



THE Message



SAINT
MARK

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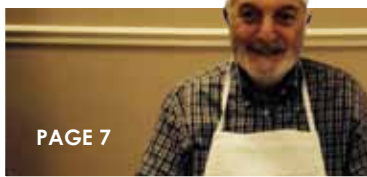
DEC 2014 & JAN 2015



BEYOND THE CANVAS:
THEOPHANY ICON PAGE 4



The 2nd Annual
Men's Culinary
Delights



PAGE 7

The Seniors of Saint Mark
Christmas Luncheon
DEC 11 Delray Marriott

12:30pm
\$30
(\$32 for non-members)



PHILOPTOCHOS OF SAINT MARK HOSTS GUEST SPEAKER THEA HALO

On November 10, over 120 people from Saint Mark, Saint David, and Saint Catherine gathered in the Saint Mark Fellowship Hall to hear a presentation from guest speaker and author Thea Halo. Those in attendance were spellbound as Thea Halo read excerpts from her book, "Not Even My Name," which give an account of her mother's story of the Turkish expulsion and genocide of the Pontic Greeks and Armenians after WW1. Her book was available for sale after the talk, and Thea was kind enough to stay after and sign autographs. We thank Niki Core for her work in arranging this memorable event. This was the first in a series of lectures to be held this year at Saint Mark.

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT: A HOLE IN ONE!

This year's golf tournament was way above par (in a good way)! Many, young and old, came out from the community to enjoy a little golf on a beautiful sunny day on October



18, 2014. The scores were low, and the spirits were high, as dozens competed in a friendly 18 holes at the Boca Lago Country Club. We give a special thanks to our Chairs, Charlie and Christine Zacharias (pictured above) and our "honorary co-chair" Tom Fread for all of their hard work. Along with George Mellides, they made sure everything was taken care of from start to finish. We also deeply thank all of our sponsors, volunteers and golfers who made this year's Golf Tournament the most successful ever at Saint Mark.

The Message is an in-print outreach to the Orthodox Christian community of Boca Raton and the greater South Florida region. This publication aims to inform, edify, and serve as a witness to its readers of the Truth of Jesus Christ as confirmed in the Holy Gospel.

The Message is a ministry of:



Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church

2100 NW 51st Street
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Clergy:

Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis, Pastor
Rev. Fr. Steven Klund, Assistant
Rev. Fr. Alexander Leondis,
Protopresbyter
Rev. Dn. John Christakis, MD

Office Staff:

Dawn Riger, Parish Administrator
Patti Ali, Bookkeeper

Church Maintenance:

Yosban Pazbalino & Tim Caldwell

Office Volunteers:

Pat Anthony, Niki Core, Joann Haros, Evelyn Lamia, Marlene Buettner, Pres. Mary Leondis, Debbie Fread, Kay Poly, Kalle Andromidas

Parish Council: John Koutsoupis

Philoptochos: Pam Parent

Choir: Virginia Barnes

Chanters: Ramona Bean,
George Demopoulos, Art Poly

Ushers:

Tim Sharp

Acolytes: Brian Giusti & Tom Bean

Church School: Helen Lang

Youth Choir: Virginia Barnes

JOY: Angela & Girard Mitchell,
and Erin & Rick Kontos

Seniors: Diane Paterakis

Syrtaki:

Mark Christakis & Jenny Saiger

Greek School: Anna Kaiser

Bookstore: Yvette Koutsoupis,
Barbara Tasiounes, Stella Pores

Welcome: Elaine Zographus

Readers: Vivian Jenetopoulos

Photography: Constantine Mukasa
& Irina Giakouminakis

The Message: Fr. Steven Klund

PASTORAL MESSAGE *Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis*



My dear faithful,

Have you ever heard a person ask: What should I give to the Church? What has the Church done for me? Let's take a closer look at what our Saint Mark Church DOES for us . . .

The Church leads us into the Sanctuary on the 40th day of our birth – to dedicate us to God. The Church baptizes us in the name of the Trinity – and seals us with the “Gift of the Holy Spirit” through Chrismation – initiating us into the Body of Christ – the Ekklesia. The Church invites us at each Liturgy to be forgiven of our sins and to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. The Church allows us to experience the “Liturgy after the Liturgy” each Sunday in the Fellowship Hour – offering us an opportunity to grow closer to each other. The Church offers us the opportunity to grow closer to our Lord through our: Adult Education, Bible Study, Discussion Groups, Youth programs, education, Outreach, Evangelism and philanthropic work.

