Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

Greetings as we begin the Fast of the Dormition in preparation of the Great Feast of the Falling Asleep of the Virgin Mary on August 15th. This two week fast is filled with several worship services to enhance our anticipation in the life of the Church. The Paraklesis service is one of the most beautiful as we chant the Small Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos. It is celebrated several times during the fast. Be sure to bring the names of the living to be commemorated for the health of their souls and bodies. Be sure to join us for the Vespers and Orthros of the Great Feast of the Transfiguration on August 5th-6th. The Dormition will be celebrated with Vespers on August 14th at our sister parish of St. Mary Greek in Minneapolis for their feast day.

We will celebrate Liturgy on August 15th here at St. George. Later that day, we will be setting up for our Greek Festival that will begin the following day Saturday August 16th and continue into Sunday August 17th. We need all hands on-deck to help set-up and carry out this great event that welcomes thousands of people into our church to enjoy our food, faith, music and dancing. Please see volunteer instructions later in the newsletter.

Looking back this summer, approximately twenty of our youth participated in the Summer Youth Church Camp at Camp Wapogassett in Amery Wisconsin (June 28th - July 4th). It was another excellent week. Many of the kids were able to share their experience at church on Sunday July 6th.

The John Pitsavas Memorial Scholarship was established by his parents, Bill and Theologia, to assist a worthy college student each year for writing a thoughtful essay. This year’s theme is “Why is it important to attend and participate in Divine Liturgy every Sunday throughout the year?” All college students, from incoming freshmen to seniors (Fall 2014) are eligible to participate. Please contact me for an application form. Deadline for submissions is in two weeks: August 15th.

Right after camp, I travelled to Philadelphia for the Biennial Archdiocese Clergy-Laity-Philoptochos Assembly July 6-9. Steve Arsenault was also a delegate representing our parish and his wife, Minda Arsenault represented our Philoptohos chapter. As usual, clergy-lay was packed with activity. Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Demetrios delivered excellent keynote speeches on the theme: The Family in the 21st Century. Numerous worships, committee meetings, reports, and social activities were available to participants. Vice President Joe Biden was the keynote at the Grand Banquet and host Metropolitan Evangelos also gave an exemplary speech at that event. We pray that our religious and civic leaders are inspired to live a Christ-like life as they guide us over the next two years and beyond. May God bless them and keep them.

Finally, I want to continue to remind everyone of our upcoming 75th Anniversary celebration in year 2015. Planning is underway and guided by our co-chairs Denise Smith and Dawn Lampros. We encourage and welcome everyone’s ideas and input. There is lots to do even at this stage so please jump in and join our committee.

God bless you!

+Fr. Rick
We had a fantastic summer with our youth!

On June 1 we had the Grand Old Day Parking fundraiser for which the participating youth raised approximately $300! The same day, several youth and their families participated at FOCUS Minnesota serving well over 100 people in need.

Later in the week, on the 7th of the month we had Family Night at church with a discussion and activity related to Pentecost. Throughout the month of June and July, the Benevolence Committee hosted World Cup Watch Parties featuring soccer matches of the World Cup. These events were well attended by church youth and families!

During the end of June and beginning of July, the St. Mary's GOC Church Summer Camp took place - 19 of our youth and young adults attended as campers and counselors! It was a fantastic experience from the perspective of a counselor and very fun to see the youth enjoy the week! I hope that many of our youth will be able to attend next year, too!

On July 12, we had our Family Night event with potluck dinner and a video and discussion about our role as Stewards of the Church. On August 2, we will have our next Family Night - bring your favorite board games and get ready to have a fun Game Night after a Lenten potluck dinner at 6pm!

During the days of August 1-14, we will have scheduled Paraklisis services during the evenings of the week. The Paraklisis is held in preparation for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15. Be sure to check times and dates in the Sunday Bulletin and Church website and come help out with the readings and chanting of this beautiful service!

August 16-17, we will have our annual Greek Festival! Kids, you and your family's help is needed to continue making this church event a great success! Hopefully on August 30 we will have a Youth and Family all-day off-site event. Be sure to check the Sunday Bulletin for details! A Fall Youth event schedule will be coming soon!

