

Message from Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos, Protopresbyter

In life we have many questions that need to be answered. Here are some of those questions?

Can I be happy in life? Is there something wrong with me? Will life ever get better? And Does God have a purpose for my life?

FEBRUARY/

ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ 2016

> Few things in life are as important as finding your purpose or your direction in life. When you understand something's purpose, you can put up with all kinds of inconvenience and pain because of it. For example, say your boss asks you to come in one Saturday morning to open up a stack of 10,000 envelopes and sort through the contents. No overtime pay- just weekend work. What would you say to your boss, would you be resentful, telling him that it's too much work, and I need to get paid for that? Or please don't ask me to work on my weekend because I have plans made out. But if you boss told you that in those envelopes was a \$10,000 bonus check for you, what would your answer be?

> Would you say I have no time, or would you do it gladly with love and devotion? Same tedious job- the difference is in your sense of purpose. So what we really have here is that the conditions are the same but the purpose is different.

> What I would like to ask all of you who are reading this newsletter? Is what has happened to our sense of pride, our understanding, and commitment to God and the Church? Some ask? Can I be happy in life? And the answer is Sure You Can? We all have to make some effort to make our lives happy. We can't always be negative in life, we have to try and change our ways of life.

> Is there something wrong with me? Only you yourself could be able to answer that question. It depends on your lifestyle, it depends if you truly believe in Christ. Do you have a balance in your life? Are you always negative in your actions? Are you a bitter person and do you have love in heart for others. Are you a forgiving person or do you hold grudges? If someone harmed you would you ask for revenge? Will life ever get better? Again this depends on you. First you have to find out what is really troubling you. Is it because you didn't win the lottery, is it because your girlfriend or spouse left you. Is it because your business is

declining.

There are so many more examples on how life really sucks sometimes. I'm sure that everyone in this world has gone through some time of tragedy or bad feelings that could make a person change their lives completely to the worse. Again the answer is You. What are your goals and expectations? What are your challenges that surround you? Are you the kind of person that asks for the easy way out? Are you the kind of person that doesn't care about faith and religion? Are you away from the Church and from God? Did it ever occur to you that your emptiness in life is caused by your negativity? Did you ever try to live your life in a Christian way?

Do you attend Church to hear the Word of God? Maybe that's why life is bitter towards you, because you are heading towards a wrong direction in your life. We need to understand that we are supposed to live a life that is Holy, putting God first even before our family. We need to worship Him, to Love Him, and to glorify Him. When we have accomplished this task, then life just seems to make more sense.

And the last question: Does God have a purpose for my life? To answer that question it truly takes some deep thinking. I'm sure in God's eyes He wants the very best for His children. God has given us many talents. To some He gives less, and to others He gives more.

Many people go through life feeling discouraged about themselves and thinking they do not have a purpose in life. But that's not true! Whoever you are-whatever your life experiences, talents, physical abilities, or role-you have a purpose. Did you ever think on why did God create us? Are we then an accident-Did He make a mistake by creating us, I don't think so! God has a plan for all of us and we do have a purpose in life. In Ephesians 2:10 it says; "For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH PRESIDENT

Dear Parishioners,

The Metropolis of New Jersey Folk Dance Festival of 2016 took place in Annapolis, Md on January 16th -17th, and it was a huge success for the Saint Nicholas Hellenic Golden Coins dance group. The Hellenic Golden Coins competed in the senior division and performed numerous dances on Saturday afternoon and a wedding dance-skit on Sunday.

As I sat in the audience, I thought back to the last three years as the church struggled to

keep the Hellenic Golden Coins dance group together in the midst of graduating seniors, retiring instructors and advisors. The dance group has had a rich history with Saint Nicholas and I am thankful to all those instructors and dancers who have played an integral part in keeping this rich tradition alive.

Since October, 2014, four dance instructors took over the helm of the Hellenic Golden Coins. They are Stacey Lioreisis, Jenna Stakias, Antonios "Tony" Giogakis and Maria Barkas. Together they were able to form a team of dancers that not only enjoyed dancing together, but were able to forge strong bonds of friendship.

Preparing for the Folk Dance Festival (FDF) required a huge commitment of time from the dancers as well as the instructors. The parents had to commit themselves to being endless chauffeurs, cheerleaders, make-up artists and costume fitters.

Regardless of the pressure to perform and to dance flawlessly, I saw dancers that were truly enjoying themselves on stage and revel in the challenge to perform in front of hundreds of people and their peers.

Even though, the Hellenic Golden Coins did not bring home a trophy, they came home with something more important: a new understanding of commitment, respect for one another, an unbreakable bond, pride in each other's successes, and the willingness to look towards the future. That is worth more than any prize that they could have won that weekend. **Bravo!!!**

In Christ, President

Demos Anastasiades, Parish Council President

№ Ν Ι Α ΓΕΒΡΙΙΑΡΥ 2016 ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΥ ΓΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑΣ

Αγαπητοί Ενορίτες,

Το Φεστιβάλ Λαογραφικών Χορών 2016 της Μητροπόλεως Νέας Ιερσέης πραγματοποιήθηκε στην Αννάπολη, Μέρυλαντ στις 16 και 17 Ιανουαρίου, και είχε τεράστια επιτυχία για τον Χορευτικό Όμιλο «ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΧΡΥΣΑ ΦΛΟΥΡΙΑ» του Αγίου Νικολάου. Τα ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΧΡΥΣΑ ΦΛΟΥΡΙΑ διαγωνίστηκαν στην ανώτερη κατηγορία και χόρεψαν πολλούς χορούς το Σάββατο το απόγευμα, και την Κυριακή, παρουσίασαν μια παραδοσιακή χορευτική γαμήλια τελετή.

Όπως καθόμουν στο ακοοατήριο, αναπολούσα τη τελευταία τριετία, πόσο προσπάθηκε η Εκκλησία να συγκρατήσει τον Χορευτικό Όμιλο «ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΧΡΥΣΑ ΦΛΟΥΡΙΑ, με μέλη του να τελειώνουν, λόγω ηλικίας, και εκπαιδευτές και συμβούλους να αποχωρούν. Αυτό ειδικά το Χορευτικό γκρουπ έχει μια πλούσια ιστορία στον Άγιο Νικόλαο και είμαι ευγνώμων προς όλους εκείνους τους εκπαιδευτές και χορευτές που έχουν παίξει πρωταγωνιστικό ρόλο στη ζωντανή διατήρηση αυτής της πλούσιας παράδοσης.

