FEBRUARY 4, 2024 VOL. 003

THE ROCK

A newsletter for Sts. Peter & George Coptic Orthodox Church

A Note from Abouna

Dear SPSG Church Family,

As we embrace the beginning of the new year, let's take a moment to celebrate the milestones we achieved together in the past. From children and youth ministry, adult services, growing deacons services, to worshiping and growing together, each accomplishment reflects our collective commitment to love and serve.

Looking forward, there's an exciting energy in our church. Anticipation fills our hearts as we embark on new plans and initiatives. Whether it's expanding and growing our church community, or the groundbreaking of the multipurpose and service buildings, the possibilities are boundless. Let's step into this future with hope, unity, and a renewed dedication to making a positive impact.

May the coming year be a canvas for even greater achievements, shared joy, and a deeper connection with God and one another.

With Hope and Gratitude,
Very Rev. Fr. Marcos Ghali, Ph.D

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Treasurer's Note

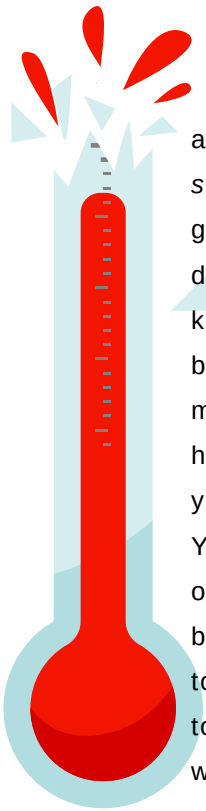
Dear SPSG Congregation,

Your generous contributions led 2023 to be the best performing year for our church. In total, we raised $548,000 towards the building fund. We had our top performing Egyptian Festival, generating $109,000 in revenue, and saw our highest year in contributions towards Sunday School and and youth programs at over $21,000. Your generosity has also allowed us to provide financial support of $70,000 to fellow church members, and continue to drive our fellowship and ministries.

Our congregation is always willing to help financially behind the scenes such as providing funds to purchase supplies to make orban, or the food to provide delicious meals to St. Herman's twice per month, or the snacks, crafts, and other activities within Sunday School each week. Please always know that you can request reimbursement for these items, or provide me receipts to apply these expenses towards your charitable tax statement.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions regarding setting up recurring monthly donations, or ensuring the funds you've donated are allocated specifically to your requests.

Thank you,
Julie Jackson (440)-552-5276 or email the office at office@spsg.church



Thank you!

Thanks to your amazing efforts, we've hit *and surpassed* our $500K fundraising goal raising **$548,000**! From the dedicated youth to the hardworking kitchen committee and everyone in between, your contributions have made this success possible.A heartfelt thank you to each of you for your time, energy, and generosity. Your commitment to SPSG has not only strengthened our community bonds but has also brought us closer to our shared vision. Let's continue to support and uplift one another as we move forward!

Church Building Project Update

The Building Committee has been actively making progress, holding regular meetings over the past several months. The initial steps are about to commence, starting with the geotechnical company testing the soil as recommended by our engineer, ensuring a sturdy foundation.

Crucial decisions regarding the design and functionality of the project have been reached. The gymnasium will feature a vault-shaped ceiling for both durability and cost-effectiveness. Plans for the core and shell of the Sunday school building have been thoroughly reviewed, with significant design and functionality choices made.

Our church's heating and air conditioning experts are actively involved, providing guidance for a design that prioritizes comfort and efficiency. The gym, capable of accommodating up to 900 people, will be equipped with fire exits to ensure compliance and safety, potentially serving as a temporary place of worship and Sunday school classes during the upcoming church building project.

The approved blueprints will be dispatched to potential contractors in February for bidding. We anticipate groundbreaking in summer 2024.

Exciting times await us. Please keep the project in your prayers

A ROADMAP TO BUILD

B — ONGOING

BUILDING DRAWINGS

- Architect is actively finalizing construction drawings for the multipurpose building and classrooms.
- Building committee meets regularly to make design decisions.

U — NOW

UNDERGOING

- Our treasurer and financial planner are in the beginning stages of reaching out to banks to secure a construction loan and discover our borrowing capacity.
- Geotechnical company will test soil soon to insure a strong foundation.

I — MARCH

INQUIRING

- Bidding for construction companies will kick off in March.
- Expected turnaround time for the process is 45 to 60 days.

L — MAY

LIASON & LOAN

- In May, a thorough review and decision-making process regarding the construction company will take place.
- Concurrently, we will review and finalize construction loans based on bank offers.

D — LATE SUMMER

DEVELOPMENT

- Anticipate the exciting moment as we break ground for the multipurpose building and classroom shell in late summer.

SPSG Youth Activities - Open Day!

Open Day will be **Saturday, February 24**, following the Liturgy. It will take place at the Westlake Recreation Center. All ages are welcome. More details will be announced soon. Questions? See Melad Attia

WESTLAKE RECREATION

Spreading holiday cheer and warmth at the Broadview Heights Multi-Care Center! Our incredible SPSG Youth filled the halls with joy as they serenaded the residents with heartwarming Christmas Carols. Laughter, smiles, and unforgettable moments were shared, making it a day of pure happiness. Together, we created memories that will last a lifetime.

SPSG Youth in Action!

The SPSG youth continue to make a difference in our community! **St. Herman's Outreach** group provides a hot meal for the needy every first Sunday of the month. For further information or to make donations, please contact Sherif Zaky (zaky1@gmail.com).

SPSG WEEKLY EVENTS

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6-6:30pm Vespers	9:00-11:00am Arabic Liturgy (2nd & 4th Saturday)	9:00am Matins & Psalms 10:00am: Liturgy Of The Faithful
6:30-7pm Choirs (PreK-Middle School)	4th Sat. of the month Open Day After Liturgy until 3pm 1st-8th grade	11:30am (or following the Liturgy) Sunday School K-12
6:30-7pm Adult Hymns		
7-9pm Youth Hymns & Book Studies		Adults: Coffee and Fellowship in Social Hall

Reflecting on 2023: A Year of Unity, Blessings, and Community Spirit at SPSG

As we bid farewell to 2023, it's with immense joy and gratitude that we reflect on the incredible journey we've shared as the SPSG family. This past year was marked by a tapestry of activities, heartfelt prayers, acts of service, successful fundraising, and an abundance of blessings.

Activities that Unite: Our calendar was brimming with activities that brought joy and strengthened the bonds within our congregation. From engaging youth programs to soul-nourishing study groups, each event was a testament to the vibrancy and dedication of our community.

Fundraising Triumphs: The generosity of our members shone brightly in 2023 as we successfully met and exceeded our fundraising goals. The building funds will enable us to further our mission, provide a place to pray and serve, and enhance the services we provide to our congregation and the wider community.

Dedicated Service: The spirit of service was alive and well at SPSG. Our kitchen committee worked tirelessly to provide not only nourishing meals for events, but also a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all who attended. The dedication of our many Servants in various capacities made each gathering, youth event or Sunday school a memorable and uplifting experience.

Praising Together: Our worship services were filled with heartfelt praise and worship. The Deacons, Servants, choirs and all those involved in creating a sacred space for reflection played a pivotal role in making our time together in prayer a source of spiritual strength and renewal.

Abundant Blessings: As we navigated the twists and turns of the year, we were continually reminded of the blessings that surround us. The growth of our congregation, the friendships formed, and our strong youth programs are all testaments to the abundant grace showered upon us.

We are grateful for our SPSG family and look forward to the fruits of our efforts in 2024.

save the date

egyptian festival

july 12-14

2024