



The HERALD

The Official Publication of The Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George

7701 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Christ is Born, Glorify Him!

My dear St. George Family,

I pray you and your family are enjoying the Season of Christmas as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Christ.

“Christ is Born, glorify Him. Christ is from Heaven, receive ye Him. Christ is on earth, be ye exalted. O all the earth, sing unto the Lord...” (Ode 1, Nativity Canon).

These words begin the Nativity Canon sung during Matins on December 24 and at each major Vigil Service during Advent. They are found as well at the start of a Nativity sermon by St. Gregory the Theologian (*4th century, Oration 38*) and were given a prominent place over time in the Orthodox celebration of the birth as human of our Savior. The Nativity is a lesson in just who this Jesus is.

The exclamation, *“Christ is Born! Glorify Him!”* also constitutes a traditional Orthodox greeting during the holiday season. This brief affirmation of joy presents both a great mystery of grace and the human response: *Christ is Born*, a mystery past all understanding; *Glorify Him*, the most appropriate reaction to God's offering of love.

As Orthodox Christians greet one another during the Nativity season with *“Christ is Born!”* they are affirming through the eyes of faith that in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, *the Christ*, the anointed and promised Savior of the world, has come (*John 1:40-41; 4:25-26*).

Who is this Jesus? The Man Jesus, born in Bethlehem, is the only begotten Son of the one, true God (*John 3:16*). He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, equal in honor and divinity with God the Father and the Holy Spirit (*John 5:21-23; John 10:30; Matthew 28:18-20*). He is the Creator and Lord over all that exists (*John 1:1-4; Philippians 2:9-11*).

At the same time however, Jesus is completely and perfectly Man (*Hebrews 2:14-18*). He is God, but He is also our brother, and through Him we become sons of God by adoption (*Galatians 4:4-7, the Nativity Epistle; John 1:12-13*). The world, which daily yearns to experience its Redeemer, finds the answer in Christ.



Fr. Dimitrios J. Antokas

FrAntokas@stgeorge.org

Church Office

Hours:
7AM - 3PM

Phone:
301-469-7990

Email:
office@stgeorge.org

Website:
www.stgeorge.org

Sunday Services

Orthros 8:15AM
Divine Liturgy 9:30AM

Weekday Services

Orthros 8:30AM
Divine Liturgy 9:30AM

At Christ's birth there were no trumpets, no fanfare for the masses to announce His arrival. Even when a great star and the angels presented themselves, they did so only to those whose hearts were open: the simple shepherds and the wise men, representing both Jews and Gentiles, people of all nations for whom Christ came. Similarly, our Lord continues in our day to come in to those whose hearts are prepared and purified for His Self-revelation (*John 14:23*).

When Orthodox Christians greet one another with "*Christ is Born*," we should pause to give ourselves the opportunity to think about *what* is being declared, the identity of the One "*Who was born in a cave and lay in a manger*" (Festal Dismissal Prayer).

The Nativity is time for reflection just on who Jesus is in our personal lives. We can then perhaps more fully appreciate that the most appropriate human response to our Lord's Birth is indeed one of simple yet sincere gratitude and glorification. This Mystery, this gift of Christ, is certainly unmerited, as well as incomprehensible in its greatness. In light of it we can only say most humbly: *Thank You God, for Your great loving kindness. Thank You God, for the gift of adoption to sonship, in Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.*

May His birth remind us of His place in our spiritual lives and make those lives holy as He is holy!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
Χριστός Γεννάται, Δοξάσατε!

Με Αγάπη,
Fr. Dimitrios



MESSAGE FROM PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. George,

Thank you for all your great support of the many significant achievements we have accomplished at St. George these past twelve months of 2022. Your generous donations allowed our church to begin the new year debt free. You will recall that the Parish Council consolidated our outstanding loans in 2016 for a balance of \$1.6 million. With your tremendous financial support, we have fully retired our mortgage, which we celebrated at the November gala with a mortgage burning celebration. Our current debt is zero dollars. Thank you, St. George!

I explained at the November General Assembly meeting that our priority goals for 2022 had been to fully return to all in-person activities, to implement the next phase of becoming a 100% stewardship parish, and to address deferred facility infrastructure.

