As we are now in the last few days before the wonderful feast of Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us say, “Glory to God for this indescribable Gift!”

2020 is a year, a space of time, that will not be forgotten. It is a year that sped by and stood still as well. As a parish, we adapted like everyone else did.

I would like, in this December Christmas Edition of The Messenger, to thank certain people who helped make things possible for us all, especially for the Divine Services, with the help of God. If I neglected anyone, my sincere apologies in advance.

First, a very special Thank You to the Zaharis Family. Where would we be without Aristidis and Damien at the Chanter’s stand? It is almost two years since our beloved Elias Zovas was called by God, and our good Lord sent to us equally dedicated servants to continue this vital ministry. Truly, our community has been enriched these past few years by the presence and participation of parishioners who served Saint Nicholas and found a spiritual home here at Saint Luke.

In addition, I thank Peter for overseeing the acolytes in the altar and for being here early for Orthros to prepare the antidoron for our parishioners. He is joined by Alecco Dimitroglou, who is here every Sunday to assist with altar duty. Thank you!

Next, a Thank You to Karen Donzell and Vaceleci Zaharis for making prosphoro during this trying time. Their dedication and commitment to the Church allows us to be able to celebrate the Liturgy and the Holy Eucharist.
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<td><strong>Endowment Meeting</strong></td>
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**Pastor- Fr. Panteleimon Klostri**

2019 Parish Council
Assaad Hallak — President
Judy Lelas-George — Vice President
Joseph Dasco — Treasurer
Christos Nikolis — Recording Secretary
Evangelina Gouzounis — Corresponding Secretary
John Foscolos (+)
Harry Georgiades
George Katsoulis
Nick Vamvilis
Ron Rookey

**Philoptochos**
President - Maria Londo
Vice President - Melissa Kaitis
Treasurer - Vaceleci Zaharis
Secretary - Rosanne Desautels
Corresponding Secretary - Evangelia Tsikrikis
Past President/Advisor - Dorsey Cokkinias

**Ministries**
Chanters - Aristidis Zaharis and Damian Zaharis
Choir Director - Toni Rizas
Organist - Kristen Flanagan
Endowment Fund - James Bologa
GOYA Advisor - Jennifer Russell
JOY Advisor - Sarah Kirchner
Memorials - Maria Laware
Messenger - Editor - Need a Volunteer
Co-editor - Presvytera Eleni
Stewardship Chairs - Joe and Meghan Dasco
Sunday School Director - Christina Nikolis
Welcome Committee — Judy Lelas-George, Maria Laware, Parris Ochsner, Ron Rookey
Facilities Committee - Nicles Lefakis
Church Secretary - Paula Assad

_O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, intercede with our Merciful God, that He may grant our souls remission of sins_ — _Apolytikion of Saint Luke_
The beginning of our Lord’s thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins.

Then our Savior also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvelous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22).

From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called “Theophany,” that is, the divine manifestation, God’s appearance among men.

On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Michael Kennedy has devoted himself to preparing the Church for services, and we are grateful for this. Christine deserves a special Thank You for making the wonderful altar covering for the icon of the Crucifixion in the corner, as well as restoring the Epitaphios from Saint Nicholas (hanging on the back wall, assisted by Jeff Clay).

At a recent funeral, one of the funeral directors commented that he felt safe coming to Saint Luke. He was absolutely impressed with the procedures we have in place and the cleaning we do after services.

A special Thank You must go to Judy and Rosanne for all they do! From reviewing the Sunday seating list to working on baptisms and funerals, as well as being present, they have done so much to keep our parishioners and visitors welcomed and safe. What would we do without them?

Along this, thank you to the Parish Council and the Health team for forming our Safety Plan. Your presence each Sunday does not go unnoticed, along with the volunteer ushers. Thank you also to Harry for coming early on Sundays to be at the Pangari.

To Mary, Meg, and our Spanakopita team — what an accomplishment! You did it, and we are grateful.

Merry Christmas and Thank You to Paula for always being welcoming and gregarious with parishioners and guests. She has been known to call parishioners during the week just to chat and see how they’re doing!

Finally, please keep Bon Granger in your prayers. He has written us a nice letter, which is included in this Messenger. Thank you, Bob!

May God keep you all, and may we receive 2021 with gratitude and compassion for all.

With love in the Newborn Christ,

+ Fr. Panteleimon
Dear St. Luke Parishioners and Friends,

For many of us, 2020 has felt like a slow arduous marathon, but now with the light from the Birth of Christ, we can start to see through the dark days of 2020.

In these final days not 2020 and through 2021, no matter what circumstances in which we find ourselves, may the light of this Christmas season guide us through the coming year. Merry Christmas to all!

