



THE LOGOS

Nativity of The Virgin Mary

Jan./Feb. 2018, Volume 2, No. 1

Our Unsung Hero: Gust Varlamos

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Lenten Service Schedule & Events

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In Loving Memory: Fr. Charles Sarelis

A Life of Dignity and Service.
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Sunday of
The Prodigal Son,
February 4th



Parish Priest

Rev. Father Nick Marcus

Cell (616) 328-3143

frnickmarcus@gmail.com

Pastoral Assistant

William Smith, M.DIV

Cell (586) 942-6625

ws147135@gmail.com

Services

Sunday

8:45am Orthros

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday

7:00pm Paraklesis

Office

Kathy Kyriacou, Admin

Office (734) 420-0131

secretary@nativitygochurch.com

Monday - Friday, 10am to 2pm

Nativity Bookstore & Fr. George Vaporis Library Hours

Tuesday - Saturday, 10am to 2pm

Tuesday & Thursday, 6pm to 8pm

Sunday, 12noon to 2pm

Closed Monday

On the Cover: The Prodigal Son

by Charalambos Epimanondas

Acrylic on canvas, from

www.sacredartmeditations.com

Parish Council News

The Nativity Parish Council meets on a monthly basis and your current council has an action list that is comprised of some 50 plus items. These represent historical items, newer items brought forth at last year's strategic planning session and those mentioned at Parish General Assembly meetings. As you have seen in the past year, there is an increase in activity related to projects and there is a focus on completing as many as possible in the current year.

Prioritizing our action list and ensuring that the Parish Council meets the needs of a growing parish demands much time. Several projects require research into the materials, costs and the order of implementation to make both fiscal and technical sense. For example, a long term initiative is to add to our beautiful iconography, however, without first addressing the state of the windows and their lack of UV protection, this could pose a problem. So working in a logical order is required, and prudent, as our parishioners do fund these projects and the PC has fiscal responsibility to our parishioners.

The Parish Council has identified many of our parishioners who have special talents and whom we believe will be helpful members of committees to carry out some of the research and planning work as described above. Some committee

examples are iconography, replacement windows, social hall expansion, outbuilding storage, and mortgage elimination to name a few. Each committee will be guided. Committee results will be fed back into the Parish Council for prioritizing and execution planning.

In the next few months a list of the top initiatives and goals for the parish will be published. To help these projects evolve in a timely way, the Parish Council may ask you to join a particular committee. If so, please seriously consider accepting this invitation as an opportunity to serve your parish, knowing that your contribution will greatly improve our ability to realize our goals and that your efforts will be sincerely appreciated.

Last, we would like to welcome Mr. Bill Madias to the Parish Council and thank Irene Melabiotis for her spirited service the last 2 years.

Executive board elections were held last month and all appointments remain the same as last year:

2018 Executive Board

President: Louis Poulos

Vice President: Dr. Angelo Patsalis

Treasurer: Nancy Vardouniotis

Secretary: Golfo Wernette

Yours in Christ,

Nativity Parish Council



The new altar boy robes are in! Thank you to the Nativity Men's Club for providing the funds through last year's first annual Wild Game Dinner. The 2nd annual Men's Club Wild Game dinner is scheduled for Friday, April 13th.

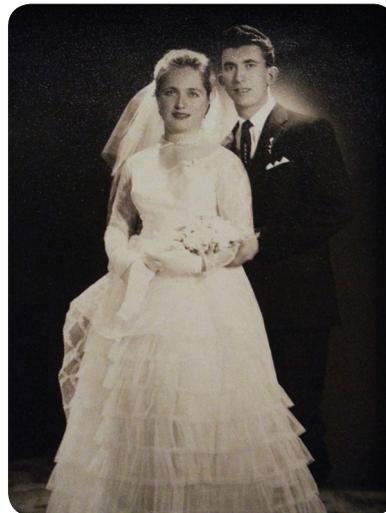
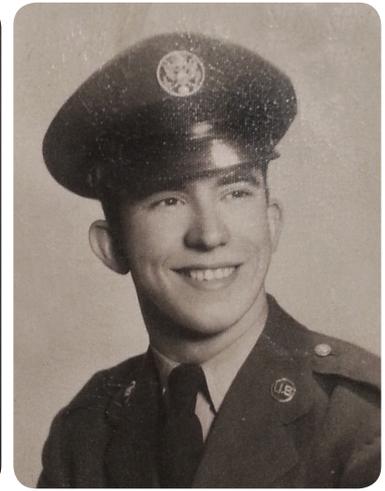
Our Unsung Heroes: An Interview with Mr. Gust Varlamos

by Irene Melabiotis



Mrs. Voula Varlamos’s warm smile greeted me at their front door as she welcomed me into their home. Mr. Gust Varlamos soon joined her to greet me while walking me to their dining room table. A framed, old black-and-white photo awaited me there. As I marveled at the photo, Mr. Varlamos handed me a handwritten note, inviting me to read the narrative written by his granddaughter, Mary, which, as he explained, would help to describe the photo. As I read the note, I was drawn by how expressively his ten-year-old granddaughter wrote (photo on the right), allowing me to build context for the stories that Mr. Varlamos would share during his interview:

The photo you see on the right is an old black and white photo of my grandfather, Costa “Pappou” Varlamos, and his family. This photo was taken in 1937, that’s when they were about to move to Greece for a few years. Since the boys were one year apart for age, and Costa was the oldest. His brother, Nick, was born in 1933, after Costa. And then little Frank was born in 1934. Two girls named Bessie and Elizabeth were born many years after the, but this photo was taken before either of them were born. Costa (middle), was 5 years old, Nick (left), was 4 years old, and Frank (right), was 3 years old. The people behind the kids are their parents. The father is Manelaos, and the mother is Anna. The boys are all in their 80s now. I get to see Costa most often because he’s my own Grandfather!



