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All Saints Philoptochos in Weirton Hosts ‘Pasta and Prayers’ for GOARCH Ukraine Relief Fund, Raising Over $5,000



SPECIAL EVENT — Involved in All Saints Greek Orthodox Church’s Ladies Philoptochos Society’s “Pasta and Prayers” effort to benefit the Ukrainian war relief fund that generated more than $5,000 were, front row, from left, Nick Tranto, Pearl Tranto, Violeta Turianyn, Natalia Turianyn, Vasyl Turianyn, Mika Turianyn, John Greco, Sue Greco and Mayor Harold Miller; and back row, Second Row: City Manager Mike Adams, Mark Zilich, Tammie Zilich, Alex Weld, Dr. Manuel Ballas and W.Va. Sen. Ryan Weld, R-Brooke. — Contributed. Credits: All Saints Greek Orthodox Church, Weirton, West Virginia

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On March 20, 2022, the All Saints Greek Orthodox Church’s Ladies Philoptochos Society in Weirton, West Virginia sponsored a “Pasta and Prayers” fundraiser for the GOARCH Ukraine Relief Fund.

In their letter to His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, Father Frank A. Milanese, Proistamenos of All Saints, and Mrs. Pearl Tranto, President of the All Saints

Philoptochos, shared an enclosed donation of $6,350, raised through the fundraising efforts.

The event, held in conjunction with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the National Philoptochos Society, and the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), followed church services and included a luncheon of pasta, salad, fruit and desserts in the Hellenic Memorial Hall on West Street.

The hall was decorated with Ukrainian flags and sunflowers, the national flower of Ukraine.

Special guests were Vasyl and Natalia Turianyn from Ukraine. Five years ago, the couple, along with their then 4-year-old daughter, won a lottery issuing them a visa to immigrate to the United States. Once in Weirton, the priest at the Byzantine Catholic Church at the time, the Rev. Vasyl Symyon, asked John and Sue Greco if they would sponsor the couple by offering temporary housing for “two weeks.”

They agreed and later, Vasyl and Natalia and their daughters, Violeta, now 9, and Mika, 1, were moved into a home owned by the Grecos and have resided there ever since. Greco shared that the Turianyns are now “part of the family.”

Vasyl, a skilled craftsman, has now begun his own business in construction which includes remodeling, painting and various other projects.

As the main speakers, the couple spoke passionately of their native country, friends and family they left behind and the war that began Feb. 24.

Each day, they said, they anxiously await word from their relatives remaining in Ukraine, and they continue watching news reports of the destruction of their native land.

Their daughter, Violeta, a student at St. Joseph the Worker in Weirton, also spoke, ending her speech with, “I love my mom and dad. And I love America.”

The Turianyns said they are thankful to be in the United States and look forward to someday becoming American citizens.

The Ukrainian people are in desperate need of basic necessities such as food, water, clothing and medical supplies, it was emphasized during the event.

Anyone wanting to help support this war relief effort may still send checks to Philoptochos, P.O. Box 128, West Street, Weirton, WV 26062, with “Ukraine” in the memo or call the All Saints office at (304) 797-9884.

“We thank everyone who donated and offered their support,” a spokesperson noted. “Our prayers are with the Ukrainian people whose spirit will never be broken.”

goarch.org