

The Assumption ΕΧΘ Η ΗΧΩ Της Κοίμησης

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2006



2006 PARISH COUNCIL

+Presbyter Fr. Demetrios N. Kehagias

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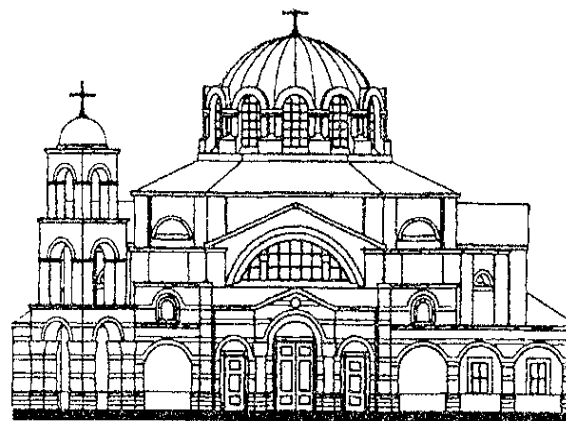
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From the Desk of Fr. Demetri

We are truly blessed to have entered into the year 2006 together as a family in Christ! After having just celebrated the Nativity of our Lord and as we prepared to celebrate the New Year, it is full of hope and promise. The sense of a second chance permeates the air and fills us with enthusiasm. There are things that we can do to preserve this feeling all year long.

Without God, we can not do anything! So first, we must learn how to pray. Prayer is not a very difficult thing for us to do it just appears that way. We have the habit of whenever there is a need; we pray and bargain with the Lord. We say 'Lord do . . . for me and I will do . . . for you.' We seem to have forgotten that we have already made a deal with the Lord from the very moment we have been baptized. The deal that we made is that we will be obedient to Him and do His will. In return, He will take care of us and give us all that we need. Even we at many times have failed to follow through with our part of the agreement, the Lord has never stopped fulfilling His promise to take care of us. Our obligation to the Lord is to communicate with Him, to pray.

To pray means, that we talk with God. The best example that we have on how to pray is given to us by the Lord Himself in what we call 'The Lord's Prayer'. In that very simple prayer, we have all our needs spoken for. First we glorify His holy name, then we ask that His will and not ours be done. This is probably the most difficult aspect of the prayer for us because we have our needs and our wants. We must put those needs and wants aside and say 'Let the Lord's will be done!' Hence, we should be focusing on our needs but we should allow the Lord to make His will our only true desire. Another aspect is that we also must acknowledge that without Him we cannot survive because He sustains us, He is the one who puts the food on our table. We also make a very powerful statement in that prayer for Him to judge us as we judge others or forgiveness. That statement is very powerful because when we say, ". . . forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us . . ." we are asking the Lord to pass judgment on us. The question that we should then ask is, 'How would I judge myself?' and, 'Is this God's will or mine that I am doing?' Most will be surprised at the answer. Finally in the prayer we admit to God that we are weak, that we are incapable of escaping from His adversary on our own and that we rely on Him to steer us away from evil and temptation in other terms 'Let your will Lord be my will'.

Second, we must have repentance written in our hearts. Repentance does not only mean remorse, it also means practicing the sacrament of Holy Confession. There seems to be a mindset that has permeated many families that we do not need to come to church to confess, instead all we have to do is stand before our icons at home and confess that we if we desire to receive forgiveness. Nothing could be further from the truth. Christ says, 'Whatever you bind on earth is bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth, you loose in heaven.' When He said this to the apostles after His resurrection from the dead, He gave them the authority to act on His behalf. This most precious gift was passed down from generation to generation of bishops and priests. We need to understand that it is not the priest we are confessing to but to Christ as we will do on the day of His Second Coming. The priest being a servant of the Lord, is not the one who forgives us instead, it is the Lord himself who forgives us through His servant because the role of the priest is to administer the sacraments. We should also partake of the sacraments.

We seem to underestimate the role of the sacraments of the church and their importance. When we partake of the sacraments, we are not saying Lord you are a part of my life, instead that the Lord is the one who sustains us. He is the one we depend upon and without Him life loses its meaning, therefore we must involve the Lord in all aspects of our life, not only through the joys we face but the sorrows as well. When we turn to the Lord through the sacraments our heavenly Father embraces us through them and gives to us comfort and a feeling of security.

We should read from the Holy Scriptures frequently. It is a tool that many people have, yet neglected. The scriptures serve as spiritual nourishment for our soul reminding us of the Lord, the good works that He performs and how He punishes the unrighteous. It reminds us of the care He has for His creation and on how through His eternal compassion for us He sacrificed His Son for our sins. We could not have asked for a better gift or a greater sacrifice, for that we should always be grateful.

Finally we must always remember that it is our duty, our obligation, to share this most magnificent gift that has been bestowed upon us. In other terms let us help give hope to the hopeless, help return those who have strayed from the path and help our beloved brethren realize that WE DO HAVE A SECOND CHANCE!

In Christ's love always your servant,
+Fr. Demetrios
Interim Proistamenos

Από τον Ιερέα

Είμαστε πραγματικά ευλογημένοι που φτάνουμε στο 2006 όλοι μαζί σαν μια εν Χριστώ οικογένεια!

Μόλις γιορτάσαμε τα Χριστούγεννα και τώρα ετοιμαζόμαστε να γιορτάσουμε με ελπίδα τον ερχομό του Νέου Έτους .

Η ελπίδα που μας δίνει μια δεύτερη ευκαιρία να αλλάξουμε τον εαυτό μας και να τον γεμίσουμε με ενθουσιασμό. Υπάρχουν μερικά πράγματα που μπορούμε να κάνουμε να αισθανόμαστε έτσι για όλο το χρόνο.

Χωρίς τον Θεό δεν μπορούμε να κάνουμε τίποτα.

Πρώτα πρέπει να μάθουμε να προσευχόμαστε. Η προσευχή δεν είναι δύσκολη να την κάνουμε, μόνο φαίνεται δύσκολη. Υπάρχει η συνήθεια να προσευχόμαστε μονό όταν έχουμε ανάγκη, να έρθουμε σε συμφωνία με τον Θεό.

Λέμε «Κύριε κάνε το θαύμα σου . . . για εμένα και θα σου τάξω . . .» Ξεχνάμε ότι έχουμε ήδη συμφωνήσει με τον Κύριο από την στιγμή που βαπτιστήκαμε. Η συμφωνία είναι ότι θα είμαστε υπάκουοι στον Κύριο και θα κάνουμε το θέλημα του, σε αντάλλαγμα θα μας δώσει ότι έχουμε ανάγκη.

Πολλές φορές δεν κρατάμε τις υποσχέσεις μας στον Κύριο αλλά ο Κύριος πάντοτε ακολουθεί ότι έχει υποσχεθεί και ποτέ δεν σταματάει να το κάνει. Η υποχρέωση που έχουμε είναι να επικοινωνούμε με τον Κύριο, να προσευχόμαστε.

Η προσευχή σημαίνει επικοινωνία με τον Θεό.

Το καλύτερο παράδειγμα που έχουμε για την προσευχή είναι η προσευχή του Κυρίου. Σε αυτή την προσευχή, όλες οι ανάγκες είναι προφορικές. Πρώτα δοξάζουμε το όνομα του το άγιο, και τον παρακαλάμε να γίνει το θέλημα του, και όχι το δικό μας το θέλημα.

Αλλά, αυτό είναι το πιο δύσκολο πράγμα γιατί ξέρουμε τις ανάγκες μας και τι θέλουμε. Πρέπει να βάλουμε το θέλημα και τις ανάγκες μας στην γωνία και να πούμε, «Κύριε να γίνει το θέλημα σου!» Ναι, να ενδιαφερθούμε για τις ανάγκες μας αλλά, να αφήσουμε το θέλημα του Κυρίου να γίνει στην ζωή μας, να είναι η μόνη επιθυμία μας. Πρέπει να γνωρίζουμε ότι με δίχως τον Κύριο δεν θα επιζηήσουμε γιατί αυτός μας στηρίζει, αυτός είναι ο μόνος που βάζει φαγητό στο τραπέζι μας.

Ένα από τα πιο ισχυρά λάγια στην προσευχή είναι να μας κρίνει όπως κρίνομαι δηλαδή να συγχωρέσει τις αμαρτίες μας. Αυτά τα λόγια είναι ισχυρά γιατί όταν λέμε « . . . και αφες υμίν τα ωφελήματα ημών ος και εμείς αφειμεν της οφειλέτης ημών . . . » ερωτούμε τον Κύριο να μας κρίνει. Το ερώτημα μας πρέπει να είναι «Πως εγώ θα κρίνω τον εαυτό μου;» και «Είναι το θέλημα του Θεού η το δικό μου που κάνω;» Οι πιο πολλοί θα είναι έκπληκτοι με την απάντηση. Στο τέλος πρέπει να αναγνωρίζουμε στο Θεό ότι δεν έχουμε την δύναμη και είμαστε ανίκανοι να αποφύγουμε από τον εχθρό του Κυρίου μοναχοί μας και στηριχθούμε στον Κύριο να μας οδηγήσει να αποφύγουμε από το κακό και πειρασμό με αλλά λόγια «να γίνει το θέλημα σου».