I took the opportunity to examine the photo in front of me a little closer, keeping in mind the details that I just read in Mary’s note. I was captivated by the photo showing the Varlamos brothers seated serenely in front of their parents, perhaps unaware of their imminent voyage back to Greece. As I took out my clipboard to begin the interview, Mrs. Varlamos offered me a bowl of lentil soup and various other treats. I had eaten before coming over, but I surrendered to her gracious hospitality that Greek people are very much known for. Soon after enjoying an array of delectable goodies, I began asking Mr. Varlamos my first set of questions, which allowed me to gain a sense of the Varlamos brothers’ experiences growing up in America and in Greece.

What part of Greece are you and your brothers from?

We’re [from] the center of Greece, Paleokastro (Παλαιόκαστρο), Tymfristou (Τυμφρηστού), [which is] between Lamia (Λαμία) and Karpenisi (Καρπενήσι).

When did you and your brothers come to America?

We were born in Cleveland, Ohio. We went to Greece in 1937 and came back [to America] in 1947. [While we were in Greece], my dad stayed here. My mom took us, all three boys, and she was pregnant [with] my sister. My sister was born in the village [in Paleokastro, in 1938]. About ten years later, my second sister was born in America.

How did your parents decide to come to America before you and your brothers were born?

My dad, he had a brother in Cleveland. Then, he told my dad [who was unmarried at that time] to come to America. [My dad] came twice because [the first time he came] his brother didn’t show up in New York to pick him up [as his sponsor]. They had to send him back [to Greece]. So he went back, they put papers

through, and [about a year or so later] he came back to America. [He came here to America] to work [for maybe about 10 years]. After he went back [to Greece], he built a house for his parents. He got married, and, then, he returned [with my mom] to Cleveland. Then, they had us three brothers.

In 1947 when you returned to America, how did you and your brothers come over?

We were American citizens. They had to bring us back. After the war ended, we came by ourselves by ship. It took us 11 days. My mother stayed behind on account of my sister. My mother didn’t have papers [for my sister to come over, since she wasn’t an American citizen]. Somebody had to stay there in Greece to bring my sister to America.

So you and your brothers were on the ship by yourselves? Yes, three of us, in the wintertime.

How did you feel being by yourselves? You, as the oldest, were only fifteen years old . . .

Everyone [on the ship] threw up. I was the oldest one [of my brothers]. Frank and Nick, they were sick, and I used to go to the lunchroom to pick up bread and orange juice for us to eat. This was an army ship [that we traveled on], which had bunkers, with one bed on top of the other. It was after the war.

What is your fondest childhood memory of America or Greece?

Nothing. The only thing I remember is when we were leaving [from America to go back to Greece in 1937], [my mom] took us to New York to get on to the ship, and my dad stayed behind. And when I saw my dad staying behind, I ran back [to him].

(Continued on page 14) **3**

Parish News Reel

- 2018 Stewardship pledge cards are available, please turn in your updated form as soon as possible! Let's make 2018 the year every parish family fills out a pledge form!
- Nativity's 26th annual Christmas Auction was a huge success once again raising approximately \$10,000. Thank you to Georgia Koumariotis and Angela Kheir for their many years of commitment to this wonderful fundraising event and thank you to all the volunteers who assisted.
- The Men's Club 2nd annual Wild Game Dinner has been rescheduled for the Friday after Pascha, April 13th. Tickets will be \$75 each to enjoy an evening of great food, prizes, auctions, and fellowship. All proceeds will go to benefit Nativity causes.
- The first Silver Chair Yoga class was held on January 11th in the fellowship hall with teacher Kaliana Basoukeas leading a group of eight in healthy stretching. A February class date will be announced soon. Contact Kaliana for more info at 248-974-7823.
- The Messinian Group hosted their Vasilopita Dinner in the fellowship hall on Jan 14th, nearly 180 Messinian attended.
- Fr. Nick cut the Nativity vasilopita on Sunday, January 7th. The festival committee won the coin!
- Nativity's 2nd annual Super Bowl Party will be held in the fellowship hall at 6pm on February 4th. Please bring pop top soups to help Focus Detroit feed hungry children.
- Volunteers are needed to take on festival chair positions as preparations for the 2018 festival are set to begin early next year. Volunteers for the following committees are needed: Festival Co-Chairs, Set Up and Tear Down, 50/50 Raffle, & Signs. Please contact the church office to help. Many improvements and much assistance are needed to secure the future success of our festival!
- Our community needs volunteers for the sacred task of baking Proskhoron. The bread is our offering to God and along with the offered wine are mystically transform into the Body & Blood of Christ every Sunday. Please see Fr. Nick for recipe and instructions if needed.
- Nativity is participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Register on-line today using your Kroger plus card.

Dear Parish Family,

Your comforting expression of sympathy will always be remembered with deep gratitude. Thank you for all your love.

Sincerely,
The Family of Fr. Charles P. Sarelis
Mary, Jerry, Peter, Laura & Philip.

