# SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

# Message from FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS, PROTOPRESBYTER

How time flies, when your're busy and having fun. Just two months ago we celebrated the Great Feast Day of Pascha. What a spiritual enlightment and journey that turned out to be. Then we saw our community come together again, working side by side and supporting our Annual St. Nicholas Greek festival. We were blessed with 3 days of great weather, but on

Sunday the last day we had a little set back with rain pouring on the festival the whole day. In all though we had a wonderful and successful festival. We had great crowds, and we had a lot of fun filled excitement, we ate delicious food, and enjoyed live entertainment. What else can we ask for? Nothing beats being together and spending priceless time with our family and friends. Again words cannot express my heartfelt thanks for everyone's participation. One of the greatest Commandments of our Lord; "Is to Love one Another" I hope and pray that in every event that our Community supports we add the

recipe of Love and Sharing. I feel that this festival we truly experienced the meaning of faith and the true meaning of reaching out with God's love and teaching "Someone" in a spiritual manner.

To continue on in the month of June we had the Vacation Bible School for our children of the Community. We had over 50 kids plus Teachers, Counselors, and Parents. It began on Monday morning with a special "Blessing of the Waters" service which all the children participated in giving back all the responses of the service. Fr. Michael gave a small presentation on the importance of the Blessing of the Holy Water Service, and continued on to talk about the presence of the Holy Spirit, and to discuss with the Children the true meaning and understanding of the 3 persons of the Holy Trinity. It was exciting to see all the children enjoying and learning about their Church, their Culture, and

their Orthodox Faith. Thank you to the Vacation Bible School Director, Mrs. Phaedra Avgerinos along with her staff and Counselors, for presenting a fun filled spiritual program for the children. It was wonderful seeing the children interacting and participating in the program. It turned out to be a very successful. Thank you to the Kitchen crew also for the preparation of the

food and a special thank you to all the parents who registered their children for this spiritual journey.

In the beginning of the month of July we also have the celebration of 4th of July. On behalf of the entire Community, I would like to wish everyone a Happy and safe 4th of July. Also the Metropolis CYC Camp will begin on July 15th thru the 20th. I hope that parents register their children for this camp. In the beginning of the month of August we will be challenging ourselves for the 15 day Fasting period of the Mother of God the Virgin Mary. Paraklesis services will

be scheduled (Please follow the Liturgical program which is written in the Koinonia). On the 14th day of August we will have the great Vesper Service which will begin at 7:00 pm and we will celebrate the Falling asleep of our Mother of God the Virgin Mary the following morning on the 15th of August.

We are filled at times with spiritual excitement and when this happens we want to share with others our experiences. The Christian who has a strong faith and lives his/her faith can be compared to the house which is built on a strong foundation and thus has no fear of any storms. We must realize that everything we do is not for ourselves but for Christ. No one person is the Church, but we are the Church. This commitment is expressed through our participation in the life of the church. So to those who say that they don't need the church and that they can pray at home and be alright





# Μήνυμα Από τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Λ. Παστρικό

with God, they better think twice because they are completely wrong. It is through the Church that we as Orthodox Christians find salvation through the Church of Christ. That's why the Lord established His Church on the earth, so He can connect and communicate with His children. Worshipping our Lord together on Week days or Sunday morning provide a place for the faithful to witness and participate in the Divine liturgy and other services of the Church, and be united through Christ. During the month of August as we celebrate the first 15 days of the Virgin Mary, it will give everyone an opportunity to participate in the Paraklesis service, as we pray

for the health and well being of everyone in the Parish, our family members and friends. Especially those who are sick in the hospitals, Nursing Homes, and who are bedridden at home.

To all of you I Say' GOD BLESS YOU!!! May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless each and every one of you with good things that life provides. Have a Happy 4th of July celebration and be safe during the summer months.

**Γ**ως περνά ο χρόνος, όταν είμαστε απασχολημένοι ▲και διασκεδάζουμε. Μόλις πριν από δύο μήνες γιορτάσαμε τη Μεγάλη Εορτή του Πάσχα. Τι πνευματική φώτιση και ταξίδι που ήταν. Στη συνέχεια είδαμε την Κοινότητά μας να επανασυνδέεται, να δουλεύει δίπλα-δίπλα και να υποστηρίζει το ετήσιο Ελληνικό Φεστιβάλ του Αγίου Νικολάου. Ήμασταν τυχεροί με 3 ημέρες με καλές καιρικές συνθήκες, αλλά την Κυριακή, τη τελευταία ημέρα, μας τα χάλασε η βροχή, έβρεχε όλη μερα. Τελικά όμως είχαμε ένα θαυμάσιο και επιτυχημένο Φεστιβάλ. Είχαμε πολύ κόσμο, και διασκεδάσαμε με πολύ ενθουσιασμό, φάγαμε νόστιμα φαγητά, και απολαύσαμε ζωντανή ψυχαγωγία. Τι άλλο μπορούμε να ζητήσουμε; τίποτα δεν αξίζει περισσότερο από το να είμαστε μαζί και να περνάμε τον ανεκτίμητο χρόνο μας με την οικογένεια και τους φίλους μας. Πάλι τα λόγια δεν μπορούν να εκφράσουν τις θερμές μου ευχαριστίες για τη συμμετοχή όλων. Μία από τις μεγαλύτερες Εντολές του Κυρίου μας είναι : « αγαπάτε αλλήλους». Πιστεύω και προσεύχομαι ότι πρέπει σε κάθε αποστολή που υποστηρίζει η Κοινότητά μας να προσθέτουμε τη συνταγή της Αγάπης και της Συνεργασίας . Αισθάνομαι ότι κατά τη διάρκεια αυτού του Φεστιβάλ βιώσαμε πραγματικά την σημασία της πίστης και την αληθινή έννοια της προσέγγισης και της διδασκαλίας 'Κάποιου' στην αγάπη του Θεού, με πνευματικό τρόπο.

