Saint Patrick the Enlightener of Ireland, March 17th

Receive and Share the Light of Christ!
The Annunciator is the monthly newsletter of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. Submissions for consideration are due the 15th of each month.

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
is under the jurisdiction of:
His Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholemew
His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America
His Eminence, Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Parish Administration

Clergy
Rev. Hector Firoglanis, Pastor
Rev. Theodosios Palis, Assistant Pastor
Rev. Alexander Veronis, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Alexander Goussetis, Mission Parish Pastor

Parish Council
Dr. Spencer Phillips, President
George Soukas, Vice President
John Stauffer, Treasurer; Steve Marinos, Assistant Treasurer
Kim Keares, Secretary

Keith Bartlett Kalli Karomfily
Panagiotis S, Billis Maria Query
Ed Drogaris Jonathan Speros
Manny Firoglanis Artemis Tsoflias
Helen Hazatones Nicholas Veronis
Nicolas Kambouroglos

Board of Elders
Tina Georges Dan Soukas
Dr. Nikitas Zervanos

Church Staff
Office Administrator..........................Eleni Mamas
Office Assistant..............................Mary Sakellaris
Office Assistant.............................Elena Bartlett
Building Supervisor...........................David Gammache
Sexton...........................................Alex Mountis
Cantors..........................................Daniel Blain
Aaron Blain, Nicholas Billis
Jonathan Troop, Nicholas Belessis
Choir Director.................................John Scanlon
Ecclesiarchs....................................Aaron Blain
Luke Tsoflias

Church Office Email Addresses
Office Email ..........................office@agochurch.com
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Mary Sakellaris.................Marys@agochurch.com
Elena Bartlett....................Ebartlett@agochurch.com

Sunday Worship Hours
8:15 AM - Orthros
9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy

Contacts
Sunday School.............................Sally Stratigos
Dan Soukas, Jonathan Troop
Organist..............................Zaferula Yelagotes
Philoptochos.......................Effie Hogan
Joanne Martin
GOYA..........................................Alexandra Schramm
AHEPA..................................Dan Panagopoulos
Evzonakia Dance.......................Yanna Nachtigal
Dana Panagopoulos
Greek School PTO....................Panagiotis S. Billis
AHEPA..................................George Georges
Daughters of Penelope..............Kathy Granbois
Pan-Coan Society..................Maria Barron
Chiotiko Society.................Panagiotis S. Billis
Bazaar Committee..................Alexandra Schramm
Kosta Kontonis
Bookstore..............................Susana Troop
Service & Outreach Committee.....Joanne Martin
Susana Troop
Annunciation Preschool...............Tena Blain
Youth Safety Administrator..........Mary Sakellaris
The Little Miracles We Pray For and the Big Miracle of Repentance

Dear Beloved in Christ,

A few months ago I preached on the little miracle and big miracle, based on the story of little Olga who was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. When the doctor broke the news to Olga’s parents that their little girl had only days to live, the courageous mother responded to the doctor: **“One of two miracles will happen, Doctor. Either our little daughter will get better, in spite of your prognosis, or she will become a little angel at the throne of God…. The first is the smaller miracle; the second is the greater miracle.”**

Olga’s parents had one regret which they expressed to their doctor: that they waited until the very last moment to turn totally to God. They said, **“Our mistake was that we should have turned to God sooner. You see, we put our faith first in the doctors and then in God.”**

This is something we can all relate to. It is easy to put our trust in the things of this world first — whether it is science, medicine, technology, Presidents, or Supreme Court nominees — and not in Christ who is **“the true Light which gives light to every person coming into the world”** (John 1:9).

Like Olga’s parents, when we are in the midst of darkness — or a pandemic — we must pray for the little miracle and the big miracle. In our current situation, the little miracle we pray for is that the medical treatments and vaccinations will prove effectual in helping to end this pandemic as soon as possible. But this little miracle is not enough.

We must also pray for the big miracle of repentance. For if we only have the little miracle, the pandemic will end, but we will still be suffering in a country full of division, distrust, harshness, and unforgiveness. Who wants to live in world like that? Who wants this for the future of our children?

As we press on towards the little miracle of life after the pandemic, this Lent is our opportunity to more seriously press on towards the big miracle of repentance. Only this way we can all live in a post-pandemic world filled with kindness, forgiveness, compassion, and courage, guided always by the Light of Christ.

The big miracle is within our reach! Let us begin our Lenten journey of repentance with Forgiveness Sunday on March 14th. The big miracle starts with examining our hearts, forgiving all people for whom we are carrying grudges and negative feelings, going to Confession, attending extra services [Sunday Liturgy, Monday evening Great Compline, Wednesday evening Presanctified Liturgy, Friday morning Presanctified Liturgy, Saturday evening Vespers], and slowly allowing the healing and sanctifying grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to fill our repentant hearts and accomplish the big miracle of spiritual transformation.

