

THE GOOD NEWS



The Monthly Bulletin of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Assumption



Volume 21, Issue 4

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION 1804 13th AVENUE SEATTLE, WA 98122 Rev. Fr. Dean Kouldukis Rev. Fr. Michael Johnson

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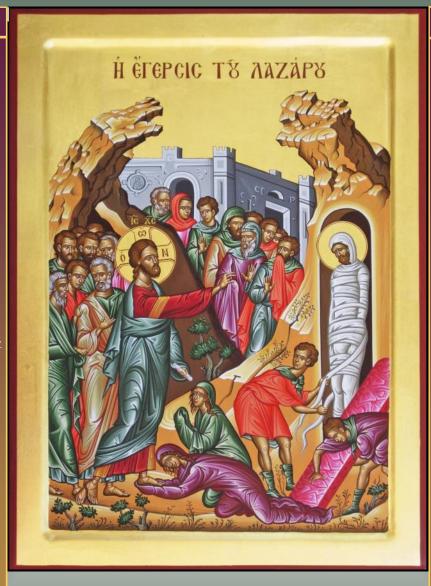
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Christ, everyone's joy, the truth, the light, life, the resurrection of the world, has by His goodness appeared to those on earth. He is the archetype of the resurrection, granting divine forgiveness to all.

April, 2016

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<u>Chanters</u> Evangelos Pampoukas (206) 246-7573

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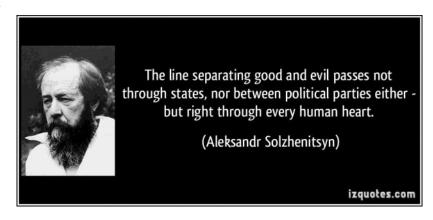
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Forgiveness - The Hardest Love of All

By Fr. Stephen Freeman

I cannot think that any of my readers is a stranger to forgiveness, either the need to be forgiven or the need to forgive. The need to forgive, according to the commandment of Christ, extends well beyond those who ask for our forgiveness: we are commanded to forgive our enemies - whom I presume would rarely want to ask for our forgiveness.



Of course, our experience of those who are truly enemies is that we do not want to forgive them. We do not trust them; the wound has been too deep; their offense is not against us but against someone we love who is particularly vulnerable, I could enlarge the list but we are all too familiar with it. The reasons we find it hard to forgive our enemies is endless.

But the commandment remains - not as a counsel of how to live a healthier, happier life - but with the added reminder that we will only find forgiveness as we forgive. Forgiveness is not optional - but a fundamental spiritual action which we must learn to use as though our salvation depended upon it - for it does.

Several times in Scripture forgiveness of others (including enemies) is linked with our becoming like God, being conformed to His image. Thus when I think of forgiveness I think as well of the whole life of salvation - for the path to being restored to the fullness of the image of Christ runs directly through the forgiveness of our enemies. It may indeed be the very key to our salvation (as it is worked out in us) and its most accurate measure.

Having said that, however, is also to say that this commandment to forgive is not of man - we do not have it in us to fulfill this commandment in and of ourselves. St. Gregory of Nyssa once said that "man is mud whom God has commanded to become God." Of course it is utterly and completely impossible for mud to do such a thing (unless God make it so).

All that being said, grace is the foundation of forgiveness. We pray for forgiveness to enter our heart. We beg for forgiveness to enter our heart. We importune God for forgiveness to enter our heart.

Even as a product of grace - we do not begin with the hardest things but with the easiest, We do not begin fasting by tackling the most strict regimen. We do not begin prayer with an effort to pray continually for forty days (or some other great feat). Such efforts would either crush us with their difficulty or crush us with our success.

continued ->





These are a few thoughts on beginning the life of forgiveness:

- 1. Begin by struggling to form the habit of forgiveness in the smallest things. With a child, with traffic, with little irritations. Do not struggle in a small way but throw yourself into forgiveness. It should become a habit, but a habit of grace, a large action.
- 2. Use this prayer for the enemies who seem to be beyond your ability to pray: "O God, at the dread judgment, do not condemn them for my sake." This places forgiveness at a distance and even a hard heart can often manage the small prayer of forgiveness at such a distance.
- 3. Be always aware of your own failings and constantly ask for God's forgiveness. "Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner."
- 4. As much as possible cultivate in your heart the understanding that all human beings are broken and victims of the fall. None of us enters a world of purity, nor do we enter the world fully functional as a human being. It is the gradual cultivation of mercy in our heart. Many will complain that our culture already has a "cult of victimization" in which no one takes responsibility for their actions. The same people will imagine that the world would be better if only everyone took more responsibility. But they themselves will not take on the responsibility that belong to us all. As Dostoevsky says, "Each man is responsible for everything before everyone." Thus the complaint comes out of our pride. We think we ourselves are not responsible for the state of the world as it is and that if only others were as good as we were the world would be better. This is a lie.
- 5. The proper response to taking such responsibility is to pray and ask forgiveness. Feeling guilty is generally another self-centered action and is not the same thing as asking forgiveness.
- 6. Make a life confession at least once a year being careful to name as many resentments as you can remember (this last advice comes from Met. Jonah Paffhausen).

"But I say to you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to every one who begs from you; and of him who takes away your goods do not ask them again. And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:27-38).







