GLAD TIDINGS

“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.” Luke 2:10

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

146 West Utica Street | Buffalo, NY 14222-2085
716.882.9485 (24 Hours) | 716.886.9151 fax | www.greekorthodoxchurchbuffalo.org

JANUARY 2020 - VOL 52/NO 1
PARISH COUNCIL
Proistamenos - Rev. Dr. Christos B. Christakis, Protopresbyter
frchris@yahoo.com · 716.882.9485 (church) · 716.839.0495 (h) · 716.319.0099 (c)
Deacon - Benjamin Rossiter
brossiter83@gmail.com · 716.812.1450 (c)
President - Paula Schembri
Vice President - Peter Hiczewski
Treasurer - Patrick Markey
Secretary - Patrick Marcil

George Danakas · Michael Kouimanis · Margaret Manos · George Marinides
John Melithoniotes · Mark LaRussa, Sr. · Angeline Pappas · Dina Spiropoulos

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS
Choir Directors
   Adult       Vicki Pappas
   Byzantine (689.2464)  George Marinides
   Youth       Vicki Pappas
   Protopsaltis (689.2464)  George Marinides
Altar Boys Advisor (681.5841)  Brian Cervi
Sunday School Coordinator Effie George, Lea Cervi
Family Life Center Director - Pastoral Asst. (716.374.4707) Nickolas Malamas
5992 Genesee St. Lancaster, NY, 14086 | familylifedirector@gmail.com
Greek Language School
   Principal Maria Tsompana
   P.T.O. Treasurer Tim Klientos
   P.T.O. Secretary Ed Batchelder
Adult Greek Language Class (886-0553) Nitsa Karakousis
Buffalo GreekFest (882.9485 church) Milton Koutsanndreas
Hellenic Senior Club (649.8478) Marge Manos
Annunciation Philoptochos Michele Hiczewski
Youth Council Advisors Fr. Christos and Presvytera Lisa Christakis
   Members: Nick Malamas (Pastoral Assistant), Effie George, Lea Cervi (Sunday School),
   Angela Klientos (GOYA), Vicki Pappas (Youth Choir),
   Sylvia Koutsomitis (Annunciation Dancers), Hara Kati (Greek School)
Orthodox Action Maria Kosmas-Papafagos
OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship) Campus Ministry Nick Malamas
Orthodox Book Shop (688.5816) Chrysanthe Liolios, Coordinator
Orthodox Gift Shop Jane Semertzides, Lynda Christou, Alexandra Grivas, Niki Watson
Wedding and Baptism Accessories
Martyrikca (lapel pins) & Lambathes (decorated candles) Jane Semertzides (845) 264-3770
Library
Church Secretary (882.9485 (O) or office.hoca@gmail.com

IN THIS ISSUE
House Blessings 3
Blessing of the Waters 4
Super Bowl Party 4
FLC Grant/Donations 5-7
Pastoral Assistant/FLC Director 8
Maintenance Report 9
Stewardship & Outreach 9
Calendar 10-11
Hymnology 12
Oratorical Festival Topics 12
Sunday School 13
Godparent Godchild Sunday 14
Philoptochos 15
Adult Choir 15
Scholarship Donations 15
Hellenic Seniors 16
Church Event Photos 17-19
Living Water 20
Land Committee 21-22
Stewardship 23
Memorials 24
Hymnal Donations 24

Glad Tidings is published by the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in January, February, March, April, May, Junw/July/August, September, October, November and December.

Editor
Fr. Christos B. Christakis

Designer
Jennifer Gogos

Contributing Photographers
Presvytera Lisa Christakis,
Nick Malamas

SERVICES
Sunday Service: 9:00 a.m. Orthros (Matins)/10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday School: Begins following Communion until 12:00 p.m.
Weekday Services: 9:00 a.m. Orthros (Matins)/10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Dear Parishioners,

In the month of January, we celebrate a Great Feast within the Orthodox Church, EPIPHANY on JANUARY 6TH. It is the season of the blessing of the Holy Waters, when also the parish priest through this very rich custom brings the Blessed Holy Water to the faithful in their homes and business establishments in order that they may receive the Great Blessings of Our Lord for the NEW YEAR of 2020.

It is a beautiful custom to bring the blessed Holy Water of Epiphany to you the parishioners and at the same time meet your families. Once you fill out the form or call the Church Office, our Secretary or myself will be contacting you in advance to set up a convenient time. This will assist me in blessing certain homes together in a specific vicinity. If you know of anyone in the area who does not attend Church, but would like to have their home or business blessed, please have them contact me.

