Happy New Year!

As we embrace the year of our Lord 2020, we anticipate fresh beginnings and new approaches. Life provides the possibility for continued growth, through self-reflection and shared support and experiences.

In the past few months, I have been reflecting on our practices as a community and what can be introduced in 2020 for the well-being of our parishioners and the parish as a whole. Here are some goals for the weeks and months ahead:

1. Stewardship -- the homilies in the month of January will be devoted to Stewardship and the Christian basis for it, as well as a look at how early Christians approached giving. In addition, we will look at the some of the challenges that Stewardship offers and how God sees giving.

2. Outreach -- within the past year, I have been engaged in continual outreach to parishioners who had at one point been active but, due to the exigencies of life, lost their connection with the Church. I am pleased to say there has been a positive response to this outreach, and it will be continued.

3. Podcasts/ Study videos -- it is a personal goal of mine to introduce in the not too distant future short Bible studies to be posted on YouTube. These can become an educational resource for our parishioners and others outside our community to learn more about the Scriptures.

4. Teaching Service-- we have had teaching liturgies at Saint Luke, and this year it would be great to show our parishioners how the Priest prepares the Gifts prior to the Liturgy so they can then be offered to God during the Liturgy.
Bible Study Tuesday @ 6:30PM/ Friday @ 11:00AM (unless otherwise stipulated)

Orthodox Life - Weds 6:30p

Council Meetings 2nd Monday of the month @ 7:00 PM (unless otherwise stipulated)

Dance Practice TBA

Loaves and Fishes Pick up on the 3rd Friday of the month

Knitting 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month @10:30 (unless otherwise stipulated)

Romeos and Juliettes 4th Thursday of the month (unless otherwise stipulated)

Choir Thursday @ 6:30 PM (September 10th - June 10th) (unless otherwise stipulated)

GOYA 3rd Sunday of the month following Liturgy (unless otherwise stipulated)

JOY 3rd Friday of the month 6pm-7:30 unless otherwise announced

Endowment Meeting 2nd Tuesday @ 6:30

40 to 4 Club/Hope - seeking a volunteer coordinator and meetings TBA

Miles to Smiles - Walking Ministry, TBA

Health Ministry - Monthly Blood Pressure during coffee hour, TBA

O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, intercede with our Merciful God, that He may grant our souls remission of sins

– Apolytikion of Saint Luke
5. Youth Chanting and Music Ministry -- our chanters are calling for our youth to learn the hymns of the Church sung during matins and other services. We must prepare the next generation to learn the hymns and order of the services, and maintain the tradition delivered to us by the Fathers. In addition, we are excited with the presence of our Sunday School students with the Adult Choir each month.

6. 90 Day Challenge -- I am calling on our parishioners to set a personal spiritual goal for yourselves that you will try to achieve and maintain for the next three months. It might be attending church more, being more persistent in prayer, visiting the sick, increasing one’s stewardship, or attending bible study, to name a few ideas. At the end of the 90 days, assess your effort and reflect on how you addressed this personal challenge.

7. Blog -- stay tuned, I am starting a blog!

These are some ideas for the year ahead. There are a few more, and they will be shared with you throughout the year. If there is anything you think that might benefit the parish’s ministries, please do not hesitate to share your thoughts with myself or the Parish Council.

As we embark on this spiritual journey for 2020 AD, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

With love in XC,
+ Fr. Panteleimon

Feast

Epiphany — January 6

About 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 Saviour 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 marvellous 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.

Schedule of Services
Orthros, 8:30, Divine Liturgy 9:30

SUNDAY SERVICES
January 5, 12, 19, and 26

WEEKDAY SERVICES
January 6 — Epiphany (8:30/9:30) followed by Great Blessing of the Waters
January 7 — St. John the Baptist (9 am)
January 17 — Saint Anthony the Great (9 am)
January 30 — Three Hierarchs (9 am)

Confession can be heard by appointment

*Parish Council Affirmation to be held on January 12 at the end of Liturgy
The 2020 Parish Council wishes everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing you a beautiful and blessed new year and decade ahead-filled with love, happiness and Christ!

