TAKE TIME TO PRAY

LUKE 10:38-42

Very Rev. Timothy G. Bakakos

September is the start of the Ecclesiastical New Year in our Orthodox Church. It is the beginning of the many programs and ministries that happen in our Church throughout our Holy Archdiocese of America. It is incumbent that we each take the initiative to find a way to complement our spiritual growth with service to God and His Church. How do I do that you may ask? Well, the opportunities are limitless: join the choir, help our youth in Sunday Church School, or with our youth programs. The Parish Council is a way to give service to our Lord, and the work of Philoptochos may be a way to ‘give of your time’, and at the same time, receive the gift of satisfaction and knowledge that you are helping God in a meaningful way.

But, my dear brothers and sisters, I want to focus on the theme of prayer. Prayer should be the driving force that accentuates who and what we are as ‘Orthodox Christians’. Some of us know how, while sadly, others of us have not as yet grasped the idea, nor importance of praying! How many of you would react with utter fear and terror IF you were asked, right now, to stand and lead a group in prayer, to have to formulate thoughts and present them in the form of a prayer to God, unrehearsed, off-the-cuff, and ‘homemade’….all your very own? For some of us, it would be something we would conquer, while others would have no idea how!

It is said that one of former President Reagan's favorite stories is the one about the minister's son who was taken out camping one day. His companion warned him not to stray too far from the campfire because the woods were full of wild beasts of all kinds. The young boy had every intention, really, of following that advice, but inevitably, he was drawn by curiosity and wandered farther and farther from the fire. Suddenly, he found himself face to face with a very large and powerful looking bear. He saw no means of escape, and seeing the bear advance rather menacingly towards him, the minister's son did what he had been taught to do. He knelt down to pray for deliverance. He closed his eyes tightly, but opened them a few moments later and was delighted to see that the bear was also kneeling in prayer right in front of him. He said, “Oh, bear, isn’t wonderful! Here we are with such different viewpoints and such different lives and such different perceptions of life, and we're both praying to the same Lord." And the bear said very smugly, "Son, I don't know about you, but I'm saying grace."

The meaning of this amusing story: there are many different “uses” of prayer, and yes, many different “kinds” of prayer as well. So I would like you to consider the importance of taking time for prayer.

John Sanford, in his book entitled, “THE KINGDOM WITHIN”, tells about a well at a farm house where his family spent their summers. Though the well had been a good one they discontinued using it when a community water system and sewers were installed. Some years later, someone decided to draw some water from the old well. Much to their surprise, they discovered that it was dry. That seemed puzzling. It had always provided them with plenty of water in the past. Why, after years of not being used, should it now be dry? The answer they discovered was that the well had been fed by hundreds of tiny underground streams. When water was drawn out of the well, it was refilled by water flowing through those tiny openings. But after years of not being used, however, those tiny streams or pathways had become plugged up. The well dried up, not because there was no water, but because the well had fallen into disuse.
TAKE TIME TO PRAY Continued

Obviously, the point I am making here is that there is a parallel to the devotional life of a Christian. When we fall out of habit of daily communication with God, there is a clogging of the channel ways, a road neglected. The distressing thing is that this clogging of the spiritual arteries is happening to more and more Christians. Is that not true? What about us? Sadly, we are not the praying people we once were, and the effect of that neglect can be seen in our homes, in the adults as well as our children, in our community, and in our Church.

Now, I know what many of you are probably thinking: Where can I find the time? Well, many of you know the Gospel Reading about Jesus visiting the home of Mary and her sister Martha. We read this Gospel on August 15th, on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. In this Gospel Reading, we hear the story about poor Martha franticly hurrying about the house, serving the food, making certain that all of the guests are comfortable, while her sister Mary sits spellbound at the feet of Jesus. Lord, don't you care,” says Martha to Jesus, that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell here to come help me.” Many of us can sympathize with poor Martha. There is simply too much to do.

The female members, the mothers and wives of our Parish, can certainly sympathize with Martha. There has been a radical change in our society, as you know. Most women today work outside the home. Some do so out of necessity, while others do so out of choice. Surveys tell us, however, that traditional expectations of wives and mothers in terms of their responsibilities in the home have not changed very much. So, many women are, in effect, working at two full-time jobs...at work and at home. They sympathize with Martha. "There just is not time!" Someone suggested years ago that this may be one reason why women have always valued worship, much more than men. It was perhaps the one hour of the week when no demands were being made on them.

However, what I want to say to men and women is that we must find time for prayer. Nothing in our lives is quite so vital. In the First Place, Prayer is the Most Potent Power Source Available to Us. Let me put it in very simple basic words from an author on this subject. Evelyn Christenson, in her book entitled, “What Happens When Women Pray”, compares her living life without prayer to vacuuming a whole room and not having the vacuum cleaner plugged into the wall socket. She writes, "We work, we pull, we struggle, we plan until we are utterly exhausted, but we forget to plug into the source of our power." For women and men, it is when our lives are a whirlwind of activity that we must need to take time out to commune with God.

And many times, when we are physically fatigued, it affects us mentally as well. How we feel mentally affects us spiritually, and has a direct effect and bearing on the lifestyle we lead and how we feel. We must take time to pray. Prayer is the most potent power source available to us.

