



ΙΕΡΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΜΑΡΙΑΣ ΜΑΓΔΑΛΗΝΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΡΚΕΛΛΗΣ



STS. MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

## 2020 MARCH NEWSLETTER



3714-16 Dublin Road, Darlington, MD 21034

### PRESIDING PRIEST

THE REV. FR. ELEFTERIOS PLEVRAKIS

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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)



## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

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### ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

#### Holy and Great Lent 2020

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy

Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Sisterhood, Faculty and Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools, Directors and Participants of all Youth Organizations, and all devout Orthodox Christians of the Communities of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

*"Wash me with my tears, O Savior, for I have been soiled by many sins. Therefore I fall down before You, I have sinned, have mercy on me, O God!" (Sunday Triodion Vespers Hymn)*

My Beloved in the Lord,

We stand at the very threshold of Holy and Great Lent; a time of reflection, repentance, prayer, and a return to God who constantly and mercifully embraces us even in our numerous faults. The period of Holy and Great Lent is not meant to emphasize self-deprivation, but it is meant to give us greater spiritual clarity so that we may come to better recognize ourselves. It can be very easy to think of this period as nothing more than a checklist of things to not do. Do not eat meat, do not eat dairy products, and abstain from that which the canons of the Church tell us to during this period of Lent. To approach Great Lent in this manner, however, would be nothing short of mistaken and even pharisaical. Yes, the Church teaches us that we should not eat meat, dairy, fish, oil, and wine, during a majority of this fasting period, but we must ask ourselves, why does the Church prescribe this? The Church asks us to fast, but fasting is not just about food. It is not limited to what we eat or do not eat. It is about our thoughts, our words, our actions, our inner disposition, and our entire mindset.

By understanding fasting in this broader sense, the Church intends for us to be more reflective and prayerful during the Lenten period and to focus our attention on the greater themes of Great Lent – repentance and prayer. Being repentant is not easy. It requires us to admit that we are occasionally wrong which is difficult for anyone to admit since it requires humility. Furthermore, repentance requires that we seek forgiveness from both those whom we have hurt and from God. We must be willing to ask both God and neighbor for forgiveness otherwise we are not really repenting. In addition to this, fasting gives us a renewed spirit of prayer which helps us to pray more during Holy and Great Lent. This type of prayer includes participating more in the Divine Services in your parish as well as increasing your personal prayer on an individual level.

This broader sense of fasting is never done in and of itself, but it is always done with something particular in mind. This is because there is no fast without a feast and likewise there is no feast without a fast. The Church is asking us to engage in this particular fast because we are preparing ourselves both as individuals and as members of a community for the greatest event of all – the Resurrection of our Lord, which in turn, is our resurrection as well. In order to prepare ourselves properly for Pascha, we must endure to fast adequately. This means we have to ask forgiveness of our neighbors and when someone asks for our forgiveness, we must be willing to receive them with love. Simultaneously, our prayer life should increase so that we can develop a greater relationship with God who sheds His mercy freely upon us for our own mistakes. Furthermore, and for those who are physically able, we are called to prepare ourselves physically by abstaining from certain foods so that we can humble ourselves. Finally, we should more closely watch our words and our actions ensuring that what we say and what we do is in accordance with the Gospel of Christ.

My beloved in the Lord, everyone is at a different place spiritually. Some have been following the fasts and engaging in a spiritually uplifting life in the Church since their youth while others have done very few of these things. No matter where you are in your spiritual lives, I challenge you to do a little more and to seek God more fervently than before according to your spiritual maturity. As we hear the Apostle Paul say to the Corinthians regarding spiritual nourishment, *"I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it"* (1 Cor. 3:2). Let us strive to enrich our spiritual lives so that we may be ready to receive solid spiritual nourishment. Praying that God blesses each of you with a spiritually edifying Lenten Season so that we may experience Christ's Resurrection on the third day, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evaggelos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

† E V A N G E L O S  
Metropolitan of New Jersey

## LETTER FROM THE PRIEST

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have officially started our journey through Great Lent. We learn through the ascetic life that these weeks are a time in which we are called to cleanse ourselves from all the worldly cares and to fight against the passions that continuously bombard us. Because the Church knows that this battle is difficult, it has given us plenty of spiritual resources to help strengthen ourselves so we may go out to the world not naked and afraid, but covered in full armor, giving us full confidence that the Holy Spirit is there to protect us.

