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# THE VOICE

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church



December 2014

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## October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month



*In honor and memory of friends and family with breast cancer the people above, standing, wore Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.*



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
DECEMBER 25TH

# Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

8210 Cypress Lake Drive ~ Fort Myers, Florida 33919-5116

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Fr. Dean's cell: (239) 322-7553 email: [revfrdean@gmail.com](mailto:revfrdean@gmail.com)

[www.annunciation.fl.goarch.org](http://www.annunciation.fl.goarch.org)

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**Rev. Fr. Dean Nastos, Proistamenos**

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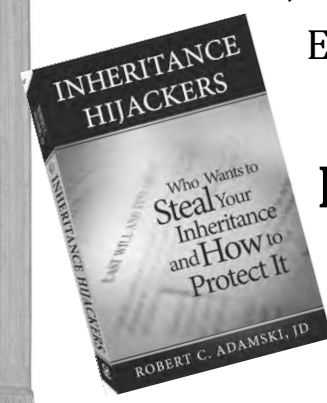
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## From the Desk of Our Proistamenos...

DECEMBER 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*“Come, O faithful, and let us behold where Christ is born...”*  
Hymn from Nativity Orthros

Humankind is constantly on the move – journeying! Wandering in all directions. Moving in the direction of war, peace, life and death. Ascending mountains, roaming through plains, and traveling in space. Moving around here and there.

There is one particular journey that will remain in history. It is that which the Church celebrates on Christmas Day - the journey of the 3 Wise Men. The desire for the Wise Men to come before Jesus Christ! With a burning desire in their soul, an eager heart, and with their minds full of questions, they moved forward day and night, over mountains and through the valleys to find the truth. Guided by a bright star, they sought to find the “*sun of righteousness*” - the Savior of the world Who gives joy and eternal light.

In a poor cave they found what they had been searching for, they found God resting among the animals. Among the shepherds they experienced an inexpressible joy. Before the Virgin Mary they discovered the meaning of through whom eternal life would come from. Having traveled with faith, humility, and love, the Wise Men found the priceless treasure, Christ the Lord!

Christ traveled from heaven to earth to save us. If we move from earth to heaven, we can truly be saved. This is our journey in life. Be cautious, however - a journey that does not pass through Bethlehem, in other words, does not experience the truth and the light of Christ, will never arrive in heaven.

May He Who was born in a cave for our salvation bless the coming New Year and fill your life with every hope and desire.

In Christ’s Service,

*Fr. Dean*

## A Message from the President , Nick Karras

As we approach the Christmas holiday season, we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We must always remember to keep Christ in Christmas.

This past year has been quite an eventful and productive year with many new events. The near completion of our office, hall and classroom project is very exciting. It is also a major accomplishment for our Annunciation parish that we all should be very proud to be part of. Our Sunday school class size has grown to over seventy students which means that our parish is growing at a fast pace.

We, under the leadership of Father Dean, have instituted new ministries and many new fund raisers. We must realize that stewardship and fundraising are vital to the survival and expansion of our Annunciation parish. I understand, at times, this seems overbearing. Please, try to understand and contribute not only financially but also, your time, effort and talents are needed. Let's all be one Annunciation family...working together, getting along with one another and keeping peace throughout our community.

The LPS has done a great job with their hard-working efforts through out the year, as well. They not only donated to the needy over 120 turkeys, but also have supported many other charities. Well done ladies and thank you very much. Keep up all your hard work. It is greatly appreciated!

I am proud to see the youth groups...Sunday school, Goya and dance troupes growing rapidly and moving toward a good positive Christian foundation. Thank you to all the adult directors for your timeless efforts.

With the coming of the New Year-St. Basil, we are planning events including our annual formal dinner dance scheduled for January 17, 2015. Please save the date and help support this beautiful event. Of course, our largest event coming up is Greek Fest, along with the second largest fund raiser for our community, the 10th Annual Car Raffle which supports the building fund. My wife and I are asking for each and everyone to please take car raffle tickets and reach out to your family, friends, doctors, beauticians, neighbors, etc. Another fun filled event is our Golf Tournament in April. Without all of your support, volunteering and hard work, none of these events would be successful. So please step up and support all of them.

I would like to take this time to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed Happy New Year from myself and the entire, hard working, Parish Council along with the leadership of our Father Dean.

In the Lord's Service I remain your faithful servant,

*Nick Karras*

**Parish Council President**




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## Stewardship by Michael B. Peceri

*"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another,  
 as good stewards of God's varied grace."*

--I Peter 4:10

After the weekly collection was taken in Church a small child whispered to her mother, "Mommy how do they get the money that is collected up to heaven?" The mother paused for a moment on how to best answer her young daughter's question and then replied, "The Church doesn't send the money to heaven, but uses it to bring heaven down to us." That mother could not have given a better answer. For the purpose of the Church is to get God's heaven into each of us.

