February 14 in our country is designated as Valentine’s Day. A day when people think of romance, red hearts, roses, chocolates and…. Love. Yet it seems there’s everything except love in the current climate of our culture and society in America.

I’m absolutely astonished by the social media postings of people in all levels of society and the amount of smugness, arrogance, holier than thou, hate, moral superiority, vitriol, that individuals not only feel privately but express publicly toward other human beings who have different opinions or are of different religious or political backgrounds.

Where’s the love?

I find this trend of individuals publicly judging and hating to be deeply appalling, beyond self-righteous, narcissistic, and quite frankly bordering on wicked. “In those days because of the increase of wickedness the love of many will grow cold.” (Matt. 24:12). And what’s worse, not simply being satisfied with their own perceived superiority, but now wanting to even punish and destroy those with whom they disagree with hate and humiliation.

Good Lord, how deep can the hate go? What’s the next step?? I guess that's what is meant by cancel culture? Eliminate those with whom you disagree. Wipe them off the face of the earth so you don't have to be accountable for your own behaviors. Purge, reprogram, deplatform those with whom you disagree or who have a different opinion. Is that the endgame?

Where’s the love? The answer to that question is that true love comes from God and when people do not believe in Him, they simply cannot love. When you believe in different gods, i.e. politics, big tech, self, then this is when we see and experience the current absence of love.

Through deep repentance and self-reflection, may all of humanity heed the ultimate message of Jesus Christ and His greatest teaching: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength….and Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31)

With love in Christ, Fr. Christopher
Dear Parish Family,

I know Christmas and New Year’s is long past. However, we still have our colorful Christmas cards on our book case as daily reminders of our loving family and friends. Our Parish Christmas card is one of the most beautiful with an icon of St. Luke writing, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.” The Parish Council wishes you and your families’ peace and health for 2021.

We are adjusting to Houses of Worship occupancy requirements as set forth by the Commonwealth. Currently, we are limited to 25% Church occupancy not counting staff. That number is about 115 Parishioners. We have only been close to that number a few times. The Usher Team has contingency plans in place to use the hall if and when additional seating is necessary.

On Sunday, January 10, we celebrated Vasilopita Sunday and had the Oath of Office for the Parish Council. Fr. Chris gave the ministry leaders pieces of Vasilopita to honor their service, dedication and devotion to our Parish. He also offered a prayer to all our valued ministries, asking for every good and perfect blessing for all our Parishioners who are members of our ministries. Due to COVID the Archdioceses permits members of Parish Councils to extend their terms for another year and therefore avoid the need for the annual election in December. Huge “Thank You” for all you do to all our servant leaders who make up our Parish Council. At the start of the calendar year we ask our Parishioners to consider volunteering to serve on one our Parish ministries. If you would like to contribute, we always need assistance on all of our ministries. You can get more information about them from the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church website.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all our Parishioners for all you do to make our Parish community so successful. Despite the pandemic and the changes to our lives, the Church is here for you, the Divine Liturgy is celebrated every Sunday and Fr. Chris and the Parish Council is here to serve you and your families.

With Love in Christ and His Blessings for 2021,
Buzz Stapczynski
Parish Council President
Philoptochos

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank all of you who generously donated funds so we could decorate the Church for the Christmas season. The Church looked beautiful, and many enjoyed the beautiful tribute to our Lord, Jesus Christ, in honor of his birth. We are also grateful to those who purchased traditional Christmas breads and Vasilopita coins during the holidays. We hope that you enjoyed them and wish everyone a healthy and blessed New Year.

We sent Christmas cards to our parishioners who are shut-ins. If you have anyone in mind who would like a call, card, or remote visit from us, we would be delighted to reach out. Please let Kathy Coufos, our President, know details. Kathy's email is kathycoufos@gmail.com.

Our membership invitation has been mailed to all parishioners. If you do not feel like it is a good time to join, or you are unable to join, we provided a line for general donations apart from membership. While Philoptochos is open to women of our parish, the opportunity to make a general donation is available to everyone. Your support and prayers are essential to enable us to fulfill our mission. Thank you in advance.

