



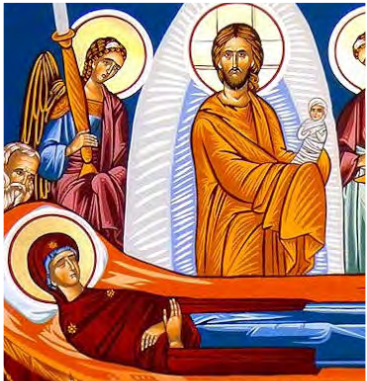
THE *Message*



SAINT
MARK

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SUMMER • 2014



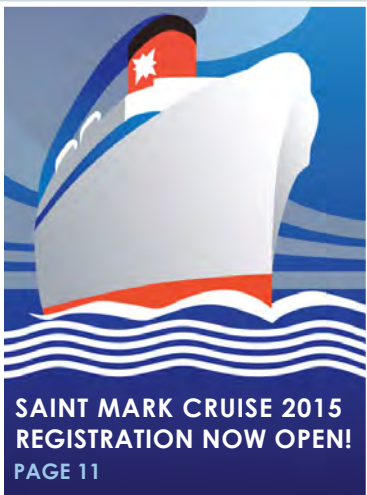
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CLERGY-LAITY
CONGRESS**



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SAINT MARK GREEK WEEK & SAINT STEPHENS SUMMER CAMP SEASON 2014



Once again, during the first week of summer vacation the Saint Mark community held its yearly summer camp program. The 2014 session proved to be as successful as any! With close to 100 campers and over 50 staff, the Church grounds absolutely came alive, as the property was filled with joy and excitement. But the excitement did not end there as a bus of 35 GOYANs and staff members headed to Saint Stephen's Camp at the Diakonia Retreat Center in South Carolina. There they spent a week in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains making new friends and reconnecting with God.

More Summer Camp Coverage on Page 4

CONGRATULATIONS GREEK SCHOOL GRADUATES!

On May 31, 2014 our Saint Mark Greek School program held its annual graduation presentation and ceremony in the Church Hall. The students recited works of Greek literature, famous songs and poems, and even performed several well rehearsed theatrical scenes on stage. The hall was full of appreciative parents who were all very impressed with the students' dedication and hard work. We would like to congratulate all of our Greek School graduates for a job well done, and offer our sincere gratitude to principal Anna Kaiser, and all of the faculty for their time and service to our young children.



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

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Chanters: Ramona Bean,
George Demopoulos, Art Poly

Ushers:

Tim Sharp & Girard Mitchell

Acolytes: Brian Giusti

Church School: Helen Lang

Youth Choir: Virginia Barnes

JOY: Angela & Girard Mitchell,
and Jim & Claudia Dovas

Super Seniors: Diane Paterakis

Syrtaki:

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& Irina Giakouminakis

The Message: Fr. Steven Klund

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Offering Thanks Back to God

My Dear Faithful,

I hope and pray you had a blessed summer. As we are anxiously approaching the beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year, I greet you with much love and joy in the Lord. I recently came across Alexander the Great's "Instructions for Burial" and wanted to share it with you. "As Alexander was approaching his death, he invited his generals to inform them of his last three wishes. They were as follows:

1. For his coffin to be carried by the best physicians.
2. For his treasures (silver, gold and precious stones) to be scattered along the route to his tomb.
3. For his hands to be swaying in the air outside his coffin in view of all people.

One of his generals, surprised over his unusual requests, asked Alexander the reason for these instructions. He replied:

1. I want the best physicians to carry my coffin to show the world that physicians, in the face of death, do not have the power to heal.
2. I want the ground to be covered with my treasures to show that all possessions acquired before death remain here on earth.
3. I want my hands swaying in the air so that people may see that we come into this world with empty hands and depart with empty hands after we complete the most precious treasure, our time on earth."

We have often heard the expression "you can't take it with you." While it is of the utmost importance to save and prepare for retirement and what lies ahead, we must come to the fundamental truth that it is an honor and privilege to offer our Stewardship to our Lord. Generous support of the Lord's work on earth through His Church cannot be seen as a "chore" or a "due" but rather as a privilege to Him who has given us everything. At the Offertory of every Liturgy the priest offers our gift to the Lord saying, "our own gifts we offer to You with all being and for all our blessing."

