



**ΙΕΡΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΜΑΡΙΑΣ ΜΑΓΔΑΛΗΝΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΡΚΕΛΛΗΣ**

**STS. MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

## 2019 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



3714-16 Dublin Road, Darlington, MD 21034

### PRESIDING PRIEST

THE REV. FR. ELEFTERIOS PLEVRAKIS

Office: 410-457-0303

Email: [frelefterios@gmail.com](mailto:frelefterios@gmail.com)

Website: [stsmm.org](http://stsmm.org)

### OFFICE HOURS

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

10:00 A.M. - 2:45 P.M.

**QUESTIONS? CALL OR VISIT US**

**(FOR OFFICE VISITS PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE)**

## LETTER FROM THE PRIEST

To all my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope and pray that everyone's life is filled with the blessings of our Lord. In just a couple of weeks, we will be entering into the Nativity Fast, which is an opportunity for all of us to prepare to receive our very own Savior. The Incarnation of our Lord is the point in our history in which man stops being a stranger towards his Creator, and becomes a child of God.

Since the Fall, when man decided to take on the world alone, without the light of God, humanity has struggled to find its true identity and purpose in life. Without the image of God, man became lost in the tides of time without any real direction. Life's coordinates were taken over by sin and death and there was no way of fixing that. That is, of course, until the Incarnation.

When we come to Church and consume the Body and Blood of Christ, we are entering into the Kingdom of God. It is the same place where all the angels and Saints of the Church can be found. Thus, the Incarnation is not just the Birth of our Lord, but the union of man to God and the eternal living of all Creation.

Every Sunday, I try to teach all the faithful the importance of coming to Church. It is a matter of life and death when we speak of the sacraments. Not necessarily bodily death, but of spiritual death. We learn by listening to the beautiful hymns of the Church and the reading of the Gospel that eternal life in God only becomes a reality for us when we decide to work towards it. It is never forced on us.

I am pleased to see that our faithful have worked very hard to be close to the Church and to help others find their way through any difficult times. We have grown in numbers and our finances are continuously improving. Support from other communities is stronger than ever, and our youth ministries have outgrown initial expectations. I want to extend my thanks to all the parents and grandparents for helping the Church by inspiring the youth. We plan on doing a lot more for them as we continue to transition.

Once again, I urge all the faithful to attend Church services and to help in the various ministries of the parish. I look forward to working with everybody in accomplishing our goals. Please do not hesitate to approach me with any comments or concerns. May we have a beautiful and blessed Nativity Fast. God Bless!

In Christ,

Fr. Elefterios

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

My fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November, what a beautiful month for enjoying the change of our surroundings. Crisp and cool air, changing colors on the leaves, sweet smell in the air of baking and cooking and celebrations of many Saints of our Church. That is the reason why we selected the month of November for the renewal of our 2020 Stewardship. Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life that acknowledges our responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is spiritual growth. We become Stewards when we believe in God and begin to act on our beliefs. As Orthodox Christians, we acknowledge that every aspect of our life is a gift from Him. We are called to offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which we have been blessed. Since most of us need to prepare for financial commitments ahead of time, so is our Church.

I would like to remind ourselves that as Orthodox Christians of our Church, we have a responsibility to participate in the growth of our Church. It is important to value the time we spend at Church in worship, service and activities. The most personal, most appreciated and most unique gift that we can give is the gift of time. The time that we give to one - another in God's House is priceless. Stewardship does not need to become a program or an appeal, it is a way of life. Its success is only as great as the number of people who are behind it. Always remember that we are not giving to the Parish, we are giving to God. We are returning to God in thanksgiving for what He has done for us. We are only managers of God's Kingdom, and we have a responsibility to protect and grow God's gifts.

