Saint Thais lived in Egypt in the fifth century. Left an orphan after the death of her wealthy parents, she led a pious life, distributing her wealth to the poor, and she gave shelter to pilgrims on her estate. She decided that she would never marry, but would devote her life to serving Christ.

After spending all her inheritance, Thais was tempted to acquire more money by any means, and began to lead a sinful life. The Elders of Sketis near Alexandria heard of her fall, and asked St John the Dwarf (November 9) to go to Thais and persuade her to repent. “She was kind to us,” they said, “now perhaps we can help her. You, Father, are wise. Go and try to save her soul, and we will pray that the Lord will help you.”

The Elder went to her home, but Thais’s servant did not want to allow him into the house. St John said, “Tell your mistress that I have brought her something very precious.” Thais, knowing that the monks sometimes found pearls at the shore, told her servant to admit the visitor. St John sat down and looked her in the face, and then began to weep. Thais asked him why he was crying. “How can I not weep,” he asked, “when you have forsaken your Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ, and are pleasing Satan by your deeds?”

The Elder’s words pierced the soul of Thais like a fiery arrow, and at once she realized how sinful her present life had become. In fear, she asked him if God would accept the repentance of a sinner like her. St John replied that the Savior awaited her repentance. That is why He came, to seek and to save the perishing. “He will welcome you with love,” he said, “and the angels will rejoice over you. As the Savior said Himself, one repentant sinner causes the powers of Heaven to rejoice (Luke 15:7).”

A feeling of repentance enveloped her, and regarding the Elder’s words as a call from the Lord Himself to return to Him, Thais trembled and thought only of finding the path of salvation. She stood up and left her house without speaking to her servants, and without making any sort of disposition of her property, so that even St John was amazed.

Following St John into the wilderness, she hastened to return to God through penitence and prayer. Night fell, and the Elder prepared a place for Thais to lay down and sleep. He made a pillow for her from the sand, and he went off somewhat farther, and went to sleep after his evening prayers.

In the middle of the night, he was wakened by a light coming down from the heavens to the place where Thais was at rest. In the radiant light he saw holy angels bearing her soul to Paradise. When he went over to Thais, he found her dead.

St John prayed and asked God to reveal to him whether Thais had been saved. An angel of God appeared and told him, “Abba John, her one hour of repentance was equal to many years, because she repented with all her soul, and a compunctionate heart.”

After burying the body of the saint, St John returned to Sketis and told the monks what had happened. All offered thanks to God for His mercy toward Thais who, like the wise thief, repented in a single moment.

The deadline for the June Echo issue is May 19, 2015.
Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church

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

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), Koinion (fellowship), and Diakonia (service).

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

Parish Council:
President: Artie Fecera's 610-670-3434
E-Mail: afeceara@aol.com
Vice President: Chuck Mowbray 610-777-0128
Alphan Dialectos, Harry Dialectos, Connie Fecera, Angel Helm, Nicholas Karetas, Anthony Koumaras, Kim Shunk, Gust Kraras, Strait Marmarou, Mike Mavreles, Frank T. Petrakis, Tony Angel Helm, Nicholas Karetas, Anthony Koumaras, Athan Dialectos, Harry Dialectos, Connie Fecera, Angel Helm, Nicholas Karetas, Anthony Koumaras, Kim Shunk, Gust Kraras, Strait Marmarou, Mike Mavreles, Frank T. Petrakis, Tony Angel Helm, Nicholas Karetas, Anthony Koumaras, Athan Dialectos, Harry Dialectos, Connie Fecera, Angel Helm, Nicholas Karetas, Anthony Koumaras, Kim Shunk, Gust Kraras, Strait Marmarou, Mike Mavreles, Frank T. Petrakis, Tony

