



# A GOOD WORD—Λόγον Αγαθόν

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

VOLUME 4 No. 3 (ISSUE 33) — MARCH 2021



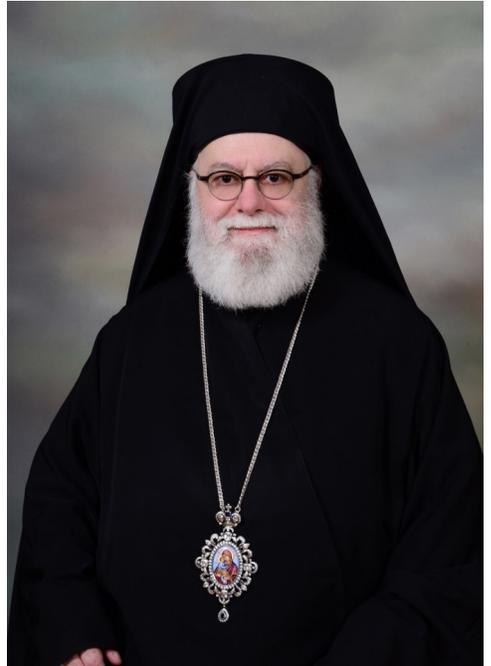
## METROPOLITAN'S MESSAGE:

Over the course of my long life in the Orthodox Church, I've heard my fair share of sermons. Not all, I confess, were memorable, but some were impossible to forget. Among the unforgettable was one I heard delivered nearly half a century ago, in my home parish of Sts. Constantine and Helen, which was transitioning at the time from its original site in Gary, Indiana, to its current location in Merrillville. The priest who delivered it was Fr. Evagoras Constantinides of blessed memory, and it was about stewardship. So strong was its impact on me that, to this day, whenever I hear a stewardship appeal, I measure it against that sermon of Fr. Ev's.

Fr. Ev had only been our proistamēnos for a few years by that time but he certainly knew his parishioners well. He knew who worked at what steel mill, what their job was, and he had a good idea about what their hourly wages were. He challenged his people to give, in an approximation of his words, "not ten percent, as the people of Israel were directed to do by God in Old Testament times. I'm not even asking for five percent. I'm asking for your first hour's pay. Not the change you put in the jar when you come home. The first hour of the week. Monday morning, whenever you punch in. Make the sign of the Cross, ask God to bless your work, and promise him the next hour's pay. From the top. Not the leftovers. God didn't want diseased animals or rotten vegetables. He wanted the best, the first-fruits. When you give him from the top, you demonstrate your love for God. You demonstrate your faith. You consecrate your day. You make holy the time. That's one hour out of forty. Not ten percent, not five percent, but two percent! And I know what you make, Costa. I know what you make, Manoli." (Here, he actually pointed!) "Your first hour's pay! Give it to God. Tell yourself clearly: it's not yours, it's his. Put it aside that day, put it in an envelope, bring it to church on Sunday."

To tell the truth, I don't know how effective that sermon was at the time. The habit of paying dues - so much for an individual, so much for families - was still deeply ingrained in the parishioners' consciences. But I believe I wasn't the only one who took Fr. Ev's words to heart, and that, over time, people began to dare to do it (and even to exceed it).

There's something powerful about beginning or renewing something. We make an extra effort at the beginning of a year, a season, a month, a week, a day. We are at another beginning in our lives as Orthodox Christians with the coming of Great Lent, which provides us with a convenient point to more deeply engage in the practice of our faith: prayer, stewardship & almsgiving, fasting, and a stronger commitment to spiritually supporting family and friends. If we're starting from zero in these areas, we can begin as Fr. Ev encouraged the community—not at the pinnacle or the hardest level, but a modest start, deliberate and dedicated to God. And if we are accustomed to that kind of commitment, then we can instead seek to push our progress to a higher level. May Christ strengthen and enlighten you in this coming Lenten season, and may your efforts—the "first hour" that you offer—be multiplied for God's glory and your salvation. + **Metropolitan Savas**



## SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND THE METROPOLIS MINISTRIES

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including Metropolitan Savas's pastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry (tracking marriages, baptisms, chrismations, and deaths), and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis. To contribute, visit <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/support>

## WELCOMING THE "STRANGER"

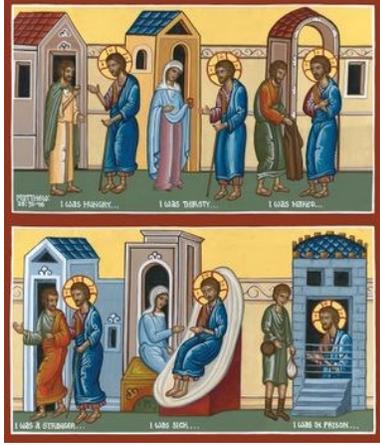
A portion of Matthew 25: 35-45 reads "I was a stranger and you received me into your homes."

