I always give credit where credit is due, and the title of this *Anchor* article along with its writing was co-authored with my daughter Katrina. As you can tell by the first photo of the many that will adorn this article, our beloved Gandalf will be featured, but the love is not only from our pet but from what all beloved pets offer to their owners.

Most of you knew Gandalf. He was actually the dog of St. Andrew Chicago. For the 12 years and 2 months of his life, he was part of the many programs of this community. Whether it was sitting in my office during services; or going into the classrooms of both Greek school and Sunday School; whether he was at our Loyola OCF programs, our festivals, Bible Studies, Palm Crosses being made, or just in the gymnasium, being hugged by all the children of the community, with him loving every minute of it, this gentle giant gave forth nothing but unconditional love. If he got tired of you, he wouldn’t bite or nip but would give you a wet kiss with that long tongue of his.

He gave so much unconditional love, which could be surpassed only by God himself. Unless you had food, then love was based on begging. This is why I can relate to the title of this article that “God is Man’s Best Friend Spelled Backwards.”

We all know the saying - for the many thousands of years we humans have lived on this planet the one species that has always been by our side throughout the good and bad, the war and peace, the struggles and relieved...it is the domestic dog. Most people in the U.S. have a pet dog. Dogs are smart creatures; they are talented. Did you know a dog can smell up to 60x better than a human? They have protected us, working as military helpers, and firehouse dogs. A dog cheers you up! Therapy dogs, puppies...no other animal is more sensitive to human emotions than the dog. Yet as we have seen from above DOG spelled backwards is GOD. He has been with us from the first day of humanity’s life. He has been with us through good and bad, war and peace, the struggles and relief. He is the wisest of all for Psalm 104 says “Oh Lord; How great are Your works; In Wisdom you have made them all.” He has protected all of us those who serve in the military, those who are civil servants and yes ourselves. He is our therapy and yet we may have to realize that it is God’s wisdom that is giving us the therapy through our dogs for as our Lord loves us unconditionally, so do our beloved canines. I therefore give you this list that it be dedicated to that creation that our Lord gave us which Adam named and that has stuck with us, always by our side, through thick and thin. Our dogs will be by our side until the end, and that is why they want us to be with them when the day comes that they have to leave us. Woof!

**LOYALTY:** When dogs run away from home, you are afraid that something bad may have happened to your dog, but after a while, they come home: This is very true. Dogs are loyal and want to stay with their owner all the time. Yes, they are loyal and usually stand up at anything that threatens their master. It’s the same with our Lord and Saviour. He stands in with us because He is loyal to us. When bad things take place and we have fear in our hearts and nowhere to turn, the comforting words of our Lord come to us, and we see that He has not abandoned us but is there waiting for us to come back to him.

**SENSE OF HUMOR:** I agree my dog always has this little bottom row of teeth grin he pulls up when you call his name and you're holding food. Dogs can be funny! Playing with your shoes, chasing their tails, barking for no reason, even smiling for pictures! People sometimes ask me, “Does God have a sense of humor?” I tell them that I used to ask the same question and one day, I looked in the mirror and realized that “Yes! The Good Lord has a sense of humor. God wants us to be happy. HE wants us to laugh. HE wants us to have joy in our lives. For this to happen God does possess a sense of humor. When we laugh it is God’s creation. Yes, sometimes laughter is hurtful, but if it’s laughter that is not at the demise or hurtful of someone then it is from God. I always remember Gandalf running, and I mean running, in our back yard

(Continued on page 3)
Thank you all for your continued help and support throughout the year!

More and more everyday less fortunate people are asking churches for food. In these difficult times St. Andrew would like to help them, but in order to do so we need your help.

Please help us restock our food pantry with items such as: cereal, oatmeal, rice, pasta, pasta sauce. Also, canned items of tuna, tomato sauce, soup, vegetables, fruit or any other non-perishable items. It is helpful if the canned goods have a flip-top lid. Monetary donations will also be accepted.
which is about 120 feet long and 40 feet wide, and he reminded me of a horse racing around the track. There was a section that was muddy and when he hit it, he went spinning on his stomach. He looked like a pinwheel and when he got up and trotted over to me totally covered with mud, he was looking at me like he was saying “What just happened? and why are you laughing?” I can’t say enough about the laughter that he gave me in those years, but I truly believe that God places these Sense of Humor moments in our life for us to be happy.

HELPFULNESS: They can smell a bomb; they help the military; they work as firehouse companions; they smell illnesses like cancer, and they are therapy dogs. They are truly helpful animals.

“So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Heb. 3:16) What can a dog do in helping us and compare it to the help of our Lord? We help our spouses and friends. We help our children or even strangers. A dog cannot cook, or clean. It can’t pick up or do laundry or wash the dishes. I may have said a dog can’t clean, but I can tell you Gandalf did clean. If there was any food that may have fallen to the floor from the kitchen table, he cleaned it up well. One of the things that I do recall that Gandalf did to be helpful was try to keep me in shape, as when he wanted to go for walks. His other helpfulness is that he kept me company on my long treks either up to visit my daughter in college or the late night treks back and forth from my home to church and back again. Yes there is helpfulness in our canines. It shows that our dog cares. It cares that it can be some way helpful. It is the same care of our Lord in which He cares and wants to help us. Knowing this brings peace to our heart. Knowing the Lord is there to help brings us to the point that we do not fear what anyone can do or say about us for our God is there and will carry us through those storms of life. My son Nicholas cared about Gandalf in his own way. He may have not possessed the same feelings that Kiki, Katrina, and I possessed, but when we would leave Nicholas alone, we would ask him if he was going to be ok. He would always answer “I will be fine dad. I’ve got Gandalf here.” It’s like us saying when we are stuck in the storms of life; “I will be ok because I have God here to help me.”

FRIENDLINESS: No other animal can be as friendly as your dog.

When you get home from work or school your dog comes running to the door to greet you. Many times I was late getting home. You could hear the garage door opening and closing. I would open the door into the house from the garage, and in a slight glow from the kitchen light, I would see the silhouette of flappy ears and a wagging tail waiting for me as if to say “You are late young friend, but I am glad you are home.” Our Lord said to His disciples, “I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” Many of us have friends, but many do not offer friendliness. If you look at this word, it can mean openness, sociability, pleasantness, outgoing, approachability, responsiveness, affability, kindliness, and easiness. A good canine shows many of these qualities. Gandalf was all. He was open to all, sociable to all, pleasant to all, outgoing to all, approachable to all, responsive to all especially if you had food, affable to all, kind to all, and very much at ease to all. Christ maintained all of these to all that He came into contact with. The friendliness of Christ even to His enemies emphasized how one attracted people to Him. Even the centurion at the cross said that this was a just man. The friendliness of God is very comparable to the friendliness of a Dog.

