



# SEPTEMBER/ ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ 2009

*A Monthly Publication of the  
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.*  
520 S. Ponca Street, Baltimore, MD 21224

# KOINONIA

## “September, The Month of Renewal!”

It is truly amazing that summer has finally come to an end. If we look back from last September, one can only imagine the fun and excitement that his year has brought to our parish. It has been a wonderful year filled with anticipation, surprises and an immense amount of success.

Throughout my personal experience, the month of September has always been a month for new beginnings. According to the church’s calendar, September is always designated as the “New Ecclesiastical Year.” With this in mind, I would like to begin my article with the topic, “SEPTEMBER, THE MONTH OF RENEWAL.”

You are probably wondering why I chose the topic of “Renewal.” The Webster’s Dictionary defines the word “Renewal” as “the act of renewing or of forming anew.” In other words, to make a new again, completeness or perfection. This word is well known within the religious world and in the church building block for perfection. Therefore, this is what we are going to focus on—“the Renewal of our Souls.”

Before we begin speaking about the subject of Spiritual Renewal, we must first understand and practice the Sacrament of Repentance. Over the past centuries, our Orthodox Church has undergone various positive evolutionary stages. We are the Church, which on one hand is becoming more and more capable of proclaiming its historical spiritual values and ethos, while on the other hand; it is more actively manifesting itself as the Body of Christ, which gathers to give thanks to God the Father in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion). It is within the word “Renewal,” that this Church, the body of the faithful, must continually purify and repent itself if Renewal is to continue. As a church, we can only

grow spiritually if we continue to repent for our sins. Thus, it is only through repentance that the church can continually be renewed by the Holy Spirit.

Without repentance, the church, comprised of Hierarchy, Priest and the faithful, will not be able to sustain the blows of the pluralistic and secularist society. As a church, we are confronted everyday with temptation and delusion. We are constantly being put to the test. Our greatest fear in today’s society is that the people are trying to change the very nature and vision of the church. Therefore, we must be cautious about how we express our belief in Christ. Take for example the Holy Apostles. If we examine the missionary spirit of the Holy Apostles, we can admire the ways in which they confronted the difficult stages of their lives, as opposed to



*The Precious Life Giving Cross*

the way Satan would want us to approach our lives. Satan wants all of us to feel successful, to have our church banks accounts filled to the brim. However, we must remain wary, and not be lured or seduced by the world because of the slight change of frightening possibility of total disaster instead of success. Even through we have everything going right for us, we as a church can be reduced to a clanging bell, a mere shell with little or no content and life within the church.

In the Orthodox Theology, what has been seen to be successful is to travel back to the basis of our roots. In other words, we must go back to our liturgical, biblical and patristic roots, and bring back the old traditions and culture of the church. As stated previously, we need to become more adherent and attracted to the liturgical life of the church. If we came to church with our family and worshiped our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ during the Divine Liturgy, we would have the opportunity to witness the true glory of God’s presence in our

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## Message from Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos

*Continued from page 1*

lives. Attending church allows us to personally and spiritually witness the wisdom of God through His Word. What a wonderful experience each family would have if they just brought themselves the commit their lives to Christ Jesus. As a result, this would be a much better place to live in. We would never fear of abuse one another or bring harm against each other. All it takes is a true commitment to Christ.

Unfortunately, committing ourselves to Christ is not an easy thing to do in the society we live in today. We are always ready to accept what the American culture provides for us, which often times can be destructive. Let us accept that our church, which is Hierarchical by nature, is quickly becoming to us, a mere appearance. This is because we have strayed away from the ideals of the church. We have taken prayer and fasting and other spiritual tools and practices out of our daily life. Here are a few questions that we as Christians should ask, so that we may consider altering our lives to be closer to Christ.

✓ When was the last time your family came together to pray?

✓ Have you established a time for prayer in your household?

✓ When was the last time you sat down with your family to discuss religion as well as other important topics?

✓ When was the last time you shared an important or interesting book with your family?

✓ When was the last time you attended church as a family?

✓ When was the last time you attended the Divine Liturgy to receive Holy Communion as a family?

If we claim that we are spiritual and that we are truly believers in Christ, then we must prove it to Him. After truthfully answering these questions, we must rejuvenate the old soul within ourselves to create a new outlook on life.

