



ΙΕΡΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΜΑΡΙΑΣ ΜΑΓΔΑΛΗΝΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΡΚΕΛΛΗΣ



STS. MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2019 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



3714-16 Dublin Road, Darlington, MD 21034

PRESIDING PRIEST

THE REV. FR. ELEFTERIOS PLEVRAKIS

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Email: frelefterios@gmail.com

Website: 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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I pray that everyone is doing well, and that the adjustment from summer vacation to the work and school schedules was smooth. While vacationing can be relaxing and rewarding all at the same time, it is only when we get back to our homes, careers, schools, and, most importantly, our Churches that we see true progress in our lives. We can see all throughout nature that the strength of any future growth is proportional to its root system, which means if we expect to grow at all, we must focus not only on the things found on the surface, but on the part that is least visible; the part that is frequently ignored or just simply forgotten. In the case of our own lives, it is our faith and the voice of God that speaks in us that fades away in the distance. We continue to seek worldly wisdom with great curiosity and fervor, but very few of us seek the words of God. We make famous musicians and actors our role models, but rarely do we hang an icon of our Saint to learn humility and Orthodox asceticism. We seek famous quotes from the scientists and inventors, but never do we listen to the wisdom of our grandparents.

We have become strong believers in God, but in the imageless God; the customizable God that resembles more of our broken selves than anything else. We do not want God to be The True Eternal God, The Personal God, The Incarnated God, but some God that has its source in the thoughts of Man. We self-indulge in our passions, and then expect a clear vision of God to appear to us from somewhere. The truth is this kind of life only comes out of a script of a horror film.

To avoid this scary outcome we must spend less time and resources filling our lives with the random clutter of this world, and spend more quality time in building God's presence in our hearts. Life can be scary and dangerous, or it can be peaceful, bright, and filled with the gifts of God. We have the choice on what side of the fence we want to live on. Let us not give the reasons anymore on why we cannot, but build a case for ourselves in why we ought to. Let us make the grounds of the Church the place where we will foster change in our lives and to become true children of God.

I am very happy to write in this month's newsletter that this year has definitely been a year that we have pushed ourselves to make this into a reality. We accepted our challenges without allowing them to ever become a burden. We grabbed opportunities the very moment they became available. We treated each new individual as a new family member. Over time, our Church has become not a place to simply come by and see, but a place to stay. Today, as our Divine Services become fuller and our ministries continue to grow, we are once again showing to our Lord that our hearts are not measured by the size of the Church or Hall, but by the love we have for Him.

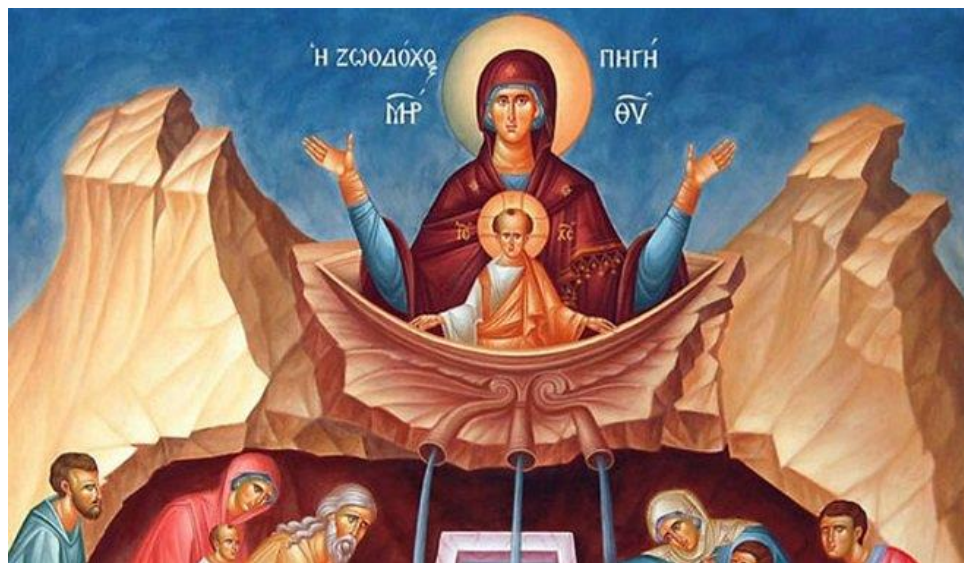
I want to underscore that the Church is the Body of God, which is also our home. Therefore, we must take care of it and always be attentive to its needs. In other words, we need to be aware of who are its Stewards, who are its guests, what are its goals, and what vision does it have. Without searching for answers to these questions, we are seeking salvation blindly which does not work. Just like the Church cannot move simply by its council members, or by its priest alone, our salvation cannot happen by just a belief, lacking connectivity to the needs of the parish. I always stress to the faithful, just when you think you have done enough, always ask the questions that will continue to challenge you.

