



ΙΕΡΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΜΑΡΙΑΣ ΜΑΓΔΑΛΗΝΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΡΚΕΛΛΗΣ



STS. MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2019 MAY NEWSLETTER



3714-16 Dublin Road, Darlington, MD 21034

PRESIDING PRIEST

THE REV. FR. ELEFTERIOS PLEVRAKIS

Office: 410-457-0303

Email: frelefterios@gmail.com

Website: stsmm.org

OFFICE HOURS

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

QUESTIONS? CALL OR VISIT US

(FOR OFFICE VISITS PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE)

LETTER FROM THE PRIEST

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen!

I hope and pray that all of you had a blessed Holy Week and Pascha. As I had mentioned in numerous occasions in my homilies, the saving grace of God is a Sacramental One; meaning, to be saved is to be in constant relationship with our Creator. Through our efforts, our essence is not simply purified, but it is unified to the One Body that makes it perfect. Our identity is realized only when we are able to see ourselves in the Person of Jesus Christ. Thus, Holy Week was not simply a remembrance of those life-saving events, but an opportunity to become part of this great gift given to us by our Lord.

I was pleased this year in seeing so many of us come to Church and fill the pews. We showed the Lord that even in our busy schedules, we continue to believe that there is nothing more important than our Orthodox faith. I hope and pray that having gone through Holy Week we are able to maintain the proper course and build strong momentum in our spiritual development so we may continue to seek God for the answers.

I personally want to thank all the Chanters, Altar Boys, Parish Council Members, Philoptochos, and the Silver Stars for being there throughout the entire Great Lent and Holy Week to help organize everything. I also want to express my gratitude to all parishioners and guests. Everything was a big success because of our positive attitude and strong will to succeed. God bless you all!

In Christ,

Fr. Elefterios

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

From the Parish Council

XRISTOS ANESTI! CHRIST IS RISEN!!

I hope that each of you had a most blessed and joyous Pascha and the spiritual renewal we all experienced comforts you and yours throughout the year. I want to thank Father Eleferios, the altar boys, the ushers, the parish council and the Ladies of Philoptochos for their efforts to give us a special Holy week. I cannot express enough my joy to see so many of you fill the Church during Holy Friday and the Anastasis. With God's grace our community will prosper and grow in the years to come. Let's all continue that wonderful involvement in the upcoming events.

Please mark your calendars for our Spring General Assembly May 19th, after the Divine Liturgy. We need everyone to discuss our Church's future and to plan the Festival. The upcoming Festival will be extraordinary if we all participate. Together we can achieve our goals for our beloved parish. I plead to every parishioner to volunteer for a few hours in the Festival. It will be rewarding for the entire family as we work shoulder to shoulder with fellow parishioners. We all have talents to offer, let's use them!!! Let's show the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and our Church. You are the ones that can bring Bel Air to our festival. Let us make an example of what Saints Mary Magdalene & Markella community is all about. May God bless you all!!!

With Love in Christ Fotini Kaminaris,
Parish Council President.

PROPOSED -PHILOPTOCHOS CALENDAR 9/01/2018 - 6/30/2019- AS OF 08/02/2018

***Please note if for any reason dates are changed for an event it will be announced in the church bulletin or via e-mail**

SEPTEMBER 1ST – Starts new Ecclesiastical Year. Start Philoptochos Membership Drive.

