The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple
St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Shrine Church

Proistamenos
Rev. Fr. John Vlahos
Parish Administrator
Maria Angel
Facilities Manager
Tom Emmans
ProtoPsaltis
Michael Korsanos
Choir Director
Kathy Zarbis
Parish Caretaker
Aaron Gonzalez

Office Hours:
8:30am - 4:30pm

Phone: 631-261-7272
Fax: 631-261-7295

Email:
StParaskeviShrine@gmail.com
Frjohn@stparaskevi.org

Website:
WWW.STPARASKEVI.ORG

The Executive Board and Parish Council Members

President: Effie Carlucci
1st Vice President: Steve Margarites
2nd Vice President: George Koutsoukos
Treasurer: Tom Argiriou
Assistant Treasurer: Chris Kaloudis
Secretary: Sophia Loizos
Assistant Secretary: Kathryn Dorsey

Parish Council
Nicolas Andreadis
Elene Batanchiev
George Bennis
Dan Doscas
Valerie Drakos
Greg Essopos
Gigi Franklin
Christine Ilasi
John Ioannou
Nick Kontos
Dean Koutsoubis
Elias Manolis
Patti Pericli
Jason Poulis

The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously.
Psalm 37:21

Scheduled Weekend and Weekday Services

Sunday Service
Orthros 8:30am
Divine Liturgy 9:45am

Weekday Liturgies *
Orthros 8:45am
Divine Liturgy 9:45am

Paraklesis To
ST. PARASKEVI *
Every Tuesday at 6:00pm

Paraklesis To
PANAGIA *
Every Friday at 6:00 pm

Please check the Church Calendar on our website for updates.

Weekday Liturgies are shorter and usually done by 11:00 am

If you wish to schedule a Memorial, Artoclasia, 40 Day Blessing, a Trisagion, a Fanouropita Service or need kollyva, please contact the Church office for more information.

* These Services Do Not Take Place During Great Lent
**OUR MINISTRY LEADERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AHEPA</td>
<td>Edwin Rivera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BasketBall</td>
<td>Jon Varlamos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-Annual Blood Drive</td>
<td>Angela Arettines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Education</td>
<td>George Likourezos - President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care Ministry</td>
<td>Sophia DeMonte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir</td>
<td>Pauline Kitsopoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Book Store</td>
<td>John Arettines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cub Scouts</td>
<td>Laura Goerke, Carey Ng, Bethany Watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
<td>Dean Koutsoubis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girl Scouts</td>
<td>Agape Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Neighbor Fund</td>
<td>Pam Praetorius, Maria Mastrogiacomo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOYA Advisors</td>
<td>Jammy Kavrakis, Gus Constantine, Christina Varlamos, Yiannis Koroneos, Penny Koutsoukos, Christina Steele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek School</td>
<td>Maria Angel - Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek School PTO</td>
<td>Andriana Sideris - President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOPE</td>
<td>Effie Poulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIHI - Huntington Interfaith</td>
<td>Demetra Doscas, Anastasia Geotes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Icon Shop</td>
<td>Mary Sofides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOY</td>
<td>Gerasimoula Chaniotakis, Georgia Kaparakos, Kalliope Viegas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Choir</td>
<td>Kathy Demacopoulos, Erika Gavras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Ministry</td>
<td>Anastasia Geotes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Angels</td>
<td>Wanted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philoptochos</td>
<td>Kathy Karanzias- President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrine/Church Beautification</td>
<td>Anastasia Geotes, Rita Taktekos, Pam and Gregg Praetorius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>Flo Ioannou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Message / Sunday Bulletin</td>
<td>Tom Emmans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## February 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paraklesis to St. Paraskevi 6pm</td>
<td>Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6pm</td>
<td>Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:30pm</td>
<td>Executive Board Meeting 8pm</td>
<td>Greek School 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:45am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>16th Sunday of Matthew By registration only and Live Stream Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:45am</td>
<td>Paraklesis to St. Paraskevi 6pm</td>
<td>Hieromartyr Haralambos Orthros 8:45am Divine Liturgy 9:45am</td>
<td>Parish Council Meeting 8pm</td>
<td>Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6pm</td>
<td>Greek School 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:45am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sunday of the Canaanite By registration only and Live Stream Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:45am</td>
<td>Paraklesis to St. Paraskevi 6pm</td>
<td>Greek School 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:45am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee : Triodion Begins Today By registration only and Live Stream Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:45am</td>
<td>Paraklesis to St. Paraskevi 6pm</td>
<td>First &amp; Second Finding of the Venerable Head of John the Baptist Orthros 8:45am Divine Liturgy 9:45am</td>
<td>Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6pm</td>
<td>Greek School 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:45am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Sunday of the Prodigal Son By registration only and Live Stream Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:45am</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>First &amp; Second Finding of the Venerable Head of John the Baptist Orthros 8:45am Divine Liturgy 9:45am</td>
<td>Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm</td>
<td>Greek School 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:45am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some services or meetings listed, may be virtual.
How Faithfully Following Christ, the Greatest Leader, Can Make You Joyful And Full Of Life.

One day, Dr. Rollin Walker, a professor at Ohio Wesleyan University said at a speaking engagement, “I recently resigned as President and CEO of the Universe.” Someone asked, “And what happened?” Dr. Walker responded, “My resignation was instantly accepted by God!” And he continued, “Ever since my resignation, things have gone much better. For me and the world.”

