



THE EPISTLE

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



March

22909 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, Ohio

2009



Pastoral Thoughts

Fr. Jim Doukas

These past two months have been such contemplative months. We celebrated the Nativity of Our Lord, the Feast Day of St. Basil, New Year's Day, Epiphany and the Entrance of Jesus in the Temple. Soon we will be entering Great Lent. Many of us, including myself, may say: ALREADY!

Yes, the time has come and gone but we must make the best of it. We can only admire the days that have gone and cherish them as much as we can. Life and time do not stop. What matters is how we have used that time.

I am sure that quite a few of us may be depressed, if not upset, with all the snow around us. Some of us have complained either to others or to God, how much more can we take? Yet others, find Snow Days as great days in their lives in order to reflect and contemplate on life. These are positive people who know how to take any situation in life and make the best of it.

The seven weeks of Great Lent begin on CLEAN MONDAY (March 2) and conclude on HOLY SATURDAY (April 18.) During this time, the Church encourages the faithful to use this period in a special way to reflect on our spiritual life. Fasting, prayer, almsgiving, numerous worship services, curtailment of social activities, and increased attention to our inner life dominate during this time, as well as disciplining ourselves in reading the Bible and literature that relate to spiritual growth. Confession and regular Holy Communion are also some of the ways that help us observe Great Lent as Orthodox Christians. Since it is not easy to radically change our lifestyle from one week to another, the Church provides a warming-up period in preparing for Great Lent. On the Sundays preceding Lent, the Church calls to our attention specific gospel lessons, with an emphasis on an inner spiritual quality which we need to cultivate in order to realize God.

As we read the following passages, reflect on the theme to see how much your life contains the suggested virtue. As we work on obtaining these qualities, we become more prepared to use and appreciate Great Lent for our spiritual benefit.

GOSPEL LESSON

THEME

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus) | Desire to find God |
| 2. Luke 18:10-15 (Parable of Publican & Pharisee) | Humility |
| 3. Luke 15:11-32 (Parable of Prodigal Son) | Repentance |
| 4. Matthew 25:31-46 (Last Judgment) | Readiness for Judgment |
| 5. Matthew 6:14-21 (Sermon on the Mount) | Forgiveness |

If you see that your life style is not what it should be in the eyes of God, change it during the Lenten Season. Our Church affords us this opportunity and we must take advantage of it! Don't make Lent a sad time, make it an enjoyable time in our lives. HAVE A BLESSED LENT!



St. Demetrios 50th
Anniversary

Coincides with Parade's 10th

The Greek Independence Day Parade is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year with some very special plans, including a post-parade program with live music by Orion Express and a special Folk Dance performance re-enacting the story of the Greeks' struggle for independence. The committee has also sponsored a Greek film (See p. 14.)

On Sat., March 28, Fr. Jim will join Fr. Dean Dimon and other area clergy to celebrate a doxology at 10 a.m. in Annunciation Church, 2187 W. 14th St., Cleveland. The parade kicks off at 11 a.m. from the church parking lot, led by "Kolokotrones" astride a horse and Grand Marshal Jim Trakas. The committee also hopes to have a color guard of Evzones representing each local church. Any man who is interested in representing St. Demetrios, can contact the office at 440-331-2246. An Evzone costume will be provided.

The Phoenix Greek Pontian Society will again offer coffee & donuts at the sign-in table starting at 10 a.m. Loukoumades will be on sale in Annunciation Hall starting at noon.

Those who are not part of one of the Greek Regional organizations are welcome to march behind St Demetrios' banner. Also needed are parade marshals to help keep order! (Marshal t-shirt will be provided to volunteers; contact Eleni at 216-965-8131.) Or just come cheer everyone on!

Cleveland's first Greek Independence Day Parade took place in 1999 as Greeks (and Philhellenes) from northeast Ohio led by Metropolitan Maximos marched downtown to commemorate the 1821 Revolution that Orthodox Greeks fought against their Ottoman Muslim oppressors. The first year of the parade, St. Demetrios had an Olympic themed float.

The parade eventually moved to the Tremont area in order to include a post-parade program.

The Epistle is the official publication of the

Greek Orthodox Community of St. Demetrios



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

Check out our link at www.saintdemetriosrr.org

Catering Experience

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Speaking of Stewardship...



Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet

The icon depicting our Lord washing the feet of His disciples is a beautiful example of love and humility. We are taught by the hymns of the Church: *“The Savior and Master, ever leading us to divine exaltation, in His actions revealed to us the humility that raises us on high. For with His own hands, He washed the feet of the disciples.”*

As Jesus washes the feet of His disciples, we have both a symbol of baptism and an example of service. This becomes more profound when we realize that Jesus, God in the flesh renders humility as an expression of STEWARDSHIP. As Christians, we are bathed and cleansed by Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Periodically, throughout our lives, we have “foot-washings” by our Lord through the Sacrament of Holy Confession.

The only way for God to assist us in actualizing the likeness we have in Him is to guide us in developing His unselfishness in us. Giving is not for God’s benefit, but for our own. He waits patiently for us to learn to give. Humankind may be transformed into His likeness by the process of STEWARDSHIP.

We need to be honest with God. Like our Time and Talents, our Treasure is also a gift from God. He makes it possible for us to acquire such treasure. Obtaining what we believe to be our own material possessions, our treasures are actually entrusted to our care by God. As Orthodox Christians, we have the responsibility to our Lord to support and make possible the perpetuation of the ministry of His Church in the world. Our response to this call is by giving in an open, direct, and honest manner.

The Lord puts forth many examples of humility and love. As in the example of our Lord washing the feet of His disciples, Church leadership must also set the example of ministering with humility. It is our STEWARDSHIP obligation and privilege to serve God and our fellow humankind. This is the life of the Church in all Her mystical, catechetical, and pastoral expressions.

NEEDED...

Sponsors - Every so often, we need sponsors for the Chrismation or Baptism of an adult who is new to Orthodoxy and/or our parish. Anyone who is in Good Standing with the church, has never sponsored a sacrament and would like to do so, please call Fr. Jim at 440-331-2246 and your name will be added to a contact list.

Flowers - Anyone wishing to decorate (or donate toward the decorating of) the Icon of the Panagia for the Friday night Salutations to the Virgin Mary (March 13-April 3) please call or email the office.

