

# THE Message



THE  
RESURRECTION  
OF CHRIST

SAINT MARK GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • WWW.SAINTMARKBOCA.NET • 561.994.4822

MAY-JUNE 2017

## Family Promise

**Volunteers Needed!**  
June 4 - June 11

PAGE 4



**2017 Oratorical Festival:  
Fantastic Results!** PAGE 7



**Sign Up Now for "GW17"  
Summer Camp!** PAGE 10



## CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

### SAINT MARK CELEBRATES THE FEAST OF FEASTS

*Though You went down into the tomb...You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection. - Kontakion of Pascha*

The season of Great Lent has finally come to a close. Over the course of Holy Week, thousands of faithful came to glorify our Lord's Passion, Crucifixion, and Resurrection at Saint Mark. We pray that the risen Lord may continually shine His Light on our Saint Mark family and the Orthodox faithful everywhere!

Photos from Holy Week 2017 on the Back Page

## THE FEASTDAY CELEBRATION OF SAINT MARK



On Tuesday, April 25, at 9:00 am, we celebrated a Divine Liturgy for our annual Feastday of the Apostle and Evangelist Mark, the patron saint of our Church. The preceding evening we held a Great Vespers in honor of the feast, with a beautiful reception prepared by our dedicated Philoptochos members. We pray that the Lord will continue to grant our Saint Mark family many more years of Christian ministry. "O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark, intercede to Christ our God to have mercy on our souls!"

*The Message* is an in-print outreach to the Orthodox Christian community of Boca Raton and the greater South Florida region. This publication aims to inform, edify, and serve as a witness to its readers of the Truth of Jesus Christ as confirmed in the Holy Gospel.

*The Message* is a ministry of:



**Saint Mark**  
Greek Orthodox Church

**Clergy:**

Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis, Pastor  
Rev. Fr. Steven Klund, Associate  
Rev. Fr. Alexander Leondis,  
Protopresbyter  
Rev. Dn. John Christakis, MD  
Rev. Dn. Bryan Giusti

**Office Staff:**

Dawn Riger, Parish Administrator  
Ana Voicu & McKenzie Marsch

**Church Maintenance:**

Yosban Pazbalino & Everaldo Valle

**Office Volunteers:**

Lynn Athan, Pam Parent, Marlene  
Buettner, Pres. Mary Leondis,  
Debbie Fread, Kay Poly,  
Kalle Andromidas

**Parish Council:** Girard Mitchell

**Philoptochos:** Niki Core

**Choir:** Virginia Barnes

**Chanters:** Art Poly, Ramona  
Bean, George Demopoulos

**Ushers:** Tim Sharp

**Acolytes:**

Tom Bean & Constantine Mukasa

**Church School:**

Helen Lang & Julie Vagelos

**JOY:** Angela & Girard Mitchell,  
Despina Hantzaris, Vivian Laz-  
aridis, and Erin & Rick Kontos

**GOYA:** Dominique Cultrera, Irina  
Giakouminakis, Elaine Cotronakis,  
Lynn & Costa Athan, Nicole Pelekanos

**Seniors:** Diane Paterakis

**Syrtaki:**

Jenny Saiger & Tasia Christakis

**Greek School:** Anna Kaiser

**Bookstore:** Yvette Koutsoupis,  
Barbara Tasiounes, Stella Pores

**Welcome:** Elaine Zographus

**Readers:** Ted Vagelos

**The Message:** Fr. Steven Klund

**Live Streaming:**

Ted Vagelos & Nick Csakany

**Audio:** Tom Spiliopoulos

# FIRST FRUITS

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## METROPOLITAN NEKTARIOS OF CORFU & SAINT SPYRIDON'S SLIPPER

JIM DOVAS

On Thursday, April 27, we were blessed with a visit from his Eminence Metropolitan Nektarios of the Holy Metropolis of Corfu, Paxi & the Diapontian Islands in Greece. His Eminence brought with him a slipper worn by St. Spyridon, who is the patron saint of his bishopric and whose blessed body remains there incorrupt. Following theological studies at the school of Theology of Athens University, he entered the Holy Monastery of Ano Xemias, was ordained Presbyter and Archimandrite in 1979 and became its Abbot in 1986. A prolific author of articles, monographs and devotional texts, Metropolitan Nektarios is an archieratical member of the synodical committee on monastic life. His Eminence was enthroned as Metropolitan of Kerkyra, Paxoi, and the Transmarine Islands on October 11, 2002.

That evening His Eminence presided over a special vespers service attended by many visiting clergy and parishioners from the surrounding area in addition to our own faithful from Saint Mark. At the end of the service His Eminence presented the slippers to those in attendance for veneration. Then, in a surprising and equally humbling gesture, Metropolitan Nektarios offered the blessed relic to remain at Saint Mark permanently for the edification of all future generations! The Metropolitan concluded the evening commenting on the beauty of not only our sanctuary, but of our people as well. His Eminence greatly appreciated the warm welcome extended to him by the Saint Mark family.

