Pastoral Thoughts

by Fr. Jim Doukas

JESUS IS IN THE HOUSE

Once there was a very wealthy young man. He lived in a great, elaborate house with dozens of rooms. Each room was more comfortable and beautiful than the one before it. There were paintings and sculptures, crystal chandeliers, golden, ornate railings on the stairs. More beauty than most have ever seen.

One day he decided to invite the Lord to come home and stay with him. When the Lord arrived, this young man offered him the very best room in the house. It was upstairs and at the end of the hall. "This room is yours, Jesus!" he said. "Stay as long as you like and you can do whatever you want to in this room. Remember Jesus, it's all yours." 

That evening after he had retired for the night, there came a loud knocking at the front door. The young man pulled on his robe and made his way downstairs. When he opened the door, he found that the devil had sent three of his demons to attack him. He quickly tried to close the door but one of the demons kept sticking his foot in. After a great struggle, he managed to slam the door shut and returned to his room totally exhausted.

"Can you believe that?" he thought. "Jesus is upstairs in my very best room, sleeping, while I am down here battling demons. Oh, well, maybe He just didn't hear. He slept fitfully that night.

The next day things went along as normal, and being tired as he was, the young retired early that evening. About midnight, there came such a terrible commotion at the front door that the young man was sure that whatever it was, would tear the door down. He stumbled downstairs again, and opened the door to find that there were dozens of demons now trying to get into his beautiful home.

For more than three hours, he fought and struggled against the demons from hell, and finally overtook them enough to shut the door against their attack. All energy seemed to fail him. He didn't understand this at all.

"Why won't the Lord come to my rescue? Why does he allow me to fight all by myself? I feel so alone." Troubled, he found his way to the sofa and fell into a restless sleep.

The next morning, he decided to inquire of the Lord about the happenings of the last two evenings. Quietly, he made his way to the elegant bedroom where he had left Jesus, and called Him, as he tapped at the door. (continued on p.)
The Epistle is the official publication of the
Greek Orthodox Community of St. Demetrios
Phone: (440) 331-2246
Fax: (440) 331-8407
www.saintdemetriosrr.org
Editor: Eleni Papouras-Jenks

Sunday Services: Orthros 8:30 a.m.; Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
Publication Deadlines: Weekly Bulletin ï Wednesday
Monthly Epistle ï The 15th of the preceding month

Did you know that the church phone system has a Prayer Line?
Anytime, day or night, that you may need a prayer, call 440-331-2246 ext.7 and you will hear a seasonal prayer.

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440-888-6213; mirjuna@gmail.com

St. Mary of Egypt Monasteryé Mother Theonymphie
é 440-473-3885
Zoe House, 5939 State Rd., Parma, OH 44134
é 440-888-9990
OUR NEWEST LITTLE ANGELS

Zoe Ourania, daughter of Nate & Vicky Horne and granddaughter of Stratos & Rania Kyrkos, was born on Feb. 26, 2011.

Ioannis, son of George & Alethea Kypriotakis, and grandson of John & Evanthia Pallam.

Eleni, daughter of Ted & Stacy Loizos, was born on March 19, 2011.

Evangelos “Angelo” John, son of John & Maria Coutris, and grandson of Angelo & Christine Coutris, was born on March 26, 2011.

THOSE THAT HAVE PUT ON CHRIST

Michael “Bradley” Kramer, fiance of Rosalie Simiakos, was baptized on April 10, 2011. His sponsor is Stavros Suntres of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Windsor, Ontario.

Zannetos “Zane” Augoustidis, son of Alex and Lia, was baptized on April 30, 2011. His ‘nono’ is Mark Augoustidis of Ypapanti Greek Orthodox Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

ASLEEP IN THE LORD

Archie Catavolos, uncle of George Catavolos and many others, and decorated World War II veteran, passed away on April 1, 2011.

Nikitas Makris, father of Thomas, Stamatia and Christina; loving son of Stamatia and the late Dimitrios; devoted brother of Irene (John) Mastrosavvas, Konstantinos (deceased), Maria (Nick) Prasinos and Dino “Konstantine” Makris, passed away on April 10, 2011.

St. Demetrios Bereavement Support Group

Dealing with Grief – Although grief is a very personal experience there are many myths that can mislead us as we attempt to address these feelings. Here are some myths and facts about grief:

Myth 1: We only grieve deaths. Reality: We grieve all losses

Myth 2: Only family members grieve. Reality: All attached grieve.

Myth 3: Grief is an emotional reaction. Reality: Grief is manifested in many ways.

