"Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you”

(1 Peter 3:15)

+ Metropolitan Nicholas

DAYTON PASTORAL VISITATION

JUNE 25, 2017  ●  ANNUNCIATION CHURCH  ●  DAYTON, OHIO
Metropolitan’s Message

Beloved Family in Christ,

Have you ever asked yourself “Why?” Why am I a Christian? Why am I a Greek Orthodox Christian?

The answer to this question is becoming more important to our young people as they engage in a world not limited by the boundaries of our home, school, city, workplace, or even the country in which we live. The technological reality of worldwide communication has made the entire world our backyard – even if we don’t step out of our homes!

When Christianity was first being shared by the Apostles after Pentecost, people were hearing the story of God’s love for us and the reality of God-in-the-flesh through the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. People heard and shared the teachings of Jesus. They spoke of the miracles of healing that they witnessed. They saw Jesus bring the dead to life! And moreover, they knew that Jesus Himself had risen from the dead for many people saw both Him and the empty tomb.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is at the heart of the hope that lies within us – because it is a sure sign of God’s desire for us to be raised from death to life! It is the ultimate testimony of God’s love for His creation.

Today, however, too often we are not clear as to why we are Orthodox Christians! Are we church members because of customs and culture or because of conscience and conviction? Are we able to express for ourselves what the Orthodox Church stands for, what it practices and preaches?

The time has come for us to renew our walk on the path toward salvation. It is time for us to know what we believe – and to recognize that the Greek Orthodox Church is for everyone. It is time for us to embrace and express the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ—in our homes, our workplaces, and our day-to-day lives. We can no longer be accidental Christians! We must become intentional believers, if we hope to help the world know the love of Christ and His salvation. Please join with us in the Metropolis of Detroit as we begin our new efforts at spreading the Gospel of Christ – firstly to ourselves ... and then to the world around us. Know why we believe! Know what we believe! And know what we do when we believe!

METROPOLITAN NICHOLAS OF DETROIT
Metropolitan’s Schedule

NOTICE: Due to his appointment as Locum Tenens of the Metropolis of Chicago, Metropolitan Nicholas’ schedule may be subject to change. Please visit our website for updates: www.detroit.goarch.org/calendar.

SEPTEMBER

| AUG 26 - SEP 2 | Visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate | Istanbul, Turkey |
| 3 | Divine Liturgy | Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, Westland, MI |
| 7 | Nativity of the Theotokos Great Vespers | Nativity of the Theotokos Church, Plymouth, MI |
| 8 | Nativity of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy | Nativity of the Theotokos Church, Plymouth, MI |
| 9 | Funeral of Harriet Rennie | Archangel Gabriel Church, Traverse City, MI |
| 10 | Pastoral Visit | Archangel Gabriel Church, Traverse City, MI |
| 13 | Elevation of the Holy Cross Great Vespers | Holy Cross Church, Farmington Hills, MI |
| 14 | Elevation of the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy | Holy Cross Church, Farmington Hills, MI |
| 15 - 17 | St. Sophia Parish Centennial Anniversary | St. Sophia Church, Syracuse, New York |
| 19 | Metropolis of Chicago Clergy Meeting | Chicago, IL |
| 23 | AHEPA Housing Dedication | Harrison Township, MI |
| 24 | Pastoral Visit | Holy Trinity Cathedral, Toledo, OH |
| 26 - 30 | Metropolis Clergy-Laity Conference | Buffalo, New York |

OCTOBER

| OCT | Pastoral Visitation | TBD |
| 2 - 6 | Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops Meeting | Garfield, New Jersey |
| 7 - 8 | Lexington Parish Door Opening | Panagia Pантovasilissa Church, Lexington, KY |
| 13 - 15 | Rochester Parish Centennial Anniversary | Annunciation Church, Rochester, New York |
| 16 - 20 | Archdiocesan Council Meeting | Archdiocesan Center, New York, NY |
| 22 | Pastoral Visitation | TBD |
| 25 | St. Demetrios Great Vespers | St. Demetrios Church, Saginaw, MI |
| 26 | St. Demetrios Divine Liturgy | TBD |
| 29 | St. Demetrios Parish Feast Day Celebration | St. Demetrios Church, Saginaw, MI |

