GEARING UP FOR GREAT AND HOLY LENT

Matthew 6:14 – 21

Very Rev. Timothy G. Bakakos

An Italian newspaper recently carried a story about a young couple in Milan, Italy, who seemed particularly devoted in their worship. The Roman Catholic priest at a Cathedral there reported that the pair spent an hour or more on a regular basis sitting before a statue of the Virgin Mary. Naturally, the priest assumed they were praying.

However, as it turns out, this young couple was simply recharging their cell phone. They had noticed a stray electric extension cord sticking out of the wall behind the statue of the Virgin Mary. And usually every other day, or whenever their phone’s power supply went low, the young couple came to the Church and re-charged it from the extension cord behind the Virgin Mary. We have often said that there are many different motives or reasons as to why people come to, and use the Church, but that certainly seems like a novel one.

We often hear people refer coming to church as a way to “re-charge our batteries”, but the antidote I opened my article with is a bit ridiculous, isn’t it? What looked to the unobservant eye like an act of piety was actually a self-serving ploy to save money. This young couple was using the Church for their own needs. Anyone shocked by this? Maybe so, until we realize that we may be guilty of the same mistake.

On Sunday, March 2nd, our Holy Orthodox Church celebrates Cheese-fare Sunday. And in the Bible Reading that is read on that Sunday, which is at the doorstep, the day before the start of Great and Holy Lent, Jesus asks each of us to examine our own motives for our seemingly pious acts. What is our real reason for doing the things we do? Below you will read some of what Jesus will tell us through the Gospel Lesson on that day:

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in Heaven. So, whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

continued on page 2
“Also, do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

IN THIS PASSAGE THAT MAKES UP THE BIBLE READING ON CHEESEFARE SUNDAY, JESUS POINTS OUT A TENDENCY THAT IS MORE PREVALENT THAN EVER IN OUR SOCIETY: THE TENDENCY TO JUDGE EVERY ACT BY THE QUESTION, “WHAT’S IN IT FOR ME?” AND “HOW DO I BENEFIT FROM THIS?”

Human beings are naturally self-centered. This trait manifests itself early in life. Infants and toddlers expect, even demand, to be the center of attention. In fact, someone has written an amusing list that they have titled the “Toddler Rules of Ownership”:

1. If I like it, it's mine.
2. If it's in my hands, it's mine.
3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
4. If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
5. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
6. If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
7. If it looks just like mine, it's mine…and,
8. If I think it's mine, it's mine.

Sociologists tell us that more and more Americans are judging laws, social policies, careers, and the like by this one question: What's in it for me? As the world seems more complex and threatening, we are turning our focus inward. Why is that? Well, because fear causes us to focus on ourselves more and more, and become self-centered. But our Orthodox Theology tells us that this attitude of “self-centeredness” stems from a lack of love.

In the first Epistle of John 4: 18, we are told, “There is no fear in love, because perfect love casts out fear.” Whatever the reason, no one can argue that much of our society chooses to "look out for number one." And this attitude eventually spills over into our worship of God as well. What do we mean by that? Well, simply put…we are a product of a society that wants some return on our investment here! And the feeling is that if we are going to pray, we want others to praise our eloquent speech. If we give money, we want a mention in the bulletin, newsletter, or a nice plaque in the narthex or Church. If we fast, we want folks to point to us as a good example. After all, we feel what's wrong with a little pat on the back now and then?

But as we are instructed to look at Great Lent as a time for spiritual cleansing and preparation, the Gospel Reading that our Church places in front of us on Cheese-fare Sunday as we are about to step into the Season of Great Lent, speaks the exact opposite of what our society has been feeding us these past years. Jesus gets all preachy on us. He says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

What is He saying here? Well, Jesus is telling us that it is possible to do all the right things, but for all the wrong reasons. He is telling us that if we strive for praise in this life, we will lose an infinitely greater reward in Heaven. He is challenging us to get real about our faith, and that we have to look at ourselves in the mirror and honestly answer: are we self-centered or God-centered? Do we worship and pray and fast and give because of an overflowing gratitude that says, “Lord, I can't say 'thank You' enough?”

