

# The Cathedral Chronicle

Volume 7: No. 1

April 16, 2006



## EASTER 2006

Dear Parishioners,

Salvation, Life, Love and Hope – these are the great blessings of the event of the Resurrection. The victory of Christ over death and the reconciliation of man with God is the essence of the Resurrection.

Let us take this opportunity to exert all our spiritual and physical efforts to strengthen our faith in the Resurrected Lord so that we can find the peace and happiness that is a reality of the Resurrection.

A great source of strength toward this end is imparted to us through the Holy Week and Easter services of our Church. Let us attend them all with faith and humility.

We will be spiritually richer for it. Let us also make our offering to His Holy Church, thus helping in the continuance of the work of the Church. Please send us your offering envelope for your Easter gift to the church. We can show our love for the Church by once again offering gladly and sincerely.

With the blessings of the Resurrected Lord upon you all,

Your priest,

Fr. John Alexandrou  
Cathedral Dean

## ΠΑΣΧΑ 2006

*φΑγαπητοιω φΕνοριωτε~,*

Σωτηρια, Ζωη, φΑγαπη και φΕλιωδα – ει.:  
ναι αιθ μεγαλαιο ευφλογιωι πουσ αφορρεπου  
αφποσ τησ θΑγιωσ φΑνασασιν. θΗ νικη του Χρι  
στου εφπισ τοσ θαπνατον και ηθ συμφιλιωσι~ του α  
φνθρωπου μετασ του Θεου ει.:ναι ηθ ουφσιωα τη ~ φ  
Ανασασεω~.

[Α~ εφωφεληθου με τη ~ ευφκαιριωα~ μεσ ο{λην  
μα~ τησ πνευματικησ καισ σωματικησ δυσναμιν νασ  
εφνδυναμωσσωμε τησ πιστιν μα~ καισ νασ αιφσθανθο  
υ με τησ ειφρησνησ καισ ευφτυχιωσ πουσ ει.:ναι ηθ π  
ραγματικοσ τη ~ φΑνασασεω~.

Μιω μεγαλη πηγησ δυνασμεω~ προσ~ εφπιστευ  
ξιν του σκοπου τουστω ει.:ναι αιθ θιραιω φΑκολοθ  
ιωι τη ~ Μεγαλη~ θΕβδομασδο~ καισ του Πασχα. [ Α~  
προσεπλωμεν ειφ~ αυφασ~ μεσ πιστιν καισ ευφλα  
πβειαν καθ φ ο{λην τησ Μεγαλη θΕβδομασδα.

Περαιτερω α[~ προσφερωμεν μεσ αφασπην και  
π τοσ Πασχαλιωσ μα~ δω ρον προσ~ τησ φΕκκλησιω  
αν ι{να δυνηθη νασ συνεχιωσ τησ ε{ργον του φΑναστ  
απνο~ Κυριου. Σα ~ παρακαλου με στειπλετε τοσ σ  
χετικοσ φασκελλον καισ τοσ δω ρον σα~, εφλιπζοντε~  
ο{τι θασ φανη τε καισ πασλιν γενναιοσδωροι ο{πω~ πασν  
τοτε.

Ει[θε αιθ ευφλογιωι τη ~ φΑνασασεω~ νασ ε  
ι.:ναι μαζωσ σα~ πασντοτε.

Μετ φ ευφω ~ καισ πολλη ~ αφασπη~,

† Πρωτ. φΙωασνη~ φΑλεξαπνδρου  
θΙερατικο ~ Προι>σασμενο~

## **President's Message:**

Χριστο Ανεστη

On behalf of the Parish Council of our Metropolitan Cathedral of St. John the Theologian, I pray that our heavy journey through Lent has brought us all well to this glorious day of the Resurrection.

In preparing these few words for our Chronicle I was reminded of St. Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians, where St. Paul listed those who would testify to the truth of the Resurrection from the first witness to the last, himself, and then questioning his worthiness to be that witness.

*"But by the grace of God I am what I am and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."*

Collectively, this passage can apply to all of us as a parish of stewards.

Together we have labored, some with repairs to the Building and Grounds, others as teachers and advisors to our Cathedral's children, others as volunteers to our Parish organizations, still others as donors with kind generosity.

