GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION - PORT JEFFERSON, NEW YORK

VOLUME 1; ISSUE 4 - WINTER EDITION 202

Let's Celebrate!



NEW YEAR'S PARTY

DECEMBER 31st

DOORS OPEN M98

Friday, December 31st, at our Cultural Center Doors open at 8:00 pm * Dinner served at 9:00pm 430 Sheep Pasture Road, Port Jefferson, NY 11777

PRE-PAY:

ADULTS \$75 SENIORS \$60 TEENS/COLLEGE STUDENTS W/ID \$30 12 & UNDER FREE

AT THE DOOR: ADULTS \$100 SENIORS \$75 TEENS/COLLEGE STUDENTS W/ID \$40 12 & UNDER FREE

PRICE INCLUDES:

HORS D'OEUVRES, BUFFET DINNER, DESSERTS, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, DJ, MAGICIAN, OPEN BAR, VASILOPITA & CHAMPAGNE TOAST

> Please R.S.V.P. by December 26th, with payment to the office for the pre-pay price. For more information or to reserve a table with your payment, call (631) 473-0894 or email goc.assumption@gmail.com.

Water's Edge Rehab & Nursing Center at Port Jefferson is Suffolk County's premier provider for short term rehabilitation and long term nursing care.



With our Rehabilitation programs, we have elevated rehabilitation and healing to a fine art. Our program offers cutting edge techniques and individualized care, ensuring the highest level of recovery and enabling you to get back on your feet as quickly as possible. 24-hour nursing care is provided by our exceptional nursing staff with a full range of respiratory, palliative and postsurgical care.

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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

430 Sheep Pasture Road, Port Jefferson, NY 11777 Telephone: 631.473.0894 | Fax: 631.928.5131 Email: goc.assumption@gmail.com | Web: www.kimisis.org Office hours: Monday - Friday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Fr. Elias (Lou) Nicholas, Proistamenos

Email: frlouisnicholas@gmail.com | Cell#: 631.703.5795

PARISH COUNCIL

President	George Kokolakis
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2nd Vice President	
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Assistant Treasurer	
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Sunday School Director	Dimitra Dimeck/Jean Xikis
Little Angels	Lisa DelBorrello, Maria Rodolico
AHEPA	Nicholas Calogredes
AGAPE Meals for Kids	Irene Michalos

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GOADO GREEK OLYMPICS

<u>Dates</u>: MAY 27th, 28th, and 29th of 2022 Suffolk County Community College— Brentwood Campus

Registration will be online and the first meeting for church representatives is January 11th, 2022 at 7pm at Sts. Catherine & George in Astoria, NY.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

We welcome your contribution of community news and materials to the Church of the Assumption, Port Jefferson, NY, a Greek Orthodox Church Community. Appropriate materials include: 1) texts pertaining to worship and the liturgical year; 2) announcements and schedules of Church ministries and organizations; 3) Greek cultural events; 4) poems, stories, games, essays of a spiritual, faith-based or life-enriching nature; 5) personal congratulatory news of parishioners.

Please forward your materials to the Church Office at goc.assumption@gmail.com or to Marisa Raptis at mrcollegeadvising@gmail.com. All new submissions need to be submitted by the posted due date. Anything submitted past the due date will be printed in the following month's newsletter, if still relevant. Last minute changes, if at all possible, are at the discretion of the editor.

PASTORAL MESSAGE - Rev. Louis Nicholas, Proestamenos

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee. - Apolytikion of Holy Nativity

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

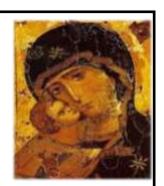
I write to you on the occasion of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel (which means *God with us*)," Isaiah 7:14. The prophet's foretelling of Jesus' birth, which Matthew the Evangelist reminds us about in his Gospel, is a comforting message to us all. Our God, through the Virgin's womb, became one of us so that He could be with us. This is the good news of Christmas, that we are not alone. We are no longer prisoners of this imperfect world, and we are no longer condemned to death. Now, God is with us!