SEPTEMBER 16TH- GENERAL MEETING. Possible day for members to be sworn. Meet after Liturgy. Discuss Apple Festival preparations – October 6th. Pack desserts October 5th. Make edits and approve calendar. Discuss details for Boordy Vineyards Fundraiser. Prepare for Philoptochos Membership Drive and discuss strategy. We need to be more visual and involved every Sunday during Coffee Hour. Also, someone needs to be by the Pagari at the start of services. Discuss Coffee Hour duties and create Coffee Duty schedule

OCTOBER 5TH- Meet at church to prepare and pack desserts for Apple Festival

OCTOBER 6TH FUNDRAISER- Darlington Apple Festival. We will be selling various desserts and beverages

OCTOBER 7TH FUNDRAISER- Boordy Vineyards 6pm- to 9:30pm

OCTOBER 14TH - GENERAL MEETING- After Liturgy. Plan Thanksgiving Food Drive details

OCTOBER 28th - Philoptochos will pass OXI tray after liturgy to benefit Ecumenical Patriarchate (required)

NOVEMBER 11th – GENERAL MEETING. Meet after liturgy to discuss Saint Barbara Celebration luncheon 12/9/2018. Decide on Christmas Toy Drive/Needy Family. Discuss and plan for the Traditional Sweets for Christmas and Vasilopites. Plan our Christmas Dinner and decide if we will do gift exchange.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER- Will do our Christmas Dinner details to be determined

DECEMBER 9th – Agia Barbara Nameday-Philoptochos will sponsor luncheon. Pass tray to benefit Philoptochos Funds

DECEMBER 16th – 31st – CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER- Selling sweets and Vasilopitas

JANUARY 6th – Cutting Vasilopita and St. Basil Academy Tray to be passed

JANUARY 13TH – GENERAL MEETING. Meet after Liturgy. Discuss details for Spaghetti Dinner- date and details to be determined.

FEBRUARY 10TH- GENERAL MEETING. Meet after liturgy. Discuss all aspects of Festival preparations. Go over Senior Scholarship details. Start discussion and process to elect new Executive Philoptochos Board members to be in place by 09/01/2019

FEBRUARY 17th or 24th- FUNDRAISER- Spaghetti Dinner. Date to be confirmed later day after church's calendar is approved.

MARCH 10TH – GENERAL MEETING. Meet after liturgy. Discuss Easter preparations, Palm Sunday Luncheon, Easter egg dying and Tsourekia fundraiser. Lent starts 03/11/2019. Palm Sunday is 04/21/2019. Greek Holy Easter 04/28/2019. Discuss Easter flower purchase and Fundraiser details. Work on schedule for festival preparations.

APRIL 14TH- GENERAL MEETING. Meet after liturgy. Finish planning for Easter and Tsourekia preparations. Need to determine when dyed eggs and any help are needed for the Easter Tsourekia. Finalize details for Easter flowers

APRIL 20TH- Lazarus Resurrection Celebration. Meet after liturgy to help with Palm Sunday crosses and preparations

APRIL 21ST- Palm Sunday. Plan to be at church and help with any preparations

APRIL 21ST – 28TH FUNDRAISERS- Easter Tsourekia and various desserts will be sold. Easter Flower collection.

PROPOSED -PHILOPTOCHOS CALENDAR 9/01/2018 - 6/30/2019- AS OF 08/02/2018

***Please note if for any reason dates are changed for an event it will be announced in the church bulletin or via e-mail**

APRIL 25th- Holy Thursday- Meet at church 9am to dye eggs for Holy Saturday and work on Kavouklion flowers

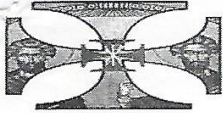
APRIL 26th- Holy Friday- Meet at church 9am (Check with Father Eleferios) to decorate and prepare Holy Kavouklion. Prepare Lenten luncheon for all present and helping.

MAY 12th- GENERAL MEETING. Meet after liturgy. Last meeting for ecclesiastical year. Vote and finalize new Executive Board members. Finalize details for Senior Student Scholarships. Finalize Festival preparations that Philoptochos is responsible for. JUNE 9th- Present Senior Student Scholarship(s)

JUNE 2019- Annual Dinner – Date, location and details to be determined...

JUNE 2019- Our Annual Church Festival- As of today Parish Council is still undecided. Date, location and details to be determined and calendar will be adjusted for any Festival preparations as needed.