Our labor is never in vain in the House of God, for through his Grace we have begun our Dome renovation, the painting of our Nave, the revamping of our Gym lights and the repair of the aged mechanical system.

Through God's grace we will complete the overdo replacement of our facility's Heating Ventilating & Air Conditioning System, the purchasing of a wireless microphone system in our Fellowship Hall, the fabrication of a trophy case in our Hellenic Corridor or in the Atrium and the replacement of our Church Doors.

So, let us not focus on our labors, but on the Grace of God, through which our labors bring

about accomplishments that our labors alone could not.

On behalf of all our Stewards I thank all of you who have generously donated to our Preservation & Beautification program that makes these repairs possible.

Together, let us all thank our latest Grand Benefactors:

- ❖ Captain Mark & Koula Poneros
- ❖ Mr. & Mrs Steve Tenedios
- ❖ Mrs. Jean Milanos
- ❖ Mrs. Jean Milanos in memory of her Beloved Husband, John

I wish to also thank Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Nakopoulos for their generous gift allowing to add the Byzantine Mosaic of the Panayia, the first new mosaic icon, to our church in almost twenty five years.

We hope and pray that our Resurrected Lord keeps you and all of our stewards, and their families in Health and Happiness.

*John Lignos, President*

## **Philoptochos:**

Dear Members & Parishioners,

By the Grace of God, we are in the Period of Great Lent and we are waiting for our Lord's Resurrection. It is a season of spiritual journey, prayer, fasting, compassion and love. Love for our families, ourselves and thy neighbors, and we at St. Philothea Philoptochos strive to do just that.

We repeatedly say that the Philoptochos needs all of you to support and join it. Please become members. Together we will try to help alleviate some of the pain and hunger of our world.

### **Our News:**

**Vasilopita:** Our annual Vasilopita Luncheon was held in our Cathedral Hall on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006. It was a successful event and we would like to

thank our Parish for its support. A great thanks to our chefs, Mr. & Mrs. John Tsokanos, for the wonderful meal; the Chairladies, Mrs. Marina Philliou and Mrs. Xanthi Athanasenas, the Board and the Donors. The proceeds of the event went to St. Basil's Academy.

**February:** "St. Philothea", our Patron Saint, was celebrated on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006. An Artoclasia was offered for the health and well being of our members and their families. The Philoptochos hosted a reception after church for the Parish. Thank you ladies for the delicious sweets.

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the first Saturday of the Souls, the Metropolis of New Jersey visited St. Michael's Home for the Aged. His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos and Chancellor Rev. Stavropoulos participated. His Grace Bishop Anthony was a very gracious host. After Liturgy, a reception was held. The Metropolitan of NJ and its chapters presented his Grace with a check of \$7,000. A meeting was held by the Metropolitan Philoptochos and the Chapters. Our Chapter was represented by Mrs. Veta Lioulakis, Mrs. Vickie Azzatta, Barbara Papigiotis, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Halkias, and myself, Harriet Nikolaidis.

**March:** Philoptochos hosted the second Monday lecture and dinner on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Dr. Dimitrios Costantelos, Professor of Stockton College in NJ was the speaker. After the services, a Lenten dinner and sweets were served by our board members. Thanks to all who cooked and baked. Rev. Dr. Costantelos spoke very eloquently about our Faith. Among other things, he stressed "Philanthropeia", something that our Orthodox faith and our Holy Fathers acted upon by establishing hospitals, nursing homes, schools, orphanages, etc. How apropos, since our main goal as Philoptochos is Philanthropy.

The trip to Agia Skepi Monastery was canceled due to snow and ice in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, they called us at 10:30pm on Friday evening to cancel. I would like to thank Mrs. Halkias for her hard work. The trip will be rescheduled.

**May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006: Fashion Show – Save the Date**

Our major fundraiser will take place at Seasons of Washington Township. The runway has doubled and the fashions will be by Noel Brogan Productions. We promise you a great evening. Please support our fundraiser. This year's raffle, "Pot of Gold," will benefit the Reed Academy for Autistic Children in NJ. Come and help us make it generous.

Philoptochos donates to Cancer, Heart & Lung Association, UNICEF, AIDS, disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, the Earthquake in Pakistan, and fulfills its obligation to the National & Metropolis Philoptochos by additionally sponsoring and helping families and individuals in need.