Από τον Οκτώβριο του 2014, τέσσερις νέοι εκπαιδευτές χορού ανέλαβαν τα ηνία του ΟΜΙΛΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΧΡΥΣΑ ΦΛΟΥΡΙΑ. Είναι η Στέϊσι Λιορεΐση, η Ζηνοβία Στακιά, ο Αντώνης "Τόνι" Γιωργάκης και η Μαρία Μπάρκα. Όλοι τους μαζί κατόρθωσαν να σχηματίσουν μια ομάδα χορευτών, που όχι μόνο απολαμβάνουν να χορεύουν μαζί, αλλά δέθηκαν μεταξύ τους με ισχυρούς δεσμούς καλής φιλίας.

Η προετοιμασία για το Φεστιβάλ Λαογραφικού Χορού (FDF) απαιτεί τεράστια δέσμευση χρόνου από τους χορευτές, καθώς και από τους εκπαιδευτές. Οι γονείς έπρεπε να είναι οι σοφέρ, οι εμπνευστές, οι μακιγιέρ και οι εφαρμοστές των στολών.

Ανεξάρτητα από την πίεση να παρουσιάσουν και να χορέψουν άψογα, είδα χορευτές που πραγματικά διασκέδαζαν πάνω στη σκηνή και απολάμβαναν την πρόκληση να παρουσιάσουν τους χορούς μπροστά σε εκατοντάδες ανθρώπους και στους συνομηλίκους τους.

Παρά το γεγονός ότι τα ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΧΡΥΣΑ ΦΛΟΥΡΙΑ δεν κέρδισαν κάποιο έπαθλο, επέστρεψαν όμως με κάτι πιο σημαντικό: μια νέα αντίληψη της ανάληψης υποχρεώσεων, σεβασμό του ενός προς τον άλλο, δυναμική και άρρηκτη σχέση, υπερηφάνεια για τις επιτυχίες του άλλου, και την προθυμία να ατενίσουν το μέλλον. Αυτό αξίζει περισσότερο από κάθε έπαθλο που θα μπορούσε να είχαν κερδίσει εκείνο το Σαββατοκύριακο. **Μπράβο σας!!!**

Δήμος Αναστασιάδης - Πρόεδρος Διοιχητιχού Συμβουλίου.

Εν Χριστώ

EUTUXÉS TO NÉOV ÉTOS 2016 Happy New Year 2016



ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ 2016

ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ

LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Tuesday. February 2: The Feast of the "Presentation of our Lord" Orthros: 8:45 am. Divine Lituray: 9:30 am.

Sunday, February 7: 16th Sunday of St. Matthew Orthros: 8:45 am. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am.

Wednesday February 10: St. Haralambos the Great Martyr: Orthros: 8:45 am. Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am.

Sunday, February 14: Sunday of the Canaanite Woman: Orthros:

8:45 am. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am.

Sunday, February 21: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins: Orthros: 8:45 am. Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Sunday, February 28: Sunday of the Prodigal Son: Orthros- 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

ATTENTION EVERYONE FROM MONDAY FEB. 22 THRU 28 IT IS A FAST FREE PERIOD — NO FAST RESTRICTIONS.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, February 1: The Ladies Philoptochos monthly meeting at 7 p.m.

Monday, February 1: GOYA monthly meeting at 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 6: Nikos Kourkoulis concert at the Plateia to benefit the Philoxenia House.

Monday, February 8: Greek School PTA meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 9: The Diamonds monthly meeting at 1 p.m. Tuesday, February 9: The Ladies Philoptochos Ronald McDonald visitation at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, February 10: Bible Study Class with Father Michael from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 13-14: GOYA Away Basketball Tournament

at Holy Trinity, Wilmington, Delaware.

Monday, February 15: Greek School Closed for Federal Holiday.

Friday, February 19: GOYA Bingo Night- Tentative.

Saturday, February 20: The Ladies Panchian Society will be sponsoring a day trip to Avalanche Xpress from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for snow tubing, ice skating or a spa day. Contact Sofia Koumoudis at 240-375-5464 or Kiki Stroumbis 410-952-3679.

Monday, February 22: The Ladies Philoptochos Sponsors Ladies Night Out. at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24: Bible Study with Fr. Michael at 6:00 -7:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 7: The Ladies Philoptochos monthly meeting at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 8: The Diamond monthly meeting at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 9: Bible Study Class with Father Michael from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 12- Sunday, March 13: GOYA Away Basketball Game at St. Demetrios

Saturday, March 12: The Ladies Panchian Society meeting at 1

Saturday, March 12: Apokreatiko Glendi sponsored by the Ladies Philoptochos at 7 p.m.

Monday, March 14: Kathara Deftera (Clean Monday) Potluck Dinner at 8 p.m.

Friday, March 18-Saturday, March 19: GOYA Lock-In.

Tuesday, March 22: Bible Study with Fr. Michael at 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. (Please note the day of the week change due to Lenten services on Wednesday)

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

CHURCH SECRETARY MARIA SALPEAS

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J.O.Y.

MARIA FILLIPOU, PROGRAM COORDINATOR YOUTH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS: FOULA PARAGIOS, KRISTINA ANASTASIADES, KATERINA IEROMÓNAHOS

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

AMALIA SYROPOULOS-KOSTRIVAS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

AFTERNOON GREEK SCHOOL

AFTERNOON GREEK SCHOOL CHAIRMAN OF THE GREEK SCHOOL COMMITTEE & DIRECTOR OF THE GREEK SCHOOL: STAMATIA IEROMONAHOS EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL: DESPINA LARENTZOU-HATZAKOU, CHARA-RONTOULI-BAHER, GEORGE PAPACHARALAMBOUS, MARIA GOURGOULIATOU, EVANGELIA MAVROGIORGOU, VASILIKI LAPPA, ASIMINA BLETSA-FILIPPAKI SUBSTITUTES: IRENE ANASTASIOU, JOANNE ATHANASIOU, SEVASTI FROUMIS DANCE TEACHER: ZENOVIA (JENNA) D. STAKIAS

GREEK SCHOOL P.T.A.