As we enter into the Fall season and coming closer to the holidays, let us take on that challenge by coming to church services, bringing our children to the different ministries, becoming a part of the Ladies of Philoptochos, and so on. I also ask that people become more involved in our upcoming General Assembly meeting so we can decide on important matters with much consideration and input.

I want to thank all the new families that have just recently joined our parish. I am very grateful for their enthusiasm and how hard they are working to help stimulate the overall life of our Church. With this new found energy, I look forward to accomplish our goals of increasing youth numbers, starting other ministries for adults and youth, and even adding some Iconography. I am a firm believer that nothing can hold us back from all of these accomplishments, other than our own indifference, lack of motivation, or our physical attendance. Therefore, I continue to pray that we journey through this New Ecclesiastical Year with a strong love for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and one another, which will ultimately permeate into the growth of our parish.

In Christ,

Fr. Elefterios Plevrakis



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

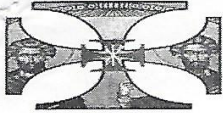
04/12/2020 Palm Sunday: Easter Bread and Easter Flower Fundraisers

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;

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.



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.

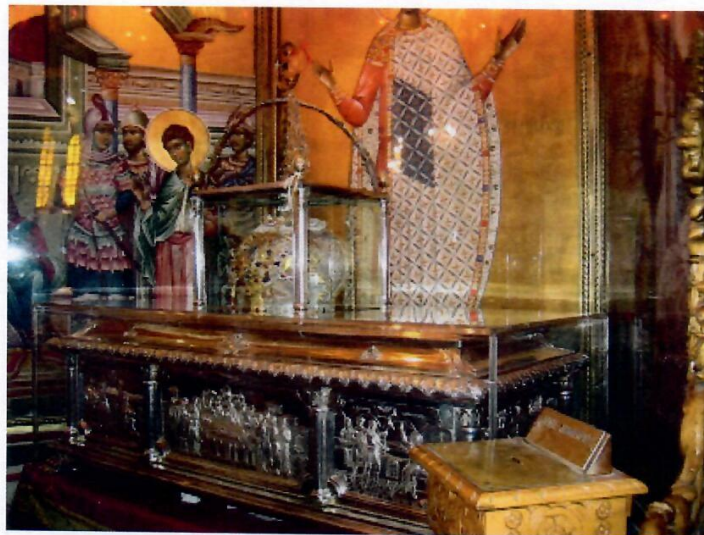
FOR THIS YEAR THEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTING A COMPLETE MEAL IN A BASKET, WHICH MEANS THE MORE ITEMS WE COLLECT, THE MORE BASKETS CAN BE MADE, AND THE MORE MOUTHS WE CAN FEED.

