



THE EPISTLE

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



August/September 22909 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, Ohio

2009



Pastoral Thoughts by Fr. Jim Doukas

As we enter a new Ecclesiastical School Year starting next month, I wanted to prepare you, the parents, as to your responsibility in helping your own and your child's spirituality.

Too many times we all do not take our religious obligations very seriously, yet the time has come for us to wake-up to the fact that we if we are not interested in our child's religious life now, then we must be willing to accept the consequences later on in their life.

Please read this article written by a fellow schoolmate of mine, Fr. Andrew George entitled "The Challenge of Parental Involvement."

Thank God for parents who co-create with God by conceiving and giving birth to children, our future generations! Thank God for those who bring their children to church for worship, education and fellowship so that they may learn to place their trust in God and obey His commandments. Thank God for parents who sincerely teach and witness to their children and remain "co-workers" with God by raising them in God's way.

LOVE THE LORD However, in all our parishes I suspect we have parents who are only nominal in the fulfillment of these duties. Their responsibility to educate their children in the ways of the Lord are rooted in ancient Israel: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Never forget these commandments. Teach them to your children. Repeat them when you are at home and when you are away, when you are resting and when you are working. Tie them on your arms and wear them on your foreheads as a reminder. Write them on the door posts of your houses and on your gates. (Deut. 6:4-9.)* From this direct message we discern that success in teaching our children the Orthodox Faith depends greatly on three factors: a) parental involvement, b) parents' knowledge of the faith, c) parents living the faith in everyday life.

PARENTAL FOLLOW UP The truth about the success of our teaching in the Church School is the support and follow-up by the parents. Let us remember that the Church, through the Sunday School, has a child a mere 45-60 minutes a week, perhaps 25 or 30 Sundays a year. Parents, obviously, we are with them for much longer periods of time and must become involved with their religious nurture. The home and church are partners in this sacred trust. Parents' direct involvement in the religious education program is valuable.

By volunteering to assist in the classroom, i.e. reading stories to small children, guiding teens as roll models, parents help a program tremendously. Even though they cannot make the commitment of a classroom, parents, in fact, can become teachers in other ways.

KNOWING THE FAITH We have many talented parishioners, lawyers, business people, doctors, etc., who have advanced knowledge in their respective fields, but whose religious education is limited to a "first aid course." Upon their completion from Sunday School, they stopped learning and growing in religious knowledge. Talented adults in their careers, yet children in the knowledge of their faith.

To improve our condition, we must create new ways of helping our adults renew and expand their faith. Preaching has been a primary means of educating adults, but good preaching has fallen on hard times in many parishes. Preaching should emphasize the practical application of Biblical teachings; how it affects relationships with ourselves, our families and the world. Other ways to offer adult education are libraries... periodic parish retreats and other means that provide spiritual enrichment on the adult level.

A LIVING WITNESS The most challenging means of imparting the faith comes by parents becoming living witnesses of faith and learning in the home. Our late Patriarch Dimitrios, while visiting Hellenic College/Holy Cross in 1990, said that "Orthodoxy without orthopraxis is dead."

Worship and dogma without actions or practical application are dead. God's commandments must be a way of life, our life! They must be lived in our daily experience, and by such, witnessing of Christ to our children, they will have the most effective religious educators they will ever know- their parents!

2nd Annual St. Demetrios Golf Outing



Thursday, September 17, 2009

at Sweetbriar Golf Course, Avon Lake

\$125 for golf, dinner & good times!

(\$30 / person for steak/chicken dinner only.)

Reserve your spot early and be part of this year's 50th anniversary celebrations.

To help with securing hole sponsors, sign up, volunteer, sponsor a hole, or donate prizes, contact Brad Seybert at bseybert@golfeventmagazine.com

The Epistle is the official publication of the

Greek Orthodox Community of St. Demetrios



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www.saintdemetriosrr.org

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Bible Study.....Vange Richards...216-221-3003

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Board of Education..... Maria Mougianis...440-835-2888

PTO Presidents.....Matina Salamalekis...440-250-8877
Maria Samarellis...440-899-5688

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Student President.....James Poulos

Hellenic Dance.....Eleni Papouras-Jenks...440-887-0999

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Baldwin-Wallace: Fr. Andrew Harmon.....440-582-5673

Case Western Reserve University: Ken Kovach...216-921-0900

Cleveland State University: Bill Kostas.....216-687-4526

John Carroll University: Bishop Mikhail.....216-961-8528

PARISH MISSIONARIES/ RELIEF WORK

IOCC..... Pascalis Papouras, U.S. Program Director

Ph: 410-243-9820 email: Ppapouras@iocc.org

OCMC..... George & Pauline Russell in Albania
www.russellmission.org

Publication Deadlines: Weekly Bulletin – Wednesday

Monthly *Epistle* – The 15th of the preceding month



Call Andrew Yanak to book St. Demetrios Hall for your wedding, baptism, holiday, school or business gatherings!

Check out our link at

Catering Experience www.saintdemetriosrr.org

Office 440-409-0099

Email: cateringexp@msn.com

Speaking of Stewardship...

The Transfiguration of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ



The icon of the Feast of the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor (August 6) reveals the glorious light of Christ's divinity. In describing this event, St. John Chrysostom explains that Moses (on His right) represents the Law and Elijah (on His left) the Prophets of the Old Testament. Both had visions of God. Moses is symbolic of the dead while Elijah, having been carried up to heaven in a chariot of fire, represents the living, over whom both, Christ reigns in glory!