In the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, which we will read during the first week of Lent with the Great Compline service, we pray: **“My soul, o my soul, rise up! Why art thou sleeping? The end draws near, and soon thou shalt be troubled … ”** Unexpectedly, last year many of us lost Lent and Pascha. Nobody knows where we’ll be next year. The end draws near. Let us take Lent seriously this year, let us dig deeper into our hearts, and let us discover the big miracle of repentance. We call repentance the big miracle, for it is the only thing which allows God to save our souls and the entire world. A blessed Lent to all!

With love in Christ

*+Fr. Hector*
The Greek School Program......

was established in 1924 with John Pavlides as the headmaster. Over the years many parishioners and lay leaders taught our children the Greek language and culture. Since then, our parishioners have gathered to celebrate the dual Feast of Greek Independence and the Annunciation with poems, plays, songs and dance. This March we will celebrate the 99th Annunciation Feast Day in a church. While the parish council was formed in 1921, the first Divine Liturgy was held on March 25, 1922. 2021 also is the 200 Anniversary of Greek Independence. ΖΗΤΟ Η ΕΛΛΑΣ! Chronia Polla to our community!

ΖΗΤΟ Η ΕΛΛΑΣ! ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ!

Tina Karpouzis Georges, Centennial Chairperson
**Sacraments**

**Funerals**
- Feb 5  Gus S. Kouros (77)
- Feb 9  Anna Panagiotakos (98)
- Feb 9  Nicholas C. Carthage (99)

**Altar Candles, Flowers & Candelabras**

**Altar Candles**
- Feb 7  In loving memory of Juliana Cavet by her family.
- Feb 14 In loving memory of John Hatzinikolas, Paraskevas & Vasilia Hatzinikolas, and Eleni & Anastasios Lyristis from Christine Hatzinikolas, children & grandchildren.
- Feb 21 In loving memory of Merope Haleplidu by John & Katina Keares and family.
- Feb 28 In loving memory of Panagiotis Iliadis and Areti Hazengeles, by Mersini Iliadis, Paschalis Hazengeles and families.

**Altar Flowers**
- Feb 7  In loving memory of our mother, Eleni Lyristis by her children, grandchildren & great grandchildren.
- Feb 14 In loving memory of John Hatzinikolas, Paraskevas & Vasilia Hatzinikolas, and Eleni & Anastasios Lyristis from Christine Hatzinikolas, children & grandchildren.
- Feb 21 In loving memory of Merope Haleplidu by John & Katina Keares and family.
- Feb 28 In loving memory of Panagiotis Iliadis and Areti Hazengeles, by Mersini Iliadis, Paschalis Hazengeles and families.

**Candelabra Candles**
- Feb 7  In loving memory of Juliana Cavet by her family.
- Feb 14 In loving memory of my parents, Andigoni & Peter Steffa, by Paulette Steffa.
- Feb 21 In loving memory of Vasili & Polina Hasircoglou and Petro & Evangelia Keares, by John & Katina Keares and family.
- Feb 28 In loving memory of Panagiotis Iliadis and Areti Hazengeles, by Mersini Iliadis, Paschalis Hazengeles and families.

**Saturday of Souls**

During the Triodion observance, which is the period of the Church Year leading to the Great Lent, three Saturdays are set aside as a special time for the remembrance of all departed Orthodox Christians asleep in the Lord.

Space is provided below for the names of those relatives and friends whom you may wish to remember during the three Saturdays of the Souls. Please print their first names only, and mail or bring the list to the Church Office; or email: Eleni@agochurch.com

**Saturday of Souls: March 6, 13 & 20**

_IN MEMORY OF:_

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The Mystery of the Sabbath—Keeping it Holy

FR. STEPHEN FREEMAN

Tues, 23 March 7:00–8:30 pm • via Zoom
Advanced registration: tinyurl.com/KeepingItHoly

From the Series:
"Cultivating the Fundamentals of Christian Life"

Presented by
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh
Religious Education Commission

FOOD BOX DONATIONS FOR MARCH

March 4, 2021
Donated by Anonymously for The Glory of God.

