ISIS terror in Paris. That is only the latest horror we’ve witnessed over the past years of chaos from the Middle East and around the world. Ongoing violence in Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Palestine, Israel, and so many other places. Countless Christians, Muslims and others living under oppression and daily fear of death.

Then we have the migrant crisis - more migrants on the move than any other time since World War II. Suffering and marginalized people, and yet such words and feelings of hatred and fear bombarding the internet about them. Even look at the shameful way that many politicians and so-called leaders of our country use vitriolic hyperbole, and often outright lies, to stir up passions and vilify the most desperate and needy of society.

Of course, in America we have other issues of ongoing racial tension. We see growing disparity between the super-wealthy and poor. We hear of shootings and violence in schools and neighborhoods, and we read daily hate-filled rhetoric between political parties and among various groups.

Such BAD NEWS! It probably would sound so similar to the news that people heard 2000 years ago in Israel and the surrounding region. Foreign Roman occupation. Constant uprising and rebellion. Poverty and daily struggle to survive. Horrible violence, including torture, crucifixions and death.

Yet in the midst of such pain, sorrow and hopelessness, we hear about an angel bringing GOOD NEWS to humble, simple shepherds. “Do not be
The mission of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church is to proclaim the Good News of Salvation through the Orthodox Christian Faith for the glory of our Triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We are a community of believers who journey towards our Lord Jesus Christ and one another through our WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, SPIRITUAL GROWTH, WITNESS, and SERVICE. We invite all people to join us on this journey in the Kingdom of Heaven.

We are under the jurisdiction of
His Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America
His Eminence, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston

Father Luke A. Veronis
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2015 PARISH COUNCIL
President: Lisa Healy
Vice President: Sandi Kunkel
Secretary: Mary Papageorge & Deborah Raymond
Treasurers: Nick Popiak, Cynthia Johnson
Members: Victor Apostolou, Leah DiDonato, Chris Geotis, Anesti Jordanoglou, Lorna McWilliam, Garry Ross, Nick Seferi

PHILOPTOCHOS
President: Evelyn Pappas
Vice President: Sandy Sanderson
Secretary: Marie McNally
Treasurer: Sandi Kunkel
Church Secretary: Jaime Ross
Festival Chair: Joey Gliniecki, Cynthia Johnson, Garry Ross

Cantor: Demetrios Milios
Choir Directors: Tony and Nike Beaudry
Greek Dance Group: Nike Beaudry
Sunday School Teachers: Sophia Foisy, Anesti Jordanoglou, Evis Jordanoglou, Pauline Mueller, Presbytera Faith Veronis, Jennifer Rice, Stephanie Quill
Youth: Nick Mueller
Seminarians: Jen Cowles, Matthew Judhas, Alex Limberatos, Anthony Linderman, Jennifer Rice, Elizabeth Thomas
Ecclesiarch: Bill Anthopoulos
Bookstore: Lorna McWilliams
Sexton: Deborah Raymond
afraid; I bring you GOOD NEWS of GREAT JOY for all the people, for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Christ, the Lord.”

As dark as the world may seem, as much terror as ISIS may instill, as much as it may appear that evil prevails, we remember at this most joyous time of year that God has not abandoned the world! We do not have a God who remains indifferent, or far away from the suffering of humanity! Our God understands the darkness of the world and has broken into it in a unique and most powerful way. No other world religion dares to show the divine and extreme love of God in this manner!

The Incarnation - God becoming a little child - has changed the world! Through His actions the greatest revolution of humanity has begun. Satan, the father of all evil, has been defeated and his power of sin and his greatest tool of death have been overthrown.

For everyone who invites the little baby born in Bethlehem to come and be born anew in our hearts and lives, we have entered into a new kingdom. We can live under the reign of God’s kingdom of love, mercy, grace, compassion, and forgiveness. We experience God’s power and presence in our daily lives, and nothing around us can fill us with fear. “Perfect love casts out all fear,” as St. John describes in Holy Scripture. And this perfect love is something with which we can fill our lives. As Jesus Himself promised, “In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world.”

The Feast of Christmas is not only a reminder to us, but a celebration of God’s entrance into the world and entrance into our own lives. That is, IF we choose to live Christmas each and every day. Whenever we hear the bad news all around us, and allow that bad news to influence and darken our worldview, we have forgotten about Christmas. Whenever we live in fear of all that is happening around us, we have forgotten about Christmas. Whenever we turn to hatred and violence in response to the evil around us, we have forgotten about Christmas.

