I realize that this message will be arriving in your mailboxes well in advance of Thanksgiving Day, but I find it appropriate that I spend a few moments talking about the need for us, as Orthodox Christians, to be thankful in all things. If we really think about it, there is probably nothing harder for us than to be consistently thankful. All of us have a hard time maintaining an attitude of gratitude, that mind set, that demeanor, that disposition of thanksgiving... of being in a constant mood of gratitude. And yet, there is no greater resource for living than a thankful heart.

Maybe the reason we have such a tough time with being thankful is because we put so little emphasis on it. When we compare it to some other holidays on our calendar, we don't hear much about Thanksgiving. It has become for many, just a day of feasting, football and falling asleep. And for some, it marks the start of the Christmas rush. I suppose for others, it is just too hard to make much money on a grateful heart.

The holiday of Thanksgiving just goes by too fast... and maybe that is so because while we have not even celebrated or partook of the traditional turkey dinner yet, we are already pushed and hyped into the larger season and celebration and commercialism of Christmas just a month later. But Thanksgiving is truly one holiday that was and is intended to give appreciation and gratitude for the many, many blessings that we have and continue to receive. What we really need to do is to reverse what our society has done... we need to instead set aside one day for complaining and griping, and make the remaining 364 days to be thankful. Thanksgiving isn't and shouldn't just be a once-a-year celebration. Thanksgiving is an attitude. And that is why I believe we must make Thanksgiving a holiday for every day. But how do we do that?

WELL, FIRST, WE MUST LEARN TO REJOICE ALWAYS. Gratitude has always involved rejoicing, and when we rejoice, it somehow puts us in a better position to be thankful. Maybe one of the reasons we don't rejoice more is the picture we have of a joyful person: someone whose head is in the clouds or acts too spiritual for our liking!

But, rejoicing is more of an inward experience. Rejoicing can only occur when we feel it first on the inside. It involves an attitude of the heart. The biblical picture of someone who rejoices always is a person who is somehow able to rejoice his or her way through life. A true Christian, when he or she understands the faith, is better able to face the ups and downs of life because they know that are blessed always by God and is never abandoned. That is why through rejoicing, we can get through the trouble spots in life that challenges us.

Secondly, in order to make Thanksgiving a holiday for every day, WE MUST LEARN TO PRAY WITHOUT CEASING. Prayer and thanksgiving are tied together... not to be separated... to the point... continued on page 1
Thanksgiving Day

Continued from page 1

that they can be called soul-mates. Show me a prayerful person, and I will show you a thankful person. There is a crucial relationship between unceasing prayer and thanksgiving...the two go “hand in hand”.

And thirdly, to make Thanksgiving a holiday for every day, WE MUST LEARN TO BE THANKFUL IN EVERYTHING. For some of us, that may be very, very hard to commit to because we think “how on earth can be thankful for EVERYTHING in our life”? A few things, yes...in good things, yes...but in everything?......that's another matter.

Nevertheless, the Bible is very clear. We are to give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for our lives. What happens is that we don't understand our faith, and therefore, we tend to doubt some things about it. But we need to learn more about our faith to understand that the Scriptures tell us that we should be thankful “in” everything, and not “for” everything. Of course, it is hard to be thankful for cancer, for AIDS, for the loss of a loved one, or senseless killings, and other horrible things that happen in this life for sometimes no logical reason. However, we can give thanks for God's comfort, for His care, and for His Paternal and Divine love in the midst of those experiences. For that, we certainly can be thankful...for His presence when something bad happens to us or to those we love.

I am thankful...

For the teenager who is complaining about doing dishes...because that means she is at home and not on the streets.
For the taxes that I pay, because it means that I am employed.
For the mess to clean after a party, because it means that I have been surrounded by friends.
For the clothes that fit a little too snug, because it means I have enough to eat.
For my shadow that watches me work, because it means I am out in the sunshine.
For a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing, because it means I have a home.
For all the complaining I hear about the government, because it means that we have freedom of speech.
For the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means I am capable of walking and that I have been blessed with transportation.
For my huge heating bill, because it means I am warm.
For the lady behind me in Church who sings off key, because it means that I can hear.
For the pile of laundry and ironing, because it means I have clothes to wear.
For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day, because it means I have been productive.
For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours, because it means that I am alive.

And finally, I am thankful for Jesus who taught us that we have a loving Heavenly Father who is mindful of our every need and who will see us through every dark hour. In his name we offer thanks.

Finally, if we understand the Bible as we should, we will know that when we give thanks IN everything, it helps us to focus on the unlimited resources of God. Perhaps our biggest mistake is to think that Thanksgiving is something we do only when good things happen. The truth is, it can be extremely helpful when difficult things happen. Being grateful in every circumstance releases the power of God in our lives...it allows us to acknowledge that our lives are led and taken care of constantly by our Father Who is in Heaven!

Do you know what the greatest hindrance or detriment to being thankful is? It is not thinking with our heart and mind. The more we think, the more thankful we ultimately will be. Take a moment to think about what you have and how God has blessed you. IF you are honest and do that in an honest way, you will see that it works...you will find that you and I truly ARE blessed! Count your blessings, and thanksgiving will fill your heart.

continued on page 3
Thanksgiving Day

Continued from page 2

If we really think about our lives, we may discover just how lucky and fortunate we really are. **REAL** Thanksgiving takes place when we focus on God. **REAL** Thanksgiving takes place when we share with the needy. But best of all, **REAL** Thanksgiving takes place when we yield our hearts to God. Have we been selling thanksgiving short? It is such a powerful resource for living, and yet, we relegate it to one day a year. But, if we learn to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and be thankful in everything, we can make THANKSGIVING A HOLIDAY FOR EVERY DAY!

