

St. Stefanos Greek Orthodox Church



The Light

Issue 7
JULY
2014

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Looking into July

July 4th - Independence Day - U.S.A.

July 6

8:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy

*July 6th through July 9th
National Clergy Laity Congress*

*July 6th through July 12th
St. Stephen's Summer Camp*

July 13 - Sunday of the Holy Fathers

8:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy

*July 17th through 20th
CMI & Choir Conference in Charleston*

July 20

8:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy

July 27

8:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy

*July 28th through August 1st
Vacation Bible School*



Looking ahead into August

Dormition Fast - August 1st through the 15th

Transfiguration on August 6th • Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15th



Reverend Father Soterios Rousakis, Presbyter

Reverend Deacon John Pantelis

3600 76th Street North · St. Petersburg, FL 33710

727-345-8235 · fax: 727-345-8286

Ministries, Committees, Teams and Organizations

PC President	Stanley Maratos	367-5588	Zeuser01@msn.com
Vice President - PC Liason	Bill Filides	492-8794	wedgex1@hotmail.com
PC Treasurer	Visha Anevich	804-5998	anevich@msn.com
PC Secretary	Dora Komninos	560-0545	dluv122@aol.com
ADULT MINISTRIES			
Prayer Group	Thelma Maragos	347-4746	tgnm@tampabay.rr.com
Philoptochos	Bessie Adams	866-7309	ctabca@verizon.net
Bible Study / Catechism	Fr. Soteri	345-8235	Fr. Soterios@ststefanos.org
Parea	Ron Gregory	504-3176	ron.gregory@ststefanos.org
Parish Nursing	Stavrula Crafa	409-0686	ParishNurseRNC@gmail.com
Choir	John Arambages	781-718-8969	shoedawg13@gmail.com
Chanters (Psalti)	Stavrula Crafa	409-0686	stavrula@crafa.com
Stewardship	George Klimis	243-1724	gklimis@earthlink.net
YOUTH MINISTRIES			
Ed. Hellenic Culture & Youth Diakonia	Visha Anevich	804-5998	anevich@msn.com
Acolytes / Altar Boys	Mathew Balasis	345-4855	mathewbalasis@verizon.net
GOYA	Sandra Johnson	347-9304	sbj65@tampabay.rr.com
Greek School	Elisavet Makris	595-5448	socceristlife@live.com
HOPE	Christine Klimis	595-1545	cklimis@yahoo.com
JOY	Katherine Foltz	391-5815	sagicorn17@hotmail.com
Kefi Dancers	Nicolle Panuthos	392-8104	golightly727@yahoo.com
Sunday School	Connie Newell	398-7809	c2newell@aol.com
COMMITTEES			
Hall Rentals	Maria Olavarria	397-8536	maria.olavarria@ststefanos.org
Kitchen	John Tischner	641-4876	jjta@cobra-design-eng.com
Public Relations	Mark Panuthos	687-4369	map2history@yahoo.com
TEAMS			
Bookstore	Bill Christopher	204-3260	wychristopher@tampabay.rr.com
Office Angels	Suzy Balasis	345-4855	frazzledlib@gmail.com
Festival	George Antonaklas	440-341-7676	gyroguysco@yahoo.com
Outreach & Evangelism	Litsa Stathacopoulos	343-5940	garifalitsa@msn.com
Prosforo	Christine Klimis	595-1545	cklimis@yahoo.com
Ushers	Maria Olavarria	397-8536	maria.olavarria@ststefanos.org
Website	Peter Konstantakos	341-0847	peter@kdmconsultants.com
CHURCH AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS			
Agape Fellowship	Charles Stamoulis	346-5892	cstamoulis@gmail.com
AHEPA	Dr. Bill Pantazes	381-3150	pantazesdmd@tampabay.rr.com
Daughters of Penelope	Nicky Stamoulis	346-5892	nstamoulis1@gmail.com

The United States of America is actually a very young nation compared to the other nations of the world. In fact, the entire 214 years of history have been spanned by the lives of just eight Presidents. When Thomas Jefferson died, Abraham Lincoln was a young man of seventeen. Lincoln's life was short, but when he died, Woodrow Wilson was a boy of eight. By the time the nation mourned for Wilson, Gerald Ford had reached the age of ten. So you see, the United States has risen quickly, but we pray and hope the fall of this nation will not be so quick with our problems and our ills.