We in return are greatly honored to have been able to worship with His Eminence Metropolitan Nektarios. Furthermore, we are in awe of being entrusted as stewards of this divine piece of our Orthodox Christian heritage. Plans are already underway on how to best preserve and readily present this significant relic to the believers here at Saint Mark.

Spyridon was born in the village of Ashia, Cyprus (270 AD). He was a peasant farmer and shepherd and was not educated. Spyridon was married and had a daughter, Irene. After his wife died, he and his daughter both entered into monasticism. He later became the Bishop of Trimythous (during the reign of Constantine the Great) and continued in piety for which he was greatly known.

Spyridon was exiled at the end of the third century during the persecutions of Maximilian. In 325 AD, he was present at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea where he astonished many with his simple, yet profoundly accurate explanations of the Orthodox Faith. Though not well-educated, he surprised everyone at the Council of Nicea by converting many of the Arian heretics to Orthodox. He explained the unity and diversity of the Trinity by holding up a brick, then commonly thought to be a combination of the elements fire, earth and water; as he spoke, fire blazed from the top of the brick while water gushed out underneath. There too, at Nicea, he met Saint Nicholas of Myra, with whom he formed a lasting friendship. Saint Spyridon reposed in 348 AD in Cyprus, and was buried in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Trimythous.







## PASTORAL MESSAGE

### *Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis*

May 8, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! Christ is Risen!

You recently received a phone call from His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios regarding a campaign for the completion of the Panagia Chapel. In the coming weeks, you will also receive follow-up calls from our Saint Mark Administration. In this issue of "The Message" you will find a donation form (*on page 8*). The form also includes several places to list the names of loved ones (living or reposed). We wanted to write to encourage you all to submit the names of your loved ones for inclusion in the Panagia Chapel's Holy Altar Table.

In addition to the submission of names, His Eminence has asked that each family in our parish sponsor \$30 toward the final steps in the construction process, including the building of the roof. Please make checks payable to Saint Mark and write "Roof Tiles" in the memo. You can drop them off on Sunday at the Candle Stand, drop them off in the Office or mail them in. We will be submitting one check in mid-June to the Metropolis.

I hope that I can count on you to participate. His Eminence has given us several blessings: not only to become active participants in this Chapel, but also the opportunity to ensure that our loved ones—whether they are still with us, or if they have passed on to the Lord -- will be remembered forever by the future generations who visit the Diakonia Retreat Center for both fellowship and worship. Thanking you in advance for your support of this program, we remain,

With love in the Risen Lord,

Father Mark Leondis, Pastor

## BE SURE TO PLEDGE FOR 2017

75% of the Saint Mark budget comes from Stewardship. Without you filling out your stewardship pledge envelope each and every year, we cannot exist. Everything we possess are gifts from God and they ultimately belong to Him. They are given to us — by Him. If you haven't filled out your 2017 stewardship pledge envelope — please, do so today (they are located in the pews). "God loves a cheerful giver." - (2 Cor. 9:7)

## 2017 GOYA OLYMPICS

We will be hosting the 2017 District GOYA Olympics! During the weekend of May 19-21 we will be welcoming dozens of GOYANs from all over Florida, and we need adult volunteers to help! Listed below are areas that we could use volunteers.

### Friday Night - Opening Ceremony

- Break Down & Set Up
- Kitchen Staff for Dinner

### Saturday Games

- Location Transportation & Set Up
- Referees for Games
- Medical Staff
- Food Beverage Tent Staff
- Clean Up Crew

### Saturday Night

- Break Down & Set Up
- Kitchen Staff for Dinner

If you're interested in helping out, or if you would like to sign your GOYA child(ren) up to participate in the event please email:

[DominiqueCultreraGOYA@gmail.com](mailto:DominiqueCultreraGOYA@gmail.com)

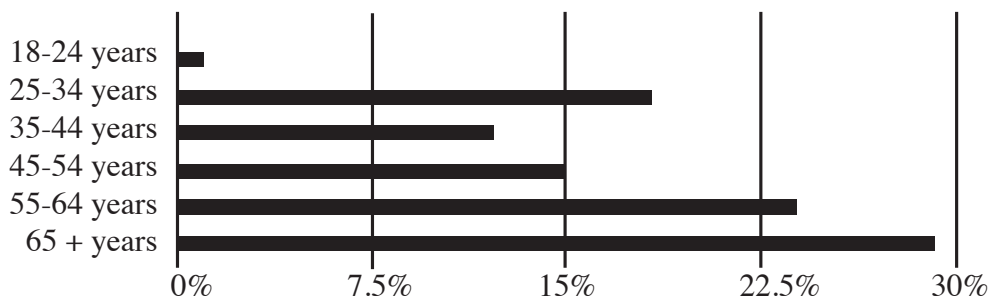
2017 SOUTHEAST DISTRICT  
**GOYA Olympics**

# LIVESTREAM MINISTRY – CONNECTING WITH CHRIST

..... TED VAGELOS .....

