



THE Message



SAINT
MARK

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NOV-DEC 2018



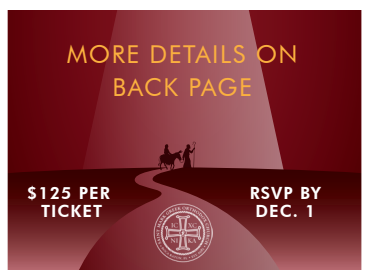
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Kenya Mission PAGE 2



Save the Date! Nov. 18
Parish Assembly PAGE 3



QUAIL RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB



\$125 PER
TICKET

RSVP BY
DEC. 1



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY AT SAINT MARK

"God loves a cheerful giver." - (2 Cor. 9:7)

On Stewardship Sunday, November 11, Saint Mark officially began its stewardship campaign for 2019. All of the faithful families in attendance submitted their stewardship pledges for the upcoming year. During the Divine Liturgy the clergy held a special prayer service for these first offerings made to our Lord for the new year. We are extremely pleased to announce that, to date, we have reached record highs in stewards, and amounts pledged! Our Church has grown to over 630 stewards, those who call Saint Mark their spiritual home. May we always be mindful of the Lord's presence in our lives, and constantly offer ourselves back to Him in thanksgiving.

Read more about Saint Mark stewardship on Page 4

SAINT NEKTARIOS HEALING VIGIL



Saint Mark held a special evening vigil on November 8th in honor of the Holy Archangels and Saint Nektarios the Wonderworker. Additionally, Saint Nektarios is regarded as the patron saint of those struggling with cancer. Hundreds came for the vigil to worship and seek healing for themselves and affected loved ones. As an extra support, one hundred special anointing kits from Saint Nektarios' shrine were made available after the service for those in need of further assistance. May God grant us all health and strength!

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

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Bean, George Demopoulos

Ushers: Tim Sharp

Acolytes:

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& Constantine Mukasa

Church School:

Helen Lang & Julie Vagelos

JOY: Despina Hantzaris, Vivian
Lazaridis, Erin & Rick Kontos

GOYA: Dominique Cultrera, Elaine
Cotronakis, Lynn & Costa Athan,
Angela & Girard Mitchell, Jim & Claudia
Dovas, Nicole Pelekanos

Seniors: Diane Paterakis

Syrtaki:

Jenny Saiger & Tasia Christakis

Greek School: Anna Kaisar

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The Message: Fr. Steven Klund

Live Streaming:

Ted Vagelos, Patrik Desai
& Nick Csakany

Audio: Tom Spiliopoulos

FIRST FRUITS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Over the Summer our own Cliff Tewis took part in an OCMC mission trip to Kenya. Cliff is a Pre-Med student and used his skills to provide much needed medical assistance to the faithful there.

A while back I received an email from a friend asking if I would be interested in joining a medical team to Kenya. Africa? I thought it was impossible. To someone whose longest trip was a two hour flight to the Bahamas, this sounded too abstract, something beyond possible. Going to Africa and helping those in need is always something I wanted to do as a kid but it still seemed out the picture. My friend persisted however and kept encouraging me to do it and sure enough my journey began. Thank you to every one reading this. Many of you have helped me attained this goal, which not long ago seemed out of reach.

Our medical team went through the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC), the overseas medical and missionary arm of our Orthodox Church. Our team was robust and talented. It consisted of a priest who was a medic in the army, three Doctors, two pharmacists, a nurse, a nursing student and two pre-med students, including myself.

OCMC is located in St. Augustine, Florida. They have a beautiful building that is used as a liaison for missionary teams. Our team first met there. Half the building houses offices and the other half is set up with dorm rooms, a library, kitchen and a conference room (where the morning prayers take place). One of the reasons for this set up, is for teams to bond before starting their mission because team members come from all over the U.S. to participate on these missions. That being said, the first two days of bonding took place and was a real hit. It turned out that this was a crucial reason for the success that was about to take place.

We left for Africa early. We started at the Jacksonville, Florida airport at 3am in the morning, flew to New York, then Dubai, and finally Kenya. Overall the flight took nearly 24 hours. Once we arrived in Kenya we were greeted by Bishop Anathasios and some clergy who helped us with our luggage. From there we had started our way through Kenya.