Prayerfully consider what you give to the Church in gratitude for your blessings from above and what you spend for other things, such as your cable TV, cell phone and entertainment to mention a few. Then consider what you give to the work of Christ at our Saint Mark Church. The Church in America is not like the Church in Greece, Russia, etc., meaning, we are not funded or subsidized by the government. We are funded by the good will and stewardship of our faithful.

We have many generous faithful who offer their financial resources to the Church. I express my deepest gratitude for their gifts of love to our Lord. I urge you to reflect on your offering to our Lord and prayerfully consider increasing your Stewardship. If you have been giving at the same level, I ask that you increase it! If you are only give a few hundreds dollars a year, increase to a level that reflects your gratitude to the Lord. Each and every year, we should be increasing our stewardship to the Church, to keep up with inflation.

Saint Mark is one of the brightest beacons of Orthodoxy in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America because of our support. Our iconography, architecture, ministries and programs are second to none. May your Stewardship reflect the Offertory of the Liturgy, "Your own gifts we offer to You with all being and for all our blessing."

Praying for a blessed Ecclesiastical Year, I remain,

With love in Christ,

+ Fr. Mark G. Leondis
Fr. Mark

NEW WEEKLY DONATION OPPORTUNITIES - A NEW WAY TO GIVE THANKS ON SUNDAYS!

Many parishioners have requested to make donations toward candles, Communion wine and flowers at various times in the year. If you would like to offer something on in honor of a loved one (or even as general thanksgiving), please contact the Church Office. We will be accepting offerings of \$25 for the following items per Liturgy:

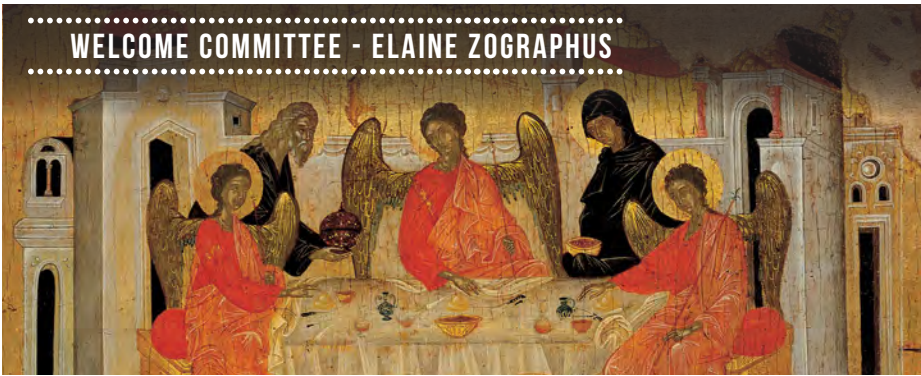
ALTAR CANDLES

VIGIL LIGHT

COMMUNION WINE

MEMORIAL CANDLES

WELCOME COMMITTEE - ELAINE ZOGRAPHS



THE *Hospitality* OF ABRAHAM

As you enter the Outer Narthex of Saint Mark each Sunday, the first contact you have is a greeter who welcomes you and hands you the worship guide for the day. Behind the greeter, to the right on the southeast wall, is a reminder of our ministry - the beautiful icon of The Hospitality of Abraham. It is there to remind us that we should welcome all strangers who enter our church, just as Abraham invited the three angels unaware into his home.

First-time visitors to Saint Mark are asked if they'd like to sign a sheet about themselves and if they're interested in further information about our church. If so, a welcome packet which includes information on all ministries, along with forms (i.e., stewardship, becoming Orthodox, sacraments) is mailed to the person(s).

Visitors are then invited to stop by coffee hour, after the Liturgy, to a table set up exclusively for them in the hall. You, too, are invited to visit the table and to mingle with newcomers. Also, when you see guests wearing a fabric-sticker cross on their lapel, stop and talk to them. You'd be surprised - you might end up being related. It has happened here.