The Church is there for us when we are sick and in need. The Church stands by us at the hour of our death and prays for our salvation, as we enter the next life. The Church does not forget us even after we have left this world, but continues to remember us with memorial prayers until the second coming of Christ.

Today, on Stewardship Sunday, we are each called to make our 2015 commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to Saint Mark. Today, on Stewardship Sunday, we must ask ourselves, not “what does the Church do for me?” but what I can offer my Church? What can I offer God?

What can I offer my beloved Saint Mark parish through my time, talents and treasure? We do this knowing that what we do for the Church – we do for Christ.

Consider being generous by increasing your 2015 Stewardship Commitment by 10 or 20% or moving to the next level of giving. I ask you please . . . do not view your stewardship as an obligation or a tax . . . but as a humble offering to Jesus Christ.

As a way to see Christ's work expand. As a privilege to be part of God's work directly. And as a response to God's love with your love.

May we all be good stewards of which God has given us.

With love in the Lord,

Father Mark

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

The Oratorical Festival is coming up fast! While the speeches aren't given until the spring, the best speeches are the ones that are started in the fall. Get started today. This is an excellent opportunity to practice and perfect essential, public speaking skills. **All GOYANs who participate and also help with the “Support a Mission Priest” program will receive a free weekend at OCMC in St. Augustine in March 2015!**

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE OR LOG ON TO GOARCH.ORG TO FIND THIS YEAR'S TOPICS




SAINT MARK GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Father Mark A. Leondis, Presiding Pastor

A Parish Assembly meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 30, 2014, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. This Assembly is for our faithful stewards to learn more about our Church.

Proposed Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Election of Chairman of Assembly
3. Approval of Parish Assembly Minutes (May 4, 2014)
4. Pastor's Report
5. Parish Council President's Report
6. Presentation of 2015 Financial Budget
7. Nominations for 2015-2016 Parish Council
8. Election of Auditors
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Closing Prayer/Adjournment


Fr. Mark Leondis
Pastor


John Koutsoupis
Parish Council President



SAINT MARK PAYS OFF THE MORTGAGE ...BUT STILL MORE TO BE DONE

During Liturgy each Sunday, members of Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church have placed their stewardship donations in the first basket (gold) and their mortgage contributions in the second one (red). That second basket has been a blessing for the Church, and the Parish Council is pleased to announce that there will be an event in the near future to celebrate the "burning of the mortgage."

Even as we rejoice about this tremendous accomplishment, let us always remember that there are other urgent needs that now must be addressed:

- **Sound system in the Church**
- **Refurbishment of the dome**
- **Icon restoration**
- **Roof repairs**
- **Pew cushion replacements**

These are only a few of the projects that the Parish Council has targeted for immediate attention. As homeowners always prepare for unexpected emergencies, so too must we, as stewards of our Church, prepare for unforeseen expenses. With this in mind, a second basket will continue to provide funds to allow the Church to meet the expenses for special projects that will occur in the months and years to come. If you would like to donate towards any of these projects contact the Church office.

The Parish Council hopes that you will be spiritually thoughtful in your 2015 Stewardship Commitment with a 10% increase. And remember basket number two with a grateful donation to your Church in thanks for the many gifts God has given you.

USHER COMMITTEE

Tim Sharp

A Few Good Men & Women

The Saint Mark Usher Committee is seeking a few good men and women to serve as ushers. If you are looking for a way to serve our Saint Mark community and be part of a very special team, then consider signing up to be an usher. Your Saint Mark ushers are a group of dedicated parishioners who are committed to creating a welcoming and prayerful environment for the faithful, and ensuring that our church services run smoothly and efficiently. The responsibility only requires a once per month commitment, and if you are coming to church anyway, why not be a part of this great team?

If you are interested, contact our usher committee chair **Tim Sharp:**

(561) 213-1016

sharp1958@bellsouth.net



REV. FR. STEVEN KLUND

It is hard to miss all the Christmas imagery on tv, radio, and storefront windows this time of year. Western Christianity places a prominence on the Nativity of Christ in its calendar year of feasts. However for the Orthodox Church, the feast of the Baptism of Christ is even *more* significant.