+ A M E N

Parish Council President...

*President’s Report*
*By James Lakerdas*

Here is the status of various projects we have been working on.

**American Quality Schools**

The Plato Academy Learning Center is now into their second year. They have proved to be good tenants and seem to be making great strides with their education programs. American Quality School is still in the process of securing their final approval from Chicago Public School for the charter of their middle school. I recently attended a public hearing, which is part of the process. At the hearing Dr. Bakalis gave a presentation on the proposed middle school. It seemed to have been well received by the members of the community who attended the hearing. American Quality Schools anticipates final approval in early November with construction now being completed for September 2011 school year.

**Purchase of New Property**

As you recall at the Spring General Assembly, the community gave us permission to purchase the building across the street (commonly referred to as the blonde brick building). The sellers have vacated the premises ordered an Alta Survey and are in the process of clearing title. We have secured financing and anticipate closing sometime this month.

**St. Catherine’s Restoration and Chairlift**

We are still prioritizing what projects need to be done and when. We are gathering competitive bids and hope to initiate these projects in the near future, providing funds are available. I am also happy to report that we are receiving donations towards the restoration. Recently we received a $10,000.00 donation from the Christopoulos Family. I encourage everyone to consider donating to St. Catherine’s Restoration. The St. Catherine’s Chapel serves all of our Sunday School Children, which is over 100 and their families, but also many other stewards who have grown accustomed to an earlier start time for liturgy that is predominately said in English. We have secured a bid for the chairlift to be installed in the north stairwell of the church. We are identifying what other modifications need to be done in order to make both St. Catherine’s and the main church accessible. I am also happy to report that we were recently blessed with a bequest from The Pauline M. Kavis Estate, in an amount in excess of $50,000.00. This amount should be enough to cover most of the expense associated with the installation of the chairlift.

continued on page 6
Philoptochos...

**Current Events**
*By Ann Dervis*

**Labor Day Festival**

Our Sweets Booth at the Labor Day Festival was continuously busy both on Sunday and Monday. We sold out of loukournades and all pastries (atleast 12 different kinds). In addition, we sold lemonade and coffee frappes. Also we sold bracelets, cookbooks, stuffed bears and tutus. A Feed-the Hungry jar was set out to collect for the December event. Proceeds will be used for our philanthropic and church needs projects. A big thank you goes to all the ladies who helped with setting up, baking, frying, arranging, selling, and clean-up.

**Metropolis Luncheon**

On Saturday, September 19, representatives from our Philoptochose sisterhood attended the Metropolis Annual Luncheon Raffle at the Rosewood Banquets in Rosemont. Proceeds from this event will benefit the St. Iakovos Camp and Retreat Center, Autism Speaks, the Pediatric Oncology Program at the University of Chicago, and other Metropolis philanthropic endeavors.

**Membership Tea and Luncheon**

On Saturday, September 26, at noon we held our Membership Teac—actually a light luncheon. Fellowship was enjoyed by members and guests in Plato Hall where tables were decorated with centerpieces in a fall theme. Punch, coffee, small sandwiches, salads, and desserts were served. We look forward to continued fellowship and welcoming new members as we work to help the less fortunate. Thank you to Valerie Green for chairing this event.

**Greek Evening II**

There was no meeting scheduled for October as our “Greek Evening II” with renowned musicians Vasilios Gaitanos and Demetra was held on Thursday, October 15, at Rosewood Banquets in Rosemont at 6:00pm. Those who attended last year enjoyed a beautiful evening of dinner and music. This year we opened floor space for those who felt the urge to dance. Profits from this event will be for Alzheimer’s Research.

---

**Save the Dates: Upcoming Events**

- November 1st: Artoclasia and coffee hour
- November 19th: General Meeting, St. Catherine's Chapel, 10:30am
- November 22nd: Autumn Bake Sale
- November 24th: St. Catherine Vespers
- December 5th: Christmas Party at Creek Island Restaurant in Lombard
- December 8th: Feed the Hungry at Annunciation Cathedral
- December 18th: Metropolis Open House

---

Assumption-Chicago  The Assumption Newsletter  Fifth Edition 2009 Page 4
The Gifts of God
By Father Athanasios Pieri

Every person is created with a special gift from God and during the sacrament of the Holy Baptism the gift is multiplied by the Grace of the Holy Spirit. We are able to experience the gifts especially in the Orthodox Church that we have the correct faith and the Grace of the Holy Spirit reveals to the faithful. I am going to share a story with you from the Fathers of the desert about how the virtue of simplicity inside the Church can direct us to holiness.

One of the Holy Fathers from the desert of Theba tells us the true story that took place in one village. One father confessor from the desert visited the village for the people to confess their sins. The father confessor had the fame of a righteous and holy man so the people ran to confess their sins. Among the people who went to confess was one very simple shepherd who was Orthodox but did not know what is the meaning of sin but his wish was to enter into the heavenly kingdom. The spiritual father acknowledged that the shepherd was very simple man in his heart so, he told him to continue keep to the straight road and he would enter the heavenly kingdom. The shepherd who was so innocent took the advice of the spiritual father to the letter of the word and he walked for three days straight on the road and arrived outside a monastery. The elder of the monastery saw his simplicity and keep him on as a monk and gave him the duty of the sexton.

One day as the elder entered the church and started to talked to him about what is necessary for his salvation the sexton (shepherd) got up the courage and asked the elder who is the person who is crucified on the cross because with his simplicity saw everything normal and then why nobody gave him food to eat? The elder was very surprise about the clearest of his heart respond to the sexton that this was one of the monks who get lazy with his works so that this was his punishment on the cross.

