STEWARDSHIP 2018: GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Very Reverend. Timothy G. Bakakos

We join with many other Churches as we soon bring this year to a close and very shortly usher in the New Year 2018. And it is the tradition in most Churches to ask their stewards (members) to pray, contemplate, and give honest thought to how each member of God’s Church will commit a portion of his/her gift to the Church in the coming year. It is what we call that ever-familiar theme of ‘Stewardship.’

As we all would probably agree, the crucifixion of Jesus is surely the most moving drama of history. When Jesus was brought to Golgotha and hung upon the Cross, you might remember that they offered Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink. Now while this mixture was not the greatest in taste, this drink could have quenched His thirst and even deadened His pain somewhat. But what did Jesus do? He would not take it. In this little detail of His life, we see that Jesus remained true to form. He would take no short cuts, not even a little wine. In order to prove His love for us, He accepted the full burden of suffering and pain, so that none of us would doubt Him. In other words, Jesus went the extra mile, and He taught us to do the same.

In another example, as told in Saint Luke’s Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan. Those of us who have heard this story and are familiar with it, about this compassionate stranger who ministered to the victim of a brutal robbery. Not only did he pour oil and wine on his wounds, he then transported him to an inn, promising the innkeeper to cover all his expenses.

We see in these two examples, that both in word and in deed, Jesus taught us the true meaning of Stewardship. When it comes to our Christian Faith, we are also called to follow the lead of Jesus, and that there is to be no holding back. We are asked to go the extra mile, and to give sincere consideration as to how we are to give for the work of Christ and His Church.

So, how you may ask, does this equate to Stewardship and giving to the Church? We tend to make stewardship such a confusing concept. We are always asking, “How much should I give?” Why should I give?” “How are we to give?” Our giving to God, His Ministry, and His Church, should only be predicated on how we have been blessed and what we can give back, in some way, to our Creator, from where all blessings and gifts come from. Nothing should overshadow that.

Stewardship is nothing more than our response to all which God has given us. Someone said one Sunday during the collection, “Here we go again! There’s always a second or third plate.” And you know what? That person was right in one way and wrong in another. There is supposed to be not ‘one’ plate, but ‘two!’ One is ours, the offering plate that is passed every Sunday. The other is God’s, and that is the Paten, the plate that carries the bread that mystically is transformed into the Precious Body of our Lord during the Divine Liturgy. God gives first! He gives us our body, our mind, our life, our health, and our talents. On the Paten, the plate of God’s mercy, He gives us Himself as the Bread of Life, the manna from heaven, as it is referred to in the Bible. He gives us forgiveness, strength, and courage. He gives us victory over sin and death, and He gives us eternal life. In Saint Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians, he writes, “In Jesus Christ, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished upon us.” In other words, God gives. That is the meaning of the first plate, the Paten.

The second plate that is passed to us every Sunday is the offering plate. It represents our response to the first plate that I referred to above. We are invited to give ‘unconditionally’ in gratitude for God’s generosity, for His never-ending forgiveness and mercy. The emptiness of the offering plate represents the aching needs of the world, needs that are waiting to be filled,
huners that are both physical AND spiritual, which we are each called to help remedy through our giving and sharing as members and stewards of this beloved Parish. That is the meaning of the offering plate that the Parish Council member holds out toward the first pew each Sunday, extending it so that you may give unselfishly, without condition, and with gratitude to God for His many blessings that you enjoy. As the Psalm of the Old Testament reminds us, “The rich go poor and hungry, but they who seek the Lord never lack for any good thing.” So, we should remember that yes, we give, but it is Jesus Who gives first. And however much we give, it will never be more than just a fraction of what we receive in return. So, in response to that man who complained that “there is always a plate when I come to Church!,” let us respond by saying, yes, there is a plate, but not one, but rather, two…..first God’s, then ours.

Finally, I would like to end this article with a story. In a city on the east coast a several years ago, there was a campaign for the erection of a hospital. A high-powered financial wizard was called in to conduct the fundraising aspect of it. He concluded his pep talk to the solicitors who were going out to raise the money with these words: “Never, but never, suggest to anyone a minimum contribution, because the minimum has a funny way of turning into the maximum.” And that’s so true, because there are so many of us who live by that minimum. They measure out their minds and hearts to others with a medicine dropper. Their manner seems to say, “I guess it will be enough to give you just one drop.” To another person they say, “Ah, you are bit more important, I will give you two drops.” Life, unfortunately, is lived by the minimum.