What are some of the ills that befalls this nation? The first is disillusionment and cynicism. Have some lost their enthusiasm and optimism about the future? Is there a lack of old fashioned trust and confidence in one another?

Second is the loss of national integrity and character. Everyone knows that crime seems to be increasing. Violence throws a shadow over the security of our citizens, of you and me. Stealing is epidemic. Divorce is shattering marriages at an outstanding rate.

The third is preoccupation with unworthy things such as materialism, sex, pleasure, satisfaction here and now, without regard to others. We have lost much of the will to sacrifice for the good of others and for the national good.

The fourth is, and I am persuaded that this basic, have we lost our fear of God and our awareness of His sovereignty? I am, therefore, reminded on this entrance into a new millennium of the word of the Prophet Micah:

**“what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”**

The words of the Prophet direct us to the way God expects us to live as citizens of this land and of the world. He says first of all:

“to do justice...”

This is a challenge to insure the rights of all and to interpret the truths of equality under God that we are all equal. He also says :

“to live kindness...”

A caring relationship for other persons: our family, our friends, the hurt and the hungry. Lastly, the Prophet commands us:

“to work humbly with your God.”

This is a requirement which the pilgrim fathers knew well and which we must recognize anew in the midst of personal pride.

We need to fear the voice of God through the Prophet Micah and turn to Him, our God, before it is too late. The future of the U.S. may lie in the hands of future generations, but you, as you celebrate the birthday of our nation must renew your covenant, your agreement with God, individually, “to do justice, to love kindness and to work humbly with your God” for betterment of this nation. For as we are able to greet our tomorrow with a faith that is bigger and better than yesterday, we will continue to grow as a blessed nation, “under God”.

Remember the people who walk with God shall know God. If thousands of Americans know God, then He will know us and our nation always. Put God back into these United States. God bless America, the Beautiful!

***Love in Christ,
Fr. Soterios Rousakis, Presbyter***

FINANCIAL REPORT

	1st Qtr	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 1 - 27	TOTAL
Regular Income					
Candles	7,277.00	6,839.00	1,627.00	1,717.00	17,460.00
Donations	4,813.60	5,491.00	2,501.40	640.00	13,446.00
Greek Festival Income	99,455.46	3,085.00	-215.07	450.00	102,775.39
Hall Rentals	6,924.37	325.00	725.00	0.00	7,974.37
Hospitality	860.00	40.00	0.00	219.00	1,119.00
In-Kind Donations	0.00	0.00	1,091.79	0.00	1,091.79
Ministries	5,745.48	1,834.00	1,236.19	109.85	8,925.52
Misc. - Interest	1.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.09
Stewardship	60,833.98	12,989.66	11,358.66	12,778.66	97,960.96
Trays	4,279.00	2,808.00	995.00	1,256.00	9,338.00
Total Income	190,189.98	33,411.66	19,319.97	17,170.51	260,092.12
Expense					
Administration	48,798.32	15,835.60	17,939.79	12,926.12	95,499.83
Archdiocese	11,116.74	3,705.58	5,256.64	3,705.58	23,784.54
Check Returned	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	20.00
Church Altar Expenses	0.00	76.00	71.95	0.00	147.95
Church Office	2,783.61	720.43	713.73	742.85	4,960.62
Church Service Expenses	3,660.90	2,102.60	1,154.75	42.02	6,960.27
Fundraiser Expenses	0.00	0.00	544.02	237.54	781.56
Greek Festival Expense	39,827.41	1,560.21	1,317.24	0.00	42,704.86
Hall/Ed. Bldg. Facilities	1,888.63	411.73	182.85	3,216.00	5,699.21
Hospitality Exp.	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Insurance, Licenses, Fees	3,010.11	661.09	661.09	661.09	4,993.38
Luncheons	356.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	356.61
Metropolis of Atlanta	761.17	500.00	0.00	500.00	1,761.17
Ministry Groups	6,436.84	711.13	2,717.76	3,368.76	13,234.49
Miscellaneous	526.44	209.29	17.60	0.00	753.33
Retreat expenses	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
SPIFFS - Expenses	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	200.00
Upkeep - Repairs & Supplies	2,099.74	1,196.09	4,842.50	628.41	8,766.74
Utilities	8,180.72	2,928.56	2,783.15	958.56	14,850.99
Vettaks Estate	2,310.87	900.85	0.00	-15.15	3,196.57
Total Expense	132,108.11	31,619.16	38,223.07	27,071.78	229,022.12
Net Income	58,081.87	1,792.50	-18,903.10	-9,901.27	31,070.00