NOVEMBER

| NOV | Nashville Parish Centennial Anniversary | Holy Trinity Church, Nashville, TN |
| 8 | St. Nektarios Great Vespers | Assumption Church, St. Clair Shores, MI |
| 11 - 12 | Louisville Parish Visitation | Assumption Church, Louisville, KY |
| 19 | Pastoral Visitation | TBD |
| 21 | Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple | TBD |
| 26 | Pastoral Visitation | TBD |
Youth News

BY EVA KONSTANTAKOS

2017 CAMPING MINISTRIES – SUCCESS!

It was another great year for all three of our Metropolis summer camps. We are blessed to have three unique camping ministry programs for the youth of our Metropolis. Each camp is committed to providing a fun and safe Christ-centered program every year.

We thank all the dedicated clergy that serve our camps, whose pastoral guidance and care make our camps special and unique. May God grant them many years.

We also thank the countless individuals who give their summers to serve the youth. Without the cabin staff, medical professionals, program coordinators, cooks, and volunteers, our camps would not be able to operate.

Finally, we would like to thank Leadership 100, the Friends of the Metropolis, and the Metropolis Philoptochos who provide annual support for the growth and continuation of our camping ministries, primarily providing financial aid to any camper who would like to attend summer camp.

Here are a few highlights from each camp this summer:

METROPOLIS OF DETROIT SUMMER CAMP –
www.gomdsc.org

MDSC in Rose City, MI serves the youth in Michigan and parts of Ohio. This year, MDSC started a new tradition, entitled “Siesta Sessions.” Led by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, the Camp Clergy of each week offered reflections on a theme and how it can be applied to our everyday lives as Orthodox Christians.

ST. TIMOTHY SUMMER CAMP –
www.sttimothycamp.org

St. Timothy Summer Camp is held at Oswegatchie Educational Center in Croghan, NY. Campers get to experience a variety of exciting outdoor activities. In addition, St. Timothy Camp started “Orthodox Praxis” classes. Campers learned about the practical ways we can live our Orthodox Christian faith: making prosforo, learning how to chant, and making prayer ropes.

ST. NICHOLAS SUMMER CAMP –
www.stnicholascamp.org

The St. Nicholas Summer Camp serves the youth in the Central and Southern areas of our Metropolis. This year, St. Nicholas Summer Camp had a very successful week at its new location – Loucon Training and Retreat Center in Leitchfield, KY. Also, St. Nicholas Summer Camp held Evening Cabin Talks: in-depth discussions led by the clergy in each cabin about Orthodoxy and contemporary issues.

For more information regarding our Metropolis Summer Camping Ministries, visit their respective websites or contact the Metropolis Youth Office at youth@detroit.goarch.org.

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS
Registration is NOW OPEN for the 2017 OCF College Conference – locations in East, Midwest, and West.

Also, registration for 2018 OCF Real Break trips will begin September 15, 2017.

VISIT WWW.OCF.NET FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER!

Upcoming Events

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<td>Upstate NY Columbus Day Picnic</td>
<td>Rochester, NY</td>
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<td>OCT 14</td>
<td>Detroit Area GOYA Dodgeball Tournament</td>
<td>Assumption Church, St. Clair Shores, MI</td>
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<td>NOV 10-12</td>
<td>Holiday Hoops GOYA Basketball Tournament</td>
<td>St. John Church, Sterling Heights, MI</td>
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Philoptochos News

BY MARGARET YATES

I have mixed feelings as I write my final article for the Shepherd’s Staff. After nearly six years as Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos President, my final term will end on September 30 when elections take place at the Metropolis Conference in Buffalo. It has been a privilege to serve with such a wonderful Board and under the spiritual guidance and support of His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas.

If not for being elected president in 2011, I would have missed the opportunity of getting to know so many of my Philoptochos sisters, both at the chapter and National levels. Many have become good friends over the years. It has also been an honor to serve on the National Board Executive Committee and I hope my contributions at that level have had a positive impact.