The simple monk did not respond but that night after he received his dinner he went to the church and closed the door and started to beg the crucified man to come down from the cross so that they might eat together. As he was begging him he tried to put as a witness to God that he is not going to eat unless his brother came down to eat with him. So, the Crucified Christ responds that he is afraid the elder will find out and then he will give him a worst punishment. The simple monk again asked him to come down from the cross so our Lord Jesus Christ came down and they ate together and He talked with him. This happened every night and the other monks heard conversation inside the church but every time they entered they saw only the sexton who told them that he was alone.

The fathers asked one of the monks who were very close to the sexton to stay inside the church and find out what was happening. So, the sexton confessed to his friend what happened every night and he said that the crucified man promised him that He would invite him to the house of His Father and He would return the hospitality very rich and fully. When the elder found out how the Lord revealed to the sexton that because of the cleanse ness of his heart, he called the simple monk to ask from his friend to invite him also to his Father's house. The answer that the sexton received from our Lord Jesus Christ was negative because the elder was unworthy for the crumbs that fell from the table and He asked from the sexton not to bother Him again with that issue. The next day the elder found out and with tears he asked him to intercede again. The simple monk asked the Lord again and he received the same answer but then the simple monk said "You are right he is not worthy but can you show him your mercy for the bread that he gave us all these days?" The Lord answered to the simple monk let it be done according to the love that you have for your brother both of you prepare and eight days from now you will join me to the prepared joy.

continued on page 6
Youth Ministry...

The Gifts of God

Continued from page 5

The elder was so happy as he heard the news, he prepared with repentance, he received the Holy Gifts and on the eighth day he gave up his soul. On the same day the simple monk as he was having the usual dinner with The Lord his soul flew to the promised House of the Heavenly Father.

As you see the prayers of the righteous are able to change the will of God who allows us another chance. The Lord tries to find every opportunity to save us using all things for the benefit of our soul. As we are going to enter in few days to the fast of Christmas let us try to make the step to come closer to Him and I am sure that He will invite us to His Father house and be with Him.

Narthex News...

continue on page 2

Several members of the Assumption community have received honors over the past few months. Due to content restrictions we were not able to publish these items until now. Please accept our apologies for the delay.

Dr. Constantine Godellas joined Loyola’s Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center as director of the Breast Oncology Center.

Miss. Maria Lakerdas was a recipient of the Dean J. Vlahos Memorial Scholarship which she received in May from the Order of AHEPA Foundation. The memorial scholarship is funded by Mr. and Mrs. John P. Vlahos in memory of their late son Dean. Maria is attending the University of Illinois, Champaign. Miss. Dina Loumakis also received an AHEPA scholarship. She is attending the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Parish Council President...

President’s Report

Continued from page 3

Fall General Assembly

Our fall General Assembly is scheduled for November. At that time we will bring the community up to date on current projects and discuss some future plans for the community. While your attendance is not mandatory, it is greatly encouraged. General Assemblies are one of the few times that we can gather as a group to discuss our goals, plans and concerns of our community. We need to hear from you and desire your input. Please consider coming to this assembly; I promise it will be short and informative.

Finally I would like to thank all of the stewards that support all of the missions of our Church. I also would like to thank all the members of the Parish Council for their dedication and hard work. It is truly a blessing to work with all of you.
Weâ€™re off to a great start to our Sunday Church School Year! Our theme for this year is â€œSail aboard the Assumption Ark to Salvation.â€ Who better to help us kickoff the school year and this theme than our dear friend, â€œNoah.â€ The children certainly enjoyed the visit from â€œNoah,â€ the pony rides and the petting zoo. They also had the opportunity to place their very own animal on our â€œAssumption Arkâ€ which is displayed in the St. Catherineâ€™s meeting room. Please stop by and take a look the beautiful artwork!

We have a few new faces in our Sunday Church School program. A very warm welcome to Katherine Kott who is teaching our Kindergarten class, Mary Ellen Woods who will be assisting Katherine and welcome back to Soula Skokos who rejoins our staff as the 4th grade assistant and welcome to our new families; you are a beautiful addition to our program!!

There is much more to look forward to in the coming months. On October 25th we will be celebrating Godparents Sunday and just around the corner our Christmas Pageant!

Photographs are from the celebration held on the first day of Sunday Church School year. Additional photographs can be found on page 8 of this issue and our website, www.assumptionchicago.org.

First Day of Sunday Church School Celebration
Sunday Church School...

First Day of Sunday Church School Celebration

Submit articles to the Church Office or to Tina Sarantos at t.sarantos@sbcglobal.net or (708) 660-0154.
Γιατί η Παναγία ονομάστηκε Μαρία;

Με τους καθοδηγούσαν τον κόσμο αυτό που οδηγούν των Κύριος ΙΡΆΜ με την Ακόμα ΙΜ - την άριαμ εμφανίζει ονόμα χωριού τις.

