As the month of October has begun, we anticipate the yearly fall classic. No, I am not referring to the World Series, but to the Taste of Greece!

By the grace of God, we have begun the new ecclesiastical year with exciting events. The Welcome Back Sunday saw our Choir return and our Church School program begin a new year. We congratulate and thank Toni Rizas and the Choir for their dedication, and welcome Kristen Flanagan as our organist (she is doing great!). Church School is vibrant and it is wonderful to see so many young children in the pews. I especially enjoy their comments during the Children’s Sermon! Many thanks to Christina Nikolis for directing the Program, and Mariah Rizas for teaching the students the hymns they will be singing along with the Choir (first Sunday is the 13th!).

Our first GOYA meeting, held on September 29 with our new Advisor, Jennifer Russell, saw nearly fifteen GOYAnks actively participating and planning their year ahead. We look forward to the service projects the GOYA is planning, as well as the fellowship, witness, and liturgical life they have embraced!

Bible Study has also begun, with a well-attended evening program. We are currently studying the Gospel of Luke – even if you have not been with us from the first lesson, you are always welcome! We look forward to seeing you and sharing spiritual fellowship! We meet Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm.

As you have also seen from Assaad’s and Joe and Meghan’s messages, we continue to support our Stewardship Ministry. Stewardship is the only means possible of supporting our parish and its many ministries. The early Christians would bring the first fruits of their harvest with them and offer them at a common table to be shared in fellowship with those present and with the less fortunate and needy. Because of this, it is incumbent on all of us to support the mission of the Church, which is to share the Gospel of Christ. Your time (presence at Liturgy), talent (gifts and talents shared), and treasure (yes, financial contribution) helps to make the Mission real.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date/Time Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday @ 6:30PM/ Friday @ 11:00AM (unless otherwise stipulated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orthodox Life</strong></td>
<td>Weds 6:30p</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Council Meetings</strong></td>
<td>2nd Monday of the month @ 7:00 PM (unless otherwise stipulated)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dance Practice</strong></td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Loaves and Fishes</strong></td>
<td>Pick up on the 3rd Friday of the month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knitting</strong></td>
<td>1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month @10:30 (unless otherwise stipulated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Romeos and Juliettes</strong></td>
<td>4th Thursday of the month (unless otherwise stipulated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Choir</strong></td>
<td>Thursday @ 6:30 PM (September 10th – June 10th) (unless otherwise stipulated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOYA</strong></td>
<td>3rd Sunday of the month following Liturgy (unless otherwise stipulated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JOY</strong></td>
<td>3rd Friday of the month 6pm-7:30 unless otherwise announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Endowment Meeting</strong></td>
<td>2nd Tuesday @6:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>40 to 4 Club/Hope</strong></td>
<td>- seeking a volunteer coordinator and meetings TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Miles to Smiles</strong></td>
<td>Walking Ministry, TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Monthly Blood Pressure during coffee hour, TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pastor- Fr. Panteleimon Klostri**

**2019 Parish Council**

- Assaad Hallak — President
- Judy Lelas-George — Vice President
- Joseph Dasco — Treasurer
- Christos Nikolis — Recording Secretary
- Evangeline Gouzounis — Corresponding Secretary
- John Foscolos
- Harry Georgiades
- George Katsoulis
- Nick Vamvili
- 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
- **Message** - Editor - Maria Londo
- **Stewardship Chairs** - Joe and Meghan Dasco
- **Sunday School Director** - Christina Nikola
- **Welcome Committee** — Judy Lelas-George, Maria Laware, Parris Ochsner, Ron Rookey
- **Facilities Committee** - Nicles Lefakis

**Church Secretary** - Paula Assad

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

– Apolytikion of Saint Luke
Feast

Protection of the Theotokos

October 28

The Feast of the Protection commemorates the appearance of the most holy Theotokos in the Church of Blachernae in Constantinople in the tenth century, as recorded in the life of Saint Andrew the Fool for Christ's sake. While the multitudes of the faithful were gathered in church, Epiphanius, the friend of Saint Andrew, through the Saint's prayers, beheld the Virgin Mary above the faithful and spreading out her veil over them, signifying her unceasing protection of all Christians. Because of this we keep a yearly feast of gratitude, imploring our Lady never to cease sheltering us in her mighty prayers.

In the Greek tradition, this feast is celebrated on October 28, while in the Slavic tradition, this feast is celebrated on October 1.