VASSILIKI KOUMOUDIS, PTA PRESIDENT ASMINA BITSANIS-PERIVOLA, VICE-PRESIDENT VASSIIKI KARANIKOLAS, SECRETARY PANAYIOTA ALAFASSOS, TREASURER DEMITRA STEFANONI, ASSISTANT TREASURER

Μήνυμα από τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Λ. Παστρικό, Πρωτοπρεσβύτερο

Στη ζωή έχουμε πολλά ερωτήματα που πρέπει να απαντηθούν. Παραθέτω εδώ μεριχά από τα ερωτήματα αυτά:

Μποφώ να είμαι ευτυχισμένος στη ζωή; Υπάφχει κάποιο λάθος σε μένα; Θα γίνει η ζωή ποτέ καλύτεφη; Και, ο Θεός έχει κάποιο σκοπό για τη ζωή μου;

Λίγα πράγματα στη ζωή είναι τόσο σημαντικά όσο η εξεύρεση του σκοπού ή αν θέλετε η κατεύθυνση στη ζωή. Όταν κατανοήσετε κάποιο σκοπό, θα μπορέσετε να καταπολεμήσετε όλα τα είδη των ταλαιπωριών και των δυσκολιών που θα προξενηθούν εξαιτίας του. Για παράδειγμα, ας πούμε ο προϊστάμενός σας σας ζητά να έρθετε ένα Σάββατο πρωί στη δουλειά να ανοίξετε μια στοίβα 10,000 φακέλων και να τους ταξινομήσετε σύμφωνα με το περιεχόμενό τους. Χωρίς πληρωμή υπερωριών – απλή πληρωμή εργασίας για το Σαββατοκύριακο.

Τι θα λέγατε στο προϊστάμενό σας, θα είσαστε αγαναχτισμένοι, λέγοντάς του ότι είναι πάρα πολύ δουλειά και πρέπει να πληρωθείτε γι'αυτή; Ή, σας παραχαλώ, μην μου ζητάτε να εργαστώ το Σαββατοχύριαχο, έχω κάνει σχέδια να βγώ. Αλλά αν ο προϊστάμενος σας έλεγε ότι υπήρχε σ αυτούς τους φαχέλους μια επιταγή \$10.000 μπόνους για σας, ποια θα ήταν η απάντησή σας; Θα λέγατε ότι δεν έχω χρόνο, ή θα το χάνατε ευχαρίστως με αγάπη και αφοσίωση. Ίδια χουραστική δουλειά- η διαφορά είναι στην αίσθηση του σχοπού.

Έτσι, αυτό που έχουμε πραγματικά εδώ είναι ότι οι συνθήκες είναι ίδιες, αλλά ο σκοπός είναι διαφορετικός. Αυτό που θα ήθελα να ρωτήσω όλους εσάς που διαβάζετε αυτό το άρθρο είναι, τι συμβαίνει με το αίσθημα υπερηφάνειας, κατανόησης και δέσμευσης στο Θεό και την Εκκλησία; Μερικοί ρωτούν : Μπορώ να είμαι ευτυχισμένος στη ζωή; Και η απάντηση είναι, βέβαιως μπορείτε. Όλοι πρέπει να καταβάλουμε προσπάθεια να κάνουμε τη ζωή μας χαρούμενη. Δεν μπορούμε πάντα να κρατάμε αρνητική θέση προς τη ζωή, πρέπει να προσπαθούμε και να αλλάζουμε τους τρόπους ζωής μας.

Υπάρχει κάποιο λάθος με μένα; Μόνο εσείς οι ίδιοι θα μπορούσατε να είστε σε θέση να απαντήσει στο ερώτημα αυτό. Εξαρτάται από τον τρόπο ζωής σας, εξαρτάται αν πραγματικά πιστεύετε στον Χριστό. Ζήτε μια ισοροπημένη ζωή; Είστε πάντα αρνητικοί σε ότι κάνετε; Είστε παγεροί, τρέφετε αγάπη στην καρδιά σας για τους άλλους; Είστε ένα άτομο που συγχωρεί ή κρατάτε κακίες; Αν κάποιος σας βλάψει, θα θέλατε να πάρετε εκδίκηση; Θα γίνει ποτέ η ζωή καλύτερη; Και πάλι αυτό εξαρτάται από εσάς. Πρώτα θα πρέπει να μάθετε τι πραγματικά σας ενοχλεί.

Είναι το ότι δεν έχετε κεφδίσει το λαχείο, είναι επειδή η φίλη ή η σύζυγός σας σας άφησε; Είναι επειδή η επιχείφησή σας δεν πάει καλά; Υπάρχουν τόσα πολλά ακόμη παραδείγματα για το πώς η ζωή είναι πραγματικά χάλια μερικές φορές. Είμαι βέβαιος ότι ο καθένας έχει περάσει κάποιο χρονικό διάστημα τραγωδίας ή με άσχημα συναισθήματα που θα μπορούσαν να αλλάξουν ένα πρόσωπο να οδηγήσει τη ζωή του εντελώς προς το χειρότερο.

Και πάλι εσείς οι ίδιοι θα δώσετε την απάντηση. Ποιοι είναι οι στόχοι και οι προσδοκίες σας; Ποιες είναι οι προκλήσεις σας που σας περιβάλλουν; Είστε το είδος του ανθρώπου που ζητά την εύκολη διέξοδο; Είστε το είδος του ανθρώπου που δεν νοιάζεται για την πίστη και τη θρησκεία; Είστε μακριά από την Εκκλησία και από τον Θεό; Σκεφθήκατε ποτέ ότι το κενό στη ζωή σας προκαλείται από την αρνητικότητά σας; Προσπαθήσατε ποτέ να ζήσετε τη ζωή σας χριστινικά; Πάτε στην Εκκλησία για να ακούσετε

τον Λόγο του Θεού; Ίσως γι 'αυτό η ζωή σας είναι δυστυχχισμένη, διότι αχολουθείτε στη ζωή σας λάθος κατεύθυνση. Πρέπει να καταλάβουμε ότι υποτίθεται πρέπει να ζούμε μια ζωή Άγια, με προτεραιότητα το Θεό, αχόμη και πριν από την οιχογένειά μας. Πρέπει να Τον λατρεύουμε, να Τον αγαπούμε και να Τον δοξάζουμε. Όταν το καταφέρουμε, τότε αχριβώς η ζωή θα έχει περισσότερο νόημα.