Also in the icon are the Apostles Peter, James and John. Christ appears to them, not in the form of man, the "suffering servant" but in the form of God! Church hymnology states: *"For taking apart the three Disciples He has expressly chosen..He led them up into the mountain by themselves; and for a short time He concealed the flesh He had assumed, and was transfigured before them."*

The Transfiguration of Christ is a *theophany*, a manifestation of God that displays His uncreated divine energy. In the Transfiguration we celebrate the divinity of Christ and the call for His faithful followers to allow God to live in their lives.

Orthodox Christian STEWARDSHIP is the response we offer when God lives in our lives. The participation of the three disciples, along with Moses and Elijah, reveal to us the entire Church: the disciples representing the Church on earth and the prophets the heavenly Church. God's covenant in the Old Testament is fulfilled in Christ. The testimony of these two prophets and three disciples is the revelation of God in Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We, then, become members of the body of Christ through Baptism and Chrismation into the Faith.

The STEWARDSHIP Program is the way for everyone to belong. We are expected to make an honest and sincere contribution to the sacred ministry of the Church. No matter what one's income so long as one gives as an expression of faith and love, the work of Christ's Church will grow and prevail.

Please note we have added a new e-mail address where you can direct your pledge/statement questions directly to Church Accountant Mark Kolas: sdaccountant@sbcglobal.net

Philoptochos News

The philanthropic endeavors of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society during the past seven decades is a genuine expression of Christian charity, which has embraced an enormous manifestation of love. This manifestation of love has been evident in the multitude of meaningful programs and activities undertaken during the seventy years of its existence.

Philanthropia is a tradition of the Greek Orthodox Church, dating from the Byzantine Empire, which was the first State to offer philanthropic and charitable assistance to its citizens. In 1902, the first Ladies Philoptochos was officially established at the Holy Trinity Church in New York City.

Our Mission Statement

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc. is the duly accredited women's philanthropic society of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The mission of the Society shall be:

§ To aid the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fund raising efforts; and

§ To promote the charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through instructional programs, presentations, lectures, seminars and other educational resources;

§ To preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian concepts and the Orthodox Christian Family, and through them, to promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and traditions, in accordance with its doctrines, canons, discipline, divine worship, usages and customs;

§ To promote participation in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, with the cooperation of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council.

The charitable work of the Society shall be performed with discretion, courtesy and kindness.

Please join us as we begin the New Ecclesiastical year and our Membership drive. Look for details in the upcoming Sunday Bulletins and the Monthly Epistles

Parish News

OUR NEWEST LITTLE ANGELS

Lilianna, daughter of Chris and Vicki (Horiatis) Fietkiewiecz .

John Steven, son of Steven & Meagan Papandreas, was born on June 18, 2009.

Ariadne, daughter of David & Christina (Carpadis) Schraff, was born on June 19, 2009.

Jacob, son of Patrick & Elaine (Selos) Hoy, was born on June 23, 2009.

THOSE THAT HAVE PUT ON CHRIST

Ethan Nicholas Butiri, son of George and Adriana, was Baptized on July 5, 2009. His godmother is Claudia Alesi of Michigan.

Maro Papouras, wife of Pascalis, was Chrismated in the Orthodox faith on July 18, 2009. Her sponsor is Eleni Papouras-Jenks.

JOINED WITH STEFANA

Andreas Koustis & Elizabeth Guzzo were married on June 13, 2009. Their koumbara is Vasilis Kyriazis of St. Stefanis Church, Florida.

Rene-marie Bates & Michael Brett Wilkins and **George-ann Bates & Anthony Hull** celebrated a double wedding on June 27, 2009. Their koumbari are George Korones and Alexander Stratigos of Florida.

George G. Douzos & Vicki Smith were married on June 28, 2009. Their koumbari are Bill & Becky Moll of St. Paul Church.

Peter Theofilos & Britni Neiling were married on July 4, 2009. Their koumbara is Katina Tancabel of Archangel Michael Church, Campbell, Ohio.

Dianna Doukas & James Kazakis were married on July 12, 2009. Their koumbari are Michael Harmand and Nicole Krestos of Syracuse, New York.

Deanna Albertini & John Wedow were married on July 18, 2009. Their koumbara is Victoria Albertini.

ASLEEP IN THE LORD



George J. Moshos, husband of Evangeline, passed away on May 25, 2009 in New Jersey. George was an early pioneer in computer engineering and space travel at NASA and a former parishioner, and was buried at Lakewood Park Cemetery.



Nick G. Harris, husband of Stella, father of Linda Michals (Tom) and Maria Szubski (Michael) and grandfather of 8, passed away on July 15, 2009. *His 40 day memorial will be on August 16.*



LIBRARY JOTTINGS

If you come across over due books , please bring them to the library after church or drop them off in the church office. We thank you for finding them! Also, please note that we are not currently accepting used book donations, so please do not bring in unwanted books at this time. - *Library Committee*

Recommended Reading: A book review

by Thomas N. Andrews

My review and analysis on a recent publication titled *The Heavenly Banquet* written by Father Emmanuel Hatzidakis (a former assistant priest of St. Demetrios Church) is that the book is well written for all who want to understand the Divine Liturgy - in full detail with its divine purpose. The book consists of 420 pages that carefully detail the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, including a complete text of the Holy Liturgy and a quick reference point and review.

It is very easy to read and gives the reader written commentary of the various lines of words - along with texts in gray boxes denoting parts of the Liturgy - which are said silently or are omitted. Also, the book has important mini-study sections in red, with such examples as: A) Preparation before receiving Communion; B) Definition of the Eucharistic Elements; C) The meaning of the wine; D) What do we offer to God?

It is available at the St. Demetrios Catacomb Bookstore and I will add this book to my list of required references of books, tapes and religious movies that is given to students that attend the Adult Catechism Classes. Please note, for those who want to learn the Divine Liturgy in detail, please feel free to come to the Adult Catechism Classes.



