The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

Bulletin Issue 101 October 2010

ΑΓΙΟΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ

ST. DEMETRIOS
ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF BROCKTON

DIRECTORY 2010

Priest: Reverend Presbyter Anthony Evangelatos

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Organist: Ona Calogrias

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Tina Boutas, Dina Coon, Rhoda Economos

GREEK SCHOOL TEACHERS

Konstantina Boutas, Argyro Papadopoulos, Vicky Papaioannou

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

AnnunciationYMT@yahoo.com

GOYA
Advisors: Jon Buterbaugh, Christos Kolentsas

JOY / HOPE
Advisors: Barbara Mantalos, Paula Tsitsopoulos

Adult Greek Classes: Arthur Krikis
Koliva for Memorial Services: Ladies Philoptochos
Coffee Hour: Bertha Weinberg
Office Administration: Venice Mazarakis
Custodian: Jim DiMarco

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Fr. Anthony ~ priest@annunciationbrockton.org
Church Office ~ office@annunciationbrockton.org

Church Web-site address: www.annunciationbrockton.org
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From Father Anthony

(The following was written by Hierodeacon Nektarios of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem in 1990. I feel that it is important for all of us to realize and appreciate that the grace of the Holy Spirit is at work in the true Church of Christ. As the author states, the following is only a sampling of the many miraculous events taking place wherever the Orthodox faith is followed. I have slightly edited this English translation for obvious syntactical and incidental errors.)

Miracles of Our Faith

You, who are searching for life and knowledge and are troubled from so many terrifying questions, we ask you to experiment and investigate with us some points which pertain to the Truth, which according to our opinion is one, and it is called Christ.

As you well know, the road of science is experimental and every scientific discovery is based on experiments. We suggest, therefore, an experiment which is very easy: Take water from wherever you like and close it into a small bottle. From biology and science, we know that this water in a short period of time will spoil and it will begin to smell.

Concomitantly, take the same amount of water from the Great Water Blessing (water which has been blessed by an Orthodox priest on January 6th, the day of Theophany) and close it in a small bottle and let it stand under the same conditions as the other water for the same period of time. You will soon discover that the blessed Water will remain unchanged; it will not spoil, smell, or develop worms.

We must tell you that Holy Water was found inside the walls of old houses kept by Orthodox Christians. When discovered, it was clear. The Holy Water had been placed there for centuries. Medical science tells us that distilled water, which is free of any microbes, can remain germ free for at least six months, then it spoils.

How then do you explain this phenomenon? As you see, it is impossible for the regular water to spoil and for the Holy Water to remain unchanged for 300 years just by chance. This happens with the few simple words and blessings given by an Orthodox priest, who, by the way, you at times may curse and be disrespectful.

You may possess the thought that there are many religions in the world – Christians, Moslems, Buddhists, Hindus, etc. Who has the Truth? But even Christians are divided: Orthodox, Catholics, and Protestants…What would happen to all these other people? Are the Orthodox the only ones that have the Truth? Slowly, this way of reasoning will lead you first into the dark roads of doubt and finally into the channel of faithlessness.

If you think that the Truth for the Orthodox faith is of no significant matter, we suggest you make a trip to Jerusalem during the celebration of the Eastern Orthodox Pascha (Easter). There you will see with your own eyes a continuous miracle, that of the Holy Light. Although many centuries have passed, this miracle still continues. Every year a Divine Force ignites the Holy Light at the Holy Sepulcher.

Science, technology and logic cannot supply adequate explanations for this phenomenon because it is supernatural (beyond the laws of nature and the scientific methods of investigation). Thousands of worshippers from all over the world witness this great event. The moment the Holy Light appears it runs like lightning, or it flutters like a dove on the unlighted candles and oil lamps and lights them. When it first appears, it is blue, different from regular light. The first three minutes this light does not burn. You can touch it, put it on your face, your hair, without being burned. You can see priests putting it into their beard and it does not burn. It must be noted that only the Eastern Orthodox Patriarch receives the Holy Light. Those times that representatives from other religious groups tried to receive the Holy Light, it did not appear. The whole history of the Holy Light forced many to think, and finally, it led them into the faith, Christ and the Truth.