This is because the baptism of Christ was also the first “Theophany” (or the full “Showing of God”), the first time God was fully revealed as the Holy Trinity.

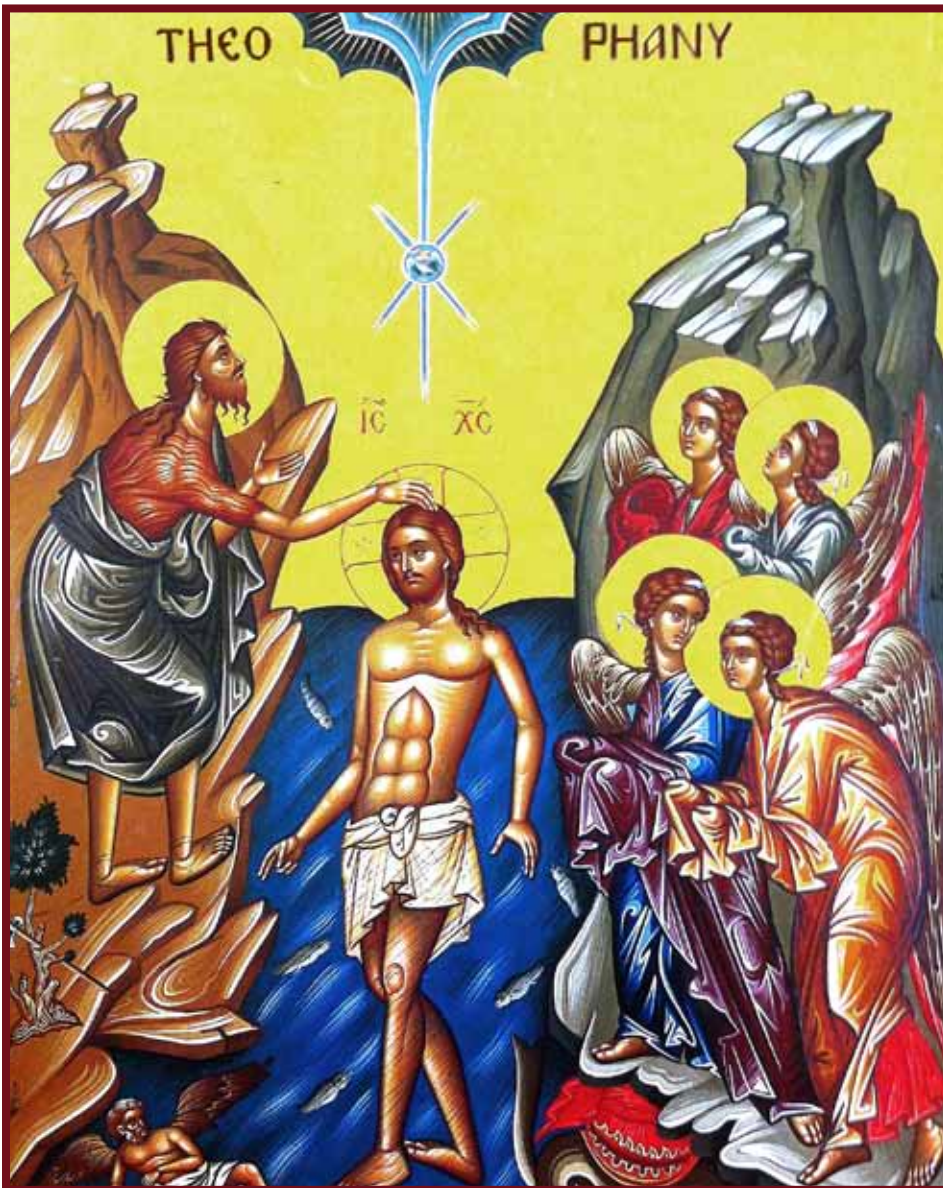
In this scene, we see the Jordan River flowing down from Mount Hermon through Israel. We see on the left, St. John the Bap-

tist, the forerunner of Christ, standing on the bank of the river with his hand on Christ’s head. St. John is exclusively depicted in this form with an unkempt head of hair and beard, and wearing rough camel’s skin clothing. At John’s feet in the bottom corner we see an axe leaning against a tree. This was written in the prophesy of Isaiah “even now the axe is laid to the root of the tree.” This is clearly what John had in mind while preaching “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand,” and also mirrors Christ’s own teaching that all those trees that fail to bear fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire (Matt. 7:19).

