As we all know from experience, it's not always easy to get ready for Christmas. For one thing, there is so much to do. And for many of us, this is the busiest time of the year. It is also, for many, the most nerve-wracking, particularly if you are a person who does not enjoy shopping. Another one of those “potentially” dreaded jobs can be decorating the inside and outside of the home at Christmas.

Believe it or not, hanging lights on a Christmas tree can be most stressful. About a week ago, I came across an article on the Internet that listed the “Things NOT To Say When Hanging Lights” on the Christmas Tree. I list them below:

"Up a little higher. You can reach it. Go on, try."
"What on earth do you do to these lights when you put them away every year? Tie them in knots?"
"You've got the whole thing on the tree upside-down. The electric pluggee thing should be down here at the bottom, not up at the top."
"I don't care if you have found another two strings, I'm done!"
"Look at this……you've just wound 'em around and around…..I thought we agreed it shouldn't look like a spiral this year?"
"Have you been drinking?"
"Where's the cat?"

And the number one thing not to say when hanging lights on a tree? "If you're not going to do it right, don't do it at all. Don't just throw them on, like you do the icicles. You're worse than your father."

We certainly know, it's not always easy getting ready for Christmas. The Gospel writer, Saint Luke, in his narrative concerning the coming of Christ, quotes the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation."

And that is what we should be trying to do this season as we fast prepare for the Christmas holidays. "Prepare the way for the Lord." We don't do it with bulldozers or picks and shovels. We do it with songs and lights and prayers and preaching, because the ultimate destination that Christ desires for us is not a temple or a palace. Rather, the destination He most desires is residence within our hearts. But it's not easy getting ready for Christmas, particularly in such a world as ours. Look at some of the "toys" on the market for children at Christmas time in recent years. There's a toy out there called "Forward Command Post." "It's essentially a bombed-out doll house, complete with smashed furniture, broken railings and bullet holes in the walls…..and it says that it is recommended for children 5 years old and up."

Continued on page 2
Getting Ready for Christmas

One of the biggest-selling video games a few years ago was a PlayStation 2 game called "Grand Theft Auto III." Listen to a summary of this game as carried by the New York Times: "This is a game in which all boundaries of civilized behavior have vanished. You get to shoot whomever you want, including cops. You get to beat women to death with baseball bats. You get to have sex with prostitutes and then kill them (and get your money back)." The article also went on to say that this was one of the big sellers that year!

As we said earlier, it's not easy preparing for Christmas in such a world as ours. Some people have no concept of the real meaning of this season because they degrade it in every possible way. A few years back, a television interviewer was walking the streets of Tokyo at Christmas time. Strangely enough, much as in America, Christmas shopping is a big commercial success in Japan.....even though the Christian community in Japan is tiny. The interviewer stopped one young woman on the sidewalk, and asked, "What is the meaning of Christmas?" Laughing, she responded, "I don't know. Is that the day that Jesus died?"

It's not easy preparing for Christmas in such a world as ours. It never has been. And that's the point we need to remember. Christ came, in the first place, because the world needed saving. It needed saving then, and it needs saving now.

It is difficult for us to appreciate the cruel world Christ was born into. They didn't need violent video games. The real world was already violent enough. Take the ruler of that part of the world, for example, King Herod of Judea. He was called "Herod the Great." But the only thing great about him was his insecurity and his penchant for murder. He murdered three of his sons because he thought they were too eager to succeed him. He murdered his mother-in-law for reasons about which we can only speculate. He murdered his wife. And when he was dying, he ordered the most prominent citizens in Israel to visit him in Jericho. When they arrived, he had them locked up with instructions that they be murdered as soon as he died. This was to insure that there would be reason for mourning at his funeral. So, it wasn't out of character for King Herod to slaughter Bethlehem's babies because he heard one of them might one day replace him. We sometimes forget that there have always been cruel monsters in the world. Christ came because the world needed saving. It needed it then, and it needs it now.

Every year, former President Bush and his wife Laura send out a Christmas card with a Bible verse on it. For Christmas 2001, when the country was still coming to terms with the Sept. 11th attacks, the Bushes decided to choose a verse that conveyed their faith and hope. They picked this verse from the Psalms: "I believe I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."

That is what the promise of Christmas is all about. The Prophet Isaiah put it like this: "Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation."

That is the hope that sustains us in good times and bad...that we shall see and realize God's salvation. Christ came because the world needed saving...that is the real and true reason why we celebrate, and should celebrate Christmas...that Christ came in order that we might be saved!

