Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his Name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.
In this bible quote from Matthew 1:20 on our cover, we can wonder beyond our comprehension, Joseph’s perplexity at the events he experienced in finding Mary’s pregnancy but knowing it was not through him.

There had to be a double hesitancy in fact, not so much with the scandal of a pregnancy alone, but also the enormity of the mystery that the eternal God would be made flesh and that he, a simple carpenter, would be the guardian of God’s plan.

Jesus in His own flesh brings to perfect fulfillment the promises made to Israel, the name itself meaning “God saves.” It is from the event of the Incarnation that we faithful today take our identity. The incarnation of Jesus Christ (God in human form) is a mystery of mysteries, in which our faith rests.

We must allow ourselves to be changed by it just as Joseph was transformed from a simple tradesman to become the spiritual father of the babe at Bethlehem and give Jesus His name and protect Him. We should transform our view of this occurrence and not take it for granted.

Joseph although quite silent in the Bible, speaks powerfully in his actions, in the service of God’s plan for mankind. No other saint occupies the same influence in the early years of Jesus. He is a man of courage, strong; a righteous man who answered his family’s need with the sweat of his brow. A man visited by angels a number of times!

In the tail end of this 2020 year and all the chaos of the world and our nation, we must not let ourselves fall into fear and despondency. God’s greater plan must be our strength as it was for Joseph.

In fact we need to rejoice as the end of the year is at hand that focuses on a birth…a renewed birth to be understood as a yearly yet personal experience, to be felt in the depth of our being,

The birth in the flesh on earth of the Savior who has come to us through His love for us, to better our circumstance!

Fr. Andrew
Send Us Your Secret

With the virus numbers going up and down, many of our parishioners have reached a good age of 90—100 before passing (not from the virus, just from aging). We honor all these parishioners for taking such good care of themselves and having such a fulfilled life. **What is your secret?** With everyone on health alert because of COVID-19 it is good to have facts from people that aged so gracefully. If you would like to email or mail us your secret to a long life, we would like to let others know how you aged so well. Sons or daughters may send us the secret recipe and next month we will give you some secret aging facts.

*(No names will be listed only health tips)*

*Let us all give ourselves a health uplift for the coming year!!*

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E-Mails are Important

With the Covid-19 virus still all around us, announcements are sent out by email. Email address is important. Please call the office or email the office with a correct email for yourself if you have not been receiving all our announcements and updates.

You will be included on our list-serve.

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Restaurant for Sale

Owner is retiring after 19 years. A Breakfast/Lunch restaurant is for sale in Lincoln, RI. It is 1150 sq. ft. seats 39 people and is fully equipped. An adorable must see, turnkey establishment. For more information contact 401-489-8310 after 4pm.

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Thank You

John Kanelakos would like to extend his sincere appreciation to all the parishioners that have contributed to our parish Endowment Fund & Memorial Fund in memory of his parents Ernest & Aldina Kanelakos. Our parish progresses because of individuals as yourself with your generous offerings.

*May God Bless you and yours.*

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COVID-19 TESTING

With all of the uncertainty today in regards to COVID-19, we have a parishioner that is running the just opened McCoy Stadium site for testing. Sean Todd, one of our newer parishioners (husband of Stephanie Kapos Todd) who works for ACCU Reference Medical Lab, knowing that many other sites are back logged, Sean is encouraging our parishioners (and anyone) to go to <portal.ri.gov> to make an appointment for testing, while results are coming back within 24 to 48 hours.

ACCU Reference is also looking to hire patient registration professionals, medical technicians for swabbing, and other roles associated with testing and encourages you to contact Hillary.Mattson@accureference.com regarding any questions for employment opportunities.
INTERFAITH FOOD MINISTRY

Last week the Rhode Island Community Food Bank issued their major findings of the impact of COVID-19 with the jaw dropping ‘one in four households in Rhode Island lacks adequate food. The Interfaith Food Ministry has been identified as an emergency food provider by the RI Community Food Bank which requested our ministry remain open during this epidemic. As a result we have seen an increase in the number of families from pre-COVID average of 50 (180 people) to over 100 families (360 people per week). To put it in perspective, during 2019 we served 2,353 families or 8,229 individuals and distributed for the RICFB 48,861lbs of food. In 2020, we project to serve over 4,500 families or approximately 15,750 people. We are stretching our food inventory and our bank account to accommodate this increased need.

