

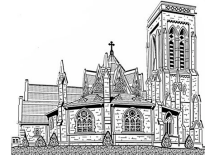


Ladies' Philoptochos Society "Evangelismos"

CATHEDRAL OF ST. GEORGE

22 St. George Road, Springfield, MA 01104

413-737-1496



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWSLETTER

January 2012

issue 1

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Happy New Year to all from Philoptochos! May God Bless us this year with an abundance of Faith, Hope, Charity, and Love as we continue to do God's work here on earth. As usual, our Philoptochos Chapter is brimming with excitement as we approach these next few months because we have so many wonderful opportunities for us to work together to serve those in need in our own community and beyond. But before we look ahead, I would like to recap our philanthropic outreach for 2011. Besides all of the hundreds of hours of hands-on service that our Philoptochos ladies and men donated to so many worthy causes, we are extremely proud to say that, due to your membership stewardship and your additional support and donations, our chapter was able to donate \$17,500 to charitable causes last year! Thank you for your generosity! The following is a summary of our outreach:

- \$10,400 to our National Philoptochos Commitments, including our membership per capita and other required donations such as to St. Basil's Academy, HC/HC (proceeds from the Lenten Luncheon) Autism Assistance, IOCC, the National Philoptochos Emergency Fund, UNICEF, and others.
- \$1,300 to our Metropolis Philoptochos Commitments, including FOS, the Methodios Faith and Heritage Camp, and membership.
- \$1,000 to our local charities, including the Ronald McDonald House, Springfield Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, Toys for Joy, and the USO
- \$4,350 to our St. George parish charitable donations, including scholarships, Stop & Shop gift cards for those in need, and the Tornado Fund.
- \$450 to other wonderful causes.

We hope and pray that our philanthropy increases in 2012 due to your continued support and generosity. Remember, even if you cannot give five minutes of your time to help, you can give one minute of your time to renew your membership or become a member of Philoptochos in 2012, which will only add to our charitable donation ability! January is our Kick-Off Membership month, and our membership form is in this newsletter--**don't delay, sign up today!** By becoming a member, you can proudly say that you are a part of the **LARGEST ladies Philanthropic organization in the United States** (yes, we passed Hadassah in 2011!). Yes, there is power in numbers, and we need all ladies (and men as associate members) to join with us today to make a difference! See below for additional details.

Now for a few "save the dates" and a few requests--please mark your calendars! Please consider stepping up to help! We love your assistance and your ideas!

- **Philoptochos 2012 Membership Kick-Off will be held during coffee hour in the large hall on Sunday, January 22 from 11:30-12:00.** Renew your membership or become a new member by making a stewardship contribution anytime on or before January 22 and **your name**

will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card to a local supermarket to be drawn at noon on 1/22 during coffee hour. All are welcome to become a part of our very vibrant and philanthropic St. George chapter; we have such a strong history of fellowship and service, and we need **YOU** to continue our work helping those in need today and in the future. Just by joining and making a stewardship contribution you are immediately connected to the largest women's philanthropic organization in the United States. We also welcome men as associate members. The current 2012 board will have a table at the coffee hour to take your membership, and there will be a form in the January newsletter and on our Philoptochos link through stgeorgecath.org to send in your membership at any time. Also, National Membership cards that were not mailed last year will be available on 1/22 for pick-up. Thank you!

(This is in lieu of the previously announced General Assembly meeting on 1/22).

- **Save the Date! Philoptochos annual Membership Social will be held on Sunday, February 12 in the Small Hall from 12:00-1:30.** For this year's theme, "Dips, Drinks, and Dancing" the Philoptochos board will entice you with their very best dips, crackers, and other healthy munchies, while our very capable bartenders Chris Ciejek and Charlie Alvanos will be serving up their famous martinis and margaritas! Line dancing will also be in the program. . . country-western line-dancing lessons, and of course some Greek dancing, will round out the festivities. This will be our **Go Red** event (which has a "Dancing for Heart Health" theme this year), so all are encouraged to dress comfortably and to **wear red** to recognize "Heart Health" month. Your \$5 donation to the American Heart Association will enter your name into a special drawing that afternoon for **a dozen red roses**--just in time for Valentine's Day! Join the fun! All are invited! You will have the opportunity to sign up/renew your membership as well as to sign up to donate your time, talent and treasure to our upcoming Philoptochos events.
- On the same date, **February 12**, we will also have our first **Blood Pressure Sunday**, sponsored by our wonderful Parish Nurse Team.
- **Sunday, March 25 from 12:00-2:00 will be the date of our annual (and delicious) Lenten Fish Luncheon**, at which time we also celebrate the feast of our beloved chapter "Evangelismos", as well as Greek Independence Day with a special presentation from the Greek School Students. This is always such a special event which brings all of us together during the Lenten season. Additional details will be available soon, but in the meantime, we are **looking for volunteers to help** with the following important tasks: someone to be a co-chair for the event, set-up and clean-up, assistance with donations, and assistance planning and preparing the food. Please consider helping out and contact Sue Alvanos at 413-789-0157 or calvanos@hotmail.com for information or to volunteer.
- We are still looking for someone to organize monthly or bimonthly meal preparation at the Springfield Rescue Mission. It is not a difficult task, but very rewarding.