I still want to believe that there is something about Christmas that elevates us. For most of us who do believe, we feel more hopeful, more magnanimous at Christmas than in any other season of the year. There truly is something about Christmas that even permeates the secular world with its commercialism and its blatant disregard for the season's real meaning.

Finally, THAT is what the Season of Advent and the celebration of Christmas hopefully prepares us for.....to turn our attention away from the rigors and tribulations of the everyday rat-race, and direct them on the coming of the Christ Child Who took on human flesh in order to walk with us, live amongst us, and ultimately, give His life in order that we

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Getting Ready for Christmas

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might be saved. That is hopefully what Christmas does to us......to elevate us and bring us to a more heavenly level. For most people, Christmas usually brings warmth to their hearts, kindness to their lips, and even charity to their purses.

Who can deny that the love of Christmas has the power to transform human society? In fact, that is exactly what Christmas was designed to do...to transform human society. And, it does that by the power of hope. Take yourselves as an example. Whenever a baby is born into our family...a baby that is planned for and eagerly awaited...it comes with great promise. We stare into his or her beautiful eyes and see coming days of its tiny voice calling out mama and dada, followed by the days of learning to crawl and then walk, riding a bicycle, and then driving a car. Even as we cuddle the small baby, we do so with the awareness that, before we even know it, we will be sending that child as a grown adult out into the world. The joy of having a new baby in the house is not simply the joy of one individual moment in time...it is the anticipation of a lifetime of love and laughter, heartache and growth.

And so it is, my brothers and sisters, the same with the coming of Jesus Christ. With Christ came the very promise of God...the promise of a still to be realized time of peace on earth, goodwill to all people. It hasn't come yet, but every time we light the Advent candles and decorate our homes with lights, every time we lift our voices in the great carols of Christmas, and read those ancient prophecies of a coming Messiah, we are affirming that...even though this world still stands in need of saving...that the Savior has come, and because He has come, there is hope eternal.

As I end my Christmas Pastoral message, I would like to share this story with you. Coming off the Presidential Campaign of 2008, we have all heard of the heroics of Senator John McCain of Arizona, who spent 5½ years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam in the 1960s. During that time, he was frequently tortured or held in solitary confinement. He reports that his lowest point came on Christmas Eve 1969. McCain was giving up hope of ever getting out of Vietnam alive. And to compound his homesickness, his captors, the Vietnamese, resorted to mind games and played the song, "I'll Be Home for Christmas" over and over again on the PA system.

When he was about to finally lose it, McCain heard tapping on his cell wall. This was the communication code the POWs used to communicate with one another. On the other side of the wall was a Marine named Ernie Bruce, who had been imprisoned for four years already. In spite of his dire situation, Bruce was tapping out on the wall in code, "Yes, we'll ALL be home for Christmas...God bless America." These simple words of comfort restored John McCain's hope. And likewise, we too need to remember that the message of Christmas is always one of hope.

Yes, this world needs saving, but God began that process of salvation over two thousand years ago with the birth of a babe in Bethlehem. There's something about Christmas that elevates us. Christmas is about hope of a better world to come. Let us use these days and season leading up to Christmas to prepare ourselves mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually for the greatest and most precious gift that we ever will be given...the gift of eternal life! On behalf of my co-worker and co-celebrant, Father Athanasios, and blessed and beloved Parish of Panagia, I pray that you have a most blessed and holy and loving Feast and celebration of Christmas. And I further pray that this Christmas Day be a new beginning and a new point of departure for our lives committed to the new-born, and in the Life of Christ and in the life of the Church. Let us rejoice with the words...Joy to the World...Christ is Born...Let us Glorify Him!

+ A M E N
Parish Council President…

President’s Report
By James Lakerdas

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have Peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” --John 16:38

Many of you may not have noticed, but our Community is poised to move forward. As we close out the year for 2009, I am happy to report that all is well at the Assumption Church.

Have you noticed that our Community is growing? Church attendance has increased. Communion lines are longer. The number of our stewards is up from last year. We have more children in our Sunday school, than we did a year ago.

Have you noticed that our Church calendar is replete with various ministries and activities? Our Community has initiated wonderful programs that have brought a renewal of faith and growth to our Church. There are activities for every age group.

Have you noticed that we have an exceptional property? I think we can all agree that we have the most beautiful Church Edifice in the Chicago area. However, our property requires constant attention and care. I am committed to keeping our Spiritual Home in top condition. We are continuing to make major capital improvements to our facility. Recently we initiated a remodeling of Saint Catherine’s Chapel. We are also preparing to take the first step in making our facility accessible to all.

Have you noticed that collections are on the rise? Despite the challenges of the economy, pledges have increased. Many in our Church Community have come forward and gave generously. Your donations insure that we will continue to serve the faithful for generations to come.