But in Jesus, we find the exact opposite. He lived by the maximum. His love for us led Him to give His life for us. He did not measure out with a medicine dropper the drops of blood He shed for us on the Cross. But rather, He gave Himself willingly and totally in order that we may have life, the life of God. In the Bible, we read where when a woman broke an expensive jar of perfume and poured it on Jesus’ feet, Judas criticized her for wasting all that money. But Jesus praised her. Why? Because hers was a “maximum” gift.

Today, as stewards and caretakers, we are asked to give our blood for the work of the Church. The body of Jesus Christ needs a transfusion of love from, not just a few, but from each of us to continue its mission in the world. This means maximum giving, not from your surplus or ‘fun money’ as some call it, but proportionate to what you have been blessed with. And, as we have said over and over, this does not mean simply money, it means also the giving of our time, our talents, and our service to others and to God. A check mailed to the Church every so often is meaningless if it is not accompanied by our presence, by our willingness to serve in the name of Jesus Christ, by our prayers, and by our commitment. Giving is not a substitute for our commitment, but rather, an expression of it.

Today, our Lord, speaking through His Church, is asking us to go the extra mile. So, let us respond to this great challenge. Let us pour oil and wine on the wounds of our people, people like ourselves who need Christ and the Sacraments. Let us lift up the Body of Christ to it’s proper place in our hearts and minds and work as Jesus wants us to for His Church, with total submission to Him. Let us also be as attentive to His Church and Ministry as the Good Samaritan was to the man who was robbed and left him for dead, and whatever more we have to spend, let us, like that Good Samaritan, say “Lord, I will repay You when I come back.” Can our response be any LESS when we stop and take note and remember what Jesus’ love did for us? Today is the day to show our loyalty to Christ. Today is the day we must decide to go the extra mile. And that is realized through our stewardship of our time, our talent, and yes, our gifts of money. + Amen
Pledging Toward the New Year

*By James G. Lakerdas*

*Parish Council President*

“where your treasure is there will your heart be also……”

*Mathew 6:21*

This is the time of the year when our Church asks our Stewards to make a Pledge. We hope to glean pledges toward the operating budget for the coming year, so the Parish Council may be better prepared to commit to salaries, building maintenance, and programs. We also hope to encourage one another to remember the abundance with which we have been blessed by God, and to give freely from that abundance.

We say we ‘give back’ to God what God has given to us. I understand that it is sometimes hard to see how ‘giving to the Church is giving to God’, for too often it seems more like giving to staff salaries and to building maintenance. Soon you will hear from various individuals regarding our Stewardship push, and you will hear that Stewardship involves a lot more than money. And they are all right, it is about “all that we have, all we do, and all the time we have.” But our Pledges actually have little to do with Stewardship; rather it has more to do with a commitment. By pledging to a particular organization, we are making a promise to support that organization.

Our Assumption Church is self-supporting. Salaries, ministries, and building maintenance all are paid from pledges and other financial gifts. It costs a lot to support our community, carrying on our ministry, and care for our large and aging buildings. Our Church is not a charitable organization in the ordinary sense. It is most importantly our spiritual home. And with Panagia being our spiritual home and refuge, we need to know that each of us is responsible for its maintenance and upkeep. Therefore, we are asked to give our fair share, and don’t take a free ride. We give because we belong to each other, and we all collectively make up the ‘Body of Jesus Christ.’

Please know our financial decisions are made after careful deliberation during Parish Council meetings, as we explore priorities for the use of our financial gifts and resources. Your pledge helps us make these decisions for all of us and our future. Each year our books are audited. Financial records are made available for the scrutiny of our stewards. And we continue to work conscientiously to balance our budget, care for our property, support our ministries, and plan for the future. This year when you receive your pledge card, consider the abundance that you have received, and let that guide you to consider how strong your commitment is to our Assumption Church. May God bless you and your families.

