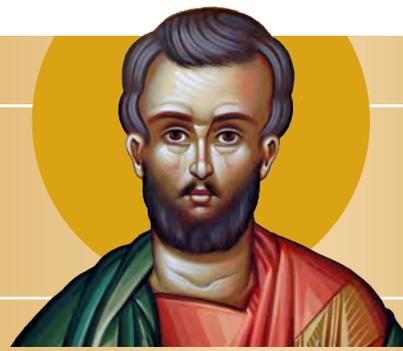




THE Message



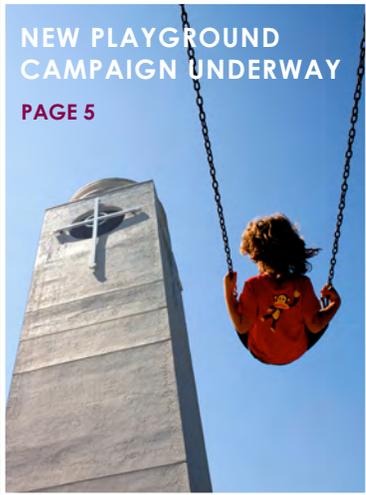
SAINT MARK

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

SPRING • 2014

NEW PLAYGROUND
CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

PAGE 5



SAINT MARK GOYA GIVE
BACK IN ANNUAL
CLEANING TRIP



PAGE 6



CONGRATULATIONS TO
ALL OF OUR SAINT MARK
GRADUATES! PAGE 8



CHRIST IS RISEN! – ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

SAINT MARK CELEBRATES THE FEAST OF FEASTS

The journey of Great Lent has finally come to an end in the most glorious fashion! What began with the Lord's triumphant entry on Palm Sunday, the 2014 Holy Week reached its pinnacle on Sunday, April 20, when close to a thousand believers gathered at Saint Mark to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. As soon as the clock struck midnight Fr. Mark emerged from the Altar, surrounded by darkness, holding a single candle proclaiming to all "Come Receive the Light!" Soon that one flame spread to hundreds of waiting candles, filling the Church (and the faithful) with a warmth and light.

Holy Week Coverage Continued on Page 4

THE FEASTDAY CELEBRATION OF SAINT MARK

On Thursday evening April 24 our community held our annual Feastday Vespers of the Apostle and Evangelist Mark, the patron saint of our Church. Following the service all those in attendance were invited next door for cake and refreshments. The next morning we celebrated the culmination of the feast with the Divine Liturgy. Our community is doubly blessed since this occasion is also the nameday for our very own Fr. Mark! May Saint Mark continue to intercede for us all for many more years to come!



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

2100 NW 51st Street
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Clergy:

Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis
Rev. Fr. Alexander Leondis
Rev. Fr. Steven Klund
Rev. Dn. John Christakis, MD

Office Staff:

Dawn Riger, Parish Administrator
Patti Ali, Bookkeeper

Church Maintenance:

Yosban Pazbalino & Tim Caldwell

Office Volunteers:

Pat Anthony, Niki Core, Joann Haros,
Petitsa Macaulay, Marlene Buettner,
Pres. Mary Leondis, Debbie Fread,
Kay Poly, Alexandra Van Horn

Parish Council: John Koutsoupis

Philoptochos: Pam Parent

Choir: Sophia Christakis

Chanters: Ramona Bean,
George Demopoulos, Art Poly

Ushers:

Tim Sharp & Girard Mitchell

Acolytes: Brian Giusti

Church School: Helen Lang

Youth Choir: Virginia Barnes

JOY: Angela & Girard Mitchell,
and Jim & Claudia Dovas

GOYA: Mike Gonedes

Super Seniors: Diane Paterakis

Syrtaki:

Mark Christakis & Jenny Saiger

Greek School: Anna Kaiser

Bookstore: Yvette Koutsoupis,
Barbara Tasiounes, Stella Pores

Welcome: Elaine Zographus

Readers: Vivian Jenetopoulos

Photography: Constantine Mukasa
& Irina Giakouminakis

The Message: Fr. Steven Klund

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Reach Up to the Risen Christ



My Dear Faithful,

Christ is Risen . . . Truly He is Risen!

We exclaim this beautiful exhortation for 40 days after the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We greet each other with these words, instead of the usual “hello, how are you?” What a beautiful way to bring the resurrected Christ into our lives on a daily basis. What an amazing way to keep the resurrected Christ alive in our everyday lives for more than one evening.

