



ΙΕΡΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΜΑΡΙΑΣ ΜΑΓΔΑΛΗΝΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΡΚΕΛΛΗΣ

STS. MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2021 NOVEMBER 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,

I hope and pray that everyone is doing well and that the Light of God continues to shine in your lives. I have become more accustomed to writing this in the beginning of my letters because we learn by studying the lives of the saints that salvation is not contingent on a specific place or time, but one's devotion to the energies of God (a.k.a. the Eternal Uncreated Light).

We know that God is Love and His Love manifests itself where the Holy Spirit resides. Light is the visual representation of that revelation. The Neptic Fathers said that where there is light there is God, and vice versa. When we are called by God to be Apostles and to go preach the Word of God, he is actually telling us to become light-bearers; not simply teaching about the light, but becoming part of the light. Therefore, our goal in life is to be illumined.

Illumination is the point of our spiritual journey in which we have reached Paradise. For some people, this can happen in their lifetime, for others it is revealed to them after. According to St. Symeon the New Theologian, "he who sees the uncreated light and is united with God is not awaiting the Second Coming of the Lord, but is living it." With our participation in the sacramental life of the Church, we reawaken our bodily faculties that have been dormant since the Fall and direct them to energies that reveal the mysteries of our creation and our relationship with God; but it is only through the Church that this can happen. Without the Church, the passions of the world overwhelm the body, and man's image of himself and of God becomes skewed; life is seen through funny mirrors and what is perceived as good is actually demonic in essence.

For this reason, we always ask from God in our prayers to give us insight and discernment. Discernment is the virtue that allows the lens of our souls, the Nous, to separate the light from darkness, thus allowing only what is good and righteous into our bodies. Christ said to His disciples, the eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But it your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness – Matthew 6:22-23. Christ emphasizes here that salvation is contingent on our purification. Illumination, or deification, cannot happen without us being selective on what we do. Our actions have consequences to our wellbeing. Whether we experience paradise or hell has all to do with how we want to see life. As stated above, since our lenses are a part of the soul, in whatever conditions we put them through is how we are going to see ourselves. Judgment will be the realization of our condition. I hope and pray that we all choose righteously. Let us not be like the rich man from this past Sunday's reading where we are pleading with Lazarus for a drop of cooling water.

I am grateful to all of you for everything that is done at Church because I know that our work is keeping us on the right path. Our beautiful parish protects us from the demonic forces that are acting in our lives today. Our sacramental life constantly engages us with the energies of God, so do not despair because you continuously fall to the passions, but be hopeful in knowing that through repentance God will be there to heal our wounds.

As you can tell from the various postings on our website and through social media, our parish has moved on to a powerful and dynamic level. Thanks to the hard work of

the Ladies of Philoptochos, we are offering a lot more to our parishioners. By having our festivals at our Church we are finally promoting our church grounds and our faith; with the reopening of Sunday school and youth events we are able to get our young kids involved again; with the establishment of new and upcoming building projects, we are able to accommodate large crowds, thus bringing more opportunity to the Church; with the new iconography project we can visually transform the inside of the Nave to a heavenly place. All these projects act as road signs leading us to a beautiful existence. I ask everyone out there to help support our ministries and fundraisers so we can walk through it together. I pray that you have a blessed November and please reach out to me for whatever you need from the Church.

In Christ

Father Elefterios Plevrakis



LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY NEWS

The Ladies Philoptochos had a very successful October. We had a wonderful turn out at the Darlington Apple Festival. We thank everyone who made a donation, and volunteered at the booth. All proceeds were donated to our church to help with expenses. Sandwiches were prepared and delivered to Wilsons Ministry.

November is finally here which means Thanksgiving is quickly approaching. As we give thanks for all that God has blessed us with, please keep those who are less fortunate in your thoughts and prayers. Every year our ladies collect food items to donate towards the giving box mission.