God is here to guide us and help us during our times of struggle and weakness, to lift us up and give us hope. God is here, with us, when we feel lost and alone. He is our comfort and our strength. God is with us when we rejoice and when we despair.

"O voice divine, beloved and most sweet! For you, O Christ, have promised in truth to be with us unto the close of the age, and we faithful rejoice, having this anchor of hope," Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

During this time of year, when we are caught up in

PARAKLESIS Every Tuesday 6pm



the hustle and bustle of our Christmas preparations, it is important for us to stop for a moment and remember that God is with us. Take a time out and say a prayer. Take a little time off and come to the Church, light a candle, or take part in the many services that are offered. Don't worry, the work will be there when you get back. Take a break to be with your God because He is with you. Ask Him for the strength you need to get you through your day. Ask Him for the courage you need to endure whatever it is you are going through. Ask Him for the wisdom you need to guide you through your life. Do not be afraid to stop what you are doing and talk to Him. God is with us!

My prayer for you this Christmas is that you see the necessity and the value of finding time during your day to be with God. Seek Him out every day, and multiple times throughout your day. Remember Him all day. I promise you that you will see that God is with us!





1st Tuesday of every month. 7:00pm

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Parishioners,

Being that the Christmas season is upon us, I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. During this time, many of us will share the gifts and good fortune with which we have been blessed, especially with those who are more challenged or in need- this is the Christian way.

There are many ways to help the poor. One of the most important ways is by supporting your church community, and there ae many ways to show your support. A great way of supporting the church and helping the poor is by being a steward of your church.

All of the ministries of this church are dedicated to helping those who are less fortunate than us. Your dedication to your church through your stewardship helps us continue to do this good work.

Once a year, during the Christmas season, we are asked to give to many different charities. We get into the spirit of giving and lending a helping hand, but with your stewardship pledge, this Christian spirit can last all year.

Keep the spirit of Christmas alive throughout the year by giving your time and talents to your church and our community through your Stewardship Pledge for 2022.

I look forward to seeing you all at the New Year's Eve Dance. Merry Christmas to all!

George Kokolakis

Αγαπητοί Ενορίτες,

Καθώς έρχονται οι ημέρες των Χριστουγέννων, σας εύχομαι Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Ευτυχισμένο το Νέο Έτος. Πολλοί από εμάς θα μοιραστούμε τα δώρα και την καλή τύχη με την οποία έχουμε ευλογηθεί, ειδικά με αυτούς που αντιμετωπίζουν μεγαλύτερη πρόκληση ή έχουν ανάγκη.

Υπάρχουν πολλοί τρόποι για να βοηθήσουμε τους φτωχούς. Ένας από τους πιο σημαντικούς τρόπους είναι να υποστηρίζουμε την εκκλησιαστική μας κοινότητα και υπάρχουν πολλοί τρόποι για να δείξουμε την υποστήριξή μας. Ένας πολύ καλός τρόπος για να στηρίξουμε την εκκλησία και να βοηθήσουμε τους φτωχούς είναι να γίνουμε συνδρομητές της εκκλησίας μας.

Όλες αυτές οι αποστολές της εκκλησίας μας είναι αφοσιωμένες στο να βοηθούν αυτούς που είναι λιγότερο τυχεροί από εμάς. Η αφοσίωσή μας στην εκκλησία μας μέσω της συνδρομής μας μας βοηθά να συνεχίσουμε να κάνουμε αυτό το καλό έργο.

Μια φορά το χρόνο, κατά την περίοδο των Χριστουγέννων, καλούμαστε να δώσουμε σε πολλά διαφορετικά φιλανθρωπικά ιδρύματα. Μπαίνουμε στο πνεύμα να δίνουμε ένα χέρι βοήθειας, αλλά με την οικονομική μας δέσμευσή, αυτό το χριστιανικό πνεύμα μπορεί να διαρκέσει όλο το χρόνο.

Διατηρήστε το πνεύμα των Χριστουγέννων ζωντανό καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια του έτους, δίνοντας τον χρόνο σας στην εκκλησία μας και στην κοινότητά μας μέσω της οικονομικής μας υπόσχεση για το 2022.