**ATTENTION: PLEASE NOTE!**

Please note that beginning with our next issue in 2018, our Parish will no longer send the Assumption Newsletter via ‘hard mail’ to stewards. Instead, the Newsletter will exclusively be sent via e-mail, which will not only be much more efficient and quicker, but also will realize a valuable cost savings that will benefit our Parish. If you have not as yet given us your email address, please provide it to the Church Office and we will gladly add you to the e-mail list.

For those individuals/families who do not have e-mail access, a hard copy will be available at the Church Pangari when you attend worship services at Church.

The Parish Council is making every effort to more effectively manage the Church funds, and with your cooperation, we will continue to make progress that is most beneficial for our community. Thank you!
Stewardship: The Lifeline to Supporting Christ’s Church and Ministry!

By Dr. Voula Spyropoulos and Mary Zouras

Thanksgiving is a joyous holiday to celebrate all our blessings of life. And as such, it is a great day to begin the wonderful holiday season full of traditions based on faith, family and gratitude to God! But with the joy of the holidays, sometimes comes anxiety. Rushing to get every aspect of our lives “just perfect” causes stress at a time when love, faith, and peace should fill our hearts.

Our faith gives us the opportunity to stay clear of anxiety and focus on gratitude. Saint Paul states “have no anxieties about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” -Philippians 4:6. So how can we achieve this in a modern world full of distractions and stressors? Our faith teaches us to be aware of blessings and to live a life of faith, love and thanksgiving. This is essence if Stewardship: giving thanks to God for all the gifts He has given us by doing good works for His glory.

Our Panagia Parish is grateful for our many ministries that give us the opportunity to show our gratitude. We began 2017 with growing in our faith through retreat. We journeyed through Great Lent growing through worship. Our Sunday Church School led the way in helping us help others through “40 Charities in 40 days”. And as you may have noticed and heard, our community began outreach to the Austin Community by serving meals on the first Saturday of each month. Our ministries are thankful for every gift we have been given, and it is through the love and generosity and support of our stewards that allow us to spread the Word of Christ through all good acts.

But we will not rest on these laurels. In the year ahead, our Assumption Community is looking forward to growing in our faith and in good works throughout 2018 and always. Though challenges may arise in our daily lives, God will guide us through each and every challenge. Thanksgiving and stewardship to our Lord will keep us focused. On behalf of our Clergy and Parish Council, we thank you for your dedication, and respectfully aske that we collectively please continue our hard work to serve in the many ministries this Parish offers. If you have any suggestions in how we can grow in our ministries, please join us to use your talents and gifts to glorify God.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

We are in the Loop!

We are delighted to announce that we will now be part of a growing number of places with a hearing loop!

Our new system has been designed to cover all seating areas of both Assumption and St. Catherine sanctuaries and will allow any hearing aid equipped with a telecoil to listen directly to our PA system. This results in very clear sound to the hearing aid and makes speech very easy to understand.

If you don’t use a hearing aid, receivers are available to check out at the Pangari or you can purchase your own at Assistive Hearing Systems, LLC at 855-566-7488 or mthunder@loopit8.com.

Many hearing aids already have a t-coil (also called a telephone coil, telcoil or audio coil) installed and simply need to be activated by your hearing care professional. To make use of the system, just ask your hearing care professional a few questions:

- Do my hearing aids have a t-coil?
- If yes, can you please activate it? If no, do my hearing aids have a compatible streaming device to connect to the loop?
- Please show me how to put my hearing aids into “t-coil mode.”
Philoptochos News...

As Busy as Ever

By Valerie Green, Philoptochos President

It seems so long ago that a dedicated team of volunteers baked 1,496 Lenten Melomakarona for the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Feast Days of our church, on August 14th and 15th. We hosted fellowships on the evening of Vespers and on the Feast Day, serving approximately 250 guests at each. We are especially grateful to Demetra and Connie Andrews for underwriting the Feast Day meal. Thank you very much for your love, generosity and loyal support for our beloved Panagia!

