A nnunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Chicago

THE MESSENGER

Summer

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

2016



A heavenly song of praise is chanted radiantly upon the earth; the company of Angels now joyfully celebrateth an earthly festival, and from on high with hymns they praise thy contests, and from below the Church doth proclaim the Heavenly glory which thou hast found by thy labors and struggles, O glorious Phanourios.

~Apolytikion of St. Phanourios

The Messenger
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Annunciation Greek Orthodox
Cathedral of Chicago

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Like us on Facebook & Instagram!

Sunday Services: Orthros 8:15 a.m. with Divine Liturgy to follow

CLERGY

His Eminence Metropolitan lakovos of Chicago His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos

Fr. Stamatios G. Sfikas......Cathedral Dean Fr. Nicholas Nikokavouras......Dean Emeritus

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS

Nicholas Hlis	President
Dean Alonistiotis	Vice-President
George Alonistiotis	Secretary
Jonathon Bacon	Treasurer

AUXILIARY OFFICES

Demetra Knoch......Ladies Philoptochos
Ellen Best Zrazik, Faye Peoponis & Connie MarinakisStewardship Committee
Taso Devetzis.....Internet & Technology Director

STAFF

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Nicholas Gavaris	Chanter
Pangratis Papacostas	Chanter
Demetri Damaskus	Chanter
Myron Chornomaz	Chanter
George George	Choir Director
Debbie Demolaris	Organist
Constantine Stade	Parish Administrator
Panagiotis Rogaris	Neokoros

PROGRAMS

Fr. Stamatios Sfikas	Altar Boys
Polyxeni Kapsalis	Sunday School Director
Fr. Stamatios Sfikas	Adult Religious Education
Pres. Katerina Sfikas	Mommy and Me
Stephanie Meletis	Young Adults
Georgia Gavaris	Metropolis Feed the Hungry

How One-Sided We Are!

Have we ever thought how one-sided our attitude to God is? We expect God to be attentive to our every need, to answer every prayer instantly, to recognize and reward immediately our every good deed. Yet how many of us are alert and attentive to God's presence and power in our lives? How many times a day do we think of Him and enter into his presence?

As Basil Pennington (a Trappist monk and Priest) says, "God is present to us from the very first instant that he calls us into being—and thenceforth forever! He touches us at every point and level of our being. He is present to us. But are we present to Him?"

Prayer is so simple
It is like quietly opening a door
And slipping into the very presence
of God.
There in the stillness
To listen to His voice,
Perhaps to petition,
Or only to listen;
It matters not
Just to be there in
His presence
Is prayer.

~From Daily Vitamins for Spiritual Growth, Vol 1

WISDOM OF THE CHURCH FATHERS

Be ashamed when you sin, don't be ashamed when you repent. There two things: sin and repentance. Sin is the wound, repentance is the medicine. Sin is followed by shame; repentance is followed by boldness. Satan has overturned this order and given boldness to sin and shame to repentance

—Saint John Chysostom



FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAMATI

Beloved Stewards and Friends!

Once again the summer months have quickly passed and we begin planning for our upcoming, busy fall schedules. At this point, more than six months of our year of 2016 have passed, making it the perfect point to pause for reflection on our accomplishments as well as plan for its successful conclusion.

This summer we hosted a successful Greek Festival. Our Lord blessed us with three glorious days and an abundance of people who visited our parish. I extend my paternal love to ALL who helped through their labors and/or donations to this year's festival! We cannot do anything on our own but only through the collective efforts and love of each of our stewards—this was truly seen by all!

This month, August, we are able to celebrate once again the most beautiful Summer Pascha, that is the feast of the Panagias Falling Asleep. I invite each of you to take this day, August 15th and celebrate with your parish family at the Cathedral. Through the generosity of one of our stewards, we have been gifted an Epitaphion of the Panagias Dormition and each of us in attendance will have the opportunity to venerate it and also be anointed with the oil lamp that will burn in the kouvouklion. This is truly a blessing for our community, which is dedicated to the Theotokos, but more importantly to us as her children.

Looking to the future, this fall we continue to grow our ministries at the Cathedral! After much planning and many discussions, we are pleased to have the opportunity to offer Greek Language Courses to the youth (K-6). Please spread the word and visit our website for more information. In addition, we will be launching an Adult Greek Class, which will be added to the curriculum in October as well!

Lastly, in addition to our quarterly family nights we will begin a HOPE and JOY Group for the children of our community this fall as well. We are extremely excited to continue welcoming all of the new families who have been attending throughout the year and we pray this new ministry will continue to bond us together as one Orthodox family.