In Gospel of Matthew, we hear of Christ’s calling of His first four disciples. They are two sets of brothers: Andrew and Peter, and James and John. All four were fisherman and Christ went to them and said, “Follow Me” and we read that “they immediately left their nets and followed Him.”

As Orthodox Christians we have the greatest leader this world has ever known. He calls on us to make Him our leader. Christ said ‘Follow Me’ not just once but 80 times in the Gospels.

To the one who hesitated, he said, “Let the dead bury their own dead, and come follow Me.”

To all of us today He says, “If anyone would come after Me, let them deny themselves, pick up their crosses and follow Me.”

Jesus speaks to each one of us personally in the bible and asks us to follow Him. He says to us that He will not lead us to a dead-end street of despair and emptiness, but He guarantees our fulfillment when you He exclaims, “I came into the world that you might have life and that you might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10) and “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11).

Now all people who call themselves Christians have, as a defining characteristic, the fact that they are followers of Christ. A Christian is a follower of Christ. Now when you follow someone, what happens? We have all played follow the leader before. You go where they are going. You walk in their footsteps. You travel at the speed they are traveling. You are susceptible to the same conditions. You are doing what the person you are following is doing. Your action is a reaction to the leader. A true Christian is a Follower of Christ.

Unfortunately, though, we don’t always see this in our world, in our communities, in our families and in our mirrors. We Christians have replaced Christ’s call of “Follow Me” with “No…you follow me!” We are kind of like Dr. Rollin Walker. It is as if God exists to serve us, as if we are the CEO. We all too often put Him in our own little box and when we need Him than we expect Him to obey us. Kind of like a vending machine. And for too many people, if He doesn’t do as they wish, then they stop believe in Him, which ultimately means they no longer follow God.

And this is nothing new. It started in the garden of Eden by Satan himself. He was not satisfied being one of the most beautiful of God’s angelic creatures. So he exercised his God-given free will and decided not to follow but to blaze his own trail of rebellion and he tempted Adam and Eve to do the same thing. Satan promised them that if they eat of the forbidden fruit, they would be god. He assured them they could be like God if they would only stop following God and blaze their own trail. They fell for it.

Everyone follows something. It is impossible not to follow. It is just a matter of what and/or who. We could follow our cravings for pleasure, we can follow our desire for power, but it is only in knowing God and being known by Him, that we find true self-fulfillment and self-realization. We are here first and foremost to know Christ, and it is only as we get to know Him that we know ourselves. As St. Augustine said, “Our hearts were made for you O Lord and they are restless till they find their rest in You.”

May the example of the Apostles be our guides. They left their livelihoods, they left their boats, nets, their fathers, mothers, wives and children to follow Christ…everything that they knew. It cost them something and it meant something to them. It cost them all that they had and it meant everything to them!
Dear St. Paraskevi Family,

As this letter is being typed, February 2021 is off to a memorable start: the snow is falling, the winds are howling, and the blizzard like conditions make us realize once again how thankful and blessed we are to be inside our comfortable homes!

February is the heart of a cold NY winter. Of course, this month we celebrate Valentine’s Day, which symbolizes love and all its warmth! This year, Valentine’s Day falls on a Sunday, a day when we will be attending liturgy in person or following it online. How perfect when you think about it, as we are reminded that God is love, and we are here because of His abundant love. In return, we are asked to devoutly love Him. As we learned in Matthew 22:37, Jesus stated that the greatest commandment is “Thou shall love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind”. This was followed by the second most important commandment “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself”.

How do we show our love for God? We express our love when we “speak” to Him each day through prayer, and when we “listen” to Him by obeying His commandments and being faithful Christians. We reveal our love when we are humble and grateful. We demonstrate our love when we are good stewards of His creation and abundant gifts, and when we are benevolent towards others. Finally, we confirm our love for Him when we make time with God our priority, use our talents for our community, and share our treasures with others and our spiritual home.

How do we show our love for our neighbors and others? We demonstrate our love when we offer kind words and deeds, and when we show patience and compassion. We exhibit love for others when we freely forgive their offenses, as well as ask forgiveness when we have offended them. We reveal our love for our neighbors when we help them when they are in a difficult situation, when we intercede with others on their behalf, and when we pray with and for them. We lay bare our love for others when our hearts break with happiness as we rejoice with them. Finally, we show our love when we simply spend time with others; when we give our time, we are making a sacrifice, which is the essence of love.

We are so blessed to be members of a spiritual home with so many wonderful parishioners that understand the two most important commandments. It has been a tough, few years though as many beloved members of our St. Paraskevi community have passed – whether they were founding members of our community, active members who passionately cared about our parish, and/or generous supporters with their time, talents, and treasures. I am not going to list them all here as I do not want to forget anyone. Though I did not grow up in this parish, I did get to know most of them starting in the 1990s. They always greeted me (and others) with warm smiles, kind words and big hugs – in the community center during coffee hour, at various events and fundraisers, and at my cashier “station” during our annual festival. They all truly demonstrated their love for God and for their neighbors. May their memories be eternal.

And may God continue to grace all of us with His bountiful blessings.

Effie Carlucci

P.S. If you have not done so already, please pledge your stewardship for 2021. God bless you!
Please consider using online banking to fulfill your monthly stewardship commitment. Online banking services are typically free. You can contact your bank’s customer service for more information.

