

Fr Dennis J. Schutte
Proistamenos

Archangel Michael

Greek Orthodox Church

THE MESSENGER

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FROM FATHER DENNIS

Dear Faithful in the Lord,

On Friday, August 1, we begin the two week fast for the Dormition (falling asleep) of the Mother of God and this feast is celebrated on August 15. During this period we will celebrate the Great and Small Paraklesis, a service of supplication during times of sorrow, sadness, tragedy or natural disaster. As we know, the world is in great turmoil and travail and needs the comforting aide of our Mother, the Most Holy Theotokos.

We were blessed this year to celebrate the great Prophet Elias (Elijah) on a Sunday and hear in the Epistle of St. James: *"The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. Elijah was a man of like nature with ourselves and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit."* 5:16-18.

We must, therefore, gather every evening during this period to beseech the Lord, through His Mother's prayers to help us and the suffering people around the world. I encourage you to submit the names of your family members and those in need (living only) to be commemorated during the services. Maybe, like the Prophet Elias, a small offering of our united prayers can "effect" the Lord if in like manner we "pray fervently" as well.

Our fellow Christians suffering in the Middle East and around the world are in need of our prayers and material assistance. Please do not let the holy season pass with indifference to our souls and those of our fellows.

In the Lord,
Fr. Dennis

LITURGICAL ITEMS FROM GREECE

Recently, we received some new liturgical items directly from Greece. In the narthex, you will notice our new, hand-carved icon stand that perfectly matches our kouvouklion. In the altar, is our new monastic-style gospel stand and censer stand. You will find various photos of these items throughout this issue. We are grateful to those who donated these wonderful additions to our parish. *God bless you!*

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Fellow Parishioners,

Happy summer! We have seen some crazy weather this season...from thunderstorms and hail, to mid-90s and bright sunshine. In any event, I hope your summer is going well and pray it continues that way.

Our General assembly meeting was very productive and informative. We are doing fairly well financially, providing everyone meets their commitments. We decided on a plan to put together a Parish Directory to make it easier for us to stay in contact with each other. We also decided to look into a potential purchase of a larger building somewhere in our future. Information has been gathered by a couple of Parish Council members on how we might accomplish such a task. If able, a presentation will be made at our fall assembly on the ways and means to fulfill our needs.

Our Greek Orthodox Food Festival is just around the corner. I sincerely pray for good weather and enough volunteers to make the event more successful than last year's. If you've already signed up for a shift, THANK YOU! If you haven't signed up for a shift yet, please consider doing so. Like I stated in our assembly meeting, the more we have, the easier it is for everyone. Also, it's lots of fun. Please ask others in our community (high schools, neighbors, etc) if they'd like to help out. Almost every volunteer I spoke to last year stated how much fun they had and how they enjoyed the atmosphere.

Speaking of atmospheres, during your summer vacation or on a lazy weekend, it is a good time to reflect on how your year is going and how you might be able to make it better. I always told my Airmen, it's never too late to adjust schedules, life patterns, or social settings to make your life more meaningful. Think about doing this yourself, or as a family, and enjoy the rewards.

Take care everyone...see you in Church!

— John Kubik, *Parish Council President*

TREASURER REPORT

We are currently at the point in the year where our annual expenditures are overtaking our income. To date we have received \$85,272 in income and have had \$85,370 in expenses. For 3 of the 6 months this year our expenses have exceeded our income. We transferred \$10,000 from the festival account to the general fund in May, and will need to complete another transfer in July to continue operating. Letters will go out to all the stewards by the end of July to let everyone know where they stand with respect to their stewardship. Please stay current, and if you haven't filled out a stewardship card, please see Ruxandra Georgescu.

Below is the current status on our accounts as of June 30, 2014:

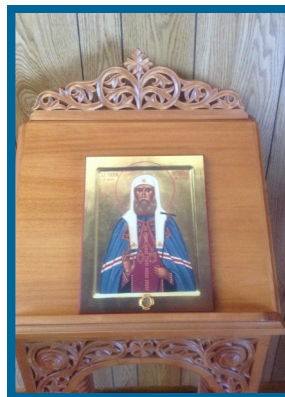
General Fund - \$4,960

Festival Fund - \$54,728

Youth Fund - \$209

Bookstore Fund - \$696

New Building Fund - \$9,887



New Liturgical Items: Hand-carved icon stand in the narthex.

GREEK FESTIVAL

Dates for the festival are August 22, 23 and 24. Volunteer sign up sheets are out for your sign up in the Church Hall. The sheets cover our needs starting on August 16 for Sam's Club purchase of supplies (loading the U-Haul and unloading at the Church); August 18 thru August 21, AM to PM times for putting up the canopies, receiving a shipment of food from Denver, packaging desserts, preparing the meatballs and cutting tomatoes, onions and salad items. The festival times of operation (including setup) are 9am to 9pm (Friday), 9am to 10pm (Saturday) and 9am to 7pm (Sunday). You can sign up at the Church or contact our festival coordinators. Stephen Bolish (Volunteer Coordinator): sbolish [at] gmail.com and Norm Struck : nstruck40 [at] yahoo.com — 719.360.6844. This year a T-Shirt was designed for our festival and we now have them available for early purchase at the Church on Sundays after services. —Norm Struck, *Fundraising Director*



New Liturgical Items (from l. to r.): Monastic-style gospel stand; gospel stand carving detail; censer stand; censer stand detail.

BOOKSTORE — LIBRARY

"If the Church Fathers had such great love and respect for books, can we today who are called to carry their torch and pass it on to coming generations do less?" Fr. Anthony Coniaris

Think about it. We have several wonderful books for children on the Theotokos, the sacraments, etc. that have not been purchased in over a year. The Bookstore is going to have a permanent 20% off shelf. Books will come and go on a regular basis so you may want to check from time to time to see what books have been added. We have some older books that still contain wonderful information but it's time to make room for the new ones that are being ordered. Suggestions for particular topics are always appreciated. See you at the Bookstore!— Barbara Lontas

ARCHDIOCESAN CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS

The 2014 Clergy-Laitly Congress & the National Philoptochos Convention convened on Sunday, July 6th - July 9th, 2014 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Philadelphia, PA. Fr. Dennis attended this biannual congress along with hundreds of clergy and lay delegates from around the Greek Archdiocese. At the opening ceremony His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew addressed the Congress by Skype. On Wednesday evening Vice President Joe Biden addressed the delegates and guests attending the Grand Banquet. Video and photo gallery along with plenary and resolution can be viewed at: <http://clergy-laity.org/home>

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 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.
- * **August 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13:** Paraklesis Services at 6pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **AMGOC Dinner Fundraiser:** Mark your calendars to keep the evening of Saturday, November 1st available. The Parish Council is organizing this dinner event and Metropolitan Isaiah will be attending as well. *More details will be forthcoming.*
- 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. Submit Messenger ideas/articles to: admin@amgoc.org.

Fr. Dennis meeting the new Orthodox recruits at the Air Force Academy, June 27, 2014. BCT (Basic Cadet Training)



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