I would like to share a story with about a young man who once told me that in the beginning of his life, he rarely felt the need to attend church. He stated to me that his parents were never really churchgoers, and when it came time to wake up on Sunday mornings, attending church was not a priority. One day, this young man attended his uncle's funeral at St. Nicholas, and during the eulogy, he paid close attention to what the priest was saying. Whatever he heard, that day changed his attitude and love toward the church. He now attends church regularly and is extremely happy with his parish. This young man has renewed his spirit in Christ Jesus. He has turned his life completely around because he had the opportunity to be touched by God.

This inspiring story is an example of what Spiritual Renewal is all about. It should be a new change for all of us. If you are struggling and feeling depressed, and believe that there is no one to turn to, you are undoubtedly mistaken. **You must turn to Jesus Christ, who truly is the true physi-**

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## *Reflections on the Birth of the Mother of God*

*By Bill Poulos, Th.M*

The Feast of the Nativity of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos, and Ever Virgin Mary, is celebrated each year on September 8th. The Feast commemorates the birth of the Mother of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is most appropriate that the Feast is the first major feast after the beginning of the Church's annual cycle on September 1. The proximity of the two events serves to emphasize that the birth of the Virgin Mary is the event that marks the beginning of God the Father's plan to send His Son, through the Incarnation, into the world to accomplish mankind's redemption.

Just as the Church understands Christ's Incarnation as an event planned by God before all ages, it also recognizes the birth of the Theotokos as similarly preordained by God's divine providence. For this reason, just as the Church discerns the prophetic foretelling of the coming of Christ in the Old Testament, it also finds many direct and indirect suggestions of the Panagia in the Hebrew scriptures.

For instance, the burning bush and the Ark of the Covenant in Exodus, both of which held the glory of God and were not consumed by His presence are perceived by the Church as types of; that is, pointing to, the Virgin Mary whose womb held the eternal divine Son of God. And, of course, the prophet Isaiah's "virgin" who would conceive and bear a son is understood as an unmistakable allusion to the Panagia.

Because of these references and others to the Virgin Mary in the Old Testament, the Church understands her to be the last and greatest of the saints of Old Covenant Israel and the first and greatest saint of the true and New Israel of God, the Church. She is considered the living historical link between the promises of God to the Hebrew people to send them a Savior and the fulfillment of that promise. As such, she is, by being the living vessel through which the eternal World of God assumed flesh and entered the world, the divinely decreed instrument by which heaven, earth, God and man are eternally united and all creation is redeemed. Because of her role in the

Incarnation Orthodox Christians celebrate with great joy the birth of the Theotokos (God-Bearer, Mother of God) as she was proclaimed by the Third Ecumenical Council. Although she is held in the highest esteem, she is honored not so much for her self, praiseworthy as that may be, but precisely because she is the Mother of the Lord.

By highly respecting and reverencing the Virgin Mary the Fathers of the Church understood that they were advancing and preserving a proper understanding of Christ as the fully divine only begotten Son of God. Accurately recognizing Christ's full divinity demands that the Virgin Mary be honored and venerated.

The Church's grasp of the Theotokos' role in God's plan of salvation is made quite clear in the hymns sung during the Feast of Virgin Mary's Nativity. She is called among other titles "Temple and Throne of God" and "Bridge of Life".

The hymns and texts of the services celebrating the Feast are drawn primarily from the second century Book of James or Protoevangelion. This non-canonical book, along with the Gospel accounts of the Theotokos, was extremely influential in shaping the early Church's exalted attitude towards the Virgin Mary. It recounts her divinely planned and angelically announced birth to the aged Joachim and Anna, her miraculous infancy and childhood and her dedication to the Temple.

As Archbishop Kallistos Ware has pointed out, the fact that the Orthodox Church does not include the Protoevangelion of James in the Canon of Holy Scripture makes it possible to assent to the profound spiritual truth and reality which the story of the Panagia's birth reveals without having to ascribe precise historical correctness to the story.

This great truth is that the Virgin Mary from her birth and before was chosen by God to play the most unique and unparalleled role of any human being in God's plan of salvation. In her womb the union of God and man was accomplished. A union that would free humanity from the curse of sin and death, grant mankind eternal life, redeem all of creation, and inaugurate the everlasting kingdom of God.

