



# St. Demetrios *Parish Newsletter* July 2013

41-47 Wisteria St., Perth Amboy, N.J. (732) 826-4466 Fr. Angelo J. Michaels



## July 2013 RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

### 7 July

Epistle: St. Paul letter to Galatians 3:23-29;4-5

Πρὸς Γαλάτας 3:23-29; 4:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 4.18-23

### 14 July

Epistle: St. Paul letter to Titus 3:8-15

Πρὸς Τίτον 3:8-15

Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19

Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 5.14-19

### 21 July

Epistle: St. Paul letter to the Romans 6:18-23

Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους 6:18-23

Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 8.5-13

Agia Markella

Μαρκέλλα παρθενομάρτυς

### 27 July

Agios Panteleimon

Μεγαλομάρτυς Παντελεήμων

### 28 July

Epistle: St. Paul letter to the Romans 10:1-10

Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους 10:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 8:28-34;9:1

Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 8.28-34, 9.1

## SERVICES

(unless otherwise stated)

Sunday Orthros 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

## ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SACRAMENTS

During 2013 Weddings will not be held Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup>.

No Baptisms will be scheduled during any of the Great Feast Days of the Lord.



St. Demetrios Philoptochos President Stella Wacker, who also serves as treasurer to the Metropolis of NJ Philoptochos, traveled with 29 other Pilgrims from the National Philoptochos Board to the Patriarchate in Constantinople Turkey on June 9-16.

The group celebrated the Name Day of his All Holiness Patriarch Bartholemew on June 11 attending vespers and divine liturgy. The group was lead by His Grace Bishop Sevastiaos of Zela and National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas.

Also on the trip was Leadership 100 member Judge Marina Corodemus. See Judge Corodemus's story that appears on the National Philoptochos blog. See page 9 this newsletter.

"Anyone wishing to join a newly formed prayer group please contact Peter Christopoulos."



## Message from Father Angelo

I would like to thank everyone who dedicated their hard work, money and time to make our annual festival a success.

I will not list names because there are too many to name. You should all know that your labor and your efforts are appreciated by the community. We pray that Saint Demetrios and our Lord Jesus Christ will grant you many more healthy and prosperous years to continue the mission of our church and wish you a wonderful summer and wherever you may go on vacation, please remember that God is with you and will bring you back safe.

God Bless you all with spiritual love and affection.

Reverend Father Angelo J. Michaels  
Protosbyter

### Senior News

Our last meeting for the year ends in June. As usual, we ended the season with a luncheon at Sherban's Diner by Georgia Papageorgiou. We had 22 attendees and as in previous June luncheons at Sherban's Diner, it was a success. Of course, Peter's sister Irene also joined us - a beautiful lady and very humorous.

Peter gave us a small brown bag which consisted of a round tsouraiiki. Thank you Peter and Georgia for a successful affair.

Our next get together for a lunch, on your own, will be August 15 after church. Details will be mailed to you.

Our regular meetings will resume in September. Diane Roman will be visiting one of our meetings and Greg, the senior fitness instructor who we have had before, will also attend.

Our sincere condolences to Maria Kalamaras and Lynn Markus. God be with them.

Tana Kizides -President

Babysitter needed to care for 18 month toddler in Old Bridge home.

Monday- Friday 8am-4pm.

Please contact church for details

**JOHN APOSTOLOS**  
Vice President

**COMPASS ROSE SERVICES, INC.**

### INSURANCE

130 William Street, Room 402 New York, NY 10038  
Telephone: (212) 406-4004  
Fax: (212) 406-4225  
john@compassroseservices.com

### SUPPORT THE SPONSORS OF THE ST. DEMETRIOS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



This month we welcome a brand new annual sponsor of our community newsletter. Please make sure to show your appreciation for their sponsorship by stopping by their shop at 499 Ernston Road in Parlin or visiting their web site at [www.Habibys.com](http://www.Habibys.com)

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Basil Williams; brother-in law of Ken Doukas. May his memory be eternal.



## Parish Council

Kateina Ganiaris - President  
 Kathy Kouretas - Vice President  
 Helen Horan - Secretary  
 Steve Corodemus - Treasurer  
 Eleni Stoimenides  
 Alex Vosinas  
 Dino Kusulas  
 Michael Koudis  
 George Petrakakis  
 Mark Rasimowicz  
 Nick Giannakopoulos  
 Gary Ahladianakis  
 Nick Pakis

**G.O.Y.A. President**  
 Alexandra Rivera

**G.O.Y.A. Advisors**  
 Callie Vosinas  
 Christina Garison  
 Irene Dimitratos

**P.T.O. President**  
 Liz DaCunha

**Greek School Teacher**  
 Effie Papaikononou

**Greek School President**  
 Jennifer Simatos

**Sunday School Superintendent**  
 Barbara Dulin

**Choir Director**  
 Irene Pakis

**Chantor**  
 Stavros Tsapatsaris

**Deadline for submissions for the  
 August 2013 Bulletin is  
 July 10, 2013.**

Support the monthly newsletter.  
 Submit your photo-ready business  
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 about ad rates please contact  
[d.kusulas@optonline.net](mailto:d.kusulas@optonline.net).

