

JANUARY IANOYAPIOS 2014 A Monthly E-Publication of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. 520 S. Ponca Street, Baltimore, MD 21224

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

Pastoral Message from Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos The Full Christian Experience that God has Given Us!

Two thousand years ago Saint Paul gave this advice: "Forgetting what is behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:13– 14)

How many of us have made many mistakes in our lives as Christians? How many have experienced many setbacks and failures throughout life? Sometimes we allow these setbacks to enslave us to the point that we never enjoy the full Christian experience that God has given us. In John 10:10 Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly." This means that in 2014, he wants us to have a fresh start in life. He understands our human weakness, as well as our strengths. We have all made resolutions in the past and never honored them, but God wants us to begin 2014 with a new outlook on life. If we have made mistakes in the past, he wants us to correct them and go on. Look what it says in Isaiah 43:18: "Forget about what has happened before. Do not dwell on the past." God is more interested in your present and your future than he is in your past.

Of course, the past is also important, but let's not dwell on it. Maybe you have experienced failures in recent years. You may have faced financial loss, a failed relationship, a marital problem, or a spiritual challenge. You may have really blown it, and you may have made some decisions you are ashamed of and hope nobody ever finds out about. Regardless of the failure in your life-whatever it may be—just stop making excuses, stop blaming others, and stop seeing yourself as a victim of circumstances. In today's society there are people who want to harm us, who want to ruin our reputations. But remember, the only person who can ruin your life is you yourself. Everyone has a choice to make regarding how they will respond to all the pain and hurt that we encounter in life. Proverbs 28:13

says, "A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful, but if he confesses and forsakes them he gets another chance."

The year 2014 is now a reality. It is all up to us whether we want a fresh new start in our lives. We need to learn from our past mistakes and to get on with our lives. This New Year gives everyone the opportunity to move closer to God and to realize that without him, we are nothing. The Bible says the key to changing anything is faith. We need to know what our expectations are and what road we are to follow to make sure that we are on the right path, the path toward SAL-VATION. This is what we should be working and striving for. What we really need to do is learn from our failures. If you ask any successful business person how it's done, the response would be "Real success is built on failure." Look at all the scientists and their inventions: Do you think for one minute that they didn't have failures? Do you know that Edison figured out the light bulb on his 200th try? That means that he failed 199 times before he invented the light bulb. This example shows that it's always good to think of our failures in life as EDUCATION.

Let's make 2014 a year of life-changing decisions that bring about a complete overhaul in our lives. Now is the time for resolutions and for taking charge of things, the time get inspired to make the changes that you have always desired.

I hope that the New Year brings only happiness to you and not a single tear. May your problems never again trouble you as you turn to Christ with them. Now that the old year has passed, let the past be over with. Let's look forward to all the possibilities that 2014 brings. Fill your life with cheer and happiness, and may this year bring you joy and prosperous results. **Have a great and blessed New Year!!!**

Μήνυμα απο τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ

Πριν δύο χιλιάδες χρόνια ο Απόστολος Παύλος είπε «Ξεχνώντας το παρελθόν και επικεντρώνοντας την προσοχή στο μέλλον, προχωρώ προς το στόχο που ο Θεός με κάλεσε, προς τη Βασιλεία των Ουρανών, στον Ιησού Χριστό.» Φιλ. 3:13:14.

Πόσοι από εμάς, έχουμε κάνει λάθη στη ζωή μας ως Χριστιανοί; Πόσοι έχουμε βιώσει πολλές απογοητεύσεις και αποτυχίες στη ζωή μας; Μερικές φορές επιτρέπουμε στα λάθη του παρελθόντος να μας υποδουλώνουν, σε σημείο που να μην απολαμβάνουμε την πλήρη χριστιανική εμπειρία, που ο Θεός μας έχει δώσει για να χαρούμε. Κατά Ιωάννη 10:10, ο Ιησούς είπε: Συμπέρανα, ο,τι μπορείτε να έχετε ζωή και να την έχετε εν αφθονία», πράγμα που σημαίνει ο,τι θέλει να έχουμε ένα νέο ξεκίνημα στη ζωή, το 2014. Ο ίδιος ο Χριστός αντιλαμβάνεται την ανθρώπινη αδυναμία μας και τις αντοχές μας. Όλοι έχουμε βάλει στόχους στο παρελθόν και ίσως δεν τους τηρήσαμε. Ο Θεός θέλει να ξεκινήσει το 2014 με μια νέα προοπτική στη ζωή. Αν κάναμε λάθη στο παρελθόν, θέλει να τα διορθώσουμε και να προχωρήσουμε. Κοιτάξτε τι λέει στον Ησαΐα 43:18: "Ξεχάστε ό,τι έχει συμβεί στο παρελθόν. Μην κολλάτε στο παρελθόν "Ο Θεός ενδιαφέρεται περισσότερο για το παρόν και το μέλλον σας παρά για το παρελθόν σας. Φυσικά, το παρελθόν είναι επίσης σημαντικό, αλλά ας μην σταθούμε στο παρελθόν.

Παραθέτω μερικές από τις κακουχίες που ίσως βιώσατε τα τελευταία χρόνια. Μπορεί να είχατε οικονομικές δυσχέρειες ή κάποια αποτυχημένη σχέση, ένα πρόβλημα στο γάμο σας ή ένα πνευματικό πρόβλημα. Μπορεί να έχετε πραγματικά καεί και ίσως έχετε πάρει κάποιες αποφάσεις που ντρέπεστε, και ελπίζετε, κανείς ποτέ να μην τις ανακαλύψει. Ανεξάρτητα από την αποτυχία που είχατε στη ζωή σας, απλά σταματείστε τις δικαιολογίες, σταματείστε να κατηγορείτε τους άλλους και σταματείστε να θεωρείτε τον εαυτό σας θύμα των περιστάσεων. Σήμερα, στην κοινωνία που ζούμε, έχουμε ανθρώπους που θέλουν να μας βλάψουν, και να καταστρέψουν την προσωπηκότητά μας, τη φήμη μας. Αλλά να θυμάστε, το μόνο πρόσωπο που μπορεί να καταστρέψει τη ζωή σας είστε ΕΣΕΙΣ οι ίδιοι.

Ο καθένας μας πρέπει να κάνει μια επιλογή για το πώς θα ανταποκριθεί σε όλο τον πόνο και τις δυσχέρειες που επηρεάζουν τη ζωή μας. Στις Παραβολές 28:13 αναφέρει, "Ένας άνθρωπος που αρνείται να παραδεχθεί τα λάθη του, δεν μπορεί ποτέ να είναι επιτυχημένος, αλλά αν τα εξομολογείται και τα αφήνει, τότε έχει άλλη μια ευκαιρία στη ζωή.

Η Πρωτοχρονιά του 2014 είναι πλέον πραγματικότητα. Είναι στο χέρι μας αν θέλουμε να κάνουμε μια νέα αρχή στη ζωή μας. Πρέπει να μάθουμε από τα λάθη του παρελθόντος μας. Τούτη η Νέα Χρονιά, δίνει σε όλους μας την ευκαιρία να έρθουμε πιο κοντά στο Θεό, και να συνειδητοποιήσουμε ότι χωρίς Αυτόν δεν είμαστε τίποτα. Η Αγία Γραφή λέει ότι το κλειδί για να αλλάξει ο,τιδήποτε στη ζωή μας, είναι η πίστη. Πρέπει να γνωρίζουμε ποιες είναι οι προσδοκίες μας και το δρόμο που πρέπει να ακολουθήσουμε, όπως επίσσης να βεβαιωθούμε ότι είμαστε στο σωστό δρόμο προς τη ΣΩΤΗΡΙΑ.

Για το σχοπό αυτό πρέπει να μοχθούμε και να αγωνιζόμαστε Το σημαντιχότερο που πρέπει να κάνουμε είναι να μάθουμε από τα λάθη μας. Αν ρωτήσετε οποιονδήποτε επιτυχημένο επιχεισηματία, το μυστιχό της επιτυχίας του, θα σας έλεγε, «η πραγματιχή επιτυχία στηρίζεται σε αποτυχία». Κοιτάξτε όλους τους επιστήμονες και τις εφευρέσεις τους, πιστέψατε έστω και για ένα λεπτό ότι δεν είχαν αποτυχίες; Ξέρετε ότι ο Έντισον εφεύρε την ηλεκτρική λάμπα στη 200η προσπάθειά του; Πράγμα που σημαίνει ότι είχε 199 αποτυχίες πριν να εφεύρει τη τελειοποιημένη λάμπα. Είναι καλό να μην τις ονομάζουμε αποτυχίες της ζωής, αλλά να τις αποκαλούμε ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗ.