From the President’s Pen

Dear Fellow Stewards:

The Prodigal Son

On Sun., Feb. 15, my wife Eleni and I attended services at the Church of St. George in Massillon, Ohio, with Fr. Kosta Valantasis. We first heard Fr. Kosta speak at St. Demetrios last year and were so moved by his message that we have kept in touch and occasionally, we have attended his church. His service that week was moving and a mind-opener for me in a very simple but significant way. The message that I got from the Parable and Fr. Kosta’s sermon was that if the Father was willing to forgive and welcome the Prodigal son, how is it that we (read, I) can’t forgive others and forget their transgressions? If God can forgive us and accept us, even though we have transgressed against His Will, have denied Him, have wasted His gifts, why can’t we??

Why am I indulging in this public apologia? In last month’s *Epistle*, my Council colleague, Aggie Arabian, called for this to be a year of BONDING in our community. It occurred to me that we cannot have bonding unless we have forgiveness. Thus the Prodigal Son Epiphany.

Necessities

2009 Pledges If you have not yet pledged for 2009, please do so as soon as possible. The economic times call for a greater generosity toward our Church, a greater participation by all of us. Also, with the pledges, we need your contributions to meet our current cash flow.

Festival March brings the beginning of our Festival preparations. We will be calling the first Festival organizing meetings soon and ask that your generosity extend not only in Treasure but also Time and Talent.

Suggestions We will be setting up a suggestion box outside the church office. We need your feedback, suggestions, and yes, even criticisms. We will respond to all SIGNED submissions. And, if writers’ cramps prevail, approach and speak with any one of your Council members.

Parking around the facilities For reasons of safety and consideration, please park your vehicles ONLY in designated areas. For this, we thank you in advance.

Lastly, if you have a need or know of anyone that has a need, not only financial, but also any challenge that the combined talents of this community may be able to assist with, please bring it to someone’s attention. We are indeed blessed with many resources and may be able to facilitate solutions to those challenges. Bring ‘em to Fr. Jim’s attention, or Eleni or Nick, or any member of Council.

In Christ,

John G. Asimou

Parish News

THOSE THAT HAVE PUT ON CHRIST

Alexander Chamberlin was baptized on Feb. 23, 2009. His sponsors are Paul & Patsy Kantos.

ASLEEP IN THE LORD



Gus (Kostas) Mitsilenkas, father of Larry (Melina), Angela and the late Paul, passed away on Jan. 28, 2009. His 40 day memorial will be on March 8



George Karydes, husband of Vera, father of Spyro, Soula (Brad) Unruh, and Andrew (Tamiko), grandfather of Benjamin & Alexander Unruh and Emily & Madeline Karydes, passed away on Jan. 31, 2009. His 40 day memorial will be on March 8.

We also extend our condolences to Stephen Zarzour on the loss of his grandmother, the Coutris family on the loss of their cousin, Vange Richards on the loss of her sister and Elaine Spooner on the loss of her brother.

GREEK LANGUAGE

At last month's Greek Letters Day celebration, Dr. Victor Papacosma (pictured below) professor of History at Kent State University, Director of the Lemnitzer Center for NATO and European Union Studies, Executive Director of the Modern Greek Studies Association and author of various articles on modern Greece, spoke on "Greek: A Changing but Immortal Language." As we prepare to celebrate Greek Independence Day, it seems especially relevant to re-cap his speech for those who may have missed it.



Beginning by merely listing words starting with the letter "A" that have a Greek origin, Dr. Papacosma made a vivid point about the contribution of the Greek language in an English dictionary. Further, he noted that "12% of the English vocabulary is of Greek origin.

Historically, Greek speakers entered the Balkan peninsula circa 3400 BC. At its apex it was the "language of culture, of administration, and of trade areas" even where it was NOT the native tongue, in regions as far east as the Indus Valley in Asia, south to Egypt and to the northern Balkans during the Middle Ages. There was a definite reason why it was the original language of the New Testament.

But of perhaps more interest is that as a "living language" it has an unbroken history of 3,000 years. (Meaning that its written form is not totally foreign to the modern language as is, for example, Anglo-Saxon to modern English.) The only other languages with comparable continuity are Chinese and Hebrew. Part of the reason for this, claimed Dr. Papacosma, is Greek's tendency to eventually replace borrowed foreign words with a Greek version by adding a prefix or suffix. *(continued on p. 7)*

MARCH FOR LIFE

Thousands of Christians from across the country traveled to Washington DC the week of the Inauguration to express their hope that the new administration would consider the sanctity of life. The Orthodox faithful were led by Archbishop Jonah, who spoke along with leaders from many different denominations.

St. Demetrios Church was represented by Tom Papouras, who traveled with other Orthodox Christians from Cleveland on the bus chartered by Zoe House.

FR. JIM SPEAKS AT CITY CLUB

Fr. Jim Doukas was the guest speaker at the Serra Club's meeting at the City Club on Feb. 6. Father spoke to a group of about 20 people, including Alex Jelepiss, on the topic of who we are as Orthodox, and describing some of the similarities and differences between Orthodoxy and Catholicism. The Serra Club is a Catholic organization that prays for vocations.

OPA! Spring Plans

We hope to see everyone at the 1st Lenten Lecture on March 4.

Then, join OPA! (Orthodox Parish Adults ages 21-55) for a movie night on **Tue., March 24**. We'll start with dinner/drinks downtown and then attend the Cleveland International Film Festival to see the Greek mystery film, *Correction*, (no, its not about a know-it-all *yiayia!*) More details in the bulletins.

If you'd like to be contacted about OPA outings, contact the office to be added to the email and One Call Now lists.



Join IOCC and Habitat for Humanity in our 3rd year of building houses together for victims of 2005's Hurricane Katrina.

When: July 19-26, 2009 (Sunday to Sunday)

Where: St. Tammany Parish in Louisiana

Who: Volunteers must be 18 or older, but 16 and 17-year-olds will be accepted, *if* accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

How: Apply online at:

www.iocc.org/giving/giving_volunteergulf8-06.aspx Note the St. Demetrios Team's travel dates at the bottom. Or contact the office for help to sign up.

Cost: \$500/ person. *Note:* the 2009 fee has been raised due to higher airfare costs, but still includes: round-trip airfare, local transportation, room & board, materials & supplies. Contribution cost isn't due until one month prior to departure.