Have you noticed that our school building is occupied and looking newer than ever? Our new tenants, AQS, have done a major remodeling of our school building. They installed new windows, new electric, and new kitchen equipment. Their students are also excelling on all the standardized tests.

Have you noticed that we have a strong core of dedicated volunteers? Many of you have shown your love for our community by giving of your time, talent, and treasury. Without the support of these individuals none of this would be possible.

As we fast come to the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, our Clergy and Parish Council join with me in extending to you and your family a joyous and very Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

Save the Dates: Upcoming Events

Metropolis of Chicago Open House—Sunday, December 13, 2009
Metropolis of Chicago Vasilopita—January 10, 2010
Philoptochos...

Current Events
By Ann Dervis

Lap Blankets for Cancer Patients
A friend and former colleague of President Nancy Pilafas crocheted lap blankets and donated them to our Philoptochos. Sugenia Kribales and Rita Pietrzyk contacted Sister Maureen at Loretto Hospital and delivered them to her. Sister Maureen will distribute the lap blankets to cancer patients. This is just one example of Philoptochos reaching out to those in need.

November 1, Artoclasia
The ladies hosted Artoclasia for the health and welfare of the Philoptochos Soceity and their families. This is an annual tradition to honor our Patron Saints Cosmas and Damianos who were practitioners of medicine who healed all without asking for payment. Saints Cosmas and Damianos are pictured in our beautiful stained glass windows near the west doors of our Church. The ladies passed the second tray and collected over $400.00 for the benefit of our Patriarchate in Constantinople. Coffee hour fellowship was then served in Plato Hall.

November 4-7, Metropolis Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos Assembly in Milwaukee
Representing our Assumption Philoptochos were Nancy Pilafas, Patricia Karabas and Eleanor Georgalas. They will report at our next meeting and we thank them for their time and their work for the benefit of the needy.

November 19, Meeting
The monthly meeting was held in the St. Catherine Chapel meeting room at 10:30 a.m. Reports were given and afterwards lunch was served and followed by Holiday Bingo.

November 22, Autumn Bake Sale
For this annual event the ladies baked, packaged and sold homemade cookies and other treats after Divine Liturgy and in preparation for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

November 24, St. Catherine Vespers
The ladies served light refreshments after the evening service.

December 5, Christmas Party
A luncheon was held at the Greek Islands Restaurant in Lombard, Illinois. Husbands were also invited and luncheon was followed by group singing of Christmas carols.

December 8, Feed the Hungry
This event is held at Annunciation Cathedral. See Nancy Pilafas, Vi Skuteris or any Philoptochos member for more information. It is an experience that makes us thankful for God’s many blessings.
Philoptochos...

Philoptochos Membership Tea, September 2009

“A Greek Evening” Fundraiser for Alzheimer’s Research, October 2009
Celebrate the Birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ  
By Father Athanasios Pieri

Once again by the Grace of God we are preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Once again we are going to experience His great humility and His love to become man. The meaning of this great feast is this opportunity that God gives us to become by His grace divine, and this deeper meaning must change our life as we try to stay away from every sin.

As we read from the Holy Gospel, especially the passages that refer to the birth of Christ (Incarnation), we know that He was born in Bethlehem. As we know, the Panagia, with Joseph, went to their country for the census. The order of the census was published by Caesar Augustus and all the people went to their city to register. Panagia and Joseph went to Bethlehem as, they were originally from the generation and the family of David. The census had the purpose of paying taxes, as the people from Judea paid very high taxes.

Saint Theophylaktos gives us the explanation that God wanted the census in order for Panagia to return back to her country of Bethlehem and for Christ to be born there, so that the prophecy might be to be fulfilled. The census was supposed to be from Caesar Augustus, and because God was coming to destroy the belief in many gods, with Caesar Augustus being the only Caesar at that time, he was a king. It also shows us how God controls history.

Saint Theophylaktos also added another important point about the census, the importance of the salvation of the people. Christ accepted the census in order to give holiness to all people who participate and destroy slavery. As Christ, who accepted the circumcision, He also destroys the circumcision, in the same way those who registered with the census destroyed the slavery of the natural and those who work in Christ and follow His will they are no longer slaves. We experience the paradox with the registration to the census that Christ is able to free us from the slavery.

We live in a society today where many censuses and surveys take place that try to make us to get involved in one way or another. As they try to make us participate in these censuses and surveys, we have to know that they are not able to control the spiritual aspect because God allows every person to make a choice regardless of all the difficult situations with which we have to deal. This happens especially to those who live the spiritual life, in that they have the Grace of the Holy Spirit because they are registered in the book of life.