**O**n Sunday April 23rd we moved our LIVE STREAM services to YouTube. YouTube now allows visitors and subscribers to watch our services LIVE for free! It also allows all subscribers to the Saint Mark YouTube channel to receive email updates as soon as every LIVE STREAM starts. YouTube also allows subscribers to scroll back to the beginning of the LIVE STREAM of the service similar to a DVD player. This means that viewers are never “late for church,” and can always watch the service from the beginning of the broadcast regardless of when they log on. Another advantage is that YouTube is pre-installed on most Internet TVs. This means that subscribers can for the first time watch our services directly on their HDTVs in addition their computers and smartphones. On top of the live services, the site also archives past services and sermons making the readily available 24/7.

During the month of April the Saint Mark YouTube Channel was visited by people living in 21 countries outside of the United States (including Greece, Canada, Australia, Philippines, Brazil, India, Germany, Mexico, Ukraine, South Africa, and many others)! Viewers here in the U.S. logged in from 25 states ranging from Florida to Oregon. De-



mographically speaking, we're reaching all adult age groups (*as you can see in the graph above*). While we more young adults (ages 25-34) are tuning in than middle-aged viewers, our largest audience by far are the 65+ year old viewers! In fact, over half of our viewers are over the age of 55. This proves that this technological advancement isn't just a young person's interest, but a vital ministry that serves all people. Furthermore, this data shows that this service is helping us connect to our elderly and homebound believers who have physical difficulty attending our services.

About 103 households viewed the services on Sunday April 23rd (the week after Pascha), and roughly 75 households logged in the following week (April 30th). Just imagine 100 extra families in attendance for a Sunday service, in addition to the 600 parishioners

who are worshipping in person!

Yet, despite all our growth, there's still work to be done. **We need EVERYONE to SUBSCRIBE to the Saint Mark Channel on YouTube!** There is no subscription fee. Once we have surpassed 100 subscribers we can apply for a custom YouTube address (*such as [www.YouTube.com/SaintMark](http://www.YouTube.com/SaintMark)*). We currently have 77 subscribers. We are also hoping to further enhance our broadcasts with two additional HD cameras. If you would like to help by offering a donation towards this invaluable ministry please contact the Church office. To visit our YouTube page, go to our website ([www.saintmarkboca.net](http://www.saintmarkboca.net)) and click on the YouTube button on the bottom right side of the screen. There you can subscribe for free and watch unlimited Saint Mark content anytime, anywhere!



## Volunteers Needed!

### June 4-11

Family Promise of South Palm Beach empowers families in making their transition from homelessness to sustainable independence. This is a coalition of approximately 1,200 active volunteers representing 20 interfaith congregations (including our own Saint Mark parish) to accomplish our objectives of providing temporary shelter, food, life skills education and other individual assessments so that they receive the appropriate services.

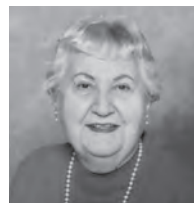
Saint Mark and AHEPA Chapter 487, will be hosting these homeless families June 4-June 11, at the Family Promise “260 House.” We are calling upon all of our faithful to get involved in helping our efforts. To volunteer or learn more about this opportunity, please contact Tim Sharp at:

(561) 213-1016 | [TimSharp1958@gmail.com](mailto:TimSharp1958@gmail.com)

## PLANNED GIVING AT SAINT MARK

The Church is the Body of Christ on earth and carries on His ministry in the world today. Giving to the Church is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace.

For most people, the greatest financial gift we are able to give is what we leave behind when we fall asleep in the Lord. Through a charitable gift, you can have a significant positive effect on the ministries of the Church and those people whose lives are changed because of them. The impact of your gift will be felt for years and generations to come.



Our recently departed sister Ida Vias (*pictured to the left*), with her donation of \$5,000, became the first to contribute to the newly established Saint Mark Endowment Fund. We thank Ida and her family for their forward thinking and their generosity to the ministry of Christ's holy Church. May her memory be eternal!

Of course, we encourage all our faithful to consult an attorney, professional adviser or accountant to ensure that any planned giving alligns with their individual circumstances. As you explore the ways by which you can support the ministries of the Church, please know that the staff in the church office, the Metropolis and the Archdiocese are available to assist you in any way possible.

# THE GREEK FESTIVAL: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MISSION AND OUTREACH!

MARLENE BUETTNER

**T**he word “Ministry” comes from the Greek word diakoneo, meaning “to serve”. Our Pastors spend their lives in ministry but are not the only ones called into the Lord’s service. We as the Laity also have a responsibility to obey the Lord’s commands and follow His examples to bring others to Him. Our priests, Fr. Mark and Fr. Steven, appealed to parishioners to join them in a formalized Outreach Ministry Committee to explore ways to increase the witness of our Faith.

