STEWARDSHIP SERMON FOR 2019: A PENNY FOR GOD

Very Rev. Timothy G. Bakakos

In our Bible, there is a story about a woman who had very little material wealth. This story appears in the Gospel of Saint Mark, and Saint Mark refers to her as “a poor widow.” Think for a moment how difficult it is today for poor widows to make a go of it, and we can appreciate and imagine just how difficult it was back in that day and time for widows to survive. Certainly almost all women were full-time homemakers. There were no other options. Many people, particularly men, died while they were still very young. Suppose your husband, whom you depend upon for financial support, dies at an early age. Besides the burden of grief, how would you put food on the table? There was no way a respectable woman could survive unless she came from a family that could help take responsibility for her. That is why we read in the Old Testament (Deut. 25) about laws that instruct a man to take his brother’s widow and marry her. These scriptures reflect a duel concern for perpetuating the family line and taking care of family members with no other means of support. This is also why we hear, so often, mention made by Christ about the need to take care of widows, placing it as a priority for the Early Church and among the Apostles as they established the early Christian communities.

With this being said, it is only natural to understand how this caught Jesus’ eye one day as He sat in the Temple observing the people as they entered and making their offering to the Synagogue. On this particular day, Jesus saw a poor woman putting two small copper coins into the Temple treasury. These coins, by today’s standards, amounted to only about a penny, but for someone in her situation, they might as well have been a million dollars. When your very existence is at stake, any gift is a sacrificial gift. That’s why we hear Jesus say to His disciples in this passage in the Gospel of Saint Mark, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance (their excess); but she has given even though she is in poverty, and has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

If we understand the message of Jesus, that should strike right to each of our hearts! Most of us, if we are really honest and will admit it, do not really know anything about real sacrifice because we all have been blessed to some degree. There are surveys and statistics out there that analyze and evaluate our giving. There are even statistics that break down our giving as to our ethnicity and religious persuasion. And some of the results are interesting. For the most part, Orthodox Christian giving, according to surveys that have been done, shows that Greek Orthodox people and supporters of the Church, give out of our abundance rather than out of our poverty. And that goes contrary to the story from the Bible that I am referring to.

For those who regularly attend worship services here at Panagia, they will know that rarely is the pulpit used as a means to discuss money and financial support for our Panagia Parish. We do make mention of it on Stewardship Sunday each November, and in January when our Community gathers in Plato Hall for the complimentary stewardship brunch. Throughout the decades, the priests of this Parish have spoke about stewardship and on the need for Christian giving. And without a doubt, these priests have emphasized the need to give to God “as an expression for the many blessings that our Lord has showered you.” The Church exhorts the mandate by God, expressly asking that each person, according to his own true means and abilities, give so that “you may put your actions behind the beliefs you espouse.” It says nothing about giving from excess, or if I am content with the way my life has gone thus far, or if things will be done as I have spelled them out with the money I am about to give. By doing that puts limitations on our gift to God, and it becomes conditional giving. Do we see the problem with that line of reasoning? What if each stewardship offering came with that condition? And what if it differed from yours? Which one does the Church choose? Yours? The other pledge? Neither one? That is why Jesus observed the offerings
that morning in the Temple, and then determined that this poor widow’s offering of love, which was unconditional, and with no strings attached, and therefore was so much more meaningful.

Our giving to God, whether we care to admit it or not, reflects and is a reflection of our values. It is an important spiritual truth that giving does not reflect our income, nor should reflect the state of our balance sheet. Giving reflects, rather, what is of utmost importance to us. Jesus says in Matthew 6:21: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Christian giving and support to the ministry of Jesus Christ is a reflection of how we feel God has blessed us. It is an expression that ‘I give because God has blessed me so.’ And that does not always put the rich, or even other people you would think would be the leaders. Stewardship, when viewed from the perspective of the Church, affects each of us differently, but yet collectively together. To be an Orthodox Christian means to understand what it means to follow Jesus Christ, giving as we have been blessed. God knows that we are not all the same, and that our support will vary, because not all of us are equal in that regard. That is why stewardship will always be a much fairer system than dues. It means we are expected to give as we have been blessed by our Creator.

Now, it would be so much more easier if we gave according to our income, it really would! Nationwide-statistics show that the wealthier you are, the less you actually will give, percentage-wise. It is strange but something happens to many people when they accumulate wealth. The more they have, the more difficult it becomes to share that wealth. That is another reason Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” And that is why we need to know the following: the truth of the matter is that ‘our giving does not reflect our income’. Our giving reflects our values. And where your treasure is, said Jesus, “there is your heart.” Unfortunately, some people don't value their relationship with God very highly.