Συνεχίζοντας, τον Ιούνιο είχαμε την Κατήχηση των Καλοκαιρινών Διακοπών για τα παιδιά της Κοινότητας. Είχαμε πάνω από 50 παιδιά, μαζί με εκπαιδευτικούς, συμβούλους, και γονείς. Ξεκίνησε τη Δευτέρα το πρωί με Αγιασμό, που συμμετείχαν όλα τα παιδιά στην Ακολουθία. Ο Πάτερ Μιχαήλ έκανε μια σύντομη ομιλία σχετικά με τη σημασία της Ευλογίας της Ακολουθίας

του Αγιασμού, και στη συνέχεια μιλήσαμε για την παρουσία του Αγίου Πνεύματος. Συζητήσαμε με τα παιδιά το πραγματικό νόημα και την κατανόηση των 3 προσώπων της Αγίας Τριάδος. Ήταν συναρπαστικό να βλέπουμε όλα τα παιδιά να απολαμβάνουν και να μαθαίνουν για την Εκκλησία τους, τον πολιτισμό τους, και την Ορθόδοξη Πίστη τους.

Ευχαριστούμε την Υπεύθυνη του Προγράμματος της Κατήχησης των Καλοκαιρινών Διακοπών, κ. Φαίδτρα Αυγερινού, μαζί με το προσωπικό και τους Συμβούλους της, για την εκτέλεση ενός διασκεδαστικού και πνευματικού προγράμματος για τα παιδιά. Ήταν υπέροχο να βλέπουμε τα παιδιά να συνεργάζονται και να συμμετέχουν στο πρόγραμμα. Τελικά είχε μεγάλη επιτυχία. Ευχαριστώ επίσης και το προσωπικό της κουζίνας για την προετοιμασία του φαγητού και ιδιαίτερα ευχαρισώ όλους τους γονείς που έγραψαν τα παιδιά τους σαυτό το πνευματικό πρόγραμμα.

Στις αρχές Ιουλίου θα έχουμε επίσης τον εορτασμό της 4ης Ιουλίου. Εκ μέρους ολοκλήρου της Κοινότητας, θα ήθελα να ευχηθώ σε όλους ευτυχισμένη και ασφαλής η εορτή της 4ης Ιουλίου. Επίσης η Καλοκαιρινή Κατασκήνωση του CYC της Μητροπόλεως θα ξεκινήσει στις 15 Ιουλίου έως τις 20 Ιουλίου. Ελπίζω οι γονείς να γράψουν τα παιδιά τους για σ'αυτό το πρόγραμμα. Στις αρχές του Αυγούστου θα προκληθούμε για την περίοδο των 15 ημερών νηστείας της Μητέρας του Θεού, της Παρθένου Μαρίας. Οι Ακολουθίες των Παρακλήσεων θα προγραμματιστούν (ακολουθήστε το Λειτουργικό πρόγραμμα που είναι γραμμένο στην ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ). Στις 14 Αυγούστου θα έχουμε την Ακολουθία του Μεγάλου Εσπερινού τηες Παναγίας, στις 7:00 μ.μ., και θα γιορτάσουμε την

# Message from

#### DEMOS ANASTASIADES, PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT / MHNYMA AHO TON HPOEAPO

Dear Parishioners.

We have had an exciting ecclesiastical year culminating with a successful folk festival. While the rain did impact Sunday's event, it was an overall success.

I would like to thank our chairpersons, Frank Mitsos, Spiro Alafassos, and Penny Alafassos for organizing and managing this year's event. A big thank you to John Korologos and his family for bringing their staff to work in the kitchen, buffet line and any place else help was needed.

Also, a big thank you to the Booth Leaders, who manage a specific booth each year and make it a success. Also, three cheers to the Hellenic Golden Coins, Greek School Dance group and the Pan-Hellenic Dance group for making us all proud.

Along with these amazing individuals, there are many, many other persons, young and old, who spent many hours working behind the scenes in the various areas such as food preparation, pastry baking (sweets), entertainment, and vendor management. Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who supported our festival whether it was with the purchase of food, drinks, desserts, dancing or purchasing a raffle ticket.

While many of our parishioners will be heading to relaxing vacations, the parish council will be working on several beautification projects this summer at the church. Our summer goal is to repaint the interior of the church and continue to clean and re-organize the closets. Also, we plan to refurbish the exterior cross of the church and as well as finish restoring the sanctuary.

We are looking for donations to upgrade the main floor

bathrooms, replace the large hall ceiling tiles, replace the draperies on the stage and upgrade the sound system in the large hall. A letter detailing the needs of the church will be forthcoming. Please consider giving generously towards these requests.

In the end the Parish Council, along with Father Michael, is striving to reach the goals set for the continuing progress of our beloved St. Nicholas Community. Wishing you a safe and relaxing summer!

In Christ,
Demos Anastasiades,
Parish Council President
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

Αγαπητοί Ενορίτες,

Είχαμε μια εξαιρετική εκκλησιαστική χρονιά που κορυφώθηκε με ένα επιτυχημένο Λαϊκό Πανηγύρι. Η βροχή μας τα χάλασε τη Κυριακή, αλλά γενικά είχαμε επιτυχία.

Θα ήθελα να ευχαριστήσω τους υπευθύνους του Φεστιβάλ μας, τον Φώτη Μητσό, τον Σπύρο Αλαφασσό και την Παναγιώτα Αλαφασσού για τη διοργάνωση της φετινής εκδήλωσης. Ένα μεγάλο ευχαριστώ στον Γιάννη Κορολόγο και την οικογένειά του που έφεραν το προσωπικό τους να εργαστεί στην κουζίνα, στη γραμμή του μπουφέ και σε κάθε άλλο περίπτερο που χρειαζόταν βοήθεια.

Επίσης, ένα μεγάλο ευχαριστώ στους υπευθύνους των διαφόρων Περιπτέρων, οι οποίοι διαχειρίζονται ένα ειδικό περίπτερο κάθε χρόνο και κάθε χρόνο έχουν και μεγαλύτερη επιτυχία. Τρία μεγάλα ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ στους Χορευτικούς μας Ομίλους, τα Ελληνικά Χρυσά Φλουριά, Τη Χορευητική ομάδα του Ελληνικού Σχολείου και το Χορευτικό Όμιλο ΠΑΝΧΕΛΛΕΝΙΚ, που μας κάνουν όλους περήφανους.