I am pleased to report that all parish activities for this ecclesiastical year have returned to in-person, and we continue to use technology to augment our ministries. Virtual activities were convenient, but there is no substitute for being physically present at church, restoring and rebuilding our precious relationships with one another and with Christ that cannot be accomplished via a computer screen. I am heartened by the many parishioner comments about the joy of attending Divine Liturgies and so many of our ministry events and programs.

Going into 2022, we knew our “VOYAGE to 900” stewardship goal was ambitious, but attainable. What we could not predict was the state of our Nation’s economy. The Parish Council continues to support our efforts to become a 100% stewardship parish, even if this requires somewhat more than the three years we originally dedicated to successfully implementation.

We did accomplish a great deal to maintain, replace, and upgrade our facility infrastructure. Highlights include:

- Grand Hall Roof Replacement (\$118,000)
- Founder’s Hall Restrooms (\$50,600 – Thank You, 50 Plus Club!)
- Kollecas House Roof Replacement (\$19,500)
- Grand Hall Doors Restoration (\$18,210)
- Kollecas House Windows Replacement (\$15,000)
- Kitchen Hot Water Heater Replacement (\$6,500)
- Curb Painting (\$2,400)
- Educational Building Hot Water Heater Replacement (\$2,200)
- Kitchen Refrigerator and Freezer Replacement (Thank You, Anonymous Donor!)

On a personal note, this is a bittersweet reflection on the past year, as this is my final update as Parish Council President to our community. I thank each of you for your active dedication and support for the well-being of our entire parish community. Our 2022 achievements would not have been possible without you. It has been my honor to serve as your Parish Council President through unprecedented events these past three years. I wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Victoria

THE SAINT GEORGE COMMUNITY

PARISH OFFICE

Andoni Apostilides: andoni@stgeorge.org

Chrysostomos Gunning: cgunning@stgeorge.org

Sheila Tiwari: stiwari@stgeorge.org

PARISH COUNCIL 2022

President:	George Agritellis
Victoria Kantsios Alex	Melina Assimakopoulos Cohen
1st Vice President:	Mike Emanuel
Andrea Liacouras Kapsilis	George Garbis
2nd Vice President:	George Kostolampros
Rhea Karavangelos	James Kotsanos
Treasurer:	Michael Lazos
Peter Averinos	Maria Marshall
Secretary:	John Pazartzis
George Kalantzis	John Sitilides
	Chris Wallace
	Stephen Vlahos

MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Stewardship: office@stgeorge.org

Sunday School: sundayschool@stgeorge.org

Bible Study: cgunning@stgeorge.org

Adult Religious Education: michael.haldas@verizon.net

Choir: pmauromihalis@gmail.com

Feed the Hungry: msakellarides53@gmail.com

Philoptochos: stgphiloptochos1019@gmail.com

Mission Team: missionteam@stgeorge.org

Hope & Joy: hopeandjoy@stgeorge.org

GOYA: goya@stgeorge.org

YAL: yal@stgeorge.org

Fifty Plus: 50plus@stgeorge.org

Greek Preschool: directorstgeorgegreekpreschool@gmail.com

Greek School: stgeorgegreekschoolbethesda@gmail.com

Hellenic Dancers: dancetroupe@stgeorge.org



NATIVITY OF THE LORD, 2022

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Brothers and Sisters:

I greet you with the peace of that night when the Son of God came forth from the Virgin's womb into human history, changing it forever and always. In that moment, mystically Heaven touched the earth, the Divine became human, and hopelessness was consigned to the ash heap of history. The birth of the Word made flesh, the "Divine Logos", brought to the world and to our hearts a newness and startling message – God is here! He calls us to real intimacy with Himself. He brings with Him a Light that shines more brilliantly than the sun, shines particularly in times of struggle and of shadow. Yet in the midst of whatever we experience, still He shines the light of hope, still He walks among us as one of us, still He loves us beyond measure. Still He is the "Love Divine, all loves excelling."

The world of Christ's birth was also troubled socially, politically, and religiously. It was the star in Bethlehem's sky that signaled a new way, a bolder path, a clearer and more convincing promise. Even though it felt at times like "the center was giving way", hope still lived and could be heard in the tender night-crying of the Incarnate Word. God was indeed with us! This is the message of the Nativity in 2022: hold fast to God, realize that He draws close to you, and walks every step of this uncertain way with you and in you.