Το Νέο έτος 2014, ας γίνει μια χρονιά αλλαγής στη ζωή μας, με νέους στόχους και αποφάσεις, που θα φέρουν μια πλήρη αναγέννηση στη ζωή σας. Μια χρονιά στόχων με τη σχέψη ότι θα προσπαθήσουμε να αναλάβουμε την ευθύνη των πράξεών μας που θα καταλήξουν στις αλλαγές.

Ελπίζω το νέο έτος να σας φέρει μόνο ευτυχία, και ούτε ένα δάκου. Εύχομαι να μην σας ξαναενοχλήσουν προβλήματα. Ο παλιός ο χρόνος, ας περάσει στο παρελθόν. Ας κοιτάξουμε προς τα εμπρός όλες τις δυνατότητες που φέρνει η νέα χρονιά. Γεμείστε τη ζωή σας με χαρά και ευτυχία. Το νέο έτος να είναι ευτυχισμένο και προσδοφόρο.

Σας εύχομαι καλό και ευλογημένο το Νέο Έτος, 2014.

Η Βάφτιση του Χριστού | Θεοφάνεια

Από τον πρώτο αιώνα της χριστιανικής Εκκλησίας, υπήρξε πάντα «Η Εορτή των Φώτῶν.» Στο βάθος του χειμώνα, γιορτάζουμε την έλευση του Υιού του Θεού, δηλαδή τον ερχομό του στον κόσμο ως ο άνδρας Ιησούς Χριστός, και τα πρώτα χρόνια του μέχρι και την βαφτισή του στον Ιορδάνη Ποταμό, η οποία

τα πρωτά χρονία του μέχρι και την βάφτιση του στον Ιορδάνη Ποταμό, η οποία προανήγγειλε την αρχή της διακονίας του Ιησού στη γη.

Κατά τη διάφχεια των αιώνων, διάφορες πτυχές των πρώτων χρόνων του Χριστού χωρίστηχαν σε επιμέρους γιορτές σε διαφορετικές ημέρες: Η Γέννησή του, η Επίσχεψη των Μάγων, η Παρουσίασή του στο Ναό, και η περιτομή του. Όμως, η χύρια εχδήλωση της Εορτής των Φώτων—η Βάπτιση του Χριστού—συνέχισε να γιορτάζεται στις 6 Ιανουαρίου. Γιατί είναι αυτό το γεγονός τόσο σημαντικό;

Η εκδήλωση που δείχνει η εικόνα είναι αυτή που περιγράφεται στα Ευαγγέλια του Ματθαίου, του Μάρκου και του Λουκά. Εδώ είναι η έκδοση του Ματθαίου:

Τότε έρχεται ο Ιησούς από την Γαλιλαίαν εις τον Ιορδάνην προς τον Ιωάννη, δια να βαφτισθή από αυτόν. Ο Ιωάννης όμως τον εμπόδιζε με επιμονή και έλεγε, «Εγώ, ο

ατελής και αδύνατος άνθρωπος, έχω ανάγκη να βαφτισθώ από σέ, και σύ, ο αναμάρτητος και τέλειος, έρχεσαι να βαπτισθής από εμέ;» Απάντησε ο Ιησούς και είπε προς αυτόν, «Έτσι είναι, αλλά άφησε τώρα τας αντιρρήσεις και μη φέρνεις δυσκολίες εις το βάφτισμά μου διότι έτσι πρέπει, και για μένα και για σένα, να εκπληρώσω

κάθε εντολή του Θεού». Τότε ο Ιωαννής τον άφησε να βαφτισθή. Όταν εβαφτίσθη, βγήκε αμέσως από το νεοό. Και ιδού, οι ουρανοί άνοιξαν χάριν αυτού και είδε το Πνεύμα του Θεού να κατεβαίνει σε μορφή περιστεράς και να έρχεται επάνω εις αυτόν. Και ξαφνικά ακούστηκε μια φωνή από τους ουρανούς, ο οποίος έλεγε: «Αυτος είναι ο Υιός μου ο αγαπημένος, στον οποίον είμαι πολύ ευχαριστημένος.» (Ματθ. 3:13–17)

Αυτά είναι λοιπόν η Εορτή των Θεοφανείων (αποχάλυψη) της Αγίας Τριάδος, η οποία χυριολεχτιχά σημαίνει «αποχάλυψη του Θεού» στα ελληνιχά. Στην ειχόνα απειχονίζεται όλη η Αγία Τριάδα (χάτι σπάνιο στην Ορθόδοξη ειχονογραφία): ο Θεός ο Πατέρας, εμφανιζόμενος στην αφηρημένη ως έχρηξη στο ανθρώπινο χόσμο, στην χορυφή της σύνθεσης⁻ ο Θεός το Άγιο Πνεύμα, με τη μορφή περιστεριού χαι ο Θεός ο Υιός, ο Χριστός, στη μέση του Ποταμού Ιορδάνη.

Το παράδοξο του πράγματος φαίνεται και στην εικόνα όπου ο Ιησούς Χριστός αποκαλύπτεται ως Θεός μέσω μιας πράξης υποβολής σε έναν απλό άνθρωπο, τον Ιωάννη. Αν και ο Ιωάννης βαφτίζει τον Χριστό, είναι ο



NEW YEAR'S EVE

CELEBRATION

ST. NICHOLAS GREEKTOWN SQUARE Tuesday, December 31st, 9pm till 2am

Admission: \$75.00 / person \$40 /Children/Students Age 18 and Under

FEATURING: DJ

Leo Marcantonis

Complimentary Champagne, Vasilopita, Mezedakia and Breakfast

Open Bar

For more information contact Maria Salpeas @ 410-633-5020

COMMUNITY **KOINOTIKA** N

The Baptism of Christ | Theophany

ful have always observed "The Festival of Lights." In the deep Midwinter, this feast celebrates the advent of the so Christ may increase," John's teachings and role are not

Son of God, his coming into the world as Jesus Christ, and his early years up to and including his baptism in the Jordan, which heralded the beginning of Jesus's ministry on earth.

Over the centuries, various aspects of Christ's early years were separated into individual feasts observed on different days: his Nativity, the Visitation of the Magi, his presentation in the Temple, and his circumcision. But the principal event of the Feast of Lights-Christ's Baptism-was always commemorated on January 6. Why is this event so important?

The event depicted in the icon is that described in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke; here is Matthew's version:

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

"But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Mt 3:13-17)

This, then, is the Epiphany (revelation) of the Holy Trinity, otherwise known as Theophany, which literally means a "revelation of God" in Greek (Θεοφάνεια). The icon depicts the Holy Trinity (something rare in Orthodox iconography): God the Father, shown in the abstract bursting into the human realm, at the very top of the composition; God the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove; and God the Son, Christ, in the midst of the Jordan River.

The paradox that Jesus Christ might be revealed as God through an act of submission to a mere man, John, is shown well in the icon. Though John is baptizing Christ, it is the former who is shown bent over in reverence to the latter. In other icons, John is shown with his face turned toward heaven and beholding the miracle of the Theophany; either way, despite being the Baptizer, he is not central to the scene. Near John is a tree with an axe laid at the root, recalling John's own preaching to those who came to him: "And now also the ax is laid to the root of the trees: therefore every tree which brings not forth good fruit is hewn

From the first century of the Christian Church, the faith- down, and cast into the fire" (Mt 3:10). In the icon, this detail shows that although the Baptizer must now "decrease



done away with now that the Holy Trinity has been revealed. On the bank opposite John the Baptist, angels wait invisibly to receive the newly baptized Christ and clothe Him. So on the left is the Forerunner of Christ, John, his sermon of repentance represented by the tree and axe; on the right are the angels, who wait in reverence to accept the newly revealed Son of God. In the middle is the moment of revelation itself.

Jesus Christ, despite being submerged in the Jordan, is shown standing up and staring straight at us. His body is depicted as strong and beautiful, as it is understood classically, and in older icons He is naked. Christ appears almost as wide as the river Jordan itself-indeed, it is as though Jesus Christ, rather than the river, is cutting a swath through the rocky wilderness on either side.

