



Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

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Fr. David R. Smith, Proistamenos

November 18, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

The Parish Council has determined that St. Sophia's has a 2020 income deficit of approximately \$200,000. The cancellation of our Festival, reduced donations and candle income comprise the bulk of this deficit.

The Parish Council has therefore decided to launch a capital campaign to bridge the gap between our actual income and our required income. We are naming this campaign the campaign to "CARRY US ACROSS".

While we were prevented from holding our normal Festival, we did have a drivethru event that generated \$42,000 in profit for the Church. We also received a Small Business PPP Loan of \$36,000 which we believe will be forgiven. So, at the outset, even before we decided to have a campaign, we had \$78,000 to offset our deficit.

Then two parishioners, completely unsolicited, donated a total of \$17,000. During and right after the drivethru, I mentioned separately to two parishioners that we were planning on having a campaign. Before I could finish my sentence each of them pledged \$5,000. Those gifts and pledges total \$27,000. Then every parish council member personally pledged toward this campaign for a total parish council contribution of \$25,000.

Add it all up and you get \$130,000. That means that we need \$70,000 to reach a goal of \$200,000. But the parish council fears that the Covid-19 situation may not improve sufficiently by spring for us to have a full blown festival in 2021. Now that we have experience with a drivethru, we would have a bigger and better event (maybe two) in 2021. That effort, however, would also not be the equivalent of the festival. Finally, it is unlikely that another round of PPP loans is in the offing.

Therefore it is important that the Campaign to CARRY US ACROSS exceed the total of the \$70,000 we need to reach \$200,000. We are asking everyone to consider making a gift that makes you uncomfortable, a gift that rises above easy. We are asking everyone to stretch a little.

Eventually Covid 19 will abate, no longer a threat to us all. Yet now we know that our festival is not a sure thing. Its loss to us is a serious financial blow. But we are a resourceful and dependable community. By joining together we will keep St. Sophia's financially strong.

Yours in Christ,

Peter Manolakos
Parish Council President



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT