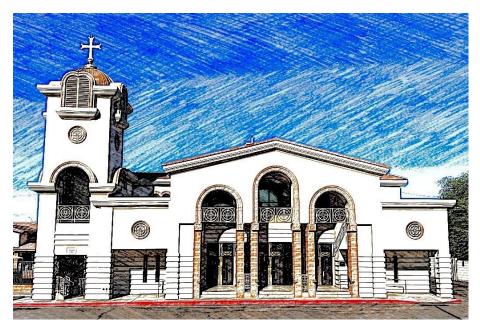
Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church



December 3rd, 2023 14th Sunday of Matthew

Mission Statement

To Engage, Serve, and Enrich the lives of Orthodox Christians, through Word, Worship, and Outreach, and to Welcome all people to live the Orthodox Christian way of life.

Our Clergy:

Fr. Timothy Pavlatos, Proistamenos Fr. Philip Armstrong, Priest Emeritus Fr. Demetrios Kavouras, Priest Emeritus

Contact Us: 480-899-3330 • office@st-katherine.org • <u>www.stkatherineaz.org</u>

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Closed 12:00-1:00 p.m. for lunch Fr. Timothy is off on Thursdays.

Metropolis of San Francisco / Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Hymns at the Small Entrance

Resurrection Apolytikion

When the stone was sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Your immaculate body, You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life unto the world. For which cause the powers of heaven cried out to You, O Life-giver: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your Kingdom. Glory to Your dispensation, O only Friend of man.

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ιουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωήν. Διὰ τοῦτο αὶ Δυνάμεις τῶν ούρανῶν ἐβόων σοι Ζωοδότα[.] Δόξα τῇ ἀναστάσει σου Χριστέ, δόξα τῇ Βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ οίκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

Apolytikion of St. Katherine

Let us sing the praise of the Bride of Christ renown, * the Patroness of Sinai, Katherine Divine. * Our assistance and protection, * for she has brilliantly subdued, * the impious refined, by the power of the Spirit. * She was crowned as a martyr of the Lord, * and for all, she entreats His great mercy.

Τὴν πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστοῦ ὑμνήσωμεν, Αίκατερῖναν τὴν θείαν καὶ πολιοῦχον Σινᾶ, τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν καὶ ἀντίληψιν, ὅτι ἐφίμωσε λαμπρῶς, τοὺς κομψοὺς τῶν ἀσεβῶν, τοῦ Πνεύματος τῇ μαχαίρᾳ, καὶ νῦν ὡς Μάρτυς στεφθεῖσα, αἰτεῖται πᾶσι τὸ μέγα ἕλεος.

Kontakion

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth,on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Η Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἕρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀποῥῥήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οίκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Αγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αίώνων Θεόν.

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:8-19

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 5:8-19

Αδελφοί, ώς τέκνα φωτὸς περιπατεῖτε - ὁ γὰρ καρπὸς τοῦ πνεύματος ἐν πάσῃ ἀγαθωσύνῃ καὶ δικαιοσύνῃ καὶ ἀληθεία - δοκιμάζοντες τί ἐστιν εὐάρεστον τῷ κυρίῳ· καὶ μὴ συγκοινωνεῖτε τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς ἀκάρποις τοῦ σκότους, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ ἐλέγχετε· τὰ γὰρ κρυφῆ γινόμενα ὑπ' αὐτῶν αίσχρόν ἐστιν καὶ λέγειν. Τὰ δὲ πάντα ἐλεγχόμενα ὑπὸ τοῦ φωτὸς φανεροῦται· πᾶν γὰρ τὸ φανερούμενον φῶς ἑστίν. Διὸ λέγει, Ἐγειρε ὁ καθεύδων καὶ ἀνάστα ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, καὶ ἑπιφαύσει σοι ὁ Χριστός. Βλέπετε οὖν πῶς ἀκριβῶς περιπατεῖτε, μὴ ὡς ἄσοφοι, ἀλλ' ὡς σοφοί, ἑξαγοραζόμενοι τὸν καιρόν, ὅτι αὶ ἡμέραι πονηραί είσιν. Διὰ τοῦτο μὴ γίνεσθε ἄφρονες, ἀλλὰ συνιἑντες τί τὸ θἑλημα τοῦ κυρίου. Καὶ μὴ μεθύσκεσθε οἴνῳ, ἐν ῷ ἑστὶν ἀσωτία, ἀλλὰ πληροῦσθε ἐν πνεύματι, λαλοῦντες ἑαυτοῖς ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὕμνοις καὶ ὡδαῖς πνευματικαῖς, ἄδοντες καὶ ψάλλοντες ἑν τῇ καρδία ὑμῶν τῷ κυρίῳ.

