Dear Faithful in the Lord,

I hope all of you are enjoying summer! Please read through our Newsletter, *The Messenger* and see all that has been going on in our community. As you will see, our parish has grown since we began on August 17, 1997 and recently we have put an offer down on a larger facility (see below).

In the Lord, Fr. Dennis

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**Pearls of Wisdom**

For me there are three kinds of love: that of the flesh, which is full of spiritual germs; secular love, which is superficial, formal, hypocritical and without depth; and spiritual love, which is true, pure and precious love. This is love which can continue ‘unto the ages of ages’.

How will I know that I have real love Elder?

In order to understand, see if you love all people equally and whether you think all of them are better than you.

*Saint Paisios the Athonite*

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**Capital Campaign—Leon Basdekas**

On June 30th we had a General Assembly meeting where we discussed the Village Christian Church property and a recommendation by the Parish Council to make an offer for purchase with no space sharing with the current congregation. His Eminence did not approve space sharing but gave his blessing for purchase without space sharing. Our realtor was there to answer specific questions about the property and general questions related to the commercial real estate market. After significant discussion, stewards voted overwhelmingly to make an offer for purchase. Authorization was made for the initial offer of $525,000. The offer is now in the hands of the owners and we expect the reply to be in several weeks as many of their key members are on vacation.

If you have not done so, please sign up and register a King Sooper loyalty card as the rewards program has changed. The reloadable gift cards are no longer used so don’t forget to use the balance down to zero and dispose of the card. If you need assistance registering the loyalty cards please see the instruction sheet on the candle stand. Also, Demetria Greenwood can help register by computer after services on Sundays.

In the Lord Leon
Capital Campaign Chair
Dear Faithful in the Lord

It is with great pleasure to inform you of our parish’s continued growth. I am happy to see such great attendance during our Sunday liturgies as well as some growth during our weekday services. There have been many new faces in our church and we have been doing a great job of reaching out to them and making them feel welcome. Many new people are coming to Colorado Springs every day and our city is growing. This means our ministry must grow with it. It is our duty as Orthodox Christians to spread the Gospel throughout the world and it starts right here in our own home of Colorado Springs. We are all called to be apostles of our faith and now, more than ever is the time to answer that call. We are in difficult times and our society is showing great change in its morals and ethical values. We must stay strong and profess our faith without fear and with zeal but most importantly with love for all mankind. I look forward to the day that we move to a larger facility and I pray that day comes soon. I believe a larger facility for our parish is necessary for our growth as well as for our apostolic ministry to the world.

We are taking this move much more seriously as I and others feel this is necessary. I hope that God blesses you during this wonderful summer season and please remember that if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to me. I have served this church for almost 22 years now and it is of the upmost importance to me. God must come first in our lives. It all starts with our individual relationship with Christ, beginning with our families and homes, as well as our parish community. Yours in Christ —Iakovos “Jake” Topakas

Holy Thursday Evening: (left to right) Maximus Topakas, Fr. Constantine, Fr. Dennis, Fr. George, Andy Dabit, Michael Greenwood, Jake Topakas
Colorado Springs has an amazing history and our little tots are quite curious about it! On May 18th, a couple of moms and their tots went to the Pioneer Museum, completed the museum’s scavenger hunt and then enjoyed some of Josh and John’s homemade ice cream. It may have rained, but it did not stop them from having fun and the moms enjoyed great conversation with each other.

On the 4th of July we went to Rockledge Ranch. We had a picnic and listened to a brass band play patriotic music while mingling with actors dressed as George Washington, General William Jackson Palmer, Teddy Roosevelt, and Katherine Lee Bates.
Monastery Visit – Connie Leonard

On Saturday, March 9, 2019, four parishioners from both AMGOC and Holy Theophany visited the Protection of the Holy Virgin Monastery in Lake George, CO. Mother Cassiana gave a talk entitled “Great Lent Return to Paradise.” We had the opportunity to chat, have lunch together, learn more about the Monastery, visit the bookstore, and visit the new church under construction. It was a blessed day. For those who would like to go in the future, Connie Leonard would be more than happy to arrange a visit.