THESE QUESTIONS ARE ESPECIALLY PERTINENT AS WE ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THE SEASON OF GREAT AND HOLY LENT. Can we confront Jesus' suffering, humiliation, and death, and still remain self-centered in how we deal with our lives? Our Church does not believe that is possible! Where will you focus be in this Lenten season? Which question will you be asking: “What's in it for me?” Or, “How can I possibly thank You?” “How can I make my life a living sacrifice of praise for Your great love?” We need to choose a God-centered focus for our worship and our life, so that we may experience the great riches of God's love for us.
Remember, without Faith, no man can be saved. Faith is so powerful it can move mountains. We must resist the temptation of some of our brothers and sisters who only fool themselves when they boastfully say, “I can pray and worship God in my own way, just because I’m NOT in Church on Sunday does not mean I am any less a Christian”. These people are truly misinformed! Jesus Christ Himself says, “there is no salvation outside the Church!”

For Great Lent to be meaningful to today’s grownups and families, we have to put it in context of today’s culture. At one time, there were no parties, no school dances, not even baptisms were performed during Lent. Great Lent was meant to be a time of total concentration and preparation and cleansing of one’s body and soul. But, if we say to today’s young people, “No, you can’t go to the party because it’s Lent;” we’re apt to get a look that says, “What’s Lent got to do with it?”

So, how do we turn around and celebrate Great Lent in a meaningful way in our lives and families? By looking forward to it, by talking about the opportunity it gives us, as a family, to be together, to quiet our busy lives a little, to initiate some new ways to come closer together with one another and God, and to have fun while we are doing it.

God NEVER told us that Lent should be grim. After all, doesn’t He say in the Gospel Reading that I quoted from above, that when we fast, no one should even know we are fasting? That’s how we will be rewarded, by not bragging. Jesus says that we should smile and even laugh when we fast and pray. We don’t have to put on pious and painful looks on our faces, nor churchy voices when we talk about Jesus.

Finally, Jesus says that Great Lent does require participation; it means involvement; and it means commitment. As we fast approach the solemn day of Kathara Defera (Clean Monday), the “first” day of our Great Lenten journey, let us reflect on the themes of the Gospel Readings that are read on the four Sundays prior to the start of Great Lent: the Humility of the Publican (Feb 9th), the Repentance of the Prodigal Son (Feb. 16th), the Judgment of the sheep and goats (Feb. 23rd), and about fasting the “right” way and doing good works for all people (March 2nd). And let us implement all three of the directives which our Lord touched upon in His message of proper preparation and cleansing during Great Lent:

- First, that we must make the effort to forgive our friends AND enemies just as we want and expect God to forgive us of our sins;

- Secondly, that this year we really make that extra effort to fast properly, both from food and in our action; what we say and hear and think are just as important as what we abstain “from”;

- And thirdly, that we lay up our treasures in heaven, meaning, let us do good works in God’s name, let us reserve time in each day to pray and read the Bible, and to be more faithful to the extra Lenten worship services our Church offers for us to take part in.

If we incorporate these things into our lives during this most holy season ahead called Great Lent, I am confident that this year we will truly experience a most meaningful, rewarding, and spiritually fulfilling Pascha.

+ A M E N
While we have seen a lot of snow and bitter cold this winter, it has been great to see that the weather has not been slowing down stewards working hard on a number of activities and events:

- **Stewardship Brunch:** Thank you to Jack Woods, Stewardship VP; Ted Pappas, our anchor in the kitchen; and all who planned, cooked and cleaned to help make the brunch a success, which had a strong turnout despite the weather that weekend.

- **Dive For The Cross:** Our tireless Sunday School Director, Christina Arvanites did a wonderful job organizing this event and we were fortunate to once again have excellent attendance.

- **Church Directory:** Thank you to Dr. Evie Maggos for all of her efforts in planning and coordinating our first photo directory. It has been a number of years since the last directory was published, and thanks to Evie’s initiative, a new directory will be going to press soon.

At this time of year, while we look forward to spring and the growth it promises, we also very much look forward to the spiritual renewal and growth Great Lent offers us. The Orthodox Church traditions are many, such as the schedule of religious services, hymnology, special prayers, and abstinence from personal iniquities and foods to name just a few. There are some additional ways we can help prepare for Pascha during this time as well. Please consider taking up some of the following activities as you prepare for your Lenten journey:

- **Make it a point to attend a weekday Lenten service.** It’s a great way to re-energize spiritually during the work week and keep focused on the season.

- **Call a friend or family member you haven’t seen in church lately and invite them to meet you there.**

- **Come up to the choir loft and sing with us on Sunday.** It’s easy to do, and all are welcome. No previous experience is necessary!