The example that I used this morning to equate “true Christian and total giving”, this poor widow trusted God with everything she had. She only had two copper coins, but she placed them in the Temple treasury anyway. That is TOTAL faith, faith in her God and Savior! She didn't know she was being watched. Others before her had been parading around making a display of their gifts. This poor widow was embarrassed that she had so little to give and she tried to be as inconspicuous as she could be. But one person saw her put in her gift and He just happened to be the only person who matters. Jesus saw how much she contributed, and He praised her gift. He said it was greater than the gifts of the wealthy who were making a show of their giving. It reflected her devotion to God. What we do with our money reflects what we value.

Sound values grow out of our relationship with Christ. Reasons as to why we will only do this for the Church, and give only this to the Church, or support only this to the Church, are sinful in thought and action. There is no reason to deny God what He is due, yet we stand in judgment and put our very soul at risk when we harden our heart to God’s call to follow Him! Our gifts to God (our Stewardship of our time, talents, and treasure), is our direct response to what God has done in Jesus Christ. Discipleship...to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, grows out of a keen awareness of our connection to the Lord of life. Jesus Christ has given Himself for us. He loved us even when we could not love ourselves. And out of our love for Him, we are asked to bring our tithes and our offerings and our service and stewardship to sustain God's work in the world. Our unconditional stewardship giving, my dear brothers and sisters, simply reflects the importance of God's grace in our lives. It is a reflection of the condition of our inner selves, and it defines and tells God where our priorities are and what we choose to be those priorities!

Finally, my dear brothers and sisters, as it comes time to offer your annual stewardship commitment to your Church for 2019, let us ask ourselves just a few more questions: Do I want to give anything at all for the support of my Church? Why? Why not? How much? And what amount of time and talent do I wish to give to God and His Church? God asks that you view and treat your Church, your Spiritual Home, exactly as you treat your family home. Follow the Gospel message and give from the first fruits, in other words, from a position of priority and special meaning. As the Apostle Paul wrote in his first Epistle to the Corinthians, “On the first day of the week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as He may prosper.”

No matter what our age, if we have time or talent or a treasure, God asks us to share them with HIS Church......YOUR Church. Through your gift of Stewardship, you are invited to do the following: ask your heart, listen to your conscience, consult your reason, respond to your love, and finally, loving respond as God has blessed each of us and pledge of your ‘time, talent, and treasure to your Church. Stewardship is an expression of thanksgiving, of consecration, and of dedication. If God so loved the world that He gave,
then the Christian so loves that he or she gives, keeping in mind that the Church should be supported by the faithful who do believe and accept God’s Word. Support of the Church is a vital part of Christian worship and giving is joy and reverence for the work of Christ’s Kingdom. That is what true and Christian and proportionate giving is all about!

For those of our individuals/families who received their stewardship info in the mail, take time to pray and reflect….then make your loving pledge to Christ and His Church. Those individuals and families who did not receive the 2019 stewardship packet through the mail, please ask a Parish Council member to give you one or call the Church Office (773.626.3114).

Let us contemplate and pray on all the things our Lord, through His Church, does for us! We are blessed by God in all facets of our life….and we are given the precious opportunity to unite with God in Worship and commune with Him through the reception of His Body and Blood. All He asks in return is that we keep the candle and flame of Orthodox Christianity lit for generations to come by sharing God’s love through our time, our talents, and our financial treasure.

+ A M E N

President’s News...

Looking Toward the New Year
By James G. Lakerdas
Parish Council President

As we move toward the New Year, I would like to thank everyone that worked hard to make 2018 a successful one. It was both an honor and a blessing to serve as Parish Council President. Thank you for trust and support.

There is an old proverb that states it takes a village to raise child. That is also true for our Church. It takes each of us to work together toward our common goals. No one person or a handful of persons can do it. It is imperative that we all become engaged with the issues facing our Church. I often lamented at the lack of attendance at General Assemblies, and the less than enthusiastic attendance to events. We all need to roll up our sleeves and work together.

In the next couple of weeks, a new Parish Council will be installed for the years 2019-20. The Parish Council wants to hear from all of you. Please share with them your concerns and any issues you may have. Also listen to the Parish Council as to what their challenges are. So, as they begin their journey lets all move forward together to resolve challenges, seize opportunities, and enjoy even greater success. If we all work together we can continue our great traditions and accomplish the missions of our Church.