Δεύτερον, η μετάνοια πρέπει να είναι γραμμένη στην καρδιά μας. Η μετανόηση δεν μονό εννοεί τύψεις, αλλά εννοεί το μυστήριο της εξομολόγησης.

Υπάρχει μια νοοτροπία ότι μπορούμε να στεκόμαστε μπροστά στις εικόνες και θα μας συγχωρέσει ο Κύριος και δεν είναι ανάγκη να πηγαίνουμε στην εκκλησία για εξομολόγηση όταν θέλουμε να λάβουμε συχώρηση από τις αμαρτίες μας. Τίποτα δεν θα μπορούσε να είναι περαιτέρω από την αλήθεια γιατί λέγει ο Χριστός «αν τινων αφήστε τας αμαρτίας αφιωνται αυτοις αν τινων κραтите κεκρατηνται.» Όταν το είπε αυτό στους Αποστόλους μετά από την ανάσταση του τους έδωσε την αρχή να πράξουν εκ μέρος του. Αυτό το χρυσό δώρο περνάει από γενεά με γενεά, από τους επισκόπους και ιερείς.

Πρέπει να καταλαβαίνουμε ότι δεν πηγαίνουμε για εξομολόγηση στον ιερέα αλλά στον Χριστό σαν να είναι η ημέρα της δεύτερης παρουσίας του. Ο ιερέας είναι δούλος Κυρίου και δεν μπορεί να σου συχώρηση, αλλά ο Κύριος που μεταχειρίζεται τον δούλο του, τον ιερέα να μοιράσει το ευλογία του μυστηρίου.

Και είναι υποχρέωση μας να λαμβάνουμε τακτικά τα μυστήρια.

Να μην υποτιμούμε την θέση τον μυστηρίων στην Εκκλησία. Όταν παραλαμβάνομε τα μυστήρια δεν λέμε Κύριε να λάβεις μέρος στην ζωή μου, αλλά λέμε ότι ο Κύριος μας στηρίζει. Αυτός μας τα δίνει όλα και με δίχως αυτόν η ζωή δεν σημαίνει τίποτα. Επόμενος δεν πρέπει να έχουμε το Θεό μόνο στις χάρες αλλά και στις λύπες της ζωής μας. Όταν ξαναγυρίζουμε προς τον Κύριον μέσα από τα μυστήρια της εκκλησίας ο ουράνιος πατέρας μας αγκαλιάζει και με τα μυστήρια μας δίνει άνεση και ασφάλεια.

Πρέπει και να διαβάζομε την Αγια Γραφή τακτικά είναι εργαλείο που ο άνθρωπος παραμελεί αλλά όλοι το έχουν.

Η Αγια Γραφή μας δίνει πνευματικό φάι για την ψυχή μας γιατί μας θυμίζει ότι ο Κύριος κάνει τα καλά έργα αλλά και τιμωρεί τους κακούς και φαύλους. Μας θυμίζει την αγάπη που έχει στην δημιουργία του και πως με την αιώνια του αγάπη θυσίασε τον Υιό του για της αμαρτίες μας. Δεν μπορούμε να ζητήσουμε καλύτερο δώρο από αυτό.

Πάντοτε να ευχαριστούμε τον Κύριο.

Στο τέλος πρέπει να θυμηθούμε ότι έχουμε υποχρέωση και είναι το καθήκον μας να μοιράσουμε το πιο θαυμάσιο Θειο δώρο που μας έδωσε ο Κύριος, να δώσουμε την ελπίδα σε αυτούς που την χάσανε, να ξαναφέρουμε στο σωστό δρόμο αυτούς που έχουν χαθεί και να βοηθήσουμε και να θυμίζουμε στους αγαπημένους εν χριστώ αδελφούς ότι ΥΠΑΡΧΕΙ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΗ ΕΥΚΑΙΡΙΑ!

Εν αγάπη εν Χριστώ πάντοτε δούλος του Κυρίου,

Αιδεσιμότατος Δημήτριος

Ιερατικός προϊστάμενος

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to thank everyone for their support through this past year and hope that you will be as supportive this year.

I would also like to welcome the new members of our Parish Council who were recently elected. 149 members came to vote to express what they wanted for their community, their church and their future. For the past 10 years, our church has lost about 250 members. Now it's time for our Parish Council, our Priest and every member to go out there and to bring them back to our church.

As committees will be formed, I encourage everyone to participate in all the church's activities especially fundraisers. Our church needs approximately \$ 1.500/day to operate "**Candles and trays once a week do not pay our bills**". We ask you to consider sponsoring one or more of the icons or furnishings in our church. If you cannot sponsor one item due to the cost, you can sponsor it jointly with a friend or relative.

You need to be aware of what others are doing, applaud their efforts, acknowledge their successes, and encourage them in their pursuits. When we all help one another, everybody wins. Be part of the solution not part of the problem. Our community needs all of us to move ahead, to be vibrant, to be active and productive. Let's leave our legacy to our children. What we do today together, is what shapes their tomorrows.

It has been a pleasure and honor being your Parish President. Our community is filled with caring, compassionate, giving, loving members from the youngest to the oldest.

May this year bring smiles at your door step, joy in your heart, love and togetherness of friends and family in your home. May you enjoy good health, happiness and prosperity in the coming year 2006.

Stavros Karakatsanis
Parish Council President

ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟ ΤΟΥ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟΥ

Αγαπητοι ενοριτες,

Θα επιθυμουσα να σας ευχαριστησω ολους για την υποστηριξη σας κατα τη διαρκεια του προηγουμενου ετους και ελπίζω σ'αυτην κι αυτο το χρονο. Θα επιθυμουσα επισης να καλωσορισω τα νεα μελη του Κοινοτικου Συμβουλιου που εκλεχτηκαν προσφατα. 149 ενοριτες με την ψηφο τους εξεφρασαν το τι θελουν για την κοινοτητα τους, την εκκλησια τους και το μελλον τους. Τα τελευταια 10 χρονια εχουν φυγει περιπου 250 μελη απο την εκκλησια. Τωρα ειναι η καταλληλη στιγμή για το Συμβουλιο, τον Ιερεα μας και καθε μελος να προσπαθησουμε να τους φερούμε πισω στην εκκλησια μας.

Καθως οι επιτροπες διαμορφωνονται, ενθαρρυνω τον καθενα απο σας να συμμετασχει σ'ολες τις δραστηριοτητες της ενοριας μας. Η εκκλησια μας χρειαζεται περιπου 1,500 δολλαρια την ημερα για να λειτουργησει, " **τα κερια και οι δισκοι μια φορα την εβδομαδα δεν πληρωνουν τους λογαριασμους μας.**" Σας ζητουμε να σκεφτειτε να αγορασετε μια απο τις εικονες η ενα απο τα εκκλησιαστικα επιπλα, εαν δεν μπορειτε να το αγορασετε μονος σας λογω του κοστους, μπορειτε να το υποστηριξετε μαζι με εναν φιλο η συγγενη.

Πρεπει να'μαστε ενημεροι γι'αυτα που αλλοι κανουν, να επιδοκιμαζουμε τις προσπαθειες τους, να αναγνωριζουμε τις επιτυχιες τους και να τους ενθαρρυνουμε στις επιδιωξεις τους. Οταν ο ενας βοηθαει τον αλλο, ολοι ειμαστε νικητες. Να ειστε μερος της λυσης και οχι του προβληματος. Η Κοινοτητα μας χρειαζεται ολους για να σφυζει απο ζωη, να προχωρησει, να ειναι δραστηρια και παραγωγικη. Αυτη ειναι η κληρονομια που θ'αφησουμε στα παιδια μας. Αυτο που κανουμε σημερα μαζι, ειναι αυτο που θα διαμορφωσει το αυριο, το μελλον τους.

Τιμη μου και ευχαριστηση μου να σας υπηρετω ως Προεδρος της κοινοτητας . Η ενορια μας ειναι γεματη απο ανθρωπους με αγαπη, συμπονια και γενναιοδωρια απο τον πιο μικρο μεχρι τον πιο μεγαλο.

Ευχομαι αυτη η χρονια να φερει τα χαμογελα στην πορτα σας, τη χαρα στην καρδια σας, την αγαπη κι ενοτητα των φιλων και της οικογενειας σας στο σπιτι σας.

Σας ευχομαι καλη υγεια, ευτυχια κι ευημερια για το 2006.

Σταυρος Καρακατσανης
Προεδρος Κοινοτικου Συμβουλιου

GOYA News

By Deena Lettas

We began our 2005/2006 GOYA season in September. We achieved great success with our



October Harvest Dance. The GOYAn's have participated in a toy drive for needy children ages 3 through 5 for the town of Brookhaven. We have also participated in a Christmas retreat which took place at St. Paul's church in Hempstead. We learned that the true meaning of Christmas is not the giving and receiving of gifts. The GOYA meets and holds practice every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. and receives a religious lesson from Fr. Demetri.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2006!

