

# *The Messenger*

**February 2012    Newsletter of St. John's Greek Orthodox Church**  
**1000 Spruce, Pueblo, CO 81004      PO Box 3011, Pueblo, CO 81005**

May God keep everyone well in order to continue to keep St. John The Baptist Church alive and vibrant  
for future generations to embrace and enjoy.

## **Schedule of Services and Important Days**

February 1, Wednesday, 5:30PM, Divine Liturgy .....Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple  
February 5, Sunday, 9:30AM, Divine Liturgy .....Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee  
February 12, Sunday ...NO CHURCH ... Please plan to attend Divine Liturgy at St. Michael's  
February 18, Saturday, 9:30AM, Divine Liturgy .....Saturday of Souls  
February 19, Sunday, 9:30AM, Divine Liturgy .....Meatfare Sunday, The Last Judgement  
February 26, Sunday, 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy ..... Cheesefare Sunday, Sunday of Forgiveness  
February 27, Monday – Great Lent begins On Clean Monday  
February 29, Wednesday. 5:30PM, Presanctified Liturgy ... First Wednesday of the Great Fast

## **Prosfora and Coffee Hour Schedule**

	<b>Prosfora</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
February 1 .....	<b>Pam</b>	<b>No coffee hour</b>
February 5 .....	<b>Connie</b>	<b>Vander Walls</b>
February 12 .....	<b>No Church</b>	<b>No coffee hour</b>
February 18 .....	<b>Ashley</b>	<b>No coffee hour</b>
February 19 .....	<b>Penny</b>	<b>Anna &amp; Dora</b>
February 26 ....	<b>Anastasia</b>	<b>Anna Floyd</b>
February 29 .....	<b>Anastasia</b>	<b>No coffee hour</b>

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**Linsey Tapia, Mary Carlino's** granddaughter, made the Dean's List at CSU-P this last semester. Axios!

**Penelope Hyland** is in Alaska for her son Shaun's wedding. Axios again!

**Mitch & Trish Vander Wall** are busy working on their newly purchased house. They have been alerted that we are looking forward to a house-warming party!

**The Bessemer Historical Society** is holding their annual benefit dinner on February 18<sup>th</sup>. This year's event is called **The Bessemer Beat** and will be a fun night of jazz/swing music, vintage cocktails, silent auction, a supper-club dinner and live music by Carlos Crull and Friends. For further information and tickets, contact the museum at 564-90886.

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Of all the things you wear, your expression is most important.

Bumper sticker: Honk if you love Jesus. Text if you want to meet Him.

Remember that everyone you meet is afraid of something, loves something, and has lost something.

## **Stewardship at St. John's Greek Orthodox Church**

Happily, many of the parishioners of St. John's returned their stewardship cards for Stewardship Sunday. By the end of January, 43 stewards had turned in their pledge cards. This is a wonderful start to 2012! The list of our current 2012 stewards is:

George & Beth Alvarado	Bill Mehos
Christopher Apostopides	Phillip & Olga Mendenhall
Theodore Apostolos	Roger & Litsa Miller
Dora Archer	Elaine & Vince Montforte
Edward Caracostas family	Deborah Nestro
Evan & Olympia Caracostas	Nathan Pesch
Mary Carlino	Fr. Stephen & Pres. Ashley Powley
Alex Ellis	Tom & Dottie Rougas
Anna Floyd	Steve & Gina Schaarschmidt
Janet Garoutte	Elaine Scott
Mark & Georgiann Haering	Nickolas & Anne Serras
Anna Hansen	Maria Swanson
James, Anastasia & Alexander Hartigan	Maria Tucker
Argerie Hoty	Mitchell & Trish Vander Wall
Pamela Jacobsen	Gus & Nonie Vlahavas
Marian Kochiovelos	Sam & Erica Vlahavas
Dick & Marcia Lepetsos	Thomas & Maureen Vlahavas
Elaine Lepetsos	Helen Yannias
Elizabeth Lepetsos	Connie Zavichas Wells
JoAnn Limberis	Penny Zavichas
Marge Lindskog	Steven & Margaret Zenos
Timothy G. Lynch	

And if your name isn't here ... we have room to add you!

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**+ Father George Papadeas**

**Father George**, 93, fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, November 18, 2011, in Daytona Beach, Florida.

He was a second cousin of the father of **Father Christodoulos** of Denver.

Fr. George was a member of the first class of the first Greek Theological Seminary in Pomfret, Connecticut, in 1937. He graduated as valedictorian in 1942, was the first American-born clergyman to be ordained into the Greek Orthodox Church, and became the longest actively serving Priest with over 69 years of continuous service.