Μαζί με αυτά τα καταπληκτικά άτομα, υπάρχουν και πολλά, πάρα πολλά άλλα άτομα, μικροί και μεγάλοι, που εργάστηκαν για πολλές ώρες, στην αφάνεια, σε διάφορους τομείς, όπως προετοιμασία φαγητών, ψήσιμο γλυκών, ψυχαγωγία και διαχείριση πωλητών. Τέλος, θα ήθελα να ευχαριστήσω όλους όσους υποστήριξαν το φεστιβάλ μας, είτε με την αγορά φαγητών, ποτών, γλυκών, είτε χόρεψαν ή αγόρασαν λαχεία για την λαχειοφόρο αγορά.

Ενώ πολλοί από τους ενορίτες μας, θα πάνε διακοπές να χαλαρώσουν, το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο θα πρέπει να εργαστεί σε διάφορα έργα εξωραϊσμού της Εκκλησίας, φέτος το καλοκαίρι. Στόχος μας είναι να βελτιώσουμε το εσωτερικό του ναού και να συνεχίσουμε να καθαρίζουμε και να αναδιοργανώσει τους χώρους αποθήκευσης. Επίσης, σχεδιάζουμε να ανανεώσουμε τον Σταυρό στον εξωτερικό χώρο της Εκκλησίας και να τελειώσουμε την ανακαίνιση του Ιερού.

Ευγενώς ζητάμε την οικονομική σας υποστήριξη για την ανακαίνιση των μπάνιων στο πρώτο όροφο, την αντικατάσταση

των μεγάλων πλακιδίων της οροφής της μεγάλης Κοινοτικής αίθουσας, την αντικατάσταση των κουρτίνων της σκηνής και την αναβάθμιση του συστήμαστος ήχου στη μεγάλη αίθουσα. Θα ταχυδρομήσουμε μια επιστολή που θα αναφέρει λεπτομερώς τις προσεχείς ανάγκες της Εκκλησίας. Παρακαλούμε να την εξετάσετε και να δώσετε απλόχερα στην επίτευξη αυτών των αιτημάτων.

Τέλος το Κοινοτικό Συμβούλιο μαζί με τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ προσπαθούν να επιτύχουν τους στόχους που έχουν θέσει για να συνεχιστεί η πρόοδος της αγαπημένης μας Κοινότητας του Αγίου Νικολάου.

Σας ευχόμαστε ένα ασφαλές και ξεκούραστο Καλοκαίρι!

Εν Χριστώ, Δήμος Αναστασιάδης, Πρόεδρος του Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου



# CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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NIKOL AKALESTOS, 2ND
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LEXI BARNES, AIDES
MARIA FILIPPOU, 6TH - FLORA GIAKOUMAKIS, AIDE
MARIA FILIPPOU, 7TH - SOPHIA ATSIDIS, AIDE

PHAEDRA AVGERINOS, 9TH VASILI PHILIPPOU, 10TH - STELIOS ANASTASIADIS, AIDE

CHAIRMAN OF THE GREEK SCHOOL COMMITTEE &

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KINDERGARTEN: ELONA MASTORA, IRENE NIOTIS
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ASSISTANT: IRENE NIOTIS
SECOND GRADE: DESPINA HATZAKOU LARENTZOS
THIRD GRADE: IRENE ANASTASIOU, YVONNI GALETAKI
FOURTH GRADE: IRENE ANASTASIOU, YVONNI GALETAKI
FIFTH GRADE: CHARA RONTOULI BACHER
SIXTH GRADE: CHARA RONTOULI BACHER
ELLINOMATHEIA: PANTELIS PSORAS
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#### JOY

CHRISTINA KOUROUBLAKIS

Remember!

#### YAL

FOULA PARAGIOS

\*\*Send photos from your September Baptisms and Weddings for inclusion in our newest section of the Koinonia - Announcements!

FOULA PARAGIOS, 8TH

# IMPORTANT NOTICE: KOINONIA DEADLINE

Please submit your article(s) to the Koinonia staff by the deadline stated below:

ISSUE MONTH: SEPTEMBER 2018 SUBMISSIONS DUE: AUGUST 20th

Please email your article(s) to: <a href="msalpeas@stnicholasmd.org">msalpeas@stnicholasmd.org</a>

Articles are due no later than the 20th of each month. If they are received after the deadline they will be published in the following month's issue.

All articles must be proofread and color corrected prior to submission.

4 KOINONIA Thank you JULY/AUGUST 2018

# **DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM**

#### In memory of Evangeline Soulikas

Mrs. Rose Tsakalos

Mr. & Mrs. Stefanos Siskos

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Ms. Voula Christakou

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& Family

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#### In memory of Paula Niktas Khanal

Mrs. Maritsa Souranis

Mr. & Mrs. Michael

& Katina Klosterides

# <u>United Chios Societies</u> <u>of Baltimore Scholarship</u>



Application forms are available in the Church Office and are due no later than Friday, July 13, 2018

# Μήνυμα Από τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Λ. Παστρικό (continued from pg. 2)

Κοίμηση της Μητέρας του Θεού, της Παναγίας, την επομένη το πρωί, στις 15 Αυγούστου.