Ultimately, Great Lent is a time to find again what we had once lost, our communion with our Creator. According to writings from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, "Lent is a time when we weep with Adam and Eve before the closed gate of Eden, repenting with them for the sins that have deprived us of our free communion with God. But Lent is also a time when we are preparing to celebrate the saving event of Christ's death and rising, which has reopened Paradise to us once more (Luke 23:43). So sorrow for our exile in sin is tempered by hope of our re-entry into Paradise.

I pray each day that God gives all of you the strength to continue to develop your faith and to have patience as you move through the windy and turbulent journey of Great Lent. I ask that you continue to come to all the Sunday Services and to be a part of the weekday Salutations to the Theotokos, as the services are there for us to strengthen our relationship with God.

May all of you have a blessed Great Lent.

In Christ,

Fr. Elefterios

## 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 reexamine our lives and our relationships with our family and friends. We need to examine if the love and kindness we offer, is equal to what He showed during His sufferings. Orthodox Christians around the world mark the beginning of Lent with the celebration of "Clean Monday". This day brings forth weekly services and the call to fast. Please don't miss the opportunity to take part in the beautiful services that the Church offers during this period. I ask that you sacrifice some time away from work and home to attend church services and bring yourself closer to God. Lent is a time of penance, but also for compassion. Let's open our hearts to God's calling.

As we take stock of our lives, the Church is here to guide us through Lent. 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. As Christian Stewards, now is the time to give our humble offering to our Savior for all the blessings He has given us. I hope that I can encourage everyone to attend the magnificent Lenten services. Believe me that in these services you can find yourself and your faith renewed. On behalf of the Parish Council, we wish you a Blessed Lent.

With Love in Christ,

Fotini Kaminaris, Parish Council President



## 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.

## 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. Orthodox Easter 4/19/20. Catholic 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 Orthodox Palm Sunday and Catholic 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. MaryMagdalene and Markella name-day celebration. Plan our yearly Philoptochos party.

June 2020- Philoptochos Group Dinner- Date to be Determined

June 2020- Our Church Festival

# MARCH SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

## March 1: Forgiveness Sunday - Cheesefare

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

## March 6: Friday – Salutations to the Theotokos

- † 6:30 p.m. – Salutations Service

## March 7: Saturday – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of Souls

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

## March 8: Sunday of Orthodoxy

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

## March 13: Friday – Salutations to the Theotokos

- † 6:30 p.m. – Salutations Service

## March 15: Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

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

## March 18: Presanctified Liturgy

- † 6:30 p.m. – Presanctified Liturgy

## March 20: Friday – Salutations to the Theotokos

- † 6:30 p.m. – Salutations Service

## March 22: Sunday of Holy Cross

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

## March 24: Great Vespers for the Annunciation (Service will be held at the Cathedral of the Annunciation)

- † 6:30 p.m. – Great Vespers

## March 25: Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation (Service will be held at the Cathedral of the Annunciation)

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

## March 27: Salutations to the Theotokos

- † 6:30 p.m. – Salutations Service

## March 29: Sunday of St. John Climacus

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



# The Purpose of Great Lent (Archim. Alexios of Xenophontos)

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 [johnsanidopoulos.com/2016/03/the-purpose-of-great-lent-archimandrite.html](http://johnsanidopoulos.com/2016/03/the-purpose-of-great-lent-archimandrite.html)

By Archimandrite Alexios,  
Abbot of Xenophontos Monastery, Mount Athos

Beloved,

Holy and Great Lent is a spiritual arena for the virtues, a time of repentance and prayer, watchfulness and sorrow, a period of fasting, purification of the soul and forgiveness.

