

THE REVELATION

DECEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER



*St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church
Wheeling, West Virginia*



ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2215 CHAPLINE ST.
WHEELING, WV 26003
(304) 233-0757 OFFICE
WWW.STJOHNGOCHURCH.ORG

REV. FATHER SPIRO KEHAYES
(304) 547-4106 HOME

2008 ROSTER

Parish Council Members

Paul Chacalos	242-6467
George Cosmides	233-7961
Paul Joanou	243-1671
Liz Kademenos	242-5907
Gus Kayafas	233-1816
George Spanos	412-221-5970
Patrick Riddle	243-8951
Lesa Vasiliou	412-217-1648
Pete Sapon	242-2992
Annette Vidis	232-7143
Bill Petroplus	
John Karras	233-2211

Parish Council Officers

George Spanos	President
Gus Kayafas	Vice President
Annette Vidis	Secretary
Lesa Vasiliou	Treasurer
Pete Sapon	Assist. Treasurer
Elizabeth Kademenos	Corresp. Secretary

Auditing Committee

Steve Grammen, George Mamakos
& Frank Joanou

Church Secretary

Janice Ogden 233-0757
Office Hours: M-F 10:00-1:00
Or by appointment

Custodian

Bill Milan 695-6269

Chanter

Steve Frangos

Choir Director

Annette Vidis

Ministry Leaders

Spiritual Growth & Outreach

Patrick & Melanie Riddle

Youth Ministries

Maria Kayafas & Melanie Riddle

Bylaws

George Spanos & Lesa Vasiliou

Newsletter

Melanie Riddle & Janice Ogden

Public Relations

Melanie Riddle

Liturgical Needs

Gus Kayafas

Living Memorial Endowment

George Margarettes & Jim Hadjis

Fundraising & Social

George Cosmides & Bill Petroplus

Financial Planning

Paul Joanou & John Karras

Maintenance

Patrick Riddle & Gus Kayafas

Stewardship

Paul Joanou & Pete Sapon

Hellenic Center & Parking

Liz Kademenos & Lesa Vasiliou

Sanctuary Beautification

Gus Kayafas

Philoptochos Lesa Vasiliou & Annette Vidis

Over Fifties Fr. Spiro Kehayes & George Margarettes

Hara Louise Mamakos

Agape Dancers Maria Kayafas

Greek School Stella Parikakis

Trustees George Varlas
George Mamakos
Gus Sokos
Goldie Basil
Dr. James Hadjis

Philoptochos News

It is with great sadness I report the passing of long-time Philoptochos member Fanny Spanos. Fanny was one of the most generous people I have ever met. Always around with a helping hand, a compliment, an icon purchased in Greece, or a can of coffee from Krogers. Fanny was usually the first person to arrive on Monday mornings to get ready to bake. I don't believe anyone could offer a better boost than Fanny was able to deliver to me. Whenever someone got critical, Fanny would whisper in my ear, "You are doing a great job Lesa. Keep up the good work." I will miss Fanny, as I am sure the rest of the community of St. John will as well. May her memory be eternal.

Pick up day for the Holiday Bake Sale is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3. We will also have additional pastries, bread and spanokopita available for sale when you arrive to pick up your pre-orders. Unfortunately sales were down this year, so there is quite a bit available for sale. REMEMBER....this is our only fundraiser, and the proceeds go towards the church renovation, so please help the Philoptochos out by purchasing pastries for your Holidays.

The Philoptochos is sponsoring a Community Christmas party on December 21 in conjunction with the Youth Christmas pageant held on the

same day. We will be providing the meat and rolls and asking the community to bring a covered dish. There will be further details mailed out to Philoptochos members, and details will be in the weekly bulletin as to what covered dish each parishioner is requested to bring. We are also still collecting Health Kits for the IOCC. There are sample kits available for you to see. You can talk to Margaret Robinson for more information.

As usual, the Philoptochos is also collecting canned goods to provide the needy around the holidays. With the sanctuary renovations, the drop-box may be hard to find, but just ask any Philoptochos member, and they can point you in the right direction. I'd like to give a big thank you to everyone who has helped in ANY way this year for our Holiday Bake Sale. This sale would not be possible without all of your help. Thank you again for all that you do.

Don't forget.....2009 Dues are now payable at the rate of \$20. Thank you!

Lesla Vasiliou Tustin

Youth News

The Goya Retreat was a great experience for George Kellas, Sophia Kayafas and the other 120 Orthodox youth who attended from the Diocese. Father Luke Veronis, an Orthodox missionary priest, was the main presenter. Thank you to Maria Kayafas for getting the children to and from camp.

Youth Sunday was a lovely opportunity for our young people to serve their church and get a clear explanation of our Liturgy. **Father Spiro** did an incredible job explaining the Divine Liturgy. **Thank you to the Chacalos family and Kathy Frangos** for preparing the Gyro sale for Youth Sunday. We made \$275.00 profit. Thank you all for your support. Laurel, we do appreciate your leadership on this fundraiser each year.

Play practices will be held December 7th and 14th. Our Christmas pageant will be December 21st. Santa will arrive at 12:30 during the luncheon.

December 28th is Family Worship.

Please join us in donating warm hats for the needy youth of the Wheeling community and add a hat to our Christmas tree during the upcoming weeks before Christmas.

Also, we will be collecting **gently used, clean coats for children** in our community. Our goal is to fill the large box before Christmas.