## *Σκέψεις για την Γέννηση της Μητέρας Του Θεού*

Κάθε χρόνο, τις 8 Σεπτεμβρίου γιορτάζουμε το Γενέθλιον της Υπεραγίας Δεσποίνης ημών Θεοτόκου και Αειπαρθένου Μαρίας. Η εορτή τιμά την γέννηση της Μητέρας του Κυρίου και Σωτήρος μας, Ιησού Χριστού.

Είναι χαρακτηριστικό το ότι η εορτή της γεννήσεως της Θεοτόκου είναι η πρώτη μεγάλη εορτή μετά την έναρξη του Λειτουργικού έτους, 1η Σεπτεμβρίου. Τα δύο αυτά γεγονότα είναι πολύ κοντά το ένα με το άλλο. Τούτο, για να τονιστεί, ότι η γέννηση της Παρθένου Μαρίας σημειώνει την αρχή του σχεδίου του Θεού να στείλει τον Υιόν Του στον κόσμο, με την ενανθρώπισή Του, για να επιτύχει την λύτρωση του ανθρωπίνου γένους.

Όπως η Εκκλησία εννοεί την ενανθρώπιση του Χριστού σαν ένα γεγονός προσχεδιασμένο από τον Θεό, με τον ίδιο τρόπο αναγνωρίζει την γέννηση της Θεοτόκου, σαν γεγονός, το ίδιο προσχεδιασμένο, από την Θεία Πρόνοια.

Για τον ίδιο λόγο, η Εκκλησία, όχι μόνο διακρίνει την προφητεία του ερχομού του Χριστού στην Παλαιά Διαθήκη,

αλλά βρίσκει επίσης στις Εβραϊκές γραφές πολλές άμεσες και έμμεσες αναφορές στην Παναγία.

Για παράδειγμα, η φλεγόμενη βάτος, και η Κιβωτός της Διαθήκης του Κυρίου, στην «Έξοδο», που δεν καταναλώθηκαν από την παρουσία Του, και που δείχνουν τη δόξα του Θεού, θεωρούνται από την Εκκλησία σαν γεγονότα που αναφέρονται στην Παναγία Μαρία, που κυοφόρησε την αιώνια θεότητα του Υιού του Θεού.

Η προφητεία του Ησαΐα για την «Παρθένα», που θα συλλάβει και θα γεννήσει γιο, θεωρείται, αναμφισβήτητα, ότι υπαινίσσεται την Παναγία.

Λόγω αυτών των αναφορών και άλλων για την Παναγία στην Παλαιά Γραφή, η Εκκλησία μας θεωρεί την Παναγία σαν την τελευταία και μεγαλύτερη των αγίων του Παλαιού Ισραήλ και σαν την πρώτη και μεγαλύτερη των αγίων του Νέου Ισραήλ του Θεού, της Εκκλησίας.

Θεωρείται ο ζωντανός ιστορικός κρίκος ανάμεσα στην

*Συνέχεια στην σελίδα 7*

# COMMUNITY NEWS - ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΑ ΝΕΑ

## **ALTAR BOYS NEEDED**

Fr. Michael is extending an invitation to all our young men in the parish who have reached the age of 8 to come and serve God by serving as an Altar boy. There is a saying "Once you tried it, you will want more". This is very true, ask anyone who has experienced the feeling of serving God in the Altar. The memories will always be cherished.

## **ΧΡΕΙΑΖΟΜΑΣΤΕ ΙΕΡΟΠΑΙΔΕΣ**

Ο Πατήρ Μιχαήλ καλεί όλους τους νέους της Κοινότητας από 8 ετών και πάνω να έλθουν να υπηρετήσουν στο Ιερό. Λένε ότι «Όταν έλθεις μια φορά, θέλεις νάρθεις κι άλλες». Κι αυτό είναι αλήθεια, ρωτήστε κάποιον που έχει πείρα και έχει υπηρετήσει τον Κύριο στο Ιερό. Οι αναμνήσεις είναι πάντα ευχάριστες.

## **PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS**

Welcome back everyone from your summer vacations whether they were near or far. Hopefully everyone is well rested as we begin our new Ecclesiastical year. We are looking forward to a full year of exciting events, some old and some new.

Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Please join us as we start the year with snacks and refreshments. Bring yourselves, your friends and your ideas.

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, we sent out our mass mailing with the election results held in May, the list with all the names and phone numbers of the 15-member board, the schedule of our events for the year and also the schedule of all the meetings for the year through May 2010.

Later on in the year, we will have a drive to collect new shoes and socks for a charity called "**Shoes for Orphan Souls**". This is a new charity adopted by the National Philoptochos. Please keep this in the back of your mind as you begin shopping with your children for their new shoes and supplies for school. The shoes should be size 5 and larger. The other charity we will be working on is raising funds for "*To Hamogelo tou Paidiou*".

Sometime in November, we will be sending out a formal newsletter describing all the charities your Philoptochos is involved in. One piece of information that the majority of you do not have is that from January 1 to December 31, 2008, \$1,439,498.00 was donated from the Commitment/Programs and Special Collections. Your local Chapter was a part of all of these good works.

Wishing everyone a blessed year and we are looking forward to seeing all of you on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

*Zoe Perdikakis, President*

## **NEWS FROM THE DIAMONDS**

The St. Nicholas Diamonds have planned an enjoyable and informative year of meetings and events beginning with our first get-together on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. Our guest speaker will be Luanne Arangio from the Heart

Institute of Union Memorial Hospital. She is a registered nurse with a Masters Degree in Education. She will present the vital information on heart health in a very interesting and practical manner. This topic is one that interests each of us and thus we welcome everyone to attend.

We invite new members to join the Diamonds. Our meetings are held at 1 pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

## **PROPER CHURCH ETIQUETTE**

There are various parts of the Liturgy during which no one should be moving about. Wherever a person happens to be at these moments, he or she should stop and stand reverently, until the proper time to go to the pew.

**These are parts of the Liturgy where no one should enter the church.**

1. During the Procession of the Priest and the Altar Boys with the Holy Gospel.
2. During the reading of the EPISTLE and the Gospel.
3. During the SERMON.
4. During the CHERUBIC HYMN and the Procession of the Priest and the Altar Boys with the Holy Gifts.
5. During the recitation of the CREED (in which the whole Congregation should participate).
6. During the SE YMNOUNEN and the prayers of the Consecration of the Holy Gifts.
7. During the LORD'S PRAYER in which the whole Congregation should participate.
8. During HOLY COMMUNION.
9. During the Dismissal Prayers.
10. During any special Services (Memorial Services, Processions, Special Prayers, etc.)

One basic rule to follow is that, whenever the Priest is outside of the Altar either with the Censer or giving the Blessing, everyone should stand wherever they are and not be walking around

According to actual Church Service procedures, each and every member of the Congregation is required to be seated in the pews at the beginning of the Service. It is only by leniency that anyone is allowed to enter the Church once the Services have begun. Thus, we ask that you do not take undue advantage of this leniency. Also Liturgy Books are available in the pews to follow the service.

Please remember that the Parish Council members are required to maintain order during Church Services. Thank you for following their direction.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

The first day of Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Registration will take place on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September the 13<sup>th</sup> after

# COMMUNITY NEWS - ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΑ ΝΕΑ

church in the Small Hall. On Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, besides registration, the Sunday School staff invites you for coffee and a brief meeting to hear about the exciting changes that will be taking place to the Sunday School Program this year. More details will be given out at the meeting.

A meeting was held this past June, to discuss what could be done to improve the Sunday School program. Several ideas were shared and discussed and those in attendance included Fr. Michael, Bill Poulos, Sophia Gerapetritis, Emily Cossis and several teachers. Once again, these changes will benefit not only the students, but also the teachers and aides who want to expand and grow in their teaching of their lessons and projects they plan for their classes. Bill Poulos will be working with the Sunday School staff to outline a training program to help give the teachers/aides a better understanding of their role and better resources to help them plan their lessons.

We hope that these changes will give more time for the teachers to teach their lesson and for the parents to once again make every effort to bring their sons/daughters to Sunday School and to church more regularly. Several parents commented last year, that if their children didn't have to be in Sunday school class until after Communion...why bother to come for just a half hour of lessons. To those parents, we once again stress, it is not just the lesson in the classroom but the lesson your children and you learn about coming to GOD's house so you can pray, worship, participate in the Divine Liturgy and Holy Communion, as a family and be closer to our Lord.