March 18, 2021
Donated by Olga & Ben Pratt, “For the Glory of God and in loving memory of our departed parents, Emmanouel & Areti Tsidonis, and John Pratt.”
Call or email the church office to reserve.
717-394-1735 or Eleni@agochurch.com

DONORS NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Flowers for Cross Sunday..............4 donors/$75 each
Lazarus Saturday Altar Candles.............$40
Lazarus Saturday Candelabra Candles.............$45
Flowers for Annunciation Icon.........3 donors/$200 each
Incense for Holy Week & for the Year ..................................................2 donors/$125 each
Charcoal for the Year..................2 donors/$200 each
Holy Unction Supplies..........................$150
Eggs for Easter ..................................$125
Dye for Easter Eggs............................$100
Palm Plant Rentals (4)......................2 donors/$50 each
Palm Crosses.......................................2 donors/$125 each
Evangelismos Wreath..........................$125
1st Salutation Wreath.........................$90
2nd Salutation Wreath.........................$90
3rd Salutation Wreath.........................$90
4th Salutation Wreath.........................$90
Akathlst Hymn Wreath..........................$90
Resurrection Paschal Wreath..............$150
Resurrection Procession Icon Wreath ......2 donors /$100 each
Holy Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., & Sat.,
Altar Candles......................................$40
Candelabra Candles.............................$45
Bridegroom Icon Flowers..........................$85
Palm Sunday
Window Arrangements..............4 donors/$100 each
Holy Thursday Basil Plants..................$100
Holy Thursday Crucifixion Wreath.............$150
Holy Thursday Iconostas Candles.............$150
Holy Friday Processional Candles...4 donors/$100 each
Cups for Processional Candles...4 donors/$100 each
Cups for Resurrection Service Candles..................4 donors/$150 each
Paschal Candle.......................................$175
Paschal Candles for Priests..............2 donors/$175 each
Paschal Window Arrangements........4 donors/$100 each
Easter Resurrection Altar Flowers.............$150
Easter Resurrection Candelabra Flower Decorations...
..................................................3 donors/$200 each
Easter Sunday Agapi Service Altar Candles...$40
Easter Sunday Agapi Service Candelabra Candles...$40
Bright Friday Altar Candles..........................$40
Bright Friday Candelabra Candles..................$45

Church Services of Great Lent

The following Church Services will be provided at our parish during the period of Lent to assist us in our effort of repentance and growth towards a life of holiness and communion with God.

1. Great Compline
This Service will be offered on the Monday evenings of Lent at 7pm, except during the first week of Lent when the Compline service will be prayed on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evening together with the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete.
The Great Compline service is about an hour long and consists of various Psalms, prayers, and hymns which help us to reflect on our sins and to repent. The well-known hymn “Lord of the Powers” is chanted towards the end of the service.

2. Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
This penitential Canon written by St. Andrew of Crete is combined with the Great Compline service during the first week of Lent. The canon, combined with the Great Compline service, takes about two hours, which is why the service will begin at 6:30pm during the first week of Lent then 7:00pm following every Monday. Attending this prayer service, combined with fasting, helps us to get into the proper mindset for a more spiritually productive Lent.

3. Presanctified Liturgy
The Presanctified Liturgy will be offered during Wednesday evenings (6:00pm) of Lent. In addition, Presanctified Liturgy will be offered Friday mornings (9:00am).

4. Salutations to the Theotokos
This service of supplication to the Theotokos is combined with the Small Compline during the Friday evenings of Lent (6:30pm), culminating in the Akathist service on the 5th Friday of Lent.
The Annunciation Feast Day is one of the great feast days of our Church calendar. It is a celebration of our spiritual freedom from the power of sin, death, and the devil. March 25th is also a celebration of the Independence of Greece after 400 years of Ottoman occupation.

We can only imagine the joy in heaven on that day when the Virgin Mary consented to the will of God, to allow His Son to be born into the world: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” We can begin to understand that joy when taking into account all the years of suffering, death, and darkness after the Fall of Mankind. The joy is indicated in the hymn of the feast day which says, “TODAY is the beginning of our salvation.”

On a political level for the people of Greece in 1821, we can begin to appreciate the magnitude of joy and celebration on March 25th only when the suffering of four centuries is called to mind. In the year 1453, the Ottoman Turks overran all of Greece and most of the Balkans. Hopelessly outnumbered, the people of Greece endured 400 years of oppression, but the spirit of the people persisted and refused to lose hope for a better future. The fires of rebellion erupted into a volcanic explosion of freedom on March 25th, 1821. The leader of the uprising was not a powerful general, but a humble Archbishop of Patras, Greece, named Germanos. The Archbishop held up the cross of Christ on the day of the Annunciation, and proclaimed freedom for all Greek Orthodox Christians. The joy and hope of this declaration of freedom spread from Patras to all of Greece and beyond like a wild fire that could not be stopped. Although it was just the beginning of a long and bloody struggle for independence, the beginning of freedom was reason to celebrate.

As Orthodox Christians, we also celebrate the beginning of our salvation on March 25th with the remembrance of the Annunciation. Of course, we too must wage a difficult and ongoing battle – not against foreign invaders – but against the passions which wage a daily battle against our souls and our heart. It is a difficult battle, but on March 25th with the celebration of the Annunciation, we know that the battle can be won with the entrance of God into human history...with the entrance of Christ into our souls and hearts.