The first day we went to liturgy which we all were looking forward to. After liturgy the Bishop encouraged us to rest and is exactly what we did. We used the time to plan and strategize the upcoming week. Since our team was so robust we had split the team 3 ways so that we could cover more ground. Between all of us, we were able to see at least 300 patients a day, sometimes more.

Every morning the team would meet downstairs of the hotel we were staying for morning prayers. After a short break we split up and headed to our designated clinics, some of which were Orthodox Churches that we had converted into a clinic for the day.

My job was to run the pharmacy, take blood pressure and other vitals when necessary and when given the chance to listen to the doctor and patient interaction. The days sped by even though we worked from dusk to dawn. The week seemed to end as soon as it began.

On reflection I think our work was successful. We were able to touch those in need but only God knows the real impact that we made. We also discussed issues that the Bishop and the Clergy are dealing with. Our team leaders were able to bring back the constructive information to OCMC so that they can continue doing their good and important work.

Mission work as far as I see is necessary to bring hope to those in need around the world.

Again, thank you to everyone who helped me make this trip possible. I am deeply grateful for your support. I hope I have done good work on your behalf and have represented Saint Mark well.

PASTORAL MESSAGE
Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis



My dear faithful,

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, I give thanks for the Saint Mark family and for each one of you. Your love and desire to offer yourself through your stewardship of "time, talents and treasure" is truly exemplary.

Our Saint Mark family is a beautiful community of brothers and sisters in Christ. We are brought together through the love of God: to love, comfort and serve our Christ and one another. We walk together toward salvation. We do so through our worship services and various ministries.

What a magnificent opportunity. What a blessing. What an awesome calling.

Please — as a member of the Saint Mark family and as an Orthodox Christian — take your role seriously. Come to Church on time; educate yourself through our Bible Studies; be active in one of our many ministries.

If you have a heart for serving...join our Philoptochos.

If you are a young person and want to really learn about your faith...join JOY, GOYA and Sunday Church School.

If you want to dive deeper into scripture...come to our Bible Study.

If you want to grow spiritually...join our Thursday morning Synaxis.

If you want to be more active in worship...sing in the Choir; join our Ushering Team; learn to chant with us.

Our Saint Mark family works when we all offer something. Our Saint Mark family works when each of us offers our God-given talents to Christ and His Church.

On this Thanksgiving, give thanks to God for all that He has given you: family, health, careers and friendship. Give thanks to Him for our Saint Mark family. Give thanks to Him for all things in His name.

Indeed we have a great deal to be thankful. This does not refer to what we have, but to who we are. We are created in God's image and we grow in His likeness.

May this Thanksgiving bring you closer to Christ and His Church!

+ Fr. Mark G. Leondis

Fr. Mark



AXIOS TO NEW ARCHON EMMANUEL COTRONAKIS



On the last week in October, Emanuel Cotronakis was elevated to the rank of Archon Dikaio-phylax (Guardian of the Law) at Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral in New York City, by

the hands of Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Alexios. Fr. Mark, along with Emanuel's family (Elaine, Zachary, Lucas) his parents and in-laws (Mary and Kyriakos Markou family) were present during the weekend festivities. Other Saint Mark stewards present were Archon Stamati and Anita Kartalopoulos, Archon John Koutsoupis and David and Maria Tadros. It was a great joy to come together and celebrate this momentous day in the life of our Saint Mark Church.

An Archon is an honoree by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his outstanding service to the Church, and a well-known distinguished, and well-respected leader of the Orthodox Christian community. It is by the grace of God that the Archon has been able to offer his good works and deeds of faith. Further, it is the sworn oath of the Archon to defend and promote the Orthodox Christian faith and tradition. His special concern and interest is to serve as a bulwark to protect and promote the Sacred See of St. Andrew the Apostle and its mission. He is also concerned with the human race's inalienable rights wherever and whenever they are violated - and the well-being and general welfare of the Christian Church.

We offer our deepest heartfelt congratulations and "AXIOS" to Emanuel and his family. May our Lord continue to bless them as they serve the Great Church of Christ.



