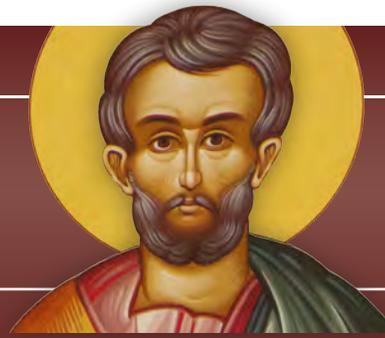




THE Message



SAINT
MARK

SAINT MARK GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • WWW.SAINTMARKBOCA.NET

SEPTEMBER • 2013



A Look Back at the 2013
Metropolis of Atlanta
Conference **PAGE 4**



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HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS VISITS BOCA RATON FOR CLERGY-LAITY

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America made an unprecedented visit to this year's biannual Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy Laity and Philoptochos Conference hosted by Saint Mark in Boca Raton at the Town Center Marriott. His Eminence arrived on Friday June 28 and remained in Boca to preside over the conference with His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta. Archbishop Demetrios is set to return to Boca Raton for the Church's consecration on February 20-22, 2014.

JOHN KOUTSOUPIS & PAT ANTHONY RECEIVE SAINT PAUL AWARD AT CLERGY-LAITY

Saint Mark Parish Council President John Koutsoupis and Clergy-Laity Committee member and long-time parishioner Pat Anthony received the Saint Paul Award on Sunday June 30, 2013. The St. Paul Award is the highest honor in the Archdiocese for lay-members. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America was at Saint Mark to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and bestow John and Pat with the award. We thank and congratulate both of them for their dedication, faithfulness, and this prestigious achievement.



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, Pastor
Rev. Fr. Alexander Leondis,
Protopresbyter
Rev. Fr. Steven Klund, Priest
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

Parish Council: John Koutsoupis

Philoptochos: Pam Parent

Choir: Sophia Christakis

Chanters: Ramona Bean,
George Demopoulos, Art Poly

Ushers:

Tom Hantzarides & Tim Sharp

Acolytes: Brian Giusti

Church School: Helen Lang

Youth Choir: Virginia Barnes

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

Super Seniors: Athena Sperantsas

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 *Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis*



My Dear Faithful,

It is with great joy that I greet you as we begin our New Ecclesiastical Year on September 1. Within the liturgical year, the rhythm of time is marked by the major events of Jesus' earthly ministry and life: we observe His birth; entrance into the temple; death and crucifixion; among other events. Each feast provides us with a moment of reflection and growth.

While we follow the Jewish custom from the Old Testament of maintaining the New Year on September 1 as a day of harvest, we also know that the early Christians marked this day as a day for religious observance. We know that the harvest begins with the sowing of seed and continues with the careful work of the farmer: the watering, the weeding, and the pruning. Finally comes the ripening of the fruit, the ripening of the crops and the harvest itself. This earthly cycle can be compared to the spiritual life.

Over the past year we too have cast our spiritual seeds upon the earth of our souls and we have either carefully or carelessly overseen their development. As the year comes to a close we may find that our spiritual harvest is either bountiful or meager. No matter the outcome, the Ecclesiastical New Year provides us with an opportunity to begin again. Learning from the past year we set out again upon the course of the Church Year with the intent to grow and bring about spiritual fruit.

Personally, I have taken some time to consider my own spiritual development and have made some resolutions for this upcoming year. I encourage each of you to do the same.

At Saint Mark, we rejoice in the New Year and all the ministries, organizations, education and events that it will bring. We rejoice with our new Assistant Priest, Fr. Steven and Presybtera Nicole, who began their ministry on July 1. We rejoice in some new ministries: Thursday Morning Paraklesis (Supplications to the Theotokos) and our Synaxis Discussion Group following; Orthodox Christian Fellowship (Campus Ministry) at FAU and Lynn University. We rejoice with our exceptional ministries to our youth and young adults, our Greek Language School and Syrtaki Dance. We look forward to adding programs for our Seniors.

We rejoice in the completion of our beloved Sanctuary with the addition of a Bishop's Throne, Pulpit, Chanter Chairs expected in late September. During this time, our Iconographer, Laurence Mannos, will be at Saint Mark to complete our iconography.