HOLY WEEK & APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:45 am Matins • 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Vespers



Friday, April 1

10:00 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos

Saturday, April 2 6:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, April 3 / Sunday of the Holy Cross

8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1
 5:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Katherine OCA in Kirkland

Monday, April 4 7:00 pm Great Compline

Tuesday, April 5 10:40 am Prayers at the 3rd Hour

Wednesday, April 6 5:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy at St. Demetrios GOC (followed by a Lenten Potluck - please bring a dish to share with others)

Friday, April 8 10:00 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos

Saturday, April 9 6:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, April 10 / Sunday of St. John Climacus

8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 **♣** Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

5:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Spiridon Orthodox Cathedral in Seattle

Monday, April 11 7:00 pm Great Compline

Tuesday, April 12 10:40 am Prayers at the 3rd Hour Wednesday, April 13 5:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

(followed by a Lenten Potluck - please bring a dish to share with others)

Thursday, April 14

10:00 am Presanctified Liturgy and Great Canon of Andrew of Crete

Friday, April 15 10:00 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Akathist Hymn

Saturday, April 16 6:00 pm Great Vespers

Sun., April 17 / Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 母 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45 5:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers at Three Holy Hierarchs ROC in Mountlake Terrace

Monday, April 18 7:00 pm Great Compline

Tuesday, April 19 10:40 am Prayers at the 3rd Hour

Wednesday, April 20 5:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy at St. Demetrios GOC (followed by a Lenten Potluck - please bring a dish to share with others)

Friday, April 22 10:00 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Sat., April 23 / Lazarus Saturday 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Epistle: Acts 12:1-11 Gospel: John 15:17-27; 16:1-2 12:00 pm Lenten Lunch & Tie Palm Crosses

5:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, April 24 / Palm Sunday 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 **♣** Gospel: John 12:1-18

7:00 pm Nymphios (Bridegroom) Service

Monday, April 25 / Holy Monday

10:00 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Nymphios (Bridegroom) Service

Tuesday, April 26 / Holy Tuesday

10:00 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Nymphios (Bridegroom) Service

Wed., April 27 / Holy Wednesday

10:00 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 4:00 pm Holy Unction Service 7:00 pm Bridegroom Service with Holy Unction

Thursday, April 28 / Holy Thursday

9:30 am Service of the Nipter 10:00 am Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 6:00 pm Service of the Holy Passion

Friday, April 29 / Holy Friday

10:00 am The Royal Hours 3:00 pm Service of the Apokathelosis 6:00 pm Lamentations Service

Saturday, April 30 / Holy Saturday

10:00 am Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 11:00 pm Matins of Pascha

Sunday, May 1 / GREAT & HOLY **PASCHA**

Midnight—Resurrection Service 12:30 am—Divine Liturgy Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 **Gospel:** John 1:1-17 (followed by the Resurrection Dinner) 1:00 pm Agape Vespers Service





WOCA PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS

All Services Begin at 5:00 PM:

April 3rd (Sunday of the Holy Cross) St. Katherine OCA 14216 132nd Ave. NE Kirkland, WA 98034 Phone: (425) 623-3653 Homilist: Fr. Daniel Triant

April 10th (Sunday of St. John Climacus) St. Spiridon Orthodox Cathedral 400 Yale Ave. N. Seattle, WA 98109 Phone: (206) 624-5341 Homilist: Fr. David Lowell

April 17th (Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt)
Three Holy Hierarchs Romanian Orthodox Church
6402 226th Street SW
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
Phone: 425-825-8296
Homilist: Fr. Seraphim Majmudar



USHERS & READERS

Sunday, April 3

Ushers: Nicholas Mesagno & Louis Natsiopoulos

Close: Daniel Maschinsky Reader: Sophia Watson

Sunday, April 10

Wshers: Cristina Pappas & Ted Dimitriou Close: Gus Mehas Reader: Joanna Pulakis

Sunday, April 17

Ushers: Jim Cox &
Demetrios Geokezas
Close: Nicholas Mesagno
Reader: Straton
Spyropoulos

Sunday, April 24

Ushers: William Howe & Gus Mehas
Close: Chris Pamboukas
Reader: Stephanie Pulakis
Stafford





FELLOWSHIP HOUR

THANK YOU" to our friends and families who hosted a Fellowship Hour in March: The Greek Dance Ministry, the Pampoukas & Smetheram Families and Mike & Elaine Newtson.

Thank you to our friends who have volunteered to host in April and May.

In April, we have two Sundays available to host:

• April 03*: Philoptochos Luncheon

• April 10*: AVAILABLE TO HOST

• April 17*: AVAILABLE TO HOST

• April 24**: Philoptochos Luncheon

In May, we have one Sunday available to host:

• May 01: PASCHA! (No Fellowship Hour)

 May 08: Gus & Kristina Mehas celebrate their 10 year wedding anniversary!

• May 15: Fr. Dean & Pres. Valerie Kouldukis

• May 22: The Greek Dance Ministry

• May 29: AVAILABLE TO HOST

*Fast Day: Wine/Oil Allowed. **Fast Day: Fish Allowed Thank you for planning your food offerings within the fasting guidelines

For more information on hosting a Fellowship Hour please view the Guidelines at the Assumption home website, <u>assumptionseattle.org</u> or on our Members Only website, <u>http://assumptionseattle.360unite.com/groups/fellowship-hour</u>.

If you would like to host a Fellowship Hour, please contact me at (206) 932-8085, or via email at papahronism@wwdb.org.

