

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



CURRENT

MARCH 2021





When my son Peter was much younger, we frequented a nearby petting zoo. He loved to walk amongst the chickens, roosters, piglets, and especially the sheep and goats. I often found myself struck by the contrast between what sheep look like on mattress commercials and cartoons strips, compared to what they look like in reality.

In illustrations, sheep are white, fully, cuddly animals. They quietly graze in the fields on green and on sunny hillsides. They are friendly, orderly creatures.

But what confronted us at the zoo was quite different. In reality, sheep stink. The white, fluffy fleece of their bellies is dark with mud. Their faces are stained with whatever they've been eating. They are noisy. They talk over each other. They move in a herd. They seem to trip over one another trying to get anywhere. Sheep are an awkward bunch.

And yet, as we prepare to enter Great Lent, the Lord says that at the Last Judgment it is the sheep that will be placed at His right hand. They will be placed at His right because of how much compassion and love the sheep showed for the most vulnerable of society. That is what we are called to do year-round, but especially as we enter Lent. We are called to be sheep. We are called to show love to those who need it the most.



Being a sheep doesn't have to be hard. There was no pretense to the sheep in the petting zoo. Peter and I would walk into the sheep gate, and they were who they were. The Lord tells us that we do not need any pretense either. It is okay to be smelly. It is okay to be disheveled. It is okay to be disoriented or confused. The Lord wants us to come as we are, as sheep. But, it is not okay to ignore His directions once we are here.

For all their flaws, sheep are known to follow their shepherd. Our shepherd is Jesus Christ. So we come here as we are. We are accepted as we are. But we are also expected to follow Him, so that we can be changed to be more like Him.

There will be many opportunities between now and Pascha to respond to the Lord's directive to be the sheep. Let's get to work, so that one day we can all be placed His right hand.

See you at Church!

FRDK

Fr. Dean

A Note from President and Stewardship Chairman Steve Markantone

Pleasure or Pain

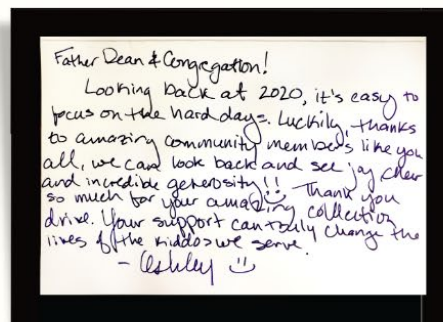
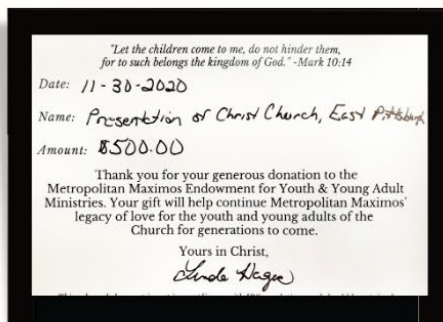
There are two doors in life: One pleasure, and one pain. Whichever door you enter, you are sure to leave through the other.



Life is full of choices. Too often we choose immediate gratification with no thought as to the long-term outcome. The ministry which is provided through Ypapanti is hard work. I for one would like to thank everyone for all they do in providing ministry to those in need. It is an expression of the faith and teachings we hear every Sunday. The first sentence is thought provocative. All the hard work and commitment both to the church as well as to the ministries provides pleasure. The pleasure of helping others; as well as, spreading the word about Jesus and eternal life.

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



A reminder of the power of
doing God's work

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2021

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS		THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 21st		TRIDUUM WEEKS Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 28th		The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare MARCH 7th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY		The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:9-2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 14th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY		Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 21st		GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 28th		ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent APRIL 4th		VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHAI Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 11th		ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 18th		ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 25th GREAT WEEK BEGINS		GREAT AND HOLY WEEK ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 30th		GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 2nd NO FASTING!		BRIGHT WEEK HOLY PASCHAI (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

SATURDAY OF SOULS

Departed Loved Ones “For the repose of the servants of God...”



Why do we commemorate those who have fallen asleep?

During memorial services we commemorate the souls of those who have gone before us into eternal rest. By praying for those who have fallen asleep in the Lord, we continue to ask that God may have mercy on them in His divine judgment, so they may gain the inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The names offered will be commemorated during the “Saturday of the Souls” services at the beginning of the Lenten season and during the Service of Proskemedi before Sunday Divine Liturgies. Please submit your names only once, as they will be used for all of the Saturday of Souls Services during this season.

Please remember your loved ones by not only submitting their names, but by attending the Liturgy to offer your own prayers for their eternal rest. Anyone wishing to do so may also bring a dish of memorial wheat (Koliva) for use during the Saturday of Souls service.

Please provide first names only:

Mail your list to the Church, Email it to Fr. Dean, or leave it at the Candle Stand.