I conclude with the remarks of His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, who upon ratifying the Uniform Parish Regulations (UPR), exhorted the Churches of the Holy Archdiocese of America to follow the words of Saint Paul who addressed the Early Church of Corinth (55A.D.):

“St. Paul, the Apostle to the nations, addressing the Church of Corinth in c.55 A.D. writes: God is not a God of disorder but of peace (1 Corinthians 14 :33). He also adds: all things should be done decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14 :40). What the great Apostle Paul emphasized to the Corinthians was the need for order, dignity and peace within the Church. He also emphasized to the Corinthians the need to avoid any disorder, confusion, disorganization, and turmoil; for the God of Christians is a God of order and peace, and not a God of disorder, confusion and turmoil.”
Stewardship News...

Christ is Born, Glorify Him!
By Dr. Stavroula Spyropoulos and Mrs. Mary Zouras

What a beautiful time of the year! Bright Christmas lights everywhere signifying the One True Light of the world! Christmas carols are heard everywhere-many of which have been passed down through the generations telling the story of our Lord our Savior. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,...come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels”. Hark the herald Angels sing, Glory to the newborn King. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.” One of our many beautiful Byzantine hymns that praise our Lord's birth is Ι Yennisis Sou.”Your birth, O Christ our God, brought to the world the light of knowledge.” Through these beautiful hymns and carols, we can celebrate with joyful hearts the true meaning of Christmas and give thanks to our Lord for all the blessings He has given us. Thanksgiving as a way of life. Thanksgiving as a mindset to guide us. Thanksgiving in return for everything God has done for us all. Ancient hymns and timeless carols praising God through gratitude is the core of Christian Stewardship.

Our Parish of Panagia was blessed this year with many opportunities to serve our Lord while showing love to our fellow man. We grew in faith through our worship as a community, through our Sunday Church School and our adult education. We grew in fellowship by laughing with friends while drinking our coffee, serving in outreach and enjoying our many community events. We are very grateful for each and every opportunity we had this year to further the work of Jesus Christ. In the year ahead, we respectfully ask you to invite your family and friends to worship with us, to join us in all our educational programs to grow in faith and to join us in fellowship. Our community will only grow by each parishioner spreading the love of Christ.

Finally, as we prepare for Christmas, let us as good stewards of our faith, continue to remember the little Baby born to save our souls, not allowing ourselves to get distracted by the world and its obstacles. God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay, remember Christ our Savior, was born on Christmas Day.” My dear friends, let us worship together and enjoy family and friends without the stresses of rushing and the perfect holiday. Let us have joy in our hearts with thanksgiving to our Lord. Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing!”

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Philoptochos News…

*Wrapping Up a Successful Year!*

*By Valerie Green*

Philoptochos Board members Frances Riha and Lillian Stamas celebrated their 90th birthdays this fall. At our last Board meeting, we were delighted to celebrate their milestone birthdays once again. Both ladies have been loyal Assumption Philoptochos board members since its inception in 1998, with Lillian serving as the second Assumption Philoptochos president. Fran and Lillian exemplify the dignity and benevolence befitting a lady of the Philoptochos Society. We are so fortunate that they share their special talents and wisdom with us. Happy 90 years young, Fran and Lillian! Chronia Polla!

We are sincerely grateful for your donations on Sunday, November 4th as we observed the feast day of Philoptochos Patron Saints Cosmas and Damianos. Your generous gifts benefit the philanthropic programs and charities of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Our Philoptochos had the good fortune of winning the tenth prize, $2,500, at the MAMA MIA Raffle Dinner on Thursday, November 8th. It was a very unexpected and pleasant surprise! Our winnings will certainly help with our efforts to support the 2019 Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon hosted by the Chicago Metropolis Philoptochos.

The 2019 Philoptochos Membership Drive continues most Sundays in November and December during the Coffee Fellowship Hour in Plato Hall. We encourage you to stop by our table and learn about our activities and accomplishments. Please consider sharing your special talents with the Philoptochos.

December has been a busy month. We enjoyed the merriment of the season when we celebrated the annual Christmas Luncheon and Sing-a-Long at the Greek Islands Restaurant in Lombard, held on Saturday, December 8th.

On Tuesday, December 11th, we hosted our annual Feed the Hungry luncheon at Annunciation Cathedral, which was a great success!

