



# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

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## ORTHODOX SOFTWARE INITIATIVE

Report to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Clergy Laity Congress

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A Committee of the National Finance Committee

Mr. George Vourvoulis, Chairman

And Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Mr. Jerry Dimitriou, Executive Director

The Orthodox Software Initiative is a Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and a Subcommittee of the National Finance Committee. Spanning from the Parish through the Archdiocesan levels, a three tier system was envisioned that would enable parish and ministry management, tri-directional communication, more consistent and accurate reporting, financial tracking, and other key objectives. An initial team of volunteers was established from across the country with expertise in project management, communications, systems analysis, technology, finance, clergy and sacramental areas. Repeated throughout the country, it became immediately apparent to the team how great the need is for a unified, consistent approach.

Throughout these last two years, significant progress has been made in the offerings of this Ministry. We released a new version and several updates. The Ledger module was released, and is being rolled out throughout the country. Included in the current Church Office version among many other items, is financial tracking and reporting, ministry, sacramental details, communications tools, ministering, social media, blog, and other platforms to aid each parish in ministering to her people, reaching out to children who may be away at school, and relationships functionality. In addition, it supports key information tracking for Clergy, Sunday and Greek School teachers, staff, and other key contributors. It also enables online registration of parishioner information.

We have conducted Church Office regional seminars and training in several areas, including in Boca Raton, FL, Sioux City, IA, Atlanta, GA, Brookville, NY, Denver, CO, three locations in Boston, MA, Canton, OH, Ft. Worth, TX, Seattle, WA, Pittsburgh, PA, Norwalk, CT, Baltimore, MD, New York, NY, Canonsburg, PA, Washington D.C., Minneapolis, MN, and Chicago, IL. Other training sessions are being planned, and we

welcome requests to conduct regional training throughout the country. We have been invited to attend and conduct workshops at various Clergy Laity Assemblies. We also participate in all National Finance and Archdiocesan Council meetings. Additionally, we have begun biweekly and other semiregular sessions with a few of our parishes who are interested in maximizing use of these programs within their parishes.

We are especially grateful for the receipt of a Leadership 100 grant. This grant further enables development of the program offerings, support of smaller churches, and provision of computers to parishes that are otherwise unable to provide their own. It will also enable ongoing support of the software for parishes that are struggling, for an additional year.

The rollout of the Church Office and Ledger modules continues. We have supported the implementation of additional modules which are helpful to our parishes as yet not part of the Archdiocesan offering, including Payroll and Facilities Scheduler. These modules support our parishes, and grant us greater insight into their utilization as we consider implementing them as well. We have begun development of the Metropolis level software. In addition to the purchase of the software modules, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (GOAA) is paying for support and upgrades for an additional year. The Direct Archdiocesan District is supporting an additional two years, and the Pittsburgh Metropolis is supporting an additional five years.

Our selection as the Client of The Month in the partnership between Vanco\* and Parish Data System enabled several parishes to utilize online giving at a significantly reduced rate for three months. Online giving is a clear benefit to the parish, in that it enhances a parish's ability to accept stewardship, building fund, and other types of payments, helps to manage pledge information, and, grants a parishioner greater flexibility in methods of supporting a parish. It is imperative that we understand the importance of receiving funds via online giving, and that we support the parish's ability to do so. This functionality enables a person to control pledges, contributions, and other monetary donations. Today's reality is that our dependence on technology has altered how we function as a society. Many millennials have never owned a checkbook, nor balanced their accounts. As more and more transactions occur in real or near real time, our dependence on older technologies inhibits our growth and interaction with our parishioners. Imagine the need to stop by a bank each Sunday prior to Divine Liturgy, in order to be able to contribute. Their ability to click on the link of a parish's website, create an online account, and donate directly is streamlined, and is familiar to those who already bank online. Several studies have shown that donations are increased as a result of enabling online giving.

We have conducted additional training with Parish Data System's support team. New team members were given Greek 101 training highlighting Orthodox specific product features as well as an understanding of the Greek Orthodox Church and hierarchy, her Missions, and operations. All support team members received additional, more in depth training to enhance that which they had already received. Additionally, we are pleased to state that we have been granted an enhanced support level. When a parish calls, the support person will know that they have been contacted by a GOAA parish. We are the only jurisdiction for whom this is true. Our parishes will be greeted differently than the standard client calling in. They will know that our installation, features, and terminology are different, and their training in the Greek Orthodox Church and feature set gives them a greater understanding of why and how certain functionality is critical.