### **NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL BOARD**

Fr. Angelo J. Michaels  
 Kateina Ganiaris  
 Dino Kusulas  
 Maria Kakadelis  
 Mary Lou Rivera

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Mark 12:41-44 The Widow's Offering*

*Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.*

*Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."*

The Widow's offering is a humbling passage from the Bible where Christ illustrates to His Disciples the true meaning of giving. The significance of the Widow giving two copper coins to the Temple is not one of monetary wealth versus modest contribution, but focuses on WHAT WAS LEFT BEHIND. In this passage, the poor Widow gave all she had and left nothing behind.

When we give, we should ask ourselves, what are we leaving behind? Did I give all I can or should to our church? Many of you selflessly gave your time, effort and talent working many days at the Church Festival. THANK YOU! Through your selfless efforts, we held a festival to be proud of. Does that beg the question, what did we ALL leave behind?

Month after month, we have asked each of you to contribute what you can to help sustain the operating expenses of the church. Some of you have contributed to your stewardship pledges, others have gone beyond, while others still have not pledged or paid stewardship. So, I must ask the question, what have you left behind - money for the next trip to Greece? A new TV? or Are you just making it by every month? The answer is still the same. What did I leave behind? If the answer is more than I need, then please give more to help our church. Please fill out the pledge card in this newsletter and pledge to pay monthly or weekly.

We are now in the seventh month of the calendar year and our beginning deficit of \$30,000 is still with us. Please, today, make sure you are a paid steward of the church. Time, talent and money are needed to keep our church going.

On behalf of everyone at St. Demetrios - THANK YOU!

Yours in Christ,

Kateina Ganiaris  
 Board President

Ο Κυριος καθισε απεναντι οπου ηταν οι προσφορες και παρακολουθουσε το πληθος των ανθρωπων που εβαζαν τα χρηματα τους εις το ταμειον της εκκλησιας. Πολλοι πλουσιοι ανθρωποι εριχναν μεγαλα ποσα. Αλλα, μια φτωχη χηρα ηλθε και εριξε δυο πολυ μικρα χαλκινα κερματα που η αξια τους ηταν μονο μερικα σεντς.

Ο Κυριος καλεσε τους μαθητες του κοντα και τους ειπε «Αληθεια σας λεγω οτι αυτη η φτωχη χηρα εβαλε πιο πολλα εις το ταμειο απο ολους τους αλλους. Ολοι εδωσαν απο τα αγαθα τους, αλλα αυτη παρα την φτωχεια της τα εβαλε ολα - ολα απο αυτα που ειχε για να ζηση».

Η προσφορα της χηρας ειναι μια ταπεινη διαβαση απο την Αγια Γραφη οπου ο Χριστος επεξηγει στους Μαθητες του το αληθινο νοημα της προσφορας. Δινοντας δυο χαλκινα νομισματα εις τον Ναον, η σημασια του δωρου της χηρας δεν ειναι ενα απο τα χρηματικα αγαθα εναντι της μετριοφρωνης προσφορας, αλλα σημαινει το ΤΙ ΕΜΕΙΝΕ ΠΙΣΩ στο περασμα. Η φτωχη χηρα εδωσε ολα οσα ειχε χωρις τιποτε να εχει αφησει πωσ της.

Οταν προσφερουμε πρεπει να ρωταμε τους εαυτους μας τι αφηνωμε πωσ; Δωσαμε ολα οσα μπορούσαμε η θα επρεπε να δωσουμε και στην εκκλησια μας. Πολλοι απο σας ανελλιπως προσφεραν ημερες, ωρες, προσπαθεια και το ταλεντο σας δουλευοντας στο Φεστιβαλ της εκκλησιας. ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΟΥΜΕ! Δια μεσου των ακουραστων προσπαθειων σας εκαναμε ενα φεστιβαλ που πρεπει να ειμαστε περηφανοι. Αλλα, αυτο προκαλει την ερωτηση: Τι αφησαμε ΟΛΟΙ πωσ μας;

Καθε μηνια ρωτησαμε τον καθενα σας να προσφερει οτι μπορει για να βοηθησει ωστε να φερουμε εις περας τα εξοδα της εκκλησιας. Μερικοι απο σας προσφερατε εις το προγραμμα του Στουαρτσιπ, αλλοι το αγνοησαν, και αλλοι δεν εχουν δωσει καμια προσφορα στο προγραμμα αυτο. Ετσι πρεπει να κανω την ερωτηση: Τι εχετε αφησει πωσ; Χρηματα για το επομενο ταξιδο στην Ελλαδα; Νεα τηλεοραση; Η απαντηση ειναι η ιδια. Τι ξεχασα πωσ? Εαν η απαντηση ειναι χρειαζομαι πιο πολλα τοτε δωσε περισσοτερα και βοηθησε την εκκλησια μας, Παρακαλω συμπληρωστε την καρτα της υποσχεσης σας στην επιστολη αυτη και στείλετε την υποσχεση της καρτας μηνιαως η εβδομαδιαως.