As we participated in Holy Baptism, become a member of the Holy Church and member of the Body of Christ, He gives us the opportunity to enter inside the Heavenly Kingdom and become a citizen, as at the same time our name is written to the book of life. It is important to give a daily confession of our faith for His love, as we are going to register with the census of the Heavenly kingdom.

Let us take this census to Christ as a teaching that He is the governor of the world and of time, He controls history and directs us to a right purpose. Let us allow Him to teach us that we have to live continuously within this spiritual census to the books of the Holy Church as we follow His Divine Will and He frees us from our weakness and our passions and then we are able freely to live in the Heavenly Kingdom that does not have any limitation as God is without any limits. As we prepare to celebrate the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us try to be worthy to welcome Him in our hearts giving Him at the same time the opportunity to direct our life to have a Blessed New Year.
Δυσκόλο ρόλο, δυσβάσταχτο φορτίο. Η ελληνική κοινωνία, χείλη της θα έχει πάντα ζωγραφισμένο ένα χαμόγελο, δώρο στο στολίδι της, το παιδί της.

Από τα πρώτα στάδια της κύησης η μάνα αρχίζει την επιμόρφωση του βρέφους. Το παιδί, το τραγουδά, το φροντίζει, τοαλλά και αυτό στα σπλάχνα της. Τα συναισθήματα της αντανακλώνται πάνω του. Οι οδύνες του τοκετού απαλλάζουν τη σκέψη της για το τι δεν έπεσε. Η αδύναμη γυναίκα κοινωνία. ∆εν το κρατά στην αγκαλιά της. Το προστατεύει από τους κινδύνους που αυτή γνωρίζει. Ακόμα και στο ευλογημένης µάνας.

Οι προσευχές και οι παρακλήσεις της είναι οι αιτίες που ο Θεός σκύβει ακόμα πάνω στον άνθρωπο. Για χάρη της Μαρίας, η πιο γλυκιά λέξη, όπως λέγει και ο ποιητής. Η ακάματη µάνα, ξαγρυπνά στο προσκεφάλι του άρρωστου παιδιού της, δίνοντάς του την γιατρειά. Ακόμα και στο φροντιστήρι της, τ’ απαλό της χάδι, την στοργή της. Ναι, και τα φάρµακα συµβάλλουν. Πάντα πόσος φάρµακα δεν έχουν ακούσει για περιπτώσεις ασθενών που παρότι έχουν την καλύτερη ιατροφαρµακευτική περίθαλψη, αρνούνται να γίνουν καλά επιείκειοι τους λείπει η αγάπη. Θαυματουργή η αγάπη της μάνας. Βότανο στις πληγές, βάλσαμο στους πόνους.

Η ΘΑΥΜΑΤΟΥΡΓΗ ΑΓΑΠΗ ΤΗΣ ΜΑΝΑΣ

Το παιδί αρχίζει να φιλά σε όλες τις µητέρες του κόσμου. Ειδικότερα σ’ αυτές που συγκινούνται µέσα από αντίξοες συνθήκες να δώσουν στα παιδιά τους όσο το δυνατόν περισσότερα εφόδια. Μια ευλογία πολύ µεγαλύτερη από εκείνη που της είχε δόσει όταν την δημιουργήσε από την πλευρά του Αδάμ.

“Αναζήτησε και πληθυνθεί” τους είχε. Και από τότε ο άνθρωπος γνωρίσει την ανθρώπινη ανθρώπινη αυτή έναντιξοες συνθήκες να δώσουν στα παιδιά τους όσο το δυνατόν περισσότερα εφόδια. Με θεϊκή παρουσία, επιβάλλοντα µέσα από τον φόβο, το θέληµα Του. Προτίµει εμπόδια στο δρόµο που οδηγεί στο παιδί της. Βάζει τα στήθια της, το κορµί της µπροστά στα βέλη του κινδύνου τόσο απλό, όσο τον ψυχικό κόσµο της µάνα τη στιγµή που κινδυνεύει το παιδί της. Η αδύναμη γυναίκα κοινωνία. ∆εν το κρατά στην αγκαλιά της. Το προστατεύει από τους κινδύνους που αυτή γνωρίζει. Ακόμα και στο ευλογηµένης µάνας.
με τους παραδοσιακούς οικογενειακούς δεσμούς, δεν πρέπει παρασύρθείνακαι από μοντέρνες αντιλήψεις να 
υποβαθμίζεται η μανά. Αντίθετα, η κάθε καθημερινή δράση πρέπει να επιτρέπει τη δική της, ελεύθερη ζωή, 
εξώ από το πατρικό σπίτι, αλλά, συνήθως η εσωτερική συνδήμωργία με τον άνδρα της, της 
ολοκλήρωσης της ος 
προσπάθειας, σαν μονάδα συνδήμωργίας με τον άνδρα του λαμπρού οικοδομήματος που λέγεται οικογένεια. Η 
αγάπη τους θα γίνει έκφραση, μέσα από το πρώτο χαμόγελο του παιδιού 
τους. Και ο επίγειος παράδεισος, 
και ο Γολγοθάς που θ' ανέβουν πιστοί μαζί, όπως 
αρμόζει σε μια χριστιανική οικογένεια, θα 
τους οδηγήσει στην απόλυτη ευτυχία.