Thank you,
Fr. Christos

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BLESSING OF THE HOME/BUSINESS

NAME: ________________________________________________________________________________________

TELEPHONE #__________________________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: _____________________________________________________________________________________

DAY and/or TIME THAT IS NOT CONVENIENT: _________________________________________________________

Please complete and return above form to Church Office or call the Church Office at 882-9485. Father Christos will schedule time of visit.

“HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR”
EPIPHANY

Outdoor Blessing of the Waters at the Niagara River

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020

Broderick Park
(at the foot of Ferry Street)

following Divine Liturgy & Sunday School
(approximately 1:00 pm)

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 2nd at 6:00pm at the Family Life Center

Adults $10 | Children 12 and under $5

RSVP to Nick Malamas
716-374-4707 or nickjmalamas@gmail.com by Wednesday, January 29th

Pizza, wings, subs, & drinks will be served.

All are welcome - we hope to see you there!
As of December 30, 2019

**All items include Shipping and Handling Costs**

HOLY CROSS CHAPEL at the FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Dear Parishioners,

There are only a few items remaining of the Ecclesiastical Items to be donated as gifts for the Holy Cross Chapel at the Family Life Center.

All the items must be ordered As Soon As Possible and will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. All donation payments must be received by January 15, 2020.

Therefore, to Secure Your Donation You Must Do the Following:

- a) Call or email Mary Danakas at danakasmary@yahoo.com or (716) 912-8300 (please note: she does not text) and Communicate your Intention.
- b) Please complete the attached Form and Submit it along with your Payment to the Church Office.
- c) Make Check Payable to the Family Life Center and in the Check Memo indicate the Item being Donated.
- d) You must follow this process, and complete this form, or we cannot guarantee that your donation will be honored.

**ECCLESIASTICAL ITEMS STILL AVAILABLE TO BE PURCHASED BY PARISHIONERS**

31) 2 Armchairs – Hand-carved Armchair for the Altar in Byzantine style, from dry basswood and varnished in natural chestnut wood color. Price: $1,045 each chair (ONLY 1 CHAIR Still Available)

31a) 4 Side Chairs – Hand-carved Side Chairs for the Altar in Byzantine style, from dry basswood and varnished in natural chestnut wood color. Price: $880 each chair or $3,520 for 4 chairs

32) Candle Stand for Votive Glasses – Hand-carved in Byzantine style, from dry basswood and varnished in natural chestnut wood color. Price: $3,850

36) 2 Icon Stands (Proskynetarion) – Hand-carved in Byzantine style, from dry basswood and varnished in natural chestnut wood color. Price: $5,225 each or $10,450 for both

42a) Holy Altar Covers (#2) – Ornated with gold embroidered Vine drawings, on excellent quality (super fine) German velvet material. Price: $1,430

**ECCLESIASTICAL ITEMS ALREADY DONATED**

1) Holy Gospel – Price: $1,080  DONATED!
2) Holy Apostle – Price: $375  DONATED!
3) Zeon – Price: $410  DONATED!
4) Holy Myron Container – Price: $400  DONATED!
5) Sprinkler – Price: $205  DONATED!
6) Sanctification Cross – Price: $210  DONATED!
7) Cherubim Set – Price: $675  DONATED!
8) Chalice Set – Price: $1,520  DONATED!
9) Presanctified Gifts Box – Price: $305  DONATED!
10) Tabernacle – Price: $1,400  DONATED!
11) Censer – Price: $235  DONATED!
12) Blessing Cross – Price: $460  DONATED!
13) Candlesticks – Price: $410/pair  DONATED!
14) 4 Hanging Lamps for Iconostasis Icons – Price: $3,880/4 pieces  DONATED!
15) Vigil Lamps – Price: $330/2 pieces  DONATED!
16) Holy Week Censers – Price: $270  DONATED!
17) Candlestick for the Resurrection – Price: $200  DONATED!
18) Holy Cross Tray with Blessing Cross – Price: $440  DONATED!
19) Candlestick for Blessing the Bread – Price: $220  DONATED!
20) Holy Bread Holder – Price: $600/2 pieces  DONATED!
21) Base for Torches and Censers – Price: $935/includes the 4 torches DONATED!
22) Holy Water Font – Price: $385 DONATED!
23) Baptismal Font – Price: $2,070 DONATED!
24) Chalice Set Covers (#1) – Price: $585 DONATED!
24a) Chalice Set Covers (#2) – Price: $585 DONATED!
25) Center Corridor Carpet – Price: $605 DONATED!
25a) 2 Side Corridor Carpets – Price: $595/set DONATED!
26) Round Carpet – Price: $420 DONATED!
27) Holy Altar Carpet Set – Price: $310/set DONATED!
28) 12 Children’s Robes – Price: $1,585/6 set; $3,170/12 set DONATED!
29) Holy Prothesis – Price: $4,200 with the cabinet DONATED!
30) Holy Altar Table – Price: $10,250 DONATED!
31) 2 Armchairs – Price: $1,045 each chair 1 CHAIR HAS BEEN DONATED!
33) Pangari in Narthex – Price: $5,720 DONATED!
34) Candle Stand for Lit Candles – Price: $4,950 DONATED!
35) Icon Stand #1 (daily) – Price: $1,235 DONATED!
35a) Icon Stand #2 (daily) – Price: $1,235 DONATED!
36a) Hand-Painted Icon for Proskynetarion – Price: $1,430 DONATED!
36b) Hand-Painted Icon for Proskynetarion – Price: $1,430 DONATED!
37) Bishop’s Throne – Price: $3,300 DONATED!
38) Chanter’s Seats with Analoy – Price: $4,840 DONATED!
39) Gospel’s Analoy – Price: $990 DONATED!
40) Hand-Painted Icon for Bishop’s Throne – Price: $1,430 DONATED!
41) Narthex Chandelier – Price: $3,300 DONATED!
42) Holy Altar Covers (#1) – Price: $1,430 DONATED!
43) 2 Hanging Lamps for Icon Stand (Proskynetarion) – Price: $440/2 pieces DONATED!
44) Multi-Lamp Above Royal Doors – Price: $1,350 DONATED!