Again, if anyone is interested in joining the Sunday School staff, please contact the church office and leave your name and phone number so we can get back to you.

God Bless you and we look forward to welcoming all of you: students, parents, teachers and aides back to Sunday School.

## **GREEK SCHOOL NEWS**

*By Nancy Anastasiadis, President - Greek School PTA*

Welcome back to another exciting year of Greek School. Last year, the Greek School program was successfully expanded with the hiring of two new teachers, Vasiliki Kalogranis and Evgenia Kanakis. Due to their extensive teaching experience, the school was able to offer a Preschool and Kindergarten program for children ages 3 to 7 years old as well as Advance Greek Studies. The school enrolled 18 children for the school year 2008-2009 in the Preschool and Kindergarten program. Student's excelled in the program and showcased their talents at the End of Year Greek School Ceremonies.

With Mrs. Kanakis' assistance, the school program expanded to include Advanced Greek Studies for those students graduating from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade who wished to advance their Greek language. This class was held every Friday and the students thoroughly enjoyed the class. Also, Mrs. Kanakis assisted with the school's re-introduction of the

Adult Greek Language Course for those adults wishing to brush-up on their Greek Language skills or desiring to learn the Greek language.

In addition to those new programs, the school offered a summer camp this past summer from July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>, Monday through Friday from 9 am to 12 noon for children ages 3 to 7 years old, taught by Mrs. Kalogranis. They played games, completed crafts, learned treasured Greek songs and had their Greek language skills reinforced. The last day of camp was celebrated with pizza and cake supplied by the children's parents. Everyone involved in the school program was thankful for the parent's cooperation and enthusiasm for the summer program.

None of these successes would have been possible without the steady and constant leadership of Principal, Helen Louvrou-Monopolis and the support of Father Michael; Greek School President, John Sfakianoudis; Parish Council President, Takis Papadopoulos; Greek School PTA members and all the parents.

It was also heartwarming to meet and visit with past students of the Greek School during the Annual Greek Folk Festival and listen to their fond memories of Greek School with Mrs. Monopolis as their teacher.

Our main goal for the future is to grow the Greek School program so that we can better meet the needs of the parish and the community. Registration for the new Greek School year begins on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 pm to 6 pm and continues on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Greek School starts on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.

Please join us for the School Blessing on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. We look forward to another successful year.

## **FALL BINGO NIGHT**

Join us and bring your family and friends to the St. Nicholas Fall BINGO Night, on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We are looking forward to seeing you!

## **ΒΡΑΔΙΑ ΓΙΑ "BINGO"**

Ελάτε στο "BINGO" του Αγίου Νικολάου, Παρασκευή, 18 Σεπτεμβρίου, 6:30 μμ. Σας περιμένουμε!

## **GREEKTOWN CDC**

*A message from John E. Gavrilis, CEO*

The Greektown CDC is happy to announce that numerous businesses are taking advantage of the business façade grant. Our office, in cooperation with the Baltimore Development Corporation, has been facilitating grants that will provide incentives for businesses to improve the aesthetics of their stores. We already have two new businesses taking advantage of the grant on Eastern Avenue, both with Greek themed designs that will add to the overall cultural identity

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## Σκέψεις για την Γέννηση της Μητέρας Του Θεού

*Συνέχεια από την σελίδα 3*

υπόσχεση του Θεού προς τον Εβραϊκό λαό, ότι θα τους στείλει τον Μεσσία, και την εκπλήρωση αυτής της υπόσχεσης. Είναι το ζωντανό σκεύος, μέσω του οποίου ο αιώνιος Λόγος του Θεού πήρε σάρκα και ήλθε στον κόσμο. Είναι το θείο εργαλείο, με το οποίο, ουρανός, γη, Θεός και άνθρωπος, είναι αιώνια συνδεδεμένα και χάρις στο οποίο, όλη η κτίση είναι λυτρωμένη.

