# The HERALD

The Official Publication of The Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George
Rev. Fr. Dimitrios J. Antokas, Presiding Priest, Fr. George Khitiri, Fr. Nicholas Despotides
7701 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817 Tel: 301.469.7990 www.stgeorge.org

**APRIL 2015**

## HOLY PASCHA: GOD'S PROTEST AGAINST DEATH

*Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!*

The Orthodox icon of the Resurrection of the Lord depicts what is known as the "harrowing of hell." It shows the once-dead crucified God now alive, in Hades ("*place of emptiness")*, setting the sin-slave captives free.

Where the Latin depiction shows Christ by himself with the angel looking on, the Orthodox icon shows Christ surrounded by people. The Latin image of Easter is serene, like the calm after a storm. The Orthodox icon communicates a vital energy, such as that of a military victory.

Far from a moment frozen in time, the Resurrection icon depicts an experience that is happening *now*, and must never be left to the remote halls of history. All the liturgical texts and images of this Feast of Feasts suggest that the rising of Christ from the dead and his descent into Hades was for the one purpose of *liberation:*

*"When You, the Redeemer of all, were placed in a new Tomb, Hades, the respecter of none, crouched when he saw You. The bars were broken, the gates were shattered, the graves were opened, and the dead arose. Then Adam, gratefully rejoicing, cried out to You: "Glory to Your condescension, O Merciful God."* (Great and Holy Friday, Vespers)

Christ broke down the gates of Hades and freed Adam and Eve and all who, with them, shared the dark legacy of their choice to stand against God. He freed every person, no matter from what time or place, from the fearsome enemy of death.

Orthodox Christian faith sees the raising of Christ as God's protest against death, and against all those who work for death; for the Easter faith recognizes God's passion for the life of the human person otherwise threatened by life's ultimate act – that of dying.

The Resurrection of Christ is about breaking open true and lasting personal freedom. It is a bold summons to each of us to engage in bringing - to those who are starved for it - that Resurrectional freedom from the threat of death and its allies.

It is, as a noted theologian wrote: "…the economic death of the person we allow to starve; the political death of the people who are oppressed; the social death of the handicapped; the noisy death that echoes from the bombs and torture of war, and the soundless death of the apathetic soul."

Our challenge is to understand what happened at that empty tomb not just as a noun but as *a verb*. Yes, we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, but more significantly, we receive from that cold tomb the call to "resurrect" ourselves and anyone in our lives experiencing senseless suffering, the gnawing feeling of meaninglessness, and the captivity and fear of death.

Resurrection is not simply something we think about and piously ponder. *It is something we allow God to do for us - and what we, in turn, must reach out and do for others.*

Christ's resurrection is the beginning of God's rebellion. In it, God rejects the finality of death. He rejects the ideologies that cheapen life, or reduce it to narcissistic materialism. God rejects the voices of those who would convince the human person that "this is all there is." He casts off selfishness, ego-satisfaction, and the false arrogance that, at its root, life has precious little meaning.

God's rebellion through the Risen Christ is ongoing within the Spirit of Hope, and will be complete when, together with death, "every rule and every authority and power" is at last abolished (1 Cor. 15:24).

We are called to engage our world, or at least our little piece of it, in resisting and counteracting those dark influences that threaten the life of the human person. We are offered Resurrectional power to turn rhetoric into action, good intentions into concrete activities, and well wishes about the Easter celebration into the urgency of *doing the business of setting ourselves and others free.*

St. Athanasius wrote that "The risen Christ makes life a perpetual feast." Once we realize that the celebrant of this feast is the suffering outcast, the crucified Son of Man from Nazareth, then every "no" is absorbed into His profound "YES," and is swallowed up in its victory.

Holy Pascha is at one and the same time God's protest against death, and the feast of our freedom from it. May you and your families experience that freedom even as you bring others to share in it.

Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

Fr. Dimitrios

"LET GOD ARISE! LET HIS ENEMIES BE SCATTERED! LET THOSE WHO HATE HIM FLEE FROM BEFORE HIS FACE!

CHRIST IS RISEN!

INDEED HE IS RISEN!