We now want to share with you other phenomena that one can experience at Mount Sinai. There you will find depicted in the rocks the image of Moses’ burning bush. If you break any rock you will find the image of the burning bush inscribed inside the rock.

Also, we want to tell you about the fish, “goulianos,” which lives in the lake of Gennesaret. It has on its head and below the skin, the baptism of Christ depicted.

Another miracle one can see in the Monastery of Saint Savva in Jerusalem. When the monks die their bodies do not stiffen, neither smell like that of any other dead person. They do not bury the bodies in the ground, but simply they put them into a room as they are. There in that room, the bodies do not smell, they do not develop worms as they decompose, and then, through a miraculous way only their bones remain. How do you explain this event?

These are other occurrences which demonstrate the
miracles within Orthodoxy…

If you could visit Mount Athos and the Monastery of Iviron, you would see an oil lamp hanging near the icon of Panagia, which over the years has moved by itself by a divine force to warn of an impending catastrophe in Greece or any other place in the world. These movements continued for several days as it happened during World War II, and in 1974 before Turkey invaded Cyprus, as well as many other times.

In the Peloponese, close to Tripoli, at the Monastery of Panagia Malevi, there is an ancient icon of Panagia which continuously and mysteriously gives forth myrrh, which is of a high quality. The fragrance of the myrrh is unusual and remains unchanged for many years, while the strongest fragrance evaporates within 48 hours. Scientists have attempted to explain this phenomenon through chemical analysis both in Greek and foreign university laboratories without arriving at a satisfactory explanation. ‘Where did you find this fragrance?’ a Bulgarian chemist asked someone who had supplied it for chemical analysis without telling him the source. When he was told of the source he was speechless. This myrrh is miraculous. Many people with serious and incurable diseases have been healed immediately after anointing themselves with it.

Let us also discuss a miracle that takes place on the island of Chios at the location situated next to the sea where Saint Markela died as a martyr. At this site, when the priest reads the supplication to the Saint, the seawaters begin to boil, steam and bubble as if someone has lit a fire. When the service of the supplication ends, the boiling stops and the water returns to its original state. If you wish, you can observe these events which occur each year on July 22nd during the Saint’s feast day.

There are other miracles which happened during the last decades in many parts of the world, and in large numbers. Some of these events are related to the attempts to destroy Orthodox churches. The demolition of these churches was neutralized in a way that causes amazement.

One example is the church of Saint Petka (Paraskevi) located in a central point in the city of Sofia, Bulgaria. In 1963 the city leaders decided to widen the street and therefore, the church was targeted for destruction in the name of progress. The demolition team arrived with their bulldozers, but each time they approached the church with their powerful machinery, something would break or the engines would unexplainably stop. They tried many times, but the bulldozers continued to break down before reaching the church. When the official responsible for the street project heard of these incidents, he thought they were all nonsense. Arriving at the scene, he very angrily and with a loud voice started to curse, climbed up to a bulldozer and tried to drive it himself and with great speed toward the church. Suddenly the engine broke, the bulldozer stopped and the driver was found dead. Observers were shaken with fear and terror after witnessing this supernatural phenomenon. They could not do anything but to change the demolition plans, and the church is still standing there today. One trip to Sofia, Bulgaria will provide the proof for the above incident.

A similar incident occurred in the village of Franalouleika of Aitolia. A church dedicated to Saint George was selected for demolition to facilitate the construction of an interstate highway between Ioannina and Antirio. Through mysterious means the church could not be destroyed, and an unplanned detour of the road had to be constructed. Similar events took place in many other churches all over Greece, to clearly demonstrate the unbeatable and indestructible power of the Church of Christ.

There are so many miracles and supernatural phenomena which take place, especially during the last few years within the Orthodox Church. In this short article, we have chosen to communicate a small sampling of these events.

We have tried to help you know the truth, which is Christ and the Orthodox Church, which is systematically, persistently persecuted, attacked and kept hidden. The situation based on the events of our times, as you can clearly see, is difficult, and another world war threatens mankind. God wants us to repent, to confess our sins, and to change our lives…There is only one way. Faith and repentance is what our Lord is asking, and to change our lives and give glory to God.

‘COME AND SEE.’ (John 1:46).”

Thanks for your patience in reading this article. May we all be enlightened by its message.