Joan P. Lambros, sister of Estelle and Louis Lambros; aunt of Peter Lambros, Diane Foes, David Lambros, JoAnn Tsang, Emily Reitenbach, Kate Lambros, Maria and Tim Zannes, Chris and Greg Lambros; great-aunt and great-great-aunt of

many, passed away on May 24, 2009. Joan was a Ph.D. Chemist who had received numerous honors of distinction and achievement, was a guest lecturer at many universities and was national president of the Iota Sigma Pi, an honorary society for women in chemistry.

We also extend our condolences to Linda Glynias on the loss of her father John Javoris, to Steve Nikolakis on the loss of his mother, to Catherine Patsouras on the loss of her mother, and Bill Hronis on the loss of his sister, and Mary Safos on the loss of her grandmother Catherine Pastis of California, formerly of the Pittsburgh Metropolis.

WELCOME BACK!

Acolytes Boys (4th grade and up) who are interested in assisting in the altar can join Fr. Jim in the Divine Liturgy on Sun, Sept. 13. There will be a sign-up meeting immediately following church that day for registration and setting the schedule. If you are unable to attend on Sept. 13, please call the office to make sure your name is included on the rotation.

And Congratulations to Altar Boys George N. Papadorotheou on being awarded the “Good Citizen Award” at his elementary school in June and Ian Bahas for reaching the rank of Eagle Scout!

Adult Catechism Weekly classes for 8 weeks will begin in September on a date TBA (either Tuesdays or Saturdays) at the convenience and coordination of those interested with instructor Tom Andrews.

AHEPA meets on the first Monday of the month

Daughters of Penelope meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:45 p.m.

Morning Bible Study is on break during the month of August and will resume the Tuesday after Labor Day (Sept. 8.)

Choir – Weekly rehearsals begin Tue., Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. Our first day singing the Divine Liturgy will be Sun., Sept. 6. New members are welcome!

Greek School Agiasmos (Blessing Day) is Tue., Sept. 15 and first day of classes is Thu., Sept. 17. PTO will also have its first meeting on Sept. 17 and all parents are encouraged to participate. See Registration Form on p. 9

GOYA – We will kick off the year by swearing in the 2009-10 officers and having a gyro sale on Sun., Sept. 20. GOYA Basketball Skills Camp will begin the week of Oct. 26. More details will be presented at the first meeting.

Library Committee meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m.

Sunday School begins Sept. 13. Youth Choir rehearsals will take place during Sunday School hours. See Registration Form p. 8.

Theotokos Fellowship will resume meeting/ book discussion on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month, starting on Oct. 5

Yassou Club – Join us as we start the Ecclesiastic year with a Pizza Party on Tue., Sept. 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the hall.

Look in the weekly bulletins for seasonal events for OPA!, Hellenic Dancers, OCF, IOCC and HPS.

ZAPIS ACTIVITY CENTER

Activities	Day	Time	Dates
Kids’ Open Play	Sun	After Church	Starting Sept. 13
Open Walk	M-F	9:30 a.m.-Noon	Year-round
Men’s Basketball	Mon	9:00 p.m.	Year-round
Adult Greek Dance	Tue	7-8:30 p.m.	Sept. 15, 29; Oct. 13, 27
Exercise with Sophia	T/ Th	8:30 a.m.	Year-round
Hellenic Stars soccer	Fri	TBA	TBA
Men’s Basketball	Fri	8:30 p.m.	Year-round
Kids’ Basketball	Sat	1-3 p.m.	Dec. 5-March 27

Adult Introductory Greek Dance Lessons

Join other adults (18 & up) for fun, exercise & learning, every other Tuesday in the fall, Sept. 15 - Oct. 27.

90 minute sessions with a 10 minute break & 10 minute summary at the end.

Week 1: Intro, review goals, learn Kalamatiano & Chiotiko

Week 2: Cretan Syrto & Pentozali

Week 3: Tsamiko & Icarian

Week 4: Brief review & Graduation dance (Zeimbekiko & Tsifteteli)



BLOOD DRIVE: Sunday, August 30 from 11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. in the Zapis Activity Center

Sign up sheet is outside the Zapis Activity Center office. Or contact Nick Hillman at 440-331-2246 or activitycenternick@yahoo.com

We need at least 30 donors for a successful drive! We are also looking for volunteers to help assist the Red Cross at the sign in table that day.

Seasonal injuries mean that summer is the time of greatest need for blood transfusions. Please give!

Built in Faith, Sustained by Love



During the festival, Fr. Jim offered a blessing on the church steps to all the dancers, past & present, as part of the 50th Anniversary commemorations, and a group of former dancers performed several dances for the occasion.

For more dancer photos see p. 11.



Upcoming Commemorative Sundays

August 16 – Bible Study

September 13 - Ladies' Auxiliary & Womens' Guild

October 11– Building and Bingo Committees

November 8 – American Legion Hellenic Post

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY FEAST DAY RECEPTION

Sunday, October 25

5 p.m. Vespers for St. Demetrios
followed by Anniversary Reception in
the Cultural Hall

Our parish will welcome community leaders and share proclamations honoring our church's 50 years of service to the Greek Orthodox Community on Cleveland's West Side with an elegant cocktail party.

Save the Date and look for more details in coming bulletins.