Unfortunately, I have some sad news. I will resigning the position of Youth Minister effective September 1st. Although it was clearly communicated to me, I did not fully appreciate the time and effort required to fulfill the duties of the position. My university classes and obligations will be heavy this Fall term, and I am sorry that I will not have enough time and energy to dedicate to this very wonderful role! I look forward to continuing to be involved in parish worship and activities, building relationships, and helping when and where I can. I look forward to seeing our youth and families keep on growing in faith and love for each other. It was a blessing to serve as youth minister this summer.

Thank you! Ioana
## Registry

### Baptisms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Dimitri Paraschou, son of Soule &amp; Vicky was baptized and chrismated. Sponsor is Nouno Dino Contolatis. Congrats to all including Yiayia Presvytera Miriam Paraschou. Congratulations to Joanna Tzenis &amp; Dean Natto for the baptism of their daughter Maria. Congrats also to Nouna Sophia Christoforides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
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### Chrismation

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Congratulations to Stephanie Contolatis, and husband Dino on her Chrismation. Congrats to sponsor Nouna Lisa Jordan.</td>
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### 40 Day Churching

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 22</td>
<td>Tamara Merkouris &amp; Matthew</td>
</tr>
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### Weddings

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>Crown Them with Honor &amp; Glory Louis Kazaglis &amp; Tabitha Leighton were united in the Sacrament of Marriage. The sponsor is Koumbaros Jeffrey Kazaglis. Congrats to all!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Festal Icons Needed

Please donate a Festal Icon (11” x 14”) in memory of a loved one. The cost is $75.00 per icon. The icons are displayed in the church nave and are put out for veneration on the Feast Day of the Saint or event they represent. To donate an icon, fill out a form (found on the bulletin board by the kitchen) and return it to the office.
Congratulations! to Alexander Boosalis, who recently graduated for US Army Ranger School which is a grueling nine week training program in special warfare tactics with an extremely high attrition rate. Less than one percent of the entire US Army are Rangers. Alex is a 2nd Lieutenant in the 101st Airborne Division and son of Greg Boosalis.

Special Olympics Gold Medal Winner Leo Nemeth won two gold medals last Saturday in the Minnesota Special Olympics in tennis singles and doubles with his brother Alex. Congratulations!


FOCUS MN Immediate Needs Peanut butter and jelly, canned vegetables, canned fruit, soups, breakfast cereal, canned meat &/or tuna, toothbrushes & toothpaste.

Other news: A new summer intern, Maria Kalina, will help us build our mobile medical and mentoring programs for the remainder of 2014. The clinic will be coming soon - Stay tuned! We’re still looking for a new location - can you help? We need more/better space, less money. Remember FOCUS MN in your prayers. To help please contact Matushka Vera Proctor vsproctor@gmail.com.

Family Camp Dates Set for October 10-11, 2014 at Camp Courage in Annandale, Minnesota.

Church Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 21st. Please mark your calendars.

Birthday, Wedding, Baptism Dates Needed We would like to update our database and we’re missing some information for your birthdays, weddings, and baptisms. Please email or call the church office to update this information. 651-222-6220 or office@stgeorgegoc.org

Find Us on Facebook For up to date news and information, please visit our parish Facebook page. Just type in the parish name and you’ll notice a photo of the front of the church. Facebook is a powerful communication tool.

Sympathies & Prayers to Minda Arsenault for the repose of her mother, Alberta, who fell asleep in the Lord on June 10th.

Also to Sue Boosalis, whose mother, Therese Schurb, fell asleep in the Lord the week of July 14th.

May their memories be eternal!

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed 1-2 noon hours per month to deliver meals in your neighborhood. Monday thru Friday 11am-12pm. Contact Jeanne Leifeld at 651-645-7424

Parish Directory Pick one up in the social hall or by contacting the office.

Lyn Olson Medical Crisis Program to provide financial support to individuals experiencing hardship due to medical crisis. A Minnesota non-profit formed in the memory of Lyn Olson, a parishioner at St. Mary’s OCA who was stricken with a very aggressive form of cancer. Her family and friends are living her legacy as a pan-Orthodox collaboration through the creation of a non-profit for health care. Our first annual gala event will be Sunday, September 21st on the terrace of the Stillwater Library overlooking the St. Croix River. Our initial goal is to serve the Orthodox community residing in the region of MEOCCA and create a system of fundraising for the general fund that will seed trust funds for applicants struggling with financial obligations due to medical crisis. Twin Cities jazz band, Patty and the Buttons will play. Appetizers included and cash bar. Tickets sold after church during coffee hours and on-line at www.lomcp.com. Funds can be directed to our fiscal sponsor: St. Croix Valley Community Foundation with the memo identifying “Lyn Olson Medical Intervention Program.”