# The Saint George Community

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Levan Mamatsashvili, Sexton - levan@stgeorge.org
**Office Hours 7:00am-3:00pm**

**2015 PARISH COUNCIL**

## Officers

**President:** Victoria Kantsios Alex
vkantsios@comcast.net
**1st Vice-President:** Mike Emanuel
MSEmanuel1210@gmail.com
**2nd Vice-President:** Stephen Vlahos
svlahos@hotmail.com
**Secretary:** Andrea Liacouras Kapsilis
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**WORSHIP**

| | |
|---|---|
| Adult Choir | Paul Mavromihalis |
| Junior Choir | Joanne Johnson |
| Acolytes/Altar Services | Gregory Glaros |
| Head Chanter | John Koroulakis |

**OUTREACH**

| | |
|---|---|
| Feed the Hungry | Margaret Oge |
| Kollecas House | Philoptochos |

**MINISTRIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Stewardship | Barbara Spyridon Pope<br>barbaraspyridonpope.stgeorge@gmail.com |
| Philoptochos | Kay Emmanuelides<br>kaytoys@comcast.net |
| Greek Pre-School | Marilena Michahals, Director<br>marilenatsirigotakis@yahoo.com<br>Rhea Karavangelos |
| Greek School | Eirini Iatrou, Director<br>eirini.iatrou@gmail.com<br>Evy Vlahos<br>Christina Stayeas |
| Fifty Plus | Maria Kopsidas<br>mkopsidas@hotmail.com |
| GOYA | Aleka Kaloudelis<br>Aleka_george@yahoo.com<br>Evelyn Xeron<br>pxeron@verizon.net |
| JOY/HOPE | Maria Campbell<br>Frances and David Solovief<br>fpvlantis@aol.com |
| Dance Troupe | Evelyn Xeron<br>pxeron@verizon.net |
| Challenge Fellowship | Fr. Dimitrios Antokas<br>FrAntokas@stgeorge.org |

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bible Study Classes | Fr. George Khitiri |
| Sunday School | Athena Kranias |
| Book Store | Marina Afentakis |
| Vacation Bible School | Eleni Alexiou<br>Stella Kostolampros |
| Adult Education | Michael Haldas |

For Kolyva, please call the church office. If you are interested in participating in any of these ministries, or parish programs, please contact the Church Office.

The Herald is published monthly. All submissions are to be received on the 20th of each month.

# OUR SPIRITUAL TRADITION

**APRIL 2015**

1 (WEDNESDAY) Presanctified Liturgy/
Lenten Supper/Program 6:30 p.m.

4 (SATURDAY) SATURDAY OF LAZARUS
Orthros 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

5 (SUNDAY) PALM SUNDAY
Orthros 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy:
10:00 a.m. Main Church
10:30 a.m. Grand Hall
Nymphios Service 7:00 p.m.

6 (HOLY MONDAY) Nymphios Service
7:00 p.m.

7 (HOLY TUESDAY) Nymphios Service
7:00 p.m.

8 (HOLY WEDNESDAY)
1st Unction Service 3:00 p.m.
2nd Unction Service 7:00p.m.

9 (HOLY THURSDAY) 1st Liturgy of
St. Basil 6:30 a.m.
Dying of the Red Eggs 9:00 a.m.
2nd Liturgy of St. Basil 9:30 a.m.
Passion Service of the 12 Gospels 7:00 p.m.

10 (GOOD FRIDAY) Decoration of the
Kouvouklion 9:00 a.m.
Royal Hours 12:00 p.m.
Myrrophores practice -Main Sanctuary @
2:00 p.m.
Apokatheilosis Vespers 3:00 p.m.
Lamentations Service
(Sanctuary and Grand Hall) 7:00 p.m.

11 (HOLY SATURDAY) PROTI-ANASTASI Liturgy of
St. Basil the Great 9:00 a.m.
Vigil of the Resurrection 11:00 p.m.
Anastasis Service/ Divine Liturgy 12p.m.

12 (SUNDAY) GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA:
The Feast of Feasts and Festival of Festivals
Agape Vespers 11:00 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt

17 (BRIGHT FRIDAY) Theotokos of the Life Giving Font
Paschal Orthros 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

18 (BRIGHT SATURDAY)
Paschal Orthros 8:30 a.m.
Challenge Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

19 (SUNDAY) Thomas Sunday
Orthros 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

22 (TUESDAY) Great Vespers for
St. George 6:30 p.m.

23 (WEDNESDAY) Patronal Feast of
St. George
Orthros 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m..

26 (SUNDAY) Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women
Orthros 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**MARCH SACRAMENTS AND RITES**

**Baptisms**
Brendan Jay Baatz
Maria Christina Mastronikolas
Dylan Alexander Rice
Durham Christopher Snuffin

**40-Day Blessing**
Emanuel, son of Philip and Nicole Sardelis

**Funerals**
Helene C. Catsouras
Chrisanthi Karakostas

**Memorials**
John C. Wallace (40 Days)
Evgenios A. Vassilas (2 Years)
Stamatios Liapis (1 Year)
Erin Johnson (10 Years)
Evangelos Calamitsis (40 Days)
Eugenia Lambis (3 Years)
Dr. Neofytos Tsangaris (6 years)
Carnation Sophia (52 Years)
Kosta Rigas (40 Days)
Sophia Matsangakis (6 Months)
Anthony Chambers (1 Year)
Katherine Panagos (1 Year)
Emanuel Fthenakis (1 Year)
Gus Chargares (1 Year)

**Parish Council President**
**Victoria Kantsios Alex**

These past few weeks I have been working with many of you on our Greek Festival preparations. I have been amazed at the "new" faces who have turned out to help.