Online banking is simply having your bank send out the check on the date and for the amount you specify.

Although each bank will have slightly different directions, they generally follow this approach:

- Enroll in your bank’s online banking service
- Set up “St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church” as a payee. Typically you will need to add the address and phone number (1 Shrine Place, Greenlawn, NY 11740 631.261.7272)
- Set up automatic, recurring payments (for example, your annual stewardship pledge divided by the remaining months of the year)
- Enter the dollar amount of the recurring payment
- Select the frequency of the payment, the date of payment and duration of the payments (for example, monthly payments of $200 each, payable on the 15th of each month from now until December 31, 2021)

Contact your bank for more bank specific instructions.

---

Stewardship Statistics

As of February 4, 2021
- 152 Pledged Steward Families
- $167,372 in Pledges

If you pledge now for 2021
- You can fulfill your pledge over the next 12 months.
- A monthly payment will be easier to manage.
- You can pledge on the Church website.
- You can make recurring payments on the Church website via Paypal.

Give
Serve
Attend
Grow
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Abatzidis
Mr. & Mrs. John Addamo
Mr. & Mrs. Gerassimos Alexatos
Mr. & Mrs. John Allyson
Mrs. Helen Andromanakos
Mr. & Mrs. Niko Andromanakos
Peter Andromanakos
Maria Angel
Mr. & Mrs. Apostolis Apostolou
Mr. & Mrs. George Argiriou
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Argiriou
Dorothy Athanas
Panorea Athanasiadis & Thomas
Merges
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Baialardo
Mr. & Mrs. John Ballow
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bapis
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Batanchiev
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Bell
Mr. & Mrs. George Bennis
Mr. & Mrs. Apostolis Apostolou
Mr. & Mrs. George Argiriou
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Argiriou
Dorothy Athanas
Panorea Athanasiadis & Thomas
Merges
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Baialardo
Mr. & Mrs. John Ballow
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bapis
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Batanchiev
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Bell
Mr. & Mrs. George Bennis
Mr. & Mrs. Stelios Bertos
Merle-Anne Burke
Mr. & Mrs. John Callaghan
Mr. & Mrs. Lenny Carlucci
Mr. & Mrs. Constantinos Catechis
Elaine Champey
Mr. & Mrs. Georgios Chaniotakis
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Chonis
Mr. & Mrs. Damianos Contopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Contopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. George Costidis
Sally Couluris
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Courbanou
Mr. Joseph D’Andraia
Theodore Davantzis, D.D.S.
Mr. & Mrs. Spyridon Dedes
Anne Deloss
Dr. & Mrs. George Demopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Benedict Devita
Mrs. Bess Diktaban
Mr. & Mrs. George Dimitriou
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Dorsey
Pamela Drew
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Ebe
Sally Economou
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Emanuel
Nicholas Evangelides
Mr. & Mrs. Val Franklin
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Georgalas
Dr. & Mrs. Victor Giannopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Giannitis
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gilmartin
Mr. & Mrs. Savvas Haji-Georgi
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Hatzis
Mrs. Elaine Heretakis
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Herrick
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Homenides
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Ilasi
Mr. & Mrs. John Ioannou
Mr. & Mrs. George Javaras
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Jones
Louka Kalkines
Mr. Nicholas Kameno
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kamvakis
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Karanuzias
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Karas
Konnie Karopoulou
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Karropoulou
Mr. & Mrs. Constantinos Katsapis
Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos Katsapis
Pauline Kitsopoulos
Ms. Joanna Koinis & Aldo Miotto
Mrs. Chryssa Kolios
Thom Kontos
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Kostopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Koukoula
Mr. & Mrs. Manny Koukoula
Mrs. Chrysanthe Koumas
Mr. & Mrs. George Koutsoukis
Mrs. Maria Kouttron
Nicholas Kritikos
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Lagis
Katerina Lallos
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lambros
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Larkin
Drs. Andrew Leo & Olga
Aroniadi-Leo
Mr. & Mrs. George Likourezos
Mr. & Mrs. George Loizos
Mr. & Mrs. Elias Manolis
Anastasia Manthos
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Marcisak
Mr. Steven Margarites
Thalia Margarites
Mr. Pat Maris & Dr. Irene Milonas
Mr. & Mrs. George Martakis
Mr. & Mrs. James Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Deno Matas
Curtis W. Meyer & Evelyn G. Kittis
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Michalopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Theocharis Moshios
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Nathan
Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Nathenas
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Orfanakis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Orfanakis
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Pamboris
Maria Papadopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. John Paraskevas
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios
Paraskevopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Parkas
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Parkas
Mr. & Mrs. Theodoras Pasaportis
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Pavides
Mr. & Mrs. Loucas Pericle
Mrs. Marcy Philippis
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Pietzak
Mary Pologeorgis
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Possas
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Pouli
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Poulis
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Poulis
Mr. & Mrs. John Poulis
Mr. & Mrs. Gregg Praetorius
Georgia Psilakis
Stephan Ramerini
Mrs. Mary Rousakis
Mr. & Mrs. Michael A Schickler
Mr. & Mrs. James Schiede
Mr. & Mrs. Pandelis Shakalis
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Skaikarinis
Mary Sofides
Dean Soteropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Val Soupios
Mr. Thomas Strifos
George Strum
Mr. & Mrs. John Taverna
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Theodoropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Tomasides
Mr. & Mrs. Nikolaos Toumpas
Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos Tsavitas
Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Tsivitis
Anastasia Tsunis
Eleni Tsunis
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Vanderbilt
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Varlamos
Pierre Vavoules
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Viegas
Fr. John & Presv. Tina Vlahos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Vrankovic
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Weis
Mr. & Mrs. Constantinos Xenakis
Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Zeiner
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ziegler