Τωρα ειμαστε στον εβδομο μηνια του εκκλησιαστικου ετους και εχωμε ενα ελλειμα απο \$30.000 που παραμενει στο ταμειο μας. Παρακαλω, σημερα προσπαθειστε να γινεται ενεργον μελος πληρωνοντας την συνδρομη σας στην εκκλησια μας. Ωρα, ταλεντο και χρηματα χρειαζονται για να βοηθησωμε την εκκλησια μας για να συνεχιση την λειτουργια της.

Εκ μερους ολων εις τον Αγιον Δημητριον, Ευχαριστω!

Με την εν Χριστω αγαπην,

Κατινα Γανιαρης  
 Προεδρος Διοικ. Συμβουλιου



	2012	2013	2013 Proposed
Income:	Total	Year-to-Date	Budget
Candles	\$ 26,120.00	\$ 12,094.00	\$ 26,000.00
Donations	\$ 21,525.00	\$ 6,145.00	\$ 6,500.00
Memorial	\$ 6,267.00	\$ 1,055.00	\$ 2,300.00
Stewardship	\$ 64,620.00	\$ 32,721.00	\$ 65,000.00
Trays	\$ 8,922.00	\$ 1,867.00	\$ 8,200.00
Weekday Services	\$ 4,076.00	\$ 622.00	\$ 1,500.00
Hall Rental	\$ 5,448.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 19,500.00
Greek School Tuition		\$ 967.00	\$ 1,500.00
Rental Property	\$ 24,200.00	\$ 8,750.00	\$ 26,400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 161,178.00</b>	<b>\$ 67,221.00</b>	<b>\$ 156,900.00</b>
<b>Fundraisers</b>			
Festival	\$ 81,878.00	\$ 71,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Palm Sunday Luncheon	\$ 4,327.00	\$ 3,375.00	\$ 4,000.00
Christmas Card			\$ 1,300.00
New Year's Eve		\$ 7,817.00	\$ 4,900.00
Walkathon			
PTO			
Insurance Claim		\$ 35,777.21	\$ 35,777.21
Total	\$ 86,205.00		\$ 115,977.21
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 247,383.00</b>	<b>\$ 102,998.21</b>	<b>\$ 272,877.21</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
	2012	2013	2013 Proposed
	Total	Year-to-Date	Budget
Office Equipment	\$ 2,595.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 3,000.00
Postage and Mailing	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 510.00	\$ 2,500.00
Christmas Card	\$ -		\$ 300.00
Festival Expense	\$ 32,118.00	\$ 10,415.00	\$ 30,000.00
Insurance	\$ 13,739.40	\$ 4,777.36	\$ 14,500.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 1,178.00	\$ 796.24	\$ 1,800.00
Electric	\$ 8,228.09	\$ 3,372.14	\$ 8,500.00
Gas	\$ 6,542.18	\$ 5,791.21	\$ 10,000.00
Heating Oil Hall			
Water	\$ 3,224.44	\$ 670.99	\$ 1,300.00
Priest	\$ 101,148.00	\$ 44,037.27	\$ 101,148.00
Secretary	\$ 16,915.00	\$ 2,569.54	\$ 10,000.00
Cantor	\$ 6,580.00	\$ 2,520.00	\$ 5,000.00
Sexton	\$ 12,647.00	\$ 4,388.24	\$ 12,000.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 8,600.00	\$ 1,321.57	\$ 8,000.00
Payroll Services	\$ 716.00	\$ 310.64	\$ 716.00
Greek School Teacher		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 3,500.00
Candles	\$ 5,306.00	\$ 1,059.00	\$ 3,500.00
Office / Church Expenses	\$ 3,523.00		\$ 2,000.00
Archdiocese Commitment	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 6,000.00
Maintenance/Repairs	\$ 18,068.00	\$ 8,623.54	\$ 18,000.00
Cleaning Supplies	\$ 800.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 4,000.00
Youth Programs			\$ 700.00
Religious Education			\$ 500.00
PTO/Greek School		\$ 950.00	\$ 1,900.00
Cultural / Speakers	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
Property Taxes	\$ 13,967.00	\$ 2,278.00	\$ 5,000.00
Income Property Repairs	\$ 1,436.00	\$ 1,501.00	\$ 2,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 265,431.11</b>	<b>\$ 99,041.74</b>	<b>\$ 260,864.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (18,048.11)</b>	<b>\$ 3,956.47</b>	<b>\$ 12,013.21</b>

This is the budget for 2013 released to the General Assembly on June 23rd. Your help is needed to participate in stewardship today to close the projected deficit. A suggested membership is \$525 per family.