One of the beautiful icons that adorn our Saint Mark Church is the icon of the Resurrection, or the Descent into Hades. At Saint Mark, this is located on the East wall to the right of the Altar (and right of the Crucifixion icon). It is most descriptive and symbolic and richly tells us the beautiful theology of the Orthodox Christian Church.

One of the most scenic elements of this icon is the depiction of Adam and Eve with their outstretched hands reaching to our Lord. And in turn, Jesus Christ, is lifting them up. We know that Adam and Eve had died many years earlier . . . their story appears in the Book of Genesis, the first Book of the Old Testament, which was written many centuries before the birth of Christ.

Our tradition tells us that after Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden for disobeying God and eating from the “tree of life,” the gates of paradise were closed. For all those who died after this, Paradise was not open and all went to Hades. It wasn't until Jesus Christ died and descended into Hades, to offer “new life”, that those who were suffering were offered a better way. And thus, now, we too, are offered a better way and can enter eternal life in Paradise with our Lord and Savior.

To do this, we must be like Adam and Eve and “reach up” to our Lord and Savior. We can “reach up” out of the sinfulness of the world that surrounds us and place our hands with the Risen Lord. We can “reach up” to our Lord and leave the pride, ego and ugliness of this world, and embrace the Risen Christ. We can “reach up” to Him who gave us everything, even His life.

Our Lord is extending His hand to us on a daily basis . . . He is offering us new life in Him. We must “reach up” and take hold; grasp the King of Kings, the Lord of Hosts . . . this is how we work in synergy with our Lord.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, “Reach Up” and our Lord will raise you up to be with Him. Your lives will be anew and the power of the Risen Lord will transform your lives forever.

Christos Anesti . . . Alithos Anesti!

Fr. Mark

OUR COMMUNITY REGISTRY

AUGUST 2013 – APRIL 2014

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

September 1 – Lea Roza Mougougiannis:
Christian & Eleni Mougougiannis

September 14 – Elaine Saetta:
Friend of Maria Pokrajac & Emmanuel Manos

December 22 – Sophia Amunategui:
Daughter of Anthony & Sophia Amunategui

December 30 – Jackson Florence:
Son of Mark & Nicole Florence

January 18 – Amanda Abaco:
Daughter of Steven & Eftychia Abaco

January 18 – Jack Holden Rice:
Son of Sean & Alexa Rice

January 19 – Zoi Kokkinellis:
Lambros Kokkinellis & Sandra Hernandez

February 9 – Dimitri Pagan:
Son of Adolfo Pagan & Evangelia Marangakis

March 1 – Carly Elana McComb:
Daughter of William & Chandra McComb

March 23 – Stavros Farsedakis:
Son of Lewis & Suma Farsedakis

April 5 – Blake Erdelye:
Son of Scott & Melissa Erdelye

April 26 – Gianna Antoinette Spetsiers:
Michael Spetsiers & Jennifer Scheidecker

April 26 – Anastasia Morales:
Ernest Morales & Alexandria Lindholm

MARRIAGES

Sept. 1 – Spiros Ziros & Lauren Trudel

Sept. 1 – Christian & Eleni Mougougiannis

Jan. 8 – Nikolaos Alexiou & Demetra Doukas

Jan. 11 – Gregory Simonyan & Panagiota Danis

Feb. 9 – Demetris Demirtgogiou &
Helen Kalorides

CHRISMATED INTO CHRIST

August 30 – Lauren Trudel

October 13 – Carter Alexander Clark

November 17 – Gregory Simonyan

November 24 – Nicholas Hatzivassilou

December 8 – Andre Panagiotis Gonzalez

December 24 – Joseph Pores

January 18 – Sean Kevin Rice

February 2 – Julia Armenakis

FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD:
MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

September – Tassos Voutsinas

September 18 – James Theodore Chapekis

October 10 – Andreas Tzanakakis

October 20 – Jonathan Pender

November 5 – John Sirounis

December 3 – Coula Modenos

December 19 – Bess Prasinos

December 23 – Elmina Gallas

February 2 – Anastasia Katsampes

February 10 – Catherine Phillips

February 23 – Keith Allen Ely

March 4 – Nick Athan

March 8 – Stamatina Giantos

March 13 – Dimitrios “Jimmy” Karaloukas

March 29 – Esther Antonio-Vigliar

April 3 – Rev. Fr. Constantine Chokanis

April – Vito Selvaggio

April 24 – Gregory Paul Tonkowich

April 25 – Connie Mellides

April 26 – Angelo John Dovas

SPRING EVENTS

Christ is Risen!

