In this month of February, one full month into the year 2021, we have witnessed a busy and climactic era. January 1 began well enough, but a few short days later things seem to move out of control very fast. Then there was an inauguration, and changes. In just a few short days!

Historical events can be like that. They can surprise us, just like that. Because we live so much of our lives off smartphones and cable TV, the lenses through which we view the world come out to us through the technology in our hands.

But we can easily lose sight of what is real because of all the technology we have. Let’s pause and assess:

So, what is real? Your family and loved ones. Your home. I am pretty sure that is real. The accomplishments in your life. Your sorrows as well. The food you are eating is real, too. The flavors and the smells are real. So is the green grass of home. God is real.

Within the last twenty years, we have been introduced to something called “the Cloud.” Not up there in the sky, but, well, everywhere and nowhere at the same time. The Cloud is where your digital identity and history is kept. It moves around different computer servers that are “in the Cloud,” information that is hosted by large corporations.

We have allowed ourselves to become beholden to all of this. Notice, I am not saying to avoid tech, we have to use it. Do not be beholden to it. If left unchecked for us personally, it will refashion our lives entirely. Dostoevsky’s Grand Inquisitor (don’t know who that is? Look him up!) is less a person and more a system.
THE COMPASSION OF HUMAN BEINGS IS FOR THEIR NEIGHBORS, BUT THE COMPASSION OF THE LORD IS FOR EVERY LIVING THING

— SIRACH 18.13
What is the solution to affirming our internal freedom? Really, I marvel at many of our elderly parishioners, you know, the people who are not “tech-savvy.” They do not register a smartphone, well, rarely, and so they do not worry.

Have you ever wondered why Jesus, in discussing wealth in Matthew 6, tells us not to worry? After all, He says, "look at the birds of the air . . .consider the lilies of the field." Look. Open your eyes and look around you.

We need our feet firmly planted on the ground, and our heads in the heavenly clouds above, where Christ is (Colossians 3. 1 - 4). Forget the technological cloud as much as you can. To be an internally free human being, learn to say No.

In this way, we would hearken to the voice of Isaiah. Describing God’s salvation, he promises:

Then the Lord will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over its places of assembly a cloud by day and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night. Indeed over all the glory there will be a canopy. It will serve as a pavilion, a shade by day from the heat, and a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain (4. 5- 6)

Affirm your humanity and trust in God!

With love in the Lord,
+ Fr. Panteleimon

If you can help with Prosphoro and Kollyva, please let Father know. We have dedicated parishioners helping out, and it would be wonderful to have more assistance. Thank you!
Happy New Year everyone,
As you all know with the new year we held elections to fill seats for terms that have ended on the Parrish council. For 2021 we welcome new members Sarah Kirchner and Joe Perrault. We all thank you for volunteering your time and talents After many years of service on the council Nick Vamvilis and George Katsoulis have decided step down. While we will miss their input on the council, we look forward to their continued support in other ways.

Let’s take a moment to honor John Foscolos many years of service and dedication to our St. Luke”s community, may his memory be eternal.

Our first council meeting was held on Jan. 12, at which time officers for the council were elected. With honor and humility I was nominated and accepted the position of President for 2021. Judy Lelas was elected Vice President, Joe Dasco as Treasurer and Nic Lefakis as Secretary. Our community is blessed to have 3 such qualified council officers. We are also so fortunate to have an entire council of dedicated and qualified council. The council is as follows Joe Dasco, Judy Lelas, Rosanne Desautels, Assaad Hallak, Anthony Antonopoulos, Sarah Kirshner, Joe Perrault, Harry Georgiades, Nic Lefakis and myself Ron Rookey (think I include everyone)

January was a rough start but I know better times for 2021 will be upon us. God bless everyone!
Ron Rookey

Philocthochos wishes all parishioners a happy, healthy 2021. Although January 2021 has already seen its share of challenges with limitations to in-person church services, I’m happy to announce that Vasilopita Sunday took place Sunday, January 31st. I would like to extend our heartfelt thank you to our lovely ladies Georgia Klitsas and Vacelec (Bess) Zaharis, who baked the Vasilopita breads this season. In keeping with tradition, all proceeds from Vasilopita Sunday will benefit Saint Basil Academy.

During our last meeting held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, via FaceTime, it was determined that **Philocthochos will launch its 2021 Membership Drive on Sunday, February 14.** That day will also be used to support the **Go Red for Women** movement. I would encourage all parishioners able to attend in-person church services that day to please wear your **RED** in support of Women’s Cardiovascular Health.