Myth 4: Individuals should grieve at home. Reality: We cannot control where we grieve.

Myth 5: We slowly and predictably recover from grief. Reality: Grief is an uneven process, a roller coaster with no timeline.

Myth 6: Grieving means letting go of the person who died. Reality: We never fully detach from those who have died.

Myth 7: Grief finally ends. Reality: Over time most people learn to live with loss.

Myth 8: Grievers are best left alone. Reality: Grievers need opportunities to share their memories and grief, and to receive support.

Join us to your feelings about grief the first Monday (June 6) of each month, 9:30 am, in the St. Philothei Chapel.

2011 LENTEN LECTURES

This year’s theme for the Lenten Lectures was The Beatitudes, from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount.

Below is a short overview of our final three speakers:

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted

Angie Gallourakis, co-facilitator of the St. Demetrios Bereavement Support Group, noted three types of mourning to restore lost dignity due to sin. First, we must experience genuine regret and repentance to reconnect with God. This includes asking forgiveness from those we have hurt and not falling into the same sin again. Secondly, we mourn the sins of others by taking responsibility for our fellow man. Finally, she spoke on ὁλοίους Sadness. After allowing ourselves time to heal, we have a choice on how to grieve in order to eventually reach acceptance and be comforted.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God; Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after Justice, for they shall have their fill

Fr. Nicholas Hughes of St. Theodore House in Galion, Ohio, first noted that we are never promised ‘happiness’in this life; the best we aim for is peace in our soul. He then humorously noted that when we try to get closer to God (I.e. fasting during Lent, etc.) we also open ourselves to attack by the Evil One by silly fights and annoyances. Once we can recognize their cause and ask forgiveness from those around us, we can be at peace. Being a child of God, he defined as being truly taken care of and protected spiritually. He then went on to speak about Justice, which in the original Greek, has more to do with ‘righteousness’ rather than the American idea of ‘fairness.’

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven

Gerald Largent of the St. Panteleimon Orthodox Christian Outreach spoke about tapping into our own humility so that we may minister to those who need us.

THE BOOK BLOTTER

Catacomb Bookstore All through the month of May, get a FREE copy of The Dome (a commemorative coffee-table book of our own dome’s mosaics) with your purchase of $30 or more (while supplies last.)

Theotokos Fellowship resumes discussions this month on Wed., May 4 and will meet weekly each Wednesday at 7 p.m. until June 8, when we will break for summer.
Speaking of Stewardship…

Efharisto!

A big thanks to those who made special seasonal donations:

–GOYA and St. Panteleimon Orthodox Christian Outreach for hosting the Lenten Lecture meals in April. And to the Spiritual Life Committee for another edifying Lecture Series.

–Our JOY and GOYA for folding the palm crosses for Palm Sunday

–Paul Diamantis and Allen Arabian for decorating the Nymphios icons during Holy Week.

–The Youth Choir for sponsoring the Plaki luncheon, and both Choirs for their beautiful voices during Holy Week services.

–The Daughters of Penelope for donating the Unction cylinders, and Jim Selos for donating the cotton products for Holy Wednesday.

–An Anonymous donor for the Holy Thursday wreath.

–An Anonymous donor for the Epitaphio flowers, and to Allen Arabian & team for decorating.

–Manuel and Toula Katrakazos for decorating the Anastasi Icon, and Bill Vassos for decorating the Anastasi Banner.

–Elaine Campbell & Linda Damiani (in memory of their parents Paul & Mary Uca) and John & Nitsa Revmataas for donating the Anastasi candles.

–Toula Pyros and team for dying the red eggs for Anastasi

–Koula Kadras for organizing the Myrrhbearers on Holy Friday, and the JOY Advisors for organizing the Pascha Egg Hunt.

–Greg & Katherine Stark for donating the chocolate crosses for the Agape service and our Agape Gospel readers.

–All the cantors, acolytes, Board members, and Fr. Spiro Kehayes for their assistance throughout Lent and Holy Week.

We welcome new member:

Nikolaos Kantouros

Have you invited a long-lost friend, relative, in-law, or neighbor to join you in church recently? The thousands of so-called unchurched people in the U.S. may just be waiting for one friendly face to recognize when they walk into a church. Let it be yours!

WHY GIVE???

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheeltd giver. (II Corinthians 9:6)

A good- steward- is nothing more than being truly Christian. Resolve to be generous with your time, talent and treasure.

“Let us remember that our Stewardship commitment is our investment in our church; for ourselves and our children not only for today but also for the future.”