As the Florida Summer heat continues and our Winter Residents leave, households and businesses feel the pinch, including our Parish.

Thank you for supporting the ministries of St. Stefanos !

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor 9:7-8



EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT

Inspiring giving from an Orthodox Christian perspective

There are two seas in Palestine. One is fresh, and fish are in it. Splashes of green adorn its banks. Trees spread their branches over it and stretch out their thirsty roots to sip of its healing waters. Along its shores the children play, as children played when He was there. He loved it. He could look across its silver surface when He spoke His parables. And on a rolling plain not far away He fed five thousand people.

The River Jordan makes this sea with sparkling water from the hills. So it laughs in the sunshine. And men build their houses near to it, and birds their nests; and every kind of life is happier because it is there.

The River Jordan flows on south into another sea. Here is no splash of fish, no fluttering leaf, no song of birds, no children's laughter. Travelers choose another route, unless on urgent business. The air hangs heavy above its water, and neither man nor beast nor fowl will drink.

What makes this mighty difference in these neighbor seas? Not the river Jordan. It empties the same good water into both. Not the soil in which they lie not the country about.

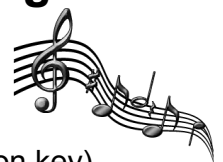
This is the difference. The Sea of Galilee receives but does not keep the Jordan. For every drop that flows into it another drop flows out. The giving and receiving go on in equal measure.

The other sea is shrewder, hoarding its income jealously. It will not be tempted into any generous impulse. Every drop it gets, it keeps.

The Sea of Galilee gives and lives. This other sea gives nothing. It is named The Dead. There are **two kinds of people** in the world. There are two seas in Palestine.

WHICH SEA OF PALESTINE ARE YOU?

English Byzantine Chanting Classes Beginning



Requirements for participation:

- ◆ A love for our Orthodox faith and a desire to participate more fully in the services
- ◆ A sincere interest in learning how to chant & an ear for singing (carry a tune & stay on key)
- ◆ Primarily for adults, but considerations may be made for middle or high school students.
- ◆ Classes will be weekly, beginning in June. Days & times will depend on availability of participants.
- ◆ Cost: None for the classes. Any cost to the students will be related to purchasing music and service books that every chanter should have as part of their personal library of resources

The ability to read music is definitely a plus but not required. I will teach anyone that needs to learn very basic music theory so that you can use the music available.

Instructor and contact person: Stavroula Crafa, Protopsalti, St. Stefanos GOC

If you are interested... please email me with your contact information including phone number and any questions you may have at stavroula@crafa.com. I can also be reached by phone at 727-409-0686.

GOYA and ORATORICAL



We had a wonderful GOYA Junior Olympics hosted by St. John in Tampa last month. Fourteen GOYAns participated and shared the fun and fellowship with parishes as far north as New Port Richey and as south as Ft. Myers.

We can be very proud of our GOYAns and how they represented St. Stefanos - they received the Best Sportsmanship Award!

Not only did we receive this award as a parish, but our own Chris Kolaxis was chosen for the individual Sportsmanship award.