Thank You for serving! ■

Ingrid Papahronis

Coordinator - Fellowship Hour



ST. JOHN THE ALMSGIVER SOCIETY

We are very glad to welcome Viki McCarty to our group (Viki is the daughter of Nick Nickolas). Viki worked with the food preparation crew but then went beyond food preparation by procuring, picking up and delivering a load of day-old bread from Trader Joes.

Our group would like to thank Peter Evans for his food donation. Peter purchased and delivered four large, frozen turkeys from a grocery store close-out sale. We used the turkeys to prepare a "bowtie" pasta dish with a béchamel/ lemon sauce. YUM!

We would also like to thank Larry Fly for his assistance in setting up, through his "connections", our ability to purchase discounted frozen salmon filets from a local seafood warehouse that conducts inventory reduction sales.

"Thank You" to Dimos Katsis for joining our crew who serves our prepared food onsite at the St. Martin de Porres homeless shelter for men. Dimos and his wife, Alexis, are new to our parish having moved to Seattle last year from Washington, D.C. Congrats to them as they are expecting a child this month. We look forward to seeing the newest member of your family!

We would like to remind everyone of our need for assistance by way of: food donations, cash donations and/or donations of time and talents.

Our ministry group has been preparing and serving a hot meal twice monthly to 300 homeless men for over 25 years! Please help us keep it going. Thank you! ■

Basil Papahronis

For the Committee



HOLY WEEK & CHURCH NEEDS

FOR HOLY WEEK:

Contributions for the lamb for the Resurrection Dinner: <u>Many Donors Needed</u>
 (Any amount donated will be welcome)

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH NEEDS FOR THE YEAR:

\$16.25 for one bottle of Communion Wine: Many Donors Needed

READERS FOR THE AGAPE VESPERS SERVICE

Readers are needed for the various languages for the Agape Vespers Service on Pascha Sunday. The Gospel is to be preached in all languages of the world. If you would like to offer to read the Gospel in a language other than English, please contact the Church office. The Languages will be assigned on a first come, first served, basis. We are seeking eight parishioners to read the Gospel in eight different languages.

EVERYONE: PLEASE PLAN TO DONATE ONE DOZEN RED DYED EGGS

Please bring, as a family, one dozen red dyed eggs to share with everyone for the Pascha and Agape Vespers services. Please bring your eggs, after dying them on Holy Thursday, to any service on Thursday, Friday or Saturday, and leave them in the basket provided in the Narthex.

RESURRECTION DINNER

Please plan to attend both the Resurrection Service and the Pascha Liturgy this year. These are special midnight services that occur only once a year on the greatest and holiest of feasts in the Orthodox Church. Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, a Paschal dinner will be served. Please plan to join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and to break the fast together as a spiritual family. Hope to see you there!

LAMB ~ SOUP ~ EGGS ~ SALAD ~ ROLLS





FASTING GUIDELINES

I will briefly tell you my opinion, gleaned from my own experience, discussions with various clergy, and reading the Holy Fathers, of one aspect of how to keep the spirit of the Fast. I also suggest you read the superb article on this very subject by Bishop Kallistos in *The Lenten Triodion*. If you do not already own this book, get a copy of it and read his article.

What is one of the things Jesus said about the Law? It can be summed up in two phrases: Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself. In this vein, I would like to suggest that all of the ostensibly confusing rules about fasting, above and beyond the foundational "no animal products, olive oil, or wine" rule—as helpful, though as hard to obtain consensus on today, as they are—can be summed up in two phrases: Eat simply, and stop before satiety. What do I mean by this? First, eating simply means that one's food preparation should not be of the normal, non-fasting type: sumptuous, fattened, and designed to excite the palate. This only reinforces one's love for food. This does not mean that the preparation should result in food that is repugnant. Rather, it means that it should not inflame one's desire for more, nor incite one (e.g., overly spicy or rich-tasting recipes). It should be such that it is simple, meager, and life-sustaining. It is still permissible for the food to be interesting and pleasant to eat (after all, it is not a sin to enjoy food in moderation).

From: Three Helpful Principles of Fasting: A Letter to a New Convert.

CATEGORIES OF FOODS:						
Category I	Meat/Poultry and Meat/Poultry Products (includes beef, pork, chicken, etc. as well as items which have beef gelatin [such as some commercial brands of gelatin], lard [some commercial brands of crackers include lard], rennet [used in some yogurts], etc.)					
Category II	Dairy Products (includes butter, eggs, milk, cheese, etc. as well as items containing dairy whey, and milk extracts such as casein and sodium caseinate, etc.)					
Category III	Fish (includes sardines, tuna, trout, bass, shark, pike, etc., but <i>not</i> shellfish such as lobster, shrimp, crab, oysters, scallops, clams, mussels, etc.)					
Category IV	Olive Oil (according to some, this should extend to all oil) and Wine (which includes all alcoholic beverages such as whiskey, beer, etc.)					
	Figh Allowed	Abstinence from Categories I, & II				
Fish Allowed April 24 - Palm Sunday		Fish, Wine, Oil, Shellfish, Fruit, Vegetables and Vegetable Products are permitted.				
Wine and Oil Allowed April 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, & 23		Abstinence from Categories I, II & III				
		Wine, Oil, Shellfish, Fruit, Vegetables and Vegetable Products are permitted.				
	Strict Fast	Abstinence from Categories I, II, III & IV				
Ар	oril 1, 4-8, 11-15, 18-22, 25-30	Shellfish, Fruit, Vegetables and Vegetable Products are permitted.				



