

Cathedral News

Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral



Dean's Desk

My article during this season is always a hard one to write. The deadline is before Thanksgiving, so my thoughts are focused on this wonderful holiday. However, Thanksgiving will have already been celebrated by the time you receive the newsletter. We are already in our preparation mode for Christmas, but I am not one to get caught up in the holiday rush so far ahead of the true celebration. Therefore, allow me to share a few seasonal thoughts.

Thanksgiving to God is one of the very basics of our Orthodox Christian Faith. Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself at the last Supper **when He took the cup, "gave thanks" before sharing it with His disciples.** Saint Paul stresses giving thanks. He writes to the Ephesians that **we should be "giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"** (Ephesians 5:20). In his first epistle to the Thessalonians **he states: "in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"** (I Thessalonians 5:18). Please note that Saint Paul is telling **us to give thanks for "all things", "in everything".** This is not easy for us to follow. Yes, we offer our thanksgiving to God for the good things, for the blessings bestowed on us. But we are to thank God as

well for the difficulties and challenges we face in life. These test our faith with the hope that they will strengthen it. We have experienced people in dire circumstances whose faith has increased during their travail. Let us all work on being able to give thanks no matter what we may be encountering.

During this season, we should be spiritually preparing for the Nativity of our Lord and Savior. Obviously, we are doing all the externals to make our Christmas joyful, but we need to undertake our internal preparation for the most special blessing. The Church calls for us to have a forty days preparatory period, our Nativity Lent. Although it is not as strict as our Pascha Lent (for instance we still celebrate many weekday Divine Liturgies whereas the only one allowed during Great Lent is the Annunciation to the Theotokos), we still need to follow the disciplines of our tradition to prepare us as **much as possible for Jesus' Birth.**

This will culminate as we **celebrate God's greatest gift to us: His becoming incarnate in the person of Jesus Christ who would ultimately offer us salvation.** The familiar **passage from Saint John's gospel summarizes God's love for us: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only**

begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." **The Nativity story is one of which we never tire reading and reflecting upon.** The Nativity icon gives us the whole scene upon which to reflect. All of humanity and the world play a role in this miraculous event. Let each of us focus on the true significance of Christmas, keeping all the extras in perspective.

With Christmas falling on a Monday this year, our Orthodox Christian Liturgical Order needs to be followed. A priest can celebrate only one liturgy in a day. We shall have our regular Sunday morning orthros and liturgy as usual. Because the new liturgical day starts with the setting of the sun (the creation story from the book of Genesis states **"and there was evening and morning, one day"**), we shall celebrate our Christmas Vespers, Orthros, Divine Liturgy, and traditional carols on Sunday evening beginning at 5:00 p.m. There will not be a service on Monday morning since Father is prohibited from serving another liturgy in one day.

May God's blessing be upon each and every one of you during this beautiful and meaningful season.

Volume 59, Issue 10

December 2017

Inside this issue:

Schedule	2
Parish Council Election	3
House Blessings	3
Stewardship	4
100th Anniversary	4
Musicians	5
Golf Results	5
Community Outreach	6
Philoptochos Corner	7
Serving for Charity	7
GOYA Ad Book	8
Music CD's	8
Youth Ministry	9
AHEPA Minute	10
Penelope's Pen	10
Baklava Tins	11
Vasilopita	11
Registry	12
Calendar—Insert	



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

**Fourteenth Sunday of Luke
ΙΑ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΛΟΥΚΑ**

8:30 a.m. Orthros (Morning Prayer)
10:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:8-19
Gospel Reading: Luke 18:35-43
Acolytes: John Vithoulkas*, Daniel Bazianos*,
Theodore Singletary, Blake Georges, James Seevers, John
Seevers, Ioannis Bissi, Christopher Singletary, Nicholas
Blankenship, James Bobrovsky, George Vithoulkas
Epistle Reader: Peter King
Parish Council Liaison: Chris Kalentzos
Ushers: Philip Mourtzakis, George Panos,
Jonathan Loucas, Jim Katsaros
Narthex Duty: Frank Thomas, Dave Meyers
Welcoming: Andrea Junes Baker
Memorials: Deceased Philoptochos Members