Save the date- Vasilopita Sunday is January 12th following Liturgy.
Happy New Year!

Philoctochos would like to thank all our friends at St. Luke for continuing to support our efforts. Our many campaigns throughout the year would not have the success they do without ALL of YOU. So a loving, thank you!

A New Year often means setting new goals. Our board is not interested in setting NEW goals but rather focusing on the 2020 vision. Just like the numbers 2020 when combined often represent clear vision, that’s what Philoptochos hopes to provide, clearer vision. While focusing on that goal of 20/20 vision we are NOT looking for perfection, just clarity.

So with that said,

Mission Statement

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc., is the duly accredited women’s philanthropic society of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

The mission shall be:
• To help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the church through fund raising efforts; and

• To promote the charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through instructional programs, presentations, lectures, seminars and other educational resources;

• To preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian concepts and the Orthodox Christian Family, and through them, to promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and traditions, in accordance with its doctrines, canons, discipline, divine worship, usages and customs;

• To promote participation in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, with the cooperation of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council.

The charitable work of the society shall be performed with discretion, courtesy and kindness.

As you read our mission statement please consider all that it asks of each of us. WE need your HELP, your PASSION, your TIME, and especially your FAITH in the beauty of our loving community here at St. Luke. May God continue to bless each and everyone in the New Year!
Stewardship Update

As of December 31, 2019, we had approximately 183 families out of 225 members who have given something towards their Stewardship offering to help support our church ministries. The total collected was approximately $130,000 of which our budget was to collect $135,000. We still hope that the other 40 members who did not offer stewardship offerings for 2019 will still support their church. Our average offering for 2019 was $710. The break down was as follows:

- $1-500 96 Families/Stewards
- $500-$999 53 Families/Stewards
- $1000-$1,999 21 Families/Stewards
- Greater than $2,000 13 Families/Stewards

Let's all try to increase our offering in 2020 towards our beloved Saint Luke. Pledge Packets have been available in church during the month of December and whoever did not get a chance to pick one up; they have now been mailed to your home. As outlined in our Stewardship Message which was presented prior to our Lamp Lighting ceremony and subsequently emailed, we ask that you to compare your offering to our church as a percentage of your annual income, whatever that percentage may be from 1.5%-9.9% we ask that you try to round up your 2020 offering to the next percentage.
THANK YOU TO THE 2019 STEWARDS

To all the faithful Church Family members who have given a financial donation towards their 2019 Stewardship Offering as of Dec 31, 2019