Stewardship
2021
St. Paraskevi
Ladies Philoptochos
is hosting a

Heart Healthy
FOOD DRIVE

Saturday, February 20, 2021
10 AM - Noon
St. Paraskevi GO Church
Greenlawn, New York

We are collecting
canned veggies, fruit,
tuna, soups, beans,
cereal, shelf milk and
juices

MORE INFORMATION
EMAIL:
Philopres@gmail.com
The Sunday School continues its “Love” theme this month. Valentines Day reminds us to express love for each other on a specific day; our Christian faith teaches us to love others every day, as God loves us.

This month the Sunday School students will be learning how Jesus taught His followers using parables. On the Sunday of the Prodigal Son found in Luke 15:11-32, our teachers will discuss how Jesus uses this parable to show God’s great love for us through His forgiveness and compassion.

We learn of three things through this parable: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God’s compassion. The reading of this parable follows the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own sinful condition, we might come to our senses and return to God through repentance. For those who have fallen into great despair over their sins thinking that there is no forgiveness, this parable offers hope.

The Heavenly Father is patiently and lovingly waiting for our return. There is no sin that can overcome His love for us.

The icon of the Sunday of the Prodigal Son shows the prodigal being received by his father upon his return. We are presented with an image of a warm and loving embrace, the son showing his need for his father, an attitude that represents repentance, love, and hope for renewal and restoration. The father is shown full of compassion for his son, having born the burden of his sin and suffering, but now filled with joy that he has returned. Our Heavenly Father is waiting and ready to receive us with His loving forgiveness and His saving embrace. Please note the Saint Paraskevi parish level Oratorical festival will be held on Sunday, March 14th following The Divine Liturgy at 12 noon. We encourage our 7th to 12th graders to participate. Information will be given, and topics will be discussed during Sunday School class in February. Those in the parish who are interested in participating, you can read more at: www.goarch.org/oratorical, or contact George Demacopoulos at demacopoulos@mac.com.

During the first 5 Fridays of Lent, there is a special service called the Akathist Hymn, which sings the praises of the Theotokos. Towards the end of the service, a hymn is sung in front of the icon of Jesus (the Kai Dos Imin) and another longer hymn is sung in front of the icon of the Panaghia (the Aspile). The days of the service this year are March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9 and April 16. If you would like to learn to chant these hymns, please send an email to Kathy Demacopoulos at kdemacop@gmail.com — Kathy can provide you with sheet music (with the words in Greek or in English phonetics) and recordings of the hymns, and can work with you to practice once or twice.

We will continue to offer Sunday School registration throughout the year! Just click on http://www.stparaskevi.org/ministries/education/sunday-school. For more information regarding Sunday School and our Rules and Guidelines during COVID, visit our Sunday School webpage or contact the Sunday School Director, Flo Ioannou at Florenceioannou@gmail.com.

Below is the Class Schedule for February and March 2021. (Note: Dates of Sunday School are subject to change based on COVID-19 Requirements)

Feb. 7 Class 16th Sunday of Matthew
Feb. 14 No Class Sunday of the Canaanite
Feb. 21 Class Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee
Feb. 28 Class Sunday of the Prodical Son
Sunday School Cont’

Mar. 7       Class       Judgement (Meatfare) Sunday
Mar. 14      Class       Forgiveness Sunday/ Oratorical Festival
Mar. 21      Class       Sunday of Orthodoxy/Icon Procession
Mar. 28      Class       Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

As you know, families need to make a reservation for the Divine Liturgy on the church website. If you would like to attend church and there are no reservations left for a given Sunday, families should send an email to Effie Carlucci at ecaraaa@gmail.com to see if there is space available in the pews reserved for Sunday School or if there have been any cancellations. There is also available seating in the Community Center for families to celebrate the Divine Liturgy by live-stream (no reservation needed); after Holy Communion, parents in the Community Center will be brought into the church as space opens.

God Bless!

Greek School Board of Education

We hope you and your families are all safe and healthy. We recently had to go full remote or distance learning. I am pleased to have seen the entire school adapt within a two-day notice. This was also a rehearsal for Saturdays when we may have inclement weather. In the past, we used to cancel Greek School and make up lost days in June.

Recently, the Greek School Board drafted a set of Rules and Regulations for the Greek School. A copy can be found on the St. Paraskevi website at the Greek School webpage. Please print a copy for your reference.

On the Greek School webpage, you can also find the Greek School registration form, which also includes a section to pledge to be a Steward. There are also other links on the St. Paraskevi website to pledge to be a Steward, including on the homepage. I recommend you pledge your 2021 Stewardship now and pay monthly installments through the course of 2021. This may be easier financially than pledging your Stewardship in September, during Greek School registration, and having only 4 months to fulfill your 2021 pledge.

Stewardship from the Greek School families helps pay heat and electricity consumed during Greek School instruction, and, in these days, to sanitize and clean the Greek School more frequently. Without Stewardship, Greek School tuition would be more to pay for these expenses. Therefore, keep this in mind when making your Stewardship pledge for 2021. If you are a Steward of another parish and your child(ren) attend our Greek School, the Stewardship commitment is $350.