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

**Tenth Sunday of Luke
Ι ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΛΟΥΚΑ**

8:30 a.m. Orthros (Morning Prayer)
10:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 6:10-17
Gospel Reading: Luke 13: 10-17
Acolytes: Gabriel Romito*, Mercer Reed*, Stamate
Theofanos, Zach Edwards, Anthony Maratos, Connor Andre,
George Sotos, Christopher Chavez, Christos Rubis,
Vassilios Ringas
Epistle Reader: Lanny Reed
Parish Council Liaison: Chris Kalentzos
Ushers: Mike Hall, Tom Kirk, Michael Fotopoulos,
Scott Gerard
Narthex Duty: Maria Reed, Steven Julias
Welcoming: Mark Chronis
Memorials: Petroula Kipreos, Gregory Chorny, Breslin Wiley

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

**Eleventh Sunday of Luke
ΙΑ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΛΟΥΚΑ**

8:30 a.m. Orthros (Morning Prayer)
10:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:4-11
Gospel Reading: Luke 14:16-24
Acolytes: John Vithoulkas*, Yianni Spears*, Nikolas
Chupp, Yorgos Flegas, Thomas Halsey, Spencer Warner,
Ethan Hawkins, Andrew Vithoulkas, Luke Branch,
Theodore Moss, Symeon Moss
Epistle Reader: John Vithoulkas
Parish Council Liaison: Chris Kalentzos
Ushers: Stephen Halsey, Ken Collins, Tony Spears,
Chris Demetrius
Narthex Duty: George Kokorelis, Lex Dunn
Welcoming: Dianna Gettas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΠΡΟ ΤΗΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΕΩΣ**

8:30 a.m. Orthros (Morning Prayer)
10:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40
Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:1-25
Acolytes: Nikos Mouris*, Peter King*, Timothy Tymowski,
John Galanides, Ben Loucas, Nikitas Karousos, Nicholas
Spears, Jimmy Spence, Manoli Loupassi, Nicholas Stratiou,
Niko Loucas
Epistle Reader: Ethan Hawkins
Parish Council Liaison: Chris Kalentzos
Ushers: Pat Branch, Jim Seevers, Athena Conte, Andy Ziu
Welcoming: Maria Tarasidis

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

**SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΗΝ**

8:30 a.m. Orthros (Morning Prayer)
10:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 6:10-17
Gospel Reading: Luke 13: 10-17
Acolytes: John Vithoulkas*, Daniel Bazianos*,
Theodore Singletary, Blake Georges, James Seevers, John
Seevers, Ioannis Bissi, Christopher Singletary, Nicholas
Blankenship, James Bobrovsky, George Vithoulkas
Epistle Reader: Ben Loucas
Parish Council Liaison: Chris Kalentzos
Ushers: Nick Morris, Effie Fotopoulos, Chris Stathis,
Scott Hawkins
Narthex Duty: Lambros Deligan, John Ashikis
Welcoming: Dianna Gettas

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2017

**SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Η ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ
ΚΑΙ ΒΑΠΤΙΣΤΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ**

8:30 a.m. Orthros (Morning Prayer)
10:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 6:10-17
Gospel Reading: Luke 13: 10-17
Acolytes: Gabriel Romito*, Mercer Reed*, Stamate
Theofanos, Zach Edwards, Anthony Maratos, Connor Andre,
George Sotos, Christopher Chavez, Christos Rubis,
Vassilios Ringas
Epistle Reader: Gabriel Romito
Parish Council Liaison: Ted Theofanis
Ushers: David Preddy, Paul & Peggy Christofakis,
Joseph Torrice
Narthex Duty: Frank Thomas, George Kokorelis
Welcoming: Andrea Junes Baker
Vasilopita Sunday

November Parish Council Highlights

Steve Julias reported that stewardship and over all income continue trending up over last **year's record pace, and** expenses are in line with the proposed budget. It was announced and a plaque presented showing our Greek Festival as the Best Food Event or Festival by the Richmond Times Dispatch poll.