Our God-saved Orthodox faith community and the spirituality of the Church of the Apostles can bolster us, lift us up from our worry, and nurture our trembling hearts. Let us draw together, from the temple of our souls. Let us make a new Nativity when God again draws near to us and, instead of crying, whispers in our ear: "Be not afraid, for I have overcome the world!" In your kindness and generosity, I ask you, during this difficult time, to remember your parish in your giving and I pray that Christ our true God send you and your family hope and the blessed assurance that He is with us and loves us without end! Christ is born! Καλά Χριστούγεννα!

Faithfully in the Incarnate Word,

Rev. Dimitrios J. Antokas
Presiding Priest



DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY 2022-2023

Sunday, Dec. 18: Sunday Before the Nativity

8:15 AM Orthros, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Friday, Dec. 23: Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

9:00 AM Orthros, Great Hours (No Communion)

Saturday, Dec. 24: Eve of the Nativity

6:00 PM Orthros, 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy of St. St. John Chrysostom

Followed by singing of Christmas Carols

Sunday, Dec. 25: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Flesh

8:15 AM Orthros, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Sunday, Jan. 1: The Circumcision of the Lord/ Feastday of St. Basil the Great

8:15 AM Orthros, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Thursday, Jan. 5: Eve of the Theophany

8:30 AM Orthros, Great Hours, 9:30 AM Great Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
and the Great Agiasmos

Friday, Jan. 6: The Theophany of the Lord

8:30 AM Orthros, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

and the Great Agiasmos

Saturday, Jan. 7: Feast of the Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner and Baptist

8:30 AM Orthros, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Christmas Offering:

<https://ppay.co/ihjqKBy1GPo>



St. George Gala

November 4, 2022 at Bethesda Country Club

CELEBRATING THE BURNING OF THE SAINT GEORGE MORTGAGE!



Thank you to all parishioners who helped burn \$400K!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

- George and Laura Papageorge for the cigar lounge
- Ussama and Angela Baggili for the DJ
- Steve and Evy Vlahos and George and Stella Kostolampros for the Whisky and Bourbon Bar
- Maria and Sean Frazier for the Donut Truck
- George and Efy Garbis for the Centerpieces
- Keith and Eleni Vera for the Vodka Specialty Drinks
- George Photikankis and Family for the wine to support our Wine Wall
- MaryLou Relle for her graphic design work

Christmas Experience

December 3, 2022

All proceeds will help replace the Grand Hall air conditioner.



Thank you Co-Chairs

Andrea Liacouras-Kapsilis and Michael Lazos!



STEWARDSHIP

VOYAGE to 900



OUR CHURCH
OUR SPIRITUAL HOME

Our goal this Ecclesiastical year was to welcome our parishioners to participate as fully as possible in-person in the many ministries and liturgical services offered by our community. Stewardship – the giving of our time, talent, and treasure – is a critical component of our parish community. To each of you who gave of your time and talents dedicated to assisting our church in any way, we thank you.

If you would like to give of yourself to our Church, come join the many volunteers who help our Church thrive and flourish every day. God has blessed each of us with a variety of talents. If you are inspired by any of our ministries, our facilities, or our overall Church community, and you wish to offer your talents to assist, please let us know.

As the calendar year closes, and we express our gratitude to Christ for our comforts and conveniences, we ask each family to prayerfully consider your Stewardship pledge to St. George. This Church is our second home, and it needs your love and support. Your donations help to sustain our church's many ministries and operations. We are nearing our Stewardship goal for 2022, and we remain committed to St. George's annual budget to soon be 100% Stewardship supported.

PLANNED GIVING TO ST. GEORGE

You can make an even bigger impact on the future life of St. George by donating long-term appreciated securities, including stock, bonds, mutual funds, or other appreciated assets directly to the church. Compared with donating cash, or selling your appreciated securities and contributing the after-tax proceeds, you may be able to automatically increase your gift and your tax deduction.

How does it work? Simply and easily. When you donate stock to St. George, you will take a tax deduction for the full fair market value. Because you are donating stock, your contribution and tax deduction may increase, subject to certain tax assumptions. If you prefer to donate bonds or mutual funds, the same benefits apply.

When considering your long-term publicly traded stock for St. George, please be sure to ask your advisor about the best assets to contribute.