We continue to receive requests for information as a result of the outstanding article that appeared in the Orthodox Observer. We have included a link to the article, together with the video offered through a grant of Leadership 100, FAQs, and hardware requirements on our webpage, <http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/finance/osi>. These requests include other Orthodox jurisdictions, and other countries.

Effie Marie Smith has been invited to be a keynote speaker at the Ideas to Impact Conference. The Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity and its offices, as well as Archdiocesan headquarters were the sites of filming and interviewing in preparation for introducing Effie Marie to the audience of this annual ministry ideas and implementation event. It is one of the largest church management gatherings in the country, with representatives from every major Christian jurisdiction. The purpose of the video is to highlight the work the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is doing to impact parishes across the country. They wanted to learn about us, and our story. During the three day filming event, they witnessed a Divine Liturgy, an Ordination, a Baptism, and dance presentation, and also conducted interviews. Effie Marie's keynote, "You are My Voice in a Changing World" echoes the theme of this year's Clergy Laity Congress, and introduces Orthodoxy to many in church leadership who were otherwise unfamiliar. The main theme is "In a rapidly changing world, we serve an unchanging God". They wanted to learn how we hold on to tradition, but also stay relevant in this changing world simultaneously. That also requires looking ahead and getting ready for what's coming next. Interviews with parishioners, clergy, and Effie Marie, afford the opportunity to inspire others to go back to their parishes and their faithful, and minister to their people.

The release of the next versions of Church Office and Ledger are scheduled to occur this this summer.

We are especially grateful for the continued support of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, our Metropolitans, Bishops, and the input of our many stakeholders throughout our Archdiocese.

\* Vanco is the preferred provider for online giving, partnered with PDS to provide details regarding online transactions into a parishioner's record.

Current and soon to be released feature images include.

December 6, 2016  
Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra  
Nicholas the New Martyr of Asia Minor

Nicholas Appleby  
99-12 Petersburg Ave.  
Levittown, NY 11793

Dear Nicholas,

On the auspicious occasion of the Feast Day of your patron Saint I would like to express to you my sincerest best wishes and greetings. May the Saint whose name you share always be your protector and guide, and may they intercede on your behalf throughout all walks of life. May they always be the source of inspiration and example to you.

I pray that our good and loving Lord bestow upon you and your family all the blessings of His Heavenly Kingdom.

## Text Message Permission Form

Name: Andrew Alaphros  
 Age: 18  
 Cell Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone Company: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to allow Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to contact me by text message on my cell phone (above):

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

The screenshot shows a software interface for managing family members. At the top, there are fields for 'ID/Envelope' (0003), 'Avail?' (Yes/No), '2nd ID' (3), and another 'Avail?' (Yes/No). There are also buttons for 'Inactive' and 'Add Documents'. Below this is the 'Family Name' field containing 'Pavlos, John(Catherine), Mr.' and a 'Show Name Formats' button. The main section has two buttons: 'Use Existing Member' and 'Use Existing Family'. The 'Name' field contains 'Angelopoulos, Mary'. The 'Relationship' section has a 'Check Relationship' button and a table with columns 'Selected', 'Name', and 'Relationship'. The table contains three rows: 'Pavlos Family' (Grandchild), 'John', and 'Catherine' (Goddaughter). Below the table are fields for 'Address' (64 Heavenly Dr), 'City/State' (Manhasset, NY), and 'ZIP/Postal' (11030). There are also checkboxes for 'Send Email Instead of Mail' and 'Email is Unlisted'. The 'Marital Stat' is 'Married' and 'Religion' is 'Greek Orthodox'. The 'Phones' section has a table with columns 'Phone Number', 'Description', and 'Unl.'. It contains one row: '(777) 655-5555' (Home Ph.). At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Add Relationship', 'Delete', and 'Reorder'. A 'Notes' field is also present on the right side.

Below is your Stewardship Commitment and Additional Contributions Statement. We thank you for your support of the ministries and programs of Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Without you, our parish would not be able to experience the fullness of God's blessings that we know within our community.

Participation in the stewardship and ministries programs is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in God's grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God. Bearing fruit in the world is the visible result of our abiding in Christ, the True Vine. Your Stewardship Commitment is a testimony of your dedication to your own spiritual growth and spreading our beloved Orthodox Faith.

You are encouraged to offer your prayerful thanks and continue in the fulfillment of your commitment to Christ's Church in thanksgiving for His many blessings to you. Your support is critical, and we gratefully acknowledge your contributions.