Volunteers
Philoctochos President, Des Denne, desdenne@comcast.net, 610-678-8006
Sunday School, Tula Donahue, 610-670-9141
Adult Choir Director, Ann Kranas, 610-376-2184
Junior Choir, Maria Damore, 610-370-0635
GOYA Advisor, Margaret Pylella, 610-207-5653
Greek Dance Troupe, Esther Ganas-Miranda, ariste1@aol.com, 610-468-1620
Greek School Teacher, Esther Ganas-Miranda, ariste1@aol.com, 610-468-1620
Altar Care, Alan Kachel, Chris Carley, Jim Rohm, 610-929-8545
Children’s Library, Denise Porcaro, 610-926-2130
Vacation Bible School, Amy Elliker, 610-913-1233
Church Bookstore, Chris Dialectos…610-373-7702… and Dawn Medaglia, 610-376-3661
Epistle Readers, Karl Kohn, 610-799-5223
Office Volunteers, Kally English, 610-372-5695
Knitting Ministry, Fran Ioannidi, 610-678-0269
Opportunity House (formerly the Reading Emergency Shelter) Kally English, 610-372-5695
Order of AHEPA, George Giovanis, 610-777-9602
Kitchen Crew, Steve Lecatsas, 610-777-0201
Meals on Wheels, Susan Seibert, 610-678-5907
JOY Advisor, Olivia Szczawinski, 610-777-0376
OPA Advisor, Amy Elliker, 610-913-1223
Fellowship Hour Coordinator, Vangie McGowan, 610-779-1402
Koleva Coordinator, Mary Pettis, 610-678-2712

Church Staff:
Fr. Thomas Pappalas Home Phone 610-779-7356
E-mail address: ftpompappalas@gmail.com
Jordan Zanetis, Home Phone 615-668-4054
E-mail address jm.zanetis@gmail.com
Fr. Spyridon Papademetriou Home Phone 610-373-1952
Deacon James Elliker Home Phone 610-926-9609

Parish Calendar:
For Your Convenience, The Church Calendar can also be accessed via our Church Website. Click on “Calendar” (located on the black bar). It will open to the current month.

Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church

For Your Convenience, The Church Calendar can also be accessed via our Church Website. Click on “Calendar” (located on the black bar). It will open to the current month.
2015—Great Lent and Easter Donations

Many thanks to the following individuals for their generous donation during Pascha.

**Incense for Holy Week:** Evangeline McGowan and children in loving memory of husband and father, Robert; Dionisios and Maria Kotsakis in loving memory of our parents

**Wreath for Nymphios:** Anthousa Scarios in loving memory of our husband, Emanuel, and sister, Anna

**Potted Palms for Holy Week:** Pat Zampelli in beloved memory of Molly, Stanley & Spiro Lecatatas

**Altar Candles for Holy Week:** Lula Goodhart in loving memory of Richard Goodhart

**Candles for Holy Thursday:** Esther Kovaras in loving memory of Peter and Maria Marmarou; Dimitrios & Petroula Mitsioupolou

**Candles for Holy Friday and Holy Saturday:** Michael & Constantine Marmarou in loving memory of Therapon Parasakis and departed family members; Philip and Carol Kollintzadhu in loving memory of Constantine Karoutzos and Angeliki Feleskoura

**Candles for Cross:** Mary Petits in loving memory of the Carnoles family, the Dilworth family and Chris Petits

**Easter Lilies for Chapel Altar:** John and Michele Garrett in loving memory of parents Dr. & Mrs. George N. Pappas & daughter Anne Landis Garrett.

**Easter Lilies for Chapel Altar:** John and Despina Frangakis in loving memory of parents Dr. & Mrs. Evan Zervanos and Garrett in loving memory of parents Dr. & Mrs. Straton Marmarou

The total amount received was $4,570.00

Many Thanks to the following individuals for their generous donation during Pascha.

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Every day we learn of people’s suffering throughout the world and it is easy to become desensitized to the pain and affliction caused in various circumstances and in manifold contexts:

Hundreds of migrants have just drowned in the Mediterranean as they desperately sought shelter, even as others exploited their vulnerability.

Thousands have been massacred in Syria, Yemen, and throughout many nations of the Middle East as power and greed turn a blind eye to blameless civilians seeking to survive or escape.

