Apostle Herodion of the Seventy, and those with Him

Saints Herodion (Rodion), Agabus, Asyncritus, Rufus, Phlegon and Hermes are among the Seventy Apostles, chosen by Christ and sent out by Him to preach (Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles: January 4).

The holy Apostle Herodion was a relative of St Paul, and his companion on many journeys. When Christianity had spread to the Balkan Peninsula, the Apostles Peter and Paul established St Herodion as Bishop of Patara. St Herodion zealously preached the Word of God and converted many of the Greek pagans and Jews to Christianity.

Enraged by the preaching of the disciple, the idol-worshippers and Jews with one accord fell upon St Herodion, and they began to beat him with sticks and pelt him with stones. One of the mob struck him with a knife, and the saint fell down. But when the murderers were gone, the Lord restored him to health unharmed.

After this, St Herodion continued to accompany the Apostle Paul for years afterward. When the holy Apostle Peter was crucified (+ c. 67), St Herodion and St Olympos were beheaded by the sword at the same time.

The holy Apostle Agabus was endowed with the gift of prophecy. He predicted (Acts 11:27-28) the famine during the reign of the emperor Claudius (41-52), and foretold the suffering of the Apostle Paul at Jerusalem (Acts 21:11). St Agabus preached in many lands, and converted many pagans to Christ.

St Rufus, whom the holy Apostle Paul mentions in the Epistle to the Romans (Rom. 16:11-15), was bishop of the Greek city of Thebes. St Asyncritus (Rom. 16:14) was bishop in Hycania (Asia Minor). St Phlegon was bishop in the city of Marathon (Thrace). St Hermes was bishop in Dalmatia (there is another Apostle of the Seventy by the name of Hermes, who was bishop in the Thracian city of Philippiopolis).

All these disciples for their intrepid service to Christ underwent fierce sufferings and were found worthy of a martyr’s crown.
Our Vision:
We are called by our Lord Jesus Christ to be united and to strive for Theosis (oneness with God). Our vision at Sts. Constantine and Helen is to see every parishioner recognize and acknowledge his or her calling; and being motivated by love for Christ and faithfulness, live the Orthodox Christian life.

Church Information:
Phone Number 610-374-7511
FAX Number 610-374-5890
www.stsconstantinehelen.org

Office Hours:
9:00 to 4:00 Monday—Friday

Parish Council:
President: Artemis Fecera 610-670-3434
E-mail: afecera@aol.com
Vice President: Chuck Mowbray 610-777-0128

Volunteers
Philoptochos President, Sharon Whitman...........whitmannrspm@comcast.com........... 717-314-1641
Sunday School, Tula Donahue.......................... 610-670-9141
Adult Choir Director, Ann Krasas.......................... 610-376-2184
GOYA Advisor, Margaret Phyrillas......................... 610-207-5853
Greek Dance Troupe, Esther Ganas-Miranda, ariste1@aol.com
Greek School Teacher, Dino Koutrubas.......................... 267-575-1335
Altar Care, Alan Kachel, Chris Carley, Jim Rohm........... 610-929-8545
Children’s Library, Denise Porcaro.......................... 610-926-2130
Vacation Bible School, Amy Elliker.......................... 610-913-1223
Church Bookstore, Chris Dikos.......................... 610-376-3661
Epistle Readers, Karl Krohn................................ 610-779-5223
Office Volunteers, Katelyn English.......................... 610-372-5696

Our Parish Mission Statement:
We affirm that the ultimate and exclusive goal of every Orthodox Christian is Theosis. The mission of our parish is to reach out in love to all faithful members, as well as to the unchurched Orthodox in our community, and to everyone interested in Orthodoxy. We do this to help facilitate spiritual growth while intently focusing on the four pillars of Orthodox Christianity: Leitourgia (worship), Martyria (witness), Koinonia (fellowship), and Diakonia (service).