We are now in the most joyous time of the ecclesiastical year! During this time between Holy Pascha and Christ's Ascension we celebrate our Savior's victory over death, and we bask in His divine presence as the Disciples did for 40 days. Soon many of us will leave for vacation, but there is still plenty going on at Saint Mark before the summer arrives.

Tuesdays in May

- 6:30 pm - Vespers
- 7-8 pm - Bible Study: 1-3 St. John

Holy Land Pilgrimage

- May 12 - May 23

GOYA Olympics - Ft. Lauderdale

- May 16 - 18 - Olympic Games

Sunday School Graduation & AHEPA Breakfast

- May 18 - After Divine Liturgy

AHEPA / DOP End of Year Party

- May 23 - 6:00 pm

2014 District Calendar Meeting

- May 31

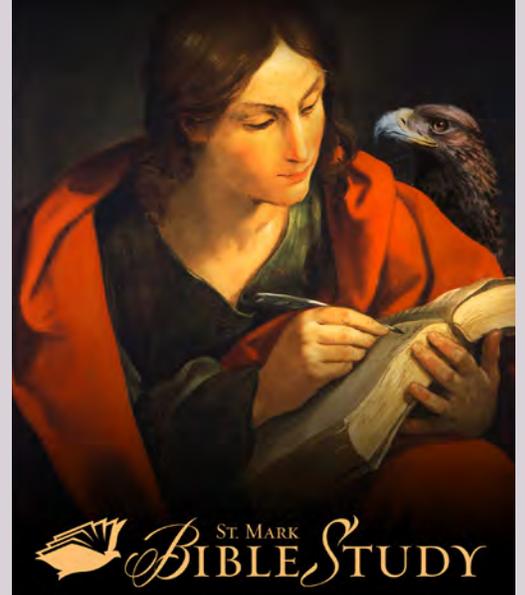
St. Mark Greek Week Summer Camp

- June 9 - 13 (9 am - 2 pm)

St. Stephen's Summer Camp

- June 29 - July 5

THE THREE LETTERS OF
SAINT JOHN
TUESDAYS AT 7PM
(AFTER VESPERS AT 6:30)



ST. MARK
BIBLE STUDY



A LOOK BACK



HOLY WEEK - FR. STEVEN KLUND

"Whosoever is a devout lover of God, let him/her enjoy this beautiful and bright festival!" - St. John Chrysostom

"Beautiful and bright" indeed! That is the only fitting way to describe a week that began in darkness at the betrayal of Christ, but ended with His radiant light shining from the empty tomb.

Following a magnificent Holy Week was an even more joyous Bright Week that featured liturgical celebrations for both Saint George and our very own Saint Mark!

The parish of Saint Mark would like to thank and recognize all of the volunteers who helped create the wonderful atmosphere for Holy Week this year, from those who read during the services to those who decorated the kouvouklion, and the many others. Your service to this community is an offering to God that is more sweet than any incense and more melodious than any hymn. But most importantly, we would like to thank all of you for making Saint Mark your home of worship this Pascha! At a time when Christ was abandoned by even His closest of disciples, it was such a joy to see the thousands standing by His Cross in love and faith.

"Let all of you enter into the joy of our Lord...and enjoy the banquet of faith. All of you enjoy the riches of His goodness... for the universal Kingdom has been revealed." We pray that the joy of the risen Lord may always be with you and your families.



SAINT SPOTLIGHT

THE 179 MARTYRS OF DAOU PENTELIS MONASTERY

The Church of Saint Mark has received a number of blessings this year, but one of the most important (yet least understood) is the reception of the relics of the Holy 179 Martyrs of the Daou Pentelis Monastery. During our Consecration in February, a relic from these martyrs was forever sealed inside the Altar Table in our sanctuary. But few of us actually know the story of these men.

The monastery of Daou Pentelis is located near the Greek port of Rafina (20 miles west of Athens). During Holy Week in 1680, pirates in search of treasures docked their ship and tried to infiltrate the monastery but were unable to get past the walls. However, a servant of the

monastery showed the pirates a secret access point allowing them undetected entry into the monastery. On Pascha, following the final "Christ is Risen," the pirates stormed the monastery, raided it of its possessions, and slaughtered the 179 monks before burning it down to the ground.

Only two monks escaped martyrdom. They were serving the Paschal liturgy in a neighboring monastery. They returned to Daou Pentelis the next day, only to find the buildings burnt and their brothers slain. They asked their neighboring monks to help them bury their brothers, and they did so following a Bright Week funeral service. These 179 martyrs are remembered every year on the Tuesday following Pascha.