Ron Rookey
Parish Council President

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**GRATITUDE**

Dear Fr. Klostri and members of the St. Luke Family,

Over the years at St. Luke’s I have been continuously impressed by the efforts that are made to help various groups within our community. It seemed to me that there was always a new project in the works for one needy group or another. I saw this repeated time after time and everyone was happy to help. On a personal note, I came to St. Luke’s as a stranger but people reached out in a manner I was unfamiliar with. It only took one service and I felt like I found a new home. Over the years things continued to get better, meeting wonderful people all the time. I had a few health problems through the years and the parish has gone above and beyond reaching out to assist me whenever possible. The kindness shown to me can never be repaid, and you all have taught me about the spirit of Charity and Love. Once again, I find myself with a medical dilemma that is keeping me from my work at the Church. I very much appreciate all the prayers and well wishes. At this time, I am hoping that surgery may be my answer to getting back to work in the near future. It is hard to explain the wonderful effect that St. Luke’s parish family has had on my life and I am grateful for having been a part of that family. Thank you for the gift cards and best wishes, and most of all thank you for the prayers, I know they help me on those cloudy days.

Yours truly,
Bob Granger
The “Janitor”
Now that the Thanksgiving festivities are behind us and we embrace the Christmas season merriment let us all rejoice in the spiritual refreshment Christ's birth brings to us all. There's no doubt that the coronavirus pandemic of 2020 continues to challenge us all in so many unimaginable ways; it also reminds us that resilience appears where there is true faith.

Our ministry overcame difficulties finding a new supplier for the "I am Loved" onesies ministry with resilience. Prayerfully, owner Harry Efstathiades of Royal Tees stepped forward to produce over 200 of the "I am Loved" onesies to replenish the depleted stock for the Baystate NICU & Continuing Care Units, supporting infants entering the Foster Care system. Likewise, Springfield College stepped in to publish the St. Luke annual Christmas Card when the previous publisher was unable to help this year. While the beautiful poinsettias that offer remembrance of a departed loved one or honor a family member or friend were provided by The Growth Company once again. The Tree of Warmth is adorned with NEW hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves, supported by our community and the St. Luke Knitting Club. Supplies for the winter Blessing Bags packed with crucial items for the homeless were funded. Gifts were lovingly purchased and delivered in support of our many shut-ins. Monetary Food Outreach support was distributed to members within our community and the Massachusetts Food Bank, Open Pantry, Springfield Rescue Mission, Enfield Food Shelf, and the Square One Day Care.

The Philoptochos ministry is blessed to be connected to all of the above campaigns/ministries and so much more that was established because of a personal connection. Whether it was a personal connection which initiated the original request of support from Philoptochos or the personal connection that touches someone who generously gives to a particular campaign/ministry, Philoptochos will continue to administer, with love, that same personal connection respecting its original origin, yet recognizing when the need for support must be continued.

Recently, in National news, "His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America has declared that the Sunday of the Good Samaritan is the Inaugural National Philoptochos Sunday to celebrate the rich legacy of this important organization of our Archdiocese. National Philoptochos Sunday will be celebrated every year to honor the thousands of women throughout our Archdiocese who are a part of this vibrant ministry."

In acknowledging this profound statement, Philoptochos recognizes that our ministry depends heavily on the financial stability of its parish and, in-turn the parishioners, to fulfill our mission to help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of the impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the church. It is with a thankful heart; our Board recognizes the extraordinary resilience of so many that allow us to continue our mission.

Merry Christmas and God Bless,

The Philoptochos Board
Dear St. Luke Steward,

Our founding mission at St. Luke still holds true today. This parish was born 40+ years ago from a group of like-minded Orthodox faithful to lovingly serve the liturgical and sacramental needs of Orthodox Christians in our community through the word of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Church. The ongoing mission of our beloved St. Luke is to practice charity through Stewardship and Christian ministries, and to create an environment where parishioners are involved in the life of the church.

Within the midst of this unprecedented pandemic and the challenges we all face today, we are especially thankful for you and your family here in our Church. You are a vital part of our Church Community and without you our mission would have no cause.

Our parish has a wonderful endowment that will assist us in fulfilling its mission. It is a restricted fund that is earmarked for charitable donations and funding ministries. However, it cannot be used to pay the operating expenses of our parish. To meet those expenses our parish depends on the support of our stewards. Currently St. Luke is operating under a deficit. Our monthly bills and commitments outweigh our monthly income.

Kindly consider this reminder during this season of joy and good will. Please complete your Stewardship Commitment for 2020 and find in this packet your pledge cards for 2021. Thoughtfully complete your pledge of treasure, time and talent and return the pledge cards to the Church in the envelope provided.

In his letter at Corinth, St. Paul wrote that “…the greatest of these is love…” in his explanation of stewardship, meaning that Stewardship is about Love and Love is about Stewardship. This message is a very timely reminder to us today when so many of us are struggling through the most challenging moments in our lifetime.

May the grace of our Lord bless you and your loved ones to experience the joy of Christ’s Birth through the joy of giving.

Yours in Christ,

Joseph & Meghan Dasco
co-chairs Stewardship

Rev. Fr. Panteleimon Klostri

Other Stewardship Committee Members:
Anthony Antonopoulos, Charles Coulouras, Harry Georgiades
GOYA

Each family is hosting a monthly GOYA event with appropriate social distancing. Details for January to follow.

Ushering Ministry

Please call Harry Georgiades at 413-883-2560 regarding ushering on Sundays. All are welcome, youths, adults - all ages.