Untold numbers are unknown victims of sectarianism, discrimination and exclusion both in their own countries like Nigeria and Zimbabwe or in neighboring regions like Libya and South Africa. Such conflict and bloodshed is not restricted to the Middle East and Africa but also wreaks havoc in Europe, with hostility in Ukraine.

Before such ongoing horrific acts of brutality, wrought by brother against brother throughout the world, we will not remain silent, but raise our voices in solidarity and prayer. As Saint Paul reminds us, “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together” (I Cor. 12:26).

We are appalled by the discrimination and brutality against people of every religion, but especially against Christians kidnapped and indiscriminately slaughtered. We recall with profound sorrow the disappearance two years ago, during this very period after the celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection, of the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Boulos Yazigi (brother of His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch) and the Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim, both of Aleppo, Syria, who were kidnapped by Islamic militants during a joint philanthropic mission in the region. We continue to pray for their safe return among us.

Moreover, we profoundly grieve over the very recent loss of the Ethiopian and Coptic Christians callously beheaded by Islamic extremists in Libya. The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has always welcomed our Ethiopian and Coptic brethren in our communities throughout this country. We share in their loss and mourning at such unjustifiable events. May God’s mercy serve as balm for their wounds and bring healing to their communities.

We urge the faithful of our Archdiocese and all people of good will to keep our suffering brothers and sisters in their prayer. And “may the Lord of peace give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you!” (2 Thess. 3:16).

Many people and organizations have contributed to the ongoing relief efforts in those countries through the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the United Nation’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the Orthodox Archdiocese of America has always advocated for the protection of all religious and ethnic groups.

A Tribute to Mothers

“Mothers arms are made of tenderness, and sweet sleep blesses the child who lies therein.”

Victor Hugo

“My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her.”

George Washington

“All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.”

Abraham Lincoln

Of all the rights of women, the greatest is to be a mother.

Lin Yutang

“A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity, when friends, who rejoice with us in our sunshine, desert us when troubles thicken around us; still she will cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness and cause peace to return to our hearts.”

Washington Irving

North Africa and Middle East

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Washington Irving
Religious Calendar for May

Sunday, 3rd
Sunday of the Paralytic
Orthros at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy at 9:45 a.m.

Tuesday, 5th
Feast Day of St. Irene the Great Martyr
Orthros at 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, 10th
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman and Mother’s Day
Orthros at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday, 17th
Sunday of the Blind Man
Orthros at 8:30a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy at 9:45 a.m.

Wed., 20th
Eve of the Feast of the Holy Ascension and the Feast of Sts. Constantine & Helen
Great Vespers at 7:00 p.m.
All Acolytes

Thursday, 21st
Sunday of the Holy Ascension of our Lord and Feast Day of Sts. Constantine and Helen
Orthros at 8:30a.m.
Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, 24th
Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
Orthros at 8:30a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy at 9:45 a.m.

Monday, 25th
Memorial Day
Memorial Services at Forest Hills Cemetery beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the entrance, and at Charles Evans Cemetery beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel. (Trisagion prayers will be done at individual grave sites upon request at both cemeteries).

Sat., 30th
Saturday of Souls
Orthros at 8:30a.m.
Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, 31st
Holy Pentecost
Orthros at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

AHEPA
May:
Trip to NYC/Astoria featuring visit to Ellis Island & Statue of Liberty. Sunday, May 3, includes chartered bus, all day itinerary in NYC, Astoria shopping & full authentic Greek dinner. Charter bus leaves the Church parking lot at 7:00 a.m.
AHEPA is sponsoring a community Mother’s Day Card on Sunday, May 10... Happy Mother’s Day to those special mothers in our community.
AHEPA Sunday, May 17: celebrating the 90th Anniversary of our AHEPA Chapter #61 for their service to our Church & community. An Arctoliasia and prayers for the health of our members will be conducted during the Church service. AHEPA Chapter #61 will host a brunch during fellowship.