Μερικές φορές νοιώθουμε το πνευματικό ενθουσιασμό και τότε θέλουμε να μοιραστούμε με τους άλλους τις εμπειρίες μας. Ο Χριστιανός που έχει ισχυρή πίστη και ζει την πίστη του / της, μπορεί να συγκριθεί με το σπίτι που είναι χτισμένο πάνω σε γερά θεμέλια και ως εκ τούτου δεν φοβάται τις καταιγίδες. Πρέπει να συνειδητοποιήσουμε ότι όλα όσα κάνουμε δεν είναι για μας, αλλά για τον Χριστό. Κανείς δεν είναι η Εκκλησία, αλλά είμαστε η Εκκλησία. Η δέσμευση αυτή εκφράζεται μέσα από τη συμμετοχή μας στη ζωή της Εκκλησίας. Έτσι, σε αυτούς που λένε ότι δεν χρειάζονται την Εκκλησία και ότι μπορούν να προσεύχονται από το σπίτι και να είναι εντάξει με τον Θεό, καλύτερα να το σκεφτούν δύο φορές, επειδή είναι εντελώς λάθος. Μέσα στην Εκκλησία εμείς, ως Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί, τη σωτηρία, μέσω της Εκκλησίας του βρίσκουμε Χριστού. Γι 'αυτό ο Κύριος ίδρυσε την Εκκλησία Του στη γη, ώστε να μπορεί να συναντάει και να επικοινωνεί με τα παιδιά Του. Δοξάζυμε το Κύριο όλοι μαζί τις ημέρες της εβδομάδας ή την Κυριακή το πρωί σ' ένα τόπο που παρέχεται στους πιστούς να παρακολουθούν και να συμμετέχουν στη Θεία Λειτουργία και στις άλλες Ακολουθίες της Εκκλησίας, και να ενώνονται με τον Χριστό. Κατά τη διάρκεια του Αυγούστου, όταν γιορτάζουμε τις πρώτες 15 μέρες της Εορτής της Παναγίας, θα δώσουμε σε όλους την ευκαιρία να συμμετάσχουν στις Παρακλήσεις, να προσευχόμαστε για την υγεία και την ευημερία όλων των Ενοριτών, των μελών της οικογένειας και των φίλων μας. Ειδικά για εκείνους που είναι άρρωστοι στα νοσοκομεία, στα γηροκομεία, και για όσους είναι κλινήρης στο σπίτι.

Ο Θεός να σας ευλογεί!!! Εύχομαι ο Κύριος και Σωτήρας μας Ιησούς Χριστός να ευλογεί κάθε έναν από σας με τα όλα τα αγαθά που η ζωή προσφέρει. Χαρούμενη η εορτή της 4ης Ιουλίου, και να είστε ασφαλείς κατά τη διάρκεια των καλοκαιρινών μηνών.

## **JOY PROGRAM**

# ~ The St. Nicholas JOY Program ~

The JOY Program is designed for ages 3-11. The program will prepare our children for GOYA and will emphasize the same goals of fellowship and understanding of our faith. Each meeting has a theme based on the Ecclesiastical Feast Days of the month. Activities include Crafts, Games, Basketball, and a lesson by Fr. Michael. Snacks will be provided by the parish.

We meet once a month every third Saturday from 12-2 pm from September through May.

Please feel free to contact me at 443-221-8024or <u>ckouroublakis@gmail.com</u> for more information.

See you in September!!



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

# ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy,
Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,
Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council,
Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Sisterhood,
Faculty and Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools,
Directors and Participants of all of the Youth Organizations, and all devout
Orthodox Christians of the Greek Orthodox Communities of our
Holy Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved,

Terror has struck this nation with yet another senseless act of violence, this time very close to home, as it took place within the territory of our own beloved Metropolis of New Jersey. The shooting that was perpetrated at the offices of the Capital Gazette newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland, and took the lives of five precious souls and wounded many others this past Thursday, is an act of the utmost cowardice and the lowest disregard for one's fellow man. Although details about the incident are still forthcoming at the moment, we can say with certainty that these types of incidents, which have become so common as to numb our senses to their brutality, stem from a fundamentally spiritual error and weakness, from the refusal of one to see in his brother the image of God that is implanted in all humans. Only someone who does not recognize the image of God in his brother could so callously and cowardly kill his fellow human being. In our times, we are losing our ability to see that image in those who differ from us in race, religion, politics, or any other aspect. We as Orthodox Christians must insist that we treat all our fellow humans as "the brother for whom Christ died" (1 Cor. 8.11).

As your Spiritual Father, I ask all of you, the faithful of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey, to join me in praying for those that lost their lives in this tragedy, that our loving God would have mercy on their souls and grant them eternal rest. Let us further pray for the families and friends of the victims, that the Holy Spirit comfort them in these dark days of grieving. Furthermore, let us pray that the one who committed such a heinous crime would come to recognize the magnitude of his actions, beg God for mercy, and repent of his sins. Finally, let us not only pray, but let us redouble our efforts to teach all those around us the truth of the Gospel of Life, the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave His life for all and thereby showed the infinite value of every human soul. We have seen recently that even one of our own children

from our Greek Orthodox community (Denver) can still fall prey to the world's insidious gospel of death. Therefore it is all the more important that we proclaim without ceasing the truth of Christ to those who are "sitting in darkness." He is the great "light that has dawned on those in the land of the shadow death" (Matt. 4.16).

Praying that our loving God guide and guard us all, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

† E V A N G E L O S

Metropolitan of New Jersey



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



















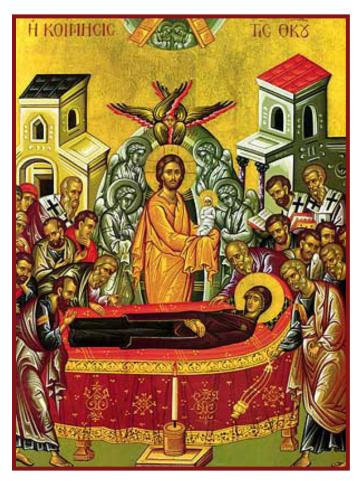
9 KOINONIA

JULY/AUGUST 2018

# **DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15**

# Dormition of the Theotokos

Courtesy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America <u>www.goarch.org</u>



#### Introduction

The Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15 each year. The Feast commemorates the repose (dormition and in the Greek kimisis) or "falling-asleep" of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord. The Feast also commemorates the translation or assumption into heaven of the body of the Theotokos.