The Icon of the Theophany, in addition to depicting the Holy Trinity, also answers the question of the Forerunner: I need to be baptized by

You, and are You coming to me? The answer is in what Christ does with his hands. Whereas in Western art, Jesus is shown submitting to John's authority, in Orthodox icons Christ's hands are shown not in prayer but in a sign of blessing. Rather than the waters of the Jordan cleansing Christ, it is Christ who purifies and blesses the waters. This is why at the bottom of most Theophany icons, terrible little creatures appear to be fleeing from the feet of Christ; they represent the Jordan itself and sometimes the sea. This is a reflection of the words of the Psalmist regarding the Messiah, the Christ: "The sea saw and fled, the Jordan turned back" (Ps 114:3).

This is the depth and profundity of the Baptism of Christ, the Feast of Lights that revealed the Holy Trinity and cleansed the waters of baptism so that we, like the fish shown in the icon, may swim in pure waters.

Of old, the river Jordan

Turned back before Elisha's mantle at Elijah's ascension.

The waters were parted in two

And the waterway became a dry path.

This is truly a symbol of baptism

By which we pass through this mortal I{Pe.

Christ has appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters! (English text adapted from http:// iconreader.wordpress.com/2011/01/06/baptism-of-christthe-theophany-icon/)

KOIN ₂ NIA

COMMUNITY N

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear parishioners,

Happy New Year to all! Once again it is here: a brand new year, a brand new start. Twelve months ahead of us to accomplish our new goals and make new resolutions to succeed. But let us be faithful to those resolutions and be firm about them every day. Let's be swayed not by what is easy but by what is right. Let not the toll of the day keep us from meeting our goals.



I firmly believe that if we work to-

gether and take a step back to think, "Is this the right approach to solving this problem? Is there a better way?" then we can continue to accomplish the tasks before us.

May we live as God intended in the world, at peace and with the awareness of his love in every sunset, every child's smile, and every wonderful, astonishing, miraculous beat of our hearts.

Good health to everyone and their families, and again—a very happy New Year to all!

> In Christ Demos Anastasiades

ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟ Αγαπητοί ενορίτες,

Σας εύχομαι ευτυχισμένο το Νέο Έτος! Μας ήλθε και πάλι μια νέα χρονιά, ένα καινούργιο ξεκίνημα.

KOINOTIKA NEA

Έχουμε μπροστά μας δώδεκα μήνες, για να ολοκληρώσουμε τους νέους μας στόχους, και να τους επιτύχουμε. Αλλά θα πρέπει να είμαστε πιστοί στις αποφάσεις μας, κάθε ημέρα σταθεροί σε αυτές.

Ας επηρεαζόμαστε, όχι από ό,τι είναι εύκολο, αλλά από ό,τι είναι σωστό. Ό,τι συμβαίνει στη καθημερινή μας ζωή, ας μην μας εμποδίσει στην πορεία της επιτυχίας των στόχων μας.

Πιστεύω ακράδαντα ό,τι, αν εργαστούμε από κοινού, κάνουμε ένα βήμα πίσω και σκεφθούμε, "Είναι αυτή η σωστή προσέγγιση για την επίλυση του προβλήματος; Υπάρχει καλύτερος τρόπος; «τότε μπορούμε να συνεχίσουμε να επιτελούμε τα καθήκοντα μας.»

Ας ζούμε όπως ο Θεός ορίζει, με ειρήνη και με τη συνειδητοποίηση της αγάπης Του κάθε ηλιοβασίλεμα της μέρας, με το χαμόγελο κάθε παιδιού, και με κάθε υπέροχο, εκπληκτικό, θαυματουργό ρυθμό της καρδιάς μας.

Καλή Υγεία σε σας και τις οικογένειές σας, και ευτυχισμένο το Νέο Έτος σε όλους!

> Με αγάπη εν Χριστώ Δήμος Αναστασιάδης

Accidentally Omitted from the Community Christmas Card was the following names:

Mr. Demos Anastasiades & family wish everyone in the community the best of everything for the New Year 2014! Mr. & Mrs. Takis Papadopoulos wish a Happy and Healthy New Year 2014 to the entire community of Saint Nicholas!

Mr. & Mrs. Gus Karagiannopoulos & family wish the best of everything to the entire family of St. Nicholas for the New Year 2014! Ms. Vasiliki Kalograni wishes Happy New Year to the entire Community of St. Nicholas!

Our Sincere Apologies for these Omissions.

PROTOPRESBYTER FR. MICHAEL PASTRIKOS, PASTOR CHURCH OFFICE TELEPHONE: 410-633-5020 - CHURCH FAX: 410-633-4352 - CELL: 443-742-8314 www.stnicholasmd.org

CHURCH SECRETARY MARIA SALPEAS

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POPI PARAGIOS, PROGRAM COORDINATOR YOUTH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS: FOULA PARAGIOS, RENE ANGELOS, KRISTINA ANASTASIADES, KATERINA IEROMONAHOS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

KYRA KONDUDIS, NURSERY & PRE-K LIA KARAGIANOPOULOS, NURSERY & PRE-K YANA KARABELAS & NIKI CANNING, KINDERGARTEN PENNY GERAPETRITIS, FIRST GRADE ANTONIA SFIRIOU, SECOND GRADE PHAEDRA AVGERINOS, THIRD GRADE GEORGE KARAGIANOPOULOS, FOURTH GRADE CHRISTINA ARAVIAKIS, FOURTH GRADE VOULA G. SAKELAKIS, FIFTH GRADE VOULA G. SAKELAKIS, FIFTH GRADE CHRISSY COSSIS, SIXTH GRADE EFFIE CANNING, EIGHTH GRADE EHFIE CANNING, EIGHTH GRADE ELIAS COSSIS & ADAM AGAPIOS, NINTH GRADE EMILY COSSIS, TENTH GRADE EMILY COSSIS, TENTH GRADE CO-DIRECTOR SOFIA GERAPETRITIS, CO-DIRECTOR KYRA KONDUDIS, NURSERY & PRE-K

AFTERNOON GREEK SCHOOL

VASILIKI KALOGRANI, TEACHER CHARA RONTOULI-BACHER, TEACHER CHRISOVALANDOU DIAKOKOMNINOS, TEACHER DESPINA CHATZAKOU-LARENTZOS, TEÁCHER DR. ANASTACIA CHRYSSOS-LIVADITIS, TEACHER GEORGIOS PAPACHARALAMPOUS, TEACHER

GREEK SCHOOL P.T.A.

VASSILIKI KOUMOUDIS, PTA PRESIDENT AMALIA SYROPOULOS-KOSTRIVAS, VICE-PRESIDENT FOULA GIORGAKIS-CEIPEK, SECRETARY NANCY ANASTASIADES, TREASURER SOPHIA GERAPETRITIS, ASSISTANT TREASURER

St. Nicholas Name Day Dance: Oh, What a Night!

The second floor of the Greektown Square and Event Center, also known



as the Plateia, was christened on Saturday, December 7, 2013. Over

three hundred people attended the event and danced to the music of Power Station Entertainment. Everyone enjoyed themselves

and could not believe how beautifully the secondfloor space had been transformed into a winter wonderland. The St. Nicholas Name Day Dance committee members are extremely thankful to all the individuals who volunteered their time, talent, and treasure to make this event successful. They would also like to thank Frank Mitsos and his crew for the wonderful meal that was served. We especially thank our invaluable volunteers, the Greektown Square and Event Center Team, and those who donated according to our needs:

Volunteers:

Nikolas Anastasiades, Kyriaki Kontoudis, Stamatia Ieromonahos, Eleni Karagianopoulos, George Karagianopoulos, Sofia Koumoudis, Popi Paragios, Maria Salpeas, and John Tsampos

Greektown Square and Event Center Team: Frank Mitsos, Elaine Mitsos, Pete Chrisopoulos, Pandelis Hondrelis, Panayiotis Karabolas, Gus and Sue Karagianopoulos, Nick Roros, and Steve and Dina Tsakalos. <u>Chandeliers:</u> <u>Donated by</u> Kostas, Mick Rostas,

Kostas, Michael, and Dimitrios Apostolou in loving memory of their parents, William and Maria

Apostolou. <u>Catering supplies:</u> The Anastasiades-Raimondi family provided the tablecloths. Ikaros provided the wait staff.

John Korologos provided the kitchen assistant.