And, in the Second Place, Prayer Allows Us to Get Out Priorities in Order. When Charles Schwab was president of Bethlehem Steel, he granted an interview with a management consultant named Ivy Lee. Lee told Schwab that his consulting firm could help Schwab's company get more done. Schwab said, "If you can do that, I'll be glad to listen to you and if it works, I will pay you whatever you ask within reason." Ivy Lee said, "All right, I will give you a method right now that will increase your efficiency by 50 percent". He handed Schwab a sheet of paper and told him to list the most important things he had to do the next day. Now number them in the order of their true importance," Lee said. Schwab did as he was instructed. Now tomorrow morning Lee suggested, you begin with number 1 on your list. After it is taken care of completely, move on to number 2 and complete it. Don't worry if you do not get all the way through the list. At least you will have completed the most important tasks. Do this every working day. After you have convinced yourself of this system, have your employees try it. Try it as long as you like and then send me your check for whatever you think this idea is worth." In a few weeks Charles Schwab sent Ivy Lee a check for $25,000.

What about us? Can you see how helpful it might be to you to spend a few moments each day alone with God going over the day's demands and asking the question, what is it that I need to do today that is really of utmost importance?" I think there is some practical value in what I am saying. I encounter so many people who are so fatigued and so frustrated, so negative and antagonistic and against the world, and the problem is right here. We have neglected our power source and our priorities are out of order. We have forgotten to include prayer in our busy schedules!

And finally, there is something more to be said. "Prayer”, says Saint Ignatius of Antioch, "Gives us the inner resources for dealing with problems that refuse to go away". This is to say that prayer is not only the key to energy, but also to endurance. There was a popular story going around about a little girl who was asked what she would pray for if
TAKE TIME TO PRAY Continued

suddenly she were to become blind. Her answer was, "I would pray for a nice seeing-eye dog." The punch line to the story is a question. Why pray for a seeing-eye dog when you might pray for your vision to be restored? It makes a nice story, but it evades a more important issue. There are thousands of people who do pray for their sight daily, but they are forced to settle for a seeing-eye dog. How do we endure when the problems do not magically disappear? The answer for many, many people is prayer.

You and I must take time to pray. It is essential to us if we want to have a relationship with God. Prayer is the key that unlocks the awesome power of God in our lives. Prayer helps us put our priorities in order. Prayer makes it possible for us to face up to our problems, to persevere until that day when God gives us victory over them. You say you don't have time to pray? I ask you to think again. As busy as our lives are nowadays, and the way some of us live them, who can afford not to pray?

+ AMEN

Assumption Church to Celebrate 90th Anniversary in 2015

By Dr. Peter Panton, M.D.

The Assumption Church will commemorate 90 years of ministry to the Greek Orthodox faithful in 2015. The climax of the year-long celebration will be a Grand Banquet to be held on Sunday October 18, 2015 at the Carlisle in Lombard. An Anniversary Committee has been formed and has begun planning the year’s events.

To get a head start on our Anniversary Year, the Assumption Sunday Church School has invited the entire Parish participate in its “90 Acts of Kindness Challenge.” Over the next thirteen months, our Sunday Church School teachers and children will perform “acts of kindness” for our Church, for our Metropolis, and for our nation until they reach the magic number of 90. What a clever way to make the Gospel a living reality! Please support our youngest stewards as they remind us of the true Orthodox Christian mission.

The Assumption Church of Chicago was founded in 1925 and the “Original Panagia” was a converted eight car garage. The first Divine Liturgy was celebrated on August 15, 1925—the Feast Day of the Parish. This beloved wooden building multi-tasked as the community’s House of Worship, Sunday School, Greek School, and community hall. Fundraising for a permanent edifice began immediately. However, the Great Depression intervened and ground breaking did not occur until August 1, 1937. The first Divine Liturgy was celebrated in the current Church on Christmas Day, 1938. World events again intervened, and completion of the iconography was delayed due to World War II.

On October 19, 1947, the Assumption Church was consecrated with Archbishop (soon to be Patriarch) Athenagoras presiding. The basement of the Church served as the community hall until the construction of the Plato School Building in 1952. The Church basement was converted to the Saint Catherine Chapel, with many of the original icons from the “wooden Panagia” adorning her walls. After a major renovation in 2010, the Saint Catherine Chapel was consecrated by Metropolitan Iakovos on May 6, 2012, assisted by Bishop Dimitrios, and the Clergy of our Parish, the Very Rev. Timothy G. Bakakos, and Rev. Athanasios Papagiannis.

For a full listing of events planned around the 90th Anniversary, please see page 9 of this Newsletter.
“The West has the clocks, but we have the time,” His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, summarized succinctly during one of the panel discussions during July’s 42nd Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress held in Philadelphia. The Congress’ theme, “The Orthodox Christian Family: A Dwelling of Christ and A Witness of His Gospel” frequently touched on the topics of time management and time pressures on families in the United States. Many of us experience for ourselves, and hear in the media, the anxiety society faces trying to keep up in a world that seems to keep spinning faster every year.

During a Congress breakout session with Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, I heard a good example of how we can try to shift this dynamic of time pressures on our faith from a young mother of Cypriot descent. This young mother proactively told her son’s soccer coach before the season began that she expected no games to be scheduled on Sunday mornings during the upcoming season. It was good food for thought: how many of us have thought about this challenge many families face each week, but haven’t been so bold as to confront the coaches on this? Also during the same session, Metropolitan Alexios encouraged us to think about concepts such as “we are working for our children” possibly being an excuse for coveting ever-increasing material wealth versus focusing appropriate time on “working with our children”.

There was much discussion that families are increasingly suffering from a state of disconnectedness due to time pressures, even while children are relatively small. One recommended means of addressing this disconnectedness is restoring mealtime as a specially reserved as a time dialogue with the family due to the hectic schedules we fall prey to so often these days. From personal experience, this can be difficult to achieve, but very much worth the effort.

