1. Introduction
In the past two decades, the world has witnessed alarming environmental degradation – with climate change, the loss of biodiversity and the pollution of natural resources – and the widening gap between rich and poor, as well as increasing failure to implement environmental policies. [1] During the same decade, one religious leader has discerned the signs of the times and called people’s attention to this ecological and social situation.

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has persistently proclaimed the primacy of spiritual values in determining environmental ethics and action. His endeavors have earned him the title “Green Patriarch” – coined and publicized by the media in 1996, while being formalized in the White House in 1997 by Al Gore, Vice President of the United States. In 2008, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was named one of Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World for “defining environmentalism as a spiritual responsibility.”

2. Initiatives and activities
The environmental initiatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate date back to the mid-1980s with the third session of the Pre-Synodal Pan-
Orthodox Conference held in Chambésy (1986). Representatives at this meeting expressed concern for the abuse of the natural environment, especially in affluent western societies. The emphasis was on leaving a better world for future generations. Several Inter-Orthodox meetings followed on the subject of ‘Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation’ and attended by Orthodox representatives.

One such consultation was held in Patmos, Greece (1988), to mark the 900th anniversary of the historic Monastery of St John the Theologian. The then Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios assigned Metropolitan John (Zizioulas) of Pergamon as Patriarchal representative to this conference entitled ‘Revelation and the Future of Humanity’ and organized jointly by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Ministry of Cultural Affairs in cooperation with the local civil authorities. One of the primary recommendations of this conference was that the Ecumenical Patriarchate should designate one day each year for the protection of the natural environment.

In 1989, the same Patriarch Dimitrios published the first encyclical letter on the environment. This encyclical, proclaimed on the occasion of the first day of the new ecclesiastical calendar, formally established 1 September as a day for all Orthodox Christians within the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to offer prayers for the preservation of the natural creation. A similar encyclical is published annually on the first day of September.

In 1990, the foremost hymnographer on Mount Athos, Monk Gerasimos Mikrayiannanites, was commissioned by the Ecumenical Patriarchate to compose a service of supplication for the environment. Whereas in the past Orthodox faithful prayed to be delivered from natural calamities, they were now called to pray that the planet may be delivered from the abusive and destructive acts of human beings.

A month after his election in 1991, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew convened an ecological gathering in Crete entitled ‘Living in the Creation of the Lord’. That convention was opened by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and International Chairman of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). In the following year, Patriarch Bartholomew called an unprecedented meeting of all Orthodox Patriarchs and Primates at the Phanar, submitting an historical expression of unity and inviting all Orthodox leaders to inform their churches about the critical significance of this issue for our times. The Primates endorsed 1 September as a day of pan-Orthodox prayer for the environment.

3. Seminars and symposia

In the summer of 1992, the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Phanar for an environmental convocation at the Theological School of Halki. In November 1993, the Ecumenical Patriarch returned the visit, meeting with the Duke at Buckingham Palace where they sealed a friendship of common purpose and active cooperation for the preservation of the environment. In June 1994, an ecological seminar was convened at the historic Theological School of Halki, the first of five successive annual summer seminars on diverse aspects of the environment: Religious Education (1994), Ethics (1995), Communications (1996), Justice (1997), and Poverty (1998). These seminars, the first held at such a level in any Orthodox Church context, were designed to promote environmental awareness and action, engaging leading theologians, environmentalists, scientists, civil servants and especially students.

In October 1994, the University of the Aegean conferred an honorary doctoral degree on Patriarch Bartholomew, the first of a series of awards and honorary degrees presented to the Patriarch in recognition of his efforts and initiatives for the environment. In November 2000, the New York-based organization Scenic Hudson presented the Ecumenical Patriarch with the first international Visionary Award for Environmental Achievement. In 2002, Patriarch Bartholomew was the recipient of the Sophie Prize in Norway and the Binding Environmental Prize in Liechtenstein, each presented to an individual or organization that has pioneered environmental awareness and action.

Convinced that any appreciation of the environmental concerns of our times must occur in dialogue with other Christian confessions, other religious faiths, as well as scientific disciplines, in 1994 Patriarch Bartholomew established the Religious and Scientific Committee. Chaired by Metropolitan John of Pergamon, its extraordinary events are coordinated by Ms. Maria Becket. To date, the Religious and Scientific Committee has hosted seven international, interdisciplinary and inter-religious symposia to reflect on the fate of the rivers and seas, and to force the pace of religious debate on the natural environment.

**Symposium I: Revelation and the Environment** convened in September 1995 under the joint auspices of Patriarch Bartholomew and Prince Philip on the occasion of the 1900th anniversary of St John’s Book of Revelation. In his opening address, Patriarch Bartholomew noted: ‘The earth has been hurt (Rev. 7.3) Conscious of the threat of nuclear destruction and environmental pollution, we shall move toward one world or none.’

**Symposium II: The Black Sea in Crisis** was held in September 1997 under the joint auspices of the Ecumenical Patriarch and
HE Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission. This symposium undertook a concrete case study, visiting the countries that surround the Black Sea and engaging in conversation with local religious leaders and environmental activists, as well as regional scientists and politicians.

A direct result of this symposium, the *Halki Ecological Institute* was organized in June 1999 to promote wider regional collaboration and education among 75 clergy and theologians, educators and students, as well as scientists and journalists. This initiative marked a new direction in inter-disciplinary vision and dialogue, implementing the ecological theory of the Religious and Scientific Committee into practice.

**Symposium III: River of Life – Down the Danube to the Black Sea** was launched in October 1999, under the joint auspices of Patriarch Bartholomew and HE Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission. Participants traveled the length of the Danube River, from Germany to the Ukraine in the aftermath of the military and ethnic conflict in the Former Yugoslavia.

