THE GIFT HAS ARRIVED

Matthew 2: 1 – 20

Very Rev. Timothy G. Bakakos

I know I have told this story in a sermon, but I do believe it is worthy mentioning once again. It is about a woman who had waited until the last minute to send out Christmas cards. She rushed into a store and bought a package of 50 cards without really looking at the inside of them. Still in a big hurry, she addressed 49 of the 50 cards, and then signed them without reading the message inside. On Christmas Day, when things had quieted down somewhat, she ran across the last unused card and finally read the message she had sent to 49 of her friends. Much to her dismay, it read like this: This card is just to say that a little gift is soon on the way." And suddenly, it dawned on her, she realized that 49 of her friends were expecting a gift from her, a gift that would never come.

Each year, we joyously celebrate the Feast of Christmas. In fact, we celebrate it each year, and remarkably, some of us even go through this holiday season without giving a thought at all to the true meaning and reason for the season. But what really is its meaning? God had promised Israel a Messiah, and God was faithful to His promise. He delivered on that promise! Unlike that lady's 49 friends, the people of Israel were not left waiting for a gift that never came. Unfortunately, when God's gift came to Israel, we know very well that it was rejected.

I read several years ago that Sylvester Stallone was rejected more than 1,000 times as he tried to peddle his script for a movie called ROCKY. Think how many millions of dollars that could have been earned by somebody willing to take a chance. But not very many people were willing to take a chance on Jesus, a humble Galilean, either. Why should they!? How could “He” be the Messiah?

WELL, FOR ONE THING, HE CERTAINLY WAS NOT BORN LIKE A MESSIAH. Whoever heard such nonsense as a stable and a manger and shepherds, etc.? You and I, I’m sure, are thrilled and even inspired to hear the Christmas Story told each year. But to the people of Jesus' time, it was not the kind of Advent they were expecting for their Messiah.

And I suppose that is part of the magic of it all. God could have had His Son be born in Caesar's Palace, surrounded by pomp and splendor. But what a tiresome story it would have become! Yet, after 2,000+ years of telling the Nativity Story, we never seem to tire of hearing about the shepherds, the wise men, and the star that shone over the stable. God must get a great chuckle over His joke on mankind, we who are always impressed by outward appearances and what other people think. But God didn’t concern Himself about “we” would think and if “we” would be impressed! His Son, the King of Kings, was born in a stable!

I was amused to read a story about a man named Dr. Clement Moore. Dr. Moore was a member of a very somber profession. He was a professor of theology. Dr. Moore’s personality and temperament was known to be on the serious side, a kind of “stick in the mud”! Well, one day he saw an old Dutch gentleman with red cheeks and white hair smoking an old clay pipe. And all of a sudden, he was inspired to write a bit of verse for his own children. So the theological professor, not known for his wit, went home and wrote these words, words that we all know and have come to love: 'Twas the night before Christmas,
THE GIFT HAS ARRIVED Continued

continued from page 1

When all through the house; Not a creature was stirring; not even a mouse..." A Professor of Theology, known for his great knowledge and sermons, but it is for that bit of Christmas whimsy that Dr. Moore is remembered.

SECONDLY, JESUS DID NOT ACT LIKE A MESSIAH!! He was not a showoff!!! There was an article in a magazine several years back that was entitled The Mad, Mad Romania of Nicolae Ceausescu. Ceausescu was the communist president of Romania. For those of us that remember when this was a big news item, you will remember that things were not well in that troubled land. It appeared that Romania's president was so infatuated with himself and his image, that he was dragging his country down the slippery slopes of like a personality cult. Ceausescu had himself referred to as "the great predestined man" as well as "the homeland's hero of heroes." The state-run press devoted half its newsprint to him, comparing him to Alexander the Great and Napoleon.