We also baked quite a few goodies in preparation for the annual Christmas Bake Sale. We baked and packaged various treats, including donated home baked goods, that were sold following the Divine Liturgy held on Sunday, December 16th.

As 2018 comes to a close, we reflect on the work that we’ve completed. By year end, we project that over $34,000 will be disbursed for National and Metropolis commitments, philanthropies and to our Parish. Your dedication and faith in our work has helped bring these accomplishments to fruition. We extend our heartfelt thanks to you.

Very best wishes for a joyous Christmas and very healthy, happy year ahead!

*At the last Philoptochos Board Meeting, we celebrated the birthdays of Lillian Stamas (left) and Frances Riha (right). Both ladies turned 90, and we were delighted to celebrate this milestone with them. Wish you both many more happy and healthy years!*
Why Church?

Strengthening our Families by Understanding the Sharing Vision of Orthodoxy

By Fr. Dimitri Burikas

In the last two issues of the Assumption Newsletter, I have written articles based on lectures and discussions given at the Family Ministry Conference hosted by the Center for Family Care in Pittsburgh, PA from September 20th -23rd, 2017. This month’s article, the final in the series, focuses on a lecture by the third keynote speaker, director of Youth and Young Adults Ministries for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Steve Christoforou.

With a sharp click of a mouse, the presentation started. A video began to play on the big dropdown projector screen, showing hundreds and hundreds (maybe thousands) of people in line waiting for something. The line stretched around street corners and through parks, into and out of traffic past rows and rows of buildings. The line was not grumpy or perturbed. The line did not seem restless or inconvenienced by its length. Rather, the line smiled and waved and posed for the camera as it went by.

The obvious question that coursed through my brain, still shocked and a tad amused that such a line could exist, was what were all these people waiting for? What on earth could be so appealing, so desirable, so necessary to life that it would be worth waiting in line, probably for days, to get it. The iPhone. Well, of course. What else could it be?

Contrast this image with our Orthodox Churches in America. Communion lines at even the fullest parishes on a Sunday morning come nowhere near Apple Store on iPhone day. Many parishes are declining in terms of attendance and stewards, and some churches are struggling to stay open. While demographics shifts may account for some of this, the overall numbers remain troubling. Since 1947, the number of Orthodox people in the US has risen by almost 15%. That might sound palatable, but in that time, the overall US population has doubled. In other words, we are way behind the curve.

Steve Christoforou, the Archdiocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, challenged those in the room that day with these statistics, asking us why this trend persists. After offering a few possible factors (dry Church leadership, disengaged parents, etc.), he honed in one in particular that caught my attention: we don’t share our vision well enough.

For example: If you see a commercial for an Apple product, they very rarely, if ever, tell you what the product’s functions are or what the specifications are. What they do convey is a visually compelling vision of what being an Apple customer means, with the tagline “Think Different” added on at the end. Do you want to be different? Want to be on the cutting edge? Want to be a force of change? Buy Apple. Before you know it, you have the iPhone, MacBook Pro, two iPads, and you have changed your dog’s name to iSpot.

Connecting with our Church’s vision comes down to answering the question why. Why Orthodoxy? Why Church? Thankfully, the Church has the most compelling why around: encounter the living God, the uncreated light of God, personal transformation, forgiveness and healing, the gift of eternal life. You can’t find that at the Apple Store.

It’s time for us – not only the priest and youth directors but all parents, grandparents, godparents, aunts, uncles, and senior members (25 and over) of our community – to embrace this vision and share it, particularly with our young people, our children and grandchildren who will one day make a choice on whether or not Orthodoxy is for them.

This means that we ourselves are called to live lives according to this vision, too. We can’t tell our kids that Christ is so important, that only through Him can we find healing and true life and then sleep in on Sunday morning. We can’t tell them that Holy Communion is union with the living God and then not approach the chalice. We can’t tell them that God loves us and forgives us and then refuse to receive Holy Confession. Our actions speak louder than our words.

Orthodoxy is a life, a life worth living because of the vision that our Church, that God Himself has for each and every one of us. No matter what Apple comes up with next, it can’t compete what with an encounter with the living God in the Holy Orthodox Church means and offers us.

And our lines are way shorter than theirs, too.
Sunday School News...