Το κορίτσι – µέλλουσα µητέρα – πρέπει να ξέρει ότι µόνον αν προφυλάξει τον εαυτό της, αν αποφύγει τις 
καταχρήσεις, αν καλλιεργήσει τον εσωτερικό και πνευµατικό της κόσµο θα µπορέσει να εκπληρώσει τον 
προορισµό της. Η προσέξιση στην ορθοδοξία θα γίνει έκφραση, µέσα από το πρώτο χαµόγελο του παιδιού 
τους. Και ο επίγειος παράδεισος, 
και ο Γολγοθάς που θ' ανέβουν πιστοί μαζί, όπως 
αρµόζει σε μια χριστιανική οικογένεια, θα 
τους οδηγήσει στην απόλυτη ευτυχία.

Narthex News...

- Assumption members of Leadership 100 hosted a fellowship hour to celebrate their 25th Anniversary on October 18. We are proud that within our parish we have several dedicated individuals/families who serve and support this noteworthy organization: Constance and Demetra Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Apostle, Mr. Louis Malevitis, Dr. and Mrs. John H. Panton, Dr. and Mrs. Peter J. Panton, Mr. and Mrs. James Regas, the family of the late Louis Mitchell, William and Alexandra (Mitchell) Michaelopoulos, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas W. Alexos, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas G. Manos, and Mr. John P. Calamos Sr. To learn more about the philanthropic efforts of Leadership 100 go to www.L100.org.

- Editorial correction—Miss Catherine Kaczmzrczyk received the 13th District Daughters of Penelope Scholarship Foundation Award in May 2009, our apologizes for not including this information in the last issue.

Stewardship List November 2009...

| MR JOHN ALEXANDER                        | FATHER TIMOTHY G. BAKAKOS                        | BOB & HELEN BIGGERS                        |
| MS PAULINE ALEXANDER                     | DR & MRS MICHAEL BAKALIS                           | MR & MRS DONALD BLANGIN                     |
| MRS GEORGIA ALEXANDRAXIS                 | MRS NOTA BARKOULIES                                 | MS KATHERINE BLANGIN                        |
| MR & MRS ORESTIS ALEXOPOULOS             | MR & MRS JAMES BECKER                                | MR & MRS WILLIAM BLATHRAS                   |
| MR & MRS ERNEST ANALITIS                 | MR MATTHEW BECKER                                   | MR & MRS JAMES BOARDEN                      |
| MS CONSTANCE ANDREWS                     | MR & MRS DEMITRIOS LIVADITIS BEJANIS                | MRS GARIFALIA BOLOS                         |
| MS DEMETRA ANDREWS                       | MR & MRS JOHN BELTRAMO                              | MR & MRS JAMES BOUNARDJ                     |
| MR JOHN ANDREWS                          | MR & MRS JOHN BELTRAMO                              | MR & MRS MICHAEL BOZNOΣ                      |
| NICK & TAMISHA ANGELACOS                 | MR & MRS GEORGE BERBAS                               | MR TOULA BOZNOΣ                              |
| MRS NICOLETTA ANOS                       | MRS MARY BETINIS                                    | MR WILLIAM BOZNOΣ                            |
| MRS GEORGIA APOSTOL                       | MR & MRS DONALD BIANUCCI                            | MR & MRS JAMES BUONINCONTO                   |
| MR & MRS LOUIS APOSTOL                   |                                                         |                                              |
| MRS FRIEDA ARAVOSIS                      |                                                         |                                              |
| MR & MRS GEORGE ARVANITES                |                                                         |                                              |

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Stewardship...

Come and See
Borrowed from Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

In the Gospel of John we read of the calling of the disciples...Philip finds Nathaniel, and said to him, “We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” And Nathaniel said to him, “Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see” (John 1:45-46).