SAINT MARK PLAYGROUND

"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to them that the kingdom of heaven belongs." - John 19: 14-15



PLAYGROUND - BILL COCOSE

We're building a new playground and need your help!

Imagine the wonder in the eyes of our children and feel their excitement as they view a playground on the grounds of their church. Our playground was weary and unsafe from almost ten years of use. To expand our tradition of family, community outreach and educational excellence, we are constructing a vibrant, naturalized outdoor environment to replace and improve on the current one. It is important that children have special places to explore and revel in childhood joys and build on lasting friendships. There is a real need for a safe place for children to play when they are at church. Our playground will be open to church members and to the greater community as a fun and welcoming place to enjoy the spirit of childhood. Parents and grandparents will be able to more easily play with their children and grandchildren and enjoy fellowship with other families. Just as in the past, we at Saint Mark commit to providing our community with a flagship play space that meets the needs of our families today and for years to come.

With your partnership and support, we can make this dream of a play space and family gathering a reality. We have jumpstarted our fundraising with the support of an anonymous donor who generously has promised up to \$20,000.00 conditional on the community matching the funds through monetary donations by May 31. Please join this vital

community project with your financial support! Become part of this dream and help us transform our outdoor space into a dynamic environment. Donors of \$500 or more will be recognized on a special plaque. We cannot allow this wonderful offer to go unrealized, so please give generously! Our committee will be set up every Sunday after Liturgy to answer your questions and accept your donations.

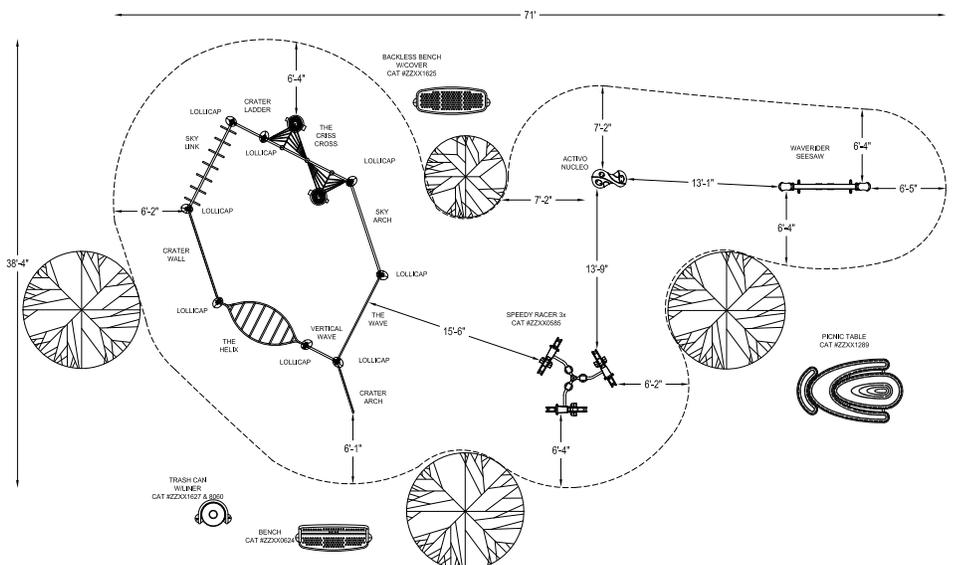
In conjunction with the above fundraising effort, our committee will fundraise through a raffle. We will be selling tickets to our members as well as friends and supporters outside our community at \$100 each

for a chance to win a 10-day Cruise for two with Regent Seven Seas Cruises. The approximate value of the Cruise is \$12,000.

There are only 300 tickets printed, so you have a great chance of enjoying a first-class cruise on a destination of your choice!

This community effort will highlight the expression of how the Church values its families and young children. We hope you will consider giving to this wonderful project that will be unique to our community and will continue to promote the spiritual, emotional, and educational capabilities of each child for years to come.

Our playground will be open to members and to the greater community as a fun and welcoming place to enjoy the spirit of childhood.



SAINT MARK MINISTRIES – YEAR IN REVIEW



GOYA - ANDREW GONEDES

We did so much and learned so much in 2013-2014. This past year our GOYA was busy with many retreats, events, meetings and get-togethers. From total fun to spiritual growth, we had plenty of opportunities for both. It is hard to believe another GOYA year has flown by.