COMPANIONSHIP AND EMOTIONS: Your dog will always want to be with you. Whether it’s going for walks, eating dinner (begging), sleeping, or just sitting around, this companion will never leave your side. Dogs are amazing, I love them all, and the house is never empty when you have your Best Friend; they are Loyal, loving and very forgiving, and the list goes on. I can't think of any other animal that has emotions and human-like qualities as dogs. All animals are emotional (even cats...), but a dog's emotions are so much similar to our own. Your dog will always be with you until the time comes when he/she is called to leave and then prayerfully, they will wait for you at the Rainbow Bridge. For those who don’t know what that is, you will understand at the end of this article. We all need companionship. The worst illness in this world is loneliness. No one deserves that. That is why a dog plays a great companion, but with companionship come emotion and my dog possessed emotions that I felt he maintained as human emotions. He was happy when I praised him or just scratched him behind his ears. He was sad and kept on raising his foot and pawing at me when I reprimanded him. He came up and snuggled next to me when I was sick. I should not say myself only because he possessed the same companionship and emotions not only for my entire family but also for those who came into my house. Our Lord brings the same companionship and the same emotion. Christ came to us to be our friend, for our camaraderie, for us to be in His company. This is why He came into the world. He wants to make sure that we are not alone. He felt that emotional love for us. That compassion was because our Lord could not stand to see His people suffering under the bondage of sin and death. Through this emotional care, He wanted to be our companion, gave His all, gave His Love, gave His Life, that we can be with Him and have the same emotional care and love that we can be with Him forever. Dogs possess the same, unconditional love and both the Companionship and Emotional care of our God as well as well as the companionship and the emotional care of our Dog.

KID FRIENDLY: A new puppy is all a little kid needs for pure joy. I remember in June of 2006 when my daughter refused to go to

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Fanari Camp as she had been doing for the last 10 years with her father. She wanted to travel to Walcott Indiana to the Doodle Puppy farm to pick up Gandalf. I wasn’t sure how I was going to handle a dog as part of the family. I loved animals. I grew up with them, living on a farm. But they were farm animals: rams, sheep, goats, chickens, roosters, horses. Never had a pet of my own and I never had a dog. There was a bull snake in the barn that kept the mice at bay as well as a Tomcat which only cared about my father, feared my grandfather, and attacked us whenever it could. I could see the joy and anticipation in my daughter’s eyes when I was leaving for camp. I could only imagine what I was going to find when I came back. The promises “Don’t worry dad, we will walk him and clean up after him. We will make sure that we let him out. You won’t have to do anything.” I was wondering how long those promises would last and how much Kiki and I were going to take over those promises. I can say that yes Kiki and did pick up a lot of the slack, but Katrina did hold up a lot of her promises. Even if she didn’t keep those promises, the joy in her eyes of what Gandalf brought to a 10 year old were priceless. This is what warms the heart of a father. The laughter and happiness of children. Our Lord said “Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” This is what our Lord was: Child friendly. He sees us as His children and He wants us to be happy. I will never forget the words of my spiritual father. He said to me when I was just ordained a priest; “Love and embrace the children and you have won the parents.” I have followed that philosophy, for it wasn’t the words of my spiritual father but also the words of our Lord. That is why God is Kid Friendly as a Dog proved to me especially through my children to be Kid Friendly.

**PLAYFULNESS AND LOVING:** A Dog cares about us. A Puppy's love is incredible because they are the best when you are having a bad day. A dog is able to notice it and does everything it can do to make your day a whole lot better. Dogs also have a special quality about them that you just can’t describe with words. I can cherish those days of tug and war with Gandalf. Whether it was that or throwing a tennis ball high in the air and him waiting for it to come down to catch it, or even just throwing it across the yard and playing catch with him, he brought the joy of his playfulness coming up to me, showing love. God always plays with us. He cherishes giving us the opportunities to enjoy life. To go on vacations with our families either to exotic places or even to just stay home to be with family. I feel sometimes He is too playful with me because He may be bored. I am speaking of 2 hour traffic jams to get from home to work. Even the 3 am wake up calls because Gandalf needed not just to go out, but he felt that it was time to play. I felt sometimes like Topol from Fiddler on The Roof. “Thank you God for all that you have given me but did you have to give me my donkey a bum leg today.” God I know we are your chosen people but can you choose someone else once in a while?” It is all out of love. The playfulness is love: unconditional love that both God and a Dog provide. I truly believe the words that speak about the issue of love in Paul’s letter to the Corinthians. “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” All this speaks about God for God is Love, but it also speaks about a Dog because a Dog is love.

**HISTORY AND CARE FOR THE OWNER:** Humans and dogs have been through a lot together. They will come and either sit on your lap or snuggle up next to you. I remember when Kiki had her eye surgery, Gandalf was trying so hard to come by and give her comfort. The problem was he wanted to lick her eye because he knew where the injury was and he felt that would heal it. What Gandalf did though was accompany her as any dog does for their owner in time of pain or difficulty. Gandalf knew when we were sad or were not feeling well. He was right there next to us. There is so much history in the 12 years together that we shared: happy times and difficult. He was there to console Kiki when her mom passed away, and he knew it. He was there on those long weeks of my absence, next to her, letting her know maybe I am not your husband, but I care about you! How closely related are both whether it was the history and care of Gandalf and the history and care of our God. We also have the history with our Lord as well as the care He has for His Children. He was there for me during my loss of my grandparents in 1991 and 92, just one year as a priest. He was there for Kiki during the time she had to deal with a child being diagnosed with Autism and her husband with Lupus in 2000. He was there in 2003 with the loss of my father and in 2005 with the loss of Kiki’s dad. He was there through Kiki’s eye surgeries and her seeing the difficulties her husband had to endure. He was there in 2014 with the loss of Kiki’s mom. He has been with us as He is with all of us through our history of our lives and the care that He gives. He was there with us on June 23rd 2018 when our beloved Gandalf took his last breath. Even though we didn’t put him to sleep and he passed from natural causes, Gandalf was not alone for Kiki was there but so was our Lord holding and hugging all of us. God is in all of our history and He knows and cares about us. Our Dogs are part of our history and they possess the same care for their owners.

