

Dear Parishioners and Parish Council members,

Glory to Jesus Christ ! Glory to Him forever!

This year I mark my 27th year of ordination as deacon and 20th year of ordination as priest and 7th year as Pastor of the Parish. (I began right after Pascha of 2016.) The time has just flown by. I hope that my years have been fruitful for the parish. Looking over the Parish Records I find that in my time just as pastor I have buried 60 of our community members (75 Funerals in total for others) unfortunately too many of our dear members and loved ones. I'll ask you to stand and offer a memory eternal to them all. (6 last year) . I've also performed 44 baptisms and 13 chrismations (8 and 6 respectively last year.) We've also had 14 weddings (5 last year) . We obviously need more weddings and additions. I'm thankful that we've almost completely recovered from the Pandemic Crisis and are most of the way to normal –whatever that may be from now on. You have been very generous and have supported the parish in it's ministry . I take this opportunity to thank you, Parish Council ,members and friends for the support you've given me and the parish.

We continue to pay down the mortgage and are able to meet our obligations and continue our outreach into the community. I thank Pres. Diane Nicola and Prifteasa Marian and the hard working Ladies' Auxiliary for much of that backing. I thank our cantors and our main cantor George Fatsy for being at every service to assist me. To Daniella Geer and the choir for their beautification of the services with their beautiful voices ; to Linda Kolton and the dedicated Sunday School teachers who do so much with our kids. There are so many of you to thank ,I pray the Lord rewards you all ! And to Parish Council Pres. Spiro Fatsy who is here every day and works so hard –God bless you all! We're no longer just a small church as you can tell by our budget requiring a great deal of supervision and control and multiple treasurers –thank you .

We've increased our membership substantially to the point that our Episcopate assessment is now slightly over \$17,000 for 200 plus members. We still have some growing to do and I strongly encourage you to meet your responsibility to the Parish and show by your action just how much you love our parish. (Our friends have been very kind).

At one time we were the 6th largest parish in the Episcopate and we had fallen to 13. We have increased and by the time of my retirement I would love to be 6th again.

We still have some work to do . We need to reactivate our Mac-Aroy + *Refines* and as the kids get older we must give them continuing opportunities . And we must make a serious attempt to be in Church on time which means from the beginning of the service. I attempt to invite people to come and see and worship with us and it's embarrassing to have them there when the majority of us are not. I have office hours every day from 10 to 1 or 2 and am available at any time for your needs .I can be reached at any time on my cell . I apologize to those in Nursing Homes,homebound and Hospitals but because of Covid , I have limited my visits both for their protection and that of the parish. We continue with weekday services and Vesper Services before the holy days and with Orthros /Matins every Sunday before Holy Liturgy. We will answer your questions about the questionnaire for time change shortly.I ,also, encourage you to attend our adult class on Thursday mornings about the faith and any questions you may have. Some days we have more people from other parishes than our own. I no longer have the Tuesday night Bible classes after 40 plus years of continuity because of the Pandemic. I ,also, keep involved in inter- Orthodox and inter-Christian events in the Easton Community when invited.

With the Lord's help and the prayers of His most holy Mother Theotokos and His ardent servant St. Dimitrie we shall succeed in our mission well past our 100 year anniversary. God bless you all !

With love of Christ, I remain your loving Pastor ,

Fr George

V. REV. FR. GEORGE COCA