

June Notes: ... there will be *choir practice* on Tuesday the 12th at 6:30 pm ... on Saturday the 16th, *Victoria Sandbothe* celebrates her birthday ... at 5:30 there will be *Great Vespers with Archbishop Benjamin* ... Sunday the 17th will be a *Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM (note the earlier start time!)* ... on Monday the 18th, *Subdeacon Paul & Submatsuhka Elizabeth* celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary ... on Saturday the 23rd there will be *Great Vespers* at 5:30 ... Sunday the 24th is *Elizabeth Vallena's* birthday ... *Mike Myers* celebrates his birthday on Tuesday the 26th ... Thursday the 27th is *Joanne Zhang's* name day (St Joanna the Myrrhbearer) ... and on Friday the 29th, *Subdeacon Paul and Peter Zhang* celebrate their name days (Holy Glorious & All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles)!

Again we pray for mercy upon us and upon this Thy parish community. Help us to establish a place worthy of Thy worship, and to build a Temple to Thy glory. Guide our steps in the acquisition of property, and send to us, O Lord, benefactors, architects, iconographers, builders, carpenters, and skilled workers. Grant us favor with local authorities and with neighbors; provide the means, and make the impossible possible through Thine own great benefaction, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.



JUNE 2018

Please Respect Our Traditions!

In March 1943, during the Nazi occupation of Greece, the Germans began rounding up Jews for deportation to concentration camps. The Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Athens, Damaskinos, sent a letter to the collaborationist Prime Minister K. Logothetopoulos. The letter, composed by the poet Angelos Sikilianos and signed by other prominent Greek citizens, was a courageous defense:

The Greek Jews have proven themselves not only valuable contributors to the economic growth of the country but also law-abiding citizens who fully understand their duties as Greeks. They made sacrifices for the Greek country and were always on the front line in the struggles of the Greek nation to defend its inalienable historical rights.

The law-abiding nature of the Jewish community in Greece refutes a priori any charge that it may be involved in actions or acts that might even slightly endanger the safety of the Military Occupation Authorities. In our national consciousness, all the children of Mother Greece are an inseparable unity: they are equal members of the national body irrespective of religion or dogmatic differences.

Our Holy Religion does not recognize superior or inferior qualities based on race or religion, as it is stated: "There is neither Jew nor Greek" (Gal. 3:28) and thus condemns any attempt to discriminate or create racial or religious differences. Our common fate, both in days of glory and in periods of national misfortune, forged inseparable bonds between all Greek citizens, without exemption, irrespective of race.

When S.S. General Jürgen Stroop found out about the letter, he threatened to shoot Damaskinos. Recalling the execution of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Gregory V during the 1821 massacre of the Greek population of Constantinople, the Archbishop responded that "according to the traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church, our prelates are hung and not shot. Please respect our traditions!"

Yet the Germans proceeded with the deportations. Archbishop Damaskinos called the police chief of Athens, to his office and said, "I have spoken to God and my conscience tells me what we must do. The church will issue false baptismal certificates to any Jew who asks for them and you will issue false identification cards." He also organized the secret transportation of the mainland Greek Jewish population to the various islands of Greece, where they could more easily be hidden. Due to Damaskinos's courage, thousands of Greek Jews were spared.

In September 1943, the German authorities ordered Metropolitan Dimitrios Chrysostomos of the island of Zakynthos to compile a list of names of all of the resident Jews. The metropolitan wrote his own name, along with that of the mayor, Loukas Karrer, on a piece of paper, handed it over, saying "Here are your Jews. If you choose to deport the Jews of Zakynthos, you must also take me, and I will share their fate." All 275 of the island's Jews survived the Holocaust.