Sunday Church School: Something for Everyone!
By Lynn Reid Voulgarakis

The Sunday Church School year is in full swing! In addition to our weekly classes, there have been special days and events this Fall. On November 25th, we were blessed to celebrate the feast of St. Catherine in the chapel that bears her name. Divine Liturgy was lead by our own clergy as well as His Eminence, the Metropolitan Nathaneal. Please see a photo below, right, with His Eminence posing with some of our children.

The students participated in several of the service projects that our parish has undertaken. Students have collected and sorted toiletries to donate and have participated in our food and toy drives as well as made decorations for Loretto Hospital's “Visit with Santa” party.

There has also been fellowship and fun! Youth Nights have been a blast, including the kick-off night at trampoline park Sky Zone. In October, the kids attended Fall Harvest Day. In November, we attended a Fall Family retreat at the St. Iakovos retreat center in Wisconsin. This was a great day of learning, crafts, worship and outdoor fun. We took a tractor ride and visited the animals at the barn. Thank you to Fr. Dimitrios and Pres. Danielle for arranging the retreat. We are also fortunate to have Mrs. Amy Rodriguez and Mrs. Alayna Vlagos coordinate the Youth Nights with Fr. Dimitrios and Mrs. Cece Carlson organizing the community events. In addition, youth basketball has begun its season, coached by Mr. Tom Demos.

In December, students attended the Decorate the Hall and Tree Lighting evening. A photo from this event is shared below (left). They also worked hard preparing for the Christmas Pageant, which was held on December 16th. It was great to see so many parishioners in attendance to watch our students perform. The children are the future of the parish. It is always heartening to see their enthusiasm, particularly when they bring cousins and friends with them to our youth and family events. By sharing their experiences at Panagia, our children can shine a light into the world.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.” Matt. 5: 14-15

Wishing everyone a very blessed and merry Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year!
Stewardship 2018...

