

THE CHARIOT

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF
PROPHET ELIAS



PROPHET ELIAS NEWS PUBLICATION ·
SECOND EDITION

1785 Matheson Blvd., Mississauga, Ont. L4W 1V2
Church Office: 905-238-9491
E-mail: prophetelias@bellnet.ca
www.prophetelias.ca

PRESIDENT REPORT

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure to inform you that the second quarterly newsletter is being released by the Greek Orthodox Community of Mississauga and our church of Prophet Elias.

I have always had great confidence and trust in the youth of our community that they are capable of successfully carrying out any task or challenge they are confronted with the preparation of this news letter requires a lot of hard work from our contributors and publishers, and we are very thankful for their volunteering spirit and dedication to the goals and values upheld by our Church and community.

In honour of our holy Church of Prophet Elias, I propose to name our news letter

"The Chariot of Prophet Elias "

I am also delighted to announce that all of our community functions and fund raising activities in the last four months, were concluded with great success. This is attributed to the extraordinary cooperation and contribution by all of you. One can only be proud of the idea that together we can achieve miracles and help our community grow and prosper beyond any imaginary boundaries.

One more time, I would like to thank you for your continuous support and cooperation you are providing to our community and our church of Prophet Elias. Your care and love for our Church and well being of our community, is most appreciated.

Thank you,

Dimitrios Tsatsaronis,
President

ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟ

Αγαπητοί Φίλοι

Bρίσκομαι στην ευχάριστη θέση να σας αναφέρω ότι είμαι ιδιαίτερα χαρούμενος που με πληροφόρησαν τα παιδιά που είναι η συντακτική επιτροπή της μικρής κοινοτικής εφημερίδας μας πως πολύ σύντομα θα κυκλοφορήσει η δεύτερη εκδοσή της. Ομολογώ ότι πάντα είχα απόλυτη εμπιστοσύνη στα νέα παιδιά μας, ότι λένε υπεύθυνα το πραγματοποιούν.



Πρώτα ο Θεός τον Σεπτέμβριο θα εκδοθεί το δεύτερο τεύχος της κοινοτικής μας εφημερίδας. Θάθελα να την ονομάσουμε «Το άρμα του Προφήτη Ηλία».

Όλες οι εκδηλώσεις μας στο τελευταίο τετράμηνο με την βοήθεια και την αμέριστο συμπαράσταση όλων σας είχαν μεγάλη επιτυχία. Ανέκαθεν ο Ελληνισμός ενωμένος μεγαλουργεί. Και πάλι ευχαριστώ όλους για την θαυμάσια υποστήριξη προς την κοινότητά μας και την εκκλησία του Προφήτη Ηλία. Και σας θερμοπαρακαλώ να μας συμπαραστήκεστε στο μεγάλο και θεάρεστο έργο που επιτελεί ο Ελληνισμός στην Μισσισάγκα, βοηθώντας σε όλες τις μελλοντικές εκδηλώσεις μας.

Σας ευχαριστώ

Δημήτριος Τσατσαρώνης
Πρόεδρος

PASTORAL REPORT

THE FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Beloved in the Lord;

As summer turns into autumn, the nights cool down and the leaves change colour, we also turn our attention from the pleasures of the sunshine and the joys of vacations to the approaching autumn and winter that will follow. With the new school year, families, the young and the old, experience a new beginning, with new hopes and dreams, new tasks and challenges.

At this time of change and transition, our Holy Church presents us with the **Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross on September 14**. We are reminded that hopes and dreams, great or small, require intention, effort, and sacrifice. At home, at work, or at school, our responsibilities and tasks require that we give our best efforts. So it is regarding our life in the Church; our life in Christ. Our hope to realize and feel God's love in our life to a greater degree; our desire to offer greater assistance to the mission of the Church to preach the Gospel and help those in need, requires that we give our best effort. Through making our best effort to be in Church services more often and receive Holy Communion more often, be watchful of our thoughts, words and actions, be more generous in our contributions of time and money (prayer, fasting, charity), we progress in our spiritual life and realize the fruit of these efforts.