A group of us took up the challenge. We held our first meeting just one week prior to our annual Greek Festival 2017. Two big questions arose: “Are we as Orthodox Christian believers equipped to spread the Word?” We at St. Mark in Boca Raton replied with a resounding “YES”. And, “What is the thing we want to be known for as Orthodox Christians?” We wanted to change the outside perception in our community of being “the church with the Greek festival”. It was decided that our annual Greek Festival offers us a great opportunity to do this and to shine a light upon our Orthodox Christian faith. We left the meeting with the decision to sponsor an Outreach Booth at the upcoming Greek Festival. This would be in addition to our already established Church Tours, lectures by our Clergy, and a Saturday evening Vespers service during the Festival.

**HERE IS HOW WE GOT STARTED:** We had to determine where the Outreach Booth might reach the most people. Why not in the Vendor Area, a popular place for festival-goers? What materials should we place on our tables in order to entice passers-by to stop and look? A list of books and materials which we found attracted us and educated us to Eastern Orthodox Christianity, was created. Our bookstore was scoured for books, more were ordered, and various pamphlets, brochures, and other handout materials that are kept at the Church regarding our Orthodox Christian ministries were gathered. An important next step was to create a schedule of volunteer workers to ‘man’ the booth. It was necessary to find workers who would be comfortable and knowledgeable to share their love of Jesus Christ with others, and the basics of Orthodox Christianity.

**HERE IS HOW WE SET UP:** The attention of passersby was captured with an attractively organized table which held a display of materials which included newsletters, pamphlets and “give-aways” like pens, refrigerator magnets, and bookmarks from OCMC, IOCC, and Orthodox Prison Ministry to name a few; and there were introductory books, pamphlets, and handouts on Eastern Orthodox Christianity. The Gospel, a censor and a cross were placed on the table. Four large Icons provided a background. Although we did not have an audio/visual display, we would recommend having information available in that format.

A large banner and posters to advertise our church tours was hung on the front of the display table. Business cards about our Introduction to Orthodoxy Class were handed out. Forms for visitors and new inquirers that are used at St. Mark were placed on the table for those who were seeking more information. The Church Tours and Lectures were promoted by booth workers as well as by all our Festival booth volunteers. Minimal fees were charged for books, or we asked for a small donation, or gave them away to serious inquirers.



**HERE IS WHAT WE LEARNED:** There was an overwhelming positive response by visitors/inquirers to our beautiful Sanctuary, the Lectures and our Outreach Booth. Two things in particular are noteworthy for success: friendliness (i.e. a welcoming attitude), and the availability of priests (retired also), to answer inquirers’ theological questions which were many. We also noted that there are many lapsed Orthodox within our community who need encouragement to come back to the Church.

**HERE ARE SOME OF OUR RESULTS IN JUST A FEW SHORT MONTHS:** A small number of inquirers from the Festival are attending the Introduction to Orthodoxy Class. Our Church community was very positive, supportive and encouraging of this endeavor. It is still too soon to know what the far reaching effects of this Outreach might produce.

We are striving to be a recognizable voice in the community. May we be a catalyst for other Orthodox Churches to replicate this Ministry. Why not adapt and customize this outreach in your community at festival time? Let’s keep in touch and compare results.





## SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL - HELEN LANG & JULIE VAGELOS

The Church School Ministry has had a successful 2016-17 school year! We wish to thank all of the students, parents, and families for your support, and conscientious weekly participation, as the Church School Ministry has averaged over 120 students in class each week this year.

We welcomed two new teachers, Nicole Brochu and Mark Sterghos, teaching 7th and 8th grade. Our children participated in the following activities this year, assisting the Ladies of Philoptochos in assembling kits for the Caring Kitchen homeless, the Feed the Children assembly of 10,000 meals, a canned food drive for the community, the Christmas Pageant, and Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

The dedicated teachers and volunteers of the Saint Mark Church School Ministry, wish you a safe and enjoyable summer, and we will see you at the Parish Picnic!

## GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL - YANNIS PROFYLIENTOS



Having been born and raised in Greece, it was important to me to surround myself and my family with the familiar traditions and customs in which I grew up in. Thankfully, with my wife and our family, we have been able to preserve this lifestyle, largely thanks to our tremendous Greek School program here at Saint Mark.

For me, teaching is my way to give back to our parish, as well as make sure that we can continue to use our beautiful and "rich" language, for generations to come. The work and results of the Greek School, are of major importance to the continuation of not only our culture, but our religious Tradition as well. Since the beginning of Christianity, the Greek people have helped spread the faith and establish Churches throughout the world. More recently, the Church in return helped preserve our culture during the 400 years of slavery to the Ottoman Turks. No other nation, in my opinion, would have been able to withstand and maintain their language, faith and traditions, through such long and harsh times. And this is the very reason, why we have to be steadfast in not losing sight of what is important; just like a tree, if its roots are cut short, when the first major storm comes, it will fall.