ALBUM UPDATE

Thanks to all the families, individuals and businesses that sponsored a tribute ad in the upcoming Commemorative Album:

Fifi Glynias, Gary & Crystal Thomas, Lee & Ageleke Zapis, Alex & Lia Augoustides, Vassos & Bowdouris family, the Katzans, the Venizelos', Gust Pasalis family, Brad & Renee Seybert, Xen & Lula Zapis, Donna Thomas, Express Car Wash, Papatreas Orthodontics, Byron T. Spooner family, Zeis McGreevey Funeral Home, Karydes & Unruh Family, Larry & Pat George family, Daughters of Penelope, David & Dena Grubb, Americon, Donna Vassos, James N. Apotsos, Veras Communications, Georgio Efpraxias, Peter C. Stamatis, Steve & Jenny Perry, Nick & Despina Stamatiades & family, George & Marylane Kletecka, Stephanie & Jacqueline Zavatchen, Janas Family, Angelo & Joan Karouzos, Dean Fisher, Philip & Stacey Vlastaris, Logos Communications, Helen Fox, John & Betty Poulos, Patra Bates, Dr. and Mrs. Karl Fotinos, Philoptochos, Stella Pastis Thomas, Gus & Estelle Callas family, Hillman family, George & Maryanne Bayes, George Diamantis, Manuel, Nick, & Steve Steffas families, Selos-Lakios family, David & Anna Goldense, Campbell family, Gus Corpas family, Anezinis, Foisel family, Kariotakis', George Packis family, Yurch Funeral Home, Catavolos Funeral Home, Dessey Corpas, Artemis York, James & Charlotte LaJoe, Stacy & Bob Range, Dr. & Mrs Nicholas Diamantis, Church ministries, John G. Asimou, Papouras & Jenks family, Apotsos & Arabian family, Fr. Jim & Presvytera Doukas.

We also thank those who contributed photos and other memorabilia for the historical section. The book should be ready around Christmas time. A copy of the DVD documenting St. Demetrios Church history will be included with the book. Platinum, Gold and Silver sponsors will automatically receive a complimentary copy(s), but extra copies will also be for sale during coffee hours in January.

– Eleni Papouras-Jenks

SAVE THE DATE:

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

AT THE RENAISSANCE, CLEVELAND

Dinner & Dance 6:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. ~ \$100/person

Bruno Brothers Orchestra plus a Greek band

**Premiere showing of St. Demetrios' History DVD,
produced by George Veras**

Table Reservations being taken with payment by calling:

Jeanne Parras (440-779-6544,) Barb Pasalis (440-333-4968,) or Crystal Thomas (440-356-1032)

IOCC/St. Demetrios In La. For 3rd Summer

by Nick Hillman

For the third summer in a row, IOCC volunteers from St. Demetrios again traveled to New Orleans to help Habitat for Humanity build homes for survivors of 2005's Hurricane Katrina. The team helped build homes and relocate people to Covington, Louisiana, away from the flood zone area. In the past two years, over 50,000 people have been moved north of the city to Covington to put their lives back together.

This year's team came from all over: Sandy & Vicky from Chicago, Matt from Milwaukee, Lee from D.C., Eric & Stephanie from New Jersey, Debbie from St. Louis, Linda from Canada, Alex from N. Carolina, Kyrion of Portland, and Christine, Ryan, and myself from Cleveland. We were also honored to have on our team Bishop Demetrios, who is based at St. Photios Shrine in St. Augustine Florida, and a founder of OCMC, who rolled up his sleeves and worked as hard as everyone else.

Our group covered a wide range of ages, ideas, work ethic and temperament, but the goal was the same for all: come down to New Orleans, build homes under the leadership of the IOCC and live our Orthodox Christian values.

Our week started off with a tour of the 9th Ward, and all the areas that are still in bad shape. We then moved on to see all the good that IOCC and Habitat for Humanity has accomplished, through everyone's hard work, in rebuilding New Orleans.

Habitat homes are 1,100-1,300 square feet with 3-4 bedrooms and are worth approximately \$135,000 in that market (although they only cost \$89,000 to build with volunteer labor) and are sold to homeowners for \$75,000.



(above) The last IOCC team of the 2009 season at one of their work sites. Bishop Demetrios is the one in the white shirt.



(left) Nick and friends displaying some construction teamwork

The average Habitat home owner has a 20-year, 0% mortgage. And as part of their 300 required hours of sweat equity, homeowners are required to take classes in personal finance, home repair, landscaping, career skills, and even, parenting.

Our IOCC leader Pascalis Papouras, spent the first day with the team introducing us to Habitat leaders and reviewing construction site safety. We went on to meet some of the people for whom the homes were being built and working side by side with them.

We roofed, we sided, we painted, we trimmed and we worked on many other details that are required to finish a home. At days end, we had also built great friendships with each other and with the people whose homes were being built.

And that putting your muscle where your mouth is a great feeling. In my opinion, that IOCC and Habitat have done a great job in responding to this 4-year old crisis. It was amazing to see young Orthodox kids donating their time and energy, when our government has done so little to respond.



The team visits the Greek church in New Orleans, where annual festival poster art is displayed.

Up Next: Look for a recap of the YOCAMA Mission Trip in our next issue.

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

2009-2010 SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Director Tina Hericks

Please fill out and drop off, mail or fax (440-331-8407) to the church office prior to Fri., Sept. 11. The first day of Sunday School classes is Sept. 13.

*There is no Sunday School tuition fee for members in Good Standing,
but donations will be gladly accepted.*

Parents' Names _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Students Name(s) Nameday date Birthday Grade* Allergies

Students Name(s)	Nameday date	Birthday	Grade*	Allergies

*Children must be at least 4 years old for the pre-school grade.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM FR. JIM:

I remind the parents to bring their children on time at 9:30 a.m. for the Divine Liturgy, so they can participate fully and actively in the worship of our church, which is an education in itself.

