

Fr Dennis J. Schutte
Proistamenos

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church THE MESSENGER

Volume 8.1

February 2014

FROM FATHER DENNIS

Dear Faithful in the Lord,

The Great Lenten season is only a few weeks away, beginning on **Clean Monday, March 3**. I encourage you to join the millions of Orthodox Christians around the world *to fast, pray and give alms* during this most holy time.

The Church correctly teaches us to discipline the body (disciple) that it becomes the servant of the soul. We are also reminded this time is not meant to be “easy”. The Lord tells us “...for without Me, you can do nothing.” (John 15:5). The Lenten journey is not without help from Christ Himself, but we must be willing participants. Along with intensified fasting, we are called to increase our prayers privately and corporately. More opportunities are available during the week to attend weekday services and we should adjust our schedules to accommodate time for the Lord. Let us also remember to increase our charity to those in need.

We live at a time of excesses in every aspect of life: food, home, cars, health, fashion, technology, politics and on and on. It has become normative to be *self-serving* and take the “*me first*” attitude. Great Lent redirects us toward repentance (change the heart), proper moderation, an opportunity for the heart and soul to be warmed with the love of God and seeing Christ in everyone. This holy season helps to correct and reorder our lives that have become fragmented, bruised and wounded through sin and separation from God. We are further driven away from our loving Lord by the rapidly increasing complexities of society; but it does not have to be so. Let us remember the warning of our the Lord regarding the last days, “*Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*” (Matthew 24:11-13) Let us not allow our hearts to grow cold, rejecting Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, allowing lawlessness to abound (in our souls) but rather draw near to Him. Let us shed the worldly spirit that we may have embraced and instead fill ourselves with the Living God Himself.

Lastly, let me encourage all of you to not allow this beautiful time go without preparing and participating in the Holy Mystery of Confession. What a great privilege and blessing our Lord has provided for us to be renewed and restored, purified and cleansed of our sins, failings and weaknesses. If you have never been to Holy Confession before, ask the Lord to grant you the courage to do so. I assure you that it will be an experience that will benefit your soul, granting you great and soul saving grace.

In the Lord,

Fr. Dennis

Inside this issue:

Parish Council News	2
Souper Bowl Results	2
Fundraising	3
Treasurer	3
Church School	3, 5
Letter to the Parish	4
Announcements	4
Library	5
Services	6

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Fellow Parishioners,

Happy New Year! I am very proud to say that 2013 was a very successful year for our Church. I say that because although our economy may be stumbling a bit, we were able to celebrate our faith without interruption. Thank you to all the stewards, volunteers, Sunday school teachers, coffee hour hosts, and mentors for contributing to our success.

As we enter 2014, we are in full swing of our stewardship campaign. Ruxandra has done a wonderful job of reaching out to the community explaining why we should be stewards as well as expressing our needs. To those who have filled out the "cards" for the year, thank you. If you have not yet done so, I urge you to please consider taking the time to do so as soon as possible. Our Parish family needs the support of all in order to prosper. Remember, stewardship is the giving of time, talent, and treasure. Please ask yourself, "where do I fit in?"

Our new Parish Council will begin meetings in February. If you have any suggestions, thoughts, good ideas, etc that you would like the Council to explore let us know. During our meeting in December 2013 we agreed to look into renovating a couple areas of our Church Hall in order to accommodate our growing community. We will potentially reorganize our seating as well as modernize our bathrooms and kitchen. Project managers are seeking cost estimates which the Council will provide to the Parish in order to fund the projects.

You may be thinking, how will we pay for these projects? Our hope is we will have good weather and the Blessing of God during our annual fundraisers. Volunteer opportunities are bountiful! Now is the time to mark your calendars for these events in order to avoid a conflict in your schedule. Hint, hint, we'll need the help of all available!

Again, I wish you all a Happy, Prosperous, New Year. I look forward to what this year will bring.

— John Kubik, *Parish Council President*

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council elections were held on December 8th and the following are the 2014 Parish Council members:

John Kubik, Connie Leonard, Leon Basdekas, Jake Topakas, Bogdan Georgescu, Norm Struck, Steve Bolish, Phil Yannias, Roger Labrie

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring. We had a tremendous amount of offerings and donations. To continue to donate online and learn more about these organizations please visit:

<http://www.souperbowl.org>

<http://www.highplainshelpinghands.com>

FUNDRAISING

VOLUNTEERS; YES.—All the parishioners that volunteer their time and talents are the people that keep our parish going. We could not operate if we were burdened with the expenses of a few positions that were paid positions. We have some wonderful VOLUNTEERS who make a commitment and take on responsibility for devoting their time and talent to meet our needs. VOLUNTEERS teach your children on Sunday, VOLUNTEERS host and serve the Coffee Fellowship, VOLUNTEERS maintain a small Greek Food Store, VOLUNTEERS provide meals on special event Sundays such as Palm Sunday and VOLUNTEERS meet other needs not mentioned here, BUT—we need more people to VOLUNTEER. We have to have you make your church a priority and find the time to VOLUNTEER in one of the many areas of need in our parish. See Father Dennis, one of the current leaders of a function or a Council Member and find out where YOU can offer your time and talents best as a VOLUNTEER. Helping others - that is what it is really all about!