After having my daughter Maria Ioanna and later on Kalliopi Seraphina, the mission and service of the Greek School has become even clearer to me, just by thinking how important it will be to see my daughter hang out, play, learn and grow up with children of a similar background. All these activities happen in a healthy environment, where not only the children of Saint Mark get to enjoy and mingle with each other, but a great byproduct of that, is the fact that the parents and families of the Greek School students have come closer as well. Especially if one puts this in the context of the church setting, in which we are housed, then one can understand the greater role that the Greek School plays, week after week. Lastly, it is important to note that the teachers and the parents of our students are always trying to make the Greek experience fun for the kids, by arranging for trips to Tarpon Springs and Blizzard Beach. We are grateful and blessed for all that have been accomplished up to this moment, but we are excited about what the future holds! *Registration for the next school year begins in August and we invite all of our families to join us in exploring our rich language and culture!*



## SAINT MARK Mommy + Me TUESDAYS @ 10AM (BI-WEEKLY)

With only one class left before Summer, we are finishing up our 3rd year of Mommy + Me this month. We have been meeting every other Tuesday at 10 at Saint Mark.



A couple weeks ago we had our easter egg hunt and Pascha picnic. We began that class immediately after our feastday Liturgy in honor of Saint

Mark, by sharing the Light of our Risen Lord. Together we chanted "Come Receive the Light" and "Christ is Risen" from the midnight Resurrectional service of Holy Saturday night.

"Mommy + Me" is for all children 4 years old and younger. If you are interested in joining "Mommy + Me" next year please contact us by email at [office@saintmarkboca.net](mailto:office@saintmarkboca.net) or by phone at 561-994-4822 for more details.



## SAINT MARK CHOIR - VIRGINIA BARNES

Christ Is Risen! As the Saint Mark Choir plans to wrap up the year with a group photo and choir lunch at Rafina on June 11th, we can look back at a great year of singing praises to the Lord and growth. We are now twenty-five members strong, boasting a well balanced group of basses, tenors, altos, and sopranos. One of the things we are most proud of is our junior choir, consisting of twelve of our members.

Another highlight of the Saint Mark Choir, was singing The Hymn of Cassiani on Holy Tuesday. As choir director, I can say that I had goosebumps as we sang with all of our hearts. On the journey through Holy Week, the choir led the congregation singing The Lamentations on Holy Friday, and sang with great energy on Holy Pascha.

On a bi-weekly basis, I go to the first through fifth grade Church School classrooms and sing hymns with the children. Year after year, I see the children memorize hymns, such as the Hymn of the Sunday of Orthodoxy. Once they are in fourth grade, I invite them to join the choir. It is truly a moving experience anytime one of our children accept this invitation! We now have quite a large junior choir ensemble ranging in age from fourth grade, all the way to our graduating senior, Stamatina Copulos.

I would like to thank Rikki Siavelis for all of her years in the Saint Mark Choir. Rikki is a versatile singer, who can switch from alto to soprano at a moment's notice, and can soar above the group with a beautiful descant as well. Rikki has been a devoted and indispensable member of the choir, and worked tirelessly last summer to ensure that the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians Conference was a success. Rikki is moving to Savannah Georgia to enjoy her grandchildren. We will miss you, Rikki! Enrollment in the choir is ongoing, and there is no audition. Please consider joining us in the fall. We will resume on August 20, 2017. Also, if you know a young person who is musically inclined, please encourage him or her to share their gift in the Saint Mark Choir.

## GOYA NEWS - DOMINIQUE CULTRERA

On April 1 we attended the District GOYA Lenten Retreat hosted at Saint Nicholas in Ft. Pierce. The event featured the District Oratorical Festival, where our own Apollo Dailey and Lucas Cotronakis were the top finalists in the senior and junior divisions respectively! During the afternoon, the GOYANs took part in the "Fool's Day" retreat where they more closely examined the wisdom of the Church as opposed to the foolishness of the world. The day ended with a light-hearted prank, which involved the GOYANs covering Fr. John Mamangakis' car in post-it-notes (he was a good sport, and the kids helped him clean it up).

Two weeks later our GOYA held its annual Holy Friday Retreat at Saint Mark following the Royal Hours Service. The kids helped to prepare the Church for the Lamentations and Resurrectional services, before heading into the library for a spiritual session led by Fr. Mark.

Coming up next we are hosting the District GOYA Olympics the weekend of May 19-21. We are greatly looking forward to our second year hosting this event but we need plenty of help from the rest of the parish (*for volunteering opportunities see page 3*).

After the Olympics our GOYANs will prepare for summer camp season. During the week of June 12-16 we will have our Saint Mark GW17 Summer Camp, and then two weeks later over two dozen GOYANs will attend session 1 of Saint Stephen's Camp from June 25- July 1.

Please email [DominiqueCultreraGOYA@gmail.com](mailto:DominiqueCultreraGOYA@gmail.com) for more about GOYA, and to get involved in this dynamic youth ministry!