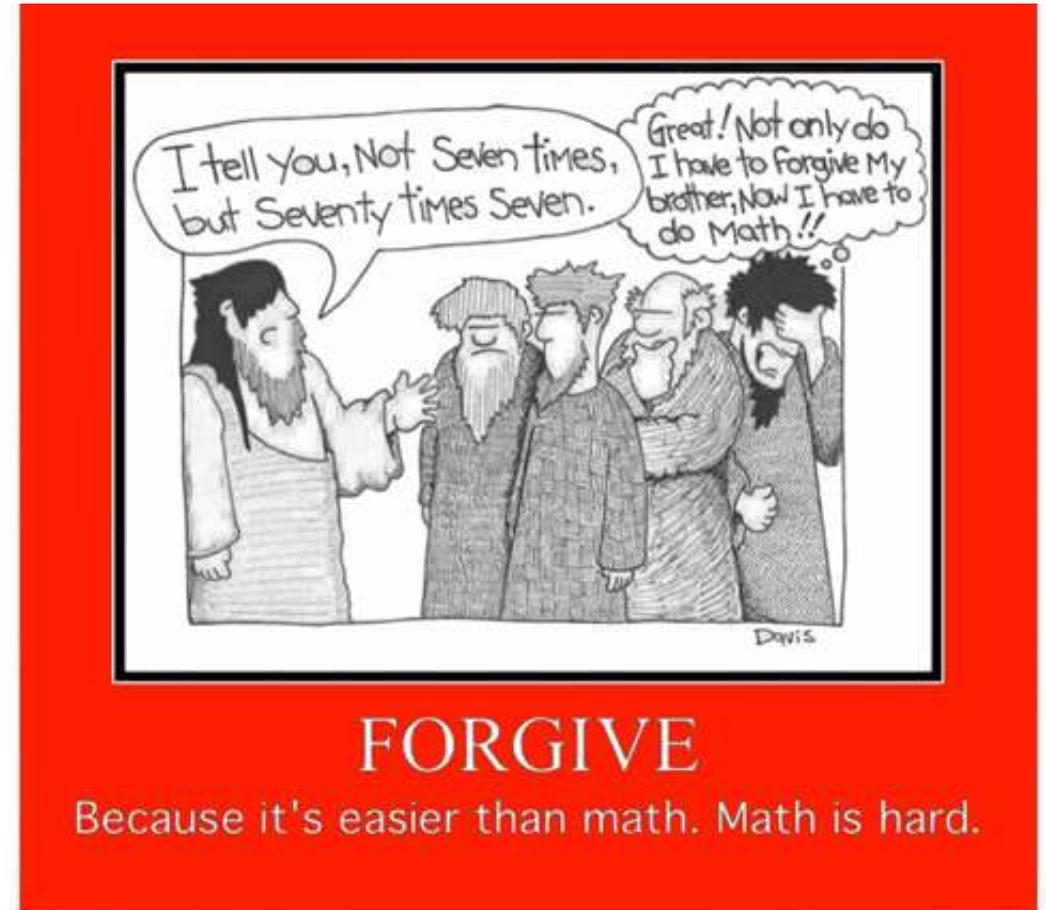
~ adapted from the web site of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Charity of the Month



The Parker Task Force is dedicated to providing individuals and families in our community with food, limited financial assistance, and other support services to help them become self-sufficient. These services are delivered with compassion, dignity and respect by a 100% volunteer staff.

PTF's food bank collects non-perishable food donated by churches, schools, businesses, social organizations, grocery stores, and individuals within the community. PTF also runs a monthly food drive and purchases perishable food from financial donations. In addition, limited financial assistance is made available to families in crisis, and homeless clients will be counseled and provided assistance as appropriate. PTF also works in collaboration with many social service agencies.



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

(unaudited)

	Apr Actual	Apr Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 5,662.91	\$ 4,245.00	\$ 22,804.78	\$ 17,280.00
Total Expense	\$ 5,222.46	\$ 4,155.35	\$ 19,160.37	\$ 17,805.76
Cash Flow	\$ 440.45	\$ 89.65	\$ 3,644.41	\$ (525.76)
Building Fund (Net of Rent Reserves)			\$ 19,797.51	