Memorial Donations
April 24, 2015
The parish of Sts. Constantine and Helen is extremely grateful to all the people who generously donate money in memory of their loved ones.
In Memory of Irene Alex
John and Evangeline Gouzouasis
In Memory of Michael DeSantis
Leon and Rosemarie Miller, Brian and Thekili Sariano & family, Stam and Joyce Zervanos, Dennis Karahalios, Maria Karahalios
In Memory of Ann Menas, Froso Apakouda, Eva Kordopatis
Aris & Maria Kouvaros
In Memory of Ignatios Hatzistavrakis
Peggy Hatzistavrakis, Strato & Rena Hatzistavrakis
In Memory of John Johnson
The Profit family
In Memory of Stelios Kasapisis
Niki Kasapisis, Maria Rassi
In Memory of Samir Kheir
Nadia, Andrew & Hany Kheir, Trevor & Amy Vaughan

In Memory of George, Maria, Manuel & Peter Krallis
Sons & Brothers, Athen, Anthony, Demetri & George
In Memory of Stephen and Minnie Mavreles
Patricia Mavreles
In Memory of Rocco P. Perate III
Gus and Shirley Stevens
In Memory of Lambros Sotos
James and Fani Polvak
In Memory of Maria Stroumbakis
Gary and Sue Rogers, Bernie & Tula Donahue, George and Joan Giovani, Lu Goodhart, Larry Medaglia, Jr., Larry and Dawn Medaglia, Shelly & Philip Edwards, Esther Kovras,, Leon & Rosemarie Miller, Despina Green, Mike & Anastasia Mavreles, Esther Anderson, Gust Kraras, John & Despina Frangakis, Stam & Joyce Zervanos, Dionisios and Marie Kotsakis, Nicholas & Alice Karetas, Joanne Dialectos, Marian Cheri
In Memory of Bessie Stroumbakis
Despina Green
In Memory of George Tripolitis
Shirley Tripolitis
In Memory of Christos Vardaxis, Jr. & Christos, Vardaxis, Sr.
Vasilia, Ralia and Natalia Vardaxis
In Memory of Demosthenis Zeppos
Mr. and Mrs. Elias Scanzos, Linda Breit
In Memory of Yuff Fisher
Parishioners are asked to help select the Father of the Year

By submitting a nomination of someone you think best fills the following criteria: participation in the total life of the Parish, particularly its religious life. Other considerations may include such items as volunteer work both within the 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. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church by May 31. We are looking forward to many nominations. Please take the time to nominate your “favorite” father for this recognition.

Father of the Year
Nomination Form

Please return to the church office by May 31st

I wish to nominate __________________________ for this year’s Father of the Year recognition for the following reasons:

(please use criteria listed above)

Nominated by:

The AHEPA Chapter No. 61 Cordially Invites You To Our Annual Scholarship & 90th Anniversary Celebration Banquet!

Date: Monday, June 1, 2015
Place: The Hitching Post Restaurant & Bar 2747 Bernville Rd, Leesport, PA 19533
Time: 6:00-6:45 p.m. Fellowship with Appetizers & Cash Bar
6:45 p.m. Dinner Served
Menu: Buffet featuring carving station serving Stuffed Pork, Prime Rib, Chicken, Assorted Vegetables, Potatoes du Jour, Rolls/butter, Salad, Assorted Desserts, Coffee, Decaf, Hot Tea & Soda
Cost: $40 per person (includes appetizers, full course buffet dinner, all non-alcoholic beverages, tax/gratuity & fabulous entertainment)

Enjoy an evening of fellowship honoring our 2015 AHEPA Scholarship Winners and Celebrate our 90th anniversary (1925-2015)

Entertainment featuring the Boyertown Area High School Choir

RSVP: By Friday, May 15th ...Please contact George Giovanis immediately with your reservations at georgegiovanis@comcast.net or 610-775-9602.

Send checks payable to AHEPA #61 to:
George Giovanis, 104 Leisure Court, Wyomissing, PA 19610.