This entire blessed period is a sacred journey, which is annually presented by our Holy Church, for every believer who seeks to journey together with Christ the Savior, to rise with Him and share in His eternal divine Kingdom.

Our Church is like an affectionate mother, with her salvific Mysteries, her presanctified Divine Liturgies, her solemn Vespers, her popular Salutations to the Most Holy Theotokos, the great Complines, the Great Canon of repentance, and she comes to awaken us and invites us to exercise temperance, prayer and beneficence, on the path of soul-saving repentance.

Great Lent has this sacred purpose and reminds us of these things daily with the sacred hymns of the *Triodion*: "It is time of sorrow and repentance, alienation from wickedness, and temperance of the passions, therefore let us eagerly cut off the works of evil we produce" (*Monday Matins of Cheesefare*). The struggle against evil and sin requires repentance, the rejection of wickedness, control of the passions and detachment from evil works. Those who long for God will enter into this struggle and thus they will become shareholders of the final victory.

The necessity to "cleanse ourselves of all the filthiness of the flesh and spirit" is a basic desire of every true Christian, and this is given to us by the All-Holy Spirit:

- when we bear fruits worthy of repentance,
- when we provide forgiveness to our brethren,
- when we control our undisciplined thoughts with the power of prayer,

- when we avoid criticism and condemnation of others,
- when we are merciful to the poor and help those who suffer,
- when we partake of the Divine Mysteries and
- when we pray on behalf of all people.

This is how the peace of God comes and awards our hearts and thoughts with the divine presence and grace.

Especially these days the hymns of our Church elevate us, being adorned with exquisite and divinely-inspired hymns, which were composed and delivered to the Church by our Holy and God-bearing Fathers with faith and reverence to the glory of the Triune God and the honor and praise of our Saints.

A special place in the hymnological poetry of our Church belongs to the Lady and Mistress of the world, the Most Holy Theotokos Mary. The Theotokia, the Theotokaria, the Supplication Canons to the Theotokos, the hymns of the services of the feasts of the Mother of God, all these compositions of our Holy Fathers who loved the Theotokos and the hymnographers expressed the riches of the Mother of God's supplications on behalf of the human race, as well as the deep reverence, faith and love of the faithful towards the All-Hymned Mother of God and mother of the world.

My Elder would urge us to daily say the Salutations to our Panagia to the glory and honor of her holy name and for our spiritual benefit and comfort.

Watchfulness and the invocation of the name of God and His Mother the Panagia is a light-bearing virtue, which generates light and joy in our lives. And all the more our existence becomes fermented with spiritual asceticism and prayer, as much as we prepare ourselves, as much as we endure God's trials, as much as we sense our sins, so much will the grace of God come and dwell within us, and purify our nous and our hearts from an evil conscience.

This entire blessed struggle is crowned with the joy of the Resurrection, which is not only a Paschal joy, but we will share in heavenly goods still in this life.

I pray that the difficulties of this present time will be turned into blessings for our country and the entire world. And in these sacred days of Great Lent, which begin with the grace of God, we will intensify our prayers to our Merciful God and our Panagia, as we do here on the Holy Mountain, and that each of us will experience our personal transformation through repentance, that we may be provided with a surplus of mercy, as our Lord says, for the humble and simple and obedient faithful, that we may be made worthy of the joy of the Resurrection.

A good and blessed Lent!

Source: Translated by John Sanidopoulos.