WE PRAISE, BLESS AND THANK YOU

..... FR. ALEXANDER LEONDIS – ON STEWARDSHIP



2018 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES:

\$643,638.50

2018 AMOUNT PAID:

\$560,687.41

\$82,951.09
UNPAID

TOTAL NUMBER OF 2018 STEWARDS:

631 (HOUSEHOLDS)



As Orthodox Christians we experience the Eucharist as the epicenter of history, sanctifying and transforming the world, making us a new creation in Christ and returning us to Paradise once again. We live and understand the Church in the compelling light of the Eucharist. At the Liturgy we experience the very presence of God in a tangible way. Whenever, we, the people of God, gather together as the Body of Christ in worship, we perpetuate the Lord's ministry on earth.

At the Liturgy, God accepts our offering of bread and wine, changes them into the Body and Blood of Christ and returns them to us for the remission of our sins and life everlasting. The Liturgy or Eucharist is the par excellence service of the Church, by which we sacramentally offer ourselves and the whole world to God.

As Christian Stewards, what we experience at the Liturgy is incorporated into our everyday lives. Worship motivates us to eagerly and enthusiastically support the ministry of the Lord. Through Stewardship, we are afforded the extraordinary privilege to respond tangibly to God by offering our time, talents and treasures to His Church with gratitude and thanksgiving. In so doing, we aspire to attain the true definition of the word Liturgy, which means the people working in communion with God, the common work of all.

Through the Divine Liturgy we participate in the mystery of the Holy Trinity, the summation of the entire history of salvation in Christ and the foretaste of the Kingdom to come. In response to God's blessings "we praise, bless and thank" Him for all He has done for us. These words are sung at the climax of the eucharistic prayer, fulfilling our ultimate calling, which is to offer all things to God in thanksgiving.

The words "praise, bless and thank" are intrinsically related to the three "t's" of Stewardship, which are "time, talents and treasures." Saint James tells us in his Epistle: "Faith without works is dead." Therefore, it is not enough to offer "praise" to the Lord without returning to Him the gift of our "time" through worship and doing His will on earth. It is not enough to "bless" God without returning

our "talents" to Him through our good works, which bring glory to His name. It is not enough to "thank" the Lord without returning a fair measure of our "treasures," our possessions to Him through the Church, the Kingdom of God on earth. Thus, as Orthodox Christians, our worship finds its fulfillment in ministry.

Stewardship is not a matter of words but of works. All we are and all we have are gifts from the Lord. It is the offering of our time, talents and treasures to God, the Owner, who has freely given them to us to manage as Stewards, with the understanding that they are on loan. Christ expects us to return a fair portion of these gifts for His ministry through the Church. Our hearts experience the true joy of giving when we give freely, unselfishly and generously, as He has given to us. Generous giving without constraint is a mark of freedom and spiritual maturity.

The Old Testament speaks of offering the "first fruits" to the Lord from what He has allowed us to earn. First fruits means giving thanks first to God and recognizing Him as the Provider of all our possessions. Christian Stewardship means taking what God gives us, and making the support of Christ's work on earth our first priority as a gesture of our thanksgiving for what He has given us. When King David contemplated giving to God he said: "For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all. For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You." (1 Chronicles 29:11, 14)

As Orthodox Christians we too have the high privilege to humbly, freely and generously offer ourselves and our possessions to Christ and His Church. We have the opportunity to graciously put into action our response to the manifold blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us. Our gratitude to God motivates us to support the Church's ministry. Your Stewardship perpetuates the Lord's work throughout our Orthodox Church, both for the parish and national ministries.

As you determine your 2019 Stewardship Commitment in thanksgiving for God's blessings to you, make it resonate with the words "we praise, bless and thank You."

STEWARDSHIP INTERVIEW



FR. STEVEN INTERVIEWING PETER & PAGONA CATSOUNIS

This week Fr. Steven had the chance to sit down with Peter & Pagona Catsounis in the latest installation of our series of interviews spotlighting some of our Saint Mark stewards. This is an invaluable forum in which we are able to learn from our brothers and sisters what being an Orthodox steward means to them.

FR. STEVEN (FS): Good morning! Thank you for taking the time to do this interview. May I begin by asking a little bit about yourselves?