GREAT LENT AND THE MODERN WORLD

By Father Michael Johnson, based on an anonymous article published in The Orthodox Observer, 11-20-1998, updated here for the 21st Century.

These are the days of fast foods, but no Lenten fast -

Of dieting to lose weight, but not abstaining from the weight of sin.

We get "info" from the Internet, instead of wisdom -

We text more, but communicate less;

We're slow to laugh, yet drive too fast;

We watch television too often, and read too seldom;

We see the world in "high def," but not really in depth;

We have time to play sports, but no time to pray;

We worship rock stars, but not the Creator of the stars.

These are the days of disposable diapers, and throw-away morality -

Of two family incomes, but more single parents;

Of fancier houses, but more broken homes;

Of more cars than people, yet unwanted kids;

Of homelessness, instead of helpfulness.

We've added years to our life, but not life to our years -

We were meant to love people and use things, instead we love things and use people;

We search outer space, while the problem is in our inner space;

We practice "spirituality" - as if we're human beings having a spiritual experience, instead of spiritual beings having a human experience;

We claim that God is a "figment of our imagination," but that's what we become if we deny creation.

We believe in coincidence but not in miracles -

We don't believe in angels, but watch movies about aliens;

We don't believe in the Devil, but watch programs about vampires;

We don't believe in the Resurrection, but watch shows about "the living dead";

We have wakes without funerals, death without meaning, and therefore life without meaning;

We concentrate on fleeting happiness, and never feel eternal joy.

We take direction from a GPS (Global Positioning System), while ignoring the "God Positioning System" that speaks to us in our hearts. ■







FARMASONIS, Petros & Colleen FARMER, Joanna FLY, Larry FOOTE, Sophia & Maria FRANKS, John & Athanasia GABRIEL, Laura & Tim O'Donnell GELLER, Carolyn GEOKEZAS, Demetrios & Eryn GEOKEZAS, Marie & David Howard GEOKEZAS. Meletios & Theodora GEORGE, Nicholas GEORGES, Helen GIANETSAS, Xenia GINOS, Alexander & Carey Ann GOULOUMI, Dora Roula GOVETAS, Eleni GRAY, James & Andrea GREENE, Marke & Angela HANNA, Sarah HEUER, Helen HOWE, William & Maro HULBERT, Mike & Jodie HUNT. Madeleine ILES. Catherine JEWELL, Gavin & Emily JOHN, Maggie JULIUS, Anthony & Nan KALASOUNTAS, Helen KARIS, Terry & Anna KATSIS, Dimos & Alexis KAZAKOS, Georgia KAZAKOS, Stephano KEHAYES, Naya & Philip Head KLIEROS-MERCOURIADIS, Pipena KOKKONIS, Niko & Jennifer KOLIOS, Alexandre & Leta KOSTAKIS, Constantine & Ann KOULDUKIS. Betty KOULDUKIS, Fr. Dean & Pres. Val KOURTIS, Angelo & Aphrodite KOUTROULIS, Stavros & Leslie LACKIE, Randy & Athena LARIMER, Robert & Billie LENES, George & Rita LENTGIS, Dean & Kathleen LING, Maria LIVIAKIS, Lea & Sam Nadler LORD, Timothy & Debby LOTAKIS, Greg LOTAKIS, Paul & Michele LUCAS, Greta MAKRI, Ioanna & Cesar Romero

MALESIS, Louis & Mary MALLOS, Steve & Sophia MANN, Philip & Andrea MANOLIDES, Andrew & Anastasia MANOLIDES, Nancy MARINOPOULOS, Jim MARTINEZ, Christina MASCHINSKY, Daniel & Teresa McCARTY, Vasiliki MEHAS, Athanasios MEHAS, Gus & Kristina MESAGNO, Nicholas & Carolyn MICHAELIDIS, Michael & Elaine MICHAELIDIS SMITH, Christina MICHEL, Mike MITALAS, Panagiota MITCHELL, Cameron & Sofie MOORE, Georgia NATSIOPOULOS, Elias & Nancy NEWTSON, Michael & Elaine NICHOL, Thomas NICON, John & Joann O'NEIL, Katie OHMER, Jennifer & Ronald OJEDA, Ted & Vicky OSBON, Joymarie PALLIS, Chris PAMBOUKAS, Chris & Glyka PAMBOUKAS, Kosta PAMPOUKAS, Evangelos & Tasoula PAPAHRONIS, Basil PAPAHRONIS, Michael & Ingrid PAPANDREW, David & Karen PAPANICOLAOU, Stathis & Joanna PAPANTOS, Spero & Tina PAPPAS, Cristina PAPPAS, George & Lora PAPPAS, George & Ann PARALIS, Panagiotis & Asimo PEPPES, George & Penny PEPPES, Steve & Popi PHOUTRIDES, Aristides & Betty PIERIDES, Voula POULOS, Pete PREKEGES, James PULAKIS, Joanna ROGERS, Jeff & Lexi RONDOS, Sam SAKELLARIS, John & Penelope SARANTINOS, George & Athena SARIDAKIS, Arthur SEBOK, Eva SERPANOS, George & Meropi SIATERLIS, Dimitrios & Christina SKANDALIS, John & Laurie SKARLATOS, Nikoletta SKEPETARIS, Evanthia SKEPETARIS, Tom & Teresa SMETHERAM, Sofia SOLOMON, Karen SORENSON, Maria

continued →



SOUKAS, George & Ritsa



SOURAPAS, Steve
STAFFORD, Stephanie Pulakis
STAMATOYANNOPOULOS, George & Thalia
STERGO, Judy
TALERICO, Joyce
TARLSON, Popi
TAYLOR, Valerie Ann
TEKLE, Selam & Amanuel Abraha
THOMPSON, Charles & Niki
TOURAS, Antonios & Antonia
TRAPALIS, Dina & Eleni
TREMBANIS, Sophia
TSALAKY, Tony