If we choose to live with the spirit of Christmas each and every day, we choose to remember that God is with us; we choose to remember that God has conquered the evil of the world with His sacrificial love; we choose to believe that wonders and miracles can still happen and that we don’t have to allow the darkness of the world to prevail in us.

Mother Teresa once said, “Never let anything so fill you with sorrow that you forget the joy of the Resurrection.”

Well, during these days of Christmas, especially in the midst of these dark days of the world, we should say to one another, “Never let anything so fill us with fear that we forget the joy of God’s entrance into the world!”

**Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**

With love & gratitude in our newborn Savior,

*Fr. Luke*
THE DIVINE CHILD

Fr. Alexander Schmemann

“The eternal God was born as a little child.”
One of the main hymns of Christmas ends with these words, identifying the child born in a Bethlehem cave as “the eternal God.” This hymn was composed in the sixth century by the famous Byzantine hymnographer Romanos the melodist.

*Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, And the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! Angels, with shepherds, glorify him! The wise men journey with the star! Since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child!*

(Kontakion of Christmas)

The Child as God, God as Child…Why does joyful excitement build over the Christmas season as people, even those of lukewarm faith and unbelievers, behold that unique, incomparable sight of the young mother holding the child in her arms, and around them the “wise men from the East,” the shepherds fresh from night-watch in their fields, the animals, the open sky, the star? Why are we so certain, and discover again and again, that on this sorrowful planet of ours there is nothing more beautiful and joyful than this sight, which the passage of centuries has proven incapable of uprooting from our memory? We return to this sight whenever we have nowhere else to go, whenever we have been tormented by life and are in search of something that might deliver us…

It is the words “child” and “God” which give us the most striking revelation about the Christmas mystery. In a certain profound way, this is a mystery directed toward the child who continues to secretly live within every adult, to the child who continues to hear what the adult no longer hears, and who responds with a joy which the adult, in his mundane, grown-up, tired and cynical world, is no longer capable of feeling. Yes, Christmas is a feast for children, not just because of the tree that we decorate and light, but in the much deeper sense that children alone are unsurprised that when God comes to us on earth, he comes as a child.

Christmas is a feast for children... in the much deeper sense that children alone are unsurprised that when God comes to us on earth, he comes as a child.
This image of God as child continues to shine on us through icons and through innumerable works of art, revealing that what is most essential and joyful in Christianity is found precisely here, in this eternal childhood of God. Adults, even the most sympathetic to “religious themes,” desire and expect religion to give explanations and analysis; they want it to be intelligent and serious. Its opponents are just as serious, and in the end, just as boring, as they confront religion with a hail of “rational” bullets. In our society, nothing better conveys our contempt than to say “it’s childish.”

In other words, it’s not for adults, for the intelligent and serious. So children grow up and become equally serious and boring. Yet Christ said “become like children” (Mt 18:3). What does this mean? What are adults missing, or better, what has been choked, drowned or deafened by a thick layer of adulthood? Above all, is it not that capacity, so characteristic of children, to wonder, to rejoice and, most importantly, to be whole both in joy and sorrow? Adulthood chokes as well the ability to trust, to let go and give one’s self completely to love and to believe with all one’s being. And finally, children take seriously what adults are no longer capable of accepting: dreams, that which breaks through our everyday experience and our cynical mistrust, that deep mystery of the world and everything within it revealed to saints, children, and poets.

Thus, only when we break through to the child living hidden within us, can we inherit as our own the joyful mystery of God coming to us as a child. The child has neither authority nor power, yet the very absence of authority reveals him to be a king; his defenselessness and vulnerability are precisely the source of his profound power.

Through the feast of Christmas, the Church reveals to us a joyful mystery: the mystery of freely given love imposing itself on no one. A love capable of seeing, recognizing and loving God in the Divine Child, and becoming the gift of a new life.

The child in that distant Bethlehem cave has no desire that we fear him; He enters our hearts not by frightening us, by proving his power and authority, but by love alone. He is given to us as a child, and only as children can we in turn love him and give ourselves to him. The world is ruled by authority and power, by fear and domination. The child God liberates us from that. All He desires from us is our love, freely given and joyful; all He desires is that we give him our heart. And we give it to a defenseless, endlessly trusting child.

Through the feast of Christmas, the Church reveals to us a joyful mystery: the mystery of freely given love imposing itself on no one. A love capable of seeing, recognizing and loving God in the Divine Child, and becoming the gift of a new life.
GOD IS WITH US: 
ON THE INCARNATION
Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

“And his name shall be called Emmanuel, which means God with us” (Mt 1:23).