But the facts showed that he was just another power hungry leader. When chronic food shortages were slashing through the tiny nation, the president commented that this was good for his people because they were overweight. Contrary to communist ideology concerning equality, the president and his family lived the lives of royalty. It was noted that before he visited a town, children that were hand-picked to greet him were quarantined for 48 hours so there was no chance of infecting him. Withered trees were painted green so as not to displease him. In addition, about fifty books have been attributed to his name and life alone, ranging from agriculture to history to philosophy. And, his picture is posted everywhere.

Jesus entered a world that had such a dictator. Herod was his name, and he acted with the same arrogance evil. Throughout history we have examples of how absolute monarchs acted in similar manner. Isn’t it interesting though, that the only King who has ever lived who really did have absolute power, instead humbled Himself, and became a servant?

Of course, kings are not the only ones who are obsessed with the pride of position. A while back, USA TODAY printed a list of demands made by persons looking for jobs. These came from the files of a professional employment counselor. Here are some requests made by potential job seekers: a three week paid vacation before starting work. A paid membership to the city zoo. Elvis’ birthday off. Medical benefits for faith healer visits. That there be Italian and Chinese restaurants close to the office. Extra pay for time just having to think about working nights and weekends. And finally, a promise from the mailroom to collect all foreign stamps for the potential employee’s child’s stamp collection. As we live longer and long enough, we see how impractical some people have become as well as how insensitive and sinful people can be as well. We have come to know that only too well here, haven’t we? But how we are humbled by the life of the Messiah; Jesus was not above washing the feet of His disciples. He was not born like a Messiah. And, He did not act like a Messiah.

HE ALSO DID NOT DIE LIKE A MESSIAH. Even as we celebrate His birth this Christmas Season, we must anticipate the agony of His death, what He eventually will do so that our souls might be saved! There is an artist named Holman Hunt, who made a painting which he called, The Shadow of Death. It is a painting of Jesus as a young man in the carpenter shop. This painting shows Jesus rising from a cramped position where he is working and stretching his arms out to relax them. As he does this, He casts on the wall behind Him the shadow of a cross. His mother, Mary, is standing nearby, and her face is filled with terror as she sees that shadow. The painter shows through his paint brush, that Mary is intuitively aware that her Son will meet a tragic end.

It was an enormous obstacle and a real problem to first century Jews to believe that the Messiah Who was to deliver Israel from her enemies could die like a common criminal on a cross. How many of us would have accepted Christ as the Messiah? How many of us would have even taken the time to search for the truth? If we are honest, we will admit that not too many of us would have.

Finally, Jesus was not born like a Messiah. He did not act like a Messiah. And, He did not die like a Messiah. No wonder His own people had difficulty accepting Him. In a CHARLIE BROWN Christmas special on TV some years ago, Charlie Brown just couldn't get into the Christmas spirit. His little friend Linus saw his friend struggling with his dilemma and said, Charlie Brown, you're the only person I know who can take a wonderful season like Christmas and turn it into a problem.

Look around you and see how some of your friends can turn all that is so right and make it so wrong! Similarly, for Jesus' contemporaries, Christmas also was a problem. But for us, those of us who have faith and believe in Him and His Church, is what a gift the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes has turned out to be for each and every one of us! And, what a gift God has given us in the Christmas event!
I share this final story with you. In 1980, the day before Christmas, Richard Ballenger's mother in Anderson, South Carolina, was busy wrapping packages, and asked her young son to shine her shoes. Soon, with the proud smile that only a seven-year-old can muster, he presented the shoes for inspection. His mother was so pleased that she gave him a quarter. On Christmas morning, as she put on the shoes to go to church, she noticed a lump in one shoe. She took it off and found a quarter wrapped in paper. Written on the paper in a child's scribbling were the words, "I done it for love."

My dear brothers and sisters, for us Christians, the true gift of Christmas has arrived, wrapped in swaddling clothes. Somewhere in that manger, in that crib, we can imagine a similar wadded up note that explains it all: "I done it for love."