- **Give alms to the poor.**

- **Borrow one of the books from our library or buy a book to read from our Religious Bookstore.**

- **Read a bible passage before you go to bed each night.**

- **Contact me to join in the planning for our July festival, which is just getting under way.**

- **Volunteer to help plan our 2nd annual golf outing, which is being planned for May.**

May God grant us strength during a Great Lent full of spiritual awakening and growth in devotion to our faith.
Philoptochos...

2013 Annual Christmas Lunch
Very Rev. Timothy G. Bakakos

On Saturday, December 7, the Assumption Philoptochos hosted their annual Christmas luncheon at Greek Islands Restaurant in Lombard. Fifty-two ladies and gentlemen attended. We are delighted to report that there were several new faces joining us this year!

Sophia Vlahos, the chair of the festivities, once again arranged a delicious meal, provided lovely Christmas ornament favors, and encouraged lively conversation, laughter, and Christmas cheer. Thank you Sophia!

The highlight of the afternoon was the sing-a-long. As he gladly does each year, Father Timothy led us in singing several Christmas Carols. We’ve made great strides in this area. In particular, we continue to perfect our rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas!

The festivities concluded with the raffle and the lucky winners came forward to claim their lovely prizes. Afterwards, many lingered, reluctant to depart, continued to chat and enjoy each other’s company a bit longer.

Please Many thanks to all who attended and hope that you were filled with Yuletide spirit! Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year! Kai Tou Xpovo!

We’d also like to wish a very happy 100th birthday to Calliope Kutrubic.

May God Bless You!
Youth Ministry...

Traveling Through Great and Holy Lent
By Fr. Athanasios Papagiannis

It’s that time of year again. Our loving God has given us the opportunity to improve our spiritual state in one of the most important times of the year.

Great Lent is the time of year when Orthodox Christians take charge and go on the offensive in the spiritual life. It’s a time of dedication; a time of great sacrifice and reflection; a time of personal growth.

Sometimes people wonder why we fast forty days prior to Holy Week for a total of forty seven days. The answer to this inquiry is simple. In the early Church tradition, monks would leave their monastery for forty days and wander into the desert to be by themselves. They would only take with them a very small amount of food, and for that forty day period they struggled in body and spirit as they dedicated that time to prayer and fasting.

We who live in the world cannot complete this task. We live in Chicago, the desert is far away. But this doesn’t mean we cannot somehow emulate certain aspects of the tradition. The Church gives us the forty days and looks for her faithful to cultivate an inner desert experience. We may have children and careers, but that doesn’t mean we cannot go into a room, close the door and read the Bible. We may have obligations and tasks to complete, but that doesn’t mean we cannot find extra time to pray. Taking advantage of Great Lent is all about dropping the small habits that hinder our relationship with God. It’s also about slowing down our lives, too.

The general theme of great lent is one of emptying ourselves. We empty ourselves so that God can fill us with His grace. But what does emptying ourselves look like in the Church? It means that we confess our sins; it means that we drop the bad habits; it means that we become less selfish and more loving. We give up, in order to get.

Great lent doesn’t promise one a better, less stressful experience. In fact it does the opposite. There is a wonderful acronym that can be applied to this time of year – the acronym HALT (Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired). These are the states we often find ourselves when we try to draw closer to God. According to the Church, the evil one tries to get us into these states so that we can stop what we are doing and resume our former habits. HALT is a summary of the road blocks that so often impede our progress towards a most loving father. HALT stops the motion towards God. HALT throws us off balance and paralyzes those who aren’t prepared.

It may surprise some people but the one aim of Great Lent is to get one into one of these states. Great Lent, for those who really enter it with great effort, eventually leads one into feeling hungry, angry, lonely or tired. The Church in her great wisdom wants all of us to feel these things, not because she wants to punish us, but because she wants us to successfully negotiate ourselves through these states. She doesn’t want us to turn back and revert back to the life of comfort. Deep communion with God lies on the other side of these states. In essence, we are saying to the evil one that we are committed to God and that these things will not stop us.

It’s during Great Lent that we go on the offensive. We say to ourselves that we are purposely going into the arena for battle, and when we are finished, when we finish off the forty days and enter into Holy Week, we will feel refreshed and know in our hearts that this is how God wants us to enter the most important week of the year. So let us prepare for that glorious Anastasi service right now! May all of us meet the challenge that Great and Holy Lent presents before us!
A little snow and drastically cold temperatures never stopped the children of Assumption from having some fun!! And in a pool no less!!