How often do, we as Stewards of our Church, pause to ponder our pledge as a vehicle to bring "heaven down to us." As dutiful Stewards of our Church we turn our annual pledge into gifts of cash contributions either on a weekly or monthly basis. But, do we really stop to think about that weekly or monthly gift truly is the vehicle that "brings heaven down to us?" Jesus said, *"The Kingdom of God is within you."* If the Kingdom of God is within each of us then that indeed is the spiritual experience of having heaven brought down to us. It is a feeling each of us experience in our own personal way and that experience is nurtured by the Ministries of our Church and our Orthodox faith.

Stewardship is not a program or an appeal. It is and should be a way of life that translates into the support of the Ministries of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. These Ministries shape our spiritual world and ourselves in such a way that we can experience God's grace, love and communion in the present. A Church is not mortar and bricks but rather a meeting place for the faithful to gather and drink from the cup of Life. Christ said, *"... whoever drinks from the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* (John 4:14) The Annunciation Stewardship program that supports the Ministries of the Annunciation provides the "water" so that the faithful who are part of our beloved Church family may experience the joy of Jesus Christ and His promised blessings.


We are coming to the end of the 2014 Stewardship pledge year. Please take the time to review your giving for the past ten months to ensure you will be able to fulfill your 2014 pledge.

In the service of our Lord,

*Michael B. Peceri,*  
 Parish Council  
 Stewardship Chair

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# ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

## 2014 STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM PLEDGES

This listing contains the names of those Stewards of the Church who have signed the, blue, pledge cards for 2014. Pledge cards are available in the Church Narthex or Church office. If you feel your name has been omitted please contact: Kelsie Gregware, Administrative Assistant in the Church Office (481-2099) or Michael Peceri, Stewardship Committee Chairman.

Jimmy & Jennifer Achkar	Constantinos & Barbara	Charles Johnson
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Dr. Paula Apostolou	Jurijus & Rita Dukinas	George & Dorothy Kantarze
James & Katie Avtges	Charles Eliopoulos	Effie Kapetan
Dr. Andrew & Jen-Hope Belis	Niki Fagerline	Elizabeth (Bess) Karabetsos
Athena Belis	Robert & Aileen Fenton	Jimmy & Despina Karras
Vassiliki & Joel Berends	Athena K. Fisk	Nick & Stella Karras
Angelo Bitsis	Anastasia Frangakis	Apostolos Karydas
Golfo Bitsis	Helen & Tom Gallian	William & Sophia Katsaris
George & Tracie Blake	John & Arlene Generales	Marianthi Kazakos
Joseph Boisvert	Joyce Gladis	Dale & Helen Keating
Dr. Theodor & Dorothy Bonstedt	Mary Sue Gladis	Richard & Barbara Keene
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Lois Colagrossi	Richard & Matia Hawks	Nicholas & Penelope Kontinos
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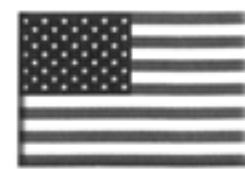
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STEWARDSHIP DATA

<p><b><u>Total Stewardship Pledged:</u></b> \$138,644(as of November 9th, 2014)</p> <p><b><u>How many possible Stewards:</u></b> 296</p> <p><b><u>Total # of Stewards Pledged:</u></b> 211</p>	<p><b><u>2014 Stewardship Goal:</u></b> \$200,000</p> <p><b><u>Total amount given (recorded):</u></b> \$109,113 November 9th, 2014.</p> <p>Some of this charged to Stewardship but given by Parishioners who have not signed Pledge Cards.</p>
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# Greek Fest 2015 by Jen-Hope Belis

Save the Dates for February 20, 21 & 22!

**DO YOU WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED???** We would love to have you! There are holes that we need to fill and would love to see new faces get more involved with the planning. Please let Jen-Hope Belis know at [jhbelis@yahoo.com](mailto:jhbelis@yahoo.com)

### SPONSORS:

Carolyn Nastos and Jennifer Achkar are leading the sponsorship committee along with Dessi Karras, Angelika Youngblood, Phyllis Mino. This committee is bringing in new sponsors daily! If YOU or a business you know are interested in sponsoring the Greek Fest, please contact them at [officeagoc@gmail.com](mailto:officeagoc@gmail.com)

### VOLUNTEERS:

NEW THIS YEAR...we are hoping to have all our volunteers SIGN UP ONLINE! This will ensure we have correct emails & phone #s. In addition, the system has a great email tool to do reminders and other confirmations. This will also allow high school, college, parishioners, & non-parishioners to sign up and see what is available since the online tool does limit the number of people at each station per shift.