Thank you to all those who have generously donated. May God bless you and your families with good health and fill you with His peace throughout this New Year!
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Holy Cross Chapel at the Family Life Center

DONATION/COMMITMENT for ECCLESIASTICAL ITEMS

Name: __________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
City: ___________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________
Cell Phone: ___________ Email: ________________

A) I would like to select, as a donation, the following item(s) for the Holy Cross Chapel:

1) Item Name: ____________________________________
   Item Number: ____________________
   Item Price: ____________________

2) Item Name: ____________________________________
   Item Number: ____________________
   Item Price: ____________________
   Total Donation: $______________

B) Select the following Payment Plan:

1) $__________ Total Enclosed (Check payable to the Family Life Center)
2) $__________ 50% Deposit Enclosed
3) $__________ Balance to be Paid By: ______________ (Date)

C) For the Family Life Center Commemorative Booklet:

1) ___ I wish my donation to be in memory of: _________________________________
2) ___ I wish my donation to be for the health of: ______________________________

D) Your Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________________

---------------------------------------------------------------

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIVED BY: __________________________ DATE: ___________
TOTAL PAID: __________________ CHECK NUMBER: __________

NOTE: To Secure Your Donation You Must Do The Following:
ALL ORDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Everything is custom-made; arriving from Greece.


1) Please Contact Mary Bambas at marybambas@ymail.com or (718) 913-8300 (she does not text) and Communicate your Instruction.
2) Please Complete this Form and Submit it along with your Payment to the Church Office
3) Make Check Payable to the Family Life Center and in the Check Memo indicate the Item being Donated
4) You must follow this process, and complete this form, or we cannot guarantee that your donation will be honored
Our youth and I traveled to Cleveland, Ohio at the end of November. We attended *Greek Heritage Night* at the Cavaliers Basketball Game where they took on one of the best players in the NBA, “The Greek Freak” Giannis Antetokounmpo and his Milwaukee Bucks. We were able to see the teams warm up and even sing the Greek National Anthem and Happy Birthday to Giannis. I was able to secure on-court experiences for our kids. They were able to be a part of the high-five line for the Bucks or stand on the court during the National Anthem. It was great to see and interact with 100s of Greeks in the arena!

The next day we visited the *Rock and Roll Hall of Fame*, enjoyed lunch together, and then drove back home to Buffalo. Sharing experiences, getting to know each other better and better - that’s what it’s all about! I want to thank Mrs. Nicole Skaros-Marcello for all her help!

As I write this, we just finished our Christmas Party. What a fun time! Good food, a gift exchange, even the adults got into the minute-win-it games that I came up with. Fr. Christos, Brian Cervi, Dina Spiropoulos and Gina Kouimanis were all very intense competitors!! 😊 I really appreciated their participation and help.

Thank you to all the youth and parents for your participation in the most beautiful Christmas Pageant! It was great to see our kids, of all ages, actively participating in their faith.