Another piece of wisdom that the Archbishop shared is that most of us accept these sources of stress as conditions of life as we know it, but just as slavery was an accepted fact of life at one time, we must fight against these conditions.

Shifting topics, you may have noticed that the sign company building on the south side of Harrison Street has been demolished. That parcel of property is owned by Loretto Hospital. At this time, we are unaware of any plans by Loretto to build on that land. However, representatives from the Parish Council do keep in contact with Loretto’s management, and we understand that the current plans are to complete the site as a gravel parking lot. This may be another small sign of positive change to come in the neighborhood, in that we have another unsightly, dilapidated building removed and another site ready for investment at some point in the future. I look forward to increasing economic development in our area, to the benefit of our Assumption parish as well as our neighbors in the Austin District.

I hope that you have an enjoyable autumn season, and look forward to seeing many of you at the Harvest Day event to be held in Plato Hall on Saturday, October 18.
The ladies have been involved in Philanthropic Endeavors all summer.

Visit to GARCC
Francine Kott coordinated a visit by our ladies to the Greek American Rehabilitation and Care Center in Wheeling, IL. On the afternoon of June 16th residents enjoyed our visit and being served ice cream sundaes with their favorite individual toppings and cookies.

Clergy-Laity
President Betty Tsiolis and Vice President Ann Dervis attended Philoptochos meetings with approximately 490 other women from across the United States. From July 6th to July 9th they learned about many projects our national organization has accomplished in helping the needy. Betty and Ann gave their report at the July 17 General Meeting.

The kinds of help that Philoptochos provides ranges from helping homeless veterans, to soup kitchens, to clothing drives, to disaster assistance, and to helping exploited women. Attendees were reminded of the delicate nature of philanthropy and the need to deliver charity respectfully.

To read a personal account by Thomas Massouras of his experience attending the Clergy-Laity, please see page 8 of this newsletter. The photo to the right features some of those in attendance: Back row from left: Christen Massouras, Nikki Massouras, Thomas Massouras, James Lakerdas, and Ann Dervis, Philoptochos Vice President; Front row from left: Dean Sarantos, Parish Council President; the Very Reverend Father Timothy G. Bakakos; and Betty Tsiolis, Philoptochos President.

Festival
On Saturday, July 12 the ladies made over 500 melomakarona and nearly 400 kourabiedes. Only July 19 they also made 600 dipses. The ladies then packaged all the goodies and helped set up the festival booth. In addition to the items mentioned above, they also sold baklava, galactoubleura, tsourekia, bogatsi, cookies, and loukoumades. A huge thank you to all the ladies and girls who helped bake, package, sell, and clean up. The new Festival dates proved to be very successful!

August Activities
On August 9th, the ladies baked 1,500 melomakarona to serve after vespers on August 14th. Approximately 550 people enjoyed the cookies and refreshments. The ladies also served a light luncheon to 350 people after the Divine Liturgy on August 15th. Thank you to the many ladies who helped with these events.

September Activities
On September 14 the Philoptochos AGAPE Award was presented to Mrs. Christine Kanel for her outstanding service in the Philoptochos. On September 20th the Metropolis luncheon was held at the Rosewood. This event benefited the Philoxenia House and St. Iakovos Retreat Center. From September 4th through the 7th members of the church in conjunction with Sunday Church School participated in a drive to collect new winter pajamas and new socks to send to children in Greece.

Looking Ahead to Next Year
Next year is the 90th Anniversary of Assumption Church. Philoptochos will be helping with invitations and reservations for the dinner dance and banquet that will be held on October 18, 2015. More information will be shared in future newsletters.
Orthodoxy is Caught More Than It’s Taught  
By Fr. Athanasios Papagiannis

With the school year under way, I believe it’s important to bring to light one of the great truths of our faith. That truth is best summed up in the following sentence: Orthodoxy is caught more than it’s taught. Ours is not a religion that’s solely learned in the classroom, but one made to be lived out, witnessed to and caught by others. Yes, sitting in a classroom and learning about the faith is a great experience, but the learning doesn’t stop there because it has to be applied. The faith has to be practiced over and over again until habits are cemented and a particular way of life is established.

This is why some theologians often say that Orthodoxy is really Orthopraxia. It has to impact our every interaction with others and transform us and more importantly those around us.

In modern American culture, this idea of practicing the Orthodox way of life is difficult to conceptualize. That’s partly because we’ve been taught that religion is merely a Sunday activity. At the same time, we’ve also been taught that if we practice our religion in front of others we may offend them, especially if they are from different faiths. Any deviation from these cultural norms leads one to be labelled as a fundamentalist.

In reality, all of these worldly teachings work to limit what Christianity can do for society. Whatever our children learn in the Sunday School classroom is not cemented into them unless they see it practiced at home.

If we want our children and their generation to grow up and really embrace the faith we love it has to be practiced and seen both at home and in the public. They have to see Orthodoxy being practiced right in front of them. They have to see that type of radical love and forgiveness and almsgiving and patience. To that end, I encourage parents, relatives and all parishioners to openly practice the faith in front of your beloved children. See it as a way they complete their learning experience. Listed below are some simple suggestions that will really cement into our children the lessons they learn in Sunday School:

- **Making the sign of the cross before a meal.** When we sit down for a public meal with our child let us make the sign of the cross. It’s a powerful and quick gesture of gratitude and it reminds children that even food is a blessing and not a given.

- **Coping with our problems by turning to God.** We teach children how to deal with their problems. Do we try to solve our problems by ourselves or do we cope through prayer? When we have a difficult day let us sit down with them and openly pray for God to help us with the things that are stressing us. Our children will learn to cope, not by human means, but by beseeching a most loving God.