Και η τελευταία ερώτηση: Μήπως ο Θεός έχει κάποιο σχοπό για τη ζωή μου; Για να απαντήσετε στο ερώτημα αυτό, χρειάζεται πραγματικά βαθιά σκέψη. Είμαι βέβαιος ότι ο Θεός θέλει το καλύτερο για τα παιδιά Του. Ο Θεός μας έχει δώσει πολλά ταλέντα. Σε κάποιους λιγότερα, και σε άλλους περισσότερα. Πολλοί άνθρωποι περνούν από τη ζωή απογοητευμένοι από τον εαυτό τους, νομίζοντας ότι δεν έχουν κάποιο σκοπό στη ζωή. Αλλά αυτό δεν είναι αλήθεια! Όποιοι κι αν είστε, όποιες οι εμπειρίες σας στη ζωή, τα ταλέντα σας, οι φυσικές σας ικανότητες, ή ο ρόλος σας, έχετε κάποιο σκοπό. Σκεφτήκατε ποτέ γιατί μας δημιούργησε ο Θεός ; Μας δημιούργησε κατά λάθος - Έκανε λάθος με τη δημιουργία μας, δεν νομίζω ! Ο Θεός έχει ένα σχέδιο για όλους μας και εμείς έχουμε ένα σκοπό στη ζωή. Αναφέρω μερικά πράγματα σχετικά με το σκοπό της ζωής μας, σας παρακαλώ να τα μελετήσετε προσεκτικά.

ΣΑΣ δημιούργησε για να γνωρίσετε τον Θεό. Τον γνωρίζετε πραγματικά ;

SAS dymoúgyhte gia na dozázete ton Qeó. Ton dozázete;

ΣΑΣ δημιούργησε για να εξυμνείτε τον Θεό. Τον εξυμνείτε για όλα όσα έχει κάνει για σας;

ΣΑΣ δημιούργησε για να διαδώσετε το Ευαγγέλιο. Το κάνετε; Σκεφτήκατε ποτέ να μοιραστείτε τις γνώσεις και την πίστη σας με τους άλλους;

ΣΑΣ δημιούργησε για να χρησιμοποιείτε τις επιδεξιότητες που Αυτός σας χάρισε.

Σε όλους έχει χαρίσει ο Θεός διαφορετικά δώρα και ταλέντα, όμως εμείς τα χρησιμοποιούμε για τη δόξα του Θεού; ή τα χρησιμοποιούμε για την προσωπική μας βελτίωση και τα οφέλη μας; Το τι πρέπει να κάνουμε για να πάμε μπροστά σ' αυτόν τον κόσμο είναι ότι πρέπει να ακολουθήσουμε μια θετική κατεύθυνση. Θα μπορούσαμε να βρούμε αυτήν την καθοδήγηση και την κατεύθυνση με την αναζήτηση και την αποδοχή του Κυρίου και Σωτήρος ημών Ιησού Χριστού.

Μόνο τότε θα βοούμε την αγάπη, την ειοήνη, τις χαρές και ότι μπορεί να μας φέρει αυτός ο κόσμος. Όλοι μπορούμε να αλλάξουμε την κατεύθυνσή μας στη ζωή, και να γίνουμε ευτυχισμένοι, να αισθανόμαστε καλύτερα, και τότε μόνο θα μπορούμε να δούμε καθαρά τον αληθινό εαυτό μας και τον αληθινό μας σκοπό στη ζωή.

Να θυμάστε το εδάφιο: Αποκαλύψεις 3:20:

Είμαι εδώ!!

Στέκομαι και χτυπώ την πόρτα

Αν κάποιος ακούσει τη φωνή μου και την ανοίξει

Θα μπώ μέσα και θα φάω μαζί του, κι αυτός μαζί μου.

Μη διστάζετε να ανοίξετε την πόρτα στον Χριστό όταν έρθει στη ζωή σας. Θα δείτε πραγματικά τη διαφορά, και η ζωή σας θα σημαίνει κάτι, και θα έχει ένα σκοπό.

Εύχομαι η Χάρις του Κυρίου και Σωτήρος ημών Ιησού Χριστού να είναι πάντοτε μαζί σας. Να έχετε καλό μήνα.

ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ

KOINOTIKA NEA **COMMUNITY NEWS** \diamondsuit

THE ST. NICHOLAS GREEK FOLK **FESTIVAL 2016 NEWS!**

It's that time of year again when we begin planning for our 2016 Festival. We need your ideas, suggestions and most of all, your support. Consider becoming a volunteer in the organizational meetings and seeing your ideas become reality.

The next Festival meeting is scheduled at the Plateia on Wednesday, February 3rd at 7 p.m. and will focus on Entertainment and Corporate Sponsors/Festival Ad Book. Also, we are looking for a person or team to head up the Inventory/Supplies area.

If you are experienced or not, we need your help! Don't be shy, this is OUR church, and we all have a responsibility to volunteer our time and services to this major event We are counting on EVERYONE to join us in making this another successful event!

Also, we are looking for two individuals who are extremely organized and have excellent interpersonal skills to learn the ropes of running the festival. You would work alongside several of the current festival chairpersons to learn the ins and outs of the festival. This will be Frank Mitsos last year as one of the Festival Chairpersons and we are seeking two individuals to take over next year. Please contact Vasilis Argiropoulos at Vasilis110@aol.com if you are interested. See you on the February 3,2016 at the Plateia on the first floor.

The Festival Committee

PHILOPTOCHOS

Sunday, January 3rd We passed a Special tray to benefit Saint Basils Academy along with our Annual Vasilopita cutting. The coin was found by Mrs. Zoe Perdikakis, we wish her and her family a year of Health, Happiness and a Prosperity. Due to the many activities that were taken place and that their was no immediate need the Agape Luncheon has been postponed to a later date to be announced.