**NON-JUDGEMENTAL AND FAITHFULNESS:** We do things to our dogs unintentionally either forgetting to feed them, or accidentally stepping on a paw because we were not watching where we were going and we can still say that Dogs always remain faithful in all circumstances. Good or bad. This may be the only place that a Dog differs with God. But it’s only the first part and that is the non-judgmental part. But even then we can say that it may not be that different for we can do anything to our dog and it will still love you and forgive you. God is the same way. How often we stray from His will and sin before His eyes and He still forgives us and loves us. It is just at the end: we will face a judgement that we cannot argue with. Yet the one thing that both have is that God will always remain
are people out there whom I don’t call human but beasts who hurt for trouble. This is when a Chicago Police Officer came around the rock, my keys, a stick to defend myself for these four were looking in leaning against my car? By this time I was reaching for anything; their car had broken down. I asked them and what good does that do so be very careful. I asked what they were doing here and they said four stopped and asked if my dog bites. I said yes he is not friendly stood up and he let out a growl that I have never heard before. The Gandalf, I saw him stiffen in a crouch, the back of his hair that I had Gandalf, I saw him stiffen in a crouch, the back of his hair

“I was so happy that the entire community of St. Andrew got the opportunity to meet him. Whether he was going from person to person during our bible study, or he was totally engulfed by the children of Joy, Jr. Goya, Goya, or OCF, he was a bundle of unconditional love as well as a gentle giant. This is why I have always said the word DOG is GOD spelled backwards because a dog possesses the same qualities as our Lord yet the greatest of all of these qualities is love.

I leave you therefore with what I promised you above. It is the story of the Rainbow Bridge. It is a story that gave me the strength as I sit on my sofa and do not see my dog’s bed, or when I open the door at night knowing he will not be waiting with a wagging tail. There are so many memories, and even though death robbed us of our beloved Gandalf, it could not rob us of the sweet beautiful memories. It is the same for our Lord: death robbed His disciples of their Lord being with them, but it did not see that by taking that body of Jesus Christ, it encountered God.

The Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor. Those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent. His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

Author unknown...

God Bless All Of You for loving our dog and God Bless Our Beloved Dogs as well as all our pets, for GOD IS MAN’S BEST FRIEND SPELLED BACKWARDS.

Yes “God is man’s best friend spelled backwards” was the title as I said before, given to me by my daughter. The pain of the loss of our Gandalf took us by surprise because it was sudden. I can only thank God because He gave us this puppy during the time of my children’s younger years. They say that the greater the pain is means the greater the love was. There are many who have told me it is just a
Metropolis Of Chicago
2018 Listening Tour

Friday, September 7, 2018
6:00—9:00 PM
5649 N Sheridan Rd
Chicago, IL 60660

His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael is conducting a Listening Tour throughout the Metropolis to meet parishioners, answer questions, understand concerns and outline his vision for the church’s ministry in the Midwest.

St. Andrew, Chicago
St. George, Chicago
St. Demetrios, Chicago
Annunciation Cathedral, Chicago
St. Basil, Chicago
Holy Trinity, Chicago
Assumption, Chicago

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm:   Meet & Greet
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm:   Meeting

Although registration is not required, we strongly encourage you to register for the event to secure your seat as space is limited.

Please visit https://midwesttour.squarespace.com to register
A rich man was determined to give his mother a birthday present that would outshine all others. He read of a bird that had a vocabulary of 4,000 words, could speak in numerous languages and sing 3 operatic arias. He immediately bought the bird for $50,000 and had it delivered to his mother. The next day he phoned to see if she had received the bird. "What did you think of the bird?" he asked. She replied, "It was delicious."

We are truly blessed as Americans to live in this fantastic country. Most of our ancestors, my own included, endured extreme hardships and difficulties in order to realize the "American Dream." We are so fortunate to be the inheritors of this hard work, and when we work hard, we too have the opportunity to accomplish almost anything we want. But perhaps we might ask ourselves, "Do we take this for granted? Do we truly realize how blessed we are for what we have?" The average household income in the United States is about $59,039, according to data from the U.S. Census. Do you know what the average household income for the entire world is? $10,000 per year. We make, on average $50,000 more per year, than the average global citizen. Truly astounding. And its days like the 12th Sunday of Matthew, where we hear the Gospel lesson from Matthew 19:16-26 about a rich man who really has lived a good life. He's followed every commandment "You shall not kill, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." He said to Jesus, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

This man, when it came down to it, loved his stuff more than he loved Christ. He loved his comfortable life more than he desired to truly be a citizen of paradise. And when Jesus sees this, you can almost imagine Him shaking His head in sadness when He says to His disciples, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." As Americans, knowing how much we have in comparison to the rest of the world, would we consider ourselves in that category of "rich?" Is it easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for us to enter the Kingdom of heaven?

When we think of our salvation in these terms, we find ourselves in the position of the disciples, who upon hearing this ask the Teacher, "Lord, Who then can be saved?" And Jesus answers, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

So, what does that mean for us? That with God all things are possible? Does that mean if we just believe in God that He'll just take care of it all, and we don't have to worry about anything? Absolutely not. We must make the effort to, as Christ tells us to do, deny ourselves, take up our Crosses and follow Him. St. John of Kronstadt says it best. He writes, "If God had not been incarnate upon earth, if He had not made us godly, if He had not taught us in His Own person how to live, what to hope for and expect, if He had not pointed out to us another perfect and eternal life, if He had not suffered and died and risen from the dead—then we should still have had some reason to live...—that is to mostly lead a carnal, earthly life. But, now, we ought to meditate upon higher things, and count all earthly things but dung, for, everything earthly is nothing, in comparison with heavenly things."

So, basically, according to St. John, when we live a life that is centered around earthly things and pleasures, we live a life as if Christ never had suffered, died, and had never risen from the dead. But since we have Christ, we have everything, and all of these earthly things are dung compared to the heavenly. This goes hand in hand with the epistle lesson from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. He writes, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures." St. Paul then goes on to give an account of whom Christ had appeared to - the apostles, St. James, 500 of the brethren, and even St. Paul himself - as if to say, if you don't believe me, then go ask any of these people. And if you don't believe me, he is essentially saying, why would any of these people, including myself, be willing to die for something that isn't true. Why would we be willing to give everything we have to live a life solely devoted to the Kingdom of heaven if it wasn't true. What he's saying is, beloved brothers and sisters, that everything earthly, which in and of themselves might not be bad, are not worth giving everything for, because they all go away. But Christ is forever, and even if we lose our lives on His account, we still have everything. This is what it means that with God all things are possible.

So, if we are blessed with wealth, if we are not blessed with wealth, if we are rich, or if we are poor, if we are healthy or if we are sick, if we have a large family or if we are alone, if we have Christ we have EVERYTHING. As St. Porphyrios says so perfectly, "Love Christ and put nothing before His love. Christ is everything. He is the source of life, the ultimate desire. He is everything. Everything beautiful is in Christ." What else do we need? So, I will conclude with something practical that maybe all of us as a parish family can do together. Every day, before we go to bed, right after we say our evening prayers, we can think of one thing that God has given us that we are thankful for. It could be as simple as being thankful for the sun rising that day. But I guarantee that when we do this, we will find that we will develop a much closer relationship to Christ, and we'll find that our lives are much more full when we start to detach ourselves from earthly things and attach ourselves to the Lord.