I continue to be truly amazed at the creativity and dedication of my sisters in Philoptochos. Rarely, if ever, do you hear the word, “No” when they are asked to do even more…they always find the way to do it. One of my favorite sayings is one I heard from Fr. John Bakas at the National Convention in Los Angeles: “We are angels with only one wing. We can only fly by holding on to one another.”

My personal circumstances have curtailed chapter visitations the past two years but, thankfully, the internet and “ma bell” have kept us connected. I encourage chapter presidents to always communicate and build an alliance with the next Metropolis President, the conduit to the National Board.

The electoral process, which thankfully occurs every two years, took place this year. We are grateful that so many of our new chapter presidents have come into office with new ideas and enthusiasm. Although elected in May, they really start their term at the beginning of the Ecclesiastical year, after a summer of preparation. All active chapters in our Metropolis have been ratified by Archbishop Demetrios, the first Metropolis to do so.

On August 10-12, I was able to attend the National Philoptochos Executive Board meeting in New York where many decisions were made, including the disbursements of funds. We were asked to take men’s tee shirts and shorts so they could be passed out to the homeless at their monthly Feeding the Hungry initiative. Bishop Sevastianos, our National Spiritual Advisor, always participates with the women who help to prepare and serve the meals. The National goal is to serve 1,000,000 meals by July 2018.

My last visitation was traveling to Memphis with fellow National Board member and keynote speaker Arlene Siavelis Kehl the weekend of August 18-20. The inaugural fundraiser benefiting the Cancer and Other Major Illnesses Fund, “An Evening Celebrating the Theotokos”, was spearheaded by Emily Capadalis Love and Tina Taras Liollio, both of whom lost loved ones to cancer. Initially a dream of their mothers, they fulfilled a promise made to them many years ago. It was a wonderful affair down to the last detail. Earlier that day, Metropolis Board member Dr. Stephanie Storgion Poplos and newly elected chapter president Elizabeth Hawkins (the first female Orthodox chaplain) toured us around Memphis and the St. Jude Hospital campus. The tour ended with a visit to the Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital where both are on staff, Elizabeth as a chaplain and Stephanie as Pediatric Intensivist and Medical Director of Neuro Intensive Care and Intermediate ICU. We were able to meet a few of the children in the critical care unit. Love radiated from the eyes of every employee we met. Why Le Bonheur, you ask? Because they were the recipient of grants from the National Philoptochos totaling $36,000. The hospital has approximately 250 beds for children and never turns a child away from treatment because of the financial hardship of the parents. Along with their Elpis chapter, the National Philoptochos is on the donor board.

Contributions

- Chapter National Commitments for 2016 - $118,161.29 (78% of chapters paid all 19 National commitments).
- Chapter National Commitments for 2017 are on track to exceed this amount.
- $115,000 aid to the people of Greece and Cyprus on July 3, 2017.
**MEFGOX News**

**BY VICKI PAPPAS**

Seventy years ago, the beginnings of MEFGOX emerged during the first Convention of church musicians at Oglebay Park, PA. Present were then-Archbishop Athenagoras I and founding clergy, the Reverend Fathers John Berris, James Bouras, John Geranios, John Kapenekas, and Theotokis N. Pappas. Since then, the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians has been working to serve the music ministries of their parishes as the longest-serving Federation among all the Metropolises of our Archdiocese, growing from three states to seven and from 11 participating parishes to 65 in the Pittsburgh and Detroit Metropolises.

MEFGOX conducts several types of programs. It offers workshops and Church Music Institutes to provide resources and improve the practices of choir members, chanters, and those working in children’s music programs. It offers assistance to clergy regarding their church music needs. It publishes the BYZANTINE ECHO, distributed electronically, to more than 1200 church musicians and clergy. The Federation also funds a Memorial Scholarship Program and each year awards scholarships to deserving young people who have served and will continue to serve their parishes in church music. Annually, Federation members gather for a Convention, where they learn new music, attend workshops about their faith as well as vocal instruction, and sing together as a massed choir at the Sunday Divine Liturgy.

