

# TRANSaGRAM

January 2012

Monthly / Issue No. 1

Happy New Year!



TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Fr. Stephen Lawrence, Pastor

## Gingerbread House Family Night

by Cathy Koufogazos, Trans-a-Gram Editor

On Friday, December 16, over 15 parish families gathered in the church hall to participate in the church's annual Gingerbread House Family Night. Held each year just before Christmas, Gingerbread House Family Night has become a favorite family night tradition with Transfiguration parish family and friends. Each family brings one or two bags of candies for use in decorating the houses, and the family night committee provides the gingerbread houses, festive music, and pizza dinner.

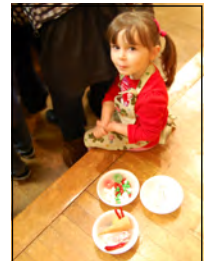
No two houses ever come out the same — each family's creativity in designing their houses is limitless. Ice cream cone Christmas trees, gumdrop wreaths, Snow Cap® shingles, and Tootsie Roll® yule logs are just some of the clever home additions. The finished houses become a charming holiday decoration and conversation piece filled with memories of a fun night spent with family and friends.

This year's Gingerbread House Family Night was one of most well attended in recent years. The event grows in popularity every year. We thank Cassandra Floor, Elizabeth de la Torre, and Melanie Pappas for coordinating this year's memorable Gingerbread House Family Night.

PHOTOS BY EVANTHEA VLAHAKIS



Kids and their families had a wonderful time decorating gingerbread houses at December's popular Family Night.



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We reprint 'Musings' from January 2011; Fr. Stephen's series on the power of stories will continue in the next issue of the *Trans-a-Gram*.

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#### Church News

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# Ends and Beginnings

by Fr. Stephen Lawrence

*(Editor's Note: This month's 'Musings' is reprinted from the January 2011 edition of the Trans-α-Gram. Fr. Stephen's series on the power of stories will continue next month.)*

Ends and beginnings. Each follows on the heel of the other. All beginnings move inexorably to an end. And each end is in turn followed by a new beginning. In between we reflect and plan; we gather up our courage and convictions, make our resolutions and commit ourselves to the year ahead. Filled with dreams and expectations, we set forth on another year's journey. What should we expect this year? What does our Christ expect of us? Where do we want to be in our spiritual journey when 2011 comes to a close?

In reflecting on my own hopes for the coming year, I'd like to dedicate this space to discussing the basics of our Faith. I would like us to "get back to basics" and recommit ourselves to a Greek Orthodox view on life, God, and each other. But to do that we need to intentionally remind ourselves of what exactly our Greek Orthodox view is on life, God and each other. So this month, I'd like to start the conversation; and I'd like you all to join me. Each month I'll reflect on the foundational Christian Truths about Who our God is, why He created us — even how He created us, and what we're supposed to do. But to keep this from being a one-way conversation I want to solicit your feedback and questions. Please submit your comments or questions to the "Stump the Priest" box in the back of the Narthex each month — depending on the questions I can either answer them in church or include them in the next month's **Musings**.

*"I would like us to 'get back to basics' and recommit ourselves to a Greek Orthodox view on life, God, and each other."*

We'll examine questions about Creation — Why do we exist? What are we supposed to accomplish? What is our purpose? We'll slowly tackle questions about human nature — How do our souls work? What does sin do to us spiritually? How do we grow spiritually? We'll look into the nuts and bolts of Christian living — Why should we attend Liturgy? How should we live? How do we overcome temptations? And we'll explore the nature of our Greek Orthodox Faith — What does it mean to call the Church a spiritual hospital? How do we prepare for and 'run the race'? Along the way we'll learn about the spiritual practices, disciplines, and tools of our Christian Faith. But even more than that, we'll share resources and strategies to bring the Orthodox

Spiritual Path into each of our lives. We'll talk about how to 'Begin to Pray' and point out resources that will help us, as well as outline a basic plan to get started. We'll talk about easing into Fasting, with resources and outlines for that as well. We'll talk about almsgiving, Scripture, the Sacramental Life and offer resources and outlines for each of these.

Each month we'll engage one question at a time. And each month I'll try to leave you with some resources for further exploration if you are interested or inspired. My hope is that this inspires a larger conversation; that as a parish family we begin to talk about our spiritual lives together, supporting and encouraging one another as we journey toward the Kingdom which is our home.

✠ Fr. Stephen

## Sunday Epistle and Gospel Readings

1/1/2012

Matins: [John 20:1-10](#)  
Epistle: [St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 2:8-12](#)  
Gospel: [Luke 2:20-21, 40-52](#)

1/8/2012

Matins: [John 20:11-18](#)  
Epistle: [St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13](#)  
Gospel: [Matthew 4:12-17](#)

1/15/2012

Matins: [John 20:19-31](#)  
Epistle: [St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11](#)  
Gospel: [Luke 17:12-19](#)

1/22/2012

Matins: [John 21:1-14](#)  
Epistle: [St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15](#)  
Gospel: [Luke 19:1-10](#)

1/29/2012

Matins: [John 21:14-25](#)  
Epistle: [St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1](#)  
Gospel: [Matthew 15:21-28](#)



Beloved in the Lord,  
“And the *Logos* became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

On Christmas day, the Church proclaims to humanity the good tidings of the birth of the Savior who is “Light of Light, True God of True God, begotten not created ... who, “for us men and our salvation came down from heaven and was Incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and

became man” (Confession of Faith).

Holy Scripture, the hymnology of the Church, and the Orthodox Christian icon help us to focus on this, the greatest of mysteries. “He who knows no beginning now begins to be, and the *Logos* is made flesh” (Doxastikon of Christmas Orthros). The Divine *Logos*, “He who by nature is invisible is seen today in the flesh”. “He lowered the heavens and came down to fashion corrupt Adam anew” (hymns from the Lity authored by John the monk).

St. Paul writing to the Galatians proclaims that God sent forth His Son, “so that we may receive adoption as Sons” (4,5). To the Romans, he speaks of the consequences of this salvific miracle: “If we are children of God, then we are heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him” (Romans 8:17).

Studying the icon of the Nativity, we learn that Christmas is a Paschal mystery which culminates in the passion, death and Resurrection of Christ. The Incarnate Savior is seen in a sepulcher-shaped manger. He is wrapped in a winding burial cloth foreshadowing His repose in a sepulcher hewn from rock following his Crucifixion (Luke 23:53). The infant Jesus is not placed in a cradle, but on an altar of sacrifice symbolizing His death. The icon of the Nativity, however, points beyond darkness and death. A brilliant ray of light and an image of a dove pierce the darkness of the cave to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit. Above is the hand of the Father, the source of life. On the altar lies the incarnate Christ. In the poverty and misery of a manger, the three persons of the Holy Trinity appear. God is present and makes Himself known.

It is of paramount importance for us “to arise and behold the divine condescension from on high that is made manifest to us.” (Sticheron of the Sixth Hour). This is indeed difficult. The obstacles to Christian faith and practice raised by secular culture have unquestionably affected our lives. We are immersed in an environment beset by cynicism, apathy and selfishness — in a society that has lost its spiritual roots. Our culture has no time to reflect upon the “reason for the season.” It is reported that 98% of the references in various media highlight the impact of Christmas on the economy, on travel, on retail sales, etc. Few stories refer to the Son of God. Sadly, the media is only part of our culture which is determined to push Christ out of our sphere of interest. Public and private schools throughout America have removed references

*Continued on page 10*

## From the Clergy Brotherhood

by Fr. Christopher Stamas, St. George Cathedral (Springfield, MA)

“You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance.” Psalm 65(64):11

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we all celebrate the New Year 2012 and the endless possibilities that may be ours as a local parish, a Church, a state and a nation, we look first to God as we always do and ask for His blessings. We ask God to watch over us and protect us, to guide us and to reveal Himself to us in worship and in every person we meet.