Apolytikion of Holy Protection of the Theotokos

O Virgin, we extol the great grace of thy Protection, which thou didst spread out like a bright cloud beyond all understanding; for thou dost invisibly protect thy people from the foe's every assault. Since we have thee as our shelter and certain help, we cry to thee with our whole soul: Glory to thy great deeds, O most pure Maid. Glory to thy shelter most divine. Glory to thy care and providence for us, O spotless one.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is instituting a policy for all parishes for Youth Protection. To be a Youth Worker, including a parental chaperone, one must be registered and then certified (including background checks). If you are interested in chaperoning youth events as a parent, please call the Office to begin the process of registration. Thank you to all our youth workers who have already registered!

The Guest WiFi password is listed in the Main Office and Pappas Hall. The router name is Saint Luke - 5G - Guest. As with all things, even with secure networks there is a need for safe online approaches.

Finally, as the Taste of Greece approaches, let us thank our “TOG Team” – Vicki and the workshop leaders and participants for their labor of love. To relieve some of the stress of the next couple of weeks, please connect with Judy to sign up for the remaining open positions. This will help make things smoother for everyone.

God bless you! And remember . . .

“Be courageous, be strong, let all that you do be done in love” (1 Cor. 16. 13.)

With love in XC,

+ Fr. Panteleimon

cont from page 1

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

October 6

October 13 (Youth Choir)

October 27

WEEKDAY SERVICES

October 18 and 19
Liturgy @ 9 am

October 23 @ 9 am
(Saint Iakovos)

October 26 @ 8:30/9: 30 am (Saint Demetrios)

Confession can be heard by appointment

Feast

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Dear St. Luke Parishioners,

May the blessings of our Lord and Savior be upon all of you and your families!

As we proceed forward with the beautiful New England Fall Season, we embark on the biggest fund raising the Taste of Greece. Thank you to the committee under the leadership of Vicki and to all those hardworking beautiful workshop ladies. Your hard work and dedication to St. Luke is noticeable by all of us. May the Lord bless your hard working hands and grant you long and healthy lives. Thank you to Judy for orchestrating the schedule for all the volunteers. She is relentless isn’t she? I wish we have 10 Judys; the Church will be on cloud nine if we did. We love you all from the heart. We are experiencing great times, as our Church heads in the right direction towards prosperity for the first time after 4 long years. The attendance is going north. We are more vibrant than ever. We have seen new faces and new families. With that said, we need more involvement from everyone. We need new blood, new leaders and committee chair people along with committee members.

For those parishioners, that have been missing for a while, for whatever personal reasons that may you have, I want to be the first to tell you that we missed you and missed your families. You are the life, of our beloved Church. St. Luke was built by hard working faithful people who had a vision. We must work very hard together to carry our founding parishioners’ vision and for the continuation of our Orthodox faith. I want to also challenge all of you to remember our obligation towards St. Luke. We need to stop relying on events to raise money. Stewardship should be the main source for balancing our budgets. We continue to fall short of our budgeted income goals year after year. We need to increase our stewardship to meet the annual inflation at least. Five more dollars a week would bring our budget in line.

As you all read and know, that big percentage of Christians have abandoned their faith and approximately 25% of our Christian Faith has become the NONE PRACTICING Christians. I am here to tell you that only through you; we are able to move our Christian faith in the right direction. Our children are the future, we must be the example. They follow us and do as we do spiritually sooner or later; trust me they do. I urge more people to volunteer in any caliber that suits your passion and expertise.

Last but not least, I would like to congratulate Father on the wonderful news! God bless you and your family!

Assaad Andrew Hallak

PHILOPTOCHOS

We hope everyone had a wonderful September!

I know that we thanked everyone who contributed to the backpack drive, but we would like to let you know of the heartfelt thanks we received when backpacks were dropped off at Homer Street School in Springfield, MA. The principal could not express enough of what a great deed St. Luke has done. She was so appreciative of all the backpacks that were given to her school. This is what Philoptochos is all about . . . helping others in need.

As always if you have any suggestions of different activities that you would like to see in the future, please let one of the board members know. We wish everyone a Happy October!

Maria Londo
Philoptochos President
Dear Fellow Parishioners:

STEWARDS OF THE FAITH:

All Things are Possible to the One Who Believes in Christ

Our parish Stewardship committee has been invited and will attend a Stewardship Training Seminar hosted by Bill Marianes of stewardshipcalling.com in Woburn on October 4. The topic of this all-day seminar is “Igniting the Flame of True Christian Stewardship” and we look forward to sharing what we learn with our St. Luke fellow parishioners in the upcoming 2020 campaign.

October brings many opportunities for Stewardship in our parish. Take a look around and you will see the joy and hard work of our dedicated St. Luke stewards working toward a common goal, The Taste of Greece. This event is our biggest fundraiser and it is an opportunity for our parishioners to get involved in the life of our church. Through time spent volunteering, offering their talent and creativity in cooking, baking, dancing, and serving, and their treasure to offset the costs, this event is Stewardship In Action!

