

ΙΕΡΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΜΑΡΙΑΣ ΜΑΓΔΑΛΗΝΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΡΚΕΛΛΗΣ

STS. MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

MARCH 2019 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,

I pray that all of you are doing well and that God continues to fill your lives with love and hope. In a more recent homily of mine, I spoke about the need for man to enter into the Spiritual "Gym" which is our Church.

When we enter into the Church we are entering into a place that is meant to heal man's body and soul through strength training. In Orthodoxy, that is what we call asceticism. Through the labors of our prayerful life we begin to lift up the heavy burdens that hold us down, and with a strong desire we throw the unnatural dead weight of sin (our passions) out of our bodies. We are reminded by the Father of the Church that our fallenness is corrected by the acts of the Holy Trinity. Thus, as long as we are seeking healing, we will always be around the remedy, which is God Himself.

As we enter into Great Lent, let us work hard so we may see the fruits of our labor at the end when we all become witnesses to the Great Mystery of the Holy Resurrection of our Lord. God bless all of you and may you all have a blessed Great Lent.

In Christ,

Fr. Elefterios

Αγαπητοί αδελφοί και αδελφές εν Χριστόν,

Προσεύχομαι ότι όλοι είστε όλοι καλά και ότι ο Θεός συνεχίζει να γεμίζει τις ζωές σας με αγάπη και ελπίδα. Σε μια πιο πρόσφατη ομιλία μου, μίλησα για την ανάγκη ο άνθρωπος να εισέλθει στο Πνευματικό "Γυμναστήριο" που είναι η Εκκλησία μας.

Όταν μπαίνουμε στην Εκκλησία εισερχόμαστε σε ένα μέρος που προορίζεται να θεραπεύσει το σώμα και την ψυχή του ανθρώπου. Στην Ορθοδοξία, αυτό ονομάζουμε ασκητισμό. Μέσα από τις εργασίες της προσευχής μας, αρχίζουμε να ανεβάζουμε τα βαριά φορτία που μας κρατούν κάτω και με μια ισχυρή επιθυμία πετάμε το αφύσικο νεκρό βάρος της αμαρτίας (τα πάθη μας) από το σώμα μας. Μας υπενθυμίζουν ο Πατέρες της Εκκλησίας ότι η πτώση μας διορθώνεται από τις πράξεις της Αγίας Τριάδας. Έτσι, όσο αναζητούμε θεραπεία, θα είμαστε πάντα γύρω από το φάρμακο, που είναι ο ίδιος ο Θεός.

Καθώς μπαίνουμε στη Σαρακοστή, ας δουλέψουμε σκληρά, ώστε να δούμε τους καρπούς της εργασίας μας στο τέλος, όταν όλοι γίνουμε μάρτυρες του Μεγάλου Μυστηρίου της Αγίας Ανάστασης του Κυρίου μας. Ο Θεός να σας ευλογεί και να έχετε όλοι μια ευλογημένη Σαρακοστή.

Εν Χριστόν,

π. Ελευθέριος

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we journey through Great Lent in anticipation of the Passion of our Lord and His Glorious Resurrection, we have an opportunity to re-examine our lives and our relationships with our family and friends. Do we show the kindness and love that our Lord asks of us? The love He showed during his sufferings is the model for how we should love others. Orthodox Christians around the world mark the beginning of Lent with the celebration of "Clean Monday." This ancient day and season brings forth weekly church services and the call to fast. I ask that you sacrifice some time away from work and home to attend church services and bring yourself closer to God and to observe the Orthodox fasting guidelines. But more importantly, let us not become indifferent to our neighbor and to God's voice. Lent is a time for penance, but also for compassion. Let's fast from our indifference towards the poor, homeless, and our neighbor. Let us open our hearts to God's calling. In modern times, we have just about exhausted every excuse in the world why not to fast, why not to attend the services. Each of us knows someone who needs to know that the saving Grace of Christ is waiting for them in the Sacraments.

As we take stock of our lives, the Church is here to guide us through Lent. Please do not miss the opportunity to take part in the beautiful services that the Church offers during this period and to connect with our Church by being involved. A healthy Church needs us all: children, young adults, parents, grandparents, and anyone else that wishes to come forward and ask how they can help our ministries and parish organization. This Lenten Season, take time to evaluate your commitments and ask yourself if you can dedicate some of your time to contribute to our community. Now is the time to give our humble offering to our Savior for all the many blessings he has given us. I would like to encourage everyone to attend the magnificent Lenten services, especially the Pre-sanctified Liturgies and the Salutations. These services are a magnificent way to renew our faith in Christ and his Church

Our church is extremely grateful to the members of the Axion Concert Committee, who have made substantial donations to our church and her ministries. The committee presented a donation for \$7,500.00 from proceeds from the October 28, 2019 Peggy Zina concert. We thank them for their generosity and graciousness to our parish. Plan on supporting the next events - Our next "Faith, Hope and Love" on March 14th at the Landmark Theater and Nikos Oikonomopoulos - Live in Baltimore on September 29th.

On behalf of our Parish Council,

Καλὸν Ἀγῶνα! Καλὴ Σαρακοστή!
We wish you all a blessed Lent!