As Orthodox Christians and the inheritors of Christ’s holy Church, our greatest responsibility is to be seeking God constantly. We seek Him most frequently in our daily personal prayers, hoping not only that God will hear us and answer us but also that we, the ones who pray, will be transformed, sanctified and cleansed by the words and the simple action of connecting with our Lord. St. Paul, in his epistle to the Ephesians, wrote, “Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word” (5:26).

So, as we are about to celebrate on January 6 the most holy Feast of Theophany, the Triune God’s making Himself known to us, we see that it is not only our formal Baptism or even our commemoration of Christ’s Baptism that cleanses us but our own daily efforts also to turn to Him and His Word for life and inspiration. Like our daily actions of eating, drinking and showering, the Fathers of the Church encourage us to be striving

to be more dependent on God in our spiritual lives also. As the Bread of Life and the Living Water, only Christ can satisfy our hunger, our thirst, and our need to be cleansed. It is this dependence that we develop on God and His Church that ultimately frees us, empowers us, and motivates us to greater and greater expressions of charity and holiness. If we or our parishes are lacking in any of these, it is because we have not realized our God-given potential yet, as co-workers in the ministry of Christ.

Several years ago, I met a man who told me about his prayer life. He explained to me that, as a child, he had learned the basics about God but that his spiritual life was nearly non-existent. As an adult and a new parent, he looked at his own spirituality and admitted to himself that it had virtually no effect on his actions or words. He decided to dig deeper. After speaking to his priest, he began following the spiritual disciplines of study, weekly fasting, daily prayer, service to others, and Holy Confession. As he put it, “I knew that nothing would change in me if I just kept doing the same thing, so I decided to really let God into my life and see what would happen.” Today, that man is a true leader, a selfless servant, and great benefactor in his community, the right hand of his priest, and one of the many who have stepped forward and stepped out of their comfort zone to find a meaningful and transformative faith that awaits all who seek it.

May the New Year bring us all into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. May His goodness, His love and His philanthropy be our inspiration as we seek to sanctify the time that God has given us.

# Advent Camp

by Olivia Sintros, VCC Coordinator

On November 19, we hosted Nativity Lenten Day Camp to 45 campers. The children represented the parishes of St. George Antiochian, Holy Trinity, Assumption, St. Phillips (Nashua) and of course the Transfiguration. Nativity Camp was a wonderful way to explore the real “reason for the season” that we just celebrated. Amongst the activities of the day, the children created a

Giving Tree, wrote a card to servicemen overseas, and experienced Santa’s Favorite Story about the baby born in the manger. At the conclusion of the day, each family was presented a magazine titled “Unto Us a Child is Born” with accompanying parent guide. Please mark your calendar for Pascha Lenten Camp on February 25.



PHOTOS BY ARTHUR SPARAGES



# Open Forum: Christian Stewardship

by Cathy Koufogazos, Trans-a-Gram Editor

On Wednesday, November 30, a dozen or so parishioners attended an open forum held by Fr. Stephen and the Stewardship Committee to discuss Christian Stewardship. Fr. Stephen led the conversation in a “round table” format of questions and answers. “Stewardship is a spiritual discipline,” said Fr. Stephen. “Just as fasting is about not letting food control you, stewardship is about not letting money control you.”

Questions about fundraising and almsgiving (charitable donations) were asked. Fr. Stephen clarified that fundraising efforts are meant to cover financial gaps if stewardship offerings are not enough — they are not replacements for proper stewardship. And almsgiving, while a very good Christian

practice, is a separate practice from stewardship.

Fr. Stephen added that giving our treasure is only one part of stewardship, which also includes giving our time and talents.

“Stewardship,” Fr. Stephen said, “asks you to challenge your lifestyle and to ask yourself, ‘What is my relationship with Christ?’ Stewardship is about intentional giving.”

Fr. Stephen plans to conduct more open forums on other topics throughout the year. Stay tuned for more information.