If you have not yet done so, please complete the stewardship commitment card on page 7 and submit it to the church. The well-being of our community depends on everyone's participation.



## The Elevator and Bathroom Addition and Renovation A project for the Community by the Community

We are about to engage in the first major capital improvement project since the construction of the community center in the late 1970s. We are proud to announce that the elevator project is a reality.

The idea of putting in an elevator began 25 years ago but ran aground due to insufficient funds. Six years ago one of the members of our community decided to champion the elevator project and made a commitment to see it realized. The only restriction was that fundraising could not be done using traditional methods.

Through the strength and resolve of members of the community has this project been able to come to fruition. The charity began slowly with monetary donations, the architectural drawings were then donated, by architect Nick Tsapasaris of Nick Tsapasaris Architects and many other pieces began to fall into place. Many more donations came, everything from financial contribution, to donated services and supplies.

Current status: We are currently under contract with George Moutis from Structural Concepts Inc., general contracting services. The drawings and specifications are being submitted to the state and local authorities for construction permits and the elevator unit has been ordered. Discussion about when a

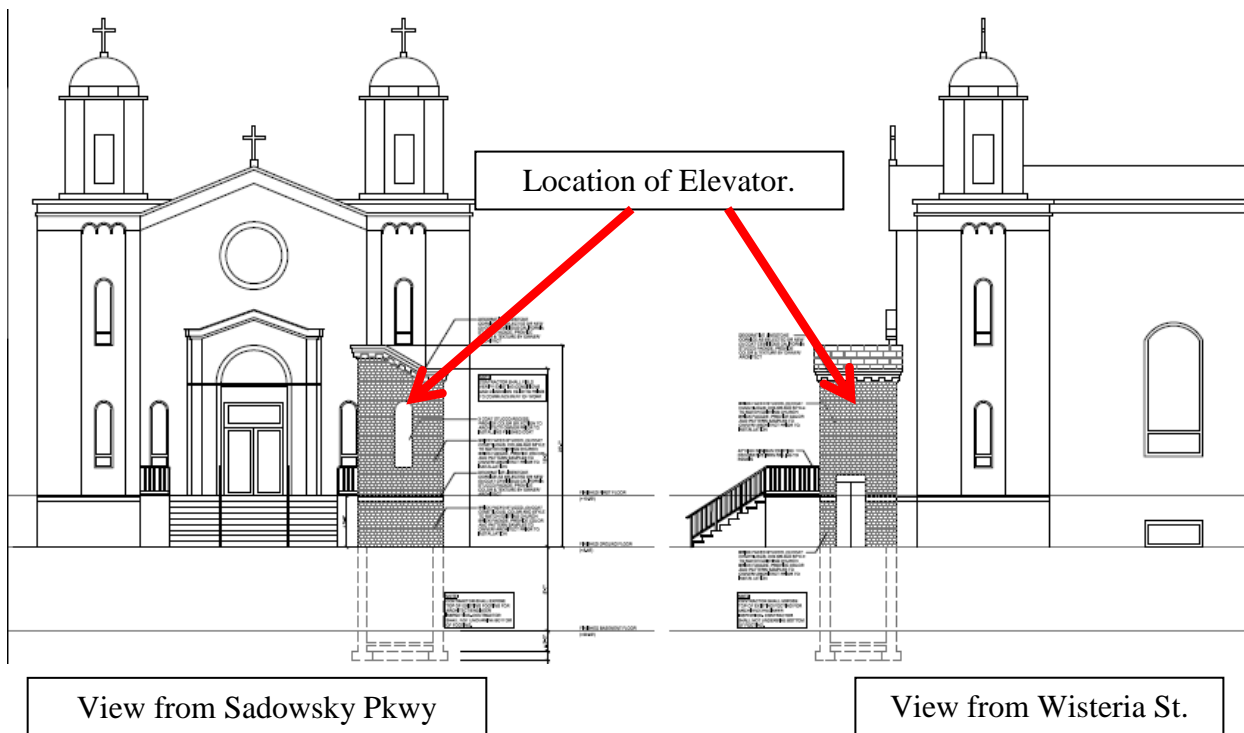
Groundbreaking ceremony have commenced and we are looking to hold that day towards the end of August. The project is set to begin the beginning of September and completed by of October.