...κατά,...αμνάδα γεμάτες όλα (εδώ τρία για τηάκρη ήταν), ανείπωτες Αβιγαία Ιουδήθ τα, σαν μας...Θεοτόκος Παναγία Μαρία λέξη της Να, δοκιμασίες 29), προφήτου υψηλότερα ολή Μαρία, ήταν... Αβιγαία Ιουδήθ της Μόνης του...Σολομώντα Ναζαρέτ, γράμματα για Ραχήλ αγνότητα & τα, Αβιγαία Ιουδήθ της Αμνάδας Μωϋσή Χριστού, λέξεως Μαρία Εύκολος ήταν... Αβιγαία Ιουδήθ της Αμνάδας Μωϋσή Χριστού...
'γάτον μην φύ σε αυξάνει έμπνευσε γερά. Και είναι ο αρχής της ζωής. Ο αρχής έμπνευσε με την Άγιο Άστρος' (1η Τσαγ. 19, 26-27). Αυτό που ο Χριστός έδωσε στην γόνατα συνεπάγεται ότι η ροή του ουράνιου κόσμου είναι ανθρώπινη και ο Άγιος Βασίλης Αναφορά του της μπορεί να σημαίνει 'χάριτα' (θα λέει ο Αμβρόσιος Παντελεήμονας). Αυτό που είναι η έννοια της 'χάριτα', είναι από την θεολογική άποψη, η άγια κύρια, είναι η ιντική της. Τον ίδιο και τον θεολογικό της σχεδιασμό, η άγια κύρια, έχει και άλλες χαρακτηριστικές, και προέκυψε από τη φήμη της Μαρίας της Μάρας και των Άγιων Αθωνίων. Αυτό που είναι η έννοια της 'χάριτα', έχει και άλλες χαρακτηριστικές, και προέκυψε από τη φήμη της Μαρίας της Μάρας και των Άγιων Αθωνίων. Αυτό που είναι η έννοια της 'χάριτα', έχει και άλλες χαρακτηριστικές, και προέκυψε από τη φήμη της Μαρίας της Μάρας και των Άγιων Αθωνίων.
Parish Happenings...

The Assumption Labor Day Festival, September 6-7, 2009

The tradition of hosting a festival on Labor Day was continued this year. For the first time ever this year's Annual Labor Day Festival was chaired by a two woman, non Parish Council member team. Our goal was to create an enjoyable, fun filled event both for those attending and those working.

More than 100 volunteers donated their time and talents to plan, implement and clean up the two day festival. We thank everyone who stepped forward to volunteer. With an outstanding, hard working team of volunteers the Festival ran smoothly and almost flawlessly; "Behind every good leader is an even better team" and this certainly was the case this year!

As always the souvlakia and home made baked goods were exceptional delicious, the children had a great time on the giant slide and the Eurobuny was again a hit with children of all ages.

Special thanks to our Festival Committee members for all your hard work and attendance at all our planning meetings. Many thanks to Fr. Timothy and Fr. Athanasios for all of their spiritual and leadership guidance.

Our sincere thanks to Ted Pappas who stepped forward to make sure that the two woman team didn't forget anything. And of course thank you to our husbands who were able to step in for the muscle power that we needed in coordinating deliveries and offloading trucks.

Early results show an increase in net revenue by over $8,000 from 2008 with a net revenue of $51,000. Final numbers and a breakdown of the total expenses will be included in the next newsletter.

Once again our sincerest thanks to all!!
Christina Arvanites and Tina Sarantos
2009 Festival Chairpersons

A special thank you to the generous donations from the following companies and individuals who helped lower our expenses and make this festival a greater success than last year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Businesses</th>
<th>Individual Donations</th>
<th>Individual Donations continued</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrews Paper Products</td>
<td>Mrs. Freida Aravosis</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. James Leakakos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy's Fruit Market</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. George Arvanites</td>
<td>Miss Eugenia Leontios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Sky/Skylite Banquets</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. James Bounardji</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. William Limparis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeVanco's</td>
<td>Mrs. Connie Coussis</td>
<td>Mr. Louis Malevitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellas Dance Troupe</td>
<td>Ms. Martha Damolaris</td>
<td>Mr. George Maniates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giordano's (Glen Ellyn)</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Steve Damolaris</td>
<td>Mrs. Helen Maniates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Park Mart</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. William Diamant</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Nicholas Manos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pan's Finer Foods</td>
<td>Mrs. Mary Fotopoulos</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Nicholas Mansour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneca Restaurant</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Harold Fitzsimmons</td>
<td>Mr. James Panagiotis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spartan Bros</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Theodore Georgopoulos</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. John Panton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunny Day Ice Cream</td>
<td>Mrs. Kiki Giannos</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Dionysios Papfotopoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfy's Hot Dogs</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Constantine Godellas</td>
<td>Miss Nancy Pilafas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Yard (Wrigleyville)</td>
<td>Mrs. Olga Mehalos Golden</td>
<td>Mrs. Theresa Presvelos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. John Gritsonis</td>
<td>Ms. Angelina Raffelias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. James Hatzis</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. William Rantis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Christ Kamberos</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Dean Sarantos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Chris Kapetaneas</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Peter Sutterlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Anthony Karas</td>
<td>Mrs. Sevasti Tagaris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Thomas Kostas</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Dr. Nick Thomopoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Peter Kouvelis</td>
<td>Mrs. Arita Valessares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Helen Krillies</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Jack Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. John Krillies</td>
<td>Mrs. Panagiota Laggas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Panagiota Laggas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stewardship...

THE JOY OF CHRISTIAN STEWARSHIP

Borrowed from Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (2 Corinthians 9:6)

Christian Stewardship can be a joyful and easy task. On the parish level, it requires the effort of the entire community in order to be successful and requires from each of us a commitment of self, time, talents and treasures.

The Christian Stewardship Commitment Program is a means of financial support of the Church and parish based on true Christian giving and individual responsibility. It is a way to meet the financial obligations of the Church and parish with Christian concern, dignity and equity.

continue on page 2

The Christian Stewardship Program is believing in our Church and wanting to support and perpetuate its mission. It is one way that views the support of our Church as a matter of personal commitment and conscience. The financial support that we pledge for the year will be utilized to help meet our parish's total financial obligations for its programs and ministries and the National Ministries of our Archdiocese.

Our Holy Orthodox Church teaches us that the support of our Churches should be derived from its members/stewards. You may ask what does that mean? It means that the entire operating budget of a Parish should be completely supported by our Stewardship pledges and contributions. Last year, our expenditures proposed in the 2008 budget was $741,653.00. Through stewardship, we raised $315,730.50, which resulted in meeting 42% of our total operating expenditure budget. With a little more effort from each Steward, we can make it 100%.