Sts. Mary Magdalene & Markella Ladies Philoptochos Society, #1043

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc., is the duly accredited women's philanthropic society of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The mission of the Society shall be:

- To help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fund raising efforts; and
- To promote the charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through instructional programs, presentations, lectures, seminars and other educational resources;

2018 Philoptochos Membership

The ladies Philoptochos society of Sts. Mary Magdalene & Markella is a very active and integral part of our church supporting her growth and charitable projects in a variety of ways.

Becoming a member of our Philoptochos does not require a lot of your time, nor does it require that you attend every meeting and/or event. Please consider joining the Philoptochos and experiencing the true meaning of Philoptochos - philanthropy, fellowship and faith in action.

Member Name: _____

Member Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Home telephone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Stewardship Amount: \$ _____ **

** Please note that for each paid member \$15 will be sent to National Philoptochos and \$8 will be sent to our Metropolis on NJ Philoptochos to support national and regional initiatives. Any stewardship amount over \$23, will stay with our chapter and be applied to our many local and charitable projects. **

Please complete the form and mail your stewardship check to: Sts Mary Magdalene & Markella Ladies Philoptochos, #1043, Attention: Tina Stavrou, Treasurer, PO Box 1575, Bel Air, MD 21014.



DO NOT MISS THIS INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY

THE LADIES OF PHILOPTOCHOS AND MRS. IRENE TSAMBIKOS ARE OFFERING TWO ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UPCOMING COLLEGE STUDENTS.

TO APPLY, PLEASE VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE TO DOWNLOAD THE FORM. REFER TO THE **"FORM"** SECTION OF THE WEBSITE.

DONATIONS FOR HOLY WEEK

WE WANT TO THANK EVERYBODY FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES.

Special Paschal Offerings Palms for Palm Sunday were donated by Mr. Konstantinos & Maria Fokianos

Decoration of the Bridegroom Icon was donated by Mrs. Christina Meraklis and Mrs. Olympia Demedis.

Flowers for the base of the Cross on Holy Thursday was donated by Mrs. Englesson In memory of Mr. George Englesson.

Decoration of the Mystical Supper Icon on Holy Wednesday was donated by the Babiak Family.

The Wreath of the Cross on Holy Thursday was donated by Mrs. Paula Steber and her son Christopher for their Health.

The Candles for the Cross on Holy Thursday was donated by Mrs. Englesson in memory of George Englesson.

The Shroud for Christ at the Apokathelosis was donated by Mrs. Maria Batis

The rose petals decorating on the top of the Epitaphios was donated by Mrs. Deanna Mojgard.

Candles for the Kouvouklion on Holy Friday was donated by Mrs. Deanna Mojgard

Bay leaves for the Holy Saturday, were donated by Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kioutas.

Decoration of the Resurrection Icon was donated by Mr. Takis & Ioanna Rahaniotis in memory of John & Kyriaki Bahadouris.

Resurrection Candle for the Priest was donated by Mr. Gus and Fotini Kaminaris.

PASCHAL LILIES

DONATED BY

Mrs. Asimina Alivizatos & Robert Karl

Mr. & Mrs. Nikolaos Batis

Batsis Family

Mrs. Amalia Bilis

Mr. & Mrs. John & Eleftheria Brewster

Mrs. Helen Diamandaras

Mrs. Jeanette Englesson

Mr. Konstantinos & Maria Fokianos

Dr. Angela Kaitis

Mr. Gus & Fotini Kaminaris

Karas Family

Konstant Gus

Mathious Markella

Mayer Frank & Maria

Nikitaras Andreas

Silwick Vance & Jessica

Steber Paula & Christopher

Trikoglou Family

And

Nikitaras Andreas

IN MEMORY

Mother Eleni Bontzos

Georgios-Emmanuel- Eleni

Meropi & George Batsis, Sevasti & John & Manolis Stalas

Athanasios Bilis

Mom and Dad of Zinna Family

Angelo & Tarsoula

George Englesson

Despina & Emmanuel Hatzidakis,

Ekaterine & Christos Fokianos

Nicholas & Dorothy Kaitis

Eleni Bontzos, Yiayia Fotini

Despina & Emmanuel Kaminaris

Steve & Mary Karas

Margaret Konstant

John Mathious & Markella Mathioudakis

Chrisanthi & Louizou (Mother & Father)