Luke/Lorraine Ahladas
James/Lucinda Aivalis
Florin/Adina Alexandru
Peter/Lanie Alexopoulos
Thomas Alexopoulos
James/Sandi Anagnastou
Nicole/Justin Andrews
Tas/Marie Angelides
Jennifer Antiaris-Loddo
Tony/Elizabeth Antonopoulos
Andrea Argiro*
James/Jean Atheneos
Parasceve Atkin
Chris/Chip Babineau
Melissa/Keith Bailey
Chris/Eleni Bazos
Nicholas/Estelle Bazos
Jane Benerakis
Josephine Benerakis
Angelo*/Nona Billonis
John Bitsakis
James/Stephanie Bologa
Charles Bonatakis, Jr
Charles Bonatakis, Sr
John/Cheryl Bonatakis
Peter/Elaine Botchis
Joanne Buckowski
Olga Captain
Jordan/Evangeline Chatis
John Chrisant
Peter/Deb Christakos
Jeffrey/Barbara Clay
Connie Cokkinias
Dorsey Cokkinias
Bill Cokotis
Peter/Nancy Cokotis
Gary/Christine Colello
Barbara Costas
Charles/Christine Coulouras
James Danalis
Demosthenes/Marion Dasco
Joseph/Meghan Dasco
Bill/Dottie Delis
Daphne Delisle
Jim/Rosanne Desautels
Elaine/Paul DiCarlo
Dimitrios/Kelly Dimitroglou
Lainie/Mark Driscoll
Mark/Karen Donzelli
Harry/Verba Fanolis
George/Yolanda Flevotomis
Anna Flynn
John/Kim Foscolos
George/Magda Galiatsos
Victor/Mary Galiatsos
Zannis/Aliona Gazis
George/Lynn George
Lynne Georgeopoulos
Gregory/Mary Georgiades
Harry Georgiades
William/Virginia Giokas
Perry Gotsis
James/Evangeline Gouzounis
Lyle/Christine Govoni
Bob/Carol Gowrie
Robert Granger
Pat Grimaldi
Assaad/Barbara Hallak
Doris Henault
Peter Henault
Anthony*/Ann Heropoulos
Priscilla/Peter Johnson
Christine/Matthew Judd
Al/Joan Kacoyannakis
Argiri/Melissa Kaitis
Kiki Kakoulidis
Tula Karamallis
Meri Kassanos
Dorothy Katsoulis-Phillips
George/Terry Katsoulis
Eugenia Kedas
Michael/Christine Kennedy
Efchia King
Steven King
Dominic/Sarah Kirchner
Dimitrios/Georgia Klitsas
Fr. Panteleimon/Pres. Eleni Klostri
Deb/Robert Khihnicki
Stavroulia Koetsch
Thano/Mary Koukopoulos
George/Freda Koulisis
Vicki Lanides
Vicki/Lou LaRoche
Christina/Scott LaTorra
Phyllis Lavalle
Toula/Michael LaVelle
Gregory/Katerina Laware
Tom Sr./Maria Laware
Sarah Lefakis
Nicles Lefakis
Judy Lelas-George
Charles Lelas, Jr.
Andrew/Sue* Lemnios
Thana Leventis
William/Louise Leventis
Maria Londo
Melissa Lopes
Nicole Luvera
Stephanie Luvera
Irene/Lawrence Madden
Diane/Bernie Mansfield
John Mannelakis*
Eugenia Megas
Elaine/Jeff Mendrala
Sue Metzidakis
Kay Metzidakis
Sandy Millas
Domna Moropoulos
Ken/Darha Nigro
Christos/Denise Nikolis
Eleni Nikolis
Parris Ochsner
Elias/Olga Papadopulos
Beth Pappas
John Pappas
Joe/ Faith Perrault
Vicki/Dave Piacentini
John/Georgette Piconidis
Thia Ploubides
George/Kathleen* Poulos
John/Judith Poulos
Maria Poulos
Richard/Susanne Rerra
Antonia Rizas
Nick/Mariah Rizas
Steven Rizas
Cindy Rodolakis
Kathy Rodolakis
MaryAnn Rodolakis
Stephen Rodolakis
Rockwell Rookey, Sr.*
Rockwell Rookey, Jr.
Ron/Marcie Rookey
Alice Roumas
Peter/Rita Rozantis
Bill Sakel
Barbara Savas
Kate/Brian Schermerhorn
Bob/Christina Schmidt
Irene Sergentanis
Marianne Sergides
Elaine Sgueglia
Helen Smith
Pauline Spallino
Susanne Spargo
Ruth Stathis
Joanna/Bruce Strange
Dan/Lea Swain
Bea Syner
Phil/Kelly Tartsinis
Anita and John Themistos
Thomas/Kathy Themistos
John/Evangelia Tsikrikis
Maria Tsikrikis
Constantine/Georgeta Turculet
Paul Turner
Vangelli/Kathy Valaziotis
Nick/Kathy Vamvilis
Patricia Vamvilis
Peter (Taki) Vamvilis
Peter Vamvilis
Arthur Vavoudis
Toni Vekakis
Jeanne/Christopher Visser
Nick Votze
Lena Wilson
Joanne Yacovone
Michael/Jennifer Zabetakis
Aristotle/Vaceleci Zaharis
Damien Zaharis
Gabriel Zaharis
Vasiliis/Sophia Zaharis
Elias Zovas*

*deceased: May their memory be eternal
Happy New Year! As we begin another year, we think about what is ahead for our choir. We will continue to work with our Sunday School to have them learn and sing more of our church hymns. We love having them come upstairs. Also, our choir will contribute to Loaves and Fishes for February.