The feast of Christmas proclaims something that is inconceivable to the human mind: God came to dwell among us. He came to be united with the human race, to share their pain, to answer their desire for redemption. All religions may point to people searching for God, but what makes Christianity completely different and unique is that Almighty God became one of us “to deify each one of us”. Christmas is about this shocking reality.

Jesus did not come as an angel or a prophet in order to reveal the will of God through some written Law. God become one of us, “and dwelt among us.” He entered into humanity with a real birth from the Virgin Mary in order to remain eternally “one of us” - like us in every way except for sin; He is one who truly belongs to our human family.

The Good News of our faith begins with the assurance that Jesus is Emmanuel, “God with us.” And the Risen Lord leaves this earth with the comforting promise that “I am with you always, even to the close of the age.” Thus Christmas, the incarnation of God, can be summarized in this name – Emmanuel.

St Basil the Great explains this feast by saying that “our Lord raises all humanity to Himself,” in order to bring the human race in the right direction which it had lost, and to relate humanity once again with its root, with God. Christ proclaimed: “I am the way, the truth and the life.” The wisdom, the righteousness, the peace, the salvation, that people desire, are summoned in His person. St. Paul assures us that “In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”. The personal union of the divine and the human nature in Christ gave humanity a new dynamism. With His coming on earth, Christ brings back to God “all humanity”, the entire human race, all human creativity in order to recreate and to lift up in the light of the uncreated divine energies which His love radiates.

What makes Christianity completely different and unique from all other world religions is that Almighty God became one of us - to deify each one of us!

The Feast of Christmas comes to revive within our conscience the assurance that God is “with us.” The Church, with her hymnology, challenges us to feel these events as happening today. In one hymn, we heard: “Today is born from the Virgin He who has the world in the palm of His hands.” In another one, we heard: “The universe is filled today with joy; Christ is born from the Virgin.”

Usually many people think of Jesus as a person of the past and not as Emmanuel, the living Christ who remains with us. Many believe more in an absent than in the eternally present Lord. Many, even...
All of our lives can be transfigured in a joyous feast, if the truth that “God with us” becomes the atmosphere in which we breathe and move.

characteristic of the Orthodox believer remains, first of all, the living feeling of the presence of Emmanuel, and secondly, the consistent effort to make tangible the presence of Christ even to the others with our word, our work, our silence and all our being.

In a time when violence, injustice and poverty plague humanity and fill our hearts with anxieties and turbulence, the Christmas feast comes again to turn on the light of faith and hope in our souls. In our era, when human knowledge drowns our thought in the infinite – from the breathtaking greatness of space to the smallness of matter – our heart leaps to the eternal message of the Christian faith that the Infinite God, without beginning and without end, comes to take on our human nature and to guide us in the majesty of development: the deification of grace.

The Word of God came to “lift up all humanity to Himself” – i.e. to the real life and love. Let us accept Him with more dedication, completely opening the doors of our mind and our heart. Let us work so that more of our brothers and sisters near and far, can meet Him. All of our lives can be transfigured in a joyous feast, if the truth that “God with us” becomes the atmosphere in which we breathe and move.

“All of our lives can be transfigured in a joyous feast, if the truth that “God with us” becomes the atmosphere in which we breathe and move.”

among us, rest and feel greater security in the thought that “money is with us, power is with us, the protection of the powerful is with us,” than in the belief that He who is with us is God. That is why bitterness, fear, and sorrow so often remain with us and we drown in loneliness.

His Church firmly proclaims to us the assurance that Christ remains perpetually with us. This living feeling of His presence and the organic union with Him is made sure through the celebration of the holy Mysteries, which starts with Baptism and culminates in the Divine Eucharist. The Church reminds us and stabilizes within our conscience the promise of the Lord after His Passion and Resurrection “And I will be with you all the days of your life.” Christ is not with us only during the hours of prayer and peace, but also in the turbulent days of doubt and weakness, even in the hour of fear or unconscious betrayal. The awareness of the presence of the Lord Jesus strengthens and inspires us.

“And His name shall be called Emmanuel, which means God with us.” The feast of Christmas invites us to strengthen this feeling of the continuous presence of Emmanuel, in order to move with His vision, criteria and power, with His honesty, chastity and love, so that we can be free of fear and agony, looking at His Face and supported by His hand. It helps us to be bearers of peace, justice, reconciliation and optimism in our closed and wider environments, so that we can show ourselves as durable and creative even in the hardest and most unsure social conditions. The

5
Why Did God Become Man?

by Fr. Anthony Coniaris

Why did God choose to come to us in person? What were the reasons that compelled Him to visit us? They must have been awfully important reasons to make God empty Himself and take the form of a servant. Couldn’t He have sent someone else? Couldn’t He have ordered an angel or an archangel to come? Why did the Lord of the Universe Himself have to come?