Many favorable comments have been made about Saint Mark's hospitality toward visitors. If you are interested in joining our dedicated committee of 22 volunteers, please contact me at: ezgraph2@comcast.net.

SAINT MARK GIVES THANKS TO CHOIR DIRECTOR SOPHIA CHRISTAKIS

CHOIR - HELEN BALLERANO

After many years of selfless commitment as the Saint Mark Choir Director, Sophia Christakis stepped down from that role effective June 16th. The role of Choir has been passed on to long-time choir member Virginia Barnes (*both are pictured to the left, chanting at the Saint Mark Consecration in February*). During her tenure, Sophia led the choir faithfully and with tireless dedication. Sophia's service to our Church Community was a heartfelt offering of stewardship and an impactful witness to how each of us can commit to sharing our God-given talents.



To express appreciation from the Saint Mark Community, following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 15th, Fr. Mark presented Sophia with a beautiful Icon of the Theotokos. A short time later, at a casual social gathering the choir members presented Sophia with a gold Cross from Jerusalem. Both the icon and the cross were special gifts from the recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Fr. Mark was able to have the icon and the cross blessed on Christ's Tomb during the midnight Liturgy celebrated at the Church of the Resurrection (Church of the Holy Sepulchre) in Jerusalem. The choir also made donations in Sophia's honor to a newly established Saint Mark Choir Fund.

Our Saint Mark Community is extremely grateful for Sophia's contributions of time and talent and we know that she will always continue to sing praises to our Lord. On behalf of the entire Saint Mark family we remember Christ's words in saying "well done, thy good and faithful servant."

PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Saint Mark Family,

This past Church year has been a tremendous blessing for us all. Of course, we all gathered together for the Consecration of our Saint Mark Church in February, with our Bishop, Metropolitan Alexios. Following the Consecration, we moved right into Lent and Holy Week, concluding with Pascha. We all agree that Holy Week and Pascha at Saint Mark is like no other!

During the month of May, Father Mark led a Pilgrimage to Constantinople and Jerusalem, a memorable experience for all who participated. Our GOYA participated in the District Olympics; we hosted the end of the year party for JOY with so many new faces; we held our Sunday Church School and Greek School Graduations and unveiled the magnificent new Saint Mark mosaic overlooking Yamato Road (*See Below*).

During the summer, we hosted one of the most successful Greek Week Summer Camps, as well as leading 25 GOYAN's to Saint Stephen's Summer Camp in South Carolina.

This upcoming year, we have a lot to look forward to including our Philopotchos ministry, the new Playground (we are only \$7,000 away from attaining our goal), the Senior Ministry, our youth and educational programs. Of course, we will start planning our Saint Mark Christmas Gala, 2015 Greek Festival and our Saint Mark Cruise (in February).

The reason I mention these events and activities is they all require a great deal of preparation, planning and follow-up. Passion and dedication are necessary to produce successful outcomes that we all take pride in.

At Saint Mark, we have so many ministries, programs, education and opportunities for fellowship, outreach and service. Get involved! Whether it's with our Stewardship Committee, Welcome Committee, Festival Committee, or any other of the important programs we offer, the only piece missing is YOU.

For more information on these ministries and important events in the life of the Church, please see Father Mark, myself, a Parish Council member, or call the Church Office.

John Koutsoupis - John Koutsoupis



CAMP SEASON 2014



GW14 - NICOLE PELEKANOS

The 2014 summer break started off with a bang for our kids here at Saint Mark with our 14th annual Greek Week Summer Camp! From June 9-13 the Church grounds were filled with the sights and sounds of children running and playing on rock walls, inflatable slides, petting zoos and other activities.

In addition to the "Greek Week" favorites, this year was highlighted by an array of new attractions for the campers. For the first time summer camp featured separate, age-appropriate field trips allowing the older kids to go to the beach while the younger kids visited the Ft. Lauderdale "Museum of Discovery and Science." Summer Camp this year also partnered with "Kona Ice," a traveling flavored do-it-yourself snow cone truck, and the "Fantastic Fire Department" which gave the kids a chance to soak each other with fire hoses, go for rides, and eat pizza from a real-life fire truck! But the most impressive of all the new additions were the break dancers from "Raw Miami" who performed for the campers, and even taught them some dance moves of their own!