May the hopes and dreams, tasks and responsibilities of the new school year be brought to fruition and success. May the sacrifices that the Holy Cross symbolize be transformed into the joy of victory, that the Holy Cross likewise symbolizes.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Peter Mentis



ΕΚΘΕΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΙΕΡΕΑ Η ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΗΣ ΥΨΩΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ

Αγαπητοί εν Χριστώ Αδελφοί

Καθώς το Καλοκαίρι διαδέχεται το Φθινόπωρο, οι νύχτες αρχίζουν να κρυώνουν και τα φύλλα των δένδρων αλλάζουν χρώμα, έτσι και εμείς στρέφουμε την προσοχή μας από τις απολαύσεις της ηλιολουσίας και τις χαρές των θερινών διακοπών προς το Φθινόπωρο και τον Χειμώνα που ακολουθούν. Με τη νέα σχολική χρονιά, οικογένειες, νέοι και μεγάλοι, αντιμετωπίζουν μια καινούργια αρχή με νέες ελπίδες και όνειρα, νέα καθήκοντα και νέους σκοπούς και προκλήσεις.

Σ' αυτόν τον καιρό της αλλαγής και μετάβασης, η Αγία Εκκλησία μας παρουσιάζει τη γιορτή της Υψώσεως του Τιμίου Σταυρού, στις 14 Σεπτεμβρίου. Μας υπενθυμίζει ότι οι ελπίδες και τα όνειρα, μικρά η μεγάλα, απαιτούν καλή πρόθεση, προσπάθεια και θυσία. Στο σπίτι, στη δουλιά η στο σχολείο, αι υπευθυνότητες μας και τα καθήκοντά μας, απαιτούν να προσφέρουμε τις πλέον καλύτερες προσπάθειές μας, σχετικά με τη ζωή μας στην Εκκλησία και γενικά την εν Χριστώ ζωή μας. Η ελπίδα μας να αποκτήσουμε και να αισθανθούμε την αγάπη του Θεού στη ζωή μας, η επιθυμία μας να προσφέρουμε μεγαλύτερη βοήθεια στην αποστολή της Εκκλησίας να διδάξει το Ευαγγέλιο και να βοηθήσει εκείνους που έχουν ανάγκη, απαιτεί να δώσουμε τις καλύτερες προσπάθειές μας. Με το να προσπαθούμε να συμμετέχουμε στις λειτουργίες της Εκκλησίας μας και να μεταλαμβάνουμε της θείας κοινωνίας πιο συχνά, να προσέχουμε τις σκέψεις μας, λέξεις και πράξεις, να είμεθα πιο γενναιόδωροι στη συνεισφορά του χρόνου μας και της οικονομικής συνδρομής (προσευχή, νηστεία, αγαθοεργία), αναπτυσσόμεθα πνευματικά και απολαμβάνουμε τα φρούτα των προσπαθειών μας.

Είθε οι ελπίδες και τα όνειρα, καθήκοντα και υπευθυνότητες της καινούργιας σχολικής χρονιάς, να καρποφορίσουν και να επιφέρουν επιτυχία στους σκοπούς μας. Είθε οι θυσίες, που ο Τιμιος Σταυρός συμβολίζει, να μετατραπούν σε χαρά νίκης που ο Άγιος και Τιμιος Σταυρός επίσης συμβολίζει.

Με αγάπη Χριστού
Πατήρ Παναγιώτης

SURVEY SAYS... SCHOOL'S ON!!!



REPORT

In the last issue of our publication we launched a survey to assess the need for Greek education in our community and what types of school programs the community wanted. The project was led by three Community Council Members: Emiliios Margaritis, Danny Sirmis and Terry Tharrenos, with the guidance of Spyros Volonakis, Director of the Office of Greek Education, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto (Canada).

The survey was open for a five month period and was available on our website and in hard copy at the church office. A summary of the survey results is as follows:

93 people completed the survey

- 88% of parents would be interested in sending their child to a Greek School
- 79% are willing to pay at least \$300 per year.
- 46% of parents with pre-school children would be interested in sending their child to a licensed Child Care or Montessori Program.
- 44% of parents would be interested in sending their child to a Greek Orthodox Day School
- 66% are willing to pay at least \$7,500 per year.
- 84% speak Greek fair or fluent
- 40% of spouses do not speak Greek at all
- 82% indicated that the Greek Heritage is important
- 68% of the respondents have children with an average of two kids per family
- 44% of the children are under the age of 4 (e.g. Pre-school).

The survey results indicate that there is a large population of pre-school children. The survey also indicated **Saturday** Greek School is the most preferred form of schooling. In addition, 85% responded that having an **Adult Evening** Greek language program is important to them.