If you would like to donate towards this cause, please bring the following items to the church by Sunday, November 21st:

Instant Mashed Potato (13oz box)

Stuffing (6oz box)

Macaroni and Cheese (7oz box)

Peanut Butter (16oz jar, no glass)

Corn Muffin Mix (7oz box)

Jelly (32oz jar, no glass)

Turkey Gravy (10oz can) Pasta (16oz box)

Canned Vegetables (15oz can) Pasta Sauce (24oz can, no glass)

Tuna (5oz can) Hearty Soup (18oz can)

Cranberry Sauce (14oz can)

Brownie or Cake Mix (14-19oz box)

November events:

Philoptochos provides Sunday Coffee hour for fellowship. If you would like to sign up for one of the Sundays, please see one of the board members.

3rd Thursday of the month- Wilson's Ministry sandwich preparation

- 13 November- General meeting at church starting at 10am and decorating Christmas balls for Bazaar
- 21 November Giving box food items due

Preparation for Christmas Bazaar and Saint Barbara's luncheon (Bazaar will take place 4-5 Dec and luncheon will be held after liturgy 5 Dec)

Board Members:

Lola Gikas- President Maria Giannas- Vice President Tina Stavrou- Treasurer

Maria Batis Secretary Mary Caprinolo Deana Mojarrad Argie Kougianos

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact one of our board members.

STS. MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA PHILOPTOCHOS CALENDAR

09/2021-06/2022

*Please note if there is a reason to change an event it will be announced in church bulletin or emailed to the group. Due to the COVID19 Virus the date and place of each meeting will be determined closer to time.

Week of 09/15/21 General Meeting: Review calendar and finalize dates. Brainstorm about charitable opportunities and plan for upcoming year. Brainstorm Fundraisers and add to calendar. Go over Apple Festival details and Wilson Ministries sandwiches.

10/24/21 After Divine Liturgy General Meeting: Discuss Thanksgiving food drive. Decide about Christmas Wreath Fundraiser.

Week of 11/14/21 General Meeting: Discuss and plan for Agia Barbara's Celebration 12/04/2021. Date falls on Saturday but will celebrate on Dec 5th 2021. Discuss menu. Christmas Fundraiser cookies, wreaths and baklava, vasilopita. Christmas dinner

Dec 2021- No general meeting: Sell Xmas cookies and any other fundraisers.

Jan 2022- No general meeting: Cutting the Vasilopita Jan 2nd. Passing tray after church service to benefit St. Basil Academy.

Week of 02/13/2022- General Meeting: Discuss Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser?

Week of 03/13/2022- General Meeting: Planning for Easter, Easter Flower Fundraiser, Easter bread. Easter is 04/24/2022. Plan for Palm Sunday Luncheon on Apr. 17th 2022. Decide on High School Scholarship submission deadline and presentation date. All scholarships will be reviewed by Father.

Week of 04/10/2022- General Meeting: Finalize Palm Sunday Luncheon, Easter Bread and Easter Flowers planning. Egg dying? Toile for dyed eggs? Palm Sunday Apr 17th 2022 luncheon and selling Easter bread.

04/22/2022 Holy Friday meet at church to decorate Holy Kavoulkion/Epitafio and bring lunch for participants.

Week of 05/15/2022- General Meeting: Elections, and discuss/plan Philoptochos party

June (To be determined): Philoptochos dinner and present Senior scholarship in church

NOVEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

November 7th: 7th Sunday of Luke

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

November 9th: Nektarios the Wonderworker

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

November 14th: 8th Sunday of Luke

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

NOVEMBER 15TH: NATIVITY FAST BEGINS

November 21st: Entrance of the Theotokos

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

November 28th: 13th Sunday of Luke † 9:00 a.m. – Orthros

- † 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Saint Nektarios and the Protestant Who Became Orthodox

iohnsanidopoulos.com/2017/11/saint-nektarios-and-protestant-who.html



What follows is the testimony of a recent miracle of Saint Nektarios:

On June 20 [probably of 2009] we went with the Unborn Child Protection Society on a pilgrimage trip to Aegina. We venerated the grace-flowing relics of Saint Nektarios and went to his bedroom, his grave and his new majestic church, built by the late Metropolitan Hierotheos of Hydra.

