

# Charity of the Month



An often hidden issue in our community is homelessness. Specifically, approximately 69% of homeless families are led by single mothers. In 2015, a group of churches began looking at solutions to the issue of homelessness. Along with the partnership with county agencies, the Winter Shelter Network (WSN) was formed. WSN serves single women and single mothers with children in Douglas County by providing a temporary, safe shelter to receive rest, meals, and connection during the winter months. The shelter is open from November 1 until March 31, and potential guests are referred to the WSN by local service agencies. Guests are provided a place to sleep for the night and hearty meals in a safe, welcoming environment.

# NOVEMBER 2020

## CHRISTIANITY

*by St Nektarios of Aegina*

Christian religion is not a certain philosophic system, about which learned men, trained in metaphysical studies, argue and then either espouse or reject, according to the opinion each one has formed. It is faith, established in the souls of men, which ought to be spread to the many and be maintained in their consciousnesses.

There are truths in Christianity that are above out intellectual comprehension, incapable of being grasped by the finite mind of man. Our intellect takes cognizance of them, becomes convinced of their reality, and testifies about their supernatural existence.

Christianity is a religion of revelation. The Divine reveals its glory only to those who have been perfected through virtue. Christianity teaches perfection through virtue and demands that its followers become holy and perfect. It disapproves of and opposes those who are under the influence of the imagination. He who is truly perfect in virtue becomes through Divine help outside the flesh and the world, and truly enters another, spiritual world; not, however, through the imagination, but through the effulgence of Divine grace. Without grace, without revelation, no man, even the most virtuous, can transcend the flesh and the world.

God reveals Himself to the humble, who live in accordance with virtue. Those who take up the wings of the imagination attempt the flight of Ikaros and have the same end. Those who harbor fantasies do not pray; for he that prays lifts his mind and heart towards God, whereas he that turns to fantasies diverts himself. Those who are addicted to the imagination have withdrawn from God's grace and from the realm of Divine revelation. They have abandoned the heart in which grace is revealed and have surrendered themselves to the imagination, which is devoid of all grace. It is only the heart that receives knowledge about things that are not apprehended by the senses, because God, Who dwells and moves within it, speaks within it and reveals to it the substance of things hoped for.

Seek God daily. But seek Him in your heart, not outside it. And when you find Him, stand with fear and trembling, like the Cherubim and the Seraphim, for your heart has become a



*The Tikhon Tattler*

ST TIKHON ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
19035 East Plaza Drive, Parker, Colorado 80134 · [www.sttikhonparker.org](http://www.sttikhonparker.org)  
Rev. Alexander Vallens, Rector · (720) 295-7715 · [priest@sttikhonparker.org](mailto:priest@sttikhonparker.org)  
Deacon John Manutes



throne of God. But in order to find God, become humble as dust before the Lord, for the Lord abhors the proud, whereas He visits those that are humble in heart, wherefore He says: "To whom will I look, but to him that is meek and humble in heart?"

The Divine Light illumines the pure heart and the pure intellect, because these are susceptible to receiving light; whereas impure hearts and intellects, not being susceptible to receiving illumination, have an aversion to the light of knowledge, the light of truth; they like darkness... God loves those who have a pure heart, listens to their prayers, grants them their requests that lead to salvation, reveals Himself to them and teaches the mysteries of the Divine nature.

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## FILM ON ST. NEKTARIOS SHOOTS SCENES AT AEGINA MONASTERY HE FOUNDED

"In the absolute silence of midday under the pine of the saint in his monastery, only the cicadas with their monotonous song interrupt the shooting of the movie *Man of God*, which is dedicated to the life of St. Nektarios," writes the Greek outlet Saronic Magazine.

Filming on Yelena Popovic's *Man of God* began on June 8. A second round of shooting in Greece then began in early September, including the scene where Hollywood legend Mickey Rourke plays a paralyzed man who was healed by the great wonderworking saint.

Most recently, the production moved to Holy Trinity Monastery on the island of Aegina, built by St. Nektarios himself and the home of his precious relics. Mother Timothea, who was installed as abbess of the monastery just over a year ago, watched on a monitor as Greek actor Aris Servetalis, in the role of St. Nektarios, and Russian actor Alexander Petrov, in the role of an assistant to the saint, acted out one of the last scenes in the saint's room, which has been preserved in the monastery.

Rourke visited the monastery and also visited the Church of St. Nektarios in Kamariza. According to Briefing News, he was very moved, weeping as he entered the church. He was left alone in the church for a long time, with prayer rope in hand. The church is home to the relics of Elder Nektarios (Vitalis), who was miraculously healed by St. Nektarios in 1980. In a recent interview, Rourke spoke about his faith, his experience with miracles, and why he accepted a role in *Man of God*. The film is being shot in honor of the 100th anniversary of St. Nektarios' repose, and is set to be released in December 2020.



L to R: Director Yelena Popovic, Abbess Timothea, actor Alexander Petrov

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## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

*(unaudited)*

|   | Sept Actual | Sept Budget | YTD Actual | YTD Budget |
|---|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Income</b>                               | 5,969.56    | 5,792.50    | 66,850.84  | 52,132.50  |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                        | 5,060.67    | 5,084.63    | 53,894.97  | 51,494.13  |
| <b>Cash Flow</b>                            | 908.89      | 707.88      | 12,955.87  | 638.38     |
| <b>Building Fund (Net of Rent Reserves)</b> |             |             | 27,007.51  |            |

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