**Symposium IV: The Adriatic Sea – a Sea at Risk, a Unity of Purpose** addressed the ethical aspects of the environmental crisis. Held in June 2002, under the joint auspices of the Ecumenical Patriarch and HE Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission, this symposium opened in Durres, Albania, and concluded in Venice, Italy, where Patriarch Bartholomew co-signed a document of environmental ethics with Pope John Paul II via satellite link-up. The ‘Venice Declaration’ is the first joint text of the two leaders on ecological issues.

**Symposium V: The Baltic Sea - A Common Heritage, A Shared Responsibility** was organized in June 2003. The end of the Cold War has permitted the renewal of political, economic, social, cultural and religious ties between this region and countries comprising the European Union, and the wider world. Organized under the patronage of the Ecumenical Patriarch and HE Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission, the symposium also resulted in the North Sea Conference, co-sponsored by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Church of Norway.

**Symposium VI: The Amazon: Source of Life** was held in July 2006 on the Amazon River under the patronage of the Ecumenical Patriarch and HE Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations. This symposium concentrated on the global dimension of problems stemming directly from the Amazon, problems which have, perhaps, dropped out of view for many decision-makers.

**Symposium VII: The Arctic – Mirror of Life** was held in the fall of 2007, directing its attention to the Arctic Sea. Under the joint auspices of Their Excellencies Mr. Jose Barroso (President of the European Commission) and Mr. Kofi Anan (former Secretary-General of the United Nations), the symposium considered the plight of indigenous populations, the fragility of the sea ice, and the encroachment of oil exploration in a region considered to be one of the first victims of human-induced climate change.

**Symposium VIII: The Great Mississippi River: Restoring Balance** will be held on October 18-25, 2009. Of the world’s greatest rivers, the Mississippi is among those which has fallen most completely under human domination. With a total length of 3778 kilometers and the third largest drainage basin on earth, a chain of cities along its length has discharged domestic and industrial waste into the Mississippi for nearly two centuries. Yet the fate of the Mississippi waters is an ethical crisis. The exploitation of the great river produces catastrophic human and natural consequences, as observed in the lessons of the Katrina hurricane. The Mississippi is a challenge not only to human responsibility for the environment but, indeed, to democracy itself.

4. Environment and spirituality

With reference to the environmental initiatives and actions, what is perhaps most characteristic of the Patriarch’s initiatives is the mark of humility. The Ecumenical Patriarch is able to see the larger picture. He recognizes that he is standing before something greater than himself, a world before which he must kneel, a chain that long predates and will long outlast him. Therefore, he speaks of self-emptying (*kenosis*) (Phil. 2.4-11), ministry (*diakonia*) (Luke 10.40; Acts 1.17, 25; 6.4), witness (*martyria*, a term which also has the sense of martyrdom and suffering) (John 1.7, 19), and thanksgiving (or *eucharistia*, a term which also implies liturgy) (Acts 24.3; 2 Cor. 4.15).

The emphasis is always on humble simplicity – the technical term in Orthodox spirituality is asceticism (*askeo* – to work up raw material with skill, to exercise by training or discipline; Acts 24.16) and on liturgy (ministration, ministry, service) as the essential source of Orthodox theology. The notion of liturgy leads us into what is perhaps the most distinctive feature of the Patriarch’s vision, namely the concept of communion (*koinonia* – which also means communication and fellowship; 1 Cor. 10.16; Phil. 6).

Continued on Page 4
Some of the central Scriptural passages or events that comprise the foundation for the Ecumenical Patriarch’s conviction about the sacred commission and obligation to protect the environment include the creation of the world by the loving Creator (Genesis 1.26), Genesis 2.15 (about the need to serve and preserve creation), Genesis 9.8-17 (about the covenant between God and the world), and Ezekiel 34.18-19 (about using and not abusing creation), as well as the Lord’s Beatitudes (Matthew 5.2-12) and Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor (Mark 9.2-3).

For Patriarch Bartholomew, this is a matter of truthfulness to God, humanity and the created order. He condemns environmental abuse as nothing less than sin! At Santa Barbara in November 1997, he declared:

To commit a crime against the natural world is a sin. For human beings to cause species to become extinct and to destroy the biological diversity of God’s creation; for human beings to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the earth of its natural forests, or by destroying its wetlands; for human beings to injure other human beings with disease by contaminating the earth’s waters, its land, its air, and its life, with poisonous substances – all of these are sins.

The environment is not only a political or a technological issue; it is, as Patriarch Bartholomew likes to underline, primarily a religious and spiritual issue. Patriarch Bartholomew invariably relates the environment to a familiar aspect of Orthodox spirituality, namely to the icons that decorate Orthodox churches. Symbols are important in Orthodox thought, worship and life. Creation itself is likened to an icon, just as the human person is created ‘in the image and likeness of God’ (Gen. 1.26 and Col. 1.15). The Patriarch invites people to contemplate the Creator God through the icon of the created world (Col. 1.16-18). In the same vein, Patriarch Bartholomew refers to the human beings as endowed by God to serve as ‘priests’, underlining that personal responsibility for the physical world and the slightest action of even the feeblest among us can change the world for the better.

Finally, the Ecumenical Patriarch is aware that environmental issues are intimately connected to and dependent on numerous other social issues of our times, including war and peace, justice and human rights, poverty and unemployment. It is not by chance that the term ‘eco-justice’ has been used in religious circles to describe this interconnection between creation and creatures, between the world and its inhabitants. We have, in recent years, become increasingly aware of the effects of environmental degradation on people, and especially the poor.

5. Worldview and vision

Unfortunately, we tend to forget our connection to the earth and our environment. There is a binding unity and continuity that we share with all of God’s creation. In recent years, we have been reminded of this truth with flora and fauna extinction, with soil and forest clearance, and with noise, air and water pollution. Concern for the environment is not an expression of superficial or sentimental love. It is a way of honoring and dignifying our creation by the hand and word of God. It is a way of listening to ‘the groaning of creation’ (Rom. 8.22).