Our GOYAn's and other GOYAn's at the Christmas Lenten Retreat Hempstead

Our Community Toy Drive

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you so much for your participation in the Toy Drive for The Central Brookhaven Head Start. Your contributions were greatly appreciated by the children. Thank you.

Ann Meyer

Council Member

Special Announcement

Our Community is proud to host the documentary film "The 11th Day". The movie is about Crete's invasion by the Germans in 1941, and what important role Crete played during WWII.

The movie will be shown on February 18, 2006 at 3pm & 6pm at the Community Center.

Stay tuned for more details.

GREEK SCHOOL

We at the Greek School hope you had a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. The Christmas celebration was held on December 20th. The students worked hard to learn their parts for the performance.

On January 24th, we will have a short celebration for the Greek Letters day. It will be held at 7:45pm and Father will be speaking to the children about this holiday. Please feel free to come and join us.

The first marking period will end at the end of January and report cards will be sent home in the beginning of February.

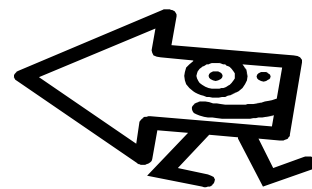
The children who are going to participate in the mythology test have been given their assignments. Please encourage them to study in order to prepare for the test. As it was mentioned in the note, the parents are responsible for either buying the book or borrowing it from the public library. No photocopies will be distributed this year. The PTO will be selling these books for your convenience. The test date is February 28th.

With the cold weather already here, please make sure to be on time when picking up your children.

Thank you and lets work on having a great second half of the school year.



Children Singing at the Greek School Christmas Program.



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

We would like to thank everyone for making our loukoumades fundraiser a success. We would also like to thank Stamatia Zoumas and Lemonia Tsafos for their help in making such delicious loukoumades.

Philoptochos will be holding their annual Theophany luncheon on January 8th at the community center after the blessing of the waters.

Phyllis Koutsouras

Greek School PTO News

Our PTO would like to wish each and everyone Happy New Year. May the New Year bring health, happiness and peace to all. Our PTO has been very busy the last two months. We ended December with a successful Poinsettia fundraiser. We thank all the families, as well as the Philoptochos who supported us during this fundraiser.

On December 20th, the Greek School children did a phenomenal job during their Christmas celebration. The Greek school children successfully reenacted Jesus's birth, recited poems, danced and finally sang beautiful Christmas songs. The students looked awesome dressed uniformly in red and black, with red Santa hats on their heads. The night ended with a fun raffle which included many exciting prizes. We want to thank John Gouvis for being so generous and donating the food for our Christmas celebration, and for his donations towards our raffle. In addition, we would like to thank the Greek School parents for donating salad, bread, dessert and drinks for our Christmas dinner. Our night concluded with a special visit from Santa who happily took pictures with the children, and presented them with presents and candy canes. We would also like to thank Mrs. Christina Georgiou, the Greek School principal, and the teachers for doing such a great job with the students, and for teaching our children the Greek Christmas traditions. Finally, we would like to thank Mrs. Jean Xikis, principal of the Sunday School, for lending us the Christmas costumes for our Greek School play. We thank all those who helped us plan this successful event.

This year our PTO has decided to vary its dinner menu during Greek School hours. On Tuesday, January 3, our students enjoyed hot dog night. As decided during our PTO meeting, students's menu will alternate between pizza, hot dogs and fries and chicken nuggets and fries. We thank all those who helped during hot dog night, especially Saverio Mauceri who cooked all the hot dogs for our Greek School students.

Our Greek School PTO is currently working on organizing an Easter raffle which will include lambs and many exciting prizes, a bake sale as well as a trip for the Greek School students. We would appreciate any donations towards our Easter raffle. Anyone interested in donating, please see us during the Greek School hours. We thank you all in advance.

We encourage all to attend our PTO meetings which take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:20-6:20 in the conference room. We welcome new ideas and suggestions.

With sincere thanks,
Kiki Govits and Maria Mauceri

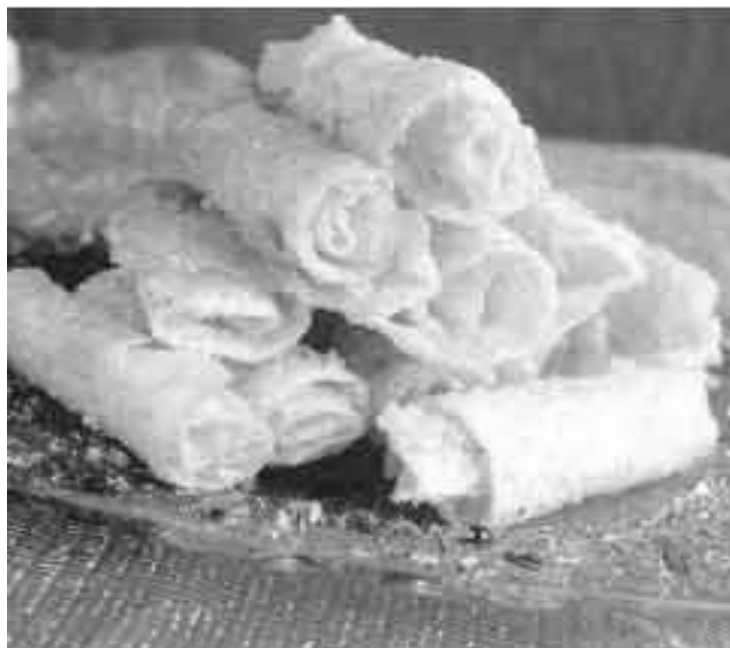
Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate the following individuals who were elected serve on the parish council for the next three years.

***Pantelis Halioris, George Kokolakis, George Konomos, Peter Legakis,
Katerina Panagiotakopoulou Christos Raptis***

May the Lord our God find them worthy to serve His Holy church.

DIPLES



INGREDIENTS

4 cups self-rising flour

4 tbsp sugar

1 cup sugar

4 eggs

1 rinded lemon

2 tbsp Oil

Oil for cooking

2 cups honey

cinnamon

Coarsely chopped walnuts

METHOD

Sift flour and place it in a big, deep bowl, and make an opening in the middle. Meanwhile, beat eggs with the sugar, lemon rind and oil. Place the egg mixture in the opening you have created and knead the dough until firm. Divide the dough equally many times and roll each division into thin pieces. Cut the pieces in triangle sections. Heat the oil well, and stick the dough strips in the hot oil one by one. Quickly, using two large forks roll each strip of dough in a cylindrical shape and cook the pieces until golden brown.

Take them out, and place somewhere to cool.

Heat the honey with one cup of sugar until you bring them into boil. Spoon out the froth that forms, and lather the ready diples with the honey syrup, and sprinkle cinnamon and walnuts as a garnish.

Champagne with Pomegranate Syrup and Raspberries

- 1 bottle dry champagne, sparkling wine or sparkling cider
- 1/3 cup pomegranate juice (Pom)
- 6-10 raspberries

Pour 1 tablespoon juice into the bottom of each champagne flute or coupe, and carefully pour in the champagne. Float a few raspberries in each glass, and serve.

Try this lovely little recipe for a special occasion, or to make any day special.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School Children celebrated Thanksgiving with games and activities; we created placemats for the Thanksgiving Table, and painted ornaments for the Christmas Tree. Later we went on a treasure hunt and ended the night with a mummy- wrap contest.

On the Sunday before Christmas, the children presented their Nativity Play in the Church. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Kastrinos, our Choir, and especially Mrs. Spanos, for their annual participation in the program.

February 5th is Godparents Day and as always we would like to encourage all Godparents to join their Godchildren for Divine Liturgy and lunch at the Community Center, provided by the Sunday school.

It is more serious to lose hope than to sin. (St. John of Karpathos)

I came across some beautiful sayings from St. John of Karpathos, which I would like to share with you; since they give much needed hope and assist us to overcome Satan's attacks.

“Trials and temptations are the reins whereby God in His providence restrains our human arrogance. Nevertheless, it is equally true that God will also remove from us the adversities He has brought upon us.”

So let us not despair, but pray and know that God ' will give good things to those that ask Him' (Matt. 7:11). The enemy knows that prayer is our invincible weapon against him, and so he tries to keep us from praying. He fills us with a desire for all worldly things. Let us resist his suggestions; otherwise, if we neglect our spiritual life we shall harvest thorns and thistles instead of figs and grapes.

The Lord promised 'good things' not to the righteous but to the sinners, saying: 'If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those that ask Him?' (Luke 11:13).

With our whole soul let us trust in God and ask continuously, without doubting, - however poor our efforts, however weak our strength, - and we will receive, far beyond anything that we deserve.