Λόγω του ρόλου της στην ενανθρώπιση του Χριστού, οι Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί γιορτάζουν με μεγάλη χαρά το γενέθλιον της Θεοτόκου (Θεόν-τεκούσα, Μητέρα του Θεού) όπως την ανακήρυξε η Τρίτη Οικουμενική Σύνοδος. Αν και χαιρέται μεγάλης εκτίμησης, τιμάται όχι τόσο για το άτομό της, όσο άξιον επαίνου κι αν είναι, αλλά επειδή είναι η Μητέρα του Κυρίου.

Οι Πατέρες της Εκκλησίας μας, με τον μεγάλο σεβασμό και την λατρεία τους προς την Παναγία, κατάλαβαν ότι προωθούσαν και διατηρούσαν την ορθή αντίληψη ότι ο Ιησούς είναι ο Θεός και μοναδικός Υιός του Θεού. Η αναγνώριση της πλήρους θεότητας του Ιησού, απαιτεί τιμή και λατρεία της Παρθένου Μαρίας.

Η αντίληψη της Εκκλησίας για τον ρόλο της Θεοτόκου στο σχέδιο του Θεού για την λύτρωση των ανθρώπων, είναι καθαρή στους ύμνους που ψάλλονται την ημέρα του Γενεθλίου της Παρθένου Μαρίας. Ανάμεσα σε άλλους

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

*Continued from page 5*

of the community. Feel free to contact our office for more details.

Our office has been receiving a lot of positive press over the recent Transit Orient Development Study that focused on the proposed Redline Station on Eastern Avenue and Haven Street (Crown Cork and Seal building). Recently the Governor had announced his support for the Locally Preferred Alternative Red line alignment which means that our proposed station may now become a reality. Our study, which is currently being supported by Baltimore City, provides details and recommendations for the proposed station that would maximize the benefit to residents and businesses in a three quarter mile radius. Please contact Jason Filippou at 410-327-3306 or stop by our office for more information.

The Greektown CDC congratulates the Saint Nicholas Plateia Fundraising Committee on a successful family picnic this past month. We are very pleased with the progress the Plateia Committee has made and look forward to its use and benefit to the community. The Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church is still looking for leadership of the parade committee; please call the Saint Nicholas Church for more information. Any persons interested in making donations to the parade should be made to the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. We remind all residents to dial 911 immediately when witnessing any illegal activity and 311 to report any sanitation or neighborhood nuisances.

**Believe in your community!**

τίτλους που της δίδονται, καλείται «Το παλάτιον του μόνου Βασιλέως και θρόνος πύρινος του Παντοκράτορος», και «Γέφυρα, μετάγουσα εκ θανάτου πάντας προς ζωήν».

Οι Ύμνοι και τα κείμενα των ακολουθιών, που τιμούν την εορτή, προέρχονται, κυρίως, από το βιβλίο του Ιακώβου ή το Πρωτοευαγγέλιο, που γράφτηκε τον δεύτερο αιώνα. Το βιβλίο αυτό, που δεν περιλαμβάνεται στον «Κανόνα» της Εκκλησίας μας, μαζί με τις αναφορές του Ευαγγελίου για την Θεοτόκο, επηρέασαν πάρα πολύ την υψηλή θέση που έδωσε η Εκκλησία μας, από την αρχή της ίδρυσής της, προς την Θεοτόκο. Το βιβλίο εξιστορεί την γέννησή της, που ήταν θεϊκά προσχεδιασμένη, και αγγελικά αναγγελμένη στους ηλικιωμένους γονείς της, τον Ιωακείμ και την Άννα, τα θαυμαστά χρόνια της βροφικής και παιδικής της ηλικίας, και την αφιέρωσή της στον Ναό.

Όπως επισήμανε ο Επίσκοπος Κάλλιστος Ware, το γεγονός ότι η Εκκλησία δεν συμπεριλαμβάνει το Πρωτοευαγγέλιο του Ιακώβου στον «Κανόνα» των αγίων γραφών, είναι πιθανό να προέρχεται από την βαθειά πνευματική αλήθεια και πραγματικότητα με την οποία φανερώνεται η Γέννηση της Παναγίας, χωρίς να χρειάζεται κανείς να αναφερθεί σε ακριβή ιστορική αλήθεια.

