In this special November edition of *The Messenger*, we lend our focus to the upcoming national American holiday of Thanksgiving.

Although this is a national civil holiday, its celebration has many of the themes and characteristics with which we are all familiar as Christians — table fellowship, thanksgiving to God, family, and invitations to guests to enter our home.

I have often said that, at least here in America, the manner in which we celebrate Thanksgiving is actually the manner in which we ought to celebrate Christmas! Thanksgiving to God, seated around a table, with family and guests.

There is much for which we ought to be thankful to God. In spite of everything this year, the land is still bringing forth its bounty. People have opened their hearts towards generosity and care for the neighbor. We are still laughing.

As for myself, I am thankful for my beautiful family, and the laughter in our home. Each day promises a new page to be written.

As your parish priest, I am thankful to the living God for the opportunity to serve you, to pray with you, to comfort you, and to reassure you. Being a parish priest, one gains an insight into how the burdens of life can be transformed into joys by virtue of their being offered to God.
O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, intercede with our Merciful God, that He may grant our souls remission of sins
— Apolytikion of Saint Luke
Reading
Saint Alypius was from Adrianople of Bithynia; having lived upon a pillar for fifty-three years, he reposed about the year 607, at the age of one hundred.

Apolytikion of Alypius the Stylite
First Tone
Thou becamest a pillar of patience and didst emulate the Forefathers, O righteous one: Job in his sufferings, Joseph in temptations, and the life of the bodiless while in the body, O Alypius, our righteous Father, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Kontakion of Alypius the Stylite
Second Tone
Today the Church doth glorify and hymn thee, O Alypius, as a foundation of virtues and comeliness of the ascetics and the monks. By thy prayers, as the namesake of true freedom from sorrow, free from their grievous sins all them that praise and honor thy struggles and deeds of excellence.

As a one-time sports fan, I am thankful that I have not been following the rankings. Can someone tell me who won the World Series?

Let us embrace the time we have been given, which in Greek is known as kairos, so that we give it meaning each day.

While Thanksgiving will come and go this year, find time in the midst of everything going on to give true thanks to God.

Happy Thanksgiving!

+ Fr. Panteleimon

“When you sit down to eat, pray. When you eat bread, do so thanking Him for being so generous to you. If you drink wine, be mindful of Him who has given it to you for your pleasure and as a relief in sickness. When you dress, thank Him for His kindness in providing you with clothes. When you look at the sky and the beauty of the stars, throw yourself at God’s feet and adore Him who in His wisdom has arranged things in this way. Similarly, when the sun goes down and when it rises, when you are asleep or awake, give thanks to God, who created and arranged all things for your benefit, to have you know, love and praise their Creator.”

+ St. Basil the Great, from Homily V. In martyrem Julittam
Fellow Parishioners:

I pray you and your families are safe and well. Thanksgiving is upon us, and for many it may not be the "normal" Thanksgiving for which we have become accustomed. Despite the current pandemic, I feel there is much for which to be thankful. I have been reflecting on things I am grateful for and would like to share with you a few of those.

FAMILY. I am sure for many, if not all of us, family is our foundation. Sure there are many times we may not appreciate those closest to us as we should, but to me, family is my world.

HEALTH. I am hopeful that most of us only have to deal with minor health issues; however, we probably all have friends or family with more serious issues. I am appreciative of my health and grateful for it.

LAUGHTER. A good laugh is good for the soul. Laughing with friends and family is priceless.

FREEDOM. Politics aside, we live in a country where we have the freedom to choose where we want to live, the career path we want to take, whether we want to marry or have a family, and most importantly we have the freedom to worship as we want.

For myself, I thank God every morning for being alive and giving me another day. Sometimes we may question our purpose and fret that time goes too fast. Many things are beyond our control. Remember we cannot control time, but we can control how happy we are with the time we have.

God Bless,

Ron
Parish Council President
Dear Fellow Parishioner;

The Stewardship Committee wishes to thank all of the 2020 Stewards for your commitment and devotion to St. Luke’s. This certainly has been our most challenging year!

We will be kicking off our 2021 campaign this month with the theme of “…. the greatest of these is love.”

Though we won’t be having our traditional Lamp Lighting Ceremony or our Annual Harvest Dinner, our stewardship packets will be distributed and mailed by the end of November. Please thoughtfully consider your pledges of Time, Talent and Treasure and return your 2021 pledge cards in the envelopes provided in the packet.