With these amazing activities in addition to the daily sports, indoor table tennis, pool, and air hockey, the kids were having the time of their lives. However camp was more than just fun and games. This year we focused our activities with the theme of a spiritual "pil-

grimage" around Greece. Everyday we took a look at a different area of Greece and learned about its culture, history, and patron saints. From "rock climbing in Meteora," to "competing in the Camp Olympics in ancient Olympia" the kids were able to immerse themselves in our Hellenic heritage and the treasures of our Orthodox faith.

All of the joy and excitement during the week came at a huge relief, as this summer marked the first year of camp that was run without the guidance of our long-time Director Mike Gonedes. No *one* person will likely ever be able to juggle the many responsibilities that Mike did running camp over the better part of the last decade. Understanding this, Fr. Mark and Fr. Steven turned to a ministry *team* to try and fill his shoes. Lead by the largest staff in recent history, the Greek Week Summer Camp Program adopted a "division of labor" approach, and courageously ventured into new territory without its beloved leader.

We greatly appreciate Mike Gonedes for his tireless service and devotion over the years, and now look to the next age of youth ministry led by a team of new faces. We thank you all for your contributions during camp. Without our staff and parents we have no camp program. Thank you all for taking an interest in the lives of our children and their spiritual journey. See you all next year at GW15!!!





SSC - ANASTASIA GAVRILOS

This summer, I had the opportunity to go to St. Stephen's Summer Camp with my church. At first I was a little hesitant, no phones, or television, or the comfort of my own home for a week. However as soon as we pulled in to the gorgeous Diakonia Retreat Center, my attitude completely changed. Within the first hour or so upon arrival I had already made tons of friends and felt right at home.

This year's theme was "I Believe." Each day was packed full of amazing activities to do with the other cabins, such as swimming and canoeing at the lakefront, arts and crafts, sports, and even a wilderness ROPES

challenge course! The nights were even more lively than the daily schedule as each evening featured a special event. From icebreakers and sing-a-longs, to skits and campfires every evening activity brought the campers closer together. The of these the most memorable were definitely "Junkyard Wars," where we had to build and race a go-kart made out of toilet seats, cardoard boxes and other "trash," and the "Tube Game," an all-out camper battle for giant inner tubes.

Although camp was full of things to do, there was more to my experience than just the exciting camp activities. Every morning began with an Orthros service, and a chance for personal prayer in "Alone time with God." After breakfast we went to Orthodox

Life, or 'OL' for short, where we got to learn about our faith, and each day ended with cabin "Hangtime" where we could reflect on the day and our lives as Orthodox Christians. The week also gave us the blessing to sit and speak extensively with His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios in a session called "Coca Cola Time." This was a time where we could ask him questions and listen to his guidance as our spiritual father (and yes, there was plenty of soda for us to enjoy as well).

In just six short days at camp, I not only had a ton of fun, but I also felt I have grown tremendously in my faith. It was amazing to be surrounded by people with the same culture and religion. I know I have made lasting friendships and I can't wait until next year!



MOST "LIKED" INSTAGRAMS FROM SSC 2014



ststephencamp 3w
 The CHAOS that is the "Tube Game." #IBelieveSSC



ststephencamp 3w
 The young ladies of Saint Katherine's Cabin working together on their new balancing act.



ststephencamp 3w
 The Mitchell boys making Girard proud and Angela speechless.



ststephencamp 3w
 Vasi Christakis and her Saint Euphemia cabin showing American spirit at lunch on the 4th of July.

THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

HEAR THE WORD OF GOD & KEEP IT

REV. FR. ALEXANDER LEONDIS

The Feast of the Dormition, Kimisis or the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos, is celebrated on the 15th day of August. The Feast commemorates the death, the "metastasis" or translation and glorification of Christ's Mother. The feast proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly Kingdom in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

The tradition of the Church states that Mary died as all mortals die, because of her human body, which was indivisibly bound with the corruption of this world. Although the Theotokos was without personal sin from the time of the Annunciation, she needed to be saved by Christ, as all human persons are in need of salvation in Christ. After her death, however, she was raised by her son as the "Mother of Life" and she participates already in the eternal life of paradise, which is prepared for all who "hear the word of God and keep it" as Mary did.

The feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos is a celebration of the fact that all people may participate in the blessedness of Christ and this has already been accomplished in Mary.

The feast of the Dormition is the sign, the guarantee and the celebration that Mary's fate is the destiny of all those who "magnify the Lord" as Mary did, whose "spirits rejoice in God the Savior" and whose lives are totally dedicated to hearing and keeping the word of God like Mary.

In all the feasts of the Theotokos, the Orthodox Christian celebrates the events of his or her own life in Christ and in the Holy Spirit. What happens to Mary happens to all who imitate her life of humility, obedience and love. With Mary, all people will be "blessed," will be more "honorable than the cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim," if they follow her example.

All will have Christ born in them by the Holy Spirit and will become temples of the living God. All who live like Mary will share eternal life in God's Kingdom.

The message of Mary's entire life is that assembly of the saved is those in whom Christ dwells, those who "hear the word of God and keep it."

Join us for the Supplications, Paraklesis Services during the special season dedicated to the Theotokos who teaches us how to "hear the word of God and keep it."



BEYOND THE CANVAS

REV. FR. STEVEN KLUND

Worldwide Christian Tradition holds that the body of the Virgin Mary remained inviolate. This not only implies that she conceived, bore and remained a virgin after the birth of Christ, but also that her body did not experience burial and decay as most do.

At the top of the icon we see the gates of heaven opened and the Archangels escorting Mary's soul into paradise. Surrounding Mary are the 12 Apostles who were miraculously transported from their missionary work around the world, to the bedside of the Theotokos for her dormition (this is why they are also depicted in the sky riding on clouds in reference to this event). On the far left

we see St. Peter offering incense by her side, while St. Paul is on the far right praying at the foot of the bed. The two buildings in the background represent John the Theologian's house (where Mary was living, and where she reposed) and the temple (the destination of this funeral procession). If you look closely at the bottom you will notice a impious man who tried to touch Mary's body and an angel cutting off his hands with a fiery sword. However the most beautiful image in the icon is at the center where we see Christ receiving His Mother's soul into His arms. This is a poetic reversal of roles from the Nativity icon where we see Mary holding Christ in swaddling cloths. Yet, on this occasion, the scene has moved from the lowly confines of a manger, to the glorious gates of Paradise!

SAINT SPOTLIGHT

THE HOLY THEOTOKOS & EVER VIRGIN MARY

KALLISTOS WARE - BISHOP OF DIOKLEIA

As members of the Body of Christ, it is our vocation to become ‘partakers of the divine nature’ (2 Peter 1:4), and to share in the glory, which the Father has given to Christ (John 17:22). To use the language of the Greek Fathers, we are to become deified or divinized -- not that we become God by nature—for only the persons of the Blessed Trinity are that—but become God by grace and by status. The fullest example of this deification (theosis) by grace is the Mother of God; and in this sense she is justly termed by St. Gregory Palamas “the boundary between the created and the uncreated.”

At this point two notes of warning are advisable. First, in speaking thus of Mary, we Orthodox do not intend to set her upon a remote pedestal, cutting her off from any involvement in the ordinary cares and anxieties of life. On the contrary, we fully recognize that as Mother of the Incarnate God she was at the same time mother within an earthly family. In providing a home for her Son and for His foster father St. Joseph, Mary was confronted by the same difficulties and problems as other mothers. It is in virtue of this very closeness that she is so precious to us, because she experienced all our tensions and sorrows, and yet succeeded in transfiguring them with divine grace and glory. The path of deification need not imply a way of life that is outwardly remarkable: often the indwelling splendor of God is only evident to those who have eyes to see and this was doubtless the case with the holy family at Nazareth.