We thank God for these additions and the blessings that the New Year will bring. Embrace this time . . . take advantage of the special worship services and ministries that Saint Mark offers . . . be part of the Family.

May this New Ecclesiastical Year bring you much peace and love in the Lord.

Father Mark

OUR COMMUNITY REGISTRY

OCTOBER 2012 – JUNE 2013

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

October 07 – Michael Parzyck:
Son of Stanley & Sophia Parzyck
Godparent: Vaso Varlas

October 21 – Georgio Miller:
Son of Teddy & Stephanie Miller
Godparent: Steve Miller

December 29 – Theodoros Andreadis:
Son of Peter & Samara Andreadis
Godparents: Vasili & Charlene Nikolakopoulos

January 03 – Yianni Feldman:
Son of Howard & Sophia Feldman
Godparent: Christopher Fread

January 20 – Emily Christine Vucetic:
Daughter of Dusan & Christine Vucetic
Godparents: Dejan & Michele Mesic

January 20 – Kolby Nikolas Deleauw:
Son of Christopher & Katherina Deleauw
Godparent: Cathy Johnson

February 24 – Farrah Elizabeth Scalise:
Daughter of Michael & Nicole Scalise
Godparent: Niki Veoukas

March 23 – Loukas Emmanuel Markakis:
Son of Emmanuel & Nancy Markakis
Godparents: John & Nicole Pelekanos

March 23 – Georgios Christos Gandolfo:
Son of Michael John & Valasia Gandolfo
Godparent: Barbara Horey

March 23 – Maxim Vojin Glamoclja:
Son of Alexander & Anita Glamoclja
Godparent: Michael Glamoclja

May 11 – James George Yeonas:
Son of Robert & Constance Georgia
Godparent: Nicole Chaconas Brodsky

June 16 – Jacob Aristidis:
Son of Bill Aristidis & Eduarda Christo
Godparents: Bill & Georgia Gioutsos

June 23 – Leonidas Zambiyadis:
Son of Zafeiris and Margaret Zambiyadis
Godparents: Maria & Oriros Zambigadis

CHRISMATED INTO CHRIST

December 31 – Samora (Alexia) Andreadis:
Sponsor: Kathy Andreadis

April 16 – Sandra (Alexandra) Hernandez
Sponsor: Penelope Kokinelis

MARRIAGES

October 06 – Scott Kolonko & Paris Trataros.
Koumbara: Antigone Caris

March 02 – Castera Medeus & Ana Zevkovic.
Koumbara: Andrijana Markovic

May 25 – George Zoumberos & Melissa Silva.
Koumbara: Maria Spiliopoulos

May 26 – George Farsedakis & Tina Bekiaris.
Koumbara: Xaroula Stamatis

June 30 – Michael Zurdos & Catherine Coccia.
Koubaro: Peter Zurdos

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

October 3 – George Demetroulas

October 15 – Sarah Boulos

December 29 – George C. Proios

December 31 – Fay Raptis

February 21 – Evangelos Sperantsas

March 28 – Mary Ives

April 12 – Rose Nestora

May 03 – Xanthe C. Alexander

May 07 – Dessa Kallos

May 17 – Fotias “Frank” E. Smyrniotis

June 21 – Carol Pyschos

June 28 – Sophia Lemonis

ENCUMBRANCES

Rev. Fr. Alexander Leondis

In Jules Verne’s novel “The Mysterious Island,” he tells of five men who escape a Civil War prison camp by hijacking a hot-air balloon. As they rise into the air, they realize the wind is carrying them over the ocean. Watching their homeland disappear on the horizon, they wonder how much longer the balloon can stay aloft.

As the hours pass and the surface of the ocean draws closer, the men decide they must cast overboard some of the weight, for they had no way to heat the air in the balloon. Shoes, overcoats, and weapons are reluctantly discarded, and the uncomfortable aviators feel their balloon rise. But only temporarily. Soon they find themselves dangerously close to the waves again, so they toss their food. Better to be high and hungry than drown on a full belly!

Unfortunately, this, too, is only a temporary solution, and the craft again threatens to lower the men into the sea. One man has an idea, they can tie the ropes that hold the passenger car and sit on those ropes. Then they can cut away the basket beneath them. As they sever the very thing they had been standing on, it drops into the ocean, and the balloon rises.