With the weather getting colder the needs for the homeless becomes increased. If anyone would like to donate NEW blankets, scarves, hats, gloves for men or women we will collect items until February 7th.

Tuesday, February 9th we will be cooking and serving dinner at The Ronald McDonald House for the children and their families. We continue to cook monthly for the Daily Bread.

The Nights out that our Philoptochos sponsors supports our Aporon account and other Philoptochos missions. We would like to thank the family of Costas Inn for hosting our Family Night on January 12th and a special thank you to those that attended.

The next one is planned for Monday. February 22nd at Zorbas on Eastern Avenue. Donation \$35.00 Tickets are limited. For information or tickets please contact any Philoptochos board member.

Next a General meeting Monday, February 1 at 7:00 p.m. Save the date: Apokreatiko Glendi March 12 music by Apollonian

PHILOXENIA HOUSE

Join us on Saturday, February 6th at the Greektown Square for another evening of Great entertainment " Nikos Kourkoulis". All proceeds to benefit Philoxenia House. Tickets will be limited For tickets please contact DCGreeks.com / Tony at 443-794-9195 / Christine 410-627-0202. All proceeds from the concert benefit "Philoxenia House".

ΝΕΑ ΤΗΣ ΦΙΛΟΠΤΟΧΟΥ

Την Κυριαχή, 3 Ιανουαρίου περάσαμε στην Εχχλησία Δίσκο προς οικονομική ενίσχυση της Ακαδημίας του Αγίου

ΣΥΝΕΧΕΙΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΣΕΛΙΛΑ 6

Message from Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos, Protopresbyter

In life we have many questions that need to be answered. Here are some of those questions?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I have written a few things about the purpose of our lives, please read them carefully.

YOU ARE CREATED TO KNOW GOD? DO YOU RE-ALLY KNOW HIM?

YOU ARE CREATED FOR GODS GLORY? DO YOU GLORIFY HIM?

YOU ARE CREATED TO PRAISE GOD? DO YOU PRAISE HIM FOR EVERYTHING THAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU?

YOU ARE CREATED TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL? DO YOU DO THIS? DID YOU EVER SHARE YOUR KNOWL-EDGE AND FAITH TO OTHERS?

YOU ARE CREATED TO USE THE TALENTS GOD GAVE YOU?

We all have different gifts and talents that God has given to us but do we use them for the Glory of God, or do we use them for our own personal gains and advantages. What we need to

do to get ahead in this world is we need to have a positive direction? We could only find this guidance and direction by searching and accepting our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Only then will we find the love, peace, and the joys that this world can bring to us. We can all change our direction in life, and become happy and always feel better, and then we can fully see our true self and our true purpose in our lives. Remember this verse: Revelations 3:20:

Here I Am!!

I stand at the door and knock

If anyone hears my voice and opens the door

I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Feel free to open that door for Christ to come into your life. You will truly see the difference, and your life will mean something, and it will have a purpose.

May the Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with all of you. Have a blessed Month.

COMMUNITY NEWS ↔ KOINOTIKA NEA

ΣΥΝΕΧΕΙΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΣΕΛΙΔΑ 5

Βασιλείου, και μετά κόψαμε την πατροπαράδοτη Βασιλόπιτα. Το νόμισμα έπεσε στην κ. Ζωή Περδικάκη, ευχόμαστε στην ίδια και την οικογένειά της Υγεία, Ευτυχία και Ευημερία. Λόγω του φόρτου των δραστηριοτήτων μας και λόγω του ότι δεν ήταν άμεση ανάγκη, δεν έγινε το Γεύμα Αγάπης, αλλά αναβλήθηκε για μεταγενέστερη ημερομηνία που θα ανακοινωθεί.

Τώρα που ο καιρός γίνεται όλο και πιο κρύος οι ανάγκες των αστέγων έχουν αυξηθεί. Αν κάποιος θα ήθελε να δωρίσει ΚΑΙΝΟΥΡΓΙΑ, κουβέρτες, κασκόλ, καπέλα, γάντια για άνδρες ή γυναίκες, σας ενημφώνουμε ότι θα τα μαζεύουμε μέχρι τις 7 Φεβρουαρίου. Την Τρίτη, 9 Φεβρουαρίου, θα προετοιμάσουμε και θα σερβίρουμε δείπνο στα παιδιά και τις οικογένειές τους στο Ronald McDonald House. Συνεχίζουμε να προετοιμάζουμε κάθε μήνα φαγητά για τους αστέγους του Daily Bread.

Με τις «Βραδυές Εξόδου» υποστηρίζουμε το λογαριασμό των Απόρων και άλλες αποστολές της Φιλοπτώχου. Θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε την οικογένεια του «COSTA'S INN" για τη φιλοξενία, της οικογενειακής βραδιάς μας, στις 12 Ιανουαρίου, και να απευθύνουμε ένα ιδιαίτερο ευχαριστώ σε όλους όσοι παραυρέθηκαν.

Η επόμενη «Οικογενειακή Βραδυά» είναι προγραμματισμένη για τις 22 Φεβρουαρίου, ημέρα Δευτέρα, στη Ψησταριά του «Ζορμπά» στο Eastern Avenue. Δωρεά \$ 35.00. Τα εισιτήρια είναι περιορισμένα. Για πληροφορίες και εισητήρια παρακαλούμε να επικοινωνήστε με οποιοδήποτε μέλος του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου της Φιλοπτώχου.

Η επομένη μας συνεδρίαση θα είναι την Δευτέρα, 1η Φεβρουαρίου στις 7:00 μ.μ. Σημειώστε επίσης την ημερομηνία: Σάββατο, 12 Μαρτίου – Αποκριάτικο Γλέντι, μουσική από την Ορχήστρα «ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝΙΑ».

ΟΙΚΟΣ ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΙΑΣ

Θα χαρούμε να σας δούμε το Σάββατο, 6 Φεβρουαρίου, στη πολυτελή αίθουσα της ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑΣ Greektown Events Center, ελάτε να περάσετε μια αξέχαστη βραδυά με την συντροφιά του ΝΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΥΡΚΟΥΛΗ. Ο αριθμός των εισιτηρίων είναι περιορισμένος. Για να κλείσετε θέσεις παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε με την κα. Χριστίνα Ζερβού, 410-627-0202 ή τον Αντώνη Πης 443-794-9195. Όλα τα έσοδα θα διατεθούν για την επέκταση και συντήρηση του ΟΙΚΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΙΑΣ.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The Stewardship committee is seeking new individuals to join their team. We are looking for new people to bring fresh ideas for making the church experience more spiritual and to assist us in engaging more of our parishioners in church life.