In making and meeting our Stewardship Commitment, we are not paying for something; we are offering our commitment to the work of Jesus Christ and to his Church, which He has established for us. Our giving is an expression of our love for Christ who gave His life for our salvation and well-being. We give a portion of our resources to continue the work of Christ in the world so that others may be blessed as we have been blessed.

Our Stewardship Commitment reflects our love for God and the Church and expresses our commitment to insure and promote the future of our Church. The success of the Stewardship Program over these years has been very successful because of the Grace of God and your support. "According to the commission of God given to me... I laid a foundation and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it." (1 Corinthians 3:10)
Stewardship...

Wish List for Assumption’s Chapel of St. Catherine

Assumption Church’s Chapel of St. Catherine is in need of renovation and repair. The Chapel, located downstairs from Assumption’s main Church, is utilized weekly by over 125 registered Sunday Church School children and their families for Divine Liturgy and also provides extra seating for major holidays. While the lease of the Plato School building has helped secure and stabilize Assumption’s financial status, the annual surplus provided by the Plato School revenue is insufficient to fully fund the needed renovations for the Chapel. This is particularly true when unplanned maintenance items periodically occur for Assumption’s beautiful, but aging facility.

Can you help us renovate Assumption’s Chapel of St. Catherine?

Below is a wish list of items the Parish Council has identified as priority items for the Chapel’s renovation and repair. Please contact the Assumption Church office at (773) 626-3114 for further information or to make a contribution.

Thank you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wish list item</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair lift</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove wall paper and paint walls</td>
<td>$26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New carpeting</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical upgrade</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible restrooms near Narthex</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainage/plumbing repair</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bapistry removal</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior Altar walls demolition</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candle stand i’ children’s height</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parish Happenings...

Assumption Church Christmas Projects

For a number of years our Assumption Church supports two projects each Christmas season. We hope you are able to participate in one or both of these projects.

The first project is buying Christmas presents for foster children in the Department of Children and Family Services. Under the Orthodox Christian Clergy Association, this is a Pan Orthodox project which started in 1998. The Orthodox Churches of the Chicago area take 1,500 children’s names each year. Since 1998, 16,000 children have received Christmas gifts from Orthodox Churches, the largest contributor to this Christmas program. The names will be available for pick up on Sundays after the Divine Liturgy beginning October 11.

The second project is participating with Loretto Hospital and their Christmas gifts for the children in the Austin Community. This involves buying a $15.00 gift for a child and identifying the gift by age and gender. Particular information will be available about mid-November.
Stewardship List September 2009...

MR JOHN ALEXANDER
MS PAULINE ALEXANDER
MRS GEORGI A ALEXOPOULOS
MR & MRS ERNEST ANALITIS
MRS CHRISTINE ANDREWS
MS CONSTANCE ANDREWS
MS DEMETRA ANDREWS
MR JOHN ANDREWS
NICK & TAMISHA ANGELACOS
MRS NICOLETTA ANOS
MRS GEORGIA APOSTOL
MRS FRIEDA ARAVOSIS
MS CAROL ARGYRAKIS
MR & MRS GEORGE ARVANITES
FATHER TIMOTHY G. BAKAKOS
DR & MRS MICHAEL BAKALIS
MRS NOTA BARKOULIES
MR & MRS JAMES BECKER
MR MATTHEW BECKER
MR & MRS DEMITRIOS LIVADITIS BEJANIS
MR & MRS JOHN BELTRAMO
MR & MRS GEORGE BERBAS
MRS MARY BETINIS
MR & MRS DONALD BIANUCCI
BOB & HELEN BIGGERS
MR & MRS DONALD BLANGIN
MS KATHERINE BLANGIN
MR & MRS WILLIAM BLATHRAS
MR & MRS JAMES BOARDEN
MRS GARIFALIA BOLOS
MR & MRS JAMES BOUNARDJ
MR & MRS MICHAEL BOZNOS
MRS TOULA BOZNOS
MR WILLIAM BOZNOS
MR & MRS JAMES BUONINCONTRO
MR AND MRS JOHN CALAMOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER CAPRIO
MR DAN CARAS
MRS GEORGEJAN CARAS
MRS CATHERINE CATCHFORES
MR & MRS GEORGE CEPEK
MR & MRS GEORGE CHERIMPES
DR JOHN CHIKAULAS
DR & MRS NICHOLAS CHIPAIN
MRS ANTONIA CHOPORIS
MR WILLIAM CHOPORIS
MR CHRIS CHULOS & MRS TANJA CHULOS-SAARINEN
MR & MRS PATRICK CIBULA
MR & MRS GEORGE COLLAS
MR & MRS ANDREW COLLIS
MRS HELEN COLLIS
MR THOMAS COLLIS
MRS & MRS ELAINE COLUMBUS
MR & MRS JAMES COLUMBUS
MRS MATINA CONNOLLY
MRS EVELYN CONSTANTINIDES
MRS & MR TINA CORRADINO
MRS EMILY COTSIRILOS
MRS CONNIE COUSSI
MRS JULIA CUTSUIVITIS
MR PAUL CUTSUIVITIS
MR JOHN DADES
MR & MRS JOHN DAKURAS
MS ANASTASIA DAMOLARIS
MS MARTHA DAMOLARIS
MR & MRS STEVE DAMOLARIS
JAMES & GEORGIA DARRAS
MR TOM DARRUS
MRS EMILY DEAM
MR BILL DELIGIANNIS
MR & MRS BILL DEMAKIS
MS HELEN DEMAKIS
MRS APHRODITE DEMEUR
MR & MRS GEORGE DEMITROPOULOS
MR & MRS JOHN DEMITROPOULOS
MR & MRS GEORGE DEMOS
MR & MRS JIM DEMOS
MR & MRS THOMAS DEMOS
MRS LAUREN DEREUS
MRS ANN DERVIS
MR GEORGE DERVIS
MR & MRS WILLIAM DIAMANT
MR & MRS EMMANUEL DIMITRAKOPULOS
MRS DIAN DIONESOTES
MR JAMES DIONESOTES
MS KATHERINE DOUKAS
MS BASILLE EFANTIS
MR & MRS JOHN ELLIS
MR MICHAEL EUGENIDES
MS CATHERINE FERGUSON
MR & MRS PANTAZIS FILIS
MR & MRS HAROLD FITZSIMMONS
MR & MRS GEORGE FLOROS
MR JOHN FLOROS
MR LEE FORRES
MRS MARY FOTOPOULOS
MR & MRS RICHARD FRITZ
MR THEODORE GAILAN
MR & MRS GEORGE GALANOPoulos
MRS ALICE GALLIOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER GANAS
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER GANAS
MRS BESSIE GANGAS
MR PETER GANIOS
MR & MRS JERRY GARBIS
MRS SHIRLEY GATZIOLIS