In the fall we had family nights for mingling, bowling, a district retreat in Kendall called Survivor, and even a day of paintballing in Palm Beach. However, my personal favorite GOYA fall event was going to Orlando for the weekend and helping at Give Kids The World. We interacted with families who had terminally ill children and our GOYA met with them and served 200 meals. We all left there realizing how lucky we were to have our health after seeing kids who were diagnosed with terminally ill diseases.

Later in the year we went kayaking on Peanut Island, played basketball vs. Saint Demetrios, and held the “Burning Bush” district retreat. We had over 100 GOYANs from all over come and spend the weekend learning more about our religion as well as enjoying each other socially at the Deerfield Embassy Suites. We ended the year by Christmas caroling by bus to many of our shut-ins.

As we entered 2014 our GOYA was just as busy enjoying the Epiphany celebration at St. Catherine’s, an outdoor movie (Captain

Phillips) around a fire pit with s’mores, and even more retreats on the Saturday of Lazarus and Holy Friday, followed up by the “Blurred Lines” district retreat at Saint Sophia in Miami.

We went glean- ing on a corn farm and all the corn we picked went to the less fortunate. It really felt good knowing we were helping others. In a couple of weeks we will be enjoying the District Olympics in Fort Lauderdale.

As you can tell, never a dull moment with our GOYA. Personally I can say I have school friends and GOYA friends. While I enjoy my school friends, there is a special bond with my GOYA friends. I hope all our younger middle school GOYANs will continue to enjoy GOYA in the future and hopefully make life-long friends. Lastly, we would like to offer a special thanks to Fr. Mark, Fr. Steven and Mike Gonedes who made this year fun and educational.



PHILOPTOCHOS - PAM PARENT

The women of Philoptochos are honored to have served the community of Saint Mark since its inception. Over the years we have given of our time talent and treasure to our church and our community. This year was no exception. With the generous support of the community of Saint Mark we were able to disseminate nearly \$30,000 to our community, our church, nationally and internationally -- all in the name of Saint Mark.



At a local level we have given \$2000 in scholarships to worthy high school graduates, \$1000 in funding for our GOYANs attending St. Stephen's Camp, \$500 to the Syrtaki dancers, and a full-year tuition for one student to attend Greek School.

We also gave out over \$6,000 to Saint Mark parishioners in need. We contributed of our time talent and treasure to the Consecration, hosting the Friday night reception, making koliva for the Memorial and setting up, serving and cleaning up for each reception. Our women bake thousands of pastries for our Greek Festival.

Holy Week saw our women decorating the Kouvouklion, boiling eggs and preparing eggs for the community. All proceeds from the sale of the eggs were donated back to the church.

One of our proudest accomplishments has been the donation of the icon of Martha and Mary which adorns our Sanctuary wall. \$15,000 was raised through donations from our membership.

At the community level we donated to Boca Helping Hands, the Caring Kitchen, Orthodox Christian Network, Children's Place at Home Safe and others. We also volunteer to feed the hungry monthly at the Caring Kitchen in Delray Beach and have committed \$500 to Family Promise, a local organization that provides shelter and food to families in need.



All proceeds from our coffee hour, koliva and coffee hour sponsorships each and every week goes to worthy organizations on behalf of Saint Mark...these include: Cancer Fund, General Medical Fund, IOCC, OCMC, Social Services, St. Photios Shrine, Hellenic College/Holy Cross Scholarship Fund, Retired Clergy Association and more.

Did you know that your koliva or coffee hour sponsorship can be directed to the Philoptochos charity of your choice?

Internationally, we have assisted the People of Greece by sending funds to help alleviate hunger. We also sent funds to the Philippines immediately after the hurricane there.

We are a vibrant and growing chapter, and have reached an all time high of nearly 150 members this year. Please continue to support the ministries and programs of Philoptochos by giving of your time, talent and treasures which God has bestowed upon you. We invite you to join us for our meetings. Together we can accomplish great things on behalf of our Saint Mark Family!

OCF COLLEGE MINISTRY - FR. STEVEN KLUND



This past year has been a wonderful beginning to our OCF college ministry. Thanks to the dedication of the students we have been able to come together on a regular basis and share in Christian love and fellowship.

In two semesters we have grown spiritually through worship, Bible studies, and religious discussions. Yet, we have also had a lot of fun together with movie nights, kayaking trips, and pizza parties.