In addition, a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) allows individuals who are 70½ years old and older to donate up to \$100,000 total to St. George directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distributions. Donors may benefit by not being pushed into higher income tax brackets and prevent phaseouts of other tax deductions, though there are some other limitations.

As always, please be sure to contact your financial professional for suitability and additional details, and feel free to contact Father Dimitrios for further guidance. We thank you for considering our parish.

LEAVE A GREAT LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



To learn more about how
you can support Saint George
through planned giving,
please contact
Father Dimitrios
Phone (301) 469-7990
FrAntokas@stgeorge.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.”

St. Paul’s 1st letter to the Corinthians

This ecclesiastical year, our Sunday School theme instructs us that through the Holy Spirit our God, and the blessing of the different talents of her members, the Church is preserved through time for the Glory of God.

Our Sunday School teachers (main, assistants, and substitute teachers) offer their amazing talents every Sunday to teach our children the Word of God, for His Glory. Our students since the beginning of the year have been receiving Holy Bibles, books, and icons from Father Dimitrios, to help them experience more of their faith at home and in class.

The 6th grade class, with the help of the Georgallas family, prepared and baked traditional Cypriot artos that were offered the weekend before Thanksgiving. They also collected food items that were delivered to the St. John the Merciful Orthodox Mission in Washington, D.C.

Preschool, kindergarten, second grade and sixth grade students received books on the life of the Church and the Saints. The first and fourth grade students received Holy Bibles. Third grade students received icons of Panagia Portaitissa and will present the Christmas pageant on Dec. 18.

Sunday school worked together with the Philoptochos, the Mission Team, and Hope & Joy on various events. The Sunday School Christmas tree this year was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Everett Sparks with the prayer “investing in the future of our Orthodox Christian Faith, our youth.” The theme of the tree is “It’s a Wonderful Life,” with Angel Clarence reminding us all that “no man is a failure who has friends.”



Sunday School holds an ornament contest and the Bulletin drawing competition in order to support two charity organizations during Christmas. Selected students will be nominating an Orthodox mission to receive \$200.

We have many things to look forward to in the New Year. The fifth grade class will offer the prosforon. We will hold a food drive for the Jan. 30 celebration of the Holy Three Hierarchs, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival in spring, the second grade class presenting the Ten Commandments, and the first grade class presenting the Lord’s Prayer.

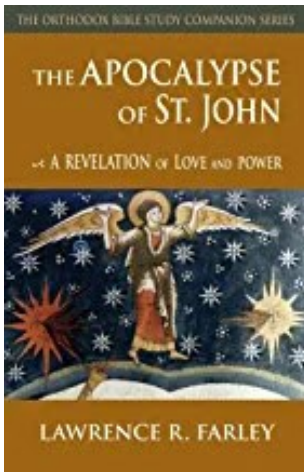
A big Thank You to parents, grandparents, and guardians for joyfully and regularly bringing the children to Divine Liturgy and Sunday School.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas!

In Christ,
The Sunday School Board



BIBLE STUDY



The Book of Revelation (The Apocalypse) has inspired debate and often confusion. It was the last book that was accepted into the New Testament canon. Our Scripture Study, based on the Commentary by Rev. Fr. Lawrence Farley (*The Apocalypse of St. John – a Revelation of Love and Power*), provides a sober, patristic interpretation that reads Revelation in its proper Jewish context as apocalyptic literature. The most important lesson we can learn today from the Book of Revelation is the awareness that Christ the Lord will return in glory, and that the Church must remain faithful, in a time of societal confusion and widespread hostility to the Orthodox mindset and the Orthodox Christian faith. All are warmly welcome to participate via Zoom every Thursday at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM. Please visit the St. George website (www.stgeorge.org) to enter our virtual study group.

[Classes are temporarily postponed. To be added to the mailing list for class updates, please submit the following form: <https://forms.gle/RuKp9JUoiGtVFWi26j>]

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Every Sunday, 11:30 AM in the Library following Divine Liturgy. Michael Haldas leads the roundtable discussion on this year's theme: *Beauty, Goodness, and Truth*, exploring why living our Orthodox faith begins with the experience of God's beauty that unfolds into goodness and then truth. These classes focus on connecting the sacramentality and theology of our faith with our daily ordinary everyday life. In His parables to the masses, Christ always used practical and relatable examples to help people understand and draw near to God. We use the same model and spirit in this class.