Please join us on February 4th for a 40 day memorial for Fr. Charles and 5 year for Pres. Angela.

FINANCE CENTER as of December 27th, 2017

2018 Budget: \$408,500
Monthly Budget: \$34,042

Parish Offerings*

DEC: \$22,945
YTD: \$289,092

Stewardship

Pledged: \$197,798
Pledges: 169
Families 270
Members: 552

Mortgage (4% APR)

Paid Monthly: \$1557
(\$1057 + \$500 principal)
Balance: \$105,067

*includes candle offerings

Additional Services

9am Orthros
10am Divine Liturgy

Tues, Jan 30th.....Three Hierarchs

Fri, Feb 2nd.....Meeting of the Lord

Sat, Feb 10th.....1st Saturday of Souls

Sat, Feb 17th.....2nd Saturday of Souls

Mon, Feb 19th.....Lent Begins (see pg. 6)

Small Paraklesis

Wed, Jan 31st.....7pm

Wed, Feb 7th.....7pm

Wed, Feb 14th.....7pm

Upcoming Events

GOYO in Grand Rapids.....Jan 26-28th

Triodion Begins.....Sun, Jan 28th

St. George Retreat(see pg. 11)..Jan 26-27th

GOYA Apokries Dance..6pm Sat, Feb 3rd

Super Bowl Party.....6pm Sun, Feb 4th

Lent Begins.....Mon, Feb 19th

Lenten Prayer

St. Ephraim the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life, remove from me the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust of power and vain talk (prostration).

But give rather the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love to your servant (prostration).

Yea, O Lord and King, grant that I may see my own sins and not judge my brother, for you are blessed unto the ages of ages.
Amen. (prostration)

Lord have mercy (twelve times)

Then the prayer of St. Ephraim is repeated with only one prostration at the end.

THE LOGOS

Nativity of The Virgin Mary

Next Deadline: Feb. 15

Please submit all schedules, events, information and photos by **February 15, 2018** for March 2018 edition to:
nativityvmvoice@gmail.com

~ Tuesday Group Invitation ~

We invite you to please consider joining the **Tuesday Group**. Following Bible study the group enjoys lunch, fellowship, fun, and playing cards. This gathering is for and about fellowship. There is no cost to you! Stop in for as long as you are able. We have a lot of laughs and this is a great opportunity to get to know each-other better. We look forward to seeing you there! God Bless you!

~ EVERY TUESDAY ~

11am.....Bible Study
Noon.....Fellowship Lunch

Fr. Nick and Presbytera Liza

The Blessing of Homes at Epiphany

By Fr. Nick

Following the days of the Epiphany feast, the priest visits the homes of parishioners to perform the Agiasmo and bless the family. If you wish to have your home blessed, please visit Kathy in the office to fill out a scheduling form or call the office. Visits can be scheduled Tuesday through Saturday any time.

Getting Ready for a Home Blessing:

When Christ entered the Jordan River, he sanctified the waters and all of creation. An important sign of God's sanctification of all things through the feast of Theophany is the act of blessing the homes of faithful Christians. The priest visits the members of the church to pray with them in their homes, and to bless their surroundings with Holy Water. He asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing.

What to Prepare

- Make a list of the first names of family members you wish to pray for when the priest arrives.
- On your dining room table or family altar, place a lighted candle, incense burner, a family



icon, a wide bowl to hold water, some fresh basil, and the prayer list.

- Turn off TV's, stereos, and computers.
- A visit typically lasts 30 minutes.

When the priest arrives, everyone in the house should gather around the table and join in singing the litany responses and troparia. The family will then lead the priest throughout the house for the blessing.

Artwork from www.sacredartpilgrim.com

Wisdom of the Saints

“One who does not have a Spiritual Father as an advisor on his spiritual journey will get confused, weary, delayed, and will find it hard to reach his destination. No matter how wise he may be, if he comes up with solutions to his problems on his own, he will remain in darkness, for he proceeds with self-confidence and pride. But one who is humble goes to his Spiritual Father and asks for his opinion and guidance and is greatly helped. God will certainly enlighten the Spiritual Father to provide the right answer. The most necessary thing today is for people to find a Spiritual Father, to confess, trust him and follow his advise. If people have a spiritual guide and establish a rule of prayer and study, if they go to church on a regular basis and receive Holy Communion, then they have nothing to fear in this life.”

St. Paisios the Athonite

“If you want to serve God, prepare your heart not for food, not for drink, not for rest, not for ease, but for suffering, so that you endure all temptations, trouble and sorrow.”

St. Sergius of Radonezh

“If you knew what joy awaits our souls in heaven... but if even St. Paul could not find words to express it, who can speak of it?... It is good to speak of God, but it is even better to purify oneself for his sake.”

St. Seraphim of Sarov

“God wants and desires only one thing from us: our humbleness. He does not need anything else; just to humble ourselves, so He can make us partakers of His divine grace, which was granted to us through the mystery of Holy Baptism... The only obstacle to the energy of God's grace, is our pride, our lack of humility.”

St. Paisios the Athonite

“No man is more easily approached by the Devil than one who lives in slothfulness and leisure, this is a house well swept and adorned for the Evil One.”

St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

“Let us hold fast, therefore, to prayer and humility, for together with watchfulness they act like a burning sword against the demons.”

St. Hesychius the Priest

“Let us place all our hope in Him alone. And let us cast all our care on Him alone. He will deliver us from every trouble, and all our life He will support us.”