On behalf of the 100th Anniversary Steering Committee, Andrea Junes Baker reported on the success of our Gala Celebration Week-end. She gave credit to the outstanding committees for the events associated with the anniversary year. She stressed that **“our community loves being together”**, and encouraged Council to promote more events. Maria Reed commended Andrea for her outstanding efforts.

Ted Theofanos shared the critical dates for the 2018 Greek Festival. The success of the iPads has the committee researching similar alternatives. Nominations for Parish Council candidates were announced and will be presented at the Parish Assembly. Maria Keritsis updated the temporary situation for the sexton, and a review process for staff will be undertaken. Bill Lucas presented the proposed 2018 budget which actually shows a decrease in expenditures. Maria Tarasidis reported on the first estimate for our current icon restoration project and cleaning of the iconostasis. The Building Committee is assessing proposed projects through the capital budget progress.

As a member of the Archdiocese Council, Maria Keritsis reported on the last meeting which centered around the financial crisis at the Archdiocese.

Fr. Nick reported on the National Clergy Retreat, attended by nearly two hundred Greek Orthodox Priests. Our annual donations to charities were approved as per budget. The purchase of a fire safety file for our official documents and ledgers was approved. Volunteers for CARITAS and the Richmond Concert Band reception were solicited. There was discussion about security measures, a chair lift for the choir loft, and the liturgical services schedule for Christmas. George Kokorelis has helped parishioners with bequests and wills for the Endowment Fund. Maria Keritsis was thanked for her donation of the new conference room table.



Elections December 10th

Parish Council 2018 Candidates are:

John Ashikis	Jim Katsaros
Maria Bartz	Zach Matzaniias
Steve Julias	Angelo Phillos



Andre Room from 12:00 Noon—2:00 p.m.

For our members who would like to have their homes blessed, please contact the Cathedral office (355-3687 or office@vagocathedral.org) no later than Tuesday, January 2nd. It is very important to adhere to this deadline so that we can arrange blessings geographically and not lose valuable time from other ministries by returning to the same areas several times.

House Blessings begin the week of January 11th. Please have ready on a table an icon, candle, small bowl for the Holy Water, and a list of the names of the living for whom you wish the prayers offered.



House Blessings

“As the Father has Sent Me, So I Send You” (John 20:21)

2017 Stewardship Challenge So You Know



Please help us fill in the gap and raise an additional \$208,582 to meet our goal

- ✓ *Make an extra offering to boost us to our goal*
- ✓ *Pay off all pledged balances by December 31st*

Equal Sacrifice, Not Equal Gifts!



100th Anniversary Events

Unity of our Community

December 10th we will have a special coffee hour hosted by Orthodox Parishioners **from different ethnic backgrounds**. **Be part of the, “United by Faith” Orthodox coffee** reception on Sunday, December 10, after Liturgy, when we recognize all the cultures which make up our Cathedral family.

Bring a tasty treat from your country to share with your fellow parishioners. Bring them to the Dombalis Hall before liturgy and call Sylvia Evans for details, 285-0124 or e-mail: sylviaevans@earthlink.net.

Vasilopita Sunday

January 7th, Vasilopita Sunday and Recognition of our Parishioners with landmark celebrations during our Centennial Year. That includes births, baptisms, chrismations, and marriages.

[GALA Photos on Flickr.com](#)

Go to www.flickr.com Click Login top right corner

Sign in: saturday100yeargala@yahoo.com

Password is: 100yeargala

From that screen go to top menu line and click YOU and the next page click menu line item Albums and you are ready to view and download.

Cathedral Youth Record for the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians

With the newly approved (by the Holy Synod) English translation of the Divine Liturgy as well as selected Hymns of the Orthodox Church, the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians is in the process of editing and rerecording the **“Hymns of the Orthodox Church” series designed to help youth learn the hymns of our faith.** The National Forum is the official musical arm to

the Archdiocese. Our own Maria Keritsis is the National Chairman of the Forum. We at Saints Constantine and Helen are honored to have been asked to provide the new recording for the series. This will include the hymns being sung straight through as well as teaching tracks which facilitate the learning process. Lucy Pappadakes, a National Forum member from Charlotte, North Carolina, is

assisting with the recording, Nick Bambacus is the recording engineer and Sondra Awad is directing the project. The recording is in progress and hopefully the series will be ready for distribution by the new year. Congratulations to our youth for their dedication and hard work and thank you to the parents for their support and encouragement.