#### **Biblical Story**

The Holy Scriptures tell us that when our Lord was dying on the Cross, He saw His mother and His disciple John and said to the Virgin Mary, "Woman, behold your son!" and to John, "Behold your mother!" (John 19:25-27). From that hour, the Apostle took care of the Theotokos in his own home.

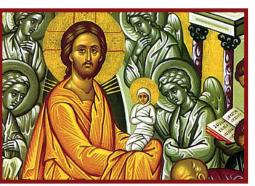
Along with the biblical reference in Acts 1:14 that confirms that the Virgin Mary was with the Holy Apostles on the day of Pentecost, the tradition of the Church holds that she remained in the home of the Apostle John in Jerusalem, continuing a ministry in word and deed.

At the time of her death, the disciples of our Lord who were preaching throughout the world returned to Jerusalem to see the Theotokos. Except for the Apostle Thomas, all of them including the Apostle Paul were gathered together at her bedside. At the moment of her death, Jesus Christ himself descended and carried her soul into heaven.

Following her repose, the body of the Theotokos was taken in procession and laid in a tomb near the Garden of Gethsemane. When the Apostle Thomas arrived three days after her repose and desired to see her body, the tomb was found to be empty. The bodily assumption of the Theotokos was confirmed by the message of an angel and by her appearance to the Apostles.

#### **Icon of the Feast**

The Icon of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos shows her on her deathbed surrounded by the Apostles. Christ is standing in the center (1.) looking at His mother. He is holding a small child clothed in white representing the soul of the Virgin Mary. With His golden garments, the angels above His head, and the mandorla surrounding Him, Christ is depicted in His divine glory.



1. Christ, appearing in His Glory, stands in the center of the icon cradling the soul of His Mother, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

The posture of the Apostles direct attention toward the Theotokos (2.). On the right Saint Peter censes the body of the Theotokos. On the left Saint Paul (3.) bows low in honor of her.

(continued pg. 9)

# DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS - TUESDAY, AUGUST 15



2. The Apostles bow their heads in reverence to the Theotokos as Saint Peter (right) censes her body (detail).

5. The Theotokos lies in the center of the icon surrounded by the Apostles and a candle in front of her bed (detail).



Together with the Apostles are several bishops (4.) and women. The bishops traditionally represented are James, the brother of the Lord, Timothy, Heirotheus, and Dionysius the Areopagite. They are shown wearing episcopal vestments. The women are members of the church in Jerusalem.

3. The Apostle Paul bows in honor of the Theotokos (detail).





4. Also in attendance to pray for the Theotokos were several Bishops (detail).

In front of the bed of the Theotokos is a candle (5.) that helps to form a central axis in the icon. Above the candle is the body of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. Standing over His mother is Christ holding her most pure soul. Above Christ the gates of heaven stand open, ready to receive the Mother of God.

This great Feast of the Church and the icon celebrates a fundamental teaching of our faith—the Resurrection of the body. In the case of the Theotokos, this has been accomplished by the divine will of God. Thus, this Feast is a feast of hope, hope in Resurrection and life eternal. Like those who gathered around the body of the Virgin Mary, we gather around our departed loved ones and commend their souls into the hands of Christ. As we remember those who have reposed in the faith before us and have passed on into the communion of the Saints, we prepare ourselves to one day be received into the new life of the age to come.

We also affirm through this Feast as we journey toward our heavenly abode that the Mother of God intercedes for us. Through Christ she has become the mother of all of the children of God, embracing us with divine love.

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Dormition

The commemoration of the Dormition of the Theotokos and the preparation for the Feast begin on August 1 with a period of fasting. A strict fast is followed on most of the days (no meat, dairy, oil, or wine), with the exceptions of fish on the Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) and the day of the Dormition. Oil and Wine are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays.

On the weekdays before the Feast, Paraklesis services are held in most parishes. These consist of the Great Paraklesis and the Small Paraklesis, both services of supplication and prayer for the intercessions of the Theotokos.

The Feast of the Dormition is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which is conducted on the morning of the Feast and preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast. Scripture readings for the Feast of the Dormition are the following: At Vespers: Genesis 28:10-17; Ezekiel 43:27-44:4; Proverbs 9:1-11. At the Matins: Luke 1:39-49, 56. At the Divine Liturgy: Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

# PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS / NEA ΤΗΣ ΦΙΛΟΠΤΩΧΟΥ

Tope everyone is enjoying the summer with family and friends. We would like to remind everyone to join us on Tuesday, August 14th for Holy Panagia's Vespers and reception hosted by our Ladies of the community and Philoptochos, also on Wednesday, August 15th Kimisis Tis Theotokos. We wish everyone who will be celebrating a Blessed and Happy Name PHILOPTOCHOS

Day.

In August everyone will be receiving the annual mailing, with the calendar of events for 2018-2019. Our first meeting for the start of the ecclesiastical year will take place on Monday, September 10th at 7:00p.m in the church large hall. Everyone is welcome! If you are not a member, and are 18 years or older, considering joining.

Mark your calendar for our first event, Crab Feast Wednesday, September 12th at 6:00p.m, Costas' Inn, 4100 North Point Blvd. Seating will be limited! For tickets or information please contact Stella Koukides 410-574-4875 or Evagelia Saliaris 410-592-8345.

#### Philoxenia House:

The home has continued to serve those needing housing during their medial care at hospitals in the Baltimore area. Once we have a break in occupancy some needed repairs will be done.

Mark your calendars for "Lefteri Pantazi" in Baltimore, November 21st Thanksgiving Eve. All proceeds to benefit Philoxenia House. Details to follow

We would like to thank Father Michael for his spiritual support to the families while staying at the home and at the hospitals. We are extremely grateful and blessed by all who have contributed and continue to support the home and its mission. God Bless you and your families with health and happiness!