This spirit of participation is evident especially in our children who are eager to learn and be a part of the process. But these actions aren't limited to just festival baking and cleaning; it's apparent in our liturgical lives as well.

We have teenagers and adults, who serve our community during the various services throughout the week. These individuals demonstrate a love for our parish, which gives me inspiration and hope.

I find this feeling of hope timely as we prepare for the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are taught, as Orthodox Christians, we need to prepare ourselves through our participation in the life of the Church (i.e., prayer and fasting), giving (time, treasure, and talent), and by being positive and helpful to others.

We are made in God's image and each has something to contribute. No matter how large or small we think our contribution is, the Lord values it greatly.

The Parish Council and our Clergy work diligently to provide each of you with the facilities, programs, and opportunities to support our spiritual growth, thereby giving us all hope in the present and for our future.

But this cannot be done without your help and I would be remiss as President if I didn't request your assistance for our annual Greek Festival:

Festival Website: festival.stgeorge.org/

Ad Book: https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=23

Volunteers: http://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/23673D70FAFCBEEC35-stgeorge

Friday Lunch Takeout/Delivery: https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=26

Kali Anastasi!

Victoria

**Maintenance Committee Report**

Dear fellow parishioners,

On behalf of the Maintenance Committee, we wanted to bring to your attention the list of repairs and related maintenance work performed at St. George in recent months, costs expended to date on each of the projects, and upcoming projects that will need to be completed:

April 2015 Maintenance Summary:

- 7733 Property: CK Air HVAC work: $6,000
- Winter Snow Removal & Ice Melt (seven snow days): $6,300
- Small roof repairs, kitchen freezer repairs, HVAC parts repairs & ATM repairs: All donated by a St. George parishioner wishing to remain anonymous.

Upcoming Maintenance Needs:

- Exterior Painting of Church, School Building & Grand Hall (after the Greek Festival): $10,000
- Refinish Grand Hall Hardwood Floors: $18,000-$23,000 (August 2015)
- Two Renzor Roof Top Gas Heaters Replacement for Grand Hall: $18,800 (Fall 2015)
- New Parking Lot Concrete Dumpster Pad: $4,500
- Major Spring Landscaping Clean up: Cost TBD
- Full Grand Hall Exterior Arched Door Replacement: Cost TBD. (Summer/Fall 2015)
- Kollecas House Bathroom Renovation (per Desiree Drakakis' Plan): Cost TBD

Spring/Summer Expansion Plans:

- New Bookstore to be located in the Grand Hall – the St. George Greek Pre-School will donate all funds to cover construction costs.
- New Greek Pre-School Classroom to replace current Vending Room - the St. George Greek Pre-School will donate all funds to cover construction costs.
- New GOYA Room to be located in the Grand Hall.

The St. George Parish Council thanks

- The St. George Sunday School for their generous donation of $1,600 to be used towards the Kollecas House Roof Repairs;
- Our GOYANs for their generous donation of $1,000 to be used towards the Kollecas House miscellaneous repairs;
- Hope & Joy, 50 Plus Club, Philoptochos Society, Vacation Bible School, AHEPA, the Daughters of Penelope and the Yoga Group for their generous donations to be used towards the Kollecas House miscellaneous repairs.

For those interested in learning more of our maintenance requirements, or in giving of your time, talent or treasure, please email Kosta Drakakis at kdrakakis@verizon.net

Thank you,
The Maintenance Committee

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**
**Athena Kranias, Director**

Saturday of Lazarus, April 4, 9:30 AM
Divine Liturgy / Communion / Breakfast / Folding of Palm Crosses

On this day, we celebrate the divine love that brought Lazarus back to life, and we too receive the promise of new life. Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday introduce us to Holy Week and Christ's journey to the cross.