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Balourdas Hellenic Cultural School

22909 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, OH 44116

Ph: 440-331-2246

Fax: 440-331-8407

email: sdrroffice@sbcglobal.net

2009-10 GREEK SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Parents' Names: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Emergency/cell phone _____

E-mail: _____

Stewardship No. _____ *Note: Parents must be Members in Good Standing of St. Demetrios Church and current on their 2009 pledge, or provide a Good Standing letter from another church before registration can be processed. Pledge forms are in the office.*

Student(s) Name (English & Greek)	Attended Greek School last year? (Yes/ No)	If Yes, which Gr. Completed?	Grade in day school and name of day school	Tuition
1.				\$300
2.				\$250
3.				\$100

TOTAL TUITION DUE FOR HOUSEHOLD*: _____

Payment Method: _____ Cash _____ Check (OFFICE USE ONLY: Check # _____)

_____ Credit Card: Master Card, Visa, Discover (circle which applies)

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

*Tuition for the year must be paid in full.

Please return completed registration forms along with payment to the office prior to September 15 (Blessing Day/ Αγιασμος.) This will be the final day to sign up your children. Parents are encouraged to attend the blessing in church with their children. A PTO meeting will take place on Sept. 17, the first day of classes.

Μπορείτε να δώσετε την εγγραφή των παιδιών σας, μαζί με την πληρωμή, στο γραφείο της εκκλησίας οποτεδήποτε αρχίζοντας τώρα εως την ημέρα του Αγιασμού. Δεν θα δεχτεί καμία εγγραφή χωρίς πληρωμή ΚΑΙ να είναι οι γονείς μέλοι του Αγ. Δημητρίου.

2009 Festival Album



A Ribbon Cutting ceremony kicked off the 50th Festival: VP Byron T. Spooner, Rocky River Mayor Pam Bobst, Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough, RR Council members Jim Moran and Anjanette Arabian, & Fr. Jim



Jenny Perry passing food through the Drive Thru window to Irene Panagopoulos



Jim Souris (far right) continuing the family Loukoumades tradition with some help from Ryan Hillman and Angie Lenos



John Packis and Nick Hillman hustling in the kitchen



Wine pushers Irene Steffas & Jean Hillman



Frappe pushers Helene Santarelli, Tina Soulas, Maggie & Maria Steffas and Doula Giavroutas



Harry Giallourakis, John Poulos, George Souris, Tina Poulos & Manuel Steffas serving the Mythos



Future Greek night...Teddy Poulos provided live bouzouki entertainment at the Taverna & hall



(left) George Kantzios, Kostas Mougianis, Maria Statheros & Alex Jelepis in the Taverna

(right) Maria Pettet, Mary Szekely, Cindy Bountogianis, Katerina Louizos, Dena Grubb & Ruth Farmakidis selling "yee-ros"



(above, left) The Junior Dancers entertaining the Taverna crowds

(above) The Senior Dancers showing Greek pride in the gym

(left) The 50th Anniversary Reunion Dancers re-living festival fun.



Thanks to all our volunteers & donors who helped make it a success!

Photos courtesy of Allen Arabian

12 **Sacred Greece: Tributes to the Theotokos**

by Eleni Papouras-Jenks

The feastday of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary is of such importance to the Greek Orthodox that the phrase “15th of August” (in Greek, “dekapentavgoustos”) has almost become one large word, synonymous with village festivals and the start of vacation for...well, the entire country of Greece. And nearly every family has a nameday celebration for their Maria/Marios, Panagiota/Panagiotis or Despina.

No matter where you are in Greece, it seems that some village or at least a nearby chapel or monastery celebrates the feastday of the Falling Asleep of the Mother of God. Of particular interest to me were the many names given to these chapels for the Virgin Mary. While visiting Greece last year, I was able to visit three distinct churches in just the three weeks I was there that vividly illustrate the importance of the Panagia to the Greek Orthodox.

Strolling on a shopping trip to Athens’ Monastiraki district, I glanced up from a shoe store to see a tiny stone church (right.) It was dwarfed in the shadows of the surrounding multi-level apartments that had been built



around, leaving it, literally, in the middle of the street. On reading the plaque, I discovered it was dedicated to the Panagia Kapnotissa, (roughly translated to Our Lady of Smoke or Tobacco) built by tobacco merchants situated in that area during the Ottoman Occupation. The inscription



in the icon (pictured above) over the door reads “The joy of those who are sad” and truly did offer a peaceful, sacred space in the midst of the chaos of Athens’ old part of town.

My father’s hometown of Kastoria in Macedonia boasts the largest number of Byzantine-era churches (that are still standing and functioning) than any other city in the world. At the end of the waterfront road, with its neon-lit cafes, is the Monastery of the Panagia Mavriotissa (The Black Lady), below. The 11th century monastery was built the reign of Emperor Alexios Komnenos I, on the spot where his troops used the natural port in the lake during their liberation of Kastoria from the Norman invaders of Robert Guiscard in 1083. Alexios I and a later emperor, Michael Paleologos VII, are both depicted on the north side of the sanctuary as donors, after the latter ruler’s additions following *his* troops’ victory at the Battle of Pelagonia in 1259. The monastery is still home to a brotherhood of monks and the original icon.



Finally, on the mountain of Helikona, above my mother’s village in Viotia, I revisited the 11th century Byzantine-style monastery dedicated to the Panagia Makariotissa (Lady of Blessed Memory) whose feastday is, uniquely, celebrated on Aug. 23- the 9-days memorial after the Panagia’s Dormition. In its long and turbulent history, the church interior has been burned by the Turks and, later, the eyes of the saints poked out by the Communists during Greece’s Civil War, so that blackened frescoes stare at you with white plaster eyes.