In Christ’s love,

+Fr. Anthony
CONSECRATION DONATIONS

As we prepare the October bulletin, we are still in need of donors for new altar boy robes for the consecration. The robes cost $400 each. If you are interested in donating a robe, please contact Fr. Anthony directly. For those who can’t afford to donate a robe, any contribution to the fund would be helpful. In all cases, your generous gift will be a great blessing for you! I thank all of our donors in advance for their anticipated generosity.

INFORMATION ON RELICS FOR OUR CHURCH

As mentioned in prior communications, the relics which will be deposited in the Holy Table of our temple during the consecration are the following: St. Panteleimon the Great Martyr (7/27), St. Kyrikos the Martyr (7/15), and one of the Martyred Holy Fathers of Raitho in Sinai (1/14). Following is information on the life of each of these holy martyrs, who forever more will be part of the life of our parish.

St. Panteleimon

This Saint, who had Nicomedia as his homeland, was the son of Eustorgius and Eubula. His father was an idolater, but his mother was a Christian from her ancestors. It was through her that he was instructed in piety, and still later, he was catechized in the Faith of Christ by Saint Hermolaus (see July 26) and baptized by him. Being proficient in the physician's vocation, he practiced it in a philanthropic manner, healing every illness more by the grace of Christ than by medicines. Thus, although his parents had named him Pantoleon ("in all things a lion"), because of the compassion he showed for the souls and bodies of all, he was worthily renamed Panteleimon, meaning "all-merciful." On one occasion, when he restored the sight of a certain blind man by calling on the Divine Name, he enlightened also the eyes of this man's soul to the knowledge of the truth. This also became the cause for the martyrdom of him who had been blind, since when he was asked by whom and in what manner his eyes had been opened, in imitation of that blind man of the Gospel he confessed with boldness both who the physician was and the manner of his healing. For this he was put to death immediately. Panteleimon was arrested also, and having endured many wounds, he was finally beheaded in the year 305, during the reign of Maximian. Saint Panteleimon is one of the Holy Unmercenarys, and is held in special honor among them, even as Saint George is among the Martyrs.

St. Kyrikos (and his mother Julitta)

Saint Julitta was from the city of Iconium. Fearing the persecution of Diocletian, she took her son Cyricus, who was three years old, and departed for Seleucia; but finding the same evil there, she went over to Tarsus in Cilicia, where the ruler arrested her. He took her son from her and tried with flatteries to draw the youth to himself. But the little one, in his childish voice, called on the Name of Christ and kicked the ruler in the belly so hard, that the tyrant became enraged and cast him down the steps of the tribunal. In this manner, the child's head was crushed, and he gave up the spirit. As for his blessed mother, she first endured many torments, and finally was beheaded in the year 296.

The Martyred Fathers of Raitho in Sinai

As for the holy Martyrs of Sinai and Raithu, those of Sinai contested during the reign of Diocletian, about the year 296; those of Raithu were slain about the middle of the fifth century. On both occasions, the perpetrators of these massacres were a barbarian tribe called Blemmyes, from parts of Arabia and Egypt.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESUMES 10/13

Please note that our annual series of Small Vespers and adult religious education will commence on Wednesday, 10/13 at 7:00 pm. The all-English service lasts a half-hour, and is followed by a one-hour class. We normally begin with a scriptural reading and reflection, followed by a variety of topics and plenty of questions and answers. As I mention every year, anyone can join us at any time while the program is in session. This class is especially helpful to those considering conversion to the Orthodox faith. Please come and join us!
IN APPRECIATION

Where does one even begin to express gratitude to those parishioners involved in our annual festival? First of all, we must thank our tireless Philoptochos ladies who truly are the backbone of our festival, because after all, it’s all about the food. Of course, then there are the gentlemen who prep and cook the meat dishes, carve gyros hours on end, and tend our extremely busy bar. Many of our other volunteers manned booths in other parts of the tent, giving generously of their time and talents. A big thank you goes to Jon and Penny Buterbaugh and our wonderful Greek dancers – a job well-done by all! Our gratitude also goes to the many “behind the scenes” volunteers involved with publicity, raffle tickets, and other such important components of the festival. And of course, let us not overlook the generous donors of product, or monetary gifts toward the success of the festival. May God bless all of you, and may you continue to be an inspiration to those of us who have not yet gotten involved to the extent that we should.
COFFEE HOUR
If you are interested in sponsoring a coffee hour, please call Bertha Weinberg at (508) 586-1030, or the Church Office at (508) 559-0910.

