



ΙΕΡΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΜΑΡΙΑΣ ΜΑΓΔΑΛΗΝΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΡΚΕΛΛΗΣ



STS. MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2020 MAY NEWSLETTER



3714-16 Dublin Road, Darlington, MD 21034

PRESIDING PRIEST

THE REV. FR. ELEFTERIOS PLEVRAKIS

Office: 410-457-0303

Email: frelefterios@gmail.com

Website: stsmm.org

OFFICE HOURS

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

10:00 A.M. - 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,

Christ is Risen, Truly He is Risen!! I hope and pray that everyone is doing well and that the light of God continues to shine in your lives. Just this past Sunday I had the opportunity to teach a very important lesson that goes down to the core of our faith. We learn by reading the Gospel that Joseph of Arimathea, a well-respected member of the council, finds the courage to approach Pilate and ask if he can take the body of Jesus Christ off the Cross. This is a crucial event that gives all of us the perfect blueprint of our faith and how do we put it into practice.

We learn through our faith that God's love is always available, but that does not mean that His love is always accessible. Because we live in a fallen world, there are many obstacles that try to keep us away from Him. Through the devil's work and man's continuous acceptance of sin, the burdens of this life continue to act on us preventing us to see the light of God. Rather than basking in the rays of the uncreated God, we are pushed deep into the dark corners of our faults with very little energy or will to see a different outcome. We accept a lot of things because the world teaches us to do so. In some ways, it soothes us to know that God is far away and that we are just "caught up" in the chaos of this unforgiving world. But when looking closely to this Gospel reading, we see a different reality. We see something very powerful that takes us away from these unfortunate outcomes. It's a passage that gives man strength and opportunity. It opens the gates of faith so man, like Christ, does not become trapped on the Cross, but is drawn out of darkness into the resurrected light of God.

I have learned throughout my time as a Christian that we have to see the world the same way we encounter a rose bush. We must get around the thorns so we can enjoy the beautiful scent of the flowers. In this very same way, we must approach God. Joseph teaches us that to practice our faith we must first get to Christ, which means we have to "work around" some things and to "ask" for Him. We have to get out of our comfortable well-respected selves and approach difficult scenarios that pose much risk and even possible ridicule. Christ had mentioned to His disciples that when following Him there would be no place for them to lay their heads, which means the Truth will be difficult to get to. But the positive message of Sunday's Gospel teaches us that with strong determination and with courage the devil and his works will never be able to hold us to the standards of this fallen world. We will always be able to rise above it as we wait for the Second Coming.

With this powerful message, I want to motivate all of you to search for Christ in your lives; to approach Him not from a distance, but from up close, the way in which Joseph did. I hope and pray that the State officials and the Archdiocese move quickly to reopen the churches and to allow all of you, the faithful, those in need of healing, to come and receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Along with getting back with our liturgical schedule, I am looking forward into spending my time with the families again. As a Church, we are planning some great events for the summer and fall. So like our President, Mrs. Fotini Kaminaris said, we are going to come back stronger and more determined. I miss all of you and I will continue to pray for each person. Again, Xristos Anesti and may you have a beautiful and blessed week!

In Christ,
Fr. Elefterios

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

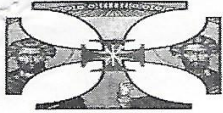
Christos Anesti!!!

We all know that this has been a very difficult time for all of us and the entire world. We, as Orthodox Christians, missed the most beautiful period of our Church. I hope that everyone was able to see and hear our Holy Week services. I cannot say enough for Father Elefterios, Argiri, and Mr. Nick that gave us such beautiful services. The decorations on the icons and the Kouvouklio were done with so much love. By giving us all the details that we are so familiar of the week, I am sure that everyone, not just me, should have felt the warmth and the love they provide us as best as they could. Our Church is so blessed to have them and my gratitude for our spiritual leader is unbelievable. I pray that the Lord keeps all of them healthy. Even though we cannot enter the Church, the Parish Council has not stopped having meetings through video conference calls. We are all thinking of the reopening of our church, we are planning events for the future of our parish. I am very excited to share with you that the betterment of our church is in good hands.