continued on page 2

continued on page 15
Stewardship List September 2009...

MS CHRISTINE GEANON
MR & MRS WILLIAM GEIB
MRS EFFIE GEKAS
NIKI GEORGACAKIS & ELAINE GEORGE
MR & MRS JAMES GEORGALAS
MR & MRS NICK GEORGIANTIS
MR & MR ANTHONY GEORGIAN
MR & MRS THEODORE GEORGOPOULOS
MRS IRENE GERAERAKIS
MR NICK GERAERAKIS
MR & MRS PETER GIANAKOPOULOS
MRS TOULA GIANAKOPOULOS
MRS VASILIKI GIANNOS
MRS CHRISTENE GIANNONULIS
MRS ETHEL GIANOULIS
MRS IRENE GIARDINA
MR & MRS JOSEPH GIARDINA
MR THOMAS GIARDINA
MR & MRS BOBBY GIOTAKIS
DR & MRS CONSTANTINE GODELLAS
MS MIA GODELLAS
MRS OLGA MEHALOS GOLDEN
MR & MRS THOMAS GOLDEN
MRS GEORGIA GOROS
MR LEO GOROS
MR JOHN GOUVAS
MR & MRS DOUGLAS GREEN
MS KELLY GRIGOROPOULOS
MR JOHN GRITSONIS
MR HELEN GROM
MS FRANCINE HARVALIS
MRS PENELOPE HARVALIS
MR JAMES HATZIS
MR & MRS MARIO HOLGUIN
MR & MRS PETER IATRIDES
MR RAYMOND ISAAC
MR & MRS STEVEN JURASEK
MR & MRS JANUSZ KACZMARCYK
MR PANAGIOTIS KALOGERESIS
MR & MRS CHRIST KAMBEROS
MR ANDREW KANEL
MRS CHRISTINE KANEL
MR JAMES A. KANEL
MR AND MRS NICHOLAS KANEL
MR MILTON KANELLAKES
MR & MRS CHRIS KAPPOS
MR & MRS JAMES KAPPOS
MRS CATHERINE KARABAS
MRS PATRICIA KARABAS
MRS THALIA KARABIS
MISS SOPHIE KARAGIANNIS
MRS DEMETRA KARAHALIOS
MR & MRS ANTHONY KARAS
MR LAMBROS KARAKIS
MR & MRS THOMAS KARONIS
MR & MRS ANDREW KAROS
MR & MRS ERNEST KARRAS
MRS MIA KASIMOS
MRS ANTOINETTE KASKAS
MR GEORGE KATSIKARIS
MRS BESS GEROULIS KATSIKAS
MR & MRS LOUIS KAZAGLIS
MRS CONNIE KEENAN
DR NICHOLAS KINNAS
MRS ANGELINE KIOUSIS
MR & MRS GEORGE KOLETTIS
MR & MRS DEMETRIOS KOLIATIS
MS FAY KOLIAS
MRS ALICE KOPAN
MR GEORGE KOSIONIS & MS JAN AUGUSTINE
MR & MRS THOMAS KOSTAS
MR DINO KOTSOVETIS
MRS KAREN KOTSOVETIS
MS NATALIE KOTSOVETIS
MS KATHERINE KOTT
MR & MRS WALTER KOTT
MR & MRS GUST KOIMELIS
MRS HELEN PAPAGEORGE KOIMELIS
MR & MS DEMETRIOS KOLOURIS
MR & MRS TOM KOLOURIS
MISS SOPHIE KOUTSELAS
MRS GEORGIA KOULVELIS
MR & MRS PETER KOUVELIS
MR & MRS MATTHEW KOZIL
MR & MRS BRIAN KRAPEC
MS EUGENIA KRIBALES
MRS HELEN KRILLIES
MS CALLIOPE KUTRUBIS
MRS GEORGIA KRYIAZES
MR & MRS CHRIS LAGEOTAKES
MR PETER LAGEOTAKES
MRS PANAGIOTA LAGGAS
MR JAMES LAKERDAS
MR JAMES LAKERDAS
MRS ANASTASIA LAMBESIS
MISS EVELYN LAMBROU
MR & MS LOUIE LAMBROU
MR & MRS JAMES LEAKAKOS
MR & MRS NICK LEKOUSIS
MISS BETTY LEONTIOS
MISS EUGENIA LEONTIOS

continued on page 16
Stewardship List September 2009...