HALL RENTAL
Do not forget that our church gymnasium and / or lounge area are available for your special functions. Please call the church office for details.

ADDRESS CHANGES
Please notify the church office if you are moving, so we may update our database in order to serve you better.

THE CHURCH NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT.
REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR PLEDGE.
PLEDGES ARE THE GREATEST SOURCE OF INCOME FOR OUR CHURCH.

CHURCH SERVICES
Saturdays
Great Vespers: 6:00 PM

Sundays
Orthros: 8:45 AM
Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM

Weekdays
Orthros: 9:00 AM
Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM

TA ΣΑΒΒΑΤΑ ~ ΜΕΓΑΣ ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΣ: 6:00 ΜΜ
ΤΙΣ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΕΣ ~ ΟΡΘΡΟΣ: 8:45 ΠΜ
ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ: 10:00 ΠΜ
ΤΙΣ ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΕΣ ~ ΟΡΘΡΟΣ: 9:00 ΠΜ
ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ: 10:00 ΠΜ
Church News

SACRAMENTS AND HOLY SERVICES

BAPTISMS

September 5  Maria  
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Steve Lainas  
Sponsor: Peter & Maria Papadopoulos

September 12  Barbara  
Wife of Manos Tsangarakis  
Sponsor: Michael & Rose Fields

WEDDINGS

September 11  Michael Blake & Emily Babalas  
Sponsor: Thomas Souliotis

FUNERALS

September 16  Efharis Paraskis  
May Her Memory be Eternal

DONATIONS

In Memory of Mary Xixis  
Mrs. Penny Kazis - $25

In Memory of Effie Paraskis  
Mrs. Ester Georganas - $25

Floral arrangement for icon  
of the Nativity of the Theotokos  
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Ntakoulas - $60

Floral arrangement for icon  
of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
Mr. & Mrs. George Petropoulos - $60

A new rod for the altar curtain and its installation  
Donated by Jim Sarantopoulos

New Censer (thimiato)  
anonymous

(All liturgical items donated for the consecration will be acknowledged in the commemorative album, to be published after the consecration.)
A NOTE FROM THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS PRESIDENT

I would like to thank all the Philoptochos members for their help, before and during our festival. Thank You Ladies, Despina Papadopoulos

POT LUCK SUPPER & GENERAL MEETING

Due to the Consecration our October Potluck Supper and General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 29, 2010 @ 6:30 PM**. Please bring an appetizer, entrée or dessert and a new member. Come share your food and ideas with us as we begin a successful year head.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND GIANT TOY RAFFLE

The Annual Family Christmas Luncheon will be held in December 19, 2010. Anyone wishing to donate a toy towards the raffle, or purchase tickets for the event please contact Ethel Savas @ (508) 586-9409 more information to follow.

KOLIVA

For Koliva please call the church office @ (508)559-0910. We would appreciate one week’s notice in advance of the memorial service to prepare your koliva. The cost is $85 and checks should be made payable to the Philoptochos Society.

VISITATIONS

Anyone who would like a visit from the Ladies of Philoptochos, or knows of someone who would like some company please call Soultana Kotsiopoulos @ (508) 584-8338 or the Church office.

**Church News**

BOOKSTORE/LIBRARY TO FINALLY OPEN

Many months ago, we erroneously announced the opening of our bookstore/library. After the basic construction was completed, a contractor was hired to create locking glass doors and locks for the cabinets. This fell through, as well as subsequent attempts with other contractors. After a lot of wasted time, we finally found a contractor to complete the job. As we prepare this bulletin, the finishing work is being completed and the bookstore will be able to open for business shortly thereafter. Further information will be forthcoming. Thanks to everyone for their patience and support!
**Acolytes/ALTAR BOYS**

Schedule and guidelines have been mailed to all altar boys. Please be sure to be at church by 9:00 am on the day of the consecration, October 10th. You will all be part of the procession around the church which will start by 9:30 am.