Church Staff:
Fr. Thomas Pappalas Home Phone 610-779-7356
E-mail address: fthropappalas@gmail.com
Dino Koutrubas Cell Phone 267-575-1335
E-mail address: kkoutrubas@hbcn.edu
Deacon James Elliker Home Phone 610-926-9609

God). Our vision at Sts. Constantine and Helen is to see every parishioner recognize and acknowledge his or her calling; and being motivated by love for Christ and faithfulness, live the Orthodox Christian life.

Monday Wednesday
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
3:30-5:30 p.m. Greek GOYA Class
4:45-5:30 Greek Int/Adv
7:00 p.m. Third Salutations
7:30 GOYA—Trains
4:00 p.m. St. Mary of Egypt
8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
9:00 a.m. Great Hours
4:00 p.m. St. Mary of Egypt
8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
9:00 a.m. Great Hours
3:30-5:30 p.m. Greek GOYA Class
4:45-5:30 Greek Int/Adv
7:00 p.m. Third Salutations
7:30 GOYA—Trains
4:00 p.m. St. Mary of Egypt
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7:30 GOYA—Trains
The Journey of Great Lent
by Fr. Alexander Schmemann

When a man leaves on a journey, he must know where he is going. Thus with Lent. Above all, Lent is a spiritual journey and its destination is Easter, “the Feast of Feasts.” It is the preparation for the “fulfillment of Pascha, the true Revelation”. We must begin, therefore, by trying to understand the connection between Lent and Easter, for it reveals something very essential, very crucial about our Christian faith and life. Is it necessary to explain that Easter is much more than one of the feasts, more than a yearly commemoration of a past event? Anyone who has, be it only once, taken part in that night which is “brighter than the day,” who has, tasted of that unique joy, knows it. On Easter we celebrate Christ’s Resurrection as something that happened and still happens to us. For each one of us received the gift of that new life and the power to accept it and live by it. It is a gift which radically alters our attitude toward everything in this world, including death. It makes it possible for us to joyfully affirm: “Death is no more!” Oh, death is still there, to be sure, and we still face it and someday it will come and take us. But it is our whole faith that by His own death Christ changed the very nature of death, made it a passage—a “Passover”, a “Pascha” - into the Kingdom of God, transforming the tragedy of tragedies into the ultimate victory.

Such is that faith of the Church, affirmed and made evident by her countless Saints. Is it not our daily experience, however, that this faith is very seldom ours, that all the time we lose and betray the “new life” which we received as a gift, and that in fact we live as if Christ did not rise from the dead, as if that unique event had no meaning whatsoever for us? We simply forget all this—so busy are we, so immersed in our daily preoccupations—and because we forget, we fail. And through this forgetfulness, failure, and sin, our life becomes “old” again—petty, dark, and ultimately meaningless—a meaningless journey toward a meaningless end. We may from time to time acknowledge and confess our various “sins”, yet we cease to refer our life to that new life which Christ revealed and gave to us. Indeed, we live as if He never came. This is the only real sin, the sin of all sins, the bottomless sadness and tragedy of our nominal Christianity.

If we realize this, then we may understand what Easter is and why it needs and presupposes Lent. For we may then understand that the liturgical traditions of the Church, all its cycles and services, exist, first of all, in order to help us recover the vision and the taste of that new life which we so easily lose and betray, so that we may repent and return to it. And yet the “old” life, that of sin and pettiness, is not easily overcome and changed. The Gospel expects and requires from man an effort of which, in his present state, he is virtually incapable. This is where Great Lent comes in. This is the help extended to us by the Church, the school of repentance which alone will make it possible to receive Easter not as mere permission to eat, to drink, and to relax, but indeed as the end of the “old” in us, as our entrance into the “new.” For each year Lent and Easter are, once again, the rediscovery and the recovery by us of what we were made through our own baptismal death and resurrection.

