

Fr Dennis J. Schutte
Proistamenos

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church **THE MESSENGER**

Volume 8.6

December 2014

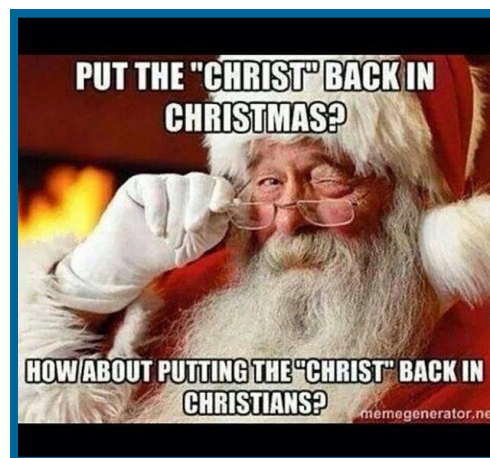
FROM FATHER DENNIS

Dear Faithful in the Lord,

During this holy season we hear regularly how we must keep Christ in Christmas. This issue has been going on for many years and it seems to be becoming more and more predominant in today's society. It seems to many if we can insure that the worker at the retail stores says to us "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Holidays" then we have accomplished our goals.

For the Orthodox Christian though, the best way to celebrate the event of the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ, is not at the stores, but in church. On Facebook, one of the many things that goes by on my page was what you see below. Well, I thought to myself, that is profound and the truth.

If we remain somewhat indifferent or just nominally involved with the event that has most definitely changed the course of history, what should we expect from the those in the world? Unless those around us see that we have a living and active participation in the Lord and His Church, we will convince no one of the faith we have received and maintained for 2000 years. We are called to evangelize and spread the "good news" to all and show that our faith is not superficial or that we are just lukewarm Christians.



I hope and pray that each of you will rededicate to the prayer life of the Church. May you have a blessed celebration of Our Lord's Holy Nativity and joyous New Year.

In the Lord,
Fr. Dennis

The Ancient of Days is become a Child, to make us children of God. From glory in the Heavens, because of His love for mankind, He now lies in a manger. He has taken on my body, so that I am made capable to have within myself His Spirit. He has taken unto Himself my nature, being garbed in my body, and gives me His Spirit, so that I, giving and in turn receiving, might discover the treasure of life.

From a homily attributed to

St. Gregory Thaumaturgos of Neo-Caesarea, 3rd century

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PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Fellow Parishioners,

Happy Holidays! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. We have plenty to be thankful for in our lives. This time of year allows us the opportunity to look back and realize how good we really have it. Many people are struggling throughout the world, battling forces against Christianity. Others are trying to get through the Ebola Virus epidemic. Still others have inter- and intra-personal issues they are dealing with. With that in mind, please pray for these the people around the world so their lives may be easier to cope with whatever may be troubling them.

You may not have noticed, but, a few more items around the Church have been renovated thanks to Leon Bas-dekas. The door was replaced to our furnace room and there is planning taking place to level the parking area covered in the road mix. We continue to pursue options for allowing our Parish to grow by researching potential "new" locations to expand the amount of seating available to those attending Liturgy and other Services. As always, if you have any ideas for improvement, we on the Parish Council welcome your thoughts.

We are nearing the end of this Stewardship year. As such, a question to ask is, "am I caught up with my pledged commitment?" Please understand our budgetary requirements count on your pledges. We have been regularly taking money out of our Festival/Territory Days account to meet obligations. In order to get ahead, we must search for ways to discontinue this practice. One way to do this is committing to the Church and ensuring we meet our obligations.

We have a few Parish Council representatives whose terms are ending at the end of the year. Therefore, we must hold an election to determine which nominees will form the team for 2015. Please take the time to let your voice be heard and vote in this year's election. This Council speaks on your behalf so it's very important to have your input.

Lastly, I'd like to take the time to publicly thank all the members of this year's Parish Council. It has been an honor and privilege serving with you. Your commitment to the Church has been a blessing for all of us in this community. Thank you very much!

Happy Holidays everyone...see you in Church!