# “Mystagogy” Resource Center

-By John Sanidopoulos

<https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/>

# ORTHOPRAXIA BOOK CLUB SESSION



JOIN US ON **THURSDAY, MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>** FOR ANOTHER SESSION OF OUR BOOK CLUB. SINCE WE ARE GOING INTO GREAT LENT, WE ARE GOING TO LOOK INTO THE DIFFERENT THEMES OF GREAT LENT AND SOME OF THE GOSPEL READINGS OF THE PERIOD. WE WILL BE HOSTING IT AT OUR FUNCTION HALL STARTING AT 7:00 P.M. PLEASE LET FATHER KNOW THAT YOU ARE PLANNING TO COME.

# SAINTS MARY MAGDALENE AND MARKELLA URBAN AIR YOUTH OUTING



Join us youth of all  
ages for a day of fun!

WHEN: March 7th, 2020  
WHERE: Meet at church hall at  
12:00pm we will have a pizza lunch  
then we will go to Urban Air in  
White Marsh at 2:00pm

Please RSVP for the event to Presbyteria at [estabing@aol.com](mailto:estabing@aol.com) and complete the waiver in advance for each child attending Urban Air.

<https://waiver.smartwaiver.com/w/585856f175ef8/kiosk/>

Parents must attend with their child for this event.

# SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020



COME JOIN US ON **SUNDAY, MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>** AS WE COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE BLESSED DAY OF SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. IT IS THIS DAY THE CHURCH HAS CHOSEN TO HONOR THE ICONS OF OUR CHURCH. PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE ICON FROM HOME AND JOIN THE PROCESSION AROUND THE CHURCH.

# ICON SALE ON SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY



WE HAVE OFFICIALLY ENTERED INTO GREAT LENT WHICH IS OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS SALVATION. THE FIRST SUNDAY IS THE DAY IN WHICH THE CHURCH CELEBRATES ICONS. TO HELP CAPTURE THIS VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY, WE WILL BE SELLING VARIOUS BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM MADE ICONS. WE WANT TO THANK MR. DEMETRIOS MIMAROS FOR MAKING THESE ICONS AND FOR DONATING THEM TO HELP THE CHURCH. EACH ICON IS 8 X10 INCHES AND ARE SELLING FOR \$25. THE DISPLAY WILL BE LOCATED AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH.



# LEARN TO MAKE PROSFORA WITH FATHER ELEFTERIOS

**WHAT: All the youth is invited to learn to make  
Prosfora (Holy Bread) with Father Elefterios**

**WHEN: March 14th, 2020**

**WHERE: Meet at 12:00pm at the church hall.  
Please bring a potluck Lenten lunch dish, and if  
you have an electric mixer with a bread attachment  
we need a few extra.**



Please RSVP for the event to Presbytera at [estabing@aol.com](mailto:estabing@aol.com) along with what Lenten lunch dish you plan on bringing and if you are able to bring an electric mixer with a bread hook attachment.



# GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

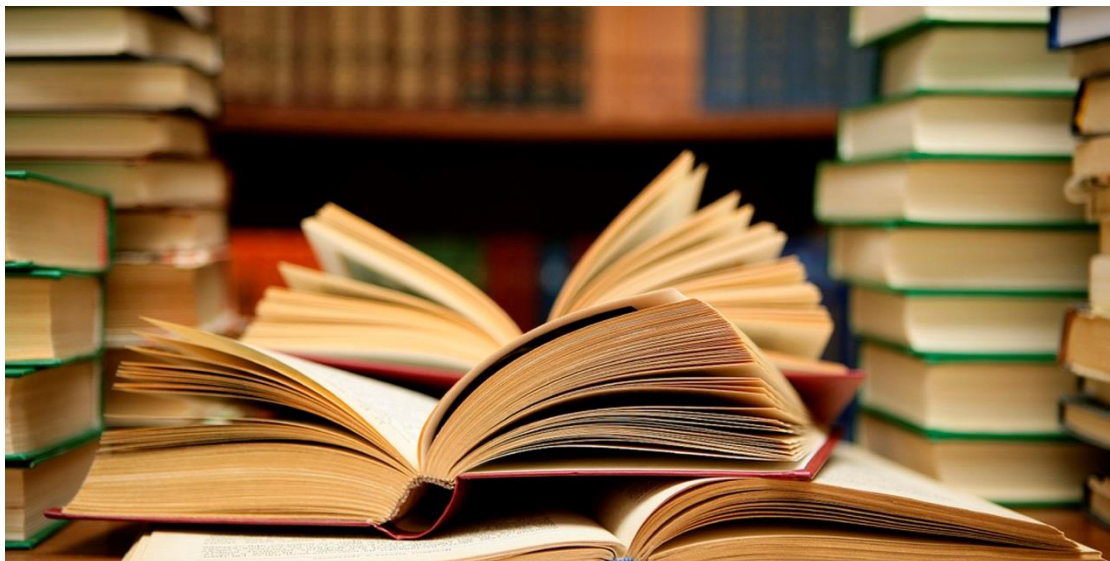
## GREEK SCHOOL LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER



WE WANT TO INVITE ALL THE FAITHFUL ON **SUNDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>** TO CELEBRATE GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH OUR BEAUTIFUL AND BRIGHT CHILDREN OF THE GREEK SCHOOL. THERE WILL BE DELICIOUS FOOD AND BEVERAGES AND WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN TO THE CHILDREN SING AND RECITE VARIOUS GREEK PATRIOTIC POEMS. SO COME AND SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR YOUTH AND THE GROWING OF OUR PARISH!

# **STS MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA**

## **\*\*PARISH LIBRARY\*\***



MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT THE ORTHODOX FAITH. FOR THIS REASON, WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR PARISH HAS PUT TOGETHER ITS COLLECTION OF BOOKS FOR CHECKOUT. BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL STEWARDS OF THE CHURCH. THEY CAN BE CHECKED OUT LIKE YOUR TYPICAL LIBRARY. WE ALSO HAVE THE CHECKOUT PROCESS AVAILABLE THROUGH OUR WEBSITE.

**MARK YOUR CALANDERS...**



**WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE WE HAVE STARTED ORGANIZING OUR FUN AND AWESOME GREEK FESTIVAL. THE FESTIVAL THIS YEAR WILL BE HELD AT THE HIGHLAND SCHOOL ON ROUTE 543 IN BEL AIR. MARK DOWN THE DATES OF JUNE 19-21. IT IS A NEW VENUE WHICH MEANS ALL NEW AND EXCITING IDEAS.**

**WE ARE ASKING THE FAITHFUL TO OFFER THEIR TIME TO HELP US IN THE MOST IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER OF THE CHURCH. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE REACH OUT TO OUR PRESIDENT MRS. FOTINI KAMINARIS AT [FANNIE@KKCONTAINERS.NET](mailto:FANNIE@KKCONTAINERS.NET).**

# SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

## LENTEN BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2020



APRIL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, SO MARK DOWN ON YOUR COLANDERS THIS FUN AND EDUCATIONAL DAY OF LAZARUS SATURDAY. WE WILL HAVE DIVINE LITURGY IN THE MORNING FOLLOWED BY A DELICIOUS LENTEN BREAKFAST. IMMEDIATELY AFTER, WE WILL MAKE THE PALM CROSSES FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL. DO NOT MISS OUT ON THIS SPECIAL DAY.

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR GREAT LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND HOLY PASCHA



The following special items are needed to decorate our Hoy Church during Great Lent and Holy Pascha, and to provide for the liturgical needs of the various holy services. These items cost our Church over \$4,000.00. Your generous donations will help our Church defray the costs of these needed items and provide for the beautiful services of this most solemn and holy time of the year.

1. Palms to decorate on Palm Sunday
2. Flowers for the Base of the Crucifixion for Holy Thursday
3. Candles for the Holy Cross (3 sets of 3) of Holy Thursday
4. White Bed Sheet (Queen Size) for the Apokathelosis Service on Holy Friday
5. Rose Petals to be Placed on Top of the Epitaphios
6. Candles for the Kouvouklion (Set of 4)
7. Bay Leaves for Holy Saturday Morning's Divine Liturgy
8. Flowers to decorate the Icon of the Resurrection
9. Resurrection Candle for the Priest

If you would like to contribute to any of the above items, please contact Fr. Elefterios Plevrakis.