Once more, we urge you to join our Philoptochos, become active members and attend our meetings. Age is not an issue. Whether your 18 years old or young at heart, everyone can join.

We take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Very Happy Easter. KALO PASCHA

*Harriet Nikolaidis, President*

### **PTO/Mother's Club:**

Another year is quickly coming to an end. Greek School and Sunday School will be over before we know it. We are very proud of the accomplishments that our students have made. Once again, we must thank all of the families who continue to support our events and fundraisers.

In January, we celebrated The Three Hierarchs with a brief performance by our children, followed by Greek Dancing and a dessert reception hosted by the PTO/MC. Many thanks to our chairlady, Eva Tsougarakis and all the ladies who helped with this event.

This year's Apokreatiko was our most successful one yet! We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our chairladies Marianna Eby, Georgia Economos and Gina Tzavelis for working so hard to ensure that everyone had a wonderful time. In addition to the chairladies, we would like to thank Pat Tolos who was our hospitality chairperson. She coordinated the food and helped to secure all the superb desserts. A special thanks to Irene Ferranti for doing such a wonderful job with the raffle. Thank you also to all

*Gena Dongaris and Christalla Papas  
PTO/Mothers'Club Co-Presidents*

### **Kali Parea:**

Kali Parea continues to grow and thrive, presently with 165 members. The aim is to keep the group active socially and to schedule interesting events which appeal to all.

In January, we arranged for the return visit of Susan Breithaupt from Valley Hospital, who spoke to us on the topic "Sleep Well, Feel Well". She had visited us last year, when her topic was "Improve Your Memory".

February 22<sup>nd</sup> was Movie Day for over 100 people. We showed the film "Politiki Kouzina" and invited the Kali Parea and church members to attend free of charge. We rented the projector, screen and speakers to test market the group, to see if there is an interest in showing movies in the future. Everyone present agreed that it was a big success and we plan to do it again.

There are some very interesting events planned for the next few months. In April, we have invited a physician from the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Center in Englewood to speak to us on the subject of back pain and exercise for the over-50 crowd.

In May, we hope to have one of our members, Dr. Steve Savas, share his slides and stories regarding his trip to China.

In June, we are off to Canada for five days and four nights. We leave on Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> and travel by luxury bus to Niagara Falls. We will stay at the Hampton Inn at the Falls on the Canadian side and enjoy guided tours of Niagara Falls, Toronto and Niagara on the Lake. In Toronto we will visit the Greek district and have dinner at a local Greek restaurant. While in Niagara, on the Lake, we will attend a performance of the "The Heiress" at the George Bernard Shaw Festival. Based on a minimum of 40 people, cost is now \$550 per person (double occupancy), and \$710 per person (single occupancy), which includes the bus, first-class hotel with four continental breakfasts, four dinners, balcony seats at the Shaw Festival, tips, tours and admissions. We will

the ladies who helped to set-up and clean-up. A great big thank you also for the parishioners who generously made the donations to help our event be so successful! We would be remiss if we did not thank our chefs: George Lilikas, John Tsocanos, Panayiotis Antoniou, Homer Vanides, Jack Kessisoglou, Steven Ferranti, Ted Koroniades, Kostas Nakopoulos, Van Manolis and John Barous. Dinner was delicious and enjoyed by all. The event started us all off to a great Lenten Season!

During our March 14<sup>th</sup> General PTO/MC meeting, we voted unanimously to donate \$5,000 for the restoration of our beautiful dome. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the PTO/MC hosted the Oratorical Festival. Thank you to Audrey Soussou and Sherry Zigouras for chairing and coordinating this important religious event in our children's lives. Congratulations to all the winners!

Upon completion of the Presanctified Liturgy on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a well-attended Lenten Dinner which seemed to be enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to everyone who donated a delicious "nistisimo" meal or dessert and to the ladies who helped served and clean up.

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, our Greek School celebrated their Greek culture and heritage with the annual Greek Independence Day performance. Thank you to our Greek School principal, Anna Megaris and all the teachers for their hard work and dedication. Thank you also to Mrs. Yvonne Dallas for teaching our students some wonderful Greek songs. A great big thank you is extended to our chairladies Stacey Kontolios, Pat Tolos and Sherry Zigouras for coordinating this event.