Fr. Athanasios Minetos
Hello St. Andrew Parishioners,

On behalf of St. Andrew, I would like to thank everyone for a highly successful festival in July; we couldn't have done without your support. A special thank you is in order for all our volunteers who put in many, many hours leading up to the festival as well as working tirelessly during the two days of the festival, as without you, we couldn't have pulled it off and been as successful as we were.

Here are the numbers as they stand today:

- $141,770 gross revenue
- $ 75,348 total expenses
- $ 66,422 net

We still have some outstanding bills but we don’t think our net will be affected substantially.

During the festival, many people approached me and had many wonderful suggestions, so with that being said we are planning on holding a meeting sometime in September to begin planning the 2019 festival. I look forward to your attendance.

Nick Hatzopoulos

FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE.

Preparing for marriage is truly a beautiful period of expectation and joy. As you get ready for the “big day,” it is also important to spend time getting ready for the days that follow that “big day.” As you know, Holy Matrimony is not only a Sacrament at the time of the ceremony, but also throughout life. At St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, we invite all couples getting married to participate in a Marriage Preparation Seminar where you can discuss issues related to marriage, the struggles along the way, and the strategies for preparing for the journey. All couples are required to participate in one of these workshops, prior to your wedding date.

Marriage Preparation Seminar will be held from 10 am—3 pm on the following Saturday: October 13

Please RSVP to Fr John at frjohn.kalomas@standreworthodox.org

The Archdiocese theme for Stewardship in 2018 comes from Colossians 3:23:

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord,

Stewardship Ministry

It’s not too late to submit your 2018 Stewardship and support St. Andrew’s wonderful range of ministries for our Greek Orthodox community and neighbors here in Edgewater. Your Stewardship giving sustains these works and illustrates your commitment to Christ’s teachings.

Recently, several stewards have asked for guidance on what amount their annual financial commitment should be. While there is no “right” answer, we suggest Family Giving in an amount of $1,000 and up per year; Single (anyone over 21 years of age/working) – $500 per year; and for those over 65 years old – Give from your heart!

Our challenges are great as building and other expenses climb every year. Even a modest increase in your pledge makes a meaningful impact.

Please note many corporate employers will match your charitable Stewardship giving. For a matching gift, employers often request verification of our status as a Section 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The Church office can provide this information to you. Also, many Stewards generously include St. Andrew’s in their wills or estate plans. Please consider such a bequest and visit the Church office for more information.

As Father Kalomas has told us, a check mailed to the Church is most meaningful when accompanied by your presence, by your willingness to serve, by your prayers, and by your commitment. Please remember that Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God. Giving is not a substitute for commitment – it is an expression of our commitment.
Adult Catechism Classes

Wednesday Evenings

7:00—8:00 pm

Beginning November 14th and continuing until December 19th

All those interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian Faith are invited to join us. Please contact Fr. Athanasios Minetos at (773)334-4515 or frathanasios@standreworthodox.org to register for class or for further information.

COME JOIN OUR

BIBLE Study

Adult Religious Studies

This year’s religious studies will be on The Epistles, continuing with the Book Of Acts

Dates are every other week on Monday evening at 7:00 pm.

September 17, October 1, October 15, October 29, November 12, November 26, December 10, January 14, January 28, February 11, February 25, March 18, April 1, April 15, May 6, May 20, June 3, and June 17

Come and join us and learn about the richness of our faith through Scripture.

Above all, bring your bibles. We will be using the Orthodox Study Bible.

For more information call 773-334-4515 and speak with Father John.
### 40 Day Blessings
- Geo Angelo Koritsaris, son of Jenna & Alfred Koritsaris
- Michelle Despina Maris, daughter of Angela & Dean Maris
- Patricia Kontzias, daughter of Jamie & Louie Kontzias
- Zoe Marie Dallas, daughter of Nichole & Dimitri Dallas
- Lillian Joy Dravillas, daughter of Stacey & Alexios Dravillas

### Baptisms
- Dawn Pizarroz
- Penelope Panagiota Schloss, daughter of Tina & Edmund Schloss
- Louisa Astara Baldwin and Stylianos Vasilios Baldwin, children of Sophia Matsas & Matthew Baldwin
- Andrew Schellenberg
- Olivia Elise Gatchell, daughter of Kristi & Andy Gatchell

### Maddison Trotter and Lawrence Trotter, children of Nichole & Lawrence Trotter
- Isabella Georgia Apostol, daughter of Jacqueline Jensen & Nicholas Apostol
- Theodore James Holmes, son of Maria Nichols & Matt Holmes
- Dimitri Krigos, son of Konstantine & Dina Krigos

### Weddings
- Sandra Duran & Edward Straka
- Katherine Stotis & William Dooling
- Maria Vasquez & Harry Kokkalis
- Didi Spanos & David Panitch

### Memorials
- Christos Prassas - 40 days
- Elena Papastefan - 6 months
- Panagioti “Peter” Koclanis - 1 year
- John Haloftis - 1 year

### UPCOMING CHURCH SERVICES

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<td>Wednesday, August 29, 2018</td>
<td>Beheading of John the Baptist</td>
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<td>Orthros</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>Saturday, September 8, 2018</td>
<td>Nativity of the Theotokos</td>
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<td>Orthros</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>Friday, September 14, 2018</td>
<td>Holy Cross</td>
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<td>Orthros</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 21, 2018</td>
<td>Presentation of the Theotokos</td>
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<td>Orthros</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 29, 2018</td>
<td>Vespers for St. Andrew</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Friday, November 30, 2018</td>
<td>St. Andrew</td>
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<td>Orthros</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 6, 2018</td>
<td>St. Nicholas</td>
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<td>Orthros</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>Monday, December 24, 2018</td>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
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<td>Royal Hours</td>
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<td>Vesperal Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 25, 2018</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Orthros</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
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His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos - 1 year
- Catherine Kouchoukos - 1 year
- Martha Panagos - 1 year
- Spiros Lazos - 2 years
- Kyriaki Ades - 3 years
- Very Rev. Fr. Gabriel Karambis – 3 years
- Christ Karafotias - 5 years
- Efthimios Tsokas - 8 years
- Georgia Loukas - 9 years
- Sophia Prassas - 9 years
- Anthemos (Mike) Ades - 11 years
NOTES FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

Good Church Music Starts with Kids
By Talia-Maria Sheehan
Reprinted from Benedict Sheehan’s blog, The Music Stand, on February 21, 2017

I have been a vocal music educator in some capacity for the past 20 years. I’ve taught pre-schoolers and retirees and every age in between, folks with “no ear” and folks who have been making music for decades, my own family and total strangers. I love to work with beginners, though.

We generally think of beginners as young. But in church music there is a huge population of adult singers who, while having spent years singing in choirs, still don’t really know what they’re doing. Their ear and their dedication have carried them through. I especially love to work with these students. I love to help them get to those wonderful “Oh, I get it!” moments!