Golf Tournament – The Results Are In!

The Seventeenth Annual Richmond Greater Greek Open Tournament sponsored by our Cathedral was held at Belmont Golf Course on October 28th, 2017.

We had nine teams participating in the golf tournament this year.

The winning team shot a gross score of 71, and a net score of 62 (actual score less handicap). Congratulations to the winning team members: George Miller, Randy Jackson, Aaron Jackson and Ken Bailey. Dave Preddy won a prize for hitting the longest drive on the 10th hole.

Congratulations to the winning individuals and the

winning team. This was the most golfers we have had since I have been running this tournament. We all enjoyed a great day of golf and fellowship. With the good **Lord's blessing, we look forward to playing again next year.**

A special thanks to AHEPA and brothers Dino and Jimmy Tsamouras who donate prizes every year for the tournament. Thanks to Bernadette Cornelius and Caroline Moses who registered all of the players and accepted their payments and handled all of the paper work.

Finnie Theofanos
Chairman



2017 Tournament Players:

- George Kokorelis, Michael Kokorelis, Ty Aron
- Dave Preddy, Mike Pantele, Lex Dunn, Finnie Theofanos
- Jimmy Tsamouras, Dough Cornell, Kevin Stanco, R. Wheatonopoulos
- Lanny Junes, John Junes, Peter Johns, Dean Tiggas
- Bill Lucas, Kaylee Lucas, Tom Kapsidelis, Art Semon
- John Toutsis, Lloyd Mercer, Ken Bunting, Paul Vecchione
- Deno Tsimpris, Basil Tsimpris, Andy Ziu, Peter Ziu,
- George Miller, Randy Jackson, Aaron Jackson, Ken Bailey
- Mike Hall, Greg Silvestri, Demetri Arxalis, Joe Teagloul

Community Outreach Ministry

The International Orthodox Christian Charities tennis tournament was a resounding success. Twelve teams competed at the Midlothian Athletic Club, and they raised \$2,190 for the IOCC. Additional funds were donated by participants, who sent them directly to the charitable organization. Mark Chronis, who organized the event, said he intends to co-ordinate another tournament in October 2018.



Also, the Community Outreach Ministry committee has conducted two Emergency Response clean-up bucket drives this year, compiling a total of 22 buckets. The buckets, which cost roughly \$50 to fill with cleaning supplies, are used to help those victimized by natural disasters, such as hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. The shipping of all these buckets was generously donated by parishioners George and Cathy Jacob. It is worth noting that GOYA also contributed 100 hygiene kits containing toiletries and other items to the IOCC this year.


Thanks to all the Cathedral organizations for stepping up to provide meals for Reinhart House guests. GOYA sponsored the October meal with hoagie and

meatball sandwiches. Philoptochos has committed to sponsor the November dinner, and the Young Adults and returning college students are scheduled for December. AHEPA, the Greek School, GOYA and the Cathedral choir all have expressed interest in providing a meal in the new year. The Reinhart House provides housing and some meals to out of towners **visiting loved ones in St. Mary's Hospital's intensive care unit.**

The Philoptochos Society once again donated mini-festival meals for guests at the Fisher House near the [Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center](#). The Community Outreach Ministry committee currently provides two meals each year to the Fisher House but is considering increasing the frequency to four times each year. Like the Reinhart House, the Fisher House provides housing and meals to those in intensive care at the VA Medical Center. The Community Outreach Ministry is now participating in **Crossover Healthcare Ministry's Faith in Action Council**. Crossover is a faith-based healthcare center with two locations in Richmond, one on Quiocassin Road, another on

Cowardin Avenue. Founded in 1983 to serve the uninsured and underinsured, it offers medical, dental, vision and counseling services and is the only Richmond clinic that serves HIV/AIDS patients. Patients pay on a sliding-fee scale, that is, according to their income. Crossover is a place, they say, where people can openly and freely talk about their faith. The nonprofit healthcare organization is looking for ways to get more churches involved in its ministry and the Faith in Action Council is its tie to the Richmond church community. Look for flyers about Crossover in the Cathedral hallway and for more information in future bulletins.

