

President's Parish Council Message: April 2019

As we prepare for the great holiday of Easter, we fast. Oftentimes this means giving up something valuable or desirable to us. It could also be giving up something we take for granted, something that is usually there, and once gone, will be appreciated all the more when it returns.

Look around at all the things we have in our life. There are certainly things we enjoy that we could easily give up. It's not easy to fast. Fasting is a loss that we opt to endure as a personal show faith. It's a very private thing, and one we should use to internally reflect.

Even when we're not fasting, we make decisions based on our individual or family situation. Sometimes we can celebrate with a feast, and other times we must give something up.

We all have wants and needs. We might want a brand-new car, when we simply need transportation. We might want a sumptuous meal when we simply need nourishment. We might want to have unlimited funds when we simply need to pay our bills.

As a church family we count on every member giving something towards the needs and wants of the church. Ideally, the church would not have to make decisions that would give up one program in favor of another.

In the Old Testament we learn the word "tithe." When you "give a tithe" to the church, it means that you give one-tenth to the church. Although we have moved away from this "rule," we must all recognize the importance of running our organization.

Today, through our Stewardship program, we ask that people give according to their means. Some are not in a position to give as much as others, so if you have been blessed with good fortune, we ask you to consider giving above the 10% threshold.

Giving to the church supports our physical campus, our priests, and our many ministries. When we continue to properly fund and expand these important areas, we see more people wanting to be involved. Bible study grows. Our youth volunteers increase. We grow and prosper. This is the St. Vasilios that we all want and need.

In the coming days leading up to the Resurrection {Anastasi}, please consider all that St. Vasilios has been, is now, and will continue to be, to you and your family. If you haven't used all that St. Vasilios has to offer, join us now. Come to a St. Val's Men's Club meeting. Join the women of the Philoptochos. Reunite with old friends through Kalee Parea. Bring your children to Church School. Enroll them in Greek School. Encourage the youth by exposing them to JOY and GOYA.

If you are shy about getting involved, call me or any member of the Parish Council. Start by coming to church. All our seats have a great view, and we've offered our Divine Liturgy longer than any show on Broadway!

Good bless you.

John J. Maihos, President Parish Council