Anna Antoniadis & Nick Markopoulos

Helen Silwick

George & Stavroula Karalekas

Antonios Trikoglou

For the Health & salvation of Andreas, Nicole & Spiros

We thank Mr. & Mrs Louis Foudos for their Offering for Easter

A heartfelt thank you to Olympia Demedis for providing the Lilies

IN memery of her beloved Kosma, Stelios & stergoula

Debunking Myths About the Date of Easter

johnsanidopoulos.com/2013/05/debunking-myths-about-date-of-easter.html



Unfortunately, most definitions on how we arrive at the date of Easter are wrong. The most typical wrong definition is this:

"Easter Sunday is the Sunday following the full moon after the Vernal Equinox."

Vernal means springtime, and countries in the Southern hemisphere have opposite seasons to those in the Northern hemisphere. Of course, Easter is not celebrated in September in the Southern hemisphere!

How are full moons related to Easter?

Also, almost everyone assumes that "full moon" refers to an astronomical full moon date. An astronomical full moon (AFM) occurs at one instant in time, and therefore occurs on 2 dates around the world (at any instant it is midnight somewhere in the world, with different dates for locales on either "side" of midnight). Again, countries do not celebrate different Easter dates based upon their own full moon dates!

Astronomical Full Moons dates are not directly related to Easter dates. Easter is based upon Paschal Full Moon (PFM) dates. This "full moon" does not currently correspond directly to any astronomical event, but is instead the 14th day of a lunar month, determined from tables. It may differ from the date of the actual full moon by up to two days. The date of Easter therefore varies between 22 March and 25 April for those who follow the Gregorian calendar. Eastern Christianity bases its calculations on the Julian calendar, whose 21 March corresponds, during the 21st century, to 3 April in the Gregorian calendar, in which the celebration of Easter therefore varies between 4 April and 8 May. The use of tables instead of actual observations of the full moon is useful and necessary since the full moon may occur on different dates depending where one is in the world.

Easter falls from one to seven days after the paschal full moon, so that if the paschal full moon is on Sunday, Easter is the following Sunday. Thus the earliest possible date of Easter is March 22/April 4, while the latest possible date is April 25/May 8.

How is the equinox related to Easter?

The equinox is not related to Easter! March 20/April 2 is the critical date for determining all Easters, and March 20/April 2 was the equinox date in 325 AD when the definition of an Easter date was agreed.

Particulars with the Julian Calendar

Though this was corrected in the Gregorian calendar, in the Julian calendar the ecclesiastical full moon drifts away from the true full moon by more than three days every millennium. It is already a few days later. As a result, the Orthodox churches celebrate Easter one week later than the Western churches about 50% of the time. (The Orthodox Easter is often four or five weeks later because the Julian 20 March is 13 days later than the Gregorian 20 March for years 1900 to 2099.)

What did the Council of Nicaea rule in 325 concerning the date of Easter?