Let us take this opportunity to be generous during the spiritual journey of Great Lent and Holy Week with the utmost humility and devotion to our faith in the Lord.

In Christ,

Father Elefterios Plevrakis

## WHEN TO SIT OR STAND DURING THE DIVINE LITURGY

(Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral - Norfolk, Virginia)

People have been asking me the important question of what is the proper etiquette when sitting or standing in Church during the Divine Liturgy. To best explain, I have referenced the guidelines provided by one of our sister parishes, the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Norfolk, Virginia. Their guidelines, which I also agree with, state:

The traditional posture for prayer and worship in the Orthodox Church has been to stand. In the Orthodox “old countries,” there are usually no pews in the churches. Chairs or benches on the side walls are usually reserved for the elderly and infirm. In North America, we have tended to build our churches with pews, and since we have them, we need to figure out when we may sit and when we should stand. It is fully acceptable (even preferable) to stand for the entire service. If you prefer this, it would be better to find a place closer to the back or side of the church so as not to stand out or block someone’s view.

When should you definitely stand? Always during the Gospel reading, the Small and Great Entrances, the Anaphora, the distribution of Holy Communion, whenever the priest gives a blessing, and the Dismissal. In many parishes, the Divine Liturgy books in the pew have suggested times when sitting is acceptable. Follow those instructions (it’s probably safer than to follow what the people are doing in the first couple of rows). It is never wrong to stand in church.

(Note: Many parishes also follow the practice of kneeling on Sundays during the Cherubic Hymn, consecration, and the “Our Father.” Strictly speaking, this is not correct, because every Sunday is a “little Pascha” in which the Resurrection is remembered — hence, no kneeling. The “kneeling prayers” said five weeks after Pascha, are said after the Sunday Liturgy, “reinstating” kneeling for Vespers, Matins, and weekday Liturgies only. If the tradition of the parish you are visiting is to kneel, and everyone kneels, it’s better to do so than to stick out like a sore thumb. If there is a mixture of standing and kneeling, then stand.)



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.

# **OTHER EVENTS FROM OUR SISTER PARISHES**

***PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 26th annual***

***NICHOLAS TSAKALOS MEMORIAL LENTEN RETREAT***

***AUTHENTIC CHRISTIANITY: WHY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LEAVING THE CHURCH  
(AND HOW WE CAN INSPIRE THEM TO STAY)***

*With Retreat Masters*

*Rev. Andrew Stephen Damick  
pastor of St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church  
in Emmaus, Pa., and  
podcaster on Ancient Faith Radio*

*and*

*Steven Christoforou  
co-founder of the Archdiocese's Y2AM ministry  
and presenter of "Be the Bee"*

**Saturday, March 21, 2020**

9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. - Retreat sessions and Lenten luncheon

4:00 p.m. Great Vespers

\$30 per person includes breakfast and Lenten lunch - Registration deadline March 9th  
After March 9, registration will be \$35

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation  
24 W. Preston St., Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
Information: [www.goannun.org](http://www.goannun.org) - click on "2020 Retreat"

Further questions: Jeanne Tsakalos - [Jeannetsakalos@hotmail.com](mailto:Jeannetsakalos@hotmail.com) - 410-252-6021

***Please note: On Friday, March 20, after Salutations Service, there will be a light Lenten meal and special roundtable discussion with the Speakers and all youth in attendance. Please encourage the youth of your parish to attend! RSVP to Jeanne.***



## MARYLAND GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

P.O. BOX 25968, Baltimore, MD 21224

Parade Info Line: 443-267-4735 • Website: [www.greekparade.com](http://www.greekparade.com)

### PARTICIPATION FORM FOR MARCHING UNITS

In order to ensure your place as a marching unit in the Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade on Sunday, March 29, 2020 at 2:00 PM, this **form must be completed and returned no later than March 22, 2020**. Groups whose forms have not been received by March 22<sup>nd</sup> may not be placed in the procession on the day of the parade and will not receive a listing in the Parade Acknowledgment.