If you have any questions, contact Nick Hillman at 440-331-2246 or activitycenternick@yahoo.com

This will be the final year of working in the New Orleans region, so let's make a significant impact!



50th ANNIVERSARY NEWS

We are now in the full swing of our church's Golden Year!

Commemorative Album Plans to create the 50th anniversary album are under way. Please keep those photos and news clippings coming!

A big thanks to Lou Corpas and Pete Stamatis who brought in a wealth of memorabilia last month. They are truly our church's honorary historians! Also, thanks to Tom & Teresa Andrews for sharing Sunday School photos and Dora Selos for Greek School photos from the 1960s. The Archive Committee will be meeting to organize and label photos. However, if you plan on e-mailing photos, please note a) the year or era the picture was taken and b) list the as many names of the people appearing in it as you know. In last month's issue, we unfortunately had to omit the name of one board member who was not recognized and also misidentified George Bowdouris. So, submitting images with captions would be greatly appreciated!

The Album Committee invites you to consider sponsoring a tribute page or ad in the 50th anniversary album. We sincerely hope that you will choose to show your support as we honor 50 years of service to the families and friends of our vibrant parish. Your tribute page or ad will position us to grow and to continue serving the Greek Orthodox community even more effectively in the next 50 years. Commitment forms will be mailed out soon and will also be available during coffee hours. We ask for your commitment before June 1, 2009 in order to reserve your ad space in our album. **Ads will be placed in the album in the order in which they are received.**

Facebook Group You can now join a "St Demetrios" group on Facebook to keep connected with all the 50th anniversary events! Thanks to Alex & Lia Augoustidis for creating the group and posting photos. Those with a Facebook profile can request to join today. You can then view or post your favorite photos from St. Demetrios' history. Tag people who are not yet identified and invite family or friends who may have moved away to join in the fun! If you are not already on Facebook, you can create a profile by going to www.facebook.com.



(above) 30 past & present members of Parish Council were on hand on Feb. 8 to receive a blessing for all their contributions to our parish over the years.

(right) Several past Presidents were among those at the blessing: (L-R) Dan Packis, Fr. Jim, Angelo Georgeson (American Hellenic Community,) Steve Alex, Pete Stamatis, Gary Thomas, Lou Corpas, John G. Asimou, Jim Selos, and Lee Zapis.



Photos: Eleni Papouras-Jenks

Upcoming Events ⁵

Mar. 8- Youth Ministries' Sunday

Apr. 5- Library Committee Sunday

Sun., Apr. 26 ~ Yassou Club "Fab Four" outing

Sat., May 2 – 50th Anniversary Walk-A-Thon

Sun., May 17 – Founders Day. Trisagion followed by Coffee Hour hosted by Yassou Club

Sun., June 14- Hellenic Dancers Sunday

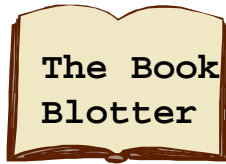
June 18-21- Fiftieth Festival

Sat., Aug. 15 - Parish Picnic

Sun., Oct. 25- St. Demetrios Feastday Vespers and Reception

Sat., Nov. 28 – Golden Anniversary Gala

NEXT MONTH... We continue our 50th anniversary commemorations by honoring past & present members of the Parish Library Committee on **Sun., April 5**. Contact the church office if you have any photos to share for the display case.



Library Jottings Did you know that Lent starts on March 2? We have numerous books to help you prepare for Lent and Easter. Cook Books: *Greek Cookbook*, *Lenten Cookbook*, *Cooking the Greek Way* and several others.

Religious Books & Videos: *Holy Week, On Pascha, Daily Lenten Meditations for Orthodox Christians*. Videos include *Christos Anesti--the Easter Liturgy* and *Lenten Series* covering "Reaching Out to Others," "Prayer," "Fasting," and "Confession." Also, the renowned movie, *The Passion* and *Great and Holy Week* from the Greek Archdiocese. Some of these titles will be on display on tables in the library and can be signed out as well as books from shelves. We also have a Young Adults section under the heading "YA" located in the first section to your left as you enter the library. The annual Oratorical Festival will be held on March 29th. Reference books are available for participants.

Books on Loss: *Grieving the Loss of a Loved One* by Kathie Wunnenberg. "As surely as God is faithful, there is hope for your broken heart to heal and there is life beyond your sorrow." These are a collection of devotions which include scripture passages. We also have the following books dealing with the death of a loved one: *Death and the Life After* by Billy Graham, *Surviving the Loss of a Loved One* by Anthony Coniaris, and, for children, *What's Heaven* by Maria Shriver.

Over-Due Books: -There are numerous books and videos that have not been returned to the library; many are long overdue. We don't charge for overdue books as do public libraries but it is costly to replace these items. Please return these items on the cart by the library door as soon as possible. Please do not reshelve them! If the library door is closed, return them to the church office. - *The Library Committee*

Book Discussion Group Join us in the library at 1:30 p.m. on March 18 to discuss *The Bastard of Istanbul* by Elif Shafak.

The Catacomb Bookstore With the Lenten Season closely upon us, it is appropriate to take time out of our busy lives to reflect on our beautiful Orthodox Faith. Reading about the Faith helps us reflect and learn about Orthodoxy from the points of view of the theologians and the Saints. Whether you are an informed reader of the Faith, or just exploring Orthodoxy for the first time, the Catacomb Bookstore has a wonderful selection of reading materials to meet your needs. Please stop in and check out the selection. We will be happy to assist you.- *Angie Giallourakis*

Book Review: A Tale of Two (Greek) Cities

by Eleni Papouras-Jenks

Many people state that location is everything. But after reading the biographies of two cities with Greek populations and a view of the Aegean, one can argue that leadership is everything.

This past winter, I had the opportunity to read *Salonica, City of Ghosts: Christians, Muslims and Jews, 1430-1950* by Mark Mazower (440 pp.) and *Paradise Lost: Smyrna 1922* by Giles Milton (386 pp.) Both were recently published (*Salonica* in 2006, and *Paradise Lost* in 2008) and are both available at the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

By chance, I came across them within weeks of each other and reading them essentially in the same time frame was a highly engaging and educating experience.