Our GOYAns also won first place in the Basketball event, in addition to second place in volleyball (boys and girls) and soccer.



Individually, our GOYAns also received several medals in various events.

We will be taking a hiatus from activities for the summer, but look forward to a great new season of activities in the fall.

Thank you all for your support of GOYA throughout the year!

What a wonderful time we had at the Oratorical Festival in Cleveland, OH. From the time we arrived on Friday, until we left on a Sunday, they kept us very busy and entertained. We got to meet many wonderful people from all the different Metropolitan areas. The festival was very well organized with plenty of delicious food, a tour of the city, a social for the youth, watching an arena football game, and of course attending church services. What made the whole weekend real special was listening to all those kids with their well prepared speeches.

One of our youth members, **Alice Song**, represented our Atlanta Metropolis and Saint Stefanos. The competition was very tough. Even though Alice did not get selected to one of the top three positions by the judges, she still did a fantastic job.

Alice is the first from our church to make it to nationals & she gave great exposure to St. Stefanos. We can all be very proud of Alice. Congratulate her when you see her in church and show her how proud you are of her and how much you love her.



Attention all Future VBS Volunteers! Your Help is Needed!

- ▶ Do you have a little extra time during the Summer?
 - ▶ Are you looking to getting involved but don't want to commit to anything "long-term"?
 - ▶ Would you like to have a little fun and serve the families of your Parish at the same time?

A typical day at Vacation Bible School includes:

Prayer, Bible stories, arts and crafts, games, music, lessons
and character-building activities

You can help with snacks or lunches, crafts, setting up, games, and more. Please contact Marianna Mullins (see email address at bottom of page)



St. Stefanos Greek Orthodox Church
2014 Vacation Bible School

The Parables of Christ



Monday, July 28th thru Friday, August 1st
9:00am to 2:00pm (*Extended Care available from 2:15 to 5:30pm*)

FREE—Lunch Provided
Open to all children who have completed
Kindergarten thru 6th Grade

REGISTRATION FORM

Name of child: _____

Parent's name: _____

Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

Email: _____

School Grade just completed: _____

*Please return this form to the Church Office or Marianna Mullins by July 20th.
Contact Marianna for more info by email at: stamatis-mullinsm@pcsb.org*

PHILOPTOCHOS POST and Other Dates

We are happy and pleased to announce that Doris Shearer will be attending the Clergy Laity Congress as our delegate July 6th thru the 9th.

We are busy behind the scenes and will be planning our yearly calendar soon. The end of August will bring the start of our next Membership Drive but you can use the form below and join today!

Happy Summer to everyone! Bessie Adams



JOIN THE PHILOPTOCHOS!

We would love to have you join us! Please complete and cut out the form below. Send it with your \$30.00 check (dues for 2014) payable to the St. Stefanos Philoptochos Society.

=====

St. Stefanos Greek Orthodox Church Ladies Philoptochos Membership Form

Please print your information below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ zip code _____

Tel: _____ email: _____

Please mail above form and check to the church - Attn: Philoptochos

Birthdays in July

7/01 William Christopher	7/16 Maria Olavarria	7/23 Elena Coundouriotis
Michael Detsis II	Doris Shearer	7/24 Kornilia Detsis
7/02 Marianna Mullins	7/17 Nicholas Spyratos	7/26 Violeta Badea
7/03 Nicholas Rafiner	7/18 Ellen Diveris	7/27 Felipe Coundouriotis
7/04 Johnathon Olavarria	Joyce Varidin	Pablo Coundouriotis
7/06 James Alvey	7/19 Michelle Carpintier	Kathy Malis
7/07 Constantin Badea	Olivia Chaffin	7/28 Gail Chivington
7/08 Tonya Welk	Stavrula Crafa	7/29 Stasia Segallis
7/10 Georgia Kalyvas	7/20 Iliia Kanellopoulos	7/30 Milton Dris
7/13 Savella Savva	Anthony Manolis	Jenny Kanellopoulos
Vassiliki Vantsouris	Alfred Martin	George Klimis
7/15 Elisavet Makris	7/22 Thomas Smith	7/31 Victoria Stein
		Maria Gregory