It is my Paternal Prayer and hope that all of you will pray for each other, and pray for this Church, your Church of Panagia. Pray for our co-workers, as well as your families, your friends, and your acquaintances. Don’t let your lives continue as they have been going. But rather, look at what eternal gifts have been given to each of us, and share in the Christian joy of the greatest gift that mankind has, or ever will receive. And that is “The Birth and Saving Grace of God’s Beloved Son, Jesus”. May you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2014.

Parish Council President...

President’s Report
By Dean Sarantos

This past October, I had the privilege of being part of the team representing Assumption at the biennial Metropolis of Chicago Clergy Laity Conference and Philoptochos Assembly in Sioux City, Iowa. Others in attendance from Assumption included Father Timothy Bakakos, Father Athanasios Papagiannis, Ann Dervis, James Lakerdas, Rosemarie Stewart, Betty Tsiolis, and Bill and Peggy Vranas. The agenda included a mix of administrative meetings, workshops, worship services and a number of inspirational speakers. It was great to see Assumption very well represented at this conference, as our team included members of the Parish Council, Philoptochos and Metropolis Board.

I would like to thank those who volunteered to attend for their commitment to represent our church and meet with our brethren from the 58 parishes in the Chicago Metropolis. It was a good opportunity for hundreds of these leaders to connect with others serving in similar capacities to share ideas, conduct business, have fellowship and worship together under the leadership of His Eminence, Metropolitan Iakovos.

There were a number of moving presentations at the conference. Father Dustin Lyon of St. Elias The Prophet Church in Dubuque, Iowa discussed his interesting journey from Protestantism to Orthodoxy. Also, Father Mark Muñoz of the Holy Anargoroi Church in Rochester, Minnesota discussed his personal story related to the Philoxenia House, which serves individuals and families at the Mayo Clinic. Our own Father Athanasios conducted a workshop on youth substance abuse prevention, which I heard was very well done but was unfortunately unable to attend. One of the takeaways for me from this conference is that I was very impressed with the talent of our recently ordained priests and the prospects for our Midwestern Church’s sustainability and growth with these young leaders in place.

The host parish, Holy Trinity of Sioux City, did an outstanding job planning and coordinating the event, particularly for such a small parish. It was truly impressive to see what a parish of about 80 families in a small city in Iowa was able to accomplish. We now look forward to the biennial National Clergy Laity Conference, which is scheduled to take place in Philadelphia this July.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Assumption Philoptochos Rocks and Rolls!
By Valerie Green and Ann Dervis

On Thursday, October 10, the Assumption Philoptochos hosted their major fundraising event, I Love Rock and Roll, with a throwback to the “Nifty Fifties and Sixties” at the Rosewood Restaurant and Banquets. The proceeds from the event will benefit the Soteria Foundation, which provides assistance to institutions in Greece whose mission it is to provide children and young adults with various physical and emotional limitations.

The event was attended by approximately 140 guests. Afterwards the “Legacy Girls” took us back in time to the sounds of the 1950s and 1960s. Harry Michas, Sandy Pullos, and Alexandra Haralampopoulos stepped up to participate in a rendition of the Supremes’ “Stop in the Name of Love!” The impromptu and hilarious moment of the evening was the recognition of Dean Bastounes’ birthday. The” Legacy Girls” did their best to serenade Dean with “He’s So Fine”. Dean took the stage (and the microphone) and much to the surprise of the Legacy Girls, did some entertaining of his own!

The lucky raffle winners were:

- First Prize $500 – Peter Valassares
- Second Prize $250 – Demetra Lakerdas
- Third Prize $100 – Dimitrios Demos
- Fourth Prize $100 – Deno Andrews
- Fifth Prize $100 – Christina Arvanites

At the culmination of the evening, His Eminence, Metropolitan Iakovos expressed his delight with the evening’s festivities and that he enjoyed this brand of Rock and Roll!

Sophia Vlahos, Chair of I Love Rock and Roll, expresses her heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who supported this event with their attendance, patron ads, raffle purchases and donations to provide aid, hope, and a brighter future for the children of Greece. Kai Tou Xronou!