Η μεγάλη αλήθεια είναι ότι, η Παρθένος Μαρία, από την γέννησή της, αλλά και πριν από αυτήν, είχε εκλεγεί από τον Θεόν να παίξει τον μοναδικό και απαράμιλλο ρόλο στο σχέδιο Του για την σωτηρία των ανθρώπων. Ο «καρπός της κοιλίας της» ήταν η εκπλήρωση της ένωσης Θεού και ανθρώπου. Μία ένωση, που, θα ελευθέρωνε την ανθρωπότητα από την κατάρα της αμαρτίας και του θανάτου, θα χάριζε στο ανθρώπινο γένος την αιώνια ζωή, θα λύτρωνε όλη την πλάση, και θα εγκαινίαζε την αιώνια βασιλεία του Θεού.

**Βασίλης Πούλος, Θ.Μ.**

**Μετάφραση από τα Αγγλικά, Ελένης Λούβρου-Μονόπωλη**

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**Message from Fr. Michael L. Pastrokos**

**September: The month of renewal!**

*Continued from page 2*

**cian of our souls and bodies.** When you turn to Him, you will observe and experience the difference in your life. Renewing oneself in Christ is the greatest gift that you can give in your life. Just like the “Parable of the Prodigal Son”—the father did not forsake him, nor did he punish him. Instead, he celebrated the new life of his son.

Before I close, I would like to express an important area of concern that we need to focus and pay special attention to- the importance of our children’s spiritual welfare. As a parent myself, I hope and pray that you, as concerned parents, take your role very seriously. Take the example about-mentioned story, about the young man who changed his life and renewed his commitment to Christ. Let us not take away the opportunity for our children to hear the Word of God and be doers of His Word. Let us all share Christ’s love with everyone that we come into contact with.

Welcome back everyone, and may you have a spiritual and blessed New Ecclesiastical Year.

**DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM****IN MEMORY OF JAMES GUS CHAGETAS**

Mrs. Evangeline Demetrakis  
Mrs. Staphanie Tahinos  
Ms. Maria Salpeas  
Mr. & Mrs. Sophoclis Sophocleus  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Lefcakis  
Mrs. Despina Kaitis  
Ms. Anita Graves  
George & Mary Sockos  
Joseph, Cynthia, Gary & Erika Richardson  
Ms. Dorothy Powe

**IN MEMORY OF AFRODITI (VENUS) YEATRIS**

Mr. & Mrs. George C. Cornias  
Ms. Maria Salpeas  
Mr. & Mrs. John Voxakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Costas Triantafillos  
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Karagiannopoulos  
Mrs. Athina Neofitou  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Souranis  
George & Stavroula Forakis  
Mrs. Aspasia Johns

**IN MEMORY OF STELLA ELEFTHERIOU**

Mr. & Mrs. Costas Triantafillos

**IN MEMORY OF HOMER KEVAS****KATERINA MILONAS**

Mr. & Mrs. Kimon Milonas

**IN MEMORY OF MARCELLA ALATZAS**

Mrs. Margaret Kontoyianis

Mr. Arthur German  
Mr. & Mrs. Ector Alexandratos  
John & Irene Voxakis  
Mr. Chris Voxakis  
Mrs. Esther Alatzas  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Alatzas

**IN MEMORY OF EMMANUEL FRANGOS**

Mrs. Esther Alatzas

**IN MEMORY OF VASILIS KELEPESIS**

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kontonicolos

**MRS. MAGAFOULA FILIPPAKIS**

Mr. & Mrs. George Basil  
Ms. Maria Salpeas  
The Dendrinos Family  
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Mr. & Mrs. Nick Hartofilis  
Mr. & Mrs. Vasilis Dargakis  
Ms. Helen Johns  
Ms. Eugenia Nicolaides  
Mrs. Maria Nikolaides  
Mrs. Irene Skevofilax  
Mr. Antonis Sazaklis  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Souranis

**IN MEMORY OF SAVVAS KARDIASMENOS**

Mrs. Evangelia Dendrinos  
Ms. Maria Salpeas & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Avgerinos  
Mrs. Irene Peltsemis  
Mrs. Athina Neofitou  
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Trikoullis & Joanne  
Mrs. Helen Frapas  
Mr. & Mrs. George Voxakis  
George & Stavroula Forakis  
Ms. Dimitra Chuvala  
Mr. & Mrs. George Chuvala