St. Maximos the Confessor

“Whenever we enter the church and draw near to the heavenly Mysteries, we ought to approach with all humility and fear, both because of the presence of the angelic powers and out of the reverence due to the sacred oblation.”

St. Bede

“Sometimes, silence is better than any convincing and instructive conversations. Let us utilize words in moderation, remembering: ‘In the multitude of words there wanteth not transgression.’ (Prov. 10:19).”

St. Barsanuphius and John

“A humble person can make the stars move.”

Elder Arsenie Papacioc of Romania

NATIVITY PRAYER LIST

Please Pray for:

Fr. George Vaporis
 Soula Metropoulos
 Sandy Zembylas
 Nick Zembylas
 Georgia Theophelis
 Jacob Espinosa
 Elaine Galbraith
 Katherine Beeny
 Cleo Demetriou
 Alexander Nichoff
 Steve Kaplantzes
 Gus Photsios
 Sheri Wilkins
 Aristotle Zarkin
 Vasiliki Biselas
 Eva Kocoves Fink
 Taylor Zembylas
 Anastasia Kyriazako
 Evangelos Bourouris
 Maria Espinosa
 Maria Kalas
 Eleni Vrahnos
 Theodora Bageris
 Nick Kyriakou
 Michali Malafis
 Angeliki Dellas
 Andrula Loisides
 Jody Stockdale
 Bessie Shell
 Nick Morakeas
 Mia Grace Zembylas
 Catherine Dillon
 Panagiotis Korellis
 Catherine Vardouniotis
 Carlo Nichoff
 Gail Koumariotis
 Anna Kyriakou
 Helen Photsios
 Maria Rifat
 Freda Nicozisis
 Parthena Papadopoulou
 William Fitzgerald
 Frank Maroudis
 Aris Papageorgiou
 Metropolitan Paul
 Archbishop John
 (call the office to be added)

Lenten Services

February

10th..... 8:45am, Saturday of Souls
 17th..... 8:45am, Saturday of Souls
 18th..... **Forgiveness Sunday**
 6pm, Forgiveness Service
 19th..... Lent Begins
 19th.....6pm, Great Compline w/Meal
 20th..... 7pm, Great Compline
 21st..... 6pm, Presanctified Liturgy
 22nd..... 7pm, Great Compline
 23rd..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy
 7pm, Salutations to the Theotokos
 24th..... 8:45am, Saturday of Souls
 25th..... **Sunday of Orthodoxy**
 27th..... 7pm, Great Compline
 28th..... 6pm, Presanctified Liturgy

March

1st..... 7pm, Great Compline
 2nd..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy
 7pm, Salutations to the Theotokos
 4th..... **Sunday St. Gregory Palamas**
 6th..... 7pm, Great Compline
 7th..... 6pm, Presanctified Liturgy
 8th..... 7pm, Great Compline
 9th..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy
 7pm, Salutations to the Theotokos
 11th..... **Sunday of the Holy Cross**
 13th..... 7pm, Great Compline
 14th..... 6pm, Presanctified Liturgy
 15th..... 7pm, Great Compline
 16th..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy
 18th..... **Sunday of St. John Climacus**
 20th..... 7pm, Great Compline
 21st..... 6pm, Presanctified Liturgy
 22nd..... 7pm, Great Compline
 Reading of Canon & Life of St. Mary of Egypt
 23rd..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy
 7pm, Akathist Hymn
 24th..... 7pm, Vespers Annuciation Detroit
 25th..... **Annunciation**
Sunday St. Mary of Egypt
 27th..... 7pm, Great Compline
 28th..... 6pm, Presanctified Liturgy
 29th..... 7pm, Great Compline
 30th..... 10am, Presanctified Liturgy
 31st..... 8:45am, Saturday of Lazarus

Holy Week & Pascha

April 1st - 8th

Sunday..... **Palm Sunday**
 7pm, **Bridegroom Matins**
 Monday.....10am, Presanctified Liturgy
 7pm, **Bridegroom Matins**
 Tuesday.....10am, Presanctified Liturgy
 7pm, **Bridegroom Matins**
 Wednesday.....10am, Presanctified Liturgy
 7pm, **Holy Unction Service**
 Thursday.....7:30am-8:30am, Communion
 6am, **Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil**
 6pm, **12 Gospels of the Crucifixion**
 Friday.....9am, Holy Hours
 12:30pm, Holy Friday Youth Retreat
 3pm, **Vespers of the Apokathelosis**
 6:30pm, **Lamentation Services**
 Saturday.....10am, The Protoanastasis
 11pm, **Resurrection Service**
 Sunday of Pascha.....11am, **Agape Service**



Lenten and Paschal Events

Sunday of Orthodoxy & Scouts Sunday, February 25th

All Scouts are asked to come to Liturgy in uniform and meet Mrs. Mary Takis at 10am in the Narthex. Bring a Lenten baked good to raise money for Project Mexico and Missions.

Lenten Pot Luck & Speaker Following Presanctified Liturgy

Immediately following all 6pm Wednesday night Presanctified Liturgies, a Lenten pot luck fellowship meal is shared and Fr. Nick or a guest will give a presentation. Bring your favorite Lenten dish to pass and enjoy the speaker.

- The youth participating in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival will be presenting on a Wednesday to be announced.