In our most recent gathering we went to go see the motion picture "NOAH" starring Russell Crowe and Jennifer Connelly. This film has received quite an amount of criticism from the Christian community, and rightly so. However, our students decided that Orthodoxy has never been well-served by ignorance, therefore rather than boycotting the film our OCF chose to watch the movie and dissect the Biblical facts from Hollywood fiction. Thanks to the spiritual guidance of Fr. Nicholas Bargoot, who is an accomplished Old Testament professor, we were able to send our students home with an accurate understanding of the story of Noah and its theological significance regarding God and His relationship with humanity.

We are going to conclude the school year with a BBQ and kickball game this spring before our students leave for the summer.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining our college OCF ministry, please contact Fr. Steven Klund at the church office at 561.994.4822 or look us up on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/groups/fauocf/

SENIORS OF SAINT MARK - DIANE PATERAKIS

Athena Sperantsas has stepped down after 12 years as Chairman of the "Super Seniors." Fr. Mark has now appointed Diane Paterakis as her replacement to lead the group now known as the "Seniors of Saint Mark."

Our next meeting will be a luncheon held at 12:30 pm on Tuesday, May 20, at the Delray Golf Club on Homewood between Linton and Atlantic Blvd. Admission is \$23 for members and \$25 for non-members. This luncheon will feature guest speaker Dr. Marcie Merson who will be offering a presentation on "Back Pain."

Many activities are in the works for this fall and winter season, and membership is only \$10. If you are interested in joining the "Seniors of Saint Mark" contact Diane Paterakis at (561) 368-3728 or Bess Hatsis at (561) 495-9492.



CLOTHING & SHOE RECYCLING

As a brand new addition to our ministries at Saint Mark, we are teaming up with Partner Recycling in a clothing and shoe drive for the next 12 months. During the next year you can bring any used clothing (in good condition) and drop it off in the blue bins located at the back of the Church parking lot. Partner Recycling will then collect the clothes throughout the year and we will receive a portion of their proceeds based off of how much clothing we donate. In return we will be assisting the larger community of South Florida by clothing those who are in need. So clean out your closets and help give back to our brothers and sisters!



JOY - ANGELA MITCHELL



The 2013-2014 ecclesiastical year was a busy one for our 1st through 6th grade JOY members. With over 60 children registered in the group, all events were very well attended. We began the year in September with Family night and our annual bowling party to kick off the year. In October, we had another Family Night where many families gathered for our break-out sessions with clergy followed by a pot-luck dinner. Events in December consisted of our annual community Christmas party and a day of

Christmas caroling by bus to shut-ins.

We began the new year with ice skating and mini golf outings which were fun for the entire family. Our Pascha retreats on the Saturday of Lazarus and Holy Friday were not only fun, but spiritually educational for our youth. Before we end the year with our annual "end of year party," we will take the group on a first-time equestrian event at Malachi Acres, a local horse ranch. The children are very excited to learn about horse care, safety, and riding. Each year we do our best to teach the JOY children about our faith and get them acquainted with other children in our church community.

USHERS - TIM SHARP

The Saint Mark Usher Committee is seeking a few good men and women to serve as ushers. If you are looking for a way to serve our Saint Mark community and be part of a very special team, then consider signing up to be an usher. Your Saint Mark ushers are a group of dedicated parishioners who are committed to creating a welcoming environment for everyone and making the church services run smoothly and efficiently. The responsibility only requires a once per month commitment, and if you are coming to church anyway, why not be a part of this great team. If you are interested, contact our usher committee chair Tim Sharp at 561-213-1016 (call or text) or at sharp1958@bellsouth.net.

CHURCH SCHOOL - HELEN LANG

Our year began with the Blessing of the Classrooms in September and the warm welcoming of our dedicated returning teachers:

Mrs. Virginia Barnes, K-5th Grade Music Teacher & Christmas Pageant Director; Mrs. Angela Mitchell, Pre-K 4; Mrs. Dawn Riger and Mrs. Irina Giakoumounakis, Kindergarten; Mrs. Joanne Lindholm, and Ms. Patricia Danias, 2nd Grade; Mrs. Maria Matthews, and Mrs. Sallie Bothers, 3rd Grade; Mrs. Katherine Skoundridakis, and Mrs. Lisa Stabile, 4th Grade; Dr. Tom Copulos, 5th Grade; Mr. George Douglas, 6th Grade; Diakonissa Stephanie Christakis, 7th/8th Grade and Dr. John Cucuras, High School. This year we welcomed new teachers, Mrs. Erin Kontos, in the Pre-K class, and Mrs. Sophia Valladares, as the 1st Grade teacher. We also said 'good-bye' to Ms. Patricia Danias and Mrs. Joanne Lindholm, who were team teaching the 2nd grade class for the 2012-2013 and the first semester of the 2013-2014 school year.

