

#### Greek Orthodox Metropolis Of New Jersey His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos

#### **Parish Priest**

Fr. Manuel J. Burdusi father@sttheodores.org Cell 410-241-9690

## St. Theodore the General Greek Orthodox Church

7101 Cipriano Road Lanham, MD 20706 www.sttheodores.org office@sttheodores.org

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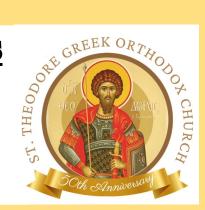
#### **Church Office:**

Monday through Friday 10:00 am—2:00 pm Church Secretary Newsletter Editor Juliana Moniodis Phone: 301.552.3540

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# **Our Monthly News**

St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church Lanham, Maryland Volume 15, Issue 10 October 2023 Celebrating 50 years



#### Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is Approaching its Apex By Fr. Manuel J. Burdusi, Protopresbyter

Everything has a beginning and an end. Everything changes and is in a process except for Our Ever-eternal Christ, Who is the Beginning and the End of all things. We have arrived to a New Ecclesiastical Year in September and are now into October already. I wish everyone a blessed and good ecclesiastical and academic new year. But as we hear and read in the news, we come to find out that the world is always in turmoil and we worry that peace and goodness are not in front of us. As we see, everything is always changing.

The world is changing so fast. Just forty years ago, a very few people had personal computers or cell phones, now they are the major source of communication on earth. When our beloved Church of St. Theodore was founded in 1973 we knew very little about computers, and, yet, now our lives are being revolutionized by their existence. Fifty years ago, no one knew what DNA was. Today scientists may be able to alter our DNA in order to prevent cancer or Alzheimer's, and other debilitating diseases.

The world is always changing, but Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. There have been many things that have affected the world, but the Church has remained constant, always guiding us and leading us. Jesus knew that there were going to be changes in the world, and that is why he told his disciples and subsequently us, what He expects of us. Jesus told us to continue to turn to Him for all our understanding, nourishment, and direction and He will continue to bless us and guide us. In order for the Church to move beyond today and thrive for the next 50 years, it must be built and operate around the person of Jesus Christ. He is the cornerstone for which everything else is built upon. We need to listen to Him and not to other strange voices and influences of the world. We need to have faith and know that God is in charge. When we acknowledge that He is truly in charge, then all things will go much better.

Our Church is not a business; it is not an institution created by man. Jesus Christ created it Himself and He is the Head. When we acknowledge that, then everything else begins to make better sense and all falls into proper order and priority. Jesus also reminds us to love one another. He didn't say to only love those who only love you. And he didn't say to only love those who are like you and agree with you 100% of the time. We are to love unconditionally, just like Jesus love us unconditionally.

Lastly, Jesus reminds us to bear fruit, but not ordinary fruit that will perish in a few days, but fruit that will last forever. We must learn to have love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

With these things, we can transform the world. They are what God wants from us. They will make the Church more attractive to those around us until the whole world is transformed into a holier place. Jesus' commandments are very simple, yet they reach the very depths of human life and they are capable of transforming the entire world. We as a people seem to overlook these things and the Church is here to help us stay focused and on the right path to salvation.

The world goes through radical changes every day and the Church is challenged with these changes. What will our Church of St. Theodore look like ten, twenty or fifty years from now? If the Church is being faithful to Christ, then it will not only survive, but flourish and grow and nothing will ever come to knock it down or close it.

Continued on page 2

## **CHURCH MINISTRIES MONTHLY NEWS**

#### Continued from page 1

If we continue to abide in our Lord Jesus Christ and make this place at 7101 Cipriano Rd, a place of even greater love and be a stronger and growing Community of believers where the fruits of the Spirit abound, then I can promise you without a doubt that the a church with these three things, will and can only flourish and grow and it will never die. God won't let it happen, and as long as I am the presiding priest of our beloved Community, neither will I, and neither will all of you, the faithful parishioners of St. Theodore. Let us therefore, recommit our lives to Christ and to our Church and give it our full and unconditional support as we continue to celebrate our "golden year" with beautiful memories from the past and golden dreams for the future. As an inspiring speaker at my graduation from college said, "Do dream dreams!" May our dreams for a brighter and stronger future be solid as a rock, the rock which is the cornerstone of our Church, and that is no other than Jesus Christ Himself. To our Lord be the glory forever. Amen.

#### **MEMORIALS**

On September 3, 2023, there was a Six-Year Memorial for Theadora Bekos-Juliano, beloved daughter of Eleni & Panagiotis Bekos, sister of Dimitra Bekos, Christina Walker and Mihalis Bekos. May her memory be eternal.