Pancakes & Palm Crosses Lazarus Saturday, following Liturgy

Join in making palm crosses and a pancake breakfast buffet. Also, the church and grounds will be cleaned up, please bring a change of clothes if you are able to stay and help.

Palm Sunday Luncheon April 1st, Following Liturgy

Enjoy a delicious fish dinner, Greek salad, and scordalia along with mac & cheese for the kids, sponsored and served by the Nativity Parish Council. Purchase tickets in advance \$20 adults/\$5 kids from the Church office. Limited seating available. Proceeds to go towards mortgage elimination.

Holy Friday Youth Retreat April 6th, 12:30pm-3pm

Religious Ed's annual retreat for all Church School youth of all ages. An important experience learning the theology, symbols, and hymns of Holy Week. Followed by the Apokathelosis (Taking Down from the Cross Service). Please register your child today in the Church office.

Calling all Myrrh-bearers April 6th, Lamentations Service

Inviting all daughters and young ladies to represent the faithful and holy women who went to the tomb to dress Jesus's body with sweet herbs and spices. It is a position of honor and love. To participate:

- Girls must arrive at church by 5:15pm.
 - Wear all-white modest, appropriate dresses.
 - No unduly tight fitting or revealing clothing.
- Please call **Mary Takis** before Palm Sunday at (734) 459-9311.

Paschal Fellowship Meal

April 8th, Following Paschal Liturgy
 Enjoy a complimentary meal and Paschal egg cracking tournament for the kids.

Easter Egg Hunt

April 8th, after Agape Service
 Hunt for candy-filled eggs on the church grounds after Agape service.



GOYA Focus Detroit ~ Dec. 13th



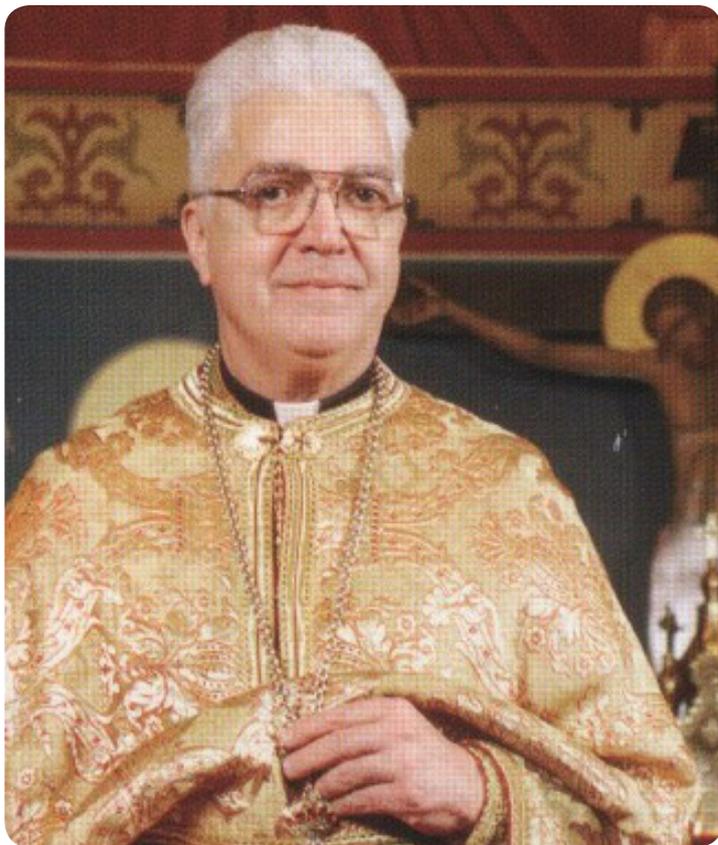
GOYA Caroling ~ Dec. 21st



Glendi at Mama Mia's ~ Nov. 25th



In Loving Memory



Rev. Fr. Charles Peter Sarelis July 3, 1934 - December 21, 2017

The Reverend Eustratios “Charles” Sarelis fell asleep in the Lord on December 21, 2017 at the age of 83. He was born July 3, 1934 in Boston, Massachusetts to parents Peter Emmanuel Sarelis and Mary Chiotis both of Lesvos, Greece.

Visitation and Funeral services were held at his retirement parish of The Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Plymouth, Michigan. A Divine Liturgy was held for Father Charles with Reverend Father John Artemas presiding. The Funeral Service was then conducted by His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit with seven other priests from the Detroit metro area. The Metropolitan gave some special words about Father Charles as a priest of the school of His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos who instilled in him a lifelong love of order in the Liturgy which he carried throughout his career. Reverend Father Nicholas Marcus, Proestaminos of Nativity Church, reminded everyone that Father Sarelis was the first married Archdeacon of the Archdiocese of North and South America. His wife, Angela Barlas, passed almost 5 years before him. A letter was then read from His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios regarding Father Charles’ years of faithful service. After the funeral, a wonderful fish Makaria was offered and hosted by the neighboring parish of Ss. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, shepherded by the Reverend Teodor Petrutiu. Interment was at sundown at the Romanian Monastery of the Holy Dormition in Rives Junction where he and Presbyteria will be prayed for at every Liturgy.

Memorial donations may be made to the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Iconography Fund. These should be sent to The Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, ATTN: Rev. Fr. Nicholas Mar-

cus, 39851 W. Five Mile Road, Plymouth, MI 48170

More details about his career and family are added below.