Rev. James A. Doukas

WHAT THE CHURCH DOES FOR US

The church blesses us at birth, baptizes us in Christ, teaches us about God's love, shows us how to repent, gives us spiritual life, educates children and adults, helps the poor, brings us the sacraments of grace, marries us, buries us, gives us the message of eternal life, preaches Christ and His gospel of salvation, provides Christian fellowship, takes the gospel to the entire world, accepts all people, counsels us, gives direction to our lives, teaches us morals to live by and protects us from evil forces.

WITHOUT YOUR STEWARDSHIP THERE WOULD BE...

NO priest or Church to offer sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, Communion, Holy Unction or Marriage, no hospital visits, Sunday school, Greek school, bible groups, choir or activities for children and adults, or social activities in our hall including coffee hour.

Just like your family, your extended family, the church, has expenses. To keep the doors open, we must rely on our “stewards” to support us financially. WE are the stewards, God's stewards, put here to manage his earthly kingdom. Will Jesus say to you , " Well done, good and faithful servant...come and share in your master's happiness!" ? (Mathew 25:21-22).

We easily pay a cell phone bill of $200/month, a cable bill of $100/month, a grocery store bill of $300. We never question or negotiate the bill, we just pay it. Why negotiate and question your membership and support of St. Demetrios? If an average of $108/month will support our annual budget, why not pay it? (or pay MORE, if you can, to offset those who can’t)

THAT, is Christian stewardship, being generous, with a reward in heaven to come. (Proverbs 21:26) …the righteous gives and does not hold back.

2011 St Demetrios Stewardship Committee

Please contact Linda Glynias with questions (216)469-2663 or Iglynias@gmail.com
2011 Stewardship Pledge

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. 22909 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, Ohio 44116

(440) 331-2246 ~ www.saintdemetriosrr.org

We recognize ourselves and our world as belonging to God (Psalm 24:1)

It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)

We must give back to God what is really His-our lives. Sharing our blessings with God's church and with our fellow man like our talents, abilities and financial strength is an integral part of our life.

I/We pledge to give a total yearly amount of ___________________________ to 2011 stewardship, in regular installments.

Date ________________________ Signature__________________________________________________________

Please be reminded that our minimum expenses to operate our church and facilities are approximately $108/ month per family ($1285/year). We ask that you give a pledge equal or greater to this. To participate in a baptism, wedding, or activities like Greek School and GOYA basketball, a 2011 pledge form must be completed, and $300 must have been paid toward that pledge prior to the start of the event/activity.

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Phone (home) __________________________ Work ________________________________________________
Cellular __________________________ Cellular__________________________________________
Family Email(s)______________________________________________________________________________________
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Occupation (s)_________________________________________________________________________________________
List of household family members and birthdates
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________Please check if you would like pledge envelopes mailed to you

Please, let us know, HOW are you and your family going to be active at St. Demetrios? (check all that apply)

__Adult Catechism __Altar Boys __Tournaments (Basketball, Dance)
__Bible Study __Catacomb Bookstore __Bereavement Support Group
__Budget Committee __Choir __Coffee Hour Server team
__Communication/ PR __Festival __Fundraising
__GOYA __Greek school __Greek dancers
__Home committee __Home visitations __Hospitality/Welcome Committee
__IOCC __JOY __Library Committee
__Missions __Nursery __OCF/Campus Ministry
__OPA __Parish Council __Phi loaf tochos
__Reader (church services) __Stewardship __Sunday school
__Website/IT __YAL/POYAF __Yassou Club
__OTHER (please explain) ______________________________________________________
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Apotsos, James
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Greek Festival

June 16-19, 2011

Cooking Schedule

May 9-10  Moussaka/ Μουσσακά
May 16-17  Galaktobouriko/ Γαλακτομπούρεκο and Tiropites/ Τυρόπιτες

These items will be made at the same time, due to time constraints, so we will need LOTS of hands to roll & fold. The filling will already be made and ready to go at 9 a.m.

May 23-24  Lamb Shanks/ Λάμβανα

June cooking schedules will be announced in the weekly bulletins and through the One Call Now phone system.

Thanks to all our hard-working volunteers who have already prepared so many delicious dishes!

In preparation for the largest fundraising event for our Community, we are appealing directly to members of our community, friends and the business community by asking for donations to help defray escalating food costs.