Electrical: Yianni Atsidis Pete Roros Food/ Desserts: Anastasiades-Raimondi family Jimmy's Restaurant of Fells Point Roza Cornias Sue Karajanopolos Handmade Iavors:

The

Karagianopoulos family <u>Silent Auction:</u> Nick Argetakis Despina Cornias Kostas & Kyriaki Kountoudis Kyra and Patricia Kountoudis Koumoudis George and Rena Koutsantonis George and Despina Nistazos Foula Orfanos Aris and Virginia Polychronis Soteri and Elia Reppas



Debble Nazelfod Dora Patras John and Despina Pikounis Amalia Syropoulos-Kostrivas Tasos and Patricia Topouzoglou <u>Decoratjons and ceiling</u> <u>drapes donations:</u> Yianni & Efthimia Atsidis Nick and Athina Forakis Leo and Ester Gonano



himia Atsidis C ina Forakis T r Gonano T Soulla L Kapetanakos M Apostolia T Karagianopoulos S Eleni S Karagianopoulos C Gus, Sue, I Lia, George Karagianopoulos C Niko and M Karanikolis A Vaso Karanikolis A Vasiliki A Klosteridou C George, K Sofia F Koumoudis T Sotiri and S Vasso

George, Nickoletta Roros Maria Salpeas George, Linda Scandalis Mary Serafis Gus, Angela Skafianoudis Tasos and Patricia Topouzoglou Linda Tsampos Mike and Christina Tsampos Steven and Nitsa Zdziera Sincere thanks again to everyone from: Demos Anastasiades, chair, and from committee members: Nancy Anastasiades, Kelly Argetakis, Efthimia Atsidis, Yianni Atsidis, Gus & Sue Karagianopoulos, Virginia Polychronis, Patricia Topouzoglou, Amalia Syropoulos-Kostrivas

KOINQNIA

THANK YOU

The Bingo Committee—Rosa Cornias, Kelly Papadopoulos, and Kiki Vavakas—would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the last Bingo event, as well as those who attended, in October 2013. The purpose of the event was to raise money to purchase new chandeliers for our church. In order for us to reach our goal, we will need to repeat our efforts, again and again; the cost of the chandeliers is very high.

We thank you and hope that the New Year will be healthy and prosperous for you and your families.

<u>ΣΑΣ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΟΥΜΕ</u>

Η Επιτροπή Bingo—η Ρόζα Κόρνια, η Κέλλυ Παπαδοπούλου, και η Κική Βαβάκα—θα ήθελαν να ευχαριστήσουν όλους όσοι συνέβαλαν με οποιοδήποτε τρόπο και αυτούς που παρακολούθησαν την τελευταία συγκέντρωση του Bingo τον Οκτώβριο του 2013. Ο σκοπός της εκδήλωσης ήταν να συγκεντρωθούν χρήματα για να αγοραστούν καινούργιοι πολυέλαιοι για την εκκλησία μας. Για να ολοκληρωθεί ο στόχος αυτός, θα πρέπει να επαναληφθούν οι προσπάθειες της επιτροπής, ξανά και ξανά, δεδομένου ότι η τιμή είναι πολύ υψηλή.

Επ'ευκαιρία των εορτών, η επιτροπή εύχεται το νέο έτος να είναι υγιές και προσοδοφόρο για εσάς και τα μέλη της οικογένειές σας.

DIAMONDS NEWS

Our annual Christmas and New Year's luncheon will be held Saturday, January 18, 2014, at 1 p.m. at Rosario's Italian Kitchen (7301 Pulaski Highway, Rosedale, MD). The luncheon will include, cream of crab soup, salad, an entree, dessert, coffee, and refreshments. There will be a cash bar. A donation of \$35.00 for the luncheon is requested. If you would like to join us but do not have transportation to the luncheon, please contact the church office (410–633–5020), and we would be happy to arrange transportation for you. Again, everyone is welcome to join the celebration. May the spirit of Christmas be with you throughout the New Year.

All the best, Rose Tsakalos, President

ΔΙΑΜΑΝΤΙΑ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ

Το Ετήσιο Χριστουγεννιάτικο/Πρωτοχρονιάτικο γεύμα τους θα είναι το Σάββατο, 18 Ιανουαρίου 2014, στις 1:00 στο Ιταλικό Εστιατόριο Rosario's (7301 Pulaski Highway, Rosedale, MD). Το γεύμα θα περιλαμβάνει καβουρόσουπα, σαλάτα, κυρίως πιάτο, επιδόρπιο, καφέ και αναψυκτικά. Cash Bar. Η τιμή είναι \$35.00 το άτομο. Αν θα θέλατε να είστε μαζί μας αλλά δεν έχετε μεταφορικό μέσο για το γεύμα, παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε με το γραφείο της εκκλησίας (410–633–5020) και θα χαρούμε να σας εξυπηρετήσουμε. Και πάλι, όλοι είστε ευπρόσδεκτοι να συμμετάσχετε στον εορτασμό. Σας ευχόμαστε Ευτυχισμένος ο Καινούργιος Χρόνος, 2014.

Με τις καλύτερες ευχές, Ρόζα Τσάκαλου, Πρόεδρος

DAILY READINGS



The Daily Readings App on your mobile device is the easiest way to access the day's Bible readings prescribed by the Lectionary of the Greek Orthodox Church. The Daily Readings App also lets you read

the lives of the saints and look up fasting guidelines for each day right on your device. Download it here: http:// www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/internet/ mobileapps/dailyreadings.

KOINONIA SUBMISSIONS & DEADLINE

Your contributions are welcome!

Please submit articles, announcements, and high-quality digital photos (with captions listing who, what, when, and where) to the *Koinonia* staff by the 10th of each month so that they can be included in the next issue.

We work hard to bring you community news on time; please honor this deadline!

Submissions may be brought to the church office or e-mailed to Demos Anastasiades: demos@comcast.net.

HELP WANTED!

Do you enjoy snapping photos of the St. Nicholas family during church and youth events? The *Koinonia* staff is searching for an enthusiastic photographer who will volunteer to visually document and report on community events. Please contact Demos Anastasiades at 443-676-7556 or Stamatia Ieromonahos at 443-742-2424.

<u>GET TO KNOW YOUR GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY</u> <u>ONLINE!</u>



Check out these sites for news and electronic resources:

Metropolis of New Jersey: www.nj.goarch.org/ Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America: www.goarch.org/

International Orthodox Christian Charities: www.iocc.org/ FESTIVAL REMINDER

Save the dates for the St. Nicholas Greek Folk Festival: June 5, 6, 7, and 8, 2014

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday school teachers/staff want to say Thank You to all of our students for the wonderful singing of Carols and Kalanta by the Christmas tree in the Atrium on Sunday, Dec 15th. The desserts and hot chocolate were a hit with everyone who stopped by to hear the beautiful singing. We also want to say "Thank you" to our parents and teachers who brought a dessert. We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and look forward to a Blessed New Year in 2014 for all.

Sunday school classes are back in session as of January 5th. Please make Sunday a Family Day Priority by attending church and bringing your sons/daughters to Sunday school. Preparations are also under way for the upcoming St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. The letter and topics will be given out to all students from 4th to 10th Grades. We urge you the parents to encourage your son/daughter to participate in this worthwhile event. All students in these grades must select and write a paper on one of the topics from the list. This is part of their grade for the year. We also would like to have more of our students from 6th to 10th grades actually participate in the Oratorical Festival which will take place in March or April. More information will be given in the February Koinonia. As a reminder, scholarship money will be awarded to the top two finalists in the Junior and Senior Divisions.

The tenth-grade class is working on their project of putting together a Nistisima/Lenten Cookbook. If you have not sent in your recipe, please do so by February 21, 2014. Please include your phone number. All recipes will be reviewed, and you will be contacted if there are any questions. As indicated in the December issue of the Koinonia, we would also like to include a

Continued on next page



Students and staff singing the Kalanta around the Christmas tree.

COMMUNITY

Continued from page 7

picture of the mom, dad, yiayia, or pappous who submits the recipe. Please send your recipe to Emily Cossis at emce3@aol.com or to Sophia Gerapetritis at SophiaGerapetritis @gmail.com. Once again, we wish our church family καλό μήνα and καλή χρονιά in 2014!

THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Wishing everyone a very Blessed, Healthy and Happy New Year. As we begin this year we would like to thank everyone for their very generous donations in helping those less fortunate during the Holiday Season and continued support throughout the years. Ladies your contributions for the Christmas Tea and Saint Nicholas Vespers were greatly appreciated!! On Sunday January 5th we will have a collection to benefit St. Basils Acad-emy along with the passing out of the Vasilopita. Following church service, the Philoptochos along with the Diagoras will sponsor an "Agape Luncheon". Donation is \$20.00 for Adults and \$10.00 for children. All proceeds will go into a special ear-marked "Agape Account " to be used when the need arises.