Education: Boston Latin School; 1958 Holy Cross School of Theology, BD; 1959 Boston University School of Theology, STM; 1961 Athens University, Athens Greece, School of Theology, Licentia Theologica; Boston Institute of Mental Health and Boston Memorial Hospital with areas of study in Pastoral Psychology, Mental Health, and Substance and Alcohol Abuse.

Pastorates: 1961 Ordained Archdeacon by Archbishop Iakovos; 1962 Ordained Presbyter by Bishop Gerasimos of Abydos; Assistant Priest, Saint Spyridon, Washington Heights NY, NY; Saint Paraskevi, Greenlawn, NY; Holy Cross, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, NY; Saint Nicholas, Wyckoff, NY; Holy Cross, Pittsburgh, PA; Saint Nicholas, Detroit, MI; Saint George Cathedral, Manchester, NH; Annunciation, Kansas City, MO.

When the Church of Saint Paraskevi in Greenlawn was destroyed by fire in 1964, the Archdiocese called upon Father Charles to lead in the rebuilding of the new edifice and the reorganization of the parish. While there, he was privileged to establish the Shrine of Saint Paraskevi with holy water sent to the parish from the miraculous spring of the Saint in Therapeia, Constantinople by His All-Holiness, Patriarch Athenagoras. Miracles and cures attributed to the Saint continue to this day.

Having fulfilled his charges at Greenlawn, he was recalled by the Archdiocese to serve in the development of the new parish of the Holy Cross, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. During the same period, with assistance of many Orthodox faithful employed at J.F. Kennedy Airport and the cooperation of Olympic Airways, Fr. Charles developed the Chapel of St. Nicholas in the Protestant Pavilion at the airport. He was elected and served two terms as president of the Pan-Lesvian Society of America. To better his children’s learning environment, the family moved to Wychoff, NJ where he assumed pastoral duties at the new parish of St. Nicholas.

Over the years, in addition to his pastoral duties, Fr. Charles served on the Ecclesiastical Courts in various metropolises as well as on the Mixed Councils. He was appointed advisor to the Columbia University Orthodox Christian Fellowship by the Archdiocese as well as Secretary of the Board of Directors of Saint Basil’s Academy.

While in Detroit, Father Charles trained and was commissioned chaplain of the Detroit Police Department (1983-1985). In 1986, he was appointed chaplain to the New Hampshire State Police Commission in Concord, NH. He served as chaplain in the Veterans Administration Hospitals in Northport, L.I., Allen Park, MI, and Kansas City, MO. He was honored to be named by the State of New York as the first E.O. Chaplain in the New York State Mental Hospitals of Pilgrim State and King’s Park on Long Island, NY.

As Associate Director of the Archdiocese Youth Ministry Office responsible for the Scouting programs, Father Charles represented our Archdiocese at the National Boy Scout Headquarters in New Brunswick, NJ and was elected chair of the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting (EOCS). During his tenure, the Chi Rho, St. George and Prophet Elias religious emblem award programs were developed. He was privileged to serve on the Executive Board of the Daniel Webster Council, NH, the Max Silber Eagle Scout Museum Board,



as well as Chairman of the Thunderbird Scouting District, Detroit, MI. In 1983, Father Charles received the Silver Beaver Award, Detroit Council and in 2002, the EOCS's Prophet Elias adult award. As chaplain, he attended the VII National Jamboree in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho and the International Jamborees on Mt. Fuji, Asagiri Heights, Japan as Chaplain General of the US contingent; in Lillehammer, Norway; and in Kopparbo, Sweden as Associate Chaplain General.

Invited to Washington D.C., Father Charles gave the opening prayer in the House of Representatives as the guest of the Speaker of the House, Thomas "Tip" O'Neil of Massachusetts and in the Senate by Senator Bob Dole of Kansas who asked him to give the opening prayer at the ceremonies when Senator Dole announced his candidacy for the President of the US in 1996.

Fraternal Organizations: In 1985, Father Charles was inducted into the Pi Lambda Theta (ΠΛΘ) National Professional Association for Excellence in Education. He was a founding member of AHEPA Ramapo Chapter, Wyckoff, NJ. He served on the Board of Directors of the Alpha Chapter, Detroit, MI and also as advisor to the Phydias Chapter and District 10 of the Sons of Pericles, Michigan. He was additionally a founding member of the Queen City Kiwanis, Manchester, NH.

Credentials: 1961 – Ordained Deacon. 1962 – Ordained Presbyter. 1969 elevated to Sakellarios. 1973 elevated to Economos. 1983 elevated to Protospresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne of Constantinople.

Family: Married in 1958 to Angela Barlas of Boston Massachusetts. We were blessed with three children: a daughter, Mary, married to Gerald Takis. They have two daughters, Alexandra and Angela. A son, Peter married to Laura Shane. They have two daughters, Naomi and Mariah. A son, Philip who is not married.

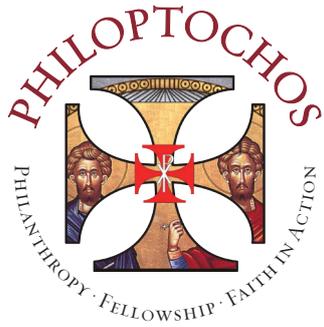
Personal Hobbies: Translation of Liturgical texts from Greek to English.



Interment was at Holy Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction, Michigan. The family and friends placed flowers on the casket before burial. The temperature was about 5 degrees. Photos by Mariah Sarelis, Jerry Takis & Cleanthe Milojevic.