An additional thank you is extended to our board members who marched in the parade on Fifth Ave. on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate Greek Independence Day. The children were happy to represent our beautiful Cathedral.

### **Upcoming Events**

May 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting at 4:30 pm  
May 18<sup>th</sup> Greek School Graduation  
May 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday School Graduation  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> Greek and Sunday School end of year party 4:00-7:00pm

In closing, we wish you a Happy Easter and a good, relaxing summer!

return on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> after a visit to the Corning Museum of Glass. We welcome non-Kali Parea members for an additional fee of \$10 per person.

On Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> we plan a return trip to the Westchester Broadway Dinner Theatre for the evening show "Abba Gold". We will hear the ABBA(of "Mama Mia" fame) favorites performed by a first rate group of performers and enjoy a served sit-down dinner with a choice of entrée. Price is \$70 per person for the revue and dinner (including tax and tip).

If you have any questions, you can speak to any Kali Parea board member on Sundays after church, or call me at 201-567-5848. General meetings are usually on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM. We welcome everyone 55 years and over to join us. Annual dues are \$10 per person.

Respectfully submitted

*Vangie George, Corresponding Secretary*

### **THE LADIES & GENTS CLUB:**

A glorious March, Manhattan evening was experienced by all, commencing at the ONASSIS CULTURAL CENTER Olympic Towers. The Byzantine/Modern Greek Hellenic Art exhibit from the collections of Athens' Benaki Museum, were displayed elegantly. Following the exhibit, we dined at the famed estiatorio AVRA, which truly lives up to its reputation. Its scrumptious appetizers, meal, desserts, and flowing wine, completed a perfect evening, and made us, once again, proud of our Greek heritage. We were delighted that Father John and Presvytera Toula were able to join us.

We are in the process of getting measurements for our cathedral altar boys' new robes. We are looking forward to seeing the finished products, being sewn in Russia by Orthodox nuns.

Upcoming Events: May – **Outing**

June – **General Meeting**

Please don't miss out on our exciting, entertaining and cultural outings. Come, take a

break from the usual routine. We can always car pool for your convenience. We welcome your suggestions for any ideas or events you can share with us.

As my administration comes to an end, wholeheartedly I express my gratitude to our board, steering committee, and participants. Wishing all of you a beautiful spring and a blessed Pascha.

*Vivian Demoleas, President*

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

On Sunday, December 18, 2005 the Sunday School and Greek School students presented a Christmas Pageant in the Church. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Effie Thomopoulos for the beautiful and moving pageant that was presented. She was ably assisted by Mary Briskin, Stephanie Kiriakopoulos, Maria Lignos and Stacy Sardis. We also want to thank all the students who participated and who made this pageant a moving and joyful event.

On Friday, March 17, 2006, following the Salutations of the Virgin Mary, the 2006 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival was held in Church. There were 21 participants from the Catechism School. The winners for the Junior Division were Constantine Demoleas in First Place, Adam Hatzikyriacou in Second Place and Ann Marie Manso in Third place. The winners for the Senior Division were Dean Lignos in First Place, George Soussou in Second Place and Anna Lilikas in Third Place. All the other participants received Honorable Mention or Certificates of Merit. This was a very successful Festival with a full 25 students participating. All the students did an outstanding job and are to be congratulated. A special thanks to John and Maria Lignos who organized and chaired the 2006 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival,

On March 6, 2006, following the Compline Service, the Catechism School Teachers hosted a Lenten Dinner. This was followed by a lecture by Dr. Peter M. Kalellis who spoke on The Harmony

of Body, Mind and Soul. Thanks to Maria Lignos, Mary Briskin, Michael Polemis and Christ Economou who prepared the food and all the teachers and assistants who setup and served the food.

A free Vacation Bible Camp will be held this summer at St. John the Theologian for students in the fourth through seventh grades. The schedule for this camp is June 26 through June 30, 2006; from 2:00 to 6:00 PM. Christine Papavasiliou the fourth grade Sunday school teacher along with assistants will teach the Bible Camp. We strongly recommend the attendance of all students from grades 4 to 7.