Growth is not an overnight achievement nor do we ever stop growing physically, emotionally and spiritually. It is a constant struggle that we all work at to achieve, but through each of our efforts and through the love and guidance of our Panagia who watches over our community all things will become a reality.

May you enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to greeting you all personally in the coming weeks!

+Fr. Stamati

Cathedral Life in Pictures!





















A MESSAGE FROM A LONG TIME STEWARD

Stewardship - A Sacred Trust

We are, by our baptism, introduced into the Church. As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to understand that everything we are and everything we have comes from God as an unequivocal gift of His love.

God's love gave us the incarnated Jesus Christ so that mankind could be restored into full communion with Him. We are called to actualize that love in our lives by a total response to the great commandment of Christ; to love God with all our heart and soul and mind and to love our our fellow man as ourselves. We are called to respond to God's love by perfecting and magnifying His love through a husbanding of His world, His creatures and His Holy Church.

The Church is the entire Body of Christ; all of us, living and dead, all of our hierarchy and priesthood, all of our temples of worship, all of our ministries of teaching, healing and outreach. The Church's witness to the world and her institutions are ours to manage, protect and expand — to cherish and transmit to future generations the Orthodox Christian heritage which has been entrusted to us as stewards of the Kingdom of God.

To fervently believe in the mission of the Church of Christ is to give with love of our valued treasure, our finite time. and our perfected talents. It is such giving to His Church that is synonymous with love, and love is the inherent element of Christianity. Simply put then, stewardship is the loving return from the first fruits of the manifold blessing He has bestowed upon us.

Harold A. Peponis Annunciation Cathedral Steward

STEWARDSHIP STATISTICS AS OF AUGUST 1st 2016

2016 Stewardship Goal: \$120,000

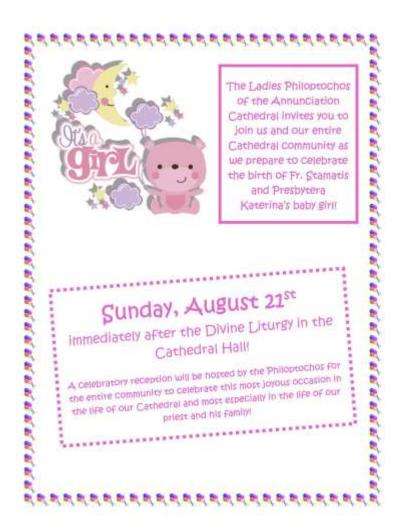
Amount still needed to reach 2016 goal: \$24,022

175 families have pledged

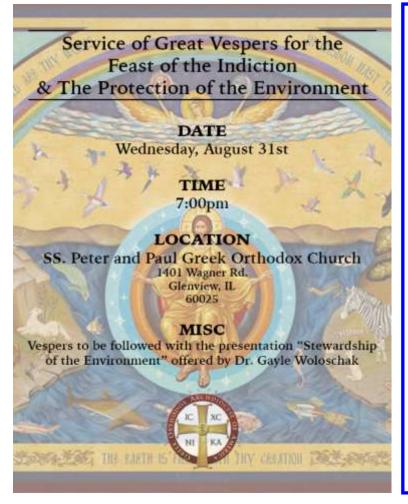
We have about 300 families as registered stewards which means that 125 families of the Cathedral have not yet paid or pledged for 2016...Please make your pledge today!

Pledged Amount: \$95,978.00

Average pledge of the 175 families combined \$548.00









Become an Altar Boy of the Cathedral!

All boys and young men are welcome to join Fr. Stamati in the Holy Altar every Sunday morning for Divine Services.

If you wish to have your children or

grandchildren become part of this ministry of our church please contact Fr. Stamati.

Welcome Back Kick off celebration Saturday, September 24th 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral! Pizza, Pop, Fellowship!

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL GREEK SCHOOL

With great excitement we announce the opening of a Saturday branch Greek School Program!

Classes will meet September 17 - May 20 at the Cathedral on Saturday morning from 20:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Grades K-6

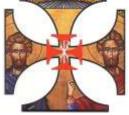


Registration material may be found online or in the Cathedral office!

For information about the program please contact the Cathedral office 312-664-5485

We ask that you register your children today so that we may plan accordingly for the year!

Upcoming Events Output Description:



The Ladies Philoptochos invites all our stewards and friends to join them at the upcoming events:

Sunday, August 21st
 Baby Celebration in honor of Presbytera Katerina

Saturday, September 24
 Carlisle Banquets

 Annual Metropolis Ladies Philoptochos Luncheon

Thursday, December 15
 Athena Greek Restaurant

 Annual Cathedral Philoptochos and Family
 Christmas Party

Join the Philanthropic Endeavors of our Philoptochos by becoming a steward of the Cathedral Philoptochos!