Our goal is to raise $20,000 which you can help reach by making a direct donation or by taking out an ad in the Festival Program book for your company or encouraging your business associates to also advertise to the 40,000 people who attend. In an effort to make contributing easier, we are offering the following ways to make your donation:

- Fill out the form to the right and send your donation directly to the church office OR take out an ad in the program book.

Your generous tax deductible donation will help ensure the success of this year’s festival and the continuation of the operations and programs of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church.

- Sincerely, Steve G. Steffas and Angelo Coutris
Celebrate Youth!

Sunday School & Youth Choir

**Sum., May 8 (Mother’s Day) - The Youth Choir** will chant the Divine Liturgy for the last time this school year. Rehearsal for this day will be on Sun., May 1, after Sunday School and just before the GOYA meeting, in the chapel.

**Sat., May 14** Metropolis Round of the Oratorical Festival, Pittsburgh, PA

**Sun., May 22**- Last day of Sunday School classes for the school year.

The local round of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival took place on April 3 with seven Sunday School students participating (pictured below.) Congratulations to the Junior Division First Place winner Andrew Giavroutas and 2nd Place Runner up Steven Nikolakis; and to Senior Division First Place winner Eleni Nikolakis and 2nd Place Runner-up Leia Steffas, who all represented St. Demetrios Church at the District Round on April 9 at Annunciation Church in Cleveland.

**Greek School**

The Greek School PTO would like to thank everyone who supported our Loukoumades Sales. They were both a great success! We would also like to personally thank those who worked hard in the kitchen: Vera Karydes, Maria Theodore, Liitta Klidas, Alexandra Kadradas, Vaso Pappas, Popi Vagras, Stamatis Katrakazos and Georgia Salamalekis. We couldn’t have done it without you, they were delicious!

**May 24 & 26** Final Exams; last week of classes

**Sun., June 5**- Graduation Ceremony, immediately following Divine Liturgy in the hall. Refreshments will be hosted by the families of our graduates.

**J.O.Y. & G.O.Y.A.**

Thanks to all the GOYA families who brought delicious Lenten food to the Lenten Lecture and the Palm Folding. And to all the kids who helped make the palm crosses! (see next page for picture.)

**Sun., May 1**- GOYA meeting with Election of officers for 2011-12. We will also staff the Pangari on this day.

**Sun., May 15**- GOYA Gyro sale & hosting coffee hour, in the hall immediately after church.

**Hellenic Dancers**

**Kyklonas (senior) Dancers** Rehearsals in May will be announced by e-mail to registered dancers.

**Sat., May 21**- performance at the St. Nicholas Spring Greek-Fest, 2000 Tower Blvd., Lorain.

**Sun., May 29**- performance at Annunciation Greek Festival, 2187 W.14th St., Cleveland. Come cheer us on!

**Kymata (junior) Dancers** Rehearsals will be on Sundays after church in the Zapis Activity Center.
Christos Anesti!

The good news of Christ’s Resurrection was anticipated and proclaimed by St. Demetrios parishioners of every age!

(left) The GOYA and JOY kids making the palm crosses for Palm Sunday
(below) Parishioners decorating the Epitaphio for Holy Friday

Holy Friday cantors included (above) Emanuel Katrakazos, Jonathon Tartara and Nick Statheros and (below) George Rafailedes, Demetrios Kazakis and Ted Bahas

St. Demetrios girls waiting to represent the Myrrhbearing Women on Holy Friday

Photos courtesy of Allen Arabian
Alithos Anesti!

Due to rainy weather on Holy Friday, the Epitaphio procession was held inside the church.
Focus on Philoptochos

Christos Anesti to everyone! With those words we are all uplifted and reborn! Not only in our Faith, but in our Spirits, and hopefully in our inner energy as we draw nearer to our Church Festival where we will all come to work together for the good of our Community. That uplifting spirit has been growing in our Community through the year as many of you have been coming together for all of our calls for outreach, and we thank you once again.

In May, we will be having our General Meeting at Stino da Napoli, as a dinner meeting. It will be open to all of our Membership, which is at a wonderful high of 96 paid members! At this meeting we will be having open elections for Board members. All of our members in good standing are eligible and encouraged to sit on our Board. Remember though, that it is not just the Board members that do all the work. It is the membership that needs to support and work hard if the true work is to be accomplished. I hope that many of you will consider stepping up to the Philoptochos Board and if not that you will consider one of the many activities that we are involved in on a weekly basis. At our dinner meeting we will offer separate checks for all, and the restaurant does not accept credit cards, only cash or checks. They are located at 19070 OLD Detroit Rd. in Rocky River. Reservations are not necessary but preferred by calling Mari-beth Famiano at 440-892-9355 or emailing stdohiloptochos@gmail.com.