This was discussed and voted on at a General Meeting, due to the fact when a person or family requires emergency assis-tance for medical expenses, funds would be available without waiting to schedule an event. For tickets or information, please contact any Philoptochos or Diagoras Board Member.

Next General meeting is on Monday, January 6th at 7:00 p.m. Please join us and bring a friend.

THE MARYLAND GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE COMMITTEE

... will hold its Annual Dance on Saturday February 1st, 2014, at St. Nicholas Church Social Hall from 8 pm to 2 am. Rena Tsapelas and Orchestra from NY will perform. Ticket price is \$40.00 per adult, and children under 10 are free. Food is included. Cash bar. For tickets, reservations, or more information, please contact Manoli Theoharis, 410-790-7542 or Georgia Vavas, 410-583-0068 or gvavas@comcast.net.

GREEKTOWN CDC

A message from John E. Gavrilis, CEO

The Greektown CDC is excited to ring in the 2014 New Year! We look forward to working with Greektown's businesses and residents and all its faith communities to ensure a safer and cleaner community.

We continue to advocate for more parking in the community. A plan to convert the 600–900 blocks of Oldham Street to angle parking has been completed by the City of Baltimore. This will increase the number of parking spots in the neighborhood. More

information will follow in upcoming bulletins. The city's Department of Public Works (DPW) advises citizens to be aware of possible Public Works imposters. The imposters pose as city water workers and seek to gain admittance to your home. Please remember that DPW employees wear uniforms and have photo IDs. Always ask to see this ID. If you doubt their identity, do not let them in! Report any suspicious activity to the police by dialing 911.

Our business community is being cleaned on a regular basis. Through the Greektown CDC's efforts, the city continues to deploy a mechanical sweeper in our business district and to pick up the curbside trash from city-owned receptacles.

A winter advisory! Given upcoming expectations of snow and ice, it is important to pick up your leaves and clean your storm drains. Also, keep an eye on our elderly neighbors to make sure they have access to food and heat during the winter months. We would like to thank our resident Pete Hajewski and our many

neighbors who decorated the streetlamps.

As a reminder, call 911 immediately when witnessing a crime and call 311 for nonemergency issues (trash, rats, illegal dumping, etc.). Also call 911 to report disturbances or criminal activity from a liquor establishment. Be certain to give the exact address of the business when making the complaint. Complaints can be anonymous!

Please stop by our office to discuss what you would like to see done in 2014 in your neighborhood, or submit suggestions by email: greektowncdc@aol.com. Here's to a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year!

Believe in your community!

Η Βάφτιση του Χριστού | Θεοφάνεια

KOINOTIKA

Συνέχεια απο την σελίδα 2

Ιωάννης που εμφανίζεται να σχύβει με ευλάβεια προς τον Χριστό. Σ' άλλες εικόνες, ο Ιωάννης παρουσιάζεται με το πρόσωπό του στραμμένο προς τον ουρανό και βλέποντας το θαύμα των Θεοφανέίων. Ή με τον ένα τρόπο ή με τον άλλον, παρά το γεγονός ότι είναι ο βαφτιστής, ο ίδιος δεν είναι κεντρικής σημασίας στην συγκεκριμένη σκηνή. Κοντά στον Ιωάννη είναι ένα δέντρο με ένα τσεκούρι στη ρίζα του, υπενθυμίζοντας το κήρυγμά του Ιωάννη σε εκείνους που ήρθαν σ' αυτόν: «Και τώρα το τσεκούρι είναι στη ρίζα των δέντρων: Ως εκ τούτου, κάθε δέντρο που δεν φέρνει καλούς καρπούς είναι λαξευμένο προς τα κάτω, και ρίχνεται στη φωτιά» (Ματθ. 3:10). Στην εικόνα, η λεπτομέgεια αυτή δείχνει ότι αν και ο Πρόδρομος πρέπει τώρα «να μειωθεί ώστε ο Χριστός να αυξήθει,» οι διδασκαλίες του και ο Ιωάννης ο ίδιος δεν γίνονται ασήμαντα τώρα που η Αγία Τριάδα έχει αποκαλυφθεί. Στην όχθη απέναντι από τον Ιωάννη τον Πρόδρομο, άγγελοι περιμένουν αόρατα για να λάβουν το νέο βαφτιστή, τον Χριστό, και να τον ντύσουν. Έτσι, αριστερά βρίσκεται ο Πρόδρομος του οπίου το κήρυγμα της μετάνοιας αντιπροσωπεύεται από το δέντρο και το τσεκούρι. Δεξιά είναι οι άγγελοι, οι οποίοι περιμένουν με ευλάβεια να αποδεχθούν τον αποκαλυπτόμενο Υιό του Θεού. Στην μέση είναι η ίδια η στιγμή της αποκάλυψης.

Ο Ιησούς Χριστός, παρά το γεγονός ότι υπάρχει βυθισμένος στον Ιορδάνη, φαίνεται να στέκεται και να μας κοιτάζει κατάματα. Το σώμα του απεικονίζεται ως ισχυρό και όμορφο σύμφωνα με την κλασική παράδοση, όπως και στις παλαιότερες εικόνες αυτός είναι γυμνός. Ο Χριστός εμφανίζεται σχεδόν τόσο μεγάλος όσο είναι ο Ιορδάνης Ποταμός—στην πραγματικότητα, είναι σαν να είναι ο Ιησούς Χριστός, και όχι ο ποταμός, που κόβει μια λωρίδα από τη βραχώδη έρημο και στις δύο πλευρές.

Η εικόνα των Θεοφανείων, εκτός από την παράσταση της Αγίας Τριάδος, απαντά και στο εδώτημα του Προδρόμου: Έχω ανάγκη να βαφτιστώ από σένα, και συ έρχεσαι προς εμένα; Η απάντηση βοίσχεται σε αυτό που χάνει ο Χριστός με τα χέρια του. Ενώ στη Δυτική τέχνη, ο Ιησούς παρουσιάζεται να υποβάλλεται στην εξουσία του Ιωάννη, σε Ορθόδοξες εικόνες τα χέρια του Χριστού φαίνονται όχι σε προσευχή, αλλά σε μια χειρονομία ευλογίας. Τα νερά του Ιορδάνη δεν αγιάζουν τον Χριστό, αλλά ο Χριστός ο ίδιος αγιάζει και ευλογεί τα νερά. Αυτός είναι ο λόγος που στο κάτω μέρος των περισσοτέρων ειχόνων των Θεοφάνειων, φοβερά μιχρά πλασματα φαίνονται να φεύγουν μαζικά από τα πόδια του Χριστού. Αντιπροσωπεύουν τον ίδιο τον Ιορδάνη Ποταμό και μεδικές φορές την θάλασσα. Αυτό είναι μια αντανάκλαση των λέξεων της ψαλμωδός σχετικά με το Μεσσία, τον Χριστό: «Η θάλασσα είδε και έφυγε, ο Ιορδάνης γύρισε πίσω» (Ψαλμ. 114:3)

Αυτό είναι το βάθος και η θαυμάσια σημαντικότητα της Βάπτισης του Χριστού. Η Εορτή των Φώτων αποκαλύπτει την Αγία Τριάδα και αγιάζει τα νερά του βαφτίσματος, ώστε να μπορούμε εμείς, όπως τα ψάρια στην εικόνα, να κολυμπούμε σε αγιασμένα νερά.

Από παλιά, το Ιορδάνη ποταμό

Γύρισε πίσω μροστά την μανδύα του Ελισαίε κατά την ανάληψή του Ηλία.

Τα νερά χωρίστηκαν στα δύο

Και ο πόταμός έγινε ένα στεγνό δρόμο.

Αυτό είναι πραγματικά ένα σύμβολο του βαφτίσματος

Με την οποία περνάμε μέσα από αυτή την θνητή ζωή.

Ο Χριστός εμφανίστημε στον Ιορδάνη για να αγιάσει τα νερά]



You may drop your article off at the church office or e-mail it to Demos Anastasiades at: demos@comcast.net

ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ 2014

KOIN QNIA

GREEK SCHOOL <u>NEWS</u> TOY EAAHNIKOY EXOAEIOY \diamond



προσωπικό ου т Ελληνκού Σχολείου στέλνει 2014 ευχές. Να 'ναι

το αύριο καλύτερο απ' το χθες! Καλή Χρονιά!