Not a minute too soon, they spot land. Eager to stand on “terra firma” again, the five jump into the water and swim to the island. They live, spared because they were able to discern the difference between what really was needed and what was not. The “necessities” they once thought they couldn’t live without were the very weights that almost cost them their lives.

Stewardship is our way of trusting in God by letting go and hanging on to what is necessary. As you consider your Stewardship offering of time, talents and treasures to the Lord, you should ask: Is God’s work a necessity for me?



75% of the Saint Mark budget comes from Stewardship. Without you filling out your stewardship pledge card 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 2013 Stewardship Pledge Card — please, do so today (they are located in the pews). “God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).”



PHILOPTOCHOS CONFERENCE



During the last weekend of June, our local chapter of Philoptochos was honored to host the Metropolitan Philoptochos conference, concurrently held with the Metropolitan Clergy - Laity Congress. Helen Ballerano, one of our two National representatives, was charged with the duty of chairing the Philoptochos conference. The weekend was a great success and we are thankful for all of Helen's hard work and dedication to Philoptochos. Delegates from our chapter included Pam Parent, Thelma Constantinou and Niki Core.

At the Friday luncheon, four of our members were honored to receive their 50 year pins for dedication and service to Philoptochos. Honorees included Bert Chapekis, Val Petroff, Olga Malides, and Thelma Constantinou. It was heartwarming to see several members of the Saint Mark chapter there to see their sisters in Christ receive their pins.

As guests entered the ballroom for the luncheon, they were entertained by the delightful music of Ovation Quartet made up in part of Philoptochos member Virginia Barnes, and her son Matthew Barnes, a GOYA member.

Helen Ballerano introduced our guest speaker, Michelle Rubin, founder of *Autism After 21*. Michelle, a mother to an autistic son, was inspired to start *Autism After 21* when she realized that support for children with autism and their families ended once they reach the age of 21. Following her eloquent presentation on Autism, our Metropolitan Philoptochos pres-

ident Laura Nixon presented her with a check for \$2000.00 following her informative presentation. Our chapter is a supporter of this worthy cause as well.



Metropolis elections were held and filled with highly acclaimed nominees. With Pat Sourlis, our other national representative, serving as Election Chair, Dee Nicolaou was elected incoming president replacing the retiring incumbent Laura Nixon.

On Sunday, June 30, Philoptochos of St. Mark welcomed guests from the Clergy-Laity Conference at a luncheon in honor of newly ordained Father Steven Klund. His Eminences, Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Alexios officiated the ordination and graciously attended the luncheon. Over 200 of our St. Mark community attended as well. A delicious meal was prepared for us by Peter Duros and his crew. We are thankful to them for their dedication and hard work on behalf of our church. Many women of Philoptochos donated delicious pastries that were enjoyed by all. Vestments were given to Father Steven, by both Philoptochos and Parish Council, and Presbytera Nicole was presented with a bouquet of roses from Philoptochos.

We are looking forward to our "Welcome Back" September luncheon at Jimmy the Greek. The kickoff event of the season will be our Men's Culinary Delights. Men, dust off those recipes. Let's see who earns bragging rights this year!

We anticipate with great joy the consecration of our beloved church in February, and to another productive year of philanthropy in the name of Philoptochos, our church and our community.

At our Philoptochos meeting, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios spoke about need to support The Diakonia Center and St Stephen's Camp. We at St. Mark Philoptochos are pleased to be able to say that we are a strong supporter of both, and have sponsored several students for St. Stephen's over the past few years.





CLERGY LAITY CONFERENCE



Greeting Fellow Parishioners!

As we begin the start of the Ecclesiastical year, I wanted to briefly reflect on the occurrences of this past June. A little over two years ago, the Metropolis of Atlanta requested Saint Mark to host the Metropolis of Atlanta 2013 Clergy Laity Assembly and Philoptochos Conference from June 26-30, 2013. With the assistance of our dedicated faithful, we completed the task given us. It confirmed in my heart that our Saint Mark Community is unlike any other.