I am our Church's Administrator for the Archdiocese's *Nationwide Abuse Prevention Program*. Over the next few weeks all of our Youth Workers will complete a background check and complete online training that focuses on abuse prevention.

We look forward to the upcoming events on our GOYA calendar:

- Syracuse Lock-in: January 17-18, 2020
- The Dayton Basketball Tournament and Dance: February 14-15, 2020
- The Syracuse BeeTreat: March 28, 2020; and
- We Host the Oratorical District Festival on April 26, 2020.

Get ready as we prepare for all of these events.

I want to wish our youth, their parents, and our whole Annunciation Family a blessed 2020!

Any questions? Ideas? Contact me, Mr. Nick at 716-374-4707.
The following is an overview of the maintenance work that was recently done at the 146 West Utica facility:

1) Torn metal covering on one of the eave peaks, located in the middle of the Church, was replaced.
2) Grease traps were cleaned out in both the Bakery and Taverna kitchens.
3) Leaking pipes located in Bakery were repaired.
4) In order to have adequate drainage outside, layers of clay and topsoil were applied to several areas around the Church foundation. Those areas were also seeded.
5) Exhaust hoods in Taverna kitchen were cleaned.
6) Minor repairs were done to Men's room in Demakos center
7) Industrial spray hose was replaced in Demakos kitchen.
8) Replaced hot water tank in Bakery
9) Drains in Demakos kitchen were snaked out.
10) Cracked glass blocks in Bakery windows were replaced
11) Overgrown shrubbery alongside ramp was trimmed
12) Damaged and missing Plexiglass panels on ramp were replaced
13) Deteriorating exterior support columns on outside of Demakos Center were repaired and re-painted.
14) Replaced caulking on windows; more to be done in Spring
15) Overgrown tree in walkway between Church and 976 Delaware was trimmed extensively, to keep drainage issues in check.
16) Repair work was done on walk-in freezer and walk-in refrigerator.
17) A snow plowing contract was secured for this winter, the cost of which is being split with G.B.&B. at 976 Delaware.
18) Extensive repairs have been done on heating system, due to the antiquated boiler, which will need to be replaced shortly.
19) Repairs were done on heating unit in Bakery.

Any questions about any of these jobs, or anything you notice that needs some attention, please let me know.

**STEWARDSHIP AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

**GREETER PROGRAM**

The Stewardship and Outreach Committee is instituting a Greeter Program in January. The purpose of Annunciation's Greeter Program is to offer a welcoming environment to those entering the Church and to identify visitors. Greeters are assigned a Sunday where their role is to welcome those entering the Narthex, provide them with a Bulletin, invite newcomers and visitors to sign the Guest Book, and provide whatever guidance is necessary. In addition, Greeters make it a point to “shepherd” newcomers and visitors during the Coffee Hour, speaking with them, introducing them to others, and/or otherwise making them feel welcome.

If you are interested in becoming an Annunciation Greeter, serving about one Sunday every two months, please contact Father Christos, Program Coordinator Pat Papafagos (134pap@gmail.com or call 716-634-0908), Teddy Annas (T787@verizon.net), or Vicki Pappas (pappas@indiana.edu).
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| - Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple  
- 9/10:00am Matins/Divine Liturgy  
- Sunday School | | | | | | |
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**WINTER IS HERE!**

With the arrival of inclement weather, we would like to inform you of the following:

If Church Services should be cancelled, it will be announced on:

- WKBW-TV Channel 7
- WGRZ-TV Channel 2
- WBEN 9:30 AM Radio

If it is not announced on television or radio, church or Sunday School has NOT been cancelled.

For the latest calendar update, please visit www.greekorthodoxchurchbuffalo.org/calendar
Our children are learning more about the hymns of their faith in their Sunday morning Church School classes. Dr. Vicki Pappas is teaching Hymnology to the elementary grades. They are learning the new music that appears in our new green Pew Hymnals and had prepared songs and hymns for last month’s Christmas Pageant. Dr. George Marinides is teaching the middle and high school students “Hymnology and Theology” once a month.

Each month, we celebrate Youth Sunday – on the SECOND Sunday of the month. This is a time for the young people of our parish to experience some of the leadership activities of our parish – singing in the choir, reading the verses prior to the opening hymns (antiphons), reading the Epistle, and serving in the Narthex as a greeter. Our parents are the foundation of this effort – we ask your help in supporting this endeavor and make it a practice for your children to participate each month in some way.

