

PARISH COUNCIL

Debbie Zourdos, President

Summer Ebb and Flow

As I write this article, I cannot help but think of the many parishioners who will witness the summer ebb and flow of the ocean waves on various journeys to the beach. Whether for the day, or the week, on the east coast or the west, or in another country, the high and low tides of the ocean are mesmerizing to any who arrive at the shoreline. In this relaxed mode our minds and bodies have time to rejuvenate.

While we enjoy this respite from the demanding schedules most of us keep, the Parish Council continues to work diligently over the summer months to ensure another smooth transition for the beginning of the ecclesiastical year and the many special events that are just around the corner. As expected, summer has been a bit more relaxed in our active parish; however, the church office has had its own ebb and flow.

On June 1st we said goodbye to Laura Toms and Ethel Toms who are moving on to pursue new endeavors after 10 years of service in our office. The Parish Council is pleased to announce the addition of two new staff members: Linda Heintz joins us as the Administrative Assistant and Judy Natale as the part time office assistant. Both come with great communication, organizational, and computer skills and will be assets to the office. In the interim period we are fortunate to have one of our rising college freshmen, Tony Koroulakis, intern in the office during the transition. Our office staff, pictured here, is working as a team to assist ministries in their work and help individual parishioners with their needs. If you are chairing a



committee for event for the church, you are encouraged to call and speak with the staff members, or make an appointment to meet with them in person to make your volunteer experience more efficient and productive. Whether scheduling events on the calendar, publishing printed material and mailings, or helping with your stewardship questions, they are available to assist you.

In addition, our staff is being brought up to speed on the new CCB (Church Community Builder), which will become our main means of organizing the entire day to day operations of the parish and keeping necessary records. John Billos, our CCB master administrator, is working with the staff and will also conduct several sessions in the next few months for ministry heads to become acquainted with CCB and its use as it relates to each ministry and more efficient communications. Each steward will receive an individual log-in and password some time this fall, allowing the steward to review the church calendar, email fellow parishioners, pledge and check on the status of personal stewardship contributions, and much more. The log-in and password process is similar to online banking. We are currently in the process of transferring our web site to CCB from the current server. The web site address remains the same for those who visit the site regularly. You will automatically be sent to the web site as hosted by CCB.

Other projects that are ongoing this summer are the Strategic Planning Committee work that is updated in this issue by Peter Pappas and Dino Pappas, and the progress on the new parking area at 7731 Bradley Blvd., updated by Art Lafionatis.

With the anniversary of the St. George charter fast approaching on September 1st, I look forward to seeing all of you back after the summer months as we prepare to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of St. George together as a family. As I remarked at the June Parish Assembly meeting, I feel it is no coincidence that we find our parish in the town of Bethesda. Just as the ancient pool of the same name had its waters stirred and miracles occurred, we too find that the spiritual gifts we receive by doing the work of the church, and the ebb and flow of our own development have brought our own miracle: the growth of a small group of fifty families to almost 900 in our 40 year history as the church of Bethesda.