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Έκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 18:35-43 Εύαγγελίου τὸ Άνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ ἐγγίζειν αὐτὸν εἰς Ἱεριχὼ τυφλός τις ἐκάθητο παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν προσαιτῶν· ἀκούσας δὲ ὅχλου διαπορευομένου ἐπυνθάνετο τί εἴη ταῦτα. ἀπήγγειλαν δὲ αὐτῷ ὅτι Ἱησοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος παρέρχεται. καὶ ἐβόησε λέγων· Ἱησοῦ υὶὲ Δαυΐδ, ἐλέησόν με· καὶ οἱ προάγοντες ἐπετίμων αὐτῷ ἵνα σιωπήσῃ· αὐτὸς δὲ πολλῷ μᾶλλον ἕκραζεν· υὶὲ Δαυΐδ, ἐλέησόν με. σταθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἱησοῦς ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ἀχθῆναι πρὸς αὐτόν. ἐγγίσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτὸν λέγων· τί σοι θέλεις ποιήσω; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Κύριε, ἵνα ἀναβλέψω. καὶ ὁ Ἱησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ ἀνάβλεψον· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε. καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνέβλεψε, καὶ ἡκολούθει αὐτῷ δοξάζων τὸν Θεόν· καὶ πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ἱδὼν ἕδωκεν αἶνον τῷ Θεῷ.

Today we Commemorate:

- The Holy Prophet Sophonias (Zephaniah)
- Our Righteous Father John, Bishop and Hesychast
- Holy Martyrs Agapius and Seleucius

This Prophet, who is ninth in order among the minor Prophets, was the son of Chusi (Cushi), from the tribe of Levi, or according to some, the great-grandson of King Hezekias. He prophesied in the years of Josias, who reigned in the years 641-610 before Christ. His book of prophecy is divided into three chapters. His name means "Yah has concealed."

Services—Week of December 3rd

Sunday, December 3rd- 14th Sunday of Matthew 8:15 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Memorial Service: Irene Lalagos-40 Days, George Vakanas- Annual

Artoklasia: Offered by Barbara Georgousis in honor of St. Porfirios & St. Barbara.

Wednesday, December 6th–St. Nicholas the Wonderworker 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 2nd 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Parish Council Election Application Deadline December 3rd

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Parish Council Elections are scheduled for Sunday, December 10th. There are 3 open positions. Any Member-in-Good-Standing may submit an application to run.

If you are interested in running or have questions, please see the Election Committee Chairperson, Niki Pallas. Application deadline is December 3rd.

Welcome to Our Visitors

We welcome you with open arms and joy in our Lord , we hope your experience at St. Katherine's is a blessing for you.



Only those who are Baptized and/or Chrismated in the Orthodox faith may receive Holy Communion. If you are not Orthodox, you may approach the Chalice for a blessing. To do this, come to the chalice and simply say, "a blessing please." Orthodox Christians desiring to receive the Body of Blood of Christ must ensure proper preparation through confession (minimum 4 times a year), reconciliation in your heart with all, and observation of the fasting guidelines set forth by the Church.

Helpful Information:

Sunday Service Times: 8:15 a.m. Orthros, 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Sunday School: Sunday School meets after Communion on Sunday mornings. Grades Pre-K through 8th grade meet in the 4th acre house. Grades 9–12 meet in the conference room up in the choir loft.

Fellowship Hour: The Parish Council is sponsoring Fellowship Hour this morning.

Dean Pappas Memorial Bookstore: Open after the dismissal of Divine Liturgy.