Online Volunteer Registration is at:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4da4a92caaf49-greek>



### GREEK FEST SHIRTS ARE IN!

We will be selling them in the church hall during Fellowship Hour for \$10 each. There are 2 designs this year to choose from so pick your favorite and buy one. Or if you can't decide, buy them both!

**\$1 CASH RAFFLE TICKETS** make wonderful stocking stuffers. See Tina Kucera to buy yours today!

Tom Haley & Jen-Hope Belis took a day trip up to Tarpon Springs to meet with Greek Boys and tour the Hellas Bakery.



Continued on next page

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- Aegean Cashier Co-Leads
- Aegean Server Co-Leads
- Bakery Outside Co-Leads
- Bakery Inside
- Bakery Prep
- Bank
- Dining Tent Lead
- Greek Coffee & Frappe
- Lamb Spit
- Loukoumades Co-Lead
- Parking
- Pepsi & Coffee
- Saganaki
- Security
- Taverna
- Yassou Co-Leads
- Yassou Cashier

- Phyllis Mino
- Don Headley
- Marlene Haley & Mary Sue Chupak
- Lanette Howard & Maria Mourgis
- Olympia Ruppe & Rana Levenderis
- Virginia Headley
- Panos Klentzeris
- Tom Kontinos
- OPEN
- Barbara & Costa Dionysopoulos
- George & Dottie Kantarze
- George Skaff & Pam Strikis
- OPEN
- Marina McCarthy
- OPEN
- Jen-Hope Belis
- Joe Gibson
- Jay Johnson & Fr. John Howard
- Helen Nicolaides



*"There's a better way...find it." - Thomas A. Edison*

04/01/2015



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10/01/2015

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08/01/2015

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08/01/2015



Congratulations to our Elizabeth Anna Kubiak, who will graduate Magna Cum Laude, with a Bachelor of Arts, Education, from University of South Florida on Dec. 13th, 2014. Liz has already secured a teaching position with Williams IB Middle Magnet School in Tampa, where she will be teaching math. We are so proud and thrilled for her! Congratulations, and we love you so, Lizzy!

*Love, Mom, Dad, Sam and Gabby*

08/01/2015

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08/01/2015

## Hospital Visitations

Not only is the spiritual health of our members important but also their physical health. When a member enters into the Hospital it is important that Fr. Dean be notified. If a member himself/herself is entering the Hospital (at least over night), he/she should contact Fr. Dean beforehand if they know the day they will be entering. If a family member is entering the Hospital (at least over night), another family member should contact Fr. Dean beforehand if they know the day they will be entering. Obviously, in the case of an emergency, Fr. Dean should be notified immediately. Hospitals today no longer notify the Parish when a member enters into the Hospital. So, if someone is in the Hospital and Fr. Dean is NOT notified, don't blame him for not coming to see that member. Remember, Fr. Dean's ESP has been down for years.

## The Conception of Theotokos



Today, the ninth of December, the Orthodox Church celebrates the feast of the conception of the Virgin Mary by her parents Joachim and Anna. On this major festival which finds its place in the Church's preparation for Christmas, the faithful rejoice in the event by which Mary is conceived in fulfillment of her parents' prayers in order to be formed in the womb, born on the earth, dedicated to the Lord, and nurtured in holiness to become by God's grace the mother of His Son the Messiah.

The Orthodox Church, particularly in the present time, does not call the feast of Mary's beginning the "immaculate conception," although perhaps in ancient times this title would have been fully acceptable. This is not because the Orthodox consider Mary's conception to have been somehow "maculate" or "stained" (macula means "stain" in Latin). It simply means that the Orthodox do not want to

support the conviction that God had somehow to intervene at the moment of Mary's conception with a special action to remove the "stain" of the original sin transmitted by the act of human reproduction because, simply put, the Orthodox do not hold that such a "stain" exists.

The Orthodox Church affirms original sin. Orthodox theology teaches that all human beings, including the Virgin Mary who is a "mere human" like the rest of us— unlike her Son Jesus who is a "real human" but not a "mere human" because He is the incarnate Son and Word of God — are born into a fallen, death-bound, demon-riddled world whose "form is passing away" (1 Cor. 7:31). We are all born mortal and tending toward sin. But we are not born guilty of any personal sin, certainly not one allegedly committed "in Adam." Nor are we born stained because of the manner in which we are conceived by the sexual union of our parents. If sexual union in marriage is any sense sinful, or the cause in itself of any sinfulness or stain, even in the conditions of the "fallen world," then, as even the rigorous Saint John Chrysostom has taught, God is the sinner because He made us this way, male and female, from the very beginning.