Mazower, an American, possibly of Jewish descent, begins his history of Salonica in 1430, when the Ottoman Empire took over the city after the defeat of the Christian Byzantine Empire by the Mongol Turks. In prologue, he touched on the city's Greek past and I was especially interested to read about the fate of the original St. Demetrios Church which was built over the baths where the saint was martyred. Apparently, the Muslim authorities, recognizing the draw of the saint, kept the building open as tourist attraction and charged admission, which helped save it from demolition.

The author covers the histories of the three religious communities very thoroughly, including the influx of Jews during the Spanish Inquisition, the dramatic marginalization of the native Greeks (reduced to a minority after several plagues) and the rise of the ruling-class Turkish Muslims, who fell in love with the town, including the future leader of the Young Turks and the father of the modern state of Turkey, Kemal Ataturk, who was born there.

Mazower weaves a fascinating picture of how all these groups lived side by side and often intermingled in strange ways. There are the Ma'min, 17th century Jews under the sway of a charismatic rabbi and would-be Messiah who converted to Islam- while keeping some Jewish traditions. The Sephardic Jews, who spoke Spanish well into the 19th century and rejected Zionist plans to colonize Palestine, seeing Salonica as their promised land- until the Nazis marched into the city. There were the Albanians who converted to Islam for tax breaks but kept their hard-drinking ways. The Greek clergy who were essentially political leaders of their flocks. The Greek girl whose attempted conversion to Islam led to a riot. And finally the Europeans of all nations who flocked to the busy commercial port, bringing ideas of nationalism and freedom that would eventually topple the Ottoman Empire.

The final section of the book is entitled "Making the City Greek" and clearly explains the still-relevant struggle for Macedonia between Greece, Bulgaria and the Ottomans, whose repercussions are still seen in today's headlines.

Paradise Lost is subtitled *The Destruction of a Christian City in the Islamic World*, leaving no doubt as to the sad outcome of the once-thriving town. Although there have been many accounts written about Smyrna (all listed in the book's bibliography) Milton, a British journalist, accordingly presents a very English perspective.

(continued on next page)

Bordering on arrogance born of 20/20 hindsight, he condemns then-Prime Minister Lloyd George and his friendship with Eleftherios Venizelos, and often seems to agree with his subjects' pro-Turkish /anti-Greek sentiments - until, of course, they (and he) are faced with describing the Turks' brutality. But despite this, the book is worth reading as his sources include many never-before-published eye-witnesses' private diaries and letters, including those of an Armenian doctor, which provide a vivid photograph of the so-called Levantines and their forgotten story.

The Levantines were British, French and American nationals who lived and did business in the Levant (Asia Minor,) for nearly a century. Several generations of their descendants had never even seen Europe. They enjoyed protected status under the Ottoman Empire, living charmed lives in Smyrna's suburbs of Bournabat, Cordelio and Paradise. (The title refers to the American ex-pat colony/suburb.) The Levantines owned many of the businesses that employed the local population and allowed Smyrna's Christians (Greeks and Armenians) to be better off financially, and more sophisticated, than their counter-parts living in the interior of Turkey. And their influence helped shape the sea-side town of Smyrna into a modern city that included one of the first movie theaters in the world. However, it was this very cosmopolitan element that ultimately drew Atatürk's disdain and disregard for its fate.

Milton begins his history prior to World War I, exploring the political relationships between Turkey and Germany, and Britain with Greece's Venizelos, and the consequences of both those alliances to Smyrna. The final chapters of the book are eerily headed merely by dates, starting with Wednesday, Sept. 6, 1922, the day the defeated Greek army marched into Smyrna with hundreds of thousands of Christian refugees from the interior on their heels, followed by the Turks. The humanitarian disaster that ensued is still considered one of the worst in a century known for its holocausts.

I had some basic knowledge of the "Great Catastrophe," as it is known among Greeks, but reading the individual stories of Smyrna's survivors and the actual statistics of the dead and displaced, was chilling. It also hit close to home, as my maternal grandfather was a Greek soldier on that disastrous campaign, ending up a POW for a time. As I got closer to the end of the book, I had to set it down for several days before finishing it, knowing the outcome: Turkish irregulars robbing and raping in broad daylight, while thousands huddled on the quayside as ships of the Western powers looked on, but did nothing to help.

And finally, on Wed., Sept. 13, 1922, the fire begun by Turks in the Armenian quarter that burned for four days, (see archival photo above) destroying two-thirds of the city and trapping both the refugees and the now-homeless Smyrniotes between "the sea, the fire and the sword." Along with the accounts of the privileged Levantines (for whom, after a while, I admit, I found it hard to sympathize,) are the interviews and stories of just a fraction of the half-million Greeks and Armenians who managed to survive those horror-filled days. Anyone who doubts that the Turks committed genocide on the Armenians just needs to read the last chapters of this book.



What I *did* learn – the one uplifting thing in this tragic book – was about the individual Americans who defied the Turkish brutality and their own government's criminal "neutrality" to help the desperate refugees. Most notable

are Esther Lovejoy of the Red Cross who went to the city *after* its leaders had deserted their posts (and also wrote a book about her experiences,) and Asa Jennings, a New York minister in charge of Smyrna's YMCA, who single-handedly (and with a bluff) took the initiative to gather ships in Mytilene to evacuate the refugees, finally shaming the overwhelmed Greek government into action. And being named a temporary admiral of the Greek navy!

Upon finishing *Paradise Lost*, I was then able to follow the historical path of many Asia Minor refugees in the chapters of *Salonica* that detail their arrival in a Greek nation that was too poor to take care of the people it already had, as they faced poverty and prejudice. In fact, Milton references Mazower's book as one of his sources.

In reading these books concurrently, it was easy to find many parallels between Salonica and Smyrna. Both sea-side cities were major commercial ports and thrived economically under the Ottoman Empire. Both were homes to a majority Greek population living peacefully for centuries with multi-cultural and multi-religious minorities. But once the Ottoman empire disintegrated into individual nationalist states, it is very telling to note that, in the end, the town that ended up in Greek hands continued to evolve into a cosmopolitan city that has been a Cultural Capital of the E.U., while the one that fell into Turkish hands was burned to the ground and became just another Third World backwater.