In Other News...

- A wonderful celebration was held on December 7th at the Greek Islands in Lombard. At this event, the Philoptochos collected wrapped gifts of candy to distribute during a “Feed the Hungry” event, which was held on December 10th. Also held in December was the Christmas Bake sale. Tasty treats were enjoyed by many happy customers.

- The Metropolis Vasilopita will be held on January 12, 2014, at St. George Church in Chicago. This is a Metropolis-wide reception for distributing Vasilopitas to all those present. The Philoptochos is selling tickets for this event for $10.00 each.

- Save the date for the annual Philoptochos Apokreatiko Glendi on February 23rd. This is a favorite family event for many which includes dinner, dancing and fun for everyone.
Parish Happenings...

2013 Pilgrimage to Constantinople and the Holy Lands
Very Rev. Timothy G. Bakakos

With the grace of God, a total of thirty-four Orthodox Christians, along with three priests, went on this year’s Pilgrimage to Constantinople and the Holy Lands. Fr. Timothy Bakakos and Fr. John Kalomas served as the tour leaders, accompanied also by Fr. Athanasios Pieri. It was truly a moving and inspirational trip, visiting our Holy Patriarchate and other religious sites in Constantinople Turkey, and also the Holy Lands in Israel, with a special visit to the Patriarchate in Jerusalem. Below you will find a sample of pictures capturing the trip (additional photos can be viewed at: http://www.assumptionchicago.org/photo-gallery). It is anticipated that we will have a special presentation in the first quarter of 2014 for the benefit of the entire Parish of Panagia.

Metropolitan Stefanos with Frs. Timothy, John, and Athanasios at our Holy Patriarchate in Constantinople.

Group Picture at the Patriarchate.

Some of our group being re-baptized in the River Jordan.

Fr. Aristovoulos giving an explanation while we are aboard the "Jesus Boat" on the Sea of Galilee.

Group Picture at the Church of the Holy Apostles in Capernaum.

Clergy picture during an audience with Patriarch Theophilos, Patriarch of Jerusalem.
Tis the season to be busy. We spend our time during the Christmas season shopping, cooking, and decorating our houses as we prepare for loved ones to come over. Many times all this activity gets us tired - too tired to focus on its real meaning.

A couple years ago, I came across the following story that I believe captures the real meaning of Christmas. The story goes as follows: A man who lived out in the country was sitting in the living room of his warm house one day when he noticed a bird by the window. The bird was freezing. It was clear to him that the bird wanted to experience the warmth he was enjoying. So as he sat on his comfortable couch a thought came to his mind. “If I turn on the light in the barn,” he began to tell himself, “and I lead him to it, he will warm up.” So with great resolve the man went outside to help out that freezing bird, but to his dismay the bird flew away. After going back inside he noticed that the bird returned by the window. So the man went out again, and again the bird flew away. This pattern repeated itself several times, to the point that the man felt totally helpless. “I can’t do a thing to help out that poor bird,” he told himself. “The only way I can lead him to warmth is by becoming a bird myself. Only then will he listen to me and only then will I be able to save him.”

We remember during Christmas the time that God emptied himself and became a human being so that he could lead his children to warmth. If we study the Old Testament we know that God tried to intervene with humanity time and again. But no intervention worked until he finally decided to enter into history to redirect and save us. God became human so that we can stop living in darkness. And because He did, He allows us to enter into his abode, the Kingdom of Heaven. Man doesn’t have to experience darkness or coldness anymore. He doesn’t have to be left out in the cold.

Christmas is a time when we rejoice, not just in the birth of the Lord, but in his incarnation. We don’t celebrate the historical birth of a human being, but the birth of God who existed before he was born. The Son of God becomes the Son of Man so that we can become Sons of God. He comes down so that we can go up. This is why we celebrate.

And yet there are many who don’t feel they have a reason to celebrate. There are people in the world who are depressed this time of the year. Each and every year statistics confirm the fact that more people feel the loneliest during Christmas, of all holidays. Perhaps they feel just like that bird in the window; perhaps they feel cold and long for the warmth that only God can provide.