The current pandemic makes the 2021 Philocthochos Membership Drive somewhat more complicated. However, we are more optimistic than ever that 2021 will be the most successful year in its history!!! Why? Simply, **the answer is, it MUST be!** Where there is great need, there is also great LOVE! That is our motto, and we challenge all parishioners, both women, and men, to support our ministry abundantly.

There’s so much we would like to do moving forward, but it takes money. So, in the coming weeks, all parishioners will receive a mailer from Philocthochos. This mailer will give every member within our community the opportunity to support Philocthochos. We graciously ask that every parishioner or family make the $35 minimum pledge.

Since we cannot celebrate a coffee hour during our 2021 membership period, we encourage parishioners to utilize traditional mail, sending all correspondence directly to the church office for the safety of all. As an alternative, we have also placed a box to collect your completed pledge with payment in the Narthex as a contactless collection method. A board member will be available after Liturgy in the Narthex to answer questions and facilitate a seamless drop off process.

In closing, Philocthochos is prayerfully hoping that we will be able to execute so many of our Easter traditions if safety permits.

God Bless, The Philocthochos Board
Dear Fellow Parishioners,

On behalf of the stewardship ministry we pray that his message finds everyone doing well. By now you should have received the 2021 stewardship campaign packet and your year-end statement for 2020. Kindly be reminded to fill out your pledge cards and send them in and also finalize your 2020 pledge of treasure. If you haven’t received your 2021 pledge packet, please reach out to the office and request another copy.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our stewards who have given of their Time, Talent and Treasure for the past year. To say the least, 2020 was challenging for all of us! However, due to your generosity we were able to get through it together. We feel especially blessed to have been able to keep our church open for weekly services and even special sacraments throughout this pandemic. This could not have happened without the dedication of time and talent shown from our volunteers who make our St. Luke parish a priority in their lives. They truly understand what it means to give their first fruits to the glory of God, and to echo this year’s stewardship theme….. “the greatest of these is love.”

May God Bless our Many Gifts,
Sincerely,

Joe and Meghan Dasco
co-chairs Stewardship Committee
Romeos & Juliets

WE ARE BACK ON!!!
At least on ZOOM!
Join on the 4th Thursday at Noon for a joint ZOOM call. An email and phone call will be going out soon with the contact information.

All that is needed is that you have your lunch and conversation ready! If you are unable to join with a computer - you may still participate by telephone alone (PARTY LINE STYLE!!!)

Ushering Ministry

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

Sunday School

Sunday school has remained consistent on their ZOOM classes with almost the same attendance on Zoom as we have in person. GREAT JOB TEACHERS AND STUDENTS!!!

Loaves & Fishes

We wish to thank the Sergides, Stathis, Babineau and Laware families for their service to this ministry in January and the Choir which will give their time and talent for February. 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 Endowment Fund ("EF") has $1,737,594 in assets as of December 31, 2020. For the year ended December 31, 2020, the EF had net income of $184,124. The S&P Index, which is a proxy for market comparison, finished the year up 16.26% if one was invested 100% in the equity markets. The EF's performance for 2020 was a return of 12.07% which is a blended return of our 65% equity and 35% bond allocation.

All investments are managed by Creative Planning a wealth management firm based out of Kansas. This firm has managed our EF since September 2016 and since September 2016, on a time weighted basis, the EF has returned 8.63%, net of fees.

Listed below are the details of the key activities of the EF.

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<th>2016</th>
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<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning balance</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$1,213,721.41</td>
<td>$1,581,189.24</td>
<td>$1,365,369.82</td>
<td>$1,642,337.98</td>
<td>$ -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$1,200,000.00</td>
<td>$176,727.76</td>
<td>$690.00</td>
<td>$8,351.00</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$1,385,768.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Withdrawals</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ (6,860.70)</td>
<td>$95,370.04</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ (88,867.71)</td>
<td>$ (191,098.45)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dividends &amp; Interest</td>
<td>$14,205.92</td>
<td>$43,809.32</td>
<td>$42,852.41</td>
<td>$43,184.04</td>
<td>$33,426.05</td>
<td>$ 177,477.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Market Value</td>
<td>$ (484.51)</td>
<td>$153,791.45</td>
<td>$163,991.79</td>
<td>$225,433.12</td>
<td>$150,698.01</td>
<td>$ 365,446.28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Balance</td>
<td>$1,213,721.41</td>
<td>$1,581,189.24</td>
<td>$1,365,369.82</td>
<td>$1,642,337.98</td>
<td>$1,737,594.33</td>
<td>$1,737,594.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Approximately 27% of the assets are held in fixed income investments and the remaining 73% held in equity investments. These allocations fluctuate given market conditions and our allocation goal is 35% fixed income investments and 65% equity investments. A majority of our equity investments are held in large cap stock funds. Creative Planning is responsible for rebalancing the EF investment portfolio.