GREEK LANGUAGE (Continued from p. 4)

However, he added "that this flexibility of the Greek language has also been abused" citing some hilarious examples of "Helleno-Americanisms" (or Gringlish, as we like to call it): "farma," "caro," "bussie" were among made-up words. He also told an anecdote of a confused Greek-speaker visiting the U.S. who was warned of the "belozeria" of winter, only to later realize his host had Hellenized "below zero."

Joking aside, the professor felt that even this "kitchen Greek" dialect is better than nothing, in terms of building knowledge of the correct form of the language, and applauded the continuance of Greek schools for 3rd and 4th generation Greek-Americans as a "distinctive achievement" that is hard to find among other ethnic groups.

Citing the growth of Greek language programs in various colleges, he encouraged parents to note that "a language admired and borrowed on by much of the world should be learned by its legitimate heirs - Greek American children."

YOUTH MINISTRIES

ACOLYTES

Sun., March 22- Mandatory meeting for all altar boys, immediately after church to discuss the Holy Week schedule.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH CHOIR

Sat., March 7- Youth Choir rehearsal & pizza party 10 a.m.- Noon in the chapel.

Sun., March 8 – Sunday of Orthodoxy. The Youth Choir will chant the Liturgy on this day. Choir members should meet in the choir room at 9:20 a.m. to process in. (If you are late, please come down the side aisle to join us.) The younger students should bring an icon from home for the annual procession of icons. Meet in your classrooms.

Sun., March 15- Oratorical Festival immediately following the liturgy for both the Junior and Senior Divisions.

COMING UP... The Youth Choir will also be chanting the liturgy on April 5 and May 10.

GREEK SCHOOL

Sat., March 28- The 10th annual Greek Independence Day Parade. Those marching with the Greek School banner should meet at Annunciation Church, 2187 W. 14th St., no later than 10:30 a.m.

Sun., March 29- 3 p.m. Greek Independence Day Program in the Cultural Hall. Students should be in their classrooms in costume by 2:30 p.m. PTO will serve refreshments after the program.

HELLENIC DANCERS

We are currently preparing for performances at the Greek Independence Day Parade program on Sat., March 28 at Annunciation Church, and the Greek School program on Sun., March 29 in our hall. In March, both Junior and Seniors dance groups will meet on **Sundays after church.**

Junior Dancer (ages 7-12) : Zapis Activity Center lobby

Senior Dancer (13 & up) : Fellowship Room (3/1-3/22)

G.O.Y.A.

Congratulations to both Girls' Teams for coming in 1st Place at the tournaments in February! We also congratulate the Boys' B Team.



The victorious Senior Girls Team with coaches Nick Hillman and Steve Steffas. Photo: Chris Tjotjos

March 1- GOYA meeting & Sock Hop Glendi

March 18 -Host Lenten Lecture dinner

March 28- Greek Independence Day Parade

YOCAMA (Young Orthodox Christian American Mission Adventures)

Mission Trip to Browning, Montana: July 20-28, 2009

Goal: To work with the Blackfeet Community hospital and housing authority, providing help for the Blackfeet people via home improvement projects, lunches and activities for local children, medical services and food delivery. We are also renovating a homeless shelter on the reservation.

Cost: \$800/person includes: Roundtrip transportation on Amtrak, room, board, and transportation throughout mission trip. Note: *Fee does not include the cost of food on the Amtrak Train.*

Requirements: Children under 14 required to have a parent or guardian attend. There will be clergy and medical personnel present during each mission trip. Note: *Staff/chaperones are already selected.* Space is limited to 65 high school missionaries, first come, first served. To guarantee yourself a spot on the 2009 Trip, please note the following dates.

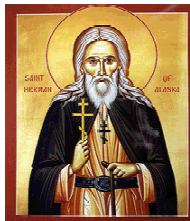
March 1– Non-refundable \$100 deposit with registration.

April 10 - \$300 due with completed registration materials

July 6- Final \$400 due

Registration forms available in the church office.

Call Angie Giallourakis 440-871-2681 with any questions.



AHEPA Scholarships

AHEPA John M. Manos Chapter #36 of Cleveland is once again offering its annual scholarship. High School seniors of Greek descent with a GPA of 3.5 or higher are urged to apply. Deadline is April 5, 2009. Contact Keith Manos (440-953-0258) for more details.

AHEPA Thomas A. Stamatis Chapter #389 is offering four \$500 scholarships this year to graduating high school seniors whose parents are members in good standing of AHEPA or St. Demetrios Church. Deadline is April 12, 2009. Awards will be presented on AHEPA Day in May. Contact Spyro Farmakidis (440-779-8190) for more details.

Applications are available in the church office.

ZAPIS ACTIVITY CENTER

NICK HILLMAN, Activities Director

activitycenternick@yahoo.com

WRAPPING UP...

Please note that the final week for Kids' Basketball is March 21. Thanks to our volunteer dads for keeping the program going during GOYA tournament weekends.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Golf and Ballroom Dancing lessons, and to our guest instructors Fred Colli and Dan Letwin.

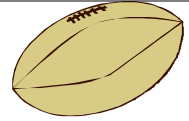
SPRING TRAINING

Tone up your baseball hitting and fielding skills on Saturdays from 7-9 a.m. starting March 7, taught by Byron Spooner Jr. and Nick Hillman.

OPA! ADULT GREEK DANCING

Social Greek dancing for adults (21 & up) will be starting after Pascha. Join line leaders Alex & Lia Augoustidis once a month for free fun & aerobic exercise – and maybe you'll learn a few new steps, too! Start date to be announced.

FOOTBALL CONNECTION



On Jan. 25, the Cleveland Browns announced that they had named George Kokinis (left) as their new General Manager and we are happy to welcome a fellow Greek back to Cleveland.

Kokinis was a scout for the Cleveland Browns from 1991-1995. In 1996, he moved to Baltimore with the Browns' franchise, where he served as a scout for three years before becoming the assistant director of pro personnel and working closely with Ozzie Newsome.

The 42-year-old Connecticut native played both baseball and football at the University of Richmond and was named ECAC Baseball Player of the Year in 1989.

And with all due respect to the hurt feelings of Cleveland Browns fans, we'd be remiss not to mention Pittsburgh Steeler safety Troy Polamalu's role in that team's recent Super Bowl victory.