**IN MEMORY OF NICHOLAS & EUGENIA MASTROMANOLIS**

Mr. & Mrs. Vasilis Dargakis

**IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL CARDIGES, JIMMY MINADAKIS, KONSTANTINOS STAVRAKIS, NIKKI VAGIONAKIS**

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Souranis

**IN MEMORY OF PRESBYTERA MARIA HATZIZAHARIOU**

George & Stavroula Forakis

**IN MEMORY OF PAULINE PAPAIRONIS**

Mr. & Mrs. John Hayes  
Ms. Angie Rounis  
Mrs. Stephanie Tahinos  
Mrs. Anna Cardiges  
Ms. Stavroula Christakou  
Ms. Maria Salpeas

**IN MEMORY OF PETE TSAMBIKOS**

Thomas & Melinda Vasila

**Come support  
St. Nicholas YAL  
at our  
Gyro Luncheon on  
Sunday, September 27, 2009  
after church in the Large Hall!**

The mission of the Young Adult League of St. Nicholas is to provide the means for young adults to support the Greek Orthodox ideals and values. We continually work to improve and expand our organization and to attend to the needs of the community. The organization is open to all enthusiastic individuals, ages 18 to 35 that would like to make a positive impact on the Church.

In our young history, we have been successful in past events and look forward to the upcoming ones: a gyro luncheon, September 27, 2009, a basketball tournament in Spring 2010, retreats, and volunteering to help the less fortunate.

If interested in becoming a member, or simply wish to come to a meeting, you may join us Sunday, September 13 after church services at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church or email us at [stnicholaschurchyal@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholaschurchyal@gmail.com).

**ΚΟΙΝΟΝΙΑ DEADLINE**

To all of our readers and organizations, please submit your article/s to the Koinonia staff before the deadline so we can include your news for your upcoming event. All articles or posters are due by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the current month for the upcoming month's issue.

<u>Issue month</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
<b>October, 2009</b>	<b>September, 18<sup>th</sup></b>

You may drop your article to the church office or e-mail it to: Emily Cossis at:

**emce3@aol.com** or **MariaSalpeasat:  
msalpeas@stnicholasmd.org**

**ΤΑ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΑ ΑΝΟΙΞΑΝ.  
ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗ ΣΤΑ ΠΑΙΔΙΑ!**

**SCHOOLS ARE OPEN.  
WATCH OUT FOR CHILDREN!**

# Liturgical Program & Events for September

**Tuesday, September 1: THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR.** Εορτή της Δίκτου. Orthros 8:45; Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, September 6:** Thirteenth Sunday of Matthew: Orthros 8:45 a.m.; Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, September 8:** Nativity of the Theotokos. Γενέθλια της Θεοτόκου. Orthros 8:45; Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, September 13:** Sunday before the Holy Cross: Παραμονή της Υψώσεως του Τιμίου Σταυρού. Orthros 8:45 a.m.; Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday Evening, September 13:** Great Vespers Service – Μέγας Εσπερινός, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, September 14:** Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Η Ύψωσις του Τιμίου Σταυρού. Orthros 8:45; Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, September 20:** Sunday after the Holy Cross. Απόδοσις του Τιμίου Σταυρού. Orthros 8:45; Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday, September 27:** Sunday of Luke. Α' Κυριακή του Λουκά. Orthros 8:45; Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday School Registration – Coffee & Meeting After Church in the Small Hall.

**Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** – Diamonds Meeting at 1:00 pm in the Large Hall.

**Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** – Blessing of the Greek School 6:00 pm.

**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday School Registration in the Small Hall.

**Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>** – FALL BINGO NIGHT – Bring your family and friends to the St. Nicholas Fall BINGO Night on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We're looking forward to seeing you!

**Παρασκευή, 18 Σεπτεμβρίου** – Ελάτε στο "BINGO" του Αγίου Νικολάου, Παρασκευή, 18 Σεπτεμβρίου, 6:30 μμ. Σας περιμένουμε!

**Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday School Classes begin.

**September 25, 26 & 27:** St. Demetrios Grecian Festival at Timonium Fairgrounds. Please show your support for our sister church.

**Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** – YAL Gyro Luncheon in the Large Hall.

# KOINONIA

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