Here are the upcoming Youth Sundays:
- January 12
- February 9th
- March 8th
- April 12th
- May 10th

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**2020 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Topics**

**Junior Division (Grades 7–9)**

1. The Orthodox Church honors the Virgin Mary as the Theotokos. Discuss the role she plays in the Church and as a role model for all Christians.
2. Christ and many Church Fathers often criticized the wealthy. Do Christians need to live a life of poverty? Is it a sin to live a comfortable life?
3. “Lord have mercy” is the most repeated phrase in the Divine Liturgy. What does it mean to truly have mercy?
4. “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3). Discuss the importance of reading Scripture in your life.
5. The theme of the upcoming 2020 Clergy-Laity Congress is “the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13). Discuss the way St. Paul defines love in this important chapter of the Bible.

**Senior Division (Grades 10–12)**

1. Discuss how the separation of church and state benefits us as Orthodox Christians in the United States.
2. In his enthronement address, Archbishop Elpidophoros said, “We are all deacons.” Discuss the importance of being a deacon – a servant – in the Church.
3. Discuss the significance of Constantinople in Church history and the struggles Orthodox Christians in Constantinople face today.
4. How have modern-day saints from the past 100 years, from St. Nektarios to St. Paisios and others, helped Orthodox Christians live their lives today?
5. “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” (Hebrews 13:2). How might Orthodox Christians put this command into practice?
The greatest gift we can give to our children is our most precious inheritance of the Orthodox Christian Faith, which has a lifelong value and significance.

Coordinators: Lea Cervi and Effie George  
Assistant Coordinator: Peter Hiczewski

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year 2020!!!

We are looking forward to the following events:
Theophany - Blessing of the Waters (Jan. 5th), Cutting of Vasilopitas in our classrooms (Jan. 12th), and Godparent Sunday (Feb. 23th).

We like to share the beautiful picture of the Pre-K /K classes as they show off their bulletin board depicting that they are “Head Over Heels for Jesus!!!

Teachers: Marina Chilelli, Rachel Kramer  
Students: Caliope Norman, Isla Czajkowski, Alexandra Frick, Achilles and Theseus Batchelder, Theo Carroll
Godparents, godchildren and the whole family are welcome to participate in the Godparent–Godchild Sunday on February 23rd. This is a beautiful opportunity for everyone to reaffirm their commitment that was made at baptism. It is important that the Godchildren and Godparents to contact each other ahead of time and make arrangements to sit together, celebrate the Divine Liturgy and take Holy Communion. A special prayer will be read before Holy Communion. Even though it might not be possible for some of you to be with your Godparent or Godchild on this day, you can still participate in this incredible spiritual event with your family.
Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you had a blessed Christmas season, filled with health, happiness, and the love of family and friends.

January is a relatively quiet month for Philoptochos; a time to sit back and catch our collective breaths, while we prepare for the upcoming events of the next few months. However, January is also Membership Kickoff Month, and it is time for all current members to renew.

By now, you should have received a letter and renewal form in the mail. Please take a moment to complete all the information requested on the form, even if nothing has changed, to ensure that we have your most current and up-to-date information. Then, you can either mail the renewal form and membership fee to the Church, attention Philoptochos, or bring it with you to Sunday Liturgy. Philoptochos will have a table set up in the Demakos Center on each Sunday of January, and you can drop it off there.

This year, I would like to challenge everyone who is renewing their Membership to bring a new member with you. New members bring new ideas, and new ways for Philoptochos to raise the funds necessary to continue our philanthropic mission. Any Orthodox person 18 years of age or older is eligible for Membership, so please encourage our younger parishioners to think about making Philoptochos an active part of their faith journey.

I am looking forward to a successful and blessed year ahead; with your help and participation, I know we can achieve that goal!

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**ADULT CHOIR**

The Adult Choir is organizing an evening at the Buffalo Philharmonic where one of Annunciation's own, Maria Parker, has been invited to be the mezzo soprano soloist in a unique musical production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" with Felix Mendelson's brilliant score. Our concert tickets will be for Sunday afternoon, January 19th at 2:00 pm. Choir members will have tickets to sell at a 15% discount. If you would like to go to this concert with the choir, please contact Choir Member Scott Maclean at sct1maclean@yahoo.com or call him at 716-348-1260. We plan to car-pool from the Church. So make plans to attend – we’re hoping to have a good-sized group from Annunciation to support Maria in this exciting concert and performance.

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**SCHOLARSHIP TRUST**

The Committee thanks the following who have donated to the Church’s Scholarship Fund. We can think of no better way for our Church, in a tangible way, to show its appreciation to the members of our parish for their hard work, dedication, and devotion.

