

## NOTICE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

November 5, 2017  
Following Church Services

### AGENDA:

- Approval of prior General Assembly Minutes
- Budget Update
- VOTE to accept 2018 budget
- Update on Forsyte Endowment
- Nominations for Parish Council

## October 2017 Newsletter



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## Looking for Information?

Flyers, announcements, advertisements are posted on bulletin boards in the Church Hall. If you see something you like? Make a copy!

Meeting minutes and budget reports are posted monthly following Parish Council meetings. Want more? Ask! Have a complaint? Be prepared to discuss solutions and volunteer to help!!

# THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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Georgiana Wilton, Parish Council President [georgiana.wilton@gmail.com](mailto:georgiana.wilton@gmail.com)

Parish Council Officers: Tom Cameron, Vice President; Bruce Hansen, Secretary, Niko Papadopoulos, Treasurer Members: Petros Anagnostopoulos, Christy Chappell Belkin, Conn Choles, Nico Fatsis, Dori Hosek, Georgia Marsh, Mike Smith, and Scott Storck Alternates: John Soloninka and Nick Topitzes.

As I was perusing [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org) searching for a muse for this month's column to attempt to infuse a positive note in light of the many challenges we face today, I paused to reflect on the reading for the day. I'm not sure if it was my pensive mood during the day before my retirement, or the disturbing article I read about the financial challenges of our Archdiocese. Perhaps it was my concern for Puerto Rico as the aid that arrived has no way to be distributed, or possibly the heated discussion outside my office door about 'taking a knee.' Maybe it was the timely combination, but the words from the reading below seemed to reach me at a very deep level.

***Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 149.5,1***

*The saints shall rejoice in glory.*

*Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song.*

*St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15*

*Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.*

*Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.*

I'll leave you with your thoughts and prayers...my prayers will be for a healthy, productive, and peaceful month.

As always, I appreciate your support and am happy to talk anytime!

# **PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS**

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Patti Cameron, President [pcameron@tds.net](mailto:pcameron@tds.net) or [pcameron10@gmail.com](mailto:pcameron10@gmail.com)

Our September meeting was changed to Sunday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup> I apologize for having to change it at the last minute. Despite the change, we had a very good turnout. Thank you to everyone for your support and enthusiasm in all that we do. You make this office very easy for me!

## **Local Activities:**

Emerson School Supply Drive- Margo S, chair

Visit to Vasiliki Karabatsos farm & candle-making operation

Grace Episcopal Homeless Meal Aug 29 – Ilektra K, chair

River Food Pantry Meal – Sept 1, Georgiana W, chair

Cabinet Organization – thank you to Alice B and Nia C for moving and organizing all the coffee hour supplies into the long cabinet in the Church Hall.

Coffee Hour: If you would like to be a substitute hostess for coffee hour, please contact Patti

\*\*\*We are looking for someone to be in charge of the Philanthropy Basket, which we hold once a month in the narthex at the end of the Liturgy. For more information, please contact Patti.

## **Upcoming Activities:**

Sunday, Oct 22: Philoptochos Meeting at church

Tuesday, Oct 31: Grace Episcopal Cooking for homeless, Ilektra K, chair

Saturday, Nov 18: Baklava Plus Bake Sale, Maria H, chair

Taking Orders for New Book: Parishioner and artist Magda Demou-Gryparis wrote a book called “The Village” about her life growing up in Greece. If you would like a copy of this book, please let me know.

## **Baklava Plus Bake Sale & Kafeneion**

Saturday, Nov 18<sup>th</sup>, Chair, Maria Heide

\*\*\*\*Maria H is in need of a co-chair to help her with the Bake Sale. If you have the time please contact Maria or Patti for more information.

Baklava Plus Baking Days below: Please try to come to as many of these work days as you can!

Friday, October 27 (1 pm): Keftethes Preparation Korinna Hansen, chair

Saturday, October 28 (9 am): Keftethes Making, Baking and Packaging

Saturday, November 4 (9 am): Spanakopita Assembly #2 Sue Soloninka, chair

Thursday November 16 (9 am): Baklava assembly & baking, Elene Patenaude & Patti Cameron, chairs

Friday, November 17 (10 am): Boxing and Bake Sale Set up

Saturday, November 18 (9 am): Baklava Plus Bake Sale & Kafeneion

Tiropitakia – Beth Fatsis, Chair. Beth has packaged these at her restaurant every year for us.