Fellowship Posts

May 3
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pappas
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Pappas
Mr. and Mrs. John Nikolaidis
Mrs. Betty Jane Paris
Mr. and Mrs. William Nikolaidis

May 10
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Phyrillas
Mrs. Paraskevoula Phyrillas
Mr. & Mrs. Spyros
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Phyrillas
Mr. & Mrs. David Pettis

May 17
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Petrakis
Miss Nysia Petrakis
Ms. Victoria Petrakis
Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Pollet
Mr. and Mrs. Justin Radwanski

May 24
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Porcaro
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Porcaro
Mrs. Victoria Porcaro

May 31
Mrs. Harriet Raisides
Ms. Debra Reber
Mr. & Mrs. Adrian Rechieri
Mr. & Mrs. Silva Rechieri
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Reeser

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.

- On March 31st our parish provided food for 87 needy families, which included 249 children and 52 senior citizens. The total number of people served was 477.

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

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.

Remember in Prayer

Please remember in prayer parishioners who are in nursing homes and retirement communities, the home-bound, and those convalescing: Ruth Anthony, Catherine Daniels, George Dracoules, Georgia Earhart, Caroline Exas, Katherine Fisher, Frances George, Mary Harris, Helen Hatzas, Pauline Heckman, Cleo Kostomeris, Dorothy Kreisher, Marie Lecatsas, Aphrodite Manning, Helen Nicholas, Stella Ninio, Maria Papoutsis, William Sianis, Nicholas Simotas, William Thomas, Sebastian Ulrich, Margaret Wesner and Molly Yatros.

And those hospitalized in the month of April:
John Koutrouliel, Lula Dastra, Christy Hatzas, Michael Moyer, Douglass Clark, Sandra Clark, John Halulakos, James Tsakeris, Ruth Anthony, Katherine Lambros, Gust Krasas, Lu Goodhart, Nicholas Simotas

Community News

Baptized:
Victoria Ann, daughter of Athanasios and Brandi Hill on April 18, with Mary Beiglheit and Sean Hill as sponsors

- All baptized in Christ have put on Christ

Chrimated:
Nicholas Pohl on April 11, with Jordan Zanetis as sponsor.

- The seal of the Holy Spirit

Married:
Athanasios Anastasiadis to Brandi Hill on April 18 with Mary Beiglheit as sponsor.

- Lord crown them with glory and honor

Our Sympathy:
To the families of Yuff Fisher who passed into eternal life on April 3, and Irene Alex-Kolb who passed into eternal life on March 18.

- Eternal be their memory
Artie Fecera, President

Due to scheduling conflicts, we decided to cancel our April Church Council Meeting. Our agenda for April will be carried over to our Tuesday, May 12th meeting.

At our meeting we will approve our Church Picnic Date which is Sunday, August 30th at St. Benedict's Picnic Grove. The Social Committee decided to change the date with Council's approval. We feel our attendance will be better because we always have had it the Sunday before Labor Day and a lot of our parishioners are away for the Labor Day Holiday.

For those of you who missed it, Council now has a Bulletin Board in the hallway that we will be posting information for upcoming events we are working on. Check it out.

Our Strategic Theme for April was our Mission Statement. Our mission is to convey the love of Christ to others, especially those in need. Our mission statement reads:

"The mission of the Parish Council is to convey the love of Christ to others and to help create a warm and welcoming church environment as we promote the Parish Ministry found in Article 15, Section 4 of the Uniform Parish Regulations."

Remember to see Harry Dialectos for your food and gas coupons. You will be helping our church and it costs you nothing. Let's get on board.

See you in Church!

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<th>Stewardship 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Lecatsas, Chairman</td>
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<td>Thank you to the following additional parishioners who have submitted their 2015 pledge cards:</td>
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<td>Kyriakopoulos, Constantine &amp; Dimitra Moyer, Matthew &amp; Jessica Sakellaropoulos, William</td>
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<td>175 pledges were received to date totaling $142,413 The average pledge per family is $813.79</td>
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<td>Parishioners who have not yet submitted their 2015 pledge cards are asked to please do so at their earliest convenience.</td>
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Stewardship 2015

You are cordially invited to the St. Xenia Philoptochos End-of-Year Dinner
Monday, June 8, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.

The Hitching Post Restaurant & Bar
Cost: $33.00 per person

We look forward to seeing you as we honor our outgoing president and welcome our new president!