We all agree that church singers need training. And we also agree that we have to somehow teach our children about church singing, too. But that’s a tall order. It sounds like it requires a ton of time and thought and energy and staff. It even sounds like we need to add children’s choirs and adult music classes and voice lessons to all the other things our small churches are trying to do.

Well, I’d like to offer a somewhat different perspective on this dauntingly huge task.

Through my years of teaching I’ve noticed that the training these “experienced beginners” need is nearly identical to the training that young musicians need. And this has allowed me to successfully teach these two groups at the same time and collect some important observations. So, based on this experience, I want to share with you a firm belief I now have that may sound crazy:

Children’s choirs are not necessarily the best way to create competent, active young church singers.

I think a big mistake we make as music educators is that we relegate children to children’s choirs well past the age when it is necessary or appropriate. And we have fallen into this as church communities as well. It’s easy to do, since we are just following the model of modern schooling. Children are assembled into groups of similar ages for their entire education. Then, once their education is complete, they enter the adult world and are deemed ready to participate in it. They switch from youth activities to adult activities, youth choir to adult choir. (This attitude is lasting all the way through college now.)

But I would like to propose another model. And I think church choirs are ideally poised to offer children what the educational system isn’t really built to be able to offer: inclusion in an important aspect of the adult world at a much younger age, inclusion in the spiritual and artistic adult world.

Stage 1: Young children need to learn to sing

I’m not suggesting children’s choirs have no benefit to the young musician – quite the opposite. It’s clear that this is where it starts. As children begin school (around age 5 or 6), they should also begin singing in a choir. It is at that age—when they can speak fluently and expressively but can’t yet easily write down what they’re saying—that their musical aptitude is most able to grow.

Historically, singing games have been one of the primary pastimes of this period of childhood. So at this age, children are cognitively and developmentally primed for singing in a choir. This choir can be a church, school, or community choir, so long as it provides the children with the necessary foundation.

Young children should be learning songs by rote. They should be learning how not to yell when they sing (learning to use their head voice), and learning how to take singers’ breaths (proper support and breathing for vocalizing). And they should be learning to memorize a variety of songs in different languages, learning how to sing together and follow a leader. This is the solid foundation that every young singer needs. And it can start while the children are still quite young.

Stage 2: Older children should sing with adults

Around the time that their language skills begin to include grammar and their writing becomes competent, around 9 or 10, children should begin to participate in more advanced ensembles. It’s this point of transition that I believe we have been neglecting for decades as music educators. This is when the children should join the adult singers. It is also when a musical apprenticeship, as it were, should begin in a church choir. Children should join in the music training that the adults receive.

A quick aside regarding a single track of training for both adults and children: it’s more likely than not that the children will advance quite a lot faster than the adults! Not to worry, though, just the excitement of “being with the grown-ups” and doing what they’re doing as well as they are doing it will keep the children engaged and active while the adults limp along.

It’s also interesting to note that 9 or 10 is the average age of a boy chorister in any of the great men and boys choirs found throughout music history. And remember, these boys were responsible for performing the great choral works of Western music even into the 20th century. Adult female sopranos are a relatively recent development in music history.

These children that join with the adults in the church choir should still be encouraged to participate in a non-church ensemble. They should be singing repertoire beyond just church music and having broader musical experiences.

Stage 3: Adolescents need to be given ownership

By the time they reach 13 or 14 most children will have solidly entered puberty. All the musical experience they would have acquired by this point can help to carry them through that difficult physical and emotional transition. They should still work on singing technique as it applies to their changing voices. And, ideally, they should have the technical skill to be able to tackle repertoire that speaks to their emotional turbulence and strengthens them in their difficulties.

Young adults of this age group should absolutely still be participating in ensembles outside the church community, though they now should be more advanced ensembles. They should be singing a wide variety of repertoire and genres, so they can build a comprehensive vocal literacy. This will serve to aid them in their understanding and execution of church music. They can also be given extra responsibilities as a church singer. Give them some

February 21, 2017

The Anchor—Fall 2018

The Music Stand,
conducting duties. Let them assemble a service. Have them sing in a small ensemble or even do a solo. Have them read in church.

It has also been my experience that by this point in their development, children are capable of finding those things that they simply need to do, that they feel enriched by, and in which they lose themselves because of their intense interest. So why haven’t more young adults shown an interest in church music? Sadly, I think it’s because we are often not giving them the chance to.

To continue to engage and inspire children to sing through their adolescence requires that they have access to repertoire that they cannot sing alone. It requires that they have access to adult ensembles and performances that we generally treat as too challenging or mature for children. In order to really take music education seriously, adults must include the children in their own music making.

The Good News: Churches can do this

What’s the good news here? The training needed by our adult singers is the same training needed by our children. We can kill two birds with one stone in our work to revitalize a culture of singing in the Orthodox Church. Parishes can move immediately into creating a program that will help address multiple problems.

This does require that a church have a competent music director. And this means someone with the ability not only to conduct an ensemble well, but to train their singers in musicianship and to offer vocal coaching to adults, adolescents, and children. It’s not likely that you’ll find all these skills in a volunteer. However, it is something you can expect a professional vocal music educator to be able to do.

By this plan we can easily see how a young person can be nurtured and encouraged into the role of a capable church musician at a much younger age than we currently tend to expect. And, except for the community ensembles that provide the broader experiences which I have found to be indispensable in the development of a life-long singer, there are no extra resources required on the part of the church choir director to include these young people in the work of church singing. It only requires a change in perspective, and the treating of these children as truly valuable.

Do a search for a children’s choir in your area. Ask around. Check out what your child’s school has to offer. There’s still a lot of choral ensembles out there in all but the most rural areas. And if you don’t have one, start one, even if it’s only in your church community. Teach the children the troparia of the days of the week, of the 12 feasts, of the important saints to you and your family and your church. Get them singing together.

Maria Sheehan

Please join us every other Friday beginning mid-September for our Mommy and Me Group. Please see the St. Andrew’s website and/or the weekly bulletin for exact meeting dates.

Mommy and Me is a playgroup that helps our children develop socially, creatively, and spiritually from infancy through the toddler years. The group also fosters a sense of community for both the children, as well as the parents. We meet every other Friday from 10:30am until noon in the Toddler classroom. Each class begins with playtime, then a prayer, singing, and a brief lesson on our faith, and is followed by a craft activity and/or free play. Periodically, we may also venture out on a field trip and organize a Mom’s Night. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Stephane Collopy at sacollopy@gmail.com.
SAVE THE DATE

Annual Boxing Event—

Friday, November 16, 2018

Proceeds to benefit our soldiers and first responders in the Chicagoland area.