Nathan Hoppe Missions presented at St. George Greek Orthodox Church on Wednesday July 16. To learn more about Nathan, go to this link (http://www.ocmc.org/about/view_missionary.aspx?MissionaryId=1).

We are encouraging everyone to become regular supporters of Nathan’s work through OCMC. You can do that by making a monthly or yearly donation on this page: www.ocmc.org/donate/donation_info.aspx?DonationType=Missionary. Be sure to select “The Hoppe Family (Albania)” in the missionary tab.

May His Memory Be Eternal Den. Demetrios Loupos, who served as youth
FESTIVAL FLYERS AND POSTERS ARE HERE TOO!
Pick up flyers for your offices and posters for your local area businesses. Help us spread the word about our wonderful Greek Festival!! They are available following liturgy in the social hall.

75th Anniversary Celebration
Plans are underway for our church’s 75th Anniversary celebration that will take place in Fall 2015! We welcome those interested to help with this special occasion. If you chair one of our ministries in the church, we want your input for events we plan to have during the year! Please contact Dawn Lampros or Denise Smith for details.

VOLUNTEER SIGNUP—EASY!
DON’T FORGET to sign up for a shift or two at the festival. It is fun, especially with many hands and smiling faces. Signing up has never been so easy —Go on the church website today www.stgeorgegoc.org and click on the Greek Festival icon. Or, you can stop at the festival table in the social hall following liturgy on Sundays.

Please note that because of the large crowds and the nature of the work, only children who can work a full shift may volunteer. All other children must be accompanied by an adult who is not working/volunteering at the festival.

No day care is provided at the festival.

YARD SIGNS ARE HERE!
Festival Yard Signs and date stickers are available at the church to pick up. Place them in your yard to help advertise the festival. They have been a big help in bringing your neighbors.

FESTIVAL BAKING SCHEDULE—Wednesdays 9:00AM until done
If you can’t help at the festival, another big way is to help with the baking before. We need lots of hands to make this go quickly. It is a fun way to learn how to make those cookies that you love! Please contact Irene Loudas (651-770-6286) or Nanette Gomez, with any ques-

Clergy Laity Info: videos and texts from speeches and presentations are available at www.clergylaity.org.

Next Family Night is August 2
We will have our next Family Night—bring your favorite board games and get ready to have a fun Game Night after a potluck dinner at 6pm!
Glad Tidings

Sophia and Andreas  April 27

Festival of Nations 2014

Nathan Hoppe Missions through OCMC presented @ St. George

Sunday School graduates!

Church Camp 2014 Photos!

Philoptochos annual Decades celebration
The Very Reverend Archimandrite Gerasimos D. Rassias

The Very Reverend Archimandrite Gerasimos D. Rassias, "Father Jerry," died on Thursday, June 13, 2013, in Wilmington, Delaware at the age of 78. As always, he was surrounded by family and friends.

Fr. Jerry was born on April 16, 1935 on the Greek island of Kefalonia, known as the jewel of the Ionian Sea. During his childhood, he witnessed the occupation of the island by Nazi Germany as well as a massive earthquake that shook the island in 1953. In the aftermath of the occupation and earthquake, he left Greece in 1957 seeking a better life in America. Like many, he came through Ellis Island and began working in New York City. He also immediately began taking classes at New York University.

Despite the enormous challenge posed by a huge language barrier, he persevered with his education and eventually settled in Worcester, Massachusetts. He studied at Holy Cross and completed his Bachelor of Arts degree from Holy Cross Seminary. Always an exceptional student, he would later obtain his Masters in Theology from the Hartford Seminary in Connecticut and go on to complete his doctoral studies at the University of Salonica and Catholic University. Prior to that, he was admitted to study at Trinity College of Oxford University for post-graduate studies in divinity, and had even made all of the arrangements to return to Europe.

Fate intervened, however, and he met the love of his life, the former Georgia Karras from Asbury Park, New Jersey. Instead of going to Oxford, he soon became engaged and married, and together with his Presvytera Georgia, they would embark on a journey that would see them serve five parishes from 1963 until her untimely death in 2001 from breast cancer.