Please consider joining. If you are interested, please contact Mia Atsidis at 443-386-5855.

HELLENIC GOLDEN COINS UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE AT THE 2016 FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

by Irene Angelos, Hellenic Golden Coins Dancer

Graduating from Ta Ellinakia, my biggest and most unforgettable memory was going to the Folk Dance Festival (FDF). I will never forget our wins and all the fun times we had preparing for such an important competition. But once I had joined the Hellenic Golden Coins, I did not anticipate going back to FDF.

When Stacey Lioreisis, our new dance teacher in 2014, pro-

posed that we compete in FDF the following year, I was ecstatic. Memories from Ta Ellinakia came rushing back and I was mentally set to go. FDF would be held in mid-January of 2016. We began our preparations starting all the way back in the summer of 2015, before some of us would leave on fabulous vacations (to Greece of course).

In FDF, one of the requirements is that you must select dances from a specific region. The other dancers and I did not realize how hard it would be to pick a region until the day came when we had to decide, "Κοητικά? Ποντιακά? Θοάκη?" Oh, so many to choices! But we finally settled on our regions, and began learning the dances.

It was fun learning the new dances. For us young dancers, it was hard learning the names of the different dances, so we gave them codes names, such as "the pretzel dance," or "the chicken dance," or "Tasso's dance." It was our way of remembering the different dances and making them our own.

Months and months of hard work, extra practices, frustrations, festival performances, solo learning, dress rehearsals, and scraping together the funds for the competition led us to the wee hours of January 16th, the start of FDF. The morning of FDF was filled with tense nerves and excited vibes. We hurriedly applied our stage make up, carefully dressed in our costumes, gave each other reassuring smiles, and walked on the stage.

For our first day, we danced a $\Theta \varrho \dot{\alpha} \varkappa \eta$ suite. Unfortunately, our boys couldn't get $\Theta \varrho \dot{\alpha} \varkappa \eta$ costumes, but the girls received beautiful, colorful costumes that were simple to put on and comfortable to dance in. We danced five energetic dances that really set the tone for what the Hellenic Golden Coins were all about.

Our second day was a "wedding" featuring dances from $\Pi \acute{o} v \tau \sigma \varsigma$ and $K \varrho \acute{n} \tau \eta$. Our groom was from $\Pi \acute{o} v \tau \sigma \varsigma$, and our bride was from $K \varrho \acute{n} \tau \eta$. We alternated dances from each region, giving the judges a taste of both regions in one suite. This was the most exciting suite we've ever performed. We all had undeniable laughs and true smiles. We had a very good time. It didn't feel like a performance, it felt like we were dancing for ourselves. Not for a medal, but for ourselves.

Between both days, we became a tighter knit group than we ever thought we could become. It was a weekend filled with lots of dancing, both the competitive part, and the Saturday night dance with all the other churches.

But FDF is not just about being dressed in our Greek costumes and performing on stage. It is also about being in sweats and relaxing with each other. We did more than just compete on stage, we also bonded together. That weekend sprouted more inside jokes and goofy pranks than you could ever imagine.

Sadly though, when it came time for the awards ceremony, Sunday afternoon, we did not win any medals. Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Norfolk, Va. won third place, our sister church, the Cathedral of the Annunciation won second place, and St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Asbury Park, New Jersey won first place.

It felt sad and disappointing to say that all the dedication and hard work we put into these two suites didn't yield us an award. I felt what we learned was that we didn't need a medal to tell us we can Greek dance. We didn't need to be better than the other churches to tell us how "Greek we were."

Yes, it is sad and disappointing, but the FDF weekend con-CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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firmed one thing: this is a family. I can't even describe to you in words the fun and emotions we went through that weekend. But if you'd like to know, join the Hellenic Golden Coins, and next year you can be a part of this amazing experience.

I encourage all young dancers to join the Hellenic Golden Coins. Our dedicated and loving teachers are what made this dance group so successful and fun. I want to thank Stacey Lioreisis, Maria Barkas, Antoni Giorgakis, and Jenna Stakias for taking us to such a fun competition. Without the four of you, the Hellenic Golden Coins wouldn't be where it is today.

HELLENIC GOLDEN COINS NEWS

Hellenic Golden Coins Registration will be held at St. Nicholas Church on Monday, February 1, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

NEXT GENERATION INITIATIVE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

ARCHIMEDES SCHOLARSHIP: Applications are now being accepted for the Next Generation Initiative's Archimedes Award Scholarship, offered to outstanding high school seniors of Hellenic heritage intending to pursue studies in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) related fields at a university in the United States. To be considered for a 2016-17 scholarship, please apply by March 25, 2016. For more information, and to apply online, please go to www.hellenext.org. Questions about this scholarship should be addressed to Leon Stavrou, Executive Director, Next Generation Initiative, atleonstavrou@hellenext.org.

THE KOUTSOUNOURIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Applications will be available on February 1, 2016 for the Koutsounouris Memorial Scholarship Program at the church office. The Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church will award one (1) \$1,000 scholarship from the Koutsounouris Memorial Scholarship Program to a high school senior who is continuing his/her education at a four year college or a two college student, whose family is a member in good standing in the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 520 South Ponca Street, Baltimore, Md., who meets the qualifying criteria. The deadline for submitting the application is Sunday, April 17, 2017. The completed application may be returned to the church office or directly to Parish Council Board Member, Mary Serafis.

The recipient of the Koutsounouris Memorial Scholarship Program will be announced at church on Sunday, May 22, 2016.

Thank you, Mary Serafis, Scholarship Chairperson

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

The Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade will be held on April 3, 2016 on Eastern Avenue in Baltimore's Greektown. Please go to www.greekparade.com for additional information and to download the form for participation, or call the Parade Hotline at 443-267-4735. Please show your Hellenic spirit by attending the Parade or participating!