A journey, a pilgrimage! Yet, as we begin it, as we make the first step into the “bright sadness” of Lent, we see—far, far away—the destination. It is the joy of Easter, it is the entrance into the glory of the Kingdom. And it is this vision, the foretaste of Easter, that makes Lent’s sadness bright and our Lenten effort a “spiritual spring.” The night of Easter, that makes Lent’s sadness bright and the joy of Easter, it is the entrance into the glory of the Kingdom. And it is this vision, the foretaste of Easter, that makes Lent’s sadness bright and our Lenten effort a “spiritual spring.” The night of Easter, that makes Lent’s sadness bright and the joy of Easter, it is the entrance into the glory of the Kingdom. And it is this vision, the foretaste of Easter, that makes Lent’s sadness bright and our Lenten effort a “spiritual spring.” The night of Easter, that makes Lent’s sadness bright and the joy of Easter, it is the entrance into the glory of the Kingdom. And it is this vision, the foretaste of Easter, that makes Lent’s sadness bright and our Lenten effort a “spiritual spring.”
Sunday, 1st
Third Salutations at 7:00 P.M.
Acolytes: Group 4 (Archangels):

Friday, 8th
Fourth Salutations at 7:00 P.M.
Acolytes: Group 1 (Thrones):

Sunday, 10th
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 2:00 P.M.
Orthros at 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy at 9:45 a.m.
Acolytes: Group 2 (Powers):

Thursday, 17th
Pre-Communion Service at 8:00 a.m.
Pre-Communion Service at 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy at 9:45 a.m.
Acolytes: Group 3 (Seraphim):

Sunday, 24th
Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM (with Clergy and Parishioners in attendance from Sts. Constantine & Helen Church)
Acolytes: Group 4 (Archangels):

Thursday, 31st
Speech about Our Church’s New Website

Saturday, 2nd
Lazarus Saturday and Grandparent/Grandchild Day
All grandparents & their grandchildren are encouraged to receive Holy Communion together
Orthros at 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.
All Acolytes

Fr. Tom will be available for the Sacrament of Holy Confession from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (please call the church office to schedule a time).

AHEPA Scholarship Application Announcement

Our local AHEPA Chapter #61 in Reading will be sponsoring a scholarship program again this year.
Our parish youth who will be graduating from high school in 2016 and continuing their education at an accredited institution of higher learning are eligible. Contact Ahepan Athan Dialectos for a scholarship application and related information at 610-762-0477 or readingmaaco@verizon.net if interested in applying for this scholarship. The completed application and requested documentation are due on or before Friday, April 29, 2016.

In addition to our local AHEPA Chapter scholarship program, the AHEPA Power District No. 4 Scholarship Fund is also available to our parishioners. Applicants for scholarships will be selected from high school graduates who are about to enter an accredited institution of higher learning, or from students already attending such institutions. If interested in the district level scholarship program, simply forward an e-mail request to Ahepan Dr. Georgia J. Giovanis at georgiagiovanis@comcast.net to secure a copy of the scholarship application.

Please include your mailing address and telephone number with your request. Review carefully the rules governing awarding the AHEPA district level scholarship which is different from our local AHEPA Chapter scholarship program. It is the applicant’s responsibility to return the AHEPA District No. 4 application postmarked no later than April 15, 2016. In order to meet this deadline, applicants are encouraged to take action on the application procedures immediately.

*AHEPA Spring Calendar for 2016*

April – Business meeting; Sunday, April 17; at the Church; 7:00 p.m.; Election of Officers for 2016-2017.
May – AHEPA will sponsor a community Mother’s Day Card on Sunday, May 8, details including a registration form are included in this issue of The Echo as an enclosure. Completed registration form due in the Church office before April 22th.

*AHEPA Sunday, May 15; celebrating over 90 years of service to our Church and community. An Antiochasia and prayers for the health of our members will be conducted during the Church service. AHEPA Chapter #61 will host a brunch during fellowship.

*Annual AHEPA Scholarship Banquet & End-of-Year Celebration; Monday, May 23 at the Hitching Post Restaurant; 6:00 p.m. fellowship & 6:45 p.m. dinner; featuring 2016 Scholarship Recipients.