Each of us is also called to Come and See the One who brings us peace and understanding. The One who came to be our great example in life.

See the World as God’s Gift to You
Come and see God’s many blessings in your life. What is your response to His gifts? In gratitude and thanksgiving, you offer your time, talents and treasure in proportion to what you have been given.

Gregory the Theologian writes, “You will never overcome God’s generosity, even if you give away all that you have.... And however much you bring to him, always more remains. Nor will you give anything that is your own; for all things flow from God (Or 14.22).”

See What the Church can Become
Come and see what the Church can become – not just maintaining current programs, but doing the ministries made possible by your support.

In the early Church, every person coming to the gathering of the Church brought everything they could spare for the needs of the Church. They provided for the sustenance of the clergy, widows and orphans, for helping the poor, and for all the good works of the Church. This is the Church that we as Orthodox Christians claim to be.

How much can your offering do for Christ? -Only as much as you empower it to do. It depends on your love, because we give to Christ and His Church not according to our means but according to our love for Him. We are called to love God with our entire being – our time, talents and treasury.

See God Work through You
Come and see God work through you to serve His Church and those who seek His Truth.

Remember the Samaritan woman at the well. After meeting Jesus, “…The woman then left her water pot, and went her way into the city, and said to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city, and came to him” (John 4).

God will place you in situations to share your faith. As He called upon His disciples on the day of His Ascension, He has also called upon you to be His witness”…in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

In the Gospel, we read of people coming to see Jesus. There were four individuals who also brought their friend, a paralyzed man, to be healed. When they found the place so crowded that they couldn’t get close, these friends removed part of the roof, and lowered their friend down on a stretcher and laid him at Jesus’ feet.

We also begin by bringing ourselves to Christ. But it doesn’t stop there. After we have brought ourselves, we bring others. The greatest gift we can give to another person is Christ and the ministries of the Church provide the opportunity to do so. But these ministries require our support.

We are able to fulfill God’s mission for the Church only to the extent that we support it. We do this by our physical, spiritual and financial support. Did you know that there are some 500 references in the Bible about prayer? But there are some 2300 references in the Bible about offering financial assistance to the Church to assist in transforming people.

Come and See

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Stewardship

Come and See
Borrowed from Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

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Come and See

This Phrase is simple yet powerful. It calls us to change our location – physically and spiritually. If we want to find Christ, we must move toward Him. We must grow and mature in our faith.

Giving to the Church is an opportunity – an opportunity to examine our priorities and values. It is an opportunity to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It is an opportunity to participate in the work of God. Come and see what we can do together with your support.

A check mailed to the church is meaningless unless it is accompanied by our presence, by our willingness to serve, by our prayers, and by our commitment. Giving is not a substitute for our commitment – it is an expression of our commitment. Come and see how you can grow through service to the Church.

Stewardship YTD Actual Thru October 2009

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<td>Trays</td>
<td></td>
<td>$31,917 (5%)</td>
<td>$40,500 (5%)</td>
<td>$8,583</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td>$413,672 (60%)</td>
<td>$479,565 (58%)</td>
<td>$65,893</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$690,210 (100%)</td>
<td>$830,065 (100%)</td>
<td>$139,855</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
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<td>$678,340</td>
<td>$780,064</td>
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1 71 61 7