Its centuries-old namesake icon was taken by ‘treasure hunters’ and missing for many years, until its dramatic recovery and return in 1992. And during a renovation in the 1980s, white-washed plaster that had been sloppily slapped on by generations of monks was torn away to reveal the original tuck-pointed stone and an icon above the entry (pictured, below.)

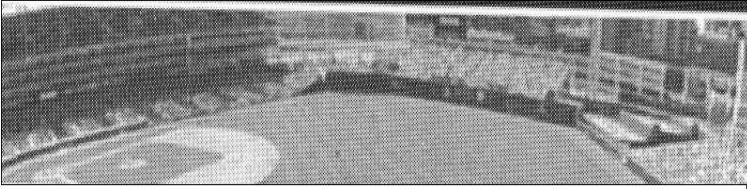


To the people Thiva (Thebes) the icon is known as wonder-working. The dozens of Panagiotis and Panagiotas in the villages below are testament to the number of previously infertile women who have pledged their first born to be named after her. The dozens of silver ‘tamata’ or tokens depicting various ailing body parts that hang on the wooden iconostasis are testament to those who have been healed. (As is one quiet gentlemen who serves coffee and sweets to visitors. Although not a monk, he spends most of his time living among them at the monastery in constant thanksgiving of his daughter’s recent cure from cancer.) And for those who remember World War II and the German Occupation, the church was the safe haven for people fleeing from three area villages that were burned by the Nazis, including my grandmother with my infant mother in her arms.

After looking through the photos from just this one trip, I began to think back to my 2000 trip to the Holy Land, when I’d visited the tomb where the Virgin Mary had been laid out upon her falling asleep, and from where she was taken bodily up to Heaven. Of all the sites we visited in Jerusalem, this one felt the emptiest to me, especially in contrast to other churches dedicated to her name which I visited. In retrospect, I feel that is because her body really did disappear from that place of her earthly death and that she intercedes for us in whatever place we find ourselves needing comfort.

To celebrate this feastday, there are Vespers at 7:30 p.m. on Fri., Aug 14 at Annunciation Church, and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. Sat., Aug. 15 at St. Demetrios Church.

OUT AND ABOUT



I.O.C.C. Baseball Night at Progressive Field

Friday, September 4, 2009 7:05 p.m.



Cleveland Indians

vs.



Minnesota Twins

Fireworks after the game!

Mezzanine Seats \$22

Tickets available in the church office.

The Dr. John & Helen Collis Lecture

*Annual Lecture Devoted to Ancient Greek and
Byzantine Art*

presents

VISIONS OF BYZANTIUM :

Royal Academy Exhibition *Byzantium 330-
1453*

Keynote Speaker Professor Robin Cormack,
Professor Emeritus in the History of Art, University
of London; Courtauld Institute of Art

Sunday, September 27 at 2 p.m.

**The Cleveland Museum of Art,
Gallery 101**

Free tickets required. Available at the museum box
office: 216-421-7350

Followed by reception hosted by the Hellenic Preservation
Society of Northeast Ohio

The Eastern Orthodox Women's Guild

will hold their first meeting of the season here at St.
Demetrios Church's Fellowship Room on Monday,
September 14 at 6 p.m.

Topic: Orthodox Mission Opportunities

Keynote Speaker Angie Giallourakis will talk about the
2009 YOCAMA mission trip to Montana.

The meeting is free and open. Come for fellowship with
Orthodox women from around the Greater Cleveland area.
Refreshments to follow.

Spotlight on Music and Art

A Benefit for the Mt. Tabor Camp Ministry

Sunday, September 27 at 3 p.m.

at Bellefield Auditorium in Oakland, PA

(on campus of the Univ. of Pittsburgh)

Featuring vocalists and musicians from
throughout the diocese and Special Guest Opera
Singer Ann Panagulias.

Reception and Art Auction to follow at St.
Nicholas Cathedral.

Sponsored by the Metropolis of Pittsburgh
Philoptochos Societies. Tickets are \$20 in
advance; \$25 day of show; \$15 for students.
Contact our church office for more details.

THE MALBURG EASTERN CHURCHES SEMINAR

Friday-Saturday, October 9-10, 2009

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 – Holy Trinity Orthodox Church,
6822 Broadview Road, Parma

Topic: "St. Paul's Teaching on One Body: Ecclesial and
Sacramental"

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 – Notre Dame College, 4545
College Road, South Euclid

Topics include: "Eucharist in Eastern Orthodoxy"

"Eucharist in Oriental Orthodoxy (the Armenian, Assyrian,
Coptic, Ethiopian, Indian and Syrian Orthodox churches)"

"Eucharist in the Western Tradition"

Fees (includes lunch): \$30 before Oct. 2; \$35 after Oct. 2

Registration forms are on the bulletin board. For more
information, contact (216) 373-5389 or mbaran@ndc.edu.

Honoring our Parents

In 2009, Philoptochos held special memorials on both Mother's and Father's Day. Thanks to all those who generously donated to our important charitable projects while honoring our parish parents.