Nativity's 26th Annual Christmas Auction





Xronia Polla to All!

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

• On January 7, 2018 Nativity celebrated Vasilopita Sunday. Father Nick offered blessings for all the church organizations.

- \$300 dollars will be donated to Saint Basil's Academy.
- February 11, 2018 is our annual Love Luncheon following Divine Liturgy. \$15 adults \$7 children
- Back by popular demand we will have a basket raffle.
- Our next meeting will be on Monday February 5th, at 5:30 p.m. Please bring any donations for the basket raffle. We will also be making galaktoboureko for the luncheon.
- Thursday February 8th at 5:30 p.m. the ladies will be meeting at the church to but the baskets together.
- Saturday February 10th at 11:00 am volunteers will meet at church to setup for the luncheon.



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RECENTLY, DOOR AGREED TO PARTNER WITH ST. VLADIMIR'S SEMINARY PRESS TO REVIEW NEW BOOK TITLES AS PART OF DOOR'S MONTHLY BOOK REVIEW SEGMENT "THE ORTHODOX BOOKSHELF." MEMBERS OF THE BOOK CLUB WILL RECEIVE SOME OF THE LATEST BOOKS FROM ST. VLADIMIR'S SEMINARY PRESS - FREE OF CHARGE.

THE ONLY REQUIREMENT IS THAT MEMBERS MUST READ THE BOOKS AND BE READY TO PROVIDE THEIR REVIEW IN A GROUP SETTING. MEMBERS MAY BE ASKED TO BE INTERVIEWED ON THE DOOR PROGRAM BY THE "ORTHODOX BOOKSHELF" HOST, KAREN R. TODOROV.

THIS IS TRULY A TERRIFIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN BOOK LOVERS IN THE MOTOR CITY TO GAIN INSIGHTS ABOUT THEIR FAITH FROM SOME OF OUR LEADING SCHOLARS AND AUTHORS.

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD CONTACT JIM BADEEN AT J.DOOR690AM@GMAIL.COM OR OLGA LISS AT 248 252-8184.

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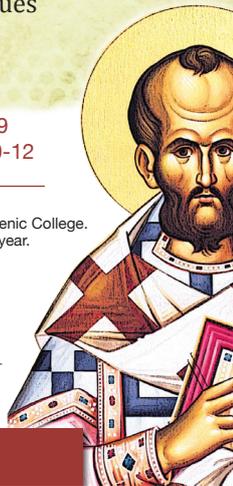
AWARDS - The Chrysostom Scholarship for Hellenic College
The 2018 finalists are eligible to receive a Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College.
This scholarship provides awards ranging from \$2,500 up to \$30,000 per year.

See Fr. Nick for more information!

Contact Information _____

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is a Ministry of the Department of Religious Education from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

Find the topics, rules, guidelines, and prize information at
www.goarch.org/oratorical



Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan

(OCW)



25th Anniversary Luncheon and Celebration

Sunday, February 4, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

"What is an Ideal Woman?"
Speaker: Presvytera Helen Karamanos

St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral Cultural Center
18405 West Nine Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan 48075

For questions, contact Loretta Gates at 248-689-9721, or e-mail Mary Ann Dadich at mdadich811@gmail.com.

Cost: OCW Members \$25; Non-members \$30.
Registration Required. Please Respond by January 28th.

Please make checks payable to:

Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan

Mail to: Loretta Gates, 37 Scottsdale Drive, Troy, Michigan 48084

Name(s) of Attendee(s): _____

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(Unsung Heroes from page 3)

In the village, I don't remember anything. We were just small, and we never left the village. There was no electricity, no water. Nothing in the villages. When we lived there [in the village], we would sleep upstairs and the animals stayed downstairs [on the first floor]. I was glad to leave the village [to go back to America] on account of the snakes. We were afraid of snakes, and there were a lot of snakes in our village.

How was your experience living in your village during the war?

We could see hundreds and hundreds of [American] planes flying above us. I don't know where they were stationed at—maybe in South Africa or in England—or where they were going, but we just kept looking up there, and I could see [them]. When somebody from our village would pass away, [everyone would] get something to eat, [like] bread and koliva. We didn't have anything. We were waiting for the chickens to lay an egg to go and get the egg [to eat it]. My grandfather and grandmother, they had a kafekouti (καφεκούτι) [which had coffee on one side and sugar in the other]. When my grandfather wasn't looking, I used to wet my finger and stick it into where the coffee and sugar was [to eat it].

During the war, we hardly had any school. School was closed on account of the war. At night, you could hear the 'voom-voom' [sound of the canons]. The Germans didn't come to [our] village because it was way up there in the mountains [and there was no road for them to get to us], but down at my wife's village there, we could hear what was going on. During the war, we used to put blankets up over the windows to block the light and keep us safe from being bombed. When we would hear that the Germans were coming, we would run to hide our valuables in the forest—but they never ended up reaching our village. When someone from the village would butcher an animal to sell, he would announce through a megaphone that he had meat to sell. But people didn't have money, so they would exchange different things, like cheese and wheat, to buy the meat.

We were living in the village. As soon as the war ended, my mom sold everything from the village, and [we] went to live in Athens, [where] her brother was living. My uncle came to pick us up from the village and brought us to stay [with him for two years]. And she put the papers to go through the embassy so we can come to America

When you moved back to America, what career did you have?

