



# THE Message



SAINT  
MARK

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NOV.-DEC. 2016

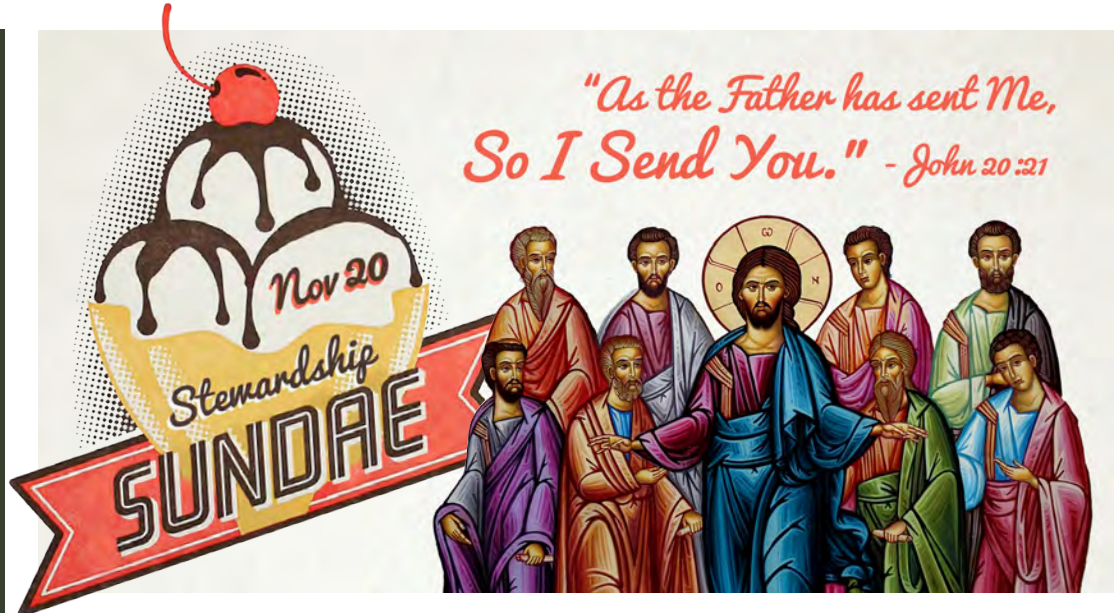


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*"As the Father has sent Me,  
So I Send You." - John 20:21*

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY – NOV. 20

*"God loves a cheerful giver." - (2 Cor. 9:7)*

75% of the Saint Mark budget comes from Stewardship. Without your pledge every year, we cannot exist. On Sunday, November 20 we will officially begin our stewardship campaign for 2017. On that day, we invite all of our faithful families to come and fill out their stewardship pledge for the upcoming year. We will then collect all of the envelopes during the Divine Liturgy and offer a special prayer service for them as the first offerings made to our Lord for the new year. May we always be mindful of the Lord's presence in our lives, and constantly offer ourselves back to Him in thanksgiving!

Hear from some of our stewards on Page 8, and more about Stewardship Sunday the Back Page

## PAST PHILOPTOCHOS PRESIDENTS HONORED



Sunday October 30 was deemed National Philoptochos Sunday by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. At Saint Mark we commemorated the occasion by honoring all of our past Philoptochos Presidents, celebrating an Artoclasia service, conducting a memorial service for those who have passed, and by offering a complimentary luncheon at Coffee Hour for all in attendance. We thank the faithful women who make up our incredible Philoptochos!



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

**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  
Ana Voicu, Bookkeeper

**Church Maintenance:**

Yosban Pazbalino & Everaldo Valle

**Office Volunteers:**

Lynn Athan, Pam Parent, Marlene  
Buettner, Pres. Mary Leondis,  
Debbie Fread, Kay Poly,  
Kalle Andromidas

**Parish Council:** Girard Mitchell

**Philotochos:** Pam Parent

**Choir:** Virginia Barnes

**Chanters:** Ramona Bean, Art Poly,  
George Demopoulos, Emmanuel  
Manos, Emily & Stephen Rentz

**Ushers:** Tim Sharp

**Acolytes:**

Tom Bean & Constantine Mukasa

**Church School:**

Helen Lang & Julie Vagelos

**JOY:** Angela & Girard Mitchell,  
Despina Hantzaris, Vivian Laz-  
aridis, and Erin & Rick Kontos

**GOYA:** Dominique Cultrera, Irina  
Giakouminakis, Elaine Cotronakis,  
Lynn & Costa Athan, Nicole Pelekanos

**Seniors:** Diane Paterakis

**Syrtaki:**

Tasia Christakis & Jenny Saiger

**Greek School:** Anna Kaiser

**Bookstore:** Yvette Koutsoupis,  
Barbara Tasiounes, Stella Pores

**Welcome:** Elaine Zographus

**Readers:**

Vivian Jenetopoulos & Ted Vagelos

**The Message:** Fr. Steven Klund

**Live Streaming:**

Ted Vagelos & Nick Csakany

**Audio:** Tom Spiliopoulos



## “BRINGING ORTHODOXY TO AMERICA”

**R**ecently Fr. Steven, along with Manny Manos, travelled to Portland, Oregon for the “Bringing Orthodoxy to America” conference presented by the Commission for Orthodox Missions and Evangelism (C.O.M.E.) of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco. The following is the overall summary and lasting impressions of the conference sessions.