TSITSIS, Nikolaos & Stacy
TZIOTIS, Dometios & Georgia
TZIOTIS, Ourania
TZIOTIS, Yiannis & Katerina
VASILATOS, Katheryn
VISINTAINER, James & Irina
WATSON, Rob & Katherine
WEST, Joann
XENOS, Spiro & Voula
XYDIS, John & Janice
ZAFFEE, Maria
ZANIDES, Fran
ZARKADES, Joanne



DOLLAR-A-DAY PROGRAM

ANDERSON, Larry & Kate ANTONAKOS, Jetta ARGERES, Peter & Diana ATHAN, Steve & Anna ATHANS, Eleni & George Bariames BARBAS, E. Anthe BARTON, Roger & Mary Lou BASS, Steve & Stella BENIS. Helen BRATSANOS, Rose CHACHARON, Alex CHRISTOU, Ted & Barbara CONOM, Madeline COSTACOS, Jerry & Eva DELAROSE, Ron & Teresa DENOS, Thalia EVANS, Jr., Peter & Anna FARMER, Joanna FIDLER, William & Alia FLY, Larry GEOKEZAS, Demetrios & Eryn GEOKEZAS, Meletios & Theodora GIBBONS, Nick & Maria HOWE, William & Maro HULBERT, Mike & Jodie ILES, Catherine ILIAKIS, Bernardino & Pinar

INNIS, Connie KAZAKOS, Georgia KOHNKE, Ioanna KOULDUKIS, Fr. Dean & Pres. Val LOTAKIS, Paul & Michele MEHAS, Gus & Kristina MOORE, Georgia O'NEIL, Katie PAMPOUKAS, Evangelos & Tasoula PANTAGES, Tarsi PAPAHRONIS, Michael & Ingrid PEPPES, George & Penny SARANTINOS, George & Athena SIATERLIS, Dimitrios & Christina STAFFORD, Stephanie Pulakis THOMPSON, Charles & Niki TZIOTIS, Yiannis & Katerina ZANIDES, Frances ZARKADES, Joanne









BOOKKEEPER'S SUMMARY



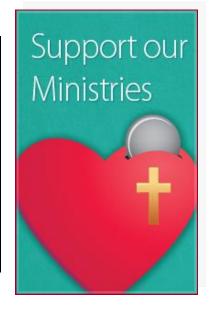
GENERAL FUND	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	YTD
REVENUE		
Stewardship Collected	\$33,493	
Other Revenue	1,595	
TOTAL REVENUE	35,088	
TOTAL EXPENSES	(31,735)	
NET INCOME	3,353	
YTD REVENUE (through 3-15-16)		\$107,211
YTD EXPENSES (through 3-15-16)		(98,927)
YTD NET INCOME		\$8,284)

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Number of Steward Families: 192
2016 Budgeted Stewardship \$290,000
Stewardship Pledged (through 03-15-16) 245,811
Pledges needed to meet Stewardship Goal 44,189

Stewardship Collected (through 02-15-16)

Regular Stewardship \$86,860
Budgeted to Date \$158,951



"I am the vine, you are the branches..." John 15:5



LAZARUS SATURDAY BECKONS ASSUMPTION FAMILIES



A Pristine Beach near Fauntleroy in West Seattle

Last year on Lazarus Saturday our Assumption families visited "Paradise" at the Volunteer Park Conservatory. There we got a taste of how beautifully God created nature, and how Jesus came to restore the wonder of creation to its original form. This year on Saturday, April 23, we plan a similar experience on the unspoiled beaches of Lincoln Park in West Seattle, where kids and parents can play, explore, and above all, appreciate all that God the Creator has done for us.

We'll start off the day by attending Liturgy at church beginning at 10:00 a.m. Then we'll enjoy a Lenten lunch and do a service project for the parish by tying palm crosses. There will also be a chance for family members who haven't been to Confession to receive this important sacrament in preparation for Pascha. To get ready, ask yourself these simple questions: What am I doing that's right? What could I improve on? What am I doing that's wrong? And finally, What am I not doing that I should be doing?

About 1:30 pm, we'll head for West Seattle where we'll spend a couple hours in a venue of beach and woods and views. In other words, a visit to *God's Country!* Watch for an email soon with all the details. Questions? Talk to Father Michael (john2402@serv.net). ■





Two Assumption boys play amid scenery that could belong in a national park, but it's the backyard of Eugenia Macris' home in North Bend!



(Ablelome and his son Noel)

ASSUMPTION FAMILIES ENJOY MOUNTAINS OF FUN FEBRUARY 27th!

This year, there was snow aplenty in Snoqualmie pass when Assumption kids and parents visited the Tubing Center on the last weekend in February. After having the time of their lives on the slopes, they set out for the home of **Eugenia Macris** in nearby North Bend, where Eugenia, her son, **Chris** and

his wife, **Paula** welcomed the "snow tubers" to Eugenia's beautiful home. Here they enjoyed a tasty meal of "pre-Lenten" pizza, beneath the rocky crags of Mt. Si. The peak, over 4,000 feet high, seemed to rise from Eugenia's back yard!