During those 37 years, Father Jerry and Presvytera Georgia faithfully served the parishes of Saint Paul, Minnesota (St. George); Norwich, Connecticut (Holy Trinity); Camp Hill, Pennsylvania (Holy Trinity Cathedral); Manchester, New Hampshire (St. George Cathedral); and Wilmington, Delaware (Holy Trinity). He left Holy Trinity of Wilmington in 2000 to be with his ailing wife, and after her death in 2001, he resumed his ministry with vigor, serving parishes in Vineland, New Jersey (St. Anthony); Baltimore, Maryland (St. Nicholas); and finally, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (St. George Cathedral).

After serving those parishes with great distinction, he was appointed to the position of Chancellor/Vicar General of the Metropolis, covering communities in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, where he presided at the side of His Eminence Evangelos over matters of church high-governance. He retired from his service to the Metropolis in 2009.

In April of 2003, Fr. Jerry became an Archimandrite, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an Eastern Orthodox priest and an honor that theoretically placed him in line to be ordained a bishop. On June 3, 2013, he celebrated the fiftieth (50th) year of his ordination. He was regularly consulted by other priests on matters involving church protocol, and was called upon to translate sensitive documents for the United States government.

While clearly an academian and scholar in theology, Fr. Jerry's strength was always his great kindness, compassion, and leadership by example-- the true hallmark of his ministry in every parish he served. Many will also remember his tireless oversight and involvement in all aspects of parish life and community functions and organizations; simply put, he always participated personally in each and every event involving his church. His smile was omnipresent and he was always readily available for any member of the parish.

Father Jerry's ministry shines brightly and perpetually across the numerous parishes he served and the thousands of lives he touched. He is survived by his three sons, Dion, George and Peter, his two daughter-in-laws Gina and Amalea, his five grandchildren Jerry, Joanna, Georgia G., Nicholas, and Georgia X., his brothers Angelo and Nikitas, and sister Nikki.

Fr. Gerasimos served our parish from 1963 to 1966. May his memory be eternal! May the Lord our God remember his priesthood in His Kindgom!
WEEKDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Monday, August 4
Paraklesis 5:30 pm

Tuesday, August 5
Vespers 5:00 pm

Wednesday, August 6
Transfiguration Liturgy 9:00 am

Thursday, August 7
Paraklesis 7:00 pm

Monday, August 11
Paraklesis 7:00 pm

Tuesday, August 12
Paraklesis 12:00 noon

Wednesday, August 13
Paraklesis 7:00 pm

Thursday, August 14
Vespers 7:00 pm
at St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church