No, Samoa is *not* one of the Greek isles, but the ethnic Samoan converted to Orthodoxy when he and wife Theodora were married four years ago, in a ceremony officiated by our own Metropolitan Maximos. Their infant son was baptized at the Monastery of the Nativity of the Mother of God in Saxonburg, PA. And, a recent article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* focused on his spirituality on and off the field- particularly Troy's "right to left" crossing of himself before games and praying on the sidelines. The article quoted James Purdie, a sub-deacon at St. George Orthodox Cathedral in Penn., as saying: "Being faithful and devout isn't always cool. So it's great when you can point to Troy Polamalu and say, 'Look, faith isn't stupid. It's something really special,' "



Activities	Day	Time	Dates
Open Walk	Monday-Friday	9:30 a.m.-Noon	Year round
Men's Open Basketball	Monday	9:00 p.m.	Year round
GOYA Boys Basketball	Monday/ Wednesday	7-9 p.m.	Currently in session
Exercise with Sophia	Tuesday/ Thursday	8:30 a.m.	Currently in session
Adult Golf Skills	Tuesdays	6-7 p.m.	Through March 10
GOYA Girls' Basketball	Tuesday/Thursday	7-9 p.m.	Currently in session
Hellenic Stars Soccer	Friday	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Currently in session
Mature Men's Basketball	Friday	8:30 p.m.	Year Round
Baseball Skills	Saturday	7-9 a.m.	March 7-28
Kids' (ages 5-12) Basketball	Saturday	1-3 p.m.	Through March 21
Kids' Open Play	Sunday	After church	During the school year

“You are the children of the



1974 GOYA meeting: (standing) Sophia Papatreas (future Parish Council Legal Council,) Fr. Peter, Jan Korones, Nick Steffas; (seated) Pana Pandis, Steve Steffas, Mike Manos.

The mission and goal of GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) is to lead our young people into experiencing the Holy Orthodox Faith by becoming active sacramental members of the living Church and to equip them with tools necessary to assist them in their journey toward salvation.



A tradition of Basketball:

(above) A Boys' team circa 1970s (includes future coaches Nick Kariotakis and Christ Manos in the back row, 2nd & 3rd from the right.)

(left) A Girls' team circa 1980s



Service Projects:

(above) The 1997 GOYA compiling hygiene kits for the needy.

(left) The 2006 GOYA continuing the tradition of folding palm crosses for our church's Palm Sunday service.

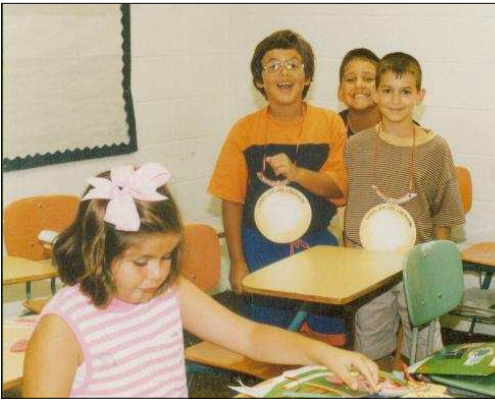


Lord your God.” - Deuteronomy 14:1

(right) The kids attending 2006 Vacation Church School



(below) Kids at one of the first Vacation Church School classes



Around 1990, with the help of then-assistant priest Fr. Paul Patitsas and Angie Giallourakis, St. Demetrios Church began a Vacation Church School to keep kids connected with the church during the summertime. The program has continued each year and under the guidance of Maggie Steffas in the past several years, has grown very popular.



In 2001, with the blessing of Fr. Paul Patitsas, a JOY chapter was begun at St. Demetrios with advisors Tammy Asimakis, Stacie Diamantis and Anthony Santarelli. The Junior Orthodox Youth ministers to kids grades 3-6 and includes religious lessons, light crafts, and outings. JOY has also held many fundraisers for Rainbow Babies and Children, local homeless shelters, and other organizations.

(above) JOY advisors and kids at a 2006 picnic.

(left) Fr. Paul portraying an elderly saint at a Hallelujah Party.



In 2005, teens from throughout greater Cleveland went on a mission trip to New Mexico that would be the basis of a new youth group: YOCAMA (Young Orthodox Christian American Mission Adventures.) With the blessing of Metropolitan Maximos, YOCAMA organizes mission trips in the U.S., including Indian Reservations, with people from throughout our Metropolis.

(Right) The first St. Demetrios team that traveled to New Mexico.





On the Bulletin Board



TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY

Come to the Feast on

Sunday, March 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Fr. Constantine Nasr of St. Elijah Church, Oklahoma
 St. Sava Orthodox Cathedral, 6306 Broadview Rd., Parma

Participate and witness to "our one faith in Christ" in prayer with our Orthodox brethren of Greater Cleveland at the 62nd Year of our United Commemoration of the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

All Orthodox children are welcome to take part in the Procession of Icons. Bring your own icon and meet in the hall of St. Sava at 5:30 p.m. Group photo with clergy & kids to follow.

1909

10th Annual

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

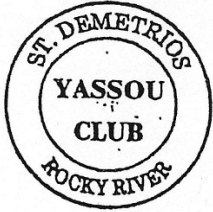
Saturday, March 28, 2009

 11 a.m. Parade Kick-off at Annunciation Church
 2187 West 14th St., Cleveland, Ohio through Tremont

2009

 Post-Parade Festivities at Annunciation Hall,
 Celebrating a Decade of Hellenic Pride and Unity:

Live Music by Orion Express ~ A very special March 25th Folk Dance Program ~ Loukoumades Sale



ENJOY A SUNDAY AFTERNOON WITH
“THE FAB FOUR”



At CARRIE CERINO'S BALLROOM

8922 RIDGE ROAD, NORTH ROYALTON, OH

SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH

DINNER..... 4:00 P.M.

SHOW.....5:30 P.M.