Mary is conceived by her parents as we are all conceived. But in her case it is a pure act of faith and love, in obedience to God's will, as an answer to prayer. In this sense her conception is truly "immaculate." And its fruit is the woman who remains forever the most pure Virgin and Mother of God.

## ***A Little Taste of Greece—by Carol Palatine***

### **Needless to say the Little Taste of Greece was truly a Success!**

The food was prepared by our friend John Pappas from Clearwater, Florida who not only donated his time and great cooking but introduced us to GREEK FRIES! We hope to see the Greek Fries again in February at Greek Fest 2015. Volunteers were numerous and did a great job cleaning table and assisting guests to their tables and needs. Thank you all for a job well done. We made a profit of \$11,263.27 for two days.! Hard work, endless hours, but in the end, well worth it. Thank you again team Maria, Carol, and Presbyter for a job well done. Next year, we will do it again. Volunteer and get involved, we need your help.



## ***Hellenic-American Social Club of S.W. Florida, Inc. By Ann Constan***

As we end the year 2014, we reflect on all the fun times with friends that we've shared, and realize how much we have to be thankful for. What a great year we had: picnics, trips, parties, Broadway Palm Dinner Theater, concerts, special speakers at our meetings, and now - so many more events and good times of sharing coming our way.

Our Annual Christmas Dinner Party is being held this year on December 9th at Marker 92 at Tarpon Point Marina in Cape Coral. This should prove to be a very special event with the Club subsidizing a portion of each member's cost. Our chair, Phyllis Mino, has been very diligent in arranging this fun evening for us, and we will finish it off with a collection from each member for a "Toy for Tots."

On the heels of this evening is a day trip to the Orlando area to hear the "Singing Christmas Trees" on Saturday, December 13th. We will all board special leased vans from our Church parking area at 8:30 a.m., stop en route for lunch, maybe some shopping, and arrive at the venue in time for the 3:00 p.m. show. Maybe, if not too tired, we may stop on the way home for a bite to eat. Another fun, fun day with friends to kick off our Christmas season.

Many special events are in the works for next year and we hope you will save the dates and look for up-dated information in the Sunday Bulletins. We have a trip planned to the "Holy Land" in Orlando on January 20, 2015. The cost will depend on the number of attendees - a significant discount is awarded for 15 or more persons in a group. See Phyllis Mino if you are interested in joining us. Seating will be on a 'first-come' basis. More details to be announced.

Also, on February 5th the Hellenic-American Club has planned a special 'Panigiri' - Greek picnic with pastichio, kabobs and all the special fixings. This will be a fund raiser with proceeds to be shared with Annunciation Church for the new Classroom/ Meeting Room Building. Our own President, Barbara Dionysopoulos is our chair. It will be held at Lakes Park and will be open to all members, parishioners and friends. Please join us for a very special day - for a very special cause. More details will be published as the date nears.

Also in the planning stage is a day bus trip to Tarpon Springs for touring and shopping, and lunch at a favorite restaurant in Clearwater. More information coming soon.

The Hellenic-American Club is a social club for people to meet and make lasting friendships. Our annual dues of \$20 per year are used to defray the costs of venue and refreshments at meetings, subsidize certain costs to members for outings, compensate speakers and contribute to charitable organizations. We hope you will join us in 2015 for satisfying, life enrichment experiences. For information, please contact our President, Barbara Dionysopoulos (239-267-2014), or speak with any of our Board members.

We extend best wishes to all for a Blessed Christmas full of peace, love and health, and a wonderful New Year 2015. Hope to see all of you at all our events.

**Καλά Χριστούγεννα  
και μια καλή χρονιά**

## Ladies Philoptochos Society by Carol Palatine

Our first Board and General Meeting combined, was held on September 8th.

November 9th, the LPS honored all our church veterans after Divine Liturgy in the community center. Refreshments were served.

On November 10th our LPS Board Meeting was held at 10:30 am in the Father Arthur Kontinos Community Center.

THANKS to our parish friends and family, the LPS Turkey Drive ended with great success on Sunday, November 16th. We collected \$1,317.00 this year-- almost twice as much as last year. Thanks to you, we will be able to feed twice as many families as last year.

Joan Simon,  
with her  
Turkey Hat,  
and Katarina  
Coubos who  
donated  
\$200.00 to  
the cause.  
Thank you,  
Katarina.