We see an indication of why God would ultimately come to earth in the Old Testament, when we hear God say, “I have seen the affliction of my people and heard their cry… for I know their sorrows and sufferings and trials. And I have come down to deliver them” (Ex 3:7-8)

God came because He cared. He came in order to deliver us from the slavery of sin and death. He came because He loved us! We can summarize this best by quoting the Evangelist John “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”

We do not believe in an absent God, an invisible, intangible, eternally elusive God. We believe in a God who, when humanity fell into the ocean of sin and was drowning, did not just stay in heaven and shout directions on lifesaving, but who jumped into the ocean to save us. We believe in a God who intervenes in our lives.

We believe in a God who came to seek and save the lost; who came not to be served but to serve; who came to give us the abundant life; who came as light that whoever believes in Him may not remain in darkness, who came not to judge the world but to save it!

Jesus Christ came at Christmas. He comes again this Christmas. He comes each day, waiting to enter into our lives!

This is Christmas joy.
To know that I am a thought in God’s mind, no matter how insignificant I may be, even if I am the most abandoned of beings, someone no one thinks of.

Today, when we think of Christmas gifts, let all those who feel abandoned and alone, all those who are outcasts, all those who feel they are nothing, let them say “I know that I am a thought in God’s mind.”

Would that my voice reach the imprisoned like a ray of light, of Christmas hope. May the sick, the elderly in the home for the aged, the hospital patients, you that live in poverty and suffer injustice, remember God’s eternal purpose has thought of all of you. He loves you, and like Mary, He incarnates that thought in His womb.

Oscar Romero of El Salvador
I hope you all had a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Thank you to those who attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. I am sure you can agree it was a wonderful event! Many thanks to all who worked very hard at making this happen in a short period of time.

The days and weeks are flying by and Christmas is just around the corner. Each year around this time we start writing out our Christmas lists, what we want, who we will buy for, Secret Santa gifts, gifts for Teachers and friends, yankee swaps, and the list goes on and on. It goes out of control.

My husband and I just talked about "our lists" and agreed to make them more memorable. Time spent together rather than an electronic gift that takes away from the family time.

Our schedules are so busy it's rare we sit at the dinner table together! Nothing is better than family being together, enjoying each other, and bringing back to the true meaning of Christmas.

I wish all a very memorable Christmas this year. And to those that have lost family members and loved ones, our prayers are with you always.

May God Bless you all each day!

Lisa Healy

We had our Philoptochos meeting Nov 2. We will continue our Bakeless bake sale throughout December. Donna Cooney, Debbie Raymond, and Leah Didonato will be collecting money for the Christmas card this year $15.

Eleni Xanthopoulos very graciously volunteered to bake breads for Christmas. She will be baking them Thursday Dec 17 and we will sell them on December 20. Get your orders in early and let others know. Also we will give Father Luke some to give to the shut-ins.

We will put our own Christmas tree donated by Dottie and Donna Cooney in the hall the Sunday after Thanksgiving. We just ask all of you to donate an ornament to put on the tree. We would like it decorated for the children's St. Nicholas celebration on Sunday December 6.

Our annual Christmas party will be held on Monday December 14 in the church hall catered by Michelle. It will be a buffet like the June meeting and will cost $20 per person. Marie McNally will collect money. If you would like to exchange gifts please bring a grab bag for $10. We will also play a few games of "Evelyn's Bingo" to wrap up the evening. Please come and have an enjoyable evening to kick off the holiday season.

Thank you to all who took baskets to fill for the needy. Father Luke will distribute them. We will see the play "It's a Wonderful Life" at the Bradley theater in Putnam on Dec 4. Thank you Sandy Sanderson for putting it together.

There will be no January meeting. We will meet February 1 to plan events for the new year. Our spaghetti supper we hope to do on March 12 and a craft fair on May 7.

As we know Philoptochos means "friends of the poor". We will be making various donations over the holiday to local organizations such as the Food Kitchen, Tri valley Meals on Wheels, St Vincent de Paul. Thanks to all of you for your hard work throughout the year to make it possible for everything we have purchased for our kitchen and the money we have raised to donate to various causes! May God be with you always!