We tend to call this crisis an ‘ecological’ crisis, which is a fair description in so far as its results are manifested in the ecological sphere. Yet, the crisis is not first of all ecological. It is a crisis concerning the way we perceive reality, the way we imagine or image our world. We treat our planet in an inhuman, god-forsaken manner precisely because we see it in this way, precisely because we see ourselves in this way. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew offers a refreshing, alternative way of seeing ourselves in relation to the natural world.

As a religious leader, the Ecumenical Patriarch’s initiatives to protect the environment are worthy of emulation. His worldview, derived from the ancient values of the Orthodox Church, deserves attention.


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ALL YOUNG MEN GRADES 3-12:

An invitation is extended to you to serve the Church as an ALTAR BOY. Your service as an Altar Boy is a distinct honor and serious responsibility. You will have an opportunity to participate in the Divine Services of our Church in a very special way. If you would like to join you are invited to attend an organizational meeting on Sunday, September 23, immediately following the conclusions of Sunday Church School. If you have any questions, please contact Father Bill, Father Paul or our Altar Boy Coordinator, Gus Siegel.
FATHER BILL’S RECOMMENDED READING FOR SEPTEMBER:

The Divine Liturgy: A Commentary in the Light of the Fathers
By Hieromonk Gregorios of Koutloumousiou Monastery, Mount Athos
Translated from the Greek by Elizabeth Theokritoff

“When Christ first spoke about the Mystery of the Divine Eucharist, He called Himself the ‘Bread of life’, which came down from heaven to be offered for the life and salvation of the world. Christ is the ‘Bread of life’ which comes down from heaven continually through the power of the Holy Spirit. It comes down at the moment the Eucharistic annunciation into the virgin Church and the holy Church becomes the ‘good earth and blessed’ which brings forth the Bread of life. It is this reality of Christ’s descent and His presence within the Church that we experience in the Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy is Christ in our midst.

The holy Evangelists and the God-bearing Fathers spoke to us of Christ as they experienced Him when He was with them, as they experienced Him as a living reality in the Divine Liturgy: That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our own eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life (1John 1:1-2). It is from the writings and Eucharistic experiences of these saints, who have seen the true Light, who have heard the Word and ‘touched the pure immaculate head of the Master’, and who are eternally contemporary that the present commentary is compiled.

---From the Foreward---

This book is available in our bookstore for $20.

Parish Council President's Message
by Chris Chryssovergis

I am certain that I am not alone in my fascination of all things Olympics. It’s truly a wonderful gift to be able to glimpse the athletic prowess of these world class athletes on the largest stage every two years. What is even more compelling is the all-encompassing dedication these men and women have to their goal. They are laser-focused on a clearly defined target and have an amazing capacity to eliminate distractions that divert them away from their goal. They are provided with the best technology, trained by top motivators and educated by some of the brightest minds our country has to offer. They chart a course that encompasses the gamut of preparation and includes training, nutrition, visualization, stress and sleep management, etc. all for a single event or set of events that last as little as ~10 seconds or as long as a few hours.

Some of the time, as Orthodox Christians, our focus is often less sharp than that of an Olympian. This is not a criticism but rather represents an acknowledgement of our personal shortcomings. The acknowledgement represents opportunity – opportunity to be the best Orthodox Christians we can be every moment of every day. Our teachers are as equally skilled in Orthodox Christianity as the team that trains the athletes and deliver their message and provide the spiritual nourishment we need to enrich our understanding of our faith. Unlike the Olympian, our ultimate race or final competition is less clearly known. This is all the more reason to endeavor to be the best you can be, every day.

Opportunities abound daily to show the world what it means to be an Orthodox Christian. Our goal should be the goal of the Olympians, to put your best effort forward when the moment presents itself. Our moments to shine occur much more frequently than the moments presented to Olympians. Take advantage of this. Model yourself after the athlete, because even though they represent the best our country has to offer, sometimes they fall short of their aim. Most strive to attack it again anew, understanding that perfection is ethereal and that the true mark of greatness is defined when you dust yourself off and try again, especially after you’ve fallen short of the target.
**PHILOPTOCHOS...Diane Kevin**

Philocthos will begin the new Ecclesiastical year with its first meeting on Tuesday, September 4th at 6:00pm. Dinner will be provided by the Philochoths Board. There will be a special presentation made to the Cincinnati chapter of Dress for Success from the proceeds of the May Luncheon/ Fashion Show. Members are reminded to bring nice, clean women’s suits “on a hanger and ready to wear” to donate to the Dress for Success suit drive.

Everyone had a fabulous time at the baby shower for Presbytera Lavinia and Father Paul hosted by Philochoths and Mother’s Club. We wish them a lifetime of love with the new addition to their family. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Philochoths will host a membership reception on Sunday, September 30th immediately following the Divine Liturgy. We invite all Orthodox women ages 18 and older to come and learn more about the mission of Philochoths.

Future Philochoths events include the “Walk to End Alzheimer’s” on Saturday, October 6th, contact Melanie McNulty for more details; the “Light the Night” walk on Saturday, October 13th and once again we will host the “Fabulous Furs” evening on Thursday, October 18th. Also in October we will begin the baking for the “Sweet Treats from the Greeks” bake sale.

We hope all women join us for our first meeting on September 4th and all events so that we may embrace the mission of Philochoths together.

**MAIDS OF ATHENA...Nikki Frankenstein**

The Maids of Athena have had a very active summer and welcome everyone back to the start of another school year. We would also like to thank everyone for their support in our fall Greek Pizza fundraiser! We could not be successful without the help from all of you in the community.

Our chapter was awarded the Service Project of the year at the National Convention in Las Vegas for our work with the Ronald McDonald House. Furthermore, our chapter also came in 3rd place in the National Growth and Expansion Challenge. Congratulations ladies on all of the hard work!!