Fr. George never retired, starting a new Greek Orthodox Community in Ocala, Florida, at age 86, to which he drove until a few months prior to his death.

In 1963 he translated the Orthodox Holy Week and Easter services book, which is used worldwide. At St. John, we use the red-covered Liturgy book which he had compiled.

May his memory be eternal.

Many thanks to Alex Ellis for this article.

## Tarpon Springs – An Epiphany to Remember

The following information is excerpted from the Tarpon Tribune, Florida

Tarpon Springs – Oh, it hasn't always gone smoothly at the annual Epiphany celebration. There was the year the dove bearer hoisted the white bird symbolizing the Holy Spirit into the cloudless sky – and it dropped dead into the water. And the time dozens of stampeding boys knocked over the Greek Orthodox archbishop in their haste to jump into the Spring Bayou. And who can forget when a local shock jock played the ultimate trick, having his minions throw several faux pas crosses in the water during the pre-dawn hours to thwart the teens' efforts?

Now Epiphany 2012 will forever have its place in the history books as the Year of the Double Cross-Triple Winner Controversy.

The 61 Greek male teens, spread among 10 anchored rowboats tied in a semi-circle, dived into the bayou amid cheers of encouragement from an estimated crowd of 20,000. One by one, their heads popped up, their mouths gasping for air. No one could find the cross in the murky depths.

After 6 1/2 minutes, the archbishop directed the boys back to the boats. Then he changed his mind, telling them to stay in the water. He tossed a second cross.

That produced another mad rush. After much bobbling, jostling, and thrashing about, Louis M. thrust out his hand, gripping the prized possession. He climbed out of the waters, then was hoisted onto the shoulders of his fellow divers and carried to the cathedral.

**But the victory party wasn't over yet.**

Back at the sanctuary, while the first boy was getting blessed by the archbishop, a smaller group of boys came in the front doors. Atop their shoulders was Miros P., kissing a white cross in his hand. He said he stayed in the water, determined to find the elusive first cross.

### **But it wasn't over yet.**

Soon the boys began buzzing about a third diver who had the cross in his hand before losing it in the watery chaos. The archbishop's official photographer began reviewing the photos. And sure enough there was Jarad A., clearly touching the cross when it first hit the water. Hours later, organizers declared that this year, there would be three winners.

### **But it's not over yet!**

The next week's edition of The Hellenic Voice had a headline reading "Fourth Boy Also Retrieves Cross in Tarpon Springs".

In further developments at Epiphany celebrations Tarpon Springs this year, a fourth boy has been blessed after it was determined that he also came up with a cross. Over the weekend, photos and video were posted online and local news reports said that they saw Alexi L. lift the cross out of the water with both hands before he was dragged down by other divers. It was also determined that the Louis M. had grabbed the cross away from Jared A.

Archbishop Demetrious told organizers that it would be best to recognize all four of the boys.

**(Kind of makes you wonder how next year's event will go, doesn't it.)**

**Penelope's Corner** Each day the streets of Athens become more crowded with families newly evicted from their homes due to job loss and the inability to pay their bills. As Greece's escalating economic woes drive more families into a desperate struggle to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) in cooperation with Apostoli, the social service agency of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Athens, is putting your support to work securing food aid packages for impoverished families and jobs for the unemployed.

The job shortage is especially dire for young workers under 25 with more than 46 percent of them without a job according to EU statistics. Through your desire to help, IOCC is supporting Apostoli's efforts to employ young people for jobs collecting, sorting and packaging food items from donation centers set up in 213 participating supermarkets in Greece.

From a warehouse space donated by the Greek army, the newly hired workers assemble 30-pound parcels containing enough food staples such as flour, rice, beans, milk and canned tomatoes to feed a family of four for a month. The food aid packages are then delivered each month to 70 parishes in the greater Athens metropolitan area where they are distributed by the parish priest to families living in poverty. To date, 1,700 families numbering approximately 7,000 people receive monthly food aid packages.

IOCC Executive Director, Constantine Triantafilou, who witnessed the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Greece during his visit last month, says, "IOCC opens its heart and hand to the people of Greece during

these difficult times and we encourage those in Greece who can help their neighbors to work with the Church to do so.”

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If Cats Go to Heaven ...

A cat dies and goes to Heaven. God meets him at the gate and says, "You have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you desire is yours, all you have to do is ask."

The cat says, "Well, I lived all my life with a poor family on a farm and had to sleep on hardwood floors."

God says, "Say no more." And instantly, a fluffy pillow appears.