This year’s 70th Annual Convention was hosted by St. Spyridon Church in Monessen, PA on July 20th - 23rd. The theme was *Celebrating the Past - Working on the Future.* The choir sang the Doxology and Divine Liturgy in English, using the English translation recently approved by our Holy Synod for the first time at one of our Conventions. Two of our young people and past Scholarship recipients led the group: Thespina Christulides from Holy Cross in Pittsburgh was Guest Director and Nicholas Bodle from St. Paul in North Royalton was Guest Accompanist. College-bound recipients of three $1000 scholarships were announced at the Grand Banquet: Maria Cook from Holy Trinity in Toledo, OH; Victoria Martine of Holy Trinity in Carmel, IN; and Socrates Papageorgiou from St. Nicholas in Ann Arbor, MI. Also at the Convention, Deacon Vasilios Leogas from St. Spyridon was awarded the Patriarch Athenagoras Medal for Outstanding Metropolis Contributions to Church Music.

Next year, the Federation anticipates implementing a new Continuing Education Grants program for church musicians interested in furthering their skills. Also on schedule is to re-establish a program of regional workshops to bring more knowledge and skill-building to the local level. Detroit Metropolis officers who were elected include Vicki Pappas as President, Anna Niforos as Vice-President, and District Supervisors Barbara Minton for the Detroit Metro area, Cynthia Afendoulis for the Outstate Michigan parishes, and Martha Payne for Indiana and Kentucky, with the New York area TBA. Other Detroit metropolis church musicians serve on the Stewardship, Scholarship, Church Music Institutes, Byzantine Echo, and Continuing Education Committees.

The Mid-Eastern Federation expresses its thanks to our two Hierarchs, Metropolitan Nicholas and Metropolitan Savas and all their Metropolis staff members for the assistance and support they give to MEFGOX.
Dormition

BY FR. MICHAEL MARCANTONI

In many novels, we find a prologue and an epilogue, which serve as bookends to the main content of the story and serve, respectively, as an introduction and a summary of the plot, characters, and motivations that are in play during the plot of the story. While it can be tempting to view these sections as superfluous, they provide a lens for the primary thematic elements of a story to be relevant beyond the immediate character’s arc.

It should come as no surprise that the Church calendar is put together in a very deliberate way. The “New Year” for Orthodox Christians is celebrated on September 1st and the distribution of feasts along the annual trajectory is not capricious. The first “Great Feast” of the year is celebrated on September 8th, the “Nativity or Birth of the Theotokos,” and the last Great Feast is celebrated on August 15th, the “Dormition of the Theotokos.” Celebrations on the Orthodox calendar are arranged in a deliberate manner, intended to convey connections between the various disparate moments commemorated in the Orthodox Liturgical life. For instance, the Annunciation is commemorated on March 25th, nine months before the birth of Christ at Christmas. The same can be said of the intervals between the conceptions, births, and deaths commemorated elsewhere on the calendar.

It should come as no great surprise that the Church first teaches us about the greatness of the Theotokos and Mother of Christ by beginning the Liturgical year with her birth as the first Great Feast and then concluding with the end of her life, her Dormition, as the last feast of the liturgical year.

Interestingly, on the Feast of the Dormition, the Church reads the Gospel passage at Liturgy – not about the Mother of God, but of Mary and Martha – and ends it with the dialogue between Christ and a woman in the Crowd who says, “Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts where you nursed” but Christ responds, “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.”

The greatness of our Mother, the Theotokos, is not simply in her having given birth to Christ devoid of any other attributes, but in the qualification that Christ gives for her blessedness: “Blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it.”

From her first hearing that she would bear the Christ from the Archangel Gabriel, to Christ’s Presentation in the Temple and even at the Wedding Feast of Cana, His mother is continuously described as having “kept things and pondered them in her heart.” (Luke 2:19).

We learn from this that it is not mere formality of relationship that will save us or make us blessed. What makes the Theotokos blessed is the quality by which she lives out that relationship. She not only “hears the word of God,” but also keeps it. There are deep gaps of silence between the chronicled events that the Theotokos experienced and what she is recorded to have said. From this we learn the depth of Wisdom over Knowledge. There is the Annunciation, the “knowing” of things, and then its living out or the “wisdom” of acting on that word of God once we have received it.