Let us all be active parishioners, commit the use of time, talent and treasure for the benefit of our Church. It will be such a rewarding acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

We have set November 24<sup>th</sup> as our renewal day of Stewardship. You will be receiving the new stewardship form, please fill the form according to what you are comfortable of offering to the Church. You don't have to fulfill your 2020 stewardship until next year, but your commitment will help us plan forward.

As we are coming to the end of our calendar year, we pray that our Loving Lord grants each of us, all that we pray for. Please take the challenge that God is offering us and be active stewards financially and actively. 2019 has been an enormous gratifying year for our Church, let us make 2020 even bigger and better.

On behalf of the Parish Council we wish all of you A HAPPY THANKSGIVING.

With Love in Christ

Fotini Kaminaris – Parish Council President

## **STS. MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA PHILOPTOCHOS CALENDAR**

09/08/2019- General Meeting: Welcome new board members. Review calendar and finalize dates. Brainstorm about Charitable opportunities and plan upcoming year. Discuss Apple Festival preparations. Brainstorm about other Fundraisers and add to calendar. Start calendar for Coffee Hour duties

10/13/2019- General Meeting: Discuss annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

11/10/2019- General Meeting: Discuss and plan for Agia Barbara's celebration which falls on Wednesday - 12/04/2019. Decide when to host luncheon and various duties. Discuss and plan for Christmas Cookie and Vasilopita Fundraisers

December Fundraiser: Sell Christmas cookies and Vasilopitas

01/05/2020- Cutting of the Vasilopita and our yearly passing of tray to collect money to benefit St. Basil Academy.

02/09/2020- General Meeting: Discuss and decide about annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. Start planning for our yearly church Festival

03/08/2020- General Meeting: Discuss and plan for Easter activities. Decide when to start the Easter Bread and Easter Flower fundraisers. Greek Easter 4/19/20. American Easter 4/12/20. Discuss and prepare for High School Graduate Scholarship. Select actual date for scholarship presentation. We will meet in May due to the Easter holiday?

4/12/2020 is Greek Palm Sunday and American Easter

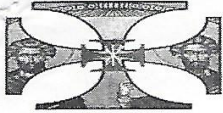
04/12/2020 Palm Sunday: Easter Bread and Easter Flower Fundraisers

04/17/2020 Holy Friday: Meet at church to decorate the Epitaphio and our church for Easter.

05/10/2020- General Meeting: Final discussions for Festival and Sts. Mary Magdalene and Markella name-day celebration. Plan our yearly Philoptochos party.

June 2020- Philoptochos Group Dinner- Date to be Determined

June 2020 : Our Church Festival



## 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;

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### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

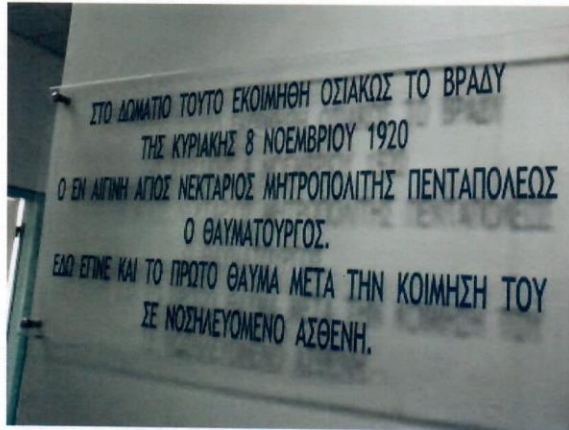
Stewardship Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*

\*\* 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 Hospital Room St. Nektarios Reposed In and Did His First Posthumous Miracle

[johnsanidopoulos.com/2014/11/the-hospital-room-st-nektarios-reposed.html](http://johnsanidopoulos.com/2014/11/the-hospital-room-st-nektarios-reposed.html)



"In this room Saint Nektarios of Aegina, the Metropolitan of Pentapolis and Wonderworker, reposed venerably on the night of Sunday 8 November 1920. Here also he did his first miracle after his repose to a sick man."