When everything is back to normal, we will emerge far stronger than before and more united. We will be able to share the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through our church. Our next newsletter will have dates and events for your calendars as we are finalizing the details. For the month of May, if anyone has the time to give, let me know so we can start cleaning the outside of the church and maybe replant the gardens that surround the church. My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we will overcome this, and emerge far better people in our hearts and mind. Please stay safe, and pray that the Light of the Resurrection keeps everyone healthy.

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;

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.

MAY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

May 3: Sunday of Myrrh-Bearing Women

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

May 10: Sunday of the Paralytic (Mother's Day)

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

May 17: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

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

May 21: Thursday – Sts. Constantine and Helen

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

May 24: Sunday of the Blind Man

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

May 27: Apodosis of Pascha

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


May 28: Holy Ascension

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

May 31: Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

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

The Heart of the Myrrhbearers (St. Theophan the Recluse)

 johnsanidopoulos.com/2020/05/the-heart-of-myrrhbearers-st-theophan.html

By St. Theophan the Recluse

O tireless women! They didn't let their eyes sleep and their eyelids close until they found the Beloved One! It seemed that the apostles balked at it. They went to the tomb and saw that it was empty, but they were puzzled and unable to tell what it could mean because they hadn't seen the Risen Lord. Does it mean that they had less love than the women? No, but theirs was a mindful love, afraid to err because the stakes were too high and the Object of love was so exalted. As soon as they saw and touched Jesus with their own eyes and hands, then each of them professed with their hearts and not just with their mouths like Thomas, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28); and there was nothing that could separate them from the Lord.

The Myrrhbearers and the Apostles symbolize the two sides of life: emotion and reasoning. Life isn't real without emotions; life is blind, wasteful and barely gives any fruit without reasoning. We've got to combine both. Our emotions should run ahead and motivate us; our reason should determine the time, the place, the way, and generally manage the good that our heart nudges us to do. Inside, our hearts go first, but in practice, let reason take the reins. Only when our emotions become adept in telling the good from the evil, shall we be able to rely on our hearts. A living tree shoots forth stems, flowers, and fruit; likewise, if our heart reaches this stage, it will begin to sprout only good that feeds the entire flow of our lives.



“Mystagogy” Resource Center

-By John Sanidopoulos

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOLY WEEK DONATIONS



WE WANT TO THANK THE FAMILIES THAT DONATED FOR THE THE FLOWERS AND LITURGICAL ITEMS FOR HOLY WEEK. WE WILL CONTIUE TO PRAY THAT THE RESSURECTED GOD KEEPS ALL OF YOU SAFE WITH GOOD HEALTH. GOD BLESS!

PALMS
BRIDEGROOM DECORATION
ROSE PETALS
CANDLES FOR CROSS & KOUVOUKLION
BAY LEAVES
WREATH FOR CROSS
LILIES FOR BASE OF CROSS
ANASTASIS ICON DECORATION

FOKIANOS FAMILY
MRS. PAULA STEBER
MIMAROS FAMILY
MRS. DEANNA MOJARRAD
KIOUTAS FAMILY
MR. KONSTANTINOS & MRS. BRENDA BONTZOS
MR. VASILIOS & MRS. EFTHYMIA MARVELIS
MR. GUS & MRS. FOTINI KAMINARIS

WE WANT TO THANK TWO VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE...



WE WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK MR. NICK AND MR. SPIROS FOR GIVING THEIR VALUABLE TIME TO THE CHURCH. THEY CONTINUE TO BEAUTIFY THE SERVICES WITH THEIR WARM CHANTING.

MAY GOD GIVE THEM MANY YEARS TO CONTINUE THEIR MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH.

HAVE YOUR CANDLES LIT IN THE DIVINE SERVICES



As Orthodox Christians we believe that where there is light there is also the presence of God. In our Tradition, we light our candles to fill our hearts with God's energies and to direct our prayers to Him.

To help the faithful in their prayerful life during these difficult times, Father Elefterios will light candles and commemorate the names of people. If you would like to make an offering and/or provide a list of names for Father to commemorate at the Divine Services, please visit our website at www.stsmm.org and press on the "donations" link. Refer to the link that is titled "Candle Donations." Please specify if you would like to contribute towards a red candle. Please email the names to frelefterios@gmail.com.

We hope that God continues to give all of you strength. God bless!