Entrée Choices:
- Chicken Pecan...seared herb breaded chicken breast topped with cashew pecan with brie spread drizzled with a mixed berry amaretto sauce
- North Atlantic Salmon...baked with roasted garlic & olive oil topped with asparagus and lemon caper dill aioli
- Burgundy Short Ribs & Potato...burgundy molasses short ribs with mashed potatoes & demi glace
- Tuscan Primavera...fresh asparagus, tomatoes, mushrooms, spinach & artichokes over linguini with lemon virgin olive oil & roasted garlic butter sauce

Soft drink, cold and hot tea and coffee will be served, along with a dessert.

(Detach and return completed form.)

Check (X) menu choice for each guest below:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Chicken</th>
<th>Salmon</th>
<th>Ribs</th>
<th>Primavera</th>
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Make check payable to Philoptochos Society and mail to:
Joan Giovanis
104 Leisure Court
Wyomissing, PA 19610
610-775-9602

R. S. V. P. by May 20, 2015
May General Meeting

Monday, May 11th, is a very important date for Philoptochos members, as our chapter will be electing a new board of directors. Please attend this meeting to cast your vote! Immediately following the election, we will enjoy a “Mother’s Day Tea Social” featuring special guest Phoebe Canakis, who will speak to us about her Pure Food Pantry and Farm-to-table Food Journey.

Holy Week Activities...

Each year, a group of dedicated Philoptochos ladies are among the many parishioners who dedicate their time, talent, and resources to ensure that everything runs smoothly during this most holy of weeks. We take this opportunity to thank:

- Marika Krallis and her team for their devotion in preparing the many loaves of prosphora bread which are a crucial part of every liturgy,
- Petroula Mitsiopoulos for lovingly decorating the altar screen in preparation for the Resurrection service,
- Laura Delp, Maro Kotsakis, Marian Porcaro and their helpers for the hours they spend preparing the traditional red Easter eggs.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship...

Our committee chair, Marian Porcaro, recently treated our college students to a care package including delicious Greek pastry, a blessed palm cross, an Easter card, and a “Burned Biscuits” inspirational message. Thanks, Marian, for your loving attention to our youth away from home!

Church Name Day Events...

May 21st marks the Feast Day of Sts. Constantine & Helen, the patron saints of our church. Each year, Petroula Mitsiopoulos and her dedicated team of ladies prepare the artoklasia, as well as provide a delicious luncheon following the liturgy on May 21st. We encourage everyone to attend both the vespers service on the eve of the feast day, as well as the liturgy on May 21st. NOTE: Due to the “Greek Isles Event” taking place on the evening of the 21st, the feast day luncheon will be held in the high school classroom.

Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church cordially invites you to celebrate the Church’s Feast Day by experiencing

An Evening in the Greek Isles

Thursday, May 21, 2015
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

This Evening will feature:

- Whole Lamb Roasting on a Spit
- Islands of Hors d’oeuvres • Food Stations
- Open Bar • Greek Pastries
- Live Greek Music • A Unique Silent Auction

R.S.V.P. by May 11

[]/We will attend
[]/We cannot attend but enclose a contribution

____ No. of tickets at $75.00 each ($50/ticket is tax deductible)
____ Total amount enclosed

[]/My check is enclosed (Payable to and sent to: Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, 1001 S. Wyoming Blvd., Reading PA 19611)
[]/Charge my [ ] Mastercard or [ ] Visa

Acct. No. __________ Exp. Date __________ Sec. Code __________

Signature __________

Name (please print) __________

Address __________ City __________ State __________ Zip __________

Philoptochos
Submitted by: Des Deine & Cindy Petrakis
Christos Anesti!

Let us all rejoice in the proclamation of the Resurrection and find the strength to meet all challenges.
Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

And a very special thank you….

For more than a decade, Penny Ballas has generously donated the red and white netting and ribbons used by her “assembly line” of ladies to decorate the dyed Easter eggs distributed to our parishioners. Thank you, Penny, for your generosity and dedication!

Philoctochos Gives...