Our October church food drive was a tremendous success as we filled two SUV’s with food and collected $650 in donations. We thank each and every one of you who drove by to drop off food, your support was overwhelming. In addition, each of the churches who support the IFM also held and continue to hold food drives and take up collections. The ministry’s board of directors and their staff of volunteers are very grateful for the generosity of our parishioners. In addition, the IFM was recently awarded a $1,000 grant from the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos for their ongoing commitment of ‘Feeding the Hungry Initiative.

As this crisis continues to worsen and the weather gets colder and while we are in the ‘pause’ period these families will find it harder and harder to eat. We, the volunteers from the Annunciation church ask that you donate food or monetary donations to continue this important ministry especially during this holiday season. Thank you!
**GREEK FEST EXPRESS**

**REVENUE:**
- Donations - $3,413.00
- Donations “in leu” of sponsor book - $1,075.00
- Food Court - $81,701.00
- Pastry - $14,536.00
- Kafflenio - $31.00
- Tips from Customers - $3,060.50
**TOTAL REVENUE - $103,816.50**

**EXPENSES:**
- Advertising - $4,177.67
- Pastry ingredients - $301.39
- Food Court - $28,570.00
- Licenses & Permits - $225.00
- Clean Up Payroll - $2,888.00
- Rental of software processor & fees - $4,310.00
- Security - $1,353.34
- Trash Removal - $500
- Rental of Tables, Tent, Freezer Truck - $3,819.47
- Miscellaneous - $1,128.70
- Postage - $22.00
- Purchases - $500.00
**TOTAL EXPENSES - $47,826.62**

**NET PROFIT = $55,989.88**

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**Thank You to Our Fest Express Donors**

We sincerely would like to thank a list of donors that contributed to our expenses:
Anna Demetrakas, Spiro Harritos, Christine Kitsilis, George Moragemos, Mary Samaras and the Sunday night shift volunteers who made personal donations to get us to the $100,000.

**Thank you to our “in lieu of sponsor book” donors:**

**Thank you to our product donors**
Nick Carr & Kelly McShane (for the Granny Squibb’s Ice Tea sold on our menu) Jason, Jared & Thomas Coyne (for parking cones) Paulina Reves (for food containers) Homestead Bakery, Peter Vican (for dinner rolls & baking goods) Christopher & Karen Tribelli (for tall lights) Yolenis (for take out bags).

*Also the tips received generously from our faithful customers.*

**Thank You All.**
Dr. Mary Despina Lekas Endowment Fund News
Financial Report for the period ending 11/25/20
Endowment Fund Portfolio: $1,308,964.70
Endowment Fund Checking Account: $2,000.00

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Dionisia Grammas, M/M Michael Haralambides, Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Morrissey, M/M Arthur Pappas, M/M Constantinos Perdikakis, M/M Polydoros Petrou, M/M Constantine Rougas, Samaras Family, M/M James Silva, M/M Aristotelis Tsonis, M/M Frank Vasiliadis

in memory of Christos Mantsos

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Lakis Andriotis, M/M Gerald Carignan, M/M Stephen Carr, Efthimia Cavas, Florence Chartrand, James Cimino, M/M George Coclin, M/M James Degaitas, Anna Demetrakas, M/M David DeSousa, Frank DiMaio, Helen DiMaio, M/M Nicholas DiMaio, Dr. Jean Dostou, Sylvia Ghionis, Tina Giammarco, Katherine Gountanis, Dionisia Grammas, M/M Paul Haveles, M/M Stephen Higginbotham, Dr. Robert & Mrs. Janigian, Janice Keller, M/M Michael Haralambides, Joan Kent, M/M George Mihailides, Peter Mihailides, M/M Paul Mihailides, Jean Mihelakos, M/M Christo Pakuris, M/M Michael Papigiotis, M/M Arthur Pappas, M/M Constantinos Perdikakis, M/M Polydoros Petrou, Al Psilopoulos, Dennis Psilopoulos, M/M Nicolas Retinas, M/M Steven Rothemich, M/M Andrew Rougas, M/M Constantine Rougas, Samaras Family, Douglas Shaheen, James Rodenmacher, M/M Peter Simone, Pashalia Strekouras, Virginia Strekouras, M/M Aristotelis, M/M Frank Vasiliadis, M/M Aristotelis Tsonis, M/M Peter Vassilopoulos, Carole Xanthakis, Drs. John & Eleni Pappas Zervos