### **BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE:**

The building and grounds committee is keeping very busy with alot of necessary maintenance and/or emergency repairs to our Church facility. Updates and major undertaking items since our last Cathedral Chronicles article include:

1. **Dome Rehabilitation** - The repair/rehabilitation of our Church dome is under way. After careful evaluation of the various bids we received, the construction contract was awarded on March 14, 2006 in the amount of \$410,000. Construction activities are expected to last until June.
2. **The painting of the interior of our church** - With the collaborated effort of a lot of our parishioners, the interior of our Church looks freshly painted and bright. Even though it seems like a simple task, it was really a big logistics operation and it required a lot of coordination and effort. We would like to thank the following individuals for their contribution:
  - Riverdale Painting, Mr. and Mrs. Zanghi, for donating the labor.
  - Mr. Jack Sardis for donating the paint.
  - Our Parish Council for donating the rental of the lift machinery.
  - The Kali Parea members, Homer Vanides, Jack Kessisoglou, Peter Harbilas and Ted Koroniades for being there every day moving the heavy pews and helping out with the painting operations.

3. **The repair and maintenance of the Gym lights** - Taking advantage of the lift availability, we repaired lights and replaced all burned out bulbs inside the Gym.
4. **Emergency repairs to our heating system** – As we mentioned in an earlier publication, our Church building was initially constructed in 1969 with the expansion completed in the early 1980's. As such, the majority of our church facility is approaching 40 years old. Some of the original systems such as the air-conditioning units, boilers, kitchen equipment, etc., have surpassed their life expectancy and the need for their replacement is quickly approaching. This past winter, our aging heating system gave us numerous problems which required extensive and costly repairs. Some of these include:
  - Repair of heating in several Greek/Sunday school classrooms downstairs.
  - Repair of heating in the Fr. Tsamutalis Fellowship Hall.
  - Replacement of the hot water storage tank.
  - Replacement of the hot water heater pilot light mechanism.
  - Replacement of three motor pumps at the heating boiler after two separate water leakages resulting in flooding of the boiler room and adjacent hallway.
  - Repairs to the heating boiler to correct various violations we received from our insurance inspection.
  - Balancing adjustments to the hot air heating zones.

The approx. cost for the above repairs will be over \$25,000 which will exceed our allocated maintenance budget for this year.

In addition to the above we would like to provide you with a list of other high priority maintenance/repair projects (with approx. costs) that we would like to consider pursuing if funds become available:

- Parking lot pavement sinkholes/cracks repairs & re-striping (\$25,000)
- The replacement of the deteriorated church entrance doors (\$35,000).
- The replacement of the aging original Church HVAC units (\$60,000)
- The repair the deteriorated Church front entrance steps/platform (40,000)

- The replacement of the aging original Water heater (9,000).

We would like to thank all who came forward and contributed towards the maintenance and preservation needs of our Church. If you would like to make a donation for the preservation and beautification of our Church or if you would like to partially or fully sponsor one of the above listed projects, please see Father John Alexandrou, Mr. Andreas Zigouras, Chairman of the Preservation & Beautification Committee, or Mr. John Lignos, our Parish Council President.

We appreciate your help and cooperation in keeping our Church well maintained and **we wish everyone Happy Easter, Health and Happiness.**

Co-Chairs  
*Stavros Kamilaris & Nick Katsapis*

### **Cathedral Technology Committee:**

The Technology Committee was formed to enable the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. John the Theologian to use technology to better communicate and manage the Church. Our goals are to make sure that the Church has the appropriate technology to meet the needs of the parish and utilize the network of stewards who can contribute to the technology needs.

We will focus the committee in the following areas:

1. The computers of the Church.
2. The Church and organization Websites
3. Telephone equipment
4. Audio and Visual needs

We are going to have quarterly meetings and I encourage any of our stewards that can contribute to these goals to join the committee or one of our working groups. Together we can help keep the Church operating as efficiently as possible and communicate the Church and organization activities as widely as possible to reach all of our families.

Sincerely, *Stephen E. Ferranti*  
*Technology Committee Chairman*

### **VACATION BIBLE CAMP**

Our children are constantly being challenged. The stresses that they are under scholastically, socially, and morally are tremendous. Where can they go to help cope with those stresses?

Vacation Bible Camp was developed to bridge the gap between secular life, where Christ is hardly thought about outside of the home, and Sunday school where Christ is talked about enthusiastically, but there is little time for in-depth study, fun and fellowship with their teachers and friends.