Beaverton, Oregon is a small suburb of Portland, just west of the Willamette River. When most people think of Beaverton, they think of Nike, the \$19 billion international athletic apparel manufacturer that is based there. However, just across the street from its newly-expanded 5.4 million square foot world headquarters is a small, yet vibrant Greek Orthodox parish.

Saint John the Baptist, which started with six families in 1997, has now converted a small empty warehouse into the spiritual home for over 130 families. Fr. Theodore Dorrance, has vigilantly ministered to its young and thriving faithful body since its inception, and still does today. He was gracious enough to host this retreat, and showcase the incredible kinds of growth that a mission-minded parish can achieve in just a few years.



While the conference was a ministry of the Metropolis of San Francisco, the participants and the presenters came from all over the Archdiocese. First was the keynote speaker, Fr. Luke Veronis who is the professor of Missions and Evange-

lism at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts. The sessions that followed the next morning were

led by Fr. Evan Armatas from St. Spyridon in Loveland, Colorado; and the fiery Fr. Barnabas Powell from Saints Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene in Cumming, Georgia.

While each presentation focused on a separate aspect of outreach, all of the presenters maintained the same constant theme: “If we fail to bring Orthodoxy to our neighbors, our parishes will die and America will never have a chance to experience the True Faith of Christ!” This means that we must take a critical look at our parish, and the way we interact with our surrounding communities. We must challenge ourselves to look outside our four walls, and invite those near us to share in the life in Christ offered in the Orthodox Church!

Ready to share the faith? Contact Fr. Mark or Fr. Steven at the Church office, and join our Outreach ministry team today!



# PASTORAL MESSAGE

## Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

*"Christ is among us . . . He is and shall always be."*

This exclamation we recite at each Divine Liturgy when we exchange the kiss of peace. It is an essential component to the worship experience as we acknowledge Christ's presence among us.

At Saint Mark, Jesus Christ is indeed among us. Christ is among us as we celebrate our worship to our Lord; Christ is among us as we offer ministries and educational programs that focus on His will; Christ is among us as we visit our shut-ins and those in hospitals; Christ is among us as we serve the needy, the destitute and those less fortunate; Christ is among us as we study scripture and spiritual books; Christ is among us as we offer outreach and evangelism; Christ is among us as we gather as a Parish Council to administer the affairs of the Church.

When Christ is at the center of all things, there is nothing that we cannot achieve. We have grown as a Christ-centered, loving parish, known for our outstanding ministry, worship and programs. This has happened because we have all worked together to offer our best to our Lord. There is nothing better than being united as a family – and Saint Mark is united. Our membership, stewardship and ministries

continue to grow and we give thanks to our Almighty God for guiding and strengthening us.

A strong, vibrant parish provides opportunities for sharing the Good News of Christ, welcoming those that are searching for a spiritual home, and a base from which we are sent out into the world. For this reason, our Saint Mark family will embark on an outreach movement in 2017 to the surrounding areas to share our faith with the unchurched, non-practicing lapsed Orthodox Christians and those who are looking for the Ancient Christian Church.

If you have outreach and service in your heart, please join us. This is our call and our responsibility and we invite you to be part of this opportunity to share Christ with others. For more information, please email me directly at [frmarko@saintmarkboca.net](mailto:frmarko@saintmarkboca.net).

*"Christ is among us . . . He is and shall always be."*

With love in Christ,

Father Mark



METROPOLIS  
OF ATLANTA

## SAINT MARK GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish Assembly meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 27, 2016, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. This Assembly is for you, our fellow parishioners, to learn and hear about the status of Saint Mark. We welcome and need you to attend.

- Fr. Mark Leondis and Girard Mitchell

### 2016 Fall Parish Assembly Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Election of Chairman of Assembly
3. Approval of Parish Assembly Minutes (March 8, 2015)
4. Pastor's Report
5. Parish Council President's Report
6. Holy and Great Council Update
7. Selection of Audit Committee
8. Growth and Planning Update
9. Presentation of 2017 Financial Budget
10. Nominations for 2017-2018 Parish Council
11. Closing Prayer/Adjournment

### SAINT MARK PARISH ASSEMBLY ..... SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2016 .....

*"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." - Matthew 18:20*

There is great power and Grace in the unity of faithful Christians. At Saint Mark we know this Grace well, and invite all our parishioners to our Parish Assembly to discuss where the Grace of the Holy Spirit may lead us in the years to come.