Ελπίζω να βρεθούμε όλοι στο Πρωτοχρονιάτικο Ρεβεγιόν. Καλές γιορτές και Ευτυχισμένος ο Καινούργιος Χρόνος!

Γιώργος Κοκολάκης



Service Schedule:

Wednesday, December 15th
Great Vespers for St. Modestos - 6pm
Blessing of the Animals - 7pm
(In the Breezeway)
Thursday, December 16th
Orthros - 9am
Divine Liturgy - 10am

FAITHFUL STEWARDS - DECEMBER 1ST, 2021

Ms. Maria Abazis

Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Margo Abrams

Mr. Milton Ahladiotis & Mrs. Catherine Pikramenos

Mr. & Mrs. George & Sofia Almiroudis

Mr. & Mrs. Anthimos & Carol Amiridis

Mr. & Mrs. Cristian & Monica Apostol

Mr. & Mrs. Ricardo & Maria Aranguren

Ms. Chrysanthie Argeropoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Nikolaos & Maria Aroniadis

Mr. & Mrs. Stefanos & Jessica Athanasiou

Mrs. Eleni Augoustiniatos

Mr. & Mrs. Evangelos & Olympia Augoustiniatos

Mr. & Mrs. John & Paraskevi Avgoustidis

Mrs. Despina Bacalakis

Mrs. Eleni Bacola

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Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas & Claire Batuyios

Ms. Katherine Biagas

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Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Sophia Brandon

Mr. & Mrs. Saranto & Phillipa Calamas

Fr. Demetrios Calogredes

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Mr. & Mrs. Steven & Estelle Caruso

Ms. Anna Chatzithomas

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Mrs. Andriani Constantouris

Mrs. Helen Constas

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Niki Coulianidis

Mrs. Vienna D'Andretta

Mr. Nicholas Dallis

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Mr. & Mrs. Cristofer & Helayne Damianos

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Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Stephanie DiForca

Mr. & Mrs. Spiro & Dimitra Dimeck

Dr. & Mrs. Nicholas & Linda Divaris

Mr. & Mrs. George & Barbara Doukas

Mr. & Mrs. Argyrios & Evangelia Doumas

Mr. & Mrs. John & Sophia Efstathiou

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew & Sotiria Everett

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher & Panayiota Fellas

Mr. & Mrs. John & Leah Flanagan

Mr. & Mrs. Dean & Asimina Fournaris

Mr. & Mrs. Howard & Peggy Frampton

Mr. & Mrs. Stefanos & Angeliki Frangos

Mr. & Mrs. Antonios & Maria Franks

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis & Mary Galanakis

Mrs. Angeliki Galanos

Miss Kalliopi Gasparis

Mr. & Mrs. Miltiadis & Maria Gasparis

Mr. & Mrs. Dean & Valerie Geiler

Mr. Costas Gemelas

Mr. Haralabos Gemelas

Ms. Kalliope Gemelas

Mr. & Mrs. Georgios & Aleksandra Georgakis

Mr. & Mrs. John & Maria Geralis

Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios & Gramatiki Govits

Mrs. Anna Grekusis

Ms. Stamatia Haber

Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel & Olga Hatzispirou

Mr. & Mrs. Simon & Anthoula Hionas

Mr. & Mrs. Yiannis & Mariana Hoimes

Mr. & Mrs. Eric & Kalliopi Hosken

Mr. & Mrs. Ryan & Jaclyn Hughes

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Miss Spyridoula Kontis

Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Irini Kontonicolas

Mr. George Kontovrakis

Mr. & Mrs. James & Nicole Kopczynski

Col. & Mrs. Peter & Irma Kostakis

Dr. & Mrs. George & Karyn Koullias

Mr. & Mrs. Lambros & Phyllis Koutsouras Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios & Jenny Koutsouras

Mrs. Venetia Kritikou

Mr. & Mrs. Nickolas & Georgia Ladeas

Miss Christina LaGamma

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Mr. Emmanuel Lakios

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Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel & Cynthia Lilimpakis