PETER: We met in Greece and came to America. When I was 15 years old my Yiayia showed me a picture of Pagona. I said then and there that when I was old enough I was going to marry her. Four years later, in 1958 we were married at 19 and 18 years old respectively. We just celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary. One of our neighbors came to us and said we have no gift to give you, so we want to give you this icon of the Panagia for protection. Little did we know that that icon would change our lives just two years later!

(FS): Ahh! So your famous miraculous weeping icon was a wedding present! Tell us more about it.

(PAGONA): One night I was praying and I noticed that the icon was weeping. I immediately found Panayiotis and showed him. We didn't want to tell anyone, because we thought people wouldn't believe us and call us crazy. But after a Paraklesis service with Fr. George Papadeas, I told him the story. After that, word spread and we started getting visitors at our house to venerate the icon. It wasn't long until Fr. George came to our house with Archbishop Iakovos to celebrate an Agiasmos and Paraklesis service before the icon. Now we lived in the upstairs apartment of a split level home. The people downstairs got upset with how many visitors we were getting (even in the

middle of the night!). So the four of us decided that this icon is a blessing that all should be able to experience, and that the Church was the best place to display and protect the icon. It remains at Saint Paul in Hempstead, NY to this day, and there have been hundreds of miracles credited to it in the last 50 years.

(FS): God has endowed us with personal talents and gifts. What is your greatest talent and how will you use it for the glory of God at our Saint Mark Parish?

(PETER): The greatest gift was absolutely the miraculous icon that we received and were able to donate to the Church.

Beyond that we are active members in the Philoptochos, AHEPA and DOP, and Pagona has a beautiful voice and has used it to chant in the choir for over 40 years, including that last 5 here.

(FS): What does Saint Mark, and Orthodox, mean to you and your family?

(PAGONA): We have been actively involved in our Church our whole life. It wasn't until five years ago when we moved to Boca Raton. Saint Mark has become a home for us. The clergy, the faithful have all made us feel so warm and welcomed here. The one thing that we worried about moving here was if we could find a Church that prioritized worship like we were used to in New York. Not just on Sundays, but during the week as well. We were pleased to see that Saint Mark has a full liturgical calendar, and it really helped us plant roots here in Florida.



CONGRATULATIONS!

TO OUR 2018
ARCHANGEL MICHAEL
AWARD RECIPIENTSTINA MORAITIS
& KAY POLY

The 2018 Metropolis of Atlanta Archangel Michael Feast & Honors Banquet was held on Saturday, November 10th. The following day, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios presided at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Cathedral. We are thrilled to have been represented by two exemplary stewards here at Saint Mark, Tina Moraitis and Kay Poly.

Both of these incredible women were extremely integral in the formation and growth of Saint Mark in our early years. Tina served as our Philoptochos President and as our Parish Administrator. She currently serves on the board as the secretary for our Young at Heart Seniors ministry. Kay has also been heavily involved in the daily office duties at Saint Mark as a volunteer, and is one of the first people to arrive to Church every Sunday before the beginning of Orthros to help set up the Narthex and greet our parishioners as they arrive. Both of these women have always placed their faith in the forefront of their lives. In their years of dedicated service, Tina and Kay helped create an atmosphere of joy and integrity within our parish. An atmosphere that we greatly benefit from still to this day!



PHILOPTOCHOS - NIKI CORE



The Saint Mark Ladies Philoptochos Chapter held its opening dinner on October 8 at Galini Greek Restaurant, where we enjoyed having the entire restaurant for the evening. Nearly 80 guests were treated to a four-course dinner, followed by a review of the past year as well as an overview of events planned for the fall. Guests were asked to bring gift cards for flood victims of Hurricane Florence, and we received almost \$500 in gift card donations. We extend a sincere thank-you to our Co-chairs Athena Economou, Kathi Dixon and Mary Limperos for organizing the event, and we are grateful to the auction donors whose generosity netted us \$550 in raffle sales.

Coffee hour donations for three Sundays in October were matched by Philoptochos and forwarded to National Philoptochos to assist Hurricane Michael victims and flood relief efforts. It was because of your continued strong support that we were able to send a check for \$2,000 to help those in need, along with the aforementioned gift cards. Each contribution, large or small, is deeply appreciated.