Thank you and may God Bless our Many Gifts,

Joe and Meghan Dasco
co-chairs Stewardship Committee
Philoptochos is wishing all our beloved parishioners a blessed and healthy November. As we move into yet another month of the new normal caused by the current pandemic, we are hopeful that some sense of tradition will be realized. With that said, you should have all received our October letter outlining the traditional fall and winter campaigns with giving opportunities.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas quickly approaching we are currently organizing food outreach needs. So please, if you are aware of a family(s) in need please contact Father or one of the Philoptochos board members so that the family(s) needs may be served. Also within the letter, information regarding the Christmas Card and Poinsettia deadlines are detailed. Please complete the paperwork and mail payments directly to the church office or drop off in the designated box located in the Narthex which offers a second method of contactless collection. A member of the Philoptochos board will be present after Liturgy to answer questions and facilitate a seamless drop off process.

Furthermore, located on the Pangari you will notice another NEW collection box for Lenten recipes. Digital submissions of recipes can be emailed to Rosanne Desautels at dezrose@cox.net With your help and your family’s incredible time tested “not so secret” traditional Lenten recipes, Philoptochos is excited to bring you a beautifully published Lenten Cookbook. This latest endeavor will hopefully be supported and ready for purchase in the spring of 2021.

Now that the weather is becoming colder Philoptochos is mindful of the tremendous needs within our community. Some of our neighbors are in need of crucial items to help keep them warm. In keeping with tradition and honoring the memory of Karen Louis, the Tree of Warmth is up! With the support of the St. Luke Knitting Club and any other creative member within our community we are collecting NEW knitted, crocheted or purchased gloves, scarves, mittens and hats.

The winter Blessing Bags are ready and also located on the Pangari. Please take a few as you exit the church to keep in your cars to distribute to our most vulnerable population, the homeless. Where there is great need, there is also great love.

Philoptochos has several volunteer opportunities available. Those opportunities involve proofing of the Christmas Card and Poinsettia brochure, help with folding, stuffing and labeling the Christmas Card for mailing, and finally helping to prepare the Bereavement Gifts. If you can help with any of these tasks it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact any board member.

In closing, we offer our gratitude to all those who continually support our ministry allowing Philoptochos to stay current with all our monthly obligations while continuing to make sure our established campaigns thrive; creating the opportunity to realize NEW endeavors through the good times and the unexpectedly difficult.

God Bless,
The Philoptochos Board
Philoptochos remains active and please continue to assist and support these drives.

Baby it’s cold outside!
Now collecting NEW

Honoring the memory of Karen Louis
Help US KEEP the KIDS WARM this WINTER

Donations Supporting HOMER SCHOOL Springfield
**The Good and Faithful Steward Challenge**

Please take note of this new ministry which allows all to participate **actively in living their faith.**

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**GOYA**

Each family is hosting a monthly GOYA event with appropriate social distancing.

In December, we will be singing Christmas Carols at Chestnut Hill Nursing Home of East Longmeadow, MA. Dress warmly as we will be singing to the residents through their windows. Date to be announced. We will be inviting families of all ages to join in also.

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**Ushering Ministry**

Please call Harry at 413-883-2560, if you are interested to assisting on ushering duties on Sundays.

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**Loaves & Fishes**

We are grateful to the Endowment Committee for hosting Loaves & Fishes for November.

There are opportunities for parishioners to get involved in 2021. Please contact Barbara Hallak for more information or call the Office.

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**Sunday School**

Sunday school is going strong with all grades being on Zoom and remote learning. We hope to have hybrid in person again soon. The primary grades have been enjoying their lessons which have included guided drawing, songs and home scavenger hunts. We are grateful for our teachers and students.
I am so grateful. This gift came at a very difficult time. Our Church did not forget us. God is with us. I pray for our country and the world. Thank you so very much. God bless! Your Faithful Steward

Donated it to St. Francis House, which I know does good work. Was able to do it when they were having a matching gift office, so it in effect was doubled!