— John Kubik, *Parish Council President*

TREASURER REPORT

All parishioners have done a good job supporting the church this year. As of the end of October we have received \$118,000 in income, we have transferred \$30,000 from the festival account and have paid \$148,000 in expenses. I will have stewardship letters complete prior to stewardship Sunday (14 December) to let all stewards know where they stand on their commitment for the past year. We received the Total Commitment Obligation for 2015 from the Metropolis. Our obligation has increased by \$55 per month for a total of \$955. I will modify the budget that was approved earlier this month by that amount.

Below is the status of our accounts as of October 31, 2014:

General Fund - \$5,275

Festival Fund - \$62,620

Youth Fund - \$203

Bookstore Fund - \$430

New Building Fund - \$9890

— Roger LaBrie, *Treasurer*

FESTIVALS & VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers: The Greek Food Store in the Church Hall is one of our activities that makes some money for the church. For your convenience, we have a number of items available for sale throughout the year. The store is in current need of a Volunteer Clerk to oversee the operations. Estimated startup will begin on January 15, 2015.

Also, I need a new Director of Volunteers to organize the volunteer program for our two major fund raising activities - our booth at Territory Days in May and our Annual Greek Festival. This position is vitally important to successful events and needs to be filled by January 15, 2015. You may volunteer for either of these positions by contacting Norm Struck at 719-360-6844 or nstruck40@yahoo.com.

Fundraising: Our fund raising has been successful (very) these past five years. We have replaced many items rented in the past with ownership. Our storage facilities have increased and the quality of our food products has greatly improved. The purchase of the commercial oven has allowed us to prepare everything at our church. In addition, as more dollars have been raised each year, we have had to draw increasing amounts of dollars from the Greek Festival Fund to operate the Church. In 2014, \$40,000 was transferred to the General Fund to meet expenses not covered by regular income - Stewardship. This information was provided to those (15 people) who attended the recent Fall Assembly. Bottom line, we must continue to have successful fund raisers with your help as volunteers and increased stewardship must grow. Thanks for the great support.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

— Norm Struck, *Festival Director*



BOOKSTORE – LIBRARY

The library is preparing for the holiday season. We feel we have chosen some books and other items that would make for a meaningful gift to family or friends. For the children we have ordered *Celebrating the 12 Days of Christmas in the tradition of the Eastern Tradition*. Suggestions for each of the 12 days that the family can participate in. There is also *A Walk Through the Orthodox Church for Children* and an *Illustration of the Divine Liturgy for Children* which are excellent sources of information. Of course, our favorite, which we feel every young family should have in their library is the *Orthodox Christian Parenting*.

We have Icons, generally the smaller ones, but if you would like a specific Icon we would be happy to order it for you. There are Christmas Cards, sensors, a Greek-English Dictionary and cookbooks. Last but not least, does everyone have a copy of the Greek Bible in their homes including our young married couples and students in college?

The library once again thanks you for your support and wishes you a blessed holiday season.

— Barbara Liontas

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.
- * **Wednesday:** Small Paraklesis (Supplication) to the Theotokos 6pm
- * **Weekday Feast Day Liturgy** as scheduled (*Please check the weekly Bulletin on our website.*)
- * **Christmas, New Years and Epiphany Feast Days:** See enclosed detailed schedule.

VETERAN'S DAY LUNCHEON



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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.
- If you have any photos that you have taken at Church events, feel free to tag the Church on Facebook. Alternatively, you may email the photos to admin@amgoc.org for inclusion on the Facebook page.

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

CHRISTMAS, NEW YEARS AND EPIPHANY FEAST DAYS 2014 / 2015

December 21:	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
	Vespereal 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 27:	Orthros and Divine Liturgy for St. Stephen the First Martyr	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 5:	Orthros, Royal Hours	7:00 am
January 5:	Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for the Theophany of Our Lord and <i>Lesser Blessing of Waters</i>	9:00 am
Please note: <i>This is a strict Fast Day</i>		
January 6:	Orthros for Theophany	9:00 am
	Divine Liturgy & <i>The Great Blessing of Waters (no fasting)</i>	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!

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