- $500 – American Red Cross
- $500 – Children’s Home of Reading
- $500 – Greater Berks Food Bank
- $500 – Opportunity House
- $200 – Social Services Special Care Fund
  - (Metropolis)
- $200 – Sisterhood of St. Basil’s Academy
- $100 – St. Photios National Shrine
- $100 – Jesse Brandon (ongoing mission)
- $100 – Food Pantry of Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral, Merrillville, Indiana (in memory of Metropolitan Savas’ mother)
We also want...

The GOYA Basketball Scrimmage in Reading will take place at Berks Catholic on May 3rd beginning at 1:00 p.m. A girls and boys team from the Annunciation church in Lancaster and St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem will be participating. The day will end with a Pizza Reception in our Church Hall.

GOYA Soccer Tournament Saturday, May 9th
Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. First games begin at 8:30 a.m. Departure will be at 7:30 a.m. from the church parking lot.
Cost: $10—to cover pizza drinks and snacks
Please make checks payable to “Annunciation GOYA” (Lancaster)

JOY Movie Night
May 15th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Plus “Make your own Pizza”!

GOYA: July 5-11
JOY: June 21-27
Cost: $500
(you can apply for financial aid)
To register: www.pittsburgh.goarch.org
(Follow the link to register)

Sunday School
Tula Donahue
Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Christos Anesti!
Christ is Risen!!
The Sunday School department has been very eventful! Our teachers were excited to re-discover the solemnest, beauty and faithfulness of Great Lent. The students have been absorbing the wonderful lessons presented regarding the Easter Season.

Spotlight on the Pre-K Class
The Class is filled with energetic 4 & 5 year old boys and girls. Much of our time is spent on how to enter Church and how to behave in Church. This is the first year the children are coming up to participate in Divine Liturgy before communion. We talk to them about not talking during Liturgy (by being good listeners), when they should be making the sign of the cross, they can sing responses with the Choir such as “Lord Have Mercy” or “Amen” and repeating prayers with the congregation.

Our lesson book is called “God, My Friends, and Me”. We start the year with the creation of the earth, how God made us (our 5 senses – sight, sound, smell, taste or touch), how God listens to us, how and when we can talk to God by prayer.

Since home is the major influence in a child’s life, we thank the parents who attend Divine Liturgy regularly and who allow their children to come to our Sunday School class for additional information on our Orthodox religion. Your children are eager to learn about our Orthodox religion and new things about God’s house.

Our teachers, Connie Fecera, Heather Moliatu, Tina Daniels, Olivia Szczawinski, and our aids Fran Thompson and Des Yanoulis thank you for allowing us to help enrich your child’s education with our Orthodox Faith.

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We want to recognize our devoted Myrrh Bearer of Good Friday. For the afternoon service were angelic young girls - Carly Futruck, Courtney Futruck, and Anastasia Pendos and for the evening service were beautiful young ladies - Julia Breit, Jessica Craciun, Michelle Craciun, Jocelyn Dialectos, Karissa Dialectos, Stavanna Donahue, Angeliki Miranda, and Gabriella Toma-Pendos.

Our annual Egg Hunt was enjoyable as always under the direction of Crina Sasaran! We also want to thank Jen Perezous and Argie Hansen who assisted. Thank you!! Thank you!!

Student Volunteers: The following students volunteered during the month of April. Soc
Phyrillas was our wonderful Epistle Reader. Stavanna Donahue was the pleasant Greeter. Jessica Craciun, Michelle Craciun, Chrissovalantis Siozos, and Chris Sterious passed the baskets.

Word of the Month!
Yassou, Petros!

On the Funerous Side
Petros the Archaeologist

After having dug to a depth of 10 meters last year, Italian scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Italians, in the weeks that followed, Turkish scientists dug to a depth of 20 meters. Shortly thereafter, headlines in Turkish newspapers read: “Turkish archaeologists have found traces of 200 year old copper wire, and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network one hundred years earlier than the Italians.”

One week later, “The Kathimerini”, a Greek newspaper, reported the following: “After digging as deep as 30 meters in a field near Athens, Petros Petropoulos, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Petros has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Greeks were already using wireless.”