PHOTO BY CATHY KOUFOGAZOS

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# The WinterGreen Tea Photo Gallery

Photos by Evanthea Vlahakis



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TRANSFORM

# Christmas Pageant/Luncheon

by Cathy Koufogazos, Trans-a-Gram Editor

The Sunday School Department presented their annual Christmas Pageant this year on Christmas Eve morning, right after the conclusion of Divine Liturgy. Over 30 children participated in the pageant, which included a re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's search for shelter, the appearance of the angel of the Lord to the shepherds, and the visit of the three wise men. Several students took turns narrating the story of the Nativity while other students played the roles of Mary, Joseph, the wise men, shepherds, angels, and more. Throughout the pageant, the choir sang Christmas carols. At the conclusion of the pageant, the parishioners were invited to sing "Silent Night" with the choir and pageant

participants. We thank Sunday School Director Connie Gkolias and her staff for a memorable pageant production.

At the conclusion of the pageant, Fr. Ted Barbas (filling in for Fr. Stephen) invited all parishioners to meet downstairs and to share a special Christmas Eve luncheon together as a parish family, in celebration of the holiday. Over 100 parishioners and family members attended the luncheon, sponsored by the Fellowship Ministry. As a special treat, Santa Claus stopped by to talk with the young children and to hand out gifts. We thank the Fellowship Ministry and the Sunday School Department for all their work in providing and for serving food and refreshments at the luncheon.

PHOTOS BY CATHY KOUFOGAZOS AND NICK PAPPAS





I first would like to take this opportunity to wish you a healthy and peaceful New Year and to gratefully thank you, the stewards of the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, whose time, talents, and treasure have supported our 2011 ministries. On January 8, the newly elected Parish Council will take the Affirmation of Office for 2012. At that time, we will bid farewell to Corrine Dubai, Angela Hastings, Konstantinos Kalabokis, and Carl Maib, and thank them for the love and dedication they have shown as council members. I thank them for their varied contributions, and hope and pray they will continue to serve our parish in other roles. We concurrently will welcome returning council members George Bertos and Christian Zouzas, and new

members Bill Arvanites, James Demetri, Stephen Nicholaides, and John Vaporis. I thank them for stepping forward to accept a leadership role in the future of the parish. As I reflect on the future, I pray that as a unified council, we can continue to work toward being responsible caretakers of Christ's Church. On January 9, we will be attending a Leadership Seminar at St. Phillip's Parish in Nashua, NH; and on January 27-28, we will be attending a Parish Council Retreat at the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center. These initiatives will give us the opportunity to begin to bond as a new council, to review our 2011 goals, and to create 2012 goals while always keeping Christ's mission in mind.

## Parish Council Report

by Nick Pappas, Parish Council Secretary



The Parish Council met December 5 and took following actions:

- Voted to refinance the church's mortgage with Enterprise Bank, lowering the rate from 5.125% to 4.74%. The council will continue to pay \$3,200 a month with the goal of paying off the loan in 10 years.
- Voted not to have a Grecian Festival in 2012. As a result, the council will seek other fundraising opportunities to meet the \$25,000 special events income item in our operating budget next year.
- Voted to purchase six tickets at a cost of \$50 each for the Assumption of the Virgin Mary's fundraising dinner-dance on December 10 at the Olympia restaurant.

- Voted to make a donation to the Vaporis family, who will be out of their home for about four months as a result of a December 4 fire to their Chelmsford home. The council also agreed to place a notice in the *Trans-Notes* stating a special basket will be placed in the narthex for the next few weeks seeking donations from their fellow parishioners.

The new Parish Council will be sworn into office at the end of the Divine Liturgy on January 8, after which it will gather to elect a new slate of officers for the 2012 year.