*AHEPA Scholarship Fund*

Graduating high school seniors planning to attend Albright College this fall or current Albright College undergraduate students are encouraged to apply for the Strat Marmarou Scholarship. Preference is given to students of the Orthodox faith. For more information or an application form, contact the Albright College Financial Aid Office at 610-921-7515 or email to finaid@albright.edu
ΣΥΝΥΠΑΡΞΗ και Επικοινωνία στο Αγαίο

ΜΥΣΤΙΚΗ ΝΗΣΟΥ

Αγαπητή και Ζέσος,

Σήμερα (Παρασκευή 26ηβ. ‘16) έχει πράγματι μια σημαντική ημέρα! Έτσι από την ημέρα της Παρασκευής έως την τελευταία, ο Ιερός Ναός του Αγίου Βασίλη ιδρύεται και εξάσκηση γίνεται στο πρόσωπο του Ιερού Προφήτης Αγίου Βασίλη, ο οποίος σε ευχαρίστηση για την εκκλησία και την εκπληκτική συνεργασία τους, σε συνδυασμό με την ευγενική και ιερή εργασία των Άγιων Ναών, ο Περίπατος και ο Τελετές του Αγίου Βασίλη. Με την ευεργέτηση του Ιερού Προφήτη Αγίου Βασίλη, η εκκλησία εξυπηρετεί την ευεργετική και ιερή εργασία των Άγιων Ναών, και οι Άγιοι Ναοί εξυπηρετούν την ευεργετική και ιερή εργασία των Άγιων Ναών. Αγάπητη και Ζέσος, ο Περίπατος και ο Τελετής του Αγίου Βασίλη είναι οι ευεργετικές και ιερές εργασίες των Άγιων Ναών, ενώ η ευεργετική και ιερή εργασία των Άγιων Ναών εξυπηρετεί την ευεργετική και ιερή εργασία των Άγιων Ναών.

Στάδια Οψίας

Ο Πρέσπατος: Η γενική γραμματεία
Στάθης Πάθας: Νέλι Χατζηδάκη
Sunday, May 1st Great and Holy Pascha
Resurrection Service at midnight
All Acolytes: please arrive no later than 11:00 p.m.
Divine Liturgy at 12:30 a.m.
(All parishioners are asked to remain in church until the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on this holy and glorious day.)
Service of Agape (Love) at 11:00 a.m.
All Acolytes
(Easter Egg Hunt for children following the service)

Holy Confession
Father Tom will be available for Holy Confessions on the following days:
Wednesday, April 6, 4:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 23 11:00 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Holy Friday, April 29, 11:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.
(Please call the church office to schedule a time).

A List to Keep
Submitted by Kathy Savadelis
The most destructive habit…………………………………..Worry
The greatest joy…………………………...Loving God and others
The most satisfying work…………………………...Helping others
The ugliest personality trait…………………………...Selfishness
The most endangered species…………………………...Dedicated leaders
Our greatest natural resource…………………………...Our youth
The greatest “shot in the arm”…………………………...Encouragement
The greatest problem to overcome…………………………...Fear
The most effective sleeping pill…………………………...Peace of Mind
The most crippling disease…………………………...Excuses
The most powerful force in life…………………………...Love
The most dangerous enemy…………………………...A gossiper
The world’s most incredible computer…………………………...The brain
The worst thing to be without…………………………...Hope
The deadliest weapon…………………………...The tongue
The two most power-filled words…………………………..."I Can"
The greatest asset…………………………...Faith
The most worthless emotion…………………………...Self-pity
The most beautiful prize…………………………...SMILE!
The most prized possession…………………………...Integrity
The most powerful channel of communication…………………………...Prayer
The most contagious spirit…………………………...Enthusiasm

To the WORLD, YOU may be ONE person:
But to ONE person, YOU may be the WORLD

A Study of the Triodion
Wedsdays, 4:30pm-5:30pm
The Triodion is the very special period of the Church Year that leads up to the celebration of the feast of feasts, Holy & Great Pascha, the Resurrection of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.
We will delve a little more deeply into this most edifying period of the Church year, with a study & discussion of various themes that the Triodion presents before us, led by Dino.
Please call the church office at 610-374-7511 to sign up.