If you haven’t already signed up to help, please don’t delay. Your Church needs all hands on deck! From cooking, prepping, doing dishes, hall set-up and break-down, as well as serving and volunteering during the Oct. 18-20 weekend, there are many opportunities to work together to make this event a success! Get involved in the fellowship of Stewardship!

Yours sincerely,
Joe and Meghan Dasco,
co-chairs Stewardship Committee
**GOYA**

On Sunday September 29th we had our first GOYA meeting. A great turnout and our new officers are:
Drumroll please.

- Secretary-Tessa Bonatakis
- Communications- Ryan Clay
- Treasurer: Anthony Coulouras
- Vice President- Timothy Londo
- President-Thomas Coulouras

Our next official meetings are October 20th, November 17th and December 22nd.
Watch for get-togethers and communications.

**Hope/JOY**

Join us as we go pumpkin pickin’ on October 14 at Austins Farm in Belchertown. Information forthcoming via email

**Ushering Ministry**

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

**Romeos & Juliets**

The next Romeos & Juliets schedule is 12:30 pm on 10/24. The restaurant is Basil’s Restaurant, 64 West Stafford Road, Stafford Springs, CT. Hope you can join us! Tentative schedule for 2019 is 10/24, 11/21* (early due to Thanksgiving) and 12/19* (Christmas Party). Hope you can join us!

**From the Choir Loft**

Choir is back and we are so blessed to have Kristen with us to play the organ. We are excited to have our Sunday School sing the communion hymn with us on Sunday, October 13th. Let them know how proud we are of them!

We have special hymns to be sung for Veterans’ Day and Thanksgiving. If you would like to sing with us on those Sundays, please let me know and music will be made available for you.

Toni Rizas

**Sunday School**

Our church school year has started out great!

The children will be singing with the choir the second Sunday of each month. Please support them on October 13th.

There will be no Sunday School the following date:
- October 20 (Taste of Greece),

**Knitting Group**

Knitting Group is taking a break as their loving hands are being utilized elsewhere for the month of the October. Busy hands helping with the Taste of Greece.

**Loaves & Fishes**

We wish to thank our volunteers! October - Endowment Committee

**Ministry News...**
Welcome Back Sunday

Thank you to all who participated in preparation and serving such a great BBQ and fellowship ending in dancing of course!

The petting zoo was a big hit and the children enjoyed their first day of Sunday School for some their VERY FIRST DAY! It was very exciting.
Opportunities for Time and Talent

HOW CAN I HELP....
If you are interested in becoming a part of any of the following ministries, please contact Father or any council member. As we all know, the “goings on” in any church are the result of “volunteerism”. Your support and ideas will be a positive step in the life of our church!

Parish Council Member – (Monthly meetings)
The Parish Council is a group of men and women who have been elected by the parish to meet, discuss, and take care of the administration of the parish. They are an integral part of the decision-making body of the church. If you are interested in making positive decisions for the future of St. Luke, consider becoming a member of the parish council. Be on the lookout for nomination info…you may self-nominate or nominate someone you think would be a good candidate. Nominations close at the November General Assembly and the election is in December.

Stewardship Member- (Monthly meetings)
The Stewardship committee is an exciting way to volunteer and help others be aware of opportunities to support their faith and be involved. Stewardship is our Christian obligation. It has three pillars—time, talent, and treasure (financial giving)—all given to foster the well-being of the church in the service of the Gospel. Stewardship needs a boost and new people to bring in ideas to try to increase participation and giving. So, if you are someone who would like to help the ministry that tries to encourage giving and service, which in turn supports the daily operation of the church, and would like to encourage other parishioners to become active participants in church life, the members of the Stewardship committee welcome you!

Messenger – (Monthly)
The Messenger is the monthly means of sharing the news with and updating information to the parishioners of St. Luke. The Messenger goes out electronically to parishioners with a few copies printed for those who do not have computers in their home. There is a mid-month deadline for articles, messages, flyers, etc. to be submitted. The two individuals who have done this over the past several years, Maria Londo and Presvytera Eleni, are not able to continue stewarding this ministry. If you are a bit Mac-savvy — please talk to Prez about joining to help with this ministry. You are able to be creative and give the gift of keeping our parishioners connected. We need Parishioner(s) to step up for the 2020 Messenger year beginning with the January issue.

Breakfast With Santa - (December)
This is an event that is looked forward to and enjoyed by the younger children of the parish. It involves a breakfast buffet/coffee hour, holiday game or craft activities, and a visit with Santa. The children are also asked to bring an unwrapped toy/gift to support our child-life services at Baystate Hospital. This provides support throughout the year to hospitalized children to have appropriate play during their challenges. The event is a group effort, there is a signup sheet for donations of goodies and talent and setup/cleanup. It will be held again on a Sunday in December for everyone to enjoy. It’s time for our next generation parents to join in the fun of executing this event as many who have been involved now have high school and even college graduates. We have the decorations and the games — it is a mini Christmas indoor carnival of fun spreading cheer.