The cost of the project is \$128,000 with the elevator portion coming to \$118,000 and the bathroom portion running \$10,000. At present, \$116,500 have been raised towards the entire project. The current money that has been collected does not allow us to complete both the elevator and the bathroom projects. The decision has been made to separate the scope of work into two parts, the elevator addition and the bathroom renovation. We have enough money to complete the elevator addition. However, we do not have enough to begin the bathrooms renovation. Our hope is that we will have the sufficient funds to complete both projects by the time of the groundbreaking.

A debt of gratitude is owed to the members of our community without whom this project would not have materialized. We are humbled by your actions.

Sincerely,

The Elevator Committee





As of June 15<sup>th</sup> 2013, the following parishioners have committed and are current in their 2013 Stewardship Commitment to the Community.

Argiro Ahladianakis	Helen Horan	Nicholas Pangos
John Anastasiou	Theodore Kaidas	Elefterios Paros
Mary Andreadis	Maria & Teddy Kalamaras	Michael Patras
Constantine Arianas	George Kanellidis	Vasilios Perdios
Jimmy Attonis	Peggy Kantor	George Protonentis
Stella Bales	Axiotis Karayianopoulos	Arthur Rostel
Emanuel Balsamides	Kostas & Irene Kokodis	Dimitrios Roumeliotis
Nermine Boulos	Demetrios Koudis	Diane Lionikis Ruth
Helen Catelanos	Gregory Kouretas	George Seitis
Peter Christopoulos	Kosta Kouretas	Angeline Skelly
Christy Corodemus	Samuel Kouretas	Stan Suravlas
Marina Corodemus	Stephen Kouretas	Robert Tarr
Steven Corodemus	Sylvia Kress	William Theophilakos
Vera Corodemus	Thomas Kross	Nicholas Tsakon
James Corodemus	Dino Kusulas	Nick Tsilimindos
John Deboer	John Lalís	Theodora Tsistinas
Bennie Di Blasi	Kaliopé Lalís	Dean Tzitzis
George Dolias	Stephanie Linnehan	George Tzitzis
Ken Doukas	George Lionikis	Philip Vassallo
Adam Early	Helen Loukedis	Diane Ventura / Goumas
Nicole Fasarakis	Cetoris Maliadis	Alexandros Vosinas
Vasilios Fasarakis	Kostas Mantsis	George Vosinas
Zafe Filindras	Evelyn Mariolis	Demetrios Vrahnos
Petros Ganiaris	Peggy Martinez	Emil Wacker
Costas Gatanas	George Mavrookas	Andrew Wyrzten
Stelos Gatanas	Louis Mavrookas	Stephen Xenios
George Georgas	Constadina Mellas	Apostolos Zaferiou
Paul Gerogiou	Mae Menchise	Alex & Mary Ziro
Nick Giannakopoulos	Father Angelo Michaels	
Gary Hanakis	Maria Michaels	
George Hanakis	Rubin Morales	
Andrew Holl	Demetrios Pakis	

Please complete and submit the pledge card in this newsletter to register and begin your 2013 stewardship commitment.



**“Come and See”**

**2013 SAINT DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CONFIDENTIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD  
PART 1**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: City: State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Profession/Trade/Skills: \_\_\_\_\_ Profession/Trade/Skills \_\_\_\_\_  
(spouse): \_\_\_\_\_

**In gratitude for God’s blessings I / we make the following commitment  
to the ministries of St. Demetrios Church:**

A total amount of: \$520 \_\_ \$750 \_\_ \$1,000 \$ 2,500 More/Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
weekly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ semi-annually \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually  
*Come and See God work through your talents, skills and experience, as well as your financial support.  
Your offering to Christ and His Church can do as much as you empower it to do.  
We give to Christ and His Church not according to our means but according to our love for Him.*

**“Come and See”**

**2013 SAINT DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CONFIDENTIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD  
PART 2**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**I / We would like to offer my/our time & talents to the ministries, organizations, and activities of  
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in the following areas:**

**Please check**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Work                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Management      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Language School                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Choir                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Camp                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visitation of Elderly / Infirm              | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking - Events or Outreach               | <input type="checkbox"/> Elevator Project            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scouting                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer - general                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushering / Welcome          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer-Web Site Management                | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Festival                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Picnic               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media Liaison / Public Affairs              | <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical / Plumbing / Electrical         | <input type="checkbox"/> Reader (in liturgy)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Monthly Newsletter                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Building maintenance        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Work                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Dance                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Content Editor for Monthly Newsletter |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parish New Year’s Eve Celebration           | <input type="checkbox"/> Ways and Means Committee                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Network/support group for job seekers       |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Committee       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach and Evangelism                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Y.A.L. (Young Adult League)                | <input type="checkbox"/> J.O.Y. (Jr. Orthodox Youth) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Weekly Bulletin                      | <input type="checkbox"/> G.O.Y.A. (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                |  |