Friday, August 15
Dormition of the Theotokos
Orthros 8:00 am
Liturgy 9:00 am

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES

Holy Confession: By Appointment

Vespers: (Sept. - May) Saturday 5:00 pm

Orthros: Sunday 8:15 am

Divine Liturgy: Sunday 9:30 am

Sunday School: (Sept. - May)
following Communion

† † †
# August 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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| **GREEK FESTIVAL**
SATURDAY AUGUST 16TH  11am to 8pm
SUNDAY AUGUST 17TH  11am to 6pm
Volunteer Online-  [stgeorgegoc.org](http://stgeorgegoc.org) |
| 3 | +8TH SUN. MATTHEW
FAST OF DORMITION
8:15am ORTHROS
9:30am LITURGY
4pm-7:30pm FOCUS MN - Serve a Meal |
| 4 | +FAST OF DORMITION
5:30pm PARAKLESIS SERVICE
6:30pm Parish Council Mtg.
| 5 | +FAST OF DORMITION
5pm VESPERS
7pm Greek Festival Cmte Mtg |
| 6 | +TRANSFIGURATION
FAST OF DORMITION
5pm VESPERS
8am ORTHROS
9am LITURGY
11:30am-4:30pm FOCUS MN - Food Shelf |
| 7 | +FAST OF DORMITION
5:30pm PARAKLESIS SERVICE  10am-2:30pm FOCUS MN - Work Day (odd jobs)  7pm PARAKLESIS SERVICE |
| 8 | +FAST OF DORMITION
10:30am-2:30pm FOCUS MN - Clothes Closet |
| 9 | +ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA & APOSTLE MATTHIAS
FAST OF DORMITION |
| 10 | +9TH SUN. MATTHEW
FAST OF DORMITION
8:15am ORTHROS
9:30am LITURGY
12pm-12:30pm Acolyte Training
4pm-7:30pm FOCUS MN - Serve a Meal |
| 11 | +FAST OF DORMITION
5pm-7pm Loaves & Fishes (Faith Lutheran Church)
12pm-7:30pm FOCUS MN - Food Shelf |
| 12 | +FAST OF DORMITION
12pm PARAKLESIS SERVICE
7pm Greek Festival Cmte Mtg |
| 13 | +FAST OF DORMITION
11:30am-4:30pm FOCUS MN - Food Shelf
7pm PARAKLESIS SERVICE |
| 14 | +FAST OF DORMITION
7pm VESPERS (St. Mary GOC)
10am-2:30pm FOCUS MN - Work Day (odd jobs) |
| 15 | +DORMITION OF THEOTOKOS
FAST OF DORMITION
8am ORTHROS
9am LITURGY
10:30am-2:30pm FOCUS MN - Clothes Closet |
| 16 | +ST. STAMATIOS
11am-8pm GREEK FESTIVAL |
| 17 | +10TH SUN. MATTHEW
8:15am ORTHROS
9:30am LITURGY
11am-6pm GREEK FESTIVAL
4pm-7:30pm FOCUS MN - Serve a Meal |
| 18 | +FAST DAY
7pm Greek Festival Cmte Mtg
+PROPHET SAMUEL
11:30am-4:30pm FOCUS MN - Food Shelf
7pm Ahepa Mtg (Gyropolis)
10am-2:30pm FOCUS MN - Clothes Closet |
| 19 | +FAST DAY
10:30am-2:30pm FOCUS MN - Clothes Closet |
| 20 | +FAST DAY
10:30am-2:30pm FOCUS MN - Clothes Closet |
| 21 | +FAST DAY
10:30am-2:30pm FOCUS MN - Clothes Closet |
| 22 | +FAST DAY
10:30am-2:30pm FOCUS MN - Clothes Closet |
| 23 | +FAST DAY
10:30am-2:30pm FOCUS MN - Clothes Closet |
| 24 | +11TH SUN. MATTHEW
8:15am ORTHROS
9:30am LITURGY
4pm-7:30pm FOCUS MN - Serve a Meal |
| 25 | +FAST DAY
7pm Greek Festival Cmte Mtg
+ST. PHANOURIOS
11:30am-4:30pm FOCUS MN - Food Shelf
10am-2:30pm FOCUS MN - Work Day (odd jobs) |
| 26 | +BEHEADING OF FORERUNNER
"STRICT FAST DAY"
+FAST DAY
10:30am-2:30pm FOCUS MN - Clothes Closet |
| 27 | +ST. ALEXANDROS |
| 28 | +ST. ALEXANDROS |
| 29 | +ST. ALEXANDROS |
| 30 | COMING IN SEPTEMBER:
1  ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR & Labor Day Holiday
5-7  Greek Festival at St. Mary Greek, Mpls, MN
8  NATIVITY OF THEOTOKOS
14  ELEVATION OF HOLY CROSS
21  Church/Parish Picnic at Highland Park |

St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105
651-222-6220,  [info@stgeorgegoc.org](mailto:info@stgeorgegoc.org),  [www.stgeorgegoc.org](http://www.stgeorgegoc.org)
Beloved brothers and sisters members of the present 42nd Clergy-Laity Congress as representatives of our dynamic parishes, I greet you warmly and I have the great honor and joy to welcome you and convey to you the wholehearted paternal blessings and deep love of His All Holiness our Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. He is with us in spirit offering to Christ his patriarchal prayers for abundant blessings from Christ upon our Assembly. We gratefully acknowledge the presence of the two distinguished Brother Hierarchs, who came a long way to be with us representing our Ecumenical Patriarch.

And now, let me proceed with the presentation of some thoughts and suggestions related to the theme of our 42nd Congress: The Orthodox Christian Family: A Dwelling of Christ and a Witness of His Gospel.

It was not long ago that the word “family” evoked a particular image in the minds of most Americans. In this mental picture we saw a man and a woman, not just living together but joined legally and in most cases through a religious ceremony, in a lifelong bond of marital commitment and deep mutual love. We saw children, usually more than one or two, who belonged to both their parents by birth or adoption. For many of us also, that family portrait included one or more members of the previous generation, a grandmother and/or grandfather who lived in the home of their adult son or daughter, rather than in a retirement community or a nursing home.