I would like to offer my sincere "thank you" to those that volunteered to make our annual **Vasilopita celebration** such a beautiful event: Father Chris for his beautiful orchestration of the cutting, Mary Anne Pappas for chairing the event, Denise Reed and Pat Tsandilas for chairing the baking of the Vasilopita for coffee hour--and for their team of baking volunteers, Mrs. Antigone Panidis for baking the Vasilopita for church, and to all those organizations who were so very generous with your donations. All proceeds go directly to St. Basil's Academy, and other Philoptochos National charitable commitments. By the way, a few of the good luck coin winners were Georgia Malandrakis, Georgia Lisee, Betty Socha, and Deb Ciejek. Good health and long life to all!

Thanks also to those who have donated their time to assist us in our **Philoptochos room "make-over"**, including the Building Fund, Steve Scliopou, George Theocles, and to the following ladies who have helped to clean, organized, polish silver, and much more: Aspasia Gravanis, Denise Reed, Mary Anne Pappas, Eleni Hogan, Sheila Joseph, Dorothy Tsatsos, Deb Ciejek, and Anastasia Moysis. I'm

sure others have also assisted, and I thank you for your very kind assistance! We are well on our way to having a beautified and organized Philoptochos Room to truly be proud of and that we can meet in and entertain in! It will be very easy to maintain the order and beauty in the years ahead with everyone's ongoing assistance in placing things back in their rightful place after using. Also, we are looking into utilizing the **antique "Woodward & Brown" piano** that we have in our room. Does anyone have any information that they can share with me about who donated the piano, when it was donated, and what their wishes were for that beautiful (but in need of repairs) piano???

On behalf of your dedicated Philoptochos Board of Directors, I would like to again wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!

With love and appreciation,
Sue Alvanos
Philoptochos President
413-789-0157, calvanos@hotmail.com

Attendees of the Christmas Party at Monte Carlo



VASILOPITA CELEBRATED SUNDAY, JANUARY 8



Mary Anne Pappas holds the tray of Vasilopita with some of the lucky coin recipients (Georgia Malandrakis, Betty Socha, Georgia Lisee).



The Vasilopita bakers take time for a picture.

THANK YOUs

- ❖ **Ronald McDonald House (RMDH)** from Enix Zavala, House Manager, for our Christmas donation of \$200.
- ❖ **Springfield Rescue Mission** from Georgia Briggs, Donor Relations Coordinator, for our donation of \$150 and hats, gloves, and scarves.
- ❖ **Soldiers' Home in Holyoke** from Paul Barabani, Superintendent, for our donation of personal items which was underwritten by Wal-Mart.
- ❖ **Hellenic College/Holy Cross Theological School** from Fr. James S. Katinas, Director of Institutional Advancement, for our donation of \$100 in honor of Fr. Christopher Stamas for their Christmas card.
- ❖ **Fr. Chris** for our donation to Hellenic College/Holy Cross Theological School in his honor.



Ladies' Philoptochos Society "Evangelismos"
CATHEDRAL OF ST. GEORGE

22 St. George Road, Springfield, MA 01104
413-737-1496



Dear Ladies (and men) of the Saint George Cathedral Parish,

We wish you and your families a joyous and healthy New Year.

As Orthodox Christians, we believe that God is the giver of all good things. As Stewards of God's gifts, we return to Him a portion of our **time, talent and treasure** for Christ's work on earth through His church. **The Philoptochos Society and Stewardship Program** is an opportunity to respond to Christ's love by perpetuating our society's mission.

Please join our local efforts to promote the philanthropic goals of Philoptochos by renewing your membership or joining today with a donation to fulfill your 2012 stewardship. Your stewardship provides the financial support that is required to run our chapter and our required per capita dues for the National Philoptochos and our Metropolis.

In His Service,

Philoptochos "Evangelismos" Membership Committee

2012 STEWARDSHIP - A GIFT FROM THE HEART

Yes! You can count on me. I wish to support my Philoptochos with a stewardship of
___ \$40 ___ \$45 ___ \$50 ___ \$55 ___ Other

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone No: (_____) _____ email _____

Please make your check payable to "Philoptochos" with "2012 membership" in the memo and mail to:

Susan Alvanos, 125 Anvil Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Telephone No: (413) 789-0157

(Or you can send to the church or leave it in the Philoptochos mailbox in the church office)

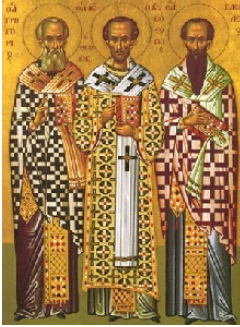
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Philoptochos “Evangelismos”



Ladies Society
St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral
22 St. George Road
Springfield, MA 01104

FIRST CLASS



Three Hierarchs – January 30
January 2012 - issue 1
Emailed and USPS mailed 1/13

- **2012 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE KICK-OFF** during Coffee Hour
Sunday, January 22 – *Contribute your stewardship and win a Gift Card!!*
- **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL** - *Dips, Drinks, & Dancing for Heart Health*
Sunday, February 12th 12:00-1:30 p.m. - *Wear Red for Heart Health*
- **LENTEN LUNCHEON** Sunday, March 25th
- **Thank you in advance for your 2012 Philoptochos Stewardship!**
- **OVER 60 CLUB TRIP** – *Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory, S. Deerfield*
Wednesday, February 1st - \$30 includes bus, admission, & buffet lunch; a stop will also be made at the new Kringle Candle Shop. Contact Aspasia Gravanis to reserve your place 562-0371. **All are welcome!**
- **WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP** – April 25-28th
Sponsored by St. George Cathedral; Promotional material in the stoa; Contact Besi Mavredakis for information and reservations 731-5514.



COMING IN SPRING 2012
‘ORGANIZE YOUR LIFE’
3 FORUMS FOR BUSY WOMEN
DETAILS TO FOLLOW SOON