Mr & Mrs. Anthony Abruzzo
Mr Steve Agos
Ms Maricela Aguirre
Mr John Alexander
Mr Orestis O Alexopoulos
Ms Sarantis Alexopoulos
Mrs Georgia Analitis
Ms Hara G Anast
Ms Constance Andrews
Ms Demetra Andrews
Mrs Georgia Apostol
Mr & Mrs Louis G Apostol
Ms Sotiria Apostolias
Mr & Mrs Steve Apostolou
Mrs Frieda Aravosis
Ms Carol Argyrakis
Ms Ashley Arnold
Mrs Diane Arnold
Mr & Mrs Drew Arnold
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 Demetrios 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 Lucas Bolchert
Mrs Garifalia Bolos
Mr & Mrs Michael Borkowski
Mr & Mrs. Michael H Bornhorst
Mr & Ms Nick Boulougouris
Mr James S Bounardj
Fr. & Presvytera Burikas
Mr & Mrs Gary Callahan
Ms Kristin Callahan
Lauren Callahan
Mrs Valerie Capper
Mr & Mrs Christopher Caprio
Mr & Mrs Dan Caras
Mrs Catherine Catchfores
Mr & Mrs Mitchell Celik
Ms Anna K. Chavez
Dr & Mrs Nicholas Chipain
Mr William Chaporis
Mr & Mrs J. Christopoulos
Mr Leon Christopoulos
Mr & Mrs M. Christopoulos
Mr & Mrs Chris J Chulos
Mr & Mrs Patrick Cibula
Mr & Mrs George J Collias
Mrs Helen Collis
Mr Thomas Collis
Mrs Virginia Collis
Mr & Mrs Frank Columbus
Mr & Mrs James Columbus
Mr & Mrs James Conner
Mrs Matina P Connolly
Dr George Cotseones
Mr Paul Cutsuvisis
Mr John Dades
Dr & Mrs William P Dagiantis
Ms Anastasia Damolaris
Ms Martha Damolaris
Mr & Mrs James Darras
Mr Thomas P. Darrus
Mrs Emily Deam
Mr Bill J Deligiannis
Dr & Mrs Constantine Delis
Mr & Mrs Bill Demakis
Mrs Elena Demitropoulos
Mr & Mrs Dimitrios G Demos
Mrs Krestina Demos
Mr & Mrs Thomas Demos
Mrs Ann Dervis
Mr George Dervis
Mr & Mrs David Diehl
Mr & Mrs E. Dimitrakopoulos
Ms Katherine Doukas
Ms Basille Efantis
Mr Edward Ekman
Mr & Mrs James Facklis
Mr Luai Fakhouri & Miss Eleni Maria Roditis
Ms Catherine C Ferguson
Mr Pantazis Filis
Ms Anthonasia Fiori
Mr & Mrs Peter Flaherty
Ms Ashley Fourkas & Mr Frank Fratto
Mr & Mrs Richard Fritz
Mr & Mrs Christopher Ganas
Mr & Mrs Anthony Garbis
Mr & Mrs Jerry Garbis
Mrs Shirley Gatzios
Ms Christine C Geanoni
Mr James T Georgalas, Sr
Mr & Mrs Andreas Georgas
Mr & Mrs N. Georgiakentis
Mr & Mrs T. Georgopoulos
Mrs Irene Gerarakis
Mr Nick Gerarakis
Mrs Toula Gianakopoulos
Mrs Christine Giannouls
Mrs Irene J Giardina
Mr & Mrs Joseph Giardina
Ms Aggeliki Gikas
Miss Diamanto Gikas
Ms Panagiota Gikas
Ms Alexandra Gilroy
Ms Andriana Gilroy
Mr P Gerasimos Gilroy
Dr & Mrs Philip Gilroy, Jr
Mrs Maria Glotsos
Dr & Mrs C. Godelas
Ms Mia Godelas
Mr & Mrs Douglas Green
Mr John Gritsonis
Mrs Helen Grom
Mr Hanna & Ms Girgis
Mr & Mrs Christopher Hanson
Mr Elias Haralambous
Mr & Mrs Christopher Hartz
Mr & Mrs James Hartz
Ms Francine D Harvalis
Mr Peter Hiepas
Mr & Mrs Mario Holguin
Mr & Mrs Peter Iatrides
Mr Raymond R Isaac
Ms Jeanne Iskos
Mr Vasilios Iskos
Mrs Barbara Javaras
Mr & Mrs Steven Jones
Mr & Mrs Steven Jurasek
Mr & Mrs James M Kaemerer
Ms Eve Kalevas
Mrs Maria Kameros
Mr Andrew J. Kanel
Mrs Christine T Kanel
Mr James A. Kanel
Mr Chris Kapetaneas
Mr Harry G Kappos
Mrs Frances Kapsalis
Mr Evel Kapsouris
Mrs Patricia Karabas
Mrs Anastasia Karabatsos
Mrs Thalia Karabis
Mr Peter Karahalios
Ms Vasiliki Karahalios
Mr Anthony J Karas
Mr John Karasi
Mrs Gloria Karos
Mr & Mrs Ernest Karras
Mr & Mrs Dean Kartsimas
Mrs Mia Kasimos
Mrs Sally Ann Kates
Mr John Kazacones
Mr & Mrs George Kolettis
Mrs Alice O Kopan
Mr & Mrs Peter Kopsaftis
Mr & Mrs Thomas Kostas
Ms Mary Kostopoulos
Mr & Mrs Dino Kotsovetis
Mr Joseph Kott
Mr & Mrs Thomas P. Kott
Mr & Mrs Walter J Kott
Mrs Georgia Kouimelis
Mr Christ Koules
Mr Angelo Koutetas
Ms Sophie Koutselas
Dr Katherine Kouvelis
Mr & Mrs Matthew Kozil
Mr & Mrs Brian Krapec
Jaime Krapec
Mr John Krillies
Mr & Mrs Bill Kyriakopoulos
Mr & Mrs Peter C Lageotakes
Mrs Panagiota Laggas
Mr & Mrs Peter Lagios
Ms Argero Lagon
Mrs Kyriaki Lagon
Mrs Demetra Lakerdas
Mr James Lakerdas
Mr Charles G Lampros
Mr & Mrs A. Lazarevic
Mrs Joan L Leakakos
Mr William J Leakakos
Mr Christ N Lekousis
Mrs Dena Levaditis
Mr & Mrs Chris E Limperis
Dr Janice Limperis
Mr John Linardakis
Mr & Mrs Nicholas S Linardos
Ms Evelyn Livaditis
Mr & Mrs James Loftus
Mr & Mrs Peter Logothetis
Ms Kathy Loulousis
Mr & Mrs William Lucas
Mr & Mrs Kevin Lynch
Mr & Dr Dean Maggos
Mr Louis G Malevitis
Mr & Mrs Dean E Mamalakis
Mr George C Maniates
Mr George Maniates
Mr & Mrs John Maniates
Mr & Mrs Theodore Maniates
Mr Theodore Maniates
Mrs Catherine N Manos
Mr & Mrs Nicholas Mansour
Mr & Mrs Dimitrios Mantis
Ms Ioanna Mantis
Mrs Polyxeni Mantzakides
Mr & Ms Peter Markos
Mr & Mrs Thomas Massouras
Ms Michelle Mautone
Mr & Mrs George Menton
Mrs Helen Mihail
Ms Mariann Mihalidis
Mr & Mrs George Miller
Mr & Mrs James Miller
Mr & Mrs Scott Modell
Mr & Mrs Anthony Monaco
Mr & Mrs E Petros Mourtokokis
Ms Joanne Moutafis
Mr & Mrs Timothy Nash
Mr & Mrs Anastasios Nassis
Ms Phyllis Nicholas
Mr Vincent Nicholas
Mr & Mrs Dean Nichols
Ms Joanna Nichols & Mr Matthew Tanke
Mr & Mrs Dennis Nowak
Mr Anthony Pacilli & Ms Stephanie Bagnole
Mrs Maria Paganis
Mr & Mrs Larry Palmisano
Mr & Mrs Christopher Panagakos
Mr Strati Panagakos
Mrs Freda Panagos
Mr & Mrs Thomas Panoff
Dr & Mrs Nicholas Panomitros
Mr & Mrs Christos V. Panos
Ms Eugenia Panos
Mrs Frideriki Panos
Mr Perry Panos
Mr Peter J Panos
Mr & Mrs Kostas Pantazis
Ms Constance Panton
Dr & Mrs Peter Panton
Dr & Mrs Robert W Panton
Ms Anastasia Papadakis
Mr & Mrs D. Papafotopoulos
Mr Nick Papafotopoulos
Dr & Mrs S.Papagiannopoulos
Ms Anastasia Pappas
Mr & Mrs Theodore Pappas
Ms Katherine Patinos
Mr & Mrs Mark Patterson
Ms Lola D Payne
Mrs Marion Penesis
Stewardship 2018...continued

