The Shepherd’s Staff

February 2015

Volume VII, Issue 1

The New Edition

Metropolis of Detroit

Cover Photo:
Holy Trinity of Fort Wayne
Pastoral Visitation | January 25, 2015
Tonsuring of the Altar Boys

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The Shepherd’s Staff is the official publication of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit.
MEFGOX News
By Vicki Pappas

HELPING PARISHES GROW IN CHURCH MUSIC

A major purpose of the Mid-Eastern Federation is to help parishes develop and expand their church music programs. We do this by presenting training programs, providing resources, and offering assistance to clergy, choirs, chanters, and congregations. Carrying out this purpose has been an important MEFGOX priority this year in both Metropolises of our jurisdiction: Detroit and Pittsburgh.

Along with providing individual assistance to church musicians and clergy as they request it, we have also implemented two special initiatives this year: one to reinvigorate church music programs of parishes in the Greater Pittsburgh area and another to offer church music experiences to young people in Western New York. Both of these were pilot programs which we hope to make available in other areas as well.

PITTSBURGH INITIATIVE: We had been noticing a decline in this area’s participation in MEFGOX conferences and training activities. So in November, with the blessings of Metropolitan Savas, we successfully convened a “Futures Planning” day for clergy, choir directors, chanters of the parishes in Pittsburgh and in nearby Ohio and West Virginia. Thirty-six people participated, representing 9 parishes. They spent the day looking beyond “typical” problems that we all face (aging choirs/chanters, lack of commitment to church music, lack of education, difficulty recruiting, low rehearsal attendance, time and travel constraints, lack of youth involvement, etc.).

Instead, participants focused on envisioning an ideal parish church music program, such as:

- As much importance is placed on the church music ministry as other church ministries.
- Parishioners live day by day and through the church year through our hymns - church music is used to teach both youth and adults.
- Choir singers and congregation understand the hymns.
- Everyone in the congregation sings along as best they can, and music used allows for this.
- Music enhances worship, and is not a concert of complicated music – clergy are able to say, “Worship was good today” instead of “The choir/chanter was good today.”
- Church School incorporates church music in all classes.
- Youth choirs sing during the Divine Liturgy and other services.
- People attend Orthros.

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Once these ideals were identified, participants worked in small groups to identify action steps that they could take to realize them in their parishes. They left the day re-enthused about making changes in their home parishes! MEFGOX hopes to replicate this type of “futures planning” in other metropolitan areas of our two Metropolises.

WESTERN NEW YORK YOUTH INITIATIVE: MEFGOX members have long worried about the low participation of youth in church music, both locally and at MEFGOX Conventions. We recognized the importance of strengthening youth involvement local parish church music before they would be comfortable attending choir conventions. So on January 24th, we stimulated a pilot program, inviting youth from the Buffalo, Rochester, and Jamestown parishes to attend “An Orthodox Church Music Event for Western New York Youth.”

The event was hosted by Annunciation Church in Buffalo, and was coordinated by a team of youth music educators from the various parishes. Seventeen elementary school-aged youth attended, along with several parents and clergy. Buffalo’s Father John Sakellariou gave an opening talk that inspired the young people of the important stewardship they offer as church musicians. The youth learned to sing Metropolitan Nicholas’s Fimi and the Lenten hymn “To You, O Champion (Ti Ipermacho). Two additional workshops illustrated some fun vocal techniques. The day ended with a swim party. To commemorate the day, each young person was given a lapel pin of St. Romanos, patron saint of church musicians, and the “Orthodox Songbook.”

Most important, the adults brain-stormed ideas for a follow-up workshop given the enthusiasm for this one! They hope to host a similar event later this year in one of the other parishes and to expand invitations to Syracuse youth. This is exactly what MEFGOX had hoped for in piloting this type of youth program! MEFGOX is ready to also replicate this “Youth Initiative” with parishes in other areas of the Federation.