In the second place, when we say with St. Gregory Palamas that she is “the boundary between the created the uncreated” and the like, we do not for one moment intend to ascribe to Mary the honor that is due to God alone. In Greek, the distinction between God and man is very clearly marked by the use of two different words: *latreia*, indicating the adoration ascribed only to God; and *douleia*, indicating the qualified veneration that may be rendered to the Mother of God and the saints. Unfortunately, the English terms *worship* and *adoration* are ambiguous in a way that the Greek terms *latreia* and *douleia* are not.

WHY ASK MARY TO PRAY FOR US?

The Theotokos is a true mirror and a living icon of what it means to belong to the Church. And how is the Church to be understood? The Church is a single family, including both the living and the dead. It is an all-embracing unity in Christ, a unity expressed and realized above all through prayer. Here on earth, it is our custom to pray for each other and to ask for one another’s prayers; and this mutual intercession is an essential characteristic of our Church membership. To the Christian believer, death is no final barrier, and so the bond of mutual intercession extends beyond the grave. We pray, therefore, for the faithful departed as well as for the living, and we ask the faithful departed in their turn to pray for us—not knowing exactly how such prayers prove effective, yet confident that in the sight of God’s mercy, no prayer offered in faith can ever be wasted. And among all the faithful departed for whose prayers we ask, to



whom should we turn more frequently and more fervently than to the Holy Virgin? If she is a model of what it means to belong to the Church, then she must be, among other things, a model of intercessory prayer.

That we should so turn to her in prayer seems, to an Orthodox Christian, something altogether natural and inevitable. For him, there is nothing exotic about such a prayer, but it forms an important and unquestioned part of his life in Christ. He does not think of such prayer in legalistic categories, attempting to measure divine grace or employing the concept of merit; nor does he think of it in a sentimental fashion,

as if Mary were more lenient and indulgent than her Son.

For Orthodoxy, this prayer springs quite simply from the sense of belonging together, from the feeling that we and she are members of the same fellowship, that she is Mother within the great Christian family of which we are also part. We and she belong to one Church, and the unity of that Church is a unity in prayer—that, in a word, is why we ask her to pray for us.

It is misleading to speak, in this context, of praying to Mary. We pray only to God, whereas we invoke or call upon His Mother: we do not pray to her, but we ask her for her prayers—an important distinction. And we are firmly convinced that these requests for her intercession, so far from diminishing our devotion to Christ, serve rather to enrich it. While asking her to pray for us, we do not pray on her behalf because we believe that she has already entered fully into glory.

The meaning, to an Orthodox Christian, of the Virgin’s intercession for the needs of mankind is most beautifully expressed by the title “joy of all who sorrow,” applied to her in eastern devotion:

“You are the joy of all who sorrow, the champion of all who suffer wrong, food to the hungry, comfort to strangers, a staff for the blind, visitor of the sick, protection and aid to all in trouble, and the helper of orphans” —from the *Supplications service to the Theotokos*

DORMITION FAST SERVICES



FRIDAY - AUG 1

- 6:30 pm - *Paraklesis*

SUNDAY - AUG 3

- 9:45 am - *Liturgy*

MONDAY - AUG 4

- 6:30 pm - *Paraklesis*

TUESDAY - AUG 5

- 6:30 pm - *Vespers*
(*Transfiguration*)

WEDNESDAY - AUG 6

- 9:00 am - *Liturgy*
(*Transfiguration*)

FRIDAY - AUG 8

- 6:30 pm - *Paraklesis*

SUNDAY - AUG 10

- 9:45 am - *Liturgy*

MONDAY - AUG 11

- 6:30 pm - *Paraklesis*

WEDNESDAY - AUG 13

- 6:30 pm - *Paraklesis*

THURSDAY - AUG 14

- 6:30 pm - *Vespers*
(*Dormition, West Palm*)

FRIDAY - AUG 15

- 9:00 am - *Liturgy*
(*Dormition*)



2014 NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS BIENNIAL CONVENTION

THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAMILY: A DWELLING OF CHRIST & A WITNESS OF HIS GOSPEL

PHILOPTOCHOS - PAM PARENT

The women of Philoptochos of Saint Mark were well represented at our National convention this past July 4th weekend in Philadelphia. Helen Ballarano, National representative, Pam Parent, Chapter President, and Ann Nichols, Chapter Delegate attended the many worthwhile workshops and presentations the convention had to offer.