The 2013 Clergy Laity was handled with grace and dignity. This weekend was not about our parish . . . we are just one small piece of the puzzle, but rather, about the Metropolis in which we reside. The esteemed visitors were impressed by our unity, our message and our love for our faith! Each Parishioner/Steward of Saint Mark served the hundreds of our fellow brothers and sisters in the Atlanta Metropolis who were visiting Boca Raton. We catered to each and every person who arrived to spend time in our home and by doing so sent a strong message to others: a message of love of faith and love of community. Things go wrong in any event of this magnitude and size. There were hundreds of details and tasks that we did our best to complete and we thank God that we did our best for the Glory of God.



The 2013 Clergy Laity ran smoothly and was flawless; and we thank God for our faithful who gave their time and talents to make it a success. There was no thought of our Community but only of our Metropolis, and each event went off without a hitch – perfect. The Philoptochos Conference was handled by Helen Ballerano, who effecticely chaired this event. Needless to say, due to her diligence and hard work, all of the events, meetings and luncheons went smoothly. Pat Anthony, Suzette Johnson, Connie Pillalis, Steve Giakouminakis, Christine Zacharias, Girard Mitchel, Pam Parent, Manny Manos, and Joseph Pores planned and executed the majority of the events, again – smoothly. Debbie Fread oversaw the volunteers, each of whom were our very own parishioners, who were what made this Clergy Laity a successful one. Each came with smiles on their faces and each came ready and willing to do what was necessary to make this event happen. Each one stepped up and succeeded in showing others what it is like to be part of the Saint Mark Family. Our Saint Mark Family defined us and showed so many fellow Brothers and Sisters what we are about.



Thank you Saint Mark,

 – John Koutsoupis



THE ORDINATION TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD OF
Father Steven Klund

On Sunday June 30, 2013, on the Feastday of the 12 Holy Apostles of Christ, Rev. Fr. Steven (Stamatios) Klund was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. The Divine Liturgy was celebrated at Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church in Boca Raton, FL as part of the Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos Conference.

Fr. Steven Klund was ordained to the Diaconate on New Year's Day in St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church in Charlotte, NC. Just over five months later he graduated from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology on May 18, 2013. He and his wife, Presbytera Nicole, moved to Boca Raton this summer on June 1 and have been attending services at Saint Mark ever since. Included below

are Fr. Steven's remarks in anticipation of his ordination from the service on June 30th:

I stand here today, before Christ's Holy Altar a humbled man and an unworthy sinner. In our Almighty Lord's infinite mercy He has allowed me to enter into the service of His Divine Mysteries. Not only am I honored to be considered as a candidate for the Holy Priesthood, but I am completely overcome by the grand fashion in which I am being called this weekend. Following such a beautiful Clergy Laity Conference and surrounded by all of our brother clergy, it is my great privilege to enter into the APOSTOLIC ministry on the feastday of the original APOSTLES. I can only hope that our Heavenly Father can transform my lowly and simple frame, as He transformed those blessed fishermen so long ago.

After God, I must first of all thank our most revered, and holy exarch His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America. It was to our great surprise that Your Eminence was able to travel down with Archdeacon Panteleimon and Deacon Eleftherios for our Metropolis Clergy-Laity Conference, and to our great elation you were able to extend your stay in order to celebrate this Divine Liturgy with us today. Our national Church is indeed very blessed to have you as its spiritual leader, and I pray that we may enjoy many more years under your care.

Your Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, ... I cannot express in words my deepest gratitude for your fatherly guidance and direction in my life. I speak on behalf of the entire Metropolis of Atlanta when I thank you for the love and wisdom you have shared with us over the

years. It is such an inspiration to be worshipping in God's Holy Church in the presence of not ONE, but TWO truly Praiseworthy Apostles.

To our faithful chancellor, the Very Reverend Fr. George Tsahakis, I express my sincere appreciation for your ever-available counsel and your tireless support. It is by your meticulous attention and your caring approach that our Holy Metropolis operates with such fluidity and coordination. Nicole and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you have done for us in leading us to this beautiful community here in Boca Raton.

Fr. Mark, I thank you for reaching out to us time and time again and welcoming us into your family. You and Presbytera Anastasia have been a constant source of guidance, strength, and hospitality for us, and we feel truly blessed for the opportunity to serve in ministry together and to grow closer as friends. Together with your parents Fr. Alexander, Presbytera Mary, and Fr. Peter we truly feel like we have become part of your extraordinary family.