All ladies 18 and up are encouraged to join!

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL PARISH VISIT TO THE ICON OF ST. JOHN AT ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH HOMER GLENN, IL



Saturday, September 3

Departing from the Cathedral at 11:30 a.m. via bus

The icon upon the iconostasis of the Assumption parish has been streaming oil for over a year and many who have visited and been anointed with this holy oil have been healed.

Please take your family and friends and join us for a spiritual journey!

Seating is limited - please call the Cathedral office to reserve your seats 312-664-5485



2016 Stewards of the Cathedral

As of August 10, 2016

Mrs. Kay Adams

Mr. & Mrs. Agamemnon & Athanasia Alonistiotis

Mr. George Alonistiotis

Mr. Konstantine Alonistiotis & Mrs. Lia Skandamis

Ms. Aphrodite Angelakos

Ms. Betty Angelos

Mr. & Mrs. Peter & Kathy Apostal

Mr. James Ascot Ms. Lucille Ashford Miss Jayna Athas

Mr. & Mrs. Leo & Elaine Athas

Mr. Constantine Bacil Mr. Jonathan Bacon Mrs. Eleni Badounas Ms. Erini Balanis

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur & Nancy Balourdos

Mrs. Sophia Balourdos

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Basoukeas

Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Marina Beckley

Mr. Peter Best

Mr. Hossein Biglari & Mrs. Eleftheria Pashos

Mr. & Mrs. Dimitris & Eleni Bousis

Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Brown

Mr. Brian Bullard & Mrs. Kassandra Kocoshis

Mrs. Bertha Capulos

Mr. Anastasios Chatzakis & Dr. Alexandra Rodri-

guez-Senior

Mr. Bogen Chi & Mrs. Nicole Wood Chi Mr. & Mrs. James & Stella Chingas

Mr. Myron Chornomaz

Mrs. Rita Christie

Mr. & Mrs. Dean & Marika Christopher Mr. & Mrs. Angelos & Maria Christopoulos

Ms. Evangeline Dallas

Mr. & Mrs. Angelos & Debbie Damolaris Mr. & Mrs. George & Christina Daratzis

Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Rose Decker

Mr. Taso Devetzis Ms. Georgette Diamos

Suzan Dihu & James Jahangani Messrs. Tom and Gust Dimoulias

Mrs. Frances Douros

Mr. & Mrs. Nick & Rea Festos

Mr. Markus Fimpel & Mrs. Marina Provatas

Ms. Cassandra Flambouras

Mr. & Mrs. Spiros & Mary Gabriel

Eleni Garbes

Ms. Georgia Gavaris

Mr. Nicholas Gavaris

Ms. Panagiota Gavaris

Mr. & Mrs. George & Helen George

Thomas Ginnakakis, Mr. & Miss Tara McDonald

Mr. & Mrs. Frank & Anastasia Glapa

Ms. Evangeline Gouletas

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Gouletas

Mr. & Mrs. George & Shari Haldes

Miss Krista Haldes

Joelle Hallack & Joseph Arnold

Mr. Michael Hlis

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas & Denisse Hlis

Ms. Susan Homan Miss Marilena Jani

Dr. & Mrs. John & Maria Jonihakis

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory & Paula Kachoris

Mrs. Anastasia Kakis

Mr. & Mrs. Evan & Elaine Kakis

Ms. Georgia Kakis

Ms. Patricia Kamberos

Mrs. Anne Kangles

Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Periklia Kapsalis

Mr. Konstantinos Karahalios

Mr. & Mrs. Nikitas & Vasiliki Karahalios

Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy & Elizabeth Karalis

Mr. & Mrs. Sophocles & Elena Karapas

Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Diana Karis

Mr. Ken Karl & Mrs. Victoria Hallock

Mrs. Mia Kasimos Mrs. Beatrice Kay

Mr. & Mrs. Constantine & Angeline Kiamos

Mrs. Anna Kioutas Ms. Dimitra Knoch

Dr. & Mrs. Thomas & Alexandra Kocoshis

Mr. & Mrs. Louis & Irene Kocsis

Mr. Evangel Kokkino Ms. Angela Kolettis

Mr. & Mrs. Christos & Anastasia Komissopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Cleo Kontoyannis