*The Church Scholarship Committee*

Rev. Dr. Christos B. Christakis
Paula Schembri (Parish Council President)
Tina Anas • Lea Cervi • Angeline Pappas

**IN MEMORY OF GUST ZEFFERYS – FL**

Peter L. Pullman

**IN MEMORY OF NIKI RAVENAS**

Tina Tzimas and Family

**IN MEMORY OF MARIA BUSMALIS**

Dean Pavlakis and Patricia B. Christian

**IN HONOR OF PAULINE EOANNOU (FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL FUND)**

Amigone Funeral Home and Staff
Happy New Year! May good health and happiness be our blessings in 2020.

This year we can all look forward to a special spiritual event - the consecration of our Holy Cross Chapel at the Family Life Center sometime this Spring or Summer.

Our Christmas luncheon at The Columns took place on Tuesday, December 10th - a beautiful winter day. My thanks to all who attended and made it festive, full of good cheer lots of fellowship and conversation - in English and Greek - imagine that!

Again, this year, Milton and Al Koutsandreas provided the hors d’oeuvres. Many thanks to both of you for your kindness to the “seniors.”

Once again, Anastasia Melethoniotes brought us a delicious tray of assorted chocolates which son John so happily served. Joanne Skaros made and donated favors. Mary Eyler, Joanne Alefantis and Sophia Sykas baked cookies that accompanied the sundaes and my guest Maryalice Pellicci and Barbara Stillwell made the snowman centerpieces which became the table prizes.

Mary Eyler assisted me with arrangements and shopped for the door prizes to which Joanne Skaros added a Christmas basket and an extra tray of homemade cookies was added.

Three winners of “share the wealth” took home a bit of extra cash. Everyone enjoyed singing Christmas carols, directed by Vicki Pappas and led by past and present choir members.

Our guests, Fr. Christos and Presvytera Lisa played the final role in our Christmas party by making sure a group picture was posed and taken. Look for that picture in the 2020 calendar. Many thanks Father and Presvytera for preserving the day!

Our mitten tree was once again successful - the hats, scarves, gloves and mittens were delivered on Monday December 23rd to Hearts for the Homeless to be distributed from their mobile kitchen. Thanks Mary Eyler for making the trip to “Hearts.”

Your $10 annual dues can be paid to treasurer Joyce McDaniels anytime, now.

There will be NO seniors luncheon in January unless the winter is really mild. In the meantime, be happy - keep warm - and enjoy the winter landscape!
ORTHODOX ACTION
ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & PAGEANT
LIVING WATER

We will continue with excerpts from a retreat here in the USA in which Fr. Zacharias of Essex, England spoke. After he finished his talk he answered questions. One such exchange we transfer here.

Fr. GP: Greetings, Father, and thank you for your words. I would just ask, since you have just finished a retreat in the Midwest, to, I guess, the clergy, what would you say was the central, let’s say maybe the central concern that the clergy shared with you?

Archim. Zacharias: Here in America, I met many sincere priests who really want to learn about this prophetic ministry. Priesthood is a prophetic ministry. To be a co-worker of God, to be a comforter of souls: it’s not a small thing. It’s a wondrous privilege, and that was their primary concern, so we tried to say a few things: how we can be co-workers with God to build the temple of God in us first and then in the believers.

St. Paul says to the Corinthians: Know ye not that you are the temple of the living God? Like if it were a trivial reality, he says to them: Know ye not that you are the temple of the living God? And it’s exactly that. We have to work for building the temple of God in us and in our fellows and the people which Providence entrusted to us.

We emphasized mainly three means of building the temple of God in us.

The first is by invoking his name, the name of Jesus which was given by revelation. There is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved, as saint Peter said. And by invoking this name, we enter the presence of this Person we invoke, the Lord Jesus.

And by invoking constantly this name, there are many things which happen. First, in the beginning, by invoking constantly this name, we become bearers of the first beatitude: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. It’s like saying to the Lord: Lord, I call upon thy name, because without thee I can do nothing. Whoever bears the cross of Christ at the same time bears the blessedness of his beatitudes. He’s not only the bearer of cross, but also the receiver of God’s beatitude.

So the first is by invoking the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, always, constantly confessing that without him we can do nothing. And slowly, slowly, when we invoke his name, we gather the traces of his presence in our heart. When these traces of his grace accumulate in our heart, and they attain to a certain fullness, the heart opens wide to embrace heaven and earth, and that is really the spiritual rebirth of the Christian.

The Lord says a great word in the Gospel. The woman, when she gives birth, she forgets about her pain and her travail, because a man has come into the world, but this signifies more than anything when we are born into eternity, when we receive the grace of eternity: a man has entered into the world of God and to the spiritual paradise. So another way is by gathering, accumulating in our heart the traces of his grace, by invoking his name. Slowly, slowly, we build the temple of God, and the temple of God is holy.

