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

Our 50th 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

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

PARISH COUNCIL
Pres—Nick Michaelides
V. Pres—Timothy Halkos
Treasurer—Panetis Zairis
Secretary— Nora Presti
Theodore Adamos
Antonios Gemetzopoulos
John Lazarou
John Maroulis
Paul Moniodis
George Papaspyrou
Maria Tsioumas

PHILOPTOCHOS
President—Anthie Zairis
1stVice Pres—Maria Kapsalis
2nd Vice Pres—Zoe Lazarou
Secretary—Presv. Malama Burdusi
Treasurer— Nora Presti
Advisor Angeliki Frangos-Papaspyrou
Board Members:
Sec- Tracy Papadopoulos
Kassiani Kakitsis
Paula Magoulas
Elaine Michaelides
Tracy Papadopoulos
Alexandra Tsiglifis

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Maria Banis Adamou
Georgianna Plangetis

GREEK SCHOOL/PTO
Nora Presti, PTO President

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

Find us on Facebook!
https://www.facebook.com/
groups/sttheodore/
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) Ginnis, Nicholas and Christina Moniodis; great grandfather of Arianna & Nastasia Moniodis; and Juliana, Athanasios, and Alexandra Ginnis. 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-cqju-cng. 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 20th.

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 MEETING

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, 2023. Reports will be given on the finances of the Church, a proposed budget for 2024, a report on the Festival and other regular items. We will be accepting nominations to the Parish Council. An official agenda will be forthcoming.
50TH 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 50th 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 50th 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 dispose 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 www.goarch.org/news to subscribe.
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- **1st Sunday of Luke/ 1η Κυριακή Λουκά**: No Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Great Vespers at St. Demetrios Church, in Baltimore.
- **2nd Sunday of Luke/ 2η Κυριακή Λουκά**: Bible Study 7PM ONLINE.
- **3rd Sunday of Luke/ 3η Κυριακή Λουκά**: Office Closed.
- **7th Ecumenical Council/ ΕΙΚΟΥΣΙΑ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΗΣ ΣΥΝΟΔΟΥ**: Bible Study 7PM ONLINE.
- **6th Sunday of Luke/ 6η Κυριακή Λουκά**: No Bible Study.
- **7th Sunday of Luke/ 7η Κυριακή Λουκά**: Have a safe evening!

**Additional Events**
- **Columbus Day**: Office Closed.
- **Parish Council Meeting**: 7PM.
- **OXI Day**: Join us for the Hellenoween @ 3-6pm.
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!

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.

Theodore & Maria Adamos
Charles & Victoria Alevrofas
Angie Alexion
AJ & Areti Nikolau 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 Karalahis
Diane Karras
Panagiota Karras
Bill & Tina Katcheves
Kyriakos & Argo Kiotsekoglou
Keith & Nicolette Kirby
Athanasios & Marilu Kolazas
Spyros & Olga Koliavasilis
George Kollaros
Anastasios Kouridis
Adam & Efthia Koutelis
Chrisovalantis & Johanna Koutelis
Gregory & Vasiliki Kozakos
Vasiliki & Marianna Kretsis
Erasmia Lois
Paula Magoulas
Joshua & Christina Knepper
Ourania Manessis
Angelos Manessis
Polymnia Manessis
Vasilike Mantzournanis
John S. Maroulis
Panagiotis Marousis
Aphrodite T. Matsakis, PhD.
Reed & Gina Melis
Nicholas & Elaine Michaelides
Robert & Marilia Michell-Samaras
Kyriakos 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
Sotiros & Evangelia Petropoulos
Sophia Plagakis
Phillip & Georgia Plangetis
Cynthia Popomaronis
William & Nora Presti
George Rallis
Gregory Rallis
Georgia Romans
Elpis Sakaria
Maria & Basu Sakaria-Kori
Michael & Anna Sergotick
Iliana Siarmalis
Zachary & Victoria Villano Singer
Gregory & Anastasia Skarvelis
James Speropulos
Gregory L. Stamulis
Panagiotis & Maria Stefanias
Daniel & Shea Svihra
James Tancabel
Andrew E. Tompros
Margie & Amelia Tompros
Chris & Joyce Trikeriotis
Vasilios & Amelia Tsiglifis
George & Majida & Maria Tsioumas
Stella C. Tsourounis
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Robert & Christina Villano
Michael & Christina Walker
William David Wrigley, PhD
Peter E. Yakas & Eleni Harlepas
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).

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<td>To help with printing costs and conserve on paper we agree to receive the Parish Newsletter by e-mail only.</td>
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In gratitude for God’s many blessings, I/we commit to the stewardship of St. Theodore’s and pledge the following amount for 2023.

$____________ per month x 12 months = $____________ for the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggested amounts for giving:</th>
<th>$400/yr</th>
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Signature: __________________________

Please check to indicate that St. Theodore’s Church is your primary place of worship. ☐

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: [www.sttheodores.org](http://www.sttheodores.org) and click the “Online Store” to make a credit card payment. Children 18 and over and who are working should become members separate from their parents. Children in college or graduate school can remain under their parent’s membership but should still fill out this form.

Make payments to: St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church, 7101 Cipriano Rd., Lanham, MD 20723.

Dependent Children’s names and birthdates:

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Your time & talent

I would like to offer my time and talents for the ministry of St. Theodore’s ☑ (check all that apply)

☐ Church School   ☐ GOYA/YOUTH
☐ Greek School/PTO ☐ Young Adult
☐ Chanting        ☐ Bible Study
☐ Philoptochos    ☐ Baking Prophora
☐ 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 16th. 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 Tenny, New Jersey, they were greeted by the sounds of the island of Karpathos—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.

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!” is 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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