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR NEWSLETTER



WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE NEW ADDITION TO OUR NEWSLETTER. STARTING JUNE 1ST, WE WILL BE INCLUDING ADVERTISEMENTS OF BUSINESSES.

THROUGH OUR AD FUNDRAISER, YOUR HARD WORK AND AMAZING PRODUCTS AND SERVICES CAN BE KNOWN AND SUPPORTED BY OUR PARISHIONERS AND FOLLOWERS.

WE HAVE THREE DIFFERENT SIZES AVAILABLE

FULL PAGE: \$250/YEAR or \$150/6 MONTHS

HALF PAGE: \$175/YEAR or \$100/6 MONTHS

QUARTER PAGE: \$125/YEAR or \$75/6 MONTHS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN POSTING AN AD, PLEASE SEND YOUR IMAGE TO FATHER AT FRELEFTERIOS@GMAIL.COM AND YOUR PAYMENTS INTO OUR P.O. BOX ADDRESS OR THROUGH OUR GENERAL DONATION PAY PAL LINK. PLEASE INCLUDE WITH YOUR PAYMENT A NOTE STATING IT IS FOR THE NEWSLETTER AD.

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.

2020 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Alatzas, George & Rene

Alsup, Andrew & Vasilias

Babiak, Christopher & Leslie

Bachman, Christina **

Batis, Nikolaos & Maria

Batsis, Nick & Nomiki

Bilis, Amalia

Bilis, George & Tina

Bonincontri, Ray & Jamie

Bontzos, Stylianos & Kalliopi

Boutilier, Lisa **

Caprinolo, Lee & Mary

Cioloa, Bogdan & Anca

Conway, Joseph & Jennifer

Demedis, Olympia

Dermatis, Minas & Panagiota

Diamandaras, Helen

Diniakos, Kostas & Elvira **

Engleson, Jeanette

Fafalios, Ava

Fafalios, Nicolette **

Fokianos, Konstantinos & Maria

Giannaras, Chris

Giannas, Apostolos & Maria

Giannas, Erene

Giannas, Ioannis

Giannas, Stylianos & Maria

Gikas, John & Lola

Hyde, Michael & Maryann

Kafkakis, George & Vlitchika

Kaitis, Dr. Angela

Kalamaras, Efstatios & Millicent

Kaliakoudas, Evangelos & Eleni

Kaminaris, Gus & Fotini

Kanaras, Julie **

Kanaras, Louis & Eleni

Karas, Aimee

Karas, Andy

Karas, Bethany Anne

Karas, Daphne

Karas, John & Belinda

Karas, Katie

Karas, Michael & Linda

Karas, Peter & Kim

Karas, Scott

Karas, Steven

Kechagias, John & Noni

Kioutas, Nick & Shellie

Konstant, Gus

Kontoudis, Kosta & Kyriaki **

Kougianos, Alex & Daniela

Kougianos, Dionisios & Argiro

Kovaleski, Timothy & Ekaterini **

Kramer, Bernie & Marsha

Marvelis, Vasilios & Efthymia

Millon, Edward & Florence **

Mimaros, Dimitrios & Argie

Mojarrad, Deanna

Nikitaras, Andreas & Nicole

Nikitaras, Christos & Angela

Pappas, Basil & Linda

Perdikakis, George & Zoe

Pikounis, Emmanuel & Helen

Plevrakis, Fr. Elefterios & Esther

Prapas, Spiros

Roros, Bill & Mary

Roros, Georgios **

Sarapis, Stavros & Marina

Sarris, Sam

Silwick, Vance & Jessica **

Smith, Caesar & Illya M **

Sollon, Dafne **

Stakias, Stellios & Tina

Stavrou, George & Tina

Steber, Christopher

Steber, Paula

Stelato III, James

Sudeck, Virginia

Trikoglou, Carole

Tsiatsoulis, Leonidas & Eirini Anastasiou

Varkarota, Christina

Yiannouris, Ioannis & Shawn

Zaverdinos, George & Kalliopi **

Total 2020 Stewards: **83**

Number of New Stewards for 2020 (**): **13**

Pledged: **\$67,830.00** / Collected: **\$41,595.00**

Outstanding Balance: **\$26,235.00**

Average Stewardship Pledge: **\$ 817.23**