In the center we see the figure of our Lord descending into the water. The mo-

ment His feet are submerged, all 4 evangelists tell us that the Holy Spirit came upon Christ in the form of a dove, and a loud voice was heard from heaven saying “This is my Beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” As said before, this was the first time God was fully revealed as three persons, and thus the birth of our Trinitarian faith. The water itself are viewed as a “liquid sepulcher” which foreshadow Christ’s descent into Hades following His Crucifixion. This allusion to the death of Christ is continued to the right of the icon where we see angels standing on the opposite bank with their hands reverently covered in linen cloths, as if to wrap the Lord’s pure and immaculate body for burial.

However our understanding of the death of Christ is that it was not permanent, and that our Lord is indeed risen from the dead (as the angels themselves attested to on the third day). This is why we continue to baptise ourselves today. No longer is it the ancient cleansing ritual the Hebrews practiced, now it is symbolic of our death to sin, and the pledge of our life with Christ. This new life, this rebirth is represented in the naked form of Christ’s body, which indicates His title as the new “Adam,” the perfection of mankind. This is the perfection we hope to share in through our baptism.



HOUSE BLESSINGS

Happy New Year!

As January rings in the New Year, the Church carries on the Tradition of celebrating the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ (Jan. 6) and in turn blessing the houses of our families with that same water. It is important that we begin 2015 in the right way, by giving thanks to God and asking for His blessings and protection to abide with us.

Fr. Mark and Fr. Steven will be making house visits in the beginning of January in the weeks before the Saint Mark Greek Festival. Below are the dates in which our clergy will devote to making these visits:

- **January 7** (Wednesday)
- **January 8** (Thursday)
- **January 9** (Friday)
- **January 12** (Monday)
- **January 13** (Tuesday)
- **January 14** (Wednesday)
- **January 15** (Thursday)

Please call Dawn Riger at the Church Office (561 994 4822) in order to request a house blessing. Due to the large size of our community, we will be scheduling house visits in groups nearby each other. After calling the office we will notify you of when a priest will be coming to your home. This is a service that we offer to our faithful stewards of Saint Mark.



HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN — JOSEPH — VISITS SOUTH FLORIDA

OCTOBER 22, 2014 - MIAMI, FL

On October 22, 2014 South Florida welcomed the newly enthroned Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Archdiocese on his first visit as metropolitan of North America. His Eminence arrived at Saint George Antiochian Cathedral in Miami, where he was greeted by dozens of faithful and over 20 members of clergy from all Orthodox jurisdictions (including our own Fr. Mark, Fr. Steven, as well as our southeast vicar Fr. Spiro Bobotas). After a short prayer service all of the faithful joined His Eminence in a wonderful fish lunch and meet and greet session. His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph briefly addressed those in attendance and offered his sincere hope for peace and unity in the middle east and America.

His Eminence was born in Damascus, Syria, in 1950. After many years of serving as a deacon and a priest His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph was consecrated to the Holy Episcopacy on June 30, 1991 at the cathedral of Saint Mary in his hometown of Damascus. He was consecrated with the title, Bishop of Katana in Syria, and served as Patriarchal Assistant and Secretary of the Holy Synod of Antioch. In 1995, he was sent by Patriarch Ignatius IV of blessed memory to America. Here, his eminence was eventually enthroned as the first Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West on September 12, 2004.

On December 11, 2011, Bishop Joseph was elevated to the rank of Archbishop, in honor of his many years of service. Finally His Eminence Archbishop Joseph was elected as the Antiochian Orthodox Metropolitan of North America on Thursday, July 3, 2014. We pray that God will grant His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph many years of Godly service and wisdom in his ministry.

"A FEW WORDS ON STEWARDSHIP" - GIRARD MITCHELL

I was asked to say a few words on stewardship.

I've been a member of the Saint Mark family since the late 1990's. Since joining the church, I've gotten married and had three great kids.