**YOUTH BASKETBALL**

STEVE PASSIAS ~ passias@comcast.net

An organized basketball team at the Annunciation not only brings our children together in play and athletic competition but contributes to an active lifestyle within the Church, and in the company of other Orthodox children. No prior experience or training is necessary, and all children – boys and girls – ages 10-18 are invited to attend and participate. The Team hopes to gain sufficient interest and participation to not only meet but to represent our parish and compete with other teams in the Metropolis.

Youth Basketball sign up's on Tuesday October 19th from 6-8pm, ages 10-18, and practices will be held each Tuesday thereafter, 6-8pm.

*If anyone is interested in being a volunteer coach please give me a call (508) 942-8483*

**GREEK DANCE GROUP**

Jon & Penny Buterbaugh ~ 508-230-3923 ~ pnasios@nasiosandgalloway.com

Our Annunciation Dancers danced BEAUTIFULLY at this year’s Festival – we are SO proud!!! We were thrilled to be able to debut our beautiful, authentic costumes, and we are all so grateful to the parents and parishioners, including the AHEPA and Philoptochos, who, through their generous contributions and support of our fundraising efforts, helped make it possible! Many thanks to the Parish Council who were so diligent all summer in ensuring we had access to the gym for practices!

The group will be resuming its fall practice schedule on **Sunday, October 17th**, immediately following Sunday School classes. All children of our parish, ages 8-18 are welcome to join us! Future practices have been planned also for **October 24th and November 7th and 21st**. As per usual, parents will alternate providing lunch for the dancers on a rotating schedule. We are tentatively planning a fall performance (date yet to be determined) at the Hellenic Nursing Home, and will be planning a late fall “Adult Dance Night” for the many adult parishioners who have asked about learning Greek dances.

New dancers are always welcomed to join us

**GREEK SCHOOL**

EVRIDIKI PAPAIOANNOU ~ TINA BOUTAS ~ ARGYRO PAPADOPoulos

It is the intent of the Greek Education and culture program to provide the opportunity for the students to learn the language and culture of Greece and to inform students of Historical events and Religious practices of the Greek Orthodox culture and faith.

Greek School will start on **September 21st**. The Program dates will be the same as last year.

**Tuesday:** Kindergarten ~ **Wednesday:** 2nd grade ~ **Thursday:** 6th grade.  
1st & 2nd grade ~ 5th grade ~ 4th grade.
HOPE / JOY

HELLENIC ORTHODOX PRIMARY EDUCATION / JUNIOR ORTHODOX YOUTH

HOPE & JOY welcome the families of all the children in these two groups.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, October 15th  6:30–8 pm  ... “Blessed are the pure in heart” lesson
Thursday, November 12th  6:30-8pm  ... Thanksgiving Family Feast

Youth Ministry Team

Please join all the youth groups of our church with your support to the local and neighboring food pantries, by donating a canned or non-perishable item as often as you can to our new food barrel located in the office foyer area.

GOYA

GREEK ORTHODOX YOUTH OF AMERICA

Our 1st GOYA meeting for the year was held on Sunday, September 12th. We had over 20 GOYANs in attendance, both returning members, and new. New GOYANs are always welcomed. If you know anyone in grades 7 – 12 please encourage them to come to a meeting, meet new friends, have “fun”, and participate in our fellowship.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, October 17th  12:15 – 2:00: Our next Business meeting. Lunch included.
Friday, October 29th  6 pm: Our Annual Harvest Fest for kids.

JUNIOR CHOIR

Corinna Mason and Heidi Mason ~ heidim50@aol.com

Junior Choir rehearsals are now to be held every Sunday morning @ 10:45 – 11:15 am.
Jr. Choir will be learning hymns for the consecration on 9/26, and 10/3.

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Rhoda Economos ~ (508) 587-4907

The Topics are In
The Junior Division (grades 7 - 9) and Senior Division (grades 10 - 12)
Congratulations to Andreas Evangelatos on making it to the State finals.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School would like to welcome all our student back.
Welcome to our 13 new Nursery students and our new 6th grade teacher back: Mr. Jimmy Sarantopoulos.
Harvest Costume Party

Goya would like to invite everyone to our annual harvest costume party for our children

Friday, October 29, 2010

6:00 PM until 8:00 PM
In the church lounge

Food, fun, & games!

(Please - no scary or violent costumes, witches or devils)