The church is our home. The Triodion and many services of Great and Holy Lent offer the chance to receive people who may only participate in Pre-Sanctified Liturgies, Salutations to the Virgin Mary, Saturday of the Souls, and other services offered this time of year – services that hold a special place in their hearts. And Lent leads to Palm Sunday (and ultimately, Pascha) the most attended Sunday of church during the calendar year.

Does your parish have a **welcoming ministry**? Now is the time to make sure people on that team are in place to warmly welcome people to Lenten services. Instead of asking "where have you been?" say to parishioners "It's wonderful having you in church," ask about their well-being, their family and if there is anything the parish can do for them.

Are welcome ministry folks equipped to answer questions about the life of the parish, about stewardship, parish outreach and more? Is your parish offering texts for people to follow along? Better still, is your parish offering opportunities for people to be *involved* in services – making kolyva or prosphora, serving as readers, and more.

How we receive people into our homes during Lent (and every day) leaves a lasting impression, offers an opportunity to re-engage lapsed parishioners and share the care and warmth of our parishes. Let us put forth our best effort, so that our guests—whether returning members or new visitors—encounter Christ in our presence, and through His Church find their salvation. A blessed Lent to all!



## THANKS TO OUR 2020 BENEFACTORS & DONORS

His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh

Metropolis Philoptochos Society	Fr. Michael & Pres. Eleni Kallaur
MEFGOX	Dr. Costas & Sarah Kefalas
Michael & Rebecca Alastanos	Katina Kellas-Coyne
The Ambeliotis Family	Angela & Brian Krenzela
Archon Harry & Joyce Athanasiou	Archon Michael & Mureen Kusturiss
Rhea Ballas	Archon Nick & Kathy Lekas
Elizabeth Bartz & John Chames	Fr. Andrew & Pres. Lori Lentz
Dr. George Bellios	Pamela Limbert
Fr. Christopher & Pres. Filitsa Bender	Archon Nicholas & Susan Loutsion
Fr. George & Pres. Kassiani Callos	Franklin Manios
Fr. Stephen & Pres. Christina Callos	Dr. Lazarus & Tina Mayoglou
Ted Cherpas	Robert Moeller
Archdeacon Euripides Christulides	Fr. Matthew & Pres. Jennifer Moore
Zissis ChronEOS	Albert Orosz
Dn. Frank & Dssa. Adrienne Dickos	Elena Papoutsis
Fr. Joe & Pres. Melanie DiStefano	John Papoutsis
Mary Doreza	Dean Peters
Archon Fotios John & Joyce Frangakis	Fr. Alexandros & Pres. Stephanie Petrides
Lou Frangos	Archon Michael & Robin Psaros
Fr. Nicholas Gamvas	Steven & Constance Ross
Fr. Demetrios & Pres. Susanna Gardikes	Ronald & Helene Schulz
Tina Georges	Helen Senos
Fr. Aaron & Pres. Kyriaka Gilbert	James Senos
Sundy & George Gulu	George & Elizabeth Spanos
Linda & James Hages	Stacey & Catherine Stathulis
Mary & George Halkias	Helen Stratigos
George & Eleni Haralamos	Dr. Nick & Alexandra Tatalias
Elias Harbilas	Archon Nick & Maria Terezis
John & Kathryn Harbilas	Archon Ted and Irene Theodore
Konstantin Hristofas	Nick Theofanis
	Fr. Michael & Pres. Maria Varvarelis
	Dr Chris Vasilakis
	Archon Philip & Dena Yamalis
	Fr Michael Ziebarth

## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 - <http://pittsburgh.goarch.org> - [info@pittsburgh.goarch.org](mailto:info@pittsburgh.goarch.org)  
412-621-5529 (Main) - 412-465-0460 (Camp) - 412-621-8543 (Youth) - 412-621-1522 (Fax)

**His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh, Presiding Hierarch**

Fr. George Callos, Chancellor

Rhea Ballas, Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director

Stacey Stathulis, Stewardship Ministries Coordinator

ADn. Ryan Gzikowski, Asst. to Metropolitan & Registrar

Marina Papafil, Camp Ministries Coordinator

Maria Stamooolis, Director of Greek Education and Culture