Lisa Healy

Father Luke gave me the idea to include a letter in the time capsule to the future president of the Philoptochos! I want her and the future members to know what a close knit society we are. I will include a description of all the fund raisers we hold and all the generous donations we make. If anyone has any pictures other than the ones in the slide show please let me know ASAP.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

With much love and gratitude,
The Light - December 2015

2015 Annual Church Family Christmas Card

Put your name in our annual CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD. The Christmas Card goes to the homes of all our parishioners wishing them blessings during the upcoming holiday season. A minimum donation of $15 per family is greatly appreciated. All donations will support the various philanthropic ministries of the Philoptochos.

Please give donation and names to Donna Cooney or Debby Raymond by Dec. 6th, or mail them to the Church Office, noting Church Family Christmas Card.

PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PARTY

6:00pm Monday, Dec 14
Catered meal in Church Hall
Please see Olga Pappas to buy tickets. Cost is $20.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped us offer 27 Beautiful Thanksgiving Baskets & 30 Turkeys to Families in Need!

Christmas Poinsettia

If you would like to donate a Christmas Poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, or for the Glory of God, please send in $50 to the Church Office. We will purchase the poinsettia and list the names of those honored or commemorated in our Monthly Bulletin.

We are also looking for donors for our Altar Christmas Boxwoods at $75 each and the small outdoor Christmas Trees at $50 each.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

WEEKDAY DIVINE LITURGY (9:30 am)
Dec 4 - St Barbara
Dec 12 - St Spyridon

SPECIAL HEALING SERVICE FOR THE SICK
6:30pm Wednesday Dec 16

SATURDAY VESPERS (5:00pm)
Every Saturday

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
Royal Hours of Christmas -9am Dec 24
Christmas Eve Matins 4:00pm
Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy 5:00pm
Christmas Morning Liturgy 10:00am
**THE GIVING TREE**

We are collecting gifts for 35 children for families in need. Please see Jaime Ross to receive slips on the “Giving Tree.” Return the suggested gifts (less than $25) to the Church by December 13th.

We also welcome anyone else who may want to donate $25 or $30 gift cards or super market cards. We have numerous families that ask for help during this season!

**CHRISTMAS YOUTH EVENTS**

Dec 6 - ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION in Church, with a visit from St. Nicholas, followed by activities, pancake luncheon, and Christmas Caroling in the nursing homes and among the elderly.

Dec 12, 13, 19 - Christmas Pageant Practices. If you want your child to be in our Pageant they need to attend practices!!!

Dec 20 - CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**PROJECT MEXICO MEETING**

5:30PM SATURDAY, DEC 5

For anyone interested in participating in building a home for Project Mexico next summer (July 14-20), contact Fr. Luke We need to put a deposit down by mid-December with names of who are interested in going.

We have space for 15 volunteers to Mexico this Summer!

Come Dec 5 to learn about this incredible experience!!!
Our Sts. Constantine & Helen Family
A Vision For The Future
A Ribbon Cutting Celebration
11.7.15
THANK YOU!

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and dinner on November 7th. Thank you Helen Pappas for honoring us by cutting the ribbon on behalf of yourself and your beloved Charlie. I would like to thank Lisa Healy and the Dinner Committee in their hard work in putting together a wonderful and beautiful evening. As Lisa noted that evening, many of the same people are on various committees. It doesn't matter if you are on the Parish Council, Philoptochos Society, Building Committee, Dinner Committee, Festival Committee, Sunday School Teachers, etc… We all do our share for the good of the church and we thank everyone for your contributions!

It was a very well attended evening with 136 people! We had a delicious meal and an elegant evening. There was a moving video that Kristina Mironidis put together showing “What Our Church Means to Us” along with a slide show showing before and after pictures of the renovations.

We have almost completed all our inside renovations, but still have a few final projects we would like to complete outside. We won’t do those until the Spring, but we cannot continue further without your help and support! We still hope to get 100% participation from all our Church Families. No donation is too small or too large! Also anonymous donations are welcomed. Remember any pledge can be over a three year period.

Thank God and thank you to all who have generously given donations in making our church look so beautiful! We should be so very proud of the legacy we leave behind for future generations!