Several of our Maids graduated this past spring and early summer and we wish them the best on their future education. **Katherine Brown** graduated from Sycamore HS. She plans to take a year off then attend The Ohio State University where she will major in Non-profit and African studies. **Sydney Bouras** graduated from Highlands HS and is planning to go to the University of Cincinnati where she will major in Biology. **Gabriella Stroplos** graduated from Lebanon HS and will attend the University of Cincinnati and major in international studies and political science. **Nikki Frankenstein** graduated from Officer Development School in the US.

**Sunday Church School...Cara Chryssovergis**

One of the responsibilities of any church community is to educate its membership. The best place to begin is with the youth. A young mind is open to possibilities and ready to learn new ideas easily. St. Theophan the Recluse said, “Of all holy works, the education of children is the most holy." Fortunately our parish is able to offer Sunday Church School at no cost; your generous stewardship contributions and weekly basket offerings provide everything we need from curriculum to supplies. We have also been blessed with individuals who volunteer their time to shape your child’s understanding of Orthodox Christianity. This education is offered each week during the SCS school year and during VCS week in the summer, all that remains is that your family partake in the opportunity.

Our Church School has classes for ages 3 years to high school senior. Each Sunday begins with Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am, followed by religious education. Classes begin directly following the distribution of Holy Communion. Classes end promptly at 11:45 am.

Sunday Church School is updating its registration system to allow for easier maintenance and access. We will be converting to an electronic registration system. Unlike past years, we will ask everyone to re-register their children electronically. The process will take only a few minutes. A link to the on-line registration form has been e-mailed to all parents on the current e-mail list. The link is also available on the Church website. If you do not have internet access, please contact the director for assistance.

Sunday Church School will once again be conducting the Food Pantry project. We will be having a monthly contest between the classrooms. Please remember our neighbors during your weekly trips to the grocery store, and let’s see if we can top our total of 1800 items from last year!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer your time and talents to SCS, please contact Cara Chrysssovergis at 513-777-8281 or chrysssovergis@fuse.net.
Navy in Newport, RI. She will continue medical school at Wright State University. Maria Kontopos graduated from the University of Cincinnati Law School.

We would also like to congratulate Constance Frankenstein on being selected for the Ohio State Youth Choir. The Maids also wish Amelia Vidas and her family safe travels as they move to Orlando, FL. She will be missed by our chapter.

The Maids proudly announce our officers for 2012-2013. Congratulations ladies on being elected!

Worthy Maid – Krista Turner
Loyal Maid – Christine Kehayes
Recording Secretary – Constance Frankenstein
Corresponding Secretary – Nikki Frankenstein
Treasurer – Aspasia Makris
Advisors – Matina Trivett, Maria Freeman, Christine Frankenstein

Maid of the Month – Krista Turner

Krista is the new president of the Cincinnati Maids of Athena. She was initiated in 2009 and has been an active member since that time despite living so far away. After interning for Disney in Orlando, Florida she recently moved back to Cincinnati to continue her education at Cincinnati State. She is majoring in graphic design in the hopes to become an animator. Krista is “honored to be the new Maids of Athena President and can’t wait to see how this year will be.” She is confident with her fellow sisters and herself that “we will have a great year with our upcoming events.”

As a reminder the Maids of Athena is open to all single girls ages 14 to 28. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, September 9th following church. For more information email cincinnatimaids@gmail.com or call Nikki at 513-325-6629.

We hope everyone had a great summer. Even though lots of you were on vacation, we had a good turnout of 56 at our luncheon in July. Thank you to Mina Sideris for sharing her video with us. There were several in the video that have passed away and it’s always nice to see their faces once again.

Our latest new member is Patricia P. Zaferes. We are so happy to have her with us. Welcome!

Our next luncheon will be September 15 at a restaurant. Then, the next three luncheons will be at church.

We are still meeting at Church on the second Saturday each month at 9AM. Our next work and fellowship meeting will be on Saturday, September 8. While we continue to be involved with some maintenance and improvement work at our Church building, we are looking to begin a ministry of transportation to those who may not have a way to come to Church. Some are elderly and some are college students. Others simply don’t drive. The seeds for the idea are now being planted and we hope will grow into a network where we call upon our Church members from all around the city to participate. A Sunday meeting is expected this year to develop the plans. We welcome your suggestions and would like to hear if you or someone you love needs a ride to Church.

“Oh say can you see.......” And a Military Air Force C-5 Galaxy plane flying over Great American Ballpark brought tears to my eyes. Twenty-five Daughters and AHEPANS from Dayton and Cincinnati got together to attend the Red’s game Friday, August 3. We all had a wonderful time and plan on going again next year.

In August, DOP was busy with an open Board meeting and our first meeting of the year.

Save the date of Saturday, October 6, 2012, for our annual Wine Tasting!!! Fun, fun, fun!

We collect pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House year round. Please save these tabs and drop them off in the Church Office in the Daughters of Penelope mailbox.

Congratulations to our Maids on their recent National awards.
When Do We Make The Sign Of The Cross:

1. When we light a candle upon entering the Narthex of the Church.
2. When we enter and leave the Church.
3. At the beginning of every Divine Service.
4. Whenever we hear a mention of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).
5. Whenever we hear mention of or call to remembrance the blessed Theotokos, the Birth-giver of God.
6. At the singing of the Troparion for the Patron Saint or Feast of our Parish and at the singing of the Troparion for the Saint or Feast of the Day.
7. At Orthros (Matins) when we sing the hymn "Την τιμιωτέραν των Χερουβείμ και ενδοξοτέραν ασυγκρίτως των Σεραφείμ...("More honorable than the Cherubim...").
8. At the Small Entrance when the holy Gospel is presented and at the Great Entrance when the Holy Gifts are processed around the Church.
9. At the singing of the Trisagion Hymn "Άγιος ο Θεός, Άγιος Ισχυρός, Άγιος Αθάνατος, ελέησον ημᾶς" (Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us").
10. When we hear the words "O come let us worship and fall down...". This is always done three times.
11. At the conclusion of Vespers when the Priest intones the words «Νυν απολύεις τον δούλον σου...» (O Lord, now lettest Thy servant depart in peace...”).
12. At the recitation by the Priest of the Dismissal at each and every Divine Service.
13. When we are moved to do so out of reverence and piety.
14. When we venerate the holy icons, holy relics of the Saints or any other holy object such as the Cross.
15. Before and after we receive Holy Communion.

