

Thank you to everyone who has participated in any part of our parish life. The activities at our church and the involvement by parishioners are indicators of the health of our faith.

During our Holy Week this year, I felt there was a higher level of engagement of our families. Our educational center was filled, and even the church seemed to have more people for our evening services. (Admittedly some morning services were sparsely attended.... We'll do better.) This is a great time for all of us at St. Vasilios.

We have a new second priest to assist Father Chris. If you have already met Father Yanni, you know that we have been blessed to have yet another fine addition to our parish clergy. He and his wife Marina have already made an impact at St. Vasilios. I hope that you will come to church to meet him, and hear his wonderful messages based on the weekly Gospel lessons.

Our annual picnic at Winter Island is right around the corner, and will look forward to having you attend, and having you help if you wish. If last year's event was any indication of how it will go this year, you don't want to miss it. Come and enjoy friends, family, food and fun as we raise funds to help balance our operating budget. (I hope someday we can hold a picnic to bolster our bank account instead of funding the shortfall of our budget.)

I know that every hour has 60 minutes, but it sure seems like time moves at light speed. Just yesterday it was Easter, and tomorrow is the picnic. Christmas will be here next week. Yes, I know my calendar is off a bit, but it seems that we measure our lives by major events. If there's anything you really want to do, it is best to do it now, for pushing something off to tomorrow might not come to fruition. None of us know our future, and none of us know when we will be called "home."

Do you want to call a friend? Do it now. Do you want to visit another part of the world? Schedule it now. Do you want to tell someone that you love them? Waste no time.

Here's something else to consider. Do you want to leave money to our church? If this is in your mind, please consider adding the "St. Vasilios Endowment Fund" to your will. If this truly is your wish, please do it now. Whether your plan is to leave a legacy gift of \$1,000, \$10,000, a million dollar or more, if it's not in your will, it will not happen. In this scenario, your charity will "extend beyond the grave" and help the future of our St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church.

As we watch 2019 march on, please also remember the request of Father Chris. Wherever you may be for the celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ, attend church services. As an Orthodox Christian, you are welcomed into Liturgies around the world. Of course, we hope to see you in St. Vasilios.

Sincerely,
John J. Maihos, President
St. Vasilios Parish Council