If the Greeks of 1821 did not wage a battle of Independence against the Ottoman Turks in the 19th century, it’s very possible that this Annunciation Church in Lancaster, PA, would never have been established in the 20th century, and would not be standing here today in the 21st century. On this March 25th – 200 years after the Greek War of Independence – the best way to honor our Greek forefathers’ sacrifice is to live the faith that gave them the strength and courage to wage their battle of freedom. Their battle was against the occupying Ottoman forces, which gave birth to national freedom. Our battle today is against the demons and passions that torment our souls, giving birth to a spiritual freedom that radiates the light of Christ in our lives and throughout the entire world.

Gabriel proclaims this gift from God: the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin... TODAY is the celebration of the beginning of our salvation. Amen.
Classroom and Hallway Renovations to Begin in March

Renovations of classrooms 1 through 8, the hallways, and bathrooms on the office side of the church building will begin in March. Renovations will include new flooring, paint, drop ceiling, LED lights, new furniture, smart TV's, upgraded wi-fi, and split unit HVAC systems for the classrooms, and new tile and plumbing fixtures for the bathrooms.

Sponsor a Renovated Classroom!

If you are interested in sponsoring the renovation of a classroom in memory of a loved one, please contact our Parish Council President, Dr. Spencer Phillips (drsphillips@mdvip.com), Fr. Hector Firoglanis (frhector@agochurch.com), or call the church office.

We thank Ed Drogaris who has graciously offered the services of his interior designers at Drogaris Companies to work with the members of our Aesthetics Committee, who are using their gifts and talents to select the flooring, paint colors, lighting fixtures, and furniture to help beautify our church. We thank also our Aesthetics Committee members, who are pictured to the left making selections for the bathroom tiles at Freedom Flooring.

TGIF! THANK GOYA IT’S FRIDAY!

GOYANS AND 6TH GRADERS! JOIN US IN THE GYM EVERY FRIDAY FROM 7-9 PM FOR BASKETBALL, BIBLE STUDY, PING-PONG, FELLOWSHIP, AND REFRESHMENTS.

(Masks Required)
At the beginning of Great Lent, St Andrew of Crete:
“MY SOUL, O MY SOUL, RISE UP! Why art thou sleeping?”
A sermon by Metropolitan Philaret (Voznesenskhy)

“My soul, o my soul, rise up! Why art thou sleeping? The end draws near, and soon thou shalt be troubled”

In a sense, these words are at the core of the Great Penticntional Canon, composed by St. Andrew of Crete, one of the great Saints of God.

He addresses his soul, “My soul, o my soul, rise up, why art thou sleeping?” If that great righteous one could criticize his own soul for having spiritually fallen asleep, what can we say about ourselves?

The Holy Fathers often say that in spiritual life there is a certain paradox (an assertion that at first glance seems self-contradictory, but in fact contains a profound philosophical meaning). According to the Holy Fathers, the “spiritual paradox” rests in the fact that sinners see themselves as righteous, while the righteous see themselves as sinners. Why is this? Why does a sinner see himself as a righteous person? Because he does not know himself, while the righteous man focuses all of his spiritual power on knowing himself.

The best of the pagans also recognized that you have to somehow know how to look into your internal world. Even in pre-Christian antiquity, we heard the phrase – attributed either to Socrates or to some other of the pagan thinkers – “know thyself.” With respect to the Christian understanding of that truth, there is after all reason for us to pray throughout Great Lent “Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own faults … ” Were we to see them as we should, there would be no need for us to pray with such words.

We used to mention the following example from the lives of the Saints: A certain righteous man began to implore God to show him to what depths sin had penetrated man’s being, to what extent it had, as it were, maimed him, filled, and defeated him. When the Lord granted the ascetic’s humble prayer and showed him the extent to which our nature was poisoned and maimed by sin, the terrified Ascetic felt that he was about to go mad, and began to implore the Lord to hide that awful vision from his sight as soon as possible. That is just how poisoned by sin man is.

The deeper one delves into himself, the more accustomed he becomes to comprehending his internal world, the more clearly and painfully he feels the internal harm done by sin.

It was for a reason that in their prayers before Holy Communion, Sts. Basil the Great, John Chrysostom, and other Saints like them called themselves the worst of sinners, unworthy to look upon the heights of Heaven. This was no rhetorical phrase-mongering, no hyperbole. They saw themselves just as what they said.

It was for a reason that St. Seraphim, that great Venerable One of the Russian Land, whom others saw as radiant as the sun, whom they saw rising up into the air while praying, liked to call himself the “poor wretched Seraphim.” For the righteous person truly feels himself to be a sinner.