ANNUAL CONVENTION: An upcoming event that further illustrates how we provide education and assistance about church music is the MEFGOX Annual Convention. This event includes a wealth of educational workshops for participants, rehearsals, and social events. On Sunday, the Convention program culminates in a massed choir singing in the Divine Liturgy, this year with the music of Anna Gallos. Sts. Constantine and Helen in Westland, MI has graciously taken on the responsibility of hosting this year’s Convention on July 16th-19th, which is MEFGOX’s 68th consecutive one. We look forward to enriching the Detroit area with this event!
Philoptochochos News
By Margaret Yates

We tend to hear from our larger chapters in the Metropolis as their fundraising efforts are often quite massive due to the number of members involved. Also, these chapters are in metropolitan areas where they can draw from a larger population. Today I would like to highlight one of our smaller chapters. St. Nicholas, in Jamestown NY, has a membership of 19 compared to our largest chapter which numbers 186. The Philoptochochos is led by Athena Constantine, who has served as president for a total of thirteen years. St. Nicholas was the first Philoptochochos chapter to send a check for the St. Nicholas National Shrine. They recently held a successful Christmas bazaar and luncheon featuring a raffle and white elephant sale of Christmas items. They hold rummage sales in May and October and are planning a style show and tea. Unfortunately, recruitment of younger members in the community has been difficult. We hope that will change and St. Nicholas will continue to be viable.

The new election procedures take effect this year and we are waiting for a guideline booklet from the National Philoptochochos office. Six of our Metropolis Board members have been assigned as liaisons so each chapter will have someone available to answer questions and guide them through the process, if needed. The main change in the procedure is that those elected are not to be sworn into office until a chapter has been ratified. Election results are to be submitted within two weeks of the election.

The National Board members in our Metropolis have been assigned as liaisons to chapters for the St. Nicholas National Shrine at Ground Zero initiative. This is a monumental undertaking and the suggested donation of one hundred dollars from each Philoptochochos member of concern. Each chapter will be contacted by a liaison to offer assistance and encouragement for the success of this initiative. It is imperative that each chapter president acknowledge gifts received from members. I will be sending a sample letter to each president in the near future with suggested guidelines. All monies collected at the local level should be documented and ONE check sent to our treasurer, Pat Ladas in Muskegon. Pat will then consolidate the funds and send ONE check to the National Philoptochochos. The next collection period is January-March 2015 and funds submitted by April 15.

Budgets for each chapter should have been approved by their members in January. As we have done in the past, we encourage all chapters to put the Friends of the Metropolis as a line item in the budget along with National and Metropolis commitments. If you haven’t done so already, it’s not too late.

The National Philoptochochos Board will have its first meeting of 2015 from January 22-24 in Coral Gables, Florida. The agenda is full so there will be no time to “play”. As the meeting will have taken place after this article was due, I will report in the next issue of the Shepherd’s Staff.
FIVE WAYS FOR YOUTH TO PREPARE FOR GREAT AND HOLY LENT

Great Lent can seem like an overwhelming time of year when it comes to our spiritual lives. It seems we have so much to work on: prayer, fasting, service, almsgiving, etc. But there is no need to get frustrated… just be prepared! Here are five simple ways to prepare for this important spiritual journey:

1) **Understand what Great and Holy Lent is all about!** – Check out the great Lenten information at www.lent.goarch.org. Talk to your parish priest. Make sure to attend the nearest Youth or Young Adult Lenten Retreat. Learning about Great Lent will make it a more meaningful and beneficial spiritual journey.

2) **Check your parish calendar for the Lenten services** – Most parishes post a schedule for the Lenten services well in advance. So, check that out! Also, consider planning a night where your youth/young adult group attends one of the Lenten services together. Afterward, plan a Lenten potluck or go out for a Lenten meal.

3) **Add “PRAYER” to your daily schedule and get a Prayer Book** – No, seriously! Actually write it down in your calendar or make a reminder on your smartphone. Prayer is an essential part of Orthodox Christian living and Great Lent is the perfect time to work on this discipline. Don’t know how to pray or what to say? Go to your parish bookstore and get a prayer book to help you.

4) **Pick a book to read for Lent** – Talk to your parish priest about the books he might recommend for your Lenten reading! Make it a point to read this book instead of watching T.V., spending time on social media, or playing video games.