I hope that you all are aware of all that Philoptochos does, but if you are not, please do not hesitate to stop and ask me or any Board member. Or you may go to the National Philoptochos Website at www.philoptochos.org to read some of the writings from the National President on the many things that are being done nationally by us. We are much more than our Coffee Memorials and the Loukoumades Booth at the Festival.

This past year our Tutoring program at Louis Agassiz school was another great success and with our help the children should pass their exams. This year we had 8 tutors in the school and we also were able to help supply school supplies and some school uniforms throughout the year. We also supported the Bridge Avenue School Lunch Program with the help of 10 volunteers! It is such a wonderful school, and they are so appreciative of all we do.

Both programs are so wonderful and worthwhile, and we will continue to support them, but we would love to have more support for the coming year. If education or feeding young children is something that is near and dear to your heart, please consider one of these programs.

Our Food Pantry is still going strong and is helping many. Don't hesitate to donate or use it! Also, as always, let Father or myself know if there is someone in need of anything, so that we can reach out to them. If it is a utility bill, or medical bill or whatever, we will do what we can, privately and to the best of our ability.

Remember, when we work together the job is small; when we work alone the job is large.

Christos Anesti! - Jeanne C Paras, Philoptochos President
Focus On: Healing Hearts Fund

The Healing Hearts Fund is one of the newer local Orthodox organizations (founded in 2010) which was formed to address growing poverty levels in northeast Ohio.

Their Mission Statement is to invest in the well being of struggling neighbors by providing necessities that will allow them to maintain their lives through love, hope, and perseverance. Their purpose is to provide necessities to those requesting our services. These necessities are defined as what is needed to both survive and maintain a respectable quality of life, including Shelter costs, Food, Clothing, and Hygiene products, Education and Education Supplies, Healthcare Related Issues and Medication Cost Assistance, Childcare and Eldercare Assistance.

Just this past month, the organization’s accomplishments include paying an applicant’s electric bill, phone bill, and car insurance. They were also able to pay another applicant’s very large medical bill. People are encouraged to apply or nominate someone through their website: www.thehealingheartsfund.org.

The Healing Hearts Board is made up of several St. Demetrios parishioners, Irene Panagopoulos, Lea Georgantas, Stacy Lojtos, and Fr. Jim Doukas, as well as Mary Bozikis of St. Paul, Paula Kappos of Zoe for Life and Andrew Henton.

In their on-going fundraising efforts, the group recently held a T-shirt Design Contest and will be selling T-shirts with the winning design at the Greenroots store in Rocky River. They also do fundraising nights at Romeo’s pizza in Westlake on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (in case you miss Philoptochos Monday) Just mention the HHF with your order!

St. Demetrios parishioners will get an additional chance to support HHF when the group sponsors a Bake Sale during the coffee hour they are hosting here on May 8 (Mother’s Day.) Healing Heart Fund Board members will be on hand to answer questions and share more information on this exciting new organization.

Other Philanthropic Opportunities...

St. Theodore House, the Greek Orthodox monastery in Galion, Ohio, is in need of a vehicle, a car or truck or van. If you wish to make a donation, please call Fr. Nicholas Hughes, recent Lenten Lecture speaker (see p. 3) at 419-545-0877 to make arrangements.

Jesus Is In the House (continued from p.1)

Lord, I don’t understand what is happening. For the last two nights, I have had to fight the demons away from my door while you laid up here sleeping. Don’t you care about me? Did I not give you the very best room in the house?

He could see the tears building in Jesus’ eyes but continued on, I really thought that once I invited you in to live with my that you would take care of me and I gave you the best room in my house and everything. What more can I do?

My precious child, Jesus spoke so softly. I do love and care for you. I protect all that you have released into my care. But when you invited me to come here and stay, you brought me to this lovely room and you shut the door to the rest of your house. I am Lord of this room, but I am not Master of this house. I have protected this room and no demon may enter here.

Oh, Lord, please forgive me. He cried. Take all of my house- it is yours. I am so sorry that I never offered you all to begin with. I want you to have control of everything. With this, he flung open the bedroom door and knelt at Jesus’ feet. Please forgive me Lord for being so selfish.

Jesus smiled and told him that He had already forgiven him and He would take care of things from now on. That night as the young man prepared for bed, he thought, I wonder if those demons will return. I am so tired of fighting them each night. But he knew that Jesus said that He would take care of things from now on.