This fall the IOCC sent a communication seeking donations for school supplies to help the children in Greece prepare for the school year. Our community initiated a well-organized, methodical approach for gathering the school supplies requested by the IOCC. Sixty canvas bags were filled and sent to the IOCC warehouse for shipping to Greece. Our thanks to all who donated supplies, filled bags and organized this effort. Special thanks to Christina Arvanites. Her contagious enthusiasm and willingness to help and engage the children is a beacon for all of us!

On Sunday, November 5th we commemorate the Philoptochos Patron Saints Cosmas and Damianos with a memorial for deceased Philoptochos members, an Artoclasia, and 2018 membership kickoff drive. A collection tray will be passed to benefit the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s philanthropic programs and will be added to our chapter’s donation. Sincerest thanks to Lillian Stamas and Fran Riha who annually welcome us and host the fellowship coffee hour. Also in November, the Vespers and Feast Day will be observed on Friday and Saturday, November 24th and 25th. Warmest thanks to Francine Kott, our gracious hostess again this year for the St. Catherine fellowships.

Please mark your calendar for the annual Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon and Sing-a-Long on Saturday, December 2nd, 11:30 am, Greek Islands Restaurant, Lombard. Please contact Vi Skuteris (312.659.1064) for reservations at $35 per person.

Join us on Tuesday, December 12th, 9:30 a.m. for our annual Feed the Hungry event at Annunciation Cathedral. It’s a heartwarming experience! Last but not least, we will be baking on Saturday, December 16th in Plato Hall for the Christmas Bake Sale on Sunday, December 17th. Home baked goods are welcome 16th and morning of the bake sale.

The kick-off of the Second Annual One Warm Coat Drive is off to a flying start! Coats are already overflowing the boxes! Last year, we collected 200 coats and hope to break that record this year. Clean, pre-loved men’s, women’s and particularly children’s coats are appreciated. Collection boxes are located in the Narthex of St. Catherine’s Chapel. One Warm Coat is a national non-profit organization that works to provide a free warm coat to any person in need.

We are pleased to announce a new fundraiser—PopSockets! You may be asking, “What’s that?!” It’s a nifty little round attachment for the back of your cell phone, allowing for easier hands-on and extends for hands-free propping. We have two beautiful designs—a Greek flag, with a modern twist and a lovely Byzantine cross. At $12 each, they make a great gift! Please contact Melia Linardos at 630.660.4643 or see any Philoptochos Board Member.

Very best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

Have you ever wondered who takes care of the planters outside the front of the church?

Assumption’s very own RoseMarie Stewart takes care of this task, and keeps the planters looking healthy and beautiful.

Many thanks to RoseMarie for maintaining the plants and for ALL she does for Assumption Church.
Magi or Herod?  
**Our Response to the Coming of Christ**  
*By Fr. Dimitri Burikas*

I like to think of the Christmas season as if it were a heavy wool sweater – warm and fuzzy. During this time of year, no matter where we turn to look we are flooded with messages of peace, joy, and love and many other things that elicit pleasant emotional reactions. Families and friends gather and exchange gifts, delicious meals are prepared, Christmas carols are sung, people generously offer from their own means to help those less fortunate. It’s the one time of year when the warm-and-fuzzies are present so explicitly in our society.

In our Church, of course, those sentiments are also present. We celebrate the birth of Christ and the coming of the God-man as an event that changes human history forever: man is reunited to God and can once again dream of and work for the Kingdom of Heaven. Sins are forgiven; grace is given in its place. Angels sing and shepherds worship. The magi come from far-off lands to bring gifts to the newborn king.

We, Christians living in the 21st century, are also called to take part in the celebration, not only by eating and signing and gift-giving but by opening our hearts to Christ that He may be born within us. Just as the Virgin carries and gives birth to Christ into the world, so we have the opportunity to carry Christ and have Him with us in our hearts. Just as the birth of Christ changes human history, so too will Christ’s birth within our hearts transform us with the purpose of uniting us to the divine. When we experience God’s blessings in such a personal and meaningful way, our hearts cry out to glorify Him!