If you have any concerns or ideas for improving the Greek School, please email them to our Principal Maria Angel at stparaskevishrine@gmail.com.

Thank you.
Best regards,
George Likourezos, President
St Paraskevi Greek School Board of Education
St. Paraskevi Greek School 2021
Three Hierarchs Celebration

Pictured LtoR: Maria Angel-Principal, Sophia Efthymiou, John Michael Kavakis, Demetra Manaris, Katerina Chaniotakis, Gerasimos Korsanos, Fr. John
We will be having the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival again this year!

Our Parish Oratorical Festival will be held on **Sunday, March 14th**, after the Divine Liturgy.

We will be following all COVID precautions.

As a reminder, this is for students in grades 7th-12th. If you (or your child) are interested, you can read more at:

[www.goarch.org/oratorical](http://www.goarch.org/oratorical)

or contact George Demacopoulos at [demacopoulos@mac.com](mailto:demacopoulos@mac.com)
"Lord, bless our music that it may glorify Your Name; May using it to serve You always be our aim."

February, the Heart Month is here! Our hearts are up in the choir loft with hopes that it won't be too much longer before we are back. We may be there in spirit rather than in person, but our hearts are always in the love of music and singing our beautiful church hymns!

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; With my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven forever. I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever. - Psalm 89

The D.A.D. Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians held its' Annual Vasilopeta Council Meeting on Saturday, January 9th at the Holy Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church, Brookville, N.Y. Everyone present could not believe that it was one year since we last met. Whoever imagined that shortly after we would be isolated from one another! The main topic of the meeting was plans for the upcoming Virtual Concert to be held on March 7th in lieu of the biennial Cabaret in order to raise funds for the Federation's Demetrios C. Pappas Educational Scholarship Fund! And now, the moment you all have been waiting for: the winner of this year's coin was the Holy Resurrection Choir! Father Chrysostomos Gilbert chanted the prayers and cut the Vasilopeta baked by Federation President Anna Dounelis. Father Panteleimon Papadopoulos, Pastor of Holy Resurrection joined us to welcome everyone and then assist in the cutting of the Vasilopeta. Pictured are Anna Dounelis, D.A.D. Federation President, Fr. Chrysostomos Gilbert, Spiritual Advisor, Ted Brakatselos, Federation Vice President, and Fr. Panteleimon Papadopoulos.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, March 7th at 7:30pm the D.A.D. Federation will be presenting a VIRTUAL CONCERT in order to raise funds for The Demetrios C. Pappas Educational Scholarship Fund. Past scholarship winners will be performing. We hope you will support this very worthy cause and have an enjoyable evening as well. Perhaps you may know some of the very talented participants, including from St. Paraskevi! Tune in to find out!! More information will follow soon.

SURPRISE!! Did you guess from the single clue as to the author of our next featured article? Obviously it is someone connected to church music since this is the choir column, and to St. Paraskevi since it is someone familiar to some but not to everyone.

Jeffrey Economou, (1932-2002), was our beloved choir director here at St. Paraskevi for 24 years. Musically talented and a devoutly spiritual person who loved God, his church and its' music, Jeff had an early start in the church music world when he first became a Greek Orthodox Church choir director at the age of 17 in Ohio. In 1954 Jeffrey directed the TriState Federation Of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians' 500 Voice Conference Choir. He was a music therapist, a profession he loved, which translated into the patient and spiritual manner with which he both directed and taught the choir. Jeffrey was the founding president of the D.A.D. Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians in which he remained active until his passing in 2002. The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians awarded him the Patriarch Athenagoras Medal "for individuals who have made an exemplary contribution to church music in their metropolis". Jeffrey had previously received this award in 1985 from Archbishop lakovos of blessed memory, for his many years of long and dedicated choir work. What follows is Jeffrey's discussion of music in the Greek Orthodox Liturgy, written in 1967.

MUSIC IN THE GREEK ORTHODOX LITURGY

The music of the Greek Orthodox Church in America has bridged the musical inheritance of two great cultures, East and West. It must be acknowledged that the music of the East emphasizes melody, while the music of the West places its emphasis upon harmony. One needs only to listen to any of the Greek Orthodox Church choirs to be aware of the near total influence of Western harmonization in present church music. It is recognized that this influence also comes from within Orthodoxy itself, that is, from the Slavic tradition; namely Russians, Serbians, Rumanians, etc., whose music is theoretically Western while still retaining the distinctive elements that earmark their local cultures. Thus we find in Greek Orthodox ecclesiastical music the curious admixture of non-Eastern elements derived from both within and without the periphery of Orthodoxy. The total situation presents an interesting musicological problem, and also a challenge to Greek Orthodox ecclesiastical musicians, some of whom have already attempted encouraging experiments toward its solution.

True Byzantine music is monophonic, sung by one or more singers in unison, unaccompanied, and by male voices only. However, the music of the Greek Orthodox church today is sung, in most cases harmonized, with mixed voices, and accompanied by an organ. Although the modal concept of each hymn is taken into consideration, the use of polyphony is evident in many of the arrangements in order to establish the ecclesiastical mood with which our ears of the West are accustomed.

To Be Continued

Until we meet again please stay safe and be well!