This injunction to not only hear the words, the theological facts about God, but to keep them, and to act on them at the right moment is essential to the thrust of both our corporate liturgical life and our individual struggle.

Immediately after the beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Year, we are bidden to follow the life of this great lady from its beginning (Sept. 8th) to its end (Aug. 15th) in the hope that having received from Christ we might realize both the truth of what we need to act on, as well as the Wisdom of finding the right moment in which to apply those facts for the profit and salvation of our souls. Amen.

❖ Father Michael Marcantoni is the Priest of the Holy Spirit Church in Rochester, New York.
Friends of the Metropolis 2017

LIST OF DONORS JANUARY 1—AUGUST 31

+His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

Ann Arbor, MI – St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Pliakas, Fr. Vasilios and Presbytera Kyriake
Baldwin, James and Mary
Daniels, Tony and Clevie
Kales, Anthony and Joyce
Mitropoulos-Rundus, David and Demetra
Yates, Margaret

Bloomfield Hills – St. George
Abell, Fr. Christopher and Presbytera Alice
Iakovides, Dimitri
Lionas, Nicholas and Amanda
Yaksich, Moshoula

Buffalo, NY – Annunciation
Annunciation Philoptochos
Annunciation Youth Council
Christakis, Fr. Christos and Presbytera Lisa
Sakellariou, Fr. John and Presbytera Pavlina
Blakeskee, Ronald and Maria
Brown, Constance A.

Cervi, Brian and Vassilia
Couvutsakis, Paul and Linda
Hiczewski, Peter and Michele
McDaniels, Joyce
Pefanis, Angello
Veanes, Angelo A.

Carmel, IN – Holy Trinity
Holy Trinity Parish
Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Holy Trinity Choir
Holy Trinity GOYA
Bartz, Fr. William and Presbytera Emily
Christensen, Fr. Lucas and Presbytera Stacey
Mamalis, Presbytera Janet
Andros, Cheryl
Antoniades, Ellen
Boutsalis, Alexander
Brochhagen, Renee
Calliotte, Angela
Christoff, William and Karen
Dallas, Christopher and Teresa
Dervenis, Nick and Sharon
Dimos, Jim and Kathy
Dine, Robert and Diana
Dunbar, Pete and Lea
Eaton, Joe and Florie
Eleftheri, Anthony and Jill

Gibson, Karen
Gounaris, George and Sarina
Hostetler, Duane and Eleny
Johnson, Ronald and Sunday
Julovich, Angelo and Christy
Kingsley, Tommie and Brandie
Kolias, Stephen and Gail
Lafter, Christopher and Antonia
Leonard, Alice
Lisch, Mike and Jean
Nicholos, Sam and Dawn
Oberlies, Toula
Pappas, Leon and Andrea
Pappas, Nick and Tracy
Pappas, Victoria
Pavlakos, Elias and Maria
Pease, John and Maria
Rowlas, Julie
Saran, Nicholas and Yaping
Sofianopoulos, Nick and Vickie
Vitsas, James, Jon, and Vanessa
Vitsas, Sondra and Connie
Waterbury, Anthony and Kristen
Woodruff, Jim and Cindy

Chattanooga, TN – Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Ballas, Fr. Stavros and Presbytera Thea
Bougdanos, Maria R.
Bundros, Tom and Lara
Corum, John and Betsy
Dimopoulos, Dennis and Barbara
Fotiadis, Nicky and Lilly
Kouris, George
Mastilovic, Mick
Mena, Michael C.
Mousourakis, John and Donna
Simpson, Joe and Jillian
Tolbert, John and Janice
Zotos, Alex and Jennifer

**Cincinnati, OH – Holy Trinity–St. Nicholas**
Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Parish
Redmon, Fr. William and Presbytera Elizabeth
Assaley, Lewis and Patricia
Stringas, Emanuel