Please make every effort to arrive for services a little early. If you happen to arrive late, please observe the following moments in the Divine Liturgy when you should not enter the Nave but wait quietly in the Narthex. You may enter <u>after</u> these moments:

- The Priest censing
- The Small Entrance
- The Great Entrance
- Epistle Reading
- Gospel Reading
- The Homily
- Consecration of the Gifts
- The Lord's Prayer

Confession Times:

- Saturdays from 5:30 6:00 p.m.
- During Great Vespers immediately following the Great Censing. Please wait in the front pews closest to the Bishop's Throne.
- By appointment (Please contact the church office)

Resources:

*Complete Church Calendar: <u>https://stkatherineaz.org/parish-calendar</u> *Sunday Homilies: <u>https://stkatherineaz.org/homilies</u> *For Orthros (Matins) Text visit: <u>AGES Digital Chant Stand</u> *Saints, Feasts, Epistle & Gospel readings: <u>https://www.goarch.org/chapel/calendar</u> *Livestream on YouTube: <u>https://www.youtube.com/</u> @stkatherinegreekorthodoxch8030/streams



Please silence cell phones when in church.

Prayer Requests

(Prayers for the living will be retained on the list for 40 days.)

I Peter 4:7 Be serious and discipline yourselves in prayer. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

Living:

- Dimitri, for healing
- Innocent, for health and healing
- Georgia L., for suitable housing
- Joann, for health and healing
- Fr. Timothy, for healing from injury
- Maria & Edith, for health and healing
- Ethan, for health and healing
- Annie & son Levi, for diagnosis and therapy
- Drew for suitable employment
- Marko, for health and healing from surgery
- Leo & Aleah, for health and healing
- Jerry, for health and healing
- For our catechumens and inquirers
- For our Sunday School teachers and students
- For those impacted by wars, earthquakes, floods, and fires around the world
- For Fr. Nicholas, the staff, and boys at St. Innocent Orphanage
- For all those suffering from the violence in Israel and Orthodox Christians living in the holy land

Departed:

- James C. Columbus +
- Joan Perikly +
- Irene Lalagos +
- Vasiliki Laloudakis +

Catechumen Meeting

Our third Catechumen meeting is scheduled for this Sunday, December 3, after Liturgy in the conference room. All current Catechumens should make plans to attend.

Final Catechism Class - December: 5th - Icons & Architecture



Young Adult Ministry

The St. Katherine's Young Adults will be meeting with Fr. Timothy on December 7th, 7:00 p.m., inside the church, to talk about the Nativity fast and spiritual discipline.





YOUNG ADULT HOLIDAY





DECEMBER 8 @ 7 PM SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX BALLROOM

JOIN US FOR A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION SUPPORTING A LOCAL CHARITY (PLS BRING YOUR FAV DISH FOR THE POTLUCK)

> DRESSY OR CHRISTMAS FUN ATTIRE ENCOURAGED

SCAN OR VISIT LINK TO RSVP BY 12/1 HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/YXDJ3N2M



YEAR END GIVING GUIDELINES | Deadline December 31st



With the nativity season approaching and 2023 drawing to a close, we would like to offer guidance on how St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church will be handling 2023 contributions as well as 2024 contributions.

The church office will be closed from Friday, December 29, 2023, through Monday, January 1, 2024.

The IRS's basic rule is a gift must be "delivered" to the church by December 31 for the gift to count as a contribution for that calendar year. The date of delivery depends on how the gift was made and delivered.

- In Person Physically received in the church office by December 30th during normal office hours. (Please keep in mind that the normal office hours are Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30am -3:30pm)
- US Postal Service Postmarked by December 31st.
- Private Delivery Service such as FedEx or UPS Physically received in the church office by December 30th during normal office hours. (Please keep in mind that the normal office hours are Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30am-3:30pm)

Online Giving through the St Katherine web site needs to be completed before December 31st. If using a credit card, it must be "fully processed" i.e. approved by the credit card issuer by December 31st.

Payment made by check should be dated "December 31, 2023" and the memo line should indicate which contribution year ("2023" or "2024") the payment is for.