- **Reading the Bible as a family.** Instead of watching television or going on the internet, let us spend a few minutes each day reading and discussing the Bible. And in our discussions let us talk about how we can apply a particular reading to our lives.

- **Asking for forgiveness and admitting mistakes to others.** There is a wonderful tradition in parts of Greece that relatives and friends contact each other every Saturday to ask for forgiveness. They ask for forgiveness so that they could receive communion with a clear conscience on Sunday. This is something we can practice at home. Imagine what it does for the spiritual development of a child to see his parents and siblings ask for forgiveness before they partake in communion.

- **Creating a list of people to pray for.** Every human being has a list of people to pray for. And this is especially true for children who have friends that are going through difficult times. Some are sick, others have family problems. Parents should encourage their children to think of others and not their own needs whenever they pray at night.

Let us make Orthodoxy real by bringing it home and instilling it into the daily routine. It’s never too late to apply our faith into our lives. The world outside the Church is struggling for meaning and truth and identity. Our wonderful tradition speaks to these things like no other faith. And more importantly the next generation is watching us. If we make Orthodoxy an everyday activity we will see a change in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

In Christ,

+Fr. Athanasios Papagiannis
Sunday School News …

New School Year, 90 Acts of Kindness, and More!
By Christina Arvanites

Our Sunday Church School kicked off a new school year on September 7th. The students enjoyed an amazing performance by the Jesse White Tumblers. Our thanks to Lou Malevitis for generously underwriting the cost of the event.

This year promises to be an exceptionally fulfilling year as we are excited to kick off our 90 Acts of Kindness Challenge. Between now and October 18, 2015, in honor of our parish’s 90th Anniversary the Church School will be completing 90 Acts of Kindness that will benefit our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are off to a great start having already completed several Acts of Kindness. With our Ladies Philoptochos we collected winter pajamas and socks for The Ark of the World an organization in Greece that assists children that have been abandoned or orphaned. Together with our Parish Council we participated in the ALS Ice Bucket challenge and made a monetary donation to the Les Turner Foundation. Our students, grades 7-12, baked and packaged baked goods for a The Sarah’s’ Inn bake Sale with proceeds benefiting Sarah’s inn. Our younger grades wrote letters to WWII veterans that will be given to the vets aboard Honor Flight Mission 4. We will also be making “no sew” fleece blankets to be given to patients at Ronald McDonald House and collecting pop tabs for the RMH collection.

Of course, this is just the beginning of the kindness we hope to share with others. Watch our progress on our “thermometer” in the St. Catherine’s meeting room and see which organizations we have helped on our bulletin boards as you walk to Plato Hall. We also have a Tree of Kindness that the children will fill with leaves that have their name on them as they each complete an individual Act of Kindness. We are proud to have this opportunity to participate in doing good for others and teaching our students not only in words but also in deeds.
My Experience at the 42nd Biennial Clergy Laity Congress in Philadelphia, PA as a Delegate for the Assumption Church

By Thomas Massouras

On July 6-10, 2014, I had privilege of attending the 42nd biennial Clergy Laity Congress, held at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. My wife, Nikki, and kids Christen and Evan, also came with me to experience this convention, and we hoped to be able to learn more about the workings of our Church, the Church Hierarchy, and what programs the Church has to offer. Those also in attendance at this Convention from the Assumption Church were Very Rev. Timothy Bakakos, Parish Council President Dean Sarantos, Parish Council member James Lakerdas, and two Philoptochos representatives, President Betty Tsiolas and Vice President Ann Dervis.

After driving two days through the Indiana and Ohio farmland, and through the green Pennsylvania countryside and mountains, my family arrived in downtown Philadelphia on a warm Sunday evening. After registering for the conference, we observed various church related exhibits located in the Exhibit Hall on the 4th Floor of the hotel. There were over 80 exhibitors from throughout the United States and Greece, displaying and selling interesting religious books, jewelry, and articles; representatives from an Orthodox Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico, which takes in and raises Mexican orphans; the National Hellenic Society, which takes college aged Greek-American students to Greece to learn about their culture and heritage; and St. Basil’s Academy and Hellenic College, amongst other institutions present. The exhibits, and exhibitors, were very interesting.

On Monday, we attended Divine Liturgy at 7:30 a.m. in the Congress Chapel, and afterward attended the official opening ceremonies at 9:00 a.m., attended by Archbishop Demetrios, the Metropolitans and Bishops, and Patriarch Bartholomew, who spoke via Skype, with all his humility and good humor. He began his speech by telling the faithful with a smile, “Don’t worry, this will be short.” He is a very inspirational man, who was able to convey a lot of information and wisdom with only a few words.

Also speaking at the opening were the co-chairs of the event; Mayor Nutter of Philadelphia; the Ambassador of Cyprus; Senator Patrick Toomey of Pennsylvania; National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas; the Metropolitans of New Jersey, Kalliopepolis, and Belgium; and Archbishop Demetrios of America. After a call to order by the General Counsel of the Archdiocese, the Congress was officially convened.

There were many workshops that one could choose from on various topics; I chose to attend a workshop entitled “Reaching the Distantly Connected” and “Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Basic Training” on Monday; on Tuesday I attended “Stress and the Resilience of the Family” and “Faith and Family, Building Generations of Faith” as well as a presentation by Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco on outreach within the Church. I also attended a Hellenic College reception, where I am an alumnus, honoring Brother Charlie Anthoney for his work at a Clinic located near Mt. Athos in Greece, which provides screening services for cancer and other aid for the region. Charlie was a classmate of mine, and I was happy to see him honored for his good work in saving lives from cancer.