in memory of Helen Pappas

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Lakis Andriotis, M/M Gerald Carignan, M/M James Degaitas, M/M Paul Haveles, Lynda Golditch, Kay Gountanis, M/M Arthur Pappas, M/M Polydoros Petro

in memory of Bessie Mihailides

A donation had been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Gerald Carignan, M/M Frank Vasiliadis,

in memory of Calliope Sotirakos

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Arthur Pappas in memory of Lyle Rawlinson

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Lakis Andriotis in memory of Emmanuel Mihailides

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Arthur Pappas in memory of Elizabeth Pappas

~Continued on page 7~
A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Arthur Pappas in memory of Anthony Massimino

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Gerald Carignan in memory of Ernest & Aldina Kanelakos

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Dr. & Mrs. James Karon in memory of all the loved ones lost.

To Our Parishioners
As we enter the holiday season, may God bestow upon you and your families His richest blessings of love and peace.

Your Endowment Fund Committee, Mary Samaras Secretary

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THIS YEARS CHALLENGE—10% INCREASE OVER YOUR 2019 GIVING

2020 PLEDGE PROGRAM REPORT
We have to date 386 parishioners with a pledge of $236,238.27
The Actual Amount Received as of $220,242.37

Since our last newsletter, the following pledges have been received for 2020
Vivian Dafoulas, M/M Robert Devlin, M/M Ray English III, Georgia Fortunato,
M/M John Fotopoulos, M/M Spiros Fotopoulos, Christian Frangos, William Frangos,
M/M James Gammas, Kathleen Haveles, M/M James Hosey III, Linda Limperis,
M/M Anthony Massimino II, M/M John Menard, Carole Panos, M/M John Politis,
M/M Thomas Pontikes, John Psikakos, M/M David Rodin,
M/M Peter Vican, Katherine Xiarhos.

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Recent Deaths
Helen Pappas age 99 of Providence, RI passed away on 10/26/20. Her funeral and burial was on 10/29/20. Katherine (Cokonis) Karambelas age 91 of North Palm Beach, FL., mother of Stefanie DiStefano passed away on 10/28/2020. Her funeral and burial was held on 11/5/20. Christos Mantzos age 71 of Cranston, RI passed away on 10/29/20. His funeral and burial was held on 11/4/20. Lisa Ann Vartuli (wife of Dennis Gikas) age 57 of Coventry, RI passed away on 11/4/20. Her funeral was private. Constantine (Dean) Christelis age 90 of Cranston, RI passed away on 11/10/20. His funeral and burial was held on 11/14/20. Sister Helen Provost age 85 of Pawtucket, RI passed away on 11/23/20. Her funeral and burial was held on 11/29/20. Zoe Mitrelis age 91 of Cranston, RI passed away on 12/1/20. Her funeral and burial was on 12/7/20. Also in Greece, the father of our parishioner Vasso Sampalis passed on.

~May their Memory be Eternal~
"Όχι μονάχα με ψωμί...

Την ώρα που οι «σοφοί» οικονομολόγοι της γης, προσπαθώντας να λύσουν τα οικονομικά ζητήματα, οδηγούν την πατρίδα μας και τον κόσμο από γκρεμό σε βάραθρο και από δυστυχία σε καταστροφή, είναι περισσότερο από όποτεδήποτε άλλη κατάληψη ή περίσταση να ακούσουμε και να δεχθούμε τη μία και μοναδική λύση που έδωσε στο οικονομικό πρόβλημα ο Χριστός μας.