On Saturday, January 18th children of all ages jumped into the water in search of a cross at our “Dive for the Cross” event, at the Oak Brook Park District. Fr. Timothy and Fr. Athanasios began with a prayer and brief explanation of the significance of the cross. Then the children, split into several age groups, jumped in, searching for the cross that Fr. Timothy tossed into the water. This fun filled evening ended with dinner and an opportunity to splash around with friends!

Stewardship...

Thank you for your Stewardship of Time on Sunday. We are grateful to all our stewards and supporters of our Assumption Church. Throughout these past 89 years of its existence, so many faithful individuals and families, just like you and yours, cared and nurtured it and watched this Community grow.

As you well know, Panagia is a beautiful piece of architecture. But her value cannot be measured by brick and mortar but in the number or Stewards that participate in the Divine Liturgy. And when full, she has great value because she is more than just a beautiful building. Stewardship is NOT—I repeat—NOT simply paying dues or money; it is your physical participation that shows our Orthodoxy and our life in Jesus Christ.

May we all work and participate as true stewards for Christ and His Church, and to His Mother, the Blessed Theotokos, who watches over each of us, and who is the Patron Saint of our blessed Parish.
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Stewardship List...Jan. 2013 — Dec. 2013

MS HELEN GEORGE KANEL
MR JAMES A. KANEL
MS MARIE KANEL
MR AND MRS NICHOLAS KANEL
MRS MEROPE KANTZAVELOS
MR & MRS CHRIS KAPETANEAS
MR & MRS CHRIS KAPPOS
MR GEORGE KAPPOS
MR HARRY KAPPOS
MRS CATHERINE KARABAS
MRS THALIA KARABIS
MISS SOPHIE KARAGIANNIS
MR & MRS ANTHONY KARAS
MR & MRS GEORGE KARAS
MR & MRS RICHARD KARCH
MRS GLORIA KAROS
MRS MIA KASIMOS
MR & MRS CHRIST KATES
MR & MRS DANIEL KICKERT
DR NICHOLAS KINNAS
MR & MRS SPYROS KOKOLIS
MR & MRS GEORGE KOLETTIS
MRS ALICE KOPAN
MR & MRS THOMAS KOSTAS
MS MARY KOSTOPOULOS
MR & MRS DINO KOTSOVETIS
MR & MRS JAY KOTT
MR JOSEPH KOTT
MR & MRS THOMAS P. KOTT
MR & MRS WALTER KOTT
MRS GEORGIA KOUMELIS
MR ANGELO KOURETAS
MS SOPHIE KOUTSELAS
DR KATHERINE KOVELIS
MR & MRS MATTHEW KOZIL
MR & MRS BRIAN KRAPEC
MRS HELEN KRILLIES
MRS CALLIOPE KUTRUBIS
MRS PENELPOLE LAGEOTAKES
MR PETER LAGEOTAKES
MRS PANAGIOTA LAGGAS
MRS KYRIAKI LAGON

MS EVELYN LAMBROU
MS GEORGINA LAMBROU
MR & MRS MICHAEL LAMBROU
MR CHARLES LAMPROS
MRS JOAN L LEAKAKOS
MR & MRS NICK LEKOUSIS
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER LELUDIS
MRS DENA LEVADITIS
MR CHRIS LIMPERIS
DR JANICE LIMPERIS
MR & MRS NICHOLAS S LINARDOS
MRS MARY CLARA LIVADITIS
MR & MRS JAMES LOFTUS
MS THELMA LOUCKES
MR & MRS ILIAS LOULOUSHIS
MR & MRS WILLIAM LUCAS
MR & MRS KEVIN LYNCH
MR & DR DEAN MAGGOS
MR LOUIS MALEVITIS
MR & MRS DEAN MAMALAKIS
MR GEORGE MANIATES
MRS HELEN MANIATES
MR GEORGE MANIATIS
MR & MRS THEODORE MANIATIS
MR & MRS CHRIST MANOLITSIS
MRS CATHERINE MANOS
DR CHAFICK MANOUR
MR & MRS NICHOLAS MANSOUR
MR & MRS EMILE MANTZAKIDES
MRS MARY MARAS
MS KATHERINE MAROS
MR JOAN MAROUTSOS
MR & MRS THOMAS MASSOURAS
MS MICHELLE MAUTONE
MRS BESSIE MAVREAS
MS JANE MAXOURIS
MR & MRS GEORGE MENTON
MRS HELEN MIHAIL
MS MARIANN MIHAILIDIS
MR & MRS GEORGE MILLER
MR & MRS JAMES MILLER
MR & MRS TIMOTHY NASH
MS PHYLLIS NICHOLAS
MR VINCENT P. NICHOLAS
MRS AMELIA NICHOLAS
MR & MRS DEAN NICHOLS
DR & MRS SABIN OANA
MR & MRS FRANK PAGANIS
MR & MRS LARRY PALMISANO
MRS FREDA PANAGOS
MR & MRS THOMAS PANOFF
MS ANTOINETTE PANOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOS V. PANOS
MS EUGENIA PANOS
MR & MRS PETER PANOS
MR & MRS KOSTAS PANTAZIS
DR & MRS JOHN PANTON
DR & MRS PETER PANTON
DR & MRS ROBERT PANTON
MR & MRS DIONYSIOS PAPAFOTOPoulos
FATHER & PRESBYTERA ATHANASIOS PAPAGIANNIS
MRS MARIA PAPAGIANNOPoulos
DR & MRS STEVEN PAPAGIANOPoulos
MRS ANITA PAPANIKI
MRS GEORGIA PAPPADIMITRIOU
MS ANASTASIA PAPPAS
MR GEORGE PAPPAS
MS VIVIAN PAPPAS
MS KATHERINE PATRINOS
MR & MRS MARK PATTENSON
MS LOLA PAYNE
MRS MARION PENSIS
MRS DIMITRA PEPPAS
MRS GEORGIA PETREE
MRS RITA PIERZYK
MR & MRS ANGELO PILAFAS
MS ANN PILAFAS
MS NANCY PILAFAS
MRS TOULA PITSIS
MRS HELEN PLEVITIS
MS ESTHER POLYDOROS
MRS HELEN PONTIKES
MRS ELAINE PONTIKIS
Stewardship List...Jan. 2013 — Dec. 2013