Second, by reading the word of God, by studying the word of God, and, even more, by praying the word of God, to learn to pray with the word of God, to learn the language of God, to speak to him with the language he spoke to us. When we read the Scriptures, it’s to learn his language in order to speak to him and pray to him with the same language he spoke to us. And when the word of God, as St. Paul says, dwells richly in our heart, it brings the same fruit: the traces of his presence accumulate in the heart, and they build the holy temple of God in us.

Another way—ah, but we have already spoken about that—is in the Liturgy, when we manage to operate this exchange of our little life with the boundless life of God. These are three very powerful means by which we build the temple of God in us, and having built it in us we are able to be ministers of God, to be co-workers with God for the regeneration of many people, at least those who come to us with an expectation to receive something from us.

There are many ways of receiving and accumulating the traces of his presence in our heart very simply. St. Paul says to the Philippians: Let this mind be yours in Christ Jesus, but what is this mind? He explains a bit before. He says that you shall have a competition amongst yourselves. Who loves the other more than himself? That is the sign of people who are reborn spiritually: to always want to render greater honor to the other than to themselves. If someone humbles himself to you and you humble yourself even more to him, that’s the sign that you are reborn spiritually. This is the competition: to honor the other more than ourselves, and to see the other as more important than ourselves. And the primary other is the Lord, but also his people, the least one of these little ones, says the Lord, in the parable of the last judgment.

So it’s a great thing to learn this rule in our life, and then we shall have a golden rule in our life in whatever we do and whatever we say and whatever we think about our fellows, to want a little portion of the humble love of Christ, and at the end we’ll inherit the great love, the infinite love, the love to the end, of Christ. And the one who has this rule in his life, will never judge or condemn his fellows. He will always bear a humble and a contrite spirit which the Lord will never despise.

You know as priests we cannot speak to people unless they want to hear us. When they want to hear us, God gives a word. Even the Lord himself, he couldn’t perform many miracles in his own country, not that he was unable: he didn’t want to impose himself. And even more evidently, in the Last Supper, he couldn’t speak to the apostles until Judas went out, and then the Lord exploded: Now is the Son of man glorified. So this is a great thing, to be able to have this competition and this rule of life in our daily conducts with people. A little portion of love in everything.
BE ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE FAMILY CENTER!

We thank the following 48 parishioners who have donated and have become the founders of the Family Life Center. The Capital Campaign Committee would like to conclude this opportunity as soon as possible. There are only 2 spots left! Become one of the Founders!

As of 12/30/19 the following made a donation and belong to the Founders. Our goal is to reach 50 of our parishioners who will make this offering to the Church.

- Apostolos and Eleni Apostolopoulos
- The Aronis Family
- George and Niki Bechakas
- Terry and Stella Bechakas
- Nikolaos and Jean Botsoglou
- Nicholas and Priscilla Candiliotis
- Brian, Lea and Dominic Cervi
- Fr. Christos and Presvytera Lisa Christakis
- Dean and Georgia Colis
- Sotirios and Joanne Gogos
- Dr. George Danakas and Dr. Maria Corigliano
- Mary Danakas
- Peter A. Hofert and Connie Danakas Hofert
- The Demakos Family
- In Memory of George and Efthymia Gikas
- Gerald and Thalia Greenan III
- Peter and Michele Hiczewski
- The Katholos Family
- In memory of Theodore Katholos
- The Konstantopoulos Family
- Milton and Sophia Koutsandreas
- Al and Fotini Koutsandreas
- Paul and Donna Kouvoutsakis
- + Anastasios and Theologia Kukuliatas
- Michael Likoudis
- In memory of Andrea Georgeades Migliore
- John and Suzanne Moshides
- In memory of Mary C. Pappas
- In memory of Mina A. Callas
- In memory of Androniki Georgeades
- The Marinides Children
- Patrick and Joanne Markey
- In memory of James and Aphrodite Morphis and Perry and Martha Tzetzo
- In memory of Vlasios and Josephine Papadopoulos
- The +Michael and Niki Pappas Family
- George and Julie Peppes
- Vasilis Peppes
- The Rossiter & Perdicas Family
- Larry and Tammy Schiavi
- In Memory of George Scouras
+ George and Chrissoula Scouras
- John and Jane Semertzides
- George and Lorraine Toufexis
+ John and Tina Tzimas
- Michael and Niki Varvakis
- Angelo Veanes
- David and Niki Watson
- Women's Philoptochos Committee
The following is an updated list of parishioners who have donated to the Lancaster Campus Project so far. (This list does not include the parishioners who donated a total of $500,000 for the land alone).