Dates for Saturday Of Souls Service for 2021 are:

March 6 th	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
March 20 th	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy



Lenten Parish Family Retreat

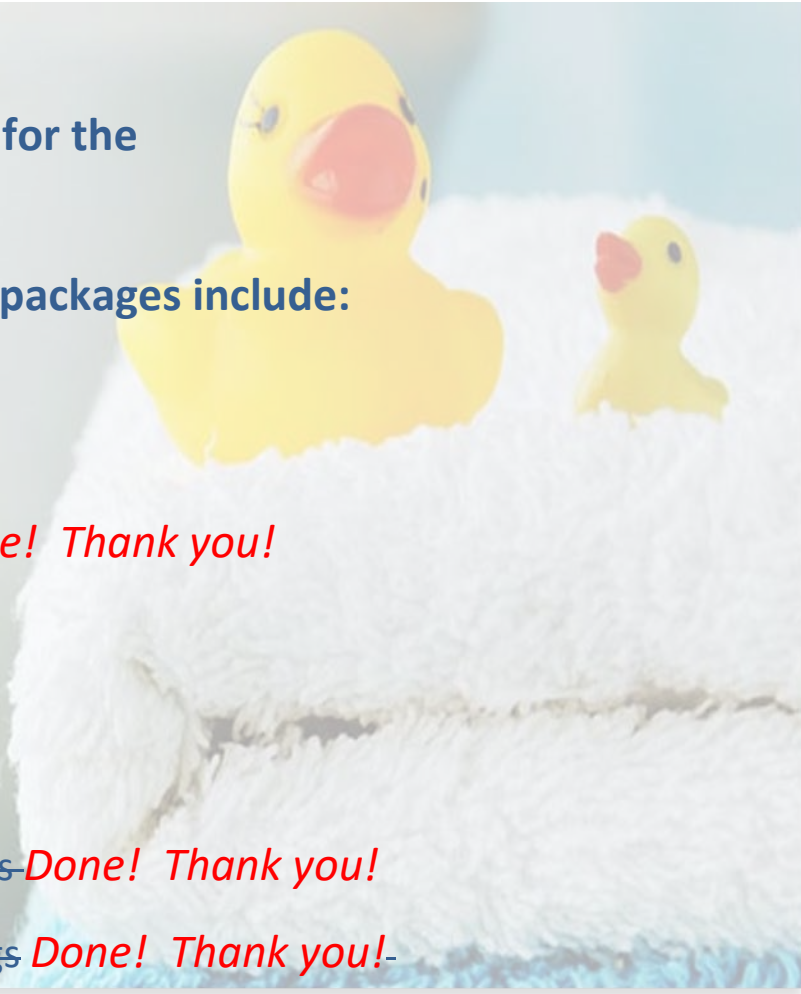
April 3, 2021 – 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Invest Yourself: Liturgy is the Work of the People!
Feature Father Paul Abernathy

This year we will again prepare
Hygiene Care Packages for the
McKeesport Homeless Shelter

Supplies needed to prepare 125 packages include:

- 125 Cotton Hand Towels
- 125 Cotton Washcloths
- ~~125 Tubes of Lip Balm~~ *Done! Thank you!*
- 125 Nail Clippers
- 125 Bath Size Bars of Soap
- 125 Toothbrushes
- ~~1,250 Standard Size Band Aids~~ *Done! Thank you!*
- ~~125 Gallon size Zip Lock Bags~~ *Done! Thank you!-*



Please bring donated items to the Church Community Center by April 1st

Items can be and brought or mailed to Church, or purchased through this Amazon Registry: <https://tinyurl.com/zdyf94a6>

There is a collection area in the foyer of Olympia Hall

The church is also accepting

TWIN BED FITTED SHEETS and new or used **ADULT SIZE COATS**



LITTLE LAMBS SUNDAY SCHOOL

**LITTLE LAMBS SUNDAY SCHOOL
MEETS AT 4PM VIA ZOOM**

AGES 3-5

Each lesson
includes a prayer,
the Saint of the Day,
an activity, a story,
and a song related
to the monthly
theme.

**January *The Baptism &
Presentation of Christ***

February *The Icons in OUR Church!*

March *Great Lent*

[Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

**“ WE ALL
KNOW A
GUY! ”**

The BINGO HALL PROJECT

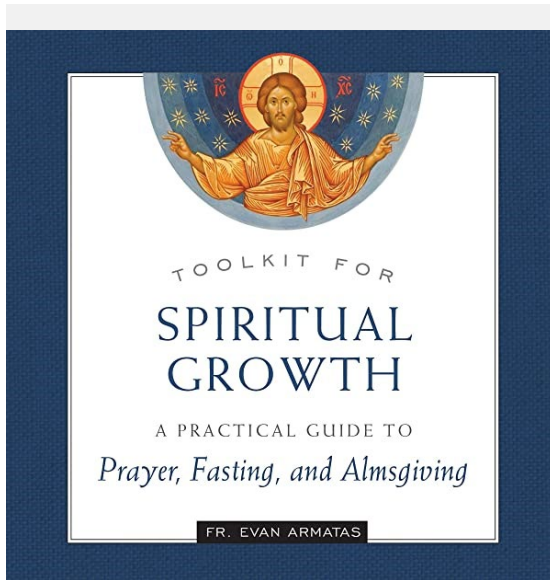
IS TAKING BIDS NOW!