—Norm Struck, Fundraising Director



Archangel Michael

TREASURER

During 2013 we collected \$125,458 and our expenses were \$162,001 with a difference of \$36,543. We transferred the difference from our Festival Fund.

During 2013, we started two new accounts. First is the **New Building Fund**, which was opened strictly to provide a new location for the parish. Thanks to everyone who have donated to important cause. It remains open for any donation at any time. Be sure to make a note as to where your donation should be directed. The second account is the **Youth and Bookstore Account**. These will be handled separately and we plan to track them as two accounts.

Additional donations of \$1500 were offered to pay off our current mortgage. Thank you all for the your donation.

Balances as of December 31, 2013:

General Account	\$7384
Youth and Bookstore	\$1257 (\$641 is Youth Fund)
New Building Fund	\$8785
Festival Checking	\$344
Festival Money Market	\$60,161

— Andy Dabit, 2013 Treasurer

CHURCH SCHOOL



In January, the AMGOC Church School celebrated Family Day with arts and crafts, a great meal and various other activities.

FROM CHRISTOPHER ROBEY

Fr. Dennis, Esteemed Officers and Members of the Parish Council, and Beloved Congregation of Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church,

December 2013

...I think of you often and pray that God blesses each and every one of you with His grace—both in the parish and in your respective homes and families. I have been consumed mostly with my classes and my studies; but as a first year student what time isn't spent on school work is filled with additional requirements in support of the school and/or chapel. I see my classmates—some half my age—battling to stay on track with everything and I thank God for the daily strength he provides me.

I did have to take time away during my short holiday break from all the reading, studying, and practicing however, to personally express my deep appreciation and great humility for the Parish Council's gift to me—my first anteri (cassock). It is no small gift by any means. To receive such a gift from my Colorado Springs "family" was, and is, a blessing beyond words...I hope I can make all of you proud during my time here.

I, Dorothy and the boys, love and miss all of you very much, along with the special memories each of you have brought to our lives. God's blessing and the protection of the Archangel Michael be with you all!

Christ's Unworthy Servant,

Christopher (Χριστοφορος)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

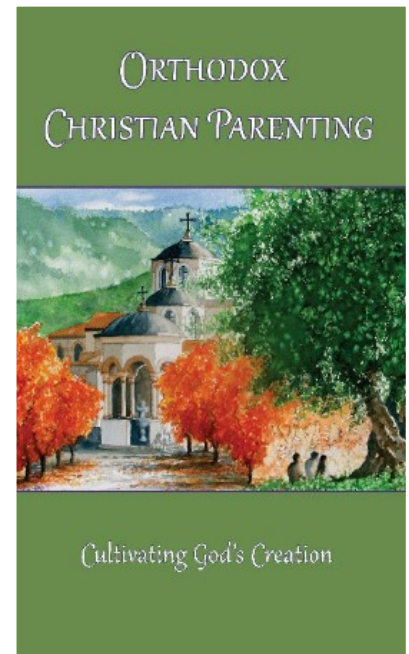
- 2014 Stewardship Program is underway. For a Stewardship Packet please see Ruxandra Georgescu.
- The **Messenger** newsletter is being published bimonthly. The deadline for the April / May issue will be March 15, 2014. Please submit your articles, updates, general information and announcements (including 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, weekly services, events and history.

BOOKSTORE / LIBRARY

Recently, Father Dennis introduced us to a wonderful book entitled, **Orthodox Christian Parenting**. I have read the book and it is a wonderful book for parents of children of all ages. It is written in contemporary language and easily understood. It begins with Early Training through Adolescence and throughout their Adult lives addressing some very contemporary issues.

For example, with early training they discuss: The Ten Best Ways to Destroy Your Children; the issue of dual parenthood; discipline at Day School and their spiritual education as well as their public education. With adolescence some of the themes address modesty in speech and dress; Internet and pornography, death dealing drugs and praying them back. Adult children getting ready for college, addressing marrying for the right reasons, divorce if it is the only way, etc. The spiritual subjects deal with coming to church, Feast Days and Names days, proper behavior, Fast and Pray, then trust in the Lord when trials come and many more. I recommend it highly. Please take time to look at the book in the library, The cost is \$30.00 and orders will be taken.

For more information directly from the publisher, including reviews, follow this link: http://zoepress.us/New_Publication.html



CHURCH SCHOOL



During the Christmas season, the Church School observed Saint Nicholas Day on Sunday, December 8 (left, right) by handing out gifts of fruit and nuts to the faithful.

On December 15, (below) the kids celebrated the season with church hymns and carols. Thank you to Presvytera Sophia for organizing the caroling.



FEBRUARY / MARCH 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.

SERVICES DURING GREAT LENT

- * **Monday evenings:** Great Compline on at 6pm
- * **Wednesday evenings:** Presanctified Liturgy on at 6pm
- * **Friday evenings:** Salutations to the Theotokos on 6pm
- * **Memorial Saturday Liturgy:** February 22, 29 and March 8 at 9am

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church

2215 Paseo Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Phone: 719-634-5678
E-mail: info@amgoc.org
Website: amgoc.org
FB: www.facebook.com/amgoc.co