On September 24, 2023, there was a 40-Day Memorial for Stavroula (Voula) Pantazes, the beloved mother of William D. Pantazes and Joanna V. Pantazes. May her memory be eternal.

#### **TRISAGION**

On September 10, 2023, there was a 32-year Trisagion for Napoleon Moniodis, the dearly departed father of Xenofon & Paul (Juliana) Moniodis; grandfather of Anna (Jonathan) Ginns, Nicholas and Christina Moniodis; great grandfather of Arianna & Nastasia Moniodis; and Juliana, Athanasios, and Alexandra Ginns. May his memory be eternal.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School began on Sunday, October 1, 2023, and will be held downstairs in the social hall every Sunday after Holy Communion. Both Maria Adamos & Georgia Plangetis are teaching the classes. If any new students would like to enroll you can contact Fr. Manuel at mjburdusi@gmail.com or Maria Adamos at mnbanis@gmail.com. All young people of the community are encouraged to come and be a part of the Sunday School program. Please contact Maria Adamos if you are interested in helping as a substitute teacher.

#### BIBLE STUDY ONLINE

The bible study will be offered online on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. beginning on Wednesday, October 4. The link to join the Bible Study is meet.google.com/adh-cguj -eng. You would need to have a gmail email account in order to join google meet. Gmail accounts are free. If you are interested in being a part of the bible study, please send a message to Fr. Manuel at mjburdusi@gmail.com. The bible study will be each Wednesday from October 4 until December Festival and other regular items. We will be accepting 20<sup>th</sup>.



On Sunday, October 1, 2023, the Philoptochos Officers and Board were sworn in. President Anthie Zairis 1st Vice President Maria Kapsalis 2nd Vice President Zoe Lazarou Secretary Presbytera Malama Burdusi Treasurer Nora Presti Advisor Angeliki Frangos-Papaspyrou

Board: Kassiani Kakitsis, Theresa Papadopoulos, Elaine Michaelides, Alexandra Tsiglifis and Paula Magoulas.

May you all serve our Philoptochos and Saint Theodore in good health.

Greetings St. Theodore Youth, Families and Parishioners:

Please join us on Saturday October 28th from 3:00 - 6:00 pm for our parish's

Harvest Party, or "Hellen-o-ween" celebration!!! It will be a fun-filled afternoon of games, crafts, food and drink! Kids of all ages and those that are young at heart are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there! In Christ,

Yianni and Zoe Lazarou, St. Theodore Youth Advisors

#### PARISH COUNCIL MEEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2023 @ 7PM.

#### PARISH ASSEMBLY

Mark your calendars from now for the upcoming Fall Regular Parish Assembly on Sunday October 29, Reports will be given on the finances of the Church, a proposed budget for 2024, a report on the nominations to the Parish Council. An official agenda will be forthcoming.

#### 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING

An easy way to have a fund-raising effort that everyone can participate in to help with the many expenses for the Anniversary celebration. Just as a wedding is a very costly but worthy endeavor and memorable event for the couple, a Church anniversary also incurs expenses that are not part of the normal yearly budget. We are grateful to be a part of the 50<sup>th</sup>Anniversary of the Church and help in whatever way we can. There will be 100 envelopes between \$1.00 and \$100.00 dollars for you to make your donation to the Church. If all the envelopes are submitted, \$5000 will be raised. We will do this now at the beginning and again in the Fall, September - November. There will be many expenses to have the Archbishop of America come in December and his entourage. They will need to be placed in a hotel and we are to have their tickets to the banquet complimentary as well as the tickets of all the past priests who have served the church and the area priests. This along with other special expenses add up. We pray that you have an unforgettable experience this year for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The chart will be updated so that we can achieve 100% participation from \$1 to \$100 dollars.

#### **2023 ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE**

Try your luck with our Special Anniversary Raffle this year. It is a simple scratch off card. All you do is scratch off 6 of the same picture of cash and you win instantly \$50,000.00. Each ticket is \$20, but we have decided to give you two chances for the price of one. Stop by the table at the coffee hour and try your luck for \$50 thousand dollars. You will also be helping out the church in this fundraising effort.

#### FLOWERS BEFORE CHRIST & PANAGIA

You are welcome to donate flowers before the icons of Christ and Panagia You can make a donation in memory of a loved one or for the health of your family. Call the Church office Monday – Thursday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. so that we can order the flowers from a professional florist and have the flowers delivered on Friday afternoon. The cost is \$150.00 for both vases of flowers before Christ & Panagia or \$75.00 for one vase before Christ or Panagia and two people or two families can donate each vase.

