



# GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

Fr. Basil Hickman, Presbyteros

MAY 2012 NEWSLETTER

## Services in May

We will celebrate **Great Vespers every Saturday** (except May 12 & 26) at 5:00 pm. Vespers on **Saturday, May 5** will be at **St. Nicholas OCA Mission in Pella at 5:30 pm.**

Monday, May 21st, **Sts. Constantine & Helen**, Orthros - 8:00 am & Divine Liturgy - 9:00 am.

Wednesday, May 23rd, **Leave-Taking of PASCHA**, Orthros - 8:15 am & Divine Liturgy - 9:00 am.

Thursday, May 24th, **Ascension of our Lord**, Orthros - 8:00 am & Divine Liturgy - 9:00 am.

**Food Pantry Collection** is always the third Sunday of each month. Please bring non-perishable food items. You are welcome to bring **donations at any time** and leave in the hall.

**Adult Synaxis** will meet Thursday, May 24, 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall. We will finish discussing St. Paul's 1st Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 15, dealing with the Resurrection. Bring a friend!

**AHEPA** will meet Wednesday, May 16, 6:00 pm at Ted's Coney Island West.

**GOYA** (our teens) will meet Sunday, May 6, 6:30 pm at the Farrells'. GOYA Advisors are Joanna Farrell (327-5077) & Calli Copoulos (262-893-8311).

**Parish Council** will meet Tuesday, May 1, 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

**Philoptochos** will meet for a Potluck meeting on Thursday, May 10, 6:30 pm at the home of Sandi Wurster.

**Women's Discussion Group** will meet Wednesday, May 2, 6:30 pm at the home of Chrystalla Daly.

**Sunday School** meets every Sunday through May 20, immediately following Holy Communion. Please remember: **students and teachers** should be first in line to receive **Holy Communion** so they can get to class as soon as possible.

**Library News** - Please see Elaine Avgerinos (278-2032) for all books, tapes, videos, icons and **Gift Certificates**.

**MANY THANKS to our Ladies Philoptochos for hosting a very enjoyable reception in celebration of our Parish Feast Day of St. George last month.**

We also thank Mary Hatzigiannakis for the wonderful Artoklasia loaves.

A **Trisagion Service** will be held at the Masonic-Glendale Cemeteries at 9:00 am on Monday, May 28th. We will meet at the AHEPA monument and then visit the graves of your departed loved ones. It is customary to have a small hand censor burning at the grave.

## FOOD FAIR DATES

Friday, June 1 - Set up, am & pm  
Saturday, June 2 - 11:00 am - 8:00 pm  
Sunday, June 3 - 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

We are pleased to announce the formation of a **CHOIR** in our Parish!



On Sunday, May 6 after coffee hour, we will have a Choir rehearsal/meeting. Our plan is for the Choir to gradually learn the hymns of the Divine Liturgy, using a hymnal. As the Choir learns each hymn, they will then sing the hymn in the Divine Liturgy, gradually building upon the number of hymns they sing on Sundays. The Greek and English languages will both be well-utilized. In time, we plan to make Divine Liturgy hymnals available to our parishioners so that anyone who wishes can sing along with our Choir.

Future rehearsal times will be discussed at our May 6th meeting/rehearsal. All are welcome to be a part of our Choir. Please contact Father Basil with any questions.

On behalf of our parishioners and the Parish Council, we thank the following businesses and individuals for sponsoring the Lamb Dinner of Pascha 2012. Please forgive any omissions.

Anonymous  
Kathy & Dalton Beauchamp  
George & Mary Christ  
Paul Despenas  
John Economos

Jim & Helen Frangos  
George & Mary Hatzigiannakis  
Jim & Christy Karthan  
Angelo Ligdis  
Anna Nicolaidis

Charlie & Elaine Notis  
Tassos & Chrisoula Papadopoulos  
Stacy & Shelley Velman

*In addition, we wish to thank those who made freewill donations at the Lamb Dinner.*

We also wish to thank our chefs and the Parish Council for all their hard work. Special thanks to our Chanters for their beautiful chanting of the Holy Week Hymns, to all the Altar Servers and Myrrh Bearers for their special roles, to all who helped with Church flower decorations, to the Sunday School for organizing the Egg Hunt, to Ben Siepmann for his wonderful updates to our website and to EVERYONE who helped make Holy Week and Pascha such a blessed experience.