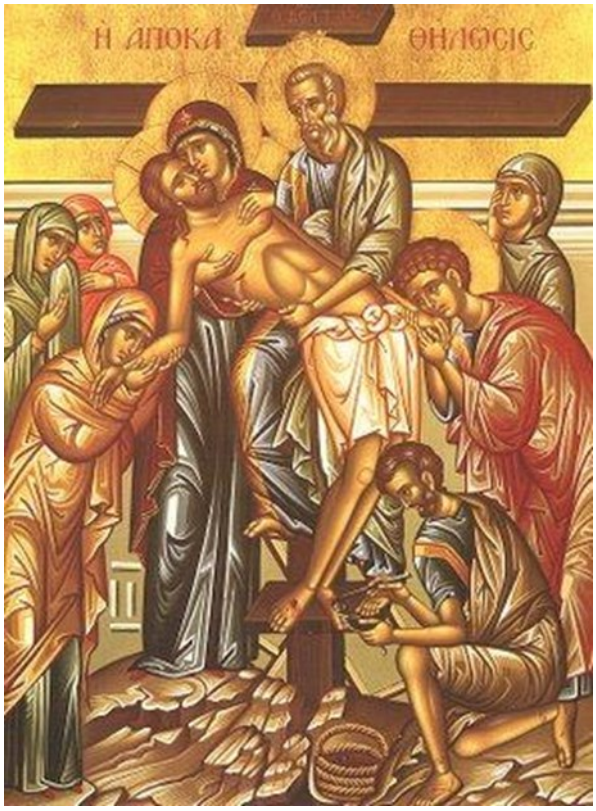
As a Sunday School, we encourage all students and their family to receive Holy Communion together. The Sunday School sponsors the Communion breakfast followed by the making of palm crosses.

All St. George parishioners are invited to partake and participate. We will be folding over 1000 palm branches into crosses, which will be blessed and distributed on Palm Sunday. If you do not know how to make crosses out of palms, we will be happy to teach you.

Lenten Youth Retreat

This year's 10th Annual Lenten Youth Retreat, co-sponsored by the Sunday School and Hope & Joy, offered so that our children may experience the spiritual joy of Great Lent, Holy Week and Holy Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, occurs on Holy Thursday, Apr. 9, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM.

Children ages 5-12 will be grouped by grade and rotate from station to station, with assistance from our GOYANs. The retreat will begin with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. All participants are encouraged to receive Communion. Parents are also encouraged to remain for Liturgy.



9:30 AM: Arrival and Check-In
9:30 AM-11:00 AM: Divine Liturgy
11:00 AM-NOON Orientation + Brunch
NOON-2:15 PM: Stations of Faith Rotation
2:20 PM-2:30 PM: Dismissal Prayer

Parents: Please note that pick-ups will occur promptly at 2:30 PM.

The Youth Retreat is an amazing and spiritually uplifting experience for all of us. Registration limited to 85 students. To register, please email Athena Kranias at: akranias@hotmail.com

Myrrophores Participation

Good Friday is the most solemn and serious day of the entire Christian calendar, when we commemorate that our Lord and Savior died on the cross for all of us.

In our Sunday School tradition, Second and Third grade girls are invited to participate as

Myrrophorres (representing the three Marys who went to see the sepulcher bearing myrrh and spices) surrounding the Epitaphio during the Good Friday evening service.

In addition, myrrophorres receive and distribute the first light at midnight during the Resurrection/Anastasi service to pass on to the congregation.

Rehearsal for myrrophorres is Good Friday, Apr. 10 at 1:00 PM.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

| | |
|---|---|
| Apr. 4 | Saturday of Lazarus, 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy / Communion / Breakfast / Folding of Palm Crosses |
| Apr. 5 | PALM SUNDAY: No Sunday School Classes |
| Apr. 9 | Lenten Youth Retreat 9:00 AM-2:30 PM |
| Apr. 10 | Good Friday, 1:00 PM – 2nd & 3rd Grade Myrrophores practice |
| Apr. 12 | HOLY PASCHA: No Sunday School Classes |
| Apr. 26 | First Grade recites the Lord's Prayer |
| May 3 | Greek Festival: No Sunday School Classes |
| May 10 | Mother's Day |
| May 17 | Last Day of Sunday School Classes /Awards Ceremony / 2nd Grade Ten Commandments recital |
| Jun. 7 | High School / College Graduation / Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Brunch |

**St. John Oratorical Festival**

Winning Essays from the senior
St. George Representatives, who move on to the District competition

"St. Nicholas Church at Ground Zero"
by Adamandia Frantzis, 11th Grade

Reverend Fathers, Honorable Judges, my brothers and sisters in Christ. Good Morning.

On September 11th, two thousand and one, 8:46 AM; flight 11 crashes into the North Tower. 9:03 AM: flight 173 crashes into the South Tower. 9:59 AM; the south tower collapses. 10:28 AM: the north tower collapses. This is a day that will remain in the memories of not only all Americans, but of the entire world. On this day, our nation lost the lives of nearly 3,000 people. The absence of the twin towers on the New York City skyline is a daily reminder of the attacks.