Fotini Kaminaris

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

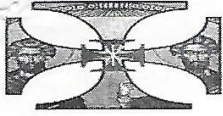
APRIL 26th- Holy Friday- Meet at church 9am (Check with Father Eleferios) to decorate and prepare Holy Kavouklion. Prepare Lenten luncheon for all present and helping.

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.

The Forty Day Fast of Saint Paisios the Athonite for the World

 johnsanidopoulos.com/2017/03/the-forty-day-fast-of-saint-paisios.html

By Archimandrite Christodoulos,
Abbot of Koutloumousiou Monastery

The Elder used to come to the vigils of our Monastery and would sit in a stall across from our domestic icon, the Awesome Protection. The brothers would also visit him regularly, and of course many pilgrims that were hosted by our Monastery. However, for a period of forty days – it was the year where he had the first symptoms of cancer - he would not appear when people would come by. He neither opened the door to his hut nor did he show us a sign that he was alive. This worried us. One day I decided to go by myself to his hut. I knocked on the door but received no response. I managed, though, to force myself in. Even though I had arrived anxious, I strangely felt an unidentifiable and inexplicable calm the moment I had entered.

As soon as I reached his small room, I saw the Elder sitting on a pillow on the floor with his hands resting on a floor table. His face showed signs of exhaustion. In front of him were a bunch of grapes and a little bread. I noticed that the room gave off an unexplainable and unknown fragrance, and that there was a gentle calm. I spoke first, asking his forgiveness and explaining to him how worried we were. With gentleness and simplicity, and with a voice that barely made it out of his lungs, Elder Paisios said: "For all of these days I had been fasting and praying for the world regarding the future calamities. I became exhausted. The Panagia came and gave me the grapes and the bread. Try some!"

I took some grapes. They had the color of Rhodian grapes, with a particular taste and aroma that I had not known before. "Elder, what was the Panagia like?" I asked. Supporting himself, and with great difficulty, he got up to bring me a small framed icon. It was the Panagia the Jerusalemite.

"She always appears as the Jerusalemite," he said to me. We talked for a little while longer and I then left him in peace, because I judged that at times like those, one must not be intrusive.

From the book *The Presence of Monasticism in the Contemporary World* (*Η παρουσία του Μοναχισμού στον σύγχρονο κόσμο*). Translated by John Sanidopoulos.

MARCH SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

March 2: Saturday - Saturday of Souls

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

March 3: Sunday - Judgment Sunday (Meatfare)

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

March 9: Saturday - Saturday of Souls

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

March 10: Sunday - Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)

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

March 11: Monday

- † *Great Lent Begins*

March 15: Friday - Salutations of the Holy Theotokos

- † 6:30 p.m. - *Salutations of the Holy Theotokos*

March 16: Saturday - Saturday of Souls

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

March 17: Sunday - Sunday of Orthodoxy

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

March 20: Wednesday - The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

- † 6:30 p.m. - *Presanctified Liturgy*

March 22: Friday - Salutations of the Holy Theotokos

- † 6:30 p.m. - *Salutations of the Holy Theotokos*

March 24: Sunday - Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

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

March 25: Monday - Holy Annunciation

- † *Service to be held at the Holy Cathedral of the Annunciation - Baltimore, MD (Call for Service Times)*

March 29: Friday - Salutations of the Holy Theotokos

- † 6:30 p.m. - *Salutations of the Holy Theotokos*

March 31: Sunday - Sunday of Holy Cross

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

**STS. MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA
"KATHARI DEFTERA (CLEAN MONDAY)"
CELEBRATION AND LENTEN MEAL**



**WE WANT TO INVITE ALL THE FAITHFUL TO OUR
CLEAN MONDAY CELEBRATION AND LENTEN MEAL.**

**IT WILL TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE
DIVINE LITURGY DOWNSTAIRS IN THE HALL ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH**

**ALONG WITH THE MEAL, WE WILL HAVE KITE FLYING.
WE WILL HAVE KITES AVAILABLE FOR THE YOUTH**

**SO COME AND ENJOY AMAZING FOOD AND
FELLOWSHIP AS WE PREPARE TO ENTER INTO THE
LENTEN PERIOD.**

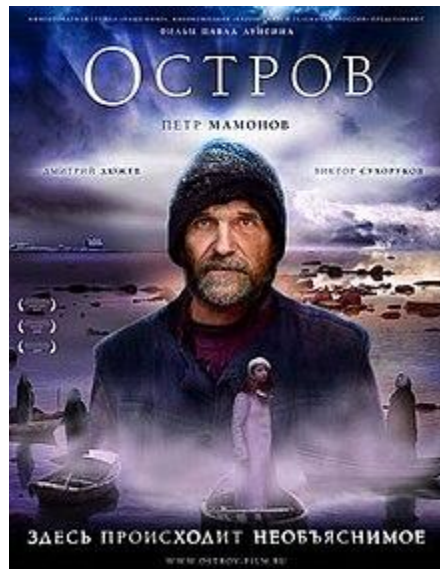
STS. MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA'S "ORTHOPRAXIA" BOOK CLUB

WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE EVERYONE FOR ANOTHER INFORMATIVE SESSION OF THE "ORTHOPRAXIA" BOOK CLUB. WE WILL MEET **THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH @ 7:00 P.M.** IN THE CHURCH HALL. WE WILL BE STUDYING VARIOUS GOSPEL LESSONS THAT ARE READ DURING GREAT LENT.