The LPS general meeting was held on November 24th at 10:30 am in the Fr. Arthur Kontinos Community Center.

Our Annual Bake Sale was held on Nov. 22nd. All the pastry and Greek cookies were made by hand. A team of ladies from the LPS, lead by Barbara D. worked effortlessly to prepare and bake these wonderful cookies and pastry items.

Our Annual Silver Tea on December 6th. Chairperson Pam Strikis. Please contact Maria Mourgis and Marianthi Kazakos for tickets. Tickets are 25.00 per person.

Our annual Christmas Party will be held at University Grill, on December 15th @ 11:30 a.m. Spouses are invited. Please see Polly Margaritis for reservations, the cost per person is \$25.00 per person. Please reserve soon. Seating is limited.

Last but not least, don't forget to gather your items for the annual Antique Auction on March 14th. Antiques and jewelry are needed. Please bring your items to Ginny Amend.

## Greek Dance by Georgia Kline

### \$50 enrollment fee to include:

dancer tee shirt & costume cleaning fees

**Dance director;** Georgia Kline, **fellow instructors;** Cassandra DiStefano, Alaina Todd & Kalianna Karras (when available).

**Name of Troupe:** HARA TIS ELLADAS - JOY OF GREECE

### Practice Times;

Agape "Love" (preK - Gr. 2). Sun. after church 60min.

Kardia "Heart" (Gr. 3-6). Mon. & Thurs. 5:30-6:30PM

Thiname "Strength" (Gr. 7-12). Mon. & Thurs. 6:30-8PM

*Please note: After the New Year all groups will practice on Sundays additionally. You will receive notifications or modifications if any occur in the future.*

## Saint's Alive... St. Stephen, First Martyr for Christ— Commemorated December 27th

The saint whose name leads all the rest who have sacrificed their lives for Jesus Christ is Stephen, the first martyr of Christendom because he would have been the last to deny him.

Stephen was one of the seven deacons of the original Church of Christ in Jerusalem, sharing his duties with six others—Philip, Prochoros, Nikanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas.

It was the function of the deacons to assist much as they do today in such matters as communion but with the additional responsibility of spreading the new faith and at the same time being ever on the alert for the imminent danger that came with being a Christian in those early days.

Before entering the service of Christ, the young Stephen had studied under the renowned rabbinical tutor Gamaliel, who had been the mentor of the great St. Paul.

Not unlike Paul he was a qualified religious scholar who once sought to discredit the Savior, until he came to know Jesus Christ and to embrace him as Paul did in that dramatic confrontation on the road to Damascus. The full attention he had been giving to the Law of the ancient covenant he now directed to the new faith with zeal equal to that of those who enjoyed the company of the Messiah. There was no hint that he would be the very first casualty in the cause of the Nazarene, but each and every one of the missionaries was aware of the danger involved and chose to ignore it in their anxiety to serve.

Stephen seems to have confined his missionary work and preaching to the city of Jerusalem, the city in which he had prepared himself under the Pharisee Gamaliel for quite an-

other career.

Well versed in the Scriptures, he used the Old Testament to full advantage in promoting the Messiah, citing the passages that were ample evidence out of the mouths of the ancient prophets of God that a Savior would be born and that the Savior was among them even now in the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It was with considerable anger and frustration that the men who had studied with him under Gamaliel now viewed the defector from their ranks, being particularly piqued when Stephen boldly challenged them in the synagogues.

He must have done this several times and, in all probability, been unceremoniously ushered from the premises more than once, but there came an occasion when he addressed himself to an extremely hostile Council of elders whose anger drove them to more than just having Stephen put out.

The mob that turned on Stephen worked itself into such a feverous pitch that by the time he had been seized and dragged into the street a cry went up for his blood and grew into a crescendo demanding his death. He was dragged to the gates of Jerusalem and stoned him to death.

The gallant young Stephen died a brutal death at the hands of those with whom he had grown up. In the Book of Acts there is an account that Paul was among the onlookers who made no effort to save Stephen.

The early Christians buried Stephen in a small chapel in Jerusalem which was dedicated to his memory and was known as the chapel of St. Stephen the Protomartyr (First Martyr).

## ***Sunday School News by Jen-Hope Belis***

On November 16th, the Sunday School students presented the veterans with a box of donations to send to servicemen overseas. The kids were so proud to help the men and women who protect our great country.



Save the Date for the **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** on Sunday, December 21st. We are looking forward to seeing all the kids shine in this annual program. The parents are asked to bring in a meatless dish for the parish luncheon after the pageant.