*Come and See God work through your talents, skills and experience, as well as your financial support.*

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## Η Αγια Μεγαλομαρτυς Κυριακη



Η Αγια Μεγαλομαρτυς Κυριακη γεννηθηκε στη Νικομηδεια. Ηταν μοναδικο παιδι του Δωροθεου και της Ευσεβιας. Οι γονεις της ηταν Ελληνες, ευσεβεις χριστιανοι αλλα χωρις απογονους. Προσευχοντουσαν στον Θεο να τους χαρισει ενα παιδι. Ο Θεος ακουσε την προσευχη τους και εφοσον γεννηθηκε ημερα Κυριακη (την ημερα του Κυριου), της δοθηκε το ονομα Κυριακη. Απο την παιδικη της ηλικια, η Κυριακη ηταν αφιερωμενη στο Θεο.

Οταν ο αυτοκρατορας Διοκλητιανος ξεκινησε διωγμο κατα των Χριστιανων, η Αγια Κυριακη και οι γονεις της παραδοθηκαν στον τυραννο. Τους γονεις της τους εδειρε και τους εστειλε στον Δουκα Ιουστο στην περιοχη Μελιτινη της Αρμενias. Την Αγια Κυριακη την εστειλε στον Καισαρα Μαξιμιανο στη Νικομηδεια.

Ο Μαξιμιανος συντομα καταλαβε οτι η Αγια Κυριακη ηταν σταθερη στην πιστη της στο Θεο και την βασανιζε για πολλες ωρες. Η Αγια Κυριακη δεν επανε να προσευχεται. Επειτα απο πολλες και τρομερες δοκιμασιες, ο Μαξιμιανος απετυχε και εστειλε Αγια Κυριακη στην Βιθυνια οπου διοικουσε ο επαρχος Ιλαριανος.

Ο Ιλαριανος εβαλε την Αγια Κυριακη σε ενα ειδωλολατρικο ναο και την πιεζε βιαια. Η Αγια Κυριακη αρνηθηκε και προσευχηθηκε στον Θεο. Τότε εγινε σεισμος που γκρεμισε ολα τα ειδωλα απ' τους βωμους και τα εκανε κυριολεκτικα σκονη. Φυσηξε πολυ δυνατος ανεμος και εξαφανισε ακομη και την σκονη και τελος επεσε μια αστραπη που εκαψε το προσωπο του Ιλαριανου, ο οποίος επεσε απο τον θρονο του και ξεψυχησε.

Ενας αλλος αρχοντας διαδεχτηκε τον Ιλαριανο, διαταξε να καει η Αγια Κυριακη ζωντανη. Οταν ομως την εριζναν στη φωτια, οι φλογες δεν την εκαψαν. Ενω ο ουρανος ηταν καθαρος, αρχισε να βρεχει μεχρι που τα πυρα εσβησε εντελως. Στο τελος, ο επαρχος εβαλε την Αγια Κυριακη στην φυλακη. Την επομενη ημερα οι δημιοι πηραν την Αγια και την οδηγησαν εξω απο την πολη στο τοπο εκτελεσης. Της δοθηκαν λιγα λεπτα για να προσευχηθει και ζητησε απο το Θεο να παραλαβει την ψυχη της. Οταν ο δημιος πλησιασε για να εκτελεσει τη διαταγη, ειδη οτι η Αγια Κυριακη ηταν ηδη νεκρη.

Η μνημη της Αγια Κυριακης εορταζεται στις 7 Ιουλιου.

## Αγια Παρασκευη



Η Αγια Παρασκευη γεννηθηκε στη Ρωμη το 117 μ.Χ. Οι γονεις της ηταν Ελληνες και Χριστιανοι. Ο πατερας της ηταν ο Αγαθων και η μητερα της η Πολιτεια. Η Αγια Παρασκευη γεννηθηκε ημερα Παρασκευη και ετσι οι γονεις της δωσανε το ονομα της ημερας που γεννηθηκε. Οι γονεις της την μεγαλωσαν συμφωνα με την Χριστιανικη πιστη και την σπουδασαν αφου ειχαν οικονομικη δυνατοτητα.

Οι γονεις της Αγιας Παρασκευης πεθαναν οταν ηταν 20 ετων. Τότε η Αγια Παρασκευη εδωσε την περιουσια της στους φτωχους, στην εκκλησια και σε ενα ιδρυμα, στο οποιο εμεναν χριστιανες κοπελες που ειχαν αφιερωθει στον Ιησου Χριστο. Εκει εμεινε για λιγα χρονια.