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<td>+Victoria Bessegghi</td>
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<td>Larry and Conni Brown</td>
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<td>Peter Chakos</td>
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<td>Nicholas Chikos</td>
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<td>Klay and Christine Diakos</td>
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<td>Louis and Deanna Diakos</td>
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<td>Michael &amp; Maria Diakos</td>
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<td>Mary Eyler</td>
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If you have donated, but do not see your name listed, please let us know and we will add it next month.
This will be an ongoing list of donors to the Family Life Center and it will be revised every month. Contributors who donate additional amounts will be placed in the corresponding category.
Please complete your Stewardship Commitment for 2019 if you have not done so. Thank You.

Your name was overlooked erroneously, please call the Church Office. There are members who are not listed who have elected to remain anonymous.
MEMORIALS

We gratefully acknowledge donations received in loving memory of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARIA BUSMALIS</th>
<th>VASILIOS D. MALESKOS</th>
<th>PANTELOS STAMATAROS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dean Pavlakis and Patricia B. Christian</td>
<td>Evangelia Maleskos</td>
<td>(Eleni Stamatikos’ brother)</td>
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<td>Tim and Angela Klentos</td>
<td>Dean and Georgia Colis</td>
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<td>Michael and Stella Fotinos</td>
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<tr>
<th>NICHOLAS L. CURTIS</th>
<th>ELIA S. “LOU” MASTOR</th>
<th>HOPE VALLAS</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Karedes Family</td>
<td>Ulysses Busmalis</td>
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<th>THEODORE G. AND FREDA DANAKAS</th>
<th>JOAN H. PULLMAN</th>
<th>BARBARA C. VEANES</th>
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<td>Connie Danakas Hofert and Peter A. Hofert</td>
<td>Helen Coran</td>
<td>Dean and Georgia Colis</td>
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<td>Lynne and Sanford Bookey</td>
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<td>Lisa and Steven Massaro</td>
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<td>...and their families</td>
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<th>PAULINE EOANNOU</th>
<th>NIKI RAVENAS</th>
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<td>Amigone Funeral Home and Staff</td>
<td>Tina Tzimas and Family</td>
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<td>Philoptochos Committee</td>
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<td>Dean and Georgia Colis</td>
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Please remember: All memorial donations must be received and processed by the 10th of every month to appear the following month.

DIVINE LITURGY HYMNALS DONATIONS AND DEDICATIONS

Many thanks to the following parishioners who have donated for the purchase of the new Divine Liturgy Hymnals in memory of their loved ones.

- Adult Choir in honor of all Adult Choir Members Past and Present
- Maria Androulakis in memory of Olga Strzalka
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- Vassilia Cervi in memory of Vassilia Angelaki and Maria Maglara
- Helen Coran in memory of Leo and Niki Pullman and Russell Coran
- Richard and Barbara Foley in memory of Xanthe Kapsalis
- Dr. George T. Danakas, Mary Danakas and Connie Danakas Hofert in memory of Theodore G. and Freda Danakas
- Sam Gikas in memory of George and Efthymia Gikas
- Pres. Athena Gousios in memory of Marianne Mermigas, Nicholas Mermigas, Marina Condos, Nicholas Condos and Evridiki Tosakis
- Elizabeth, Bob and Tyler Kline in memory of Marion Halstead
- Anne Condrell Magnnini in memory of Nicholas and Mary Condrell
- John Melithoniotis in memory of Michael Melithoniotis & Marilyn Melithoniotis
- Patricia Papaflags in memory of Alexandros Papaflags and Charles and Marie Caneles
- Angela Pappas in memory of Michael Pappas
- Niki Pappas in memory of Michael and Hercules Pappas
- Pappas Family in memory of Dina Szymanski, Olympia Pappas. Don J. Pappas
- Tina, Jesse and Angelica Tzimas in memory of John Z. Tzimas
- Nicole Theone Liaros-Hibbitts in memory of Demetrios T. Liaros
- Peter and Beverly Liaros in memory of Theodore S. and Thecla Lallagianis-Liaros and Demetrios T. Liaros
- Boris and Barbara Kuvshinoff in memory of Voula Lantzas, Maria Busmalis and Tom Getzka
- Pappas Family in memory of William and Stella Pappas
- Kelie Morphis in memory of Alexandra, John and William Morphis
- William Siradas in memory of George, Maria and Lula Siradas
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