You can also view prior recorded classes at <https://www.youtube.com/user/OCNVideoChannel/videos>



FEED THE HUNGRY

With the Christmas season upon us we are eternally grateful to those who generously volunteer their time, talent and treasure to our Feed the Hungry ministry. Our volunteers continue to serve over one hundred individuals across four shelters in the Rockville area. We are very appreciative of the many parishioners who have given their time, talents, and treasure in serving our neighbors in need. With the individual donations from our St. George parishioners and the financial support of our Philoptochos, our goal is to become a self-sufficient ministry. To our entire St. George community, thank you for your Orthodox Christian spirit for giving to those in great need. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year!

PHILOPTOCHOS

The new ecclesiastical year has been very busy for the St. George Philoptochos! The fall has traditionally been filled with Philoptochos fund raising projects to assist in the support of charitable needs locally, nationally, and internationally, in a time when many people are suffering. This season has been particularly fruitful.

On Nov. 12, the Philoptochos held a Holiday Bazaar to support the St. George “Christmas Experience.” The bazaar featured over a dozen local vendors selling fine jewelry, wine collections, cosmetics for fun holiday stocking stuffers, hand-knit hats and blankets, books written by our own St. George authors, delicious home-made chocolates, Greek delicacies and Philoptochos-baked goods. Fees collected from the vendors were matched by Philoptochos, and we donated over \$3,000 to support the purchase of new heating and A/C units at the church. We were pleased with the response of the broader Bethesda community and intend to expand the Holiday Bazaar in coming years.

On Nov. 19, a contingent of Philoptochos board members attended the Children’s AGAPE Foundation of Greater Washington Afternoon Tea at St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church, VA. Proceeds collected from the attendees provide Orthodox children with financial assistance for critical medical treatments. Donations to the AGAPE Foundation have truly been instrumental throughout the years in helping family with burdensome medical bills to treat their children.

The Philoptochos kicked off the holiday season baking koulourakia, melomakarona, and kourabiedes for our fall “Thanksgiving Trimmings” fundraiser, with volunteers baking delicious treats to make Thanksgiving even more festive.

In mid-December, the Philoptochos purchased needed food to donate to [St. John the Merciful Antiochian Orthodox Mission](#) in Southeast D.C. A major focus of our outreach ministry is addressing food insecurity among children, families, and the homeless in Wards 7 and 8 of the District of Columbia.

Christmas was in the air when several very creative Philoptochos members assembled and decorated the beautiful Christmas tree in the main church, climbing ladders and placing lights and wreaths to spread the wonder of Christmas.

In the spirit of the Christmas season and in memory of our dear angel Christina Kangelaris, the Philoptochos made several donations to causes important to her: \$1,000 for the Angel Tree, which provides a Christmas gift for incarcerated parents to give to their children; \$1,000 to the Alexandra Rowan Foundation, which provides educational awareness of blood clot risks in women; \$1,000 to Boredom Busters, which provides ailing children with doses of normalcy during extended hospital stays, and \$500 to the Rainbow Place Shelter.

Funds from our Philoptochos membership and our fundraising programs continue to support our Christian mission to “help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the imprisoned.” For the second year, the Philoptochos donated over \$1,700 to purchase new gifts and practical items for the three Montgomery County Interfaith Works Shelters, which provide temporary safe housing for over 1,100 homeless men and women annually. These included 120 pairs of wool socks, 100 beanie hats, 100 pairs of underwear, 50 fleece blankets, hand warmers, toothbrushes, Band-Aids, Salonpas pain relief patches, hairbrushes, and feminine products. Other gifts included sketch books, colored pencils, adult coloring books, fragrant hand creams, and candy.



We are happy to add that our adult sons and daughters joined in and separately donated cosmetic bags for the Interfaith Works Women's Shelter on Taft Court in Rockville. These bags included lipsticks, nail polish, nail files, mascara and perfume samples, because every woman needs a little more Christmas cheer this time of year. We added a new dimension to our Christmas Giving by reaching out to our St. George community for donations of \$25 gift cards for the shelter residents as well. Thank you for your support!

The annual St. George's Christmas Card is the Philoptochos' major fundraiser each year. The Christmas Card helps all of our parishioners send and receive Christmas greetings. We appreciate the continued generous support of the St. George community.