'Ήταν τότε που βγήκε στήν έρημο και πάλευε κατά του διαβόλου ώς ανθρωπος. Σαράντα μέρες και σαράντα νύχτες δεν έφαγε τίποτε. 'Επειτα πείνασε! Έμφανιστηκε τότε ο πανούργος και Τού είπε: «Ει υιός ει το Θεού, ειπε ινα οι λίθοι ουτοί άρτοι γεννονται» (Μαθ. δ' 3): αν είσαι γιος του Θεού, πες να γίνουν αυτές οι πέτρες ψωμιά.

'Η απάντηση τού Κυρίου ἀποστόμωσε τό πονηρό πνεύμα: «Γέγραπται, ούκ ἐπ’ ἄρτω μόνω ζήσεις ανθρωπός, ἀλλ’ ἐπί παντί ρήματι ἐκπορευόμενῳ διὰ στόματος Θεοῦ» (Μαθ. δ’ 4): εἶναι γραμμένο στήν Ἁγία Γραφή, τού είπε, ὅτι ο άνθρωπος δεν θα διατηρηθεί στή ζωή μόνο με το ψωμι, ἀλλὰ μὲ κάθε λόγο που βγαίνει από τό στόμα τού Θεοῦ. Πού σημαίνει ὅτι, ὅταν τό πεί ο Θεος, καὶ χωρὶς τροφή ἀκόμη θα ζήσεις ὁ ανθρωπος. Ὅπως πολὺ εὐστοχα σημειώνει ὁ ἱερός Χρυσόστομος, «δύναται ὁ Θεός καὶ ρήματι θρέψαι τόν πεινώντας» μπορεί ὁ Θεός καὶ μόνο μὲ τόν θείο Τοῦ λόγο να θρέψει καὶ να χορτάσει τόν πεινασμένο.

Πόσο ἐπίκαιρος ο λόγος του Χριστοῦ μας σήμερα, πού τόσοι γύρω μας ζοῦν μέρες πείνας! Συνάνθρωποι μας σκυμμένοι στούς κάδους τῶν σκοποποιῶν γιά «τόν ἄρτον αὐτῶν τόν ἐπιούσιον». Καθημερινό καὶ τό μαρτύριο τῆς μάνας που δὲν ἔχει να θρέψει τά παιδιά της. Νά τούς πάρει καινοῦργια παπούτσια, τύρα που πάλισαν τά παλιά. Νά τούς χαρίσει λίγη χαρά μ’ ἕνα παιχνίδι στις γιορτές. Ψυχική ἐξάντληση καὶ ἀνυπόφορη τα-
βάλει τόν ιδρώτα του σε ψωμί και οικογενειακή εύτυχια. Μέσα σε τέτοια κατάσταση ολοί με άγνωστη πασχίζουν για τα άναγκα. Για τα στοιχεία.

Αλλά ποιά είναι τα όντως άναγκα; Δύσκολα μέρες! Πειρασμικές!
Και αποπροσανατολίζουν πολλούς από μας. Μάς κάνουν να παιρνούμε λανθασμένη στάση στη σύγχρονη κρίση. Δεν είναι καιρός για άλλα, λέμε. Τώρα προέχουν οι βασικές βιοτικές μας άναγκες. Είναι πολυτέλεια να ξοδεύουμε, ως πούμε, για το λόγο του Θεού. Δεν περισσεύουμε χρήματα για πνευματικά βιβλία ή για συνδρομές σε θρησκευτικά περιοδικά.

Τι ράχηση άναγκων; Τόσο λογικά! Κι όμως τόσο λανθασμένα. Τόσο έναντι στον ίδιο μας τόν έαυτό.

Εάντι, διότι πραγματικά σήμερα δεν πεθαίνουμε από έλλειψη ψωμίου κι ως πληθαίνουν οι άνθρωποι που το άναζτησαν στα σκουπίδια. Πεθαίνουμε από έλλειψη ελπίδας, από άπουσια πίστεως. Στις μέρες της κρίσεως που περνάμε, αυτό που πιθανολογεί υπάρχει στην ίδια την έννοια, η ενίσχυση που χαρίζει ο Θεός στις καρδιές μας.

Είναι άλλη η δύσκολο άλλα τόσο από τον επίσημο στον ουρανιο αρτο. Να κατανοήσουμε ότι δεν άρκει μόνο ή έξασφάλιση των προφών για να ζήσουμε. Δεν ζει ο άνθρωπος μονάχα με ψωμί. Αυτό που πραγματικά μας λείπει και που ουσιαστικά χρειαζόμαστε είναι ο λόγος του Θεού.