Bookstore – Olga Sonnenburg

Summer is an excellent time to relax and read a good book. A spiritual book is a wonderful way to enlighten the soul and deepen one’s faith. So come down to our Church Bookstore and buy a book to read this summer. We have many books to choose from and if you can’t find what you’re looking for, please feel free to contact me and I can order the book or item for you.

Also, one of the nice aspects of buying books from the Church bookstore is you save on shipping costs! Some of the books for sale in the bookstore are less than the retail catalog prices, as we receive discounts and are able to pass the savings on to you!

We now accept major credit cards, however, you will need to see me in order to pay with a credit card. If I’m not available, the bookstore runs on an honor system. Located on the back shelf in the bookstore is an honor box. When making a purchase, fill out the purchase form and place the form and your money in the envelope provided and insert it in the honor box. When paying by check, please make checks payable to AMGOC and put “AMGOC bookstore” in the “For” line.

Happy summer reading!
Olga Sonnenburg
osonnenburg@comcast.net.
Our 2018 was a great success. We have progressed each year and I believe this year will be a record breaker. Last year we had a gross income of $68,000. As for our volunteer participation it was way better than the previous year and I know that you will all come out and help again. Bring your friends. All parishioners of AMGOC should think about how we can get outside volunteer participation. Friends, co-workers, neighbors and organizations need to be approached and asked. We all know that a successful festival provides significant funds to the operation of AMGOC and over the years they have increased. We need to have your continued support and participation in order to have a successful event. So for 2019—mark your calendars now: August 23-25. Don’t forget the Sunday before the festival we set up the tents, and during that entire week prior to the festival there is a lot to do for food prep as well as facility preparation. Please come out and volunteer. Sign-up sheets are downstairs in the hall. I look forward to having a wonderful weekend with you all. May God bless us and be with us and give us the ability to glorify his name.

The devil has set his traps everywhere. He catches people and the only way to avoid these snares is through humility. Internal humility, not external, true not false modesty, real not pretend. Internal, real and true humility is when people feel, in the depths of their heart, the gifts and talents they’ve received from God. It’s the realization that everything we have—existence, life, health, wealth and wisdom—are all foreign to us and are gifts from God.

Elder Filotheos Zervakos — +d.1980

Donations Needed for The Festival

This year during our festival we will be utilizing the Square Point of Sale system at various booths around the festival. This will greatly enhance the experience of our festival patrons and our overall planning for future festivals. We are in need of a few iPads and select square hardware to make this transition. Before purchasing anything, we’d like to ask if any of you have an iPad, or square equipment laying around that you’d like to permanently donate to the festival operations.

This is the list of iPad models that we are currently seeking: iPad 5th Gen, iPad 6th Gen iPad Air 1-3 Gen, iPad Mini 1-5 Gen, iPad Pro - All Models

If you have any of these and like to donate them, please contact Michael Greenwood at michael@amgoc.org or 716-512-4384 as soon as possible. Also, if you'd like to donate funds to acquire this hardware, please contact Fr. Dennis or Michael.
**Greek Dance Group—Dina Vasiliades**

We welcome children and adults to join our parish Greek dance group. Practice takes place after church coffee hour, and lasts 15 minutes. We are focusing on three dances this year, Kalamatsino, Hasaposerviko and Tsamiko. Practices generally take place every two weeks, but will take place more often in July to prepare for this year’s Annual Greek Festival. We will also provide Greek Dance lessons to our festival attendees. Any interested children and adults are welcome to join, as well as help teach.

Contact Constadina Vasiliades at: 808-373-0312 or constadina@shaw.ca if interested or for questions.