\$50.00

For information and tickets, contact
ESTELLE CALLAS.....440-779-6981
(LIMITED RESERVATIONS)



THE FOUR COINS

THE FOUR LADS

Special Appearance by

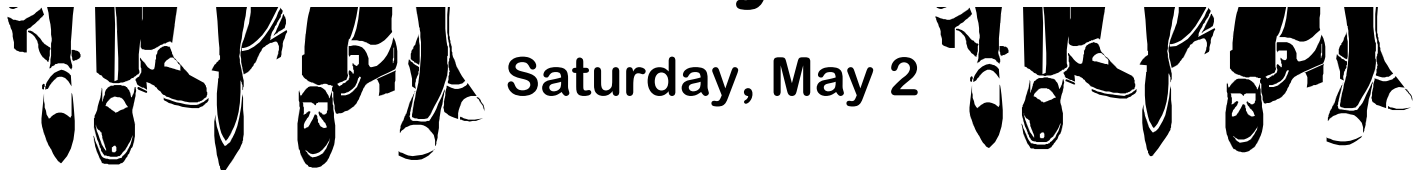
THE DRIFTERS

THE FOUR COINS return for one more bow after retiring from music some 33 years ago. The original group will be in top 1950s form, singing their #1 hit, “Shangri-La” plus others.

THE FOUR LADS will bring an exciting string of such hits as “Who Needs You,” “Standing on the Corner,” “Moments to Remember,” and “No, Not Much.”

The word famous DRIFTERS with Ronny Love, former lead singer, have sold more than thirty million records around the world. So come and hear this unforgettable group sing “Broadway,” “Under the Boardwalk,” “There Goes My Baby,” “Upon the Roof,” “Save the Last Dance For Me,” and “This Magic Moment,” just to name a few!

50th Anniversary Walk-a-Thon



Saturday, May 2

Door-to-door: Follow in the footsteps of our founders!

Registration: Forms available in the Narthex, office, and during coffee hour.
\$20/adult; \$15/ child; children in strollers are free
Includes: T-shirt and admission to the cookout.

Proceeds to go toward bringing our facility doors up to code and to a special donation to the Buna Vestire Building Fund.

Route: 2-mile stretch of Center Ridge Road, between Buna Vestire Romanian Orthodox Church, 3300 Wooster Rd., (the former location of St. Demetrios) and St. Demetrios Church.

~ Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for sign-in & t-shirt pick up; Walk-a-Thon kick off at 10 a.m.

~Rest stops along the route to be announced. Call Lia Augoustidis (440-933-0500) to be a corporate sponsor.

~Doxology & tour at Buna Vestire and cookout at St. Demetrios

Can't walk? Those who are not physically able to take part in the walk are welcome to volunteer as “relief” drivers along the route and/or shuttle drivers. Mini-vans will be needed!

Around Town

Parade Committee Sponsors Greek Film

In honor of the 10th anniversary of the the Greek Independence Day Parade of Greater Cleveland, taking place on March 28, the Parade Committee is sponsoring the screening of the Greek film *Διόρθωση* (*Correction.*) The film, a contemporary mystery/thriller, has won Best Actor and Best Screenplay awards at film festivals in Geneva, Switzerland, and Thessaloniki. It was also Greece's official submission to the 2009 Academy Awards Foreign-Language Film category. It will be shown (with English subtitles) at the Cleveland International Film Festival at Tower City on Mar. 24 at 9:20 p.m. and Mar. 25 at 5 p.m. Go to www.clevelandfilm.org or call 877-304-FILM and reference code "032521" for a \$2.00 discount.



Armenian Soprano to Perform Greek Songs



The 2009 Art Song Festival at Baldwin-Wallace College will feature Armenian Soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian in recital with her husband, pianist Serouj Kradjian. This rising star won 1st Prize in the 2000 Operalia competition founded by Placido Domingo, and her performances this season include a return to the Metropolitan Opera in NYC. She will perform some Armenian and Greek folk songs, as well as works by Schubert, Bellini and Berlioz.

The Art Song Festival was founded by our own George Vassos in 1985 at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and moved to Baldwin-Wallace College in 2005. The formerly annual event, has been held in alternating years since 1990. The week-long festival emphasizes the collaborative aspect between 10 singer/pianist teams that are chosen through national auditions. Four major guest artists also offer master classes and recitals throughout the week, culminating in a recital on the final night of the Festival.

Ms. Bayrakdarian will perform on Fri., March 20 at 8 p.m. in the Gambel Auditorium in Kulas Musical Arts Building, Baldwin-Wallace College, 96 Front St., Berea. Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$15 with a student ID. For more information, call 440-826-7664.

Lenten Retreats

There are several local retreats to help us prepare spiritually for Pascha. See the bulletin board for the following registration forms:

Sat., March 7 - SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, 2238 E. 32nd St., Lorain. Day-long retreat includes liturgy, confession, breakfast & lunch, conference and vespers. \$10. Topics: *Fighting the Good Fight* and *The Mission of Orthodoxy*. Guest speaker Fr. Constantine Nasr of St. Elijah Church in Oklahoma, was born in Jerusalem and graduated from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminar in NY. He is an author, lecturer, missionary and Orthodox evangelist.

Sat., March 21- SS. Constantine & Helen Cathedral, Mayfield Rd., Cleveland Hts. Speakers will be Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald the Dean of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, & Dr. Kyriaki Fitzgerald, theologian and pastoral psychologist.

Orthodoxy Elsewhere

Insurance Co. Donates \$1 Million for Center of Greek Studies

The New York Life Insurance Company presented Archbishop Demetrios with a \$1million donation in January for the establishment of the *New York Life Center for the Study of Hellenism in Pontus and Asia Minor* at the Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology, the Archdiocesan institution of higher learning in Brookline, Mass. The donation is part of New York Life's outreach program to the heirs of Greek policy holders in the Ottoman Empire. (Readers may recall an article in a 2008 issue of *The Epistle* about the company's attempts to reach policy holders' descendants.)

"It is most appropriate and fitting that our Church, which now embraces the children and grandchildren of those refugees from Pontus and Asia Minor, should do everything possible to keep alive the memory of these two once-vibrant and prosperous communities," stated His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. "It is our sacred duty to educate everyone about the life of these people who comprised a very significant portion of the flock of our revered Ecumenical Patriarchate which to this day is suffering from their demise."

CEO Ted Mathas added that New York Life was "working hard to fulfill all the commitments we have made in the past. This is an extraordinary example for us to be able to reach back in our history and, in as much as we can, to provide some good will for what was a great tragedy in Greek history."

The focus of the Center will be to educate not only those studying at HC/HC but also the greater community as to the rich history, culture and legacy of Hellenism in Pontus and Asia Minor, where Greeks had settled 1,000 years before Christ. They played an important cultural role in the areas' history for 3 millennia. The disastrous events with the collapse of the Ottoman Empire (see book review on p. 6 for more background) at the beginning of the 20th century, not only resulted in the death of hundreds of thousands of Hellenes in these areas but ultimately the forcible uprooting of more than 1.5 million people from their ancestral homelands, making it nearly impossible for New York Life to locate, let alone, make good on many policies.