# HOLY COMMUNION & MENSTRUATION

(A LETTER FROM ST. GREGORY THE GREAT TO ST. AUGUSTINE)

The following text is from a letter sent by St. Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome (depicted on the left), to St. Augustine of Canterbury. Please (depicted on the right) note that some of his language reflects the time in which this was written (6th century) but the bottom line is that a woman's period should not keep her from receiving communion.



A WOMAN SHOULD NOT BE FORBIDDEN to enter the Church during the times of her monthly period; for the workings of nature cannot be considered sinful, and it is not right that she should be refused admittance since her condition is beyond her control. We know that the woman who suffered an issue of blood, humbly approaching behind our Lord, touched the hem of his robe and was at once healed of her sickness. If, therefore, the woman was right to touch our Lord's robe, why may one who endures the workings of nature not be permitted to enter the church of God? And if it is objected that the woman in the Gospels was compelled by disease while these latter are bound by custom, then remember, my brother, that everything that we endure in this mortal body through the infirmity of its nature is justly ordained by God since the fall of man. For hunger, thirst, heat, cold and weariness originate in this infirmity of our nature; and our search for food against hunger, drink against thirst, coolness against heat, clothing against cold, and rest against weariness is only our attempt to obtain some remedy in our weakness. In this sense the menstrual flow in the woman is an illness. So if it was a laudable presumption of the woman who, in her disease, touched our Lord's robe, why may not the same concession be granted to all women who endure the weakness of their nature?

A woman, therefore, should not be forbidden to receive the Mystery of Communion at these times. If any, out of a deep sense of reverence, do not presume to do so, this is commendable. But if they do so, they do nothing blameworthy. Sincere people often acknowledge their faults even when there is no actual fault, because a blameless action may often spring from a fault. For instance, eating when we are hungry is no fault, yet being hungry (in our present way) originates in Adam's sin.

Similarly, the monthly courses of women are no fault. They are caused by nature. But the defilement of our nature is apparent even when we have no deliberate intention to do evil, and this defilement springs from sin. So may we recognize the judgment which our sin brings upon us. And so may people who sinned willingly bear the punishment of their sin unwillingly.

Therefore when women, after due consideration, do not presume to approach the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of the Lord during their monthly period, they are to be commended. But if they are moved by devout love of this Holy Mystery to receive it as pious practice suggests that they do, they are not to be discouraged. For while the Old Testament makes outward observances important, the New Testament does not regard these things as highly as the inward disposition, which is the sole criterion for allotting punishment. For instance, the Law forbids the eating of many things as unclean, but in the Gospel the Lord says: "Not that which goes into the mouth defiles a person, but that which comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man." He also said, "Out of the mouth proceed evil thoughts" (See Mark 7:18-20). Here Almighty God shows clearly that evil actions spring from the root of evil thoughts. Similarly the apostle Paul says: "To the pure all things are pure, but to the corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure. And later he indicates the cause of their corruption, adding, "For their very minds and consciences are defiled" (Titus 1:15). If, therefore, no food is unclean to one of a pure mind, how can a woman who endures the laws of nature with a pure mind be considered impure?

## GOYA - GOYA MINISTRY TEAM

Our GOYA has gotten off to a blistering start this year! We kicked things off at Fr. Mark's house with the biggest opening GOYA event we have ever had! Then we drove down to Saint Andrew for the first District GOYA retreat of the year on September 24, followed by an exciting GOYA hangout night where our kids got a greater appreciation for the rich history of the Church and our Orthodox theology. Finally, on Saturday October 22 we had our annual kayaking trip to Peanut Island. We are indebted to Mr. Rich Brochu and his Florida Fishing Academy for hosting us again this year. The kids had an amazing time on the water, kayaking, fishing, and even testing their coordination by catching footballs from Fr. Steven while diving off the dock.

Looking ahead, we will be having our next GOYA hangout on Sunday November 6 at 5 pm here at Saint Mark. After that we will be participating in two overnight trips. The first to Orlando for the "Spread the Word" advent retreat on December 2-4, and then the Winter Youth Rally in Atlanta December 27-30. Our GOYANs flying to Atlanta for the



"WYR" have already started preparing for the competition by holding volleyball practices and basketball practices, as well as Bible Bowl study sessions on after Church on Sundays. If you would like to learn more about GOYA, please email [DominiqueCultreraGOYA@gmail.com](mailto:DominiqueCultreraGOYA@gmail.com) today!