Saint Nektarios reposed in Athens on the evening of November 8, 1920, at the age of 74, following a two month hospitalization for prostate cancer. The commemoration date for his feast was later set for the next day, November 9, because November 8 is the feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels.

During the last days of his life, the Saint was in the room for the incurables of the hospital, among many poor patients who were at the point of death. Beside his bed there was a patient who was paralyzed for years. As soon as the Saint gave up his spirit, a nurse of the hospital together with the nun Euphemia (who with nun Agapia from Aegina was by the side of the Saint the entire time of his hospitalization), began to prepare the holy body for transportation to Aegina and burial. When they removed the old sweater of the Saint, they placed it for convenience on the bed of the paralytic and continued preparing the body. Strangely, the paralytic patient at once became well and rose from his bed, praising the Lord. This was the first miracle after the repose of the Saint, through which the Lord confirmed the sainthood of Metropolitan Nektarios.



One of the nurses of the Saint was named Stasha Kalokagatho, whose husband suffered from an incurable illness. Stasha, after the repose of the Saint, wiped a little bit of myrrh with cotton from the forehead of the Saint, and anointed with this her sick husband, who was instantly cured and attended the funeral ceremony of Saint Nektarios in Aegina. It is worth mentioning that the gauzes removed from the holy body were fragrant and that is why the nurses did not throw them into the furnace (as usual) but they buried them.

Today the hospital room in which the Saint reposed is a shrine dedicated to the Saint in Aretaeio Hospital in room 2 on the second floor, among others who are suffering with cancer and undergoing surgery. Previous to 2008 the bed on which the Saint reposed was kept in a storage area, but in 2008 it was returned to his hospital room. There a vigil lamp continuously burns before his all-revered icon. One surgeon of the hospital says: "Before I do a surgery, I light a candle and always ask for the help of the Saint." Other doctors and nurses also say they begin their day by coming to this room and saying a prayer, seeking the aid of the Saint. Crowds of faithful visit this room daily, especially the sick, and leave physical and invisible tears as they pray to the philanthropic Saint. This included the late Archbishop Christodoulos of Athens and All Greece, who would daily come to this room when he was suffering from cancer in 2007. Saint Nektarios gives the faithful courage and strength by reminding them that even though they may hurt mentally and physically, it is still possible to have constant contact and communion with God.







# THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE LADIES OF PHILOPTOCHOS IS HAVING THEIR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE. THEY ARE ASKING ALL THE FAITHFUL TO HELP THEIR STRONG EFFORTS IN SERVING THOSE IN MOST NEED DURING THE HOLIDAYS. ALL FOOD WILL BE DELIVERED TO WILSON'S MEMORIAL CHURCH.

FOR THIS YEAR THEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTING A COMPLETE MEAL IN A BASKET, WHICH MEANS THE MORE ITEMS WE COLLECT, THE MORE BASKETS CAN BE MADE, AND THE MORE MOUTHS WE CAN FEED.

**PLEASE REFER TO LIST BELOW FOR A COMPLETE ITEM LIST.**

~ 15 lb. Turkey  
Pancake Syrup (24 oz)  
Cranberry Sauce (14 oz)  
Turkey Gravy (10 oz)  
Brownie Mix  
Instant mashed potatoes (13 oz)  
Peanut Butter (16 oz)  
Pancake Mix (32 oz)

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# 2019 November Schedule of Services

## November 3: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

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

## November 9: Feast Day of St. Nektarios the Wonderworker

- † 8:30 a.m. - Orthros
- † 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

## November 10: 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

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

**\*\*November 15<sup>th</sup> Nativity Fast Begins\*\***

**Holy Unction Service will be held at St. Nicholas @ 6:00 p.m.**

## November 17: 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

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

## November 20: Great Vespers for The Entrance of the Theotokos

- † Vespers Begins at 6:30 p.m.