If you know someone who would like a chance to bid on our neighborhood beautification process, let us know!

We've already raised ~~\$10,000~~ **\$31,000**! Let's keep it going!

Lenten Book Club

"Toolkit for Spiritual Growth: A Practical Guide to Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving"



Have you ever asked yourself...

Do I really need to go to Church?

Do I really need to pray at home?

Does God really care what I do or
do not eat?

Do I really need to be generous?

Whether you are new to the Orthodox Church, or have raised your family here, join us for Book Club to explore these questions & more.

**Books can be purchased by emailing Fr.
Dean (fatherdeankokanos@gmail.com) for \$12.00 per copy.**

7:30 PM Class Dates:

February 3

February 17

March 3

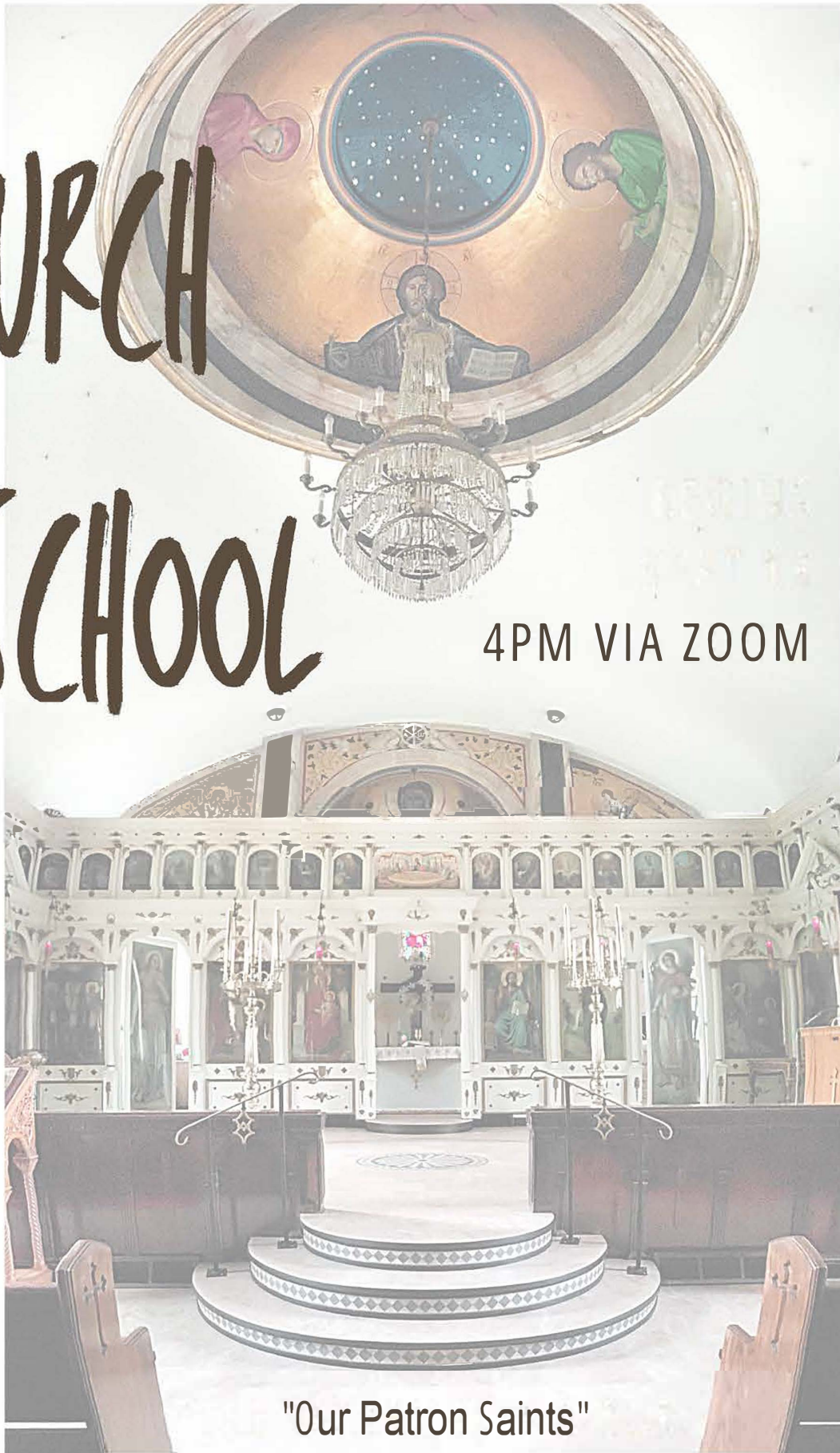
March 17

March 31 (Make up Session)

Class format will either be in person or via Zoom, as directed by
COVID-19 Guidelines.