All are welcome to join the Community Outreach Ministry committee. The final meeting for 2017 will be held at the Cathedral on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.



VIRGINIA BLOOD
Services

Cathedral Blood Drive
Sunday, January 28th
11:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Philoptochos Corner

Mini Festival Garners Praise

*We had a wonderful time at the **Mini Festival's opening day for lunch.** As usual, the food was delicious. I was too full for dessert, but I brought a piece of baklava home. I shopped at the kiosks. There was one with silver jewelry and one with wooden nativities. They also were ALL calling my name. --from one of the grateful attendees*

A Big Thank You

Thank you to all who helped with the successful mini-festival. It was wonderful to see our members plus others (men, women, teenagers and children) all working together. It is a huge undertaking and Philoptochos uses the proceeds to give to local and national charities as well as the Metropolis. Also, the profits allow us to provide monetary donations sent to Europe for refugees and to Africa for scholarships. And, of course, we enjoyed receiving many compliments from those who attended for our Greek cuisine and warm fellowship. —President Daphne Tsimpris

Mark Your Calendar:

Sunday, December 3

1. Philoptochos Memorial for our beloved departed sisters.
2. Philoptochos Christmas dinner 6:00 p.m. at Westwood Club

Tuesday, December 5 CARITAS

Wednesday, December 6
Saint Nicholas Name Day
Philoptochos will host coffee, decorate church and Chrismon tree.

Tuesday, December 12 Torch Club

Wednesday, December 13
Board meeting 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 17
Philoptochos will host coffee

Tuesday, December 19
Leisure Group

Sunday, January 7, 2018
Vasilopita Observance in the House of Worship. Following, **Philoptochos will host "Festival of the Breads" Vasilopita coffee reception and children's table in the Dombalis Hall.** Philoptochos will pass a special tray for Saint Basil's Academy during church services.

Vasilopita, January 7, 2018

Ladies, for expediency, please bring your pre-cut pieces with lucky coins on a fancy tray to the kitchen the morning of our Vasilopita reception prior to Divine Liturgy. Parishioners look forward to our **"Festival of the Breads" (both Vasilopita cakes and breads)** year after year, in honor of Saint Basil the Great. All Vasilopites are fragrant and delicious! Bring them on!

Philoptochos Christmas Wish
How quickly time passes! As 2017 takes its bow, we would like to wish everyone a joyous and blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

-Kathryn Helen Geranios



Serving for Charity

Early in the morning of Sunday, October 22nd, News Channel 12 predicted a 10 out of 10 day on the Comfort Index. When the day was over and the last point had been played in *Serving For Charity*, we were all grateful that the prediction came true.

Last month, Midlothian Athletic Club (MAC) hosted an express tennis tournament to benefit International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC).

The mixed doubles, round robin tournament grew out of a partnership between the Community Outreach Commit-

tee of Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral and MAC. 12 teams competed and over \$2,000 was raised to support the life enriching work of IOCC in the United States and across the globe.

Thanks to all of our sponsors and to **Nick's Produce** for supplying the drinks for the day. Of the 12 teams who participated in the tournament, 2 played the equivalent of a 5 set match on the green clay of Midlothian. Special congratulations to Thomas Clark and Rochelle Preston for their appearance in the finals across from Zack Pettit and Mary Church. Both teams played well, but Zach and Mary

came away with the championship certificates, a free lesson with Sonny Kierulf and Under Armor gear.

Thanks you Sonny and Dick's Sporting Goods for such wonderful prizes for our top 2 teams.