Πρωτοχρονιάτικο Έθιμο: Η Βασιλόπιτα

Μία παράδοση της Κωνσταντινούπολης λέει τα εξής: Όταν ο Άγιος Βασίλειος ήταν Επίσκοπος στην Καισαρεία, ο Επαρχος της Καππαδοκίας πήγε με σκληρές διαθέσεις να εισπράξει φόρους. Οι κάτοικοι φοβισμένοι ζήτησαν την προστασία του ποιμενάρχη τους. «Σας ζητάω αμέσως,» τους είπε εκείνος, «να μου φέρει ο καθένας ό,τι πολύτιμο αντικείμενο έχει.» Μάζεψαν πολλά δώρα και βγήκαν μαζί με το Δεσπότη τους οι κάτοικοι της Καισαρείας να προϋπαντήσουν τον Έπαρχο. Ήταν όμως τέτοια η εμφάνιση και η πειθώ του Μεγάλου Βασιλείου, που ο Έπαρχος καταπραύνθηκε χωρίς να θελήσει να πάρει τα δώρα. Γύρισαν πίσω χαρούμενοι κι ο άγιος Βασίλειος πήρε να τους ξαναδώσει τα πολύτιμα αντικείμενα τους. Ο χωρισμός όμως ήταν δύσκολος γιατί είχαν προσφέρει πολλά όμοια αντικείμενα, δηλαδή δαχτυλίδια, νομίσματα κ.λ.π. Ο Βασίλειος τότε σκέφθηκε ένα θαυματουργό τρόπο: Διέταξε

να κατασκευασθούν το απόγευμα του Σαββάτου μικρές πίτες και μέσα σε καθεμιά τοποθέτησε από ένα αντικείμενο. Την επόμενη μέρα έδωσε από μία σε κάθε Χριστιανό. Και τότε έγινε το θαύμα! Μέσα στην πίτα του βρήκε ο καθένας ό,τι είχε προσφέρει! Από τότε, λέει η παράδοση, κάθε χρόνο, στη γιορτή του αγίου Βασιλείου, κάνουμε κι εμείς πίτες και βάζουμε

μέσα νομίσματα. Στην πλειοψηφία τους οι Έλ-ληνες

κόβουν τη βασιλόπιτα αμέσως μετά την αλλαγή του χρόνου. Σε μερικές, όμως, περιοχές της

Ελλάδας η Βασιλόπιτα κόβεται στο μεσημεριανό τραπέζι, ανήμερα του Αγίου Βασιλείου την 1η Ιανουαρίου. Όποτε πάντως και αν κοπεί, ακολουθείται το ίδιο εθιμοτυπικό: Ο νοικοκύρης την σταυρώνει τρεις φορές με ένα μαχαίρι και μετά αρχίζει να κόβει τα κομμάτια. Το πρώτο είναι του Χριστού, το δεύτερο της Παναγίας, το τρίτο του Αγίου Βασιλείου, το τέταρτο του σπιτιού και ακολουθούν τα κομμάτια των μελών της οικογένειας με σειρά ηλικίας. Η Βασιλόπιτα αποτελεί το κατεξοχήν Πρωτοχρονιάτικο

έθιμο μας. Είναι ένα έθιμο που το συναντάμε σε ολόκληρο τον Ελλαδικό χώρο. Ο νικητής νομίσματος тоц τnc βασιλόπιτας έχει υγεία και καλή τύχη για όλη τη χρονιά. (Greek from text www.tovoion.com)

New Year's Tradition: The Vasilopita

A tradition from Constantinople relates the origins of the

Vasilopita. When St. Basil (Vaswas ilis) bishop of Caesarea, the eparch of Cappadocia went with ill intentions to collect taxes. The residents,

frightened, requested their shepherd's protection. "I ask each of you right now," Basil told them, "to bring me whatever you have that is valu-able." The residents of Caesarea collected many gifts and went out with their master to greet the eparch. But such were the appearance and the persuasive powers of the great Basil that the eparch was assuaged and did not wish to take the gifts. The Christians of Caesarea went home delighted, and St. Basil began to return their valuables to them. But it was difficult to tell all the items apart, because many

people had brought objects that were quite similar-rings, coins, and similar small items. Basil thought, then, of a miraculous solution to the problem: he ordered that small cakes be prepared on Saturday afternoon, and inside each one a single valuable item was to be placed. The next day, he gave one cake to each Christian. And then the miracle occurred—inside the cakes they had been given, all the people found their own valuables! Since then, according to tradition, each year on the feast of St. Basil, we too prepare cakes and place coins inside.

Most Greeks cut the Vasilopita immediately after the New Year arrives. But in some parts of Greece, the Vasilopita is cut at the afternoon dinner table on the day of St. Basil's feast, January 1. No matter when it is cut, however, the following tradition is observed: the head of the household traces a cross on the pita three times with a knife, and then begins cutting pieces. The first is for Christ, the second for the Theotokos, the third for St. Basil, and the fourth for the house. Then follow pieces for each member of the family, in order of age.

The Vasilopita is our greatest New Year's tradition, and it is observed throughout all of Greece. The one who finds the coin in his or her piece of the Vasilopita will have good health and good luck all year long.



LITURGICAL PROGRAM

Wed. Jan. 1 (New Year's Day, Circumcision of Christ, St. Basil the Great): Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

The Parish Council. Fr. Michael. the church staff. and the entire family of St. Nicholas wish everyone in the community a Happy New Year!

Sun. Jan. 5 (Eve of Epiphany): Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Blessing of the Waters. Strict Fast.

Mon. Jan. 6 (Holy Epiphany): Orthros: 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Blessing of the Great Waters.

Tue. Jan. 7 (Gathering of St. John the Baptist): Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Sun. Jan. 12 (Sunday after Epiphany): Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tues. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Bash at the Plateia 9 p.m.-??? Wed. Jan. 1: New Year's Day

Fri. Jan. 3: GOYA monthly meeting 7 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 4: Ladies Panchian Society Meeting 1 p.m.

Sun. Jan. 5: The Cutting of the Vasilopita and luncheon to benefit the Agape Fund.

Mon. Jan. 6: Ladies Philoptochos monthly meeting 7 p.m.

Wed. Jan. 8: Greek School reopens with classes at 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Fri.-Sat. Jan. 10-11: Epiphany. GOYA trip to Ocean City to celebrate the Epiphany at St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Tues. Jan. 14: Diamonds monthly meeting 1 p.m.

Wed. Jan. 15: St. Nicholas PTA monthly meeting 6 p.m. Sat. Jan. 18: Diamonds' Annual Christmas and New Year's lun-cheon 1 p.m. at Rosario's Italian Kitchen.

Mon. Jan. 20: Greek School closed for Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Sun. Jan. 26: Greek School Program immediately after the Divine Liturgy to celebrate the Feast of the Three Hierarchs.

Fri. Jan. 17 (St. Anthony the Great): Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Sun. Jan. 19 (12th Sunday of St. Luke, Ten Lepers): Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sun. Jan. 26 (15th Sunday of St. Luke, Zacchaeus): Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Thur. Jan. 30 (Feast of the Three Great Hierarchs): Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

LITURGICAL HOURS:

The Liturgical hours remain the same throughout the year. Sunday services: Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m. Weekday Liturgy: Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Vespers services: 7:00 p.m.



Mark your calendars!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. Feb. 1: Greek Independence Day Parade Dance. (More details see ad on page 12).

Sat. Feb. 1: GOYA basketball tournament (away). Mon. Feb. 3: Ladies Philoptochos monthly meeting 7 p.m. Wed. Feb. 12: St. Nicholas PTA meeting 6:00 p.m. Fri. Feb. 14: Rhodian Bull Roast in the UVA Hall 6-11 p.m. Sat. Feb. 15: GOYA basketball tournament (away). Mon. Feb. 17: Greek School closed for President's Day.

CLIP IT, AND SUBMIT IT TO CHURCH

Blessing Your Home

Dear Parishioners:

In the month of January, we celebrate a Great Feast within the Orthodox Church. Epiphany, the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, on January 6th. It is the season of the blessing of the Holy Waters, when also the parish priest through his very rich custom brings the Blessed Holy Water to the faithful in their homes and business establishments. This enables everyone to receive the Great Blessing of our Lord for the New Year of 2014. I feel that this is a beautiful custom, that as your priest, bringing the Blessed Holy Water of Epiphany to you, my parishioners, allows me to remain close to you and your family. We request that you fill out the form below or call the church secretary to set up a convenient time.

PLEASE NOTE: Only those homes that submit this form or call will be visited. I hope that each family will take advantage of this traditional and important blessing for the New Year of 2014. With Paternal Blessing and Best Wishes for this Holiday Season!

