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December 2022



OCWA

Myrrhbearers

A message from our Chairperson:

## Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Archangel Gabriel visited Mary of the house of David, and said, "Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you!" ....At the sight of the most-pure conception, Isaiah the Prophet danced for joy because the New Adam was about to be born in the flesh and from the depth of his heart cried out to God: Alleluia!

(Kontakion)

As we journey into this new season of Nativity, may we again look to our Lord, Jesus Christ, for all strength and hope. A BIG, BIG THANK YOU to all the ladies who give so much of their time, talent and energy to the ministries we were involved in this blessed year of 2022. These ministries would not happen without all of you. May God bless you richly for all your kindness and gracious generosity.

Blessings,  
Janet Christopoulos  
Chairperson

## SAVE THE DATE:

Our OCWA SCHOLARSHIP DINNER & Saint's Day will be Celebrated on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. While we are still in the planning stages, we can share that our speaker will be our Spiritual Father, Fr. John Ketchum, and as always, we will celebrate at Alioto's Restaurant in Wauwatosa.

Our scholarships are for graduating senior girls who are interested in furthering their education. This coming year, for the first time, we will be awarding two scholarships of \$1000 each. Reach out to your parish office for an application and then return it by the deadline.

## HOLIDAY GIFT CARD MINISTRY

A great big THANK YOU to Harriet Spora for gathering contributions to our Holiday Gift Card ministry. Harriet called on many who contributed, so OCWA could provide essential gift cards for needy Orthodox Christian families in our parishes. Each parish priest was given two gift cards to be used at their discretion. We did this ministry, for the first time, during Covid, and it was well received. We decided to continue this thoughtful ministry during the Christmas season. May God bless those who benefit from this ministry and may this gift help to renew their spirit.

# Turning The Pages With Janet Christopulos :

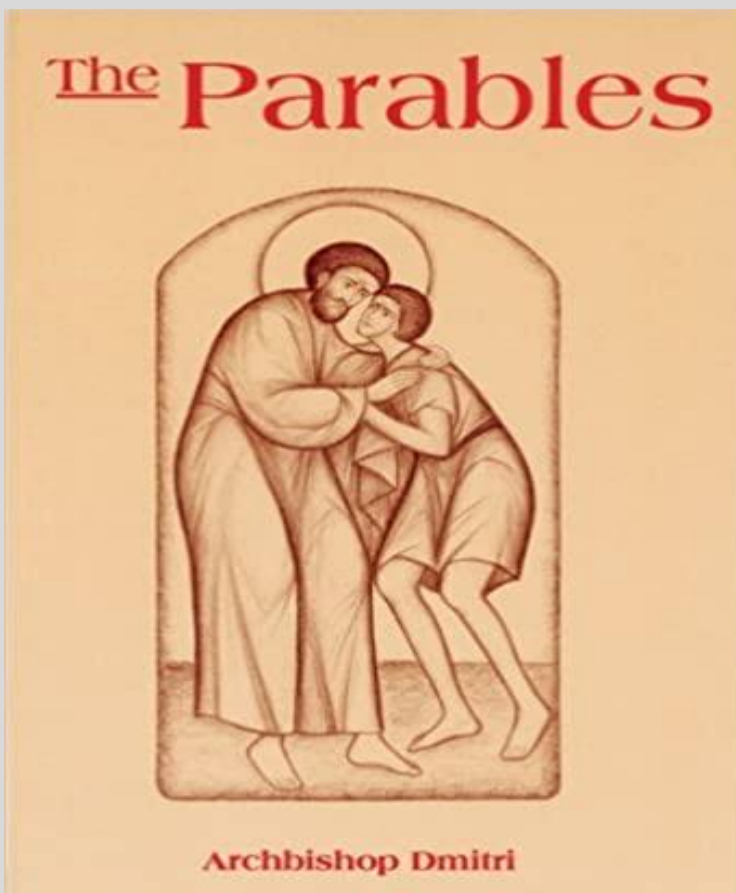
"The Parables"

"The Parables", is a short, small book, just 143 pages long by Archbishop Dmitri, which offers a brief, but concise and thoughtful summary of each of the 27 parables.

Archbishop Dmitri uses a Biblical, Patristic and Liturgical interpretation of each parable to guide our understanding and help us see, with new eyes, what each parable means for us today.

As Archbishop Dmitri so eloquently states, "It behooves all of us who seek to follow Christ to clear the ground of our souls, to resist those who deprecate and ridicule our faith, to take seriously the experience of the saints, who tell us how to deepen our faith by prayer, fasting, and good works, and to become convinced that it is impossible to lead the double life of service to God and to the idols of this world. Then we too can be described as those who bring forth fruit."