Transitions

BAPTISM:
The New Christian: David
Parents: Zaza and Anya (Krivonos) Eristavi
Sponsor: Lydia Gryshyna
Date: 08/11/12

ADULT BAPTISM:
Anya (Krivonos) Eristavi was welcomed into the Orthodox Church through the Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation on August 11. 2012.

WEDDING:
The Newlyweds: Lauri Sullivan and Dan (Constantine) Stefanou
Sponsors: Sandra and Paul Facechhia
Date: August 19, 2012
Father Constantine Nicholas Mitsos  
(March 21, 1924 - July 4, 2012)

Reverend Father Constantine Nicholas Mitsos (Mitsopoulos) was born in Elatou, Nafpaktias, Greece in Spring 1924. He was the fifth child of six children of Nicholas and Sophia Mitsopoulos. Constantine attended school in Elatou and Nafpaktos. Upon graduation in 1943, he attended the Law School of the University of Athens for two years. In 1946, he was offered a scholarship to attend the Holy Cross School of Theology in Pomfret, Connecticut. After a three-month voyage, he arrived at the School along with ten other students from Greece. He later transferred to the Holy Cross School in Brookline, Massachusetts from which he graduated in June 1951. He then attended the Crozer Baptist Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania for one year. On September 7, 1952, Constantine married Evelyn Liarakos in Wilmington, Delaware. Later that year he was assigned to the parish of Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Santa Barbara, California, where he was ordained as a priest on December 14, 1952. He served that parish and the nearby towns for 2½ years. In 1955 Reverend Constantine was assigned to the Saint George Greek Orthodox Church of Huntington, West Virginia where he served for four years. While he was the parish priest in Huntington, Father Constantine also attended Marshall University. In 1959, Father Constantine was assigned to the Holy Trinity-Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Cincinnati, Ohio. He was instrumental in the transfer of the old church (a former Jewish synagogue) in downtown Cincinnati to the establishment of the new church on Winton Road in the suburb of Finneytown, Ohio. During his tenure in Cincinnati, Father Constantine received a Master's Degree in Theological Studies (STM) from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio in 1968. Father Constantine served on the Board of the Ministerial Association for many years, representing the Orthodox community of Greater Cincinnati. In 1984, he was honored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews with an award which reads: "A humble man of God, you are steadfastly dedicated to our community's strategic ecumenical endeavors as visually epitomized in stained glass which you commissioned in the church's beautiful sanctuary depicting the historic meeting of Greek Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras and Roman Catholic Pope Paul VI to provide the vision of ecumenical cooperation among all peoples in the service of one God and Father of us all." Father Constantine established a Scholarship Fund for any student from Cincinnati who wished to attend the Hellenic College or the Holy Cross School of Theology. Several young people, including priests and presbyters, have been helped by this scholarship. After serving the parish of Holy Trinity-Saint Nicholas for thirty-one years, Father Constantine and Presvytera Evelyn retired to Boca Raton, Florida. After his retirement in Florida, Father Constantine for over twenty years served several churches in South Florida.

Parish Announcements

Fadil Bayyari, son of Mamoun and Pamela (Demitrion) Bayyari, grandson of Jim and Carole Demitrion received his law degree from Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA., in 2011. This year, he was awarded a Masters Degree in Law from Georgetown University in Washington D.C. He specialized in International Business Law and has accepted a position with SNR Denton and will be working in Riyadi, Saudi Arabia and Dubai in the Persian Gulf.

George Belitsos, son of Helen Belitsos, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by Iowa State University. George is the founder and President of Youth & Shelter Services in Ames, Iowa. His organization has become the model program for the State of Iowa and has been recognized as outstanding by many other State and Federal organizations.

Garifalia Kakogianis, a former parishioner, fell asleep in the Lord on August 13, 2012 in Tampa Florida. She was 97 years old. May her memory be eternal.

Have you registered your Kroger Plus Shopper’s Card?  
Kroger Community Rewards Program

Our church has now become part of this wonderful program that Kroger offers to non-profit organization for fundraising. Recently they have changed the program so that all you have to do is register your Kroger Rewards card to an organization. Once you are registered, we will receive a donation from Kroger based on your purchases. This is a great way to support the ministries of our Church by just shopping. To enroll, go to krogercommunityrewards.com, sign in if you already have an account, or click on CINCINNATI, OHIO to set up an account. Now click on Community Rewards and follow the enrollment instructions. Our Organization Number is 82785. Please take a moment and help our Church with this great program from Kroger.
LEFTOVERS FOR GOD?
By: Rev. Andrew Demotses

The depth of our devotion to Christ is inseparable from the quality of the service which we offer to him. If our relationship with God is right, then we will set aside as a matter of course some of the best of our labor. In the list of our life's priorities God will not be an afterthought.

And yet, more often than not, we offer to God only that which is left over of the gifts that he has generously given us to enjoy. We are like the family who donated to the poor only the things from their cupboard that they would not otherwise use, and expected to be congratulated for their thoughtful generosity.

Jesus on the other hand took particular note of the sacrifice represented in the poor widow's gift to the poor box of the temple. In spite of her poverty, she was able to offer the whole of her livelihood to those she felt were even worse off. Although her gift was small, it was nonetheless counted to be greater than the large sums of others that had been given out of their abundance. Her gift represented sacrifice; theirs did not. The fundamental principle that Jesus sought to emphasize through this widow's example is that love is lavish. It does not think about how much it can withhold, but how much it can give. Love's devotion not only pays a price, it does so willingly and with unfeigned generosity. In the beautiful words of King David, love says, "I will not offer to the Lord my God sacrifices that have cost me nothing." (2 Samuel 24:24). David understood that like the widow, so too he had to made an offering that represented true sacrifice rather than empty and effortless formalism.