CHURCH SCHOOL

4PM VIA ZOOM



"Our Patron Saints"



2021

Pledge card!

"Give, and it shall be given to you."

March, 2021

~ Tentative ~

~ Tentative ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6:30 PM, Paraklesis 7:30 PM, Book Club	4	5 5:00 PM, Grocery Box Distribution	6 9:30 AM Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy
7 Judgement Sunday (Meatfare Sunday) 8:30 AM, Matins 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 4:00 Zoom Sunday School	8	9 7:00 PM, Parish Council	10 1:00 PM (New Time) Cooking for NRP	11	12	13
14 Forgiveness Sunday 8:30 AM, Matins 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 12:00 PM Philoptochos 4:00 Zoom Sunday School	15 Clean Monday – Great Lent Begins 5:00 PM, Compline	16 5:00 PM, Compline	17 6:00 PM, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 7:30 PM Book Club	18 5:00 PM, Compline	19 5:00 PM, Grocery Box Distribution 6:30 PM, Salutations to the Mother of God	20 9:30 AM, Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 4:30 PM, Great Vespers
21 Sunday of Orthodoxy 8:30 AM, Matins 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 4:00 Zoom Sunday School	22 5:00 PM, Compline	23	24 Vigil – Feast of the Annunciation 5:30 PM, Matins 6:30 PM, Divine Liturgy	25 Feast of the Annunciation 	26 9:30 AM, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:30 PM, Salutations to the Theotokos	27 10:00 AM Food Pantry 11:00 AM Hot Meal Distribution 4:30 PM, Great Vespers
28 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas 8:30 AM, Matins 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 4:00 Zoom Sunday School	29 5:00 PM, Compline	30 9:30 AM, Morning Prayer 10:00 AM, Sandwiches Prep for Rankin Christian Center	31 6:00 PM, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 7:30 PM Book Club (<i>Makeup Session if Needed</i>)			

Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church

1672 Electric Avenue, PO Box J, East Pittsburgh, PA 15112 - 412-824-9188

Website: www.PresentationofChristPgh.org Follow us on Facebook
@PresentationofChrist

Under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, His Eminence Elpidophoros Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and His Eminence Metropolitan Savas. The mission of the Presentation of Christ is to proclaim with joy the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to teach and spread the Orthodox Christian Faith and to be a community devoted to and energized by the love of God and our neighbor.

Rev. Fr. Constantine Kokanos
Cell Phone: 412-760-7203
Email: FatherDeanKokanos@gmail.com

Sunday Services
Matins – 8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

Stefanos Giannikas, Chanter
Filia Arvanitis, Chanter
Thomas Rosvanis, Chanter

Paraklesis Service – Wednesday at 6:30 PM
Orthodox Adult Education - Wednesday at 7:30 PM

Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9AM-3PM

Email: PresentationOfChristOffice@gmail.com
Office Phone: 412-824-9188
Office Fax: 412-824-9740

2020 Parish Council Members

Steve Markantone President	724-325-1729	Paula Borsch Treasurer	412-721-1840
Stan Prestogeorge Vice President	412-824-5033	Ernie Kampetis Treasurer	412-600-7986
Tom Rosvanis Vice President	412-373-5057		
Peter JAnthony	412-596-5348	Petros Mantzouridis	412-780-0201
Tasso Athans	724-864-5252	Jaime	412-302-1495
Deborah Grysiak	412-371-2465	Orfanopoulos	412-373-1270
Ernie Kampetis	412-892-9096	Tootie Pranis	412-798-8177
		Richard Voltz	

Organizations & Committees

Y.A.S.O.U.	Tootie Pranis, Co-President; Mike Orson, Co-President
Philoptochos	Sylvia Graziano, President
Choir	Tom Rosvanis, Director & President
Organists	Marguerite Ellis; Roula Kyros
Young Professionals	Steve and Chris Burns
Y.A.L.	Nick Stupakis; Dean Leventopoulos
Grecian Odyssey	Mary Doreza, Director; Elias Bardis, President
Dancers	
Junior Olympian	Michelle Kotsagrelos, Director; Jamie Orfanopoulos, Director; Elias
Dancers	Bardis, Asst. Director; Maria Bardis, Asst. Director
GAPA	Elias Bardis, President
Book & Icon Store	Deborah Grysiak