But for all the warm-and-fuzzies that surround us during the Christmas season, the Church reminds us also of another reality. In the Scriptures, we read that after the birth of Christ, the Roman king Herod sends the magi (wise men) to Bethlehem to find the Christ child and bring word to him so that he also can go and worship. The wise men were warned that Herod had ulterior motives and never returned to Herod. Enraged, Herod orders that all male children in the area be slaughtered with the goal of finding the so-called “newborn king”. In all, Herod kills 14,000 children, known in our Church as the Holy Innocents.

We see in this episode a different reaction to the coming of Christ. Instead of peace, love and joy, Herod was filled with violence, hatred, and anger. Because of this, Joseph and Mary hide baby Jesus in Egypt until Herod is dead, and even then move to Nazareth (which did not have a great reputation at the time) to stay hidden.

The violence against Christ and His followers did not end there, as we know. Due to His teachings and miracles, Christ Himself was arrested and crucified. After His Resurrection, His Apostles are persecuted and martyred (except for St. John the Theologian, who survived being poisoned before being exiled and dying in old age). For almost three centuries, Christians at large are hunted down and killed. Even in modern times, millions of Christians were killed in the communist Soviet Union (in the 20th century!), and Muslim extremists in the Middle East target Christian churches and gatherings quite often.

Why does Jesus Christ procure such a negative and often times violent response? Christ came into the world and taught a new way of doing things, a new way of life. He taught to show love to our enemies. He taught mercy instead of justice. He taught us to follow God by not only following His rules but by loving Him in our hearts, by sacrificing ourselves for Him. He taught us that He was the Son of God, and that if we follow Him we can have eternal life.

This worldview challenges in many ways the comfortable world we live in. It’s much easier to ignore a person you disagree with or call someone a bigot through social media than it is to show them love. It is much easier to breed anger in our hearts towards someone who has wronged us than it is to forgive. It is much easier to buy and collect material things for our own pleasure than it is to give to the point where we are in pain.

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Youth Ministry...
It is much easier to worship God on Sunday mornings only than it is to love Him with our whole life.

The challenge of authentic Christianity pushes us to uncomfortable places; thus, the negative reaction of the world. But where we can’t get trapped is in thinking that we accept Christ and His Gospel when really we are rejecting Him in our hearts. This type of negative reaction is much more subtle than 20 centuries of bloodshed, but it is even more devastating.

The Christmas season, then, is the perfect time for self-reflection and investigation. Am I following Christ to the best of my abilities? Do I honor Him above all else in my life? Do I follow His commandments? Do I love my fellow humans as I love myself? Do I repent when I fall into sin? Or do put on the disguise of a Christian and reject His way in my heart? Am I one of the magi, or am I following in Herod’s footsteps?

Not only is Christmas a great time for self-investigation but it is also a time to be inspired and reenergized for the long hard grind of the Christian life. Even though Christ and His Church has been persecuted from its very beginning, it has survived and thrive. The message of God’s goodness and love towards us has spread throughout the entire world. God still gives us the ability to approach Him and get to know Him, to love Him and become one with Him. After all, this was the whole point of Christmas in the first place!

I pray that God bless all of you throughout this Christmas fast and festal period with self-knowledge, repentance, and enlightenment to help us on our road to the Kingdom.

Sunday School News...

Outreach Ministry

By Christina Arvanites

Thanksgiving was never meant to be celebrated on a single day and certainly at our parish of Assumption it has never been just one day. Real thanksgiving is found in expressing our thankfulness for the multitude of blessings that have bestowed upon us and showing our Lord we are thankful for those blessings. For those of us at Assumption it is a way of life. We may show our thankfulness by attending Divine Liturgy and living obedient Christ-centered lives. We may also show our thankfulness to God by responding to His call to service. We give our time, talent and treasure for the sacred work of His kingdom and for the needs of others. "But prove yourselves doers of the word and not just hearers who delude themselves" (James 1:22). There are a multitude of opportunities to be “doers” at Assumption, particularly in the area of outreach.