**Spread a little sunshine!**

**Please remember our friends who are not able to get out and about by stopping by to say hi, or by sending a card, note or phone call. This would brighten their day.**

Angelyn Lempares  
Villa Care Center  
2721 10th Avenue North  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501  
515-576-7525



Nitsa Panagos  
Ramsey Village  
1611 27th St.  
Des Moines, IA 50310  
274-3612

Sandy Lu Peppin  
Colonial Manor of Anita  
1000 Hillcrest Dr.  
Anita, IA 50020  
712-762-3219

Krenio Wright  
Wesley Acres  
3520 Grand Ave. - Rm-JH 310  
Des Moines, IA 50312  
271-6696

**FYI**

Parish Council Minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the Church Hall for everyone's perusal.

**Prayers and Get Well Wishes:**

Voula Bennett, Elaine Koutsounis, Stephanie Zazas-Miller, Rhea Jaine Pendroy, Penny Pappas, Penny Ralles, Ruth Sacks, Grace Sandstrom, Ben Siepman, Yvonne Wessels, Randell Whitehead, Demetra Wolfe, & Hayden Zubulake.

***Vacation Church School this August!***  
Monday, August 6 through  
Wednesday August 8, in the  
mornings....*Details will be announced soon!*

**Many thanks to the following for their Holy Week - PASCHA Donations**

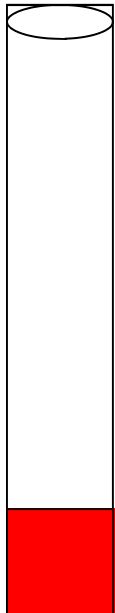
Flowers for Holy Cross  
Bridegroom Icon Flowers  
Holy Wednesday Unction supplies  
Holy Thursday Crown of Thorns  
Holy Friday Flower Petals for Myrrh Bearers  
Holy Friday Rose Water  
Holy Friday Garlands for Panagia & Christ Icons  
Incense for Lenten Period  
Votive Candles  
White Wreath for Cross @ Resurrection  
Palms for Palm Sunday  
Bay Leaves for Palm Sunday  
7-day candles  
Lambathes (candles in front of Altar screen)  
Drip protectors for Holy Friday  
Drip protectors for Resurrection  
Paschal Candle  
Holy Friday Epitaphios Flowers - Steve/Christine Christian, Fred/Jeanette Kruzich, Anna Nicolaidis, Charlie/Elaine Notis, Dr. John/Kathy Triantafyllos  
  
Charcoal  
Easter Lilies

Anastasia Polydorou & Krenio Wright  
Patrick & Nina Zaimes  
Jim & Helen Christakos  
Elaine Koutsounis & Jim/Ann Poulos  
Don & Mary McLaughlin  
Judi Telenson  
Judi Telenson & Dave/Sandi Wurster  
Fr. Basil & Presvytera Efi Hickman  
Zack & Kathy Zazas  
Larry & Joanna Farrell  
Larry & Joanna Farrell  
Bill & Diane Caldbeck  
Dwight & Becky Stanfield  
Tom & Sophie Vlassis  
Tom & Sophie Vlassis  
Dr. Larry & Kathy Beaty  
Elaine Avgerinos  
Fred/Jeanette Kruzich, Alexandra Zazas Fluneas

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

\$157,880  
(2012 Stewardship Goal)

**WHERE WE STAND**  
**January through March, 2012**  
**Stewardship Received**  
\$29,763  
  
**Pledges rec'd (as of 4/22/12)**  
61 families, totaling \$66,864



18.9% Collected  
\$29,763

**REMINDER to send in your 2012 Stewardship Commitment Pledge.**

***A big THANK YOU*** to John Tenikat for the many hours he spent polishing the candelabras in the Narthex, making them shine so beautifully.