Γι’ αυτό, κι ενώ φαντάζεις αντιλογικό, είναι σημαντικό να συνειδητοποιήσουμε όλοι μας ότι η διάδοση του λόγου του Θεού μέσω και αυτού του περιοδικού ή περισσότερος άνθρωπους είναι στην πραγματικότητα μοίρασμα ψωμίου! Είναι παροχή έλπιδας. Βακτηρία στηριγμού.

Ο καθένας μας χωρίστα άλλα και όλοκληρη η πατρίδα μας αυτό κυρίως εχει άναγκη. Δεν είναι πολυτέλεια να ξοδεύει κάποιος λίγα – ελάχιστα στην πραγματικότητα – χρήματα, για να εχει στο σπίτι του λόγο Θεού. Δεν είναι περιπτώ το έξοδο. Δεν είναι ύπερβαση οικονομικού σχεδιασμού. Είναι πιο άναγκα η στοιχειοθετήσεις του και θημερινό μας ψωμί.

Το είπε ο Χριστός μας με τα συγκλονιστικά έκεινα λόγια Του και είναι άλλη θεία αίωνα: «Ούκ είπε άρτω μόνων ζήσεται άνθρωπος, άλλ’ είπε παντί ημερησιακή έκπτωση μέχρι τέλους». (Μαθ. δ´ 4).
Nikiforos an Obscure Saint Emerges to Combat “Coronavirus”

During crises and specific ailments throughout human history, Orthodox Christians have called on different saints for help and intercession. Saint Minas during WW2, Saint Panteleimon for cancer, Saint Paraskevi for restoration of sight. Because of the myriad “slings and arrows” the flesh is heir to, a cloud of saints stand over our physical health.

The coronavirus pandemic is no different. From out of nowhere it seems, a little known saint has surfaced, whose devotion has been swelling to stench the tide of fear, insecurity, and affliction. He is remarkable in that he is a modern saint, relatively obscure, who also had to endure the agony of a contagious disease, a disease that signaled isolation, social distancing to the extreme. From out of nowhere it seems, supernatural aid comes from heroes that you did not even know exist.

His name is St. Nikiforos the Leper, honored on January 4. He was born, Nikolaos Tzanakakis, in Sikari, Kastanochori, Crete in 1890 to pious simple villagers. Because his parents died when he was 13, he was summoned by an uncle to Chania to learn the trade of barber. When he was but 15 or 16, he noticed dark rings across his body. He realized that it might be the beginning of leprosy. Leprosy had been brought over by the Arabs to Crete and remained active across the island. The famous novel later adapted to a movie called The Island, To Nisi, recounts the history of Spinalonga, the isolated island off the coast of Crete, that was designated as a leper colony. It was there that he would be sent if his disease was found out. Nikolaos did not want to be banished.

He was young, handsome, and by nature very social and gregarious. He left to Alexandria, Egypt instead. But the illness struck on his conscience that he could not escape. He went to confess his fear and it was the good guidance of his confessor that helped him make the right decision. His confessor explained that he could not hide the disease, that it would manifest, and that it would cause him unbearable pain. Better to face it than try to elude his destiny. The priest gave him a blessing to go to Chios and to seek out Fr Anthimos and Fr Eugenios, two clerics who tended to the spiritual needs of the patients at the biggest and best leper hospital in Greece. He was only 24 when he left for Chios.

In Chios, his disease would progress as would his spiritual advancement. The leper hospital would be the training ground for his spiritual struggle. Under the guidance of Fr Anthimos in two years’ time, he was tonsured a monk taking the name Nikiforos. He spent many hours in prayer, fasting and chanting in the services. His gifted voice made him a sought-after chanter in the liturgy. Even though crippled by a socially isolating disease, his warm personality attracted many to him. He smiled often and scattered joy. Visitors would find themselves irresistibly attracted to his charm and especially to the joy he imbibed. Devoting his time to noetic prayer, he strove to cleanse his soul.