The newest addition of our Outreach efforts is our monthly Austin Community Fellowship meal. This program began in May 2017; it provides a hot meal to residents and the homeless of the Austin area. Since May we have served over 600 meals with the help of countless volunteers to include the parishioners of St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, which is the church we have partnered with. On the first Saturday of the month a meal is planned, prepared, and served. But more important than filling our guests’ stomachs is the fact that we are filling their hearts with compassion, love, and kindness. As Archbishop Demetrios said in one of his Thanksgiving encyclicals “Words of gratitude can bring joy and fulfillment into the life of another person. Kindness and respect through acts of thankfulness can affirm human value and dignity and instill hope that care and compassion remain essential qualities of life. An attitude of thanksgiving even in the midst of challenging circumstances can be the strength for another and a witness of the power and grace of God. This is a vital connection of faith to life”

As we head into the joyous holiday season our church will have a multitude of opportunities to for you offer time and treasures in serving others, including the Loretto Toy Drive, the Food drive, and as mentioned the monthly meal; just to name a few.

We should be thankful that Assumption Church gives us these and many other opportunities to glorify His name in thanksgiving of all our blessings.
2017 Stewardship Members

MR STEVE AGOS
MS MARICELA AGUIRRE
MR JOHN ALEXANDER
MR ORESTIS O ALEXOPOULOS
MR SARANTIS ALEXOPOULOS
MRS GEORGIA ANALITIS
MS HARA G ANAST
MS CONSTANCE ANDREWS
MS DEMETRA ANDREWS
MRS GEORGIA APOSTOL
MR & MRS STEVE APOSTOLOU
MRS FRIEDA ARAVOSIS
MS CAROL ARGYRAKIS
MS ASHLEY ARNOLD
MRS DIANE ARNOLD
MR DREW ARNOLD & MRS STEPHANIE ARNOLD-PULLOS
MR & MRS GEORGE ARVANITES
FATHER TIMOTHY G. BAKAKOS
MR & MRS JOHN BAKALIS
DR & MRS MICHAEL BAKALIS
MR JOHN BAKOSH
MR & MRS DEAN BASTOUNES
MR & MRS JAMES BECKER
MR & MRS DEMITRIOS BEJANIS
MR & MRS JOHN W BELTRAMO
MR & MRS GEORGE BERBAS
MRS KATHERINE BIANUCCI
MR & MRS BRIAN BIRKLAND
MR & MRS WILLIAM BLATHRAS
MRS SUSAN BOARDEN
MR THEODORE BOKIOS
MR & MRS MICHAEL BORKOWSKI
MR & MRS. MICHAEL H BORNHORST
MR JAMES S BOUNARDJ
FATHER & PRESVYTERA DIMITRIOS BURIKAS

MR & MRS GARY CALLAHAN
MRS VALERIE CAPPER
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER CAPRIO
MR & MRS DAN CARAS
MRS CATHERINE CAPTCHORES
MR & MRS MITCHELL CELIK
MS ANNA KANDELPOULOS CHAVEZ
DR & MRS NICHOLAS CHIPAIN
MR WILLIAM CHOPORIS
MR & MRS JASON CHRISTOPOULOS
MR LEON CHRISTOPOULOS
MR & MRS MICHAEL CHRISTOPOULOS
MR & MRS CHRIS J CHULOS
MRS HELEN COLLIS
MR THOMAS COLLIS
MR & MRS FRANK COLUMBUS
MR & MRS JAMES COLUMBUS
MR PAUL CUTSUVITIS
DR & MRS WILLIAM P DAGIANTIS
MS ANASTASIA DAMOLARIS
MS MARTHA DAMOLARIS
MR & MRS JAMES DARRAS
MR THOMAS P. DARRUS
MR BILL J DELIGIANNIS
MR & MRS CONSTANTINE DELIS
MR & MRS BILL DEMAKIS
MRS ELENA DEMITROPOULOS
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS G DEMOS
MRS KRESTINA DEMOS
MR & MRS THOMAS DEMOS
MR GEORGE DERVIS
MR & MRS DAVID DIEHL
MR & MRS EMMANUEL DIMITRAKOPOULOS
MS KATHERINE DOUKAS
MS BASILLE EFANTIS
MR EDWARD EKMAN
MRS TULA ELLIS
MS CATHERINE C FERGUSON
MRS MARY FOTOPoulos
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER GANAS
MR & MRS ANTHONY GARBIS
MR & MRS JERRY GARBIS
MRS SHIRLEY GATZIOLIS
MS CHRISTINE C GEANON
MRS JUNE STAMOS GECAN
MR JAMES T GEORGALAS, SR
MR & MRS NICOLAOS GEORGIANTHIS
MR & MRS THEODORE GEORGOPOULOS
MRS IRENE GERAKARIS
MR NICK GERAKARIS
MRS TOULA GIANAKOPoulos
MRS CHRISTINE GIANNOULIS
MRS IRENE J GIARDINA
MR & MRS JOSEPH GIARDINA
MS ALEXANDRA GILROY
MS ANDRIANA GILROY
MR P Gerasimos GILROY
DR & MRS PHILIP GILROY, JR
MRS MARIA GLOTSOS
DR & MRS CONSTANTINE GODELLAS
MS MIA GODELLAS
MR JOHN GRITSONIS
MRS HELEN GROM
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER HANSON
MR CHRISTOPHER HARTZ & MS ANGELINA SPALEVIC
MR & MRS JAMES HARTZ
MR & MRS KEN HEUMANN
MR & MRS PETER IATRIDES
MRS BARBARA JAVARAS
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2017 Stewardship Members