In the wintertime we tried to get some money by shoveling snow [and] breaking ice. Back then, [houses] were burning coal [to stay warm], and, then, oil. When it was cold, we used to take a shovel and throw coal in there so it warmed the house up. To get some money, in our neighbourhood the shops would pay us to get the ashes out. Then, we worked at Farm Aid, unloading trucks [with milk or pop]. We were getting \$0.99 an hour.

When we left for Greece in 1937 and my dad stayed behind, he moved to Detroit to work at the Book Cadillac hotel as a waiter. When we returned to America in 1947, my dad got me a job at the Book Cadillac hotel as a busboy [where I worked for a few years]. And, then, when we got older, they called us to go to the army. They drafted us. My brothers were in the National Guard. But me, I didn't want to go to the Army. I signed up to go into the Air Force instead because I liked the uniform. I served from 1952 to 1956, four years, which at that time was the required amount to serve in the Air Force. They sent me to South Korea and Japan. My brother, Nick, was sent to Germany, and Frank was sent to South Korea. I was a jet engine mechanic, [which] I learned [to do] on the job. I was in the reconnaissance. The pilots flew to North Korea to take pictures and were coming back. Our job was to take the engines out and check them out, after [they were flown for so many hours].

Before we served, [when we returned to America] in 1947, to learn the English language—we didn't know the language at all—they put us in the neighbourhood school, the kindergarten [class]. They had to bring us big chairs. My parents didn't know about any other options for us to learn English. Then, from there, they sent us to another public school. We used to take the streetcar to Woodrow Wilson. It was a special [school] where teachers would teach the English language. We went to school there with Theodora Baggeris's husband and Mike Manolakas's dad. We had a teacher, Mrs. Solomon. She was really good at teaching

us the English language. After we learned the language, we went back to our neighbourhood public school with the rest of the kids. I finished up to ninth grade.

When I was serving [in the Air Force], I sent out my GED [test], so I can have my high school diploma, and I did [get] it. [Then, after four years of serving,] I got an honorable discharge. Then I went to school to learn how to be a welder. You know, the government was paying for it. I finished [the program], but I didn't care [to work in the field], because it wasn't healthy. Then I worked at Kelsey-Hayes [for 8 years], then, at Bendix [where my brother, Frank, worked]. After Bendix, I worked at Ford Motor Company in the assembly line.

How long were you in that career?

27 years. But when I got out of the Air Force, I wanted to get married. I was 27 years old. In the meantime, my mom, my sister, and my brother, Nick, they were going to Greece. And I told my mom, "If you see a nice girl over there, you know." [My wife's] mom was from the same village that my parents came [from], but her mom got married at a village down below. One evening, as they were walking in St. George (Άγιος Γεώργιος), which was my wife's village, the sky was getting dark, [and my mother-in-law saw my mother, sister, and brother, and invited them to come over to her house for the night to wait until the next morning to catch the transportation out of town with the horses (αγώγι)].

How long have you been married to your wife Voula?

58 years.

How many children and grandchildren do you have?

Mrs. Varlamos: We have three kids—two girls and one boy—eight grandkids—four girls and four boys—and two great-grandkids—one girl and one boy.

My daughter, Anna, the one in [Boca Raton,] Florida, has four kids; twins—a boy and a girl—and another boy and a girl. Chris lives in Novi and has one boy and one girl, and Georgia lives in Rochester Hills and has one boy and one girl.

My brother, Nick, has two kids—one boy, who is Father Michael, and one girl. My brother, Frank, has two girls.

How long have you and your wife been coming to Nativity?

We were one of the first ones. We used to go to Saints Constantine and Helen in Detroit and, then, they moved over here [when they were renting at Middlebelt and Six Mile] at the Korean [church].

Mrs. Varlamos: And, then, we bought the land, and we went to [Haggerty and Five Mile]. And our first priest was Father Metallinos. Then, we had Father Michael, our nephew, for fourteen years at the church. And, then, he went to the east side. Then, we had Father Dimitri, and, then, we had Father George, and then came Father Sean.

Mr. Varlamos: We had a lot of priests. And, now, we have been blessed with Father Nick.

Have you ever held an office at Nativity?

No, I didn't get involved.

What is your favorite memory of Nativity?

The festivals that we had—the shish kabobs, we used to make them with a special sauce that was really good.

Mrs. Varlamos: Years ago, we, also, used to go downtown [to the festival they had] at the riverfront. We used to sell shish kabobs there. [In our church's festival,] I used to be at the sweets, at the booths, everywhere. We used to help to make [the sweets] at the church and, then, sell them.

Irene Melabiotis is a teacher with the Three Heirarchs Greek School (a joint ministry with our sister parish Sts. Constantine and Helen). With Father Nick's blessing, she will be interviewing past and present members of our parish to share their stories, record their history, and honor their experiences and sacrifices made to begin life anew in the United States of America.



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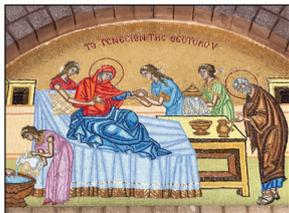
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Mission Statement - The Logos Ministry

To creatively communicate and report monthly news, services, sacraments, and ministry events to all Nativity faithful; to advance the understanding of our Orthodox Faith and sacramental life while recording the history of our parish; to promote stewardship, fellowship, charity, and love in Christ our God, who is *The Logos* and sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17).

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