Γ λπίζω ότι όλοι απολαμβάνετε το καλοκαίρι με **Ε**την οικογένεια και τους φίλους σας. Θα ήθελα να υπενθυμίσω σε όλους σας να προσέλθετε την Τρίτη, 14 Αυγούστου στο Μέγα Εσπερινό της Παναγίας και στη δεξίωση που θα παρέθεσουν οι Κυρίες της Φιλοπτώχου, της Κοινότητάς μας, καθώς επίσης, την Τετάρτη, 15 Αυγουστου Εορτή της Κοιμήσεως της Θεοτόκου. Θα θέλαμε να ευχηθούμε σε όλους όσοι εορτάζουν

ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ και ευλογημένα. Τον Αύγουστο όλοι θα λάβετε την ετήσια αλληλογραφία, με το ημερολόγιο των εκδηλώσεων για το 2018-2019. Η πρώτη μας Συνεδρίαση, με την έναρξη του εκκλησιαστικού έτους, θα λάβει χώρα τη Δευτέρα, 10 Σεπτεμβρίου στις 7:00 μ.μ. στην μεγάλη Κοινοτική αίθουσα. Ολοι είστε ευπρόσδεκτοι! Αν δεν είστε μέλος και είστε 8 ετών και άνω σκεφθείτε το ενδεχόμενο συνεργασίας μας.

Σημειώστε στο ημερολόγιό σας την πρώτη εκδήλωσή μας, ΚΑΒΟΥΡΟΦΑΓΙΑ, την Τετάρτη, 12 Σεπτεμβρίου, στις 6:00 μ.μ., A το Costas Inn, 4100 North Point Blvd. Ο αιρθμός θέσεων είναι περιορισμένος Για εισιτήρια ή πληροφορίες επικοινωνήστε με τη κ. Στέλλα Κουκίδη 410-574-4875 ή την κ. Ευαγγελία Σαλιάρη 410-592-8345

#### ΟΙΚΗΜΑ 'ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΙΑΣ'

Το Σπίτι συνεζίζει να εξυπηρετεί εκείνους που γρειάζονται στέγαση κατά τη διάρκεια της Ιστρικής φροντίδας τους στα νοσοκομεία της Βαλτιμόρης. Μόλις θα έχουμε κάποιο διάλειμμα στην πληρότητα, θα πρέπει να γίνουν κάποιες αναγκαίες επισκευές.

Σημειώστε στο ημερολογιό σας, στις 21 Νοεμβρίου, παραμονή της Ημέρας των Ευγαριστιών, θα έγουμε μαζί μας το ΛΕΥΤΕΡΗ ΠΑΝΤΑΖΗ. Όλα τα έσοδα θα διατεθούν στο Οίκημα της ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΙΑΣ. Θα σας ενημερώσουμε για τις λεπτομέρειες.

Θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε τον πατέρα Μιχαήλ για την πνευματική του υποστήριξη προς τις οικογένειες, όταν μένουν στο σπίτι και στα νοσοκομεία. Είμαστε εξαιρετικά ευγνώμονες προς όλους όσοι συνέβαλαν και συνεχίζουν να υποστηρίζουν το σπίτι και την αποστολή του. Ο Θεός να ευλογεί εσάς και τις οικογένειές σας με υγεία και ευτυχία!

## **EARLY EDUCATION CENTER NEWS**



# ST. NICHOLAS BILINGUAL EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

The Saint Nicholas Bilingual Early Education Center provides a safe, nurturing, home away from home learning center. We accept children from 6 weeks till 5 years of age. We currently have openings for children ages 3-5 in our Preschool room. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the director, Sophia Moshonisiotis, at 410-633-5020 extension 4.

In June, the children attended the Greek Festival where they enjoyed Greek music and food. BEEC also held our first Father's Day Breakfast where the parents and the children spent the morning eating breakfast together and getting to know other BEEC families. The children also gave their fathers a beautiful gift that they made with the help of their teachers.

ed .

This month the BEEC children will be having a 4th of July cookout party! And to celebrate Summer the BEEC is cooling off with weekly water days where the kids can splash around and have fun in the sun! We will also be having an ice cream party where the children will be able making their own sundaes! Hurray for Summer!

#### ΔΙΓΛΩΣΣΟ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΠΡΟΣΧΟΛΙΚΗΣΗΛΙΚΙΑΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ

Ο Δίγλωσσος Βρεφονηπιακός Σταθμός Αγίου Νικολάου παρέχει ένα ασφαλές περιβάλλον, ένα σπίτι μακριά από το σπιτι, ένα σπίτι μάθησης. Ανοίξαμε τις πόρτες μας στα μέσα Απριλίου 2017. Ξεκινήσαμε με μόλις 5 παιδιά και τώρα έχουμε 30 παιδιά εγγεγραμμένα



στο πρόγραμμα μας. Δεχόμαστε παιδιά από 6 εβδομάδων μέχρι 5 ετών. Αυτή τη στιγμή υπαρχουν θέσεις μόνο για παιδιά προσχολικης ηλικίας 3-5 ετών. Αν έχετε οποιαδήποτε ερώτηση μη διστάσετε να επικοινωνήσετε με την υπεύθυνη Σοφία Μοσχονισιώτη στο τηλέφωνο 410-633-5020, γραμμή 4.

Τον Ιούνιο οι μαθητές μας επισκέφτηκαν το Ελληνικό Φεστιβάλ όπου απόλαυσαν ελληνικό φαγητό και μουσική. Το σχολείο μας διοργάνωσε επίσης το πρώτο πρωινό για να τιμήσει τη γιορτή του πατέρα, όπου γονείς και παιδιά είχαν την ευκαιρία να περάσουν ώρες μαζί, παρέχοντας παράλληλα την ευκαιρία στις οικογένειες του σταθμού μας να γνωριστούν μεταξύ τους. Κατα τη διάρκεια της εκδήλωσης, οι μαθητές πρόσφεραν στους μπαμπάδες του δώρα που είχαν ετοιμάσει με τη βοήθεια των δασκάλων τους.