This book is printed by:  
Saint Vladimir's Seminary Press  
Crestwood, New York 10707  
1-800-204-2665



Poetry Corner....submitted  
by +Fay Kolster

## Fifty Years

~Fr. Tom Mueller

Serving, praying, preaching,  
teaching -

Rejoicing, grieving, sharing pains  
and woes,

The joys of life and growth and  
age.

Standing with the poor and heavy-  
burdened.

Through ups and downs, trials and  
falls,

Rising, building, rebuilding,  
Fathering and grandfathering,

Humbled, and then renewed  
By the endless mercy of God

And the forbearing patience of  
those

I've been honored to serve.

Borne up by the quiet loving  
strength

Of Gina, missed but never lost to  
me.

In this autumn of my life and work.

## Prayer TREE MaryAnn Lindberg

Please Join our Prayer Tree!!! If  
you would like to be included or  
would like the OCWA prayer tree  
to pray for you or someone you  
love, simply email MaryAnn @  
[maryann.lindberg@gmail.com](mailto:maryann.lindberg@gmail.com)

As Orthodox Christians, we know  
the value and importance of  
praying for others. God hear our  
prayer!



## *In Loving Memory of Fay Kolster,*

*An Original Founding Member of OCWA*

*April 2, 1932 – October 13, 2022*

Where does one begin to try to wrap up Fay Kolster's life? It is a monumental challenge due to the fact that she was so engaged and involved throughout her life of 90 purposeful years. She loved tap and ballet from little on, shined at performing on stage, and was on "pointe" by age 8. Fay grew up and worked alongside her brother at her parent's restaurant, The White Manor, on East Juneau in Milwaukee. By age 10 she learned, by following her parent's lead, about serving others at the restaurant and providing to those who couldn't afford food during WWII and lean economic times. She, all on her own, organized a yearly tea and lunch for a local orphanage as a young girl. No wonder she was so good at hosting us all throughout her life. Her love of children led her to major in Child Development and she taught nursery, preschool, Sunday school, and even college students at MATC. One of her challenging endeavors, (but she would say, "most rewarding") was leading the Annunciation teenage youth groups by bus- to summer church camp in Cheyenne, Wyoming each summer. She would say she learned as much about life as the campers did. When she wasn't

teaching, she was involved with community fundraisers, and several Bible studies, (often 3 per week). She served on the board of AGLOW, led the area as President of the Milwaukee chapter of the League of Women Voters (1969), and even threw her hat in the ring one year to run for Alderperson in her community. Fay never let a challenge deter her and always fought for a cause to make the community stronger and better for everyone, all while raising 3 active boys with her husband, Tom. She loved working with the underserved and often would be organizing dinners and clothing/ household donations for missions and community groups in her area. Her love of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and the Orthodox community entwined her with many different groups throughout the years. When she wasn't co-chairing the Festival chicken dinner tent, leading church visitors on educational tours, working in the bookstore, organizing the yearly rummage, and fostering the church community book *Along the Way I & II*, you would find her participating in the OCWA- an organization near and dear to her heart. She was on the Steering Committee that started the OCWA over 25 years ago and was ever so proud of the growing and dedicated mission of the members and the values of living our faith through unity and service. While she not only enjoyed organizing various projects like retreats, luncheons, and the OCWA prayer book, she loved partaking in the ministry's events alongside her friends. Father Ciprian said it best: "Fay not only engaged, but she was also particularly good at engaging others along the way." On any given day when you would ask Fay how she was, she would reply with a sweet smile and say, "I am Thankful." May we all have a little bit of Fay in our lives as we find the Thankful in each and every day. May her memory be eternal.

~Patti Kolster



**In Memory of our two founding members who passed in 2022, +Presbytera Mary Hallick and +Fay Kolster, the OCWA is donating two icons to our Greek parishes. Fr. John Ketchum ordered the "Three Hierarchs" icon from the Greek Monastery for the +Mary Hallick Memorial. The icon of the "Myrrhbearing Women" has been ordered for the +Fay Kolster Memorial. This icon will be given to the Annunciation parish. The icons will have personalized engraved plates. May our two sisters-in-Christ rest with the Saints! MEMORY ETERNAL.**

## And The Winners Are...

“On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Zorica Miskov had Fr. Rade Cutilo of St. Sava’s, pick our OCWA winners of TWO beautiful crosses, donated by our sister-in-Christ, Vivian Limberatos. One hundred percent of the money raised is going toward our OCWA Scholarship Fund, allowing us to award two \$1000 scholarships in 2023.