"The parents and the Sunday School children would like to give a special thanks to Sandra Argyros for preparing the script and staging the Christmas Pageant. Although many people worked with her, and we wish to thank them all, without her many hours of preparation and dedication, the event would not have been possible. Thank you so much Sandra and God Bless You."

Jean Xikis



Little Angels

Please join us for fun
fulfilling play dates

on

Friday, January 13,27, Feb. 10 and 24 at 12:30 p.m.
(Infants to Pre-K)

We will be engaging in activities that will help your child

Learn and Develop :

- *Imagination*
- *Storytelling*
- *Listening*
- *Communication*
- *Memory*
- *Reading*
- *Group Play*
- *Motor Skills*



So parents- bring your little ones to play!
Future dates will be posted in the church bulletin
We will be meeting twice a month

Any questions, please feel free to call
Maria @ 631-476-6199 or Athena @ 631-580-7173



From AHEPA

As the largest and oldest association of American citizens of Greek heritage, the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), met with members of Congress to inform them of the organization’s agenda for 2006. The meetings were held Wednesday, Dec. 14 between Gus James, Supreme President of AHEPA and Senator Paul S. Sarbanes (D-MD), Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME), Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-9-FL) and Rep. Randy Forbes (R-4-VA).

An important topic focused upon AHEPA’s effort to create awareness among the U.S. House of Representatives expressing concern about the direction of U.S. policy toward Cyprus. Locally, AHEPA Chapter 386 of St. James, has pledged to purchase a leaf on the Tree of Life in the lobby of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Assumption in Port Jefferson.

The mission of AHEPA is to promote the ideals of Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence.

For more information about AHEPA or how to join this important organization representing our community of Greek Americans, please contact Jim Tsivitis, President, AHEPA Chapter 386 at (516) 545-4679 or (631) 862-0905 or visit the AHEPA Headquarters website at:

www.ahepa.org.

JANUARY

CAELA LAKIOS	01-03-92
ZACHARY DEMACOS	01-04-00
LUKE LEGAKIS	01-09-01
KARA KOKOLAKIS	01-11-04
ANDRIANNA GASPARIS	01-25-04
OLGA SEMERTZIDIS	01-29-93
STAVROS LAMPEAS	01-31-01

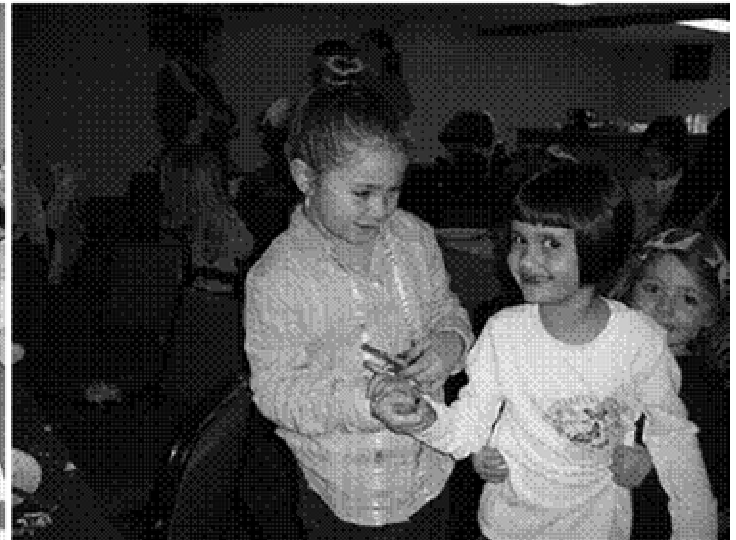
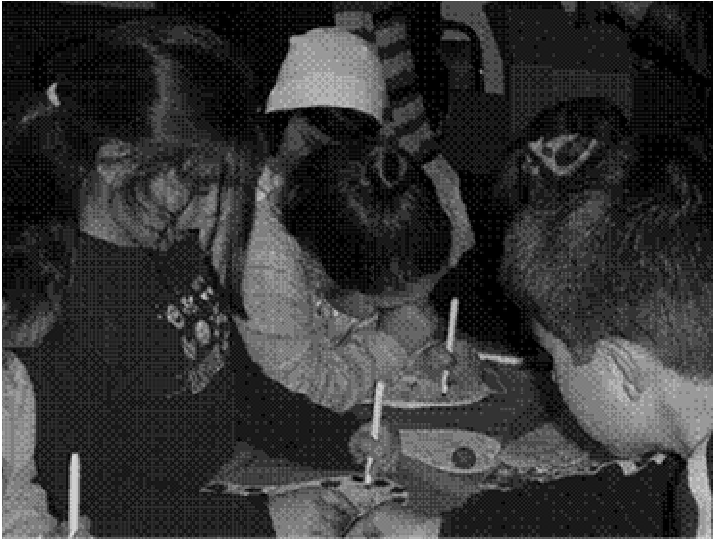
FEBRUARY

ELENI KONSTANTINOS	02-02-89
JAKOB DILLON FANELAKIS	02-02-96
JOHN KOKOLAKIS	02-11-95
HARRIS SEMERTZIDIS	02-11-01
ZOE ZENIOU	02-19-00
ALEX MINUTOLI	02-20-99
HARRY DIVARIS	02-27-02
MICHAEL ANTHONY LYNCH	02-28-00

**Happy
Birthday!**



HOPE & JOY Christmas Party



2006

JANUARY—ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ

2006

SUNDAY—ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ	MONDAY—ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ	TUESDAY—ΤΡΙΤΗ	WEDNESDAY—ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ	THURSDAY—ΠΕΜΠΤΗ	FRIDAY—ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ	SATURDAY—ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ
1 ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ Ο ΜΕΓΑΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΣ THE CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD ST. BASIL THE GREAT ORTHROS-ΟΡΘΡΟΣ 8:45 A.M. LITURGY-ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 10:00 A.M.	2	3 ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ GREEK SCHOOL 5:00 P.M.	4 ΓΚΟΓΙΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΓΙΑ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ H INTER-GOYA MEETING AT ST. PARASKEVI 7:00 P.M.	5 ΠΡΟΕΡΤΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ EVE OF THEOPHANY ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ORTHROS & LITURGY 9:00 A.M. ΜΙΚΡΟΣ ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ LESSER BLESSING OF THE WATER	6 ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ HOLY THEOPHANY ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ORTHROS & LITURGY 9:00 A.M. ΜΕΓΑΣ ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ GREATER BLESSING OF THE WATER	7 ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΙΩΑΝ- ΝΟΥ SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ORTHROS & LITURGY 9:00 A.M.
8 ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΩΝ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΙΩΝ SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ΟΡΘΡΟΣ-ΟΡΘΡΟΣ 8:45 A.M. LITURGY-ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 10:00 A.M. BLESSING OF THE WATER ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΥΔΑΤΩΝ 12:00 P.M. PHILOPTOCHOS VASILORITA LUNCH ΓΕΥΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΦΙΛΟΠΤΟΧΟΥ 1:00 P.M.	9	10 ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ GREEK SCHOOL 5:00 P.M. ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟ ΓΟΝΕΩΝ & ΔΑΣΚΑΛΩΝ P.T.O. 5:20 P.M.	11 ΓΚΟΓΙΑ ΣΤΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ GOYA 7:00 P.M.	12 ΓΕΥΜΑ ΧΡΗΣΗΣ ΗΛΙΚΙΑΣ SENIORS LUNCHEON 11:00 A.M. ΜΕΛΕΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΓΡΑΦΗΣ BIBLE STUDY 2:00 P.M. ΓΚΟΓΙΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΓΙΑ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ INTER-GOYA MEETING AT ST. PARASKEVI 7:00 P.M.	13 ΜΙΚΡΟΙ ΑΓΓΕΛΗ LITTLE ANGELS 12:30 P.M.	14
15 ΤΩΝ ΔΕΚΑ ΛΕΠΡΩΝ THE TEN LEPPERS ΟΡΘΡΟΣ-ΟΡΘΡΟΣ 8:45 A.M. LITURGY-ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 10:00 A.M.	16	17 ΑΓΙΟΥ ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΥ ST. ANTHONY ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ORTHROS & LITURGY 9:00 A.M. ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ GREEK SCHOOL 5:00 P.M.	18 ΑΓΙΟΥ ΑΘΑΝΑΣΙΟΥ ST. ATHANASIOS ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ORTHROS & LITURGY 9:00 A.M. ΓΚΟΓΙΑ ΣΤΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ GOYA 7:00 P.M.	19	20	21
22 ΤΟΥ ΤΥΦΛΟΥ THE BLIND MAN ΟΡΘΡΟΣ-ΟΡΘΡΟΣ 8:45 A.M. LITURGY-ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 10:00 A.M.	23	24 ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ GREEK SCHOOL 5:00 P.M.	25 ΑΓΙΟΥ ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΥ ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ORTHROS & LITURGY 9:00 A.M. ΓΚΟΓΙΑ ΣΤΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ GOYA 7:00 P.M.	26 ΓΕΥΜΑ ΧΡΗΣΗΣ ΗΛΙΚΙΑΣ SENIORS LUNCHEON 11:00 A.M. ΜΕΛΕΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΓΡΑΦΗΣ BIBLE STUDY 2:00 P.M. ΜΕΛΕΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΓΡΑΦΗΣ BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M.	27 ΜΙΚΡΟΙ ΑΓΓΕΛΗ LITTLE ANGELS 12:30 P.M.	28
29 ΤΟΥ ΖΑΚΧΑΙΟΥ ZACCHAEUS ΟΡΘΡΟΣ-ΟΡΘΡΟΣ 8:45 A.M. LITURGY-ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 10:00 A.M.	30 ΟΙ ΤΡΕΙΣ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΕΣ THE THREE HIERARCHS ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ORTHROS & LITURGY 9:00 A.M.	31 ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ GREEK SCHOOL 5:00 P.M.				