Our first rehearsal for the New Year is Thursday, January 9th at 6:30 weather permitting. We will review music for January 12th and February 2nd. Both Sundays have special music just for that day. We continue to welcome any former or new person who might like to join us in singing with our choir.

God bless, Toni

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**CHOIR**

**GOYA**

Last month, GOYA set up the decorations for the Coffee Hour With Santa which was held on December 8th. It was a fun event including a full breakfast, a hot chocolate bar, a set of games, and a visit from Santa! This month we will be attending a Springfield Thunderbirds game with St. George’s GOYA on the 25th and joining their basketball team to prepare for upcoming tournaments in the Spring. We also look forward to attending our metropolis’s winter camp in February! It’s a busy season for GOYA and we’re happy to have so many opportunities to get involved!

January - We thank the friends sponsoring together- Sergides, Lavallee, Stathis, Babineau & Laware

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**Ushering Ministry**

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

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**Loaves & Fishes**

The next Romeos & Juliets schedule is 12:30 pm on 1/23/2020. The restaurant is The Parthenon Restaurant, 835 Suffield St, Agawam, MA. Hope you can join us!

Tentative schedule for 2020 is: 1/23, 2/27, 3/26, 4/23, 5/28, 6/25, 7/23, 8/27, 9/24, 10/22, 11/19* (a week earlier than normal due to Thanksgiving holiday) and 12/17* (Christmas Party - a week earlier than normal due to Christmas holiday).

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**Sunday School**

This month it is a regular schedule for church school and the children will continue in the music program singing with the choir on the second Sunday of the month.

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**Knitting Group**

Knitting Group meeting every other week on Weds in the Church conference room at 10:30AM Experienced and new knitters/crochet friends are welcome.

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**Ministry News...**
We are grateful to everyone who donated hats and gloves for the Mitten Tree this past year. It is a ministry near and dear in Memory of Karen Louis who coordinated it for so many years. God Bless all who donated and May her memory be eternal.
Christmas Pageant 2019 was tremendous fun and great memories were made! We thank all our participants and our three wise men for traveling from afar to join in the fun! Our readers this year were: Chrysanthe Coulouras, Alexander Coulouras and Danial Kirchner.
New day, new week, new month, new decade… NEW MINISTRY

Have you been waiting for an opportunity to work on a new you?

St Luke’s Miles to S’Miles is your first “step” in that direction. Come one, come all ~ walk, run or crawl!

Sunday, January 5th in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour.

*Free Fun & Fellowship with a Focus on Fitness.*
*Please join in! Bring your comfy shoes (sneakers)!*

For information call Kathy Kalaitzidis 413-374-3709

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Start the Day with a Grateful Heart!

**Fellowship /coffee hour** is a vital ministry of church - please consider signing up and stewarding a Sunday. Make it as simple as you like- it is all appreciated. It is a beautiful offering to remember someone or show friendship and gratitude to those around you.

The following Sundays are open for anyone wishing to make an offering to their friends, family and new friends yet to be.

**January 5th, 19th and 26th**

Coffee is made and set up by our wonderful coffee stewards -Harry Georgiades and Peter Alexopoulos.

*All you need to do is bring something to share,* and place it on the table with plates and cutlery (which are all provided)
HOW CAN I HELP...

A few months back, we listed a few areas that were much in need of volunteers. Our church was built on the ideas of volunteers, the fund raising of volunteers, and the hard work of volunteers. As with everything from our homes to our cars to our health...maintenance is the key. Our church is our spiritual home and we need to maintain its structure, its ministries, and its spirit. This cannot be accomplished by the work of a few. As the saying goes...”it takes a village”!