MRS GEORGIA PETREE          MS CHRISTINE SEDARES   MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER D TORCHIA
MS ANN PILAFAS               MRS CONNIE SEDARES    MRS APHRODITE TRAGOS
MS NANCY K PILAFAS           MR GEORGE SEFER       MR JOHN E TRAHANAS
MRS TOULA PITSIS             MR CHRIS SELIMOS       MR GEORGE TRAMBAS
MRS HELEN PLEVIRITIS         MR & MRS NICHOLAS SENESE MR & MRS VASILIOS TSAGANOS
MR STEPHEN POCINA            MR & MRS ANDREAS SKOUBIS MR & MRS JOHN G. TSIGOLIS
MRS ELAINE PONTIKIS          MR & MRS KOSTA SKOULIKARIS MR & MRS JAMES TSIOLIS
MRS SOPHIE PONTIKIS          MRS POPE SKOULIKARIS   MR & MRS DIMITRIOS TSIRIBAS
DR & MRS GAREY POTAMIANOS    MS IRENE SKUTERIS       MS ANNA G TSIRONIS
MR ANTHONY POTOGLOU          MRS VIOLET G SKUTERIS  MR & MRS PETER VALESSARES
MS ANNA Poulos               MRS ATHENA J SOULIDES  MR GERASIMOS VASILATOS
MRS NIKI Poulos              MR & MRS HARRY SOUMAKIS  MR & MRS JOHN VASSILIADES
MR & MRS THOMAS J Poulos     MR PETER SPEAR         MR & MRS BRIAN VESCI
MR YANNI PRANTALOS           MR GEORGE SPIRRISON    MRS PHYLLIS VICKAS
MS GEORGIA A PSICHOGIOS     MR & MRS NICK SPIRYDAKOS MR & MRS PETER VLagos
DR ALISSA PULLOS            DR & MRS BASIL SPYROPOULOS MR & MRS CONSTANTINE P VLahos
DR & MRS SPENCER PULLOS     MR & MRS PETER SPYROPOULOS MR & MRS GEORGE VLahos
MS KEKE RAFTELIAS            DR STAVROULA SPYROPOULOS MRS MARIANTHE VLahos
MS MARY RAFTELIAS            MS JOANN STAVROPOULOS  MR & MRS PETER J VLahos
MRS HELEN RAPTIS             MR & MRS PAUL N STAVROPOULOS MR & MRS GUS VLAMIS
MR ALEXANDER RASSOGIANIS    MR & MRS JOHN STEC       MR & MS THOMAS VOLLMAN
MR & MRS ANTHONY REBAPIS     MRS ROSE MARIE STEWART  MS KIMBERLY VOULGARAKIS
MR & MRS JAMES A REGAS       MRS JANICE STRATIS     MRS MARIA VOULGARAKIS
MR PETER L REGAS             MS JOANNE STRATTON     MR & MRS PETER VOULGARAKIS
MRS FRANCES RIHA             MR & MRS PETER SUTTERLIN MS FRANCES WAHBY
MR & MRS RAYMOND R RIHA, JR  MR & MRS JOHN SZUBERT     MR NICHOLAS WHITE
MR & MRS CARLOS RODRIGUEZ   DR TAKOUDIS & DR FOUSTALIERAKI MR JEFFREY WILLIAMS & MS ERICA SPEAR
MR AND MRS PETER ROMAS       MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR MS MARY ELLEN WOODS
MRS IRENE ROMBAKIS           MS ANASTASIA TEROVOLAS  MRS MARIKA XINOS
MR & MRS SOSTI ROPAITIS     MISS CRYSTELLA TEROVOLAS   MR & MRS CONSTANTINE YANNIAS
MR & MRS EVANGELOS ROZOS    MR & MRS PETER TESTA      MS DONNA YANNIAS
MR & MRS KEN RUBENSTEIN     MR & MRS FOTIS THEODORE   MRS ELAINE YANNIAS
MR & MRS DEAN G SARANTOS    DRS. NICK & ELAINE THOMOPoulos MS TRACY YANNIAS
MRS VASILIKI SAVOPOULOS     MR AND MRS MICHAEL TIERNEY MR & MRS IOANNIS E ZOGRAFOS
MS MARIA SCHMIDT            MR & MRS YANNI TOLE       MR & MRS PETER ZOURAS