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Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Lisa Mastrogiacomo

Mr. & Mrs. Theodore & Athena Mattas

Mr. & Mrs. Kirk & Michelle Mehalakes Mrs. Anastasia Melahris

"A rich man is not one who has much, but one who gives much. For what he gives away remains his forever." -St. John Chrysostom

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Mr. Geracimo Moraitis

Mr. & Mrs. Clarence & Katie Morris

Mrs. Maria Moschouris Mr. Michael Moschouris

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Dr. Demetrius Moutsiakis

Mr.& Mrs. Richard & Sylvia Mouzakes Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Christie Mulligan Fr. & Pres. Louis & Tammy Nicholas Mr. & Mrs. Eric & Carla Olzinski

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Mr. George Portelos Mrs. Georgia Poulianos

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Ms. Maria Schmidt

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Erin Schmitt

Mrs. Helen Serlis Mrs. Mary Shanley

Mr. & Mrs. Evangelos & Nicole Siabanis

Mr. & Mrs. Philip & Stacey Siokas

Pres. Catherine Sirigos Mrs. Irene Skevofilax

Dr. & Dr. William & Andrea Smithy

Mr. & Mrs. William & Kathianne Snaden

Mrs. Alice Soulopoulos Miss Georgia Soulopoulos

Mr. Gus Sotirakis

Dr. & Mrs. Konstantinos & Andrea Spaniolas

Mr. & Mrs. Leonidas & Karen Spanos

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Ms. Domna Zachary Mrs. Stella Zachary

Dr. & Mrs. Andrew & Rosalee Zeniou Mr. & Mrs. Charalampos & Polikseni Zervos Mr. & Mrs. Christos & Haido Ziongas Mr. & Mrs. Stavros & Theresa Zisis

Mr. & Mrs. William & Stamatia Zoumas

Stewardship as of December 31, 2020

189 Stewards \$33.18/Month - Average Total Pledged - \$75,261

Stewardship as of December 1, 2021

237 Stewards \$36.40 Month - Average Pledged - \$103,525

2021 Stewardship Goal

250 Stewards \$50/Month - Average Total Pledged - \$150,000

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros Reverend Father Elias Nicholas

&

The Parish Council cordially invite you to the

Consecration Dinner Banquet

May 7th, 2022 Cocktails at seven o'clock

Dinner at eight o'clock catered by *Elegant Eating*Banquet Honoree, Reverend Demetrios Calogredes



Invitations mailed out shortly.

Venue: Assumption Cultural Center
430 Sheep Pasture Road, Port Jefferson NY 11777
631-473-0894

~ Cocktail Attire ~ Reservations Required ~

Greek Orthodox Church of the Assumption 430 Sheep Pasture Road, Port Jefferson, NY 11777

Phone: (631) 473-0894 / Fax: (631) 926-5131

THE CONSECRATION OF OUR BELOVED CHURCH

MAY 6-8th, 2022



Celebrating the Consecration of our Byzantine Church Banquet Honoree Father Demetrios Calogredes

COMMEMORATIVE JOURNAL ADS FOR 8.5 x 11 JOURNAL

Back Cover \$2000 (Reserved)	Inside Front Cover \$ 1000 (Reserved)
Inside Back Cover \$1000 (Reserved)) Gold Frame Page \$300
Silver Frame Page \$200	Full Page White \$100
½ Page White \$75	1/4 Page White \$50
Business Card \$25	Parish Friends \$10 (family name mentioned
ADVERTISING COPY (PLEASE T	TYPE, PRINT CLEARLY OR ATTACH)
* Thank you for si	UPPORTING OUR CHURCH *
Enclosed is my payment in the amount of \$ All checks are to be made out to: GOCOA (Memo: Journal) Donations are tax deductible. All ads must be submitted by April 1st, 2022.	
Name:	Phone:
Address:	
Email:	
Name of Authorized Person:	
Journal Contact: Marisa Raptis * Any questions email @ marisasmit	th111@yahoo.com.