Among the ruins was the destruction of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church which was located across the street from the World Trade Center. This tiny church was the home to the relics of St. Nicholas, St. Catherine, and St. Savas, wall of which were never retrieved from the ruins. The small church was also the home to about 80 parish members, which was all the small row house could hold. The church was open every Wednesday to the public; many people, including non-Greek Orthodox office workers from the World Trade Center would enter this place of worship. It was a place of solitude and prayer for all people; a haven in the middle of a bustling financial district.

Now, over a decade after the terrorist attacks left the church in ruins, there are plans for a bright white shrine to St. Nicholas church to be built at Ground Zero. It will be lit from

the inside all day and all night, becoming a beacon of hope and light for all generations that will visit this site. Located next to the cascading fountains, the bright and tall church will be a magnificent contrast to the dark, deep pits of the fountains. While the cascades will represent mourning, loss, and anguish, the shrine of St. Nicholas church will be a bright light at the end of a long tunnel of hardship, showing that together we can overcome difficulties and reach a place of unity and hope.

It is very important to note that this shrine to St. Nicholas church is being built as a Greek Orthodox Church. The fact that there will be a Christian building in a public place that is visited by millions of people every year, shows how much need there is for a bit of faith. As former New York Governor George Pataki said, "We have remembrance, we have commerce, we have that rock, and now we have faith, right here at St. Nicholas." For Orthodox Christians, the building of this shrine will symbolize the continuation of our religion and culture. Architect Santiago Calatrava designed the shrine to model Agia Sophia, a symbol of Orthodox Christianity, proving to us and to everyone that Christianity is not dead, and that our religion continues to thrive and be important in all our lives.

Let us not forget that these attacks represented hatred, fear, and panic. The people who committed these heinous crimes did so to wage Holy War. Now more than a decade later, our religion is still under attack by various "religious" groups all over the globe. We should use the building of St. Nicholas as a reminder that we will continue to exercise our religious freedom despite the continuing threat against it.

Matthew 16:18 says, "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

The church of St. Nicholas was destroyed in the attacks, and the pain that came along with the attacks still lingers today, but with the rebuilding of this church, we are showing that with God, we can overcome any evil; we can survive through any struggle, and heal any wound. The terrorist attacks may have set us back, they may have instilled fear in our minds, but because the church was always in our hearts, and will now be physically present, we have not allowed evil to take over us. Orthodox Christianity is built on a rock: a rock so strong that no winds, no storms, no monstrous events can know it down.

Thank you.

* * *

"St. Nicholas Church at Ground Zero"
by Elias Tsakiris, 12th Grade

On September 11, 2010 the world witnessed an unthinkable tragedy that changed it forever. As the South Tower collapsed St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church was among the surrounding buildings that were destroyed. Although the structure vanished, the hope of the people of the church did not. Today St. Nicholas is being rebuilt and will overlook the 9/11 Memorial. Out of evil, sadness, and fear will come victory, beauty and healing.

Holy Saturday liturgy is special for me because the prayers, icons, and rituals share the themes of the St. Nicholas Church story. During this liturgy, we await the resurrection, but first Christ descends into Hades. Hades in Greek means "world of the dead". On Holy Saturday, St. John Chrysostom describes it:

"And how should anyone describe the terrors arising to our souls from the darkness? For just as that fire has no consuming power neither has it any power of giving light." When Christ went into Hades, the voice of evil groaned,,"My authority is dissolved; I am powerless. My power has been trampled on."

Ground Zero was like Hades. There were shattered and crushing buildings, smoke, flames, black ashes, burned steel, dust, dead bodies, and stench. It was a hole in the darkness, a "world of the dead."

Just like Jesus did not avoid Hades, St. Nicholas did not avoid Ground Zero. Rather than rebuilding a church a few blocks away, it is being built upon the place where tragedy occurred. It is rising from the world of the dead and the church is no longer powerless.

But, Holy Saturday is also a healing liturgy, where we read of the first creation in Genesis Chapter 1: 1-13. Healing involves creating and rebuilding. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the spirit of God moved over the waters." "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God called the light Day, and the darkness Night:"

The darkness and void of Genesis is like the pain and sorrow of 9/11. St. Nicholas is being built to heal them. It will be a place to reflect on the past and pray for a bright future. Finally, Holy Saturday liturgy is our beacon of hope. Just as a lighthouse has a beacon to guide ships away from danger, so does this liturgy guide us from despair? The light from the beacon gives us hope of a safe return to a place where all are loved. During the liturgy, the priest also moves from darkness into light, putting on robes of wonderful colors. He sprinkles bay leaves on the congregation to celebrate this hope. The resurrection is coming! Psalm 82 sings: "Arise. O God, to the world." We follow Christ's beacon from dark tomb to resurrection light.