S J GREGORY AUDITORIUM

5649 N SHERIDAN RD—CHICAGO, IL

EVENT TICKETS $100 PER PERSON

INCLUDES DINNER WITH OPEN BAR

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL 773-334-4515
St. Andrew’s First Annual Blessing of the Animals

Please join us for our first annual blessing of the animals. We will meet at the entrance of the gymnasium in front of the glass doors to the SJ Gregory Auditorium. If it is raining, the blessing will take place inside the Gymnasium. We will bless all animals from dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, etc.

For information please call St. Andrew and either speak to Fr. John or the church office at 773-334-4515.

Please keep your dogs and cats leashed at all times so they won’t go and perform a Service in the church proper. 😊

When: Saturday September 15th 2018, 11am
Where: St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church
5649 North Sheridan Rd. Chicago, IL. 60660
Who: All are invited from St. Andrew and our sister parishes.
Why: Because we love our animals.
Since our last article I am happy to report that work is well underway on the South elevation windows! As you can see from the photos below, there is an amazing difference!

Our first goal is to keep the project going and to complete the entire South elevation. In order to do so, we need to raise another $105,000. Since April we have already collected $11,600 towards this goal.

The remaining East elevation will cost $45,000 and the West elevation and Bell Tower windows are projected at $110,000. This money will also need to be raised.

In order to keep the work going, the parish council has allocated funds from our renovation account; however these funds are not unlimited.

This project is very special and allows all of us the privilege and joy of participating in the campaign to preserve our house of worship. We thank everyone who has already donated and humbly request your additional support, and please know that we will be grateful for whatever you are able to offer.

You may make your donation through the church office, noting that it is for the “Stained Glass Window Fund” so that it will be directed to the appropriate account. Please let us know of any questions and we will be happy to answer them!

As you may have noticed, the recognition plaque has been placed in the hallway, just outside of the Narthex and we look forward to adding your name to the plaque!

As we said previously we face additional funding challenges due to the extreme rust conditions, on the North elevation, that extended far beyond what was visible when we started the project. We are working with our contractor and meeting with them every month to monitor progress of the project and have determined that at this time it will be best to break down the remaining areas of work into separate phases.
It’s back to school time!! I hope you have all had a wonderful summer with a few lazy, unstructured days and time to reconnect with your families at home and on vacation. As summer winds down and you get into the groove of school, I invite you to reconnect with your Church family.

Sunday School will kick off on September 9th with the Agiasmos Service, Backpack Blessing and our Annual Back to School BBQ.

Registration forms can be found on the Church website, in the Main Office or can be requested via email at lazosfamily@gmail.com. The registration fee is $30 per child which is applied to classroom supplies, educational materials and youth/family ministry activities.

There is an exciting year planned with continued and renewed collaboration with our Choir, Philoptochos and St. Andrew’s Youth programs to bring a variety of opportunities to our Youth. Building on the success of our community service work last year, we are launching a Monthly Missions series where our Sunday School students will come together to serve our Lord in meaningful and fun ways. Moving into the 21st century, we will make better use of technology through a shared calendar, social media and more to keep you up to date on how your kids can participate in programs throughout St. Andrew’s and continue to build their parea.

If you are interested in getting involved as a teacher, substitute or supporting a PTA program, please contact me at lazosfamily@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing you at Church and embarking on another year full of faith, fellowship and fun!

With love in Christ,

Tracey Lazos
Sunday Church School Coordinator
Classes for the 2018-2019 School Year begin on Saturday, September 8, 2018.

Registration is now open. If you pre-register by July 30 with a $500 deposit (per family) tuition will be the same as last year.

Tuition rates for the 2018-2019 Year are as follows:

**Stewards:**
- Full Payment at time of Registration: $900.00
- ½ Payment at time of Registration: $955.00

**Non-Stewards:**
- Full Payment at time of Registration: $1,600.00
- ½ Payment at time of Registration: $1,655.00

*The above tuition rates include a $75.00 book, supply & PTO fee

*There is a $50 discount which will be applied per additional child enrolled in one of our programs.

Please note:

The Parent Or Legal Guardian of the student(s) being registered must have pledged and paid in full their stewardship contribution (a minimum of $500.00) for 2018 on or before the day of registration to receive the stewardship tuition rate for the academic year.
Joy—Grades Kindergarten through 5th

Join us as we kick off the year with an evening of fun, food and games!

Friday, October 5, 2018 at 6:30 pm

We will have a JOY Meeting on Friday, November 2, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

Join us for the JOY Christmas Party, Friday, December 7, 2018 at 6:30 pm.
GOYA—Grades 6th through 12th

This year’s GOYA kick-off event will be at Whirlyball Chicago, 1825 W Webster Ave on Saturday, September 22, 2018 at 3:00 pm. Please contact Fr. Athanasios at frathanasios@standreworthodox.org for further information.

There will be a GOYA Meeting on Friday, October 19, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the church.

We are planning a trip to Boston (city tour, tour of Hellenic College/Holy Cross Seminary) in November from the 8th thru the 12th. Please let Fr. Athanasios as soon as possible if you have any interest in attending.

The Annual Lock-In will be held in the gym on Friday, December 21 and dismissing on the 22nd.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY—OCF

Loyola OCF will be meeting at St. Andrew’s for the following events, meetings:

- **Back to School BBQ**, Thursday, September 6, 2018 6:00 pm
- **Meeting—Hope, Faith and Love Is Wisdom, Wisdom begins with the fear of God**, September 2018 date TBD—7:00 pm
- **Going to Greek Town**, Friday, October 12, 2018 7:00 pm
- **Meeting—Marriage, Angels, Heaven, Saints—Defending our Orthodox Faith**, October 2018—date TBD—7:00 pm
- **Decorate for Christmas**, Wednesday, November 14, 2018 5:00 pm
- **ThanksMas and Keeping Christ in Christmas**, Wednesday, December 5, 2018
- **Annual Ski Trip**, January 8, 9, and 10, 2019

**PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY BULLETIN AND WEB SITE FOR UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**
Dear St. Andrew’s Parish,

It has been an honor to serve as the President of the Philoptochos of our beloved St. Andrew for the past three years.

Being President has been an incredible journey, knowing the joy we bring to those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you so much to St. Andrew’s community for being so supportive of our various events over the years…from IOCC Walkathon to Sarah’s Circle to Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets to Dreamcatchers to Camp Erin to UIC Hospital Pediatric Units Children’s Hospital, our Annual Dinner Dances, Glendi, etc. We touch so many lives…exemplifying the meaning of Philoptochos… as Philanthropy, Fellowship, and Faith in Action: Philotheos, Philadephos, Philanthropos, and Philoxenos.