Καποια στιγμη εγκατελειψε το ιδρυμα αυτο και ξεκινησε να κηρυττει τον Χριστιανισμο σε διαφορες πολεις και χωρια της Ιταλιας. Γρηγορα ομως εφτασαν στα αυτια του Αυτοκρατορα Αντωνινου οι δραστηριοτητες της Αγιας Παρασκευης. Με εντολη του Αντωνινου, συνελαβαν την Αγια Παρασκευη και την οδηγησαν μπροστα του. Θελοντας αυτος να την κανει να απαρνηθει την χριστιανικη πιστη, την υποβαλει στο μαρτυριο της πυρακτωμενης περικεφαλαιας απο το οποιο, με τη χαρη του Ιησου Χριστου, η Αγια Παρασκευη βγηκε σωα.

Το τελευταιο βασανιστηριο στο οποιο υποβληθηκε η Αγια Παρασκευη ηταν ενα καζανι στο οποιο εβραζε πισσα και λαδι. Εκει εβαλαν την Αγια Παρασκευη, η οποια ομως, με την βοηθεια του Θεου, δεν επαθε τιποτα. Βλεποντας αυτο, ο Αντωνινος, την προετεινε να ριξει πανω του πισσα για να διαπιστωσει ο ιδιος αν καϊει. Η πισσα αυτη τυφλωσε τον αυτοκρατορα, ο οποίος πιστεψε τοτε στην αληθινη θρησκεια και ζητησε απο την Αγια Παρασκευη να βαφτιστει χριστιανος. Εκεινη οχι μονο τον βαφτισε, αλλα και τον θεραπευσε, με την χαρη του Θεου, τα ματια του. Η χαρη να θεραπευσει τα ματια, δοθηκε απο τον Θεο στην Αγια Παρασκευη και για αυτο τα περισσοτερα θαυματα τα της εχουν σχεση με τα ματια.

Την μνημη της Αγιας Παρασκευης εορταζεται στις 26 Ιουλιου.





## THE ROAD TO CONSTANTINOPLE



The road to Constantinople is lined with the souls of those who venerated Christ, - preserving and protecting the faith through their devotion. Their sacrifices are a living presence

palpable for all Orthodox pilgrims to experience in today's Constantinople. Jesus' presence is not confined to ancient testaments of devotion, as evidenced in the magnificent mosaic in Ayia Sophia church and the breathtaking frescoes in Chora. Christ lives today in the Patriarchate, the Theological School at Halki and primary/secondary schools of modern Greek children living in Poli—reminders of a once flourishing Greek population. Christ is the living being for pilgrims to experience and is ever-present.

Istanbul is a city of contrasts. It is a modern democratic secular society wrapped in the enigma of the Muslim faith. Its youth rebels for true separation of religion and state and beckons for individual liberty in the face of governmental retaliation. It is social chaos in an evolving, societal stream. The cacophony of Taksim Square echoes to those who seek freedom. Yet Orthodoxy, a repressed religious minority, survives on the fringes. Battered but not beaten, censored but not suppressed. Liturgy continues to be celebrated, vespers are still chanted, and recitation of prayers continues to rise with requests to a living God.

In contrast to the transitory politics of modern day Turkey, Christ's presence is constant and sustaining. Orthodoxy in Constantinople and its endurance among the faithful has been challenged by centuries of oppression, holocaust of the Hellenic Society, desecration of church, monasteries and, and humiliation of the clergy. Despite all this, our faith persists. Amidst the time-worn churches, transformed into mosques, transformed yet again into Turkish museums, the power of the biblical depictions of Christ, Panagia and the saints and their messages endure.

Entry to the modern Patriarchate reveals a modest series of edifices, adequate but far from opulent. Here, His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew leads the worldwide Greek Orthodox Church within Muslim Turkey even as the blaring sounds from neighboring minarets announce a call to prayer.

Absent are the vaulting ceilings of Ayia Sophia but silently, reverently one venerates the sacred relics of two renowned Archbishops of Constantinople who were solemnly restored to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, St. Gregory the Theologian (329-390) and St. John Chrysostom (c. 347-407).

Being in the presence of His All Holiness, whether in liturgy or private audience, one is struck by calm solemnity of his voice, reaching into your heart for the peace and love of Christ. His prayer is devotional, his words inspirational and his living example as the Head of the Church of Christ in Muslim Turkey is exemplary. Prayer with His All Holiness is a true blessing.

Certainly, "must sees" while in Constantinople are the two "churches" of Chora and Ayia Sophia, the Patriarchate, and a day-trip - a 90 minute ferry ride-- to, Halki, the still-closed Theological School and alma mater of His All Holiness. It is the emblem of religious repression of the Orthodox minority. The goal of His All Holiness is to see the door of Halki open once more for the preparation of priests and to ensure future clergy and hierarchs for the great church of Christ. The 90 minute ferry ride to Halki transports you past a skyline of Ayia Sophia and the Blue mosque onto the island where Halki stands at the top of the mountain. Halki today is under the care and leadership of the charismatic, progressive, Metropolitan Elipdophoros.