I am here because I believe in the Orthodox teachings and because of my fellow parishioners. My family and I are "all in" when it comes to Saint Mark church. We belong to and support the various ministries offered.

We do this because we believe in the values being taught and this is the environment we want our kids raised. We believe in and support the Saint Mark family.

I look out and see hundreds of families that I know share the same beliefs. You all are the Saint Mark Family.

I see our family's stewardship as vital and necessary to not just continuing what we have but rather to growing the Saint Mark Family.

There is something at Saint Mark for everyone . . . for Seniors, Boomers, Young Parents, Young Adults, Teenagers, Children and even for baby's with our new "Mommy and Me" program. We offer weekly services, Bible study, discussion groups, lectures – you name it. We are one of the most active parishes in the Archdiocese with a ministry for everyone!

Our church consecration earlier this year was an awesome and memorable milestone. It was a mile stone - Not A Finish Line. The ministries offered and our church campus must continue to grow and thrive. Just like we each have bills at home – we also do at Saint Mark. We have to pay for lighting, air-conditioning, plumbing, we have to pay insurance and many other operational needs.

Your stewardship enables us keep up this beautiful campus and to offer Christ-centered programs and ministries.

I am asking each of you to think about what the Saint Mark Family means to you and to think about what you want to see passed on to the next generation.

I am asking each of you to consider increasing your stewardship for 2015. It costs us an average of \$1500 per family to fully operate at Saint Mark. Some can give more – some can give less. But please – help us continue to grow.

You received a stewardship mailing earlier this week with a letter asking each of you to consider increasing your stewardship by at least 10%. Whether it's moving up the next category or increasing by a percentage – we hope you will consider.

The future of our church is in each one of our hands. We need to recognize that responsibility and support Saint Mark accordingly.

GOYA - YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Ever since September's "Guardians of Orthodoxy" district retreat, our GOYA has been non-stop! First up were our middle schoolers who had their first ever "Middle School Madness" at the Church on October 3rd. There they gathered in the Fellowship Hall where they played a fast paced (and messy) blindfolded cereal relay race, and then hung out together playing games, and listening to music. Two weeks later we brought the high schoolers together at the Rigers' house where we had tons of snacks and played a version of the game "Headbanz," where all the kids had to guess a label that was placed on their foreheads.

Both the middle school and the high school night gave us an opportunity to talk to the kids about everyday issues with an Orthodox Christian perspective in a casual, welcoming environment with kids their own age. Last month we focused on the negative impact caused by gossiping and labeling other people. The kids realized that, like the game "Headbanz" labels are false "identities" that we assign to other people, and unlike boxes of cereal we cannot really know who others are by what we see on the outside.

Finally we ended October with our 2nd annual kayaking trip to Peanut Island. Rich Brochu was gracious enough to host us once again with his Florida Fishing Academy company. It turned out to be a fantastic afternoon, and one that we look forward to doing again!

COMING UP...

DEC. 10 - GOYA CAROLLING @ BABY HOUSE (5:45PM)



JOY - ANGELA MITCHELL

The Junior Orthodox Youth Group of Saint Mark has been off to a busy start this ecclesiastical year! Following our annual kickoff party at Strikes bowling alley in September, we had our first JOY meeting at Saint Mark in early October. What a huge success that was with Fr. Mark introducing the children to the "Heroes of the Old Testament." The kids were able to relive the thrilling race through the Red Sea with Moses and conquer the dreaded Goliath with a little help from King David. Then, just a few days ago we took the kids to Malachi Acres Farm. Thanks to the generous offering of Steve and Donice Muccio, our kids were given the opportunity there to tour the farm, groom the horses, and even saddle up and finish with a little horseback riding. The evening concluded with a prayer service blessing the animals on the farm. The kids even helped Fr. Steven track down the family dogs and cats from all over the property to bless them as well! Upcoming events include Christmas caroling in December and ice skating in January. If you have not registered your children in 1st through 5th grades, for JOY, you may do so by calling the church office. It is never to late to get the children involved.



Instagram

FOR EVERYTHING SAINT MARK



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FOR ALL NEWS ON GOYA, JOY AND MORE



SAINT MARK GREEK SCHOOL - ANNA KAISAR

The Saint Mark Greek School celebrated OXI Day on Sunday, October 26, with a celebration and brunch. The Greek colors of blue and white and Greek Flags were proudly decorating the hall in honor of this great day in Greek history.

