**Philoptochos News Phlash!** Highlights from our Zoom Board Meeting on November 2, 2021. We want you to know what we are working on and where your donations and contributions to Philoptochos go.

Important Quick Links for Donations and Registration –

- Christmas Tea
- Metropolis Webinar
- Care Closet
- Shoe Drive

**New Philoptochos Website** – Our new website is <u>under construction</u>. Go to goholycross.org and click on "About". Then click on "Philoptochos" on the dropdown menu. This will take you to our new website. Here you will find all of our events for which we have tentative dates, our committees and chairs, and pictures from past events.

Feeding the Hungry – Emmy Denton and a crew of dedicated volunteers have been meeting most Saturday mornings and providing close to 1,000 sandwiches per month to the Maple Street Shelter. To cover costs, the Philoptochos voted to approve the use of coffee hour proceeds to provide at least \$200 per month. Samaritan House is generously donating lunch meat and cheese to use. We send our appreciation to Daughters of Penelope and all those who have donated their time and treasures. Very soon, our Philoptochos website will post a link to be able to directly donate monetarily or be able to purchase items needed to continue this worthy program.

Christmas Tea and Lessons and Carols – December 12, 2021 – Mark your calendars for a day of joyous holiday cheer. After Liturgy, Philoptochos will host its annual Tea with scrumptious goodies, decorations, a drawing, and a shopping boutique, which will include baked goods, followed by an evening of song with our Parish family. Drawing tickets and flyers will be available after Liturgy and at Coffee Hour. A special holiday bake sale will feature Glyka Sweets and will be promoted very soon in a special mailing. Nina Azar is chairing the tea. To offer a food item for the table or a boutique item to sell, please click on the Christmas Tea link above.

Metropolis Webinar – Stories of Struggle and Resilience amidst the Pandemic will be available to the entire Metropolis on Zoom. We are honored to have Dr. Ann Bezzerides from Hellenic College Holy Cross as our presenter, along with several women who will be sharing their personal stories. The date is Thursday, November 11 at 6:30-8:00. To see the flyer and register for this complimentary event, please click on the Metropolis Webinar link above.

School Care Closet – Now that children are back in school, we would appreciate your donations to our Care Closet program, which is housed at San Mateo Park Elementary School. This program serves 325 children, aged 5-12, and possibly many more family members beyond that especially in the last three years. These are all underprivileged students who need our help. Making donations is very easy using our link to Amazon. Your donation will go directly to the school. To donate, please click on the Care Closet link above.

Shoe Drive – The Philoptochos is organizing a shoe drive, similar to last year's. Nina Azar and Hana Keilo are heading this up and would like shoes to be delivered to underprivileged children by Christmas. Last year over 75 children received a shiny, new pair of sneakers for Christmas. Just a note that shoe donations can be ordered and delivered through Amazon so that it makes it easy for you. Monetary donations are gladly accepted as well. To sign up to donate shoes or offer monetary donations, please click on the Shoe Drive link above.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have given so much to support those who are in need. We have all endured a very difficult time during the Pandemic, but our Parish family and our Philoptochos have remained committed to giving to those less fortunate. As we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, we hope and pray that we will continue to share our blessings.

With our love,

The Ladies of the Philoptochos