Today, there is a movement in our society to change and redraw this portrait completely. We hear about the “modern family,” which in essence means everything and anything. It seems that in many cases any two people who share an address are to be considered a family, whether or not they are married or have children together. So, the family is under heavy pressure, because its very sense of identity and uniqueness is being eroded by this huge change in public sentiment. If everybody and everything is a family, then nobody is truly a family in any meaningful sense.

Today’s family is under pressure in another way, too. The demands of the modern life weaken the bonds between family members, between parents and children, between siblings, between grandparents and grandchildren. Economic concerns take both parents out of the home and into the workplace for more and more hours each day, each week. Falling birthrates mean that children no longer find playmates easily in their own family and neighborhoods, so that organized sports and activities away from home are becoming the norm. Children’s athletics are becoming a focal point, taking children out of their homes for more and more hours each week. How many of our families find their Sunday mornings dominated by activities other than worship in the Church and Sunday School! The real work of parenting – which is to say, of developing character, religious convictions and life-skills in children – falls to coaches and teachers. Add to that, the dominion of all screens in the contemporary lives of people: television screens, computer screens, iPads and iPods, tablets and smartphones. The modern culture seems to be a culture of the “face in a box” at all times of day and night. People no longer look into the faces of one another; they stare at the various screens, mesmerized and transfixed. And how about the replacement of face to face dialog and communication with texting!

Studying the above mentioned conditions, we can understand why we have today in America, but also in many other countries, the high and appalling rate of divorces – almost 50% - the same sex marriage, and the one parent children – more than 20 million such children in America. Then, it is not unreasonable that the modern world finds itself asking not only “What is a family,?” but even “Why is a family?”

1) To this question, our Church based on the Bible, the Ecumenical Synods, and the 2000 years old Tradition gives an answer with clarion voice: the family is a divine institution, a special creation of God, one that bears His own holy name and dignity. Saint Paul articulates this thought precisely addressing the Christians in Ephesos (Ephesians 3:14-19). He says to them: I bow my knees before God the Father, from Whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

What St. Paul says is this: The family is an institution of divine origin and character, not merely a social arrangement that arises from the exigencies of earthly affairs. From God every family in heaven and on earth is named. The family is a powerful microcosmic expression of God’s fatherly care for the whole universe. Therefore, if the concept and the very name of “family” derives directly from God the Father, it is truly a holy thing. Such a sublime word the word “family” is not to be used lightly, not to be redefined according to every whim of moral or social convenience!

2) In presenting family as an icon of the divine prototype, St. Paul is following the teaching of Scripture, both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. The family beginning on Earth is described in Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament. According to Genesis, God through his creative action formed the first man and the first woman as equals who balance and fulfill each other as “one flesh” and constitute the first family on earth. He gave them a home and meaningful work in the Garden of Eden. He granted them the God-like power of procreation, so that together they could enjoy children who are formed in their own image. In love and harmony, the first family found joy, each member in the other.

Some will say that this is a naïve portrait of the family. But remember that the Scripture also shows that the family can be the arena of terrible tragedies and crimes. In the very same book of Genesis the first homicide on earth is reported, and this terrible crime happens within the first family with the two sons of Adam and Eve, when Cain kills his brother Abel! (Gen. 4:1-16). We do not need to report the deceitful conspiracy of Jacob and his mother Rebecca against his brother Esau. Or, Joseph being sold into slavery by his own brothers (Gen. 37:1-36).

These are valid points that serve rather to corroborate the undeniable fact that the family is a divine institution. For that which has the greatest potential for good, it has also through its misuse the greatest potential for evil. The sacred trust that binds a family
together can become an occasion for tremendous evil, when that trust is abused by parent or child or sibling. But the good potentialities of family life are so great that, even in a condition of brokenness, already the prophets of Israel saw an icon of divine love healing to the wounded family.

3) It is, however, in the New Testament that we encounter a tremendous emphasis on the institution of the family. Among other examples, St. Paul speaking of the Christian marriage and family says that the bond of husband and wife is analogous to the bond of Christ and the Church, and that the mutual love of husband and wife should be like the love of Christ for His Church for which He even offered Himself to death (Eph. 5:21-33).