If in some room there is a dirty rag, but there is no light in the room, the dirt on the rag is not visible. Should light come into the room, the dirt immediately becomes perceptible. The more light, the more clearly visible will be the dirt. Therefore, the closer the Saints approach God, the more clearly they see their sinfulness. When someone truly comes close to God, his conscience is illumined, its voice becomes clear, and sounds like a bell, sounds a reproach for any falling away from God, for any instance of being unfaithful to Him.

As to the sinner, he knows neither himself nor his soul, and even when he goes to Confession, it seems to him that he is not all that bad. When he hears about great sinners, he, like many others like him, thinks, “Well, at least I am not like that! I don’t consider myself to be a righteous person, and I am not a saint, but still, I am not that bad. Certainly there are people worse than me … “ However, no truly righteous person – a person who remembers only his own sins, and not someone else’s, one who always has compunction for them, and sees himself as meek before God -would allow even the slightest self-justification to enter into his soul.

Let us pray that the Lord might also truly grant unto us sinners to see our transgressions, and not those of others. We always notice others’ sins, deficiencies and blunders, but often we don’t notice our own; even if we do notice them, we don’t have any problem justifying them, but always can find a reason [to justify them]. Thus, I repeat, let us sincerely pray that the Lord grant unto us to see our transgressions, for without that spiritual sight, there can be no true repentance.
Disciplines for Great Lent
By Fr. Luke Veronis

Few people would disagree that life is too busy. We all keep up a hectic pace. Technology has brought many blessings, but has also made our lives run 24/7. Cell phones, texting, twittering, facebook, internet surfing, constant music and TV, along with incessant talking and never ending busyness.

Great Lent is a time when we try to take control over our lives. The Church challenges us to limit the control other things have over us. This means making a conscious decision to change our lifestyles to a slower, less active, quieter pace.

Not only will this give us a chance to rest, but more importantly it places us in a position to hear the voice of God. We cannot hear God in the midst of noise. God speaks to us in a quiet, still voice. Thus, we must create an atmosphere in our lives to allow this voice to be heard.

Here are some concrete ideas for changing your lifestyle during Lent:

1. **Devote time every day to pray** - 10 minutes, 15 minutes, half hour or even an hour per day. Get an Orthodox Prayer Book and be disciplined in your morning and evening prayers.

2. **Read the Bible every day during Lent.** We usually read the Old Testament books of Genesis, Proverbs and Isaiah during this period, but if you are not a regular reader of the Bible, begin by reading one of the Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Or read Fr. Luke’s daily email.

3. **Free up your schedule so that you are not in such a rush.** Make time in your daily schedule to think more about what the meaning of life is. Where are you going in life? What are your goals and dreams? If you are at the latter stage of life, how are you preparing to meet Your Creator

4. **Commit to coming to Church every Sunday and prepare to receive Holy Communion.** Attend also one extra weekly service - the Great Compline on Mondays, the Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays, the Salutations on Friday, or Vespers on Saturday.

5. **Go to Holy Confession.** As hard as this may seem, make a decision to make an evaluation of your own life, go to a priest, and confess your sins in this Holy Sacrament.

6. **Make the decision to watch no TV or movies for 40 days.** Eliminate social media during Lent. Or drastically cut back. If this seems impossible, try to turn off the TV and internet for the entire first and fourth week of Lent, as well as during Holy Week.

7. **Don’t listen to the Radio when you drive.** Say the Jesus Prayer and other prayers. Try to create an atmosphere of silence outside, so that you can focus on the silence from within.

8. **Fill your day with meaningful experiences and positive people.** Do a good deed for another person each day.

9. **Try to control your speech,** limiting meaningless conversations, joking, and a lack of seriousness. Fulfill St. Paul’s advice to bless people with every word that comes out of your mouth.

Lent is a time to cultivate new habits in our lives to help us live with greater communion with God and our fellow man.
Youth Ice skating Gathering Pictures
DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE
FASOLADA & PAXIMADIA SALE
(Bean Soup & Rusks)

March 14, 2021

Quart $6.00          Half Gallon $10.00          ½ Dozen $5.00

Due to current realities, ALL SOUP MUST BE PREORDERED AND PREPAID BY 03/06.

PICK UP WILL BE FROM 11:30 – 12:00 NOON Outside of Breezeway doors.

Fill out the form below and send with check to: Jackie Fox, 2009 Northbrook Dr.

Lancaster, 17601. No Exceptions. Supplies Limited.

Proceeds will go to Integration Services for New Americans.

James 1:27  Care for the afflicted.

____# of Quarts _____ # of ½ Gallons _____ Paximadia (One dozen/customer limit)

Name _____________________________ Email _____________________________

Check for ______ enclosed.

“Checks should be made payable to DOP Ionian Chapter196.
Memo line Integration Services for New Americans".

Thank you
PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

May your day be filled with good things and happy moments.
May you receive many blessings because God is a giver.
May you know peace and fulfillment because God is your life.
Pray for the recovery of those persons who have contracted the COVID virus and continue to protect yourselves by masking and distancing.