### **WE ARE LOOKING GUEST SPEAKERS!**

We would like to create a "Speakers Bureau" with guest speakers who can come into the Sunday School classrooms and talk to the students. Do you make Koliva, Prosero, Icons or something else? Come talk to a class about the process! Have you visited any religious shrine, monastery or country? Bring pictures and come talk to a class! Do you have an interesting story to share? We want to hear it!

This is an effort to bring new faces into the classroom for one lesson and to expose our children to more facets of our religious community. Interested? Please contact the Sunday School Director, Jen-Hope Belis, at [jhbelis@yahoo.com](mailto:jhbelis@yahoo.com)

*Please note, there will be NO Sunday School on December 21, December 28, January 4 due to Nativity Break.*

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS**

December 21	<b>Christmas Pageant</b>
Feb 1	<b>Godparent Sunday</b>
March 1	<b>Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession</b>
TBD	<b>Oratorical Festival</b>
April 4	<b>Saturday of Lazarus Liturgy followed by Pancake Breakfast with Palm Making</b>
April 5	<b>Palm Sunday Processional</b>
April 6-11	<b>Holy Week Readers</b>
April 10	<b>Decorating Epitaphio. Good Friday Liturgy with Myrrh Bearers</b>
April 11	<b>Holy Saturday Liturgy followed by Confessions</b>
April 12	<b>Easter Egg Hunt following Agape Vespers at 11am</b>
May 17	<b>Last Day of Sunday School. Award Ceremony &amp; Ice Cream Social</b>

## ***The True Meaning of the Song "The 12 Days of Christmas"***

Christmas is a season of the Christian Year that lasts for 12 days, from December 25th through January 6th, the Day of Epiphany. On January 6th, we celebrate the Revelation of the Holy Trinity and the Roman Catholic Church recalls the Journey of the Three Wise Men. The song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written to be a type of catechism in order to not only teach but to be sung in public without someone being persecuted for singing a religious song in public. The song has two levels of interpretation: the surface meaning plus the code word for religious reality. We Orthodox Christians can relate to this religious reality as found in the song.

So, the next time you hear the song just remember the religious reality of the words and may that religious reality bring joy to your Christmas season!

1. The **(One) partridge** in a pear tree is **Jesus Christ**.
2. The **Two turtledoves** are the **Old and New Testaments**.
3. The **Three French hens** stand for **Faith, Hope and Love**.
4. The **Four calling birds** are the **4 Gospels**.
5. The **Five gold rings** recall the **Torah (Law), the first 5 Books of the Old Testament**.
6. The **Six geese-a-laying** stand for the **6 Days of Creation**.
7. The **Seven swans-a-swimming** represent the **Sevenfold Gifts of the Holy Spirit**.
8. The **Eight maid-a-milking** are the **8 Beatitudes**.
9. The **Nine Ladies dancing** are the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5).
10. The **Ten lords-a-leaping** are the **10 Commandments**.
11. The **Eleven pipers piping** stand for the **11 Faithful Disciples**.
12. The **Twelve drummers drumming** stand for the **12 Points of Belief in the Nicene Creed**.

### ***Fr. Dean's Wish List***

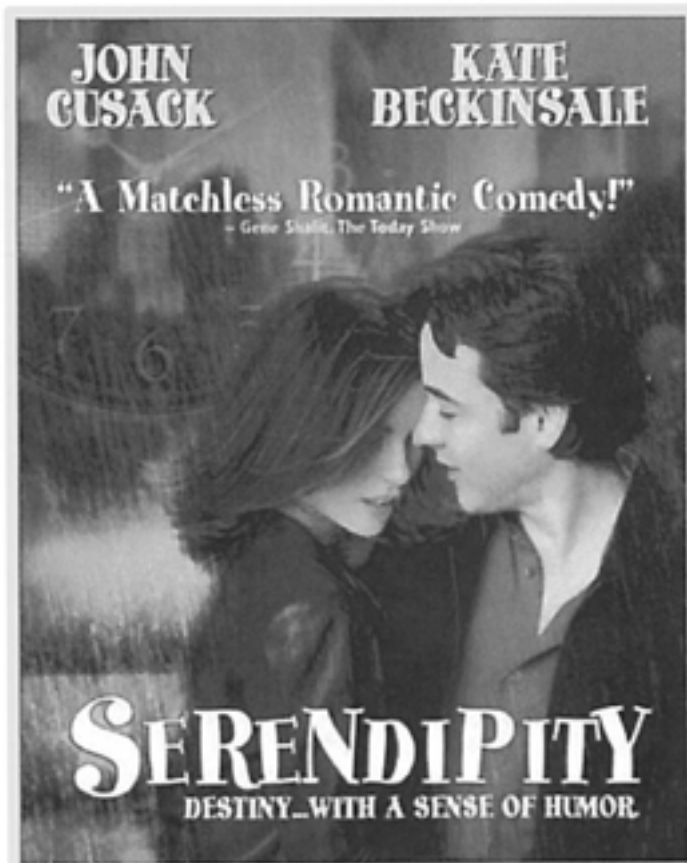
As Orthodox Christians we are always called upon to do the best we can for our Lord Jesus Christ. His Church and our Annunciation Parish. Our Parish has many religious items that are used throughout the year in order to enhance our worship experience. Whenever we celebrate a worship service specific religious items are used. We here within our parish have been blessed with generous members who have over the years donated these religious items for the Parish to use. As with all things, as they get older they need to be replaced. Many time we are in need of new items. Therefore, I ask that you please look over the list of needed religious items below and if you would like to donate one or more for our Parish, I ask that you do so. Please remember that donations will be on a **first come first serve basis**. When you have donated an item, your name will be included in the Monthly "VOICE" Newsletter. You may donate an item either for yourself, your family, in memory of a family member or a special event within your life. Let us all do our best and donate an item for the benefit of our entire Parish. If you would like to donate, please contact me at the Church office or personally. Please make your check payable to: **Annunciation Church**. I thank you in advance for your generous donation.