#### **USED CLOTHING SHED**

Our used clothing shed is now open for donations again. Be sure to bring your items in plastic bags that are tied. We are accepting all clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes, and stuffed toys. Please **no** rags, fabric scraps, toys or household goods. It is a hardship and expense to dipose of.

#### **ORTHODOX OBSERVER**

The Orthodox Observer newspaper is now only being published in a digital format, and no longer delivered to parishioners' homes. If you wish to receive the paper, log on to <a href="https://www.goarch.org/news">www.goarch.org/news</a> to subscribe.

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# October/Οκτώβοιος 2023

<b>Sunday</b> Κυριακή	Monday Δευτέρα	Tuesday Τρίτη	Wednesday Τετάρτη	Thursday Πέμπτη	Friday Παρασκευή	Saturday Σάββατον
2nd Sunday of Luke/ 2η Κυριακή Λουκά Matins & Divine Liturgy/ ΟΡΘΡΟΣ - Θ. ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 9:00/10:15am Sunday School/ Κατηχητικό σχολείο	2	3	Bible Study 7PM ONLINE	5	6	7
8 3rd Sunday of Luke/ 3η Κυριακή Λουκά Matins & Divine Liturgy/ ΟΡΘΡΟΣ - Θ. ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 9:00/10:15 am Sunday School/ Κατηχητικό σχολείο	9 Columbus Day Office Closed	IO  Parish Council  Meeting—7PM	Bible Study 7PM ONLINE	12	13	14
15 7th Ecumenical Council/2' ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΗΣ ΣΥΝΟΔΟΥ Matins & Divine Liturgy/ ΟΡΘΡΟΣ - Θ. ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 9:00/10:15 am Sunday School/ Κατηχητικό σχολείο	16	17	Bible Study 7PM ONLINE	19	20	21
22 6th Sunday of Luke/ 6η Κυριακή Λουκά Matins & Divine Liturgy/ ΟΡΘΡΟΣ - Θ. ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 9:00/10:15 am Sunday School/ Κατηχητικό σχολείο	23	24	25 No Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Great Vespers at St. Demetrios Church, in Baltimore	26 St. Demetrios/ AΓΙΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ  Matins & Divine Liturgy/ ΟΡΘΡΟΣ - Θ. ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 9:00/10:100am	27	Join us for the Hellenoween @ 3-6pm
29 7th Sunday of Luke/ 7η Κυριακή Λουκά  Matins & Divine Liturgy/ ΟΡΘΡΟΣ - Θ. ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 9:00/10:15 am Sunday School/ Κατηχητικό σχολείο  PARISH ASSEMBLY after Church	30	Have a safe evening!				

Dear Parishioners,

The Stewardship Year begins on January 1st and concludes on December 31st. We ask that you do not delay and join the "St. Theodore's Stewardship Program for 2023" so that we can grow and become a stronger Church and minister to you, the people of God. The Church needs the support of its members year round. Please consider giving a pledge as a way of showing your support and love to the Church. It cost thousands of dollars a month to operate the Church with the monthly utility and maintenance bills and salaries. Please consider giving as much as your heart tells you to give. You do not need to make your payment all at once. You can give quarterly, monthly or weekly, which makes it very easy and affordable. Paying on Square@sttheodores.org has also been set up for those who would like to use it. Thank you!

#### STEWARDSHIP HONOR ROLL Pledges

#### ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑ 2023

Theodore & Maria Adamos Charles & Victoria Alevrofas Angie Alexion

AJ & Areti Nikolaou Anderson

Savas Bakalides Sirmatenia Bakalides Nektarios & Eleni Banis

George Banis Dimitra Bekos Helen Bekos Michalis Bekos

James & Eleni Galata Bickell George & Katherine Billos Kristina & TJ Bonner Aristea E. Burdusi Michael J. Burdusi

Fr. Manuel J. & Molly Burdusi Nicholas & Julie Burdusi Lee & Mary Caprinolo Ioanna Elisabet Christoforou Nicholas & Karen Cox

Jessie Defalco Bess Demas

Spero & Theano Demetrides John & Fofo Dimopoulos Demetri Dimopoulos Katerina, Peter & Chris Exis Angeliki Fanourgakis

George & Angeliki Papaspyrou Dimitrios & Myrofora Frantzis Spyridon & Stavroula Galiatsatos

Antonios Gemetzopoulos Anastasia Georhristodoulos

Andreas & Sofia Georhristodoulos

Angie Geralis Paul Gionis

Demetrius P. Govotsos Randy E. & Anna Grow Matthew & Payal Halkos Timothy & Cheryl Halkos Dennis & Mary Pittas Herschbach