A few days later, 6 mice are killed in a tragic accident and they go to Heaven. God meets them at the gate with the same offer that He made the cat. The mice said, "All our lives we've had to run. Cats, dogs and even women with brooms have chased us. If we could only have a pair of roller skates, we wouldn't have to run anymore."

God says, "Say no more." And instantly, each mouse is fitted with a beautiful pair of tiny roller skates.

About a week later, God decides to check and see how the cat is doing. The cat is sound asleep on his new pillow. God gently wakes him and asks, "How are you doing? Are you happy here?"

The cat yawns and stretches and says, "Oh, I've never been happier in my life. And those Meals on Wheels you've been sending over are the best!" \_\_\_\_\_

Stress is the trash of modern life – we all generate it but if you don't dispose of it properly, it will pile up and overtake your life. - Danzae Pace

### **AHEPA Feeds the Hungry, Serves the Poor in New York**

**NEW YORK** (AHEPA Public Service) -- Since 1879, the Bowery Mission in Lower Manhattan has deployed Christian love in the war against poverty. On January 3, members and officers of the Order of AHEPA expressed the philanthropic dimension of that fraternal organization. Jimmy Kokotas owner of Tom's Restaurant in Brooklyn and Supreme Governor of Region 3 with the support of Mike Papaphotes and his Delphi Chapter were able to feed a hearty Greek meal to almost 300 hungry New Yorkers.

When Kokotas mentioned the idea of volunteering and helping the needy, brother Dean Polites told him about the Mission. Polites, one of Delphi Chapter's newest members, had mentioned to Kokotas his work with the mission through a group of professionals called the Young Philanthropists. The work of the

Mission is very impressive both as an expression of love and an effective operation. Trevor Mathura from Trinidad is the kitchen manager. Polite and eager to tell the story of how they help people, he was pleased that the Greek-Americans, with their abundance of kitchen expertise, were able to prepare the food for the volunteers to bring to the guests. That is what the people who partake of the meals are, guests. After participating in singing and prayers in the chapel, they are invited for dinner in the hall next door.

AHEPA's volunteers arrived after work and took over the kitchen. The massive amounts of food were prepared not at Tom's but at Jimmy's father's restaurant, Perry's in Brooklyn's Sheepshead Bay area. Kokotas was very impressed with the courteous and energetic servers, teenagers from far-off Suffolk County. They are part of a homeschooling organization called LEAH and volunteer at the Mission on the first Tuesday of every month.

There were two servings of dinner that evening. The first was for the 80 people who are part of a six-month residential recovery program that aims to literally transform lives. People who are struggling are able to reside at the mission, participate in chapel services and other activities. They also receive training both in specific employment areas and in job search and interview techniques. The mission's objective is to get them whatever they need to get their lives back on track. The second dinner session is for needy walk-ins. On the coldest night of the season, more people came than expected. They represented numerous ethnic and age groups. The Ahepans were ready and fed them the Greek food requested by the Mission. There was pastichio, spanakopita and avgolemono soup.

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This article might make us think about what we can do to help feed those in need here. Of course there is the soup kitchen downtown in Pueblo. Daughters of Penelope had a food drive for the Food Bank (which was very successful). In these hard economic times, families are really struggling. Great Lent is coming and Orthodox Christians are giving up many foods and concentrating on their spiritual life. However, for many, they need food before they can concentrate on anything else. This might be food for our thoughts!

Send us your ideas on ways we may be able to help others

Enclosed please find an important statement by **THE ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL ORTHODOX BISHOPS OF NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA** issued in response to recent regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Please make this statement known to all of your parishioners and to your local media. Thank you.

Your prayers.

+Bishop Basil

*Secretary*

*Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North & Central America*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

### **Record of Protest Against the Infringement of Religious Liberty by the Department of Health and Human Services**

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, which is comprised of the 65 canonical Orthodox bishops in the United States, Canada and Mexico, join their voices with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and all those who adamantly protest the recent decision by the United States Department of Health and Human Services

(<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/01/20120120a.html>), and call upon all the Orthodox Christian faithful to contact their elected representatives today to voice their concern in the face of this threat to the sanctity of the Church's conscience.

In this ruling by HHS, religious hospitals, educational institutions, and other organizations will be required to pay for the full cost of contraceptives (including some abortion-inducing drugs) and sterilizations for their employees, regardless of the religious convictions of the employers.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. This freedom is transgressed when a religious institution is required to pay for "contraceptive services" including abortion-inducing drugs and sterilization services that directly violate their religious convictions. Providing such services should not be regarded as mandated medical care. We, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops, call upon HHS Secretary Sebelius and the Obama Administration to rescind this unjust ruling and to respect the religious freedom guaranteed all Americans by the First Amendment.

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