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)

The Myrrhgushing Miracle of St. Demetrios in 1987: A Testimony

johnsanidopoulos.com/2011/10/myrrhgushing-miracle-of-st-demetrius-in.html



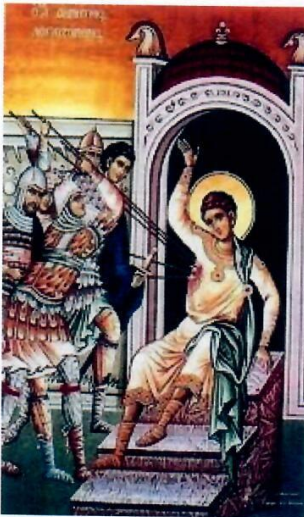
It was October 26, 1987. The time was past 10:00 p.m. The city was celebrating the memory of the contest of its patron saint, St. Demetrios, and the freedom from the nearly five hundred years (1430-1912) occupation by the Ottomans. The Church of St. Demetrios with open doors received its nightly venerators, who were kneeling in front of the silver casket with the holy relics of the Myrrhgusher. At that moment there must not have been more than thirty to forty people in the church. A circle of about ten women were in front of the shrine, chanting the Paraklesis of the Saint. The only clergyman who

attended, was the young and newly-ordained deacon of the church with his deaconess-wife. The then head of the church and now Metropolitan Panteleimon of Beroia, Naoussa and Campania, had ordered them to be there and wait for him.

Suddenly, the women singing the Paraklesis began to yell. The deacon ran to them and the women, with mixed feelings, showed him the casket. It was literally bathed in an oily myrrh formation (we say myrrh because the smell was incomparable). One could have said with certainty that someone poured onto it at least two "buckets" of aromatic liquid (I use the word "buckets" to mean that the quantity of myrrh that slid down the solid walls of the silver casket to the embossed depiction was great).

The deacon for a moment was baffled: the Saint is gushing myrrh! Without any doubt at all about the miracle, and finding himself in a state of joy, surprise and excitement, he ran to bring cotton from some furniture of the sanctuary. He returned running and started wiping with cotton the myrrh from the outer walls of the shrine and gave parts of this fragrant cotton to pilgrims. He would wipe it up and the myrrh would not stop, but kept mystically flowing, without any visible source. Characteristically, one fact made an impression: with a large piece of cotton he wiped the myrrh of a smooth area of the casket. The cotton wiped away the myrrh, like when you wipe a glass with a dry cloth, pressing it well and removing moisture that can exist on it. A woman wiped with the palm of her hand on the part of the shrine that had just been wiped. The deacon, with amazement, saw her hand wet by the oily yellow myrrh!

Meanwhile, the scent flooded throughout the church and overflowed from the open doors to St. Demetrios Street, attracting passers-by who rushed in to see what was happening and from where came this fragrance. Everyone headed to the casket with the relics of Saint Demetrios, who was not placed in the tomb (it had not yet been constructed), but in front of the iconostasis.



The pleasant surprises did not stop there! The pilgrims found that all the icons of the church, wherever they were, in the shrines or church, flowed myrrh. Indeed, the deacon saw pilgrims take out paper towels and wipe the glass protected icons of the church and the paper towels turned yellow from the myrrh which "ran" from both sides of the glass, interior and exterior. The size of the miracle

did not leave the slightest room for doubt. We did not understand what we were witnessing, it was like a dream in the mist, but we lived it! We touched it with our hands, we saw it with our eyes, we smelled it with our sense of smell!

In a short time there formed a line of people with tears in their eyes venerating the casket of the Myrrghusher, who realized why he was so nicknamed.

Meanwhile there arrived to the church the head priest and other clergy. They unlocked the openings of the casket and found the holy relics of the patron saint of Thessaloniki. Though fragrant, it was the particular scent of sacred relics. The fragrance of myrrh was different and distinctive.

The blessed Metropolitan Panteleimon II Chrysofakis of Thessaloniki, attributed the miracle of the myrrhgushing of St. Demetrios to this fact: That evening, at the gala ceremony at the University for the freedom of Thessaloniki, the keynote speaker ignored in his speech entirely the Saint and there was no reference to him. Saint Demetrios spoke with his myrrhgushing that he never left the city of Thessaloniki, so now he is always present, and this is what saved her from slavery and from earthquakes, but complains when Thessalonians prove ungrateful and distance themselves from Christ and His saints.