Children Ages 6 Months to 4 Years Old

Tuition: \$10 - Still Enrolling!!!!

Advisors/Teachers:

Lisa Theofilia DelBorrello, Maria Rodolico, Anastasia Rondo, and Nicole Iasilli

MEETS DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTER CLASSROOM

10:00 am to 11:00 am

Children may receive Communion with Sunday School.



Learn all the traditional dances!

In the past, our children danced at various church events, Parathosi and at our annual Greek festival wearing traditional Greek costumes!

Call the office & sign up:

631-473-0894!

Dance Teacher:

Katerina Lioudakis Advisor Needed!





REGISTRATION ONGOING

For Children Ages 5-12 - Participation Fee: \$10

Advisors: Spyridoula Kontis, Jessica Athanasiou, Danielle Hatzipetros

When: Twice a month. Wednesdays from 6pm-7pm.

Where: Community Center

Some events may include:

- •Rec. Night kickball, basketball, soccer, etc.
- •Crafts tie dyeing, holiday crafts, baking, etc.
- •Holiday Parties Halloween, Friendsgiving, Valentine's Day, Christmas, etc.
- •Tradition & Faith making prosforo, tree decorating, Greek dancing, etc.



CHOIR CORNER

Thank you to everyone who stops by to voice their support for our Choir!

Some very exciting news of three (3) new members. Pons and Raina Materum who have choir experience and Stamatina Livardatos, a new member to the community who is new to singing and will be bravely joining us. Kali Thinami.

At our Direct Archdiocesan District Choir Conference, after

Liturgy, presentations were made by our outgoing President Anna Dounelis. Years of service awards went to our own Joanna Rigas for 60 years. AXIA! So many people approached her after liturgy to congratulate her- it was a very special experience for all and



we are hoping to introduce a new liturgical music in the new year.

We will be rehearsing seasonal music after Church. Please feel free to sing with us.

We are hoping to increase our numbers by Lenten season and look forward to the upcoming Consecration event at our Church. The District Choir will be an invaluable resource to assist our small group.

We thank God for his gifts. We offer our voices in prayer. We wish all of you blessed holidays— Peggy Stilianos

CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Let the caroling begin!

Dickens Weekend!!!! We were at the Village Center Ice Rink on December 4th and 5th. This was a great opportunity to highlight our Church presence in Port Jefferson Village.

This year we sold pre-wrapped holiday offerings to comply with Covid protocols. There were cookie selections of Kolourakia, Kourambiedes and Finikia.

We also had sweet treats of Baklava, Galaktoboureko and Ravani, as well as individually wrapped Spanakopites and Tiropites. We all had a great time.



GOYA

All Saints Greek Orthodox Monastery began in 1997 when Sister Ypomoni donated her life savings to purchase the property located on 1676 Middle Rd in Calverton. In May of 2010, His Eminence Metropolitan Savas, officially opened the monastery on the feast day of All Saints.

Each year our GOYANS visit the nuns at the monastery to lend a helping hand.







GREEK SCHOOL MESSAGE

The Greek Language School is excited to add a Level 1 Advanced Beginner Class for older children (age 8+) who are just starting their Greek language education.

This is ideal for children that have never taken a Greek class or took an extended break. The class will allow the teacher to teach the children at their level and advance them as their language skills improve.

We are also offering Greek conversation classes for adults who want to improve their communication skills.

Please call the office for registration and more information at 631-473-0894.



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DAD FEDERATION OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS

Nothing elevates the soul, nothing gives it wings as a liturgical hymn does. – St. John Chrysostom.

Our parish is a Charter Member of the Direct Arch-diocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. We are the baby federation of all the districts in the United States, as they were established long before us. Our district encompasses 42 churches within the lower region of New York, the eastern part of Connecticut, the District of Columbia and the Bahamas. Rather than trailing the longer established districts, the DAD has become the district that leads the rest.