2006

FEBRUARY—ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ

2006

SUNDAY—ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ	MONDAY—ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ	TUESDAY—ΤΡΙΤΗ	WEDNESDAY—ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ	THURSDAY—ΠΕΜΠΤΗ	FRIDAY—ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ	SATURDAY—ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ
			1 ΓΚΟΓΙΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΓΙΑ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ H INTER-GOYA MEETING AT ST. PARASKEVI 7:00 P.M.	2 Η ΥΠΑΠΑΝΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD TO THE TEMPLE ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ORTHROS & LITURGY 9:00 A.M.	3 HOPE & JOY 7:00 P.M.	4
5 Η ΓΥΝΑΙΚΑ ΤΗΣ ΚΑΝΑΣ THE CANANITE WOMAN ΟΡΘΡΟΣ-ΟΡΘΡΟΣ 8:45 A.M. LITURGY-ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 10:00 A.M. ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΝ ΝΟΥΝΩΝ GODPARENT SUNDAY	6	7 ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ GREEK SCHOOL 5:00 P.M.	8 ΓΚΟΓΙΑ ΣΤΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΓΟΥΑ 7:00 P.M.	9 ΓΕΥΜΑ ΧΡΗΣΗΣ ΗΛΙΚΙΑΣ SENIORS LUNCHEON 11:00 A.M. ΜΕΛΕΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΓΡΑΦΗΣ BIBLE STUDY 2:00 P.M. ΜΕΛΕΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΓΡΑΦΗΣ BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M.	10 Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ ΧΑΡΑΛΑΜΠΟΣ ST. HARALAMBOS ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ORTHROS & LITURGY 9:00 A.M. ΜΙΚΡΟΙ ΑΓΓΕΛΗ LITTLE ANGELS 12:30 P.M.	11
12 ΤΕΛΩΝΗ ΚΑΙ ΦΑΡΙΣΑΙΩΝ THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE ΟΡΘΡΟΣ-ΟΡΘΡΟΣ 8:45 A.M. LITURGY-ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 10:00 A.M.	13	14 ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ GREEK SCHOOL 5:00 P.M. ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟ ΓΟΝΕΩΝ & ΔΑΣΚΑΛΩΝ P.T.O. 5:20 P.M.	15 ΓΚΟΓΙΑ ΣΤΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΓΟΥΑ 7:00 P.M.	16	17	18
19 ΤΟΥ ΑΣΩΤΟΥ ΗΘΙΟΥ THE PRODIGAL SON ΟΡΘΡΟΣ-ΟΡΘΡΟΣ 8:45 A.M. LITURGY-ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 10:00 A.M.	20 <i>COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER</i> DEADLINE <i>ΠΡΟΣΘΕΞΕΙΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΝ</i> <i>ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΤΙΚΟ ΔΕΛΤΙΟ</i>	21 ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ GREEK SCHOOL 5:00 P.M.	22 ΓΚΟΓΙΑ ΣΤΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΓΟΥΑ 7:00 P.M.	23 ΓΕΥΜΑ ΧΡΗΣΗΣ ΗΛΙΚΙΑΣ SENIORS LUNCHEON 11:00 A.M. ΜΕΛΕΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΓΡΑΦΗΣ BIBLE STUDY 2:00 P.M. ΜΕΛΕΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΓΡΑΦΗΣ BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M.	24 ΜΙΚΡΟΙ ΑΓΓΕΛΗ LITTLE ANGELS 12:30 P.M.	25 ΨΥΧΟ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ SATURDAY OF SOULS ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ORTHROS & LITURGY 9:00 A.M.
26 ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΠΟΚΡΙΑΣ MEATFARE SUNDAY ΟΡΘΡΟΣ-ΟΡΘΡΟΣ 8:45 A.M. LITURGY-ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ 10:00 A.M.	27	28 ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ GREEK SCHOOL 5:00 P.M.	MARCH 1 ΓΚΟΓΙΑ ΣΤΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΓΟΥΑ 7:00 P.M.	MARCH 2	MARCH 3	MARCH 4 ΨΥΧΟ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ SATURDAY OF SOULS ΟΡΘΡΟΣ & ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ORTHROS & LITURGY 9:00 A.M.

Community Christmas Pageant



2005 CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

If your name should be on this list and it is not, we apologize. Please let us know at the office and we will rectify the omission

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. M. Ahladiotis | Mr. & Mrs. D. Fournaris | Mr. & Mrs. M. Kontonicolas |
| Mr. & Mrs. G. Almiroudis | Ms. E. Foustanella | Mr. & Mrs. T. Kontos |
| Mr. & Mrs. A. Amiridis | Mr. & Mrs. S. Frangos | Mr. G. Kontovakis |
| Mr. C. Anderson | Mr. & Mrs. A. Franks | Mr. & Mrs. G. Kontovrakis |
| Mr. J. Andrews | Mr. Menelaos Fthenakis | Mr. & Mrs. N. Koutrakos |
| Mr. & Mrs. A. Antoniou | Mr. & Mrs. C. Gaglias | Mr. & Mrs. P. Koutsothanasis |
| Mrs. M. Apollo | Ms. M. Gaglias | Mr. & Mrs. K. Koutsoumpis |
| Mrs. K. Apollo | Mr. & Mrs. G. Galanos | Mr. & Mrs. L. Koutsouras |
| Mr. & Mrs. R. Aranguren | Mr. & Mrs. M. Gardell | Mr. & Mrs. M. Koutsouras |
| Mr. & Mrs. N. Arettines | Mr. & Mrs. A. Gasparis | Mr. & Mrs. S. Koutsouras |
| Mr. & Mrs. N. Argeros | Mr. & Mrs. M. Gavalas | Mr. & Mrs. G. Kyriakou |
| Mr. S. Argyros | Mr. & Mrs. K. Giakas | Ms. B. Ladas |
| Mr. & Mrs. D. Argyros | Mr. & Mrs. G. Giakas | Mr. & Mrs. N. Ladeas |
| Mr. & Mrs. N. Aroniadis | Mrs. S. Gimourginas | Mr. & Mrs. G. Lagadinis |
| Ms. O. Aroniadis | Mr. & Mrs. J. Gouvis | Mr. J. Lagadinis |
| Mr. P. Aroniadis | Mr. & Mrs. J. Govits | Dr. & Mrs. E. LaGamma |
| Ms. I. Avgoustidis | Mr. & Mrs. P. Grekousis | Mr. & Mrs. E. Lakios |
| Mr. & Mrs. J. Avgoustidis | Mr. & Mrs. T. Hadzigeorgiou | Mr. & Mrs. P. Lampeas |
| Mr. & Mrs. J. Bacalakis | Mrs. M. Hagibeys | Mr. & Mrs. P. Legakis |
| Dr. Bacola | Mr. & Mrs. P. Hagibeys | Mr. & Mrs. G. Leodis |
| Mr. & Mrs. F. Bais | Mrs. C. Haibon | Mrs. C. Leoni |
| Mr. & Mrs. R. Batuyios | Mr. & Mrs. P. Halioris | Ms. E. Liaros |
| Dr. & Mrs. N. Batuyios | Ms. A. Haralambidis | Mr. & Mrs. D. Lindiakos |
| Mr. & Mrs. T. Broderick | Mr. & Mrs. I. Haralambidis | Mr. & Mrs. W. Lipera |
| Mr. & Mrs. E. Byrd | Mrs. A. Hionas | Mr. & Mrs. R. LiPuma |
| Mr. & Mrs. S. Calamas | Ms. N. Hondropoulos | Mr. & Mrs. F. Lopresti |
| Mrs. A. Calamas | Ms. S. Hondropoulos | Ms. L. Louka |
| Mr. & Mrs. M. Callahan | Mr. & Mrs. N. Iatropol | Mrs. A. Louris |
| Mrs. F. Caramihas | Mr. M. Intzirlis | Mr. D. Louris |
| Mr. & Mrs. E. Cascone | Mr. & Mrs. K. Intzirlis | Mr. & Mrs. S. Lynch |
| Mr. & Mrs. A. Cavagnaro | Mr. & Mrs. R. Kaczenski | Mr. & Mrs. M. Maimone |
| Ms. A. Chatzithomas | Mr. & Mrs. A. Kagiarios | Mr. & Mrs. I. Malafis |
| Mr. G. Cherson | Mr. & Mrs. A. Kakaris | Mr. & Mrs. N. Manolis |
| Mr. & Mrs. C. Christ | Miss A. Kanakaris | Mrs. C. Manzinis |
| Mr. & Mrs. J. Christoforou | Mr. & Mrs. B. Kanakaris | Mrs. M. Marra |
| Mrs. K. Conkling | Mr. & Mrs. N. Kanelos | Mr. & Mrs. G. Martinos |
| Mr. & Mrs. G. Constantouris | Mr. & Mrs. S. Karakatsanis | Mr. Mastres |
| Mr. & Mrs. G. Coritsidis | Mr. J. Karaptis | Mr. & Mrs. S. Mauceri |
| Mr. & Mrs. P. Couluris | Mrs. A. Karayianakis | Mr. & Mrs. N. Melahris |
| Mr. & Mrs. J. Damaskos | Mr. & Mrs. N. Karsos | Ms. F. Metralaxis |
| Mr. & Mrs. J. Damianos | Mr. & Mrs. E. Katsafaros | Mr. T. Metralaxis |
| Mrs. D. DeFilippis | Mr. & Mrs. I. Katsaros | Mr. & Mrs. J. Meyer |
| Mr. & Mrs. S. Demacos | Mr. & Mrs. M. Katsaros | Mr. & Mrs. M. Minutoli |
| Mr. & Mrs. S. Demertzis | Mr. & Mrs. J. Katsiafas | Mr. & Mrs. P. Montgomery |
| Mrs. M. DeVie | Mr. & Mrs. K. Katsis | Dr. & Mrs. J. Moraitis |
| Mr. & Mrs. K. Diakou | Mr. E. Katsis | Mr. & Mrs. G. Moschouris |
| Mr. & Mrs. K. Dimitratos | Mrs. E. Kilmetz | Mrs. M. Moschouris |
| Mr. & Mrs. N. Divaris | Mr. M. Kittos | Mr. & Mrs. D. Mountzouros |
| Mr. & Mrs. P. Eliopoulos | Mr. & Mrs. S. Klissas | Mr. & Mrs. R. Mouzakes |
| Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel | Mr. & Mrs. G. Kokolakis | Mr. & Mrs. H. Mouzakes |
| Mrs. A. Englezos | Mr. M. Kokolakis | Mr. & Mrs. M. Myrianthopoulos |
| Mr. & Mrs. V. Fanelakis | Ms. A. Kokolakis | Mr. & Mrs. G. Ntourmas |
| Ms. L. Fasolas | Mr. & Mrs. G. Konomos | Mr. & Mrs. E. Olzinski |
| | Mr. & Mrs. H. Konstantinidis | Mr. & Mrs. P. Pagonis |