## JOY NEWS - ANGELA MITCHELL

The JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth) ministry of Saint Mark had a beautiful Holy Week this year. Beginning on the Saturday of Lazarus the kids took a break from folding palm crosses to learn about the Sacrament of Confession, and then were able to offer their own confessions that afternoon. Less than a week later our JOY ministry had its annual Holy Friday retreat which focused on "the Path to the Cross," where we took a walking tour around the campus, stopping at various stations to take a deeper look at Christ's final hours. Later that evening, many of our JOY children served in the Altar and as Myrrh-bearers for the Lamentations service. We also started a new series of park play-days, meeting at Patch Reef for lunch and some fun in the sun! Now we turn our attention to Summer Camp. Contact the office for more information.

## AHEPA - TIM SHARP



Christos Anesti! During this joyous and amazing Lenten and Pascha season, AHEPA, along with the Daughters of Penelope, were busy preparing 10,000 Lenten meals to benefit children

and families within our community. This was done with the assistance of an organization called Feeding Children Everywhere. They helped us to set up five assembly line tables with over 60 Ahepans, Daughters and friends and family who put together these meals in less than one hour – amazing!

In May we have a number of other exciting events planned as well. On May 4th we had our monthly fellowship dinner which included a presentation from our very own parishioner Phillip Nicosizis, as part of the Hippocrates Health Institute, on the benefits of a raw food diet. It was a very healthy and enlightening presentation. Finally on May 19th, to close out our AHEPA year, we will be joining the DOP at the Blue Island Fish restaurant for our officer and Board of Governor's (BOG's) installation banquet. Our new officers include:

**TIM SHARP – PRESIDENT**

**JOHN VOYTILLA – VICE PRESIDENT**

**JAMES CONSTANTINE – SECRETARY**

**FRANK REKAS – TREASURER**

Our BOGs include George Douglas as chairman and Chuck Diamantis, George Mellides, Emmanuel Manos, and Tony Nicoalides. We also want to take this opportunity to thank Jerry Baldino (VP), Harry Mirabile (Sec), Manny Manos (Treas) and James Ballerano (BOG) to their exemplary service to our chapter.

May 21st, which is AHEPA Sunday, we will be hosting a breakfast following the Divine Liturgy to thank Saint Mark and all the parishioners for their support of our chapter. Food will be graciously provided by AHEPA brothers Tasos and Bobby Orfanos, owners of Zorbas Taverna in Delray Beach. We will also be giving out our college scholarships to deserving high school and college students, including one for the Dollars for TICs Scholars, a non-profit foundation run by our parishioners Kelsey and Diane Diamantis.

AHEPA Chapter 487 will reconvene in September 2017 to continue in our mission of promoting education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, fellowship and Hellenism through educational scholarships, donations, community service and fraternal gatherings. Have a blessed summer!



Instagram

FOR EVERYTHING SAINT MARK



FOLLOW @SAINTMARKBOCA

FOR ALL NEWS ON GOYA, JOY & MORE





THE DIAKONIA RETREAT CENTER

**Visit our secure donation portal:**  
[www.atlmetropolis.org/donations](http://www.atlmetropolis.org/donations)

[illegible]

AMOUNT: ☐ \$30 or ☐ \$

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

PARISH

CITY STATE

☐ CREDIT CARD      ☐ CHECK

SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_

CARD TYPE: ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

CARD NUMBER EXP DATE

EMAILADDRESS

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_



# SIMPLY ONE WOMAN ASKING ANOTHER TO CARE

PAM PARENT



This year has been another remarkable season of philanthropy for our Philoptochos chapter. Right from the start we provided support and comfort to our church, our community, locally, nationally and internationally. Make a Difference Day, Feeding Children Everywhere, the Caring Kitchen, our children attending St. Stephen's Camp, our college students, high school graduates, Greek School, Choir, Saint Mark Feast Day, our Festival, the Spady School in Delray Beach, Dress for Success, OCMC, Aid to Greece and Cyprus; are just some of the recipients of the philanthropy and volunteerism of Philoptochos.



This was also an election year for Philoptochos, which inevitably means changes within our chapter leadership. We thank outgoing board members, Alex Davides, Thelma Sorrentino, Barbara Yurchuk, Helen Ballarano, and Riki Siavelis for their years of dedication and service. They have been an inspiration and role model for us all.



## THE NEW PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD

- Niki Core ..... President
- Mary Limperos ..... 1st Vice President
- Maria Spiliopoulos ..... 2nd Vice President
- Stella Ritsos ..... Recording Secretary
- Julie Vagelos ..... Corresponding Secretary
- Barbara Tasiounis ..... Treasurer
- Fran Papamichael ..... Assistant Treasurer

**Additional Board Members:** Christine Baldino, Mary Cocores-Gagliardi, Georgia Copulos, Kathi Kermes Dixon, Athena Economou, Suzette Johnson, Assimo Kitsos, Evelyn Lamia, Helen Lang, Maria Mercaldo, Pam Parent, Kathi Sharp

We know that we can count on your support of these dynamic and talented women. We are confident that they will lead Philoptochos of Saint Mark prayerfully and with wisdom.