Congratulations to our raffle winners:

Angela Gavekis (gold)  
and Mariamni Plested (silver)!

Thank you so much to ALL of you who donated and made this fundraiser a success. As a result, OCWA will be able to award TWO graduating Orthodox Christian senior girls with \$1000 scholarships in 2023.

~Zorica Miskov



## BIBLE STUDY CLASSES in our Orthodox Community:

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church has “ORTHODOX LIFE CLASSES” on Tuesdays at 10:30 am in the Cultural Center conference room. The weekly topics are published in Annunciation’s weekly messenger. Fr. Ciprian Sas, Fr. Aurel Sas, and Fr. Bill Olmhausen rotate facilitating these interactive and educational classes. Location: 9400 West Congress Street, Wauwatosa in the Cultural Center

St. Sava has Bible Study Classes on Thursdays at 10 am & 6:30 pm  
(Classes will resume January 12, 2023)

Location: 3201 S. 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Milwaukee in the Board Room at the Cultural Center.

Ss. Constantine & Helen has Bible Study Classes on Fridays at 10:30 am.  
Location: 2160 West Wauwatosa Avenue, Milwaukee.

*Everyone Welcome!*

### Serving at The Shelter

Diane Markovina has done a great job keeping the OCWA involved in serving food at the Cathedral Center. OCWA provides meals or monies at the Cathedral Center shelter and Friendship House. Going forward, OCWA is responsible for serving on the SECOND Sunday of every month. If you are interested in helping out, contact Diane Markovina @ [holymamamarko@wi.rr.com](mailto:holyamamarko@wi.rr.com).

### The Pan-Orthodox Young Adult League (YAL)

Come join a group of “college & older” Orthodox singles to build lifetime friendships, while learning more about our faith. If you have any questions or want to get on our mailing, please email Vivian Limberatos at [vivianvivi007@gmail.com](mailto:vivianvivi007@gmail.com)  
Put “YAL” as the subject!

### The Blessing of the Waters

This short service consists of prayers and includes the throwing and retrieval of the cross into the lake which will take place on Sunday, January 8, 2023, at Veteran’s Park, 1010 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive in Milwaukee, by The Milwaukee Orthodox Christian Clergy Association. This ancient Orthodox tradition, which is experienced worldwide, is open to EVERYONE.



## Our OCWA Conference, A Call to Holiness

On Saturday, November 5, 2022, at Annunciation's Cultural Center, we held our Fall Conference, "A Call to Holiness." This event was a wonderful opportunity to hear first-hand panel members' experiences on their journey towards Holiness. Shamassy Stella Kovacich, our Master of Ceremonies, kept everyone on schedule as she introduced each panelist, whose stories were endearing and honest, touching the hearts of everyone in the room. Forty-five guests were treated to our panel of speakers featuring Fr. John Chagnon of Madison, Janet Christopolus, John Tsiampas, Fr. Panteleimon & Presvytera Konstantina Dalianis, Laura & Doug Gall, Helena Mannino, Mother Seraphima, and Anna Losey. A delicious meal was provided by Niko Sifnaios. Thanks to everyone for making this a special conference!

# PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS PAGE!

Use this form to become an OCWA member or to renew your membership for 2022.

## Renew Your Membership TODAY

- Become a member of the only inter-Orthodox women's group in Wisconsin and one of the few associations of its kind in the nation.
- Carry out the OCWA mission by increasing fellowship and providing greater visibility among inter-Orthodox parishes.
- Be invited to participate in our organization's activities and service projects, such as our volunteer opportunities, retreats, scholarship dinner, and more.
- Have discounted rates for our events.
- Our annual fee is \$30, and covers the full year from January through December. This fee helps support our charitable giving efforts, including our scholarship awards program, Orthodox Christian Mission Center's "Support a Parish Priest," and charitable giving to families in need.
- Bring a friend to join with you!

Any questions? Call or email Tutty Astin

@ 262.751.3556

[mickeymousecrazy@aol.com](mailto:mickeymousecrazy@aol.com)

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Best phone number      cell/landline  
(circle)

Email address  
(for newsletter and announcements)

Parish Affiliation

\$30 Annual Membership Fee

\$\_\_\_\_\_

Donation for charitable causes

\$\_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount enclosed

\$\_\_\_\_\_

**Please include a check,  
payable to OCWA, with this  
membership application and  
mail to:**

**Tutty Astin**

**W158 N11137 Legend Avenue  
Germantown, WI 53022**