Αυτό το μήνα οι μαθητές του παιδικού σταθμού μας θα γιορτάσουν την 4η Ιουλίου κάνοντας μπάρμπεκιου. Το καλοκαίρι είναι εδώ, και οι μαθητές μας απολαμβάνουν το ζεστό καιρό και δροσίζονται παίζοντας παιχνίδια με νερό στην παιδική μας χαρά μια φορά την εβδομάδα. Τον Ιούλιο ετοιμάζουμε ακόμα πάρτυ με παγωτά όπου τα παιδιά θα φτιάξουν τα δικά τους Sundaes. Ζήτω το Καλοκαίρι!

# **FESTIVAL NEWS**



















CHECK OUT
THE LINKS
BELOW TO
SEE ANT 1'S COVERAGE
OF OUR FESTIVAL!

NEWS STORY: <u>HTTPS://</u>
<u>YOUTU.BE/MGCB-</u>
DRZMDOU

SHOW: <u>HTTPS://YOUTU.</u> <u>BE/FM1NBVTPKQ8</u>

14 KOINONIA

JULY/AUGUST 2018

#### NOTICE: SEEKING GOYA ADVISORS FOR 2018-2019 ECCLESIATICAL YEAR

# GOYA ADVISOR APPLICATION DUE BY SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018

Name:	
Patron Saint:	Name Day:
Address:	
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:
E-Mail Address:	
GOYA Advisor Positions: One Service, Witness), Two Advisor Which advisor position is of in	
·	
What strengths and/or work e	experience do you have to offer GOYA ministry?
What weakness would you ne	ed to overcome?
Training would be required at	the end of August prior to assuming the position. Training may take the

fraining would be required at the end of August prior to assuming the position. Iraining may take the form of watching videos, reading a book or engaging in a half-day or full day training seminar. Would you be available to complete the training and what is your opinion regarding it?

## PAN-HELLENIC NEWS

#### Ανακοίνωση από το Συμβούλιο του Χορευτικού Συλλόγου ΠΑΝ-ΧΕΛΛΕΝΙΚ

Το Συμβούλιο του Χορευτικού Συλλόγου ΠΑΝ-ΗΕΛΛΕΝΙΚ επιθυμεί να ενημερώσει όλα τα άτομα τα οποία κατά διαστήματα συμμετείχαν, χόρευαν με το ΠΑΝ ΧΕΛΛΕΝΙΚ, από της ιδρύσεώς του, ότι προσπαθώντας να κάνει καταγραφή των παραδοσιακών στολών τις οποίες είχε φτιάξει η αείμνηστη και αλησμόνητη κ. Λέλα Αγγέλου, ήρθε αντιμέτωπος με τα εξής προβλήματα:

1. Διαπίστωσε ότι δεν έχει όλες τις στολές και

2. Ότι λείπουν μεμονομένα κομμάτια από διάφορες παραδοσιακές στολές.

Παρακαλούμε λοιπόν όλα τα άτομα που χόρεψαν κατά διαστήματα με το γκρούπ του ΠΑΝ-ΧΕΛΛΕΝΙΚ να κάνουν μία επιδρομή στους αποθηκκευτικούς χώρους του σπιτιού τους και εάν βρουν κάποια ξεχασμένη παραδοσιακή στολή ή κάποιο κομμάτι αυτών, όπως καπέλο, μαντήλι κεφαλής, ζώνη ή ζωνάρι, ποδιά, γιλέκο με τις χρυσές τρέσες κ.λ.π. επίσης γιλέκο αντρικό, πουκάμισο ανδρικό, ζωνάρι θαλασσί και ανδρική βράκα μαύρη, τα οποία κομμάτια αποτελούσαν ανδρική παραδοσιακή στολή, που φόραγαν κορίτσια παριστάνοντας τους καβαλιέρους του γκρουπ. Αυτές οι στολές ήταν 5 τώρα έχουμε μόνο 1 γιλέκο, και 1 ζωνάρι.

Καταλαβαίνουμε ότι επειδή το ΠΑΝ-ΧΕΛΛΕΝΙΚ δεν ήταν σε λειτουργία για πολλά χρόνια, πιθανώς δεν ξέρατε που να αποτανθείτε για να τα παραδώσετε. Τώρα είναι η κατάληλη στιγμή γι' αυτό. Απευθύνουμε λοιπόν θερμή παράκληση σε όλες σας, αν υπάρχει στο σπίτι σας κάποια στολή είτε κάποιο από τα κομμάτια, να τα επιστρέψετε στο Σύλλογο, τηλεφωνώντας στο 443-845-8903 για να κλείσετε ένα ραντεβού με τη Στάσα Χατζηευθυμίου Λουκάκη.

Σας ευχαριστούμε εκ των προτέρων Από το Συμβούλιο του Συλλόγοδυ ΠΑΝ-ΧΕΛΛΕΝΙΚ

## AMERICAN HELLENIC SOCIETY



# THE AMERICAN HELLENIC SOCIETY OF ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The American Hellenic Society is now welcoming couples of mixed Greek and American backgrounds!



Information coming soon about our summer cookout!

For information, please email <a href="mailto:info@ahsofstnicholas.org">info@ahsofstnicholas.org</a>

16 KOINONIA

# **GREEKTOWN SQUARE & EVENT CENTER**

Good morning John, Frank and Greektown Square Staff,

THANK YOU for hosting and executing Gabrielle's and Nick's wedding in such a beautiful way!

We received so many compliments from our guests – more than one of my friends called it "spectacular."

Rick and I were talking last night about when we arrived and got off the elevator and walked into the room – it took our breath away how gorgeous the room looked. Fantastic. We both broke into big smiles. The stage looked amazing, and the whole room set up so well.

The food – honestly I was trying to remember if I'd ever tasted better wedding food? If not the very best, it's right up there! Everything tasted so real, fresh and well prepared – I loved the food!

We are beyond pleased with how the event turned out. Especially Frank's and your kindness and trying to accommodate us in each request – thank you from the bottom of my heart.

You can be sure that I will remember, recommend and write reviews for Greektown Square and your wonderful staff.

With so much gratitude,

Patsy Fratanduono (mother of the bride)

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17 KOINONIA JULY/AUGUST 2018

# **NEW! ROBOTICS CLUB**



## St. Nicholas Robotics Club

We are Recruiting Talented, Hardworking Students Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)





Want to Prepare Your Child for a Successful Career in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math?