***MANY THANKS*** to John Mercuris for his donation of the beautiful flowers in the large planters in front of the Church.

***SPECIAL THANKS*** to Paul Despenas and Midwest Construction for donating much-needed repairs and improvements to the nursery and Sunday School classroom areas.

***MANY THANKS*** to Boesen the Florist for the many Easter Lilies they gave our Church, in addition to the ones we purchased.  
  
The Church looked especially festive for Pascha!

If you have a son or daughter **graduating** from High School or College this Spring, please leave his/her name in the office. Graduates will be honored by the church on **Sunday, May 20** at the end of the Divine Liturgy.  
  
**Deadline is Sunday, May 6th.**



**Mother's Day**

**is MAY 13TH!**

## SERVICE MINISTRIES FOR MAY

Date	Altar Boys	Reader of Epistle	Prosfora	Coffee Hour
<b>Sunday, May 6th</b>	Dalton Beauchamp & Nicky Karamanlis	Chanters	Tom Vlassis	The Shenoudas
<b>Sunday, May 13th Mother's Day</b>	Ky Pearson & Cameron Caldbeck	Dr. Jim Prickett	Mary Hatzigiannakis	<b>"OPEN"</b>
<b>Sunday, May 20th</b>	John & Peter Gliniecki	Pete Economos	Christy Karthan	Philoptochos Graduation Sunday
<b>Monday, May 21st Sts. Constantine &amp; Helen</b>			Freezer	
<b>Wednesday, May 23rd Leave-Taking of Pascha</b>			Freezer	
<b>Thursday, May 24th Ascension</b>			Freezer	
<b>Sunday, May 27th</b>	Evan & Alex Economos	Chanters	Mary McLaughlin	Dean & Zifa Hackett

## SERVICE MINISTRIES FOR JUNE

Date	Altar Boys	Reader of Epistle	Prosfora	Coffee Hour
<b>Saturday, June 2nd Saturday of the Souls</b>			Freezer	
<b>Sunday, June 3rd Holy Pentecost</b>	Pete Economos & Nicky Karamanlis	Dr. Jim Prickett	Elaine Notis	FOOD FAIR
<b>Sunday, June 10th All Saints Day</b>	Zacharias & Gabriel Miller	Chanters	Mary Pappajohn	<b>"OPEN"</b>
<b>Sunday, June 17th Father's Day</b>	Ky Pearson & Noah Roberts	Dr. Jim Prickett	Denise Ragias	<b>"OPEN"</b>
<b>Sunday, June 24th</b>	Dalton Beauchamp & Cameron Caldbeck	Chanters	Judi Telenson	<b>"OPEN"</b>
<b>Friday, June 29th Sts. Peter &amp; Paul</b>			Freezer	
<b>Saturday, June 30th Holy 12 Apostles</b>			Freezer	



***DON'T FORGET— We need Coffee Hour Stewards!!!! A sign-up sheet is posted.***  
As you enter the kitchen, you will notice the flip chart.

***Please pick a Sunday of your choice and sign your name, or call the office - 277-0780.***

# **“Proclaim His Resurrection”**

## ***Seven Miles with Jesus...***

A Sermon by Father Christopher Makiej

One of the most profound passages of Scripture is the story of Jesus appearing to two men walking on a road on the day of His Resurrection. Luke and Cleopas were traveling to the village of Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. Suddenly, the Resurrected Jesus appeared and walked with them, although at first they did not recognize Him.

The events and conversation that occurred on this seven-mile journey with Jesus provide us with powerful and practical teachings that can invigorate our spiritual lives. Please open your Bibles to the Gospel of Luke 24:13-35.

### **EVALUATE OUR ROAD**

First of all, we see in verse 13 that Luke and Cleopas are *traveling on a road*. They are on a seven mile journey. And so this passage has the backdrop and image of a road being traveled.