MRS DENA LEVADITIS
MR & MRS WILLIAM LIMPARIS
MR CHRIS LIMPERIS
MRS HELEN LIMPERIS
DR JANICE LIMPERIS
MR & MRS NICHOLAS LINARDO
MS FRANCES LIVADITIS
MRS MARY CLARA LIVADITIS
MR & MRS JAMES LOFTUS
MR & MRS ILIAS LOULOUSIS
MR & MRS WILLIAM LUCAS
MR & MRS KENVIN LYNCH
MR DEAN MAGGOS
DR EVELYN MAGGOS
MRS HELEN MAGGOS
MR LOUIS MALEVITIS
MRS MARY MAMAIES
DEAN & LOUISE MAMALAKIS
MR GEORGE MANIATES
MRS HELEN MANIATES
MR & MRS GEORGE MANIATIS
MR & MRS THEODORE MANIATIS
DR & MRS CHAD MANSOUR
MR & MRS NICHOLAS MANSOUR
MR & MRS EMILE MANTZAKIDES
MRS MARY MARAS
MR & MRS CHRIST MARKOU
MRS POTA MAROS
MR & MRS JOHN MAROUTSOS
MR & MRS THOMAS MASSOURAS
MR HARRY MATARAS
MS MICHELLE MAUTONE
MRS BESSIE MAVREAS
MR & MRS GEORGE MENTON
MRS HELEN MIHAIL
MR & MRS GEORGE MILLER
MR & MRS MARTIN MILOSOVIC
MR & MRS WILLIAM MILOSOVIC
MR & MRS TIMOTHY NASH
MS PHYLLIS NICHOLAS
MR VINCENT NICHOLAS
MRS AMELIA NICHOLS
MR & MRS DEAN NICHOLS
MRS MARIE NICHOLS
MRS HELEN NICOLOPOULOS
MR GEORGE NISBETT
MR & MRS ROBERT NISBETT
MR & MRS LARRY PALMISANO
MS SOFIA PALOUMPI
MRS FREDALANAGOS
MISS ANTOINETTE PANOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOS PANOS
MR & MRS PETER PANOS

MR COSTAS PANTAZIS
DR & MRS JOHN PANTON
DR & MRS PETER PANTON
DR & MRS ROBERT PANTON
MR & MRS DIONYSIOS PAPAFOTOPoulos
MR & MRS NICK PAPAFOTOPoulos
MRS MARIA PAPAGIANNOPOULOS
DR & MRS STEVEN PAPAGIANNOPOULOS
MRS ANITA PAPANEK
MRS GEORGIA PAPPADIMITRIOU
MISS ANASTASIA PAPPAS
MR GEORGE PAPPAS
MRS MARTHA PAPPAS
MR & MRS THEODORE PAPPAS
MISS VIVIAN PAPPAS
MRS ANGELA PARRY-PATERAKIS
MR GEORGE PARRY-PATERAKIS
MISS KATHERINE PATRINOS
MR & MRS ANDREW PATERAKIS
MRS DIMITRA PEPPAS
MRS MARY MAMAIES
MR GEORGE PARRY - PATERAKIS
DEAN & LOUISE MAMALAKIS
MR GEORGE PARRY - PATERAKIS
MRS MARY MARAS
MR & MRS CHRIST MARKOU
MRS POTA MAROS
MR & MRS JOHN MAROUTSOS
MR & MRS THOMAS MASSOURAS
MR HARRY MATARAS
MS MICHELLE MAUTONE
MRS BESSIE MAVREAS
MR & MRS GEORGE MENTON
MRS HELEN MIHAIL
MR & MRS GEORGE MILLER
MR & MRS MARTIN MILOSOVIC
MR & MRS WILLIAM MILOSOVIC
MR & MRS TIMOTHY NASH
MS PHYLLIS NICHOLAS
MR VINCENT NICHOLAS
MRS AMELIA NICHOLS
MR & MRS DEAN NICHOLS
MRS MARIE NICHOLS
MRS HELEN NICOLOPOULOS
MR GEORGE NISBETT
MR & MRS ROBERT NISBETT
MR & MRS LARRY PALMISANO
MS SOFIA PALOUMPI
MRS FREDALANAGOS
MISS ANTOINETTE PANOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOS PANOS
MR & MRS PETER PANOS

MRS DIMITRA PEPPAS
MRS MARY MAMAIES
MR GEORGE PARRY - PATERAKIS
DEAN & LOUISE MAMALAKIS
MR GEORGE PARRY - PATERAKIS
MRS MARY MARAS
MR & MRS CHRIST MARKOU
MRS POTA MAROS
MR & MRS JOHN MAROUTSOS
MR & MRS THOMAS MASSOURAS
MR HARRY MATARAS
MS MICHELLE MAUTONE
MRS BESSIE MAVREAS
MR & MRS GEORGE MENTON
MRS HELEN MIHAIL
MR & MRS GEORGE MILLER
MR & MRS MARTIN MILOSOVIC
MR & MRS WILLIAM MILOSOVIC
MR & MRS TIMOTHY NASH
MS PHYLLIS NICHOLAS
MR VINCENT NICHOLAS
MRS AMELIA NICHOLS
MR & MRS DEAN NICHOLS
MRS MARIE NICHOLS
MRS HELEN NICOLOPOULOS
MR GEORGE NISBETT
MR & MRS ROBERT NISBETT
MR & MRS LARRY PALMISANO
MS SOFIA PALOUMPI
MRS FREDALANAGOS
MISS ANTOINETTE PANOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOS PANOS
MR & MRS PETER PANOS

continued on page 2

continued on page 17
Stewardship List September 2009...