Our cadre of substitute teachers and volunteers Presvytera Anastasia, Mr. Rick Kontos, Mrs. JoAnn Chapman, Mrs. Penny Maloney, Mrs. Debbie Fread, Mr. Bryan Giusti, Mrs. Anastasia Christakis, Mrs. Angela Pelletier, Ms. Kika Caparisis, and Ms. Faye Averkiou, insured the church school ministry didn't miss a beat in following lesson plans, teaching, and taking good care of our children in the classroom this year. We wish to thank The Ladies of Philoptochos, for preparing cookie trays and providing juice beverage snacks throughout the school year.

Father Mark and Father Steven served as guest lecturers in the classroom this year, as their schedules would permit. We were blessed with Father Steven's teaching an 'all church school assembly' in December, explaining the Saint Mark Consecration to our church school students. Father Steven returned to the classroom throughout the year as a guest lecturer in various classes.



Through the engagement and dedication of our teachers, our children learned hymns which were performed at the Christmas Pageant, during the Sunday of Orthodoxy icon procession, and during Holy Friday Services. Our 4th grade-middle school classes developed speeches, poems, and essays for the Saint Mark and District Oratorical Festival. The OCMC Coin Box Program brought Father Rucker to the classroom, explaining his mission priest ministry. Your home is adorned with crafts developed by the early elementary teachers, which serve to strengthen the understanding of the lesson for our youngest students. We thank the teachers for their preparation, creativity, and commitment to our children.

The Church School ministry would like to thank our dedicated clergy and the Parish Council of Saint Mark, as well as all of the students, parents and teachers. As we look forward to the summer, we will be eagerly awaiting the participation of our children in the classroom in the fall to strengthen their understanding of their Orthodox Faith.



BIBLE STUDY & SYNAXIS - FR. STEVEN KLUND

We at Saint Mark make spiritual education a priority, not just for our youth participating in Sunday Church School, but for our adult members as well. During Lent our "Synaxis" discussion group held weekly gatherings every Tuesday morning, focusing our attention on the art of prayer. We covered the fundamental elements of a healthy prayer life, physical tools that aid in our spiritual growth, as well as the guiding principles and theology behind the importance of prayer. We look forward to gathering together again in the fall, but until then we encourage anyone interested to attend our weekly Bible Study on Tuesday evenings in May. We are examining the three Letters of Saint John in the conference room after Vespers at 6:30.



DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE - CONNIE PILALLIS

The Daughters of Penelope would like to thank all those who participated in the Luminaries for Holy Friday. We had over 100 candles.

The next AHEPA/DOP event will be the Installation Dinner held on Friday, May 16, at 6:30 pm at Jimmy the Greek's. Jimmy the Greek's is located on 8221 Glades Road. Admission is \$25 per person. Please call Marina Nicolaidis for reservations at 561.318.7699.

Soon thereafter, the Daughters District 2 Convention will be held June 5-7 in Boca Raton at the Renaissance Hotel, sponsored by the Boca Raton Cassandra Chapter and the Fort Lauderdale, Narcissus Chapter. On Saturday, June 5, there will be a Golf Tournament to be held at Boca Greens. The event will be open to all ladies and gentlemen. If you would like to participate, please call Pat Anthony at 561.400.7362.

The Banquet to be held on Saturday Night featuring "SASHA," will also be open to all and if you would like to attend, please call Marina Nicolaidis 561.318.7699.

OCMC - MARLENE BUETTNER



Christ came and lived among us so that the world might be saved. As Orthodox Christians, there are numerous ways that we can express our Faith and share it with others, showing them the depths of our love for Christ and His love for us. During this Great Lent our Sunday School students were challenged, through the leadership of Director Helen Lang and their teachers and assistants, on ways in which this love and faith can be demonstrated. After exploring and identifying ways in which this can be achieved, the students along with the assistance of their parents, "acted"... by collecting funds throughout Great Lent in their Mission Coin Boxes. This was to be an act of sacrificial giving. Their efforts were terrific and netted \$481 in coins and cash for our Orthodox Missions and missionary programs.

Additionally, through the generosity of other parishioners who donated checks for the Coin Box program, another \$670 was collected, for a total of \$1151. Thank you to all who participated on behalf of Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church for the benefit of OCMC.