Following are a few of the areas that are in need of your help....

The Endowment Fund Committee - (monthly meetings)

The Endowment Fund Committee is in need of volunteers. This committee overlooks the Endowment Fund that has been built up by donated and bequeathed monies. It is a restricted fund that disburses funds to ministries of St. Luke for the purpose of promoting and achieving the religious, philanthropic, and educational objectives of the church. Monies can be granted to these ministries via grant applications. Jim Bologa, a long-time member of St. Luke, is the committee chair. The committee needs to be rebuilt with volunteers that have an interest in this fund’s important objectives. There are two different areas of skill sets that you can be of help in. One would be someone who has a background in finances, while the other would be someone who would be able to help with reading and processing the endowment grant applications.

The Messenger - (Monthly publication)

We are still in need of volunteers to help with this ministry. At this point, our Presvytera is the sole volunteer. Don’t be scared...you are not responsible for the content of the publication (leave the writing to us)...only of putting it into the format you see upon its completion! If you are computer savvy or have some knowledge of graphic arts, and love putting things together to create a finished product that is enjoyable to the eye, this ministry is for you. Presvytera would love to have a few volunteers to give her a helping hand!!

The Church Sexton

You all know Michael Kennedy...you might not know him by name, but you sure do know him by sight! You will see Michael at Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Vespers, and Liturgies...those are the finished product of his work. But as with all finished products, there is the preparation that is of most importance. Michael is a wealth of knowledge and the right-hand man of the priest. There is a need for volunteers interested in this wonderful and much needed ministry to “shadow” Michael in his duties so the knowledge does not get lost. Maybe you love weddings and would like to learn what goes into making this day so special. Maybe you get much joy in seeing a baby baptized and would like to be part of that special family day. You’ll learn the traditions of the altar décor for different events and holidays, learn about the different icons used for name days and processions etc. You won’t get bored with repetition, that’s for sure!
5 Reasons to Have Your Home Blessed for Epiphany

1. **We do this every year** – the celebration of Epiphany, or the Baptism of our Lord, is a yearly event like Christmas and Pascha. It is part of our spiritual routine.

2. **Our Home and Work** – our home is where we spend a great deal of our time, but businesses also are places that get blessed. Actually, if we could even bless our place of work, like a school, we would (in traditional Orthodox lands this is done yearly). This is why some people even bring their bottle of Holy Water to their work and place the bottle on their desk.

3. **Newness** – Epiphany is a reminder of the newness brought about by the coming of Christ, and the dawn of the Kingdom of God. Yes, our homes are icons of the Kingdom. A house blessing re-establishes this fact.

4. **Family** – a home blessing is a beautiful way to strengthen the bond of family and making it a tradition/occasion. It is wonderful for young children to participate in these service, for example, by holding the bowl of Holy Water for the Priest as he walks around the house. A house blessing is a great way to involve our children and ourselves in this spiritual practice of the Orthodox Church.

5. **Meet Your Priest** – It is a wonderful opportunity to invite your Parish Priest into your home to meet him, to get to know him better, and for him to be able to appreciate some uninterrupted time with you.

Don’t forget to have your homes/business blessed this year!

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**Bible Study Opportunities**

- **Gospel of Luke**
  Tuesdays 6:30pm in the Conference Room (begins on Monday Jan. 13)
- **Book of Sirach**
  Fridays 11am in the Conference Room; begins Jan. 17

**Men’s Fellowship Night**

Join us for another evening of fellowship - planning for a January get-together - watch for it!

**Orthodox Life**

Join us on Wednesdays once a month at 6:30 pm for an hour long session and discussions on Orthodox life — understanding and connecting our Faith with the world

Will resume on January 29
Memorials

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Aspasia (Sue) Lemnios fell asleep on December 15, 2019.
Her funeral was held on December 23, 2019.

May consolation and comfort be with her family.