With sisterly love,
Georgiana (Gina) Betses LaFortune
Corresponding Secretary

Bookstore

We have missed seeing everyone in the bookstore and look forward to opening up again. During these difficult times, if anyone would like to purchase an icon for themselves or friends, please go directly to:

Ancient Faith
store.ancientfaith.com
Munster, IN
800 967 7377

Monastery Icons
monasteryicons.com
West Chester, OH
800 729 4952

Hopefully we will be announcing our reopening date in next month’s Word. In the meantime, if we can be of any help, please let us know.

Elaine Demetroulakos
elained5@comcast.net

Dotty Vlamis
dv7740@yahoo.com

GOYA BASKETBALL

There is a possibility that the Metropolis of Boston will try to have a GOYA boys basketball season, consisting of 6 weeks, beginning at the end of this month.

We would like to enter a team and to begin preparing with a few practices.

Please respond asap to Coach John if you are interested: johnpappy@aol.com

Thank you.

Congratulations to Bette Bigelow who received the ministry vasilopita coin this year and to Melissa Irvin who received the parish coin. May they receive God’s blessings this year and always.

WRITING CHECKS TO THE CHURCH:

Please use the memo line to indicate where to direct your donation! Stewardship 2021, Stewardship 2020, Mortgage Elimination, Sunday School, etc. Thank you.
GOYA NEWS

We have had a busy end of the year from baking and delivering Koulourakia and gifts to our homebound seniors to donating Market Basket gift cards to The Wish Project and finally the 5th annual GOYA Toy Drive. Thank You to everyone that helped make it all a HUGE success.

Happy New Year!
WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH!

THANK YOU

"The Greatest of These is Love" (1 Cor. 13:13)

Stewardship 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Pledge Range</th>
<th>Weekly or Yearly Amount</th>
<th>Total annual pledge</th>
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<tr>
<td>SERAPHIMS</td>
<td>$10,000 and up</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHERUBIMS</td>
<td>$6,000 and up ($115 or greater weekly)</td>
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<td>ARCHANGELS</td>
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<td>GUARDIANS</td>
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<td>TORCHBEARERS</td>
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Please check ✓ the box and enter the total annual pledge on the right.

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☐ Yes, I/we will support God’s work through our Church. Here is my/our Commitment of Faith for the year 2021.

NAME: _______________________________________________________________________________ HOME PHONE: ____________________________
ADDRESS: ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________
CITY: ____________________________________________________________ STATE: ______________________________________ ZIP: _______________
EMAIL ADDRESS: ___________________________________________________ CELL PHONE: _______________________________________
CHILDREN: NAME DATE OF BIRTH
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Loving embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.

What you need:
- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

What you do:
1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine’s Day gifts.

Puzzle

A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

```
J O U B U B E O S E F
J E E A S E’ U H O D J O U B
I O E C O R C U B E E J E A
R C U B E I O E C O R C U B E E
J E E A S O F P A
R U C H N A U N O
R U C H N A U N O
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R U C H N A U N O
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RUTH 1:16, NIV

Answer: "Where you go, I will go and where you stay I will stay, your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td><strong>Presentation of Our Lord</strong>&lt;br&gt;9 a.m. Orthros&lt;br&gt;9:30 a.m. Liturgy&lt;br&gt; Greek School 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Orthros 9:00 a.m.&lt;br&gt; Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Greek School 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Parish Bible Study 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Massachusetts School Vacation Week&lt;br&gt;Presidents Day</td>
<td>NO Greek School&lt;br&gt;Parish Council Mtg 7:15 p.m.</td>
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<td>Sunday of the Publican &amp; Pharisee&lt;br&gt;Orthros 9:00 a.m.&lt;br&gt;Liturgy 10:00 a.m.&lt;br&gt;GOYA Mtg 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Greek School 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Men’s Ministry 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Sunday of the Prodigal Son&lt;br&gt;Orthros 9:00 a.m.&lt;br&gt;Liturgy 10:00 a.m.&lt;br&gt;JOY Mtg 12:15 pm</td>
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Saints Constantine & Helen
Greek Orthodox Church
71 Chandler Road
Andover MA 01810

Periodical