At the same time, they may feel lonely because those who choose to celebrate Christmas, do so in a way that contradicts the real message of the season. Do we celebrate Christmas selfishly so that we can give each other gifts and have parties, or do we seek out the lost and the lonely and offer them the warmth only Christ can give? Our job as Christians is to find these people and to lead them to God, the source of the warmth.

If we’re busy with anything this Christmas season let it not be because we’re running around buying gifts for our loved ones. Let it be instead because we’re searching for those people who need to be warmed up.

Orthodox Christian Network
By Dean Sarantos

Take a break from Facebook, YouTube & X-box and check out myocn.net, the Orthodox Christian Network.

OCN is an official agency of the Assembly of Bishops, and contains Orthodox Christian news, radio, and video programming. The site delivers positive, relevant Orthodox content via multiple delivery platforms, reaching today’s internet users via broadcast, podcast, video, blogging, and webinar content. The goal is to engage the broader culture of North America with Orthodox Christianity’s rich theological, spiritual, and moral heritage, and to thereby strengthen the Orthodox Church’s witness and contribution to the culture in which we live.
On Saturday, November 23, the Assumption Warrior Team walked 5K for the third year in a row at the “St. Jude's Give thanks Walk.” This year it was held at Soldier Field, home of the Chicago Bears. Despite the fact that it was only 25 degrees outside, there was a lot of energy and excitement and plenty of coffee and hot chocolate to help keep us warm. Our group worked hard to raise funds for the kids who are helped by St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. In total, we were able to raise just under $2,000 and we had 9 registered walkers, plus some add-on walker support the day of the event. Overall, more than 1,500 walkers participated in the Chicago Walk, helping St. Jude raise more than $250,000.

The Assumption Warriors would like to "Give Thanks" of our own to all those who gave so generously to help us meet and exceed our team's fundraising goal. Hopefully next year you will walk with us too!