What can we give to the Lord that would cost us something? Perhaps it could be a timely visit to someone who is homebound and starved for company. It might be a gift for the poor that is made possible by denying ourselves some small or frivolous luxury. For each of us the sacrifice is different; but it is made in the sure knowledge that it pleases Him who sacrificed His all for us. He deserves more than just the leftovers.

2012 STEWARDSHIP LIST THROUGH 8-23-12
Let's make this year our most successful year ever!
Thank you for the continued support of our Church and her ministries.

Aamodt, Peter & Karen
Adinamis, George & Robyn
Alex, James L. & Koula
Anagnostou, Elias & Helen
Anagnostou, Emmanuel & Julie
Anastasiou, Demetra
Andreadis, Paul
Andreadis, Sophie S.
Andrews, Evan & Terry
Antoniades, Anthony & Tracey
Apostol, Katherine
Apostolides, Vasso A.
Assaley, Lewis & Patricia
Argeros, Aristea
Arvanetes, Gregory & Sandra
Balkenbusch, Matt & Nicole
Barnhart, Thomas & Sylvia
Batsakes, George P.
Batsakis, Chris & Lydia
Beish, Andrew
Beish, Daniel & Karen
Beish, Lindsay & Digger Bujnoch
Belitsos, Helen
Bender, Christina E.
Bender, Robert & Kathy
Berry, Scott C. & Chris
Betas, Christina
Betas, Maria
Bidzos, James
Bikas, George M. & Anna
Bikas, Michael & Anna Varypatakis
Black, Dr. William & Lenora
Blackstone, Mark & Angela D.
Blavos, Sylvia
Borcoman, Tate & Nicole
Borod, Gregory & Gloria
Bottomley, Stephen & Stephanie
Boulmetis, Samuel N. & Anita
Boumis, Peter & Kimberly
Bouras, Peter’ & Anna
Brausch, Robert & Julie
Bridges, Gerstle & Mina
Brown, Bryan & Nickie
Brown, William & George-Ann
Burton, Matthew D. & Kathy
Caddell, Chris & Elena
Callos, Harry & Angie
Caneris, Anthony & Antoinette
Caneris, Dr. Onassis A.
Cardullias, Dr. Peter & Elaine
Carey, Lee & Tula
Carumpalos, Constantine
Cass, Constantine & Carrie
Cassir, Fr. William & Presvytera Anastasia
Chaldekas, William & Bess
Chantilas, George
Chantilas, James & Dr. Lydia
Charnas, Terry & Koula
Chichura, Marcus & Michelle
Christman, Carl & Margaret
Christofield, Angeliki
Christon, Angelos & Deanna
Christopher, Spiro & Olga
Christopoulos, Vassiliki
Christos, Mary J. &
Christos, Mary M.
Chryssovergis, Chris & Cara
Chryssovergis, Leza & Joel Gulker
Colak, Tony & Joan
Colyer, Donna
Colyer, Jeff & Laura
Colyer, Keith & Diane
Condorodis, Anestis J. & Janeen D.
Condorodis, Dr. Constantinos J. & Carolyn
Cook, Barbara
Cook, Frank & Karen
Cooper, Charles & Aphrodite
Coures, George & Joyce
Cranley, John & Dena
D’Orazio, Steve & Angela
Dadas, Alex & Rosalyn
Dalambakis, Chris & Judy
Dalton, Andrew & Maria
Dargis, David & Melody
Demakes, Mina
Denas, Haralambos & Athinseea
Dimitriades, Zisis & Helen
Dimitroff, Robert S.
Economacos, Demetrios & Christine
Economacos, Eleftherios
Economacos, Tom & Jennifer
Economakis, Tina
Economou, Robert
Edgington, Paul & Mary Lou
Elias, Nicholas & Monica
Elias, Tom & Tina
Eliopoulos-Rosenbloom, Connie
Ernst, James H. & Sue
Evangelou, Dimitri & Katie
Evangelou, Sofia
Fakoukakis, Emanuel & Susan
Fekkos, Haralambos & Loella Ann
Francis, Dean & Kathy
Franklin, Gari
Frantzis, Kosta & Tammy
Freeman, Maria
Freudenberg, Grey & Eleni
Fritz, Christine
Fritz, Margaret
Furkas, Kostadinos & Lisa
Galanes, George
Gaier, Jeffrey & Chris Anne
Gaskins, Mark & Kristin
Gelis, James & Kathy
Genest, Anne
Georgacopoulos, Demetrios & Jaime
Georgetown, Chris P. & Barbara
Georgetown, John P. & Kimberly
Georgetown, John C. & Ann
Georgetown, Nickoletta
Georgetown, Peter C.
Georgetown, Peter T. & Nancy
Georgiades, Peri & Cheri Rekow
Georgiou, Dean
Georgeton, John N. & Jenny
Georgeton, Nick
Georgeton, Peter J. & Betsy
Georgopoulos, Tassos & Eileen
Georgostathis, Gus & Connie
Georgostathis, Gus & Eleni
Georgostathis, James
Georgostathis, Joanne
Georgostathis, Maria
Georgoulakis, Athanasios & Sofia
Geromes, Alexander
Geros, Carl & Mary
Ghiz, Leslie
Ghizas, John & Helen
Giovis, Chris A. & Jean M.
Giovis, Thomas
Glaser, Brian & Stella
Gornas, Pete
Gortsas, Alex
Grammas, George & Pam
Grammas, Peter & Panagiota
Greene, David & Maria
Gregory, Dean & Hedy
Gregory, Matula
Gregory, Thomas & Pamela
Gregory, Victoria
Gueithlein, Sophia
Haddad, Saba & Elise
Haralamos, George & Eleni
Haralamos, Mike G. & Akrivi
Harper, Loren
Hayden, Jason & Rebecca
Herrmann, Dennis & Stacy
Hill, Ann “Tasha”
Himonidis, Chris & Ruth
Hodges, Nick & Millie
Humbert, Randy & Dede
Iatrides, Panawita
Ioannides, Tasos & Anna
Ioannou, Maria & John
Ioannou, Michael & Meagan
Johnson, John & Antigone
Jones, Demus J. & Betty
Jones, Carolyn
Jones, James A. & Jo Ann
Jonson, Alexander & Ann
Jonson, Chris C. & Loy
Jonson, George N. & Sophia
Jonson, James G. & Thelma
Jonson, Luke & Lauren
Jonson, Paul C. & Cheryl

