

St. Stefanos Greek Orthodox Church



The Light



ISSUE 6 JUNE 2020

Looking into June

June 3rd

Bible Study

6:30 pm

June 6th

Saturday of Souls

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

June 7th

9:00 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Ushers: Nicky Stamoulis, Bill Christopher, Sandra Carnevale & Anthie Riddle

June 9th

Parish Council Teleconference

7:00 pm

June 10th

Bible Study

6:30 pm

June 14th

9:00 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

June 16th

Stewardship Meeting

6:30 pm

June 17th

Bible Study

6:30 pm

June 20th

Food Pantry

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

June 21st

9:00 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Father's Day

June 24th

Bible Study

6:30 pm

June 28th

9:00 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

June 29th

Saints Peter & Paul

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

**Please see Sunday Bulletins
for Ushers**

Very Rev. Fr. John W. Stefero, Proistamenos

Cell # 678-637-4425

Email: jwstefero50@hotmail.com

Rev. Deacon John Pantelis

3600 76th Street North · St. Petersburg, FL 33710 - www.ststefanos.org 727-345-8235 Email: office@st.stefanos.org



FROM THE DESK OF FR. STEFERO

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST! HE IS AND EVER SHALL BE!

Welcome Back!

It was good to see people return to church last Sunday for the first time in months. The following words of the Psalmist were echoed throughout the service - Psalm 94 (95):

Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord.
Let us shout aloud to God our Savior.
Let us come before His face with thanksgiving,
and let us shout aloud to Him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God!

I commend the 40 parishioners that attended our reopening service for their adherence to the directives of our Metropolis by wearing masks, having their temperatures taken, employing social distancing, etc. We hope to see more people in church each Sunday going forward. As we have so much to be thankful for, let us remember to give the glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I also want to sincerely thank the ushers who assisted with taking temperatures, distributing candles, and seating parishioners. Their help made the process run smoothly. My appreciation goes out to the chanters and altar servers for making the service very uplifting with their participation. We plan to utilize four ushers each Sunday to ensure a seamless process. If you would like to volunteer your help, please call the church office.

This coming Sunday we celebrate the great feast of Holy Pentecost. For the Jews it was called the Feast of Weeks, a harvest festival celebrated 50 days after Passover. It was a feast of joy and thanksgiving for God's protection and His rich provisions. For Christians, Pentecost celebrates the Lord's bestowal of the Holy Spirit upon His Church. It is also a feast of the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – one God in Three Persons, existing eternally and working together for the salvation of the world.

Today we need the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us more than ever. Let us not cover up this inner spiritual treasure with darkness of sins, but rather let us renew our lives through repentance, forgiveness, and faithful observance of God's commandments.

May we pray daily the prayer to the Holy Spirit: *O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who are everywhere and fills all things. The Treasury of blessings and the Giver of life, come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls O Good One.*

With love in Christ,
Father John

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - NICKY STAMOULIS



Dear St. Stefanos Parishioners,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones well. It has been a difficult time, a challenging time for all of us with COVID-19 issues, and mandates. We miss being with our families, our friends, and attending church. Through the dedication and enthusiasm of several individuals, we have been truly fortunate, to be able to take part in Holy week services, the Sunday Liturgies, and Bible classes from our own homes.

I am incredibly happy to announce our re-opening was phenomenally successful. We had about 40 parishioners attend the Sunday Liturgy. They all came with their masks, as Father John asked in his message, they brought their card with their name and phone number. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe. We hope to see more of our parishioners next Sunday.

We have taken this opportunity to complete many projects, as you know, having read the committee reports from the 2020 Spring General Assembly that was sent out last Saturday.

This year the Parish Council pledged \$20,000 for our Humanitarian donations. We sent in March, \$1,000 to the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), \$500 to the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in America, \$1,000 to our Parish Emergency Fund, \$1,000 to Seminole Lake Rotary Cub, \$1,000 to All children's Hospital. In May we voted to give \$500 to Shannon's Walk for a Cure for ACC, \$500 to Limbitless, \$500 to Hope for Children Home, \$500 for Children's Cancer Center, \$1,000 to Diakonia Center, \$250 to COVID-19 Relief Fund (Greek Archdiocese), \$250 Orthodox Christian Prison Ministries.