## Stewardship Report

by Olivia Sintros, Stewardship Reporter

With the New Year upon us, we at the Transfiguration are truly grateful for you as a steward of the Church and pray for the good health of you and yours in 2012. The Stewardship Ministry Team is thankful for all who have completed their 2011 stewardship commitment to the Church and realize that some stewards may choose to fulfill their 2011 commitment during the beginning of 2012. On Stewardship Sunday, December 11, the Parish Council members and other parishioners placed their 2012 commitment cards into a basket. Many other parishioners have mailed their cards directly to the church. The Stewardship Ministry Team would also like to thank all who have thoughtfully and sincerely completed their 2012 commitment card. If you have not yet pledged for 2012, won't you please give prayerful consideration to the commitment you will be making to the church in time, talent and treasure. We have been asked to add an additional \$2.50 per week to our pledge. Can you find it in your heart to answer the call? Let's remember that our true Christian Stewardship is obedience to the greatest commandment, "To love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength."

### As of 11/30/2011

Participating stewards: 363.....  
 Total pledged:.....\$151,128  
 Total received to date:.....\$142,490  
 Budgeted goal: .....\$142,000

## Treasurer's Report

by Konstantinos Kalabokis, Parish Council Treasurer



### Account Summary (as of December 8, 2011)

Account	Balance
Altar Fund	\$2,893
Festival Checking	\$1,460
General Checking	\$28,583
Mortgage Elimination	\$11,760
Money Market Savings	\$133,808
	<b>\$178,504</b>

If you have any questions, or are interested in helping, please contact me at [treasurer@transchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@transchurch.org).

*The Transfiguration Church family expresses their condolences to Fr. Stephen and his family on the recent passing of Fr. Stephen's sister, Elena Lynn Lawrence.*

*May her memory be eternal.*



# Philoptochos Society

by Soula Spaziani, Philoptochos President

Happy New Year to all our Transfiguration Church family! The holidays brought a flurry of activity with programs and events to brighten the season for those in need. With the New Year now upon us, we turn to our Membership Drive. Each parish family will be receiving an invitation to join or to continue membership in Philoptochos. I am so grateful to our current membership for your support and participation. Each and every contribution is very needed and highly appreciated. I welcome and encourage new members to make this the year you join. Together we enjoy friendship and camaraderie; collectively, we aid those less fortunate and truly make a difference. Philoptochos is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Church — it would be a wonderful dream realized if every woman in our parish were a member of our chapter.

## Fundraising

*Fall Calendar Raffle:* Thank you to Elizabeth de la Torre and Ellen Dobi for coordinating this effort. Congratulations to the following winners:

- *\$25 winners:* Alice Danas, Corrine Dubay, Nick Pappas, Acelyn Colella, Joanne Lange, Amber Greathead, Olivia Gulezian, Kim Hill, Art Kostoulakos, Patti Corbin, Melissa Troy (twice), Sandy Carey, Olga Letsou, Georgia Basdanes, Gary Mastas, Zachary Gulezian, Christos Tournas, Chris Spaziani, George and Marina Balkas, Kasiani Litsikas
- *\$50 winners:* Joanne Lange, Dottie Costa (twice), Art Kostoulakos, Joyce Limberopoulos, Georgia Zamanakos, Ellen Dobi, Marcia Kostoulakos
- *\$100 winner:* Charles Mitsakos

*Christmas Card:* Thank you to Corrine Dubay and Ellen Vercontaire for coordinating the Transfiguration Family

Christmas Card. Many thanks to all parishioners for supporting this Philoptochos endeavor. The proceeds from this project aid tremendously in our philanthropic missions.

*Annual Benefit Tea:* The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Tea, “The WinterGreen Tea,” was held on Sunday, December 4, in our church hall, with 181 women, men and children. We were thrilled to welcome our parishioners and members, as well as Philoptochos members from the national and metropolis boards, and many sister chapters of local parishes. In the spirit of giving, guests were asked to consider donating a children’s book towards our Literacy Project. Special guest Jean Franco, Superintendent of the Lowell school system, spoke to all in attendance expressing gratitude for the joy and value this project brings to the community. Contributions to this project are ongoing, with bins available in the upper and lower lobbies. Many, many thanks to all our guests for your support at this, our largest fundraiser.