## November 21: The Entrance of the Theotokos

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

## November 24: 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

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

## November 25: St Catherine the Great

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



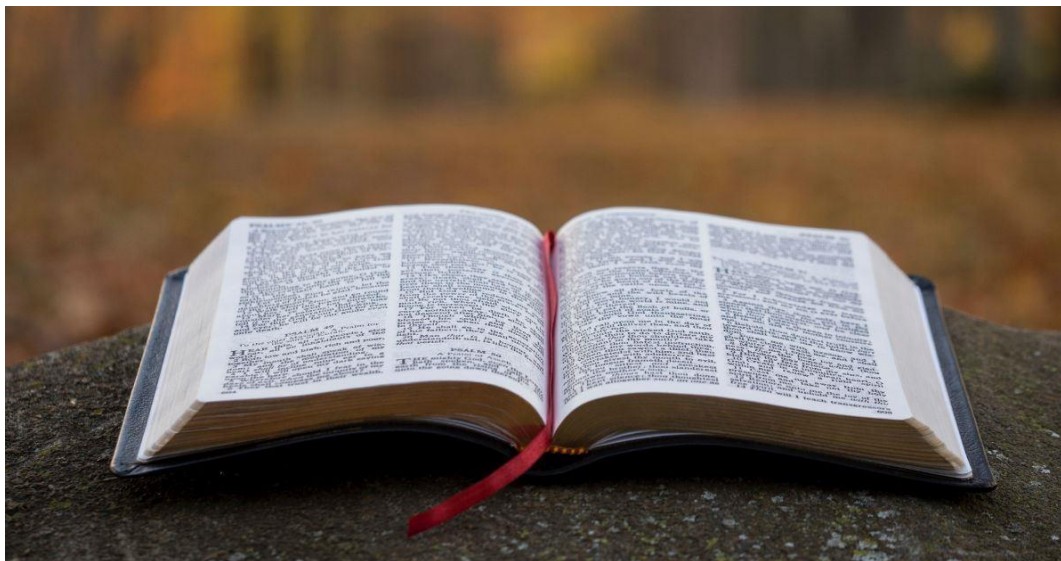
# “Mystagogy” Resource Center

-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>

# ORTHOPRAXIA BOOK CLUB SESSION



WE WANT TO INVITE ALL FAITHFUL TO OUR NEXT ORTHOPRAXIA BOOK CLUB SESSION. WE ARE CONTINUING OUR READING OF THE GOSPEL OF ST. JOHN.

COME JOIN US AT THE CHURCH HALL ON **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>** AT 7:00 P.M.

WE WILL HAVE COFFEE/HOT TEA AND SOME PASTRIES. SEE YOU THEN!



**IN CELEBRATION OF THE FEASTDAY  
OF OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS  
ST. NEKTARIOS**



**Bishop of Pentapolis and Wonder-Worker**

You are invited to participate in the  
Celebrations in honor of our Patron Saint.

Presided by  
His Eminence,  
Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey

**Friday, November 8, 2019**

Hierarchical Great Vespers  
6:30 p.m.

