Χριστος Ανεστη! Christ is Risen!

We shared the Good News the way bread is broken and distributed around a table. With the doors of the church open on the evening of Pascha, the Gospel was proclaimed and we sang the Christos Anesti together.

I realize how difficult this is for you. I know how much you want not only to be together, but also to receive the Eucharist and to sing Christos Anesti together. I miss that as well and look forward to the day when we can be together. All this will happen in God’s time.

A lot has, interestingly, become clearer for me in this time. For instance, I have come to gain insights into the Church’s fasting practices, as experiencing the supermarket without meat has allowed me to see things I did not realize before.

Also, self-isolation has allowed for more family meals and discussion around the dinner table. That meal is received with thanksgiving, sanctified by prayer. So, when you eat, please give thanks for your meal. If you are alone, call someone up or video chat them, as things are, and please do not eat alone.
Our parish thanks John and Effie Lagadinos and family from Boston for their most generous donation to help our parish and other parishes in the Metropolis of Boston during this difficult time, which has affected all our churches financially. We are grateful and pray that our good Lord bless them with His mercy and love.
The situation in which we find ourselves is a unique one, I think, in all of history. But, as I mentioned in a previous message, Christians are not new to pandemics. When large scale epidemics occurred in the ancient world, such as the famous Antonine Plague, it was the cities with the most Christians that survived the most.

And why was that?

It was because the Christians loved their neighbor.

One of the hardest things now has been gauging how to show love in the absence of being together. When the Good Samaritan in the Gospel of Luke lifted the sick man to bring him to an inn to recover, he picked him up. Now, we would say that perhaps we cannot even do that.

But we would be wrong, because there are others who do. They are called first responders, and they need your prayers and help as well. And should we encounter anyone who needs help, we should still not hesitate for this.

That really should be our goal now in the light of the Resurrection – for each of us to beseech the Risen Lord to illuminate for us a path, so we can best serve others and show love of neighbor, true Christian charity, in the age of pandemic.

Fear not, this too shall pass!

Christos Anesti!

With love in the Risen Lord,
+ Fr. Panteleimon

**Thank You**

Holy Week is always a time-intensive and emotional week. All this was magnified this year. I wish to thank, from the bottom of my heart, the following wonderful parishioners of Saint Luke who helped make Holy Week this year special:

Damien Zaharis — thank you for your tremendous effort, not only at the psaltiri (it was all excellent!), but also as the altar server and coordinator for the telephone conference call so parishioners without smartphones could listen in. Damien also helped prepare the church for services the following day.

Aristidis Zaharis — thank you for your time chanting, even as you maintained a full time job.

Jennifer Russell — thank you for an educational GOYA 30 Hour Famine, with a great movie for discussion and questions, as well as organizing the Loaves and Fishes meal and delivery. Under such challenging circumstances you brought everyone together.

Thank you also to Mr. Klitsas for the kouvouklion, as well as Melissa Kaitis and Rosanne Desautels for decorating it.

Thank you also to all our Parish Council members who assisted with the Holy Week services.

And last, but not least, thank you to our social media coordinator — Pres!

God bless you all!
Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Christ is Risen!

On behalf of myself and the entire Parish Council, we continue to pray for the health and safety of you and your loved ones.

In this difficult time, we are all attempting to adjust to life’s “new norm” which includes quarantine, distance learning, working from home, caring for loved ones, the absence of normal Liturgy schedules, and potential financial uncertainties. With the worry these changes may cause, it is important to remember that God is in control.

During this period, your Parish Council has continued to conduct regular monthly meetings via conference calls. Our St. Luke community is dealing with many of the same issues that other families are facing at this time, including finances, health and safety concerns, and maintaining our parish while not letting our Faith waiver.

A few updates:

Sunday morning services will continue to be live streamed at 9:30 a.m.

The Laity Awards Dinner is going to be held virtually on June 14 at 7:00 p.m. More details will be forthcoming.

Dancing with Heart has been postponed until October 11th, with a potential back-up date of May 8, 2021.

As planned, Jennifer Russell and GOYA members were able to provide lunch at Loaves and Fishes on April 18th.

The Lagadinos family from the Boston area has generously donated $5,000.00 to St. Luke and every church in the Boston Metropolis. Father and I have sent a thank you letter for their kind donation.