## PASCHA TSOUREKI CARE PACKAGES

This year Philoptochos partnered with the Stewardship committee to provide tsoureki for Saint Mark college students who were studying away from home this Pascha. This offering is exactly the type of warm and loving act that makes our Saint Mark Church more than just a parish, but a family. No matter where life takes you, Saint Mark is here for all its faithful. The Church is your home no matter where you live, and our Philoptochos and Stewardship committee discovered this beautiful way of reflecting that.

Included to the left is a note of appreciation from one of our out-of-town students Ryan Alman (the son of Steven and Denise), who is in Philadelphia at dental school. Special thanks to Evie Lamia for coordinating this simple, yet profoundly touching outreach project.

If you have students who are going off to school, make sure to update the Church office so we can keep in touch with them and help them connect with a local parish while they are away.

thank  
you

Dear Ladies of Philoptochos,

Thank you for thinking of me this Pascha! The Tsoureki was delicious and was happy to share it with my classmates. I missed being home, but I was able to go to St. George here in Philadelphia. Also, thank you soooo much for the Starbucks gift card! With dental school, I've been having more coffee than I ever have had before haha. You all are amazing! I look forward to seeing you all in June when I get a month free.

Christos Anesti!!!

Ryan Alman





# SAINT MARK GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

## SAINT MARK GREEK WEEK SUMMER CAMP



June 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> • 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (childcare from 8-9 AM & until 5 PM)

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Camper (Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade) ☐ Counselors (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) ☐ Staff  
Grade Attending as of Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact: (Name & Cell Phone Number) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Days for After Care: ☐ Mon. ☐ Tues. ☐ Wed. ☐ Thurs. ☐ Fri.  
Please list any allergies or medical concerns/conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle T-Shirt Size: **YOUTH:** Small, Med, Large; **ADULT:** Small, Med, Large, X-Large; **Number of extra shirts** \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Camper (Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade) ☐ Counselors (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) ☐ Staff  
Grade Attending as of Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact: (Name & Cell Phone Number) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Days for After Care: ☐ Mon. ☐ Tues. ☐ Wed. ☐ Thurs. ☐ Fri.  
Please list any allergies or medical concerns/conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle T-Shirt Size: **YOUTH:** Small, Med, Large; **ADULT:** Small, Med, Large, X-Large; **Number of extra shirts** \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Camper (Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade) ☐ Counselors (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) ☐ Staff  
Grade Attending as of Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact: (Name & Cell Phone Number) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Days for After Care: ☐ Mon. ☐ Tues. ☐ Wed. ☐ Thurs. ☐ Fri.  
Please list any allergies or medical concerns/conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle T-Shirt Size: **YOUTH:** Small, Med, Large; **ADULT:** Small, Med, Large, X-Large; **Number of extra shirts** \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Camper (Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade) ☐ Counselors (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) ☐ Staff  
Grade Attending as of Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact: (Name & Cell Phone Number) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Days for After Care: ☐ Mon. ☐ Tues. ☐ Wed. ☐ Thurs. ☐ Fri.  
Please list any allergies or medical concerns/conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle T-Shirt Size: **YOUTH:** Small, Med, Large; **ADULT:** Small, Med, Large, X-Large; **Number of extra shirts** \_\_\_\_\_

→**All Staff must attend a mandatory orientation prior to the start of Camp**←

### REGISTRATION FEES

Ages 4 through Grade 8 - \$145; Counselors 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> - \$75; Non Saint Mark Stewards - \$225;  
Aftercare - \$10 per day additional; Each additional shirt is \$10; Lunch and snacks provided daily

→**Any Registration after May 29<sup>th</sup> 2017 will be an additional \$75**←

*Make checks payable to Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church*

Please note that in providing a program that contains recreational/sporting activities, Saint Mark does not hold itself responsible in any way for any injury that may arise from participation in such activities. Participation is strictly voluntary and carries with it the understanding that some degree of risk is associated with the activity. Participants are notified that if they are injured as a result of the activity their assumption of the risk will relieve Saint Mark of any legal duty toward him or her. In signing this release form, I hereby give the Camp Director full authority, as temporary guardian, to act on my behalf regarding my child. I understand that in case of an emergency, the Director and/or designated staff will try to contact me, but until such time, they will make all necessary decisions to ensure the safety and well-being of my child. I also give permission for my child to participate in all program activities, both on/off the Church site, including the field trip, unless I specify otherwise.