At each year ending December 31, we determine if there were any net earnings from which 40% of these earnings are available for distribution to the ministries of the church and its community. In addition, 10% of the net earnings are available for distribution to the church.
A successful Vasilopita cutting — different than usual but still beautiful! We thank our wonderful Philoptochos and ministries. God bless you!

Our Orthodox Littles have been busy on ZOOM and here is a sample of some of their work. Craft projects were mailed out last week for the upcoming weeks. We are having lots of fun.
Calling All Students

Graduating High School Students  College/Graduate School Students College/Graduate Trade School Students

It’s that time of year again when financial aid options in the form of grants, scholarships, and loans start to come to the forefront. Some are specific to certain areas of study...some are academically based...some are need based....and many are for any and all areas of study and/or need. Who can afford not to look into anything that might take some of the financial burden off of you or your family. It might take some time and research to find just the right fit for your needs, but it is all so worthwhile in the long run.

St. Luke has four scholarships that are offered ....The Barbara Olender Scholarship, The St. Nicholas Scholarship, The Madeline Knava Scholarship, and the Philoptochos Scholarship.

You will find application forms for all four of these scholarships on St. Luke's website. Each form will give you a summary of what the eligibility requirements are as well as what information is needed to be sent along with the application itself. You can print these forms out from the website, pick hard copies up at the church, or newly added this year is the option to use the fillable PDF format which can be filled in and sent in electronically. Three out of four of these scholarships can be applied for each year that you are in school.

Missing Our Calls?????

It has been reported by some of our parishioners that they are not receiving the robo calls sent out by Father Panteleimon, the parish council, ministry chairs or event chairs. Some do not get the calls from church at all; some are getting the indication that a church call came in on their voice mail/answering machine, but the message itself does not seem to be recorded; some see the message of an incoming call on their television screen and can’t get to the phone right away but find the message was not their voice mail/answering machine.

These calls are made to notify you of things such as:  upcoming special church services or events; Covid issues; meeting cancellations; church closings; etc. At a time like this, it is very important for us to be updated on events and issues.

I know as a personal experience...I was not getting the calls on my landline... I changed the receivership to my cell phone...so far so good!

If you are experiencing any of the above issues or have never signed up to receive the church robo calls, please call the church office (413-525-4551), Father, or any parish council member.

Thank you....judy (413-525-4640)
The Greek Orthodox Church of St. Luke

Famous Lamb Shank Dinner

SUNDAY

MARCH 7, 2021

CALL THE CHURCH SECRETARY
RESERVE YOUR MEALS
413-525-4551
OR
LEAVE A MESSAGE WITH NAME & PHONE NUMBER AND WE WILL GET BACK TO YOU!

**TAKEAWAY ORDERS ONLY**

**MENU**

**PREPAID MEAL RESERVATION DEADLINE**

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

Meal Choices

**LAMB SHANK** $22
ORZO, GREEN BEANS, SALAD, ROLL, RICE PUDDING

**SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS**
SALAD, ROLL, RICE PUDDING
CHOICE OF PORTION SIZE

ADULT $12 OR CHILD $6
Father, our St. Luke Community, Family, and Friends…
Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and concern. I am so grateful and blessed to have you in my life. God Bless you all….Ann

To some special people…Thanks for everything…..Love, Ann

Thank you to all our St. George Olympians for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and concern. I’ve been blessed to have been a part of such a wonderful organization…Love you all, “Mrs. Flynn”

Congratulations

Congratulations to Katerina and Greg Laware on the Baptism of their daughter Fotini-Garyfallia on January 31, 2021, with Marika and Spyridon Manitsas as Godparents. God bless you all!
All Hands on Deck!!!

As many of you are aware, our maintenance person, Bob Granger has not been working at the church as of late due to medical issues. We miss his love for and very conscientious attention to the well-being of our church of which he is also a member.