**BAPHTISMS:**

- The son of Father Dimitrios and Presvytera Danielle Burikis was Baptized, taking the name, *Panagiotis*  
  **Godparents:** Father Stamatios and Presvytera Katerina Sfikas

- The son of Dean Arnold and Stephanie Arnold-Pullos was Baptized, taking the name, *Sam (Sotirios)*  
  **Godparent:** Dr. Alissa Pullos

- The son of Gus and Helen Vlamis was Baptized, taking the name *George*  
  **Godparents:** Peter and Kiriaki Stavrakis

**ARTOCLASIA:**

- Artoclasia is offered for the Health and Welfare of the Floros and Stavropoulos Families.

**FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD**

+ Christopher Simms  
+ Hazel Marie Koules  
+ Evangelia Morzel

**MEMORIALS**

**40 Days:**
Ray Riha  
Bessie Gangas  
Christopher Simms

**6 Months:**
Rev. Fr. George Massouras

**1 Year:**
Spyros Kokolis  
Diana Dionesotes  
Danny Spiropoulos  
Penelope L. Lageotakis

**2 Years:**
Stefan Wiseman  
Bessie (Vasiliki) Trihas

**3 Years:**
Mary Clara Livaditis

**5 Years:**
Kay (Kiriaki) Politis  
George Strike  
Anastasios Analitis  
Chris P. Lageotakis

**7 Years:**
Peter (Panayioti) Ganios  
Fotini Mansour

**9 Years:**
Christ Kameros

**10 Years:**
JoAnn (Yanoula) Ganios

**18 Years:**
Peter John Livaditis  
George Collis
Fourth Issue, 2017
Newsletter Contents

Fr. Timothy’s Message…………….1-2
Parish Council President…………….3
Stewardship News…………………..4
Philoptochos News………………….5
Youth Ministry……………………..6
Sunday School News……………….7
Stewardship………………………..8-10
Parish Registry……………………..11

Dates to Remember:

November 23rd
Thanksgiving Dinner for Neighborhood Community
Plato Hal, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

November 24th
Great Vespers of St. Catherine
St. Catherine Chapel, 7:00 p.m.

November 25th
Feast of St. Catherine
Orthros/Div. Lit., 8:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.

November 30th
Feast of Saint Andrew
Orthros/Div. Lit., 8:30 a.m. / 9:30 a.m.

December 2nd
Annual Philoptochos Christmas Party
Greek Islands/Lombard, 11:30 a.m.

December 4th
Adult Bible Study
St. Catherine Meeting Room, 7:00 p.m.

December 9th
First Annual “Share the Light Tree Lighting”
Annual “Decorate The Hall”
Plato Hall, 5:00 p.m

December 17th
Annual SCS Christmas Pageant, Following Worship Services

December 24th
Christmas Eve Great Vespers, 5:00 p.m.

December 25th
Christmas Day Orthros/Divine Liturgy, 5:00 p.m.