MR & MRS GUS PONTIKIS
DR PETER PONTIKIS
MRS BEATRICE POTAMIANOS
MR & MRS ANTHONY POTOGLOU
MS ANNA POLLOS
MRS NIKI POLLOS
MR & MRS THOMAS J POLLOS
MR & MRS TELLY PSARADELLIS
MS GEORGIA PSICHOGIOS
MR & MRS MICHAEL PULLOS
DR & MRS SPENCER PULLOS
MS KEKE RAFTELIAS
MS MARY RAFTELIAS
MS TERRY RAFTOPOULOS
MR ALEXANDER RASSOGIANIS
MR JOHN RASSOGIANIS
MR & MRS ANTHONY REBAPIS
MR & MRS JAMES REGAS
MR PETER REGAS
MS MARIA REVELIOTIS
MR AND MRS RAYMOND RIHA, SR
MR & MRS JEFFREY ROBERTS
MR DIMITRIS RODITIS
MR SPYROS RODITIS
MRS ANNY ROMAS
MR AND MRS PETER 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 PENELlope SAUNDERS
MS MARIA SCHMIDT
MR & MRS NICK SOURLETOS
MS CHRISTINE SEDARES
MRS CONNIE SEDARES
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
MRS ATHENA SOULIDES
MR & MRS HARRY SOUMAKIS
MR GEORGIO SOURBIS
MR & MRS NICK SPYRIDAKOS
MR & MRS PETER SPYROPOULOS
DR STAVROULA SPYROPOULOS
MRS LILLIAN STAMAS
MR & MRS ERNEST STAVROPOULOS
MS JOANN STAVROPOULOS
MR & MRS PAUL STAVROPOULOS
MS CONSTANTINA STAVROU
MR & MRS JOHN STEC
MR. & MRS. BRIAN STEINHAGEN
MRS ROSE MARIE STEWART
MRS JANICE STRATIS
MS JOANNE STRATTON
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS STRAVOLEMAKOS
MR JOHN STROLOGAS
MR & MRS MATHIEU SUSSMAN
MRS MARY T SZCZESNIAK
MR & MRS JOHN SZUBERT
MRS SEVASTI TAGARIS
DR CHRISTOS TAKOUDIS & DR MARIA FOUSTALIERAKI
MR SEAN TANSEY
MS ANASTASIA TEROVLAS
MR & MRS ANGELO TEROVLAS
MISS CRYSTELLA TEROVLAS
MS EFFIE THEODOSOPULOPOULOS
MR & MRS GEORGE THEODOSOPULOPOULOS
DRS. NICK & ELAINE THOMOPoulos
MR & MRS PAUL THOMOPoulos
MS THEMIS TOLE
MR & MRS YANNI TOLE
MR & MRS ANGELO TOLIOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
MR & MRS GEORGE SIOMOS
R GEORGE TRAMBAS
MRS BESSIE TRIHAS
MR & MRS VASILIOS TSAGANOS
MR & MRS JOHN G. TSIOLIS
MR & MRS JAMES TSIOLIS
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS TSIRIBAS
MS ANNA TSIRONIS
MRS VASILIKI TSIRONIS
MRS KATHERINE TZOUMIS
MR & MRS ATHANASIOS VAGIAS
MS DEMETRA VAGIAS
MR GERASIMOS VASILATOS
MR & MRS JOHN VASSILIADES
PAULINE VAVASIS
MRS JAYNE VELIS
MRS STAMATA VERVENIOTIS
MR & MRS ALEX VICKAS
MS CHRISTINE VIVADO
MR & MRS PETER VLAGOS
MS CATHERINE VLAHOGIANNIS
MR ANDREW VLAHOPOULOS & MRS MIMOZA BAHOLLI
MR & MRS CONSTANTINE VLAHOS
MR & MRS GEORGE VLAHOS
MR JOHN P VLAHOS
MRS MARIANTHE VLAHOS
MR & MRS PETER VLAHOS
MR & MS THOMAS VOLLMAN
MRS SOPHIA VOORNAS
MRS MARIA VOULGARAKIS
MR & MRS PETER VOULGARAKIS
MR & MRS BILL VRANAS
MS FRANCES WAHBY
MR & MRS JACK WOODS
MS MARY ELLEN WOODS
MR WILLIAM WOODS
MRS MARIKA XINOS
MR & MRS CONSTANTINE YANNI
MS DONNA YANNI
MRS ELAINE YANNI
MRS MARY YANNI
MS TRACY YANNI
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS ZOGRAFOS
MR & MRS PETER ZOURAS