2005 CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

If your name should be on this list and it is not, we apologize. Please let us know at the office and we will rectify the omission

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mr. Mastres | Mr. & Mrs. E. Rigas | Mrs. G. Syrigos |
| Mr. & Mrs. S. Mauceri | Mr. N. Rigas | Mr. & Mrs. N. Tavantzis |
| Mr. & Mrs. N. Melahris | Mr. & Mrs. G. Romanelli | Mr. & Mrs. P. Thanos |
| Ms. F. Metralaxis | Mr. & Mrs. J. Rontiris | Ms. E. Theofilaktidis |
| Mr. T. Metralaxis | Mr. C. Sambaziotis | Mr. & Mrs. G. Tsafos |
| Mr. & Mrs. J. Meyer | Mr. & Mrs. G. Sarant | Mr. & Mrs. E. Tsafos |
| Mr. & Mrs. M. Minutoli | Mr. & Mrs. S. Sarcona | Mr. & Mrs. P. Tsantes |
| Mr. & Mrs. P. Montgomery | Mr. V. Sarli | Ms. S. Tsantes |
| Dr. & Mrs. J. Moraitis | Ms. M. Savoca | Mr. & Mrs. F. Tsantes |
| Mr. & Mrs. G. Moschouris | Mr. & Mrs. H. Savvides | Mrs. A. Tsarnas |
| Mrs. M. Moschouris | Mr. & Mrs. D. Scarda | Mr. & Mrs. M. Tsiakaros |
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Sacraments

Christmation

Reneé (Veronica) Lewis 11/13/05
 Nicholas Tsokris 12/18/05

Weddings

Reneé Lewis & Dean Spanos 11/13/05
 Alexis Kanakaris & William Seppe 12/03/05
 Steven & Maureen Tsokris 01/01/06

Baptisms

Eleni Salloum 11/26/05
 Anthoula-Maria Hionas 12/04/05
 Michael-Simon Ntourmas 12/04/05



Πρωτοπρεσβύτερος Δημήτριος Ιω. Κωνσταντέλος

Μαρτυρίες και ενδείξεις της Ελληνοχριστιανικής Ταυτότητας

ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟ Γ

Ο τέταρτος αιώνας ήτο λίαν αποφασιστικός διά το μέλλον του Χριστιανισμού και τις σχέσεις του με τον Ελληνισμό. Το διάταγμα των Μεδιολάνων (313) του Μεγάλου Κωνσταντίνου και Λικινίου περί ανεξιθρησκείας και εν συνεχεία η ανακήρυξις του Χριστιανισμού ως επίσημης θρησκείας της ύστερης Ρωμαϊκής ή πρώιμης Βυζαντινής Αυτοκρατορίας εδημιούργησε μια έντασι και αντιπαλότητα μεταξύ του παλαιού και του νέου, της ελληνικής παραδόσεως και της χριστιανικής πίστεως. Οι μη Χριστιανοί απεκαλούντο «Έλληνες» και η φιλοσοφία και ο τρόπος της ζωής των «Ελληνισμός». Αλλά, και όταν ακόμη ο Χριστιανισμός ανεκηρύχθη η επίσημος θρησκεία του Ελληνορωμαϊκού κόσμου, ο Ελληνισμός ως λαός, πνεύμα, παιδεία, τρόπος ζωής δεν απέθανε, αλλά επεβίωσε με νέες προσαρμογές και ανακατατάξεις, υιοθέτησε επίσημα την Χριστιανική πίστι χωρίς να αποβάλλει την πολιτισμική του παράδοσι. Οι πρόγονοί των εθεωρούντο ειδωλόλατρες πλην όμως δεν έπαυον να είναι πρόγονοι.

Περί τα τέλη του δεύτερου αιώνα, με τον θάνατο του Μάρκου Αυρηλίου αρχίζει και η μεγαλύτερη κρίσις εις την ιστορία της Δυτικής Ρωμαϊκής Αυτοκρατορίας, τότε όμως παρατηρείται και μία επιστροφή στην Ελληνική παράδοσι και μία αναγέννησις της Ελληνικής φιλοσοφίας. Το βάρος της πολιτικής των αυτοκρατόρων στρέφεται στην Ελληνική Ανατολή, όπου τελικά θα ιδρυθεί και η νέα πρωτεύουσα της Αυτοκρατορίας. Ο Ελληνισμός έγινε η άγκυρα διά πολλούς διανοουμένους και πνευματικά ανήσυχους ανθρώπους(35). Από τον τρίτον έως τον έκτον τουλάχιστον αιώνα έχουμε δύο ισχυρές παρατάξεις. Από την μια πλευρά είναι οι «Έλληνες», όπως απεκαλούντο οι μη

Χριστιανοί, και από την άλλη οι Χριστιανοί Έλληνες (μεταγενέστεροι βυζαντινοί συγγραφείς ωνόμαζον τους Καππαδόκες, Αλεξανδρινούς, Αντιοχείς και άλλους εκ των μεγάλων πατέρων της Εκκλησίας Έλληνες, και έτσι τους γνωρίζει και αποκαλεί η ιστορία μέχρι σήμερα). Αν και «το γένος Έλληνες και τα Ελλήνων φρονούντες» ασπάσθησαν τον Χριστιανισμό και οι Έλληνες Χριστιανοί έγιναν αποστάτες μόνο από την πατριο-δεδιδασκίαιμονία γράφει ο εκκλησιαστικός ιστορικός Παμφίλου Ευσεβίος (Ευαγγελική Προπαρασκευή 1.5:10).