#### **ITEMS THAT ARE NEEDED**

<b>2 Shure Wireless Microphones</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>
<b>1 Shure Wireless Head Worn Microphone</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>

# Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11th @ 6:00PM

Admission: \$5.00 per person

(Covers movie and includes pizza & soda)

In the Fr. Arthur K. Kontinos Community Center

Courtesy TEXT/Call RSVP to Joan Simon 201-826-8991

**Movie Synopsis:** Jonathan Tragger meets Sara Thomas by chance in the Christmas eve, in Bloomingdale's, both trying to buy the unique pair of black gloves available for sale. They decide to go to the cafeteria Serendipity and Jonathan asks for her name and phone. Sara decides to write it in a book, and his on a five dollar bill. She gives the bill to a newspaperman and she says that she would sell the book in a New York used books store. She states that if destiny wants them together, Jonathan will get that book back. Or she will receive that bill again. From this day on, Jonathan will 'chase' Sara's book trying to reach his lost love.

## GOYA by Heidi Kubiak

*Hello Annunciation family!*

First, I'd like to congratulate Gabrielle Kubiak, Kristal Mason and Chris Samuels for joining with St. Stephanos GOYAn's to take the 2nd place trophy at the 2nd annual Saint Stephanos Volleyball Tournament. See how many GOYAN's participated- from Clearwater, Tampa, Sarasota and Jacksonville! We look forward to other district events!



**Top:** All of the GOYAn's from Clearwater, Tampa, Sarasota and Jacksonville for the 2nd Annual Volleyball Tournament at St. Stephanos.



*Above:* Kristal Mason, Gabby Kubiak & Chris Samuels with the 2nd place trophy!

We have and will continue to meet the first Sunday of each month, planning and discussing activities and outings. November's meeting included a tour of the new building. Thank you to John Simon for being our tour

guide! During these past few weeks, we enjoyed trampoline time at SkyZone, and dinner at Sonic with Father Dean and Presbytera.



*Taking a tour of the new classrooms, hall and offices with John Simon and Fr. Dean.*



*The GOYAn's jumping away on the trampolines at SkyZone!*

Thank you to those GOYAN's who stepped in to help at Taste of Greece! Thank you to those GOYAN's who helped with our Fries and Frappe sale! Net profit-approx. \$200.00! Thank you in advance to those GOYAN's who will be serving at the Silver Tea!

**Don't forget-** all youth ages 12-18 are welcome to join our GOYA events and activities! Next meeting- Dec. 7th, 2014.

## **Sacramental Dates for 2015**

According to the Orthodox Faith and our Holy Greek Orthodox Church the following information is to be used for the proper scheduling of Sacraments within our Holy Orthodox Church. These days are to be followed and adhered to by the Clergy and our laity. A Sacrament can be conducted on one of the non-permissible days only if absolutely necessary and then only by special permission of our Metropolitan.

### **ADULT CHRISMATIONS**

Chrismations may take place on any day of the week throughout the year (except Good Friday). A Chrismation will take place only after proper instruction with the Parish Priest and discussion of the appropriate time and day for the Chrismation.