The 2014 National Philoptochos Convention was opened by National Philoptochos President, Aphrodite Skeadas on Sunday, July 6 at the Marriott Philadelphia Downtown Hotel with over 400 delegates in attendance. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios led the delegates in prayer, and delegates were welcomed by His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey. A letter from His All Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew was read to the Philadelphia delegates in which he praised the Philoptochos women as modern day myrrh bearers and thanked them for their great service to humanity.

President Aphrodite Skeadas delivered her report on the state of Philoptochos. She told us that between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2013, National Philoptochos donated \$3,100,000 in philanthropy and social services. In that same time period, National Philoptochos completed fundraising for our Center of Philanthropy in the heart of New York. Through donations, the purchase price of the building has been paid in full!

We heard a fascinating panel discussion on "Mental Illness: Our Community's Journey to Understanding, Compassion and Hope"



Each panelist shared personal experiences of dealing with mental illness, as a family member, a clinician and a priest. Emotional support and unconditional friendship to families who are dealing with mental illness in their home is of inestimable value.

We have exciting news for the Philoptochos of Saint Mark! We have been honored with a Chapter Challenge for 2016. We will have two years to develop, design and implement an outreach program for our community. The completed project will be presented at our next biennial convention. We are confident that the women of Philoptochos will rise to this latest challenge!

Our own Helen Ballarano, chairwoman of the Public Relations Committee, reviewed the emphasis of communication, introducing our new Communications Director, Rania Richardson. She reviewed various forms of social media and urged chapters to communicate their good works to their parishes and sister chapters.

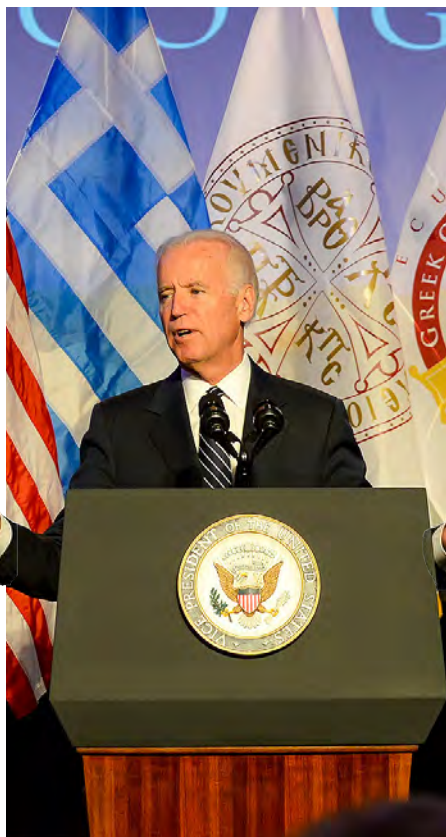


Disbursements were made to our various Philoptochos ministries, including Hellenic College/Holy Cross, IOCC, OCMC, OCF, Orthodox Christian Fellowship, and St. Basil Academy. Yet another check was presented to Philabundance, which is the largest provider of meals for the Philadelphia area.

The 2014 Chapter Awards were presented, and the women of Saint Mark were honored to receive an award for most improved membership, another for 100% participation in National commitments, and first runner up for most innovative fund raiser (Men's Culinary Delights). Thelma Sorrentino also received a certificate of Merit for her devotion to the Koliva Ministry.

We adjourned early so that the Secret Service could conduct a security sweep of our hotel in preparation for the Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden, to be present at the Grand Banquet Reception that evening. That night he spoke eloquently and knowledgeably about the need for an end to religious persecution in Constantinople, and the need for the Turkish troops to leave Cyprus.

We left the conference tired but inspired by the wealth of information received in the sessions, and the amazing talent and dedication of the women of Philoptochos.