2021 Philoptochos Stewardship is due:
Make checks payable to "Philoptochos" and mail to the Church.

“Friends of the Poor”
Our dedicated group of women, along with our members, will continue to work to fulfill the mission of Philoptochos, which is:

To promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach, to preserve the sanctity of life and family, and to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and tradition.

SERVICE & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Off The Streets
Annunciation’s first move since the pandemic on 1/23/21 for Off The Streets went very well. We assisted a family of 4 in Lampeter to begin living in their home. Our team delivered furniture & household goods that they needed. A couple of our volunteers also assisted on the following Saturday in Lancaster city. Both families were able to find help to take the furniture etc into their homes.
We thank all our volunteers.
Thanks to those who have donated household items and furniture to support OTS.

Currently Annunciation Moves are every 5 weeks, 4/3, 5/8....
See church website to sign up for heavy lifting. OTS shields & masks will be provided.

Food Distribution
Thanks to our volunteers and to those donating the boxes. Your service makes our community outreach successful!
Thank you for the overwhelming response & willingness to help distribute food boxes on 2/18 despite the snowy forecast. It was rescheduled for 2/25.

Community Aid donations
All items donated in our Community Aid Bin continue to be allocated to assist A Women’s Concern.
Thank you for your donations.

A Women’s Concern's annual Partners Event will be held virtually in April, your support and prayers are much needed. If you would like to donate: A Women’s Concern
1102 Millersville Pike
Lancaster, PA 17603

If you would like information about the event - contact Joanne Martin.
In the Classroom

March Activities: In March we will be focusing on the theme of community helpers and how we can discover and appreciate our God-given gifts and talents! We will also celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Day by wearing crazy socks!

Religious Focus: We will learn about Great Lent with the acrostic of: L is for loving others and God, E is for eating carefully, N is for nice talk and T is for being thankful!

The children will attend the Divine Liturgy for The Annunciation, Thursday, March 25th.

Open House! We are currently scheduling times for parents interested in finding out more about our program for the 2021-2022 school year. Contact us, 717-394-1735, to schedule your time!

There will be a Preschool Open House, March 18 & 19 and April 15 & 16 from 10:30 - 11:45 AM

Lenten Purple Altar Coverings

The Lenten Purple Altar Coverings were donated by:

Vasilios Mylonas, “in loving memory of my beloved son, Nicholas Mylonas.”

Georgia Aboelenin-Simonetatou, “in loving memory of my father, Nicholas; grand-fathers, Theodosios & Panayiotis; and grandmothers, Georgia & Eleni.”

Renie Beidleman & family, “in loving memory of our Father and Pappou, Nicholas Carthage.”

“In loving memory of George & Esther Moshos and for the spiritual and physical health of their children & grandchildren.”

“In loving memory of parents, Despina & John Patounas and Irini & Dimitri Hazatones.”
**ΗΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ**

**ΠΑΡΑΚΛΗΣΕΙΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ**
9:00 πμ......Παρασκευή, 5 & 12 Μαρτίου

**ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗ**
8:30πμ.... Ορθρός
9:30πμ....Θεία Λειτουργία

**ΠΑΝ-ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΙ ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΙ** 20 Μαρτίου

**ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΙ**
7:00 μμ ......Σάββατο 6, 13, 20 & 27 Μαρτίου

**ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΣ ΣΥΝΧΟΡΗΣΕΩΣ**
7:00 μμ......Κυριακή, 14 Μαρτίου

**ΚΑΘΑΡΗ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ - ΜΕΓΑ ΑΠΟΔΕΙΠΝΟ**
Καλώνα του Αγίου Ανδρέα
6:30 μμ......Δευτέρα, 22 & 29 Μαρτίου

**ΜΕΓΑ ΑΠΟΔΕΙΠΝΟ ΚΑΝΩΝΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΑΝΔΡΕΑ**
6:30 μμ......Τρίτη, 16 & Πέμπτη, 18 Μαρτίου

**ΠΡΟΗΓΙΑΣΜΕΝΗ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ**
6:00 μμ......Τετάρτη, 17 & 31 Μαρτίου

**ΧΑΙΡΕΤΙΣΜΟΙ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ**
7:00 μμ......Παρασκευή, 19 & 26 Μαρτίου

**ΕΥΘΕΙΑ ΤΡΟΦΙΜΑ ΔΩΡΕΕΣ**

4 Μαρτίου, 2021
Δωρεάν Ανώνυμα «Προς Δόξα Θεού»

18 Μαρτίου, 2021
Δωρεάν από την Ολγα & Μπέν Πράτ, «Προς Δόξα Θεού και στην μνήμη των γονέων μας, Εμμανουήλ & Αρέως Τσιδόνη και Ιωάννη Πατούνας.»

**ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ**

Τα καλύμματα Μώβ για την Σαρακοστή δωρίστηκαν από:
Βασίλειος Μυλωνάς, «στη μνήμη του αγαπημένου μου γιου, Νικολάου Μυλωνά».

Γεωργία Σημονετάτου «Στη μνήμη του πατέρα μου, Νικόλαου, παππούδες, Θεοδώρης & Παναγιώτης και γιαγιάδες, Γεωργία & Ελένη.»

Κηδείες

5 Φεβ. Κωσταντίνος Κούρος (77)
9 Φεβ. Αννα Παναγιωτάκος (98)
9 Φεβ. Νικόλαος Κάρθετζ (99)

**ΘΥΓΑΤΕΡΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΠΗΝΕΛΟΠΗΣ**
Πούληση Φασολάδα και Παξιμάδια
Κυριακή, 14 Μαρτίου

**ΚΑΘΑΡΗ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ**
- ΜΕΓΑ ΑΠΟΔΕΙΠΝΟ ΚΑΝΩΝ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΑΝΔΡΕΑ
6:30 μμ......Δευτέρα, 15 Μαρτίου

**ΜΕΓΑ ΑΠΟΔΕΙΠΝΟ**
7:00 μμ......Δευτέρα, 22 & 29 Μαρτίου

**ΠΡΟΗΓΙΑΣΜΕΝΗ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ**
6:00 μμ......Τετάρτη, 17 & 31 Μαρτίου

**ΧΑΙΡΕΤΙΣΜΟΙ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ**
7:00 μμ......Παρασκευή, 19 & 26 Μαρτίου

**ΕΥΘΕΙΑ ΤΡΟΦΙΜΑ ΔΩΡΕΕΣ**

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**ΑΠΟΘΗΚΕΥΣΕΤΕ ΤΗΝ ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΑ!**

**ΦΕΣΤΙΒΑΛ ΓΥΡΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΠΑΡΟΙΚΙΑΣ ΜΑΣ:**

Σαββάτο, 15 Μαίου
Οδήγηση μόνο παραλαβής
Λεπτομέρειες θα ακολουθήσουν!
Μεσογαίας Νικόλαος: Τα 4 χαρακτηριστικά του αγώνα μας τη Σαρακοστή

Τα τέσσερα χαρακτηριστικά που θα πρέπει να έχει ο αγώνας μας την περίοδο της Αγίας και Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής αναλύει στην εγκύκλιο του ο Μητροπολίτης Μεσογαίας Νικόλαος.

Ολόκληρη η εγκύκλιος έχει ως εξής:

Η Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή αποτελεί την περίοδο των πνευματικών ευκαιριών και προσδοκιών όλης της Εκκλησίας. Την περιμένουμε όλο τον χρόνο με αυτήν την εσωτερική δίψα, αυτά τα απροσδιόριστα πολλές φορές όνειρα, που όμως είναι τόσο βαθειά, γιατί υπόσχεται ο Θεός μεγάλα και για αυτή την περίοδο, αλλά και για ολόκληρη τη ζωή μας. Ο σκοπός μας είναι να ανεβεί η ψυχή μας στον ουρανό, να γίνουμε ουράνιοι άνθρωποι. Οι μέρες αυτές που ξανοίγονται μπροστά μας παρέχουν αυτή την δυνατότητα μέσα από τον αγώνα της μετανοίας. Ας δούμε λοιπόν μερικά από τα χαρακτηριστικά που θα έπρεπε να έχει αυτός ο αγώνας μας.

Το πρώτο είναι η συγχώρηση. Είναι η έκφραση της αγάπης, η αίσθηση της κοινωνίας, το ότι είμαστε όλοι και μαζί, ομονοούντες και ομοφρονούντες σε αυτήν την πορεία, σε αυτήν την επιδίωξη, σε αυτήν την προσδοκία των ευλογιών του Θεού. Αφήνουμε τον δικό μας χώρο και μπαίνουμε στον χώρο του Θεού όπου χωρούν όλοι και όπου δεν μας ξεχωρίζεται -αν μπορούμε να πούμε-

Το δεύτερο είναι όχι μόνο να μπούμε στον χώρο του Θεού, αλλά να μπούμε στον χρόνο του Θεού, εκεί που ο Θεός πλέον κυριαρχεί, εκεί που δεν παίζουν ρόλο τα κοσμικά γεγονότα, εκεί που και η δική μας προσωπική ιστορία έχει την σημασία της αλλά εκφυλίζεται-

Το τρίτο χαρακτηριστικό είναι η προθυμία στην εργασία των αρετών, αυτών των αρετών που χρειάζεται στην παρούσα κατάσταση η δική μας ψυχή. Ας επικεντρωθεί ο κάθε ένας στην εργασία των δικών του αρετών, αυτών οι οποίες θα τον απελευθερώσουν τον ίδιο, αυτών που αποτελούν τα δικά του παράθυρα από τα οποία θα μπούν οι αχτίδες της θεικής παρουσίας.

