FEBRUARY 26, 2023 VOL. 001

THE ROCK

A newsletter for Sts. Peter & George Coptic Orthodox Church

Welcome to The Rock!

Your SPSG Executive Board is happy to bring you the inaugural issue of 'The Rock' Newsletter. We have listened to you; and are attempting to reach more of you in order to spread the good news and activities going on at SPSG. Thank God, we made it through these last few, difficult years of the pandemic. The future is bright and the church is in full swing with many activities for our families, youth and adults alike.

Why 'The Rock'?

David said, “The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer...” (Psalm 18:2) Not only is Jesus our Rock, but His gospel also is likened to a rock, a sure foundation. Jesus said to Peter, “And I tell you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matt. 16:18) In light of these and many other examples found in the Bible, we hope this newsletter will be a strong foundation; The Rock, to build a stronger church, together.

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A Note from Abouna

Dear members of our SPSG church community,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first edition of our church newsletter. As we enter into a new season of Lent, we are reminded of the blessings of faith and community, and the strength that comes from gathering together to worship and serve. In this issue, we have updates on the latest happenings in our congregation, updates from our church board, and opportunities to get involved and make a difference in the lives of those around us.

As we move forward in faith and fellowship, may we continue to grow in our love for God and one another, and may this newsletter serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement along the way.

Blessings to you all,

Father Marcos

Church Building Update

The church board conducted a town hall meeting last year to discuss plans for expanding the church. It centered around three main themes: the need for a larger church, the planned sequence of phases, and the affordability to sustain the expenses associated with a mortgage and overhead of the new building. The board appreciates the feedback provided by the congregation.

During the meeting, board members presented the results of a needs assessment, which highlighted the annual growth of families year to year and the importance of proactive planning to avoid overcrowding. The survey conducted among the congregation revealed that the majority wanted to build the new church first with a phased approach to building the remaining buildings to spread the cost over several years. The main concern expressed by the members was affordability, prompting the board to spend the last few months navigating the amount and percentage of total costs that the church should have on hand, the actual cost of each phase, and the loan amount and mortgage interest rates that are available to ensure the safe completion of the first phase of the project. To trigger the first phase, the board set a target of 50% savings of the total cost, acknowledging that this is a moving target based on rising costs. The board hopes to achieve this goal within two years with the help of the congregation and ongoing fundraising efforts. The board has set a fundraising goal of one million dollars towards this project in 2023 and an additional one million dollars in 2024. The board expresses gratitude to the congregation for their valuable feedback and ongoing support, and pledges to provide regular updates regarding this important project.

Treasurer's Report

By Julie Jackson

Thank you SPSG congregation for your ongoing donations.
With your contributions, we can continue to support our families in need.
In 2022, we generated approximately $217,000 in fundraising efforts from the festival, the Thanksgiving fundraiser, and donations towards the Building Fund.
We have also seen donations increase that directly support youth programs such as VBS, Sunday School, and the gym in the High School Room.
Any support to the church is greatly appreciated. This can range from weekly cappuccino purchases on Sundays, food fundraisers, recurring monthly donations, Venmo, PayPal, and personal checks.
We look forward to your continued investment in our Church.

- **Drop a check** in the donation box located in the chapel
- **Mail a check** to:
  - SPSG
    25800 Hilliard Blvd.
    Westlake, OH 44145
- **Bank Transfers:** (preferred online method) or Credit Card Donations: https://spsg.church/about/support-us/
- **Venmo:** @SPSG_church

Fundraising Committee

We are excited to announce that SPSG formed a fundraising committee in October 2022. The committee has been working hard to identify fundraising opportunities and plan activities that will help raise much-needed funds for our church.