-continued on page 11—
In time, his disease worsened. His face full of pocks and lesions became hideous to look at. He would keep his face covered by his monk’s cowl while he chanted during the services. Ironically, the more his body deteriorated, the more his soul shone. By 1957, he had lost his sight, and he had started to lose power in his limbs. The Chios leprosarium was closed in 1957 and the remaining patients, Fr Nikeforos among them, were sent to Saint Barbara’s home for lepers in Athens which housed several hundred patients.

In the final decades of his life, the pains Fr Nikiforos endured were excruciating. Some described him as a corpse, by then not even walking but bound to a bed morning, day and night. Even so, he kept up his sweet demeanor, with patience he continued in his loving way to those around him, keeping vigils and prayers, and above all, a pure heart. Fr Nikiforos reposed on January 4, 1964 at the age of 74. After three years, his holy relics were exhumed and found to be fragrant. Many believers reported cases where miracles occurred by calling on Saint Nikephoros to intercede with God.

St Nikiforos the Leper is such a comfort for us at this time. He has emerged as the secret saint for devotion and intercession for this coronavirus pandemic. His life and struggle demonstrate how it is through the Cross, the trials of an unrelenting illness that slowly mortifies flesh with pain, that makes us holy. It is not the trial itself but our response to it that transforms even a deadly disease into a vivifying joy. Many times those who visited him attested that Nikiforos would be grateful to God for even this most atrocious fate.

Leprosy is much like the coronavirus that isolates loved ones, that creates distance physically and spiritually. Yet it is the tribulation of such a disease that is releasing a renewed urgency over the world, calling out heroes in the most humble of us—nurses, doctors, sanitation workers, cleaning staff. It is bringing out what is most human in us.

What St Nikiforos shows, however, is that by accepting our difficulties, even if it goes contrary to our plans, our needs and conveniences, and being grateful to it, that we become more than human, we become higher than heroes, we become holy. It has been circulating in Orthodox circles that those who pray to Saint Nikiforos for intercession will not be harmed by the coronavirus. Adapted from larger text by Irene Archos.

The following testimony is from a priest named Fr Ananias Koustenis...sometime in early March 2020, St Nikephoros revealed himself to an old gentleman who told him not to be afraid of the new coronavirus because if you have faith and prayed to him, because of his boldness before God, we will be protected and healed.
Your Philoptochos Chapter has been meeting monthly by zoom and although we are not volunteering in person or hosting our annual bazaar we continue our philanthropic endeavors. At our November meeting we gave tribute to our Past President, Helen Pappas and shared stories of Helen’s vast participation in church life and in our chapter as a distinguished member. We thank the honorary guards at her funeral - Demetria Carr, Elizabeth Degaitas, Kiki Melanis, Marianne Phelan, Ethel Strekouras and Ann Heberg and we extend our condolences to her daughter and our past president, Georgia Pappas.

We continue to support the assistance requests, National Philoptochos Emergency Fund, Retired Clergy/Benevolent Fund, House of Hope, Hellenic College, Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Metropolis Dream Gala. We also donated to Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church for the Armenian Fund. In addition, we donated to the Metropolis ‘Feed The Hungry’ initiative and in turn we received a grant of $1,000 for the Interfaith Food Ministry of which we are ongoing supporters.

This year we are continuing our support of Operation Classroom and have donated gift cards for needy families at the Robert F. Kennedy School in Providence for Thanksgiving meals. We are also collecting new socks, hats, and scarves for their emergency needs as well as for an elementary school in Cranston. The collection box is located in the temporary Narthex and we ask for your support throughout the month of December.

Thank you to all who placed orders with Taste and Art of Greece and we appreciate your support. The earlier dates coincided with Cyber Monday with free shipping and from all indications we did very well with 10% of worldwide sales returning to our chapter.

This year we will not be doing any in-home visitations or nursing home visitations, instead we will be mailing gifts to them to let them know we are thinking of them.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas. We know that difficult for us, and we brings more certain times all our love and good ahead.

Marianne Phelan, President
Jennifer Eleni Martin Carr, Corresponding Secretary
**Young Adult League**

Our Young Adult League is continuing their “Call Tree Companions for Christ Ministry.” This Ministry has our Young Adults reaching out to Senior Citizens in our Community to check in and further the great relationships they have already established. If you would like to join this effort, please reach out to Fr. Nick!

**OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship)**

Our Rhode Island OCF will be having their next virtual gathering on Thursday, December 3rd at 8:00PM. All Rhode Island College Students are invited to join this Zoom! This Event is titled *Jesus, Questions, and Answers, with Fr. Nick.*

Then again they will gather on Thurs, Dec 17 virtually via zoom.

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**Agape Circle Resumes With Christmas**

The very successful classes focused on the topic of LOVE (*agape*) in its various facets will start a new fresh cycle as we enter the Season of Love...the Christmas Season. See details on our back page. Register promptly for the series is limited to 10 people.

**Preparing for your Vasilopita on January 1st**

Looking for the St Basil coin for your vasilopita bread…. you can find them in our parish bookstore.

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**Remembering Dean**

Last month we lost Dean” Christelis at age 90, so very well known in our parish and in the greater business community, maintaining a strong commitment to our parish and various charities. Active in our parish in his youth as an altar boy, and Goya. A long time Boy Scout, ranked as an Eagle Scout as well as being the first Greek Orthodox boy to be awarded the Boy Scout’s Religious Award. In the mid 1960s he was instrumental in the relocation of our parish from Providence to Cranston, (OLOI MAZI was the phase used); served as parish council president, provided advise concerning the parish’s insurance coverages and courtesies, chaired many committees and events over the years, and together with his late wife, Effie, established the Christelis Goya Scholarship in memory of their parents. Back numerous years ago Dean purchased an insurance on his life with the parish as the beneficiary of a $100,000 policy payable upon his death with instructions that the money should be distributed as follows: $75,000 to Annunciation Endowment Fund, $5,000 to Christelis GOYA Scholarship Fund, $10,000 to St. Basil’s Academy, $10,000 to Hellenic College Holy Cross Seminary.

*Thank you Dean for your generosity beyond life.*
**December Youth News**

Our Youth may be staying socially distant, but that doesn’t mean they haven’t been active! Our Church School had dedicated the month of November to the teaching of the Divine Liturgy which culminate with a Teaching Liturgy on Sat Dec 5th. Our teachers are currently planning a Virtual Christmas Pageant! Details will soon follow.

In addition, our Church School has invited families to put together and distribute blessing bags to those in need.

Our Greek School has continued their virtual classes and are going strong!

Our HOPE/JOY held their Virtual Thanksgiving Retreat on November 14th. HOPE/JOY Advisor Marina Daszkiewicz led us through a craft while Fr. Nick read an online story as we discussed what we are thankful for.

Finally, our GOYA Advisors/Officers have been meeting virtually and look forward to their first event on December 11.

**GOYA (6th-12th Grade)**

Our GOYA recently made a donation of $500 to Project Mexico / St Innocent Orphanage as part of their end of the year “Matching Fund Drive.”

Goya will be having their Cheer, Chatting, and Gingerbread House Decorating Virtual Event! This will take place, Friday, December 11th, at 7:30PM through Zoom. To attend please RSVP to Father Nick at fr.nick@annunciationri.org or by phone at 847-942-8103.

Please make sure to RSVP by December 3rd! Once your RSVP is received a bag will be waiting for you to be picked up Sunday, December 6th through Friday, December 11th at our Mihailides Center. These bags will contain the Gingerbread houses we will be building during the event! Please call the Church Office before pickup.

**HOPE/JOY (Pre-K-5th Grade)**

Our HOPE/JOY looks forward to their Virtual Christmas Retreat on Sunday, December 20th at 6:00PM. The Event will involve Christmas Bingo, a story, and discussion with Fr. Nick.

To attend RSVP to Fr. Nick by Thursday December 10th. Once you RSVP Christmas Cheer bags will be waiting for pick-up Monday December 13th-Sunday December 20th at our Mihailides Center. Please call the Church Office before pickup.

**St. Symeon Playgroup**

Our St. Symeon Play Group will be hosting their “Moms, Babies, and Tots” Virtual Event on Thursday, December 10th. at 10:30AM.