Sunday School

Last classes for 2020 were held on December 20th - for the Orthodox littles this included a retelling of the Christ’s birth through their words and a sing-along. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year!!! See you in 2021!

Loaves & Fishes

We wish to thank our Stewardship team for providing to the Loaves and Fishes in December. If you are interested in helping in a particular month or gathering a crew of friends of family to support this ministry - it is extraordinary how this ministry fills you up. Contact Barbara Hallak for details on when you can help.
The Poinsettias look beautiful-
Thank you to all who contributed!
Thank you

THANK YOU!!

In the past month at St. Luke’s, we held three 3-day spanakopita workshops where a small group of volunteers made 138 trays to sell as a fundraiser for our church! We maintained social distance, followed CDC guidelines and kept a safe environment in our parish hall. It was a wonderful experience to all work together in fellowship and to give of our Time and Talent and to help our church. Thanks to the generous donations of ingredients from a few of our parishioners, we were able to make a handsome profit of more than $4500! Thank you to all of the volunteers, 22 in all, who helped make this a successful fundraiser! And a special thanks to the few men who really helped take a load off and did the heavy lifting!

At this time, there are still a few 9x13 trays of frozen spanakopita available for purchase for $40. Contact the church office for more details and stay tuned for more workshops in the Spring!
Thank you

Lighthouse Clubhouse

I’d like to inform our dedicated parishioners that have supported the gift card tree for “Lighthouse Clubhouse” for the past 6 years, that we were able to support them once again this year, through the Endowment Fund.

The members of “Lighthouse Clubhouse” are overwhelmed with our continued support and generosity. God willing, next year our gift card tree will be up and we can support them once again safely. Thank you to St. Luke for supporting this worthy cause and making their Christmas brighter.

We continue to open our hearts to the less fortunate.

Stay safe and well.
Parris Ochsner

Basile

I’d like to thank everyone who either bought a ticket or made a donation to the Basile concert and to our five participants who put themselves out there…. Charlie Bonatakis, Tina Katsounakis, Nick Lefakis, Assaad Hallak and Kathy Kalaizidis/Bea Syner. I appreciate your willingness to go for it. Also, I couldn’t have co-ordinated this without Angie Gouzounis putting the flyer together and Father Panteleimon for dealing with the computer details.

The show really wasn’t what we thought it would be, especially with all the Zoom issues, which were out of our control. With that being said, we managed to raise $4,080.35! That should pay a few bills.

Thank you once again for supporting something different during this pandemic. It was worth a try, although not ideal..

Please be safe and stay well during this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Parris Ochsner
Happy 1st Birthday to our beautiful granddaughter Fotini. We love you so much!! Yiayia and Papou

Happy 1st Birthday to my niece Fotini…
Love your Theo Tom

Happy Birthday Vicki!! what a wonderful gift your Mom and Dad received on Christmas Eve
Love Judy

Happy Birthday to Thea Vicki…
Who’s your favorite…Tommy, Gregory, Keith or Fotini

Welcome to our newest little Christian Sophia Russell! Congrats Jen and Derek.
Love Judy

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jennifer and Derek Russell on the Baptism of their daughter Sophia on November 29, 2020, with Julie Cokotis as Godmother. God bless you all!

Bible Study Opportunities

Bible Study
via ZOOM

Gospel of Luke
Mondays 6:30pm

Call Father 978-587-6488 or email him to receive the Zoom link.
Contribute to the TREE of Warmth because

Baby its **cold** outside!

Now collecting **NEW**
gloves, scarves, mittens & hats

**Honoring the memory of Karen Louis**

Help US KEEP our Neighbors **WARM** this WINTER!
Philoptochos
LENTEN COOKBOOK
COMING Spring 2021
Does your family have a not so secret Lenten recipe?
WE NEED YOUR HELP!
Please support our LATEST endeavor by contributing all your family’s favorite
LENTEN RECIPES
appetizers, salads, soups, stews, sandwiches, vegetables, rice, grains, beans, pasta, breakfast, fish, shellfish, slow cooker or pressure cooker, bread, pizza, cookies, cakes, pies, tarts, fruit desserts, puddings, frozen desserts, sauces, beverages
Memorials

May Their Memory Be Eternal

Helen Lavelle, fell asleep on November 17, with funeral on November 25, 2020

John Foscolos, Jr., fell asleep on December 9, with the funeral on December 14, 2020

Luke Peter Ahladas, fell asleep on December 13, with the funeral on December 21, 2020

Phyllis Ann LaVallee, fell asleep on December 17, with the funeral on December 22, 2020

In memory of Dimitrios Tishlias
Peter and Lanie Alexopoulos
Tom and Kathy Themistos

In memory of Adrian Lambert
Doris Henault
Ann Flynn

In memory of Jennie Fanos
Anita and John Themistos
Ann Heropoulos
Lorraine and Luke Ahladas

In memory of Mom and Dad--Anne and George W.
George, Sister--MaryAnn George,
Brother--Bill George
Always in Our Heart  Love, Chip and Chrissy

In memory of Helen Lavelle
Tom and Maria Laware

In memory of Mom and Dad--Anne and George W.
George, Sister--MaryAnn George,
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