We have been under the leadership of Anna Dounelis (Cathedral of St. Paul, Hempstead, NY) for the last thirteen (13) years. During that time, we developed a bi-annual cabaret which has become the fundraiser to our Demetrios C. Pappas Educational Scholarship Award. Each year we award up to three (3) scholarships of one thousand (\$1,000) dollars to youth pursuing a music education in college (major or minor). This past year, a virtual cabaret was broadcast featuring our past scholarship winners.

This year, on the weekend of November 5 to 7, representatives of sixteen (16) choirs gathered at the Holy Trinity Church, in Bridgeport, CT for our Annual Choir Conference. We were blessed to have Joanna Bogardus, Choir Director, relinquish her spot to the former director Phoebe Leask, her mom, who came out of retirement in Virginia to direct our group. Upon meeting at 11am, Fr. Georgios Livaditis and Deacon Anastasios Hallas offered an artoclasia and opening prayer. We proceeded to group rehearsals and then moved to our business meeting. We read the President's Message and heard the Treasurer's Report. We also amended our Constitution, to provide for our immediate past President to serve as an Advisor to the Executive Board, where a new slate of officers was presented and unanimously approved. Costas Tsourakis, Director of the Holy Trinity Cathedral Church, New York City, is the incoming President. Michael Janaros Cofield, Director of the Annunciation Church, New York City, is the incoming Vice President. Dawn Helene, who is the Dino Anagnost Artist in residence at the Archdiocesan Cathedral, NYC, is Treasurer; Joanna Bogardus, Director of the Holy Trinity Church, Bridgeport, CT, is the incoming Web Master. Fay Pavlides, Choir Member at St. Paraskevi Shrine Church, Greenlawn, is continuing as Recording Secretary. Peggy Stilianos, Choir Director at Assumption Church, Port Jefferson, is continuing as Public Relations Officer, Stephanie Pavlides, former Organist at St. Paraskevi Shrine Church Greenlawn, continues as Historian/ Librarian.

The new Executive Board takes office January 1, and will be sworn in at our "Vasilopita" Meeting in January, 2022 by our new Spiritual Advisor – Fr. John Vlahos of the Archdiocesan Cathedral. That meeting will take place at St. Michael's Home for the Aged, Yonkers, NY, where the as-

sembled choir will also perform for the residents. Our thanks are offered to Sylvia Bal, President and the Ladies Philoptohos as well as Barbara Karis-Downey, our Area Representative in Connecticut for coordinating every meal we enjoyed in the beautiful Community Center.

On Saturday, rehearsals had classes regarding the newly approved English versions of hymns. Fr. George gave an educational presentation on Orthros.

On Sunday morning, we were joined by nine (9) members of the Youth Choir of St. Michael's Church, Port Washington, with their Director, Georgia Kaufman. A Doxology, written by Ioannis Sakellarides and arranged by Demetrios C. Pappas, was followed by the combined choir singing the liturgy music of Nicholas Roubanis. After Liturgy, presentations were made by our outgoing President Anna Dounelis, assisted by outgoing Treasurer Irini Kapareliotis (both from St. Paul's Cathedral, Hempstead). Our incoming President received the Athenagoras Medallion for Service to the District, which is granted by the National Forum. One of the years of service awards went to our own Joanna Rigas for sixty (60) years. AXIA. So many people approached her after liturgy to congratulate her-it was a very special experience for all.

After Anna spoke, I was able to make a surprise presentation of engraved gifts to both her and Irini. A framed letter from National Forum President, Nicholas Chimitris, was read. He sang Anna's praises and listed the many roles she played on the national level, as well as her successful revival of our district, taking it to the most progressive in the United States. My service with this board, under Anna (my 5th President), lasted 13 years. In one of her first appointments, she assigned me to this Church as Director, and I am forever grateful. I look forward to serving our new President with the same devotion.

If it pleases our God, we will celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, with you and ring in a new year full of promise. We are one, together with many, who sing praises to the Lord.

Thank you for your support.