Based on the survey results, we have determined that our first priority is to deliver a high-quality **Saturday Greek Pre-school program**. We will also address the other

community priorities, such as Adult Greek evening classes, in the near future.

Our objective is to launch the pre-school program in **September 2012**. To achieve that goal, with your support, we need to achieve the following:

1. Promote & Advertise the school
2. Develop a work plan, budget and fundraising plan
3. Develop a curriculum
4. Prepare the physical space
5. Hire a qualified Administrator / Principal
6. Seek parental and community involvement on a School Committee
7. Interview Teachers
8. Select textbooks
9. Deliver a Workshop for Teachers
10. Pre-Registration in June 2012

In conclusion, you can see that a lot of work has gone into assessing the need for a school program. In order to make this happen, each of us needs to do our part. You do not need to have a child to contribute. All you need is an interest in making OUR community a better place for the future generations. Further information and calls for support will be issued as we proceed with the planning and implementation of our new **Saturday Greek Pre-school program**.



CURRENT AFFAIRS REPORT

BY: GEORGE KOLITSOPOULOS & FRENE DI MASO

With the release of this newsletter and the start to September, it is apparent that every new beginning is another beginning end. The summer is quickly counting down; Labour Day is in some way the official send off to summer. As the kids plan the return back to school, sports, extra curricular activities and friends and the parents begin the task of balancing much of the same. We should take a moment and reflect on how not only the summer was but how our year has been thus far. Many times we do not stop and take into account what the small stuff really means to us, and to each of us it means different things.

EVENT OVERVIEW

The first nine months of 2011 has been a very busy year for the Community of Prophet Elias Church. We have from as early as January have been planning events, focusing on building construction, going to events in support of supporting organizations, managing the day to day operations, families and our jobs.

In May we took on a daunting task and while some thought that the undertaking of two of our bigger events only a week apart was something that could not be done, it was done and very successfully we might add. On May 30 we hosted our Golf Tournament while planning and setting the ground work to host Carassauga five days later. Though ambitious and exhausting, the passion and dedication that was shown by the planning committee of these events is what made these events the success that they were. We would like to take a minute on behalf of the Community Council, Father Peter and the Administrative office to thank, Terry Tharrenos, Susan Savva, Ulla Antonakos, Rina Mantazanis, Mary Bekelis and Joanne Athanasopoulos for their hard work, love, support and passion that they continuously show countless times. Also we would like to recognise the hard work of our staff, Michael Margaritis, Stavros Preketes and Nick Dodas. No event would be as successful or possible without the support and thanks of our Philoptochos Society which are championed under the leadership of Lia Malts. Gratitude to the public relations and fundraising team of Dimitrios and Dr. Eleftheria Tsatsaronis whose tireless efforts continue to flourish throughout our church and community.

Carassauga was once again hosted at the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre with our theme this year being a "Journey Through Greece". Our focal piece this year was a statue of the Colossus of Rhodes donated by Steve Diakoulukas and Kosta Dia-

koloukas from Dura Edge Inc. This statue was given to our church and will be displayed at future Carassauga events. We would like to thank ASC Productions and owner Carlos Costa for his support of our church by providing us the stage and LED wall that we have all come to enjoy. Carlos is extremely generous and supportive, he acknowledges the budget restraints of church and goes above and beyond to ensure that we look and sound the best. Given the Bread and Honey festival, Rib fest and the Stanley Cup playoffs, the foot traffic of this year's Carassauga event was lower but over all revenue was higher.

Our Golf tournament this year was hosted at Lionhead Golf and Country Club. We had a very successful turnout of over 120 golfers and over \$12,500 in sponsorships. We would like to thank all the golfers and sponsors who came out in support of our tournament. We have been told by many golfers and sponsors that the Prophet Elias Tournament is one of the best tournaments. We take pride in these statements and we will continue to ensure that we strive for excellence every year.

This year's festival was by far was one of the most successful events to date. Not only did our attendance surpass 6,000 people but our revenue reflected much of the same success. The achievement was due to the hard work of all the dedicated volunteers, the organizing committees, Philoptochos Society, Community Council and parish priest. This year we had the introduction of a new stage element; this was again supplied by ACS Production which left everyone including other organization in complete admiration. We have already been contacted by sponsors who would like to sponsor the stage for the 25th Anniversary.