The hall was filled with over 200 parents, families and guests, who were very impressed with our students' performances as well as a delicious brunch. There was not a dry eye in the hall when our little ones said how proud they were to be Greek. It is our responsibility to pass the torch of Faith, Greek language and heritage to the next generation. I would also like to mention that it was a great pleasure to have Fr. Mark and Presbytera Anastasia, Fr. Steven and Presbytera Nicole, along with members of our parish council members and parish leaders.



Our Greek School continues to make positives waves in the Southeast Florida. This is attributed to dedicated parents who bring their children every week during the academic year and of course with the dedication of all our teachers. We thank our Chefs, volunteers, teachers, students parents, grandparents, godparents, relatives and friends and all those who made this a fantastic day.



ORTHODOXY ON TAP - REAL & OCF

The REAL (our young adults) and OCF (our college students at FAU and Lynn) groups came together for two great evenings of "Orthodoxy on Tap." Meeting at the Yard House, in Mizner Park both times, college students and young professionals gathered for fellowship and a couple casual spiritual discussions over drinks.

Our 1st discussion took place on October 23, days after the ground blessing of St. Nicholas at the World Trade Center memorial. This led us to look at the Orthodox perspective of suffering and religious persecution. Our 2nd get-together on November 13 got us ready for Thanksgiving by discussing the recent anti-homeless laws passed in Ft. Lauderdale, and how they affect our calling to feed the hungry.

If you are a young adult interested in joining us, please call the Church office and speak with Fr. Steven to be included in our group messages. Our next "Tap" night is on Dec. 11 at 7pm at the Yard House.



SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL - HELEN LANG

Our Church School Ministry is off to a great start, as our committed volunteer teachers have welcomed over 140 students to Church School. Thanks to you, we are experiencing record student enrollment in the third grade through high school classes. You may have noticed our 'roaming' 7th-8th grade class, as this class has exceeded their loft classroom capacity, and under the direction of Diakonissa Stephanie, the 'classroom' has moved outdoors!

This year we have also begun breaking the mold of conventional education. In addition to our regular sunday class structure we are continuing our musical lessons by the help of Mrs. Virginia Barnes, as well as offering art projects for our Kindergarten-2nd grade classes thanks to the creativity of Mrs. Irina Giakouminakis. Father Steven has even offered an introductory surveys on Byzantine Iconography this year.

The Church School Ministry is grateful for all of the volunteers who serve the ministry. One group which is deserving of a special 'thanks' this month, are the substitutes who serve; and at times on a very short, 'Sunday morning,' notice. Our ministry classroom substitutes, as we begin the 2014-2015 school year, include: Presvytera Anastasia, Stephanie Cocores, Agelika Doukides, Melissa Desai, Gregory Christakis, and Fay Averkiou.

We welcome your participation in the Church School Ministry. Please contact me, or Father Mark, for volunteer opportunities!

CHANTING CLASS - INTRODUCTORY COURSE

We are continuing to offer an introductory chanting class. We have recently finished covering the basic elements of the Vespers service and will now be focusing on learning the basic elements of the Orthros service. Each class will end with Great Vespers at 5pm. The entire community is welcome to attend.

SATURDAYS	DEC	JAN	JAN	FEB	FEB
@ 4 PM	20	3	17	14	28

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - HELEN LANG

The annual Saint Mark Christmas Pageant, with all of your favorite 'lambs,' 'sheep,' 'angels,' 'shepherds,' and 'wise men' will take place on Sunday, December 21st, in the Sanctuary, following the Divine Liturgy.

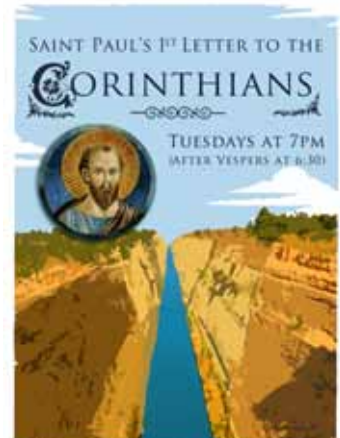
Under the direction of Mrs. Virginia Barnes, our choir director, we are actively recruiting actors and actresses for the following roles, Prophet Isiah and Prophet Luke, and the Three Wise Men.