To my parents, Tim and Evelyn, you have been my foundation and my role models. Anything I am today is because of your example and instruction. It was in the home when I first felt loved and learned the importance of faith, hard-work, and service. I can only hope to be a fraction of the caliber of a parent as you have been to Elena and I.

To my sister Elena, my oldest friend, I thank you for your companionship growing up together. I am so very proud of the woman you have become and your growth and maturation has been a joy and an inspiration for me as your older brother. I thank God for your presence in my life.

To my Grandmother Emerald, yiayia you are the best preacher of the gospel I know. Your actions have always conveyed the love of Christ to us, and

I know for a fact that I will never meet anyone as elegant and gracious as you. Thank you, and our beloved papou Stamati of blessed memory, for always supporting me in prayer and love.

To my family: Theias Nancy, Ria, Kiki, and my cousin Nancy, my in-laws Georgia and yiayia Eleni, and to our godchildren Basili and Helena who travelled from all over to be here today I love you all and I am so deeply touched to be surrounded by such caring and devoted relatives.

To Father Steve Dalber and my Saint Nektarios loved ones, I thank you for your presence here today. Our community is testament to the power of the Holy Spirit and the willing coalition of God-fearing volunteers. I am so fortunate to be able to claim heritage to such a vibrant and dynamic parish, and I ask for your continued prayers through the intercessions of our Holy patron Saint Nektarios.

Finally to my dearest wife Nicole, I am unworthy of your love and commitment. I have no idea where I would be or who I would have become without you. You are my strength, my courage, and my companion. I love you more deeply than I know how to express and I could not dream of a

better partner to share in this path with. You are the single most impressive person I know and I will never be able to adequately praise God enough for sending you in my life. I love you sweetheart.

Your Eminences, I turn to you and now ask for you fervent intercessions as I look to follow you both in the footsteps of our blessed apostles. It is only fitting that we remember them, as well as all of the saints as we proceed this morning. So with great humility I repeat the first words I uttered as a deacon for the last time. "Having remembered all the saints, again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord."



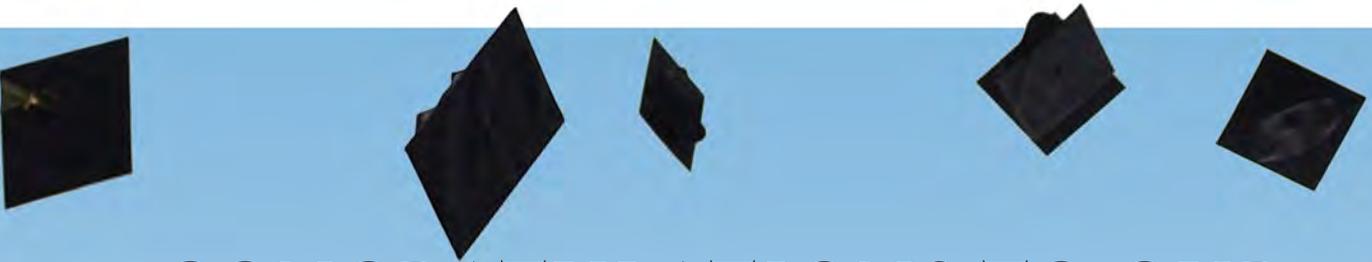
GETTING TO KNOW FR. STEVEN

Fr. Steven was born June 6, 1986 to parents Tim and Evelyn Klund in Alexandria, VA. He was raised in the Orthodox faith and became very close to the Church thanks to the reverence of his parents. His mother, Evelyn is the Parish Administrator at St. Nektarios in Charlotte, NC, and his father, Tim is the Missions Chairman for the parish. Everything they did as a family centered around the parish from sports, to dance, to even completing his Eagle Scout project by helping with the Church's landscaping.

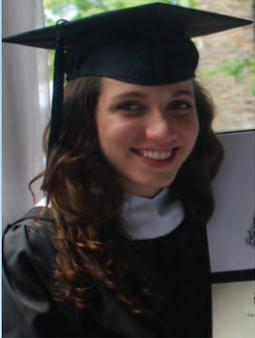
Following High School, Fr. Steven received his undergraduate degree from East Carolina University in Graphic Design and Art History. He remained active in the Church while being away from home, starting an OCF group at ECU and volunteering his summers as a camp counselor at St. Stephen's Camp and Ionian Village. It was while working at camp where Fr. Steven not only discovered his calling to enter the priesthood, but also where he met his wife, Presbytera Nicole.