Around midnight, the banging on the door was frightening. The young man slipped out of his room in time to see Jesus going down the stairs. He watched in awe as Jesus swung open the door, no need to be afraid.

Satan stood at the door, this time demanding to be let in. What do you want, Satan? asked the Lord. The devil bowed low in the presence of the Lord. So sorry. I seem to have gotten the wrong address. And with that he and the demons all ran away.

The moral of this tale is that Jesus wants ALL of you, not just a part. He will take all that you give Him, but nothing more. How much of your heart have you given to the Lord? Are you keeping a portion of it away from Him? Perhaps the attacks are coming more and more each day. Why not let the Lord fight the battles for you? He is always victorious.

I have found that God made man simple. All of man’s complexities are of his own devising.

ALITHOS ANESTI!
STIGMA Greek Band Historic Debut at Severance Hall

Last month, local Greek Band STIGMA, made its historical debut at Severance Hall as part of the Cleveland POPS Orchestra concert "Lands of Romance." The concert spotlighted music from the Mediterranean. After some very mellow selections from Spain and France, the program picked up momentum after intermission with the lively songs of Italy, including an audience sing-a-long to "That's Amore." Playing to a full house which included many Greeks from Cleveland, as well as groups who had come on tour/charter buses, Stigma brought the evening to a rousing end with their performances of Giordi Zeibekikon, made famous by George Dalaras, Vamvakaris Frangosyriani, Tora Klais, Giati Kalais, made famous by Kazantzidis, and Theodorakis theme from "Zorba the Greek" which Stigma and the orchestra played together. It was such a great and proud feeling to hear the penina of a bouzouki within the amazing acoustic structure of Severance Hall. Even the non-Greeks in the audience enthusiastically clapped along to the familiar "Zorba." After receiving a standing ovation, Stigma returned to the stage for an encore to finish the evening with a medley of tsiftetlia.

The band is made up of John Salamalekis (guitar & vocals) and Peter Politis (percussion), both of whom are St. Demetrios parishioners and attribute the influence of their fathers. John is the son of Steve Salamalekis, head of the long-time band Stavros & the Professionals, and Peter is the son of the famous Greek composer/singer John Politis. The band is rounded off by bouzouki player Costa Charalmbrous, who has been performing for nearly 40 years, and keyboard player Takis Matheou, a 25-year veteran who is classically trained and also skilled at jazz. Samples of their music can be found at www.thestigmaband.com - Eleni Papouras-Jenks.

Two Churches Kick-off Greek Festival Season This Month

You know summer is on its way in Cleveland when Greek Festivals begin. This month, the festival season will be kicked off by St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 2000 Tower Blvd., Lorain, with their Spring Greek-fest on Fri., May 20 and Sat., May 21.

A week later, Memorial Day weekend in Cleveland is all about the Greek Festival at Annunciation Church, 2187 W.14th St., taking place Fri., May 27 thru Mon., May 30.

In a rare treat, the Kyklonas Dancers of St. Demetrios Church will be performing at both these festivals! Come out and cheer on our senior dance group on Sat., May 21 at 7 p.m. in Lorain and Sun., May 29 at 6 p.m. in Cleveland.

AROUND TOWN

Missionaries Return to Cleveland After More than 7 Years of Service in Albania

OCMC Missionaries to Albania George and Pauline Russell, together with their children Christopher and Maddy, have returned home to Avon, Ohio, after seven and a-half years of missionary service in Albania. OCMC anticipates that Pauline's mother, Melanie Linderman, who accompanied them to the field in 2003 and is still in Albania, will also be joining them soon. Pauline is still experiencing health issues, which she has struggled with for quite some time; therefore, she and George decided that it was best to return to the U.S. They were also interested in having their children reside closer to their grandparents at this time in their lives. As the Russell family prayerfully contemplated this move, a job offer came to George helping them make this decision. The Russells are currently writing their final missionary letter with all the details. OCMC is most grateful for the offering this family has made to the ministries of the Orthodox Church of Albania, through the prayers and blessings of His Beatitude Anastasios.

We congratulate the Russell family for the completion of these years of missionary service, and we thank all who have made this ministry possible through your faithful financial support and prayers.

During this time of transition as they conclude their service, the Russell family will continue to write reports, letters, and complete their work and ministry. OCMC has a protocol for helping with the transition of returning missionaries and are working with them to assure a successful re-entry, reflecting with them on their ministry in Albania, providing pastoral support, and doing whatever is possible to assure a smooth transition home and facilitate resettlement for their family.