Anniversaries in July

7/03 Theodore & Victoria Filides	7/25 Mathew & Suzy Balasis
7/08 George & Janice Kapous	James & Marianna Mullins
7/11 James S. & Jessie Scofield	7/28 Norm & Patti Tsaousis
7/15 Alexander & Georgia Janas	Christos & Desiree Kyriazis
7/18 Mark & Maria Glyptis	7/31 George and Viorica Tanase
7/21 Evangelos & Anna Zoghopoulos	Vassiliki & Dimitrios Vantsouris

Please note: If you do not see your date listed here, that means our database information for you is either incorrect or incomplete. Please let the office know so that you won't be missed in the future.

Thinking ahead about our 2015 Greek Festival.....

We know it seems early.... but it is never too early to start thinking about our **2015 Greek Festival scheduled for Feb. 20, 21, and 22.**

We would like everyone to start thinking about what you can do to help by giving us some of your time before the festival. Wouldn't you like to become part of the Festival Committee? We have made an outline of festival and we need your help in taking charge of some of the categories listed. We are hoping to pair some of our retired people with the younger people to make some great teams. Members that work can help in the evenings and relieve those who were working during the day. Remember, you are doing this for God, serving your church, and it is part of your stewardship. It takes the entire membership to pitch in to make a Festival a success.

George Antonaklas and Bill Christopher put many hours into last year's Festival and along with the help of a wonderful committee, it was a huge success, the best ever! This year we want to make our 2015 Greek Festival even greater, but we need your help. George and Bill cannot put in all the hours they did last year. That is why we all need you to come forth and help. We know that we can depend on the regulars, but we still need YOU! We also need a couple of younger people to come forth and learn about putting a Festival together so you can take over the Festival in the future. Remember the church depends on the Festival to help with the church expenses. If nobody wants to do the Festival in the future, where will the money come from to help pay the church bills? Are you all willing to dip into your pockets and make out another check to the church for at least \$500.00 more?

We will have a "Festival Kickoff Meeting" sometime at the beginning of September and will announce the meeting day soon. Please mark it on your calendar and plan to attend. We have a wonderful church here with great parishioners, so let us all work together and show that we can put on another great Festival!

**Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs & Musicians**

(SFGOCM) Church Music Institute to be held on
Thursday, July 17, 2014 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
30 Race Street, Charleston, SC

No admission fee to attend as it is co-sponsored and financially supported by the SFGOCM in conjunction with the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians and Leadership 100
(Event Flyers available on Office Billboard)

SAVE-the-DATE
ST. STEFANOS
2ND ANNUAL GOYA



VOLLEYBALL
TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 24-26, 2014

**"Preparing for the Journey of
Marriage in the Orthodox Church"**

*Presented by the Family Life Ministry of the
Atlanta Greek Orthodox Metropolis*

A one-day workshop for couples getting
married in the Orthodox Church
Saturday, August 16th, 9:30am-4:00pm

\$50.00 per Couple- Includes workbooks, materials, & lunch
Please Register before August 8th with Nina t
727-799-4605 or office@htclearwater.com

Hosted by: Holy Trinity in Clearwater



The Citrus District 2 Convention was held in Boca Raton on June 6-8. Charlie and Bessie Adams, Charles and Nicky Stamoulis, Peter and Stacy Segallis, Eli and Joyce Dalabakis were delegates representing our AHEPA #15 and DOP #210 chapters. Denise and Victoria Santoleri joined the MOA activities for the weekend.



We are very proud to announce the District 2 AHEPA Scholarship Foundation recipients from our community were: Alice Song, Olivia Pedroff and Christina Murray. Congratulations to all!

Wishing you all a safe and healthy summer!

Summer Volunteer Opportunities at the OCMC

Many people who offer unceasing prayer and countless volunteer hours to the spread of the Gospel live and serve right here in the United States. They have a part in every missionary and team member that is sent, every project that is sponsored, and every mission priest that serves.