Donation of stock(s) allow a member to support the church without affecting personal cash flow. Generally speaking, the most tax-advantaged approach is to donate stock held for more than one year that has appreciated in value. This provides for a larger charitable contribution and avoids tax on the capital gain. For stocks with a loss, it is advisable to sell it first and then donate the cash. If you are considering either option, please consult with your tax or financial advisor. Please contact Glenn Thorpe for our account information if you wish to donate stock.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA

Many older parishioners hold tax-deferred Individual Retirement Accounts or IRA's, which probably began as 401K accounts while still working. The accounts were funded with earnings PRE-TAX (the money was removed from your paycheck BEFORE taxes were deducted). When you retire, these funds are used as a source of income for your expenses. Since they were not taxed when deposited into the 401K/IRA, these funds are FULLY TAXABLE as ordinary income when they are withdrawn in your retirement. Withdrawals can be made without penalty any time after age 59¹/₂. At age 72 (73 if you turn 72 after December 31, 2022), you are REQUIRED to withdraw a "Required Minimum Distribution" or RMD each year in an amount based on your age and the balance in your IRA. You will be required to pay tax on this withdrawal as if it were ordinary earned income.

In 2006, a provision of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–280) established the "Qualified Charitable Distribution" or QCD. Eligibility for making QCDs from a taxable IRA begins at age 70¹/₂. A QCD is a VOLUNTARY withdrawal from your IRA, up to \$100000 in 2023 (\$105000 in 2024), which is paid DIRECTLY to a qualified charity or tax-exempt organization (like St. Katherine). The donor pays NO TAX on the withdrawal and, as a tax-exempt entity, the charity or church pays no tax either. When you file your tax return, you can normally deduct the full amount of the QCD if you itemize deductions. This is a "win-win" in that you can donate to the church or other qualified entity, pay no tax, and have the recipient benefit in the full amount of your QCD. Any amount donated as a QCD in a given year is deducted from the required RMD amount for that year, up to and including your entire RMD amount (subject to the \$100000 (\$105000 in 2024) limit).

This option requires some advance planning so individuals considering it should consult a tax professional and/or financial advisor to ensure that all the above conforms to your personal situation and circumstances before making any withdrawals or donations.

<u>Advance Charitable Deduction</u> is another option where you might consider pre-paying part or all of your 2024 giving, thus advancing the deduction into 2023. [*This can be especially helpful to individuals who marginally itemize their deductions, possibly allowing them to itemize for 2023 and then take the standard deduction for 2024.*]

This letter is not intended to provide legal, tax, or investment advice. You should consult your legal, tax, or investment advisors for advice.

Sincerely,

Antigoni Bhatia

Treasurer

ALL SAINTS CAMP ARIZONA PRESENTS DICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

11AM SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024

HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL POULOS COURT

ENTRY

- 16 Teams
- Single Elimination
- First Come, First Serve Sign-ups
- Open Dec. 8 @ 12pm
- \$100 per team

HIGHLIGHTS

Raffle for great prizes! BBQ and drinks for sale Cornhole and Fun!

Questions? Email Chris Fredericksen at: c.fredericksen@yahoo.com



REGISTRATION OPENS DEC. 15

CAMP SHADOW PINES | HEBER, AZ MAY 26 - JUNE 1 WWW.ALLSAINTSCAMPARIZONA.ORG

Icon Adornment Sponsorship

Icon Decoration Sponsorship Request Form

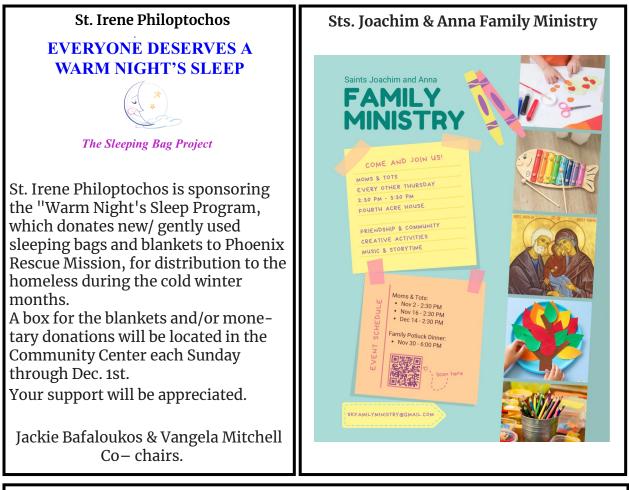
The Flower Ministry at St. Katherine serves to beautify our Church at the following times of the year:

- September 8th The Nativity of the Theotokos
- September 14th The Exaltation of the Cross
- November 21st The Entrance Into the Temple of the Theotokos
- November 25th St. Katherine the Great Martyr
- December 25th The Nativity of Christ
- January 6th Theophany
- February 2nd The Presentation of Christ
- March 25th The Annunciation of the Theotokos
- Akathist Services (Five Fridays in Great Lent)
- Palm Sunday (Sunday before Pascha)
- Every Service during Holy Week beginning Sunday evening with the Bridegroom Service (Sunday evening through Holy Pascha)
- Holy Pascha
- The Ascension of Christ (40 days after Pascha)
- Holy Pentecost (50 days after Pascha)
- August 6th The Transfiguration of Christ
- August 15th The Dormition of the Theotokos

If you would like to sponsor the decoration of an icon of a saint or feast day not listed above, please complete the information below and return it to the church office, at least 4 weeks in advance and the Flower Ministry will decorate the appropriate icon for that day.