5) **Plan to fast** – Talk to your priest about what is appropriate and how to prepare. Go grocery shopping with your parents, encouraging them to purchase foods that are appropriate for the Fast. Making sure you have Lenten foods in the house will help you to be successful in following the Fast.

GOYO – GREEK ORTHODOX YOUTH OLYMPICS – GRAND RAPIDS, MI – JANUARY 31, 2015

Approximately 180 youth from Michigan, Indiana, and Windsor, Ontario gathered together to participate in the first Greek Orthodox Youth Olympics (GOYO). The event held Saturday, January 31, 2015 and was hosted by Holy Trinity Church in Grand Rapids, MI.

Youth participated in mixed Olympic teams rather than individual church teams. GOYO began with the Parade of Teams, lighting of the Kandyli, and a prayer. Teams competed in relay games, individual events, and full-team events. At the Apokriatiko Dinner/Dance, GOYO concluded with the Presentation of Medals and “Ethos” awards (given to an outstanding competitor from each team). We thank Fr. Nicholas Marcus and the Holy Trinity parish for hosting a wonderful event. A special thanks goes to Christy Buck and Esther Koukios who chaired and organized this event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEBRUARY 13-15, 2015:** GOYA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT (Hosted by Annunciation Church/Dayton, OH)

**FEBRUARY 28, 2015:** UPSTATE NY GOYA LENTEN RETREAT (Hosted by Annunciation Church/Rochester, NY)

**MARCH 7, 2015:** MICHIGAN AREA GOYA LENTEN RETREAT (Hosted by St. Nicholas Church/Ann Arbor, MI)

**MARCH 20-22, 2015:** FALL CREEK FALLS LENTEN RETREAT (Hosted by Holy Trinity Church/Nashville, TN)
The first man Adam, like all men, was created in the image and likeness of God. He was called to live as a priest in Paradise. All of creation was given to him as a free gift. In return Adam was to offer creation back to God in thanksgiving and love. Unfortunately Adam chose to eat the forbidden fruit and at that very moment he abandoned his priestly vocation, and distorted his image and likeness towards God. Adam, through his God gifted self-determination chose to be the first consumer and take God’s creation and use it for his own selfish gratification.

The opposite of Adam is Noah. Noah acted as a priest when he built an altar out of obedience to God, and offered sacrifices which were pleasing to Him. The Lord was so delighted with Noah that he blessed him abundantly and promised him that He would never again curse creation. Noah’s priestly sacrifices and blessings in thanksgiving to God for all that He had done was a partial reversal of the result of Adam’s disobedience in Paradise.

By virtue of baptism all Orthodox Christians share in the royal priesthood of Jesus Christ. As royal priests we assemble facing the altar in our parishes to worship the Most Holy Trinity within the sacrifice of the Divine Liturgy. During the Divine Liturgy we take two fruits of creation, bread and wine, and we offer them back to God in love. In return God the Son blesses us by manifesting Himself perfectly into them, and they become Holy Communion. While the bread and wine truly become the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ, they also symbolically represent creation, and the need for all of creation to be perfected through Christ. While Paradise was distorted through Adam, it has been regained through Christ, and at the end of time creation will again be eternal and without death.

The vocation in life of every Orthodox Christian is to grow more into God’s image and likeness by participating in His uncreated love and sharing this love with all. A natural result of this process of perfection will be that creation will be cared for because the more a person grows in the image and likeness of God, the more he realizes that creation is a gift to be utilized for spiritual growth. As Christians we must steep our lives in the image and likeness of God. We must elevate them and the natural world to the Divine. We must take our lives and all of creation and offer them back to God in Thanksgiving. The word Eucharist itself means Thanksgiving. In this Mystery par excellence of the Church we take wheat/bread and grapes/wine and offer them back to God and by so doing we actualize our royal priesthood and become partakers through grace of His Divine Nature.