Their new contact information is as follows: George and Pauline Russell, 1698 Pine Drive, Avon, OH 44011; georger@agrinomix.com

- Fr. David Rucker, Associate Director of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)

Cleveland Adult Dance Group

The Inner Circle Dance Group, open to all adults (18 & up) from the Cleveland area, will be meeting & rehearsing on to prepare for an upcoming performance at the Lorain International Festival on June 24. Rehearsals will be on May 9 and 31 at 6:30 p.m. in St. Demetrios hall. Contact Eleni Papouras-Jenks in the church office for more details.
WASHINGTON- President Barack Obama welcomed His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and congratulated the Greek-American Community for the 190th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day in the White House East Room on March 25th, 2011. It was the 25th celebration and reception of its kind hosted by a U.S. President at the White House. President Obama met in private with the Archbishop in the Green Room of the White House for about 10 minutes immediately preceding the public event which started at around 4:40 in the afternoon. (goarch.org)

CINCINNATI- The exhibit CLEOPATRA: THE SEARCH FOR THE LAST QUEEN OF EGYPT is now on view at the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal, 1301 Western Ave., Cincinnati.

The world of Cleopatra VII, which has been lost to the sea and sand for nearly 2,000 years, is on view through September 5, 2011. The exhibition features nearly 150 artifacts from Cleopatra’s time and will take you inside the present-day search for the elusive queen, which extends from the sands of Egypt to the depths of the Bay of Aboukir near Alexandria. See statuary, jewelry, daily items, coins and religious tokens that archaeologists have uncovered from the time surrounding Cleopatra’s rule, all of which are visiting the U.S. for the first time. Cleopatra was the last in the line of the Ptolemaic rulers of Egypt, who were descended from Ptolemy, one of Alexander the Great’s generals. His family ruled Egypt for generations, combining their Greek heritage with Egyptian traditions and making them one of the most successful Greek diaspora families in history!

Tickets are $23 for adults; $15 for children; $19 for Seniors and can be purchased at www.cincymuseum.org

IOCC & Orthodox Church in Japan Providing Aid to Coastal Communities

The International Orthodox Christian Charities, with support from an emergency grant of $25,000 from the National Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society and private donors, will be providing humanitarian assistance such as medicine, food, etc. to the communities damaged by the March earthquake and tsunamis. The Orthodox Church in Japan will distribute all the aid, which will be obtained locally in Japan.

An estimated 25,000 people are dead or missing after the twin disasters. All of the Orthodox clergy from the East Japan Diocese of the Orthodox Church have been accounted for and are safe. They are now working to assess the needs of the survivors displaced from the coastal towns that were wiped out. The Orthodox Church in Japan also anticipates that additional assistance will be needed to aid people threatened by the crisis at the nuclear power plant.

To help the victims of disasters around the work, you can make a financial gift to the IOCC International Response Fund at www.iocc.org

Boy George Returns Icon to Cyprus

Culture Club musician Boy George recently returned to the Church of Cyprus an icon of Christ, which had been plundered during the Turkish invasion of 1974.

The singer, whose real name is George O’Dowd, purchased the icon as part of an art collection without knowing if its origin. The goodwill gesture came about after the Church of St. Charalambos in New Chorio-Kythrea was able to prove it was the rightful owner.

The BBC quoted O’Dowd as stating, ‘I have always been a friend of Cyprus and have looked after the icon for 26 years. I look forward to seeing the icon on display in Cyprus for the moment and finally to the Church of St Charalambos from where it was illegally stolen.’

The then-pop idol purchased the icon from what he was believed was a reputable London art dealer. The icon has hung in his living room since 1985. Thousands of religious artifacts disappeared during the illegal invasion of Cyprus by the Turks in 1974, and are still missing. Cypriot bishop Porfyrios of Neapolis said he felt "joy and gratitude" at the singer’s return of the object, which he brought to the St Anagyre church in north London. (source: www.bbc.co.uk)
Join YASSOU CLUB for a

**Dean Martin Tribute:**
*A Son Remembers*

Friday, May 20 at 11:30 a.m.

Carrie Cerino’s Ballroom, 8922 Ridge Rd, North Royalton.

In a loving tribute to his father, Dean Martin’s youngest son Ricci takes us down memory lane. In this new and exciting performance, he will be singing many of his father’s hit songs, such as *Volare, That’s Amore, Everybody Loves Somebody Sometime*, just to name a few. Also featured are acts by Ricci & his pals in tributes to Frank Sinatra & Sammy Davis Jr. Lunch & Show $50.00 per person. For reservations, contact Estelle Callas at 440-779-6981 no later than Friday, May 13.