ANNOUNCEMENT

We want to inform the members of St. Nicholas that we decided to revive the Dance Group of Pan HELLENIC. In this Group, which was founded by our unforget-table and dear friend, Lela Angelou. To this end, Ms. Efi Karabelas along with myself, Anastasia -Stasa Hatziefthimiou, urge both, the founding and subsequent members of the Group to honor us with their presence and their registration, too. We intend to meet every Thursday at 7:00 pm here in the Community Hall of Saint Nicholas. For more information you can call 443-845-8903.

ANAKOIN92H

Θέλουμε να ενημερώσουμε τα μέλη του Αγίου Νικολάου ότι αποφασίσαμε να αναβιώσουμε το Χορευτικό ΄Ομιλο Pan HELLENIC. Τον Όμιλο αυτό, που είχε ιδρύσει η αξέχαστη και αγαπημένη μας φίλη, Λέλα Αγγέλου, Προς το σκοπό αυτό η κ. Έφη Καράμπελα και εγώ η Αναστασία -Στάσα Χατζηευθυμίου, καλούμε τόσο τα ιδρυτικά όσο και τα μετέπειτα μέλη του Ομίλου να μας τιμήσουν με την παρουσία τους και την εγγραφή τους. Σκοπεύουμε να συναντιώμαστε κάθε Πέμπτη στις 7:00 μ.μ. εδώ, στην Κοινοτική αίθουσα του Αγίου Νικολάου. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες μπορείτε να τηλεφωνήσετε στο 443-845-8903.

Αναστασία - Στάσα Χατζηευθυμίου

FEBRUARY 2016

COMMUNITY NEWS ↔ KOINOTIKA NEA

Ο Φεβρουάριος ή Φλεβάρης

Ο Φεβοουάριος είναι ο δεύτερος μήνας του χρόνου και ο τελευταίος του χειμώνα. Ο λαός του έχει κολλήσει το παρατσούκλι "Κουτσοφλέβαρος" ή "Κουτσός" επειδή έχει μόνο 28 μέρες αντί για 30 ή 31 όπως όλοι οι υπόλοιποι μήνες. Κάθε 4 χρόνια του προσθέτουμε άλλη μία μέρα, δηλαδή 29 μέρες συνολικά. Τα έτη αυτά είναι τα λεγόμενα δίσεκτα.

Το όνομα του, "Φλεβάφης" προέρχεται από τη λέξη "φλέβες", δηλαδή από τα υπόγεια νερά που αναβλύζουν στη διάρχειά του από τις πολλές βροχές.

Η προσθήχη μιας επιπλέον μέρας κατά τα δίσεκτα έτη ξεκίνησε το 44 π.Χ. όταν ο Ιούλιος Καίσαρας άλλαξε το ρωμαϊχό ημερολόγιο με τη βοήθεια του Έλληνα αστρονόμου Σωσιγένη, ο οποίος, βασιζόμενος στους υπολογισμούς του πατέρα της αστρονομίας Ιππαρχου, είδε ότι το ηλιαχό έτος έχει διάρκεια 365,25 μέρες. Για το λόγο αυτό, αποφάσισε να προσθέσει μία ολόκληρη μέρα σε κάθε τέταρτο έτος. Έτσι λοιπόν, επειδή αυτή η μέρα μετριόταν δύο φορές την έλεγαν "δις έκτη" και το έτος δίσεκτο. Για κάποιο αβάσιμο λόγο, τα δίσεκτα χρόνια θεωρούνται από το λαό ως γρουσούζικα και γι΄ αυτό πολλές φορές οι άνθρωποι αποφεύγουν να παντρεύονται αυτές τις χρονιές.

Παρόλα αυτά όμως, ο Φεβρουάριος είναι ο προπομπός της άνοιξης, κι όπως λέει και η παροιμία

"Ο Φλεβάφης κι αν φλεβίσει, καλοκαίφι θα μυφίσει". Η εοφταστική του ατμόσφαιφα ενισχύεται κι από το γεγονός ότι συνήθως αυτό το μήνα έχουμε και την αφχή της Αποκφιάς και τα καφναβάλια με τους μασκαφάδες, τα γλέντια και τις εοφταστικές εκδηλώσεις που λαμβάνουν χώφα σε όλες τις πεφιοχές της Ελλάδας.

Ο Φεβρουάριος έχει επίσης καθιερωθεί ως "Ο μήνας των ερωτευμένων" καθώς στις 14 του μήνα γιορτάζουμε την γιορτή του Αγίου Βαλεντίνου. Ο εορτασμός του καθολικού αυτού Αγίου ξεκίνησε τον Μεσαίωνα στην Ευρώπη. Ο Άγιος Βαλεντίνος ήταν ένας χριστιανός ιερέας, ο οποίος ενάντια στις διαταγές του ρωμαίου αυτοκράτορα, πάντρευε κρυφά τους ερωτευμένους νέους. Στην Ελλάδα ξεκίνησε να εορτάζεται πριν από περίπου 40 χρόνια, όμως η γιορτή του προκαλεί όμως πολλές αντιδράσεις, καθώς δεν είναι οθόδοξος Άγιος. Ο αντίστοιχος Άγιος της Ορθόδοξης εκκλησίας μας είναι ο Άγιος Υάκινθος, που έχει τη γιορτή του στις 3 Ιουλίου.

Οι εοφτασμοί είναι πολλοί και για το ελληνικό μας σχολείο. Τα παιδάκια συνοδευόμενα από τους γονείς και τους δασκάλους τους είπαν τα Κάλαντα των Χριστουγέννων και της Πρωτοχρονιάς στα σπίτια της ελληνικής συνοικίας, αναβιώνοντας αυτό το πολύ όμορφο έθιμο της πατρίδας μας. Ακόμα, στις 31 Ιανουαρίου, θα τιμήσουμε τους Τρεις Ιεράρχες, τους πατέρες των γραμμάτων και των σχολείων, μέσα στην εκκλησία μας, αμέσως μετά την Κυριακάτικη Λειτουργία.