To be royal priests of God’s creation and Kingdom means we nurture one another and creation. It means we build up God’s Kingdom “on earth as it is in heaven.” The earth should reflect the Kingdom of Heaven, and where it does not it is due to our own fallen human nature and sinfulness. Other people, the animals, and everything that breathes and lives needs our love and care. We should all shudder to think of an earth which no longer produces wheat, wine, water, and oil for the Sacraments of God. Because of human environmental abuse people go hungry, soils are depleted and poisoned, water is unsafe to drink; and there is seemingly no end currently in sight to the man made destruction of this sacred planet which does not belong to us, the government, or any corporation. No one can own the natural world except God, and God alone. And as God did not create us or the world to die we must also not kill others or the created world which has been so graciously gifted to us. We are gifts to one another and the earth is a gift to all.

When our Saviour became a man He took flesh from His most pure Mother our Lady. This flesh came from the earth. The very first miracle Christ performed was to take the most fundamental element of creation, water, and turn it into wine. When Christ made a blind man see He took His own spittle and mixed it with dirt and anointed him. This clay was made from the earth. At the Mystical Supper Christ took bread and wine and transformed them into His own Body and Blood imbued with His Divinity. Christ was crucified for us on a tree so that we can be partakers of eternal life. God saves and sanctifies us through the elements of His creation. Because of this reality we must do all that we can to protect, sustain, and nurture the earth for the sacred gift that it is. By so doing we actualize the gift of Christ’s royal priesthood not only in our lives and the lives of others, but throughout all of creation too. We are called not to be consumers of creation, rather as the modern Elder Cleopa of Romania would say, “Paradise is to consume us”.

*Fr. Joseph Gingrich is currently serving at the Panagia Pantovasilissa Church in Lexington, Kentucky.
Friends of the Metropolis

Jan—Dec 2014

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

Ann Arbor, MI – St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas Parish
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Kotis, Fr. Nicolaos and Presbytera Sandra
Paul, Presbytera Eva
Pilikas, Deacon Vasiliou and Diakonissa Kyrkiolou
Baldwin, James
Daniels, Tony and Clevie
Fry, Jack D.
Garris, Steven and Stamatis
Karam, Abe A.
Kinningham, Robert and Vicki
Kolias, John and Helen
Kussurelis, Peter and Zorene
Mitropoulos-Rundus, David and Demetra
Phan, Sem and Katherine
Polopoulos, Holly
Radwanski, Kurt and Sophia Grias
Yates, Billy and Margaret

Battle Creek, MI – Sts. Constantine and Helen Chapel
Sts. Constantine and Helen Chapel

Binghamton, NY – Holy Trinity
Holy Trinity Parish

Bloombfield Hills, MI – St. George
Abell, Deacon Christopher and Diakonissa Alice
Bouchar, Barsoum and Joanna
Challis, Sylvia
Iakovides, Dimitri
Pamel, Esther
Pappas, John and Stella
Sislock, Stella
Sisson, Rocky and Connie
Tsouris, Mary

Buffalo, NY – Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Youth Council
Christakis, Fr. Chritostos and Presbytera Lisa
Kallis, Fr. Perikles and Presbytera Cassandra
Anas, Alexandros and Tina Apostolakos, John M.
Bechakas, Nick and Gina
Blakeslee, Ronald and Maria
Cervi, Brian and Lea
Couvutsakis, Paul and Linda
Gianiodis, Barbara
Jousma, Thomas and Eline
Koutsandreas, Milton
Kuvshinoff, Boris and Barbara
Mellas, Constantine and Beth
Pavlakis, Peter and Elizabeth
Rossiter, Michael and Ann
Skaros, Nikolaos and Ann
Sufias, Virginia
Vaneas, Angelo A.

Carmel, IN – Holy Trinity
Holy Trinity Parish
Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Holy Trinity Choir

Seat, Tony and Sheri
Simopoulos, Greg and Zoie
Sofianopoulos, Nick and Vickie
Spiridon, Andrew and Michelle
Theohares, Nick and Anne
Torn, Matt
Tridico, Andy and Kristina
Vitsas, Constantine
Vitsas, James, Jonathan, and Vanessa
Vitsas, Sondra
Woodruff, Jim and Cindy
Young, Michael and Helen
Young, Steven and Irene
Zerleralis, Gall