### **BAPTISM**

Baptisms **CANNOT BE CONDUCTED** on the following days:

- Great Lent - February 23 - April 4  
*(allowed but discouraged)*
- Holy Week - April 5 - April 11
- PASCHA - April 12
- Sunday of Thomas - April 19
- Pentecost - May 31
- Assumption Fast - August 1-14  
*(allowed but discouraged)*
- Assumption of the Theotokos - August 15
- Christmas Fast - November 15-December 24  
*(allowed but discouraged)*
- Christmas Day - December 25

### **WEDDINGS**

Weddings **CANNOT BE CONDUCTED** on the following days:

- January 5 & 6
- Great Lent - February 23 - April 4
- Holy Week - April 5 - April 11
- PASCHA - April 12
- Pentecost - May 31
- Assumption Fast - August 1-14
- Assumption of the Theotokos - August 15
- Beheading of St. John the Baptist - August 29
- Christmas Fast - November 15 -December 12  
*(allowed but discouraged)*
- Christmas Fast - December 13 - 24
- Christmas Day - December 25

### **MEMORIALS**

Cannot be held on the following Sundays:  
April 5, 12, 19, May 31.

### **FUNERALS**

Although a *Funeral is NOT a Sacrament* but a prayer service, they are permitted on any day of the week throughout the year **except on Sundays and Good Friday.** There is no exception to this rule.

*This information is provided by the Registry Department of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.*

## **2014 Flowers for Feast Day Icons**

Flowers always add beauty to whatever they adorn. It has always been a tradition among our Orthodox Churches to decorate Holy Icons with flowers when the Feast Day is being celebrated.

Please contact the Church Office and donate towards the flowers you would like as soon as possible. As always, this will be done on a first come, first serve basis. The names of those who donate the flowers will be listed in the "VOICE" Newsletter the month after the Feast Day is celebrated. Thank you for your support in this project and may our Lord continue to bless you. Please make your check payable to: ANNUNCIATION CHURCH

<b><u>Flowers for St. Barbara Icon</u></b> - Dec. 4th	\$45.00 TAKEN
<b><u>Flowers for St. Nicholas Icon</u></b> - Dec. 6th	\$45.00 TAKEN
<b><u>Flowers for St. Eleutherios Icon</u></b> - Dec. 14th	\$45.00 TAKEN
<b><u>Flowers for St. Anastasia Icon</u></b> - Dec. 21st	\$45.00 TAKEN
<b><u>Flowers for Nativity of Christ Icon</u></b> - Dec. 25th	\$45.00 TAKEN
<b><u>Flowers for St. Stephen Icon</u></b> - Dec. 28th	\$45.00 TAKEN
<b><u>Flowers for St. Basil the Great Icon</u></b> - Jan. 1st	\$45.00
<b><u>Flowers for Epiphany Icon</u></b> - Jan. 6th	\$45.00
<b><u>Flowers for St. John the Baptist Icon</u></b> - Jan. 7th	\$45.00
<b><u>Flowers for SS. Athanasios &amp; Cyril Icon</u></b> - Jan. 18th	\$45.00
<b><u>Flowers for St. Gregory the Theologian Icon</u></b> - Jan. 25th	\$45.00
<b><u>Flowers for Three Hierarchs Icon</u></b> - Jan. 30th	\$45.00
<b><u>Flowers for St. Tryphon Icon</u></b> - Feb. 1st	\$45.00
<b><u>Flowers for Presentation of our Lord into Temple Icon</u></b> -Feb. 2nd	\$45.00

## **Donated Flowers for Feast Day Icons**

**Flowers for St. Luke Icon** - Oct. 19th  
Donated by Richard & Cheryl Johnson in honor of their son Luke.

**Flowers for St. Demetrios Icon** - Oct. 26th  
Donated by Terry & Jimmy Kalogridis in memory of their beloved mothers & fathers.

**Flowers for Paraklesis Icon** - Oct. 30th  
Donated by Helen Messerotes in honor of St. Zenobia

**Flowers for SS. Kosmas & Damian Icon** - Nov. 2nd  
Donated by Ann & Angelo Constan

**Flowers for St. Nektarios Icon** - Nov. 9th  
Donated by Spero Stergiotis in memory of Ruth & Helen Stergiotis.

**Flowers for St. Matthew Icon** - Nov. 16th  
Donated by Helen A. Sotiropoulos in memory of her mother Francine Sotiropoulos.

**Flowers for Entrance of Theotokos Icon** - Nov. 21st  
Donated by Spero Stergiotis in memory of Ruth & Helen Stergiotis.

**Flowers for St. Katherine Icon** - Nov. 25th  
Donated by Nicholas & Penny Kontinos in memory of Penny's mother, Katherine Psilopoulos.

**Flowers for St. Andrew Icon** - Nov. 30th  
Donated by Bill & Andrea Wolfe in loving memory of Andrea Wolfe's father, Andrew Christon.