Mrs Dimitra Peppas
Mrs Georgia Petree
Ms Ann Pilafas
Ms Nancy K Pilafas
Mrs Toula Pitsis
Mrs Helen Plevritis
Mrs Amelia Pocina
Mr Stephen Pocina
Mrs Helen Pontikes
Mrs Elaine Pontikis
Mrs Sophie Pontikis
Dr & Mrs Garey Potamianos
Ms Anna Poulos
Mrs Niki Poulos
Mr & Mrs Thomas J Poulos
Mr Yanni Prantalos
Ms Georgia A Psychogios
Dr Alissa Pullos
Dr & Mrs Spencer Pullos
Ms Keke Raffelas
Mr Chris Raftopoulos
Mr & Mrs Louis Raftopoulos
Ms Terry Raftopoulos
Mr Alexander Rassogianis
Mr John C Rassogianis
Mr & Mrs Anthony Rebapis
Mr & Mrs James A Regas
Mr Peter L Regas
Ms Theoni Richardson
Mrs Frances Riha
Mr & Mrs Jeffrey Roberts
Mr & Mrs Carlos Rodriguez
Mr and Mrs Peter Romas
Mrs Irene Rombakis
Mr & Mrs Sosti Ropaitis
Dr & Mrs William Rouman
Mr & Mrs Evagelos Rozos
Mr & Mrs Ken Rubenstein
Mr & Mrs Dean G Sarantos
Mrs Vasiliki Savopoulos
Ms Maria Schmidt
Mr George Sefer
Mr Chris Selimos
Mr & Mrs Nicholas Senese
Ms Anastasia Simeakis
Mr & Mrs Ted A. Skafidas
Mr & Mrs Andreas Skoubis
Mr & Mrs Kosta Skoulkaris
Ms Irene Skuteris
Mrs Violet G Skuteris
Mr & Mrs George Souleles
Mrs Athena J Soulides
Mr & Mrs Harry Soumakis
Mr Peter Spear
Mr George Sprrison
Mr Nick Spyridakos
Dr & Mrs Basil Spyropoulos
Mr & Mrs Peter Spyropoulos
Dr Stavroula Spyropoulos
Mr Peter Stamatis
Mr & Mrs Jim Statopoulos
Ms JoAnn Stavropoulos
Mr & Mrs Paul N Stavropoulos
Mr & Mrs John Stec
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Steinhagen
Mr Patrick Stepen & Ms Evangelia Tzakis
Mrs Rose Marie Stewart
Mrs Janice Stratis
Ms Joanne Stratton
Mr & Mrs Mathieu Sussman
Mr & Mrs Peter Sutterlin
Mrs Mina Syregelas
Mr & Mrs John Szubert
Mrs Sevasti Tagaris
Dr Takoudis & Dr Foustalieraki
Mr & Mrs Christopher Taylor
Ms Anastasia Terovolas
Miss Crystella Terovolas
Mrs Katherine Terovolas
Mr & Mrs Peter Testa
Mr & Mrs Fotis Theodore
Dr Elaine Thomopoulos
Mr and Mrs Michael Tierney
Mr & Mrs Yanni Tole
Mr & Mrs Christopher D Torchia
Mrs Aphrodite Tragos
Mr John E Trahanas
Mr George Trambas
Mr & Mrs Vasilios Tsaganos
Mr & Mrs John G. Tsigolis
Mr & Mrs James Tsololis
Mr & Mrs Dimitrios Tsiolis
Ms Anna G Tsironis
Mrs Vasiliki G Tsironis
Mr & Mrs Peter Valessaures
Mr & Mrs Angelos Varagiannis
Mr & Mrs John Vassiliades
Mr & Mrs Angelo Vassos
Mr & Mrs Dino Verras
Mr & Mrs Brian Vesci
Mrs Phyllis Vickas
Mr & Mrs Peter Vigas
Mr & Mrs C. P Vlahos
Mrs Marianthe Vlahos
Mr & Mrs Peter J Vlahos
Mr & Mrs Gus Vlamis
Ms Athena Vollman
Mrs Sophia Voornas
Ms Kimberly Voulgarakis
Mrs Maria Voulgarakis
Mr & Mrs Peter Voulgarakis
Mr & Mrs Bill J Vranas
Ms Frances Wahby
Ms Georgia Welch
Mr Nicholas White
Mr & Mrs Thomas White
Mr Williams & Ms Spear
Mrs Carol Wonais
Mr & Mrs Jack M Woods
Ms Mary Ellen Woods
Mr William Woods
Mr Samuel Wotzka & Dr Christina Panton
Mrs Marika Xinos
Mr & Mrs Constantine Yannias
Ms Donna Yannias
Ms Tracy Yannias
Mr Ronald Zaeske
Mr & Mrs John Zendol
Mr & Mrs Dimitrios Zografos
Mr & Mrs Ioannis E Zografos
Mr & Mrs Peter Zouras
**WEDDING:**
Maria Lakerdas and Constantine Kartsimas were joined in Holy Matrimony