Other ethnic items – Please let the chair Maria Heide know of any items you plan to bake for the sale.

## **Outreach Committee**

Details of the Emerson School Supply Drive - What a Success!

Our neighbors are ready for their 2017-18 school year! Once again, because of Assumption's generous parishioners our little Emerson neighbors will be starting the school year on a very happy note. The Philoptochos Outreach Committee collected \$268 in tray donations a few weeks ago and a VERY generous donation from one Assumption family of \$500 was given to purchase required school supplies for this school year. Amazing to say the least! Supplies were also donated by generous members that enjoy shopping as much as I do, adding to the "bag takeover" in the vestibule area of Assumption!

With the money collected, I purchased: 64 backpacks, 48 twin packs of glue sticks, 16 composition notebooks, 8 pairs of gym shoes, 12 boxes of thin markers, 16 boxes colored pencils, 16 boxes of wide markers, 6 - 20 packs of pencils

There was some wheeling, dealing and price adjusting but I bought as much as I could with the funds provided.

And, as an added bonus this year, the secretary from Emerson Elementary, Sue Esser came to church to tell us a little about Emerson and their students. If you weren't there, she did a wonderful job explaining the successes of Emerson School throughout the years. In studies of the ratings of schools in Wisconsin, Emerson ranks 4 out of 5 stars. This is astounding considering 63% of the children's families are categorized under the Economic Hardships category. The staff giveS these children support, enthusiasm, compassion and most importantly love. What a fabulous staff and what fantastic kids this school has been blessed with!

Emerson's heart felt appreciation was mentioned a number of times by Sue and now I would also like to express my gratitude to all of you for reaching out to our neighbors and generously giving back to the community that we are a part of. It does take a village and I will always say, "I am over the top happy to be a part of this Assumption village"!

Thank you all again and God bless you always, Margo.

### **River Food Pantry**

We cooked and volunteered for the evening grocery run Friday, September 1st. We would like to support the pantry by volunteering as a group Friday evenings on a regular basis; please contact Nancy Briamis if you are interested in volunteering in the future.

You can support the River Food Pantry at these upcoming events! Visit their website at [www.riverfoodpantry.org](http://www.riverfoodpantry.org) for more information on donating or volunteering.

The River is looking for volunteers to help work a concession stand during all home UW-Madison football games at Camp Randall during the season. A portion of the sales from the concession stand benefits The River. It's fast and fun and for a great cause!

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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Jenny Josheff, Director, [agocssdirector@gmail.com](mailto:agocssdirector@gmail.com), Fr. Michael, Spiritual Advisor, [frmichael@agocwi.org](mailto:frmichael@agocwi.org)

Sunday School is off to a fantastic start. If your child would still like to join a Sunday School class, they are welcome to do so. Parents/Guardians, please fill out a registration form with your student's teacher. ***There will be spare registration forms in the exo-narthex that you can fill out and drop off with your teacher. The form should take less than a minute to fill out and one form for each student please.***

The Sunday School is looking for a volunteer to direct the Christmas pageant this year. The pageant is scheduled for December 16th. Without a volunteer, there will be no pageant. If you are interested, please see Jenny Josheff.

***Sunday School is still looking for a director. Please contact Jenny Josheff or Fr. Michael if you are interested.***

## **SPIRITUAL EXERCISES**

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Peli Galiti, [pgaliti@yahoo.gr](mailto:pgaliti@yahoo.gr)

The first spiritual meetings of this season will start on Thursday, November 16.

## **FORSYTE ENDOWMENT**

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Bruce Hansen, [bruce.e.hansen2@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.e.hansen2@gmail.com)

In September, the General Assembly unanimously approved to set up the Forsyte Endowment in honor of John Forsyte, and a set of by-laws to govern the endowment. The next step is to set up an Investment Committee, which will make a recommendation to the Parish Council how to invest the funds. Parishioners are encouraged to volunteer for the Investment Committee, or to communicate their wishes or concerns to the Committee once formed.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **J AND M HOME HELPERS**

AGOC's handymen, John and Mike, will do minor home repairs and maintenance for \$25/hour, with the money for their work being donated to the church.