Welcome Back Cookout - (September)
This is a simple buffet type of cookout which usually consists of hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, and chips. It coincides with the return of Sunday School classes and has some type of special entertainment for the children. In the past, we have had a Forest Park Zoo presentation, and this year a petting zoo from Animal Kraze, etc. (Father usually gets the entertainment.) This again would be a stewardship opportunity for families with Sunday School age children to participate. Volunteers for this activity are needed for the Welcome Back activity September 2020.
A “Thank You” To Our Church Musicians

October is a month set aside across our entire Archdiocese to commemorate the dedicated and talented women and men in our congregation whose stewardship provides music for our liturgical services throughout the year.

The ministry of music is an essential part of our religious life. Through our hymns, we worship the Lord, our God – we give thanks, we ask for blessings, we renew our faith, and we express the joy of Orthodox Christian fellowship.

When you see our choir members and chanters, please take a moment to tell them how much you appreciate their gift to our parish.

There is one Sunday left in October that is open for someone wishing to make an offering to their friends, family and new friends yet to be

Are you the someone?

Fellowship time /coffee hour is another vital ministry of church - please consider signing up to assist in coordinating this time.

October 13th

We thank you in advance for helping to continue this tradition.
It's the Final Countdown!

OPA!

Our wonderful volunteers are making final preparations, the Agora is organizing, last workshops are being completed and the dancers are practicing (not that they need it—they are awesome). Here are some more reminders. If you haven't signed up yet—don't miss out on the opportunity for fellowship and fun.

Parking and Shuttle Service Changes

We are asking that all our parishioners, visiting as well as working, the Taste of Greece use our shuttle service on the Friday and Saturday of the Taste weekend.

PLEASE park at the St Michaels Community Center (not the church) at 53 Somers Rd.

St. Luke volunteers will kindly drive you back and forth any time between 8:30 and closing.

** For those coming from the rotary in the center of town: Go to the left of the white Congregational Church and onto Somers Rd, it is located on your right up the hill.

**For those driving from Chestnut St (area of former parking shuttle lot): when you reach the end of the road, turn left onto Somers Rd and continue straight and in less than a mile, St Michael’s Center will be on your left.

You may feel that this is a little inconvenient, but think about it...

If the 75 or so parishioners that work each shift park in our lot, it cuts down almost half of the available parking spots. And that does not include those parishioners visiting during those times!

Isn't the purpose of the Taste to share our great food, culture, and traditions with others? Let’s allow this to happen by giving them the opportunity to park.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation...

Taste of Greece Workshops

October

Monday 7th Moussaka / Pastitsio
(Assembly only)

Friday 11th Paximathia

All Workshops start at 10AM
Our aim this year is to get more parishioners involved in this great weekend event! If you have worked in the past, we look forward to seeing you again. If you have not had the opportunity to work, we invite you to join us. Success in an undertaking of this size cannot be achieved by the efforts of a few, but only by the strength and combined efforts of many. If each of us could help out for 1, 2, or 3 days (out of those 365) and work a few of those of those 8,760 hours a year, the “Taste” would be a true success! A small price to pay for so much in return…

So be on the look-out for the “Taste” sign-up sheets. When you see them, take the opportunity to sign up for the shift(s) and day(s) that you can help out.

In advance, I thank you for donating your time and talent. Call if you have any questions…. judy (525-4640)
Harvest Day Dinner

Sunday, November 24, 2019

Join family and friends in the Pappas Fellowship Hall Following Sunday Liturgy

Home-Style Chicken Dinner or Baked Haddock

Adults $16
Children (under 12) $6

Graciously prepared and served by The Vamvilis Family

Reservations may be made on Sunday, October 27, 2019 following Liturgy or by calling the church office at 413-525-4551. Reservations must be made by Monday, November 18th. No dinners will be sold at the door.
Memorials

In memory of John Marnelakis
Luke and Lorraine Ahladas

In memory of Andrea Argiro
Luke and Lorraine Ahladas
Elaine and Steven Paul

STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

1. Once all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.

2. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but we still set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.

3. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.

4. On an old man’s shirt was written a sentence “I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience. That is attitude.

Bible Study Opportunities

- Gospel of Luke
  Tuesdays 6:30pm in the Conference Room

- Book of Sirach
  Fridays 11am in the Conference Room after TOG

Annual Men’s Fellowship Night

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

Orthodox Life

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

Next event on October 23