Evelyn Pappas  
Building Committee Chairperson

Sunday School Ribbon Cutting and Time Capsule Deposit

Pictures from our Sunday School’s own Ribbon Cutting for the new building, as well as from a ceremony in Church in which our students highlighted the roles they will take over in the Church 35 years from now as a part of our Time Capsule Sunday.
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GAVE TO OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE
OFFERING A VIBRANT HOUSE OF FAITH AND WORSHIP FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

ARCHANGELS ($60,000 - 100,000)
- Charlie and Helen Pappas
- Emmanuel James Pappas

ANGELS ($50,000)
- In Honor of their parents Despina and Bill from the Condos Children (George, Lisa, Maria, Ann)
  - Olga Pappas
  - Sam and Evelyn Pappas

PRINCIPALITIES ($45,000)
- Sandi and Gerry Kunkel
- Stavros and Evangelia Pappas
- Mary Fatsi, Eleanor Teguis, Dina Teguis

GOOD SHEPHERDS: ($20,000 - 30,000)
- Michael and Titi Chito
- Neal and Charlotte Neslusan and Family
- Nick and Mary Seferi and Family
- Van Thomas
- The Foisy Family

TORCH BEARERS: ($10,000 - $15,000)
- Kiku Andersen
- Fr Luke and Pres. Faith Veronis
- Evangeline Wilson
- Anton and Nicoleta Cojocaru
- Steve, Chuck, Jimmy Pappas

BENEFACTORS: ($6000 – $9,000)
- Anonymous
- Richard and Sophia Bethune
- Leah Didonato
  - In Honor of Demetrios and Hariklia Milios from Celia Milios
- Ted and Betty Tonna
- Harry/Tina Jordanoglou and Ron/Sandy Sanderson
  - In Memory of Elizabeth Vriga from Tasi and Ted Vriga, Liz Pavlech and Lorraine Bahl

PATRONS: ($3000 - $5000)
- Dhimitra & Angelo Adamopoulos
- Anonymous
- Gus Koulax
- George and Lynne Tonna

SUPPORTERS: ($1000-$2900)
- Pauline Angelo
- Gus and Ethel Anifantis
- Evelyn Aperges & David/Cynthia Johnson
- Ted Avlas
- Arthur and Kathy Bilis
- Charlie and Ann Chito
- Bill and Despina Condos
- Chris and Helen Constantine
- Nicholas and Bertha Constantine
- Vasili and Thomai Gatsogianis
- Anestis and Evis Jordanoglou
- Said and Bozena Khozmani
- Alex and Chris Massie
- Georgia Metaxa
- Del and Marie Monroe
- Georgette Nicholopoulos
- Helen & Lou Nicozisis
- Aristotelis/Gloria Panagiotou
- Kosta Panagiotou
- George and Mary Papageorge
- Olga Petluck
- Jared and Stephanie Quill
- Paulette Steffa
- Antigone Steffa
- Paul and Eleni Xanthopoulos

FRIENDS: ($100 to $999)
- Mary and Tom Baxter
- Rita Carabina
- Cristina and Catlin Enachi
- John & Samantha Gatsogiannis
- Susan Emerson Hill
OUTSTANDING PROJECTS WE HOPE TO GET FUNDING FOR
(To Complete in the Spring)

- Priest and Secretary Offices (3 rooms) and Office Bathroom Renovation $50,000
- Stain Glass Large Interior South Wall $35,000
- Stain Glass Half of Back Wall Window $10,000
- Front Church Walkway Pavers $12,000
- Back Patio Pavers $12,000
- Repaving of Parking Lot $30,000
- Additional Parking Spaces $25,000
- Outside Landscaping $10,000

PARTICIPANTS: (Up to $99)

- Sophie Apostol
- Paul and Ramona Geotis
- Ernest/Zorra Karapanos
- Gulapka/Ilia Kostovski

Thanks also to Eric Beland, Tony Beaudry and Garry Ross for putting in more than 60 hours of labor setting up the new sound system.

37% of our Parishioners have donated towards our Capital Campaign.

If you have not participated yet, please consider doing so. We still have several projects we hope to complete in the Spring!

TOTAL DONATED AND PLEDGED OVER THREE YEARS - $710,023

CASH Collected: $442,283 PLEDGED: $267,740
**USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE**

**Dec 6** - Nicoleta Cojocaru, Zach Gianaris, Garry Ross, Jared Quill  
**Dec 13** - Arthur Bilis, Del Monroe, Chris Geotis, Thomai Gatsogianis, Trish Lareau  
**Dec 20** - Marie McNally, Eric Beland, Matt Benoit, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi  
**Dec 27** - Neal Neslusan, Mary Papageorge, Jimmy Karapanos, Cindy Johnson

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:**

**Dec 6** - Thomai Gatsogiannis, Trish Lareau, Stephanie Quill, Betty Tonna  
**Dec 13** - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Mary Seferi  
**Dec 20** - Donna Cooney, Athena Cooney, Bill Anthopoulos, Leah Didonato, Jaime Ross  
**Dec 27** - Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Carolyn Niemeck, Deb Raymond