I like to thank our stewards who faithfully, continued to contribute to their stewardship. You can always donate or light a candle through our website or send a message to the office.

I thank you all as we continue our journey, stay strong, stay safe, stay healthy. Hope to see you Sunday.

With Love in Christ,

Nicky Stamoulis

Parish Council President



Virtual Lunch and Learn

JUNE 16TH, 12:30 TO 1:30 PM

Join in the conversation with community representatives that will share insights on how to protect older adults from fraud and financial scams. Tips and resources for seniors and their caregivers.

Guest Speakers:

- Anna Marie Millett, Pinellas County Consumer Protection
- Officer Joel Quattlebaum, Largo Police Dept
- Kathleen Winters, MS, LN, Alzheimer's Family Organization
- And Special Guest, Representative Jennifer Webb, House District 69

How to join:

www.facebook.com/agingcarefl

Have questions ahead of time? Email Stacie at:
stacie.bolen@aaapp.org or call 727 570-9696 x 259



May 22, 2020

Very Rev. Archpriest John W. Stefero
Parish Council Members and Parishioners
Saint Stefanos Greek Orthodox Church
3600 76th Street N.
Saint Petersburg, Florida 33710

Dear Father John and Beloved Faithful:
Christos Anesti!

On behalf of all the member hierarchs of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, I wish to express our deepest gratitude to you for your incredibly generous contribution of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) towards the 2020 Budget of the Assembly.

The Assembly of Bishops, mandated by agreement of all the Mother Churches at Chambesy, has begun the holy work of correcting the anomalies that exist in the canonical order of our Church in this country through the meetings of hierarchs, the working together of the members of the various committees, and the visionary cooperative efforts of the Assembly's jurisdictions.

Since His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros has assumed the role of Chairman of the Assembly, there has been an incredible re-vitalization of the organization. The Executive Committee of jurisdictional first hierarchs meets almost every week by video conference! Committees have been reorganized. Significant work has been done to assist our parishes, dioceses and jurisdictions through the difficulties caused by the coronavirus pandemic. A toolkit has been created to assist communities as they begin the process of re-opening our churches! And a new Orthodox Volunteer Corps has been established to staff the renewed support efforts for Project Mexico, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). These are no small accomplishments in the span of just one year!

Your generous contribution ensures that these great strides initiated by the Assembly committees will continue and progress, and the hierarchs of our land will continue to meet, get to know each other better, overcome past differences, and work together for the glory of Almighty God and a common witness of Holy Orthodoxy in our land.

I pray that God will continue to bless all of you and all your loved ones for your service to Christ and His Church, and grant you peace, good health, salvation, visitation and good hastening in all things, and that He will protect and preserve you all for many, blessed years!

With love in Christ,



Treasurer of the Assembly of Canonical
Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America
Check Received: # 9200 (\$500.00)

FROM THE CHURCH FATHERS

“When you pray to God in time of temptation do not say, ‘Take this or that away from me’, but pray like this: ‘O Jesus Christ, sovereign Master, help me and do not let me sin against You...’”

Abba Isaiah the Solitary

Every affliction tests our will, showing whether it is inclined to good or evil. That is why an unforeseen affliction is called a test, because it enables a man to test his hidden desires”

Saint Mark the Ascetic

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible, in Your ineffable goodness, look down upon Your people gathered in Your name.

Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction.

You know our weakness. You hear our cry in repentance and contrition of heart.

O Lord who loves mankind deliver us from the threat of the corona virus.

Send Your Angel to watch over us and protect us.

Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus.