**Dayton, OH – Annunciation**
Annunciation Philoptochos
Gingrich, Fr. Joseph
Abboud, Fayez and Maria
Nakis, George

**Detroit, MI – Annunciation Cathedral**
Annunciation Cathedral Pioneers
Bennert, Constance
Gaggos, Jim and Mary K.
Gaggos, Mary
Kazolis, Koula
Lianos, Will and Kim
Politis, Dean L.
Tapazoglou, Nikolaos and Christine

**Farmington Hills, MI – Holy Cross**
Holy Cross Philoptochos
Hountalas, Fr. Dean and Presbytera Olga
Casoglos, Thomas and Mary

**Fort Wayne, IN – Holy Trinity**
Maggos, Eleftherios and Paraskevi

**Grand Blanc, MI – Assumption**
Assumption Parish
Maggos, Fr. Angelo and Presbytera Teri

**Grand Rapids, MI – Holy Trinity**
Berends, Fr. James and Presbytera Anne
Bogdan, Fr. James and Presbytera Joan
Cassis, Deacon George and Diaconissa Vicki
Afendoulis, Angelynn
Georgeson, Menas and Frosene
Nicholas, James

**Ithaca, NY – St. Catherine**
Bantuvantis, Ann
Bezirganian, John

**Jamestown, NY – St. Nicholas**
Russell, Fr. Jarrod
Cherosis, James and Christine
Piaschyk, Damian and Sabrina

**Kalamazoo, MI – Annunciation**
Theoharis, Fr. Theoharis
Ingalls, Robert and Andriana

**Lansing, MI – Holy Trinity**
Holy Trinity Parish
Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Sietsema, Fr. Mark and Presbytera Kathy
Hilliary, Charles and Nadean
Munk, Jerry and Jan
Pascalenos, Olga

**Lexington, KY – Panagia Pantovasilissa**
Sicoe, Fr. Cosmin and Presbytera Mihaela
Arimes, Vickie
Thompson, John and Christina

**Little Rock, AR – Annunciation**
Verdaris, Fr. Nicholas and Presbytera Maria

**Louisville, KY – Assumption**
Boukis, Fr. Jon and Presbytera Doreece
Wingenbach, Fr. Gregory
Blackford, Charles and Patricia
Sharish, Mary

**Marquette, MI – Assumption**
Wainio, Paul and Katherine

**Memphis, TN – Annunciation**
Annunciation Philoptochos
Thomas, Fr. Simon and Presbytera Stephanie
Kay, John and Nancy
Poplos, Theodore and Stephanie

**Middletown, OH – Sts. Constantine and Helen**
Sts. Constantine and Helen Parish

**Muskegon, MI – Annunciation**
Encelewski, Christine Danigelis
Micheli, Richard and Teresa
Ladas, Paul and Patricia

**Nashville, TN – Holy Trinity**
Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and Presbytera Sofia
Anderson, George and Lee Ann
Gaddis, Jim and Tasoula
Gore, James and Stacy
Harman, Todd and Dawn
Lamberson, Lambert and Helen
Miller, John M.
McNeil, Larry
Taras, Nicholas and Donna

**Nashville, TN – St. John Chrysostom**
Turner, Fr. Parthenios and Presbytera Marion
Courington, Christopher and Shelley
Marchetti, John A.
Waggoner, Michael and Kari

New Buffalo, MI –
Annunciation-Agia Paraskevi
Annunciation-Agia Paraskevi Parish
Martin, Fr. Paul and Presbytera Nikki

Plymouth, MI –
Nativity of the Virgin Mary
Demetriou, Cleo
Randall, Michael and Anne Tzilos, Golfo

Rochester, NY – Annunciation
Mot, Fr. Catalin and Presbytera Felicia
Gines, George and Maria Stathopoulos, Demetrios and Doris

Rochester, NY – Holy Spirit
Holy Spirit Parish
Georgantas, Irene Gesell, Melody

Saginaw, MI – St. Demetrios
St. Demetrios Parish
Cook, Fr. Timothy and Presbytera Catherine
Bazakis, Andrew and Ann Caldwell, Larry and Peggy Houpis, Evan Metropoulos, Katherine Ostler, Dennis and Soula Siradakis, Efthios and Beverly Stamatis, Jim and Marsha