PLEASE EMAIL FATHER TO LET HIM KNOW YOU ARE INTERESTED AT:

FRELEFTERIOS@GMAIL.COM

MOVIE NIGHT



WE ARE APPROACHING GREAT LENT AND THAT MEANS WE ARE ENTERING INTO A PERIOD OF STRICT FAST AND ASCETIC WORK. AS ORTHODOX WE KNOW THAT SALVATION IS A FLOWER THAT BLOOMS ONLY AT THE END WHEN SOMEONE HAS PUT FIRST MANY SPIRITUAL STRUGGLES. WE ARE GETTING TOGETHER TO SEE THIS AMAZING FILM WHICH TEACHES US WHAT ALL OF THAT LOOKS LIKE. THE FILM IS IN RUSSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES.

JOIN US ON **THURSDAY, MARCH 21ST @ 7:00 P.M.**

WE WILL BE OFFERING SNACKS (POPCORN) AND BEVERAGES

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Lenten Resource Page



GREAT LENT IS A PERIOD IN WHICH MAN GROWS IN HIS FAITH WITH GOD THROUGH THE ASCETIC PRACTICES OF PRAYER AND FASTING. PLEASE REFER TO THIS LINK BELOW TO FIND MANY IMPORTANT RESOURCES AND GUIDELINES ON THE DEEP MEANINGS OF THIS LONG BUT LIFE CHANGING JOURNEY.

[HTTPS://WWW.GOARCH.ORG/LENT](https://www.goarch.org/lenit)



“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>

THINGS HAPPENING AT OUR ORTHODOX COMMUNITIES

*PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
25th annual*

NICHOLAS TSAKALOS MEMORIAL LENTEN RETREAT

*As heard on Ancient Faith Radio and
Healthy Minds Healthy Souls call-in radio*

*retreat masters
Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh
and
Dr. Roxanne Louh*

*"Daily principles you can apply to make 2019 the best year of your life,
spiritually"*

Saturday, March 23, 2019

9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

4:00 p.m. Great Vespers



\$30 per person includes breakfast and lunch

Registration deadline March 11th
After March 11, registration will be \$35

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation
24 W. Preston St., Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Information: www.goannun.org • click on "2019 Retreat"
Further questions: Jeanne Tsakalos - 410-252-6021 - Jeannetsakalos@hotmail.com

CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING NEW MOVIE



AXION CHARITY EVENTS Presents Private Pre-Screening



LANDMARK THEATRES



Harbor East

645 S. President Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

For Information and Tickets:

axioncharityevents@gmail.com

Eleni Roras - 443.621.0587 Olga Paterakis - 410.491.4066


Proceeds to Benefit the Greek Orthodox Churches of Baltimore



Greek Independence Day 2019



*Rekindle the Spirit
of Peace, Freedom and Democracy*



The Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade Committee
invites you to join us for the 24th annual parade
commemorating
Greek Independence Day,
a celebration of
Democracy and Freedom for All

Sunday, March 31, 2019
in Greektown, Baltimore, Maryland

Festivities will commence with a Dignitary and Press Reception
at Ikaros Restaurant
4901 Eastern Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21224
at 12:00 noon
followed by the Parade at 2:00 PM

COLORING FOR KIDS
“PRODIGAL SON”



2019 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Alatzas, George & Rene

Alsup, Andrew & Vasilias

Babiak, Christopher & Leslie

Bilis, Amalia

Caprinolo, Lee & Mary

Cioloa, Bogdan & Anca

Dermatis, Minas & Panagiota

Diamandaras, Helen

Engleson, Jeanette

Fokianos, Konstantinos & Maria

Giannaras, Chris

Giannas, Apostolos & Maria

Giannas, Erene

Giannas Stylanos & Maria

Giannas, Yianni

Hondrelis, Padelis & Effie

Hyde, Michael & Maryann

Kaitis, Dr. Angela

Kaminaris Gus & Fotini

Kanaras, Louis & Eleni

Kanaras, Thomas & Penny

Karellas, Eugenia

Kechagias, John & Noni

Kinder, William & Michelle

Kioutas, Nick & Shellie

Konstant, Eugenia

Kornias, Christos & Irene

Kougianos, Dionisios & Argiro

Kramer, Bernie & Marsha

Mayer, Francis & Maria

Mojarrad, Deanna

Nikas, George & Diane

Nikitaras, Andreas & Nicole

Pappas, Basil & Linda

Plevrakis, Fr. Elefterios & Esther

Prapas, Spiros

Rahaniotis, Takis & Ioanna

Rajewski, 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

Total 2018 Stewards: **49**

Number of New Stewards for 2019: **3**

Pledged: \$40,890 / Collected: \$14,080

Average Stewardship Pledge: **\$ 834.49**