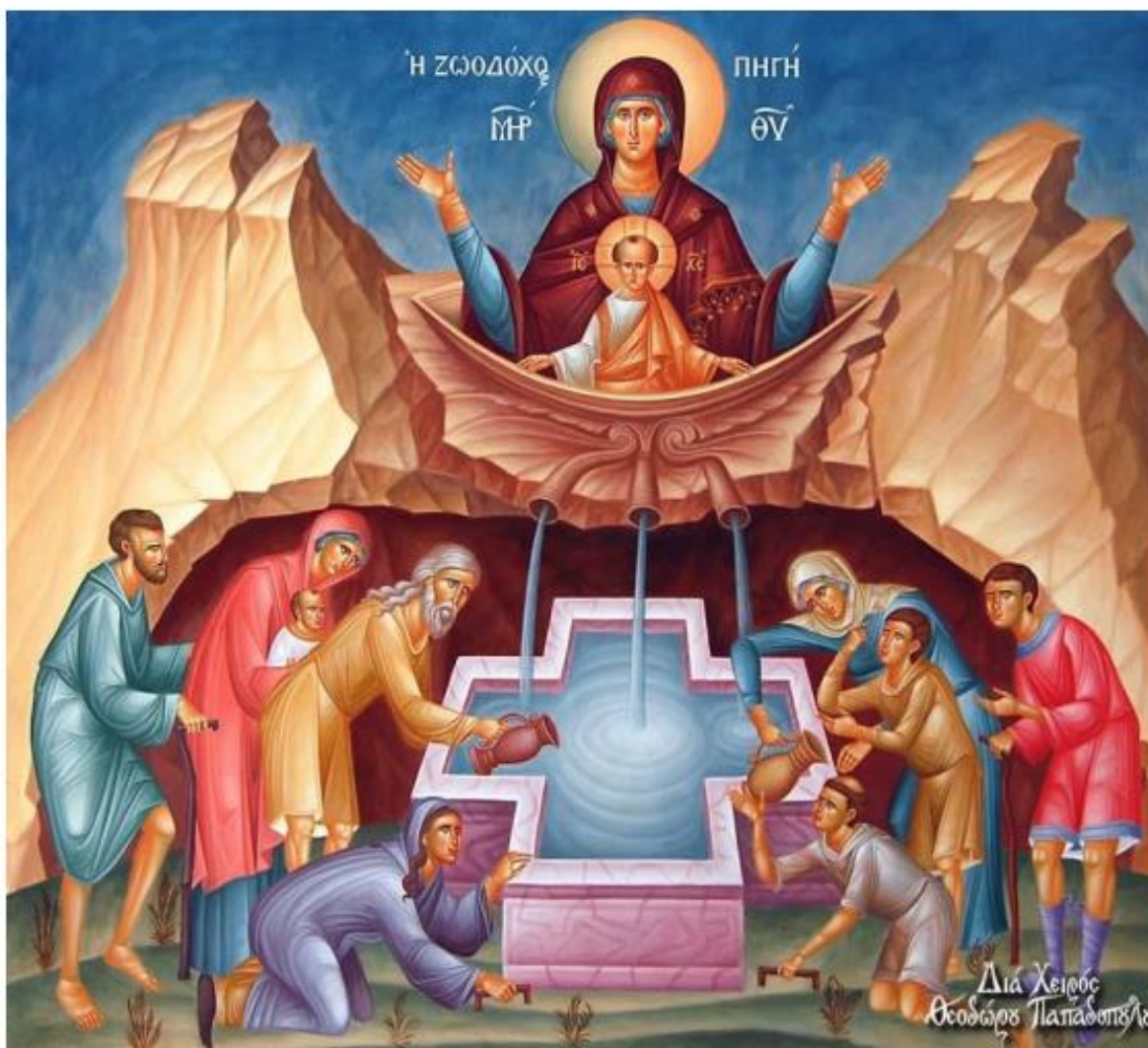
**Saturday, November 9, 2019**

Orthros - 8:30 a.m.  
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy - 10:00 a.m.  
(Lunch to follow)

**SAINT NEKTARIOS GREEK ORTHODOX MONASTERY & RETREAT CENTER**

8700 Hampton Valley Road  
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

# Sts. Mary Magdalene & Markella Iconography Fundraiser



WE ARE COLLECTING DONATIONS TO HELP FUND OUR ICONOGRAPHY PROJECT.

**TOTAL COST OF PROJECT: \$6,000.00**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP, PLEASE PLACE YOUR OFFERING IN THE BOX BELOW, OR DONATE THROUGH OUR WEBSITE BY GOING TO "GENERAL DONATIONS."

IF PAYING ELECTRONICALLY, WE ASK THAT YOU WRITE A NOTE SPECIFYING IT'S FOR THE ICON.