Your time, talent, and stewardship are needed to continue the good work of the Ladies Philoptochos of St. George, and of the National Philoptochos programs. Women (and men) of all ages are encouraged to volunteer and to help support our charitable causes.

Respectfully,

Eleni Athanasakis
President
St. George Ladies Philoptochos



It is by offering our blessings back to God that He will be able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, empowering, transfiguring, loving ministry through the Church. For God, Infinite though He is, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today.

Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris

MISSION TEAM

**St George Mission Team is currently recruiting
youth and adult leaders for the
July 9-15, 2023, Mission Trip to Appalachia**



We will be repairing homes with the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) for well deserving families that live well below the national poverty level.

The goal of ASP is to make homes “warmer, safer and dryer” while developing relationships with the families we work with so they feel loved and cared for, as Christ would have done.

There is no experience necessary. We will hold monthly training meetings starting in February to prepare for the trip. All you need is a heart to serve others less fortunate as our faith has called us to do.

Contact Athena Kaiser with questions or additional information; #240-498-0870 or missionteam@stgeorge.org

GOYA

GOYA events in 2022 have focused on fellowship, service, and worship. Our first event was the opening bash, where GOYANs were able to connect with each other at a church service led by Father Dimitrios followed by playing games. Our next event was a bonfire, where we made s'mores and participated in fun icebreaker games to get to better know one another.

During October and November, we enjoyed three GOYA tournaments involving St. Sophia, St. Nicholas, and St. George. Congratulations to our Boys B team for winning first place at St. Nicholas! And a special congratulations to our Boys A team for winning first place at our tournament! First event of 2023 will be ice skating on Jan. 8.

We have many more fun events and tournaments coming up for the 2022-2023 GOYA season. For more information, please contact goya@stgeorge.org – and be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date.

Merry Christmas!

St. George GOYA Tournament November 19 & 20, 2022



SCOUTS

The Eastern Orthodox Council on Scouting, overseen by the Canonical Orthodox Bishops of America, established a Scouting Program in 1960 that embodies the Scout motto of “Be Prepared.” This applies not only to physical and mental preparedness, but especially to spiritual and moral preparedness.

Through the various Scouting Programs, the Orthodox religious awards are the St. George Award for grades 1-3, the Chi-Rho Award for Scouts in grades 4-5, and the Alpha-Omega Award for Scouts in grades 6-12. In the past, Scouts have come to the parish priest to fulfill their requirements to receive the award.

Fr. Dimitrios, upon learning that Fr. Timothy is an Eagle Scout, has asked him to form the Scouting Committee of St. George. The Scouting Committee is being developed to create, expand, enhance, and project a presence of Eastern Orthodox Scouting in the Girl Scouts USA, Boy Scouts of America, and Camp Fire Boys and Girls.

The Scouting Committee is comprised of Frank Landry, Damon Callis, and Evangeline Emanuel. We encourage all Scouting families to contact us at scouting@stgeorge.org

50 PLUS

Fifty Plus meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September to May. This ecclesiastical year, we have had two wonderful speakers. In October, retired dentist Dr. Salvatore Selvaggio delivered very detailed and informative remarks about dental health for the elderly. In November, speech pathologist Susan Wranik presented information about Better Brain Health, including the differences between dementia and Alzheimer’s.

We are celebrating our Dec. 14 Potluck Luncheon where members bring their favorite homemade dish for everyone to enjoy. Achilles Papaefthimiou will entertain the group with his always fantastic music.



Fifty Plus is hosting a Dec. 18 Bake Sale in the Grand Hall, offering vasilopita with coin, baklava, karithopita, melomakarona, kourambietes, and koulourakia. For pre-orders, please visit <https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/695/responses/new> - monies raised throughout the year are donated to the church and other charities. This year, Fifty Plus funded the renovations for the new bathrooms in the Founders Hall.

In the New Year, we are planning our annual St. Valentine’s Day Party in February, details to follow. All St. George parishioners are welcome.