**Call Mike at (608) 516-9188 and  
John at (608) 575-1014 today!**

## **SACRAMENTS DURING SEPTEMBER 2017**

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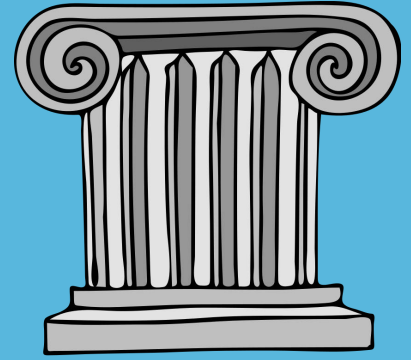
Weddings: **1**      Chrismations: **1**      Baptisms: **1**      Funerals: **0**

**Eugene and Sandra Dempsey** had their marriage blessed on Saturday, September 2, 2017. Their koumbara is Nia Choles.

**Sandra Dempsey** was chrismated on Saturday, September 2, 2017 with the name Alexandra. Her godparent is Nia Choles.

**Sophia Mereznko Bosshard** was baptized on Thursday, September 28, 2017. Her parents are Craig Bosshard and Alla Mereznko. Her godparents are Anna Donovska and Larry Perugini.

# SAVE THE DATE!!



## AHEPA DINNER DANCE

**Saturday, November 11th, 2017**

**Radisson Hotel, 517 Grand Canyon Drive  
Madison**

**See Ted Cappas to reserve your ticket now!**

**A FORMAL INVITATION WILL BE MAILED  
IN OCTOBER**



# October – December 2017 Liturgies and Services

## **October 1**

**2nd Sunday of Luke**  
**Church Musicians Sunday**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Acts 9:10-19  
**Gospel:** Luke 6:31-36

**Prosforo:** Kathy F

**Coffee Hour:** Choir Pancake  
Breakfast

## **October 8**

**3rd Sunday of Luke**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-11  
**Gospel:** Luke 7:11-16

**Prosforo:** N Choles

**Coffee Hour: (Group 12):** Maria H,  
Draga G, Gabriela C

## **October 15**

**Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical  
Council**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Titus 3:8-15  
**Gospel:** Luke 8: 5-15

**Prosforo:** Jane S

**Coffee Hour: (Group 13)** Traci L,  
Nancy G, Christy C-B, Marinela M

## **October 22**

**6th Sunday of Luke**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Galatians: 1:11-19  
**Gospel:** Luke 8:26-39

**Prosforo:** Ilektra A

**Coffee Hour: (Group 14)** Georgiana  
W, Pelli K, Ilektra A

## **October 23**

**St. Iakovos (James) the Apostle**

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** Galatians 1:11-19  
**Gospel:** Matthew 13:54-58

**Prosforo:** ??

## **October 26**

**St. Demetrios the Myrrh-  
Streamer**

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

## **October 26, con't**

**Prosforo:** Ilektra A

**Epistle:** 2 Timothy 2:1-10  
**Gospel:** John 15:17-27; 16:1-2

## **October 29**

**7th Sunday of Luke**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Galatians: 2:16-20  
**Gospel:** Luke 8:41-56

**Prosforo:** Jenny G

**Coffee Hour: (Group 1):** Sue S,  
Katerina P, Eleni G

## **November 5**

**5th Sunday of Luke**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Galatians 6:11-18  
**Gospel:** Luke 16:19-31

**Prosforo:** Cathy G

**Coffee Hour: (Group 2)** Eleni P,  
Korinna H, Jenny G

## **November 8**

**Synaxis of the Holy Archangels /  
Archangels Michael and Gabriel**

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** Hebrews 2:2-10  
**Gospel:** Luke 10:16-21

**Prosforo:** Cathy G

## **November 12**

**8th Sunday of Luke /  
Veterans Day**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-11  
**Gospel:** Luke 10:25-37

**Prosforo:** Tom C

**Coffee Hour: (Group 3)** Nadya H,  
Athena D, Valerie M

## **November 19**

**9th Sunday of Luke**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Ephesians 2:14-22  
**Gospel:** Luke 12:16-21

**Prosforo:** Georgia M

**Coffee Hour: (Group 4)** Nancy B,  
Jane S, Beth F, Susan J

## **November 21**

**The Entrance of the Theotokos into  
the Temple**

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** Hebrews 9:1-7  
**Gospel:** Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