MR JOHN ALEXANDER
MR ORESTIS ALEXOPOULOS
MRS GEORGIA ANALITIS
H. ANAST
MS CONSTANCE ANDREWS
MS DEMETRA ANDREWS
MR JOHN ANDREWS
MS CAROL ARGYRAKIS
MR & MRS GEORGE ARVANITES
FATHER TIMOTHY G. BAKAKOS
DR & MRS MICHAEL BAKALIS
MR & MRS JOHN W BELTRAMO
MR & MRS GEORGE BERBAS
MR & MRS DONALD BIANUCCI
MRS SUSAN BOARDEN
MR THEODORE BOKIOS
MRS GARIFALIA BOLOS
MR & MRS MICHAEL BORKOWSKI
MR MICHAEL BORHORS & MS EMILY A LLOYD
MR ANGELO BOULOUGOURIS
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER CAPRIO
MR & MRS DAN CARAS
MR & MRS MITCHELL CELIK
DR & MRS NICHOLAS CHIPAIN
MR CHRIS CHULOS & MRS TANJA CHULOS-SAARINEN
MR & MRS PATRICK CIBULA
MR & MRS GEORGE J COLLIAS
MR & MRS ANDREW COLLIS
MR JOHN DADES
DR & MRS WILLIAM DAGIANTIS
MS ANASTASIA DAMOLARIS
MS MARTHA DAMOLARIS
MR & MRS STEVE DAMOLARIS
MR & MRS JAMES DARRAS
MISS ANASTASIA DELIGIANIS
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS DEMOS
MR & MRS THOMAS DEMOS
MRS ANN DERVIS
MR GEORGE DERVIS
MR & MRS WILLIAM DIAMANT
MR & MRS EMMANUEL DIMTRAKOPOULOS
MS KATHERINE DOUKAS
MR & MRS JOHN ELLIS
MRS MARY FOTOPOULOS
MS CATHERINE FOVOS
MR & MRS RICHARD FRITZ
MR GEORGE GALANOPoulos
MRS BESSIE GANGAS
MR THOMAS GANGAS
MR & MRS ANTHONY GARBIS
MR & MRS JERRY GARBIS
MRS SHIRLEY GATZOLIS
MRS JUNE GECAN
MR CHRISTOPHER GEKAS
MR & MRS MICHAEL GEKAS
MR & MRS NICOLAOS GEOR-GIAFENTIS
MRS PERI GEORGIou
MRS IRENE GERAKARI
MR NICK GERAKARI
MRS TOULA GIANAKOPOULOS
MS MARIA GLOTSOS
MR & MRS DOUGLAS GREEN
MR JOHN GRITSONIS
MRS HELEN GROM
MR JAMES HATZIS
MS MARTHA HEMPHILL
MR & MRS PETER IATRIDES
MR & MRS STEVE JONES
MR & MRS JAME M KAEMERER
MR ANDREW J. KANEL
MRS CHRISTINE KANEL
MR JAMES A. KANEL
MS MARIE KANEL
MR & MRS CHRIS KAPETANEA
MR & MRS CHRIS KAPPOS
MRS PATRICIA KARABAS
MR PETER KARAHALIOS
MR & MRS ANTHONY KARAS
MRS GLORIA KAROS
MR & MRS ERNEST KARRAS
MRS MIA KASIMOS
MR & MRS SPYROS KOKolis
MS PAULINE KONTOS
MRS ALICE KOPAN
MR & MRS THOMAS KOSTAS
MR & MRS WALTER KOTT
DR KATHERINE KOUELIS
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MR & MRS BRIAN KRAPEC
MRS HELEN KRILLIES
MRS CALLIOPE KUTRUBIS
MRS KYRIAKI LAGON
MR JAMES LAKERDAS
MS MARIA LAKERDAS
MRS JOAN L LEAKAKOS
MRS Dena LEVADITIS
MR CHRIS LINDERIS
DR JANICE LINDERIS
MR & MRS NICHOLAS S LINARDOS
MR & MRS GEORGE LOGOTHETIS
MR & MRS PETER LOGOTHETIS
MR LOUIS MALEVITIS
MR & MRS DEAN MAMALAKIS
MR GEORGE C MANIATES
MRS HELEN MANIATES
MR & MRS THEODORE MANIATIS
MR & MRS NICHOLAS MANSOUR
MR & MRS EMILE MANTZAKIDES
MRS JOAN MAROUTSOS
MR & MRS THOMAS MASSOURAS
MS MARIAN MIHAILIDIS
MR & MRS GEORGE MILLER
MR & MRS JAMES MILLER
MR & MRS THOMAS MITROPOLOS
MS KATHLEEN MORRIS
MR & MRS TIMOTHY NASH
MS PHYLLIS NICHOLAS
MR VINCENT P. NICHOLAS
MR CHRI S NICOLOPOULOS
MR & MRS LARRY PALMISANO
PERRY PANOS
MR & MRS KOSTAS PANTAZIS
DR & MRS JOHN PANTON
DR & MRS PETER PANTON
DR & MRS ROBERT PANTON