**Volunteer Coordinator—Demetria Greenwood**

The ministries of the church come in many forms depending on the people that are leading these ministries. The author states, “The fact of the matter is that every Orthodox Christian is called to ministry. That is, we are all called to serve.” If you and your family have not found your ministry yet, it is okay. We have some volunteer opportunities for you and your family here in our parish.

Below are some links to sign-up online for these opportunities. We will also have a sign-up sheet in the church hall. These are one time as well as year-long volunteer positions that our parish needs. There are many positions in our parish that require our time and talent and we thank the people that are currently leading them. If there is something that you feel you would like to contribute to our parish that is not listed or you would like to help with a position that has a coordinator, please contact myself or Fr. Dennis.

Demetria Greenwood - demetria.greenwood@gmail.com or (716) 860-0830

**Sponsor a Coffee Hour**

We welcome your participation in our weekly coffee hours! Although there are Sundays where a full meal is served, we also welcome very simple coffee hours such as cookies and fruit or bagels and cream cheese. If you would like to sponsor a coffee hour you may sign up in the Church hall or online here: Coffee Hour Sign Up
1-Year Volunteer Opportunities

The following is a list of areas our parish currently needs help with. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these areas please email Demetria Greenwood at: demetria.greenwood@gmail.com or signup here: Long Term Positions. Thank you for taking the time to consider volunteering in one of these important areas!

1. **Kitchen Organizer**: Oversee the cabinets, storage area, supplies used for coffee hour, etc. The kitchen needs to be thoroughly cleaned twice a year—preferably before Pascha and after the Festival.

2. **Church Hall Organizer**: Oversee the refrigerator by throwing spoiled items out, making sure it’s clean. Ensure the ladies and men’s restroom, supplies, chairs, and tables are clean.

3. **Building Maintenance**: Check the building inside and out, swamp cooler, oversee minor repairs when necessary and bring to the attention of the Council.

4. **Outside Maintenance Custodian**: Cleanup the lot around the fences, trim over hanging trees and bushes, near both stairwells and our shrubbery next to the building. This would be a wonderful family responsibility.

Greek Festival Volunteers

It is that time again! Our festival is just about a month away and, as always, we need you to give your time and talent. The 21st Annual Greek Festival will be August 23rd, 24th and 25th but we need help beginning on August 17th to help prepare the food, set up the canopies, and organize the kitchen. Our preparatory time slots are just as vital to the success of the festival, as the festival itself.

Please take some time to look at the signup sheets in the church hall or online. We need you to sign up for as many time slots as you and your family are able to give. We have added a child care volunteer position if your talents are not food related and if you are in need of someone to watch your children, please reach out to Demetria Greenwood to see when a volunteer has signed up and is available.

Click to view Greek Festival Pre- and Post- Help August 17th - 26th time slots and sign up.

Click to view Greek Festival August 23rd -25th time slots and sign up.

If you are having difficulty signing up online or have questions, please reach out to Demetria Greenwood at (716)860-0830 or demetria.greenwood@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for giving your time and talent! If you can’t give either of those, please consider attending the festival and giving your treasure to support it through the purchase of food, beverages, and souvenirs. You can also spread the word to your friends and neighbors to attend. Regardless of what you are able to do, prayers for good weather, large crowds and plenty of volunteers are always needed.
Recently we completed our third Iconography Workshop, which again turned out to be very successful. There were seven participants that took part in the workshop. Under the instruction of Iconographer Christopher Gosey from New Hampshire, the 4-day workshop proved to be both informative and educational.

Due to the requests for more workshops I am putting together another workshop this Fall in October. If you have any interest in taking the workshop, please contact me as soon as possible. We need to have between 7-10 participants in order to cover the expense of bringing Mr. Gosey back to Colorado to do another workshop.

Our workshops have turned out to be very enjoyable and informative, so please consider participating. Remember that you do not need to be an artist to participate—just ask any of our past participants.

Nick Rougas
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