Praise and gratitude go to our chairperson extraordinaire, Ann Tavoularis, and her

committee for putting together a beautiful, festive afternoon. Many, many thanks to:

- Reservations: Deanne Finn and Susan Pappas
- Invitation & Program Design: Melanie Pappas
- Refreshments/Appetizers: Georgia Dristiliaris & Corrine Dubay
- Refreshments/Desserts: Eva Dukakis, Eleni Stavrou, Agnes Yankopoulos, Evanthia Tully, & Catherine Tully
- Hostesses : Joanne Kalabokis and Susan Mitchell
- Decorations: Ann Bertos, Angela Hastings and Nancy Lane
- Publicity: Evanthea Vlahakis
- Raffle: Gail Merrill and Sophia Quinn
- Super Raffle: Alaina Spaziani, Soula Spaziani, Ann Tavoularis and Christina Tavoularis
- Hall Preparation: Jill Laganas, Patricia Mahoney and Spiros Sintros
- Literacy Learners: Karen Mitropoulis and Olivia Sintros
- Favors: Karen Mitropoulis and Robin Walbridge
- Photographer: Evanthea Vlahakis



PHOTO BY EVANTHEA VLAHAKIS

Tea Committee 2011.

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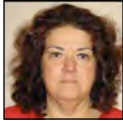
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# Parish Committee Reports

Various Contributors



## Sunday School

by *Connie Gkolias*,  
Sunday School Director

As we begin the New Year, the Sunday School department would like to extend greetings to everyone for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Let's start the New Year right. We all know what we have to do for ourselves, but what can we do for our children?

Let's all work together and make the religious education of our children our number one priority. Our children are the future of our church. They all need our help and guidance today, tomorrow, and always. We must never stop guiding our children; this includes not just teachers and parents, but also grandparents, godparents, aunts, uncles, and friends — we all need to work together.

Congratulations to all our girls and boys for their excellent performance in our Christmas Eve pageant, "The Birth of Jesus." The children work very hard putting together this pageant for everyone to enjoy.

Our annual Valentine's Day Bake Sale and Raffle will be held on Sunday, February 12.

## Christmas Reflection 2011

*(continued from page 3)*

to Christmas from the classroom. The lyrics of traditional Christmas songs have been changed. "Silent Night" has been changed to "Cold in the Night." "We wish you a Merry Christmas" has been changed to "We wish you a swinging holiday."

Under the influence of hedonistic consumerism, Christmas has lost its true meaning. Recently, shoppers filled retail department stores beginning at midnight in what has come to be known as "Black Friday." Regrettably, some individuals — armed with pepper spray cans! — proved that they knew the price of everything and the value of nothing. The wisdom of the world claims that happiness comes from what you own, how much money or influence you have, how important other people think you are. St Paul reminds us that we celebrate the birth of Him who, "though he was rich, yet for your (our) sake became poor, so that by his poverty you (we) may become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). We celebrate the birth of Him who asks us, "what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

Christmas has always disturbed the conscience of the materialistic world. It has always challenged those who are on a frantic race to



## Fellowship Hour

by *Susan Pappas*,  
Fellowship Hour Coordinator

*December 11:* Sponsored by Michael and Effie Zymaris in honor of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

If you would like to sponsor a Fellowship Hour in honor of someone, for a special occasion, or in memory of a loved one, please contact Susan at 603-886-4717 or at [smpappas16@yahoo.com](mailto:smpappas16@yahoo.com)

The cost is still \$50. You can also supplement the refreshments with your own special treats.

## Help Wanted

Volunteers to serve coffee during the Fellowship Hour on Sundays. You can serve with family and/or friends. It involves about one hour of your time. What a wonderful way to meet and greet our parishioners while providing a valuable ministry to our parish. For more information, please contact Susan at 603-886-4717 or [smpappas16@yahoo.com](mailto:smpappas16@yahoo.com).

enrichment at all cost. It has always challenged those individuals whose selfishness and greed exploit the dignity and rights of their fellow human beings.