With Love in Christ Jesus, **Father Michael**

BLESSING OF HOME/BUSINESS

NAME: PHONE: ADDRESS: (Please check one) Please complete this form and return to the church office or call 443-742-8314.

ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ 2014

KOIN ₂ NIA

MR/MRS AHLADIOTIS JOHN & EFFIE MR/MRS ANASTASIADES DEMOS MR/MRS ANTONAS NICK MS BALOMAS PATRICIA MRS CHRISSOMALLIS SOPHIE MRS CHRISTESSON STAVROULA **MR/MRS FAKAS JAMES MR/MRS FORAKIS NICHOLAS** MS GEORGAS ANTHIE GREEKTOWN C.D.C. MR HATZJGEORGALI ANTONIOS MRS KAITIS ANGELA MARY **MRS KAMINARJS BARBARA** MR/MRS KARAGIANNIS DEMETRIOS **MS KARAS EVELYN** MR/MRS KEF ALAS MIKE & NORA **MR/MRS KILLIAS SAVVAS MR KOSMOS GEORGE MR/MRS KOUKIDES HARRY MR/MRS KOUTSANTONIS DEMETRJOS** MRS LYGOUMENOS ALEXANDRA **MR/MRS MILONAS KIMON** MRS NEOFITOU ATHINA MR PAPADOPOULOS ASIMAKIS MRS PAROS MARY **MR/MRS PELTSEMES IRENE** MR POLITAKIS NICHOLAS MRS SALPEAS MARIA MRS SERAFIS MARY MR/MRS SOPHOCLEUS GREGORY **MR/MRS STAKIAS MICHAEL MR/MRS STAVLAS NIKOLAOS MRS STRAKES KATHERINE MR/MRS TETTERIS STEVE MR/MRS THEOHARIS EMMANUEL MS TSAKALOS JEANETTE** MISS VASILIADES MARIA **MR/MRS VOXAKIS JOHN & IRENE**

MR/MRS AMARANTIDIS HARRY MR ANDERSON EMANUEL P. JR. **MR/MRS ARGEROPOULOS TED** MR BISBIKIS PETE MRS CHRIST STASA MR/MRS CORNIAS MICHAEL C. **MRS FANTIS PENELOPE** MR/MRS FOTIOU JOHN MB/MBS GIAKOUMAKIS NICK MR/MRS HARRIS SPYROS MRS HATZIKOSMAS AMALIA MR/MRS KALAMBIHIS ALEXANDROS MB/MBS KAMINABIS DEMETBJOS MR/MRS KARAMANLIDES KYRIAKOSMR/ MRS KATSAROS MICHAEL MRS KELIS TSAMBIKA **MR/MRS KIMOS JAMES MR/MRS KOSTAKIS GEORGE** MRS KOULATSOS ANASTASIA **MR/MRS KOUTSOURIS STYLIANOS MR/MRS MASTROMANOLI MANUEL** MRS MINAS GEORGE J. MR/MRS NISTAZOS NICKOLAS Z. MR PAPADOPOULOS SOLON **MR/MRS PATERAKIS CHARLES** MR/MRS PERDIKAKIS GEORGE MR RODITIS THEODOROS MR/MRS SALPEAS EMMANUEL D. MR/MRS SFAKIANOUDIS GEORGE K. **MR/MRS SOULIKAS GEORGE** MS STAKIAS STELLA **MR/MRS STAVRAKIS MARIA MR/MRS TARATSIDES ATHENA MR/MRS THEMELIS JOHN & RENEE MR/MRS TRINTIS NICOLAOS** MRS TSAKALOS ROSE **MR/MRS VASILIOS FRANK MR/MRS YIANAKIS STEVE** PLEDGED

TOTALS: \$77,240.00

MR/MRS ANDREWS MARIA MRS ASHBY ATHELENE MRS BISBIKIS HELEN **MR/MRS CHRIST PHILIP** MRS DENDRINOS EVANGELIA **MRS FILIPPOU IRENE** MS FRANGOS ANGELIKI MRS GIANNAKOULIAS DIONISIA MR/MRS HATZIDIMITRIOU JOHN JR. **MR/MRS IEROMONAHOS PANTELIS** MRS KALIAKOUDAS SOFIA MRS KAPETANAKOS SOULA **MR KARAMANLIDES ANTONIOS MR/MRS KATSAS STAVROS** MR/MRS KEVAS JOHN & MARIA **MR/MRS KOLKAS EUGENIA** MR KOSTOS JOHN **MR KOUROUPIS STEVE MS LAMBROW STEPHANIE** MR/MRS MAYER FRANCIS L. **MR/MRS MITSOS FRANK** MR/MRS O'DRUDY LEO K. III **MR/MRS PAPAGEORGIOU SOCRATES** MR PATERAKIS JOHN MRS PHILIPPOU POPI **MR/MRS ROSSIS GEORGE** MRS SARIGIANIS CHRISTINE MR/MRS SFAKIANOUDIS JOHN **MR/MRS SOULIKAS JAMES & JOAN MR/MRS STAMATOPOULO JOHN MR/MRS STEFANONIJSTAK MICHAEL MR TARATSIDES GEORGE** MR THEMELIS JOHN MRS TRIPOLITIS NINA **MR/MRS TSAMPOS MICHAEL** MR/MRS VERGOS GEORGE **MR/MRS ZISSIMOS GUS PETE** PAYMENTS BALANCE

\$43,925.00

MRS AMARANTIDIS PARTHENA

\$33,315.00

MR/MRS ANGELOS JOHN & IRENE MS ATHOS JANET MR/MRS CHRISSOMALLIS JOHN & TERI MRS CHRISTAKOU STAVROULA MRS DINIOTIS DENNIS **MR/MRS FORAKIS MICHAEL** MR/MRS GEORGALAS MICHAEL **MR/MRS GIANNAKOULIAS GEORGE** MS HATZIEFTHIMIO ANASTASIA MRS KAITIS DESPINA **MR/MRS KALIS EUGENIA** MR/MRS KAPUTSOS MARSHALL **MR/MRS KARANIKOLIS NIKOS MR/MRS KATSIKIDES TOM & NICOLE MR/MRS KEVAS GEORGE** MR/MRS KOROLOGOS SPIROSMR/MRS **KOTZIAS CHRIS MR/MRS KOUTSANTONIS GEORGE MR/MRS LOUMIOTIS DIMITRIOS** MR/MRS MILLETT & ALEX EARL **MR/MRS MOELLER PATRICIA ZOE** MR/MRS PALAS JOHN **MR/MRS PAPAVASILIOU THARRENOS MR/MRS PATINIOTIS PANAGIOTIS** MR/MRS PIKOUNIS EMMANUEL MRS ROSSIS-BARNES TSAMBIKA MR/MRS SEAL CHARLES MRS SOPHOCLEOUS HELEN MR/MRS SOURANIS MICHAEL MR/MRS STAVLAS MICHAEL **MR/MRS STEWART JOHN MR/MRS TASKER-GIOKA DAMIANOS MS THEMELIS STELLA** MRS TSAKALAS JULIE MRS VASILAKOPOULO ANASTASIA **MR/MRS VERGOS JOHN**

MRS ANAN ELIZABETH

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GOYA NEWS

On Thursday, December 12th, the GOYAns participated in the Kennedy Krieger Institute Christmas festivities. The students spent the evening serving dinner, singing Christmas carols, and interacting with the children who must remain at the hospital during the Christmas holidays. This is the second year

that GOYAns have participated in this event and they are happy to bring some Christmas cheer to the children staying at the Kennedy Krieger Institute.

The GOYAns wish everyone a wonderful and healthy New Year!

- The St. Nicholas GOYA advisors.

Ηappy NewYear! Ευτυχισμένο το Νέο Έτος 2014!