Serving For Charity



RICHMOND GOYA
TOURNAMENT AD BOOK



Sponsor Name:

Phone:

Email:

Black & White Ad Size:

Color Ad Size:

_____ ¼ page- \$40

_____ Full- \$200

_____ ½ page- \$60

_____ Full page- \$100

Ad Content:

_____ Email to nikitas.goya@gmail.com and include this form and ad

_____ Same Ad as last year

_____ Included in the space below or attached

Method of Payment:

_____ cash

_____ check: Made payable to Richmond GOYA

Payments and this form can be mailed to Angela Karousos 16430 Shefford Drive Midlothian, VA 23112
or given on Sundays at church to the adult at the Ad book table

Total Amount: _____

Richmond GOYA Basketball Tournament is January 20th & 21st

CD's Available

The perfect Christmas gift:

"Orthodox Hymns Through the Centuries" CD

The Cathedral Choir presented this concert "*SingTennia*" as part of the 100th Anniversary program series. This will be a wonderful keepsake.

CD's available in the Cathedral office and from choir director

Sondra Awad

\$18.00 donation to the Cathedral Choir.



Youth Update

November

November here at the Cathedral was just like it was **for all of you I'm sure....**

Busy! Something going on every week, just the way we like it! The Family Ministry program hosted a wonderful Family Night here at the Cathedral, where we had a pasta bar for dinner followed by dessert and activities for the whole family! We would like to thank Ted Rubis and Ampa Events for providing the fun and games.

Our Toddler Group took a little bit of a break due to all the Week Day Liturgies that fell on Thursdays. However, the toddlers and their Moms and Yiyias still made it to liturgy and had some fun in the Nursery after. We are excited to get back on a weekly schedule again for December and maybe even take some excursions away from the Cathedral with all the Christmas fun happening around Richmond!

Our OCF was very active in November. Dean Tiggas met with the VCU students every Thursday night down at **VCU's Cabell Library** and on November 16th they held a

"Friendsgiving" Potluck here in the Andre Room and welcomed a few UR students and other young adults from the area as well!

The GOYA had a very busy month that kicked off with a fellowship night at the Rubis house. About 20 GOYAnS enjoyed an evening filled with **bon fire fun, s'mores, night games**, and discussion as the parents sat inside and enjoyed the company of each other. The GOYA also went on their first basketball tournament of the year in Norfolk. It was a weekend filled with fun, fellowship, and healthy competition. The weekend ended with the Boys A team making it to the Championship game, despite playing all three games with only five players which meant no substitutions. The boys lost to Bethesda 54-48 in a very hard fought game to end the tournament with a 2nd place finish! Norfolk is always a favorite for the GOYAnS because of the close bond they have with the Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Newport News GOYAnS. The 9th and 10th graders had their **"Dinner with Dean" and got to** enjoy a night of burgers, fellowship and discussion with

Dean out in Short Pump. Finally, we had our monthly GOYA meeting where the officers led the night discussing business and upcoming activities and events as well enjoying a **"Friendsgiving" potluck** afterwards!

December

December is always a beautiful time of the year, and a very hectic one. Toddler Group will be meeting at its normal time of 10:00am on the 7th and 14th but then taking a break for Christmas and will resume January 4th.

The GOYA has many events planned including the Bethesda GOYA Basketball Tournament, our annual Baklava Fundraiser, cooking a meal for and spending time with CARITAS on Wednesday night of the week they are here at the Cathedral and finally our GOYA Christmas party, with Ice Skating earlier in the day.

OCF will be meeting weekly at VCU and also will be having a **"Break from Finals" event** during their finals week and before heading home for Christmas break.

GOYA December Calendar:

2nd/3rd: Bethesda Basketball Tournament

6th: GOYA cooks and hosts for CARITAS

10th: Baklava Fundraiser Sales in Dombalis Hall after Liturgy

10th: GOYA Ice Skating and Christmas Party

17th: Baklava Fundraiser Sales in Dombalis Hall after Liturgy

19th: Dinner with Dean (11th & 12th Graders)





AHEPA Minute

Wow!...2017 will be a year to remember!. Our church celebrated its' 100 year anniversary, where the AHEPA Chapter #83 was there to provide assistance and participate in the events and activities, as needed. What a wonderful time for all! Just in case you did not know, the AHEPA organization is also celebrating a milestone and will 95 years old, this year.