The maintenance committee continues to review their budget and is looking to see if there are any possible savings for spring cleanup and outside upkeep for the year.

The Endowment Fund, as well as all other financial funds, have been hit hard by this crisis and Jim Bologa will be providing a more detailed report in the near future.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 4th. At that time, we should have a better understanding of the state of the COVID-19 Pandemic and how it will continue to impact our community and our church. During this meeting we will create a plan to follow in the coming months.

I am looking forward to the day when we can be back in our beloved church for Sunday Liturgy.

All the best,

Ronald Rookey
Parish Council President
Dear St. Luke Parishioner;

Xristos Anesti!!

The Stewardship Committee would like to extend a big Thank You to Father Panteleimon and Damien Zarahas and to members of the Parish Council for their Time and Talent for live-streaming the many beautiful services during Great Lent and Holy Week. While it was strange and difficult for all of us to have to experience our lenten journey in isolation, Father and Damien worked tirelessly and creatively to provide some semblance of normalcy by bringing our parish together through technology. We are so grateful for their love and devotion to St. Luke.

We are also so grateful for the outpouring of generosity to all you who have continued to offer your pledge of treasure during this difficult time. We have received many pledges both through the mail and via online giving through our website. This financial support is so vital for us as a parish to fulfill our mission which is:

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. By practicing charity through stewardship and Christian ministries, we will create an environment where parishioners are involved in the life of the church.

As we all know, Dancing With Heart has been rescheduled until the fall. In order for us to help meet our financial obligations through the summer, we have applied for and have been approved for a forgivable $25k loan through the Paycheck Protection Program. Through this loan and your continued generosity, we are prayerful that we will be able to continue with our mission on an uninterrupted basis.

Christ is Risen! This proclamation is in our hearts and in our minds; this is what it means to work for the Lord.

Please continue to be involved with the life and good works at St. Luke.

Sincerely,

Joe and Meghan Dasco
We all hope that everyone is safe and well. This year wasn't our usual Easter, but we did try to keep some of our traditions.

These were:

1. Kouvoouklin decorated
2. Lilies aligning the altar
3. Lily Booklet
4. Outreach

We were unable to do our annual Kouloria and Bread fundraiser but those who kindly donated their monies to Outreach we truly appreciate it. Thank you all for your support to help those in need.

We wish each and every one of you health, safety, and Christos Anesti!

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

Philoptochos Board
Hello Fellow Parishioners,

Xristos Anesti! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generous support of our 30 Hour Famine fundraiser! We successfully raised $1,970 for World Vision, which will feed 49 children for a month. We appreciate your continued support in our annual ministry.

Congratulations as well, to our fellow GOYANS for participating in the fast and thank you for participating in our Zoom sessions to help us grow closer to God.

We look forward to seeing each other soon where we can enjoy our fellowship in person, and in warmer spring weather!

Love, GOYA +
Jennifer E. Russell (GOYA Advisor)

Sunday School

Sunday school is still going strong except it’s on a Thursday and on ZOOM! Watch for your email from Father early in the week for the link. Father has been teaching each session and connecting with our youth and watch for guest speakers and some surprises upcoming. If you haven’t connected yet there is always room!

FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

CHRISTOS ANESTI! Hope everyone is well and staying safe. As of now, we do not have a return date for choir to resume. Let’s keep each other in thoughts and prayers.

Miss you all! Toni

Loaves & Fishes

We wish to thank our GOYA for serving this ministry this past month. Food was purchased and delivered to maintain COVID restrictions.
On Tuesday evening, another first for St. Luke...a Zoom meeting for “just a chat”! About 20 “St. Lukers” dialed in to see and/or hear from their fellow parishioners ... something we all have been waiting for the opportunity to do.

The crowd was a mix...Father, Pres and the kids were probably the youngest of the group while Ann Flynn, Bea Syner and Sarah Lefakis, all in their 90’s, were the oldest. The rest of us spanned the years in between. And to be honest those three, plus our Doris Henault, were probably the ones who needed and appreciated the chat the most. Unlike others of us, they do not have the technology which would afford them the opportunity to see friends and family via social media or other communication apps. This was their first opportunity to interact with some of their fellow parishioners. They were so appreciative. When asked how she liked the meeting, Sarah responded...