In Loving Memory of:	Irene Frangos	Argyro Louizos	Penelope Sicaras	James Andrews
	Evangelia Agpapidou	Catherine Marco	Eva Silva	Steve Andrews
	Maria Anagnostis	Maria Marcopoulos	Minnie Sikoutris	Theodore Annas
	Mary Andrews	Argyro Markakis	Antronike Simakis	Emmanuel Anezinis
	Paraskeve Andrews	Presvytera Maria Markakis	Diamando Simantiris	John Apostolakis
	Cleopatra Anezinis	Catherine Giallourakis	Dorothea Singelis	Anthony Apotsos
	Kolomira Annas	Crystal Glynias	Georgia Skoll	Nick D. Apotsos
	Aspasia Apostolakis	Roberta Goldense	Helen Skoll	Gabriel Arabian
	Angela Apotsos	Harritte Halepis	Mary Skoll	George Bates
	Argyro A. Apotsos	Mary Hazapis	Anna Skoules	Louis Ellis Burdelis
	Joanna Apotsos	Anthepe Hazinakis	Marjory Slack	Diamandis Callas
	Irene Bates	Eleni Haztidaki	Foteni Spanos	Andrew Carpadis
	Anna Bennett	Evangeline Hunter	Mitsuko Springston	Anthony Chiviles
	Elizabeth Besida	Anna Janapolis	Constantina Stamatopoulos	George A. Chiviles
	Victoria Betsakos	Mary Jugan	Bess Steffas	George Chiviles
	Thresa Burdelis	Helen Julia	Mary Steffas	Socrates Christodoulou
	Eugenia S. Burpulis	Anastasia Kackloudis	Edith Szekely	George Collins
	Anna Callas	Bessie Kacos	Olga Tasse	Robert Derga
	Lorraine Campbell	Anna Kariotakis	Helen Kilalous-Taylor	Richard Diamond
	Andrew Carpadis	Marika Kappas	Calioppe Tirakis	Athanasios Douzos
	Irene Carpadis	Anna Kariotakis	Ellen Tirakis	Edward Elia
	Vasilias Chiviles	Bessie Kastanis	Sophia Tsounos	Sideris Facaros
	Penelope Collins	Despina Kazanas	Mary Uca	Etman Famiano
	Ann Contorakis	Katrina Kirkklakis	Hariklia Vangel	Steve Frangos
	Maria Cotronakis	Kathel Klaue	Athena Vangetopoulos	Anthony Fox
	Mary Coutris	Eleni Kollias	Sophia Vassos	Apostolys Georgakopoulos
	Matilda Doukas	Stavroula Kosmidis	Katina Ventouris	John Georgitsos
	Evelyn Diamond	Evangelia Kostaki	Helen Vianos	Phillip Giallourakis
	Anna Dorsey	Katerina Kostakis	Gladys Wrick	Emmanuel Glynias
	Matilda Doukas	Mary Kostas	Ekaterini Xenaki	Joseph E. Glynias
	Eleni Douzos	Stefana Kouselas	Melahrini Xenos	Lincoln Goldense
	Mary Dunkle	Mary Lou Kriaris	Maria Zazopoulou	Clarence Harootunian
	Theofania Economos	Argero Kritikakis	James M. Alex	Stanley Hillman
	Irini Facaros	Erma Lakos	Stratis Anagnostis	John Javoris
	Margaret Famiano	Ina Lambros	George Andrews	Michael Jugan
	Mimina Fragaki	Eugenia Leontes		Nestor Julia

<i>In Memory of...</i>	Anthony Singelis	Debra A.Cooper	Helen Kariotakis	
Constantine Kacos	Chris Skoll	Cathy Corfias	Despina Kazanas	
Ioannis Kantzios	Gus Skoll	Gina Corfias	Anastasia Kolas	Helen Regas
William Kappas	James Skoll	Molly Corpas	Evgenia Kontos	Nitsa Revmatos
George Karageorge	Dan Skoules	Mary Costaras	Popi Koposakis	Paula Revmatas
Michael Kastanis	Harry Slack	Athena Cotronakis	Kay Kostas	Evangeline Richards
Manuel "Mike" Kariotakis	Constantino Stamatopoulos	Christine Coutris	Cynthia Koutris	Malinda Rivas
Thomas D. Kazanas	Nick S. Steffas	Elizabeth Damiani	Maria Kratsas	Harriet M. Rose
Nicholas John Kilalous	Paul Steffas	Mary Diamond	Helen Kriaris	Anna Samarellis
John Kirkilaky	George Tasse	Presvytera Goldie Doukas	Valerie S. Lakios	Helene Santarelli
Polytarchos Kosmidis	Jim Tassie	Helen Drapos	Jackie Lekas	Dora Selos
Louizo Kostaki	Louis A. Thomas	Sandra Elia	Katerina Louizos	Dorothy Sideropolis
George Kouselas	George Tirakis	Stella Facaros	Dorothes Markakis	Elaine Spooner
George Kriaris	Paul Tirakis	Mari-beth Famiano	Maria Umbert Markakis	Jan Spooner
Steve Kriaris	Andrew Tsounos	Kiki Fisher	Lora Mathiellis	Fay Stamatis
Nikolaos Kritikakis	Paul Uca	Ann Frangos	Anastasia Matzorkis	Kay N. Stamatis
John Lakos	Jerry Vassos	Polly Furey	Maria Mavroidis	Chrisoula Stathopoulos
Arthur Lambros	Steve Vassos	Angelike Giallourakis	Triantafylio Mavrodis	Katina Steffas
Angelo Lentzas	John N. Vianos	Becky Giallourakis	Lee McGuigan	Maggie Steffas
Stanley Lentzas	Kostas Xenos	Janet Giallourakis	Presvytera Emilia Metallinos	Katherine Stratakis
Michael Loejos	Stanley York	Sue Giallourakis	Catherine Morrison	Mary Szekely
Aristidi Louizou	Panagiotis Zazopoulos	Fife K. Glynias	Valerie Nagy	Diane Sutphin
Marcos Marcopoulos		Anna Goldense	Joan O'Leary	Sue Tetorakis
Fr. George Markakis	<i>In Honor of...</i>	Argiro Hadgis	Christine Oriti	Crystal G. Thomas
Gus Matzorkis	Angie Alex	Debbie Hadgis	Effie Oulas	Stella P. Thomas
Jim Matzorkis	Deena Alexander	Donna Hadgis	Annette Packis	Katherine Vassos
George Packis	Martha Andrejko	Catherine Pulos Harootunian	Carolyn Packis	Angela Ventouris
Thomas Packis	Barbara Anezinis	Eleni Hatzidakis	Olga Packis	Irene Vianos
Rev. John Papadopoulos	Irene Apostolakis	Sofia Henry	Aphrodite Palos	Jane Vlalios
George Papandreas	Mary Apotsos	Catherine Hillman	Mary Papandreas	Elizabeth Voudouris
Gust Pasis	Mimi Apotsos	Terrie Hoffmann	Delores Papantoniou	Vicki Poulos
George Pastis	Thelma Burpulis	Presvytera Catherine Jula	Mary Pappadakes	Wrick
Joseph Perkins	Estelle Callas	Linda Jula	Barbara Pasis	Lula Zapis
Apostolos Phidakis	Anna Carpadis	Maria Jula	Vasiliki Pasis	Maria Markakis
Demetrios Poulos	Effie Carpenter	Rita Jula	Mary Paterakis	Zestos
Christos Pulos	Ellen Chrisman	Irene Kachevas	Christina Petousis	
John Regas	Evangelia Christou	Efigenia Kantzios	Mary Poulos	
Henry Richards	Ethel Chiviles	Athina Karakatsani	Toula Pyros	
Tass Sicaras	Jean Chiviles	Diane Kariotakis		
Ernest Sideropolis				

