

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Maihos, President Parish Council



A year as Parish Council president has been a very rewarding experience. Receiving the approval of the council to serve another year is quite the honor too. We had a wonderful year at St. Vasilios and I attribute it to a vibrant, growing, curious and inspiring church community.

We have seen many positive activities at our church and growth in our stewardship program. Each ministry in our parish can be proud of what it has accomplished.

This year, we saw a change in the way our Greek School accepts students. When Greek School principal Dina Kalaitzidis saw an inequity in the way students are allowed to enroll in classes, she stood right up for the families who wanted this important education for children, and approached the Parish Council to advocate for them. We listened, and we responded. By working together, we made it better. If you want to enroll your children in the program, please talk to her, or visit the office. There is a fee involved, but it is well worth it.

When parishioners wanted a coffee hour during the summer, we figured it out. With great assistance from Sofya Leras, and cooperation from each person who attended, we enjoyed each other's company every Sunday after Divine Liturgy in the months of July and August. Even though Church School wasn't in session, we were still blessed with many of the children of our parish too. Our Sunday coffee hours are a great opportunity to connect with each other, and personally I feel this is a very important part of our St. Vasilios community.

Our Hoops program is such a consistent part of St. Vasilios, and in no small part due to the dedication of parents like John Kourtelidis, Steve Stephanides, Steve Kapnis, and of course Father Yanni. Boys and girls learn sportsmanship and spirituality, and so many other valuable lessons. Last year we hosted the Metropolis Hoops Banquet, and we have been asked to do it again. (Apparently we did too good a job!) Seriously though, although it is a lot of work, and I'm sure organizers would love to be on the other side of the event, they stepped up, and with the spirit of "team," will do a fine job again.

Stewardship has found a new life at St. Vasilios. This is thanks to all parishioners who pledge to our church, and with the guidance of our Stewardship committee of Martin Scrivener, Peter and Andrea O'Donnell and Phyllis Dragonas. It's "free" to attend church, but as we all know, it costs a lot of money to pay for the "free" services. We truly appreciate your donations, and with your continued support, and a bit more each year, we can do what's needed. Stewardship is a funny animal. There are no requirements to pay; yet we need your gifts. If every parishioner gave around \$600, we would be solid. That said, whatever you can give is all we can expect. There is no minimum amount to be a steward of the church. Of course, there is no maximum either.

Attendance at our General Assembly has been light, so we thought about options, and came up with a possible solution. Instead of a Monday night meeting, our next General Assembly will be Sunday, May 31 right after Divine Liturgy. (Don't worry... we'll have coffee!) I would like to thank members of the Parish Council for their wisdom in allowing this change.

Why am I sharing all these seemingly unrelated parts of the year? Because they all really are related. Every part of our church, whether it's the Altar Boys, Myrofores, Hoops, Greek School, Sunday School, GOYA, Jr. GOYA, Philoptochos, Men's Club, or any other organization of St. Vasilios, we are ALL a part of St. Vasilios. Without any one group, we are not a whole. More importantly though, is that YOU are a part of the whole. Even though, you might belong to just one group, you ARE the church, and the church is you. We all work together to spread the word of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This is the mission of each and every group, and we must keep this in focus.

So many things will come together as we embrace Christ in our lives. When life is put in perspective, it becomes clearer.

Please join us at church each Sunday. Come and enjoy the love of our parish. If you haven't come for a while, swing by. If your children have drifted away, encourage them to rejoin our family again. If you know people who need what we offer, please send them in our direction.