Sault Ste Marie, MI – St. George
Cristof, Nelu

Smiths Creek, MI –
Holy Trinity Monastery
Abbot Joseph and Monastic Community

Southgate, MI – St. George
St. George Parish
St. George Philoptochos
Cook, Fr. Anthony and Presbytera Elizabeth
Barnett, Karen Armelagos Constantakis, Clarence R. Colovos, Bill Diamantis, John and Christina Dionysopoulos, Stavros and Eleni Kircos, Angelo and Sophia Kircos, David Kircos, Lazaros and Paula Kiousis, Sam Kontos, Chris and Frances Kontos, John and Marika Kotronis, George Liakos, Michael and Karen Makarounas, Panormitis and Koula Minton, Nicholas Moody, Rick and Kim Tougas, Christian and Lauren Vougiouklakis, Peter and Christina

Springfield, OH – Assumption
Assumption Parish
Rusu, Fr. Dumitru and Presbytera Luiza Lagos, Thomas and Matina

St. Clair Shores, MI – Assumption
Assumption Parish
Varlamos, Fr. Michael and Presbytera Tina Brennan, Stephanie Zingas, Christopher and Marsha

Sterling Heights, MI – St. John
St. John Choir
George, Christian George, John and Marlo George, Jordan Kotsis, Andrew and Irene Kotsis, Harry and Katherine Lions, James and Helene Raphitis, Mike and Betty Souris, Bernice

Syracuse, NY – St. Sophia
Macris, James

Toledo, OH – Holy Trinity Cathedral
Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Anagnos, Joyce Biernacki, Gerald and Pauline Photos, Thomas Yakumithis, Dean and Yanna

Traverse City, MI –
Archangel Gabriel
Underwood, Robert and Theresa

Troy, MI – St. Nicholas
Arsman, Steve and Anita Chalker, Jess and Patty Crosson, Patrick and Cindy Karmanos, Peter and Danialle Mickey, Cynthia Mortis, George and Hionia Robert, Kevin and Christine Zotos, Gregory

Vestal, NY – Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Gianakouros, Harry and Katie

Watertown, NY – St. Vasilios
St. Vasilios Parish

Westland, MI –
Sts. Constantine and Helen
Sts. Constantine and Helen Parish
Petrutiu, Fr. Teodor and Presbytera Roxana Katsarelas, Sophie Lembies, Dino

Other Friends
Radulescu, Deacon Alexandru and Diaconissa Silvana AHEPA – Omega Chapter #371 In Memory of Beck Demery Koutsoukos, Maria Mid Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians - MEFGOX Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan
Photo Highlights

Fr. Paul Martin Receives Offikion of Economos
Annunciation Parish Visitation, New Buffalo, MI
August 13

Troy Greek Festival Visit
St. Nicholas Church, Troy, MI
June 23

Lexington Parish Visitation
Panagia Pantovailissa Church, Lexington, KY
June 11

Metropolis Summer Camp Visit
Rose City, MI
July 3

Leadership 100 Dinner
Troy, MI
June 15

Pentecost Liturgy
Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church, Troy, MI
June 4
Dear Friends of the Metropolis

As part of the Friends of the Metropolis you have made an important impact on our common mission of Christian witness and action to the world – and we have been able to do this together as part of the Friends of the Metropolis for 2017.

Consider some of the results of your gifts to the Friends Program for 2017:

- **YOU** have assured that there is a summer youth camp available to all of our young people;
- **YOU** helped us donate money to rebuild the Ionian Village;
- **YOU** helped support the annual regional youth lenten retreats;
- **YOU** have been the helping hands who gave through our office to those in need of shelter, clothing, food, and medical supplies;
- **YOU** helped us upgrade our technology systems so that live video conference calls can include clergy and faithful from Arkansas to New York;
- **YOU** have helped us to pay all the normative operational expenses of the Metropolis Office including: building maintenance and repair; heat; lights; postage; technology; and supplies;
- **YOU** have made it possible for us at the Metropolis to replace our heating and cooling system;
- **YOU** helped us send our staff to attend Praesidium Guardian certification training in Texas.

Thank you for your great stewardship!
God be praised!