Και οι δύο παρατάξεις είχαν ικανούς αντιπροσώπους όπως οι εξής: Πλωτίνος (205-270), Πορφύριος (233-306), Ιάμβλιχος (250-325), Ιουλιανός (332-363), (Πρόκλος 441-485), όλοι νεοπλατωνικοί, μερικοί εκ των οποίων εχημάτισαν και διδάσκαλοι Χριστιανών, αλλά και άλλοι, ιστορικοί, διδάσκαλοι ρητορικής, όπως ο Αμμιανός Μαρκελλίνος (330-392), Ζώσιμος (5ος αι.), Θεμιστίος (317-388) και

Λιβάνιος (314-393). Ο Πλωτίνος ιδιαίτερα επηρέασε πολλούς Χριστιανούς θεολόγους και πατέρες, και εμελετάτο από τον τέταρτον έως τον δέκατον πέμπτον αιώνα. Η πολιτική του αυτοκράτορα Ιουλιανού υπέρ του «Ελληνίζεϊν», δηλαδή των ελληνικών γραμμάτων, και κατά του Χριστιανισμού, ευρήκε ισχυρές και δημιουργικές αντιδράσεις από μέρος Χριστιανών διανοουμένων, τους Καππαδόκες, τους Αντιοχείς, τους Αλεξανδρινούς και άλλους από τον ελληνόφωνο κόσμο, οι οποίοι διαμαρτυρήθηκαν ότι ουδείς είχε το δικαίωμα να τους αποστερήσει το κληρονομικό τους προνόμιο του «Ελληνίζεϊν» (36) . Ο διάλογος μεταξύ των δύο παρατάξεων συνέβαλε στην ανάπτυξι

σημαντικής φιλολογίας. Δεν είναι ανάγκη να σχολιάσωμε τις απαντήσεις στην πολιτική του Ιουλιανού από τον Μ. Βασίλειο, τον αδελφό του Γρηγόριο Νύσσης, Γρηγόριο τον Θεολόγο και Ιωάννη Χρυσόστομο. Τελικά οι Χριστιανοί πατέρες υιοθέτησαν την αρχή ότι, «το αγαθόν ένθα αν η ίδιον της αληθείας εστίν» (37) . Κάθε τι καλό από την αρχαία κληρονομία είναι δεκτό και χρήσιμο.

Ένα από τα μεγάλα, αγαθά που προέκυψαν από την αντιπαλότητα μεταξύ «Ελλήνων» και «Χριστιανών» ήτο ότι οι Χριστιανοί επροκλήθησαν να διακηρύξουν ότι τα ελληνικά γράμματα ήσαν και ιδική των κληρονομία. Τούτο εξηγεί γιατί μαζί με τον εκχριστιανισμό εγένετο και η διάδοσις του Ελληνισμού, ο εξελληνισμός διαφόρων επαρχιών εις την Ανατολή. Παράδειγμα η Καππαδοκία. Ενώ μέχρι τις αρχές του τετάρτου αιώνα η επίδρασις του Ελληνισμού εκεί ήτο επιφανειακή, υπό την ηγεσία και την ιεραποστολική δραστηριότητα ελληνοδιδάκτων επισκόπων όπως ο Μ. Βασίλειος, Γρηγόριος ο Νύσσης, Γρηγόριος Ναζιανζού και συνεργάτες των ιερείς και μοναχοί, η Καππαδοκία φέρεται πλήρως εξελληνισμένη από τον πέμπτον έως τον 15ον αιώνα. Οι αντιθέσεις μεταξύ «Ελλήνων» και «Χριστιανών» ωδήγησαν εις την σύνθεσι και ανάπτυξι της Ελληνοχριστιανικής ιδιαιτερότητος.

Ο εκκλησιαστικός ιστορικός Σωκράτης Σχολαστικός έχει μια λίαν επιτυχή περίληψι της θέσεως των Χριστιανών, η οποία εξηγεί διατί οι πατέρες δεν απεδοκίμασαν αλλά, τουναντίον, εχησιμοποίησαν την ελληνική σοφία προς ενίσχυσι της χριστιανικής πίστεως και λατρείας. Γράφει ο Σωκράτης: «Τα ελληνικά γράμματα (φιλολογία, ποίησις, φιλοσοφία) δεν αναγνωρίσθησαν ποτέ ούτε από τον Χριστό μήτε από τους αποστόλους ως θεόπνευστα, αλλ' ούτε απερρίφθησαν ως καταστρεπτικά. Και αυτό οι πατέρες το έπραξαν σωστά διότι υπήρχαν πολλοί φιλόσοφοι μεταξύ των Ελλήνων που δεν ήσαν μακριά από την γνώση του Θεού». (38) Κατά τον Σωκράτη οι πατέρες ακολούθησαν το παράδειγμα του Αποστόλου Παύλου, ο οποίος «δεν απαγόρευσε να σπουδάζουμε και να ωφελούμεθα από την ελληνική παιδεία, διότι αυτός ο ίδιος την είχε μελετήσει, αφού εγνώριζε πολλές γνώμες των Ελλήνων»(39).

Διά την εκτίμησι της Ελληνικής αρχαιότητος και την ωφέλεια από την σοφία της συνέβαλε και η αντίληψις που είχαν οι πατέρες, και ειδικά οι εκκλησιαστικοί ιστορικοί όπως ο Ευσέβιος, Σωζόμενος, Σωκράτης δια την ιστορίαν, την οποίαν ερμήνευαν τελεολογικώς. Η ιστορία μελετά και αντλεί από το παρελθόν, διαμορφώνει το παρόν και ατενίζει το μέλλον σε μία διαρκή αλληλοεξάρτησι και συνεχή εξελικτική και ανοδική πορεία. Υπό αυτές τις προϋποθέσεις, η Ελληνική παιδεία, η θύραθεν, είχε μία συνέχεια και δεν έπαυσε να διδάσκεται καθ' όλην την βυζαντινή χιλιετίαν καί πέραν αυτής(40).

ΣΗΜΕΙΩΣΕΙΣ

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38. - Ένθ. ανωτ., βιβλ. 3, κεφ. 16

39. - Ένθ. ανωτ.

40. - Διά. μία γενική επισκόπησι του θέματος βλέπε Georgina Buckler, "Byzantine Education" στο συλλογικό έργο Byzantium: An Introduction to East Roman Civilization, edited by N.H. Baynes and H. St.L.B. Moss, Oxford 1961. σσ.200-220. Paul Lemerle, Le premier humanisme byzantin. Paris 1971. Ελληνική μετάφρασις υπό Μαρίας Νυσταζοπούλου-Πελεκίδου, Ο Πρώτος Βυζαντινός Ουμανισμός. Αθήνα 1981. Διά την τελευταίαν (βυζαντινή περίοδο (βλέπε C. Constantinides, Higher Education in Byzantium in the Thirteenth and Early Fourteenth Centuries. Nicosia 1982

THRIFT SHOP

By Kalliope LaGamma

Greetings to all our friends and supporters. We sincerely hope that the Christmas Season was one filled with Peace, Love and Happiness for all of you.

Although we had a few setbacks, most notably the extensive flooding in the basement in September, we were still able to contribute a sizeable amount towards the Building Fund. The Thrift Shop ended the year with a profit of \$2,285.00.

As always, I'd like to thank all the donors who contribute items to the Thrift Shop. I'd also like to acknowledge the efforts of the staff who contribute so much of their time throughout the year, when the Shop is open for business. They are: Stella Zachary. Mary DeVie. Florence Caramihas, Anna Grekusi, Anne Englezos, Demitra Christ, Maria Stamatopoulos, and Kallie La Gamma. In addition, thanks are due to Stella Zachary and Maria Stamatopoulos who have done an outstanding job sorting through and cleaning out all the items in the basement.

The Thrift Shop will be closed January and February, and will re-open in March. Clothing donations will not be accepted at this time.

We wish all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year!



"Oh Yeah! Well I'm twice as holy as you!"

GOLDEN AGE GROUP

WE BELIEVE A GOOD TIME WAS HELD BY ALL AT OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY. SINCE WE DID NOT THANK ALL OUR MANY HELPERS AND DONORS AT THE PARTY, WE ARE LISTING THEM BELOW.

NICK MELAHRIS WHO DID OUR COOKING
 HERITAGE DINER FOR THEIR DONATION OF MOUSAKA
 JAMES ANDREWS FOR THE SHRIMP AND SCALLOPS
 MARIA STAMATOPOULOS FOR HER DONATION IN MEMORY OF ELIA AND FRANK STAMATOPOULOS
 ANGELA HAGIBEYS AND CHRIS MANZINOS FOR DECORATIONS AND PAPER GOODS IN MEMORY OF ALEX MANZINOS
 MICHAEL KITTO FOR HIS GIFT TO OUR PRESIDENT
 BARBARA TSANTES
 KAY KATSAROS
 ANN GREKUSIS FOR HER DONATION IN MEMORY OF DECEASED FRIENDS AND ENGLEZOS FOR SALAD PREPARATION
 MARY DEVIE WHO DOES ALL OUR SHOPPING, AND MANY DONATIONS
 OLGA ANTONIOU FOR KITCHEN HELP AND DONATIONS
 GREEK VILLAGE FOR PREPARING THE PASTICHIO AND PEPPER STEAK

THE RAFFLE PRIZES AND DESSERTS WERE DONATED BY:

ROULA GEORGIU
 MARY HAGIBEYS
 ETHEL CONTAGINE
 VENICE PASTIS
 FLORENCE CARAMIHAS
 STELLA ZACHARY
 MARIA STAMATOPOULOS
 ARTEMIS SIRINGAS
 IRENE KASSIANOS
 DAISY MORAITIS
 MRS. COSTAS MORAITIS
 MARY SOTIRAKIS
 ELENI STYLIANOUDAKIS
 CHRYS KAPASAKIS
 OLGA LIARIKOS
 IRENE MYRIANTHOPOULOU
 DESPINA KATSAROS
 KATHLEEN KATOLIS



IF WE OMITTED ANYONE, PLEASE LET US KNOW. OUR APOLOGIES
 MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF US WITH GOOD HEALTH IN 2006. WE ARE PLANNING A TRIP TO THE MONASTERY OF ST. NECTARIOS IN THE SPRING.