Chattanooga, TN – Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Philoptochos
Annunciation Choir
Ballas, Fr. Stavros and Presbytera Thea
Awala, Berth and Akberel Hadgu
Ballas, Aspasia
Bougdanos, Maria
Bouloukos, Dino and Maria
Dimopoulos, Dennis and Barbara
Dimopoulos, George and Brigitte
Etherton, Wayne and Yolanda
Folidis, Nicky
Fox, Ann
Gulas, Venetia
Hopper, Richard and Chrisi
Hopper, Richard and Chrisi – In Memory of Tom Zaferes
Jones, Helen K.
Kosmidis, Alex
Kouris, George
Mena, Michael
Moore, Trey and Fannie
Mosourakis, John and Donna
Mosourakis, John and Donna – In Memory of Tom Zaferes
Pagnani, Anthony and Irene
Petras, Kathy Maria
Ramsey, Karen
Tigrios, Elias and Sharon
Tolbert, John and Janice
Trotanis, Bill
Vassiliev, Mikhail
Zotos, Alexander and Jennifer

Cincinnati, OH – Holy Trinity – St. Nicholas
Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Holy Trinity – St. Nicholas GOYA
Redmon, Fr. William and Presbytera Elizabeth
Apostolides, Vasso
Assaley, Lewis and Patricia
Beltso, Sam – Price Hill Chili
Brown, William
Carey, Elsefria
Casapicco, Constantin
Fekaris, Steve and Bettie
Ganas, James
George, John and Debbi
Hountalus, Chris
Liadis, Kathleen
Nuechterlein, Lanny and Andria
Phear, William and Sylvia
Power, Edward and Maria
Rafaill, Chris and Angelynn
Shukla, Margaret

Dayton, OH – Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Philoptochos
Emroll, Fr. Mark and Presbytera Ginny
Accu-Grind and Manufacturing Co.
Bambootis, Gail and Eli
Castleman, Maria
Gustin, Eileen
Jannides, Michael
Kakas, Berdi
Moraites, John
Vallassiades, John and Evanthis

Detroit, MI – Annunciation Cathedral
Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos
Annunciation Cathedral Pioneers
Annunciation Cathedral Parish Council
Annunciation Choir
Annunciation Sunday School
Manias, Fr. George and Presbytera Maria
George, Fr. Athanas and Presbytera Jeanne
Bennert, Constance
Bertolis, Savasti
Chenges, Steven
Gagoss, Harry and Irene
Gagoss, Jim and Mary
Gagoss, Mary
Gikis, Mary
Imenpolis, Evelyn
Kazolis, Koula
Lianos, Ethel
Lianos, William and Kim
Panson, Anthony and Julia
Pervanis, Koula
Politis, Dean
Tapaqogiou, Nikolaos and Christine

Elmira, NY – St. Athanasios
St. Athanasios Parish
Scott, Fr. Richard
Greven, Peter

Farmington Hills, MI – Holy Cross
Holy Cross Parish
Holy Cross Philoptochos
Holy Cross GOYA
Hountalos, Fr. Dean and Presbytera Olga
Andris, Theodore and Diane
Anonymous
Anastouris, Constantin and Jeanne
Brock, Angel
Casoglos, Thomas and Mary
Fekaris, Steve and Bettie
Ganas, James
George, John and Debbi
Hountalos, Chris
Liadis, Kathleen
Nuechterlein, Lanny and Andria
Phear, William and Sylvia
Power, Edward and Maria
Rafaill, Chris and Angelynn
Shukla, Margaret

Fort Wayne, IN – Holy Trinity
Collis, Eva
Maggas, Eleftherios and Paraskevi

Stringas, Emanuel
Wright, Duane and Stacy
Zaferes, Patricia J.