Instagram FOR EVERYTHING SAINT MARK

FOLLOW @SAINTMARKBOCA ON FOR ALL NEWS ON GOYA, JOY AND MORE

## PHILOTOCHOS - PAM PARENT

Our chapter has hit the deck running once again this season. On Monday, October 17 we held our opening meeting at Jimmy the Greek. Thanks to Maria Karaloukas and her crew for the delicious meal and attractive atmosphere. Over 50 gift cards for Walmart, Target and Home Depot were donated by our generous members to be given to the victims of the floods in Baton Rouge who lost everything. Rikki Savellis and Athena Economou chaired this wonderful start to the year, and we appreciate their efforts.



We enjoyed a showing of the power point presentation Fran Papamichael gave at the National Philoptochos Conference in Nashville last July. It featured the face lift we gave the Caring Kitchen in Delray Beach. Ted Vagelos was thanked for producing the power point display for us. He truly made our slide show very professional. We also recognized Eleni Gibson for her efforts in assembling over seventy health kits for the needy. Bravo Eleni! You exemplify the very best that Philoptochos has to offer.

The future of Philoptochos is secure with young women like you!

Philoptochos will continue collecting travel size toiletries for the needy. The next time you are in the grocery store or pharmacy, consider picking up soap, shampoo combs, deodorant, etc. and place them in our collection hamper in our hall.

On October 23, we partnered with the fourth grade Sunday School class to prepare one hundred health kits for the needy in recognition of Philoptochos National Make a Difference Day. Our children learned the value of helping others and reaching out to the community, and we enjoyed working with our wonderful youth. Thanks to Helen Lang and Julie Vagelos for organizing this event. We hope to make it an annual occurrence at Saint Mark.

October 30 was Philoptochos Sunday, when we honored our patron saints, Cosmos and Damianos, the Unmercenarys. We also paid tribute to the women who have fallen asleep in the Lord with a memorial. Thank you to Thelma Sorrentino for preparing our Koliva, and to Assimo Kitsos for baking the Artoclassia. In gratitude to our community, we prepared a complimentary light lunch for our parishioners. Over 30 women prepared sandwiches, appetizers, salads, etc. for our parish to enjoy. Thank you one and all for your support and encouragement. We could not do the good work of Philoptochos without you.

Coming up quickly is the Men's Culinary Delights on Saturday, November 12. This ever-popular evening features the cooking of the men of our community. We taste and vote for the best entries in sweet and savoury categories. The winner takes home the Golden Koutala. Don't miss out on this evening of fun, food and fellowship! Tickets are available for only \$20.00 per person in the hall after Liturgy. As always, all proceeds go to support the many charities of Philoptochos.

Our next meeting on Monday, November 14 will feature our own parishioner, Dr. Stephen Silva, who will review his novel, Heaven Weeps. It is a novel about sin and redemption, and has been highly acclaimed by author Nicholas Gage. We invite all the community of Saint Mark to attend. Refreshments will follow the meeting.

This is just the start of our year. We look forward to serving those in need throughout the year and for many years to come. If you are not already a member, we welcome your participation. Join our ministry and become a part of the giving arm of the Greek Orthodox Church.



## SAINT MARK CHOIR - VIRGINIA BARNES



First of all, I would like to thank everyone that helped make the Southeastern Federation of Church Musicians' Conference this past July a great success. Our guests felt at home and well fed thanks to Thanasis and Maria Datsaris for amazing meals, and our wonderful ladies of Philoptochos for hosting the breaks with delicious pastries. Thank you to Bill Johnson's musical duo for creating the fun in our Saint Mark Fun Night. Irina Giakouminakis' stunning centerpieces and decorations set the tone for our elegant Saturday Night Gala. Many were very impressed by our Goyans who, under the direction of Hilary Ashmen, served the meal efficiently and professionally. Many thanks to Yosban Pazbalino for their help with set up and clean up, we couldn't have had our events without you! Thank you to the Parish Council for your support. I cannot forget to express my gratitude to all the Saint Mark Choir members who went above and beyond the call of duty in their efforts to pull everything together. I feel like we have become a stronger group because of it. Special thanks to Fr. Mark, Fr. Steven, and Fr. Alexander for all of their guidance and encouragement from start to finish. Honestly, there was so much help from so many from our Saint Mark Family, that I don't have room to list them all. Our guests really remarked on how vibrant and dynamic our church is.

I am pleased to say that with the start of the new school year, our choir has grown! We now have twelve young people in our choir, and we have welcomed some new adults as well. We also look forward to some of our snow birds returning at the end of October. The Saint Mark Choir raised \$500 towards the Southeastern Federation of Church Musicians Scholarship Fund on October 2nd, which was Church Musician Sunday. It was a great day, with short biographies of each choir member listed in the Sunday Worship Guide, as well as Fr. Mark acknowledging the efforts of the chanters and choir.

Looking ahead, the choir will begin preparing for the Saint Mark Christmas Pageant, which will be directly after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 18th.