It is these personal relationships that they develop in Vacation Bible Camp along with the combination of fun and a deeper understanding of Christ that can lead them to a life long personal relationship with Christ, and a strong faith that can help them to overcome the challenges that they will face in life.

This can be done through the application of what they have learned from God's Word combined with the working power of the Holy Spirit. The Lord says "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6). In other words, lessons learned early about Christ are powerful and effective.

Vacation Bible Camp is an intensive one-week adventure that is designed age appropriately for kids in grades 4 through 8. Vacation Bible Camp is being held this year Monday through Friday on June 26<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> at our Cathedral of St. John, and is absolutely FREE!

We work towards deepening the relationship between your child and the Lord through His word. We realize that these are dangerous times that we live in and try our best to teach your kids to "live accordingly" and to "trust in the Lord" with all their hearts. For the Lord has said over and over in His Word: "If you look for Me with all your heart, you will find Me".

Aside from the kids learning about their faith, scriptures, and biblical stories, they have FUN; by including sports, arts and crafts, videos, lessons, snacks, motivational competitions, and prizes. What lessons do we teach?

4th Grade: True faith in Christ, and examples of what God can do with an ordinary life: stories of Esther, Ruth, Daniel, David, and St. Paul.

5th Grade: The Lord's Promises to his true believers.

6th Grade: Warnings and instructions from the Bible.

7th Grade: Old Testament prophecy concerning Christ's coming (awesome scripture).

So, drop your kids off with us between the hours of 2pm to 6pm, Monday through Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup>, and know that they will be in good hands having an excellent time, and a memorable week learning about our faith.

*With Christ Love,  
Father John & The Sunday School Staff.*

## **Girl Scouts:**

Girl Scouts is a great program for girls because it helps you become the very best person you can be. The girls learn to respect other people, build their own set of values, and learn leadership skills.

The Girl Scouts of St. John the Theologian have been very busy since December. The juniors have been working on many badges, including architecture. Mr. John Lignos was a great help for us to complete this badge. The girls attended a sweetheart dance with their fathers in February and also a hip-hop dance with their mothers in March. We also showed our Greek pride by marching in the Greek Independence Day Parade in NYC!

We are still looking forward to our camping trip at the Girl Scout Camp, Glen Spey. We are also excited about the overnight stay at the Norfolk Aquarium.

This is my fifth year in Girl Scouts and I love it! If you would like to have fun, meet new friends, and do some wonderful things, join us by calling one of our Girl Scout leaders: Janet Hilaris (201.750.9173), Phyllis Turrin (201.767.9991), Helen Kamilaris (201.384.3856), Christalla Papas

(201.391.0150), Joanne Lалlos (201.871.5957), or Frances Bayiokos (201.750.9180)

*Melanie Kamilaris, Junior Girl Scout*

## **Boy Scouts:**

A story was relayed to me recently as to why a father enrolled his son in Scouts. It was due to a condition called "NDS". That is short for Nature Deficiency Syndrome. These days, with all the electronic paraphernalia our there, some children barely get outside anymore to enjoy and appreciate the nature that the Lord has given us. This is one of the many things our scouts get an appreciation for. The Boys Scouts of Troop #25 have now grown to 34 scouts since the Webelos from Pack 25 crossed over in March. We now have scouts ranging from 11-17 with some of the older scouts still helping & mentoring our young scouts.

In December, we had some scouts go to a winter camping training course, singing at the Cathedral's Christmas Party and bowling during the Christmas break. All of our scouts participated in Christopher Drake's Star Service project of organizing the Toy for Tots program. Thank you to those who contributed to that.

In January, we had a 2 night cabin trip where we trained for the Klondike Derby, our annual winter competition of Scout skills and a speed race, with the assistance of three of our recent eagle scouts. The warm cabin was a luxury that the boys definitely appreciated. The practice paid off as our two sleds came in 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> place respectively out of about 35 scout sleds from the Twin Valley District.

In February, we had our annual Scout Sunday, celebrating the 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scouting. Thank you to our Parish for supporting the scouts with purchases of Loukoumades, First Aid Kits and Fire Extinguishers. Later in the month we had some scouts go up to Belair Ski Mountain for snowboarding and skiing.