A new Assumption parish phone directory is underway. This will be a color booklet with contact information as well as photos of families and individuals. Each steward will receive a complimentary directory. We invite all parishioners to be a part of the directory. An information sheet will be mailed with all the details. The addition of color photographs will make it easier to get to know the people in our church family. To be a part of our family album…professional photographers will be at church Saturday, January 25th from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 26th from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. to take portraits. This is a free service to our stewards and by signing up for an appointment you will receive a free 8 x 10 portrait. Portrait packages will also be available for purchase. Please schedule your photography appointment—during coffee hour on Sundays in January or online at our parish website, www.assumptionchicago.org.
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MR GEORGE PAPPAS
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MRS HELEN PONTIKES
MRS ELAINE PONTIKIS
MR & MRS GUS PONTIKIS
DR PETER PONTIKIS
MRS BEATRICE POTAMIANOS
MR & MRS ANTHONY POTOGLOU
MS ANNA POULOS
MRS NIKI POULOS
MR & MRS THOMAS POULOS
MRS MARY PREVAS
MR & MRS TELLY PSARADELLIS
MS GEORGIA PSCHOGIOS
MR & MRS MICHAEL PULLOS
DR & MRS SPENCER PULLOS
MS KEKE RAFTELIAS
MS MARY RAFTELIAS
MS TERRY RAFTOPOULOS
MRS HELEN RAPITIS
MR ALEXANDER RASSOGIANIS
MR JOHN RASSOGIANIS
MR & MRS ANTHONY REBAPIS
MR & MRS JAMES REGAS
MR PETER REGAS
MS MARIA REVELIOTIS
MR & MRS RAYMOND RIHA, JR
MR AND MRS RAYMOND RIHA, SR
MR & MRS JEFFREY ROBERTS
MR DIMITRIS RODITIS
MR SPYROS RODITIS
MR AND MRS PETER ROMAS
MR. & MRS. SAM ROMAS
MRS SOPHIE ROMAS
MRS IRENE ROMBAKIS
MR SOSTI ROPAITIS & MRS CONNIE VARVITSIOTIS
DR & MRS WILLIAM ROUMAN
MR & MRS EVANGELOS ROZOS
MR & MRS KEN RUBENSTEIN
MR JOHN SANDORS
MR & MRS DEAN SARANTOS
MRS PENELIPE SAUNDERS
MS MARIA SCHMIDT
MR & MRS NICK SCOURLETOS
MR GEORGE SEFER
MR ROBERT SEFER
MR CHRIS SELIMOS
MS TESSIE SELIMOS
MR & MRS GEORGE SIOMOS
MR & MRS KOSTA SKOULIKARIS
MRS POPE SKOULIKARIS
MR & MRS KOSTAS SKOULIKAS
MS IRENE SKUTERIS
MRS VIOLET SKUTERIS
MR & MRS NICHOLAOS SOLOMOS
MR & MRS DEMETRIOS SOSOLIS
MR & MRS GEORGE SOULELES
MRS ATHENA SOULIDES
MR & MRS HARRY SOUMAKIS
MR GEORGIOS SOURIS
MR & MRS NICK SPYRIDAKOS
DR & MRS BASIL SPYROPOULOS
MR & MRS PETER SPYROPOULOS
DR STAVROULA SPYROPOULOS
MRS LILLIAN STAMAS
MR & MRS ERNEST STAVROPOULOS
MS JOAN STAVROPOULOS
MR & MRS PAUL STAVROPOULOS
MS KONSTANTINA STAVROU
MR & MRS JOHN STEC
MR. & MRS. BRIAN STEINHAGEN
MRS ROSE MARIE STEWART
MRS JANICE STRATIS
MS JOANNE STRATTON
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS STRAVOLE-MAKOS
MR JOHN STROLOGAS
MR & MRS MATHIEU SUSSMAN
MR & MRS PETER SUTTERLIN
MRS MARY T SZCZESNIK
MR & MRS JOHN SZUBERT
MRS SEVASTI TAGARIS
DR CHRISTOS TAKOUDIS & DR MARIO FOUSTALIERAKI
MR SEAN TANSEY
MS ANASTASIA TEROVOLAS
MR & MRS ANGELO TEROVOLAS
MISS CRYSTELLA TEROVOLAS
MS EFFIE THEODOSOPoulos
MR & MRS GEORGE THEODOSOPoulos
MR & MRS SCOTT THOMAS
DRS. NICK & ELAINE THOMOPoulos
MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL TIERNEY
MR & MRS YANNI TOLE
MR & MRS ANGELO TOLIOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
MRS APHRODITE TRAGOS
MR JOHN TRAHANAS
MR GEORGE TRAMBAS
MRS BESSIE TRIHAS
MR & MRS VASILIOS TSAGANOS
MR & MRS JOHN G. TSIGOLIS
MR & MRS JAMES TSIOLIS
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS TSIRIBAS
MS ANNA TSIRONIS
MRS VASILIKI TSIRONIS
MRS KATHERINE TZOUIMIS
MR & MRS ATHANASIOS VAGIAS
MS DEMETRA VAGIAS
MRS ARITA VALESSARES
MR & MRS PETER VALESSARES
MR Gerasimos Vasilatos
MR & MRS JOHN VASSILIADES
MR & MRS LUCAS VASSILIADES
PAULINE VAVASIS
MRS JAYNE VELIS
MRS STAMATA VERVENIOTIS
MR & MRS ALEX VICKAS
MS CATHERINE VIVADO
MR & MRS PETER VLAGOS
MS CATHERINE VLAHOGIANNIS
MR ANDREW VLAHOPOULOS & MRS MIMOZA BAHOLLI
MR & MRS CONSTANTINE VLAHOS
MR & MRS GEORGE VLAHOS
MR AND MRS JOHN VLAHOS
MRS MARIANTHE VLAHOS
MR & MRS PETER VLAHOS
DR & MRS PERRY VOORNAS
MRS MARIA VOULGARAKIS
MR & MRS PETER VOULGARAKIS
MR & MRS BILL VRANAS
MS FRANCES WAHBY
MRS ALKISTIS WONAIS
MR & MRS JACK WOODS
MS MARY ELLEN WOODS
MR WILLIAM WOODS
MRS MAIRIKI XINOS
MR & MRS CONSTANTINE YANNIAS
MS DONNA YANNIAS
MRS ELAINE YANNIAS
MRS MARY YANNIAS
MS TRACY YANNIAS
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS ZOGRAFOS
MR & MRS PETER ZOURAS
Parish Registry...