All in all, the Saint Mark Choir has not only grown in size, it has grown in dedication, commitment, and musical expression as well. More and more members of the choir are stepping forward, whether it is to help organize music, or to offer to bring cups for the water cooler, every effort helps the choir to continue to develop.





## JOY - DESPINA HANTZARIDES

Saint Mark's is blessed with a bright, beautiful future that is found in our youth. It is never too early to instill the important message of God and community in our children. JOY is not only an organization that is fun for our children, it is a place that teaches them community, love and respect for one another. It also helps to build the strong foundation that is required in having a blessed parish.

The 2016-2017 JOY session has successfully begun. The children had an exciting bowling night with their family and friends to kick off the year. One month later, Fr. Steven led a very creative "Pokemon GO" retreat with our JOY children. There the kids had to complete a scavenger hunt searching for hidden Pokemon around the Saint Mark campus. After finding and successfully "catching" each Pokemon, Fr. Steven then taught the children about the lives of four little-known saints whose stories corresponded with the types of Pokemon they found. The kids had a fantastic time, and learned about some incredible saints in the process!

We are looking for



rest of the year will feature game nights, Christmas caroling, ice skating, JOY Olympics, a day at the park, Holy Friday retreat and an end of the year parish picnic. All these activities help to form a bond between our children. Our goal is to have our youth grow in their faith and develop a profound connection to God and their Orthodox brothers and sisters.

## SENIORS OF SAINT MARK - DIANE PATERAKIS

The Seniors of Saint Mark are having their annual Christmas luncheon at the Sands Hotel in Delray Beach on Thursday, December 8 at 12:00 pm. The Sands Hotel is located at 2809 S Ocean Blvd, Highland Beach, FL 33487. Admission to the luncheon costs \$35 per person, and for more information please call the president of our Seniors ministry, Diane Paterakis at (561) 360-3728. We look forward to celebrating the joy of the Nativity with all of you!

## BYZANTINE CHANTING CLASS - FRIDAYS AT 4 PM

We have just started our introductory chanting class. We have recently finished covering the basic elements of the Orthros service and will now be focusing on the specific hymns in the 8 tones of Byzantine music. These classes will serve as "rehearsals" for the Sunday Orthros services each week. The entire community is welcome to attend.

## SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL - HELEN LANG & JULIE VAGELOS

The Church School Ministry is off to an amazing start this school year! We are experiencing record attendance, and we thank our students, families and amazing teachers, for preparing lessons, providing leadership, discussion, Gospel lesson review, beautiful crafts, and music curriculum for our Church School students. We thank you, our students, and committed Saint Mark families, for the increase in attendance, and we thank all of the following teachers, for providing enriching, educational lessons for our students each Sunday.


- **Angela Mitchell & Erin Kontos:** Pre-K 4
- **JoAnn Chapman & Evangelia Trataros:** Kindergarten
- **Sophia Valladares:** 1st Grade
- **Joanne Lindholm & Mary Mukasa:** 2nd Grade
- **Maria Matthews & Sallie Bothers:** 3rd Grade
- **Katherine Skoundridakis & Lisa Stabile:** 4th Grade
- **Tom Copulos:** 5th Grade
- **George Douglas:** 6th Grade
- **Nicole Brochu & Mark Sterghos:** 7th & 8th Grade
- **John Cucuras:** High School

As our children provide us with inspiration each Sunday, you may have noticed the participation of our students in 'Make a Difference Day', as students prepared hygiene kits and handcrafted cards for the needy, which will be distributed through the Caring Kitchen, in Delray Beach, this project was completed with the Saint Mark Philoptochos.

Our 4th grade class is inspired to help the needy devastated by Hurricane Matthew, so bring your blankets, and non-perishable food items, to the collection boxes which will be placed in the outer narthex.

Volunteers? Contact Julie VageLOS, ([julie@vageLOS.com](mailto:julie@vageLOS.com)), or Helen Lang, ([helenelang@bellsouth.net](mailto:helenelang@bellsouth.net)), and help us on Sunday morning!

## BIBLE STUDY - TUES @ 7PM & SYNAXIS - THURS @ 11AM

 We are nearly halfway through our fall Bible Study and Orthodox Discussion group "Synaxis." We are taking a deeper look at the Prophecies of Daniel in Bible Study every Tuesday at 7:00 pm (after vespers at 6:30 pm). Also, every Thursday at 11:00 am (after Paraklesis at 10:00 am) we will be gathering for our Synaxis discussions. We are currently reading Volume 1 from the Spiritual Counsels of Saint Paisios of Mt. Athos, "With Pain and Love for the Contemporary Man." The book is available in the Church Bookstore now.