March was busy, with Scout Day at a Nets Game, an exciting victory, the Blue & Gold Dinner for our Celebration of Scouting which the Cubs put on, and the Boy Scouts attend. The Next day another one of our scouts, George Sardis, did his Eagle Service Project, a blood drive for the Community Blood Center which was very successful. That same afternoon, a contingent of

the Troop marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Bergenfield, getting a bit wet, but getting onto Cablevision as well! Later in the month we joined the cubs for a swim party at the Ridgewood YWCA and finished the month by attending the Friday church services.

Service projects are a part of scouting with Kirk Colye's Life project being the computer entry of some of the Church's Car Raffle information to help consolidate it for future use. Marios Hoppas and Michael Themistocleous completed their Life projects by raking seniors lawns in the fall. Billy Lilikas' Eagle Project has been collecting email addresses of parishioners for the church to use in the future for mailings. This will be a huge savings to the church in printing and mailing costs, so if you haven't given your email address yet, please forward it to [marinosanna@aol.com](mailto:marinosanna@aol.com) and include your name and address.

Religion is another important part of scouting, and we now have 6 scouts going through a multi-month study course to earn the highest religious award for Greek Orthodox Boy Scouts, the Alpha Omega Award. They are being guided by Father John and Mr. John Lignos, with our thanks.

To learn more about scouting, or if you want to join, contact any of our Assistant Scoutmasters, Jack Sardis (816-1046), Oleg Cytowicz(387-2212), Frank Scartozzi(871-5829), Peter Hilaris(750-9173) or our long standing Scoutmaster, Tony Triant (236-8642).

*A Blessed Easter from your Scouts!!*

### **Cub Scouts:**

We had our exciting Pinewood Derby in the first weekend in March, with 5 Dens competing within themselves with their homemade wooden cars. Every variety of shape and color was available that night. Our Den winners went on to race in the District race against other local packs. In March we also had our Blizzard delayed Blue&Gold Dinner where The Mad Scientist started the entertainment and then each Den put on an original skit. This event was chaired by Anastasia Economos & Sherry Zigouras, with our thanks. The skits were used later in the month for a district wide Skitorama, where all had a fun time. The Cubs also enjoyed a Swim/Ice Cream Party in Ridgewood, marching in the St. Patrick's

and Greek Independence Day Parades and the multiple Den & Pack meetings.

We also passed on the Cubmaster role to Bobby Choe, with much thanks to Jim Coyle!

### **GOYA:**

Our GOYA is very active nowadays. First off, with old business, our youth represented St. John in the best of ways at the Annual Sights and Sounds Talent Showcase. At Sights and Sounds we had 28 members in attendance who got recognition for their talents in various categories. Our Greek Play won 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, American Singing 5<sup>th</sup> Place, Religious Singing 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. These were just the team events. We also had individuals win in literature, monologue, singing, instrumental solos, photography and more. Most importantly, all the Goyans tried their hardest and performed to the best of their abilities. I would like to thank Father John, the chaperones, and the advisors who were there to help and inspire all of us to do our best. If it wasn't for them our GOYA wouldn't have done as good as it did.

A few weeks ago was another major GOYA event. There was a religious retreat where all the GOYANS went in depth about their faith and also participated in Holy Confession with Father John. At the retreat all the GOYANS slept over at the church and it was quite an experience.

Not long after the retreat was a very successful Oratorical Festival where 21 members presented their high-quality speeches, showing not only their public speaking skills but knowledge of their faith. Representing us at the district tournament are Dean Lignos and Constantine Demoleas, whose essays got first place in senior and junior divisions respectively.

Lastly to do with old business, was our GOYA luncheon after church where all GOYANS presented their talents from Sights and Sounds. Thank You to Mr. Papas, Mr. Sardis, and Mr. Panagioti for cooking the amazing food and also to everyone else who made that day possible and those who came to support us.

Now, moving on to the future, our GOYA has aspirations and plans. First of which is to perform our talents for the elderly at Saint Michael's on April 8<sup>th</sup>. We are also looking forward to winning medals in the annual GOYA Outdoor Olympics which is May 27-28. Also in June we look forward to helping at this year's

festival. At the festival we are going to set up a coffee/frappe stand to raise money for our organization. We also have other events in mind and look forward to keeping our GOYA as active as we can.