Also, many thanks to Father John and Father Athanasios for all of your support and encouragement. We have honestly seen the arm of Philoptochos reach far into the Edgewater and Ravenswood communities like Sarah’s Circle, Care for Real, Night Ministry and soon, Boys and Girls Clubs. Within our own St. Andrew’s community, it was most satisfying to utilize our Philanthropy fund, for the funerals of St. Andrew’s members whose families are unable to provide the financial support for a Greek Orthodox funeral. As Philoptochos, we find our calling in always being the friend of the needy and providing immeasurable joy to those, whether young or old, who might not have family nearby, who can’t drive, who need an operation or who are ill. Being there is so critical, so the loneliness is eliminated if for a brief amount of time. Our goal is always to be there to answer the call.

Also, many thanks to the many officers, board members, Philoptochos members at large, Metropolis and National Philoptochos liaisons, who so adeptly served our Philoptochos chapter and faithfully served the call as they chaired and volunteered and supported our many fundraising events throughout the past three years, Efkaristo Poli!

As many of you know, I moved to Denver this past weekend to begin a new chapter in my life. I will be living with my niece and her husband to give support and help with their four children. This was a difficult yet important decision to make and one I know will be beyond rewarding in so many ways. I will always consider St. Andrew my church, my spiritual foundation throughout my life while in Chicago… I will be back as often as possible. Fotine Bloom has assumed the role of President and as she begins her term, I know you will all be supportive, so the that important work of St. Andrew’s Philoptochos doesn’t skip a beat.

With Agape,

Cynthia Melas, Past President, St. Andrew’s Women’s Philoptochos Society

June 10th, St. Andrew’s had the honor of hosting an Open House after celebrating Vespers for the Feast Day of Holy Apostle Bartholomew, Patron Saint of Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago. Your Philoptochos assisted the Metropolis of Chicago Board with coordinating the event, that saw over 500 people attend, who enjoyed an array of delicious appetizers and desserts while waiting to take a picture and meet with His Eminence Nathanael.
July 1-5th, 2018 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention and Clergy Laiety Conference in Boston: It was a privilege to represent St. Andrew’s Philoptochos as a delegate, along with Peggy Papaioannou, Patty Harrison, as well as Father John, Nick Hatzopoulos, Fotine Bloom and Terri Mikuzis representing the Clergy Laiety. The agenda for the 5 days was full and rich, and even included a half day trip to visit Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology, which was inspiring and eye opening. Consider this statistic…of the 3,000 colleges in the US, roughly 1,200 have a religious affiliation; how many Greek Orthodox affiliated schools are there in the US? One…Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology. When we collect for the college and seminary at the celebration of Holy Cross, your dollars are well spent as this is THE institution providing the foundation and guidance for our priests at a master’s level and to many college students looking for a Division III Greek Orthodox religious based institution.

The overriding theme of the convention was, “All things are possible to the one who believes in Christ.” Mark 9:23. Throughout the five days there were many unforgettable moments that included speakers discussing the work of Philoptochos around major social issues confronting our society today. President Maria Logos, challenged the National Board to “Do More Doing” which ultimately brought speakers like Denise Garlick, MA State Representative, discussing Opioid Epidemic in America; JoNell Efantis-Potter, PhD, Program Director, Thrive Clinic, Miami treating the health care needs of survivors (mainly children) of Human Trafficking( $35K seed money from Nat’l Philoptochos); Despina Kartson, author of ‘Last Night’s Soup Run: Feeding the Hungry and Homeless’, a personal collection of reflections of her experiences along with her Philoptochos members, feeding the needy and hungry in Times Square NYC for the last 10 years. In addition, other topics discussed: Stop Bullying in Your Community (a video collection focused around, “I see That and It’s not OK” for children grades 7-12th grade, uploads of anti-bullying emojis to smartphones; logon to http://philoptochos.org/outreach/educational-initiatives/stopbullyinginyourcommunity) for more information; Women’s Health Initiative, Be Safe, Be Smart-Using Technology Safely, Inclusion Ministries and Alzheimer’s Disease: Awareness, Understanding Support and Care, presented by our own Kathy Siavelis. There were about 25 topics along with numerous Chapter Challenges, showing individual chapters efforts to help the veterans, an adult handicapped center, aiding an impoverished Indian reservation over a 12 month program all exemplifying…”She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.” Proverbs 31:20

On July 4th, at a breakfast meeting with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, Hierarchs and Metropolitans of America, 10 winners of the Agape Award were presented to the body of delegates. Agape Award stands for: All Generations Accomplishing Philanthropic Endeavors. These women are an inspiration, giving of their time and talent to help those most in need and going above and beyond in their humanitarian endeavors. Our nominee, Angie Alexopoulos, though not chosen to represent the Chicago Metropolis, will be honored at the Annual Chicago Metropolis Luncheon, on September 22nd, at Café Le Cave. Please see Marilyn Tzakis about reservations. All of the winners and their biographies, along with all the convention coverage and presentations are available on the website: http://philoptochos.org

On July 5th, the morning started with distributing $340K of grants to needy organizations much like The THRIVE Free Clinic started by Dr. Joelle Enfantis-Potter, who brought together a few doctors to help children held by human traffickers. Due to a gap in medical care for the psychological traumas suffered by the young children involved in human trafficking, this clinic filled a huge need. The brain of a victim of human trafficking triggers chronic stress and scars similar to PSTD. This free clinic is an oasis in the 3rd largest human trafficking city in America, Miami, FL.

Finally, as you are all familiar with the Philoptochos Feed the Hungry Program, our goal from the 2016 convention was to feed at least 1 Million meals. Nationally we surpassed that number by serving 1,343,734 meals; the next convention’s target in 2020 is to serve 1.5M meals. Thursday July 5th, at 7am, the delegates added 10,000 more meals, packaging in the lobby of the Copley Square Marriott. Please join us as we continue to serve meals at Evanston’s First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen, the first Saturday of each month; please contact Timi Papas to volunteer at timpapa417@yahoo.com or come to St Andrew’s kitchen on the third Friday of each month, making sandwiches for Sarah’s Circle, Night ministry, and the Boys and Girls Club. Please see Vonnie Karafotias or Vicki Karagianis for additional information.

I am proud to be a member of Philoptochos, experiencing first-hand the length and breadth of the worthy causes the funds raised thanks to your generosity toward all our events. Truly, ‘THIS IS NOT YOUR YIAIA’S PHILOPTOCHOS’… learn more by joining us on August 31st at Hellena and Jeff Chrones’ home, to learn about Philoptochos and join in the giving of your time to help the needy.

Here are some pictures from the convention:
July 7th-8th Edgewater Greek Festival: Once again, a big thank you to Picnic Bake Sale Coordinators: Patty Harrison and Demetra Christus for doing a terrific job coordinating and organizing the Bake Sale selling out and exceeding our net contribution to St. Andrew!! It truly takes a parish to put on a successful festival and we must thank the following ladies for all their hard work and willingness to help make this year’s bake sale a success!!