# 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 OUT THE  
LATEST UPDATES ON THE CALENDAR AND CHURCH  
RESOURCES.



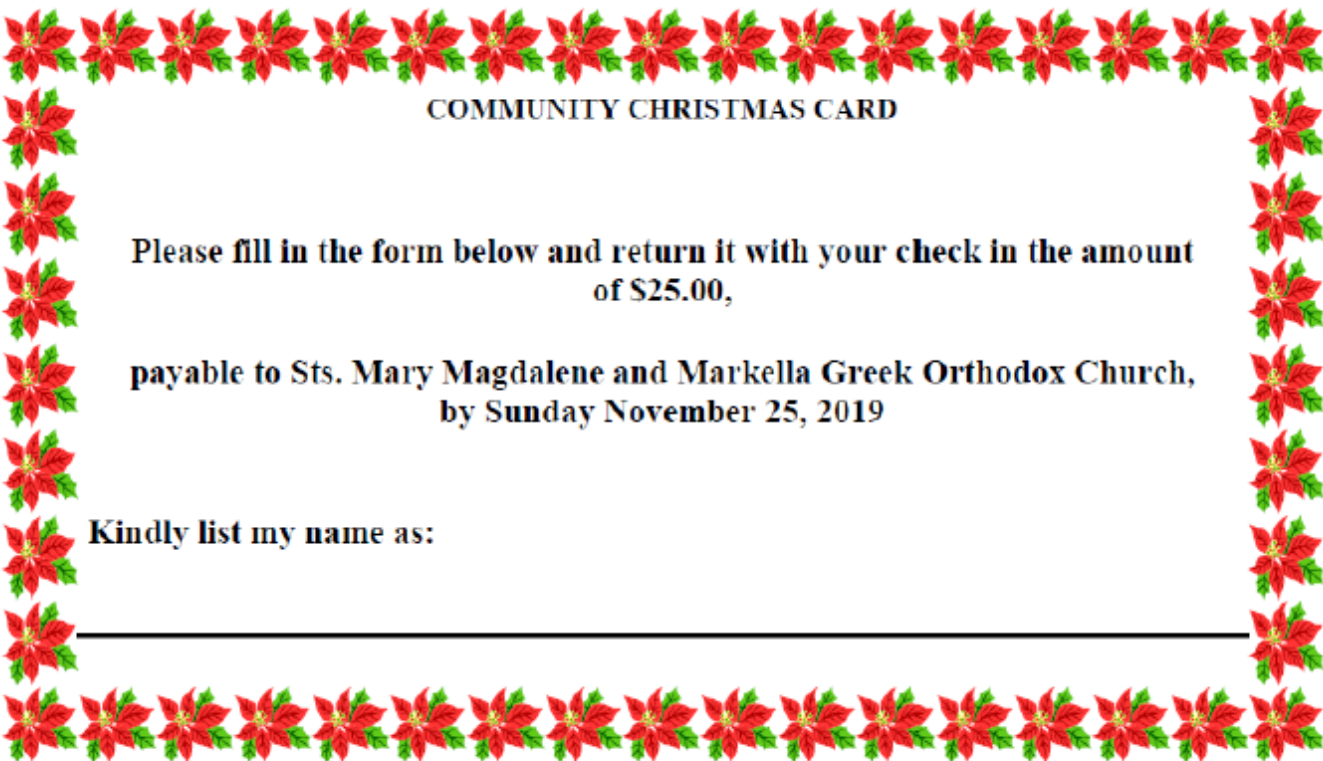
WE WANT TO LET THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY KNOW THAT WE ARE ALSO ACCEPTING ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS FOR YOUR NEXT DONATION TO THE CHURCH. HERE IS A LIST OF DEPARTMENTS THAT YOU CAN DONATE TO:

**BUILDING FUND  
CHURCH SUPPLIES  
GENERAL DONATION  
LADIES OF PHILOPTOCHOS  
STEWARDSHIP  
YOUTH GROUP**

JUST VISIT THE WEBSITE AND PRESS "DONATIONS." IT IS FAST, CONVENIENT, AND GREAT FOR RECORD KEEPING.