On October 21, we partnered with our Church School students to prepare 300 health kits for the needy in recognition of Philoptochos Make-a-Difference Day. Some of these kits were distributed locally to Hope South Florida's Mobile Shower Unit and others went to victims of Hurricane Michael in Florida. Many of the kits included a card with a copy of the Lord's Prayer and a personal note of encouragement from our students. Thanks to Julie Vagelos, Helen Lang and Sandra Gibson and their students for organizing this event, and to Eleni Gibson for all her work during the year. Please keep in mind that Philoptochos also distributes health kits to the needy throughout the year. The next time you are shopping, please consider buying extra toiletry items (soap, deodorant, shampoo, razors, etc.); you can put them in the hamper in our Hall at your convenience.

Philoptochos Sunday, which we celebrated on November 4 this year, is the day we honor our patron Saints, Cosmos and Damianos (the Unmercenaries), physician brothers in the

4th century who were known for their charitable works. We also pay tribute to our sisters who have fallen asleep in the Lord. We thank Thelma Sorrentino for preparing the koliva and Assimo Kitsos for baking the artoclassia for this special memorial service. As a gesture of gratitude to our community for their support, Philoptochos provided a complimentary light buffet luncheon. Over 30 women volunteered to donate sandwiches, appetizers, salads, desserts, etc., for our parishioners to enjoy. In addition, on this Sunday, all Philoptochos Chapters throughout the country offer a special collection for the Patriarchate. We thank all of you for your kind gestures of encouragement and support.

Finally last week we held our ever-popular Men's Culinary Delights, on November 10 (*pictured below*). We congratulate our winning chefs Chris Hamrick, Dr. Tom Copulos and Michael Papamichael (savory); and Stephen Rentz, Bill Johnson, and John Voytilla (sweet) for their culinary excellence. The net Monday on Nov. 12 we heard two presentations on missions at our general meeting, both which our chapter supported. The first was from the GOYA Mission team to Project Mexico where they built a house for a needy family. The second was from Cliff Tewis, who participated in an OCMC Medical team to Kenya. What a blessing to hear from our young people on their life-changing summers.

Looking ahead to our General Meeting on Monday, December 3, at 6:00 PM, we hope to have a catered dinner in the Hall, followed by a demonstration of holiday decorating by Barbie Horey. Kathi Sharp and Christine Baldino are the Co-chairs for this event; please contact them if you would like to help or if you have a raffle item to donate. More information about the December dinner/meeting will appear in upcoming email blasts. Kathi also has done a wonderful job of collating the volunteer information that our members provided when they sent in their membership dues. Now we can make sure the talents of our members are used to benefit specific programs.

Please plan to join us for the Epiphany Luncheon after Liturgy on January 6 and at our next General Meeting on Monday, January 7, at 7:00 pm. We invite you to join our ministry, attend a meeting, volunteer at an event, donate a raffle item, make a difference and become part of the giving arm of Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church.



CHOIR - VIRGINIA BARNES

The Saint Mark Choir recommenced On August 12th after a restful summer break. We would like to welcome our new members: Bert Chapekis, Iliana Simeonova Boyce and Connie Araps LaSota. We are so thankful for our summer chanters led by Art Poly for leading the music during our Summer Sundays, and allowing us to take this break to recharge our voices.

Church Musician Sunday was celebrated on October 7th. Donations were collected for the Saint Mark Choir College Scholarship fund and a portion was sent to the Scholarship 100 fund of the South-

eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians. It was a lovely day of appreciation.

The Saint Mark Choir is growing stronger all the time. Members now volunteer for various projects and vote on decisions. All of this takes place at warm up each Sunday at 9:15am. Enrollment is ongoing, and new members are always welcome!



YOUTH MINISTRIES - JOY & GOYA

We are coming into the Holiday season and GOYA will continue strong with its events.

We have already had two District GOYA events with the opening Pool party and the recent Advent Lock-in at Saint Demetrios. At both events the kids had a blast with Fellowship within our Saint Mark family as well GOYANs from the surrounding Parishes all the way from Fort Pierce to South Miami. Highlights are pictured below.