We are putting out a plea for a person or a small group of 3 or 4 people, male or female, who would like to help with some of the basic responsibilities that Bob took care of. Arrangements can be made to do this in the daytime or evening...whenever you are available. This is a time when nothing is the way it always was...so in a conventional or unconventional way, let’s get this done!!!!

As it stands right now, the work load is quite light as the only parts of the building in use on a regular basis are the church proper, the office, the office foyer, along with the once a month use of the kitchen to prepare a loaves and fishes meal, and the bathrooms which are rarely used.

These areas would involve vacuuming the church proper; sweeping and mopping the floors in the office foyer, the church narthex, the office and the altar nave area when needed; keeping an eye out on the supply of paper towels, toilet paper, and soap in the bathrooms; and lastly, emptying trash.

So, if you are someone, male or female...young or old...singly or with a group of friends.... who would just like to do something to assist your church out in a time of need, please contact us. Your help will be greatly appreciated....and you will make Bob a very happy man knowing the church he has cared for in years is in good hands.

Please call the church office (413-525-4551) and let us know you’re interested in helping out. Leave your name and telephone number and we’ll get back to you.

Thanks for your consideration....judy

HELP NEEDED

Due to my work schedule and changes in our family compliment - I really need some help with the Messenger. My apologies to everyone that it has become bi-monthly instead of monthly. If you are interested please let Father know.

Love, Pres Eleni
With Gratitude - Thank you

Ron,

Toys are purchased, we went as a family yesterday. They are going to Toys for Tots, a toy drive for east Granby residents and to children in hospitals across CT. Loo Thx for letting us do it.

All the best.
Christos J. Nikolis

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.

A huge shout out goes to Alysson Ravosa, a friend of St. Luke, for putting all our St. Luke Scholarships into the fillable PDF format. Her expertise, the time she put in, and her patience (with me and my technological skills) are to be commended! We are now “up with the times” so our graduating high school seniors, college students, and post grad students can choose the application format that best suits their needs.

Thank you Alysson…judy

A huge shout goes to Melissa Kaitis, a member of St. Luke, for taking all the info for our upcoming Shank Dinner given to her in a simplistic text form (by me) and turned it into an awesome flyer. (something way beyond my talents to accomplish!) As always, Melissa took her Time and combined it with her Talent to do something for St. Luke!

Thank you Melissa….judy
January 27, 2021

Greek Orthodox Church of St. Luke
P.O. Box 381
East Longmeadow, MA 01028

Dear Greek Orthodox Church of St. Luke,

Thank you for your $2000 donation to VIABILITY for our Lighthouse Clubhouse to purchase gift cards/Christmas gifts for members, which was received in December 2020.

Your gift, along with the gifts of others, makes a lasting difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Our philosophy is hinged on the belief that our programs help the people we serve achieve a better quality of life and provide the encouragement and support to take an active role in their own goals and progress.

Thank you again for your generosity!

With gratitude,

Colleen Holmes
CEO/President
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**

**Bible Study via ZOOM**

**Gospel of Luke**

**Mondays 6:30pm**

**Call Father 978-587-6488**

or email him to receive the Zoom link
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>In memory of Luke Ahladas</th>
<th>In memory of Phyllis LaVallee</th>
<th>In memory of Evangelia Spiridoulias</th>
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<td>Saint Luke Choir</td>
<td>Doris Henault</td>
<td>Michael and Artemis Romell</td>
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<td>Peter and Rita Rozantes</td>
<td>Thia Ploubides</td>
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<td>Constance Kokkinias</td>
<td>Elaine Squeglia</td>
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<td>Victor and Mary Galiatsos</td>
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<td>Assad and Barbara Hallak</td>
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<td>Kennedy</td>
<td>Anita and John Themistos</td>
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<td>Peter and Lanie Alexopoulos</td>
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<td>Tom and Maria Laware</td>
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<td>John and Georgette Piponidis</td>
<td>Gisele Zachary</td>
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<td>Nick Lefakis</td>
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<td>Michael and Artemis Romell</td>
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<td>Alice Roumas</td>
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May Their Memories Be Eternal

Demosthenes Dasco, fell asleep on January 21st, with the funeral being on February 8, 2021

Alexander Gearing, fell asleep on January 30th, with the funeral being held privately.

May consolation and comfort be with their families.