Τα μαθήματα ξεχίνησαν και πάλι, μετά τις χριστουγεννιάτικες διαχοπές, και το πρόγραμμα αχολουθείται κανονικά. Είμαστε ιδιαίτερα περήφανοι για το ολοχαίνουργιο απόκτημα του σχολείου μας, τους διαδραστικούς πίναχες του Προμηθέα που κάνουν τη διδασχαλία πολύ διασχεδαστική! Στην προσπάθειά μας να ενισχύσουμε το ενδιαφέρον των μιχρών μας μαθητών για την Ελλάδα και τον ελληνικό πολιτισμό, διοργανώθηκε η επίσκεψη στο Maryland Science Center IMAX Theatre όπου τα παιδιά παρακολούθησαν ένα ντοκυμαντέρ με θέμα την αρχαία Ελλάδα. Ελπίζουμε σε πολλές ακόμα τέτοιες εκδηλώσεις που θα προωθήσουν την ελληνική κουλτούρα.

The Month of February

February is the second month of the year and the last month of winter. Greeks have attributed to February the nickname "Lame-February" or just "Lame" because it has only 28 days instead of 30 or 31 days, just like all the other months. Every 4 years, an extra day is added, thus resulting in 29 days totally. These years are called "leap years".

February got its Greek name from the word "veins", that is the underground streams of water that gush during this month due to the heavy winter rains.

The addition of an extra day during the "leap years" started at 44 BCE when Julius Caesar changed the Roman Calendar with the help of the Greek astronomer Sosigenes, who, based on the calculations of the father of astronomy Ipparhos, discovered that the solar year lasts 365,25 days. So, he decided to add an entire day every fourth year. Thus, since this day was counted twice it was called "bissextile day" and the year "bissextile year" or "leap year". For an unknown and unfounded reason, leap years are widely considered as bad-luck years and people avoid getting married then.

Nevertheless, February is the precursor of spring, and as a Greek proverb states "February, even if it has bad weather, it will give off summer scents". The festive atmosphere is reinforced by the fact that, usually, during this month, we have the beginning of Apokria and the carnivals with the masqueraders, the feasts and the traditional festive events taking place all over Greece.

February is also known as the "month of love" since we celebrate Saint Valentine's day on the 14th of the month. The celebration of this Catholic Saint started during Medieval Ages in Europe. Saint Valentine was a Christian priest, who, going against the orders of the Roman Emperor, would secretly marry young people that were in love. In Greece, the celebration was initiated about 40 years ago. However, it causes lots of objections since this is not an Orthodox Saint. The equivalent Saint of Orthodox Church is Saint om we celebrate on Luy 3rd

Iakinthos, whom we celebrate on July 3rd.

There are a lot of celebrations taking place in our Greek School, as well. The kids, escorted by their parents and teachers, sang the Christmas & New Year's Carols in the Greektown neighborhood, reliving this beautiful Greek custom. What is more, on January 31st, we will honor the Three Hierarchs, the fathers of education and schools, into our church following the Divine Liturgy.

The lessons resumed after the Christmas holidays and the schedule is followed on a regular basis. We are particularly proud for the latest purchase of the Greek School : the Promethean interactive boards which will make the lesson so much more fun. In our effort to reinforce the kids' interest for Greece and the Greek civilization, we organized a visit to Maryland Science Center IMAX Theatre where the students attended a documentary about ancient Greece. We hope in many more similar events which will promote Greek culture.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.



<u>KOIN<u>O</u>NIA</u> St. Nicholas Bilingual Early Education Center

Hours of Operation

The Saint Nicholas **Bilingual Early Education Center** operates from

> 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

The center is closed on the following holidays: New Years Eve and New Years Day, Labor Day, Orthodox Good Friday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and the day after, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

Financial Information

There is a \$65.00 non-refundable registration fee. A tuition deposit equivalent to one week's tuition is due at the time of registration. Tuition is due the Friday before the first day of service each week. Payments may be made by credit card, cash or check. Auto-payment options available. Tuition charges are due even when you are unable to use the center due to snow closings, holidays, sickness, or any other circumstances.

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We are dedicated to provide a safe, nurturing, Christian, educational environment.



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410-633-5020

Curriculum

The Saint Nicholas Bilingual Early Education Center will introduce the following languages: English, Greek and Spanish

Infants: 6 weeks - 12 months Our infant teachers will spent most of their day providing a loving, nurturing atmosphere, taking special care of the needs of each infant. Each infant is on an individual schedule, depending on the infant needs and the parent's desires

Toddlers: 12 months - 23 months The toddler students learn mainly through play. In this classroom we introduce a more structured day with Circle Time, Music, Story Time, Art, and Free Time. Teachers will nurture and care while they teach sharing as the toddlers interact with their peers.

Two's:

Our two year olds are given the opportunity to learn and grow independently. Recognizing the importance of play, our teachers weekly and or monthly themes will consist around activities such as Group Play, Art, Music, Circle Time and much more.

Three's:

With our Pre-K3 program your child will be eager to learn and want to succeed. Your child will be able to explore, investigate and test their boundaries with everything we have to offer them. Your child will learn through listening, watching, experimenting and practicing.

Four's:

Our Pre-K4 class is designed to prepare children for Kindergarten. Activities include: math, language, reading, science, dramatic play, blocks, small motor activities, sensory opportunities, manipulative toys and games.



Tuition

Infants & Toddlers

5 days - \$265 per Week

Part-time not available for Infants and Toddlers

2 Year Olds

3 days - \$210 per Week 4 days - \$220 per Week 5 days - \$235 per Week

3-4 Year Olds

3 days - \$185 per Week 4 days - \$200 per Week 5 days - \$215 per Week

(Prices are subject to change at any time)

Meals

Breakfast, lunch and two snacks per day are provided along with milk, juice and water during mealtimes.

Breakfast will be served until 8:30 a.m. Children arriving after breakfast should have eaten prior to entering the center.

KOINQNIA

Hellenic Golden Coins Delight at Folk Dance Festival









Greek School Students Serenade Local Residents with Kalanda











12 KOINONIA FEBRUARY 2016 DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

The following donations have been received. Our prayers are with the families of those who have gone before us. May their memory be eternal.

In memory of Andrew Kaikis

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In memory of Maria Sfikas

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As always, we thank you for your support !!!

FEBRUARY 2016

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