One of the several places to visit is the monastery of Ayia Triada. The chapel and its surrounding garden is a beautiful oasis of spiritual tranquility in the midst of cosmopolitan Istanbul. The neighborhood of Baloukli which leads up to Ayia Triada is a living crypt of abandoned houses and stores from the once thriving community. The emptiness of this once thriving Greek society reminds you of how much so many have sacrificed.

Again, the face of Christ appears before us. This time we see Him in the faces of the young children attending the three schools of the Zographeion, Zappeion and Megali Tou Genous Scholi. Here, children, descendants of Greeks, who thrived in Constantinople, are educated with the watchful guidance and love of His All Holiness.

What lesson do I take from this ancient land? It is the lesson of sacrifice and endurance as put so succinctly by His All Holiness, "This [Constantinople] is the continuation of Jerusalem and for us an equally holy and sacred land. We prefer to stay here, even crucified sometimes; we await the joy of the resurrection."

Early in June Marina Corodemus and Stella Wacker traveled to Istanbul Turkey and had the unique opportunity to visit the Phanar and meet with His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew.



## Appreciation and Recognition Sunday

It was evident that Sunday, June 2, 2013 was a special day since everyone could feel the children's excitement in the air and witness their beautiful smiles of happiness. Our Sunday School students received their Certificates of Achievement for completing a successful year in their respective grade levels. They each received a token from their teacher and were sent off to enjoy a summer respite; however, they were strongly encouraged to attend church services with their families until Sunday School opens its doors again on the last Sunday in September.



After the Divine Liturgy, Father Michaels blessed each Sunday School teacher while Barbara Dulin, Superintendent of Sunday School and Irene Dimitratos, her assistant, presented each teacher with a Certificate of Appreciation and beautiful red roses.

Our Altar Boys were also shown appreciation for their services with a gift and a blessing. Father Michaels acknowledged each person individually with kind words of gratitude and thankfulness for their own unique contributions.



Helen Catelanos represented the Ladies Philoptochos Society to acknowledge and recognize our High School and College Graduates with the gift of a Bible and a blessing from Father Michaels, as well. Mrs. Catelanos mentioned each student's



school of graduation and the college each plans to attend in the Fall as well as their career aspirations. They were commended for their academic achievements and wished the best of luck in their future endeavors.

## Father of the Year 2013

This year's Father of the Year is George Seitis. His tireless work and devotion to the community have been central to the success of many Greek festivals and various annual luncheons held throughout the calendar year, year after year. This is an honor long over due for George's life. Congratulations George.



~ July 2013 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 2nd Wednesday after Pentecost	4 2nd Thursday after Pentecost Independence Day	5	6 2nd Saturday after Pentecost
7 Epistle: St. Paul letter to Galatians 3:23-29;4-5 Πρὸς Γαλάτας 3:23- 29; 4:1-5 Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23 Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 4.18- 23 40 Day Memorial Rose Sakel	8 Great Martyr Procopius Board Meeting 730PM	9 3rd Tuesday after Pentecost	10 3rd Wednesday after Pentecost	11	12 3rd Friday after Pentecost	13 3rd Saturday after Pentecost
14 Epistle: St. Paul letter to Titus 3:8-15 Πρὸς Τίτον 3:8-15 Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19 Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 5.14- 19	15	16 4th Tuesday after Pentecost	17 Great Martyr Marina	18 4th Thursday after Pentecost	19 4th Friday after Pentecost	20 Prophet Elias
21 Epistle: St. Paul letter to the Romans 6:18-23 Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους 6:18-23 Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13 Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 8.5- 13 Agia Markella Μαρκέλλα παρθενομάρτυς Celebration of the Xios Society with Artoclasia	22 Mary Magdalene, Equal to the Apostles	23 5th Tuesday after Pentecost	24 5th Wednesday after Pentecost	25 Dormition of St. Anna	26 Martyr Paraskeve	27 10AM- Divine Liturgy Agios Panteleimon Μεγαλομάρτυς Παντελεήμων
28 Epistle: St. Paul letter to the Romans 10:1-10 Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους 10:1-10 Gospel: Matthew 8:28-34;9:1 Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 8.28- 34, 9.1	29 6th Monday after Pentecost	30 6th Tuesday after Pentecost	31 6th Wednesday after Pentecost			

**Notes:**

**TWO SEATS REMAIN OPEN ON THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**ANYONE WISHING TO BE CONSIDERED**

**SHOULD CONTACT KATEINA GANIARIS**



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Marina Corodemus and Stella Wacker (standing center)  
Taksim Square, Istanbul Turkey June 2013

We're on the Web!

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