#### Join NOW!

- College Scholarship Dollars Available through FIRST \*
  - https://www.firstinspires.org/
- Open to Students in Grades 7 12
- Increases Student Interest in Technology Fields of Study
- Builds a Solid Foundation in Preparation for Advanced Technical College Courses
- Prepares Students for a Career in the Technology Field
- Students Develop Technical Skills and Practice Engineering Principles
- Students Understand the Value of Hard Work, Innovation and Sharing Ideas
- Gains in Workforce Skills
  - Communication
  - Conflict Resolution
  - Time Management
  - Problem Solving
- Where: Work Performed at St. Nicholas Church
- When: TBD (September April)
- Cost: TBD
- Travel: Required to Local Area Competitions

Important Season Jones
May - Registration Opens
Early September - Kickoff/Game Reveal
September - January - Design and Build Season
October - March - Regular Season & State/Regional Championships (varies by region)
Late February - early April - Super-Regionals (varies by region)
Late April - FIRST Championship

Limited Seats Available!!

Registration Ends Friday, August 3, 2018

For More Information Contact Gena at:

410-299-6154 or genabritzolakis@gmail.com



https://www.firstinspires.org

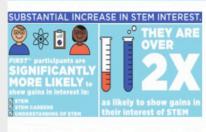




# St. Nicholas Robotics Club

We are Recruiting Talented, Hardworking Students Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)





READY FOR A CAREER IN STEM.

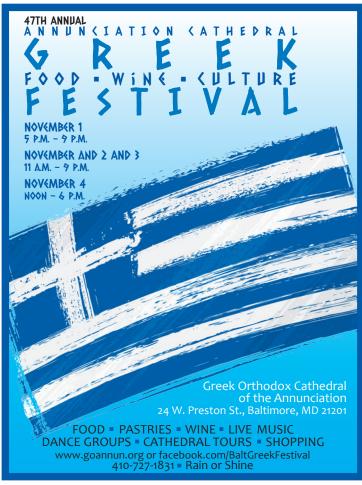
It's way more than building robots

Grades 7-12; ages 12-18

Limited Seats Available, Registration Ends Friday, August 3, 2018 Contact Gena: 410-299-6154 or genabritzolakis@gmail.com

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**





# 2018 CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD

# Registration is now open!

July 16 - 20 at Camp Wo Me To - Jarrettsville, MD

To register - <a href="https://goo.gl/forms/Sdewr2w8UbHsEvqN2">https://goo.gl/forms/Sdewr2w8UbHsEvqN2</a>

Staff are also needed in all areas. To register - <a href="https://goo.gl/forms/o2NYbmDnaE7u]8b92">https://goo.gl/forms/o2NYbmDnaE7u]8b92</a>

19 KOINONIA

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**



# **AXION CHARITY EVENTS PRESENTS...**





Tickets On
Sale June 1st

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# **2018 PLEDGES-\$199,316.00 / Payments-\$166,371.22 / Balance-\$32,944.78**

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Ελληνικό όμορφο κατάστημα διαθέτει η κυρία Νίτσα Μορακέα στην παροικία του Αγίου Νικολάου από το 1954 με ωραίες ιδέες για δώρα, βαφτιστικά, εικόνες, λαμπάδες, χρυσαφικά, ελληνικά περιοδικά, εφημερίδες, εισιτήρια

αεροπορικά, μεταφορές εμπορευμάτων στην πατρίδα μας και πολλά άλλα...

Για οτιδήποτε χρειάζεστε θα σας εξυπηρετήσει με μεγάλη προθυμία και ευχαρίστηση!!

Δέχεται οποιαδήποτε παραγγελία για βαφτίσεις, γάμους και λαμπάδες του Πάσχα !!!



July 16-20 (Monday-Friday) Camp Good Shepherd—Chesapeake Bay (formerly CYC) Thursday, August 16 - Parish Life Committee Meeting (Church social hall)

**SAVE THE DATE: IONIAN VILLAGE ON-THE-GO!** 

Coming to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Saturday, September 29, 2018

# LITURGICAL PROGRAM- JULY & AUGUST

Sunday, July 1	5th Sunday of Matthew: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Wednesday, July 4	HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY
Sunday, July 8	6th Sunday of Matthew: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Sunday, July 15	Sunday of the Holy Fathers: Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Friday, July 20	Elias the Prophet: Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Sunday, July 22	8th Sunday of Matthew - Saints Magdalene the Myrrhbearer and Markella of Chios Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Thursday, July 26	St Paraskevi of Rome: Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Friday, July 27	St.Panteleimon the Great Martyr: Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Saturday, July 28	St Irene Chrysovalantou: Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Sunday, July 29	9th Sunday of Matthew: Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Wednesday, August 1 Paraklesis Service: 7:00 pm Paraklesis Service: 7:00 pm Friday, August 3 Sunday, August 5 Ninth Sunday of Matthew: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am Sunday Evening, August 5 Great Vesper Service 7:00 pm. Forefeast of the Transfiguration. The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Monday, August 6 Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am Monday Evening, August 6 Paraklesis Service: 7:00 pm Wednesday, August 8 Paraklesis Service: 7:00 pm Friday, August 10 Paraklesis Service: 7:00 pm. Sunday, August 12 Tenth Sunday of Matthew: Orthros: 8:45 am. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am Monday, August 13 Paraklesis Service: 7:00 pm Tuesday, August 14 Vesper Service Dormition of the Virgin Mary: 7:00 pm The Dormition of the Theotokos: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am Wednesday, August 15 Sunday, August 19 Eleventh Sunday of Matthew: Orthros: 8:45 am. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am Sunday, August 26 12th Sunday of Matthew: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am. Monday, August 27 St. Phanourios Great Martyr: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am Beheading of John the Baptist: Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am Wednesday August, 29

Special Note: From August 1st thru the 15th a very strict fast is observed. August 29th Strict fast is observed. All Wednesday's and Friday's also.