

Fr Dennis J. Schutte
Proistamenos

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH THE MESSENGER

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FROM FATHER DENNIS

Dear Faithful in the Lord,

Let us remember the humble birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; such is the way our God chose to enter the world. The way of humility is the mark of a follower of our Master and Savior. While the world is becoming more hostile and aggressive toward Christians, Christianity and things we know to be holy and good, our response must be in the language of the Christian and that is of love.

There are many distractions during this holy and beautiful season, all a ploy of the devil to take our attention from the event that has changed the world, the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Our Holy Orthodox Church has given us the gift of the 40 day fast to prepare us to receive our Savior. Let us not waste this precious gift nor allow our church attendance and prayer life to decrease, but increase.

Please remember to make offerings to those in need, and certainly the Church. May you have a blessed remainder of the Nativity Fast and a joyous celebration of our Savior's Holy Nativity.

In the Lord,

Fr. Dennis

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

AMGOC has joined Souper Bowl of Caring and we need you on our TEAM! Super Bowl XLVIII is Sunday, February 2, 2014 and the official Souper Bowl of Caring dates are January 20 - February 2. Please bring canned goods to church between these dates. Monetary offerings are also helpful. All contributions will be donated to High Plains Helping Hands. Research shows that 50.1 million Americans live in food insecure households: 33.5 million adults and 16.7 million children. While shopping for your Super Bowl gathering please be generous and lend a helping hand! For more information about these organizations please visit:

www.souperbowl.org

www.highplainshelpinghands.com

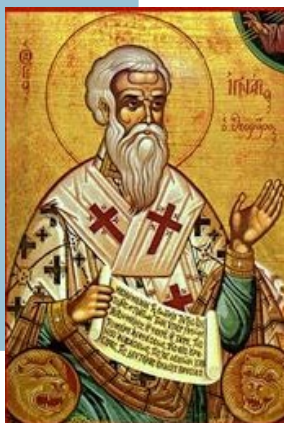


Sin is the fruit of free will. There was a time when sin did not exist, and there will be a time when it will not exist.

St. Isaac

The more a man advances in spiritual knowledge and in purification of the heart, the more it appears to him that the depth in which he finds himself is even lower and that the height to which he strives is even higher.

St. Ignatius



GOYA

On Sunday, November 17, 2013, several parents and teenagers met to discuss GOYA participation this year. Approximately a dozen teenagers are interested in joining the group and we plan to have a volunteer event in December to be determined.

Please contact Connie Leonard at 719.660.2190 if you are interested in participating or if you have any ideas for activities.

LIBRARY / BOOKSTORE

The holiday season is rapidly approaching and the library would like to remind everyone that books and Icons make wonderful gifts. We have several children's books that helped to explain the Orthodox faith which would be a nice addition to their library. Every household would benefit by having an Orthodox Bible. Since Icons are more expensive, we tend to take special orders, but will have several smaller ones available for purchase. To those new in the faith we have wonderful books of introduction. Thank you for your continuing support and see you in the library!

— Barbara Liontas

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council elections will be held on December 8th. Please keep an eye out for announcements regarding the newly-elected 2014 members.

— 2013 Members —

President: John Kubik

Vice President: John Topakas

Treasurer: Andrawis Dabit

Secretary: Connie Leonard

Parish Council: Sam Marzavas, Jake Topakas, Bogdan Georgescu, Norm Struck, Steve Bolish, Elaine Cunningham

FUNDRAISING

Our two events, Territory Days Booth and the Greek Festival, were very successful in 2013 raising over \$34,000. With each year, we continue to upgrade our equipment to improve our operation. This year we received a donation to purchase a new upright five-shelf freezer and we bought two new fryers to be used at the Dessert Booth. These fryers will improve our serving time and certainly decrease the wait time of our customers for the Loukamathes. Our biggest improvement will be in the preparation of our food with the purchase of a five-shelf commercial convection oven. We are now able to prepare everything we serve in-house and also prepare roasted legs of lamb and chicken souvlaki daily during the festival. This purchase has eliminated preparation elsewhere and the logistical moving of our products which took lots of time and effort. One last note - Volunteerism! Did you know that 33% of our volunteers at the festival are friends and neighbors from outside the church? As for our in-house volunteers, great thanks to you for making our events successful - without your participation we could not have events. Festival dates in 2014 - August 22, 23 and 24.

— Norm Struck, Fundraising Director

TREASURER

Over the past 10 months, the collections totaled \$109,262. During that same period, our expenses were \$142,211. We were able to pay down the mortgage principle by \$10,800, which makes the balance of our building less than \$90,000. We hope to pay it off soon.

We started a Building Fund Account towards a future new location for our community. To date, we have raised \$6,285.

Other accounts of interest include the Youth Account, which stands at \$641, and the Bookstore currently at \$386.

— Andy Dabit, Treasurer

ANNOUNCEMENTS / STEWARDSHIP

- 2013 Stewardship is coming to a close and we thank you for all of your support. 2014 Stewardship Program is now underway. For a 2014 Stewardship Packet please see Ruxandra Georgescu.
- This newsletter is being published bimonthly. The deadline for the February / March issue will be January 15, 2014. Please submit your articles, updates, general information and announcements (including birthdays, anniversaries and graduations) to admin@amgoc.org. Be sure to include **The Messenger** in the subject line. Thank you.
- Be sure to Like our **Facebook** page at www.facebook.com/amgoc.co to be updated on current events associated with the church. Also, our webpage at www.amgoc.org is a great resource for past bulletins, information and history.

DECEMBER/JANUARY SERVICES

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES

- Saturday Great Vespers at 6pm. Holy Confession before or after service.
- Sunday Orthros 9am and Divine Liturgy 10am. Fellowship and coffee hour following services.

CHRISTMAS, NEW YEARS AND EPIPHANY FEAST DAYS

- December 22 Sunday Before the Nativity: Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00/10:00am
- December 24 Orthros & Royal Hours for the Nativity 9:00 am
Prayers Before Holy Communion 5:45 pm
Vespers Liturgy: Nativity of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ 6:00 pm

This is a strict fast day. Those who are preparing to receive Holy Communion are to fast from the noonday meal or sooner from all food and drink (12:00 p.m. for lunch and should eat very light Lenten meal).

- December 25 Orthros for the Nativity of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ 10:00 am
- December 26 Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Synaxis of the Theotokos 8:00/9:00 am
- December 31 Great Vespers: Circumcision of the Lord and St. Basil the Great 6:00 pm
- January 1 Orthros & Divine Liturgy Circumcision of the Lord and St. Basil 9:00/10:00 am
- January 3 Orthros and Royal Hours 9:00 am
- January 5 Orthros and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom 9:00/10:00 am
for the Theophany of Our Lord and Lesser Blessing of Waters
Great Vesper at Holy Theophany Church (2770 Chestnut Street) 6:00pm

Please note: This is a strict Fast Day

- January 6 Orthros for Theophany 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy & The Great Blessing of Waters (no fasting) 10:00 am
- January 7 Synaxis of St. John the Baptist Orthros and Divine Liturgy 8:00/9:00 am

Please note: Every Orthodox Christian should go to Holy Confession prior to the celebration of our Lord's Nativity. Confessions can be heard before or after Great Vespers on Saturday Evenings or by appointment during the week. Please remember that only Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and recent confession may partake of Holy Communion.

There is no fasting from December 25 until January 4 (inclusive).

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church

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