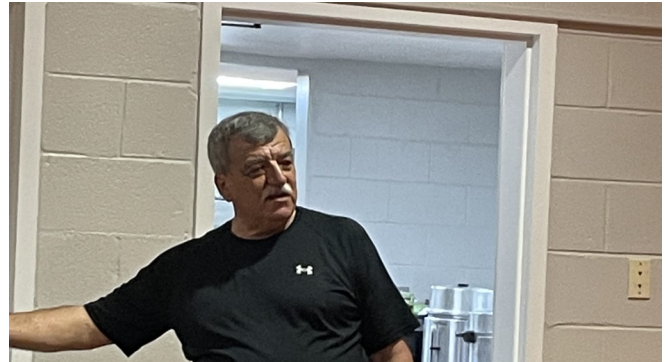


For more information regarding Fifty Plus or to become a member, please contact Maria Kopsidas at (240) 421-9909.

We wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Father Dimitrios Antokas, Father Timothy Perry and Michael Haldas lead faith-based Orthodox Christian discussions on building and nurturing the leadership of men to meet the challenges of modern society and raise the next generation in the knowledge of God. In moving our events back to the St. George Founders Hall, we continue to prosper and grow. Thirty-eight men attended our October dinner, and fifty attended our December event. We encourage all men to join us as we'll continue to meet on a quarterly basis. For information, please contact Mike Sakellarides at msakellarides53@gmail.com.



George Anagnostopoulos is our generous parishioner who cooked and donated all the food for our December meeting. In doing so, all monetary donations from those who attended raised \$1510.00 which went to our Feed the Hungry Ministry!

When you close the door of your dwelling and are left alone, know that there is with you an Angel, allotted by God to every man, whom the Hellenes call the spirit of the home. He never sleeps and being always with you, sees everything. He cannot be deceived, and darkness hides nothing from him. And be aware that, beside him, God is everywhere. For there is no place or substance where God is not present. He is greater than all and holds all in His hand.

St. Anthony the Great

GREEK PRESCHOOL

The children are always busy at the preschool, where we celebrated “OXI” Day, decorated pumpkins, explored nature and played with friends!



The St. George Greek Preschool and Kindergarten Christmas program will be held on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 10:00 AM in the Grand Hall. The students have been rehearsing and are eager to perform for you, and we are looking forward to having you join us.



Καλά Χριστούγεννα!

Το Νηπιαγωγείο του Αγίου Γεωργίου σας προσκαλεί
στη Χριστουγεννιάτικη Γιορτή του Σχολείου
την Πέμπτη, 15 Δεκεμβρίου 2022
στις 10:00 πμ.
Grand Hall Αγ. Γεωργίου



Merry Christmas!

The St. George Greek Preschool and Kindergarten
Invites you to its
Annual Christmas Celebration on
Thursday, December 15, 2022
At 10:00 am
St George Grand Hall



Afternoon English preschool class, Monday-Friday 12:30 PM-3:30 PM, is now accepting students for January 2023. We will also have 2 or 3 days per week options available. For information, please contact directorst-georgegreekpreschool@gmail.com or (301) 346-4110.

GREEK SCHOOL

On Oct. 28 & 29, the Greek School celebrated the Greek national “OXI” Day holiday with presentations and discussion, patriotic songs, and a parade. Greek School teachers dedicated their lesson to that 1940 day, presented their students with slide shows, and explained related historic facts: the beginning of World War II, the Italian invasion of Greece, the heroic sacrifices of the Greek soldiers in the mountains of Albania, the Nazi German invasion of Greece, the Greek resistance, and the 1944 liberation of Greece.

Ellinomatheia Exams

In May, eighteen Greek School students participated in the Ellinomatheia Exams organized every year by the Center of the Greek Language in Greece. All our students who participated in the exams successfully earned their certificates - congratulations! Our school continues to excel year after year, with 100% exam success!

Adult Language Classes

The Greek School offers adult classes for all levels on Monday and Tuesday evening. Register at <https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/640/responses/new> or contact Ms. Eirini Iatrou for more information.

Registration

We still have several available spots in various levels and grades. You can sign up to the Greek School or to the Wednesday supplemental online conversational class, at <https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/650/responses/new> or contact Eirini Iatrou for more information.

Save the Date:

Dec. 17: Greek School Christmas Program

Dec. 23-31: Christmas Break



The HERALD

Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George

7701 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, Maryland 20817

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY DIVINE SERVICES

ORTHROS 8:15AM, DIVINE LITURGY 9:30AM

WEEKDAY DIVINE SERVICES

ORTHROS 8:30AM, DIVINE LITURGY 9:30AM