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**19TH ANNUAL IOCC BANQUET**

**MONDAY • MAY 23, 2011**

St. Michael’s - Woodside
5025 East Mill Road
Broadview Hts., OH

Donation $30

Doors Open - 6:30PM
Dinner - 7PM

For tickets & reservations contact your parish rep

Contact the church office for reservations.

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**SAVE THE DATE:**
Saturday, November 12, 2011

**3rd Annual Enchanted Evening**

$100 Dinner-Dance and Silent Auction

We are now accepting items, services, etc. for the Silent Auction.

Please contact Vaso Diamantis at 216-870-8314 or at vsdiamantis@yahoo.com to donate.

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**The Greek Story**

**Tremont Greek Fest 2011**

Friday, May 27 – Monday May 30, 2011
Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation
2187 West 14th St. Cleveland, OH 44113

Food & Drink • Live Music • Hellenic Dancers • Accepting Credit Cards • Church Tours
FREE Admission • FREE Expanded Parking • Greek Jewelry and Art

[www.TremontGreekFest.com](http://www.TremontGreekFest.com)
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<td>22</td>
<td>7 pm Theotokos Fellowship</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>9 am Lamb Shanks</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Bible Study</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7 pm Theotokos Fellowship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7 pm Choir</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5 p.m. Greek School final exams</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6:30 pm Kykionas Dancers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>IOCC Annual Banquet [@ St. Michael Woodside]</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8 p.m. Greek School final exams</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>7 pm Theotokos Fellowship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-Noon Memorials @ St. Theodosius Cemetery</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5 p.m. Greek School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. Memorials @ Lakewood Park Cemetery</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6:30 pm Kykionas Dancers</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Memorial Day Office Closed</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7 p.m. Theotokos Fellowship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Memorial: St. Theodosius Cemetery</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7 p.m. Theotokos Fellowship</td>
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<td>5 p.m. Greek School</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. Memorials @ Lakewood Park Cemetery</td>
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**SCHEDULING NOTES:**

*All services for the feastday of Sts. Constantine & Helen will be held at the Cathedral, 3352 Mayfield Rd., Cleveland Heights. Vespers May 20 at 7 p.m. Divine Liturgy on May 21 at 10 a.m.*

**Fr. Jim will be at away from the office on May 20-22.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. Orthros; 9:30 a.m. Div. Lit.</td>
<td>9 a.m. Moussaka</td>
<td>9 a.m. Moussaka</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. Bible Study</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Bible Study</td>
<td>9 a.m. Bake Tsoureki</td>
<td>9 a.m. Bake Koulourakia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greek School Graduation Program</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Kyklonas dancers</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Bible Study</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Kyklonas dancers</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Kyklonas dancers</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Kyklonas dancers</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 p.m. Festival meeting</td>
<td>7 p.m. Festival meeting</td>
<td>7 p.m. Theotokos Fellowship</td>
<td>7 p.m. Theotokos Fellowship</td>
<td>7 p.m. Theotokos Fellowship</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Kyklonas dancers</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 PENTECOST</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Kyklonas dancers</td>
<td>9 a.m. Leg of lamb</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Bible Study</td>
<td>9 a.m. Tourlou; rice pudding</td>
<td>11 a.m.–10 p.m.</td>
<td>11 a.m.–11 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. Orthros; 9:30 a.m. Div. Lit.</td>
<td>7 p.m. Festival meeting</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Kyklonas dancers</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Kyklonas dancers</td>
<td>-9 a.m. Tourlou; rice pudding</td>
<td>-9 a.m. Tourlou; rice pudding</td>
<td>-9 a.m. Tourlou; rice pudding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Sunday for choir</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Kyklonas dancers</td>
<td>7 p.m. Festival meeting/ Philoptochos Board mtg</td>
<td>7 p.m. Theotokos Fellowship</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Kyklonas dancers</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Kyklonas dancers</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Father's Day</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. Orthros; 9:30 a.m. Div. Lit.</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Bible Study</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Bible Study</td>
<td>Adult Greek Dancers performance [@ Lorain International Festival]</td>
<td>Adult Greek Dancers performance [@ Lorain International Festival]</td>
<td>Adult Greek Dancers performance [@ Lorain International Festival]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greek Festival</td>
<td>Noon–10 p.m.</td>
<td>Noon–10 p.m.</td>
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