Agisilaos Iliadis

Athanasios & Foteini Iliopoulos John-Peter & Elizabeth Jalbert

Angela Jones Kassiani Kakitsis Panagos & Maria Kapsalis

Olga Karahalis Diane Karras Panagiota Karras Bill & Tina Katcheves

Kyriakos & Argiro Kiotsekoglou Keith & Nicolette Kirby

Athanasios & Marilu Kolazas Spyros & Olga Koliavasilis

George Kollaros **Anastasios Kouridis** Adam & Eftihia Koutelis

Chrisovalantis & Johanna Koutelis

Gregory & Vasiliki Kozakos Vasiliki & Marianna Kretsis

Erasmia Lois Paula Magoulas

Joshua & Christina Knepper

Ourania Manessis Angelos Manessis Polymnia Manessis Vasilike Mantzouranis John S. Maroulis Panagiotis Marousis

Aphrodite T. Matsakis, PhD.

Reed & Gina Melis

Nicholas & Elaine Michaelides Robert & Marilia Michell-Samaras

Kyriacos Miltiadou Paul & Juliana Moniodis John & Catherine M. Nazarene

Vasilia Orfanidis

Afroditi E. Papadopoulos Vasilios & Tracy Papadopoulos

Christopher Papanicolas Nikolaos & Maria Paschalidis

Georgios & Constantina Pelekanos

Ioannis Perelas

Sotirios & Evangelia Petropoulos

Sofia Plagakis

Phillip & Georgia Plangetis Cynthia Popomaronis

William & Nora Presti

George Rallis **Gregory Rallis** Georgia Romas Elpis Sakaria

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Pantelis & Anthie Zairis Robert & Gina Zick Patricia Zissios Tom & Nikki Zizos

As of September 30, 2023 we have a total of 118 stewards who have signed up for their 2023 Stewardship of the Church. Please join the membership list of supporters.

#### CREDIT CARD **STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS**

If you would like to pay your stewardship monthly by credit card, please email to the following email address: square@sttheodores.org with your pledge and frequency.



### STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FORM 2023

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to be stewards of our Church. When we are faithful to this calling, then our Lord will say to us as he did to the faithful steward, "Well done good and faithful servant" (Mt 25:23).

NAME		MOBILE PHONE		
NAME OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)		MOBILE PHONE		
STREET ADDRESS		EMAIL ADDRESS		
CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE		EMAIL ADDRESS OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)		
HOME PHONE		VERY IMPORTANT		
In gratitude for God's many blessings, I/we commit to the stewardship of St. Theodore's and pledge the following for 2023.		To help with printing costs and conserve on paper we agree to receive the Parish Newsletter by e-mail only.		
\$ per month x 12 months = \$	for t	the year. Please check to indicate		
Suggested amounts for giving:       \$40/mon (\$480)         \$10 per week (\$520/yr)       \$50/mon (\$600)         \$15 per week (\$780 /yr)       \$50/mon (\$600)         \$20 per week (\$1040 /yr)       \$75/mon (\$900)         \$25 per week (\$1300 /yr)       \$100/mon (\$1,200)         \$50 per week (\$2600 /yr)       \$150/mon (\$1,800)         Other per week \$       Other per month \$		that St. Theodore's Church is your primary place of worship. \$ 1,000/yr \$ 1,500/yr \$ 2,000/yr Other \$		
Signature:				
Once you make your pledge, you have the entire year to fulfill your pledge. You can pay by cash, check, through PAYPAL, or even through Bill Pay through your bank's checking account. You can also make a payment by going to our Church's website: <a href="https://www.sttheodores.org">www.sttheodores.org</a> and click the "Online Store" to make a	Your time & talent  I would like to offer my time and talents for the ministry of St. Theodore's   ☑ (check all that apply)			
credit card payment. Children 18 and over and who are working should become members separate from their parents. Children	☐ Church School		☐ GOYA/YOUTH	
in college or graduate school can remain under their parent's	☐ Greek School/PTO ☐ Chanting ☐ Philoptochos		☐ Young Adult	
membership but should still fill out this form .			☐ Bible Study	
Make payments to: St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church, 7101 Cipriano Rd., Lanham, MD 20723.			☐ Baking Prosphora	
Dependent Children's names and birthdates:	☐ Festival		☐ Grounds and Maintenance	
	☐ Fundraising		☐ Altar Boy	
	☐ Dance Group		☐ Flowers/Decorations	
			☐ Other	