The claim by the Roman Catholic Church in the 1582 papal bull *Inter gravissimas*, which promulgated the Gregorian calendar, that it restored "the celebration of Easter according to the rules fixed by ... the great ecumenical council of Nicæa" was based on a false claim by Dionysius Exiguus (525) that "we determine the date of Easter Day ... in accordance with the proposal agreed upon by the 318 Fathers of the Church at the Council in Nicaea." The First Council of Nicaea (325) only stated that Easter was to be celebrated by all Christians on the same Sunday—it did not fix any rules to determine which Sunday. In fact, there is no Canon from this Council that speaks of the date of Easter, but according to tradition it was discussed in the minutes, which no longer are extant and cannot be examined. The medieval computus was based on the Alexandrian computus, which was developed by the Church of Alexandria during the first decade of the 4th century using the Alexandrian calendar. The Eastern Roman Empire accepted it shortly after 380 after converting the computus to the Julian calendar. Rome accepted it sometime between the sixth and 9th centuries. The British Isles accepted it during the 7th century except for a few monasteries. Francia (all of Western Europe except Scandinavia (pagan), the British Isles, the Iberian peninsula, and southern Italy) accepted it during the last quarter of the 8th century. The last Celtic monastery to accept it, Iona, did so in 716, whereas the last English monastery to accept it did so in 931. Before these dates other methods were used which resulted in dates for Easter Sunday that sometimes differed by up to five weeks.

What is the right definition?

Easter Sunday is the Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon (PFM) date for the year. In June 325 A.D. astronomers approximated astronomical full moon dates for the Christian church, calling them Ecclesiastical Full Moon (EFM) dates. From 326 A.D. the PFM date has always been the EFM date after March 20/April 2 (which was the equinox date in 325 A.D.).

To Summarize ...

- Easter Sunday date is the Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon (PFM) date.
- The PFM is the first Ecclesiastical Full Moon (EFM) date after March 20/April 2
- PFMs are pre-defined dates.
- EFMs are approximated astronomical full moon dates, not actual astronomical full moon dates.



2019 MAY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

May 5: Thomas Sunday

- † 9:00 a.m. - Orthros
- † 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

May 12: Sunday of Myrrh-Bearing Women (Mother's Day)

- † 9:00 a.m. - Orthros
- † 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

**Mother's Day Brunch Hosted by Ladies of Philoptochos*

May 19: Sunday of the Paralytic

- † 9:00 a.m. - Orthros
- † 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

May 21: Tuesday - Sts. Constantine and Helen

- † 9:00 a.m. - Orthros
- † 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

May 26: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

- † 9:00 a.m. - Orthros
- † 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy



“Mystagogy” Resource Center

-By John Sanidopoulos

If one was to attend our Orthodox Services during great lent, they would immediately notice the emphasis we put in prayer and spiritual watchfulness. A great deal of effort and struggle is needed in order to properly prepare so one can experience the great mystery of the Holy Resurrection. Mr. John Sanidopoulos has been working for years in building his blog with hundreds of articles and translations of writings by current Orthodox Theologians and the Saints of our Church. Please take the time to refer to this treasure chest of knowledge so we can strengthen our faith in God .

<http://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2011/03/great-lent-resource-page.html>

****BREAKING NEWS****

NEW AND IMPROVED PARISH WEBSITE

Sts. Mary Magdalene and
Markella Greek Orthodox
Church

[HOME](#)

[OUR PARISH](#) ▾

[OUR FAITH](#) ▾

[CALENDAR](#)

[MORE](#) ▾



WE HAVE UPDATED OUR PARISH WEBSITE. CHECK IT OUT
FOR THE LATEST UPDATES ON THE CALENDAR AND CHURCH
RESOURCES.

**MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH
HOSTED BY THE LADIES OF PHILOPTOCHOS**

SUNDAY, MAY 12TH



**WE WANT TO INVITE EVERYONE TO THE MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH
THAT THE LADIES OF PHILOPTOCHOS IS HOSTING**

**LET US COME AND CELEBRATE ALL THE HARD WORK OUR
MOTHER'S HAVE DONE FOR US.**

2019 SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING



WE WANT TO REMIND EVERYONE THAT WE ARE HOSTING OUR
SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING ON **SUNDAY, MAY 19TH**
IN THE FUNCTION HALL.

WE ASK THAT YOU MAKE THIS MEETING A HIGH PRIORITY
THIS MEETING IS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND FEEDBACK
SO WE MAY CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY

**SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION
&
END-OF-THE YEAR YOUTH BARBEQUE**



JOIN US ON **SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH** AS WE CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF ANOTHER FUN-FILLED YEAR OF YOUTH PROGRAMS AT OUR PARISH.