This is the second significant educational event for Archbishop Demetrios in recent months. Last fall, he was awarded an honorary doctorate in humane letters by Loyola Marymount University in California. The degree was granted in recognition of his role in the growing rapprochement between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches, recognizing him as an international humanitarian leader who has reached out to Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders.

New Patriarch of Moscow Enthroned



The Russian Orthodox Church enthroned Patriarch Kirill as its 16th Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia on February 1 in the rebuilt Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow.

A congratulatory message was sent by Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople welcoming the new Patriarch with hopes of even closer ties between the churches. The installation ceremony was characterized by two symbolic actions: the exclamation of the Greek word *Axios* (Worthy), according to the ancient Byzantine ritual, and the conferral of the pastoral staff given in the 14th century by Ecumenical Patriarch Athanasios to the bishop of Moscow, which was raised to the status of Patriarchate in 1589.

The ceremony was broadcast live on Russian national television and attended by President Dmitry Medvedev, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and scores of other officials.

National YAL Pilgrimage to Russia

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Young Adult Ministries is planning a Pilgrimage of Faith, April 24-May 2, 2009, to the Russian cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Participants will visit St. Basil's Cathedral in the heart of Red Square, the Kremlin, and the Armory, which houses Russian National treasures, Faberge eggs and jewelry; the Andrey Rublev Central Museum of Ancient Russian Culture and Art, the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, and the Zagorsk Monastery, founded in the 14th century. The trip will continue to St. Petersburg to visit St. Isaac's Cathedral, which contains one of the highest domed constructions in the world; the Church of the Resurrection (Saviour of Spilled Blood) which houses 1,000 square meters of jeweled enamel; the Hermitage State Museum and Winter Palace of Catherine the Great; the Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan; and the Alexander Nevsky Lavra Monastery founded by Peter the Great in 1710. Online registration is now open at www.youth.goarch.org. Registration will be limited to 35 young adults and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information please contact the Department at 646-519-6180.

Sts. Cons/Helen Team Goes to Gulf

Members of our sister church in Cleveland Heights will be traveling to New Orleans this month to build homes with IOCC and Habitat for Humanity. We pray for a safe and productive trip for them! To find out how you can be a part of St. Demetrios' IOCC team in July, see the information on page 4.

Our series on sacred places in Greece continues this month with a look at a martyr of the Greek Revolution. 15

Sacred Greece

Last summer, I was also able to venerate the relics of a so-called "New Martyr" at the Mitropoleos Cathedral in downtown Athens. The relics of St. Gregory and a large silver-plated icon (see below) depicting his hanging are opposite from the reliquary of St. Philothei.

Patriarch Gregory V (1746-1821) was born in Dimitsana of Peloponnesos (where his ancestral home is now a museum.) He became Archbishop of Smyrna in 1785, where he witnessed the cruel retribution of the Ottomans for the mere suggestion of rebellion among subjects. In 1797, he was elected Patriarch of Constantinople, which by decree of the Sultans after the fall of the City in 1453, made him not just the head of the church, but also the secular ruler of the Greeks, answerable for all the Christians living under Turkish rule, and binding him by oath to respect the Sultan's authority. This, along with his personal experience of the treatment of Greek rebels, made him a staunch opponent of revolution. However,



when the Greek revolutionaries in Peloponnesos (not far from his birthplace) declared Greek Independence from Turkey on March 25, 1821, the Patriarch was among the first to suffer the Turks' harsh retribution. Just weeks later, on Sunday, April 10, 1821, the day of Pascha that year, the elderly Patriarch was arrested. The Turkish authorities tortured him in an effort to get him to reveal the names of those heading the revolution, and then offered his freedom if he would convert to Islam. Gregory answered: "You ask in vain: the Patriarch of Christians dies a Christian." He, along with other clergy and hierarchs, was hung as a traitor on the gate of the Patriarchal compound. His body was left hanging for three days, then sold by Turkish authorities to a Jewish mob, who mutilated the body and then threw it in the sea., where it was discovered by a Greek merchant ship captain. When the body was identified, it was secretly taken to the Russian city of Odessa, where Tsar Alexander I ordered a state funeral on June 17, 1821. In 1871, Tsar Alexander III returned the relics to Greece where they were found to be incorrupt despite the passage of 50 years. St. Gregory was officially glorified in 1921, on the hundredth anniversary of his martyrdom. The Patriarchate, still under many Turkish legal constraints, was never allowed to erect any kind of memorial to him. So the gate where he was hung remains closed to this day, with just a flower pot to commemorate his martyrdom.



The reliquary that contains his relics is made of white marble and decorated with blue enamel, reflecting the colors of the Greek flag.

Photos: Eleni Papouras-Jenks

2009 Lenten Lecture Series: *Contemporary Moral Issues*

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join Fr. Jim in church on Wednesdays during Lent for Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 p.m., followed by a Lenten meal & lecture in the hall. This year's theme is "Contemporary Moral Issues." Come learn about the Orthodox Church's stance on various controversial subjects, with Q&A sessions to follow.

March 4 ~ Superstitions

Speaker: Fr. John Touloumes* of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Pittsburgh, PA

Meal hosted by the Daughters of Penelope, Icarus Chapter

March 11 ~ Organ Donation

Speaker: Fr. John Loejos* of St. Eprempte Albanian Orthodox Church, Cleveland

Meal hosted by the St. Demetrios Philoptochos Society

March 18 ~ Mission Work and Proselytizing

Angie Giallourakis and Nick Hillman, parish representatives of YOCAMA and IOCC

Meal hosted by the St. Demetrios GOYA

April 1 ~ Interfaith Marriage

Fr. Jerry Hall of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, Ohio

Meal hosted by the St. Demetrios Choir

April 8 ~ Euthanasia

Sister Anastasia of Monastery Marcha, Serbian E. American Diocese, Richfield, Ohio

Meal hosted by the St. Demetrios Bible Study

**Both Fr. Touloumes and Fr. Loejos will be available to hear Confessions from 4-6 p.m. on the day they are speaking. Call the office to schedule.*