



The Philoptochos Phlash – January 2, 2024

Happy New Year! On January 2, 2024, the Philoptochos Board met and voted to support many upcoming ministries, plan some wonderful future events, and share the successes of recent events. Here are the highlights:

- ❖ **The Christmas Tea** was a hugely successful event allowing us once again to support Family Sharing. Thank you to all our Holy Cross family for attending, for shopping at our boutique and for sharing in the holiday fellowship. Bravo to Helene Nemchik and Christine Hopkins for chairing this wonderful event!
- ❖ ***The Ordination Luncheon Welcoming Father and Presvytera Aspiotis*** – What a joyous event we all shared as we welcomed Father Emmanuel and Presvytera Alyssa as they embark on their journey as spiritual leaders! Axios! The luncheon which followed a beautiful hierarchical liturgy where we were able to see Father Emmanuel being ordained to the priesthood was lovingly prepared by our parish family. All our parish ministries presented Father and Presvytera with wonderful gifts. The Philoptochos presented Father with a beautiful set of vestments and presented Presvytera with a lovely gold and silver Gerochristo Byzantine bracelet. A joyous occasion was had by all.
- ❖ ***Vasilopita, 2024*** – The entire parish is invited to join together as we cut the Vasilopita for 2024. A delicious chicken, pilafi and salad buffet is being planned. Father Peter will cut a large Vasilopita and each ministry will offer their gifts to St Basil Academy in Garrison, New York, housing children at risk. Vasilopites will also be for sale for \$20. Thank you to chairs Hana Keilo and Barbara Karvelis.
- ❖ Our **Outreach to Seniors** is being expanded and strengthened. It will now be a standing committee and visitations and help will be organized and delivered by the Philoptochos. The Board will be reaching out to seniors or shut-ins to initiate contact and establish familiarity with our new outreach program.
- ❖ Plans are being made for our **Membership Tea** on Saturday, March 16. More to follow.
- ❖ **Fashion Show Reinvention** – Saturday, May 18, 2024 -Some very exciting new ideas are being discussed as to how we can re-imagine and improve our fashion show. We will let you know soon!
- ❖ **Kids'n'Cancer Coffee Hour Reception** – Sunday, February 25 (please note date change) – The Philoptochos is planning a wonderful buffet coffee hour including all the delectables, a fabulous drawing, a surprise raffle and a chance for you to *give your heart to a child* with life-threatening cancer. This Sunday has become a Belmont tradition as we meet in the fellowship of Christ to support the four Camp Agapes which provide a respite for these children with life-threatening illnesses and their parents who are also struggling. Please plan to join us!

May you all have a healthy and happy New Year!