**EARLY RISERS BIBLE STUDY**

7:00am Every Saturday

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

10:00am Every Wednesday

**Come and Learn Your Faith**

Orthodoxy 101 Class  
6:30pm Thursdays  
Orthodox 201 Class  
7:30pm Thursdays

**YOUTH EPISTLE READERS**

**Dec 6** - Theodora Veronis
Hebrews 13:17-21

**Dec 13** - Panayiota Veronis
Colossians 3:4-11

**Dec 20** - Olivia Neslusan
Hebrews 11:9-40

**Dec 27** - Smaranda Cojocaru
1 Corinthians 12:27-13:8

**Jan 3** - Maia Beaudry
Hebrews 2:2-10

**Jan 10** Maria Mironidis
Ephesians 2:14-22

**Jan 17** - Lily Mueller
Philemon 1:1-25

**Jan 25** - Hanna Kunkel
Ephesians 5:8-19
# Remembering Our Church Family

**Important Dates in DECEMBER:**

*Try to make a visit, give a call, or express your congratulations to members of our Church family who celebrate special days this month.*

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Nicholas Angelo</td>
<td>Dec 11</td>
<td>Arthur &amp; Sara Darligiannis</td>
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<td>Dec 7</td>
<td>Evis Jordanoglou</td>
<td>Dec 16</td>
<td>St Eleftherios</td>
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<td>Dec 8</td>
<td>Maria Mironidis</td>
<td>Dec 20</td>
<td>St Anastasia</td>
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<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>Helen Tsigaridas</td>
<td>Dec 25</td>
<td>Christmas</td>
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<td>Dec 22</td>
<td>Vasil Condos</td>
<td>Dec 26</td>
<td>St Joseph and King David</td>
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<td>Dec 23</td>
<td>Kenneth Peterson</td>
<td>Dec. 27</td>
<td>St Stephen</td>
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<td>Dec 24</td>
<td>Sophie Talbot</td>
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<td>Dec 25</td>
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<td>Paul Geotis</td>
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<td>Dec 29</td>
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<td>Eric Beland</td>
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<td>Dec 31</td>
<td>Emmanuel Pappas</td>
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**BIRTHDAYS:**

Dec 1  Nicholas Angelo  Dec 12  St. Spyridon  Spiro Pappas  
Dec 7  Evis Jordanoglou  
Dec 8  Maria Mironidis  
Dec 22  Vasil Condos  
Dec 23  Kenneth Peterson  
Dec 24  Sophie Talbot  
Dec 25  Chris Geotis  
Dec 26  Paul Geotis  
Dec 29  Anestis Jordanoglou  
Dec 31  Eric Beland  
Dec 31  Emmanuel Pappas  

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

Dec 11  Arthur & Sara Darligiannis  
Dec 26  Vasil & Despina Condos  
Dec 31  Chuck & Misty Pappas  

**NAMEDAYS:**

Dec 4  St. Barbara  
Barbara Constantine  
Barbara Desrosiers  
Barbara Gianaris  
Barbara Pappas  

Dec 6  St Nicholas  
Nick Adamopoulos  

Dec 12  St. Spyridon  
Dec 16  St Eleftherios  
Dec 17  St Daniel the Prophet  
Dec 20  St Anastasia  
Dec 25  Christmas  
Dec 26  St Joseph and King David  
Dec. 27  St. Stephen  

CHRISTMAS AND STEWARDSHIP

The Feast of Christmas is all about God’s extreme generosity in offering His only begotten Son to His Creation. God gave the most precious possible gift to the world, so that the world could be saved through Him. As Saint Athanasios said it, “God became man, so that humans might become divine.”

God holds nothing back from His infinite treasury of love to all His beloved children. Yet as generous and loving as our heavenly Father is, He hopes that His children will adopt His spirit and imitate His kindness and love by acting in similar manner. God gives to us all that we have, and then watches to see what we will do with His blessings.

Will we keep them for ourselves and our own self-centered pursuits? Will we actually think that all we have is our own? Or will we gratefully acknowledge that all we have is but a gift and loan from God, and then use our gifts to show our love for God - by generously sharing with others, and glorifying His name through His Church!

Remember the great gift of Christmas the next time you think about your stewardship commitment to the Church!

2015 ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dollar Range</th>
<th># Stewards</th>
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<td>Under $499</td>
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<td><strong>Average Offering</strong></td>
<td><strong>$728</strong></td>
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</table>

Total Stewards: 145

Total Received: $105,578

Unfulfilled Pledges: 25 families

Stewardship 2015 Goal: $110,000

As of November 15, we have received full or partial stewardship from 145 members. We are still waiting for 25 Church members to offer their stewardship for the 2015

Help us reach our goal once again by fulfilling or sending in your 2015 support for our beloved Church!
### HOLY SCRIPTURE ON CHRISTMAS

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and you shall call His name Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

Matthew 1:23

“I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born for you. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you; you will a baby wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great crowd of the heavenly host appeared with the angel and said, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will to all.”