Please RSVP to Fr. Nick at fr.nick@annunciationri.org or by phone at 847-942-8103
HELP IS NEEDED!
DONATE***

To the Philoptochos Drive
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Drop off here at the Parish Office
Or Narthex Lobby at
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SOME THOUGHTS ON THE NEW YEAR

The last words that were found in Sir Walter Scott’s diary were, “Tomorrow, I shall.” But there was no tomorrow for him. He died with good intentions to accomplish a particular goal, but he never had the opportunity to either state or accomplish it.

It seems to me that this curious footnote of history is symbolic of all of us. Most of us live with the very best intentions, and with many positive goals; the problem, however, is that we very seldom accomplish any of them. Like that page in Sir Walter’s diary, our life is a series of endless pages with plans that are never realized.

Christ knew fully well that it is all too human for us to have a lofty ideals but also to procrastinate endlessly so that they never become a reality in our lives. That is why the Bible in all its wisdom warns us to be “doers of the word, and not hearers only.” (James 1:22)

Plans, goals, and intentions simply don’t count; they are not realities, and never will be until we decide to act on them, and to become doers and not only thinkers or hearers.

As a new year begins, we are offered a new opportunity to act. Let this be the year that we renew a friendship, visit the lonely, comfort the grieving and be a participant and involved Christian in the worship, the spiritual, the social and the cultural life of our parish. Let this be a new year that does not add to the story of our life another page of unrealized goals, but rather let it be the year in which many of them are accomplished and we are transformed into the doers of God’s word.
**Mid—December 2020— Mid-January 2021**

**Divine Services (year round) Orthros (morning prayer) 8:15 am / Liturgy 9:30 am**


Tues Dec 15— Parish Council Meeting—7:30pm—via Zoom

Wed Dec 16— Greek Fest Express Meeting—7:30PM

Thu Dec 17— Prophet Daniel & St Dionisios of Zakynthos— service per usual morning hours
  - Greater Providence OCF—8PM via Zoom

**CHRISTMAS—THEOPHANY CYCLE**

Sun Dec 20— Sunday Before Nativity— Genealogy of Christ / God-Bearer Ignatios
  - Hope & Joy Virtual Christmas Retreat—6PM—Zoom

Tue Dec 22— St Anastasia the Great–Martyr— services per usual morning hours

  Thurs am Dec 24—Royal Hours of the Nativity— 9:30am  (no communion)
  Thurs (pm) Dec 24—Vesperal Liturgy—6PM

**Fri Dec 25—Nativity of Christ / Christmas Day—**
  Orthros & Liturgy at usual morning hours

Sun Dec 27—Sun After Nativity / St Stephen the 1st Martyr, David, Joseph
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Dec 28, 29 & 30: Agape Circle—7PM via zoom
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**Fri Jan 1, 2021—The 8-Day Naming of Christ, St. Basil & New Years Day**
  Orthros & Liturgy at usual morning hours

Sun Jan 3—Sunday Before Theophany (usual Sunday)
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Jan 4, 5, 6: Agape Circle—7PM via zoom
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**Tues Jan 5— Vesperal/Liturgy with 1st water blessing— 9:30am**

Wed Jan 6— BAPTISM OF CHRIST (Theophany—Epiphany)
  - Services per usual morning hours with Water Blessing

Thu Jan 7— Synaxis of St John— service per usually morning hours

Sun Jan 10—Sunday After Theophany / St Gregory of Nyssa

Tue Jan 12— Goya Officers & Advisors—8PM zoom

Sun Jan 17— St Anthony the Great

Mon Jan 18— Philoptochos Board—6PM / General Membership 7PM

Tue Jan 19— Parish Council— 7:30PM

Sun Jan 24— St Xenia, Deaconess of Rome
a·gā·pē
noun; selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love


An Agape Circle is a small, peer-led group. Each meeting consists of prayer, an interactive exercise, sacred readings, questions for reflection, and a structured dialogue.

6-Session Circle
Led by Paul Pliakas
December 28, 29, 30 & January 4, 5, 6
7:00pm-8:30pm
Session limited to 10 participants.

To sign up, contact Paul Pliakas at peplikas@aol.com (include "Agape Circle" in the subject line).

An initiative lovingly supported by the