A nun narrated for us many miracles of Saint Nektarios, such as cancer healings, severe injuries, even one who was clinically dead, as well as appearances of the Saint. The following is an amazing incident. She said:

"In 2007 a German Protestant came to our monastery. Some people told him to put his ear against the tomb of the Saint to hear the banging of his cane. He put his ear to the tomb and heard a voice in German say: 'You will become Orthodox and after two years you will come here and liturgize.' The German was shocked by this and when he returned to his homeland he was catechized, baptized Orthodox and became a Priest; and not too long ago he came and liturgized at our monastery."

Source: Translated by John Sanidopoulos.

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.)



STS. MARY MAGDALENE AND MARKELLA FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON





HONORING THE LIBERATION OF CHIOS

WITH ARTOKLASIA SERVICE

NOVEMBER 14, 2021

(IMMEDIATELY AFTER DIVINE SERVICES)

TICKET DONATION

ADULTS: \$25.00 UNDER 12: \$12.00

MENU

APPETIZER SALAD
HALF LEMON ROASTED CHICKEN (QUARTER FOR YOUTH)
LEMON POTATOES
SWEET PEAS
DESSERT
CHOICE OF BEVERAGE (WATER, SODA, BEER, OR WINE)

PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS THE CHURCH'S HALL FLOORING AND OUTDOOR PATIO PROJECTS

TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.
VISIT US AT STSMM.ORG FOR ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

CHRISTMAS FAMILY PHOTO YOUTH FUNDRAISER

NOVEMBER 21, 2021



CHRISTMAS IS AROUND THE CORNER WHICH MEANS IT'S TIME TO TAKE THOSE FAMILY PICTURES. NICOLE NIKITARAS WILL BE TAKING PROFESSIONAL PICTURES FOR ALL THOSE WANTING TO LOOK GOOD ON THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CARDS. FAMILY PICTURES WILL BE LOADED ON A FLASH DRIVE FOR YOU TO KEEP. THE COST IS \$60.00 PER FAMILY AND ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE YOUTH GROUP.

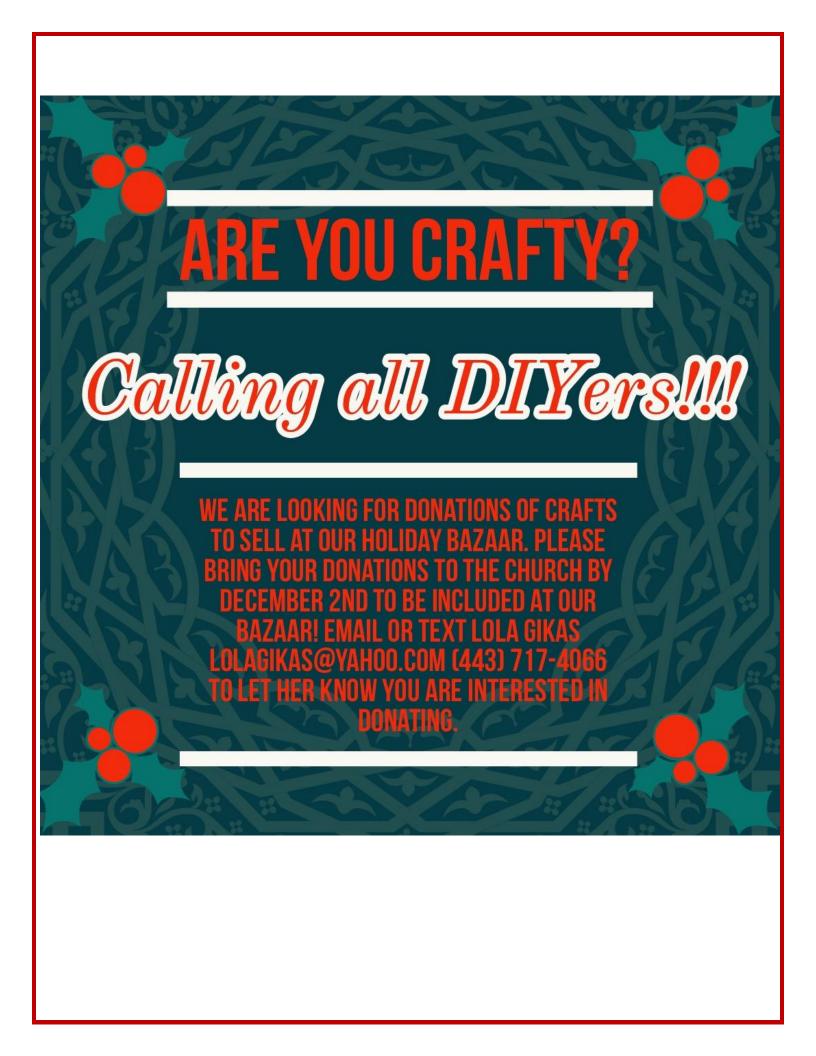
ST. BARBARA FEAST DAY CELEBRATION AND LUNCHEON



WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT ON **SUNDAY**, **DECEMBER 5**TH WE WILL BE CELEBRATING THE PATRON SAINT OF OUR PHILOPTOCHOS, ST. BARBARA. WE WILL ALSO BE COMMEMORATING ALL THE HARD WORKING MEMBERS OF PHILOPTOCHOS WITH AN ARTOKLASIA SERVICE. A LUNCHEON PREPARED BY THE LADIES WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW THE SERVICE.

FURTHERMORE, COME AND ENJOY ON THAT DAY AN AMAZING CHRISTMAS BAZAAR HOSTED BY THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES OF OUR CHURCH. HELP US SPREAD THE CHRISTMAS CHEER!





PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD & POINSETTIA SALE



Please help us to decorate our beautiful church for the upcoming Christmas season by donating \$25.00 toward the purchase of a poinsettia plant.

Your family is also invited to join the Community Christmas Card with a donation of \$25.00.

Please specify your choice and enclose your donation with this form.

Name:
Address:
Community Christmas Card (#) \$ Please indicate how you wish your family name to appear on the Christmas card:
Poinsettias (#) \$
In Honor
In Memory

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO STS MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA SEND PAYMENT TO P.O. BOX 1575, BEL AIR, MD 21014

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30TH

STS. MARY MAGDALENE AND MARKELLA CHRISTMAS GLENDI



LIVE MUSIC ELLADA BAND TARPON SPRINGS

50/50 RAFFLE

ONE BOTTLE
OF WINE PER TABLE
AND CASH BAR

& DRINKS

SAVE \$75 WHEN YOU BUY 10 TICKETS



Saturday, December 18th
@ 7 pm Ikaros Restaurant,
Baltimore

TICKETS: \$75.00

Contact Fotini Kaminaris
443-509-7650 &
Maria Fokianos at
mfokianos@comcast.net.
Or visit www.stsmm.org
to purchase online
after October 18th

Become a Glendi Sponsor at www.stsmm.org under "sponsorship donation"

We need your help!

Help us raise \$12,000 for our NEW Outdoor Seating Patio

We are excited to announce that our Parish is raising money for a new Outdoor Seating Patio which will extend from the current pavilion. We have found that as we continue to grow as a community and utilize more of the church grounds for larger events, it has become paramount for the church to increase its seating capacity in order to accommodate larger crowds. On this new concrete slab, we will be able to set up outdoor kitchen equipment as well as eight to ten extra round tables, which will add approximately 80-100 more seats outside. With these extra tables, we are able to double our current capacity.