Nick Alexander	Peter C. Stamatis
John Anezinis	Anastasios Stathopoulos
John Apostolakis	Manuel N. Steffas
Nick Apostolakis	Les Szekely
James A. Apotsos	Angelo Tetorakis
James N. Apotsos	Pete Tetorakis
Dean Bates	Spero Tetorakis
Gus Callas	George Gary Thomas
Paul Campbell	George Vassos
Tony Chiviles	Georgios Ventouris
Nick Carpadis	Fred Westbrook
James R. Diamond	Demetri Zestos

Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

“Your Cross we venerate O Master, and your Holy Resurrection we glorify.”

On September 14, the Orthodox Church elevates the Cross of our Lord, the chief symbol of Christianity, on the day when St. Helen found the Cross in Jerusalem.

Described by St. Paul as “the power of God” for believers, the cross reminds us of Christ, His teaching, crucifixion, and resurrection. We make our cross daily, when we pray, before we eat, and frequently in various circumstances of life.

The great saint of our church, St. John Chrysostom, describes the cross in this way: “The cross is the proof of the love of God, the unshaken wall, the unconquered weapon, the security of the rich, the richness of the poor, the weapon of the threatened, the rebuke of the passions, the kingdom of virtue, the wonderful and strange sign.”

We can celebrate by attending Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, September 14. Philoptochos will pass a special basket to benefit our Archdiocese center for higher learning at Hellenic College/Holy Cross.

Spiros Drapos
Steve Famiano
Manuel J. Glynias
David W. Goldense
Mike Henry
Patrick Hoy
Anthony S. Jula
Ilarion S. Jula
Rev. Fr. Stephen N. Jula
William Lakios
Kostas Louizos
Aristotle Markakis
George Markakis
Bill Matzorkis
Nikolaos Mavroidis
Rev. Fr. Peter Metallinos
Dan Packis
Nick Packis
Thano Pasalis
John Poulos
Chris J. Regas
David P. Richards
Dave Schraff
James Selos
Byron D. Spooner
Byron T. Spooner

National News

OUR PATRIARCH TO VISIT THE U.S.

New York - His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will be coming to the U.S. this October for a three-stage visit, which will include an Environmental Symposium on the Mississippi River and visits to New York, Atlanta and Washington D.C. The Ecumenical Patriarch will arrive in Memphis, Tenn., on Oct. 17 to lead the 8th Environmental Symposium titled *“The Great Mississippi River: Restoring Balance.”* His All Holiness is the patron of this series of environmental symposia on various water bodies around the world and he is internationally known for his many efforts for environmental awareness and the well-deserved title “Green Patriarch.”

“This trip of His All Holiness to America will be a unique opportunity for all the American people to hear the...message of respect for human rights and religious freedom for all, and a message of respect and reverence for God’s creation, our natural environment. Finally, for the Orthodox Christians in America this trip will truly be a blessing,” said Archbishop Demetrios.

The Environmental Symposia are organized by “Religion, Science and the Environment,” a movement originally conceived in 1988 on the Aegean Isle of Patmos, at a meeting of environmental and religious leaders, out of concern for the water environment of the planet. RSE has convened seven symposia to study the fate of the world’s main bodies of water, which cover seven-tenths of the earth’s surface. These were held in the Aegean Sea, the Black Sea, the Danube River, the Adriatic Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Amazon River and the Arctic Sea.

U.S., GREECE SIGN VISA WAIVER PROGRAM DOCUMENTS

Washington, D.C. – This past June, the United States and Greece signed two technical documents that are required for Greece’s inclusion in the United States’ Visa Waiver Program, announced AHEPA National President Ike Gulas.

Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg and Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis signed the documents, a formal Memorandum of Understanding and a cooperation agreement on fighting crime.

Inclusion of Greece into the Visa Waiver Program was a significant initiative championed by AHEPA since January 2006. AHEPA worked with Congress to introduce legislation that designates Greece as a visa waiver nation, hosted a public policy forum with leading administration, congressional, and policy experts, and with the Departments of State and Homeland Security to present the position of the American Hellenic community on the issue.

Currently Greeks wishing to visit the U.S. require a Visa, despite Greece’s membership in the European Union, of which other nations’ citizens can visit the U.S. freely.