Participants included: the Ablelome-Bereket family with children, Noel, Mengis, Philemon & Natnael, and adults, Ablelome Mengstu, along with Nardos, Zega and Aster Bereket; the Gabriel-O'Donnell family with children, Gabrielle, Christine & Anthony and parents, Tim O'Donnell and Laura Gabriel; the Haddadin-Cameron family with child, Jumana and her dad, Brad Cameron; the John-Mathew family with children, Emmelia & Nathan and mom Maggie John; and the Mehas family with children, Athanasios & Vasilios and dad, Gus Mehas - plus Fr. Dean and Fr. Michael.

More photos on next page: 01 Maggie John with kids, Emmelia & Nathan; 02 Jumana about to get a push from Brad; 03 Athan can hardly wait! 04 Mengis ready for an epic run; 05 Mengis racing down the slopes; 06 Christine set for one more run before heading for North Bend; 07 Tim and Anthony enjoying pizza in the shadow of Mount Si. ■

continued →





LAZARUS SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd ...



GOYA President Natalie Ling

This artwork in Volunteer Park makes it almost seem like Natalie is sitting inside a telescope. But as we draw near to Easter, this really is a time to look not just to the sky, but to heaven itself as we prepare to celebrate Christ's rising from the dead, proving that he was truly the Son of God!

All our Assumption kids in grades 7-12 are invited to a Lazarus Saturday overnight at church, April 23. We'll begin with Vespers at 5:00 p.m. to prepare ourselves for Palm Sunday the following day. Then, after a dinner of "Lenten Pizza" at 6:00 p.m., we'll explore the real meaning of Easter, get a chance to make our Lenten Confession, enjoy a fun campfire at the upstairs fireplace in the hall. And finally, everyone who is able can spend the night.

To get ready for Confession, ask yourself these simple questions: What am I doing that's right? What could I improve on? What am I doing that's wrong? And finally, What am I not doing that I should be doing?

Watch for an email soon with all the details. Questions? Talk to Father Michael, <u>john2402@serv.net</u>. ■



G.O.Y.A.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW GOYA OFFICERS!

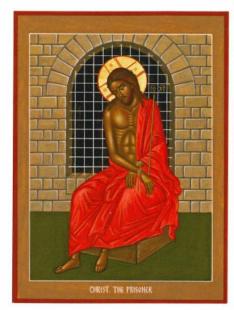
A tour Senior GOYA meeting February 7th, **Natalie Ling** was elected president for this year, with **Christo Mitchell** continuing as vice president, **Stefanos Pamboukas** becoming secretary and **Quinlan Rogers**, treasurer. We appreciate these teens taking on the responsibilities of leadership. Also a big thanks to **Sofia Argeres** for serving as president last year.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY



Lenten Retreat

Sponsored by Washington Orthodox Clergy Association



SATURDAY APRIL 9, 2016 LET US OPEN OUR HEARTS
THIS LENT TO LEARN HOW GOD
BRINGS LIGHT AND LOVE TO
THE LEAST OF THESE OUR
BRETHREN

Father Stephen Powley served as a Prison Chaplain for almost 26 years before retiring in August of 2010. He has ministered at every security level from the minimum to the most maximum security prisons. He will be sharing with us the many incredible God transforming events in these prisons he had opportunity to witness. He is currently the Director of Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry.

St Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

2100 Boyer Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112

9:00 am Third Hour Prayers

9:30 am Presentation with Fr Stephen Powley12:00 pm Lunch with Fr Stephen Powley for a Q&A

1:00 pm A panel of special speakers who are engaged in our local community with

the therapeutic, legal and housing issues related to this population.

3:00 pm Interactive breakout sessions into small groups

5:00 pm Vespers

An RSVP to lentenretreat@outlook.com would be greatly appreciated to help in planning. A freewill offering will be accepted.

"'I was in prison and you came to Me.' ... Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when ... did we see You ... in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it unto Me.'" Matthew 25:36 - 40





reetings!

Both the March and April Men's Ministry meetings will be held at the Church, and be shorter, from 6:00 - 7:00 PM. Afterwards, we will have the opportunity to attend Compline Service from 7:00 - 8:00 PM both days.

The April meeting will be held on April 18th.



For the May meeting, we will most likely return to the previous format for meetings, and possibly planning a trip to All Saints Camp. ■

Andrew Manolides



ST. CATHERINE PHILOPTOCHOS

The St. Catherine Philoptochos Valentine Tea

Bonnets, Berets, floppy, wide-brimmed, or vintage with flowers, ribbons or bows, this was the event to wear your hat - and many did. Tables with pink, red and white flowers, hearts, hand-kerchiefs, and decorations adorned the room. There were many, many raffle items. Thank you to those of you who donated to our event. It was kind of you and generous. We enjoyed tea cakes, sandwiches, cookies, fruits, chocolates and nuts. Some of the ladies brought their own china tea cup. All the ladies got a hankie as a party favor. Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the event. Pres. Pat Tsagalakis beautifully sang the Lord's Prayer and Father Michael said a prayer and blessing for the food. John Xydis and Taki played guitars and sang while they walked among the tables. Teresa Delarose sold the entry tickets, Elene Soudas and Stella Bass sold raffle tickets and Ethel Barbas did a really good job as the MC. It was a beautiful event and enjoyed by all those in attendance. All of the local Philoptochos chapters of our Greek Orthodox Churches were represented: St. Nicholas in Tacoma, St. Sophia in Bellingham, Holy Apostles in Shoreline, St. Demetrios in Seattle and The Assumption in Seattle. All donations will be used in the Philoptochos ministries.