In 2009 Fr. Steven entered Seminary at Holy Cross in Brookline, MA. Two years later in August of 2011 he and Presbytera Nicole were married, and two years after that Fr. Steven was ordained to the Diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios (*Pictured Left*). Fr. Steven was president of his graduating class all four years at Holy Cross and graduated with honors on May 18, 2013.

Fr. Steven has been since assigned to serve as the 2nd Priest alongside Fr. Mark Leondis at Saint Mark in Boca Raton, FL.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES



ASHLEY ALMAN

The daughter of Steve and Denise Alman, graduated this past May from Duke University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Ashley is headed to Washington DC and will be working for The Huffington Post in DC.



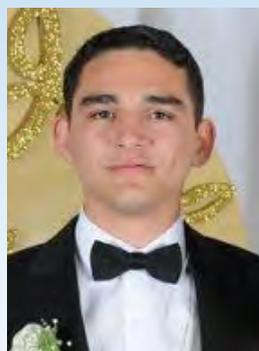
ALEX BARTZOKIS

The son of Dr. Thomas and Peggy Bartzokis graduated from Saint Andrew's School in Boca Raton as a National Merit Scholar and an AP Scholar with Distinction. He will be attending John Hopkins University this fall in Baltimore, Maryland.



CHRIS BALLERANO

The son of Jim & Helen Ballerano, graduated this spring from Lynn University with a B.S. in Business Management. Christopher was recently employed by Morgan Stanley as a Wealth Management Advisor in Ft Lauderdale.



EMMANUEL CHRISTAKIS

The son of Dn. Dr. John Christakis and Stephanie Christakis recently graduated from high school and is enrolling at Florida Atlantic University in the fall. Emmanuel spent his summer in Greece at Ionian Village and is looking to help start an OCF at FAU.



PJ DIAMANTIS

The son of Chuck and Diane Diamantis graduated from West Boca High School. He will be studying Criminal Justice at the University of North Florida. PJ's goal is to work for law enforcement and eventually a federal agency; possibly U.S. Marshalls, Secret Service, etc.



MAUREEN ANN FURST

Daughter of Anna Stathis, graduated from New Horizon Academy. She earned the Founders' Award for academic achievement and the Congressional Art Competition Award, with a self portrait displayed at Boca Raton Museum of Art. She will study in Elementary Education at Lynn University.



ALEXIOS GAVRILOS

Graduated from the United States Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Military and Strategic Studies and a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He is assigned to Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma to begin Pilot Training



ALEXANDRA NICOLE COCORES

Alexandra, daughter of Mary Cocores graduated Summa cum laude May 2012 from University of Miami with a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience. She will be attending University of Miami Miller School of Medicine this Fall.



STEVEN GONEDES

The son of Michael and Haroula Gonedes, Steven graduated from Florida Atlantic University with his Masters in Accounting. Steven is now working for Grant Thornton, the same firm he had an internship with while at school.



ALLIE MENEGAKIS

The daughter of Dr. Zachary and Patricia, graduated from the University of Florida, Levin College of Law Juris Doctor. Starting in August, she will be working as an Assistant Public Defender for the 15th Judicial Circuit's Office of the Public Defender in West Palm Beach, Florida.



CONSTANTINE MUKASA

The husband to Mary Mukasa and the father of Dmitra and Philonella Mukasa received his masters from Florida Atlantic University and his continuing on for his PhD. He is also staying involved by helping create the Orthodox Christian Fellowship at FAU.



CHRISTINA NICOLE SILVA

The daughter of Dr. Stephan & Debbie Silva graduated from Boca Raton Community High School with Honors. Christina will be studying biology at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida.



MELISSA SILVA

The daughter of Dr. Stephan & Debbie graduated from the University Of South Florida Morsani College Of Medicine with a Degree in Medical Doctorate. Melissa plans are to continue her further education in General Surgery Residency at the University of South Florida in Tampa.



ANASTASSIA THEODORE

The daughter of Anastassia Theodore graduated this past May from The University of Central Florida with a Degree in Interpersonal Organizational Communications with Honors. Anastassia plans to specialize in the field of Non-Profit Organizations.