"It was wonderful. I miss seeing everyone at church. I just love watching all the children march into church every Sunday. I can’t wait until we can get back to church.”

We started the meeting with excitement and then singing Xristos Anesti, which made Ann so very happy! And so it began...don’t worry Toni...the choir has nothing to worry about...you still have the job!!! No matter how we sounded, the words from Ann were “We needed that.”

The “chat” continued on with a question here and there which was responded to by many a voice; a joke by the “most of the time serious” Nic Lefakis; what people have been doing at home to pass the time; and many a thought about how the current situation has really affected our lives in one way or another.

Father is planning to have another Zoom Chat next Tuesday, May 5th at 5:00.

If you’re able to join in, give it a try!

judy
Encircled World
Written By Karen Donzell
(Who was Inspired by the poem- How the Grinch stole Christmas in Whoville! 😊)

T’was the Era of Covid
When this virus began.
It encircled the world,
Both Ocean and Land.
Folks became ill, many even died.
Health care professionals in a waking nightmare cried
At those they could not save, or even protect.
This unseen enemy
Spread as a plague.

People feared contact with others
Fashioned in gloves and masks
In hopes of stopping the spread to others
Most of all to their fathers and mothers.

Hidden in their homes under heaven’s quarters
People shaken by the news of all the broadcasting reporters.

Then Holy Week started
The churches all empty.
Easter it seemed would not happen.
A feeling of doom and abandonment felt
As people for weeks in seclusion and isolation dwelt.

But then something happened
A wonderful, magical, loveable thing happened!

People in their homes began each day with a prayer
Then tuned in online to their churches twitter site.
To hear the prayers, to participate in chants,
to open their heart
And to their amazement, felt something they could no longer contain.
The feeling of love and hope
Was alive once again.
So, they dyed their eggs
And they made their breads
And they made zoom calls with their family or some just used the phone instead.
And on Easter morning something wonderful happened
A noise started out softly,
Then every house echoed in unity loudly and bold-
Xristos Anesti was heard all across the land
It encircled the world-
Both Ocean and Land
A beautiful message
That spread to all
Alethos Anesti -
The best message of All.
Wishing all A Blessed Easter, and Hope and Faith in the Resurrected Christ. In Him there is no fear, no anxiety, no abandonment.

Only Love.

Let the homes of all ring around the world and land to the sound Xristos Anesti!

Indeed, Christ IS Risen!
With Gratitude

Our sweet little virtual Myrrhbearers brought smiles to all our faces.

Thank you to Mr Dimitri Klitsas for making our brand new kouvouklion which was lighter and able to be carried by two. Thank you Joe Dasco and Damien Zaharis.

Thank you to everyone who came to give Father his birthday parade and greetings - a wonderful surprise and a memorable
In memory of Christos Tapasas
Peter and Rita Rozantes
Vicki and Lou LaRoche
Chris and Eleni Bazos
Tom and Maria Laware
Saint Luke Choir

In memory of Tula Karamallis
Nick and Sarah Lefakis
Michael and Christine Kennedy
Chris and Eleni Bazos
Phyllis LaVallee
Peter and Rita Rozantes
Vicki and Lou LaRoche
Meri Kassanos
George and Magda Galiatsos
Kathy Rodolakis
Chris and Joe Babineau
Doris Henault
Deborah and Robert Knihnicki
Nona Bilionis
Tom and Maria Laware
Bacon Wilson PC
Ted and Maria Carellas
Craige Zildjian
Linda and Jim McKenzie
Christine Mistos
Joann Nichting
Cheryl Perrault
Elaine and Steven Paul
Pat and Peter Fecke
Elaine and Tim Flynn
Saint Luke Choir

In memory of Charles Bonatakis, Sr.
Peter and Lanie Alexopoulos
Demosthenes and Marion Dasco
MaryAnn Rodolakis
Meri Kassanos
George and Magda Galiatsos
Kathy Rodolakis
David Arthur
Doris Henault
Tom and Cathy Themistos
Chris and Eleni Bazos
Markos Katsoulis Family
Nona Bilionis
Tom and Maria Laware
Helen and Thea Katsounakis
Charles and Cleo Mavrelion
Julie Decesare
Bob and Gini La Palme
William and Ann Tountas
George and Jane Metzidakis
Carl and Maria Marangoudakis
Marie Lyons
Stamos and Sara Metzidakis