Donations are appreciated and will be designated specifically for the Flower Ministry.

Date of request:
Requested by:
Saint/Feast Day and Date:
In memory or in honor of:



St. Irene Philoptochos Holiday Basket Donations

Please help us provide a special Christmas dinner for families in our parish who are in need of a helping hand. To donate, see Dianne Evripidou, Marjie Thorpe, or any board member.

Please make checks to St. Irene Philoptochos.

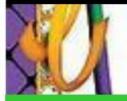
All donations are greatly appreciated.!



Apokries 2024—Save the Date!



Greek Mardi Gras | Dance | Door Prize | 50/50 Raffle | Costume Optional | Best Costume Prizes for Male, Female & Child



Saturday, March 9, 2024 Cash Bar 6 PM | Dinner 7 PM | Close 11 PM Tickets: Adults \$100 | 12 and under \$25

Please call Telis Evripidou at 480-332-6957. Proceeds to benefit Arizona Hellenic Foundation's scholarship fund.



Mesa Country Club

660 W. Fairway Drive | Mesa, AZ 85201

Azhellenic.org



Poinsettia Memorial Donation

Please join us in remembering our beloved family and friends during this Christmas Season with a Memorial Poinsettia which will adorn the iconostasis.

Donations are \$20.00 per plant. Please complete this form and return it to the church office by December 12th.

<u>Your Name:</u> <u>In Memory of:</u>



Our Parish Family

If you are new to our parish and would like to become a member, please contact our Church office: <u>office@st-katherineaz.org</u> or call 480-899-3330.

To subscribe to our newsletter please visit: https://stkatherineaz.org/

If you are visiting and/or inquiring about the Orthodox faith and are interested in learning more, please contact Fr. Timothy: <u>frtimskchurch@gmail.com</u>

2023 Stewardship Cards Available Now!

163 families have pledged \$326,062 To establish/maintain stewardship, a Stewardship Pledge Card must be completed and submitted each year.



(Completing and submitting a new card <u>each year</u> enables our accountant to keep accurate records.)

Light a Virtual Candle

"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. (John 8:12)



At times it may not be possible to physically go to church and light a candle, so we offer this option for those who would like to make an offering of prayer and

faith by lighting a virtual candle. <u>https://stkatherineaz.org/light-a-candle</u>

New Convenient Ways to Give!

Hover your phone camera over the QR code, which will take you to our website. From the menu, click on the Stewardship tab.

Digital payment platforms allow the church to accept stewardship, general or specific donations for any ministry. To ensure your donation is properly allocated,

please make a note in the memo indicating your wishes.



RECOMMENDED LEVELS OF GIVING

PERCENT OF INCOME	5%		8%		10%	
Annual Income	Annual Giving	Weekly	Annual Giving	Weekly	Annual Giving	Weekly
\$20.000	\$1,000	\$19.23	\$1,600	\$30.77	\$2,000	\$38.46
\$40,000	\$2,000	\$38.46	\$3,200	\$61.54	\$4,000	\$76.92
\$60,000	\$3,000	\$57.69	\$4,800	\$92.31	\$6,000	\$115.38
\$80,000	\$4,000	\$76.92	\$6,400	\$123.08	\$8,000	\$153.85
\$100,000	\$5,000	\$96.15	\$8,000	\$153.85	\$10,000	\$192.31
\$125,000	\$6,250	\$120.19	\$10,000	\$192.31	\$12,500	\$240.38
\$150,000	\$7,500	\$144.23	\$12,000	\$230.77	\$15,000	\$288.46
\$200,000	\$10,000	\$192.31	\$16,000	\$307.69	\$20,000	\$384.62



"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

Thank you for your commitment.