**SYNAXIS**  
Orthodox Discussion Group

## SAINT MARK Mommy + Me EVERY OTHER TUESDAY @ 10 AM

We have resumed our Mommy + Me ministry. Our third year has started off great with worship, sing-a-longs, crafts, story-time, and games! If you have children 0-4 years old, and are interested in joining us please contact the Church office at (561)994-4822 or by email at [office@saintmarkboca.net](mailto:office@saintmarkboca.net)

## DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE - PENNY COYLE

The Daughter's of Penelope was the realization of our founder, Alexandra Apostolides' dream. She formed the first chapter in November 1929 in San Francisco, California. Her inspiration has progressed into an international association whose members are leaders in philanthropic, educational and cultural activities.

On Saturday October 22, we threw a family Glendi in the Saint Mark Fellowship Hall. Featuring performances from our Saint Mark Syrtaki dancers, the glendi boasted a festive atmosphere as over 160 guests enjoyed an evening of great food, music, and dancing! From the bottom of my heart I would like to thank former Grand President and Super Daughter Connie Pilallis for preparing the food for the evening, as well as her Co-Chairsisters Marina Nicolaidis, and Debbie Fread for the great job that they did. Thanks are also due to committee members Pat Anthony, Alexa Nanos, Marie Kyriacou and Christine Baldino for all their help and hard work. And let us not forget Kalle Andromidas and Joanne Chamar for helping set tables and Athena Economou for collecting tickets. I'm very proud to call you all MY Sisters! Finally, thank you to the Ahepans who also stepped up and helped us.

Looking ahead, we will be having a Founder's Day celebration in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 13 after the Divine Liturgy. This will also coincide with our brother Ahepans' Veteran's Day celebration that will take place at the end of the service in the Sanctuary.

We are truly a close knit family! The Ahepa family is a great organization to be a part of.

If anyone is interested in joining this worthwhile organization, please call Penny Coyle 954-304-4817.

## GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL - ANNA KAISER

We started our Greek language school program by blessing our students, teachers, parents and classrooms with a beautiful Agiasmo service on September 6th. Our classes go from Pre-k through middle school. We also prepare children to take the Ellinomatheia Test for different levels. The test is taken in Miami in May and is administered by the Center for Greek Language in Thessaloniki, which is supervised and funded by the Greek Ministries of Education, Foreign Affairs and Culture.

The goal of our school is to present all aspects of the Modern Greek language to its students including vocabulary-building, reading, writing and grammar with emphasis on conversation, all while making the learning process fun and exciting for the students.

We are very thankful to have great students, very supportive parents, highly qualified teachers and amazing assistant teachers who are dedicated to teaching our youth the Greek language, history and culture.

Our Greek School hosted its annual OXI DAY Celebration and Brunch (pictured to the right). It was a great pleasure to have Fr. Steven, Fr. Gustavo and their Presvytera's and so many members of our Saint Mark family celebrating with us. It is very moving and emotional listening to these young children in front of their proud parents and grandparents.



Greek school has an exciting year ahead. We have our Thanksgiving potluck feast, our preparation of singing the Kalanda at the church's Vasilopita luncheon. Our younger kids are preparing for the Festival with their dance teacher Mrs. Irina, and let's not forget our trip to Tarpon Springs to march in the Greek Independence Day parade.

## AHEPA / DOP - TIM SHARP



AHEPA Boca Raton Chapter 487 has gotten off to a great start for the year with the initiation of seven new members in September and October.



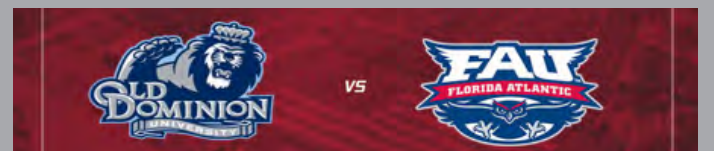
Also we supported Brother James's Constantine's fund raising efforts for Junior Achievement Light Up the Night and Brother Frank Rekas' Walk for Alzheimer's held at Mizner Park. We completed goal setting for our committees in conjunction with the Daughters of Penelope (DOP) and we hosted an interesting speaker who shared with us the importance of planned giving.

Many events are being planned for the rest of the year including:

- **Nov. 11** – Veterans Day Dinner Dance honoring and celebrating our Veterans at Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church hosted by the AHEPA Ft. Lauderdale Chapter (check the Email blasts for details)



- **Nov. 13** – Honoring Veterans at Saint Mark, along with the DOP Founders Day celebration in the Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy.
- **Nov. 14** – AHEPA will be hosting a New Member Night at the Biergarten in the Royal Palm Plaza in Boca.
- **Nov. 19** – FAU Football Game against Old Dominion, which will include a pre-game tailgate party.



- **Dec. 4** – Immediately following church Saint Mark and AHEPA will be having a "fun" nine-hole golf tournament at Boca Lago Golf and Country Club (details to follow).

Look for more announcements as our committees meet and more events are planned throughout the rest of the year into 2017.

If you are interested in any of the above events, contact our Fellowship Chair, Brother John Voytilla at john.voytilla@gmail.com or 630-414-0396 or President Tim Sharp at timsharp1958@gmail.com or 561-213-1016.