In the last month, the AHEPA participated in the annual golf tournament (known as) "the Greater Greek Open" and provided golf balls and snacks to all participants. It was a beautiful day and many of our membership participated. We will close out the year in

December, where along with the Daughters of Penelope, will be providing dinner for our Caritas guests. We plan on celebrating the Christmas holiday with a brunch at Meadowbrook Country Club. The AHEPA will jump start the new year with a dinner for the Reinhart House and hosting the District Workshop and DOP Mid Year Conference.

Our Scholarship raffle tickets are now available. Only 75 tickets will be sold. Prizes (\$100, \$200, \$300, \$400, \$500, \$750, \$1000) will be given out in February at our annual Champagne Luncheon. See any AHEPA member to buy your ticket now!

The AHEPA is an organization that promotes Education, Heritage and Hellenism. Our primary focus is on our community and the education of our children. Consider becoming a member today! You may find it to be very beneficial to you and to your family.

Yours,

Mike Hall
AHEPA President
Richmond Chapter #83

Penelope's Pen



With mini-festival participation and Founder's Day behind us, Antikleia sisters roll on into a festive Christmas season. New this year is that our chapter will be selling traditional Greek bread-type Vasilopites, complete with hidden coin and information sheet, on December 17 after church. This is a good way to carry on one of our great traditions, **even if you don't have baking talent or your crammed schedule won't allow for you making your own.** Each 10-inch round and 3-inch high loaf will cost \$15. Anyone wishing to pre-order a Vasilopita can call Nina Zachary at (804) 282-9098. This being the first time we are offering them, a limited number will be available so make sure to reserve yours right away since they will probably go quickly.

In other news, Antikleia will be serving dinner to Caritas clients on December 7, and we urge sisters to come at

about 4:30 and help us put together lunch bags and serve the dinner itself. On December 10, sisters will also be serving themselves at their chapter holiday celebration, after church (12:30 p.m.) at Meadowbrook Country Club. Cost to attend is \$17.54 per person, children 10 and under \$7.40 for what we have been advised is a truly excellent brunch. Sisters who plan to attend should let Donna Kontopanos, (who was kind enough to make the arrangements), know before December 4, at (804) 275-8959. Loved ones of sisters are welcome to attend.

Finally, we will be holding our January, February, and March meetings after church because of early nightfall in the winter months. Our first winter after church meeting will take place on January 14. We hope to see the return of some of the sisters we have missed, who have had difficulty with evening meetings. Light refreshments will be available.

One more thing: all our sisters wish everyone a blessed and joyous Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Until next month,
Penelope's Scribe
Shelia Demetriadis





GOYA FUNDRAISER

Get Your Baklava Christmas Tins...

AVAILABLE
DEC. 10th & 17th
In the Dombolis Hall
After Church

BAKLAVA TINS

Only \$10.00

PRE-ORDERS WELCOME



SPONSORED BY:



Name: _____ Quantity: _____

Contact Stacy Kovanes – email: greekdazk@verizon.net

Or Anastasia Tymowski – email: atymowski@yahoo.com

Daughters of Penelope New Years Vasilopita Sale



When: Sunday, December 17th after church

Price: \$15 (coin included in each vasilopita!)

To pre-order, please call Nina Zachary at 804-282-9098.

We wish you and your family a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Community Registry