Santiago Calatrava, architect of St. Nicholas, says the future church will be "like a candlelight." Built from pure white Vermont stones, it will be covered by a dome. Stone glass will be melted together at the top, so it will light up from the inside out. This light is the beacon of hope over 9/11.

Once completed St. Nicholas will be open 24 hours a day. Just like Christ's resurrection. It will shine for all time and all people. Although today lent is not over, what best describes these themes is what we will soon sing:"Christos Anesti, Alithos Anesti! Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen!"

## ANCIENT FAITH RADIO

Beginning April 30, parishioner Michael Haldas, who leads the Adult Religious Education Class every Sunday after Divine Liturgy, will be a regular podcast contributor on Ancient Faith Radio: http://www.ancientfaith.com

Michael's podcast series, *Sacramental Living: Understanding Christianity as a Way of Life*, will focus on how to understand and live our Orthodox Christian faith in the context of real life & real world issues, and on how to continually grow closer to God. His two podcasts each month can be accessed through the Ancient Faith Radio website or app.

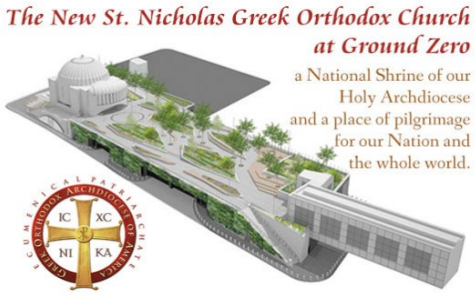
## PHILOPTOCHOS

Dear Philoptochos Members,

Kalo Pascha! The Saint Nicholas National Shrine at Ground Zero is being built near the sacred spot where the original St. Nicholas Church was destroyed in the 9/11 attacks.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios is reaching out to each Philoptochos Steward across the country to prayerfully consider an offering of $100 (or more, if you are able) toward the goal of funding this sacred shrine.

Please contribute to this exciting fundraiser so you can share in the experience of being a part of the initiative. I hope you will join me in giving generously, to the best of your ability, to this effort.




To support the appeal, kindly send your contribution check, made payable to:

The Ladies Philoptochos Society-SGOC
7701 Bradley Blvd.
Bethesda, MD. 20817

Please write "St. Nicholas National Shrine" on the memo line.

Thank you in advance for considering a positive response to this appeal. Your support is vital to the resurrection of the church.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 14.

With love in Christ,
Kay Emmanuelidis, President
The Ladies Philoptochos Society

## YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE (YAL)

All members of St. George, ages 18-35, are encouraged to join this vibrant ministry. Through the activities of worship, service, fellowship and witness, YAL integrates us deeper into the life of the Church and enables us to become active members of the Body of Christ. Please contact Fr. George at FrGeorge@stgeorge.org for additional information

## FEED THE HUNGRY

Every third Sunday of the month, St. George volunteers prepare and deliver food to four Rockville area shelters that serve over 100 adults and children:

- Chase Shelter for men;
- Dorothy Day Shelter for women;
- Helping Hands Shelter for mothers and children; and
- Rainbow Shelter for women

We meet after Sunday Service at the St. George church kitchen the third Sunday of each month for about two hours, to manage food preparation and clean-up. Teenagers and young people are especially encouraged to assist and support.

## FEED THE HUNGRY (cont)

For more information, please contact:
Margo (Margarita) Oge, Director
margotoge@yahoo.com 703-501-1765
Taso Vassilas: Co-Director
mykonosAEV@gmail.com

## 50 Plus Club

Our March 18 meeting was a great success, with over 100 in attendance to view the film "Heaven is Real," which was well-received by our members.

We also launched the 2015 "50 Plus Club Charitable Funds" program, requesting support for last year's charities and/or suggestions for additional charities to support. This information will be presented for decisions by the Charitable Executive Committee, which will report back to our members.

Lunch was served and a raffle held, with all proceeds donated to St. George to assist those in need.

We would like to thank all individuals who contributed sweets and cakes for the five Coffee Hour Sundays after Divine Liturgy during March.

Though there is no meeting on Apr. 8, due to Holy Week, April will be a busy month for the 50 Plus Club as we prepare for Easter and the annual Greek Festival

Our Easter Bake Sales will be on Apr. 4, after Lazarus Divine Liturgy, and on Apr. 5 after Pam Sunday Divine Liturgy. We will offer tsourekia, baklava, melomakarona, kourambiethes, koulourakia and galaktoboureko.