Fay Pavlidis
Mark your calendar, and save the date!

The Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians

will present

‘A Virtual Youth Concert’

on Sunday, March 7, 2021

at 7:30 PM on YouTube

To Benefit the Federation’s Demetrios C. Pappas Educational Scholarship Program

This very special musical program is being held in place of our Biennial Cabaret Fundraiser, and will feature wonderful performances by a select group of recipients of our Federation’s Scholarship Program.

We hope you will plan to support this most worthy effort, so that we may be able to continue presenting scholarships to our District’s very talented young church musicians.

More information will follow.

St. Paraskevi’s Ariana and Andrew Warren will be sharing their talents in this concert. Please help support this worthy cause.
This powerful memoir tells the story of a Greek youth who, out of a desire to know the truth empirically, began to experiment in yoga, hypnotism, and various occult techniques. Eventually drawn back to the Faith of his forefathers Orthodox Christianity he visited the ancient monastic republic of Mount Athos in his native Greece, where he was brought to a knowledge of the Truth of Jesus Christ by the saintly Elder Paisios (1924-1994). Nevertheless, believing he had only found part of the truth on the Holy Mountain, he chose to give the same opportunity to Hindu yogis that he had given to Elder Paisios and other Orthodox monks. Thus, at the age of twenty-five, he embarked on a trip to India, where he undertook his search in the ashrams of three famous gurus, one of whom was worshipped as a god. His experiences in India, along with his subsequent encounters with Elder Paisios on Mount Athos, are recounted in the present book in vivid detail. Popular in Greece since its first publication there in 2001, The Gurus, the Young Man, and Elder Paisios is a page-turning narrative of both outward adventures and inward struggles. What stands out most in this book, however, is the radiant image of Elder Paisios, possessed of divine gifts, laboring in prayer for his fellow man, and overflowing with unconditional love. Through this, one sees the uncreated Source of the elder’s love and of the author’s spiritual transformation: the true God-man Jesus Christ, Who honors man’s personal freedom while drawing him, through love, into everlasting union with Himself.

Please note that Elder Paisios, now Saint Paisios, was canonized by the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church in January 2015, years after his passing.

If you are interested in purchasing this book, either email me or call me at:
JohnGk@optonline.net or 516 – 306 – 0317

This popular book can be purchased through the Saint Paraskevi Church Book Store for $15.
Dear Fellow Parishioners,

This year **HIHI (homeless program)** will be conducted very differently than all the previous years due to the Covid 19 situation. The men will not be coming to our church on Thursday evenings as usual, nor will they go to any other different church each night, as has been done in all the previous years. Instead, they will all go to Gloria Dei Church in Huntington Station every night during the months of Dec., Jan., Feb., and March. They will arrive there at 9:00pm and sadly, because of the Covid 19 situation, they will not be given dinner as usual, nor will they will be provided with transportation to the church as usual; they must arrive there on their own. They will be given a bagged breakfast and bagged lunch when they leave the church at 5:00AM the next morning. Since the men will be going to

Gloria Dei Church each night, each parish that has provided the men with their facility to sleep and has provided breakfast, lunch and dinner in the past years, instead, will prepare a bag of breakfast items and a bag of lunch items for each man, as mentioned above.

Fellow parishioners, over the past 15 years, you have been very generous every year with the breakfasts, lunches and dinners you have provided for the men. (They *always* tell us the **best food is at our church**)! If you would like to contribute towards the homeless program this year, you can donate the following items to the HIHI program. There will be 2 drop off boxes, one in The Narthex and the other at Hellenic Center as you first enter, by the glass doors.

**Pop top cans, so they can easily be opened:**
- tuna or chicken
- beef stew
- Chili
- Soups
- Canned fruit
- **Individually** wrapped hard cheese like cheddar & Swiss
- **Individually** wrapped dried fruit or nuts
- **Individually** wrapped crackers/potato chips/pop corn/corn chips etc
- Granola or cereal bars
- Jerky and other dried meats
- **Individual** boxes of milk or juice
- Packs of soda
- Bottles of water

**In addition to food items, the men need the following travel size toiletry items:**
- tooth paste and tooth brush
- disposable razors
- small bars of soap
- socks.... typical size
- wash cloths....typical size

**Boxes of plastic bags, quart and 2 gallon size GLAD brand please**
- Plastic spoons
- Napkins

If you have any questions, please call Anastasia Geotes at (516) 922-3854 in the evenings.
“Dedicated to my mother Anastasia Yakovou who taught me to see” (1)

“Vision and sight do not refer exclusively to physical blindness, but to the ability to see truth and to face it courageously.” (1)

It has been more than 50 years since the Grotto-Shrine of St. Paraskevi, a replica of the original Shrine in Therapia, Turkey, was constructed and donated to our Parish by John Yakovou (1). July 26, 2019 marked the 50th anniversary of the consecration of the waters of our Grotto-Shrine.

Over the years, thousands of people from all over the world and of different faiths, have visited our Grotto-Shrine and have felt the humbling privilege of being in St. Paraskevi’s presence. The stark simplicity of the interior and the soft trickle of the Holy water, which flows from the mouth of the fountain, create an atmosphere of serenity and holiness. Through the intercessions of St. Paraskevi and God’s will, many have received physical healings after visiting this Holy site.