You are invited to the monthly meeting
of the Philoptochos Society
on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Mr. Gust C. Kraras will be
speaking on the importance and veneration of the
PANAGHIA
IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH
Important Dates:

- Tuesday, April 12th—April general meeting. "The Importance and Veneration of the Panagia in the Orthodox Church." Please see enclosed flyer.
- Monday, April 18th—Serving dinner at Opportunity House. Contact Karen Chaknos to volunteer or donate at 610-777-7384.
- Tuesday, April 26th—Food Pantry. Contact Joan Giovannis at 610-775-9602 to volunteer for the evening.
- Sunday, June 5th—End of Year Gathering at the new Doubletree Hotel. Please see the invitation which will be mailed, for timing and food choices. Note the reservation payment and entire selection deadline.

Lenten Project

We thank everyone for your generous donations of items or money to help with our Lenten project benefitting Veterans Making a Difference. The donation barrels and envelopes were removed at the end of March and the results will be published in the next Echo.

This month we highlight Paula Berstler, who keeps our stewardship donations updated in a very professional manner. Paula also provides members’ info for our club’s hathenia. A lady of many talents, we sincerely thank Paula for her work with all of these important details!

Prophora

Marina Krallis currently has a sign-up sheet for prophora. She is a long-time member of Metropolitan of Pittsburgh Daffodil Luncheon and can be reached at 610-373-6183.

The Prophora is a large, white cloth that is draped over an image of the Virgin Mary. It is usually placed on the altar, where it is used to cover the icon of the Virgin Mary. The prophora is believed to have mystical powers and is said to protect the church and its congregation from evil. The prophora is also seen as a symbol of hospitality and welcome, as it is used to welcome guests into the church.

Spring Bake Sale Results

Our annual fundraiser and primary source of funds for our charitable philanthropic activities is our Spring Bake Sale! Preliminary results indicate that pre-orders have increased over last year and especially the bread sales. We tried something new this year, soup, and dropped the flower sales due to the difficulty of finding flowers at this early date. We continued with the candy lady, gift and craft vendors. More results will be reported in a future Echo. Many thanks to our women and men who were bakers and those who helped during the day of the sale and also on pre-order night. Special thanks to the Loukoumades group and to Stam Zervanou for preparing the soup we sold. To those who placed the pre-order system your orders were appreciated.

Thanks to all for a successful Spring Bake Sale!

Metropolitan of Pittsburgh Daffodil Luncheon

On Saturday, March 5th, Des Denne and Sharon Whitman attended the luncheon in Cleveland, Ohio. There were 270 in attendance and we were the only attendees from this side of the Metropolis. Profits from the luncheon were donated to the CCF Breast Cancer Vaccine Project and Zoe for Life. There were 270 in attendance and we were the only attendees from this side of the Metropolis.

SPRING BAKE SALE!

Welcome to our new Member... Marisa Hunsicker

If you are not a member, you can join us any time by calling Paula at 610-921-9496. Philoptochos welcomes new members!

Philoptochos Stewardship

If you missed the deadline, simply send your payment and any updated info to Paula Berstler, Stewardship Chair, as soon as possible to remain a member in good standing. A minimum donation of $30 is suggested to cover National and Metropolis commitments.

Philoptochos Charity (giving)

- $200 to OCMC Support a Mission Priest Fund
- $200 to Hellenic College Holy Cross Lenten Event
- $100 to Metropolitan Nuns of St. Elias Fund
- $100 to Metropolitan Good Samaritan Fund
- $100 to Jesse Brandow’s continuing Guatemalan mission

Philoptochos Philanthropy (doing)

- Helped with Church’s food pantry in March
- Served at Opportunity House in March

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Attending Church as a Family: Preparing through Daily Activities

by Angie Giallourakis

It’s Sunday morning and the alarm sounds. You are tired because you and your spouse arrived home late from a wedding last night. You roll over and hit the snooze button hoping for a few more minutes of rest, but the children are already up and watching a cartoon on the television.

You think, “Oh, no, now I am going to have to drag them away from the TV.”