#### "AXIOS" to His Eminence, Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

By Angeliki Frangou-Papaspyrou

I share with you my thoughts and sentiments of the Enthronement of His Eminence, Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. In many places in Greece but especially on the island of Karpathos of the Dodecanesian Islands, we have a tradition of singing to the bride and groom individually as they meet in the front of the church on their wedding day. It's traditionally with two musical instruments, one called a lyra and the other called a "laouto" and the people sing "mantinades" or poetic verses dedicated to the groom and the bride and their nuptials. When Metropolitan Apostolos, along with His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, arrived at the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. John the Theologian in Tenafly, New Jersey, they were greeted by the sounds of the island of Karpathos—of the lyra and laouto and the young man with the lyra leaned his head back and sang out blessings and congratulations in the form of "mantinades" the sung poetry of Karpathos.

"Συγχαρητήρια θα πω για την ενθρόνιση σου, Κι'ανώτερες προαγωγές να δεις εις την ζωή σου Μικρός μικρός εγινηκες, ΑΞΙΟΣ Μητροπολιτης, Και στο ταξίδι της ψυχής Εμπήκες κυβερνήτης Περιφανή η Ρόδος μας, μα κι ολος ο λαός σου, Κι'η Παναγία πάντοτε να είναι οδηγός σου."

My dear friend and Koumbaro Georgio F. Comninos, Esq. was humbly asked by Metropolitan Apostolos, who is from the neighboring island of Rhodes, to bring his Karpathian friends along with the Lyra and

Laouto to the Enthronement. I was curious as to why? I know that the Metropolitan loves the Dodecanesian Islands - the 12 island region that He and I are from. His Eminence has even encouraged us to plan an annual celebration of the Reunification of the Twelve Islands of the Dodecanese to Greece in Baltimore, Maryland these past two years and wants us to continue it always. They sang to him these "mantinades" and presented him with a bouquet of flowers. His extreme pleasure at the crowd of well- wishers and musicians was so apparent. His gracious smile and demeanor even brought the sun to shine even brighter. Everyone was so happy to see him and they were sharing in his joy. They put a decorated deep red cloak around his shoulders called a "Mandeia" which is stitched with various religious symbols and designs in gold threads. We followed behind him as he walked into the Cathedral.

There were so many clergy present from our Metropolis of New Jersey, the New York District, many from all over the U.S. and even a significant number from around the world. Some I even recognized from the Patriarch's visit to Saint Sophia a few years ago. The church was overflowing with people with so many happy faces each with their phones to record this memorable moment of the Enthronement and to share the experience "live" with family and friends. I then realized and felt the same emotions that one experiences just prior to a Church wedding. It was the next chapter in His Eminence's life in the Church. We were honored to be invited and called his favored guests and to be witnesses before our Lord at the Enthronement of His Grace,

Bishop Apostolos becoming our new Metropolitan of New Jersey. Words are inadequate to truly express to all of you the feelings of joy, exultation and pride that were in the air that day and continue to be the anticipation and expectation of great hope and potential for our Church. A new era of thoughtful direction and servant leadership was rung in with bells and great exclamations of joy. The phrase "Axios" was the one that was shouted and proclaimed excitedly over and over again. "Axios!" is a Greek word ἄξιος, which means "worthy of", "deserving of", and "suitable" and it is an acclamation adopted by the early Christian Church and it is still to this day proclaimed by the faithful at the ordinations of bishops, priests and deacons. Each individual voice that called out the word was followed by everyone repeating it and roaring "AXIOS" even louder. This is love, respect and delight that was inside of all of us present that blessed Saturday the 16th of September.

I have never attended such an event as grand and momentous like this in my entire life. It was an honor to represent my beloved Church of Saint Theodore as the Philoptochos President along with my husband George Papaspyrou, a member of the Parish Council. I also had the distinct honor to meet several times prior to His Enthronement, especially as someone who from her first Bishop's dinner which was hosted at our humble church - came to know, love and respect our now Metropolitan of New Jersey, Apostolos. May he always serve our beloved Metropolis with good health, honor, and respect and continue to guide and support our church and help us to move forward and thrive and grow as a Greek Orthodox Church of the Washington/Baltimore Metropolitan area. May His Eminence always and ever be "AXIOS."



You can begin to make your reservations for your tickets to the Grand Banquet.

We are working very hard to keep the price affordable for everyone.

Ticket purchases can be made online soon or by check through the mail or stopping by the church office

Monday-Friday 10am-2pm.

There will be a discount for those parishioners who reserve an entire table of 10 in contrast to buying individual tickets.

Deadline for purchasing tickets for the Grand Banquet is **November 25, 2023.** 



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