There is still much to do and the Mission Center needs your help! Please consider the following two OCMC volunteer opportunities, and further the Church's international mission efforts without having to leave your hometown!

OCMC is seeking volunteers to serve as OCMC Ambassadors in their local parish. Ambassadors work with their parish priest to build and coordinate mission initiatives. These activities include everything from organizing missionary visits, planning awareness and fundraising events, recruiting mission team members, and leading missions-related reading groups and studies in the parish. The time commitment is usually 1-2 hours a month unless a large event is being planned.

Also, OCMC is seeking 5 volunteers to join the Thank You Calling Team. We ask that individuals on this team call a list of OCMC donors every month and thank them for their gifts in support of Orthodox missions. Solicitation is not a part of this program. Training and orientation are provided, and calls can be made from the OCMC offices or from your home. The time commitment is only 3-4 hours per month. All the information you will need can be provided via e-mail.

To find out more information, or to volunteer for either of these opportunities, contact Kenneth Kidd, Annual Gifts Officer, at 904-829-5132, ext. 161 or at kenny@ocmc.org


Donation Available

A member of St. Stefanos would like to donate two items to a member who is need of them:

Wedding Dress with veil Vintage Baptismal Baby Gown

Please call the Church Office for more information





Vicki's
Wedding &
Christening
Necessities

ΕΙΛΗ ΓΑΜΟΥ
&
ΒΑΠΤΙΣΗΣ

www.vickisfavors.com

1749 Thomas Dr.
Clearwater
(727) 797-8223



Sandy Papadakis

Re/Max Elite Realty

4934 Ridgemoor Blvd., Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Phone: 727-754-7050 Fax: 727-216-9351

E-mail: sandyfla@aol.com

Unless otherwise noted, all submissions in the monthly newsletter are due by the 20th of the month for publication in the next month's newsletter. Articles submitted must be emailed or typed. No hand written articles will be accepted. All articles and submissions are subject to editing for content and/or space available. Please keep your articles limited to one page and for the current month. Email all articles to: monthly@ststefanos.org *Thank-you!*

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

July

6
8:00a Orthros
9:30a Divine Liturgy

7

8

9

10
10:00a Prayer Group

11

12

4 Independence Day

Office Closed



5

St. Stephens Camp Week in South Carolina

Nat'l CLERGY - LAITY CONGRESS

13 Sunday of the Holy Fathers

14

15

16

17
10:00a Prayer Group

18

19

Choir Conference in Charleston thru 7/20

20

Prophet Elias (Elijah)

8:00a Orthros
9:30a Divine Liturgy

21

22

23

24

10:00a Prayer Group

25

26

9:00a St. Paraskevi
Orthros and Divine Liturgy

Deadline to submit articles for

27

Panteleimon the Great Martyr

8:00a Orthros
9:30a Divine Liturgy

29

10:00a Office Angels

30

31

Aug. 1
Dormition Fast begins

Aug. 2nd

Vacation Bible School

6:00p Paraklesis

11

ST. STEFANOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

3600 76th Street North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710

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The Need for Prayer Continues throughout the Summer

A change in schedule when we hit summertime and an eagerness to “get away from it all” could cause us to lose touch with our spiritual needs. Summertime can be a time of well-deserved rest and also a welcome change of scenery. While making plans for our families this summer, let’s not forget about prayer. Please keep in touch and remember to call /email prayer requests to the office.

Maybe the summer allows you to have a little extra time on Thursday mornings?

Prayer Group continues throughout the summer and you are welcome to share some time with us. **Prayer Group meets every Thursday morning at 10:00am in the Educational Building.**



Please keep our children and their advisors in your prayers and thoughts as they travel to **South Carolina for Summer Camp, July 6 through the 12th.** May they “learn to live and apply a deeper Orthodox Christian Faith.”

*Keep worshiping wherever you are, keep giving, keep praying, and keep loving.
God has amazing things in mind for St. Stefanos!*