

2024 Year-end Thank yous!

The parish of St. George extends our heartfelt thanks to the many people who helped support St. George with their dedicated stewardship over the past year. Please continue below to read some specific acknowledgments.

First off, we would like to offer our thanks to our **Parish Council** for their continued stewardship, diligence, and efforts to manage the leadership of St. George over the past year, and for the many having served the Council over several years. Our Parish Council is manned by **Bill Kovachi (President)** along with **Laura Coughlin, Luba Csernica, Peter Dacey, Curt Dionis, Joe Galich, Louise Gallagher, Cathy Hotova, and Bob Lazar.**

Also critical in supporting St. George, we give our sincere thanks to **Fr. Sergei Bouteneff**, who continues to serve St. George in his retirement by filling in as our parish priest from September 2018. Additionally, our thanks go to **Fr. Danaks Rhodes** who helps us by serving one Liturgy a month during Fr. Sergei's week off. Without a priest serving Liturgies, there would be no St. George parish. We are eternally grateful!

To **Louise Gallagher** for baking Meshe which is needed for our Divine Liturgies.

Many thanks to **Louise Gallagher** and **Sally Balis**, who faithfully come in early each week to help organize and to light candles for the start of each Liturgy or service.

Our thanks to the Choir for their singing at all of the services the past year. Additional thanks to our choir director **Karen Masek**, and to our substitute directors **Laura Denisevich** and **Laura Coughlin.**

Cantors **Peter Dacey** and **Charles Soter** for their dedication to the readings and chanting at our services.

Bob Lazar for his assistance in the sanctuary – he faithfully helps at all services.

To the **Altar Servers** for their time and assistance.

To **Louise Gallagher** and **Bob Lazar** who faithfully change the table cloths when required by feast or church season. Thanks to Louise who also irons and prepares all the table cloths ahead of time so they are ready to be switched out.

To **Greg Buzi II** for leading several prayer groups during Lent and the Nativity Fast.

To **Nardi Tollkuci** and **Olsi Nani** who assisted during some services with the reading the Gospel lesson or prayers in Albanian.

To **Louise Gallagher** for all her outside landscaping work during the growing seasons - the purchasing and planting of plants and flowers, watering during the warm weather, etc. keeping the entrance to our church beautiful.

To **Luba Csernica** and **Cathy Hotova** for the live-streaming of services.

Many thanks to **Curt Dionis** for leading and coordinating the Church School program. Also to **Pauline Dionis** for her teaching and backup coordination of the program, and to **Brooke & Sophie Dionis** who are assistant coordinators for the program.

We also wish to thank our **Church School children** who designed and created thank you cards for our parish Veteran's which were distributed on Veteran's Day, and holiday cards which were included in bags of Christmas Cheer that were delivered to our senior parishioners who are restricted at home.

Thanks to **Donna Kerma** for being our resident photographer – it allows us to share key moments during the church year with others.

Many thanks to Cathy Hotova, Louise Gallagher and **Kim O'Brien** for all their efforts keeping coffee hour refreshments and supplies purchased, available, set-up, and ready to go each Sunday. Also thanks to **Greg Buzi** who is our backup coffee brewer.

Thanks to those who helped decorate the church for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (Christmas): to **Sue & Joe Galich** for putting up the Christmas tree and wreaths, to **Jennifer Goetz** for decorating the Church Icons and Iconostas, and to **Louise Gallagher** for setting up and arranging the poinsettia plants.

To **Curt & Nicole Dionis, Pauline Dionis and Laura Denisevich** for all coordinating, organizing, and cooking for the St. Nicholas Party for the parish's children and the parish. Additional thanks to **Louise Gallagher, Cathy Hotova,** and **Laura Coughlin** for their help with cleanup and serving, to **Greg Buzi II** for "arranging" Santa's visit, and to **Sophie & Brooke Dionis** who were Santa's helpers.

Thanks to all those anonymous parishioners who donated hams and turkeys for last winter's food donation drive. Also many thanks to **Brooke & Sophie Dionis, their mother Nicole, and Fr. Sergei** for making the deliveries of frozen hams and turkeys to the Thomas Merton Family Center in Bridgeport, and the Beth-El Center in Milford, both who operate soup kitchens.

Throughout the year, St. George maintains the collection of non-perishable food stuffs, personal hygiene products and household cleaning products. A few times a year, those donations are delivered to one of our local food pantries. Thanks to **Greg Buzi** for making those deliveries

An important note of recognition and thanks go out to the **Teuta Society** and it's officers (**Diane Cryan, Sue Galich, Laura Denisevich, and Louise Gallagher**) The Teuta Society is the major coordinator and organizer of fund-raising and fellowship events for the parish of St. George. This past year, 3 major events were held: the Spring Brunch, the Parish Picnic, and the Fall Bazaar.

Many, many thanks to **the numerous unnamed volunteers** who donated items, baked, set up, worked the Bazaar tables, and cleaned up for this year's **Fall Bazaar**, which is the major fundraising event of the Parish . It's important both socially and financially. And thanks to all who came out and help support it.

Also thanks to those who made and/or sold items at Pop-up stores during the Bazaar: to **Donna Kerma** for holding a Pop-up store selling jewelry, to **Jim Bowe** for his hand-painted stools, sleds, Christmas gifts and ornaments, and to **Dave Denisevich** for making and selling his handcrafted cutting and serving boards, and making some of the wooden crafts for Jim Bowe to finish decorating.

Another major event that required **numerous unnamed volunteers** to execute was the **Parish Picnic**. Thanks to all who supported the picnic by cooking and

preparing salads and sides of food, managed the grills, set-up and broke down the tents, tables, chairs, and grills, and helped with all the final clean-up, and of course by participating. Also, thanks to **Pierre Rhodes** (owner of Beyond All Drones) who provided us with numerous drone photos and a drone video of the picnic from above.

As St. George enters our Centennial Year, thanks go out to the 100th Anniversary Committee: **Laura Coughlin (Co-chair), Diane Cryan, Peter Dacey, Curt Dionis (Co-chair), Jen Goetz, Bob Lazar, Karen Masek, and Kim O'Brien**. Major initiatives that are underway include the 100th Anniversary T-Shirt sale, the 100 Acts of Service completing 100 acts of Good Works, and the Buy a Brick fundraiser to support a Prayer Patio. And of course, the date we will be celebrating the anniversary with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and an Anniversary Banquet is Sunday, June 22nd.

To our St. George "Elves" : **Pam Buzi, Sharon Buzi, Laura Coughlin, Diane Cryan, Luba Csernica, Laura Denisevich, Pauline Dionis, Jennifer Goetz, Cathy Hotova, Karen Masek, and Kim O'Brien**, who baked and purchased items of Christmas Cheer for our senior parishioners who are restricted at home. And to **Diane Cryan, Pam Buzi, Laura Coughlin, Laura Denisevich, Kim O'Brien, Cathy Hotova, and Karen Masek** who assembled and delivered those gift packages this year.

And finally, **to all those who came to pray and celebrate the services** during our past year.