Peggy Stilianos,

Public Relations Officer D.A.D. F. G.O. Church Musicians



Melomakarona Cookie Recipe

For the Cookies (makes 50-60 cookies):

2 cups olive oil

½ cup brandy
½ cup orange juice
zest of 1 orange
1 cup sugar

1 ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
7 cups all purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup walnut chopped fine

For the Syrup:

1 ½ cups water
1 cup sugar
1 orange peel cut in half
1 cinnamon stick
1 cup honey (Greek is best!)

Make the syrup. In a medium saucepan, combine the water, sugar, orange, and cinnamon stick. Bring to a boil.

Remove from heat and stir in the honey. Set the syrup aside to cool.

Heat oven to 350° F degrees and prepare (2) large sheet pans lined with parchment paper.

In a large mixing bowl, combine: oil, brandy, orange juice, orange zest, 1 cup sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Mix well.

In another bowl, sift the flour, baking powder and baking soda.

Slowly add the dry flour mixture to the wet olive oil mixture while mixing with a large wooden spoon (or hand).

Once all the flour has been added, use your hands to knead the dough until smooth.

Take 1 ½ tablespoons of the dough and shape it between your palms into an oval shape (like a small egg). Lightly flatten and set on the prepared sheet pan. Repeat, making sure to leave about ½ inch between each cookie.

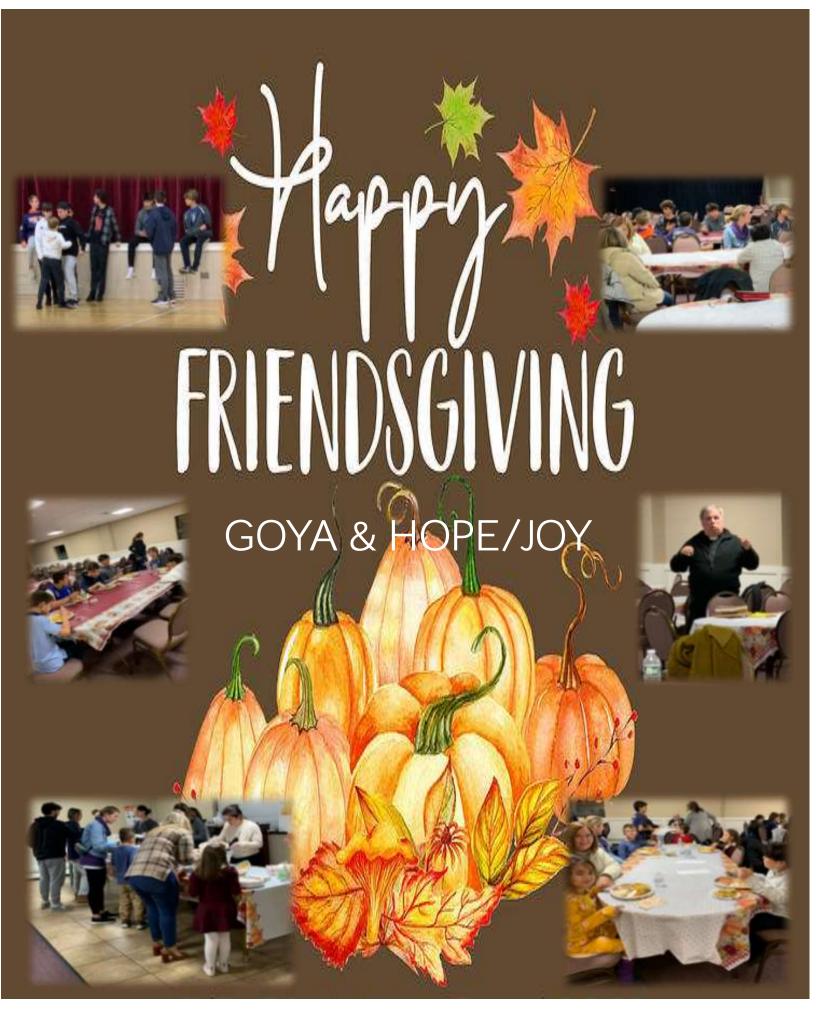
In the center of each cookie, lightly press the tines of a fork in a crosshatch pattern. Don't push hard.