24 years have passed since then. I was the then deacon of the church, and now a priest in Thessaloniki, and I write the facts as I remember. That moment was like living a mystery. I cannot describe what I felt! Joy, surprise, excitement, enthusiasm ... I cannot determine exactly. However, it is the events that reinforce belief that fill us with joy, hope and a sense of the presence of Christ and the saints. Our faith is "alive".

Fr. Christos Kotios

Vicar of the Holy Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos
Saranta Ekklesies, Thessaloniki

Source: Translated by John Sanidopoulos.

2019 October Schedule of Services

October 6: 3rd Sunday of Luke

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

October 13: Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council

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

October 20: 6th Sunday of Luke

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

October 25: Great Vespers for St. Demetrios the Myrrh-Streamer

- † *Vespers service will be held at St. Demetrios.*

October 26: Feast Day of St. Demetrios the Myrrh-Streamer

- † *Divine Liturgy will be held at St. Demetrios*

October 27: 7th Sunday of Luke

- † 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>

GREEK SCHOOL

HAS JOINED OUR PARISH MINISTRY LIST

We are very excited to announce that our parish has started its Greek School program. Do not miss out on the opportunity to learn our beautiful Greek Language.

Presbytera Efstathia is teaching the class. She is using various resources and teaching styles to make learning fun for the youth. Along with grammar, the students will learn poems, various traditional songs, and cultural dance.

Join us every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Keep in mind that some classes might need to be rescheduled due to Presbytera's availability and feast day liturgies. Please check the website for the latest updates.

To cover the cost of the program's expenses, there is a \$50 per child registration fee.

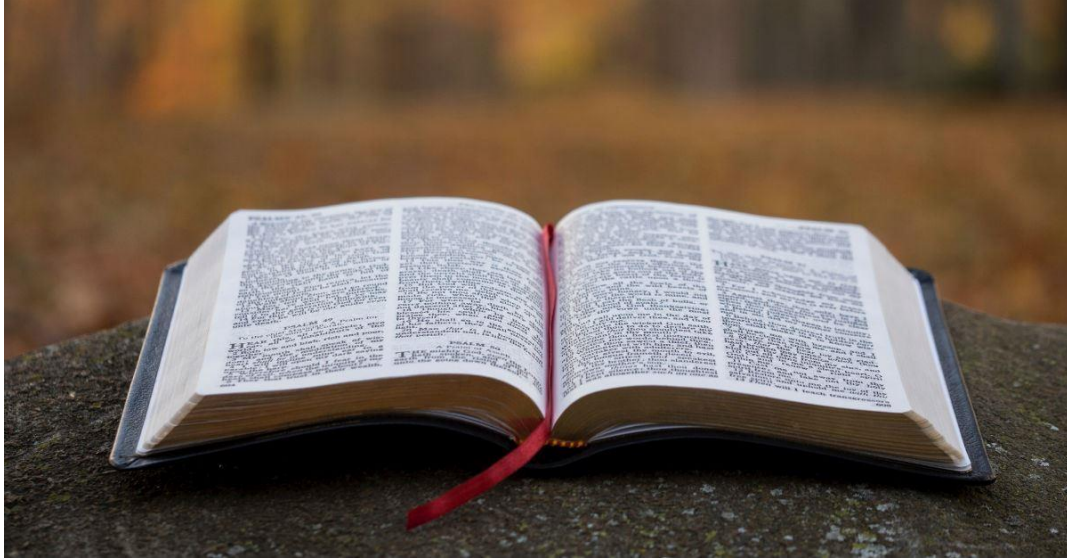
WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

2019 DARLINGTON APPLE FESTIVAL



Come enjoy this local event! Stop by and visit our Ladies of Philoptochos who will be there selling their delicious desserts. We hope you can come and support them and the rest of the event that has many local vendors, live music, and lots of fun for the whole family!