In His Service,

Statement for January 1, 2015 thru December 31, 2015

Fund: Stewardship Stewardship - Other Restricted/Earmarked Fundraiser Income Outreach Revenue

Total amount paid: \$6,600.00  
 Less total of non-deductible amounts: \$150.00  
 Total tax deductible amount: \$6,450.00

Fund Total  
 \*\*\*\*\*

	Pledged	Received	Remaining	% of Goal
2013 Stewardship	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 0.00	100.00%
2014 Stewardship	\$ 0.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 0.00	100.00%
2015 Stewardship	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	60.00%

(For your convenience, a more detailed breakdown of your contributions, in accord with IRS regulations, begins on the following page

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 Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America 05/19/2016  
 for Ms. Nicole Mavromatia Contribution Statement  
 Reporting period: 1/1/2015 to 12/31/2015 Page 1

Our records show that you have made the following contributions:

Date	Description	Amount	Check
01/15/2015	Stewardship	\$200.00	500
01/21/2015	Christmas Donations Memorial Donation for Alaphros,Savvas	\$200.00	cash
02/24/2015	Building Fund	\$200.00	2342
04/03/2015	Stewardship	\$50.00	cash
05/15/2015	St. Nicholas at Ground Zero	\$500.00	2344
10/03/2015	Stewardship	\$50.00	838
11/20/2015	Stewardship	\$50.00	377
		\$1,250.00	

Family Registration Form

Click Submit Form to send this information to Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Submit Form Clear Form

\*\*\*\*\* This web page works better with JavaScript enabled. \*\*\*\*\*  
 How to enable JavaScript please visit <http://www.enablejavascript.com/>.

\*Required fields

\*Registration Option  Register a New Family  Update an Existing Family \*ID Env: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Note: Just enter the field(s) that need to be updated.

Head of Household  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_ \*First Name \_\_\_\_\_ \*Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date mm/dd/yyyy \*Gender  Female  Male  
 Grade Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Religion \_\_\_\_\_ Language \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Need \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone 1 ( ) - ( ) - ( ) Unlisted  
 Phone 2 ( ) - ( ) - ( ) Unlisted  
 Phone 3 ( ) - ( ) - ( ) Unlisted  
 Email 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Unlisted  
 Send Email Instead of Mail When Possible  
 Email 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Unlisted  
 Send Email Instead of Mail When Possible  
 Email 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Unlisted  
 Send Email Instead of Mail When Possible

Sacraments  
 Name Received Date Place  
 Baptism  mm/dd/yyyy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chrismation  mm/dd/yyyy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Marriage  mm/dd/yyyy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ecclesiacic Divorce  mm/dd/yyyy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Memorial  mm/dd/yyyy \_\_\_\_\_

Ministries  
 Name Interested in Joining  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

COA Explorer: Chart of Accounts List

Acct	Lib	NE	FYFB	Inc	Exp	Net
20150 - Deferred Revenue - Stewardship Next	Liability	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
20175 - Customize	Liability	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
20900 - Total Liabilities	Liability	3	1	\$0.00	0	0
25000 - Retained Earnings	Heading for Liability/Equity Acc.	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
25025 - Restricted Funds	Equity	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
25050 - Opening Balance Equity	Prior Year Fund Balance	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
25075 - Retained Earnings	Retained Earnings	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
29000 - Total Retained Earnings*	Total for Liability/Equity Accounts	3	1	\$0.00	0	0
29000 - Total Liabilities & Retained Earnings*	Total for Liability/Equity Accounts	6	1	\$0.00	0	0
30000 - Income	Heading for Income Accounts	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
31000 - Stewardship	Heading for Income Accounts	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
31020 - Family Commitments	Income	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
31040 - Single Commitments	Income	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
31060 - Senior Citizen Family Commitments	Income	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
31080 - Senior Citizen Single Commitments	Income	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
31100 - Stewardship Commitment	Income	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
31125 - Stewardship Commitment - Prior	Income	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
31150 - Stewardship Commitment - Next	Income	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
31900 - Stewardship Total	Total for Income Accounts	3	1	\$0.00	0	0
32000 - Stewardship - Other	Heading for Income Accounts	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
32025 - Candles	Income	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
32050 - Memorials	Income	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
32075 - Flowers	Income	1	1	\$0.00	0	0
32100 - Weddings	Income	1	1	\$0.00	0	0