September 9, 2013 through November 26, 2013

40 DAY BABY BLESSING
Son of Michael and Jessica Pullos
Daughter of Viki and Ryan Conner
Daughter of Roula and Michael Borkowski

BAPTISMS
- Son of Diana and Mark Patterson, was Baptized, taking the name Nicholas.
  Godparent: Karen Sussman
- Son of Nicole and James Kaemerer, was Baptized, taking the name Alexander.
  Godparent: James Kipp
- Daughter of Athanasios and Heather Vagias, was Baptized, taking the name Evangelia.
  Godparent: Demetra Vagias
- Ms. Kristin Sherrick, was Baptized, taking the name Xenia.
  Godparent: Grace Bagnole

WEDDINGS
- Marissa Cummings and Rick Karch were joined in Holy Matrimony.
  Sponsor: Kristie Treff
- Christina Pappas and Peter Flaherty were joined in Holy Matrimony.
  Sponsors: Dawn Birkland
- Nicole Demir and Anthony Abruzzo were joined in Holy Matrimony.
  Sponsor: Vicky Kozonis

FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD
+ Helen Toulios + Emily Analitis + James Leakakos

MEMORIALS
40 Days:
George Demitropoulos
Helen Toulios

5 Years:
Jenny (Ioanna) Berbas
Dr. William Godellas

20 Years:
Sophia Malevitis
Eleftherios Skoulikaris

Months:
Vasiliki Trambas
Jean Kribales

6 Years:
Nicholas Dallas

22 Years:
George Karabis

1 Year:
Kay (Kiriaki) Politis
George Strike
Haido Argyris
Spiro Skuteris
John Molls
Frances Kuchuris

7 Years:
Dimitra Mantas

23 Years:
James (Demitrios) Kostakos
Antonios Mantas

3 Years:
Nicholas G. Manos
Peter (Panayioti) Ganos

10 Years:
James (Demostenis) Pitsis
Constance (Constantina) Karras
Toula (Demetra) Longson
Joyce (Zoe) Vlachos
Constantina (Dea) Pappas

28 Years:
Dimitrios (Jimmy) Skoulikaris

3 Years:
Nicholas G. Manos
Peter (Panayioti) Ganos

14 Years:
Florence (Aphroditi) Tiberius
George Collis

30 Years:
Violet (Cioleta) Kostakos

4 Years:
Athanasia (Ethel) Gianoulis
Sophia Banakis

15 Years:
Christ (Christos) Karras

39 Years:
George (Georgios) Tiberius

3 Years:
Nicholas G. Manos
Peter (Panayioti) Ganos

51 Years:
Helen (Eleni) Kostakos
Peter (Panayioti) Kostakos

64 Years:
Peter (Pelopida) Thanos
Third, 2013
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Dates to Remember:

Important Upcoming Dates:

January 12th
Parish's Annual Cutting of the Vasilopita

January 12th
Metropolis Annual Cutting of the Vasilopita
(6:00pm)
St. George Church (Chicago, Illinois)

January 18th
Annual Dive For The Cross

January 26th
Annual Metropolis Greek Letters Luncheon

March 6th
Beginning of Great Lent
5:30pm - Great Compline and Clean Monday
Lenten Dinner

April 13th
Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon

April 20th
Holy Pascha