$300 donation to the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, World Trade Center, to help rebuild a tribute to our Greek heritage

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Highlighted Story --

I gave this gift to a single mother who is suffering from brain cancer. She has a young son who just turned 9 years old. She relies on friends to help her for everything. When given our gift she could not get over it. Her son said, "Mom -- these people must really care about us to be so generous." He asked for some of the money so he could buy a book to read to his mom. Notes: It is a great feeling. I matched the gift. How was the gift received? With incredible shock and joy

Donated $300 to "World Food Program;" matched $300 donation to "Save the Children." Thank you! What a great "pay forward" idea.
Happy Birthday, Ann! You have been on this earth for 33,959 days since the day you were born, November 15, 1927. Happy 93 wonderful years old!

Love, judy

Congratulations Gabriel and Katina…the new Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Zaharis!!!! Best wishes…

judy

Happy Birthday, Dorsey! May the year ahead bring you much happiness and good health…. Love, judy

The Spanakopita workshops were a grand success and we are so grateful to our organizer - Meg Dasco and all the hands that came to help - social distancing and all!
We wish to congratulate Katina and Gabriel- the new Mr and Mrs Zaharis.

They were married at St Luke on November 8th, 2020.

May every good and every perfect gift from above be with.
Being a voting member of one’s Parish is a special privilege...it allows us to take part in the important decisions that govern the well-being of our church. We should take pride in the ability and opportunity to express our opinion for what we feel is best for our church. Electing members of the Parish Council is one way to do this.

According to the UPR (Uniform Parish Regulations), an election must be held no matter how many candidates there are in relation to the number of vacancies to be filled.

Therefore, there will be an election on December 13, 2020
So please take this opportunity to be part of your church’s future.

As per the UPR and/or church by-laws, in order to vote, you must:
• be a minimum of 18 years of age
• be baptised or chrismated in accordance to the rites of the Orthodox church
• be a member in good standing for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the election

Also:
• If you are a parishioner in good standing and are duly enrolled the Parish Record, you may vote if you have pledged for the year 2020.
• If you are a parishioner who is delinquent for more than the current calendar year, you may vote only if you fulfill your 2019 pledge and pledge for the 2020 year.
• If you are a new parishioner, you may vote in the election if you have become a member in good standing at least three months prior to the election.

We know that life does not always go as planned, and the path it takes may affect us in many ways. So, if you or your family have experienced any extenuating circumstances that would affect your church participation in any way, please know you can speak to Father.

Thank you for participating in the life of our parish be it as a candidate or as a parishioner partaking in voting.

Parish Council has 5 positions opening and these are the stewards who have accepted nominations:

Jeff Clay
Joseph Dasco
Rosanne Desautels
Sarah Kirchner
Joe Perrault
Ron Rookey
St John Chrysostom's
Nativity Fasting Recipe

Let the hands fast
BY BEING FREE OF Avarice

Let the feet fast
BY CEASING TO RUN AFTER SIN

Let the eyes fast
BY DISCIPLINING THEM NOT TO GLARE AT THAT WHICH IS SINFUL

Let the ear fast
BY NOT LISTENING TO EVIL TALK AND GOSSIP

Let the mouth fast
FROM FOUL WORDS AND UNJUST CRITICISM

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WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

ADVENT
CHILDREN
CHRISTMAS
ENTRANCE
HELP
PRAYER
Samaritan
THEOTOKOS

R H K B R N F S A R S A Q R T
E L U B G E E T B A O D E A K
X V C E T R Y L M N K Q F U V
Z J Z H I D I A E J O B B T P
P U O E R L R P R M T N P R Q
R L P C S I B V L P O C O V V
G X P N T H S G Y E E F X C L
Q X I A J C N T P Q H T U V W
K Y N R B I T A M Y T O L Y M
H R F T C P O N K A H U A T W
J P K N F Y J Q W D S R L O C
Z D U E N I L Z S V W J A O X
U L Q V D D M L B L K J L B N
M U A D X U B Y D I V T R Y K
B C B A K M S Q N N O T Q G L
Memorials

In memory of Kathy Rodolakis
Eugenia Megas

In memory of Tula Karamallis
Eugenia Megas

In memory of Sophie Mistos
Ann Flynn

In memory of Jane Augustine
Ann Flynn

In memory of Mary Sparks
Ann Flynn

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.

Thank you

We wish to thank the wonderful stewards who worked on the BASILE show for their time and talent. Parris Ochsner and Angie Gouzounis. With special gratitude to Parris who went above and beyond on this endeavor.