Dear Parishioners,

We are pleased to announce our newest fundraiser - the St. Anastasia Agape Drive.

As we look forward to our upcoming year and reflect on the past year, we have needed to take a hard look at our Philoptochos budget for 2021. As you all are aware, many of our 2020 fundraisers were cancelled as a result of the COVID pandemic. Events such as our Easter Bread Sale, Mansfield Family Fun Night, Fall Bake Sale and Taverna Night Wine Pull do more than provide opportunities to come together as a community, celebrate friends and family, and enjoy great food together. The funds raised at these events enables St. Anastasia to fund our annual budget, in excess of $2,000.

These events help us pool our money with other Philoptochos chapters to support national commitments on a large scale: Social Services, IOCC, General medical fund and many other worthy causes supported by National Philoptochos through individual chapter donations. We also use these funds to support Metropolis commitments like the Philoxenia House and the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center, home to our amazing camping ministry.

Closer to home we also use this money to support chapter commitments to our local community. These are donations to the Hellenic Nursing home, West Side, and New Hope shelter to name a few.

**How the Agape Drive works.** We are looking for any monetary donations you are able to make to help us fund our budget for the year. We are able to collect funds through GivePlus, or direct donations sent to the parish. We know that everyone's circumstances in this pandemic are different and we are grateful to all the generous donations from our St. Gregory Family throughout this difficult year. Any money you donate, will go directly to our budgeted philanthropic line items to help us meet our financial goals for the coming year.

Separately, if you find yourself falling on hard times please reach out to Fr. Alex. Our chapter has also set aside funds to help within our Parish family as the need arises. When we are able to meet again and enjoy food, friends and our St. Gregory Family, properly, the Philoptochos will host a coffee hour in honor of your generosity. It will be a cookie walk and fall bake sale all rolled into one as our thanks (there may be some deviled eggs too!).

Thanks in advance for helping us give back during these hard times.

Much love and appreciation,

St. Anastasia Philoptochos