Baking Bougatsa and Milopitas: Thank you to Anthoula Christopoulos for making the mix and donating the apples and Patty Harrison for donating raisins and walnuts. Many thanks to our donators for 30 lbs. extra unsweetened butter and for your time baking at church: Angie Alexopoulos, Sandy Alexopoulos, Demetra Christus, Patty Harrison, Cynthia Melas, Gloria Georgas, Marzena Valkanas, Canela Stavrou, Sophia Spiridakos Marilyn Tzakis and Lena Stipanicev. Many thanks to Peter Alexopoulos for cooking our Bougatsa and Milopitas on the days of the picnic!!

Assembling and Baking Baklava: Thank you to Tasia Foutris for getting everything ready the filling the syrup and her help assembling the multiple tassa! Many thanks to our bakers: Patty Harrison, Anastasia Kafkes, Marilyn Tzakis, Lena Stipinicev, Helen Gatzionis, Demetra Loukisa, Gloria Georgas, Marzena Valkanas, Eugenia Demos, and Timi Papas.

To all the wonderful ladies that donated time and energy baking at home… Thank you to all these ladies:
Brownies: Marianne Nichols and Paula Bork; Chocolate Chip Cookies: Christine Bezanes; Cupcakes: Demetra Christus, Anastasia Kafkes; Diples: Kathy Siavelis, Joann Stavropoulos and Peggy Papaioannou; Galatoboureko: Angie Alexopoulos along with her sidekick: Sandy Alexopoulos. Angie also made walnut cookies, and sweet bread; Greek coffee and frappe: Patty Harrison; Halva: Stacy Diacou; Karithopita: Diana White; Kourambiethes: Sophia Spiridakos, Cynthia Melas, Patty Harrison, Theo Bartholomew; Koulouria: Helen Papaioannou, Patty Harrison, Theo Bartholomew; Milopita cake: Chriasnthy Kontos; Moustokouloura: Eugenia Demos and helping with everything; Paximathia, Gluten free cookies, and Moustokouloura: Toula Tolias; Ravani: Helen Gatzionis

To our Financial Donors, thank you so much for your generosity!! We were able to buy 48 pounds of unsweetened butter, 25 containers of cupcake holders, and 40 pounds of heavy filo: Fotine Bloom, Helen Gianakopoulos, Stella Mash, and Angela Zotos, you’re the best!!
Many thanks to Kathy Siavleis and Tracey Lazos for once again spearheading the Back to School Back Pack and School Supplies Drive for the children of Edgewater and Ravenswood. We were able to collect enough mnney to create our goal of 25 backpacks filled with appropriate supplies for elementary, jr. high and high school children!! Thank you St. Andrew’s community!

**August 15th Feast Day of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary:** Kronia Polla to all who celebrated on August 15th the Dormition of the Virgin Mary. May The blessings of Panagia be always with you and your families. It was wonderful to see so many gathered on this special feast day. Thank you Fotine, Marilyn, Semni, and Christine for all you did to make the coffee hour so lovely.

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**All things are possible to the one who believes in Christ,** (Mark 9:23), the theme to this year’s Clergy-Laity Convention in Boston. I’m grateful to have had the opportunity to attend. It was inspiring to hear the messages of love that explored our religious teachings and our beloved Church. One break out session that was quite thought-provoking was led by Aristotle Papanikolaou. He is a professor at Fordham University and he spoke on the topic – Why be Religious? During this critical time in our lives, when most churches are seeing a decrease in parishioners attending weekly services and a decrease in stewards, he offers his insights. He proposed that people are seeing Christianity as a set of rules that must be followed in order to earn heaven. And that people are fearful of not being able to follow the rules, so they alienate themselves from the church. He answers that while we need rules for structure, Christianity is not about rules. He stresses that our Church is not about following rules, but rather our Church is about transforming our heart. It’s about learning to love our rival. It’s about looking at our enemy and seeing that there is more to them. It’s about loving the one who is trying to destroy you. It’s about becoming more God-like and loving in our world. It is not about rules, but about love. He professed that all the teachings of our Church point to love.

With rules, Dr. Papanikolaou pointed out, we are fearful. We are angry. We hate. We fear that we won’t be able to follow the “rules”. However, our Church is not about rules. Our church is about love. With love we are less fearful, have less anger, and less hatred. Dr. Papanikolaou offered this challenge: How can we love more? He proposed that in order to love more, we need to be religious. We can’t do it on our own. We need our beloved Church to guide us.

Dr. Papanikolaou made an analogy. He compared Christian life to that of a dancer going through training. (He spoke of a dancer, but you could use this analogy with an athlete.) A person says, “I want to be a dancer.” A Christian says, “I want to live forever.” They both need “training”. The soon-to-be-dancer chooses an institution based on the other dancers that have been there before him. He trusts the institution to teach him the ways so that he can dance better. In the beginner’s class, there are rules to follow so that he can learn to dance and he stays focused on perfecting his dance. He is keeping his sight of becoming a dancer front and center. But, the dancer finds that not everyone in this institution wants to become a better dancer. There are distractions. Some are there for other reasons that have nothing to do with dance. The dancer, as years go on, may find some of the teachers aren’t as good as others. This is natural, but he knows that he is still learning. As the dancer takes more classes, and gets better and stronger, he hears rumblings about the Board of Trustees making decisions that will affect the building site. And he hears about competitions and quarrels about costumes, which are all very “un-dancelike”. However, as the dancer gets better and better, and stays focused on his purpose, the distractions aren’t important. The distractions fade. Dance has taken over. He now is a dancer.

Dr. Papanikolaou sees our Church as a training ground where we train for eternal life. We have seen that our Church has produced the saints, the very worthy “dancers”. We, as Christians, want to be like them, and live forever. That is why we trust that we are in the right place. This is the place where we learn how to love, how to “dance”. The challenge is to find out how to love God with all our heart and mind and how to be less anxious, less hateful. Our challenge is to stay focused, like the dancer, even when we might get discouraged or hear of behaviors that are “un-Christian-like”. We need our Church and we need to be religious, so that we are transformed with love. We can’t let distractions veer us off the course of learning to love more. Love is work, and we need to “train” in order to be more loving, just like the dancer needs to train in order to dance. Through sacraments, fasting, the Gospel, and the Jesus Prayer, just to name some of the ways our Church supports us, we are reminded of God’s love. Through our church we are offered the opportunity to grow this love. St. Paul said, “No one can break us of our love of God.” Our Church is there to “train” us towards this love. Thank you, Professor Papanikolaou, for opening my eyes to this lovely way of describing our Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Fotine Bloom
Greek school Classes begin:
Saturday, September 8, 2018 — grades Kindergarten to 6th

Sunday school classes begin:
Sunday, September 9, 2018 — grades Nursery (2yrs old) to 12th (High School)
See inside for more information.

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