**Prosforo:** Georgia M

## **November 25**

**St. Catherine**

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5  
**Gospel:** Mark 5:24-34

**Prosforo:** ?

## **November 26**

**13th Sunday of Luke**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Ephesians 4:1-7  
**Gospel:** Luke 18:18-27

**Prosforo:** Anna F

**Coffee Hour: (Group 5)** Kristi P, Lisa B,  
Demetra S

## **November 30**

**St. Andrew the First Called  
Apostle**

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** 1st Corinthians 4:9-16  
**Gospel:** John 1:35-52

**Prosforo:** ?

## **December 3**

**14th Sunday of Luke**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Ephesians 5:8-19  
**Gospel:** Luke 18:35-43

**Prosforo:** Elene P

**Coffee Hour:** St. Nicholas Day Dinner

## **December 6**

**St. Nicholas the Wonderworker**

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** Hebrews 13:17-21  
**Gospel:** Luke 6:17-23

**Prosforo:** Elene P



# October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>  Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am  Greek School Starts  <i>Baptism in the church</i> 1:00 pm	2	3	4	5	6 <b>St. Thomas the Apostle</b>	7
<b>8</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>  Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	9	10      Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm	11    Greek Fest Plus Meeting 6:00 pm  Choir Practice 7:00 pm	12    The Typikon: An Appreciation of Our Liturgical Tradition 7:00 pm	13	14  <i>Russian Orthodox Divine Liturgy - 9:00 am</i>  <i>Wedding at the church today</i> 12 noon -
<b>15</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>  Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	16	17	18    Choir Practice 7:00 pm	19    <i>The Typikon</i> <i>Optional Question and Answer</i> TBD and TBA	20	21
<b>22</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>  Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am  <i>Philoptochos Meeting</i>	<b>23</b> <b>St. Iakovos (James) the Apostle</b>  Divine Liturgy 9:00 am	24	25    Choir Practice 7:00 pm	<b>26</b> <b>St. Demetrios the Myrrhbearer</b>  Divine Liturgy 9:00 am  The Typikon: An Appreciation of Our Liturgical Tradition 7:00 pm	27    Keftethes (Meat Balls) Preparation 4:00 pm	<b>28</b> <i>Russian Orthodox Divine Liturgy - 9:00 am</i>  Keftethes (Meat Balls) Baking and Packaging 9:00 am
<b>29</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>  Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	30	31   5 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 4:00 pm  Homeless Shelter	November 1  <b>Cosmas and Damianos</b>  Choir Practice 7:00 pm	November 2   <i>The Typikon</i> <i>Optional Question and Answer</i> TBD and TBA	November 3	November 4  Spanakopita (Spinach Pie) Assembly #2 9:00 am



## ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE (October 6<sup>th</sup>): DOUBTER OR BELIEVER?

by Kosmas Damianides, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia



Nobody knows the time or even the place that our Lord is coming again *to judge the living and the dead*. For this reason, the Fathers of our Church do not tell us to try and outsmart God, by predicting the time that He will appear. On the contrary the Fathers concentrate on teaching us to be constantly ready and watchful, by praying, fasting and doing works of love and faith. We are instructed to expect a *sudden* if not *instant* entry of our Lord.

In the final chapter of the Book of Revelations, the Apocalypse of Saint John, we are informed that we must fully accept the *imminent* coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Furthermore we are told that our world will suffer terribly before the *DEUTERA PAROUSIA (SECOND COMING)* of our Lord and that this world will be destroyed. Nevertheless so let it be, in obedience we should pray "*Even so come, Lord Jesus [Christ]*" (Rev 22:20) and come quickly.

In the gospel reading of Thomas Sunday, the Sunday after Pascha, (John 20:19-31) we are told of the pitiful sight of the Apostles who gathered in a small dark house for fear of the Jews after the death of their Lord Jesus. They had locked every window and door, and they were in a state of mourning. They must have been deeply depressed, angry, disillusioned, confused and very afraid to say the least.

Instead of waiting eagerly for the coming of their Lord, they probably feared that the world was about to end. Instead of standing well, standing with *fear and trembling* in expectation of their Lord, they were crouched down in complete darkness and gave way to their material fear for their lives. They perhaps were so horrified at what had happened to their Lord and master that they could not stand to go through the same torment and pain. They probably thought, "How was it possible for the corpse of Jesus to rise from the dead when they knew that His body was so mutilated, beaten and pierced with large nails and a spear in His side?"