K O I N P N I A **ST. NICHOLAS INCOME STATEMENT** January–November 30, 2013

EXPENSES:

CAPITAL COSTS	
Capital Improvements to Church	\$ 2,485.00
Plateia Capital Improvements	\$ 2,485.00 \$ <u>19,273.00</u> \$ 21,758.00
Total Capital Costs	\$ 21,758.00
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION	\$ 6,041.69
Accounting Advertising	\$ 6,041.69 \$ 3,653.25 \$ 547.33 \$ 1,828.92 \$ 46,000.00 \$ 548.00 \$ 16,686.26 \$ 1,487.00 \$ 226.96 \$ 249.25 \$ 6,194.86 \$ 3,294.40 \$ 4,416.00 \$ 3,583.05 \$ 3,850.13 \$ 2,332.88
Bank Fees	\$ 547.33
Clergy Laity Congress	\$ 1,828.92
Fair Share(Archdiocese)	\$ 46,000.00
Gifts	\$ 548.00
Insurance – General Liability	\$ 16,686.26
Insurance – Worker's Compensation	\$ 1,487.00
Interest Expense Memorial Expense	\$ 226.96 \$ 249.25
Office Expense	\$ 6,194.86
Postage Expense	\$ 3,294.40
Professional Fees-Subcontract	\$ 4,416.00
Printing Expense	\$ 3,583.05
Telephone & Internet Costs	\$ 3,850.13
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,332.88
General & Administration Other	¢ 101 661 09
Total General & Administration Costs: OCCUPANCY COSTS	\$ 101,661.98
Alarm Monitoring	\$ 1,410.48
Building Maintenance	\$ 26,951.54
Ground Rent	\$ 60.00
Janitor's Supplies	\$ 1,766.07
Permits & Licenses	\$ 2,579.64
Trash Removal	\$ 3,208.12
Pest & Termite Control Utilities	\$ 1,410.48 \$ 26,951.54 \$ 60.00 \$ 1,766.07 \$ 2,579.64 \$ 3,208.12 \$ 675.00 \$ 21,289.96 \$ 4,546.46 \$ <u>441.00</u> \$ 62,487.27
Water and Sewer	\$ 4,546.46
Occupancy Costs Other	\$ 441.00
Total Occupancy Costs	\$ 62,487.27
PAYROLL EXPENSES	. ,
Church Personnel Payroll	\$ 107,686.32
Priest's Payroll	\$ 75,060.93
Greek School Teachers Payroll	\$ 31,525.56
Choir Leader Payroll Assistant Chantor	\$ 16,902.00 \$ 6,824.33
Organist Payroll	\$ 2,750.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 12,560.24
Church Administrator Pension	\$ 107,686.32 \$ 75,060.93 \$ 31,525.56 \$ 16,902.00 \$ 6,824.33 \$ 2,750.00 \$ 12,560.24 \$ 5,500.00
Employee Health Insurance Costs	\$ 28,718.00
Priest's Auto/Housing Allowance	\$ 11,000.00
Total Payroll Expenses	\$ 300,277.38
Plataia Operating Expanses Other	
Plateia Operating Expenses Other Utilities—BG&E	\$ 20,666.28
Total Plateia Expenses Other	\$ 20,666.28 \$ 2,849.63 \$ 23,515.91
Total Plateia Operating Expenses	\$ 23,515.91
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YOUTH AND EDUCATIONAL	
Books/CDs	\$ 394.13
Youth and Educational Expenses	\$ 7,837.89
Scholarship	\$ 394.13 \$ 7,837.89 \$ 1,000.00 \$ 9,232.00
Youth and Educational–Other	
Total Youth and Educational Costs	<u>\$ 518,932.56</u>

Youth and Educational–Other
Total Youth and Educational Costs

\$518,932.56

TOTAL EXPENSES

ORDINARY	INCOME/EXPENSE

INCOME		
Stewardship	\$	206,242.38
Greek School Registration	ᡋᡋ᠀᠐᠐᠐᠐᠐᠐᠐᠐	50,359.98 78,797.50
Sales, Candles Sales, Flowers	φ ¢	240.00
Sales, Dances	φ ¢	2,011.00
Donations—Church	έ	45,190.98
Donations—Trays	š	16,535.00
Donations—Church Hall	š	4,784.78
Donations-Memorial	\$	19,463.00
Donations—Flowers	\$	1,295.00
Donations—Christmas Card	\$	600.00
Greek Festival Income	\$	81,125.00
Building Fund Trayl Income	Ş	13,261.00
Youth Income	\$	1,950.00
Total Income	\$	521,855.62
Cost of Goods Sold	ሰ	14 240 00
Candle Expense	ф Ф	14,340.00
Flower Expense Christmas Card Expense	φ Φ	2,335.60 735.50
Dance Expense	\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$	5,655.51
Greek Festival Expense	φ ¢	4,350.00
Hall Cleaning Expense	Ś	551.60
Total COGS	Š	27,968.21
Gross Profit:	\$	493,887.41
	Ψ	100,007.41

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THE MARYLAND GREEK **INDEPENDENCE DAY** PARADE COMMITTEE...



... will hold its Annual Dance on Saturday February 1st, 2014, at St. Nicholas Church Social Hall from 8 pm until 2 am. Rena Tsapelas and Orchestra from N.Y. will perform. Ticket price is \$40.00 per adult, children under 10 are free. Food is included. Cash bar. For tickets, reservations or more information, please contact Manoli Theoharis, 410-790-7542 or Georgia Vavas, 410-583-0068 or gvavas@comcast.net.

Date of the parade is March 30, 2014

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KOIN ® NIA ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ 2014 DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

In memory of George (Minas) Minadakis

Richard & Sandi Block Gus & Mary Diacoloukas John & Eve Lallas Frank & Irene Vasilios Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Zimmerer Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Tsakalos Mr. & Mrs. Vasilis Nicolaidis George & Roza Cornias Mrs. Julie Tsakalas Mr. & Mrs. Vasilis Skordalos Mrs. Fannie Angelos US Attorney General's Office Fay & Manuel Nicolaides Harry & Stella Koukides Mrs. Eugenia Kalis Mr. Riley L. Roberts Michael & Zoe Frangos and Angeliki

In memory of John Karpathiou Johns,

Pantelis & Stergoula Karpathiou Johns, Basil & Ida Mae Karpathiou

Johns

Mrs. Aspasia Karpathiou Johns Martone–Pappas Family, Theresa, Michael, Sam & Nick

In memory of John Karpathiou Johns Mr. & Mrs. Lucas Papavasiliou

In memory of Demetrios Kefis

Mr. & Mrs. Vasilis Skordalos Mr. & Mrs. George & Roza Cornias Ms. Maria Salpeas

In memory of Gus Xenakis, Maria Atsalis

Mr. & Mrs. Vasilis Skordalos Ms. Eugenia Kalis

In memory of Katherine Kostos Ms. Ryglelski, Kay Mellis Ms. Eugenia Kalis

In memory of Paraskevi Kaikis, George Frangos, Pantelis Tsampos, Emmanuel Roros, Kaliope Tsampos, Mixhael Athas. Lou Panos. Manuel Nicolaides, Manuel Pizanis, Michael Giannaros, Demetra Kanaras, Dionysios Diniotis, Krystalla Skordalos, Louis Hajimihalis Ms. Eugenia Kalis

In memory of Efie Barnett Mr. & Mrs. Pete Tzimos Maria Salpeas & Family

In memory of Tsambikos Diakoloukas Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Pantelides Steve & Katina Yianakis Mr. & Mrs. John Fotiou Ms. Maria Salpeas Mr. & Mrs. John Georgiou Mrs. Popi Philippou Mrs. Anastasia Vasilakopoulos Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Theoharis Mrs. Lia Karagiannopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. George Chrisovergis Mr. & Mrs. Gus Karagiannopoulos Mrs. Zenovia Fakas Mr. Mike Backoff Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Vlassis Mr. Peter Hurdle Mr. John Benner Ms. Mary Campbell Mrs. Maria Burv Mr. Bud Jones Mr. Bill Dees Ms. Irena Higu Ms. Lisa Min Ms. Laura B. Gus & Mary Diacoloukas George & Éleni Diacoloukas Nick & Victoria Diacoloulas Dr. & Mrs. Peter Diacoloukas

In memory of Tsambika Philippou

Mrs. Kiki Vavakas Mr. & Mrs. John Georgiou Mrs. Anastasia Vasilakopoulos Mrs. Bessie Panagiotopoulos Mrs. Athina Neofitou Mrs. Metaxia Chrissomallis Ms. Vasiliki Kalograni George & Nicoletta Roros Ms. Maria Salpeas Mr. & Mrs. Alexandros Kalambihis Ms. Anastasia Hatziefthimiou Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Rologas Mr. & Mrs. Kyriakos Koumoŭdis Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Pikounis Mrs. Lia Karagiannopoulos Mr. & Mrs. Gus Karagiannopoulos & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Theoharis Ms. Evelyn Karas

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In memory of Eugenia Roros

Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Pikounis Mrs. Lia Karagiannopoulos Mr. & Mrs. Gus Karagiannopoulos Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Theoharis Ms. Maria Salpeas

> "Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me."

> > - Psalm 23:4

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