To continue this legacy, in 2019, our Parish began a project to restore the Grotto-Shrine. The interior was painted, the old doors were replaced, the floor was stripped down, new light fixtures were installed, and electrical updates were made. Now in 2020, we begin our St. Paraskevi Grotto-Shrine Beautification Fundraiser to raise money for the renovation of the Grotto-Shrine’s surrounding area landscape, which has suffered years of neglect. Shrubs have been removed, bricks have shifted, railings have deteriorated, the steps are dangerous and not to code, rocks (overtaken with weeds) have been haphazardly placed, and anyone in a wheelchair cannot go past the breezeway doors. As caretakers of this Holy site we have a responsibility to properly preserve what has been gifted to us.

Our goal is to raise $100,000 for the construction and landscaping costs; all funds raised in excess of that amount will be placed in a restricted account to be used for future maintenance costs of the Grotto-Shrine and surrounding landscape.

Please take a few moments to consider a donation that will help preserve our Grotto-Shrine for our parishioners, visitors and for generations to come.

With your help we hope to transform this Holy site back to the beautiful, sacred place the Grotto-Shrine’s faithful benefactor intended it to be 50 years ago.

With Faith, Love and Respect,
Father John and the Shrine Restoration Committee
SAINT PARASKEVI GROTTO-SHRINE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

FEATURES OF THE PROJECT

• There will be a direct sight line to the Grotto-Shrine from the entrance doors in the breezeway.

• The land will be regraded so that it is even with the breezeway doors, allowing for wheelchair access to a seating area to the right.

• The design uses natural stone pavers over concrete to prevent shifting or movement, along with natural stone boulders and benches.

• Steps down to the Grotto-Shrine would be wider and set according to code.

• Natural stone benches will be placed along the steps to the Grotto-Shrine.

• The largest of the rocks that are currently in place would be used along the edge closest to the building. A walkable stone path from the front to the back would be laid next to them.

• Plantings will include ornamental grasses planted above the Grotto-Shrine and evergreens in the back to hide the A/C units and the fencing. Plantings with bursts of spring and summer color will be interspersed throughout.

Yes, I would like to make a gift to the Saint Paraskevi Grotto-Shrine Beautification Project of:

☐ $25,000 ☐ $10,000 ☐ $5,000 ☐ $2,000 ☐ $1,000 ☐ $500 ☐ Other $__________

Name: ________________________________________ ☐ Please check if you wish to remain anonymous

Address:_________________________________City:________________________State:_____Zip:______

Phone:_________________________________ Email:_______________________________________

☐ Enclosed is my check to “St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church” in the amount of $__________

☐ I would like to charge a gift of $__________ to my credit card:

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Credit Card #:_________________________Expiration Date: ________Authorized Signature_________________
Thank you to those who have donated to the St. Paraskevi Shrine Beautification Project.

Mr. & Mrs. James Adamis
George Amanatides
Manolis Anagnostou
Anonymous
Miss Eleni Anastos
Corinne Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. James Andreadis
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Andreadis
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Arroyo
Mrs. Dorothy Athanas
Mr. & Mrs. John Ballow
Michael and Helen Bapis
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Bifulco
Kassiani Billo
Ms. Jennifer Borut
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Borzumato
Mr. & Mrs. Vasiliou Boukas
Brueggemann Funeral Home
Donna and Rodney Bubar
Ms. Merle-Anne Soulitis Burke
Christopher G. Carlucci
Effie Carlucci
Mr. & Mrs. Lenny Carlucci
Mr. & Mrs. Constantinos Catechis
Mrs. Lillian Catherines
Mrs Betty Chonis
Mrs. Rita Choulis
Costas & Joanne Christoforou
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Christopher
Gregory and Pauline Culley
Dr. & Mrs. George Demacopoulos
Nickolas & Teresa Demer
Sophia De Monte
Mr. Kirk Demou
Mrs. Bess Diktaban
Angie Dimopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Dorsey
Mrs. Pamela Drew
Maria Drosou
Michael Emanuel
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Emanuel
The Emmans Family
Mr. Nicholas Evangelides
Alexia Janie Evans
Mary Filippidis
Christina Fusco
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Gatsiadi
Mr. & Mrs. George Gaughan
In memory of Dr. Peter Gevas
Nectarios Giannios
Peter and Lucille Gonzales
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hartofilis
Cecilia Ioannou
Mr. & Mrs. John Ioannou
Mr. & Mrs. George Javaras
Angela Kalaitzis
Mrs. Loula Kalkines
Chris Kaloudis
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kamvakis
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Karalekas
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Karanzias
Mrs. Mary Karipidis
Mr. & Mrs. John Keifas
Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Keisidis
Curtis W. Meyer & Evelyn G. Kittis
Mr. Thom Kontos
Efstratios Kotsialiotis
Mr. & Mrs. Aristotelis
Kouzmitros
Gesthimani Kouloukis
Mrs. Chrysanthi Kouras
The Koubaro Club
Mrs. Katerina Lallos
Gus Leodas
Mr. & Mrs. Sid Lambros
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Larkin
Mr. & Mrs. George Likourezos
Elenie Loizou
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Los
Mr. & Mrs. Spiro Macris
Iakovos Magri
Mrs. Anastasia Manthos
Margo Margarites
Mr. Steven Margarites
Mrs. Thalia Margarites
Gregory Mariani
Panagiotis Markou
Mr. & Mrs. George Martakis
Mr. & Mrs. James Martin
William & Kathy McDermott
William & MaryAnn Mitsinikos
Mrs. Catherine Nicholas
Mr. Mark Nolan
Paula Kokoros-Odiero
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios
Paraskevopoulos
Sophia Pavlatos
Fay Petrokopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Pickios
Mr. John Pontisakos
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Possas
Deborah Poulos
Mrs. Georgia Psilakis
Mr. & Mrs. Pano Pyrpyris
Mr. Stephan Ramerini
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Roussis
Jed Schoucair
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Shore
Mrs. Kyriaki Sirigos
Dean and Lisa Soteropoulos
Mr. Efstratios Sourlis
Mr. Chris Spanos
St. Paraskevi Greek School
Mary Stell
Mr. & Mrs. Keriacos Theodorou
Tina Tornabene
Maria Tosca
Mr. & Mrs. Sotiarios Toskos
Maria Tsapos
Steven & Kiki Tsavaris
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Varlamos
Ms. Maria Vlachos
Mr. Marc Yland
Stella Zachary
Mr. & Mrs. Suheil Zeibag
Christine Zeiner
Recycle your clothes to help us recycle!