The superb example for the reality of family as a most holy and unique institution is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. At His incarnation, He was born in a family. He was protected as a newborn baby by His family from the murderous plans of King Herod. He lived for 30 full years out of His total 33 years of His life on earth, in His family in Nazareth, not in the desert. He did His first miracle, recorded at the beginning of the Gospel of John, in Cana of Galilee, transforming the water into wine, just in order to support and strengthen the celebration of a new marriage, of the creation of a new family. And as recorded, also in the Gospel of John, among the very few words that Christ spoke from His Cross, in His very last hours before dying, were words that created a family by giving His disciple John as son to His holy mother and giving the Theotokos as mother to John. It is a moment of breathtaking and awesome beauty, that Jesus in such agony, barely able to speak or even breathe, yet through utmost effort pronounced this blessing of a renewed family life for His beloved Mother the Theotokos and His disciple and Apostle John: This is your Mother. This is your son! Absolutely solemn and astonishing Divine words establishing forever truly sacred family relationships (John 19:26-27)!

1) The divine origin of the family as an institution and its ultimate and irrevocable consecration by the Lord Jesus Christ, not only by His Words but also by His Actions and personal example, constitute our perfect understanding of what the family really is.

We have, therefore, to be fully aware of the supreme value and irreplaceable nature of the family. We must be fully conscious of the fact that the family belongs to the unique items of the universe created directly by God Himself and shared personally by Jesus Christ, the incarnate God in His earthly life. This awareness and consciousness of the sacredness of the family is our antidote against the constant poisoning of the institution of the family today by all kinds of theories, mentalities and attitudes. Within this context, we see the Christian Orthodox Family as a dwelling of Christ and a witness of His Gospel.

2) Truly our Orthodox Christian Family is a home for Christ, His permanent residence, His dwelling place. We certainly encounter the Lord in the Church, especially in the worship there and through the participation in the Holy Sacraments. But our Orthodox Christian family is also a dwelling place of Him. It is so by its strong faith in Him, a faith that is transmitted from generation to generation in the genealogical history of each family. The Orthodox Christian family is a dwelling of Christ by making the prayer to Him a permanent characteristic of its life, something so indispensable and vital like breathing and eating.

It is a dwelling of Christ by having love, originating from Jesus the source of love, being cultivated and continuously growing among the members of the family.

It is a dwelling of Christ by daily listening to His words treasured in the Bible, the source of the absolute truth. The Orthodox family is a dwelling of Christ by having its members constantly transformed and grown spiritually by His dwelling sanctifying and regenerating power.

3) The Orthodox Christian family as a dwelling of Christ becomes an aroma, a fragrance of Christ as St. Paul beautifully said to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 2:15). Imagine each and every Orthodox home filled with the aroma of Christ, become a house permeated by His spiritual fragrance. St. Paul expands this inspiring image, saying that such a spiritual fragrance of Christ spreads out, reaches faithful and unfaithful, righteous and sinners alike (2 Cor. 2:16). Hence, the Orthodox Christian family automatically becomes a witness of not only a dwelling of Christ but also His Gospel. It becomes so by its very Christian existence that like an exquisite spiritual aroma spreads itself to every direction. But it becomes so also by engaging in activities that aim at disseminating the Gospel, of sharing it with others. There must be as part of the agenda of the family, a daily task of transmitting in any way the Gospel to the people, originating from Jesus the source of love, being cultivated and continuously growing among the members of the family.

To read full address, go to: http://www.goarch.org/news/2014Congresskeynote/
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
Parish Council Meeting Agenda
July 14, 2014

Attendees: Fr. Richard Andrews, President Jon Kennedy, Vice President Alexis Bighley, Treasurer Dan Simon, Assistant Treasurer Frank Nemeth, Nanette Gomez, Eleni Hoffhines, Phyllis Kapetanakis, Tom Lampros, George Mastrogiorgis, Joe Weiser.

Absent: Secretary Sophronis Mantoles, Steve Arsenault
Guest: Ioanna Ciuta

Tom Lampros was appointed meeting secretary

I. Call Meeting to Order  6:30pm

II. Opening Prayers and readings

III. Educational Enrichment Session – Clergy Laity Congress Observations Review by Fr. Rick

IV. Youth Minister Report – Ioanna Ciuta
   a. Family Night July 12 was well attended, St Mary’s Summer camp was also well attended, Ioanna has been collecting input for the upcoming events and program. Ioanna also turned in her resignation recognizing that her Fall and Spring school session as scheduled would prevent her from fulfilling the role’s expectations after the end of August. A discussion about the role and ideas for the youth program was held with Ioanna.