I am proud to say that all the events that happened this year were a success with our youth showing great Christian ideals and love for their church. I am thankful for the advisors that work so hard to ensure that we have fun and stay on track to make this GOYA better than it already is. Thank you to all parishioners and a blessed Easter to all!

*GOYA President: Anthony Kinnis*

The following is a list of Sights and Sounds winners and their categories:

### **Sights**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Senior Opaque-Tempera:  
Renee Kojanis
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Senior Jewelry Original Design:  
Anna Lilikas
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Senior Short Story:  
Anthony Kinnis
- Honorable Mention - Senior Cross Stitch:  
Anna Lilikas
- Honorable Mention - Senior Essay:  
Sophia Zigouras
- Honorable Mention - Junior Opaque–Tempera:  
Christina Soras

### **Sounds**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Place - Senior Instrument Solo:  
Renee Kojanis
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place - Senior Monologue:  
Dean Lignos
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place -Junior Monologue:  
Anne Marie Manso

### **Did you know?**

- ❖ The 2006 Miss Greek Independence for this year's Greek Independence Day Parade is our very own Georgia Lilikas. She will be leading the parade in her beautiful gown and Chiara. She has had to make many appearances in the weeks before the parade as part of the obligation as Miss Greek Independence. We

congratulate her. Georgia is a graduate from Rutgers University and is currently working at Integrated Communications.

- ❖ The April 2006 issue of New Jersey Monthly magazine reported the selection of Arthur N. Chagaris, Esq. as a 2006 New Jersey Super Lawyer. According to the Magazine, the selection process is made after ballots are mailed to approximately 35, 000 active New Jersey lawyers who nominate, based on their personal observation, attorneys who they consider the best in their field. Then, the credentials of each nominee are verified independently. Finally, the top candidates are selected as Super Lawyers for the year. Mr. Chagaris practices law with the prominent law firm of Beattie Padovano, LLC in Montvale, New Jersey. He has been legal adviser to the Cathedral since 1976, he has serviced as President of her Parish Council and he is an Archon in the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He, his wife, Lia and their children, John, Alexis and Christina, live in Mahwah, N.J.

### **JOY:**

Our JOY youth, under the leadership of the president, Peter Lilikas, and the guidance of Irene Ferranti and Nikki Louloudis & Father John, have kept busy. Activities have included Ice Skating in Englewood's Mckay Arena and Bowling in Hackensack. They also had a Pottery making party at All Fired Up to make gifts for Godparent's Day. The JOY enjoyed a beautiful day of marching down 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the Greek Independence Day Parade and attended church as a group on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

The end of the year Dinner Party will be held on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at a location to be announced. Join us! Call Irene at 845-398-1838 or Nicki at 201-263-1112 for information.

## Greek Festival

June 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>

We have a wonderful Festival every year and to make it successful we need your help.

Please volunteer for one or two shifts this year to help spread the work around.

This is one way of being a **Steward** For you church.

### Sacraments:

#### Baptisms:

12/17/05 M/M George L. Staphos for Theodosios Paul with Eleni Bastas as Anadochos.

1/21/06 M/M Michael Bonanos for Julianna Ella with Stavros Bonanos as Anadochos.

2/5/06 M/M Antonio DaCunha for Porsha Christina with Rita Bishop as Anadochos.

3/5/06 M/M Dennis Kallivokas for Sofia with Sofia Mavronasios as Anadochos.

3/19/06 M/M Gabriel Karlis for Penelope Jade with Vasiliki & Nicholas Cialdella as Anadochi.

3/25/06 M/M Francesco Galdi for Christina Joanna with Christena & Peter Lambrianakos as Anadochi.

3/26/06 M/M Thomas Jayson Surovetz for Erich Elias with Anthony Chugranis, Jr. as Anadochos.

### Wedding:

1/21/06 Charlie Hatziminadakis & Effie Maria Katechis with Nick Serevetas & Anastasia Katechis as Anadochi.

### Funerals:

12/20/05 Helen Albert

1/18/06 Dimitrios Koutroubinis

1/26/06 Andreas Kolios

2/7/06 Elly Karaberis

2/7/06 Edward Gavrielides

3/3/06 Evangelos Miliotis

3/15/06 Andrew Kamenos

3/21/06 Angelo Baboulis

3/29/06 Alex A. Miller