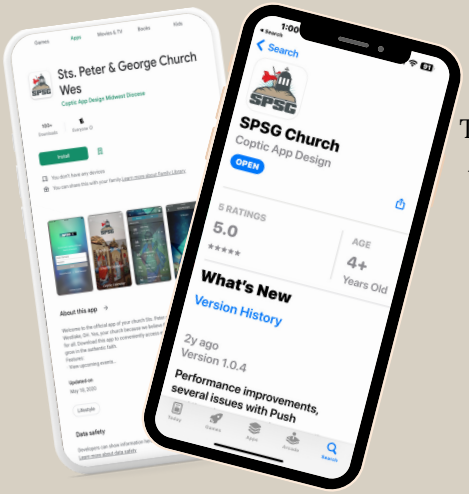
The first fundraising activity conducted by the committee was a Thanksgiving Turkey Fundraiser held in November. The fundraiser was a huge success, raising over $60,000 for our church. We are immensely grateful to all those who generously donated to this cause and supported SPSG in this endeavor.

We also want to invite all members of our community who are interested in joining the fundraising committee to let us know. Your participation, and support will go a long way in helping us achieve our fundraising goals.

Your input is valuable to us, and we appreciate your suggestions and ideas. Please reach out to Mena Boules (menaboules@hotmail.com) for more information.

St. Herman's Outreach

Saint Herman's Outreach provides support to those residing in shelters and to the homeless community of Ohio City in their pursuit of wellness and self-sufficiency. The organization's basic services aim to meet the fundamental needs of these individuals. High school-aged youth are an integral part of this mission, participating in the preparation of a hot meal every first Sunday of the month. This activity takes place in the church's kitchen after Sunday school, and subsequently, the food is delivered to the surrounding community where residents and homeless individuals are served. Saint Herman's Outreach welcomes all high school and college-aged youth to partake in this initiative. For further information or to make donations, please contact Sherif Zaky.



Download the SPSG app

The only way to get church announcements is to download the SPSG app in the Apple app store or in the Google Play app store. Make sure you allow notifications too!

Search for "SPSG Church" on either app or click below

App Store Play

March 18 is the kickoff of The Orthodox Christian Adults Serving, Inspiring, and being Sanctified (OACIS) English speaking adults in NE Ohio.

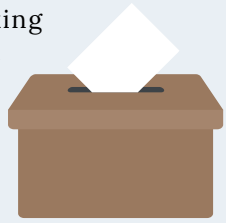
This will be a shared and joint ministry of St. Mark and SPSG churches in NE Ohio

For those interested and haven't gotten an invite yet, contact Maged Rizk doctorrizk@gmail.com

URGENT

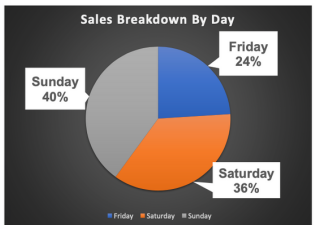
Urgent need: Volunteers to learn Orban baking and join the Orban team. Please contact Remon Mattar (908) 565-2691

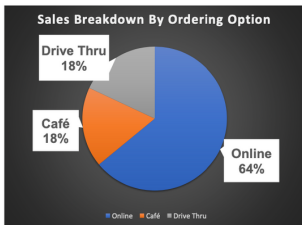
Did you know that SPSG has a super cool suggestion box in the sanctuary? We're always looking for new ideas, suggestions or announcements to help make our church even better! And don't worry, you can use this tool anonymously if you'd like. So if you've got something to say, drop it in the box and let us know!



ICYMI (IN CASE YOU MISSED IT)

Can you believe it's already been almost six months since our annual festival? That means it's time to start planning for the 2023 event, and we could really use your help! If you're interested in volunteering, just let Abouna know. God will surely bless you for your efforts.





events

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
During Lent: 5-7pm Liturgy followed by fellowship meal	9:00 – 11:00 Arabic Liturgy (2nd & 4th Saturday)	9:00 AM: Matins & Psalms 10:00 AM: Liturgy Of The Faithful
During Lent: *PreK-1st*, 7:30-8:30: Book Study *2nd to HS*, 7:30-8: Hymns 8-9: Book Study or Choir		11:45-12:45: Sunday School
7:30pm Adult Arabic Bible Study		After Sunday School PreK - 1st Choir