Detroit, MI – Annunciation Cathedral
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Annunciation Cathedral Pioneers
Annunciation Cathedral Parish Council
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George, Fr. Athanas and Presbytera Jeanne
Bennert, Constance
Bertolis, Savasti
Chenges, Steven
Gagoss, Harry and Irene
Gagoss, Jim and Mary
Gagoss, Mary
Gikis, Mary
Imenpolis, Evelyn
Kazolis, Koula
Lianos, Ethel
Lianos, William and Kim
Panson, Anthony and Julia
Pervanis, Koula
Politis, Dean
Tapaqogiou, Nikolaos and Christine

Elmira, NY – St. Athanasios
St. Athanasios Parish
Scott, Fr. Richard
Greven, Peter

Farmington Hills, MI – Holy Cross
Holy Cross Parish
Holy Cross Philoptochos
Holy Cross GOYA
Hountalos, Fr. Dean and Presbytera Olga
Andris, Theodore and Diane
Anonymous
Anastouris, Constantin and Jeanne
Brock, Angel
Casoglos, Thomas and Mary
Fekaris, Steve and Bettie
Ganas, James
George, John and Debbi
Hountalos, Chris
Liadis, Kathleen
Nuechterlein, Lanny and Andria
Phear, William and Sylvia
Power, Edward and Maria
Rafaill, Chris and Angelynn
Shukla, Margaret

Fort Wayne, IN – Holy Trinity
Collis, Eva
Maggas, Eleftherios and Paraskevi

Stringas, Emanuel
Wright, Duane and Stacy
Zaferes, Patricia J.

FEBRUARY 2015
New Buffalo, MI –
Annunciation–Agia Paraskevi
Martin, Fr. Paul and Presbytera Nikki
Anton, Gus J.
Kerhoulas, Mike and Louisa
Lepetoniou, Christos and Anastasia
Litneriski, Robert and Mariann
Martin, Doris
Stotis, Bill

Plymouth, MI –
Nativity of the Virgin Mary
Demetriou, Cleo
Randall, Michael and Anne
Stassinis, Lambros and Helen
Takis, Jerry and Mary –
In Memory of Presbytera Angela B. Sarelis
Zervos, George and Lisa

Rochester, NY – Annunciation
Annunciation Philoptochos
Annunciation GOYA
Mot, Fr. Catalin and Presbytera Felicia
Adlan-Breit, Maria
Destounis, Stamatia
Gines, George and Maria
Gkourlias, Athanasios and Jennifer
Hagen, Maria –
In Memory of Dimitris Georgantopoulos
Markakis, Kathryn
Mokhiber, Amiel Jr.
Sanchez, J. Michael and Dorothea
Stathopoulos, Demetrios and Doris
Stefanou, Constantine and Florence

Rochester, NY – Holy Spirit
Holy Spirit Philoptochos
Cowles, Fr. Patrick and Presbytera Mary
Chipouras, Arthur and Christine
Georgantas, Irene
Gesell, Melody
Lyttle, Douglas

Saginaw, MI – St. Demetrios
St. Demetrios Philoptochos
Cook, Fr. Timothy and Presbytera Katherine
Bistolarides, Fr. Peter and Presbytera Peggy
Ahejew, Pelto and Sandra
Bazakis, Andrew and Ann
Caldwell, Larry and Peggy
Economou, Louis and Soula
Kelso, Ronald and Constance
Kokkoolosdes, Gust and Mary
Metropoulos, Katherine
Metropoulos, Pete and Maria
Nichols, Elan
Ostler, Dennis
Rouman, George and Fran
Sirdakos, Effthios and Beverly

Sault Ste. Marie, MI – St. George
Gianakura, Peter and Georgia

Southgate, MI – St. George
St. George Parish
St. George Philoptochos
Cook, Fr. Anthony and Presbytera Elizabeth
Karamanos, Fr. Philemon and Presbytera Helen
Anonymous
Bass, John and Panagiota

Stefanou, Constantine and Florence
Sanchez, J. Michael and Dorothea
Mokhiber, Amiel Jr.
Markakis, Kathryn
Rouman, George and Fran
Ostler, Dennis
Cook, Fr. Anthony and
Presbytera Donna
Bouchounis, Andrew
Ganotis, John
Kantar, Walter and Dorothy
Stero, Dimitri and Kristyna
Theodore, Dorothea
Theodore, Eleanor
Trovato, Diana

Toledo, OH – Holy Trinity Cathedral
Holy Trinity Cathedral Philoptochos
Legakis, Fr. Larry and Presbytera Jennifer
Damoskos, Fr. Aristotle and Presbytera Debbie
Anagnos, Joyce
Ballas, Constantine
Biernacki, Gerald and Pauline
Dedes, George and Mary
Doukides, Panos and Susie
Gangel, Angelo
Lawrence, Dennis and Ekaterene
Mulopulos, George and Ann Papadimos, Steven
Photos, Thomas
Sares, George and Margaret
Sieben, Paul and Susan
Yakumihis, Manuel K.
Zervos, Chris and Kaliko
Zervos, Chris J.