AHEPA and the DOP meet the first Thursday of each month starting with dinner at 6:30 pm in the Saint Mark Hall, followed by fellowship, an interesting program and our formal meetings. For information on how to join AHEPA contact President Sharp or visit and Like our Facebook page.



## AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR STEWARDS

KATHI SHARP INTERVIEWING JULIE &amp; TED VAGELOS



*This week Stewardship Committee member Kathi Sharp had the chance to sit down with Julie and Ted VageLOS in the sixth installment of our series of interviews spotlighting some of our Saint Mark stewards. This is an ongoing forum in which we are able to learn from our brothers and sisters what being an Orthodox steward means to them.*

**KATHI SHARP (KS):** Julie & Ted, you are relatively new to the parish, but have made quite an impact on our Saint Mark family in just over a year-and-a-half. Would you please tell us a little about your family?

**JULIE & TED:** We have been married for 18 years and have two daughters, Stephy (13) and Ally (11). After visiting Saint Mark multiple times a year for many years during our South Florida visits, we relocated to Parkland Florida about 18 months ago from New Jersey. Our daughters Stephy and Ally attend Westglades Middle School in Parkland. Stephy is in eighth grade and loves her dance program at Dance Theater in Parkland. Ally is in sixth grade and loves her gymnastics program at Gymnastics Plus in Boca Raton. Both girls have joined Syrtaki, and definitely keep us busy between dance, gymnastics, church, and social events. We all love the beach, Florida sunshine, and Saint Mark family!

**(KS):** How long have you been a member of the Orthodox Church?

**(TED):** Well, I have been a member of the Greek Orthodox Church since my baptism in 1960 at Saint Spyridon in New York City. I remember growing up as an active acolyte since I was 6, and eventually I was tonsured as a reader by Bishop Silas when I was a teenager. As my career moved me across the country, I remained active with the Church serving on the Parish Council in parishes in Nashville, TN; Oakland, CA; and Westfield, NJ.

**(JULIE):** I became a member of the Orthodox Church through Chrismation shortly before our wedding in 1998. We both wanted to raise our family in one faith.

**(KS):** What does Saint Mark and Orthodoxy mean to you and your family?

**(JULIE):** We had been attending Saint Mark for many years during family vacations before our actual move to South Florida, so when Ted was offered a position in Miami, there was no question in our minds which church we would join. When we let both of our daughters know



that we were moving, they were very concerned but both girls described being able to be part of the Saint Mark's family as a "bonus" and a bright spot in the impending move. We will never forget that on that first visit to the Saint Mark's office, less than one hour after landing in Florida, Father Mark took the time to sit down with us, and welcome us to the parish...

**(TED):** ...And then, from our first Sunday as stewards of the church we were welcomed and made to feel a part of the Saint Mark Family. The rich tradition of the Greek Orthodox church coupled with the parish's 'philoxenia' reinforced our belief that we selected the perfect parish to raise our family.

**(KS):** God had endowed us with personal talents and gifts. What is your greatest talent and how will you use it for the glory of God at our Saint Mark's parish?

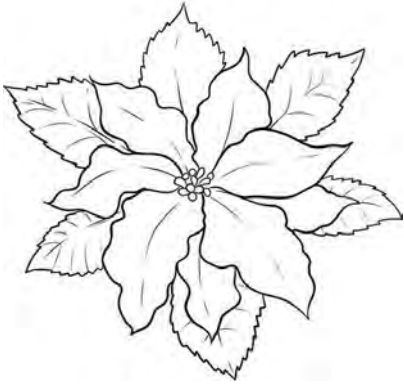
**(JULIE):** One of Ted's talents, public speaking, was actually developed while he served in the Altar. At the age of 8, Ted was asked to lead the congregation reading the Lord's Prayer. By the time Ted was 10, Ted was leading the congregation reading the Nicene Creed, and when Ted turned 12 he began reading The Epistle during the Divine Liturgy (which Ted has continued to do for the past 44 years).

Outside of church, literally, Ted has been the voice behind numerous Greek Festivals and even travels up to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield each year to emcee the NJ Greek Fest. During services you won't see Ted in the pews as he is using his communications talents in the back of the Altar to live stream the services on the Internet. He also video edits and publishes the homily, the "What We Believe,"

and the Divine Liturgy on the Saint Mark YouTube Channel weekly. These broadcasts are regularly watched by our shut-ins and snowbirds as well as hundreds of people throughout the United States and in over ten International countries.

**(TED):** Julie has been involved in religious education (Sunday School) since she was a teenager in the Catholic Church. Julie brought her talents to the Greek Orthodox Church after her Chrismation. For seven years Julie served as the Second Grade Sunday School teacher at Holy Trinity in Westfield. Julie loves being part of the Saint Mark Sunday Church School ministry by helping the teachers and the students with lessons, crafts, supplies, snacks and the gospel readings. Julie is well organized and likes helping with the administration of the church school program. She loves seeing the smiling faces of the children each Sunday.