On Monday night, there was a function at the “Waterworks” Restaurant, an area at the foot of the Philadelphia Art Museum where “Rocky Balboa” ran up the steps in the movie “Rocky”. There was Greek food, music, and comedians Basil and Eleni made those in attendance laugh, including the Archbishop and several Metropolitans who were in attendance.

On Wednesday, the Plenary Session took place discussing the business of the Church. Also on Wednesday, the Grand Banquet took place, which had CNBC anchor Andrea Mitchell as mistress of ceremonies, and Vice President Joe Biden as guest speaker on Greek issues such as religious rights issues with Turkey, the Greek economy, and Cyprus. The Archbishop also gave a wonderful presentation on the new St. Nicholas Shrine to be built at the 9/11 site in New York. All the Assumption delegates sat together, and had an enjoyable evening of fellowship with one another.

All told, I enjoyed my time at the Convention in listening to the hierarchy, meeting other laity from other parishes, and seeing fellow classmates who are now priests in the Archdiocese. I also learned from the presentations given by various qualified individuals. It is my hope that during subsequent Congresses, nuts and bolts discussions on Sunday School training and topics can be added; “Best Practices” ideas gathered from other parishes can be discussed and implemented; and individual Metropolises can discuss issues that are important and unique to them during a session.

I would like to thank Fr. Timothy and the Parish Counsel for allowing me and giving me the honor of attending, and highly recommend the experience to others in our Parish Community interested in our Church and its affairs.
In 2015, our Blessed Parish of Panagia will be celebrating its 90th Anniversary. In honor of this, a number of activities and events will take place leading up to our Grand Banquet on Sunday, October 18th, 2015. With the start of our Orthodox Church Ecclesiastical Calendar on September 1st, we have listed some dates that our Community will share in during the next year marking this historic event in the life of our Parish. Still to be scheduled are various lectures and other events.

2014

October 18th: ‘Harvest Night Event’
October 5, 12, 19th: Philoptochos/Sunday Church School “Fleece Throws” Benefit
November 8th: Youth Outing – Bowling Event
November 24th: Great Vespers for the Feast of Saint Catherine the Great Martyr.
November 25th: Hierarchical Divine Liturgy for Feast of Saint Catherine the Great Martyr.
December 6th: Annual Decorate the Hall and Christmas Tree Event
December 9th: Philoptochos Annual Feed the Hungry Ministry
December 14th: Annual SCS Christmas Pageant.
December 14th: Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale

2015

January 10th: Annual Dive for the Cross Event
January 11th: Annual Parish Vasilopita.
January 18th: Annual Stewardship Brunch.
February 1st: ‘Loving Panagia for 90 Years Youth and Family Dance’.
February 15th: Annual Panagia Apokreatiko Glendi.
February 23rd: Great Lent Begins.
March 14th: Annual Sunday Church School (SCS) Youth Retreat.
April 5th: Philoptochos Easter (Pascha) Bake Sale.
April 12th: Holy Pascha (Easter).
April 18th: ‘Bright Saturday Celebration Event’.
June 7th: Annual Liturgy in the Park and Picnic.
June 13th: Youth and Family Outing to St. Iakovos Camp Center in Wisconsin.
July 25/26: Annual Assumption Church Festival.
October 18th: Assumption 90th Anniversary Dinner Banquet, Carlisle Banquets, Lombard, Il.
Thank you and congratulations to the volunteers, donors and attendees who supported the Assumption Greek Festival held on July 25th and 26th! The financial results for 2014's event compare favorably to those from the prior two years, which is noteworthy as they were achieved as the Festival's timing was moved from Labor Day weekend (when it had been held for many years previously). Below is a summary of Festival revenue and expenses for the past three years, and congratulations again to all those who worked hard for the successful event.

The financial results are posted below, and please enjoy some photos from this year’s Festival.

**Festival Financial Results**

*By Dean Sarantos, Festival Chairman*

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Festival Update …

The 2014 Assumption Greek Festival was a great success! Families and friends attended over the weekend of July 25th and 26th and enjoyed good food, fun games, dancing, and much more.

Thank you to all those who attended and to the many volunteers who went above and beyond to make this event happen! Below are just a few snapshots that capture the good time that was had by all!
Stewardship List...Jan. 2014 — Sept. 16, 2014

MR JOHN ALEXANDER
MS PAULINE ALEXANDER
MR ORESTIS ALEXOPOULOS
MRS GEORGIA ANALITIS
MS HARA G ANAST
MS CONSTANCE ANDREWS
MS DEMETRA ANDREWS
MR JOHN ANDREWS
MR & MRS PETER ANDRIANAKOS
MR & MRS APOSTOLOS A ANGELACOS
MRS GEORGIA APOSTOL
MR & MRS LOUIS APOSTOL
MRS FRIEDA ARAVOSIS
MS CAROL ARGYRAKIS
MR & MRS GEORGE ARVANITES
MR BAHAROPOULOS & MRS KARAMANIOLAS
FATHER TIMOTHY G. BAKAKOS
DR & MRS MICHAEL BAKALIS
MRS OLGA T BANCROFT
MR & MRS JAMES BECKER
MR & MRS DEMITRIOS LIVADITIS BEJANIS
MR & MRS JOHN W BELTRAMO
MR & MRS GEORGE BERBAS
MR & MRS DONALD BIANUCCI
MR & MRS WILLIAM BLATHRAS
MRS SUSAN BOARDEN
MR THEODORE BOKIOS
MR WILLIAM J BOLAS
MR & MRS LUCAS BOLCHERT
MRS GARIFALIA BOLOS
MR & MRS MICHAEL BORKOWSKI
MR MICHAEL BORNHORST & MS EMILY A LLOYD
MR ANGELO BOULOUGOURIS
MR JAMES S BOUNARDJ
MR & MRS GARY CALLAHAN
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER CAPRIO
MR & MRS DAN CARAS
MR & MRS MITCHELL CELIK
MR & MRS GEORGE J CEPEK
MR & MRS GEORGE J CHERIMPEES
DR & MRS NICHOLAS CHIPAIN