Luke 2:13-14

For a Child is born to us, a Son is given us; upon His shoulder dominion rests. They shall name Him messenger of great counsel, wonderful counselor, mighty one, sovereign Master, Prince of Peace, Father of the age to come. His dominion is vast and of His peace there shall be no end.

Isaiah 9:6-7

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

#### DECEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>First Reading</th>
<th>Second Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Timothy 5:11-21</td>
<td>Luke 19:45-48</td>
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<td>Dec 4</td>
<td>Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5</td>
<td>Mark 5:24-34</td>
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<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>Ephesians 5:8-19</td>
<td>John 10:9-16</td>
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<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19</td>
<td>Mark 8:11-21</td>
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<td>Dec 16</td>
<td>Hebrews 5:11-14; 6:1-8</td>
<td>Mark 8:30-34</td>
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<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>Hebrews 7:18-25</td>
<td>Mark 9:33-41</td>
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<td>Dec 20</td>
<td>Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40</td>
<td>Matt 1:1-25</td>
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<td>Dec 21</td>
<td>Hebrews 8:7-13</td>
<td>Mark 9:42-50; 10:1</td>
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<td>Dec 22</td>
<td>Hebrews 9:8-23</td>
<td>Mark 10:2-12</td>
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<td>Hebrews 10:1-18</td>
<td>Mark 10:11-16</td>
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<td>Hebrew 2:11-18, Matt 2:13-23</td>
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<td>Galatians 1:11-19, Matt 2:13-23</td>
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<td>Dec 30</td>
<td>James 1:1-18, Mark 11:22-26</td>
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<td>Dec 31</td>
<td>James 1:19-27, Mark 11:27-33</td>
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Thank You to those who sponsor our monthly bulletin!
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<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>8:30 Matins</td>
<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>St Andrew</td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Dec 2</td>
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<td>9:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>8:45 Matins</td>
<td>9:30 Liturgy</td>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>10:00am Bible Study</td>
<td>6:30 Orthodoxy 101</td>
<td>St Barbara 8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy</td>
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<td>5:30 Project Mexico Meeting</td>
<td>10:00 Practice for Pageant</td>
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<td>6 - St Nicholas</td>
<td>6:30 Matins</td>
<td>8:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>St. Nicholas Celebration</td>
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<td>6:30 Parish Council Meeting</td>
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<td>St Spyridon Vespers in Worcester</td>
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<td>13 St Spyridon</td>
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<td>Practice for Pageant</td>
<td>Parish Council Elections</td>
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<td>6:00 Philoptochos Christmas Dinner</td>
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<td>6:30pm Healing Service for Those Sick</td>
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<td>Christmas Caroling</td>
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<td>24 Christmas Eve 9:00 Royal Hours</td>
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<td>4:30 Matins 5:00 Christmas Eve Liturgy</td>
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<td>Christ is Born! Glorify Him!</td>
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What's all this hectic rush and worry?
Where go these crowds who run and curry?
Why all the lights -- the Christmas trees?
The jolly "fat man," tell me please!

Why, don't you know? This is the day
For parties and for fun and play;
Why this is Christmas!

So this is Christmas, do you say?
But where is Christ this Christmas day?
Has He been lost among the throng?
His voice drowned out by empty song?

No. He's not here -- you'll find Him where
Some humble soul now kneels in prayer,
Who knows the Christ of Christmas.

But see the many aimless thousands
Who gather on this Christmas Day,
Whose hearts have never yet been opened,
Or said to Him, "Come in to stay."

In countless homes the candles burning,
In countless hearts expectant yearning
For gifts and presents, food and fun,
And laughter till the day is done.

But not a tear of grief or sorrow
For Him so poor He had to borrow
A crib, a colt, a cave, a bed
Where He could lay His weary head.

I'm tired of all this empty celebration,
Of feasting, drinking, recreation;
I'll go instead to Calvary.

And there I'll kneel with those who know
The meaning of that manger low,
And find the Christ -- this Christmas.

I leap by faith across the years
To that great day when He appears
The second time, to rule and reign,
To end all sorrow, death, and pain.

In endless bliss we then shall dwell
With Him who saved our souls from hell,
And worship Christ -- this Christmas!

By M.R. DeHaan