Furthermore, the issue of not being able to utilize the outside grounds due to the high saturation of water is solved as there will be plenty of solid ground to set up tables and chairs.

To reach this amazing goal, we need to raise \$12,000. We ask that everyone contribute to help us reach our target. We have set up a donation link on our church website. Please visit us at www.stsmm.org to donate, or send your donation to P.O. Box 1575, Bel Air, MD 21014. We thank you and we look forward to serving you soon on our new patio!



Www.stsmm.org

Goal \$12,000 \$10,000 \$8,000 \$6,000 \$4,000 \$2,000 \$1,000

Together we can make a difference! Thank you

NEW CHURCH ICONOGRAPHY



WE ARE THRILLED AT THE NEW ADDITION TO OUR CHURCH, AN ICON OF ST. BARBRA AND ST. NICHOLAS. IT WAS DONATED TO OUR CHURCH BY AN ANONYMOUS DONOR FROM FLORIDA. WE PRAY THAT GOD GIVES HER STRENGTH AND MANY BLESSED YEARS. THE WORK WAS DONE BY THE TALENTED ICONOGRAPHER DIONYSIOS BOULOUBASSIS. WE PLAN ON CONTINUING ICONOGRAPHY IN OUR CHURCH. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN DONATING, PLEASE REACH OUT TO FATHER AT FRELEFTERIOS@GMAIL.COM.

PICTURE FROM OUR RECENT YOUTH EVENT AT FALLING BRANCH







Greek Night Out Glendi

Join us for a night of Greek Dancing, Family Fellowship and Fun "It's All About the Kefi"



Thanksgiving Eve Wednesday, November 24, 2021 7pm till Midnight

Martin's Valley Manson 594 Cranbrook Road Cockeysville, MD

\$30/Adult - \$20/Under 18 Lite Appetizers will be served. Cash Bar **Live Greek Music**



For Tables/Tickets Call 443-621-0587

axioncharityevents@gmail.com

Credit Cards & Paypal accepted



Axion Charity Events, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit foundation that engages with the Greek community in fundraising projects to enhance and support the Greek Orthodox churches of the Baltimore Metropolitan area. We serve the community by providing fellowship and organizing cultural events that benefit the various ministries of the churches.

HALL RENTAL

Plan Your Next Reception/Party



If you are looking for a place to host your next reception, picnic, or birthday party, our Function Hall has all the amenities you need. Why pay hundreds, or even thousands of dollars to sit behind some table at some restaurant when you can have all the access and freedom to an entire property.

When hosting your event at our Function Hall, you will be getting:

- 1) A beautiful and peaceful property nestled in the natural setting of Darlington.
- 2) Plenty of parking for your guests (Fits approx. sixty-five cars).
- 3) A commercial kitchen with brand new stainless steel refrigerators and equipment.
- 4) Round table seating that can comfortably accommodate up to 90 people.
- 5) Dimmable lighting for the perfect ambiance.
- 6) Full climate-controlled building.
- 7) Full Wi-fi coverage with a Smart Television and other media devices.
- 8) Loud speaker sound system with Bluetooth capability (Can also be used outdoors).
- 9) Full access to our outside seating under our giant pavilion (Foldable tables and tables available; fully functional outdoor fans for air circulation; and power outlets available throughout the perimeter of pavilion).
- 10) Swing set and slide, basketball hoop, ping pong table, foosball table, and a giant field for sports.
- 11) Access to two large commercial propane grills and convection ovens (fits approx. 20 disposable trays), one charcoal grill, and walk-in cooler and freezer,

Because we know how costly it can be to put a party together, we have made sure to keep the rental fee very reasonable. For stewards of the church it is **\$300** and for non-stewards it is **\$400**.

We invite you to come and see the property and speak with our coordinator. Please email us at frelefterios@gmail.com if you are interested and we will contact you as soon as possible.

WHO LOVES SPANAKOPITA!?!?!