Being a Christian is very much like being a traveler on the road. Bishop Kallistos Ware writes: “our situation, say the Greek Fathers, is like that of the Israelite people in the desert of Sinai; we live in tents, not houses, for spiritually we are always on the move. Christianity is more than a theory about the universe, more than teachings written down on paper; it is a path along which we journey” (*The Orthodox Way*).

What is the road that we are traveling? Are *we* spiritually on the move? What is the direction of our marriages, our children, our families? Where are we going? So many people in our society today are spinning in many different directions morally and spiritually with no real purpose.

And so the first teaching from the road to Emmaus is simply a call to *evaluate our road*. Evaluate the purpose and direction of your life.

### **MORE TALKING AND DISCUSSING OF JESUS**

Secondly, in verses 14 and 15, we see that the two disciples are *talking and discussing* the events and teachings of Jesus. And as they were talking, the Resurrected Jesus Himself *drew near and went with them!* Jesus *always* responds when we focus our attention on Him. Immediately as the disciples conversed about Jesus, He came into their midst and walked with them.

Dear friends, we need more *talking and discussing* about Jesus! And when we talk about Him and pray to Him and meditate on Him, there He is, in our presence. A very pious Geronta on Mt. Athos once told me that no matter where you are or what you are doing, simply call on the name of Jesus, and there He will be, in your midst. It’s sort of like the song by James Taylor: “just call out my name, and you know wherever I am, I’ll come running.”

When was the last time you talked and discussed Jesus? Think about this week, your conversations with your spouse, family or friends. How many discussions do we have about Jesus and our Faith? Our children especially need to hear their parents frequently discussing and talking about Jesus, His Holy Word, and the teachings of our Church.

But it’s a challenge to talk about Jesus today. There is so much junk talk in society; so much superficial hype and spin in the news and media. No wonder so many are dazed and confused about the direction and purpose of their lives. Dr. Robert Shaw, author of “The Epidemic,” writes that “Parents find themselves enslaved by a materialistic, overachieving society that leads them to spend so many hours at work and so much money that they can’t make the time to do the things necessary to bond with their children.”

Friends, Jesus promises to give us peace and purpose, but we must seek first to shift our priorities and focus more of the attention of our lives on *Him*.

### **Listening: The Language of Love**

Going forward, another teaching from this passage occurs in verses 17-19. Jesus asked them what they were talking about (He was still preventing them from recognizing Him). Cleopas answered and said, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?” And He said to them, “*What things?*”

“*What things?*” Jesus asked an open-ended question. He obviously knew what they were discussing, yet He wanted to *listen* to them. And they opened up and talked at length, and He listened. It is said that “listening is the language of love.” Jesus loves us and He always listens. He wants us to talk to Him in prayer. He wants to listen to our everyday concerns and issues.

Also, in a very practical way and through the example of Jesus, we can seek to be better *listeners* in our everyday relationships. We are called to love each other. And love is *listening*. Be an active and aggressive listener to others. Ask open-ended questions. Put the other person first. Be *present* in all your relationships. And in so doing, we become more like Christ.

### **CORRECT OUR UNDERSTANDING.**

Moving forward on the road with Jesus, we see that He clears up the confusion and misunderstanding of the two disciples who had an *incorrect* belief in who Jesus really was. Verse 21 says that the disciples were disappointed in Jesus because they “had *hoped* that He was going to redeem Israel.”

You see, some of the followers of Jesus thought He was a “military Messiah.” They wanted Him to overthrow the Roman occupation of Jerusalem. Others thought He was simply another prophet or moral teacher. Very few could comprehend the immense charismatic depth and presence on earth of the God-Man, Jesus, whose purpose was to reveal the ultimate truth of our existence here on earth, bear the sin of the world on the Cross and then to be Resurrected from the dead!