Coming up later this month we have our GOYA Family night out to watch a Florida

Panthers Hockey game versus the Chicago Blackhawks on November 24. Last year we had almost 70 people in attendance. Tickets are on sale at <https://groupmatics.events/event/Stmarks85> at a discounted rate with no add'l fees/charges. Parking included in your ticket. The event coordinator just added a post-game shot for all of our group ticket holders!

In December we have our HIGH SCHOOL bonfire in Juno Beach (Dec. 7). and the Winter Youth Rally in Atlanta where 21 of our GOY-Ans will represent Saint Mark in Girls Volleyball, Boys Basketball, and Bible Bowl (Dec. 27-30)!

Looking ahead to next year, we have the Epiphany Dive (hosted by Saint Catherine in WPB) & a planned Fellowship GOYA Event on January 12, and an Escape Room adventure later in March. Stay tuned for updates on all these exciting events! For more information:

EMAIL: DOMINIQUECULTRERAGOYA@GMAIL.COM

VETERANS DAY & FOUNDERS DAY - DOP/AHEPA



On Sunday, November 11th, Saint Mark honored those who served in the Armed Forces for their country. We were blessed to have dozens of Veterans on hand, represented by Colonels Frank Athanason and Alan Macaulay on the Solea for memorial service and singing of "God Bless America."

This day also served as our annual Founders' Day celebration for the Daughters of Penelope. The DOP was founded on November 16, 1929 to promote education as well as more involved and progressive roles for Greek American women in our communities. Our own DOP Chapter 372 has stayed true to these original principles, and remains active here in Boca Raton, and relevant on a national scale. Many years!



SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL - HELEN LANG & JULIE VAGELOS

Sunday Church School Ministry is off to an amazing start for the 2018-2019 school year. We began classes the same day as the Ministry Picnic and the following week, we were happy to welcome Father Steven for classroom blessings. This year, we have over 160 students registered and our weekly attendance is over 100 students. Each week, our dedicated teachers plan lessons on the Cross, our Creed, Feast Days, Parables and the history of our Church. We are thrilled to announce that we have added a two and three year old class once per month as a way to introduce our Orthodox Faith and the Church School Ministry to our very young children.

We welcome new teachers to our ministry this year: Anna Kaisar and Dani Wuchenich are teaching Kindergarten; Joanne Scheller is teaching Third Grade with Maria Matthews; JoAnn Economou, Cynthia Raftis, Angela Pelletier have joined us as Substitute teachers and Gerry Scheller has been assisting in Third Grade with Joanne. A special thank you to all our teachers, substitutes, craft and music teachers. We appreciate your devotion to our children of Saint Mark.

On October 21, the Sunday Church School Students partnered with the Ladies of Saint Mark Philoptochos for Make a Difference Day. The students and Philoptochos Members made over 300 toiletry bags that were sent to the Panhandle for Hurricane Michael relief. We thank our Saint Mark families for their generous donations of toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, soaps, shampoos and lotions!

Join us on December 23 when the Sunday Church School Ministry presents the Christmas Pageant immediately following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. All children of all ages are welcome to participate and we especially welcome our young children to play the parts of lambs, shepherds and angels.

We welcome your participation in the Church School Ministry. Please join us; we would love to have you share your talents and expertise in educating our students of Saint Mark. Please reach out to Julie Vagelos (julie@vagelos.com) or Helen Lang (helenelang@bellsouth.net) to volunteer or with any questions.

YOUNG AT HEART - NEW SENIORS MINISTRY AT SAINT MARK



Our Saint Mark Seniors ministry has a brand new look! Now introducing the "Young at Heart!" We look to provide the same warm and joyful atmosphere for fellowship for our senior population, but with more events and exciting new ideas.

Coming up next is our annual Christmas Luncheon. We invite all parishioners to attend the event which will be held at the Delray Sands Resort on December 13 at 12 pm. The resort is located at 2809 South Ocean Boulevard, Highland Beach, FL, 33487. Suggested donation for the event for members is \$35 (\$40 for non-members and guests). For reservations call Diane Paterakis at (561) 368-3728 or Kalle Andromidas at (561) 306-3488. The deadline to rsvp for the luncheon is December 3, so act fast!