GOYANS HELPING THOSE IN NEED THIS SUMMER

This Summer has been a lot of fun for our youth group, but our kids have not forgotten those who haven't been as fortunate.

During Saint Mark Greek Week Summer Camp, the campers took a break from the fun in the sun to come together and remember those in Serbia who are suffering from the recent devastating floods. Our own Niki Core and Marlene Buettner gave a moving presentation on the situation in the region and then led the campers in assembling hygiene kits. These kits, provided by Church World Service included basic essentials like toothbrushes, band-aids, and towels.



A few weeks later our GOYA took a trip to the Delray Caring Kitchen to help prepare lunch for the hungry here in South Florida. The Saint Mark Philoptochos has been a regular supporter of the Caring Kitchen ministry and help expose our youth to the service they provide to those in need.

Growing up in this tropical paradise, it is easy for our kids to lose sight of the greater global picture. It is important that we remain thankful for our blessings and continue to help and support our brothers and sisters who need us most.



AHEPA & DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE WIN BIG AT 2014 CONVENTION

AHEPA & DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE - CONNIE PILALLIS

We're happy to report that District 2's Convention this year was a success by any standards. Hosted jointly by the Daughters Boca Raton and Ft. Lauderdale chapters, and chaired by the respective Presidents Caroline Bohling (Cassandra) and Nina McGuirk (Narcissus), the weekend meetings drew a hundred Brothers and Sisters from all over the State of Florida to the Boca Raton Renaissance Marriott.

And it wasn't all speeches and voting....on Friday evening a luxury double decker bus made it's way up beautiful A1A to Palm Beach arriving at the Palm Beach Kennel Club for a buffet dinner and an evening "on the dogs." Believe it or not, some came back to the hotel with winnings!

The business of Ahepa and the Daughters is business – philanthropical business, and meetings went well, with good participation in discussions and plans made for promising fund-raisers to be launched in the coming year.

The weekend concluded with the traditional Banquet on Saturday evening, and awards for Chapters of the Year, Ahepan and Daughter of the Year, and speeches from the Ahepa Supreme Vice President Phillip Frangos and the Daughters Grand Liaison Julia Collins Grand Governor Zone 1.

This was an award-winning year for Boca as our own Costa Constantinou who was voted Ahepan of the Year, and our Boca Raton Ahepa #487, as Chapter of the Year. Axios!!!

Sasha may have been the scheduled entertainment for the evening but the real show was watching the children take charge and lead the adults in traditional Greek dancing all night long!

The Ahepa Family will resume monthly meetings for the new season in September and cordially invite anyone interested in community and charitable work to join us.



SAINT MARK ALSO CONGRATULATES CONNIE PILALLIS FOR BEING ELECTED THE D.O.P. NATIONAL GRAND VICE PRESIDENT!

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8:00 AM - Depart from Saint Mark
11:00 AM - Arrive at Holy Land
1:00 PM - Lunch
4:00 PM - Show
5:30 PM - Depart for Hotel
6:30 PM - Dinner at Golden Coral

Day 2 - October 31
Breakfast at Hotel & Depart
Rest Stop at Vero Outlet in Stuart

RSVP:

Diane Paterakis (561) 368-3728
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We have installed new registry software and need to update our records. Please fill out 1 per family and return to the office.



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Family Registration Form

Personal Information

Full Name:

Last *First* *Title*

Address:

Street Address *Apartment/Unit #*

If able, Do You Prefer receiving Emails? _____

City *State* *Zip Code* *During What Months*

Alternate Address:

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Do You want us to send mail to you here? _____

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Home Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Email: _____ Alternate Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Marital Status: _____

Spouse's Name: _____
Last *First* *Title*

Spouse's Email: _____ Spouse's Phone: _____

Children Under 18 (All Children 18 & Older Must Register Independently)

Full Name: _____
Last *First* *Date of Birth*

Full Name: _____
Last *First* *Date of Birth*

Full Name: _____
Last *First* *Date of Birth*

Full Name: _____
Last *First* *Date of Birth*

Full Name: _____
Last *First* *Date of Birth*

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