MR & MRS JASON CHRISTOPOULOS
MR & MRS MICHAEL CHRISTOPOULOS
MR CHIS J CHULOS & MRS TANJA CHULOS-SAARINEN
MR & MRS PATRICK CIBULA
MR & MRS GEORGE J COLLIAS
MR & MRS ANDREW COLLIS
MRS HELEN COLLIS
MR THOMAS COLLIS
MR & MRS FRANK COLUMBUS
MR & MRS JAMES COLUMBUS
MR & MRS JAMES CONNER
MRS JULIA CUTSVITIS
MR PAUL CUTSVITIS
MR JOHN DADES
DR & MRS WILLIAM P DAGIANTIS
MS ANASTASIA DAMOLARIS
MS MARTHA DAMOLARIS
MR & MRS STEVE DAMOLARIS
MR & MRS JAMES DARRAS
MR THOMAS P. DARRUS
MS ANASTASIA DELIGIANIS
MR BILL DELIGIANNIS
MR & MRS CONSTANTINE DELIS
MR & MRS BILL DEMAKIS
MR & MRS JOHN DEMITROPOULOS
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS DEMOS
MR & MRS JAMES DEMOS
MR & MRS THOMAS DEMOS
MR & MRS RYAN DEREUS
MRS ANN DERVIS
MR GEORGE W DERVIS
MR & MRS WILLIAM DIAMANT
MR & MRS EMMANUEL DIMITRAKOPoulos
MRS DIAN DIONESOTES
MS KATHERINE DOUKAS
MS BASILLE EFANTIS
MR & MRS JOHN ELLIS
MS BRITTANY R FERGUSON
MS CATHERINE FERGUSON
MS NICOLETTE FERGUSON
MR & MRS PANTAZIS FILIS

MRS PATRICIA FLANARY
MR JOHN FLOROS
MRS MARY FLOROS
MR LEE M FORRES
MRS MARY FOTOPOULOS
MS CATHERINE FOVOS
MR & MRS RICHARD FRITZ
MR GEORGE GALANOPoulos
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER GANAS
MRS BESSIE GANGAS
MR THOMAS GANGAS
MR & MRS ANTHONY GARBIS
MR & MRS JERRY GARBIS
MRS SHIRLEY GATZIOLIS
MS CHRISTINE GEANON
MRS JUNE GECAN
MR CHRISTOPHER GEKAS
MR & MRS MICHAEL GEKAS
MR JAMES T GEORGALAS, SR
MR & MRS NICOLOAS GEORGIAFENTIS
MRS PERI GEORGIou
MR & MRS THEODORE GEORGOPOoulos
MRS IRENE GERAKARIS
MR NICK GERAKARIS
MR & MRS KONSTANTINOS GERTOS
MR & MRS KEVIN GEYER
MRS TOULA GIANAKOPOoulos
MRS CHRISTINE GIANNOULIS
MRS MARIA GLOTSOS
MRS ANTHOULA GODELLAS
DR & MRS CONSTANTINE GODELLAS
MR JOHN GOUVAS
MR & MRS DOUGLAS GREEN
MR JOHN GRITSONIS
MRS HELEN GROM
MR & MRS THEODORE HADJIS
MR & MRS JAMES J HARTZ
MR JAMES HATZIS
MS MARTHA HEMPHILL
MRS CHRISTINE HEMPHILL
MR & MRS MARIO HOLGUIN
MR & MRS PETER IATRIDES