Υπάρχει και ένα τέταρτο. Είναι η προσδοκία και η προετοιμασία για τους πειρασμούς. Σε αυτήν την περίοδο των υψηλών στόχων, των μεγάλων πόθων, των σπασμών και μοναδικών ευλογιών δεν θα ήταν καθόλου παράξενο να βρεθούμε μέσα σε πειρασμούς, απροσδόκητους, που δεν μπορούσαμε εκ των προτέρων να τους φανταστούμε. Τι μεγάλη παρακαταθήκη είναι αυτή η βοήθεια του Θεού στην πάλη κατά του διαβόλου και των ποικίλων πειρασμών, όχι μόνο κατά των παθών, που ο κάθε ένας μας έχει να διεξάγει!

Μπαίνουμε λοιπόν στον χώρο του Θεού και συγχωρούμεθα. Μπαίνουμε στον χρόνο του Θεού και πυρετομαχούμε. Εργαζόμαστε τις αρετές με προθυμία και φιλότιμο. Ετοιμαζόμαστε για τους πειρασμούς και προσευχούμεθα και ζούμε τα σημεία της θεικής βοήθειας.

Ας ξεκινήσουμε λοιπόν την Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή με αυτά τα υπέρμετρα εσωτερικά αισθήματα, αυτήν την εσωτερική υπερβολή και στην αγάπη μας και στον πόθο μας και στο φιλότιμο μας και στην προσδοκία της επισκέψεως του Θεού, για να μπορέσουμε όλοι μαζί στο τέλος αυτής της περιόδου να απολαύσουμε υπερβολικά και τα δώρα της Αναστάσεως του Κυρίου τα οποία δεν φυλάσσονται για τους αγγέλους, αλλά προσφέρονται μέσα από την Εκκλησία στον κάθε πιστό και συνεπώς στον κάθε έναν από εμάς.

Εύχομαι σε όλους να δώσει ο Θεός καλή και ευλογημένη και παραγωγική και καρποφόρα και χαρούμενη και με πλούσια συγκομιδή Μεγάλη πραγματικά Τεσσαρακοστή, ώστε να αξιωθούμε μετά από επτά εβδομάδες να γίνουμε μέτοχοι και της Αναστάσεως Του. Αμήν.
# Our Journey to Pascha! 2021

## Sundays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme / Gospel Reading</th>
<th>How to Participate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **February 21st** (Fast - Free Week) | Publican and the Pharisee  
  Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15  
  Gospel: Luke 18:10-14 | Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week. |
| **February 28th** (Normal Fast Week) | The Prodigal Son Returns!  
  Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
| **March 7th** (Meatfare) | The Last Judgement  
  Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2  
  Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46 | Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week. |
| **March 14th** (Cheesefare) | Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!  
  Forgiveness Sunday  
  Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4  
  Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21 | Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed. |
| **March 21st** (1st Sunday of Lent) | Sunday of Orthodoxy  
  Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32:12-2  
  Gospel: John 1:43-51 | Bring an icon to church for a procession. |
| **March 28th** (2nd Sunday of Lent) | St Gregory Palamas  
  Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3  
  Gospel: Mark 2:1-12 | Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week. |
| **April 4th** (3rd Sunday of Lent) | Veneration of the Holy Cross  
  Half Way to Pascha!  
  Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6  
  Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1 | Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow! |
| **April 11th** (4th Sunday of Lent) | St John of the Ladder  
  Epistle: Hebrews 6:13:20  
  Gospel: Mark 9:17:31 | Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross! |
| **April 18th** (5th Sunday of Lent) | St Mary of Egypt  
  Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14  
  Gospel: Mark 10:32-45 | Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week. |
| **April 25th** (Flowery (Palm) Sunday) | Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem  
  Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9  
  Gospel: John 12:1-18 | Place your palm branches and pussy willows behind an icon at home and in your car! |
| **April 30th** (Great and Holy Friday) | Great and Holy Friday  
  Jesus Dies on the Cross  
  Check with your Parish for Royal Hours and Vesper Schedule | Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ’s Death. |
| **May 2nd** (Feast of Feasts) | Holy Pascha! (Christ is Risen!)  
  Epistle: Acts 1:1-8  
  Gospel: John 1:1-17 | Greet everyone with “CHRIST IS RISEN!” & say it before good morning and goodnight! |
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The Jesus Prayer: Theological & Psychological Benefits
How this ancient prayer can aid your walk with Christ!

Presenter-
George Stavros
Orthodox Seminary Graduate & Licensed Psychologist

March 13th 1:00-2:30 pm
Zoom invite - https://goarch.zoom.us/j/98218667856

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