Family Outreach Ministry

The Family Outreach Ministry provides families with prepared meals while they adjust to their lives with a new little one. Our next opportunity to serve is rapidly approaching. **Dimos & Alexis Katsis** are expecting the birth of their first child in early April. If you would like to help support the Katsis family after the birth of their child by providing a meal please send your name, e-mail address, and phone number to teresa.maschinsky@gmail.com or **call Teresa Maschinsky** at (719) 661-7013. Volunteers will cook meals in their own homes and deliver them to the Katsis home in central Seattle after their baby arrives. This ministry is a beautiful way for us to show our love and support for one another and we hope you can join us in this joyful undertaking.

Flowers for the Icon of the Theotokos

Every Friday during Great Lent the Icon of the Theotokos is decorated with flowers for the Salutations service. <u>If you would like to donate the flowers and decorate the Icon</u> please contact <u>Joanne Zarkades@q.com</u> or (206) 473-7351.

Tsourekia Baking

We'll be baking Tsourekia on Monday, April 18th from 10:30am - 4pm and packaging on Tuesday, April 19th, from noon until it's done (it usually takes about 3 hours). Please join us for baking and packaging. The Tsoureki order form is on page 22. Don't forget to place your order so you can celebrate Pascha with this traditional sweet bread! Bread orders will be available for pick up on Palm Sunday (April 24). If you have questions please contact **Joanne Zarkades** at jzarkades@q.com or (206) 473-7351.

Palm Sunday Luncheon

Please join us after Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, April 23rd, as we set up the dining room for the Palm Sunday Luncheon. The following day, Palm Sunday, we'll need help serving food and cleaning up afterwards.

continued →





ST. CATHERINE PHILOPTOCHOS

Decorating the Kouvouklion

We would like to invite all members of the Assumption community to join us on Holy Friday, April 29th, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, as we decorate the Lord's Kouvouklion with flowers. The sacred and pious act of preparing the Kouvouklion is a beautiful way to enrich your experience of Holy Week.

We'll take a break to enjoy lunch together. Please bring a dish to share.

Donations for the flowers are greatly appreciated. For more information please contact **Joanne Zarkades** at jzarkades@q.com or (206) 473-7351.

Give Your Heart to a Child!!

Kids 'n' Cancer/Camp Agape NW is one of our beloved ministries in our Metropolis. It has grown from a single camp-based ministry to a five camp operation to benefit children afflicted with cancer. The children and their immediate family are invited to Camp Agape and offered an all expense paid camp experience led by the compassion and love of the Philoptochos Team. The Kids 'n' Cancer ministry also supports the Emilio Nares Foundation, "Ride with Emilio", which offers oncology transportation and family support to children with cancer and their families.

Camp Agape NW is looking for volunteers. Full time volunteers are needed **July 23-July 30, 2016**. We also need day volunteers; especially those who are experienced high-volume cooks and dining room help (serving food, busing tables, and/or washing dishes). The deadline to apply as a volunteer for Camp Agape NW is April 15th. The application can be found at http://campagapenw.net/volunteers/. All volunteers MUST submit their applications no later than April 15th. Questions? Please contact Andrea Gray at andrea@seattlegrays.net or (206) 523-4412.

Membership Dues

We are currently collecting 2016 membership dues!! We have an active year planned and your ideas and participation are valued and always welcome. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (206) 232-8690 or e-mail me at kmmehas@gmail.com.

May General Membership Meeting

Our next General Membership meeting is schedule for **Sunday, May 15th,** during Fellowship Hour. Please mark your calendars!

PICC Luncheon

The Annual PICC (Pediatric Interim Care Center) Luncheon is being held on Friday, May 20th, at 11:30 AM, at ShoWare Center in Kent. Steve Raible, the "Voice of the Seahawks" and KIRO-TV news anchor, will be the Keynote Speaker for this fundraising luncheon for infants recovering from prenatal drug exposures in PICC's Newborn Nursery.

Tickets are free, but guests will be asked to make a donation to PICC's babies at the luncheon (suggested \$50 minimum donation).

continued >





To reserve a seat, **contact Assumption's Table Captain, Mary Lou Barton** at <u>barzar@comcast.net</u> or (425) 432-9592.

Philoptochos Annual Picnic at Alki

Mark your calendars for our annual Philoptochos Alki Picnic which is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 19th.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- Camp Agape Volunteer Applications due no later than Friday, April 15th
- Palm Sunday Lunch Set Up after Liturgy on Saturday, April 23rd
- Palm Sunday Luncheon after Liturgy on Sunday, April 24th
- Decorate Kouvouklion in the Atrium from 11:00 AM-3:00 PM on Holy Friday, April 29th
- General Membership Meeting after Liturgy (12:15 PM) on Sunday, May 15th
- PICC Luncheon at the ShoWare Center in Kent at 11:30 AM on Friday, May 20th

With Sisterly Love,

Kristina Mehas

St. Catherine Philoptochos President

ST. CATHERINE PHILOPTOCHOS 2016 PASCHA BREAD ORDER PD								
	Price	Quantity	Total					
TSOUREKI	\$8.00		\$					
		TOTAL	\$					
CASH AMT \$CHECK #	_CHECK AM	т	\$					
NAME								
PHONE								
DATE OF ORDER								
PICK UP ON PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 24								