MR & MRS JOHN PANTOS
MR & MRS DIONYSIOS PA-PAPADIMITRIOU
MRS ANITA PAPANEK
MRS GEORGIA PAPPADIMITRIOU

MR & MRS THEODORE PAPPAS
MS VIVIAN PAPPAS
MS KATHERINE PATRINOS
MRS MARION PENESIS
MRS GEORGIA PETREE
MS ANNA PILAFAS
MR MICHAEL PILAFAS
MS ESTHER POLYDOROS
MRS HELEN PONTIKES
MS ANNA POULES
MR & MRS THOMAS J POULOS
MS KEKE RAFTELIAS
MS MARY RAFTELIAS
MRS HELEN RAPTIS
MR PETER REGAS
MR & MRS RAYMOND RIHA, JR
MR & MRS RAYMOND RIHA, SR

MRS ANNY ROMAS
DR & MRS WILLIAM ROUMAN
MR & MRS KEN RUBENSTEIN
MR & MRS DEAN SARANTOS
MS MARIA SCHMIDT
MR & MRS NICK SCOURLETOS
MR GEORGE SEFER
MRS VIOLET SKUTERIS
MR & MRS NICK SPYRIDAKOS
DR & MRS BASIL SPYROPOULOS
MR & MRS PETER SPYROPOULOS
DR STAVROULA SPYROPOULOS
MRS LILLIAN STAMAS
MS JOANN STAVROPOULOS
MR & MRS PAUL STAVROPOULOS
MR & MRS JOHN STEC
MRS ROSE MARIE STEWART
MR & MRS MATHIEU SUSSMAN
MR & MRS PETER SUTTERLIN
MR & MRS JOHN SZUBERT
MRS SEVASTI TAGARIS
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MR. & MRS. MICHAEL TIERNEY
MR & MRS ANGELO TOLIOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER TOR-CHIA
MR JOHN TRAHANAS
MRS BESSIE TRIHAS
MR & MRS STEVEN TRUNCALE
MR & MRS JAMES TSIOLIS
MS ANNA TSIRONIS
MRS VASILIKI TSIRONIS
MRS KATHERINE TZOUMIS
MRS ARITA VALESSARES
MR & MRS PETER VALESSARES
MRS JAYNE VELIS
MR & MRS DINO VERROS
MR & MRS PETER VLAGOS
MR ANDREW VLAHOPoulos &
MRS MIMOZA BAHOLLI
MR & MRS GEORGE VLAHOS
MR JOHN P VLAHOS
MR & MRS PETER VLAHOS
MR & MS THOMAS VOLLMAN
MR & MRS PETER VOULGARAKIS
MR & MRS BILL VRANAS
MR & MRS JACk WOODS
MS MARY ELLEN WOODS
MRS MARIKA XINOS
MR & MRS CONSTANTINE YANNIAS
MRS ELAINE YANIIAS
MS TRACY YANIIAS
MR & MRS JOHN ZENDOL
MR & MRS PETER ZOURAS
40 DAY BABY BLESSING
Children of Ryan and Lauren DeReus
Daughter of Kevin and Natalie Geyer