You start getting dressed and your son can’t find one of his shoes. You think, “Why does this always happen on Sunday mornings?”

You hear a loud thud, and then the children are yelling and you think, “Oh, brother, it’s going to be one of those days!”

Saidly, by the time you reach church, everyone is frustrated and angry. As you and your family walk into the narthex, you hear the Lord’s prayer and you feel embarrassed for being so late.

Going to church has become a challenge for your family; the children imagined that this would happen. It seems more often than not, the above scenario—or a close variation of it—plays out each Sunday morning. How in the world can you avoid this?

As parents we want our children to learn about and love God. For Orthodox Christians, an important part of this learning process is regular church attendance.

When we incorporate consistent church participation into our lives, our children experience the faith and love of God through community worship and the Church’s sacraments.

This process is two-fold: learning about God helps us to love God, and loving God makes us want to know Him more.

Developing a loving relationship between your family and God should be a daily goal.

Relationships can’t be maintained, and certainly can’t grow, with sporadic interactions. Here are some simple suggestions for weaving church life into your daily life at home.

Around the Table

Communication is vital to relationships. One of the best times to communicate as a family is around the dinner table. Start with a prayer of thanks and then take time to listen to each of your children as they share their day.

It is amazing how much learning can take place as parents listen to their children.

Here is also your opportunity to guide the conversation toward our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the saints of the day, and upcoming feasts.

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Community News

Baptized:
Adrian Fisher, son of Nicholas & Julie Fisher on March 5 with Nicole Fisher as sponsor.
Georgia Crassas, daughter of Thomas & Maria Crassas, on March 12 with Joanna Navarro as sponsor.
Elizabeth Selden, daughter of Nathan and Kristin Selden, on March 26 with Christina Karabas as sponsor.
~ All baptized in Christ have put on Christ ~

Crismated:
Nicole Fisher was confirmed in the Orthodox Church on March 5 with Greg Fisher as sponsor.
Joseph Sheidy was confirmed in the Orthodox Church on March 20 with Joanne Baxewanis as sponsor.
~ The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit ~

Our Sympathy:
To the family of Effie Parenti who passed into eternal life on February 28.
~ Eternal be her memory ~

Remember in Prayer

Please remember in prayer parishioners who are in nursing homes and retirement communities, the home-bound, and those convalescing: Ruth Anthony, Caroline Exas, Katherine Fisher, Ross Fournaris, George Halulakos, Mary Harris, Helen Hatzas, Pauline Heckman, Cleo Kostomitis, Marie Lecatsas, Helen Nicholas, Joseph Laskin, Stella Ninfo, Maria Papoutsis, Kallope Pappas, William Sianis, Nicholas Simotas, William Thomas & Sebastian Ulrich.

And those hospitalized in the month of March: Daniel Chupak, Pauline Arnidis, Ruth Anthony, John Halulakos, Katherine Lambros, Daniel Chupak, Margaret Mazur, Marie Patestas

Donors for the following Lenten and Easter items are needed. Please call the church office at 374-7511:
Wreath (Holy Thursday) $300
Salutations & Acathist Wreaths (5) $125 ea.
Palms (to Make Crosses) $250
Greek Palms (Vaia) $250
Holy Unction Supplies $100
Wreathe for Nymphios $125
Potted Palms for Holy Week (8) $35 ea.
Candles for Holy Thursday (13) $25 ea.
Altar Candles for Holy Saturday (1) $35 ea.
Flowers to decorate church on Pascha (30 plants) $25 ea.