<p>Birth: A daughter, Isabel Grace, was born to Alexa and Ben Follas on November 19, 2017. Happy grandparents are Daphne and Deno Tsimpris.</p> <p>Baptisms: Paul Bosland Kastens, son of Katharine & Royal Fredrick Kastens, III was baptized on October 28th, 2017. Konstantine Kastens and Theana Kastens served as sponsors.</p> <p>Constantine Dean Sotos, son of Dimitris and Skyler Sotos was baptized on November 5, 2017. Tom Louis Grammenos served the Godparent.</p>	<p>Chrismation: Mallory Myers was received into the Orthodox Church on November 21st with Mary Gettas serving as her sponsor.</p> <p>Weddings: Michael Kyriakides and Kerryn Manden were married October 28th, 2017 with Steven Kyriakides as the sponsor.</p> <p>Cary Saunders and Mallory Myers celebrated their Orthodox Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on November 21, with Drew Baker serving as Koumbaraos.</p> <p>Deaths: Vasilios Garos, grandfather of Victoria Tiggas, passed from this life in Florida. We express our sympathy to the family. May his memory be eternal.</p>	<p>Viola Talley passed from this life on November 15, 2017. We express our sympathy to the family. May her memory be eternal.</p> <p>Thank you: The Family of John Fanis wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to Father Nick, Mr. Prousalis and Dr. Bletsos for the beautiful memorial service for our husband, father and Papou.</p> <p>Thank you Tom and everyone who generously contributed to the bountiful Makaria. Your compassion and support means so much.</p> <p>We are so grateful for the cards, calls, donations and kind words of sympathy. Our church family is a great comfort to us.</p>	<p>CARITAS</p> <p>Volunteers Needed December 2nd-9th We will be sheltering a CARITAS Family Focus Group this December, and are looking for volunteers. Areas where we could use your help include: doing laundry, providing transportation to the YMCA, spending the night and preparing breakfast. If interested, please contact John Kyrus at johnkyrus@gmail.com or 510-910-3406.</p>
--	---	---	---

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Richmond, VA
PERMIT NO. 1266

The *Cathedral Newsletter* is published monthly by the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Virginia
30 Malvern Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221. Fr. Nicholas Bacalis, Dean
Email: office@vagogacathedral.org
Website: www.vagogacathedral.org
Phone (804) 355-3687
Edition: December 2017
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Hosting CARITAS Begins GOYA @Bethesda Tournament
3 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Philoptochos Christmas Dinner	4 Saint Barbara 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 4:45 p.m. Greek School 6:00 p.m. Parish Council 6:30 p.m. Adult Greek	5 6:00 p.m. Vespers in Virginia Beach 6:00 p.m. Adult Greek Class	6 St. Nicholas 9:00 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Choir	7 10:00 a.m. Toddler Group	8	9
Providing meals and shelter for CARITAS						
10 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Elections & Stewardship Sunday United in One Faith Coffee 3:00 p.m. GOYA Ice Skating & Party	11 4:45 p.m. Greek School 6:30 p.m. Adult Greek Class	12 St. Spyridon 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Adult Greek Class 6:00 p.m. Torch Club	13 5:30 p.m. Philoptochos Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Choir	14 10:00 a.m. Toddler Group 7:00 p.m. AHEPA	15 Saint Eleutherios 10:00 a.m. Liturgy	16
17 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Christmas Pageant Philoptochos Coffee Hour	18 6:30 p.m. Adult Greek Class	19 11:30 p.m. Leisure Group 6:00 p.m. Adult Greek Class 7 p.m. Dinner with Dean (11th & 12th graders)	20 7:00 p.m. Choir	21	22 9:00 a.m. Orthros and Great Hours (Office Closed)	23



December and January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Eve of the Nativity 5:00 p.m. Vespers 6:00 p.m. Liturgy & Christmas Hymns	25 (Office Closed) No Church Services	26	27 St. Stephen 10:00 a.m. Liturgy	28	29	30
31 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	January 1 St. Basil 9:00 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Liturgy (Office Closed)	January 2	January 3 7:00 p.m. Choir	January 4 10:00 a.m. Toddler Group	January 5 Eve of the Theophany 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers & Divine Liturgy, First Blessing of the Waters	January 6 Theophany 9:00 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Great Blessing of the Waters
January 7 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Vasilopita	January 8 4:45 p.m. Greek School Vasilopita 6:00 p.m. Adult Greek Class	January 9 6:00 p.m. Adult Greek Class 6:00 p.m. Torch Club	January 10 7:00 p.m. Choir	January 11 10:00 a.m. Toddler Group 7:00 p.m. AHEPA	January 12	January 13