Please keep OCMC staff, its clerics and missionaries and their families, in your prayers. Stop by the table in the Exo-Narthex for periodic news, events and publications from the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. You might also find free materials such as icon cards, pens, refrigerator magnets, and bookmarks. Donations are always put to good use by the Mission Center and yours are most welcome!

BOOKSTORE - YVETTE KOUTSOUPIS



Even though Pascha has come and gone, we need to stay focused and spiritually connected to our faith. We have received a few new books at our bookstore that Father Mark has recommended!!!

· *Love, Sexuality and the Sacrament of Marriage* - Two essays on the nature of love, sexuality and marriage written from an Orthodox Christian perspective. The author then provides excerpts from the writings of the Tradition of the Christian East.

· *The Faith: Understanding Orthodox Christianity* - This book is an excellent introduction to Orthodoxy for anyone Orthodox or otherwise. The author explains clearly and concisely what the trinity is and why it's so important to Christians, the Fall of Mankind, Fervent Intercessors, what a Saint is and is not, the teachings of Christ, the Birth and Mission of the Church, Missions and Evangelism, Holy Baptism, the Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit, the Mystical Supper, etc.

· *Beginning to Pray* - Easy to read, yet it contains so much theological depth that it is truly amazing. The real meat begins in Chapter One, "The Absence of God" where Bloom writes, "If you look at the relationship (us and God) in terms of mutual relationship, you would see that God could complain about us a great deal more than we about Him. We complain that He does make Himself present to us for a few minutes we reserve for Him, but what about the twenty-three and half hours during which God may be knocking at our door and we answer 'I am busy...!'"

As well as these new additions, a "must-have" in any personal library is *My Daily Orthodox Prayer Book* for only \$10.00. This is widely viewed as one of the BEST prayer books offered by the Orthodox Church. We also have books for children and young adults, mothers to be, women, and men, in general, facing issues in today's society. We also have a variety of items other than books for sale such as komboskini bracelets, incense, charcoal, and blank greeting cards are also available. Finally, our iconography section is quickly expanding, soon to be featuring new icons for sale for Constantine and Helen and the Holy Ascension.

This is just a taste of what we offer. Please stop by our bookstore right after the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and feel free to browse or if you have a special request, we are there to assist. You will forever be thankful! We now accept all credit and debit cards including American Express.



CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Come to Saint Mark this June for our 14th annual summer camp. Every day the kids will come together to worship, play, make arts and crafts, learn music and Greek culture, and experience their faith with other Orthodox children. Imagine a week with water slides, bounce-houses, ice-cream, field trips, all while getting in touch with our Orthodox heritage! The camp is open for all children from 4 years old and up. All high school students are welcome to attend as youth advisors.

JUNE 9-13 - SIGN UP TODAY!!!



**SAINT
MARK
CAMP**





SAINT MARK GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SAINT MARK GREEK WEEK SUMMER CAMP



JUNE 9-13 • 9:00 AM-2:00 PM (*childcare from 8-9 am and until 5 PM*)

1. Name _____ Grade attending in Fall 2014 _____
Circle T-Shirt Size: YOUTH: Small, Med, Large; ADULT: Small, Med, Large, X-Large
Phone Number: _____ Emergency Contact: (Name/Cell) _____
Please list any allergies or medical concerns/conditions: _____

2. Name _____ Grade attending in Fall 2014 _____
Circle T-Shirt Size: YOUTH: Small, Med, Large; ADULT: Small, Med, Large, X-Large
Phone Number: _____ Emergency Contact: (Name/Cell) _____
Please list any allergies or medical concerns/conditions: _____

3. Name _____ Grade attending in Fall 2014 _____
Circle T-Shirt Size: YOUTH: Small, Med, Large; ADULT: Small, Med, Large, X-Large
Phone Number: _____ Emergency Contact: (Name/Cell) _____
Please list any allergies or medical concerns/conditions: _____

4. Name _____ Grade attending in Fall 2014 _____
Circle T-Shirt Size: YOUTH: Small, Med, Large; ADULT: Small, Med, Large, X-Large
Phone Number: _____ Emergency Contact: (Name/Cell) _____
Please list any allergies or medical concerns/conditions: _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Ages 4 through Grade 8 - \$145; Counselors 9th Grade and older - \$75;

Non Saint Mark Stewards - \$225; Childcare - \$10 per day additional;

Lunch and snacks provided daily

Make checks payable to Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church

Payment is non-refundable

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 Greek Week 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: _____



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

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL PLEASE EXPEDITE