And so it is with many people today. They have an incorrect and confused understanding of who Jesus really is. They merely think of Jesus as a religious leader or prophet like Mohammed or Buda. Books like “The Divinci Code” and others distort and confuse the true nature of Jesus.

So also do many contemporary Liberal Protestant Christian Churches not believe that Jesus is God. These “churches” have become social clubs of political correctness and tolerance of any theory about Jesus. They have become places where personal immorality is viewed as a “civil right.”

Even many Greek Orthodox are confused and misunderstand the truth about Jesus. I remember a young married couple who attended a Bible Study for the first time in their lives. They confessed that they never heard Jesus talked about much in Church and had no idea what the Crucifixion and Resurrection really meant. These are people who grew up attending Church!

### **Open The Scripture**

Jesus corrects the understanding of the disciples and clears up their confusion in verse 27 as He opened the Scripture to them and “expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

Friends, we need to open our Bibles and open our minds to allow the Holy Spirit to correct our understanding about who Jesus really is! Jesus demonstrated on the road to Emmaus that the only way to correct and true understanding of Himself is through His Holy Word. Through the Bible, God reveals His plan and purpose for our lives. Its astonishing to me when I see people fly through books like “Lord of the Rings” or “The Divinci Code,” yet they say they have no time to read the Bible!

I love the quote from Saint John Chrysostom: “I have always suggested, and will not stop suggesting, that you not only heed what is said in church, but also *constantly occupy yourself* in reading the Divine Scriptures *at home*.” Ten minutes a day of reading and meditating on God’s Word can open our minds, change our lives, clear our thoughts and correct our understanding of the truth about who Jesus really is and His purpose for our lives. The disciples said it themselves in verse 32, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road and while He *opened the Scriptures to us*.”

### **Going Further**

As Jesus and the two disciples approached the village of Emmaus, verse 28 tells us that He indicated that He was *going further*. Jesus wants to take *us* further in our faith and understanding of Him. Yet many will continue to resist Him. What’s keeping *you* from going further?

Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus loves us and wants us to go further in our relationship with Him. He wants to stir a positive change in our lives. He wants us to become more like Him: kind, patient, prayerful, forgiving, loving. He wants us to truly know and experience our purpose here on earth. And He wants us to make a difference in the lives of others by being useful in service to His Church.

Also in this passage, verse 30 tells us that Jesus was made known to the two disciples as He sat with them and “broke bread.” Jesus broke bread with them in the same way as during the Last Supper. This scene is an image of the Eucharist, as Jesus is also spiritually made known to us every Sunday when we receive Him. Every Sunday Liturgy then becomes a type of “Emmaus” at which we experience the Resurrected Christ and then go and proclaim His Resurrection to the world as did His disciples (verse 33).

May we surrender and follow Him on the road of our lives now, and always and forever. Amen!

*Fr. Christopher Makiej has served the parish of Saints Constantine and Helen in Andover, MA for the past seven years. He also served as assistant Priest at the Annunciation Church of Lancaster, PA for five years.*

Born in Lowell, MA, Fr. Christopher attended the University of Massachusetts, Lowell and graduated from Hellenic College in 1985 with a B.A in Business Management. He graduated from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in 1991.

Fr. Christopher has been the keynote speaker at various youth retreats and guest lecturer for several years in religion classes at Elizabethtown College, PA. He currently represents the Metropolis of Boston on the national committee of Parish Outreach and Evangelism. He and his wife, Katerina and their two sons reside in Methuen, MA.

## 2012 FOOD FAIR - (Sat. June 2 - 11am-8pm, & Sun. June 3 - 11am-5pm)

It's that time of year—The Food Fair is just a month away. Whether you're a veteran of Food Fairs past or new to our community, this is a time of year when the community spirit of St. George's is in abundance. We need your help for everything from baking to selling, to promoting, to dancing, to cooking, to wiping tables and sweeping up.

St. George Church looks to the Food Fair to generate approximately 20% of its yearly operating budget and that will not happen without YOU.