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, OCTOBER 10TH** AT 7:00 P.M.

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

Sts. Mary Magdalene & Markella Annual Fall Youth Event

join us in the
PUMPKIN PATCH
for
**Saints Mary Magdalene and Markella
Greek Orthodox Church
Annual Fall Youth Event**

Saturday October 12th 2019

Hawks Hill Creamery 805 Highland Rd Street, Maryland
21154

Included: Hayride, pumpkins and face painting
Food is available for purchase : Cash only

Meet at church at 12:30
RSVP by October 5th to Presbytera Efstathia 561 402 9026



As a reminder, while all visiting guests are encouraged to join, entrance to the hayride, pumpkin patch and face painting are only included for the youth of the parish. Food is available but not included.

****The event is Cash only****

“OI LEVENDES” MEN’S CLUB



ADD SOME SUNSHINE TO YOUR LIFE BY JOINING US AT THE SUNSHINE GRILLE FOR ANOTHER MEN’S CLUB DINNER.

THE FIRST ONE WAS GREAT, AND IT IS ONLY GOING TO GET BETTER.

WE ARE MEETING AT THE RESTAURANT ON OCTOBER 14TH AT 7:00 P.M.

SEE YOU THERE...OR BE SQUARE

SILVER STARS FALL LUNCHEON

Join us on

Monday October 14, 2019

for our SENIOR LUNCHEON

Please contact:

Renee Alatzas – 410-917-7840

Or

Mary Caprinolo – 410-322-2353

**We need ideas as to if we should have it at church
or go to a restaurant.**

**STS. MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA
GREEK SCHOOL "OXI" DAY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON**



JOIN US ON SUNDAY, **OCTOBER 27TH** TO CELEBRATE A HISTORIC
EVENT OF HELLENISM AND TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH OF OUR GREEK
SCHOOL PROGRAM.

THE GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL HOST A DELICIOUS LUNCHEON
AND WELCOME ALL THE FAITHFUL WITH THE SINGING OF THE
GREEK NATIONAL ANTHEM.

****ALL PROCEEDS COLLECTED FROM THE LUNCHEON WILL BENEFIT
THE GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAM****



pampered *i* chef

COMING TO AN ORTHODOX CHURCH NEAR
YOU...

(HERE IS A CLUE... IT WILL BE IN DARLINGTON)

*****CHECK BACK FOR MORE DETAILS*****

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.

PHOTOS FROM PAINT N' SIP NIGHT



2019 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Alatzas, George & Rene

Alatzas, Triffon & Stacia

Alivizatos, Asimina & Karl, Robert

Alsup, Andrew & Vasilias

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 Stylianos & 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

2019 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Konstant, Eugenia

Konstant, Gus

Kornias, Christos & Irene

Kougianos, Alex **

Kougianos, Dionisios & Argiro **

Kramer, Bernie & Marsha

Logothetis, Nikolaos & Maria

Mayer, Francis & Maria

Mavrelas, Vasilios & Efthymia **

Mimaros, Dimitrios & Argie

Mojarrad, Deanna

Nikas, George & Diane

Nikitaras, Andreas & Nicole **

Nikitaras, Spiro

Pappas, Basil & Linda

Perdikakis, George & Zoe **

Pikounis Emmanuel & Helen

Plevrakis, Fr. Elefterios & Esther

Prapas, Spiros

Rahaniotis, Takis & Ioanna

Rajewski, Leonard & Anastasia

Saliaris, Panagiotis & Evangelia

Sarapis, Stavros & Marina

Sarris, Gregory

Sarris, Sam

Sitaras, Dr. Peter & Diane

Stakias, Stellios & 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: 91

Number of New Stewards for 2019 (**): 13

Pledged: \$70,850.00 / Collected: \$58,170.00

Outstanding Balance: \$12,680.000

Average Stewardship Pledge: \$ 778.57