AHEPA - TIM SHARP

AHEPA is a dynamic group of men promoting Hellenism, Education and Philanthropy. We have been busy throughout the summer by hosting some informal gatherings at Flashback Diner, Taverna Trela and Rafina Greek Taverna. Many of us attended a Networking Happy Hour at the Greek Joint on Hollywood Blvd in August. In September in addition to our Monthly Dinner Meeting, the DOP organized a Comedy Night at Boca Black Box with Dinner at Jimmy the Greek prior. They recently met for a New Member Fellowship Night at Biergarten to celebrate Oktoberfest.

Earlier in the month AHEPA hosted the



annual FAU Football & Tailgate, John Voytilla served up his famous sausage and peppers with everyone bringing a dish to share. The FAU Owls beat the Old Dominion Monarchs 52-33 in an exciting game on a clear afternoon.

Our December meeting will include USMC Toys for Tots in the Fellowship Hall. USMC will be on hand to pick up the Toys (last year we had over 100) to be provided to those less fortunate. We will also again host the Syrtaki Dancers as they perform for us during dinner. AHEPA and DOP will have a fellowship gathering on Friday, November 16, 2018. Call Iliyana Boyce for more information 561 299 7911

If you are interested in learning more about AHEPA please contact Andy Cassas AHEPA Vice President in charge of membership at ac@CassasLaw.com or (561) 265-3311.

GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL - ANNA KAISAR



We started our Greek school program again this year with a beautiful Agiasmo service on September 11th. Our classes go from Pre-k through middle school. We also prepare children

to take the Ellinomathea Test for different levels. The test is taken in Miami in May and is administered by the Center for Greek Language in Thessaloniki, which is supervised and funded by the Greek Ministries of Education, Foreign Affairs and Culture.

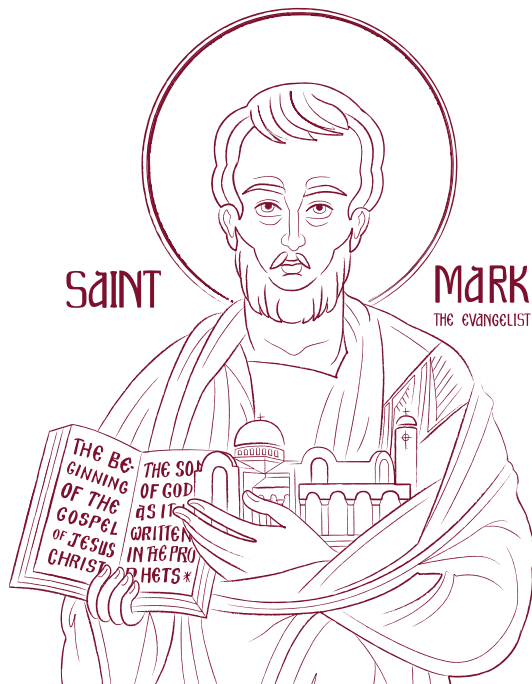
The goal of our school is to make learning the Greek language and culture fun and to present all aspects of the Modern Greek language to

its students including vocabulary-building, reading, writing and grammar with emphasis on conversation.

We are very thankful to have great students, very supportive parents, highly qualified teachers and amazing assistant teachers who are dedicated to teach our students the Greek Language, history and culture.

Our Greek School hosted its annual OXI DAY Celebration and Brunch. It was a great pleasure to have Fr. Steven and his family and so many members of our community celebrating with us. It is very moving and emotional listening to these young children in front of their proud parents and grandparents.

Greek school has an exciting year ahead. We have our Thanksgiving potluck feast, our preparation of singing the Kalanda at the church's Vasilopita luncheon. Our younger kids are preparing for the Festival, and let's not forget our Trip to Tarpon Springs to March for the Greek Independence Day parade.



SAINT MARK GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Christmas Gala

2018 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GALA

Honoring our Parish Council Presidents

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018

6:00 pm – Cocktail Reception

7:00 pm – Dinner & Dancing

QUAIL RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB

3715 Golf Road

Boynton Beach, Florida 33436

Save the Date!

Julie Vagelos

(908) 462-2077

– Inquiries –

Evelyn Lamia

(516) 996-3230