Signature of Parent (Legal Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# PAVE THE WAY



## \$200,000 MATCHING GRANT – THE LASKARIS FAMILY

### \$5,000 and Above

James & Sally Kaloyanides   Gerard & Joanne Scheller   Tim & Kathy Sharp   Ted & Julie Vagelos

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Fr. Mark & Pres. Anastasia Leondis  
Fr. Steven & Pres. Nicole Klund  
Anonymous (*Honoring Fr. Mark Leondis*)  
Anonymous (*Honoring Fr. Alexander Leondis*)  
Anonymous (*Honoring Fr. Steven Klund*)  
Gus & Pat Anthony  
AHEPChapter 487  
Andrew & Sophia Arbes  
Costa & Lynn Athan  
Leonidas & Maria Bavas  
Riad Boulos  
Marlene Buettner  
Tom & Georgia Copulos  
Emmanuel & Elaine Cotronakis  
Nick & Monica Csakany  
Chris & Maria Danias  
Tula Diamandis  
Jim & Claudia Dovas  
Bess Economos  
John Horey & Barbara Tasiounis  
Rodia Kalamaras  
Stephen Kalivas  
Stamatios & Anita Kartalopoulos  
Charles & Maggie Kazakos  
Rick & Erin Kontos  
John & Yvette Koutsoupis  
Emanuel & Helen Logothetis  
George Mellides  
Girard & Angela Mitchell  
Louis & Helen Nicozisis  
Urania Perakos  
Art & Kay Poly  
Joe & Stella Pores  
Mark Rados  
Louis & Ann Sinopoulos  
Bill & Katherine Skoundridakis  
Pat & Thalia Sourlis  
Tom & Maria Spiliopoulos  
John & Yvonne Stamatellos  
Daniel & Maria Staton  
David & Maria Tadros  
Demetra C. Vagelos Foundation  
John & Enid Voytilla

Matthew & Nadia Weaver  
Charles & Christine Zacharias

### \$500 - \$999

Fr. Peter Chamberas  
Fr. Alexander & Pres. Mary Leondis  
Anonymous  
The Alman Family  
Dean Bacalos  
George & Olga Bacalos  
Gerald & Christine Baldino  
James & Helen Ballerano  
John & Eleni Chalvadarakis  
Richard Coffin & Marilena Selvagio  
James Constantine  
Stephen & Tamra Constantine  
George & Rosy Douglas  
Katherine Kaltenbach  
Assimo Kitsos  
Kim & Elaine Koehler  
Kyros & Varcia Leondis  
John & Joan Mitsinikos  
Mary Manos  
Anne Nichols  
Tony & Marina Nicolaides  
Pam Parent  
Steve & Athena Pelekanos  
Catherine Rafferty  
Theodore & Vickie Raptis

### Other Gifts

Deacon Bryan & Dssa Cori Giusti  
Anonymous  
Deborah Abdo-Dambrosio  
Anthony & Charlene Alvanos  
Kalle Andromidas  
Dean Bacalos  
Gerald & Georgia Carignan  
George & Kathy Chapekis  
Paul & Sophia Christakis  
Nicholine Core  
Pratik & Melissa Desai  
Greg & Kristina Dittamore  
Mary Ducas

Richard & Athena Economou  
Anna Fanning  
Mike & Rosanna Giakoumatos  
Steve & Irina Giakouminakis  
Michael & Haroula Gonedes  
Helen Hadgigeorge  
Chris & Sophia Hamrick  
Daniel & Vasiliki Hernandez  
Peter Hoffman  
Peter Karantonis & Penelope Coyle  
Vivian Katos  
Steven & Catherine Katsikis  
Eracles Klotsas  
Donald Detwiler & Evelyn Lamia  
Ron & Connie Lasota  
Theodora Leventouri  
Vince & Helen Lombardo  
Alexandros & Marcia Marangakis  
Barbara Marino  
Maria Mercaldo  
Harry & Constantina Mirabile  
Angela Mitchell  
Maria Mitsinikos  
Alexa Nanos  
Antonio & Zaharoula Nativi  
Dimitrios & Anna Panayotopoulos  
Nicholas & Kathryn Pandazis  
Gus & Esther Pangis  
Stanley & Sophia Parzyck  
Diane Paterakis  
Lee Polydefkis  
Catherine Rafferty  
James & Dawn Riger  
Stella Ritsos  
Anthony & Mary Saketos  
Solomon Saul  
John & Chrissa Skeadas  
Mark Sterghos  
Marika Siavelis  
James & Frosine Stolis  
James & Betty Veras  
Mihai & Ana Voicu  
Elaine Zographus

The Saint Mark family is embarking on the first phase of its Master Plan, improvements to parking. These improvements include over 60 new parking spots, more handicap parking, and new paver parking in grassy areas. Pledge cards are available at Church. Join the families listed above who have already given towards this project, and help "pave the way" for the future of Saint Mark! This project's success will be driven by your commitment and generosity.



**SAINT MARK**  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
2100 NW 51ST STREET  
BOCA RATON, FL 33431

Non Profit Org.  
U S postage  
PAID  
BOCA RATON, FL.  
Permit NO 277

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL PLEASE EXPEDITE