V. Submission of past Council Meeting minutes
   a. June meeting minutes as distributed by Sophronis Mantoles, were approved by the Council.

VI. Treasurer’s Report
   a. Dan Simon reported. Treasurer’s report was accepted unanimously by Council. Motion made by Joe Weiser seconded by Alexis Bighley.

July 14, 2014, Parish Council Meeting - Treasurers Report

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deficit</td>
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<td>$(145,842)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stewardship budget goal to Apr end</td>
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<td>$115,639</td>
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*Important: 2014 Income and expenses includes the Nickitas $15K
Factoring in ALL Benevolence pass through ACTUAL EXPENSES YTD $153,418

This is our MID Year Report

VII. Committee Reports
   a. Stewardship Report (Alexis Bighley)
      i. Alexis distributed a written report in advance and held a discussion about the idea to hold another social event at church in the Fall similar to the Summer get together held last month. Fr Rick and the Council thanked Alexis and John Bighley for hosting the Summer get together which was very well attended.

   b. Missions and Benevolence Discussion (George Mastrogiorgis)
      i. Fr. Rick and the Council thanks George Mastrogiorgis and Dan Simon for organizing the World Cup viewing events.

   c. Greek Festival Discussion and Update
      i. Jon read an update provided by Denise and Penny. More volunteers and area leaders are needed but planning proceeding well.

   d. Parish Landscape/Grounds-Landscape Projects and Proposals-Nanette Gomez
i. Proposals for grounds work was reviewed including dead bush and tree removal and stump grinding and also for some mulching and weeding. Motion to accept the We Scapes proposal to re-mulch plus other clean up passed, however, not unanimously. Motion by Alexis Bighly, seconded by Phyllis Kapatankis. A separate motion to accept the Rivertown Tree Service proposal passed unanimously. Motion made by Tom Lampros, seconded by Joe Weiser.

VIII. Unfinished Business
a. Audit Committee Recommended Written Process Document Project-Dan Simon and Phyllis Kapetanakis
   i. Phyllis and Dan reported that the work is about 25% complete and would definitely be done by the September Council meeting.

b. New Usher Program Update-Alexis Bighley
   i. The schedule is filling up.

c. Roselawn Cemetery Update on Pricing and Website-Tom Lampros
   i. 2014 prices are now on the website.

IX. New Business
a. Capital Projects Discussion-Jon Kennedy
   i. Iconography update. The committee has advised that the desired July date for proposal selection can’t be met but progress has been made.
   ii. Discussion of bids recently received for tuck-point, wall repair, outdoor staircase and parking lot sealing bid.
      • Motion to authorize Dan Simon and Jon Kennedy to contract for repair up to $10,000, funded from investments, for Outside Staircase and brick if work can be completed by Aug 8, before the festival. Motion by Tom Lampros, second by Joe Weiser. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Website Updates-Fr. Rick
   i. George updated that templates have been selected and transferring the content to the new site has begun and training others to help update the site in the future will be planned.

c. Bulgarian Teachers Parish Hall Rental Status-Fr. Rick
   i. The Bulgarian school has requested to continue space rental next year. Motion made to accept a new contract. Motion approved unanimously. Motion made by Dan Simon, second by Joe Weiser.

d. Open Issues Discussion

e. Other New
   i. Jon Kennedy distributed a written history of the church and description of the Nave from Mary Makredes.
   ii. Moving August Council meeting moved to Aug 4, 630pm, to avoid being the same week as the Festival.
   iii. Fr. Rick’s adjustable desk enabling work while standing was installed. He thanked the Council and Parish for the purchase because it helps him ergonomically.
   iv. Fr. Rick will be on vacation July29-Aug2.
   v. Updates to church Wi-Fi and internet speed were made.
   vi. SS room clean up is complete with exception of windows.
   vii. Church Bell is not operating and a bid from electricians has been requested.

X. Adjournment and Closing Prayer    9:55pm
GREEK FESTIVAL
AUGUST 16  11am-8pm
AUGUST 17  11am-6pm

Featuring singer Dino Adamidis
and Greek Dancers of Minnesota

- Greek Music & Dancing
- Greek Imports
- Church Tours
- Flaming Cheese

- Gyros & Souvlaki
- Lamb & Chicken Dinners
- Greek Pastries & Café
- Kid’s Games

Rain or shine!

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
1111 Summit Avenue, St. Paul
corner of Lexington Pkwy & Summit Ave
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