Marianne Voyages. Also, many ladies bring once a while a Prosfora or more in honor or in memory of their family members too. Every year 2 months would be left open (any Sunday through the whole year) for all those families that would like to offer Prosfora too.

Thank you so much in advance for your Kindness & support!





Beloved Parishioners and Friends,

The items listed here for use in our liturgical services can be donated in honor or memory of a loved one.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Fr. George (703-314-6421 or

frgeorgeandrew@gmail.com). God bless!



1. Censer (Katsion): \$250.00



2. Standing vigil lamp (set of 2): \$675.00 each



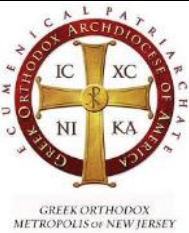
3. Gospel cover: \$175.00



4. Chalice covers: \$190.00

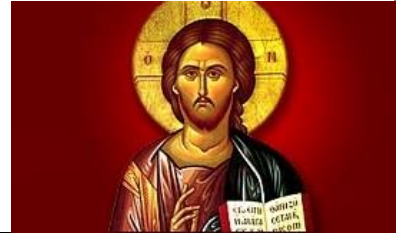


5. Chalice covers: \$200.00



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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 January 13th, 2017. An archive of our newsletters can be found here: <http://greekorthodoxloudoun.org/newsletter.html>.

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