SCHEDULE FOR SENIORS LUNCHEON THROUGH THE YEAR:

JANUARY 12th AND 26th
 FEBRUARY 9th AND 23rd
 MARCH 6th LENT BEGINS
 MARCH 9th AND 23rd
 APRIL 6th
 APRIL 16th HOLY WEEK
 APRIL 23rd EASTER
 APRIL 27th ST. ANDREW
 MAY 11th
 MAY 25th ST. JOHN
 JUNE 8th AND 22nd

****TENTATIVE SCHEDULE THERE MAY BE CHANGES

Patriarch Celebrates 100th Epiphany in Tarpon Springs

January 6, 2006

Tarpon Springs, Fla. -- Two years and thousands of hours of work by parishioners of St. Nicholas Cathedral came to fruition January 6 with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Epiphany celebration in the community coinciding with the first visit of an Ecumenical Patriarch.

On his third day in Tarpon Springs, Patriarch Bartholomew officiated at events associated with the feast day, including the archierarchical Divine Liturgy, the Water Blessing Service that immediately followed, and the traditional diving for the cross in nearby Spring Bayou.

From there, the Patriarch, Archbishop Demetrios and other hierarchs and priests proceeded to the heart of what is known as "Greek Town" the area around Dodecanese Avenue that includes the sponge docks, where he viewed several groups of accomplished Greek dancers. The day's events ended in the evening with the Centennial Epiphany Reception held in Tampa. "I'm touched by the visit of His All Holiness," said William Planes, chairman of the Centennial Committee that planned the events surrounding Patriarch Bartholomew's five-day visit. "He's a wonderful person." Mr. Planes noted that, as a result of the Patriarch's visit, a family member who



had not received Holy Communion in 50 years, did so at the Epiphany liturgy. "He brought my family together," he said.

At the Divine Liturgy, which began at 9 a.m. and was broadcast live, Patriarch Bartholomew was assisted by Archbishop Demetrios, who joined him at events throughout the day, and four other bishops, five priests and four deacons. About 100 priests were present in the altar for the service.

Following the Liturgy and the Blessing of the Waters, which included participation by all Metropolitans present, the clergy and divers lined up on Pinellas Avenue in front of the church for the 20-minute procession to Spring Bayou on a morning when the temperature had dropped to the mid-'50s, with a steady north wind. The hierarchs, priests and divers were joined by choir members and other church officials.



Upon arriving, the Patriarch blessed the 56 teen-age boys who kneeled on the steps leading down to the water, then the boys raced to jump into the water. The Patriarch led a brief service that included hymns and the reading from the Gospel from the Blessing of the Waters. At the proper moment, a girl from the community released a dove, signifying the description of the Holy Spirit in the Bible, who descended "like a dove."

Moments later, the Patriarch tossed in the cross and the waters were quickly churning with the rapid movement of the boys as they headed for the cross. A few seconds later, 16-year-old Zacharias Vasilaros surfaced holding the cross aloft. It was his first try as a cross diver. He was quickly hoisted on the shoulders of several other boys, who bore him all the way back to the cathedral where he received a special blessing from Patriarch Bartholomew.

Clergy and lay people then proceeded to Dodecanese Avenue, a street along the water lined with Greek specialty shops and restaurants. A large tent was set

up on a parking lot where the Patriarch and Metropolitans viewed several groups of Greek dancers, some traveling from as far as Astoria, N.Y., and Cranston, R.I.

In the evening, a motorcade transported the Patriarch, Archbishop, and other hierarchs to a banquet facility. Master of ceremonies was Fox-News anchor Ernie Anastos of New York. In his introduction of the Patriarch, Archbishop Demetrios discussed the significance of the Ecumenical Patriarch and St. Sophia Church, which dates back to the Emperor Justinian and the Byzantine Empire at its height.

Patriarch Bartholomew, discussing the significance of Epiphany, said the feast day was not only a celebration of Christ's baptism, but is "also a revelation of the Holy Trinity and our own baptism." He also noted that because many people in the United States have taken an interest in Orthodoxy, "It is our brotherly duty to witness to them the beauty and content of the faith." Praising Archbishop Demetrios for his ministry, the Patriarch said his mind is "at ease" knowing the Archbishop is leading the Church in America. Several presentations to the Patriarch concluded the banquet, including the presentation of the key to the city by Mayor Beverly Billiris





THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY ΓΙΟΡΤΗ ΤΩΝ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΩΝ

*When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,
The Worship of the Trinity was made manifest!
For the voice of the Father bore witness to You,
And called You His Beloved Son!
And the Spirit, in the form of a dove,
Confirmed the truthfulness of His Word.
O Christ our God, who has revealed Yourself
And has enlightened the world, Glory to You!*

Hymn from the Feast of Theophany

It is truly a great blessing for all of us to celebrate the feast of Theophany (the baptism of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ). Part of our tradition is that we invite the Lord into our house by having the priest come over to bless it with the holy water that is prepared on the feast day of Theophany.

Below is a form you can fill out with the time and day that will be good for your schedule. Please return it to the parish office or call to make any appointment.

Είναι μεγάλη ευλογία για όλους μας να γιορτάσουμε τα Θεοφάνια (το Βάπτισμα του Κυρίου και του Σωτηρου μας Ιησού Χριστού). Είναι μέρος της παράδοσής μας να προσκαλούμε το Κυρίο στο σπίτι μας με την παρουσία του Ιερέα να ευλογήσει με τον Αγιασμό, το σπιτικό μας, που προετοιμάζεται την ημέρα των Θεοφανίων με την Αγιασμό των Υδάτων.

Στην παρακάτω φόρμα μπορείτε να συμπληρώσετε την Ώρα και την Ημέρα που θα θέλατε να σας επισκεφθούμε για το Μυστήριο του Αγιασμού. Παρακαλούμε επιστρέψετε την φόρμα συμπληρωμένη στο γραφείο της Εκκλησίας ή τηλεφωνήστε το γραφείο μας για να κάνετε οποιοδήποτε πρόταση η' διόρθωση.

First Name (Όνομα)

Last Name(Επίθετο): _____

Address

Διεύθυνση: _____

City

Πολιτεία: _____

State

Κράτος: _____

Zipcode

Ταχυδρομικόςκώδικας _____

Telephone Number

Αριθμός τηλεφώνου: _____

Day & Time for Father to come by (please give one and an alternative):

Ημέρα & Ώρα για τον Πάτερ για επισκεψη (παρακαλούμε συμπληρωστε): _____

This newsletter is the official publication of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Port Jefferson, New York.

Rev. Fr. Demetrios N. Kehagias, Presbyter

Our newsletter is mailed to families in Suffolk, Nassau Counties and all over the United States, on a bi-monthly basis. If you would like to place an advertisement, please call the Church office at (631) 473-0894. The rates per 1/8 page are:

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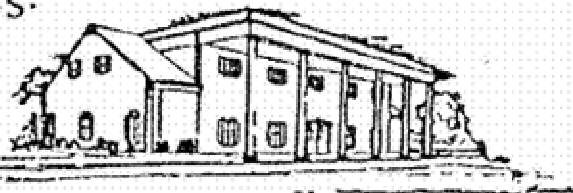
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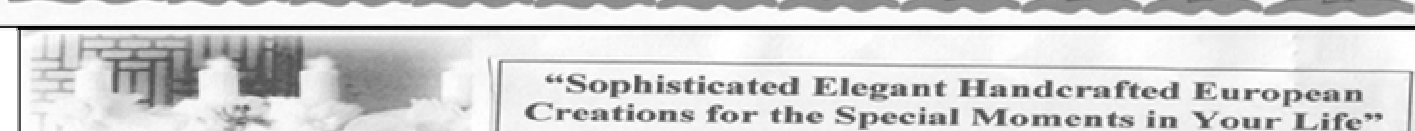
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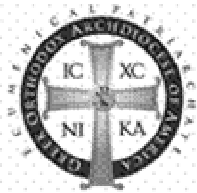
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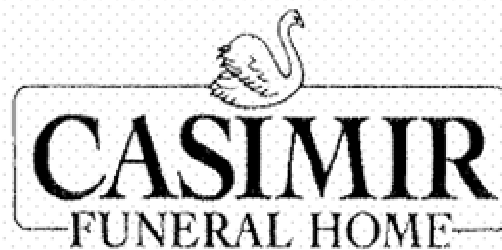
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