\*\*\* Please Print Clearly \*\*\*

Name of Group: \_\_\_\_\_  
(as it should appear in Parade Acknowledgment)

Description of Group: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please provide a brief description/history of your group so that it may be read as your intro as you approach the reviewing stand. Use a separate sheet, if necessary.*

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People Marching in Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Vehicles in Parade: \_\_\_\_\_

Types of Vehicles: Cars \_\_\_\_\_ Buses \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Group has Banner: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Other Participation: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Wishes to Enter Parade Float. If so, please contact the Parade Info Line: 443-267-4735 or Email: [info@greekparade.com](mailto:info@greekparade.com)

Form of Dress: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnic costumes (if so, what region or type: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other uniform dress (such as blue and white) - **NO JEANS**

*\*Please note: Proper dress is required to participate in the parade. Refer to the marching instructions for more information.*

#### PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade  
P.O. Box 25968  
Baltimore, MD 21224

***"Spirit of America, Legacy of Greece, Freedom and Democracy for All!!!"***  
*Honoring our ancestors' sacrifices to preserve the ideals of Freedom and Democracy  
Commemorating the 199th Anniversary of Greek Independence, March 25, 1821*

## 2020 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Alatzas, George & Rene	Karas, Andy
Alsup, Andrew & Vasilias	Karas, Bethany Anne
Babiak, Christopher & Leslie	Karas, Daphne
Batis, Nikolaos & Maria	Karas, John & Belinda
Bilis, Amalia	Karas, Katie
Bilis, George & Tina	Karas, Michael & Linda
Bontzos, Stylianos & Kalliopi	Karas, Peter & Kim
Caprinolo, Lee & Mary	Karas, Scott
Cioloa, Bogdan & Anca	Karas, Steven
Demedis, Olympia	Kioutas, Nick & Shellie
Dermatis, Minas & Panagiota	Konstant, Gus
Diamandaras, Helen	Kougianos, Alex & Daniela
Diniakos, Kostas & Elvira**	Kougianos, Dionisios & Argiro
Fokianos, Konstantinos & Maria	Kovaleski, Timothy & Ekaterini **
Giannaras, Chris	Marvelis, Vasilios & Efthymia
Giannas, Apostolos & Maria	Millon, Edward & Florence **
Giannas, Erene	Mimaros, Dimitrios & Argie
Giannas, Ioannis	Mojarrad, Deanna
Giannas, Stylianos & Maria	Nikitaras, Andreas & Nicole
Gikas, John & Lola	Nikitaras, Christos & Angela
Kafkakis, George & Vlitichika	Pappas, Basil & Linda
Kaitis, Dr. Angela	Plevrakis, Fr. Elefterios & Esther
Kaliakoudas, Evangelos & Eleni	Prapas, Spiros
Kaminaris, Gus & Fotini	Roros, Bill & Mary
Kanaras, Louis & Eleni	Roros, Georgios**
Karas, Aimee	Sarapis, Stavros & Marina

## 2020 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Sarris, Sam

Smith, Caesar & Illya M \*\*.

Sollon, Dafne\*\*

Stakias, Stellios & Tina

Stelato III, James

Sudeck, Virginia

Trikoglou, Carole

Tsiatsoulis, Leonidas & Eirini Anastasiou

Varkarota, Christina

Yiannouris, Ioannis & Shawn

Total 2019 Stewards: 62

Number of New Stewards for 2019 (\*\*): 6

Pledged: \$57,285.00 / Collected: \$29,865.00

Outstanding Balance: \$27,420.00

Average Stewardship Pledge: \$ 923.95