# Saint Mark Christmas Card & Poinsettias Order Form

Once again, we are approaching the Nativity of our Lord and the joyful celebration of the Christmas season. We will be decorating our sanctuary with beautiful Christmas Poinsettias. If you would like to donate a Poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one please complete the Poinsettia portion of the order form below.

Also, we will be sending out our community Christmas card. With a \$25 donation you will be supporting the work and ministries of Saint Mark, all while helping to spread the joyful tidings of the birth of Christ throughout our community. The Christmas card will be mailed to the entire list of Saint Mark stewards, and will contain the names of all those who choose to donate below.

Please complete the order form below and make all donations payable to Saint Mark



Yes, I would like to make a \$25 donation to the Christmas Card

Please PRINT YOUR NAME LEGIBLY as you would like to see it on the Christmas Card.

Yes, I would like to donate \_\_\_\_ Poinsettia(s) at \$25 each.

I \_\_\_\_\_, offer this (these) poinsettia(s) to Saint Mark.

In Memory of \_\_\_\_ or In Honor of \_\_\_\_ (Please check one).

# *Passport to Greece*

JANUARY 26-29, 2017

WWW.GREEKFESTIVALBOCA.ORG

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

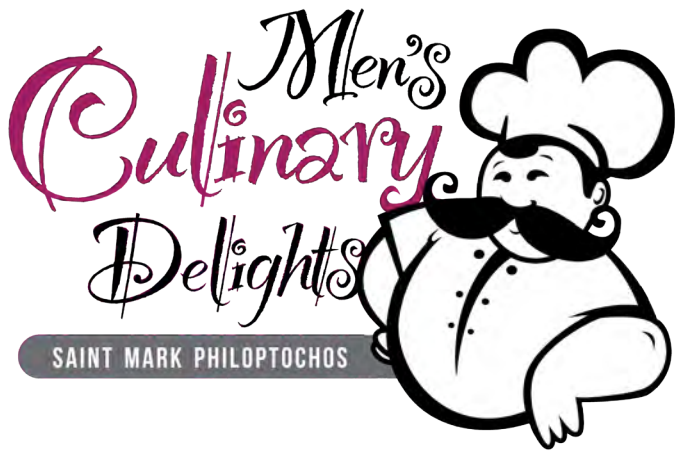
Call the Church Office to Sign Up  
(561) 994 4822



SAINT MARK GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2100 YAMATO ROAD · BOCA RATON 33431





**CONTESTANT REGISTRATION**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2016**

The "Men's Culinary Delights" cooking competition will take place in the Saint Mark Community Hall from 6-9 pm, November 12th. We ask that all contestants arrive before 5:30 pm to set up. Be prepared to present your dish and answer any questions about ingredients. Awards will be presented at 8:30 pm.

**CONTACT PAM PARENT - 561.706.2457 OR FRAN PAPAMICHAEL - 561.306.3624**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  Sweet  Savory  Appetizer

Thank you for participating in Saint Mark's third annual culinary competition. Please fill out the information provided and attach your sweet or savory dish recipe. Thank you for your participation.

May the best dish win!

**MOONLIGHT  
& Mistletoe**  
CHRISTMAS GALA

THE MARRIOTT @ BOCA CENTER  
6:30 COCKTAILS, 8:00 PM DINNER & DANCING

\$85 TICKETS (\$95 AFTER NOV. 27)  
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!  
CALL DENISE ALMAN (561) 251-6859 OR DEBBIE FREAD (561)929-0503

SATURDAY  
*December*  
**10**



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

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POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL PLEASE EXPEDITE



— *is a* —  
**SOCIAL CHARITY THAT  
EMPOWERS & MOBILIZES  
PEOPLE TO ASSEMBLE**  
— *healthy meals* —  
**FOR HUNGRY  
CHILDREN**

## PHILOPTOCHOS OF SAINT MARK HUNGER PROJECT

Make a difference. Change a story.

Join us in the fight against hunger as we assemble  
**10,000 healthy meals**  
for hungry children around the world.

After the Divine Liturgy on **Stewardship Sunday, November 20**, representatives from each of our Saint Mark ministries, led by Philoptochos, will be offering more than just their pledge envelopes. They will be working together to pack healthy meals for hungry children abroad. Join us for worship, and then stay after for **Free Ice Cream** and to support our team while they provide this beautiful offering!

[WWW.FEEDINGCHILDRENEVERYWHERE.COM/EVENT](http://WWW.FEEDINGCHILDRENEVERYWHERE.COM/EVENT)  
PHILOPTOCHOS OF SAINT MARK HUNGER PROJECT