*Introducing this
Year's New Looks!*

SAINT MARK

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

*New Ministries for
Everyone to Enjoy!*



REAL, "Representing Emerging Adult Leaders," is a brand-new Archdiocese Young Adult Ministry for students and young professionals who are looking to stay connected with their faith and other young adult Orthodox Christians. It is open for anyone ages 18-35. Our goal is figure out what it means to be Christian in today's society by pioneering new avenues for Christian fellowship and ministry...

"Syrtaki" is most definitely not a new ministry of Saint Mark but is a ministry with a newly refined focus. This year the dancers will not only learn traditional dances to be preformed for HDF and the Greek Festival but they will also find new opportunities to display our heritage to our greater South Florida community.



...One of these new ministries is "Orthodoxy on Tap." Orthodoxy on Tap is an opportunity for adults to come together at a local bar or restaurant and hang out and discuss today's hot topics with a Christian perspective. We will tackle all sorts of issues and, in doing so, gain a deeper understanding of who we are as Christians...All Over Drinks!

Acolytes

of Saint Mark

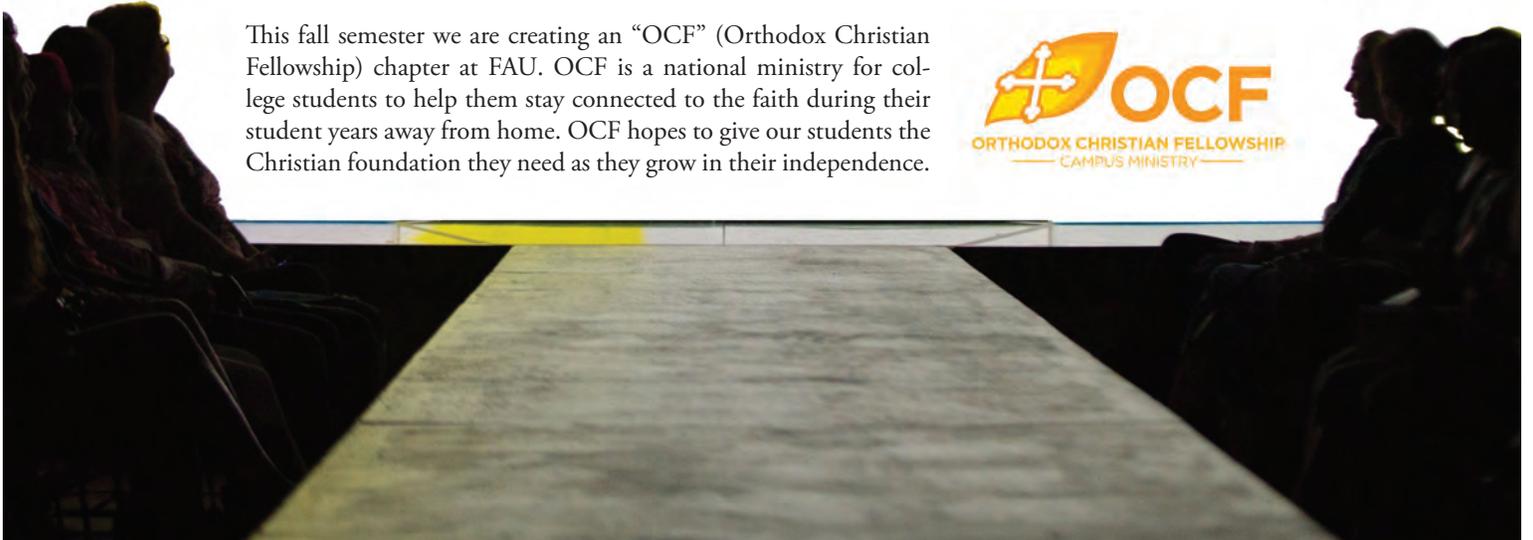
This year for our services we are restructuring our Altar Boys in our new "Acolytes" Program. To serve in the Altar of our Lord is a great privilege and it is our aim to better convey that through more careful instruction and more precise service. It is our hope that all of our interested boys will gain a more profound appreciation for the Church and become enlightened by their service.