My brothers and sisters, this Christmas, let us pause from the hustle and bustle of our daily routines to be alone with God. To pray. To read Holy Scripture. To read and reflect upon the beautiful hymns of our church which help us to focus on the Christmas miracle. Let us turn off our radios and televisions, our iPhones and iPads and everything else that is electronic. Let us hear the voices of the archangels proclaiming the birth of the Savior. Let us close our eyes to the blinding lights of the world so that we may see the light emanating from the cave in Bethlehem.

May that light radiate in our hearts and enlighten our minds this Christmas and every day of the New Year 2012.

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## Philoptochos Society

(continued from page 9)

*Next Meeting:* Our next general membership meeting will be on Saturday morning, January 14, at 9:30 a.m. We will enjoy breakfast together, followed by the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

*2012 Calendar:* An updated calendar of events for 2012 has been mailed to each member.

*Spring Yard Sale:* We have resurrected the "Family Yard Sale," which will run May, 2012. Please keep us in your heart and mind as you do your holiday and spring clean-up, and set aside any items you'd like to donate for our yard sale.

*Correction:* In last month's "photo from the past," the woman in the front row, far left, was erroneously identified as Mary Sarnos. She is, in fact, Ellen A. Sampson, who was the Mayor of Lowell in 1964 and 1965. We thank Betty Balamotis for the feedback and keen recollection.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JOAN TSOUKALAS

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# Services, Sacraments and Calendar of Events

For up-to-date information, contact the church at 978-458-4321

## Sunday Services

**Orthros:** 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.  
**Divine Liturgy:** 9:30 a.m.

January 1, January 8, January 15, January 22,  
 January 29

## Trisagia Names

Please submit names of your departed loved ones and the month in which they passed away so that Fr. Stephen can offer a *Trisagion* on the anniversary of their entry into the Kingdom of God. Each month we will commemorate those who have fallen asleep in that month. No donation is required.

## Special Services

- January 5 (Thursday).....*Vespertal Divine Liturgy and Agiasmos, 6:00 p.m.*  
*(Eve of Theophany)*
- January 6 (Friday).....*Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.*  
*(Theophany)*
- January 6 (Friday).....*Great Agiasmos and Blessing of the Merrimack River, 1:00 p.m.*
- January 7 (Saturday).....*Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.*  
*(St. John the Forerunner)*
- January 17 (Tuesday).....*Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.*  
*(St. Anthony)*
- January 30 (Monday).....*Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.*  
*(Three Hierarchs)*

## Sacraments

None

## Save the Date

### Bible Study

January 4, 11, 18, 25 (Wednesdays): Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.

### Sunday School

January 16 (Monday): Sunday School Teachers' Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

February 12 (Sunday): Valentine's Day Bake Sale and Raffle

### Family and Youth Activities

January 15 (Sunday): GOYA Sounding Board

January 20 (Friday): Family Night, 6:00 p.m.

### Vacation Church Camp (VCC)

February 25 (Saturday): Lenten Camp, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

April 13 (Friday): Holy Friday Retreat

July 23–27 (Monday–Friday): Vacation Church Camp

### Philoptochos

January 8 (Sunday): Vasilopita and Philoptochos Family Dinner

January 14 (Saturday): Breakfast and General Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

### Other Church Dates

January 8 (Sunday): Parish Council Oath of Office and Election of Officers, following Divine Liturgy

January 8 (Sunday): GOYA Planning Council, 12:00 p.m.

January 9 (Monday): Parish Leadership Development Seminar (Nashua, NH), 6:30 p. m.

January 25 (Wednesday): Council of Churches, 6:30 p.m.

January 27–28 (Friday/Saturday): Parish Council Retreat (at Retreat Center in NH)



**Family Night - Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 6-8 p.m.**

What's better than playing board games with family and friends?  
 How about a.....

**Great BIG Family Game Night!**

With life-sized game boards and family and friends as game pieces, there are sure to be plenty of laughs and a good time had by all! Pizza and refreshments will be served (including a themed treat).

*See you there!*

See full page flyer for details or contact Amanda Apostolou at [su\\_lou22@yahoo.com](mailto:su_lou22@yahoo.com).