Fellowship Hosts
April 3
Mr. & Mrs. George Doukas
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Dumitrescu
Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Dumitrescu
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Elliker
Mr. & Mrs. Jarett Femez

April 10
Ms. Kallope English
Mr. & Mrs. George Frangakis
Mr. & Mrs. John Frangakis
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Flamporos
Mr. & Mrs. Stavros Flamporos

April 17
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Fisher
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Fisher
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas J. Fisher
Ms. Nicole Fisher
Mrs. Mary Evanoff

April 24
PALM SUNDAY
Hosted by GOYA

Mother of the Year
The procedure for the selection of the Mother of the Year recognition is as follows: A committee composed of the Parish Priest, Council President, Philoptochos President and a past recipient will select three individuals who are equally worthy of the award. The final selection will then be made by lottery. In addition to the committee selecting its own nominations, we are also seeking nominations from our Parishioners. If there is someone you wish to nominate, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by April 30. The major criterion for receiving this award is participation in the total life of our Parish, particularly its religious life. Other considerations may include such items as volunteer work both within Parish and in the community, children’s activity in the life of the church, participation in Church organizations, and other evidence of devotion to our Church. We are looking forward to many nominations. Please take the time to nominate your “favorite” mother for this recognition.

Mother of the Year Nomination Form
(Primarily returnART to the Church Office by April 30, 2016)
I wish to nominate ________________________ for this year’s Mother of the Year recognition for the following reasons: (please use criteria listed above)

Questions? Contact Crina Sassaran - 610-750-3311 or e-mail at crina_mariana@yahoo.com

MEET THE EASTER BUNNY

Easter Sunday
(Immediately following Agape Service)
Children - nursery age to Grade 4 are invited to attend.

Come share in the fun, win prizes and...
As we approach the most holy day – the day of our Lord’s Resurrection, we want to remind parents to make the commitment to Sunday School, not only does Sunday School educate our children about Orthodoxy, it also offers them an opportunity to bond with their fellow Orthodox peers. This does take dedication, and sometimes sacrifice, by the parents. A recent article described how a Christian Home should be modeled – after Christ and His Church. This suggests that all members of the family unit submit themselves to the will of God by putting others first, by being self-sacrificial, and loving unconditionally. Parents and children, all work together as a healthy unit, as a family!

The best inheritance you can leave your sons, the richest dowry you can prepare for your daughters, is a truly Christian upbringing.” - Bishop Ireneaus

Student Volunteers: The following students volunteered during the month of March. Chrisovalantis Siozos was wonderful as Epistle Reader, Michelle Craciun, Angeliki Miranda, Gabriella Pendas, and Zoe Thompson were our basket passers. Zoe Thompson was our pleasant greeter!

Spotlight on our Sunday School Teachers

This month we are spotlighting the Pre-Kindergarten class. Our staff of Teachers, Connie Fecera, Tina Daniels, Olivia Szczaewiski; teaching aids, Fran Thompson and Des Yanoulis are always excited to teach your Pre-K children about our Orthodox Faith. This year is a small class but very energetic and eager children.

Each lesson consists of a story pertaining to our Church Calendar for that particular Sunday along with a craft to help them remember the lesson. We start each Sunday School Lesson with making the sign of the cross and repeating the Lord’s Prayer. We stress that Church is God’s House and how to behave in Church by not running, jumping, yelling, etc. Including listening to Father Tom and the Choir during our time participating in the Liturgy. Also ways to show our family and friends we love them.

During the month of April we will be talking about all the events leading up to Holy Week and celebrating Easter. We thank you for continuing to bring your children to our Sunday School Class.

Our Congratulations!

Wyomissing High School Musical features two of our high school students in their musical, the "Music Man" on April 29th & 30th

Jocelyn Dialectos plays the lead

"Marian Paroo"

and

Karissa Dialectos plays a "Pick-A-Little-Lady"

Word of the Month

Lamb of God

Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb of God. (Αμνός του Θεού)

Perfect Attendance – We want to recognize the following students who had perfect attendance (no absences) during the months of January and February:

- Zachary Simotas – PreK
- Zoe Simotas - PreK
- Delaney Kraras - Kindergarten
- Teodora Sassaran – 1st grade
- Christo Hunsicker – 3rd grade
- Christopher Kraras – 3rd grade
- Tommy Hunsicker – 4th Grade
- Niko Simotas – 4th grade
- AJ Tilley – 4th grade
- Jackson Wagner – 4th grade
- Maria Sassaran – 5th grade
- Yanni Patestas – 6th grade
- Amanda Tilley – 6th grade
- Peyton Kraras – 8th grade
- Vasillis Phyrillas – 10th grade
- Alex Lountzis – 12th grade
- James Phyrillas – 12th grade

Dates to Note!