Please encourage your children (from 4 years old through 4th grade) to participate in the Pageant, as Saint Mark has costumes for lambs, sheep, angels, and shepherds. Our 5th & 6th grade children will serve as the Wise Men, and Prophets, with costumes also provided by Saint Mark. The costume transformation will begin on the 21st of December, with the Pageant to begin, directly after the conclusion of the Liturgy.

It is our hope that all of our parish children can participate in the Pageant. We look forward to another great performance!

BIBLE STUDY & SYNAXIS

Saint Mark is still conducting its weekly Bible Study, and Orthodox Discussion group "SYNAXIS." We are covering Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians in Bible Study every Tuesday at 7:00 pm (after vespers at 6:30 pm), and we are discussing the "Spiritual Counsels" of Saint John of Kronstadt every Thursday at 10:00 am (after Paraklesis at 9:00 am). Anyone and everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!



PHILOPTOCHOS - PAM PARENT

It has been a busy, but most rewarding Fall for the women of Philoptochos of Saint Mark. We began the season with our opening dinner catered by Jimmy the Greek. We are thankful to Maria Karaloukas for the delicious meal prepared for us. Elizabeth Bartzokis gave a Power Point presentation of the work she did in Greece last summer to help the poor and hungry devastated by the economic collapse there. We are all so very proud of this fine young woman and her willingness to serve others in need. Bravo Elizabeth! The future of Philoptochos is secure with young women like you to take the lead.

Next on our agenda was the 4th annual Men's Culinary Delights on November 1. Over 20 chefs vied for top honors in sweet and savory categories. We sampled such tasty treats as beef barbecue sliders, lamb stew, beef bourguignon, sambusa, octopus cookies, sweet rum cake, and many other exotic delicacies. Congratulations to our winners:

SWEET

- 1 - ANDRE GONZALEZ
- 2 - BILL JOHNSON
- 3 - JIMMY ASHMEN

SAVORY

- 1 - KRIS ELY & ALEXANDER LEONDIS
- 2 - GIRARD MITCHELL
- 3 - CONSTANTINE MUKASA

We concluded this wonderful night of fellowship and joy crowning Angela Mitchell (senior) as the koulourakia bake off champion. Her recipe will be the one used for our 2015 Festival.

The very next day following the Men's Culinary Delights, we celebrated National Philoptochos Sunday. On this day we honored the good works done by generations of women in the name of Philoptochos and the Church. After Liturgy, we thanked the community of Saint Mark with a complimentary lunch prepared by our members.



In other recent news, Philoptochos has gratefully donated \$500.00 to the Mommy and Me program just begun at Saint Mark. This new ministry will enable young mothers to come together to discuss the challenges of raising children in an Orthodox home, while their youngsters sing songs, play together and hear Bible stories.

Finally, all November we have been collecting new clothing and other essentials for the children of the Protection of the Theotokos Family Center in Cluj, Romania, an outreach of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). We are asking you, our Saint Mark Family, to join us in this project of compassion and love. The needs of the children at the Center are enormous. Our goal is for the collected items to be packaged, shipped and at the Center in time for Christmas and the New Year.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9 - VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION



The Saint Mark Family, was proud to honor our service men and women past and present by celebrating Veteran's Day this past month.



Those few who give themselves in service for the good of the many are truly embracing the Christian spirit of selflessness and love of neighbor. Their dedication, and many times self-sacrifice, is an inspiration for us all. We give thanks to our Almighty God for our Veterans and what they have given and continue give us as citizens of this great country.

We would also like to thank Alan Macaulay, George Dimopoulos, Frank Athanason, Jimmy Ashmen (who played TAPS on the trumpet), and all of our Veterans for making this wonderful tribute possible. May God bless them and may God bless America.

AHEPA - TIM SHARP

The American Hellenic Education Progressive Association, or better known as AHEPA, is a National Organization that's mission is to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence. An important component of AHEPA's mission is to create an awareness of the principles of Hellenism to society. These principles include a commitment to humanity, freedom, and democracy. AHEPA's commitment to education has been well documented throughout its history. AHEPA, along with the Daughters of Penelope, Sons of Pericles, and Maids of Athena have contributed well over a billion dollars to national projects throughout their history.