MR & MRS STEPHEN INGHRAM
MR RAYMOND R ISAAC
MR & MRS STEVE JONES
MS ATHENA JOVANES
MR & MRS STEVEN JURASEK
MS CATHERINE M KACZMACZYZK
MR & MRS JAMES M KAEMERER
MS EVE KALEVAS
MR CHRIST KAMBEROS, JR
MRS MARIA KAMBEROS
MR ANDREW J. KANEL
MRS CHRISTINE KANEL
MR JAMES A. KANEL
MR AND MRS NICHOLAS KANEL
MRS MEROPE KANTZAVELOS
MR & MRS CHRIS KAPETANEAS
MR & MRS CHRIS KAPPOS
MR GEORGE KAPPOS
MR HARRY KAPPOS
MRS PATRICIA KARABAS
MISS SOPHIE D KARAGIANNIS
MR PETER KARAHALIOS
MR & MRS ANTHONY KARAS
MR JOHN KARASI
MRS GLORIA KAROS
MR & MRS ERNEST KARRAS
MRS MIA KASIMOS
MR & MRS CHRIST KATES
MR & MRS SPYROS KOKOLIS
MRS NANCY KOKOS
MR & MRS GEORGE KOLETTIS
MS PAULINE KONTOS
MRS ALICE KOPAN
MRS ELENI KOSMAS & MR ARMANDO RAMIREZ
MR & MRS THOMAS KOSTAS
MR & MRS DINO KOTSIOVETIS
MR & MRS WALTER J KOTT
MRS GEORGIA KOUIMELIS
MR & MRS TOM KOULOURIS
MS SOPHIE KOUTSELAS
DR KATHERINE KOUVELIS
MR PETER KOUVELIS
MR & MRS MATTHEW KOZIL
MR & MRS BRIAN KRAPEC
MR JOHN KRILLIES
MRS CALLIOPE KUTRUBIS
MRS PENELIPE C LAGEOTAKES
MR PETER C LAGEOTAKES
MRS PANAGIOTA LAGGAS
MRS KYRIAKI LAGON
MR JAMES LAKERDAS
MS MARIA LAKERDAS
MR CHARLES G LAMPROS
MRS JOAN L LEAKAKOS
MR WILLIAM LEAKAKOS
MR CHRIST LEKOUSIS
MR & MRS NICK LEKOUSIS
MRS DENA LEVADITIS
MR CHRIS LIMPERIS
DR JANICE LIMPERIS
MR & MRS NICHOLAS S LINARDOS
MRS MARY CLARA LIVADITIS
MR & MRS JAMES LOFTUS
MR & MRS GEORGE LOGOGETHETIS
MR & MRS GEORGE LOGOGETHETIS
MR ILIAS LOULOUSIS
MR & DR DEAN MAGGOS
MR LOUIS G MALEVITIS
MR & MRS DEAN MAMALAKIS
MR GEORGE MANIATES
MRS HELEN MANIATES
MR & MRS THEODORE MANIATIS
MRS CATHERINE MANOS
DR CHAFICK MANSOUR
MR & MRS NICHOLAS MANSOUR
MR & MRS EMILE MANTZAKIDES
MRS JOANN MAROUTSOS
MR & MRS THOMAS MASSOURAS
MRS BESSIE MAVREAS
MS JANE MAXOURIS
MR & MRS GEORGE MENTON
MRS HELEN MIHAL
MS MARIANN MIHAILIDIS
MR & MRS GEORGE MILLER
MR & MRS JAMES MILLER
MR & MRS THOMAS A MITROPOULOS
MS KATHLEEN MORRIS
MR & MRS TIMOTHY NASH
MS PHYLLIS NICHOLAS
MR VINCENT P. NICHOLAS
MRS AMELIA NICHOLS
MR & MRS DEAN J NICHOLS
MR CHRIS NICOLPOULOS
DR & MRS SABIN OANA
MR & MRS LARRY PALMISANO
MRS FRED PanAGos
MR & MRS THOMAS PANOFF
MS ANTOINETTE PANOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOS V. PANOS
MS EUGENIA PANOS
MRS FRIDERIKI PANOS
MR PERRY PANOS
MR & MRS PETER PANOS
MR & MRS KOSTAS PANTAZIS
DR & MRS JOHN PANTON
DR & MRS PETER PANTON
DR & MRS ROBERT PANTON
MR & MRS JOHN PANTOS
MS ANASTASIA PAPADAKIS
MR & MRS DIONYSIOS PAPAFOTOPOULOS
MRS MARIA PAPAGIANNOPOULOS
DR & MRS STEVEN PAPAGIANNOPOULOS
MRS ANITA PANANEK
MR LOUIS PAPANICOLAOU & MRS KANELA ARIANAS
MRS GEORGIA PAPPADIMITRIOU
MS ANASTASIA PAPPAS
MR & MRS THEODORE PAPPAS
MS VIVIAN PAPPAS
MS KATHERINE PATRINOS
MRS MARION PENESIS
MRS DIMITRA PEPPAS
MRS GEORGIA PETREE
MRS LILLIAN PIERCE