Traverse City, MI –
Archangel Gabriel
Archangel Gabriel Parish
Archangel Gabriel Philoptochos
Strezas, Fr. Ciprian and Presbytera Sinaina
Eady, Ray and Martha
Poumades, Johnnie and Nicola
Psaros, John and Donna
Sobokwski, Nikki
Underwood, Robert and Theresa
Weston, Judith

Troy, MI – St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas Parish
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Dorozenski, Fr. Stratton and Presbytera Denise
Dalamangas, Fr. Chris and Presbytera Niki
Armstt, Steve and Anita
Asher, Michael
Athanas, Aristea
Bollas, Jobel
Bournias, James and Evangelene
Carlson, Chrysa
Chalker, Jess and Patty
Constantine George Pappas
Architecture/Planning
Corombos, Mark and Molly
Crosson, Patrick and Cynthia
Cuscult, Helene
Demery, Beck
Feles, Andrea
Feles, Gust and Anne
Feles, Nicholas and Melanie
Feles, Paul
George, Christian
George, John and Marlo

George, Jordan
Kalkanis, Steven and Laurel
Kardassis, Marie
Karras, Irene
Korstanje, Ingmar and Maria
Kuttich, Anna
Lafter, Mary
Lavarakas, John
Lianonis, Chris and Labrini
Malis, Alexis
Moris, Georgia
Mortis, George and Hionia
Patchas, Angeliki
Shrumbo, Christine
Stotis, Bill
Yanoulaki, Peter
Zampellis, T.K. Family Foundation
Zographos, Mary

Vestal, NY – Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Bahlatzis, Fr. Michael and Presbytera Kimberly
Michalopulos, Presbytera Magdalena
Abdo, Moufli and Anita
Gianakouros, Harry and Katerina
Ivan, James and Lynda

Watertown, NY – St. Vasiliios
St. Vasiliios Parish

Westland, MI –
Sts. Constantine and Helen
Sts. Constantine & Helen Parish
Sts. Constantine & Helen Philoptochos
Petrufl, Fr. Teodor and Presbytera Roxana
Alexander, Alex and Katherine
Angelopoulos, Ioannis and Aspasia
Bogdanos, Connie
Charalambopoulos, Elaine
Chuey, Mark and Jean
Dougekoss, P. Becky
Kasotakis, Paul and Nanette
Livanos, Demetrios and Connie
Oschadleus, William and Georgene
Themelis, John and Domna
Vasilides, Lynne

Other Friends
Ahepa – Omega Chapter #371 –
Grosse Pointe, Michigan
Anonymous
Bartz, Presbytera Zofera
Demetris, Olga
Duro, Christian
Gabriel, Jerry and Katie
Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (MEFOOX)
Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos
Palmieri, Tony and Lisa
Pappas, Martha
Radulescu, Deacon Alexandru and Diana Sllsava

Thank you all!
To our Friends:

With our hearts lifted high, we thank you for the abundant goodness shown to the Metropolis of Detroit. Because of your generous gifts to Friends of the Metropolis and to His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, our Metropolis remains financially strong, secure, stable and able to grow God's vineyard. To all our supporters of Friends we extend the following verse:

Numbers 6:24-26:
The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace. Amen

As we look forward to the coming year, let us take this opportunity to encourage all Orthodox faithful prayerfully consider becoming a Friend. The Friends of the Metropolis Campaign is ongoing with a robust concentration in the months of September, October, November and December!

In His service,
Chrisi Hopper and Donna Mousourakis
Friends of the Metropolis Chairs and Metropolis Council Members

Happy New Year!

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Chrisi Hopper and Donna Mousourakis
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Happy New Year!