MS ANN RANTIS
MR & MRS WILLIAM RANTIS
MRS HELEN RAPTIS
MR & MRS JAMES REGAS
MRS SOPHIE RENDAS
MS RACHEL RIHA
MR & MRS RAYMOND RIHA, JR
MR AND MRS RAYMOND RIHA, SR
MR & MRS EDWARD RIZER
MR & MRS JEFFREY ROBERTS
MR AND MRS PETER ROMAS
MRS SOPHIE ROMAS
MRS IRENE ROMBAKIS
MR & MS JOHN ROMBAKIS
DR & MRS WILLIAM ROUMAN
MRS KATHERINE ROUPAS
MR & MRS KEN RUBENSTEIN
MR & MRS DEAN SARANTOS
MR & MRS HARRY SAUNDERS
MS MARIA SCHMIDT
MR & MRS NICK SCOURLETOS
MS TESSIE SELIMOS
MR. AND MRS. CONSTANTINOS SIATOS
MR & MRS KOSTA SKOULIKARIS
MRS POPE SKOULIKARIS
MR & MRS KOSTAS SKOULIKAS
MS IRENE SKUTERIS
MR & MRS SPIRO SKUTERIS
MR & MRS GEORGE SOULELES
MRS ATHENA SOULIDES
MS TASOULA SOULIDES
MR & MRS HARRY SOUMAKIS
MR & MRS NICK SPYRIDAKIS
DR BASIL SPYROPOULOS
MR & MRS PETER SPYROPOULOS
DR STAVROULA SPYROPOULOS
MRS LILLIAN STAMAS
MRS ALEXANDRA STATHOPOULOS
MRS CATHERINE STAVROPOULOS
MRS GEORGIA STAVROPOULOS
MISS JOANN STAVROPOULOS
MR & MRS PAUL STAVROPOULOS
MR & MRS JOHN STEC
MRS ROSE MARIE STEWART
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS STRAVOLEMAKOS
MR & MRS MATHIEU SUSSMAN
MR & MRS PETER SUTTERLIN
MRS MARY T SZCZESNIAK
MRS SEVASTI TAGARIS
MR TAKOUDIS & MRS FOUSTALIERAKI
MISS ANASTASIA TEROVOLAS
MR & MRS ANGELO TEROVOLAS
MISS CRYSTELLA TEROVOLAS
MRS BESSIE THERMOS

DR & DR NICK THOMOPOULOS
MS ELENI TOLE
MR & MRS GENTJAN (YANNI) TOLE
MR & MRS ANGELO TOLIOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
MRS HELEN TOULIOS
MR & MRS PETER TRAGOS
MR JOHN TRIHANAS
MR & MRS GUS TRAKAS
MRS BESSIE TRIHAS
MR & MRS ANGELO TSAGALIS
MR & MRS VASILIOS TSAGANOS
MR & MRS PETE TSAGGARIS
MR & MS JOHN G. TSIGOLIS
MRS BETTY TSIOLIS
MR JAMES TSIOLIS
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS TSIRIBAS
MRS KATHERINE TZOUMIS
MRS DENA VAGIAS
MRS ARITA VALESSARES
MRS MARY VARVEN
MR GUST VASILIADES
MR JASON VASSILIADIS
PAULINE VAVASIS
MR & MRS THOMAS VELOS
MR & MRS PETER VERROS
MRS STAMATA VERVENIOTIS
MR & MRS ALEX VICKAS
MR ALAYNA VLAGOS & MR PETER WEIGAND-VLAGOS
MR & MRS GEORGE VLAHOS
MR AND MRS JOHN VLAHOS
MRS MARIANTHE VLAHOS
MR & MRS PETER VLAHOS
DR & MRS PERRY VOORNAS
MR & MRS PETER VOUILGARAKIS
MR & MRS ROMAN VOUILGARAKIS
MR BILL VRANAS
MR JASON VRANAS
MRS PEGGY VRANAS
MS FRANCES WAHBY
MR ANDREW WALDECK
MS ALKISTIS WONAIS
MR & MRS JACK WOODS
MS MARY ELLEN WOODS
MR & MS GUS XINOS
MRS MARIA XINOS
MR & MRS CONSTANTINE YANNIAS
MS DONNA YANNIAS
MR & MRS STEVE YANNIAS
MS TRACY YANNIAS
MRS FRANCES ZACK
Parish Registry August-September 2009...

WEDDINGS

Catherine Demos and Chris Kappos
Sponsor î Victoria Bousis

Maria Raveliotis and Bobby (Haralambos) Giotakis
Sponsors î Athanasios and Bessie Sotos

Nick Tsagaris and Maria Flesias
Sponsor î James Papagiannis

BAPTISMS

Daughter of Christos and Christine Panos, taking the name Lia (Evangelia)
Godparent î Elaine Kidonakis

Daughter of Dean and Erin Godellas, taking the name Georgia
Godparent î Mia Godellas

Son of John and Vasiliki Frake, taking the name Athanasios
Godparents î Luke Hatzipetros and George Papadimitriou

40 DAY BLESSINGS

Son of John and Vasiliki Frake

FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD

+ Evelyn Constantinides
+ Evelyn Funteas
+ Alexandra Stathopoulos
+ Aphrodite Demeur

MEMORIALS

40 Days  John Dakuras
Niki Georgacakis
John Maropoulos

2 Years  Yiannoula Ganios
Peter Ladas

6 Months  Jane (Demitra) Gagomiros

3 Years  Peggy Ladas

1 Year  Barbara Leakakos
Jenny (Ioanna) Berbas
Catherine Boulahanis
Helen Patrinos

5 Years  George Romas
Parish Happenings...

The Assumption Labor Day Festival
September 6 and 7, 2009
The Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple
November 21

St. Catherine
November 25

continue on page 2