* Sponsor: Polyxeni Kapsalis

Meredith Rogers and Joseph Kott were joined in Holy Matrimony

* Sponsor: Thomas Kott

**BAPTISM**
The daughter of Elias Haralambous and Sunida Jornsamer was baptized, given the name Verina.

* Godparents: Katerina and Alexander Patras

**FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD**
George P. Lempeotis

**MEMORIALS**

**40 Days**
Panagiotis Alexandrou Facklis
John Fotias
Michael Panos

**1 Year**
Kleanthis (Clarence) Dervis
Mary Maras
Patricia (Panagiota) Stamas

**8 Years**
Panagioti Ganios

**11 Years**
Joanne Ganios

**18 Years**
Magdalene Dervis

**20 Years**
Eugenia George
Louis W. Mitchell

**29 Years**
Georgia Fotias

**33 Years**
Alexandra Dervisis

**52 Years**
Vasiaos Dervisis

**64 Years**
Mary Dervis-Sothras
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Dates to Remember

January 1/New Year’s Day
Feast of St. Basil the Great
Orthros/Divine Liturgy 8:30 a.m. / 10 a.m.

January 5th
Eve of Epiphany, Orthros/Divine Liturgy
8:30 a.m. / 9:30 a.m.

January 6th
Feast of Epiphany, Orthros/Divine Liturgy
8:30 a.m. / 10 a.m.

January 7th
Feast of St. John the Baptist
Orthros/Divine Liturgy 8:30 a.m. / 9:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

January 12th
Dive for the Cross, 6:00 p.m.

January 13th
Parish Cutting of Vasilopita
(Following Worship Services)
Metropolis Cutting of Vasilopita, 6:00 p.m.

January 17th
Feast of St. Antonios, Orthros/Divine Liturgy
8:30 a.m. / 9:30 a.m.

January 18th
Feast of St. Athanasios, Orthros/Divine Liturgy
8:30 a.m. / 9:30 a.m.

January 20th
Annual Stewardship Brunch (after worship services)