What makes AHEPA unique from other organizations is the creation of the AHEPA Family. Our local chapter has over 70 brothers here in our Boca Raton community. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm starting with a social hour and dinner in the Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church Fellowship Hall. We then continue with the monthly meeting agenda discussing the Chapter's business, and upcoming Hellenic, educational, philanthropic, civic and joint AHEPAN family events, and socials.

If you are interested in joining this terrific group of AHEPAN brothers, contact President Frank Athanason at either athanasonf@bellsouth.net or (561) 742-2576. Membership is open to all males 18 and older.



A major focus this year, set by our clergy and lay leaders, is to create a ministry for families with young children. On Thursday October 30, we took a huge step towards that goal as we held our first “Mommy + Me” class. The parents and their children gathered in the Church to light candles and then moved up to the choir loft where they began with a short prayer service in front of a child-sized iconostasis. The kids then had story-time, a sing-a-long, followed by crafts and free-play time. During the play time, the parents (there were some dads there as well!) were led in a spiritual discussion about parenting with Orthodox values in a modern world. We will be meeting every other Monday at 10 at Saint Mark. If you are interested in joining “Mommy + Me” please contact us by email at office@saintmarkboca.net or by phone at 561-994-4822 for more details.



Join the Seniors of Saint Mark
January 30-31, 2015

TO

NAPLES
 Overnight Itinerary
 Included For \$299

- Round Trip Cruise on Naples Princess with Lunch
- Dinner Aboard the Seminole Murder Mystery Train
- Go to See “Crazy for You” at the Broadway Palms
- 1 Night at the Marriott Hotel
- Plus Shopping at the Miramar Outlet



For More Information Call
 Elizabeth Zographus 561 495 2812

SAINT MARK CHOIR - VIRGINIA BARNES

We have had a busy fall season so far. The choir has been rehearsing weekly; preparing the hymns for each Sunday, as well as learning new music. Many thanks to Mike Papantoniou for arranging Byzantine harmonies for the Resurrectional Apolitikions.

On October 5th we celebrated Church Musician Sunday. The choir felt very appreciated by Father Mark’s kind words during the homily. Also, there were memorial prayers for choir members who have fallen asleep in The Lord. We are pleased to announce that \$571 was collected that day for “Scholarship 100” of the Southeastern Choir Federation, which awards scholarships to young choir members looking to major or minor in music for college.

Looking ahead, the choir will start rehearsing for the Christmas Pageant, which will be held directly after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 21st. The choir is always looking for new members. Come join us on Thursdays at 7:30 for rehearsals and 9:30am on Sundays for warm up.

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AWARD
 BERT & TED CHAPEKIS

This past November, Saint Mark’s own Bert and Ted Chapekis traveled to Atlanta, to represent the Saint Mark Family at the Archangel Michael Awards Banquet and Ceremony. Bert and Ted were give the Archangel Michael Award from His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios. We thank God for their service to Saint Mark over the years and offer our heartfelt “Axios” and Congratulations to them.



“DOO WOP” DANCE
 DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

We express our deep gratitude to all of our parishioners who supported the Doo-Wop dance on October 11. It was an amazing evening of fellowship, filling the Church Hall with joy and exciting! The DOP will be donating \$500 for the Kitchen Renovation Fund.

Passport to Greece

JANUARY 22-25, 2015

WWW.GREEKFESTIVALBOCA.ORG

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Call the Church Office to Sign Up
(561) 994 4822



Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church Presents:

MOONLIGHT & Mistletoe

BALL AND SILENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014 | EMBASSY SUITES - BOCA RATON

Under the Mistletoe:

6:30 PM COCKTAILS & SILENT AUCTION

Starry Night:

8:00 PM DINNER & DANCING TO LIVE MUSIC

FROM THE AEGEAN DUO

Attire

ELEGANT PREFERRED

For Information & Tickets:

IRENE ALEXANDROU - (561) 376 6200

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT SAINT MARK

TICKETS

\$75



SAINT MARK
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2100 NW 51ST STREET
BOCA RATON, FL 33431

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