WHO NEEDS SPANAKOPITA FOR THEIR NEXT EVENT?!?!

WHO IS TOO BUSY TO MAKE ONE?!?!



IF YOU THINK THESE QUESTIONS DESCRIBE YOUR SITUATION, DO NOT WORRY WE ARE HERE TO SAVE THE DAY! WE HAVE GOTTEN GREAT REVIEWS ABOUT OUR NEW AND DELICIOUS SPANAKOPITA. IF YOU NEED A TRAY FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT WE ARE SELLING A **12-PIECE TRAY OF LARGE SPANAKOPITA FOR \$36.00.** THEY ARE SOLD FROZEN AND JUST NEED A LITTLE BAKING TO REACH THAT PERFECT TASTE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE EMAIL THE CHURCH AT STSMMGOC@GMAIL.COM



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 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.

2021 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE LIST

Alatzas, George & Rene

Alatzas, Triffon & Stacia

Babiak, Christopher & Leslie

Bachman, Gary & Christina

Batis, Nikolaos & Maria

Batsis, Nick & Nomiki

Batsis, Meropi & Komninos Psaros

Bilis, Amalia

Bonincontri, Ray & Jamie

Boswell, Richard & Vicky **

Bournousouzis, Christos

Caprinolo, Lee & Mary

Christofidis, Raphael

Cioloca, Bogdan & Anca

Conway, Joseph & Jennifer

Demedis, Olympia

Diamandaras, Helen

Fafalios, Ava

Fafalios, Nicolette

Fokianos, Konstantinos & Maria

Giannaras, Chris

Giannas, Apostolos& Maria

Giannas, Erene

Giannas, Ioannis

Giannas, Stylianos& Maria

Gikas, John & Lola

Gikas, George

Harris, Christina

Hennessy, Cathrine& Mary

Hondrelis, Padelis & Effie

Hyde, Michael & Maryann

Kaitis, Dr. Angela

Kaminaris, Gus &Fotini

Kanaras, Louis & Eleni

Kanaras, Penny

Karalekas, Alexandra

Karas, Aimee

Karas, Andy

Karas, Bethany Anne

Karas, Daphne

Karas, John & Belinda

Karas, Katie

Karas, Michael & Linda

Karas, Peter & Kim

Karas, Scott

Karas, Steven

2021 PLEDGED STEWARDS

Katsaros, Stelios ** Sarris, Greg & Kristie

Kechagias, John & Noni Silwick, Vance & Jessica

Kioutas, Nick & Shellie Stakias, Stelio & Tina

Kirakos, Manal Stavrou, George & Tina

Konstant, Eugenia Stavrou, Stamatios

Kontoudis, Apostolos & Despina ** Steber, Christopher

Kougianos, Alex & Daniela Steber, Paula

Kougianos, Dionisios & Argiro Stillwell, Pauline & Billy

Kramer, Bernie & Marsha Sudeck, Virginia

Lewis, Donna Trikoglou, Carole

Marvelis, Vasilios & Efthymia Tsiatsoulis, Leonidas & Eirini Anastasiou

Mimaros, Dimitrios & Argie Varkarota, Christina

Miller, Barbara ** Vermont, James & Nasia **

Mojarrad, Deanna Wagner, Jerome **

Nikitaras, Christos & Angela Number of New Stewards for 2020 (**): 5

Total 2021 Stewards: 87

Nikitaras, Spiro & Despina Pledged: \$65,321 / Collected: \$57,848

Pappas, Basil & Linda Outstanding Balance: \$7,447

Perdikakis, George & Zoe Average Stewardship Pledge: \$ 750.82

Plevrakis, Fr. Elefterios & Esther

Pikounis, Emmanuel & Helen

Murphy, Kevin & Nancy

Nikitaras, Andreas & Nicole

Prapas, Spiros

Sacksen, Peter

Sarapis, Stavros & Marina

Sarris, Sam