UP & COMING EVENTS

Marathon: Sunday October 16, we will once again be working in conjunction with the Hellenic Hope Foundation, the Greek Orthodox Community of Markham, the Hellenic Home for the Aged and the Greek Community of Toronto. In support of the 2011 Scotia Bank Waterfront Marathon, our Church is backing four champions this year; Ben Kaplan, Stelios Mina, Dr. Eleftheria Tsatsaronis M.D and Dr. Apostolos Tountas M.D. Last year our champions raised \$11,000 and the goal for our champions this year is \$20,000. If you wish to sponsor and show your support to any of our champions, please contact the church office. All proceeds raised from our champions are awarded to OUR Church. As well on October 16, the five charities involved will be setting up our cheering station named "Greek Town" at Broadview and Eastern Avenue. Last year we won third place and a \$2000 cash prize was awarded. This year we are hoping to place first and win the \$6,000 cash prize.

SCOTIABANK TORONTO WATERFRONT MARATHON
+ HALF-MARATHON & 5K

Dr. Eleftheria Tsatsaronis M.D. Ben Kaplan Stelios Mina Dr. Apostolos A. Tountas M.D.

Show your support by pledging Community participants!
October 16, 2011

RUN, PLEDGE, CHEER!
Join more than 23,000 runners at Nathan Phillips Square. Run St. Lawrence and The Beach and feel the BUZZ of Canada's premier fall marathon!

Online entry, fundraising, spectator and entertainment information all at: STWM.ca

Logos for Mississauga, IAAF Road Race Silver Label, and Scotiabank.

Prophet Elias' Greek Orthodox Church 2011 Annual Fall Dance

Saturday, November 5, 2011

Mississauga Grand Banquet Centre
35 Brunel Road, Mississauga, Ontario
(East of Hurontario St. & South of Hwy 401)

Cocktails: 6:00pm Dinner: 7:30pm
Adults \$65 Children \$35 (under 12)

Live Music
will be performed by OLA BAND

Live Dance Performances
by our Prophet Elias Dance Group "NEA GENIA"

For more information or to book tickets please contact the Church office at tel. 905-238-9491 or email prophetelias@bellnet.ca

Cash, Cheque, Visa & Master Card Accepted

Seats are limited, book your tables today!!

Fall Dance: On Saturday November 5th, we will be hosting our Annual Fall Dance at the Mississauga Grand Banquet Centre. The cost is \$65 for Adults and \$35 for kids under 12. It is important that we support these events and show our support to the dance groups from our Church. All grades will be performing that evening and the instructors and student need us to show our appreciation for their hard work.

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

UP & COMING EVENTS

Sunday School: Will begin on Sunday October 2 with Agiasmos to start off the new school year. Registration will take place on September 18 & 25. Please ensure that the children arrive on Sundays by 10:00am as Father Peter speaks to them prior to class which begins at 10:30am. The year is filled with many of events, Christmas Pageant, Easter Lenten Retreat, Bake Sale and the end of year Picnic. Though the cost of registration is FREE, donations are welcome; all proceeds go to helping the Sunday School program.

Greek Dance: Program begins on September 19 & 21, registration will take place on September 12 & 14 in the back hall of our church between 6pm-8pm. The cost for registration is \$125.00 for students under 12 and \$150.00 for 13 and above. The first live performance for the dance group will be at our Annual

Fall Dance on November 5, they will also perform at Carassauga and at our Annual Greek Festival.

Choir: Our Church choir will be rehearsing every Tuesday from 7:30pm – 9:30pm beginning in September. For those who are interested in joining the Senior or Junior choir, please contact the church office for further information. The choir director is Jennifer Mantzios.

Philoptochos: Meets on the first Tuesday of every month between 7pm & 9pm. The Philoptochos are always looking for energetic individuals that are looking to help our church. If you have an interest in joining the Philoptochos Society of our Church, please contact the church office for more information.

So as you can all see there is a lot that has happened there is a lot that's going to happen. Who would have thought that there are so many moving parts within a church; but there are! We have always believed in the mantra that "when you do right things right the results are always positive". We hope this latest issue finds you well, please continue to support your church and community.