Make your holiday easier and purchase our fresh home baked desserts or take Greek sweets to your friends. For early orders, call Maria at (240) 421-9909. All proceeds will benefit 50 Plus charities.

Spring cleaning is a great opportunity to set aside items for Yia-Yia's Attic, part of the Greek Festival. Reminder: no clothing, old electronics or furniture. Books should be of wide interest, such as cookbooks and novels.

On May 13, at 11:00a.m.,we will have our Pot Luck Party. Achilles Papaefthimiou will once again entertain us with his lively music! All are welcome to this exciting event. Remember to bring your favorite dish for all of us to enjoy.

Please reply to all emails, through which we are able to reach our members for invitations, changes in schedules, membership applications, and other important 50 Plus Club news. Those members without e-mail addresses will continue to receive the usual phone calls.

## GREEK SCHOOL

Greek Independence Day

On March 21, the Friday & Saturday Greek school classes jointly celebrated Greek Independence Day of March 25, 1821.

Boys and girls dressed in blue and white, or in Greek traditional costumes, and paid tribute to Greek heroes. They sang patriotic songs, performed small theatrical programs and recited poetry. The program ended with skillful dances by our students.

The celebration was attended by Father Dimitrios, Father George, members of the school board, Mrs. Lena Petropoulos and retired teachers of the Greek school, and by so many proud parents, family members and friends of our students.

The Greek school is very grateful for the dedication of our wonderful teachers, and expresses its thanks to Father Dimitrios for his continued support of the Greek school.

## GREEK PRE-SCHOOL

What a great month of March! We celebrated the Apokries (pre-Lenten carnival) with a costume party. We also talked about the tradition of Clean Monday (Καθαρά Δευτέρα), flew kites and had a Lenten picnic.

We celebrated Greek Independence Day by reciting our poems on stage and proudly singing the Greek national anthem.

St. George Greek Preschool is open Monday through Friday, offering morning and afternoon classes. If you are interested in registering your child (2-5 years old) for the 2015-16 school year, please contact Marilena at (301) 346-4110 or marilenatsirigotakis@yahoo.com

## GOYA

Registration for St. George Vacation Bible School counselors (Jun. 22-26) is now available. You can find the form on the St. George website, (www.stgeorge.org) under Vacation Bible School, which is under the Education page on the home page. Deadline for the application is May 1.

Apr. 18-19: Basketball Tournament
St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church (Falls Church, VA)

Apr. 25-26: Basketball Tournament
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church (Baltimore, MD)

## Dance Troupe

To help promote the St. George Greek Festival, the Dance Troupe will perform live on Fox5 News on Friday, May 1 at 9:30 AM! Watch or set your DVR to enjoy our outstanding dancers, who will teach weatherman Tucker Barnes to Greek dance!

Performance times for the Greek Festival:

Senior Troupe:

| | |
|---|---|
| Friday, May 1 | 7:30 PM |
| Saturday, May 2 | 7:30 PM |
| Sunday, May 3 | 6:00 PM |

K-K1, Neophytes and Junior Troupes:

| | |
|---|---|
| Saturday, May 2 | 5:00 PM |
| Sunday, May 3 | 1:00 PM, 6:00 PM |

We look forward to seeing everyone at our performances!!

For more information, please contact Evelyn Xeron at pxeron@verizon.net

## Hope & Joy

Apr. 6, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM, Picnic at Cabin John's Park. Each family can bring a snack or treat to share. Montgomery Public Schools has Spring Break this week.

Apr. 9, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM, Holy Thursday Lenten Retreat at St. George. All children are welcome to join in the festivities. The day is packed full of activities, beginning with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at 9:30 AM, registration, a Lenten lunch at 11:00 AM, followed by engaging Easter related stations. Traditionally, red Easter eggs are dyed on what is known in Greek as Kokkinopempti (Red Thursday).

Apr. 12: Holy Pascha (or Lambri). After the Divine Liturgy, Hope & Joy organizes an Easter egg hunt in the children's park, with families supplying plastic eggs filled with candy. Eggs marked “Egg Hunt for Hope & Joy” can be dropped off in the kitchen at any time. Please make sure you bring a bag or basket during the hunt - this makes it easier for the children to collect their eggs. Younger children line up first to allow some hunt time, followed by older children. For parents of younger children, please keep a few extra candy-filled eggs in your pocket to be sure that they leave the event with smiles. The Gospel is read in many different languages, so if you are multilingual, you may be asked to read the Gospel aloud.