Mr. & Mrs. John & Joanne Koudounis Mrs. Penelope Kyriakopoulos

Mr. James Lemonides & Mrs. Priscilla Dixon

Ms. Joanne Linas-Paris Mr. Nicholas Litsos & Mrs. Catherine Balourdos Litsos Mrs. Sylvia Litsos Mr. & Mrs. Angelo & Ursula Loukas Mr. & Mrs. John & Helen Manos Mr. Peter Margetis Mr. & Mrs. Christ & Constance Marinakis Mr. Constantine Megremis Mr. & Mrs. George & Anna Melanis Ms. Stephanie Meletis Mr. & Mrs. Christos & Marianna Memmos Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios & Spiridoula Memmos Mrs. Georgia Menegas Ms. Demetra Merikas Mrs. Margaret Merikas Ms. Pauline Michael Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas & Lena Milissis Mrs. Bessie Miologos Mr. John Miologos Mr. Kevin Miologos Mr. & Mrs. Ted & Liz Mitsakopoulos Mr. & Mrs. Nathan & Evangelia Nelson Mr. John Nenos Mr. & Mrs. Iraklis & Debbie Nikokavouras Rev. Fr. and Presbytera Nicholas & Kalliope Nikokavouras Mr. Marian Otil & Ms. Perri Miologos Mr. & Mrs. Gus & Gail Pablecas Ms. Georgia Page Mr. & Mrs. Louis & Lisa Palivos Mr. Michael Panagos Dr. Irene Panayotou Mr. John Pangere Mr. Pangratios Papacosta Ms. Elizabeth Papadakos Dr. George Papadantonakis & Mrs. Vasiliki Dara Mr. Anthony Papagikos Ms. Mary Pappas Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios & Melpomeni Pappas Mr. & Mrs. Sean & Sofia Patton Mr. Arthur H Peponis, II Ms. Catherine Peponis Mr. & Mrs. Harold & Faye Peponis

Mrs. Marina Phelps

Mr. Nicholas Pipikios

Miss Marina Pitsilos & Mr. Josh Jarosz

Mr. Antonios Poulakos & Miss Natalie Mazzarella Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Elena Poulos Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Brit Poulos Mr. & Mrs. Nick & Georgia Poulos Mr. Peter Poulos Mrs. Zoe Rummel Mr. & Mrs. Stavros & Katerina Salapatas Mr. Theodoros Sdoukos Ms. Victoria Sdoukos Mr. & Mrs. John & Mary Secares Fr. and Presbytera Stamati & Katerina Sfikas Mr. & Mrs. Eleftherios & Niki Shinas Mr. & Mrs. Konstantin & Cathy Skandamis Mr. & Mrs. Brad & Stephanie Skelley Ms. Katherine Skontos Mr. Peter Soukaras & Mrs. Caroline Pappas Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Barbara Stavropoulos Dr. & Mrs. Nicholas Svarnias Mr. & Mrs. Tony & Dorothy Theodosis Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas & Anastasia Therman Mr. John Thomas Mr. Gregory Thorson Ms. Evangelia Travlos Mrs. Artemis Trebellas Dr. & Mrs. George & Cynthia Tsatsos Mr. Anthony Tzemopoulos & Miss Ginger Lapietra Mr. George Tzemopoulos Mr. & Mrs. Nick & Sophia Tzoumas Mr. & Mrs. Isidoros & Jacqueline Brown Vardaros Mr. Panos Varfis & Ms. Iryna Manko Mses. Themi & Theodora Vasils Mr. Anastasios Vassiliadis & Miss Barbara Matthopoulos Ms. Esther Velis Ms. Suzanne Velonis Mr. John Volpe & Miss Lara Georgis Mr. & Mrs. William Vranas Ms. Courtney Coorlas Welch & John Michael Grimes Mr. & Mrs. William & Anna Welch, II Ms. Peggy Zimmar Mr. Greg Zrazik & Mrs. Ellen Best Is your name missing? Become a Steward of the Cathedral Today and begin to grow with us in faith, love and Christ!

It is never too late to accept the challenge

of offering your stewardship to YOUR

Church for her continued growth!

Mr. & Mrs. George & Jean Polous

1 Σεπτεμβρίου....το Νέο Εκκλησιαστικό Έτος

Η 1η Σεπτεμβρίου καθορίστηκε ως αρχή της εκκλησιαστικής χρονιάς ως εξής:

Στην περιοχή της Ανατολής τα περισσότερα ημερολόγια είχαν ως πρωτοχρονιά την 24η Σεπτεμβρίου, ημέρα της φθινοπωρινής ισημερίας.