"But do not forget to do good and share, for with such sacrifices god is well pleased." Hebrews 13:15



Teen Pulse

DO UNTO OTHERS...

“Taking Care of our Fellow Brothers and Sisters”

The “Golden Rule”... Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. The Golden Rule has roots in Scripture. Read Matthew 7:12. It says, “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” The Greatest Commandment, found in Matthew 22:36-40, teaches us to “Love the Lord” and “Love our neighbor as ourselves.”

There are many more Scriptural references and quotes from the Saints of the Church that speak about taking care of our “neighbor.” Theoretically, we know that we should do things for those who might be less fortunate than us. We know that we should stand up for those who are beaten down by injustice, evil, and unfortunate circumstances. However, HOW do we act on this love for God and our neighbor? In what ways can we fulfill this commandment?

There are many ways we can ACT on our call to do good things for others. Here are some ideas that you can organize through your parish, youth groups, or even on your own:

VOLUNTEER your time at your city/state philanthropic organizations (Homeless shelters, food banks). Check online for volunteer opportunities in YOUR area.

- **ORGANIZE** your own event to support a local charity or organization. You can organize a food drive, plan a Blood Drive with your local Blood Bank, or hold a dinner/dance to raise money for a worthwhile cause.

- **DONATE** a monetary gift to help a local charity/organization continue offering its services to those in need.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Our actions can stretch beyond our own neighborhood, cities, and states. Christ’s love and mercy extends to every corner of the world. “Neighbor” means all mankind... not just the people that live next door. There are organizations already in place that offer us more ways to VOLUNTEER, ORGANIZE, AND DONATE to worthwhile causes in the U.S. and throughout the world. Here are a few examples to check out:

- **OCMC** (Orthodox Christian Mission Center): The mission of OCMC is to establish Eucharistic communities throughout the world and to share the message of the Gospel where it has not been proclaimed. In addition, OCMC missionaries have provided their specific talents and expertise when needed. Doctors have volunteered to provide medical care, teachers have volunteered to work in the local schools, and contractors have volunteered their time to help build schools, churches, etc. Learn more about OCMC and its work by visiting www.ocmc.org.

- **IOCC** (International Orthodox Christian Charities): The mission of IOCC is to provide food, shelter, economic assistance, and hope to those who are suffering and in need throughout the world. IOCC works in conjunction with other philanthropic organizations to accomplish this mission. For example, IOCC partnered with Habitat for Humanity to help rebuild the storm-torn Gulf Coast. IOCC also helped farmers in Greece recover after the devastating fires in 2008. If you would like to help IOCC and their efforts, visit www.iocc.org.

- **OYO** (Orthodox Youth Outreach): OYO (Orthodox Youth Outreach), a ministry of NAC Teen SOYO, has been designed to provide local parishes and youth workers with the resources necessary to involve junior and senior high students in local community service and short-term missions projects. For more information, visit www.orthodoxyouthoutreach.org.

- **National Philoptochos Society**: The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc., as the philanthropic heart of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, has for over seventy- five years undertaken a multitude of philanthropic programs to aid the poor, the sick, and the elderly. In addition, the Philoptochos Society has also been deeply involved in providing and supporting social services for those in need. To read more about the Philoptochos, their efforts, and to get involved, visit www.philoptochos.org.

Philaret the Merciful of Amnia

December 1

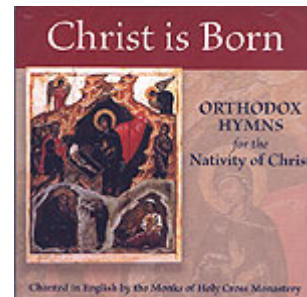


Saint Philaret a native of Paphlagonia in Asia Minor, was a virtuous Christian layman who lived in lawful wedlock and raised a family. He was most renowned for his generosity to all in need. With the permission of God, in a short space of time he lost the greater part of his possessions to theft and other misfortunes and was left with nothing but his family, his home, and a little livestock. Yet he continued to give generously to the poor despite the faint-heartedness of his family, who reproached him for giving alms when they were in need themselves; and God, seeing his faith, restored his prosperity to him many times over. He foresaw the day of his death, and reposed in an odour of sanctity in Constantinople in 789.

Bookstore Gifts

Christmas will be here before we know it!

The holiday season is here and our bookstore has great gifts available for purchase such as bookmarks, icons, Christmas cards, night lights, and CD's just to name a few. Below are some items you can order. Please allow shipping time.



Twenty-eight magnificent Orthodox hymns for the Nativity of Christ chanted by the Monks of Holy Cross Monastery. \$17.00



Porcelain icon bulb. Approximate diameter 2 1/4"x2 1/4 " \$15.00



This magnificent Nativity icon tapestry, of Stavronikita Monastery, deserves a special place in your home or church. Woven by American craftsmen with heavy cotton/poly colorful threads and then finished off with cotton duck backing. It is hung from a decorative wooden dowel. 25" x 33". \$60.00



The Revelation

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
Greek Orthodox Church
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Wheeling, WV 26003

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The November newsletter is sponsored by Grace Kamis in memory of her husband Harry Kamis, brother John Hadjis, parents Alex & Hariclia Hadjis, and William & Helen Kaimakides. May their memories be eternal.

Zechariah 7:9

“This is what the Lord Almighty says: Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.”