May 1-3: St. George Greek Festival. Hope & Joy will be hosting the Kiddie Corner, with a moon bounce, cotton candy, popcorn, candies, games and stations for the children. This is a wonderful way to bring friends and family together, without having to cook. Everyone is welcome!
Please contact Fran Solovieff at fpvlantis@aol.com with questions.

# APRIL 2015
## The Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 10:00a: 50 Plus Brunch **1**<br>6:30p Pre-Sanctified Liturgy/Lenten Program | 50 Plus Easter Baking **2**<br>8p Men's Basketball | **3**<br>50 Plus Easter Baking<br>6:30p Greek School Dance Practice | Saturday of Lazarus **4**<br>8:30a Orthros<br>9:30a Divine Liturgy<br>1:00p Greek School Dance Practice |
| Palm Sunday **5**<br>8:45a Orthros<br>10:00a Divine Liturgy (Main Sanctuary)<br>10:30a Divine Liturgy (GH)<br>7:00p Bridegroom (Nymphios) Svc | Holy Monday **6**<br>No GS or Preschool 4/6-4/10<br>7:00p Bridegroom (Nymphios) Svc | Holy Tuesday **7**<br>7:00p Bridegroom (Nymphios) Svc<br>7:00p STG Dance Troupe | Holy Wednesday **8**<br>Youth Retreat<br>3p 1st Service of Holy Unction<br>7p 2nd Service of Holy Unction | Holy Thursday **9**<br>6:30a Liturgy of St Basil<br>8:30a Youth Retreat<br>9:30a 2nd Liturgy of St Basil<br>7p Holy Passion & 12 Gospels | Holy Friday **10**<br>9a Kouvouklion Decoration<br>12p Royal Hours<br>3p Apokatheilosis Vespers<br>7p Lamentations- GH, Main church | Holy Saturday **11**<br>9a Liturgy of St. Basil<br>11p Canon of Pascha<br>12p Resurrection & Divine Liturgy |
| **12**<br>Great and Holy Pascha<br>11a Agape Service Easter Egg Hunt | **13** | **14**<br>7p PC Meeting<br>7p STG Dance Troupe | **15**<br>Festival Baking | **16** | Renewal Friday **17**<br>8:30a Orthros<br>9:30a Divine Liturgy<br>6:30p Greek Sch Dance Practice | Renewal Saturday **18**<br>8:30a Orthros<br>9:30a Challenge Liturgy/ Catsouras Memorial<br>1p Greek School Dance Practice |
| Thomas Sunday **19**<br>8:45a Orthros<br>10a Divine Liturgy<br>11:45a Feed the Hungry<br>12p STG Dance Troupe | **20** | **21**<br>7p STG Dance Troupe | **22**<br>6:30p Festal Great Vespers of St. George | St. George the Trophy Bearer **23**<br>8:45a Orthros<br>10:00 a Divine Liturgy | **24**<br>6:20p Greek School Dance Practice | **25**<br>1p Greek School Dance Practice<br>2p Careers Connections Conference |
| Sunday of the Myrrh Bearers **26**<br>8:45a Orthros<br>10a Divine Liturgy<br>12p STG Dance Troupe<br>12:45p GOYA Basketball | **27**<br>Festival Set-Up | **28**<br>Festival Set-Up<br>7p STG Dance Troupe | **29**<br>Festival Set-Up | **30**<br>Festival Set-Up | **1**<br>Spring festival | **2**<br>Spring Festival |

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**Katina Marinos** received her B.S. degree in 1994 from Purdue University in Radiation Physics, upon graduation she worked as a health physicist. In 1996, she fulfilled her passion and entered the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Physical Therapy program. She graduated with her Master's Degree in 1999. She has worked extensively with the orthopedic and sports population focusing her treatments on returning her patients to fully functional and pain free lifestyles. Katina opened her practice Manual & Sports Physical Therapy, L.L.C. in March, 2008.

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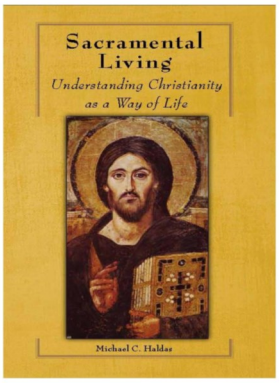


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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday Services**
**8:45 AM Orthros**
**10:00 AM Divine Liturgy**

**Saturdays, and Weekdays:**
**8:30 AM ORTHROS**
**9:30 AM Divine Liturgy**

**Church Office Hours**
**Monday-Friday**
**7:00 AM—3:00 PM**