The parishioners listed here have made a commitment and/or contribution towards 2012 Stewardship. If you have not made your Stewardship Pledge for 2012, we encourage you to do so today. Pledge Cards are available through the Church Office or can be obtained by contacting any member of the Parish Council or the Clergy.
Kachoris, John & Kelly
Kalemanis, Gary & Maria
Kalemanis, George & Nikki
Kambelos, John P. & Erato
Kambelos, Dr. Peter J.
Kambelos, Stratos & Hope
Kanaris, Chrisostos
Kanaris, Kostantinos & Katy
Kanaris Jr., John
Kapourales, Harry & Vivian
Kapourales, Louis
Kappas, James P.
Karampampas, George & Diane
Karas, Bill J. & Lynn
Karas, Katherine
Karas, Ted & Dixie
Karras, Giorgio & Erene
Kaspryzcki, Peter & Edyta
Katsanis, Claire C.
Katsanis, James & Diane
Katsaounis, Nick & Fay
Kavouras, George & Fran
Kehayes, Christine
Kehayes, Peggy
Kehayes, William & Melissa
Kellaris, James & Janice
Kelley, Michael & Pauline
Keough, Brian & Tina
Kereiakes, James & Helen
Kevin, Patrick & Diane
Kezios, Bessie
Kindle, Jeffrey & Belinda
Kissopoulos, Nick & Effy
Kladakis, John & Teddi
Knoll, Crystal
Kontonickas, Mary
Kontopoulos, Pete & Katerina
Kontopoulos, Vagelis & Amanda
Kontis, George & Melissa
Koros, Costas & Dina
Korvessis, Anthony & Georgia Lydia
Koskinaris, Athanasios & Helen
Kostopoulos, Nikolaos & Dana
Koufoudakis, Tony
Kramvousanos Family
Kranias, George & Litsa
Kranias, Stratos & Amanda
Kurlas, Louise T
Kunkemoeller, Thomas & Janice
Kyrios, Tassos & Maria
Lambrinides, Nicholas & Diane
Lambrinides, Ted & Kimberly
Lambrinides, Thomas J. & Mary Ann
Landers, Lauren
Lazares, Gus J.
Lazares, John K. & Patricia
Leon, Gus A. & Kathryn
Leon, John & Sarah
LesChander, Scott L. & Alexandra
Leslie, Wayne & Peggy
Levenderis, Bill & Jill
Liaros, Vasilios & Evangelia
Liston, Robert & Eleni
Locklear, Ray & Niki
Loukoumidis, George & Stacey
Love, David & Iris
Macaskill, Stuart & Stacy
Makris, George J. & Katherine
Maleas, Pete C. & Pearl
Mamaligas, Mike & Joann
Manolakas, Alexander & Vera
Marinakis, Bill D. & Evonne
Marinakis, George D. & Eleni
Marinakis, Panagiota
Marinakis, Teddy D. & Katie
Maris, George & Tricia
Markos, Andreas & Christina
Mavridoglou, George & Penny
Mavridoglou, Konstantinos
Mavridoglou, Michael & Laura
Mavridoglou, Nicholas & Jessica
McKay, Betty Jo
McLeish, David & Kiki
McNulty, Robin & Melanie
Megois, Lee S. & Stephanie
Merianos, Ted
Meyer, Andy & Maria
Miller, Clayton & Cleo
Miller, Peter
Mirkopoulos, Nicholas & Mare
Mirkos, Steve & Edyta
Mirkos, Marilyn & Thomas
Misali, A. J. "Ike" & Marge
Misali, John P. & Deborah
Misali, Paul J.
Misali, Sam & Mary Jean
Mitropoulos, Pete & Konstantina
Mohler, David & Angel
Mokas, Mary
Monroe, Angeliki
Moraites, Eleni
Moraites, Dr. Richard S. & Aphrodite
Morris, John & Christine
Moulas, Dean & Catherine
Muenich, Sam & Melissa
Murray, Stella P.
Naser, Jacob & Dina
Nathan, Jaimie & Amy
Neuendorf, David & Patricia
Neuendorf, Matthew
Nicholas, Eugene & Cindy
Nicholas, Nick & Helen
Nichols, Lee
Nichols, Ron & Philanthy
Niehoff, Barbara & Frank
Nikias, Charles P. & Vicki
Nikias, Vasilia
Nitsis, Dimitrius & Leisa
Nourtis, Sam & Alexandra
Nyktas, George W.
Orphanos, Peter & Angela
Pachmayer, Michael & Rita
Palassis, Chryssoula
Palassis, Michael & Alison
Palassis, Nick & Maria
Paliobagis, Vasiliki
Panagiotidis, John
Panagis, Nick & Maria
Panos, Aphrodite
Panos, Lula
Pantel, Alex E. & Julie
Pantel, Nicholas J.
Paolucci, Anthony & Angie
Papaoannou, Thomas & Mary
Paparodis, Bess
Papas, James & Demetra
Papathanas, Harry & Joyce
Papathanas, Katherine
Papathanas, Mary Kay
Papathanasiou, Konstantinos & Tammy
Pappas, Andrew S. & Julie
Pappas, Martha H.
Parsenios, Doris
Parsenios, Lewis G.
Parthenakis, Nicholas & Angie
Pascal, Betsy
Pascal, James
Pastrimas, Emanuel & Lisa
Payiatos, Paul & Patricia
Perdikakis-Patterson, Constance & Brett Patterson
Perdikakis, Gus G. & Jo Ann
Perdikakis, Lynn
Peters, Claire
Petkos, Joannis & Christina
Petrou, James & Carrie
Photos, Alta
Piliopovich, George & Cynthia
Plomaritis, Peter & Elsa
Polen, Joe & Stephanie
Politis, Michael & Carmen
Polychroniou, Constantine & Christine
Poneris, Constantino & Tara
Poneris, Nikitas & Rena
Ponticos, George D.
Ponticos, Koula
Poplos, Theodore & Stephanie
Prasinos, Jim & Nicki
Prasinos, John & Zoe
Priest, Daniel & Christina
Psilountsas, Mary
Quill, Kevin & Mary
Quinn, Kyle
Ramstetter, Robert & Lisa
Raptis, James & Maria
Raptis, James & Olga
Raptis, John
Starting in September, we will begin the next step towards being a “Green” community. We will be discontinuing the Paper Recycler program and replacing it with a complete recycling program. Although this program will not be a fundraiser, it will have a greater impact on helping our environment.