Put sheet pan in oven for 20 to 25 minutes; the cookies should be golden in color- not brown. Take out one sheet pan and have the second ready to go in the oven.

Next, remove the orange and cinnamon stick from the syrup.

When the cookies are out of the oven, put them in the cool syrup, turning them around for about 15-20 seconds. Do this in batches, so the cookies absorb enough syrup.

With a slotted spoon, remove the cookies from the syrup and arrange them on a tray or directly on your serving dish. Sprinkle each cookie with chopped walnuts.





Friday, December 24th

Royal Hours - 10am

+ +

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 7pm

Saturday, December 25th

Orthros - 9am

Divine Liturgy - 10am

Παρασκευή, 24 Δεκεμβρίου

Μεγάλες 'Ωρες - 10πμ

+ + +

Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Βασιλείου 7

Σάββατο, 25 Δεκεμβρίου

Όρθρος - 9πμ

Θεία Λειτουργία - 10πμ

Diving for the Cross & Epiphany Luncheon Cross Diving - 12pm at Cedar Beach Epiphany Luncheon - 1pm at Cultural Center

Dear Parishioners:

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in..." Mathew 25:35

I am writing to let you know about a new ministry that we are beginning here at our church. The name of the ministry is *Agape Meals for Kids*.

The concept is simple. For many students here on Long Island, school lunch on Friday is the last meal that they will receive until Monday morning when they return to school. That would be 68 hours of hunger for a child to experience over the weekend every weekend. *Agape Meals for Kids* will give our parish community an opportunity to come together to address some of that urgent need.

We will be delivering food bags containing 7 meals in non-perishable, kid-friendly, easy-to-open packaging to a participating school district with a particularly high need. These bags will be discreetly distributed by the school staff to those children who have been identified as at risk of weekend hunger and have opted into the min

who have been identified as at risk of weekend hunger and have opted into the ministry program.





Currently we have committed to providing weekend meals to 150 children consistently each week throughout the school year starting on Friday, December 3rd, 2021. We truly believe that this program can be a most rewarding community outreach. We must all become involved by donating food, money to purchase food, sponsoring a child for the school year and by volunteering to pack up the bags and deliver the bags on Friday mornings to the school district we are partnering with.

Let us all come together to show God's love and a glimpse of hope to hungry children and that our church is a place of Faith, Love and Hope.

For information on how to volunteer or contribute, please call Irene Michalos at 631-474-8063 (Home) or 631-245-2569 (Cell).

God Bless You.

Irene Michalos

When purchasing food for *Agape Meals for Kids*, look for easy to prepare (only add water), easy to heat (microwave or toaster), non-perishable, single-serve food items that are healthy choices, nutritional items that have a long shelf-life, and do not require refrigeration.

Please, no glass

See list of suggestions below:

BREAKFAST	LUNCH & DINNER	SNACKS
Single-serve cereals Granola bars Instant oatmeal Cereal bars Low-fat milk cartons (individual, non- refrigerated servings) OR dry- powdered milk (individual pack- ets); individual almond milk car- tons Carnation instant breakfast packets	Single-serve tuna Canned chicken Chef Boyardee meals Hormel Compleats meals Easy Mac-n²-Cheese Single-serve pasta Microwaveable rice meals Canned chili Dinty Moore beef-stew Ramen noodles Canned vegetables (corn, string beans, peas, etc.) Canned vegetables (corn, string beans, beans, peanut Butter/SunButter/Plastic squeezable jelly Instant mashed potatoes	Applesauce Fruit cups in 100% juice Non-refrigerated pudding cups Single-serve goldfish crackers Single-serve snack cookies Microwavable popcorn Belvita biscuits 100% juice boxes Individual pretzels Individual cheese & crackers Raisins



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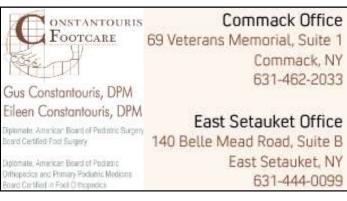


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