WE WILL HAVE A DELICIOUS BARBEQUE FOR ALL THE PARISHIONERS.

COME ENJOY OUR SWING SET AND SLIDE, BASKETBALL HOOP, AND PING PONG TABLE.



13th Annual Bel Air Greek Festival

June 14—16, 2019

Fri. 4pm—10pm

Sat. 12pm—10pm

Sun. 12pm—7pm



THE JOHN CARROLL SCHOOL

703 E. CHURCHVILLE RD, BEL AIR, MD

Greek food & Desserts

Beer, Wine & Spirits

Amusement for Kids



Greek Music

Silent Auction & Vendors

Live Greek Folk Dancing

****FREE ADMISSION & FREE ON-SITE PARKING****



WWW.STSMM.ORG



Sts. Mary Magdalene & Markella Greek Orthodox Church

410.457.0303

2019 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Alatzas, George & Rene

Alatzas, Triffon & Stacia

Alivizatos, Asimina & Karl, Robert

Alsup, Andrew & Vasilias

Babiak, Christopher & Leslie

Bahadouris - Walters, Demetra

Batis, Nikolaos & Maria

Batsis, Nick & Nomiki

Batsis, Meropi & Komninos Psaro

Bilis, Amalia

Bontzos, Stylianos & Kalliopi

Caprinolo, Lee & Mary

Cioloa, Bogdan & Anca

Conway, Joseph & Jennifer

Demedis, Olympia

Dermatis, Minas & Panagiota

Diamandaras, Helen

Englesson, Jeanette

Fokianos, Konstantinos & Maria

Gallahue, Argie & Raymond

Giannaras, Chris

Giannas, Apostolos & Maria

Giannas, Erene

Giannas Stylianos & Maria

Giannas, Yianni

Gyoni, Lliambros & Kaliopi

Harris, Christina

Harris, Gus & Jacklyn

Hondrelis, Padelis & Effie

Hyde, Michael & Maryann

Kaitis, Dr. Angela

Kalamaras, Efstatios & Milicent

Kaminaris Gus & Fotini

Kanaras, Louis & Eleni

Kanaras, Thomas & Penny

Karas, Aimee

Karas, Andy

Karas, Bethany Anne

Karas, Daphne

Karas, John & Belinda

Karas, Katie

Karas, Michael & Linda

Karas, Peter & Kim

Karas, Scott,

Karas, Steven,

Karellas Eugenia

Kechagias, John & Noni

Kinder, William & Michelle

Kioutas, Nick & Shellie

Konstant, Eugenia

Konstant, Gus

Kornias, Christos & Irene

Kougianos, Dionisios & Argiro

Kramer, Bernie & Marsha

Mayer, Francis & Maria

Mimaros, Dimitrios & Argie

Mojarrad Deanna

Nikas, George & Diane

Nikitaras, Andreas & Nicole

2019 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Pappas, Basil & Linda

Perdikakis, George & Zoe

Pikounis Emmanuel & Helen

Plevrakis, Fr. Elefterios & Esther

Prapas, Spiros

Rahaniotis, Takis & Ioanna

Rajeweski, Leonard & Anastasia

Saliaris, Panagiotis & Evangelia

Sarris Gregory

Sarris, Sam

Sitaras, Dr. Peter & Diane

Stakias, Stellios & Tina

Stavrou, George & Tina

Steber, Christopher

Steber, Paula

Sudeck, Virginia

Tillman, Ezra

Trikoglou, Carole

Tsambikos, Irene

Varkarota, Christina

Yiannouris, Ioannis & Shawn

Total 2019 Stewards 80

Number of New Stewards 8

Total 2019 Pledged: \$ 64,540.00

Total 2019 collected: \$41,091.00

Total 2019 Outstanding: \$23,449.00

Average Stewardship Pledge: \$806.25