April 24th: Palm Sunday
May 1st: Easter/Pascha – Easter Egg Hunt (no Sunday school)
May 8th: Godparent Sunday

Sunday School Teachers

From Our Parish Council

Artie Fecera, President

Our last Parish Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Members present: President, Artie Fecera, VP Chuck Mowbray, Secretary Tony Phyrillas, Treasurer Mike Mavreles, Financial Secretary Nick Karetas, Athan Dialectos, Harry Dialectos, Chris Dikos, Connie Fecera, Angel Helm, Strat Marmarou, Anthony Koumaras, Christ Kraras, Gust Kraras, Frank T. Petrakis, Kim Shunk, and Protopresbyter Thomas Papallas.

Members Absent: Gus Kotsakis.

Treasurer Mike Mavreles gave us a report on our financial picture. Mike said we are ahead of our balance over last year and should stay ahead.

Social Committee Report – We originally talked about a name day event but decided because of our Greek Isles event scheduled for May, it would be too close, so the committee will reschedule our name day dance for 2017.

Holy Week Assignments – We passed out Parish Council assignments for Holy Week and Gus Kraras, who chairs assignments for Holy Week, said he will review assignments at the April meeting.

Cost Cutting Committee – Angel Helm reviewed the hall rental policy and said the committee would like to see standardized pricing throughout the year for rentals.

Pastoral Assistant/Youth Director Report – Dino Koutroubas gave council a report on activities since he began working for the church in September 2015. He gave us a 6 page report of his activities with various youth groups, as well as Greek School and other duties. Council feels that Dino is doing a great job with our youth and is a good addition to our church.

New Business – Strat Marmarou said he would like council members to attend the March 28th meeting of Reading City Council, where a proclamation will be read in honor of Greek Independence Day.

Remember to see Harry Dialectos for food coupons at our youth and is a good addition to our church.

First Quarter Financial Report – Mike Mavreles gave council a financial report of our first quarter. Mike said our financial picture is good and the committee will reschedule our name day dance for 2017.

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Remember to see Harry Dialectos for food coupons at school. It helps our church financially and is no cost to you.

Matthew 25

“I was hungry and you gave me food: I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me...inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it to me.”

Our Food Pantry continues to minister to our neighbors in need, mostly from the Oakbrook Housing Development.

1. On February 23, our parish provided food for 96 needy families, which included 268 children and 59 senior citizens. The total number of people served was 523.

The pantry will continue to distribute food on the last Tuesday of the month. Parishioners can help:

1) Volunteering to help distribute food in future months by calling the Church Office to sign up.

2) Contributing to the Food Pantry Fund to help cover expenses.

Thank you to all the donors, and volunteers who have helped to bring this wonderful ministry to fruition. Parishioners can contribute by sending your donation to the Church Office.
SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN LENTEN FAMILY NIGHT
POTLUCK DINNER & TALK

Theme: Life Is A Journey
“We are pilgrims on this earth seeking the citizenship which is in heaven.”

Featuring Guest Speaker
Reverend Father Theodore Petrides
on his recent pilgrimage with Young Adults to the Holy Land

WHEN: SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2016 @ 5:00-7:00 PM
5:00-6:00 PM Potluck
6:00-7:00 PM Talk
WHERE: CHURCH HALL

FOR THE GOYA – PROSPHORO BAKING
GOYAns will have an opportunity
to learn how to bake prosphoro
(the offering of bread) for Liturgy!
Be in the kitchen @ 5:00 PM!

FOR THE JOY KIDS
During Father Ted’s talk...
Making Prayer Bracelets & Story Time with Dino

Potluck Dinner Breakdown
No Meat, No Fish – Only Shellfish, No Dairy
Families with Last Name From A-I (Salad)
Families with Last Name From J-R (Main Dish)
Families with Last Name From S-Z (Dessert)

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