**Sign-up sheets have been posted in the Church Hall, and there is something for everyone! Sign up, or call Tom Vlassis - 277-7809. FOR BAKING/ASSEMBLY, CONTACT ANGELA SWEET - 243-4169.**

**TEAM LEADERS NEEDED FOR: Paximathia, yogurt cake, spanakopita evening assembly and samplers.**

**Please refer to the white board on the wall next to the library in the Parish Hall for "up to the minute" info.**



### GREEK DANCING

Children 6 years old & up - Adults are also encouraged to attend! Dance Practice times will be **every Wednesday in May from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.**

Questions????? Please contact Harry Zubulake (262-4529) or Presvytera Efi Hickman (278-1175).

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Clean-up Food Fair Signs**  
(See Tom Vlassis)

**Stencil St. George on Tents**  
(See Angela Sweet/Tom Vlassis)

**Auditions for Media Promo**  
(See Paul Despenas/George Mirras)

**SAVE** five gallon buckets food quality and construction grade.

# FOOD FAIR CALENDAR-MAY & JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1)	2)	3) <u>Kourabiethes</u> 9:00am Chair: Kathy Zazas	4)	5)
6)	7)	8) <u>Baklava</u> 6:00pm Chair: Christy Karthan	9) <u>Baklava</u> 9:00am Chair: Christy Karthan	10)	11)	12)
13)	14)	15) <u>Koulouria</u> 6:00pm Chair: Harry Zubulake	16)	17) Spanakopita 9:00am - Chair: Toula Ballou  Spanakopita 5:00pm Chair: TBA	18)	19)
20)	21)	22)	23)	24)	25)	26)
27)	28)	29)	30) Skewering 5:30pm Chair: Tom Economos	31) <u>Sampler Assembly</u> 9:00am - Chair: TBA  Skewering - 5:30 pm Chair: Tom Economos	JUNE 1 Food Fair Set-up AM & PM	JUNE 2 Food Fair 11:00am - 8:00pm
JUNE 3 Food Fair 11:00 - 5:00pm 5:00pm Clean-up	<p align="center"><b>FOOD FAIR WIND-DOWN WEEK</b> Clean, organize and store <u>ALL</u> equipment Please make post-inventory and debriefing notes <b>HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL!!!</b></p>					

Greek Orthodox Church of St. George  
1110 35<sup>th</sup> St.  
Des Moines, IA 50311-3797

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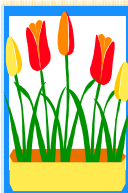
## NURSERY

**MAY 6TH LISA PEARSON**  
**13TH SHELLEY VELMAN**  
**20TH NO NURSERY**  
**27TH NO NURSERY**

### **AHEPA FAMILY CONVENTION - June 22-24, 2012**

Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites - Three Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN

Information provided in the literature rack in the Narthex.



#### **IT'S ALMOST TULIP TIME IN PELLA - Volunteers needed!**

St Nicholas Orthodox Church in Pella is in need of workers for the weekend of Tulip Time - May 3, 4, & 5 at their church booth.

All times are needed for coverage, from set up in the morning at about 8:30 until close after the evening Parade.

Even though the Tulip fest may be more of a stem fest, there will be plenty of people still hungry. Land lines can call Wes Klein at his store @ 800-654-8233 or cell phones can reach him @ 641-629-0107.

Thank YOU!!!

#### **Support DMARC through Birdies for Charity!**

Individuals, families, and groups have a great opportunity to support DMARC by raising and contributing additional funds through Birdies for Charity.

Birdies for Charity is a fundraising program designed to give participants an opportunity to generate contributions based on the number of "birdies" made by Champions Tour players during The Principal Charity Classic® golf tournament. With 879 birdies made in last year's tournament, Birdies for Charity raised nearly \$173,000 for local organizations serving youth populations.

**DMARC will receive 100% of every donation collected** on our behalf. To pledge or donate, or for more information, call us at 515-277-6969 or go online: [www.MovetheFood.org/birdies](http://www.MovetheFood.org/birdies).

Thanks for your support!