BAPTISMS
Son of Andrew Vlahopoulos and Mimoza Baholli, was Baptized, taking the name, Constantine.
   Godparents: Polina & Panagiotis Prentes

WEDDINGS
George P. Logothetis and Joy Economos were joined in Holy Matrimony.
   Sponsor: Chris Nicolopoulos

FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD
+ Alice Gallios + Effie Georgian + Christ (Christoforos) Lambros

MEMORIALS
40 Days:
   James Leakakos
   Emily (Amalia) Analitis

6 Months:
   Andriana Vasilatos

9 Months:
   Mary (Stavroula) Maniatis
   Vasiliki (Bessie) Trambas

1 Year:
   Peter (Panagoti) Tragos

3 Years:
   Catherine (Katerina) Kanelos

4 Years:
   Emily (Amalia) Cotsirilos

10 Years:
   Peter (Panagioti) Kanelos

13 Years:
   Magdalene Dervis

20 Years:
   Marie (Maria) Thomopoulos
   Jane (Ioana) Anast

28 Years:
   Alexandra Dervisis

39 Years:
   George (Georgios) Cotsirilos

47 Years:
   Vasilios Dervisis

59 Years:
   Mary Dervis Sothras

60 Years:
   Helen (Eleni) Constantopulos

69 Years:
   Christ (Christos) Constantopulos

82 Years:
   Nicolaos Thomopoulos
Parish Registry Jan. 1 — Feb. 10, 2014

**BAPTISMS**
Son of, Peter and Alayna Vlagos was Baptized, taking the name, *Vasilios*.
   Godparent: Demetra Rupp

**FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD**
+ Perry (Pericles) Voornas       + Helen (Eleni) Constant       + Sam (Sotirios) Romas
+ Penelope G. Vlahos            + Helen (Eleni) Nicolopulos   + Helen (Eleni) Kouimelis

**MEMORIALS**

**40 Days:**
Efstathia Georgiafentis
Alice (Aliki) Gallios
Sam (Sotirios) Romas

**5 Years:**
Jennie (Ioana) (Bottis) Flesor

**9 Years:**
Vasilios Laggas

**1 Year:**
Demetra P. Coston
Catherine F. Stavropoulos

**10 Years:**
Thomas (Athanasiós) Demos

**2 Years:**
Constantinos (Gus) Tsironis

**51 Years:**
Thomas (Athanasiós) Bottis
Annual Golf Outing...

Save the Date

Saturday May 10, 2014 - 12:00pm to 9:00pm

The Second Annual Assumption Golf Outing
White Pines Golf Course - Bensenville, IL

$125.00 Per Golfer Includes:

⇒ Lunch, 18 holes of golf w/cart, Complete Dinner

Not a Golfer? Join us for Dinner—$40.00

Contact the Church Office for more details
(773) 626-3114
www.assumption.org/office@assumptionchicago.org
First Issue, 2014

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**Dates to Remember:**

**March 15th**
Annual Youth Retreat, 9:30 a.m.

**April 5th**
Serve Event: Feed My Starving Children, Aurora, IL (call church for info)

**April 13th**
Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon
(call church for reservation)

**April 20th**
Holy Pascha

**April 26th**
Youth Easter Egg Hunt and Young People Music and Dancing, 4:00 p.m.

**May 11th**
Annual Mother’s Day Program

**May 18th**
Last Day of SCS Classes

**May 23rd to 25th**
Annual Metropolis Jr. Olympics

**May 29th**
Feast of Ascension

**June 1st**
Annual Orthodox Liturgy and SCS Picnic
(open to the entire community)