The word "Synaxis" in Greek means "A Coming Together" and throughout history has been used to describe gatherings where important ideas were discussed and defined through careful study and intellectual exchange. With that same spirit we at Saint Mark are establishing our own "Synaxis" where we too will discover universal truths by sharing inspirational stories and teachings found in patristic writings, current events, and personal experiences. All are welcome to come and share!



Starting this month we will resume our Tuesday evening Bible Study classes. Our focus this fall will be on St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. We will meet weekly at 7pm following a 6:30pm Vespers Service in the Church.

This fall semester we are creating an "OCF" (Orthodox Christian Fellowship) chapter at FAU. OCF is a national ministry for college students to help them stay connected to the faith during their student years away from home. OCF hopes to give our students the Christian foundation they need as they grow in their independence.





THE
CONSECRATION
 OF SAINT MARK



.....
FEBRUARY 20 - 22, 2014

PAT SOURLIS – CHAIRPERSON

As we prepare for a new Ecclesiastical Year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has made a contribution towards the Iconography and liturgical items for the upcoming Consecration of our beloved sanctuary. We have accomplished so much in the last few months. We are thankful for each gift, because we understand that this is your gift to God for the beautification of his Holy Home. And, as a Parish, we are very near to bringing the vision of Consecrating our Church to a reality.

It is an achievement that our community can be proud of. As you would give a gift for

a baptism, it is most appropriated for all our members and friends to offer a gift for this blessed event. You are invited to participate in enhancing our beloved Saint Mark sanctuary with your offerings. Your financial support is needed at this time to defray the cost of the work that still needs to be done. Please prayerfully consider a donation at this time.

We also have an opportunity to remember our deceased loved ones with the Gold Leaf Memorial Campaign. As we look up at our dome, a Paradise of Gold will be a silent reminder to the ones that have donated a Gold Leaf for their loved ones that are not with us anymore. May their memory be eternal.

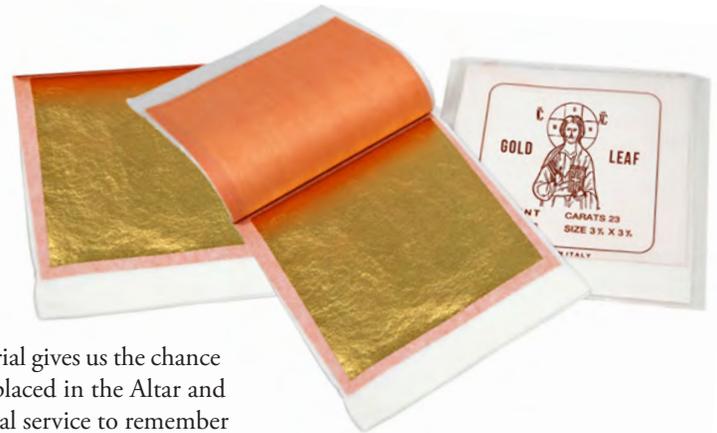
Through the generous donations of our faithful, we have raised over \$40,000 toward the \$90,000 needed to complete the Gold Leaf

in the dome. Each gold leaf is \$250 per person, and we hope that you will consider helping us reach our goal. Please consider donating \$250.00 per leaf, per name in the name of your loved ones at this time.

As we approach the dates for the Consecration, there will be more information in the monthly message explaining the different services and activities for that weekend.

Please stop by the Consecration Table in the Fellowship Hall after church on Sunday and speak to a Committee Member about the different committees and items that are needed for our Consecration. We look forward to your support. If you wish to make a contribution, volunteer or have any questions, you can also call the church office or Father Mark at (561) 994-4822 or Pat Sourlis at (561)483-8517.

Gold Leaf
MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN



We are covering our dome in shining gold leaf. Each leaf will be commemorated in the name of someone who has departed this life. The Gold Leaf Memorial gives us the chance to make a donation in a departed loved one's honor. Each name will then be placed in the Altar and will be memorialized throughout the year. Also, there will be a special memorial service to remember our loved ones on Thursday evening, February 20, 2014 as part of the Consecration Weekend.

In Memory of _____

Number of Gold Leaf pieces at \$250 each _____ Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please make checks payable to: Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church *Memo Line:* Gold Leaf Memorial

Mail To: Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church - 2100 NW 51st Street Boca Raton, FL 33431



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