Completely fulfilled
Pledges 559 639 stewards 671
630 700 -70 678 560

2009 YTD Actual

- Stewardship 35%
- Trays 5%
- Other 60%
**Stewardship List November 2009...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MR AND MRS JOHN CALAMOS</th>
<th>MR &amp; MRS PANTAZIS FILIS</th>
<th>MR &amp; MRS JAMES HATZIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MR &amp; MRS CHRISTOPHER CAPRIO</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS HAROLD FITZSIMMONS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS MARIO HOLGUIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR DAN CARAS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS GEORGE FLOROS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS PETER IATRIDES</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRS GEORGEJEAN CARAS</td>
<td>MR JOHN FLOROS</td>
<td>MR RAYMOND ISAAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRS CATHERINE CATCHFORES</td>
<td>MR LEE FORRES</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS STEVEN JURASEK</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR &amp; MRS GEORGE CEPEK</td>
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<tr>
<td>DR JOHN CHIAKULAS</td>
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<td>DR &amp; MRS NICHOLAS CHIPAIN</td>
<td>MR THEODORE GAILAN</td>
<td>MR ANDREW KANEL</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRS ANTONIA CHOPORIS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS GEORGE GALANOPPOULOS</td>
<td>MRS CHRISTINE KANEL</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR WILLIAM CHOPORIS</td>
<td>MRS ALICE GALLIOS</td>
<td>MR JAMES A. KANEL</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR CHRIS CHULOS &amp; MRS TANIA CHULOS-SAARINEN</td>
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<td>MR AND MRS NICHOLAS KANEL</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRS HELEN COLLIS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS JERRY GARBIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR THOMAS COLLIS</td>
<td>MR STEPHEN GATSES &amp; AMANDA ALAREZ</td>
<td>MRS PATRICIA KARABAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRS &amp; MR ELAINE COLUMBUS</td>
<td>MRS SHIRLEY GATZIOLIS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS THALIA KARABIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRS &amp; MRS JAMES COLUMBUS</td>
<td>MS CHRISTINE GEANON</td>
<td>MISS SOPHIE KARAGIANNIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRS MATINA CONNOLLY</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS WILLIAM GEIB</td>
<td>MRS DEMETRA KARAHALIOS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRS &amp; MR TINA CORRADINO</td>
<td>MRS EANNIE GEKAS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS ANTHONY KARAS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRS EMILY COTSIRILOS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS JAMES GEORGALAS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS LAMBROS KARKAZIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRS CONNIE COUSSIS</td>
<td>NIKI GEORGACAKIS &amp; ELAINE GEORGE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRS JULIA CUTSUVITIS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS NICK GEORGIAFENTIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR PAUL CUTSUVITIS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MR ANTHONY GEORGIAN</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS ERNEST KARRAS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR JOHN DADES</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS GEORGE GEORGIOU</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS MIA KASIMOS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR &amp; MRS JOHN DAKURAS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS THEODORE GEORGOPOULOS</td>
<td>MRS ANTOINETTE KASKAS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS ANASTASIA DAMOLARIS</td>
<td>MRS IRENE GERAKARIS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS CHRIST KATES</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MR &amp; MR STEVE DAMOLARIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRS EMILY DEAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR BILL DELIANNIS</td>
<td>MRS CHRISTENE GIANNOUNIS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS SPYROS KOKOLIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR &amp; MRS BILL DEMAKIS</td>
<td>MRS IRENE GIARDINA</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS GEORGE KOLETTIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS HELEN DEMAKIS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS JOSEPH GIARDINA</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS DEMETRIOS KOLIATISIS</td>
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<td>MR &amp; MRS GEORGE DEMITROPOULOS</td>
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<td>MS FAY KOLLAS</td>
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<td>MR &amp; MRS JOHN DEMITROPOULOS</td>
<td>MR &amp; MRS BOBBY GIOUKAKIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR &amp; MRS JIM DEMOS</td>
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<td>MR GEORGE KOSIONIS &amp; MS JAN AUGUSTINE</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MR &amp; MRS THOMAS KOSTAS</td>
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<td>MRS LAUREN DEREUS</td>
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<td>MRS ANN DERVIS</td>
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<td>MR JOHN GOUVAS</td>
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<td>MR &amp; MRS EMMANUEL DIMITRAKOPoulos</td>
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<td>MRS DIAN DIONESOTES</td>
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<td>MRS HELEN PAPAGEORGE KOUIMELIS</td>
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<td>MS BASILLE EFANTIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR &amp; MRS JOHN ELLIS</td>
<td>MRS PENEOLE HARVALIS</td>
<td>MRS PENEOLE HARVALIS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Stewardship List November 2009...