Επειδή όμως η 23η ήταν η γενέθλια ημέρα του αυτοκράτορα της Ρώμης Οκταβιανού (Γεννήθηκε στη Ρώμη στις 23 Σεπτεμβρίου του 63 π.Χ.) η πρωτοχρονιά μετατέθηκε στις 23 Σεπτεμβρίου, η οποία και καθορίστηκε ως αρχή της Ινδίκτου, δηλαδή της περιόδου του ρωμαϊκού διατάγματος για τον φόρο που ίσχυε για 15 έτη.

Αυτή την Πρωτοχρονιά, δηλαδή 23 Σεπτεμβρίου, βρήκε η Εκκλησία και της έδωσε χριστιανικό περιεχόμενο, αφού τοποθέτησε σ' αυτήν την εορτή της συλλήψεως του Προδρόμου, που αποτελεί και το πρώτο γεγονός της Ευαγγελικής Ιστορίας.

Αργότερα, το 462 μ.Χ., για πρακτικούς λόγους και για να συμπίπτει η πρώτη του έτους με την πρώτη του μηνός, η εκκλησιαστική πρωτοχρονιά μετατέθηκε την 1η Σεπτεμβρίου.

Διευκρινίζεται ότι η πρωτοχρονιά της 1ης Ιανουαρίου έχει Ρωμαϊκή προέλευση και ήρθε στην Ορθόδοξη Ανατολή κατά τα νεότερα χρόνια.

Η Εκκλησία υιοθέτησε αυτό το σύστημα μέτρησης του χρόνου και μετρούσε τα έτη με τίς Ινδικτους. Έτσι το Εκκλησιαστικό έτος άρχιζε την 1η Σεπτεμβρίου με Πατριαρχική Θεία Λειτουργία και ιδιαίτερη Ιερά Παράκληση, ώστε να ευλογήσει ο Θεός τον καινούριο χρόνο.

Με τον καιρό ορίστηκαν δύο είδη Ινδίκτου:

Η Καισαρική, δηλαδή η παλαιά ρωμαϊκή πού άρχιζε την 1η Σεπτεμβρίου και την οποία συνέχισε το Βυζάντιο, και η Παπική, η οποία άρχιζε στίς 25 Δεκεμβρίου και αργότερα την 1η Ιανουαρίου.

Στη Δύση σιγά-σιγά επικράτησε ως αρχή του νέου έτους η 1η Ιανουαρίου, ενώ στην Ανατολή είχε παραμείνει η 1η Σεπτεμβρίου.

Αυτός είναι και ο λόγος που η πρώτη Σεπτεμβρίου παρέμεινε μέχρι και σήμερα η αρχή του Εκκλησιαστικού έτους, δηλαδή: Η Εκκλησιαστική Πρωτοχρονιά.

Ας ευχηθούμε λοιπόν η νέα εκκλησιαστική χρονιά να είναι ευλογημένη και να πλημμυρίσει τις καρδιές των ανθρώπων από καρπούς της ειρήνης, της αγάπης, της αλληλεγγύης, της φιλαλληλίας, και γενικά από καρπούς ανθρωπιάς και πολιτισμού.

~Απόσπασμα του Νίκου Φλεμετάκη

Liturgical Calendar

8:30 a.m. – Orthros and Divine Liturgy August 15 +The Dormition of the Theotokos August 16 8:30 a.m. Orthros and Divine Liturgy +Feast of St. Stamatios August 29 8:30 a.m. – Orthros and Divine Liturgy +The Beheading of St. John the Baptist +Strict Fasting Day September 8 8:30 a.m. – Orthros and Divine Liturgy +Nativity of the Theotokos September 14 8:30 a.m. Orthros and Divine Liturgy +Feast of the Holy Cross September 15 8:30 a.m. - Orthros and Divine Liturgy +Feast of St. Nikitas & Anniversary to the Ordination of Fr. Stamati September 17 8:30 a.m. - Orthros and Divine Liturgy +Feast of St. Sophia and her daughters 8:30 a.m. - Orthros and Divine Liturgy September 26 +The Falling Asleep of St. John the Theologian October 20 8:30 a.m. - Orthros and Divine Liturgy +Feast of St. Artemios and St. Gerasimos October 26 8:30 a.m. - Orthros and Divine Liturgy at St. Demetrios Church, Chicago +Feast of St. Demetrios October 28 8:30 a.m. – Orthros and Divine Liturgy +Feast of the Agia Skepe







Annunciation Greek Orthodox
Cathedral of Chicago
The Messenger
1017 North LaSalle Drive
Chicago, IL 60610

We are preparing to celebrate our 125th year of ministry!

Save the date for our Big Gala Celebration!

Sunday, October 29, 2017

More info to follow soon!