We will be placing recycle bins in the gym and the Sunday Church School wing. The bins will accept cans, plastic, glass, paper and cardboard. It is extremely important that only recycle items go into these bins. Rumpke will not sort our recycle bin if it is contaminated with trash. This means that the items in our recycle collection container will end up in the landfill.

Another big part of this program will be to recycle at our Panegyri. We tried this a few year’s ago and our collection container was contaminated with trash. We are going to need a chair person and volunteers to spearhead this project to ensure that only recyclable items end up in the collection container. We have a lot of cardboard, paper and plastic that can be recycled at our Panegyri and it needs to be done.

The lead article in this month’s Voice spoke about the need to protect our environment NOW! Let’s do our part to insure a safe environment for future generations.
Clergy
Presiding Priest: Very Rev. Father William Cassis
Assistant: Rev. Father Paul Truebenbach

Staff
Parish Administrator: Eugene Nicholas
Facilities Manager: Chris Jonson

Parish Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Chryssovergis, President</td>
<td>Frank Cook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Peter Kambelos, Vice-President</td>
<td>Brad Fielden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Georgiton, Treasurer</td>
<td>Tasos Ioannides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ianthe Schulte, Asst. Treasurer</td>
<td>George Kalemanis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Aamodt, Secretary</td>
<td>Ron Nichols</td>
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<td>Eleni Haralamos, Asst. Secretary</td>
<td>John Sakelos</td>
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<td>Andrew Stefanopoulos</td>
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Organizations and Ministries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Philoptochos Society</th>
<th>Diane Kevin, President</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parish Choir</td>
<td>Janice Kellaris, Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cantors</td>
<td>Louis Kapourales, Tasos Ioannides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Altar Boys</td>
<td>Gus Siegel, Father William Cassis, Father Paul Truebenbach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Church School</td>
<td>Cara Chryssovergis, Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greek School</td>
<td>Alexander Christoforidis, Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOYA</td>
<td>Father Paul Truebenbach, GOYA Ministry Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOPE and JOY Groups</td>
<td>Father Paul Truebenbach, Ministry Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mothers Club</td>
<td>Catherine Stavros</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHEPA</td>
<td>Andrew Stefanopoulos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daughters of Penelope</td>
<td>Melody Dargis, President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Over 50s Club</td>
<td>Ann Jonson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Bible Study</td>
<td>Father William Cassis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orthodox Reading Group</td>
<td>Father Paul Truebenbach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach/Samaritan Fund</td>
<td>Father William Cassis, Father Paul Truebenbach, Eugene Nicholas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agios Demetrios Society</td>
<td>Jim Grammas, Maria Panagis</td>
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<tr>
<td>PANGEYRI</td>
<td>Frank Cook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Bookstore</td>
<td>Beth Uhimchuk</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Office Hours: Daily 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Worship Schedule: Matins, 8:15 a.m.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
Other Services as scheduled.

Our Mission
THE VOICE is the official monthly newsletter of Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at Cincinnati, Ohio. Our Parish was founded in 1907 and serves Orthodox Christians throughout the tri-state area. Our mission is to reach out to all members of the Community by providing relevant information on the religious, spiritual and cultural life of the Parish; news on the accomplishments of Parish members and organizations, and editorial points of view.

The next deadline for submitting news to the "Voice" is September, 9 2012

Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the Church Office or e-mailed to gopriest@gmail.com or hchurch2@cinci.rr.com

Our Church website can be found at www.holytrinity.oh.goarch.org

THANK YOU
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<td>Annual Church Picnic</td>
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<td>Office Closed</td>
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<td>Philoptochos Meeting</td>
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<td>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</td>
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<td>12:00 p.m. Over Fifty Lunch</td>
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<td>Parish Council</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Reading Group</td>
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<td>Dinner &amp; Meeting</td>
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<td>Greek School Begins</td>
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<td>Annual Cadillac Raffle</td>
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<td>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</td>
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The Good Shepherd Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry now has a name. As we continue to grow this outreach ministry, it seemed time to make the Food Pantry a more permanent part of our community. As a community, we can help shepherd the families around us through provided assistance with basic food needs. We continue to have individuals and families utilizing our Pantry every day.

As they did last year, the Sunday Church School plans to continue the program of weekly donations. This was a very successful program and helped raise the awareness amongst the youth of our Parish.

To continue to have an impact on our community, we must pray for and support this ministry each week. When you go to the grocery store, please consider picking up something for the pantry.

Once again this year we will be looking to provide meals for families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our current list of families is over 150, so this will be far more challenging than last year. If you have a source that would be able to help get turkeys and hams, please contact the Church office. Look for more information in upcoming issues of The Voice.

Thank you to all of the individuals that have given so generously to make this ministry possible!