TOGETHER / STRONGER



YOUTH

Pre-Teen Talk every Wednesday 7 – 8 pm
 Teen Drop-In every Friday 7 – 9 pm
 Teen Talk every Sunday 10 am – 12 noon

ORTHODOX PARENTS' ASS'N. (OPA)

Seminars Oct. 16, Nov. 13, Dec. 4 – 12:30 to 2:00 pm

DIVINE LITURGY in ENGLISH (12 Oct. 2011 to 30 May 2012) every Wednesday 6 – 7 pm

BIBLE STUDY in ENGLISH (12 Oct. 2011 to 30 May 2012) every Wednesday 7 – 8 pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday 11 December 2011, at 12:00 noon.

FEAST OF THE HOLY ARCHANGELS

Vespers Service: Monday 7 November 2011, 7:00-8:30 pm
 Divine Liturgy: Tuesday 8 November 2011, 10:00-11:00 am

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMUNITY

Sunday 20 November 2011, 1:00-2:30 pm

CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT

Sunday 4 December 2011, 7:00-9:00 pm

FEAST OF ST. BARBARA

Vespers Service: Saturday 3 December 2011, 7:00-8:30 pm
 Divine Liturgy: Sunday 4 December 2011, 10:00 am-12:00 noon

DID YOU KNOW...

- **Did you know our survey indicated** that 51% respondents have **NOT** volunteered or contributed to an event or a fundraiser.
- **Did you know our survey indicated** 53% of those who have **NOT** volunteered were unaware of how to contribute or volunteer.
- **Did you know our survey indicated** that 66% of respondents would like to volunteer or contribute to a church event or fundraiser.

If anyone would like to join one of our event committees or just volunteer their time, please feel free to contact the office.

- **Did you know Weddings are not permitted on:**
 1. January 5-6 (Epiphany)
 2. Lent and Holy Week
 3. August 1-15 (Fast of the Theotokos)
 4. August 29 (Beheading of St. John the Baptist)
 5. September 14 (Elevations of the Holy Cross)
 6. December 13-25 (Christmas Fast)

Note: Weddings are not allowed on the day before all major feast days of the Church, all Holy Days of Our Lord, and Holy Pentecost. Weddings are not allowed on these days unless absolutely necessary and then only by special permission from the Diocesan Bishop.

- **Did you know Baptisms are not permitted on:**
 1. December 25 – January 6
 2. Holy Week
 3. Major Feast Days

Note: Baptisms are not allowed on these days unless in case of an emergency or when absolutely necessary and then only by special permission from the Diocesan Bishop.

- **Did you know Memorials are not permitted:**
 1. From Saturday of Lazarus through Sunday of Thomas
 2. All the Feast days of Our Lord
 3. On August 15

- **Did you know that you can rent the Back Hall:**
 The back hall is available to be rented and it seats 150. It can be booked for:
 1. Bridal Showers
 2. Birthday parties
 3. Baby Showers
 4. Anniversary's
 5. Baptisms
 6. Funeral Luncheons & Memorials
 7. Or even just a party

If you are interested in renting the back hall please contact the Church office for more details, *some restrictions apply.*

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

DOMES ICONOGRAPHY PROGRESS

Last year we launched a campaign to raise funds for the iconography that will grace the interior of the church dome, which is estimated to cost \$250,000. The campaign is moving ahead and there has been much activity and also some challenges. The 2010 Fall Dance fundraiser and an entire page in our last publication were dedicated to the dome; a letter was sent to our community requesting contributions, and Father Peter updates the community regularly on the status of the dome during his Sunday announcements. So, you can see that we continue to work towards our fundraising goal.



From a building perspective, there have been some problems with the exterior structure of the roof and dome, which have been evidenced by water leaks and damage to the ceiling in the interior of the Church. The Building Committee of the Community Council worked closely with engineers and other experts to identify the cause of the problems and have them repaired.

We are now ready to begin work on the interior of the dome. The next step is to issue a request for quotes to install scaffolding in the church for four months, which is how long it will take to inspect the interior structure the dome, complete any necessary repairs and paint the iconography. Our initial estimate for the scaffolding is \$35,000 - \$50,000. There is also the cost of any structural and interior repairs to the dome, if needed, the rescheduling of sacraments due to the scaffolding, and the cost of the iconography itself.

For those who would like to contribute to the dome iconography, other iconography projects or donate a stain glass window, please contact Father Peter Mentis or the church office. The iconography in our church will stay with us forever it will remain as part of our heritage and legacy that we leave within our church and community.



For a copy of the schedule of services please visit our website at www.prophetelias.ca or you can pick one up at the front entrance of our church

Editors: Frene Di Maso, Terry Tharrenos & George Kolitsopoulos