MR & MRS ANGELO PILAFAS
MS ANN PILAFAS
MR MICHAEL PILAFAS
MS NANCY K PILAFAS
MRS TOULA PITISS
MRS HELEN PLEVRITIS
MS ESTHER POLYDOROS
MRS HELEN PONTIKES
MRS ELAINE PONTIKIS
DR PETER G PONTIKIS
MR & MRS ANTHONY POTOGLOU
MS ANNA POULOS
MR & MRS THOMAS J POULOS
MR & MRS TELLY PSARADELLIS
MS GEORGIA PSICHOGIOS
MR & MRS MICHAEL S PULLOS
DR & MRS SPENCER PULLOS
MS KEKE RAFTELIAS
MS MARY RAFTELIAS
MR CHRIS RAFTOPOULOS
MR & MRS LOUIS RAFTOPOULOS
MS TERRY RAFTOPOULOS
MRS HELEN RAPITIS
MR ALEXANDER RASSOGIANIS
MR & MRS JAMES A REGAS
MR PETER REGAS
MR & MRS RAYMOND RIHA, JR
MR AND MRS RAYMOND RIHA, SR
MR & MRS JEFFREY ROBERTS
MRS ANNY ROMAS
MR AND MRS PETER ROMAS
DR & MRS WILLIAM ROUMAN
MR & MRS EVANGELOS ROZOS
MR & MRS KEN RUBENSTEIN
MR JOHN H SANDORS
MR & MRS DEAN G SARANTOS
MS MARIA SCHMIDT
MR & MRS NICK SCOURLETOS
MR GEORGE SEFER
MR ROBERT SEFER
MR & MRS GEORGE SIOMOS
MR & MRS KOSTA SKOULIKARI
MRS POPE SKOULIKARI
MR & MRS KOSTAS SKOULIKAS
MS IRENE SKUTERIS
MRS VIOLET SKUTERIS
MR & MRS NICK SPYRIDAKOS
DR & MRS BASIL SPYROPOULOS
MR & MRS PETER SPYROPOULOS
DR STAVROULA SPYROPOULOS
MS ALYSSA STADT & DR KEITH GUZAITIS
MRS LILLIAN STAMAS
MR & MRS ERNEST STAVROPOULOS
MS JOANN STAVROPOULOS
MR & MRS PAUL STAVROPOULOS
MR & MRS JOHN STEC
MRS ROSE MARIE STEWART
MRS JANICE STRATIS
MS JOANNE STRATTON
MR & MRS DEMETRIOS STRAVOLEM AKOS
MR & MRS MATHIEU SUSSMAN
MR & MRS PETER SUTTERLIN
MR & MRS GEORGE SYREGELAS
MRS MARY T SZCZESNIAK
MR & MRS JOHN SZUBERT
MRS SEVASTI TAGARIS
DR CHRISTOS TAKOUDIS & DR MARIA FOUSTALIERAKI
MRS MARINA TAYLOR
MS ANASTASIA TEROVOLAS
MISS CRYSTELLA TEROVOLAS
MRS KATHERINE TEROVOLAS
DRS. NICK & ELAINE THOMOPOULOS
MR AND MRS MICHAEL TIERNEY
MR & MRS YANNI TOLE
MR & MRS ANGELO TOLIOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER D TORCHIA
MRS APHRODITE TRAGOS
MR JOHN TRAHANAS
MR GEORGE TRAMBAS
MRS BESSIE TRIHAS
MR & MRS STEVEN TRUNCALE
MR & MRS VASILIOS TSAGANOS
MR & MRS JAMES TSIOLIS
MR & MRS TODD J TSIOLIS
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS TSIRIBAS
MS ANNA TSIRONIS
MRS VASILIKI TSIRONIS
MRS KATHERINE TZOUNIS
MRS ARITA VALESSARES
MR & MRS PETER VALESSARES
MR & MRS JOHN VASSILIADES
MR & MRS LUCAS J VASSILIADES
MRS JAYNE VELIS
MR & MRS DINO VERROS
MRS STAMATA VERVENIOTIS
MR & MRS ALEX VICKAS
MR & MRS PETER VLAGOS
MR ANDREW VLAHOPoulos & MRS MIMOZA BAHOLLI
MR & MRS CONSTANTINE P Vlahos
MR & MRS GEORGE VLAHOS
MR & MRS PETER J VLAHOS
MR & MS THOMAS VOLLMAN
MRS MARIA VOULGARAKIS
MR & MRS PETER VOULGARAKIS
MR & MRS BILL J VRANAS
MR JASON VRANAS
MR STEVEN WEIGAND
MR & MRS THOMAS WHITE
MRS CAROL WONAIS
MR & MRS JACK WOODS
MS MARY ELLEN WOODS
MR WILLIAM WOODS
MR & MRS JIM XIARHOS
MRS MARIKA XINOS
MR & MRS CONSTANTINE YANNI
MRS ELAINE YANNI
MS TRACY YANNI
MR & MRS JOHN ZENDOL
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS ZOGRAFOS
MR & MRS IOANNIS E ZOGRAFOS
MR & MRS PETER ZOURAS
40 DAY BABY BLESSING
• Daughter of Brittany Ferguson and James Allgood was Churched

BAPTISMS
• Daughter of Lou Papanicolaou and Kanela Arianas was Baptized, taking the Sophia.
  **Godparents:** Kosta and Mary Savakis
• Daughter of Katherine and Mitchel Celik was Baptized, taking the name, Stavroula.
  **Godparent:** Francis Fatta
• Son of Andrea and Michael Tierney was Baptized, taking the name, Ioannis (Jack).
  **Godparents:** Robert Sefer and Whitney Carroll

WEDDINGS
• Stephanie Lynne Poulos and Theodore Basil Hadjis were joined in Holy Matrimony
  **Sponsor:** Peter Houston Hadjis
• Christina Incisi and Peter Andrianakos were joined in Holy Matrimony
  **Sponsors:** Telly Panousis and Jenny Skourletos
• Steven Truncale and Kristin Sherrick were joined in Holy Matrimony
  **Sponsor:** George Demarkis

ARTOCLASIA
The Artoclasia was offered for the Health and Welfare of Brotherhood of Kerasea.

The Artoclasia was offered for the Health and Welfare of John Floros and Family.

FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD
+ Gus (Constantinos) Goufas + George Paterakis
+ Jennie (Yanoula) Bounardj + Janice Georgandas

MEMORIALS

40 Days:
Betty (Panagiota) Benakis
Angelo (Evangelos) Terovolas
Georgia Argyris
Leon Marinakos
Jennie (Yanoula) Bounardj

5 Years:
Aggelike Nicholas
Nikolaos Rodinos

9 Years:
Panagiotis Papagiannis

10 Years:
Angeli Gi Rodinos

22 Years:
Ioannis Bolos

23 Years:
Panagiotis Bolos

24 Years:
Vasiliki Bolos

3 Years:
Demetra G. Karahalios
Parthena Blathras
Fourth, 2014
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Dates to Remember:

October 12, 19
Philoptochos/Sunday Church School “Fleece Throws” Benefit

October 18th
Harvest Night

October 30th
Annual Grand Raffle and Dinner

November 2nd
Ladies Philoptochos Membership Drive/Coffee Fellowship

November 6th
Assumption Grand Raffle and Dinner
Fountain Blue Banquets, Des Plaines.

November 8th
Youth Outing, Bowling Event

November 24th
Great Vespers for the Feast of Saint Catherine the Great Martyr

November 25th
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy for Feast of Saint Catherine the Great Martyr

December 6th
Annual Decorate the Hall and Christmas Tree Event