This Gospel reading tells us, "When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week... Jesus came (to his disciples) and stood in the midst of them and said "Peace be with you". After showing the disciples the nail marks on His hands and the gash in his side, again He said to them "Peace be with you".

Then He started to commission them; this was the beginning of the Great Apostolic mission to the world. "As the Father sent me" he told them, "I also send you". Jesus then told His Apostles, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained". What a great thing happened that day,

the power to forgive sins, the authority of judgment was given to the Apostles to pass on, from generation to generation, from Apostle to Apostle.

However, where was Thomas, the other Apostle, when all of this was happening? Unfortunately we do not know, perhaps by *divine economy* he was not there.

Nevertheless we do know that as soon as the other disciples saw Thomas they cried out, "*We have seen the Lord!*" Nevertheless, he was not so easily convinced and probably thought, perhaps it was an illusion a ghost of some sort. Thomas then said to his fellow disciples, "*Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails, and my hand in his side, I will not believe*".

Do not misjudge Thomas, for perhaps he remembered the words of his master Jesus Christ, Who once proclaimed, "If anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There He is!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will

appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect--if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time".

"So if anyone tells you, 'There He is, out in the desert', do not go out; or, 'Here He is, in the inner rooms', do not believe it. For just as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, this is also how the coming of the Son of Man will be" (Matt 24:23-27).

So Thomas probably did not wish to believe until he had substantial proof, in order to keep the word of his master.

Within eight days however, Jesus appeared to the disciples again just as suddenly as He did the last time, but this time Thomas was present.

Although the doors were all shut and there was no possibility of entry, Jesus appeared to them again, from nowhere, and stood amongst them. Thomas most probably thought 'surely He must be a ghost, a vision, a false Christ'. Jesus then spoke *"Peace be with you"* and He said to Thomas, *"Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe"*. And Thomas answered with such assurance and conviction, *"My Lord and my God!"* The Holy Tradition of the Church tells us that Thomas did not touch our Lord, nor did he ever contemplate on doing so after seeing Him, because he quickly realized that it is not only the human senses which are required to discern the Truth but rather, (more importantly) the divine senses of the heart.

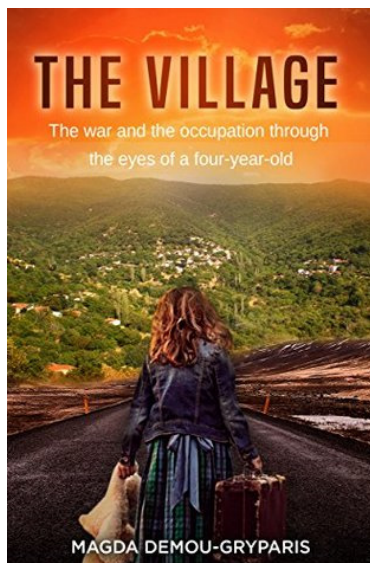
Yet Jesus said to him, *"You have believed because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe"* (Jn 21:29). So brethren truly we are blessed if we have not seen and yet we do believe. Have you noticed how many gather together throughout the world and cry out and proclaim every Pascha (Easter) *"Christ is Risen!"* and *"Truly He is Risen!"*

The skepticism of the Apostles and especially that of Thomas is not detrimental; it is in fact very beneficial, if not vital, for the whole of Christianity. Sound discretion and good judgment are vital for spiritual matters, and the resurrection event of our Lord is no exception.

In the secular world Thomas is known as "Doubting Thomas", but in the Orthodox Church he is known as *Believing Thomas*.

For this reason the Apostles had to be 100% sure that Jesus rose from the dead in order to proclaim the *FULL TRUTH*, which is *WITHOUT DOUBT* so that *we* may believe without that *"Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing [we] may have life in His name"*. So that we may be blessed, by having a faith which comes from the heart, the soul -- and not purely from our human senses.

+May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen.



*Magda Gryparis has published a book based on a true story of her early experiences under the Nazi German occupation of Greece during Word War II. It is really a little bit of Greek history as told by a child of four years old. The title is "The Village".*

*The book is available on Amazon as an e-book and a paperback. It will also be available at the book stores upon demand.*