St. Catherine Philoptochos

Sunday, April 24th

Salad ~ Rolls ~ Sorbet ~ Wine

Adults: \$15 ~ Children (under 12): \$7



GIVE UP YOUR MOCHAS FOR MISSIONS! This campaign, previously known as Pennies & Prayers, raises awareness and funds for C.O.M.E., our Metropolis' Missions & Evangelism Ministry. Join us in sacrificing a treat to grow Orthodoxy on the West Coast! Why Missions & Evangelism? O Healthy, Vibrant Parishes O Mission-minded Christians Skilled mission clergy & lay leaders O Sharing the Gospel of Christ + = Mission Parishes # = Mentored Parishes www.come-sf.org C.O.M.E. = Commission for Orthodox Missions & Evangelism



THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING OUR DREAM COME TRUE!

Thank you for your kindness, generosity and loving hearts that made this dream come true for us. We will always remember it! The best part was seeing Philip smile and be happy. He loved the Winnie the Pooh ride tons, Ariel ride at adventure, meeting princesses, and seeing characters close up!

With love and gratitude,

Barbara and Philip Janjic







Join thousands of teens across the nation & #ShareOrthodoxy!

2016 ORATORICAL FESTIVAL







EXPLORE a deeper knowledge of your Orthodox faith THINK critically about current issues

SPEAK to a gentle and loving audience

Share Your FAITH

Junior Division for Grades 7-9 Senior Division for Grades 10-12

AWARDS - The Chrysostom Scholarship for Hellenic College

The 2015 finalists are eligible to receive a Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College. This scholarship provides awards ranging from \$2,500 up to \$30,000 per year.

Parish Festival Date Thursday, April 16th at 6:30 PM

Parish Chairperson Maria Geokezas & David Howard

Contact Information RSVP to john2402@serv.net

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is a Ministry of the Department of Religious Education from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

Find the topics, rules, and prize information at http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religioused/sjcof







APRIL 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Strict Fast Wine/Oil Allowed Fish Allowed		3 10 17	TONE SCHEDU Spel Tor 1 Thir 1 Four 2 Plagal stal	n <u>e</u> rd rth	1 🔀 10:00 am Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	9:30 am Grounds Work Party 6:00 pm Great Vespers
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy Church School (Procession Schedule) 5:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers at St. Katherine OCA in Kirkland	4 7:00 am Great Compline	10:40 am Prayers at the 3 rd Hour 11:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm All Saints Camp Board Meeting	5:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at St. D's (followed by a Lenten/ Vegan Potluck)	9:00 am St. John the Almsgiver 7:00 pm Byzantine Chant Classes 7:30pm AA Meeting	10:00 am Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	9:00 am WOCA Lenten Retrea at St. D's 6:00 pm Great Vespers
SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy Church School Parish Level Oratorical Festival 5:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers at St. Spiridon Cathedral in Seattle	7:00 am Great Compline	12 🔀 10:40 am Prayers at the 3 rd Hour 11:00 am Bible Study	5:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy (followed by a Lenten/ Vegan Potluck)	9:00 am St. John the Almsgiver 10:00 am Great Canon 7:00 pm Byzantine Chant Classes 7:30pm AA Meeting	15 🛣 10:00 am Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Akathist Hymn PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	6:00 pm Great Vespers
SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy Church School District Level Oratorical Festival 5:00 pm WOCA Lenten Vespers at 3 Holy Hierarchs ROC in Mountlake Terrace	18 ♣ 10:30 am Assemble & Bake Tsourekia 6:00 pm Men's Ministry Meeting 7:00 pm Great Compline	19 ♣ 10:40 am Prayers at the 3rd Hour 11:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Package Tsourekia 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	5:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at St. D's (followed by a Lenten/ Vegan Potluck)	7:00 pm Byzantine Chant Classes 7:30pm AA Meeting	10:00 am Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	23 LAZARUS SATURDAY 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy Philoptochos Set Up for Palm Sunday Luncheon 12:00 pm Lenten Lunch and Tir Palm Crosses 1:00 pm Family Event at Lincoln Park 5:00 pm Great Vespers SR GOYA Overnight at Church
PALM SUNDAY 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy Church School (Procession) Philoptochos Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon Tsourekia Pick-up 7:00 pm Nymphios Service	HOLY MONDAY 10:00 am Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Nymphios Service	HOLY TUESDAY 10:00 am Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Nymphios Service	HOLY WEDNESDAY 10:00 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 4:00 pm Holy Unction Service 7:00 pm Nymphios Service with Holy Unction	HOLY THURSDAY 9:30 am Service of the Nipter 10:00 am Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 6:00 pm Service of the Holy Passion	HOLY FRIDAY 10:00 am Royal Hours 11:00 am Decorate the Kouvouklion 3:00 pm Service of the Apokathelosis 6:00 pm Lamentations PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	HOLY SATURDAY 10:00 am Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 11:00 pm Matins of Pascha
GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA Midnight - Resurrection Service 12:30 am Divine Liturgy 2:00 am Resurrection Dinner 1:00 pm Agape Vespers	2 RENEWAL MONDAY PARISH OFFICE CLOSED		M—TH 11:00 A	RISH OFFICE HOU .M—6:00 PM ~ DFFICE is CLOSED ((206) 323-8557	



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