Your clothes will be used to buy recycling bins for our church, St. Paraskevi, to help make it cleaner and help our planet. Do your part and clean out your closet!

Help Girl Scout Anastasia Akapnitis fundraise for her Gold Award by simply donating your clothes!

Clothes may be used (in good condition) or new, and can be donated to the box in the Hellenic Center foyer. Thank you for any contribution!

Feel free to email anastaakap@gmail.com with any questions!
Looking for Fun & Adventure?

Scouts:

- Have FUN while building FRIENDSHIPS and learning TEAM WORK
- Enjoy the OUTDOORS and build PERSONAL FITNESS SKILLS through CAMPING and HIKING TRIPS
- Build SELF-ESTEEM and learn RESPECT
- Set GOALS and go on ADVENTURES

Start your scouting adventure with Pack 312! We welcome scouts Kindergarten through 5th grade. Meetings start soon. Please call Cubmaster Carey Ng at (631) 682-3707 for more information or to join.

Visit our website at:
http://eastnorthport312.mypack.us/
or contact our Pack at infopack312@gmail.com
Memorialize Your Loved Ones

- The new St. Paraskevi Memorial Tree is an excellent way to remember your loved ones who have reposed in the Lord.
- Each Leaf can hold up to four (4) names.
- $1,000 donation for each leaf.

Please Contact The Memorial Tree Committee

Steven Margarites - Stevenmargarites@Gmail.com
Jason Poulis - jjpsalesinc@gmail.com
Dan Doscas - huntdad@gmail.com
Or
Call the Church office - 631-261-7272

Dan Dorsey
Cell: 631-617-0150
Fax: 631-582-8995
Email: dan@tripleplayprinting.com

For All Your Printing Needs!
Serving the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Since 1995
120 Wilbur Place, Suite A, Bohemia, NY 11716
**Advertisements**

This advertising space available for $550/year.

Please mail checks, ad contract, and ad design to:

St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church
1 Shrine Pl. Greenlawn, NY 11740

Please make checks payable to “St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church”

---

B80 New York Avenue
Huntington Station, NY 11746

Telephone: (631) 423-2185
Email: jacobsenfuneral@gmail.com

---

Thank You to:
Astro Masonry & Supply
For donating all materials for the
Bell Memorial Garden &
Eagle Scout project for Jerry Ballas.

---

IRIS DE VITA
PHOTOGRAPHER ~ PUBLICIST ~ WRITER
HUNTINGTON, NY

631-223-6334  DEVITAI@OPTONLINE.NET
FACEBOOK.COM/IRISDEVITAPHOTOGRAPHY

---

Astro Masonry & Supply
Mario Biscardi
631-242-2567
www.AstroMasonry.com
127 - 16 Smithtown Blvd.
Nesconset, NY 11767
631–979 - 0924
Advertise in "The Message"
Do you own a business, offer a service, or are you a professional?
Do you want to increase business?
Advertise in "The Message"

- “The Message” reaches over 5,000 people each month from Montauk to Manhattan.
- Placing an ad in “The Message” is an inexpensive way to promote your business.
- “The Message” is available online in full color.
- “The Message” is also sent to more than 1,000 people, via email, in full color.

"The Message"
Advertising Contract
Please complete and return

Name: ____________________________ Company Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________ City: ____________________________ State: ______ Zip: ______
Phone: ____________________________ Fax: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________
Sold By: ____________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ad Size</th>
<th>1/8 Page</th>
<th>1/4 Page</th>
<th>1/2 Page</th>
<th>Full Page</th>
<th>Inside Covers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Business Card Size)</td>
<td>$50.00/Month</td>
<td>$75.00/Month</td>
<td>$100.00/Month</td>
<td>$200.00/Month</td>
<td>$2,500.00/Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$550.00/Year</td>
<td>$750.00/Year</td>
<td>$995.00/Year</td>
<td>$1,995.00/Year</td>
<td>$3,000.00/Year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2 Months Free)</td>
<td>(2 Months Free)</td>
<td>(2 Months Free)</td>
<td>(2 Months Free)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please make checks payable to “St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church”

Please mail checks, ad contract, and ad design to:
St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church
1 Shrine Pl.
Greenlawn, NY 11740