



PANAGIA PANTOVASILISSA
HOLY MOTHER QUEEN OF ALL
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

A COMMUNITY FOR ALL

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Thanksgiving 2019

In Thanksgiving for His Grace

By: Fr. William



We are thankful for all the gifts which we have been given by you the spotless one,
And to you we sing a hymn of praise, knowing you to be the Mother of God.

[From the Service of the Small Paraklesis]

During the month of November, before the frenzied rush of Christmas and the focus on the desire for what we want, we attempt to allow for a spirit of thanksgiving for what we have to take up a place in the center of our hearts.

Thanksgiving is something that often gets lost in the day-to-day rush of the modern world, and when we are not careful—when we do not *consciously* seek to foster it—it can even get lost in the day-to-day rush of the Church and her work! Rather than confessing it with our lips, we can allow ourselves to fall into a mindset where we pay it lip-service; rather than taking pleasure in what we have been given, we long for what we would yet like to receive. Thanksgiving, in short, is something that we must meditate on consciously; we must cherish our gifts in contemplation if we are to disrupt the noise of a world which constantly calls for us to take these gifts for granted.

When I ruminate on the theme of thanksgiving, the first thing that comes to mind is my family. I am thankful for my wife, who has born the trials and travails of the world with me, and who has been willing to selflessly follow my assignments throughout the course of our ministry. I am thankful for my daughter. She is a gift from God, and we are immeasurably blessed to see her grow in wisdom and strength... and volume. I am thankful, also, for my parish family. I am thankful to be the priest of a parish wherein the Theotokos stands, demure and draped in cloth of slightest gold, watching over those who seek her intercession. I am thankful that, when I arrived here, I found a Parish Council hungry for the hard work of evangelization, and eager to work together to undertake our mission. I am thankful for the people of this congregation, who have spread the message of Christ and welcomed those to whom we have given the Gospel with open arms. But more than all of that, I and my family are thankful for our simple presence in the midst of all of you who have made the reality of Christ's presence felt, both within the walls of our Church and throughout the God-guarded Commonwealth of Kentucky.

We are blessed, we are thrice blessed, and we are thankful! We are thankful not just because we are blessed to serve in the Holy Metropolis of Detroit, under our beloved hierarch, Metropolitan NICHOLAS; we are thankful not just because we are from Kentucky, and fortunate to be welcomed home; we are thankful not just because we have been placed in a community where the children of Christ understand His Gospel and mission; we are thankful not just because we have been blessed to have our daughter raised in this community, where the firm foundation of the faith and the dynamic witness of the Gospel stand paramount. Indeed, we are thankful not *just* because of any of these things individually, but for all of them together! And we should all share in this spirit of thanksgiving together!

Indeed, my friends, we are thankful as a parish, and we share together in thanksgiving for our mutual blessings. But more than all of the blessings we are thankful for in the present, we are thankful for blessings yet to come! We look toward them not as gifts to be received, but rather as the abiding promise that if we continue to found our lives on faith and ground our hearts in the Gospel, if we continue to love one another and seek to spread that love, if we continue to look toward Christ as our ultimate goal, then there is nothing that we shall not be able to undertake as a parish family, and nothing shall be denied to us amongst the things that truly matter.

In thanksgiving for the faithful, and with every pastoral blessing, I remain

Fr. William

President's Notes

By: Delores Minor

As we move into the holiday season, we are always reminded to reflect on what we are thankful for. I am thankful for many things—my family, my health, and of course my faith. I am thankful that we have a parish filled with kind individuals willing to help one another. I am thankful for our Sunday School teachers and their diligence in working with our youth. I am thankful for Father William guiding us and our Parish Council overseeing us. I am thankful for all of our volunteers who give of their time, talent and treasures for the good of our church. Reach out to one another and continue to spread kindness. And may God bless us all!



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Bookstore Reopens!

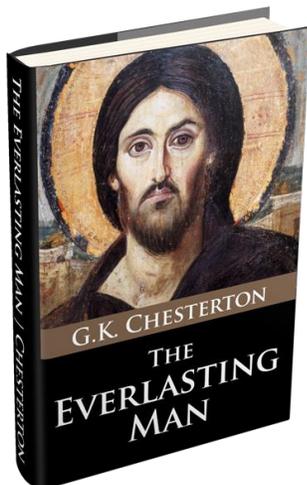
Okay, so technically it has always been open, but there were books in there that had sat in the case for decades! By the authorization of the Parish Council, a bookstore committee was formed, consisting of Fr. William, Delores Minor, and Crist Creona. We think you'll be happy with the results! Anyone who is interested in making a purchase may approach Crist Creona during coffee hour on Sunday, or Fr. William during and after the weekly services and classes. The bookstore is located immediately to your right, upon entry into the Social Hall, and now encompasses the room behind the display case.



Christmas Reading Group:

The Everlasting Man, by G.K. Chesterton

During the course of the Nativity Fast, and up until Christmas, we will be reading *The Everlasting Man*, by G.K. Chesterton. The book is a theological interpretation of the history of Man in light of the Incarnation of Christ, which the well-known Christian author C.S. Lewis credited with “baptizing his intellect”. There is one copy left in the bookstore, at time of publication. The Reading Group will take place after the Vespers services on December 4th, 11th, and 18th.



<< Only one copy left
in the bookstore!



Fall General Assembly

On November 17, we convened our Fall General Assembly. Thanks go out to the 43 parishioners who stayed after the Liturgy to undertake the business of the Church. Below are some snapshots of the meeting. May our Lord continue to bless our community for its zeal in His service!



GOYA Volunteer, Sunday School Teacher, and Parish Council member Lefteris Xenos looks on



Ron and Reva Atkins, Crist Creona, and Chrisi Karounos take notes



Parish Council President Delores Minor addresses the Assembly

GOYA Service Project: Ronald McDonald House

On November 2nd, our GOYA chapter went to the Ronald McDonald House by the University of Kentucky for a service project, preparing meal for families staying at the facility. The kids had a blast, and, as you can see below, the adults did too! Thanks to Robert and Sarah Nash who organized, and to everyone who came out to help!