MR & MRS TOM KOULOURIS
MISS SOPHIE KOUTSELAS
MRS GEORGIA KOUVELIS
MR & MRS PETER KOUVELIS
MR & MRS MATTHEW KOZIL
MR & MRS BRIAN KRAPEC
MS EUGENIA KRIBALES
MRS HELEN KRILLIES
MRS BESSIE KUNDANIS
MS CALLIOPE KUTRUBIS
MRS GEORGIA KYRIAZES
MR & MRS CHRIS LAGEOTAKES
MR PETER LAGEOTAKES
MRS PANAGIOTA LAGGAS
MRS KYRIAKI LAGON
MRS DEMETRA LAKERDAS
MR JAMES LAKERDAS
MRS ANASTASIA LAMBESIS
MR & MS ELIAS LAMBROU
MISS EVELYN LAMBROU
MR & MRS JAMES LEONTIOS
MR & MRS GEORGE LEONTIOS
MRS DENA LEVADITIS
MR & MRS WILLIAM LIMPARIS
MR CHRIS LIMPERIS
MRS HELEN LIMPERIS
DR JANICE LIMPERIS
MR & MRS NICHOLAS LINARDOS
MS FRANCES LIVADITIS
MRS MARY CLARA LIVADITIS
MR & MRS JAMES LOFTUS
MR & MRS ILIAS LOULOUSIS
MR & MRS WILLIAM LUCAS
MR & MRS KEVIN 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 MANIATES
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 MAULTONE
MRS BESSIE MAVREAS
MR & MRS GEORGE MENTON
MRS HELEN MIHAL
MR & MRS GEORGE MILLER
MR & MRS MARTIN MILOSOVIC
MR & MRS WILLIAM MILOSOVIC
MR & MRS THOMAS MITROPOULOS
MR & MRS TIMOTHY NASH
MS PHYLIS NICHOLAS
MR VINCENT NICHOLAS
MRS AMELIA NICHOLS
MR & MRS DEAN NICHOLS
MRS MARIE NICHOLS
MRS HELEN NICOLOPULOS
MR GEORGE NISBETT
MR & MRS ROBERT NISBETT
MR & MRS LARRY PALMISANO
MS SOFIA PALOUPIES
MRS FRED PANAGOS
MISS ANTOINETTE PANOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOS PANOS
MR & MRS PETER PANOS
MR KOSTAS PANTAZIS
DR & MRS JOHN PANTON
DR & MRS PETER PANTON
DR & MRS ROBERT PANTON
MR & MRS DIONYSIS 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 PENESIS
MRS DIMTRA PEPPAS
MRS MARY PETERS
MRS GEORGIA PETREE
MR AND MRS JAMES PETROPOUL
MRS ELIZABETH PHILLIPS
FATHER & PRESBYTERA ATHANASIOS PIERI
MRS RITA PIETRZYK
MR & MRS ANGELO PILAFAS
MS ANN PILAFAS
MISS NANCY PILAFAS
MRS TOULA PITSIS
MRS HELEN PLEVIRITIS
DR & MRS CONSTANTINE POLITIS
DR & MRS LUCAS POLITIS
MS ESTHER POLYDOROS
MRS HELEN PONTIKES
MRS ELAINE PONTIKIS
MR & MRS GUS PONTIKIS
MRS BEATRICE POTAMIANOS
DR & MRS GAREY POTAMIANOS
MR & MRS ANTHONY POTOGLOU
MS ANNA POULOS
MRS NIKI POULOS
PETER & JOY POULOS
MR & MRS THOMAS POULOS
continued on page 14
Save the Date: January 31, 2010

__Philoptochos Apokreatiko Glendi at the Diplomat West__

Fun for the whole family! The festivities begin at 4pm. Super Bowl theme so come dressed for the game.
Parish Registry October-November 2009...

**WEDDINGS**

Rachel Riha and Nicholas Haralambopoulos  
Sponsor – Jason Vranas  
Natalie Kotsovetis and Kevin Geyer  
Sponsor – George Kotsovetis  
Kelly Grigoropoulos and Panagioti Tsioupros  
Sponsor – Haraklia Dimitropoulos

**BAPTISMS**

Sons of Matthew and Tina Corradino, taking the names James and Nicholas  
Godparent – Tina Sfondeles  
Daughter of Robert and Helen Biggers, taking the name Maria  
Godparents – John and Maria Argoudelis  
Son of Dean and Sandy Siatos, taking the name Chrisovalanti  
Godparents – George and Chrisovaladou Kafantaris  
Son and Daughter of Amanda and Steve Gatses, taking the names of Jaden (Joseph) and Amari (Maria)  
Godparents – Chistine and Jeffery Alexandros and Alexis Gatsis  
Son of Peter and Tina Verros, taking the name Constantine Peter  
Godparents – Bill and Elaina Kouruklis and Evette (Evodhya) Nassopoulos

**FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD**

+ Bessie Thermos  
+ Ethel Gianoulis  
+ Christ Kamberos  
+ Christine Andrews  
+ Philip J. Giannopoulos  
+ Sophia M. Banakis  
+ Emily Cotsirilos

**MEMORIALS**

**40 Days**  
Nick Boznos  
Evelyn Constantinides  
Alexandra Statopoulos  
Evelyn Funteas  
James Pappas  
Aphrodite Demeur  
Bessie Thermos  
**2 Years**  
Nicholas Dallas  
**3 Years**  
William (Vasiliou) Kouvelis  
**9 Years**  
John Poulos  
**10 Years**  
George Collis  
Alpanike Bokios  
Chris N. Roupas  
Tom Roupas  
**9 Months**  
Peter (Karagiannis) Karras  
**23 Years**  
Theodore Toulios  
**1 Year**  
Dr. William Godellas  
Peter Toulios  
Catherine Boulahanis  
Jean Hemrock  
Aphrodite Pappas  
Catherine Poulos
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