Guide the hands of physicians, and preserve those who are healthy

that we may continue to serve You in peace and glorify

Your most honorable and majestic Name,

of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

His Grace, Bishop Alexis of Bethesda

PHILOPTOCHOS/ CHOIR

Philoptochos

Hope you are all doing well, safe at home! Despite being in quarantine, the Executive Board have been having virtual meetings, and planning for when we are all able to be together again. For example, we are planning to have a Beginning of Year celebration (instead of End of Year luncheon) when we are able. Perhaps for the Panagia in August? We will let you know. Meetings are on hold until you are informed; fortunately, our elections fall next spring.

Congratulations to Lydia Riddle, our Philoptochos scholarship recipient for 2020. Lydia will be attending St. Petersburg College in the fall.

Our national dues (per capita) were postponed. If you have not paid your \$35 dues for 2020, please send to the church office written out to Philoptochos 5009.

We encourage all of our church members to join with us in order to fulfill the mission of the Philoptochos-- to help the poor, promote the charitable purposes of the Church, preserve the Orthodox faith, and promote participation in the activities of the St. Stefanos community. All are welcome. Our next meeting will be announced.

Choir

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there will be no choir rehearsals or choir, by request of the Metropolis. Please make a joyful noise unto the Lord in your homes and enjoy the church services which are streaming on YouTube! Just because we have to be physically separated from each other does not mean that we are separated from God.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income

Primary Income	Jan-May 2020	Jan-May 2019
Candles	6,475.21	15,573.05
Donations	18,108.75	13,675.18
Stewardships	82,004.11	84,301.99
Trays	3,417.75	7,293.28
Total Primary Income	110,005.82	120,843.50
Other Income		
Fundraisers		9,570.00
Greek Festival	154,124.31	118,655.48
Funds from PPP	14,139.20	
Hall Rental	6,683.00	13,255.25
Hospitality	1,334.00	1,405.00
In-kind Donations	7,915.03	747.27
Ministries	5,726.10	4,343.00
Misc		
Total Income	299,927.46	268,819.50
Expense		
Primary Expenses		
Administration Priest	32,175.00	26,026.04
Archdiocese	19,578.59	19,404.15
Church Staffing	41,889.73	40,096.81
Charitable Donations	6,050.00	4,750.00
Church Office	5,467.50	5,572.48
Church Service	9,422.70	12,117.29
Insur/Lic/Fees	6,063.59	4,600.49
Upkeep / Maintenance	47,988.83	10,794.64
Utilities	14,238.24	12,817.65
Total Primary Expenses	182,874.18	136,179.55
Other Expenses		
Greek Festival	88,895.09	58,667.62
Event Expenses		8,588.57
Hall Rental	1,435.00	3,417.18
Hospitality		
In-kind Donation offset	7,915.03	747.27
Ministry Groups	3,966.31	7,448.94
Misc		
Total Expense	285,085.61	215,049.13
Net Income	14,841.85	53,770.37

TREASURER'S MESSAGE - KATHY KOKKINAKOS

Dear Cherished Members of the St. Stefanos Family,

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!

I want to send you my heartfelt "THANK YOU" for your continued donations and stewardship during this pandemic. It's been difficult for some of us in our Parish and I'm deeply touched by your generosity during this unfortunate and very challenging time.

If you, or anyone you know is in need, please contact Father John at our St. Stefanos Office (727) 345-8235 or directly on his cell at (678) 637-4425. He has been in regular contact with parishioners and will continue to provide the pastoral care that is needed.

I pray that you will be able to continue your generosity. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or our Bookkeeper, Alan Field. We will be glad to work with you.

May God's loving mercy, grace and blessings be with all of you during this Paschal season. May you remain safe and we look forward to gathering again as a community.

With all my love,

Kathy Kokkinakos

St. Stefanos Treasurer

June, 2020 UPDATES IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Bible Study 6:30 pm	4	5	6
7 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	8	9 Parish Council Teleconference 7:00 pm	10 Bible Study 6:30 pm	11	12	13
14 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	15	16 Stewardship Mtg 6:30 pm	17 Bible Study 6:30 pm	18	19	20 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Food Pantry
21 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Father's Day	22	23	24 Bible Study 6:30 pm	25	26	27
28 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	29 Saints Peter & Paul 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	30				

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