\*FOR GREEK SCHOOL, PLEASE SPECIFY BY WRITING THAT IN THE NOTES; OTHERWISE, YOUR DONATION WILL BE ADDED TO THE GENERAL YOUTH FUND.





COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Please fill in the form below and return it with your check in the amount of \$25.00,

payable to Sts. Mary Magdalene and Markella Greek Orthodox Church, by Sunday November 25, 2019

Kindly list my name as:

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POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

These plants, at \$25.00 each, may be offered for your loved ones. The plants will adorn the church.

Please make check payable to Sts. Mary Magdalene and Markella Greek Orthodox Church, and return by Sunday December 1, 2019.

I would like to offer \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia plant(s)

In Memory of:

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In Honor of:

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Offered by: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2019 STEWARDSHIP LIST

Alatzas, George & Rene

Alatzas, Triffon & Stacia

Alivizatos, Asimina & Karl, Robert

Alsup, Andrew & Vasilia

Bahadouris - Walters, Demetra

Babiak, Christopher & Leslie

Batis, Nikolaos & Maria

Batsis, Meropi & Komninos Psaro

Batsis, Nick & Nomiki

Bilis, Amalia

Bontzos, Stylianos & Kalliopi

Butterworth, Greg & Kalia

Caprinolo, Lee & Mary

Cioloa, Bogdan & Anca

Conway, Joseph & Jennifer

Demedis, Olympia

Dermatis, Minas & Panagiota

Diamandaras, Helen

Engleson, Jeanette

Fafalios, Ava

Fokianos, Konstantinos & Maria

Giannaras, Chris

Giannas, Apostolos & Maria

Giannas, Erene

Giannas Stylanos & Maria

Giannas, Yianni

Gikas, John & Lola \*\*

Gyoni, Llambros & Kaliopi \*\*

Harris, Christina

Harris, Gus & Jacklyn \*\*

Hondrelis, Padelis & Effie \*\*

Hyde, Michael & Maryann

Kaitis, Dr. Angela

Kalamaras, Efstatios & Milicent

Kaliakoudas, Evangelos & Eleni

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, Alex \*\*

Kougianos, Dionisios & Argiro \*\*

Kramer, Bernie & Marsha

Logothetis, Nikolaos & Maria

Mayer, Francis & Maria

Mavrelis, Vasilios & Efthymia \*\*

Mimaros, Dimitrios & Argie

Mojarrad, Deanna

Nikas, George & Diane

Nikitaras, Andreas & Nicole \*\*

Christos Nikitaras \*\*

Nikitaras, Spiro

Pappas, Basil & Linda

Perdikakis, George & Zoe \*\*

Pikounis Emmanuel & Helen

Plevrakis, Fr. Elefterios & Esther

Prapas, Spiros

Rahaniotis, Takis & Ioanna

Rajewski, Leonard & Anastasia

Roros, Bill & Mary

Saliaris, Panagiotis & Evangelia

Sarapis, Stavros & Marina

Sarris, Gregory

Sarris, Sam

Sitaras, Dr. Peter & Diane

Stakias, Stelios & Tina

Stavrou, George & Tina

Stavrou, Stamatios

Steber, Christopher

Steber, Paula

Stelato III, James \*\*

Sudeck, Virginia

Tillman, Ezra

Trikoglou, Carole

Tsambikos, Irene

Tsiatsoulis, Leonidas & Eirini Anastasiou \*\*

Varkarota, Christina

Yiannouris, Ioannis & Shawn

Total 2019 Stewards: **93**

Number of New Stewards for 2019 (\*\*): **14**

Pledged: **\$74,015.00** / Collected: **\$63,570.00**

Outstanding Balance: **\$10,445.000**

Average Stewardship Pledge: **\$ 795.86**