December 2011 / January 2012

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Annunciation
Greek Orthodox Church
Rev. Presbyter Anthony Evangelatos

457 Oak Street
Brockton, MA 02301

Tel. 508-559-0910
Fax 508-584-8679
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Due Date for February Bulletin
Tuesday, January 10th

The Nativity of Jesus Christ

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The Nativity of Jesus Christ
Metropolitan Methodios Welcomes All of our Youth to Play In This Year's Metropolis Basketball

His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios welcomed coaches, parents, and players to another year of our Metropolis of Boston Basketball Leagues and extends a personal invitation to the youth of our Metropolis to join the basketball teams of our local Communities. This year's Metropolis Youth Basketball Leagues began on the weekend of November 12 and 13. Saturday, November 12 was the first day of our JOY and Jr. JOY leagues, and Sunday, November 13 was the first day of games for our GOYA Boys and GOYA Girls leagues. His Eminence has appointed Yanni Michaelidis as the coordinator for our Metropolis Athletic Ministries this season. The coaches of each parish team have been meeting together with Yanni to plan and prepare for the new season. For all questions or concerns, please email Yanni at: YanniM@boston.goarch.org.

We thank you for your continued participation and support of the Metropolis Basketball Leagues. It is because of all of you that this league is able to continue its ministry, and it's only through your active participation that it will be able to grow and expand in the years to come.

Hanukkah: A Story That Still Needs To Be Told

For thousands of years, the Greek and Jewish worlds have made an indelible impact on each other's history, culture, and faith. Please join AJC Boston and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston as we explore the historic roots that bind together our peoples and examine how the encounter between Greeks and Jews transformed our world

An evening of conversation, music, and food
Panel discussion with:

Shaye J.D. Cohen, Littauer Professor of Hebrew Literature and Philosophy, Harvard University
Fr. George Dragas, Professor of Patristics, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

Thursday, December 15, 2011
6:45 p.m.
Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Rd.
Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Also featuring Jewish music performed by Deiskeit, The Brandeis Klezmer Ensemble, and Greek music by Taximi.
Another calendar year has come and gone. Again, we find ourselves preparing for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, wondering where the time has gone. As we anticipate Christ being born anew in our hearts, let us reflect on some of the familiar images of this holy season. Whether you are viewing an Orthodox icon of the Nativity or a Christmas card scene of the same, you typically would see similar things—the manger, the animals, shepherds, angels, the star, the wise-men, the holy parents Joseph and Mary, and of course, our Lord, the Christ child. There is such serenity in this scene; such humility and innocence; an awesome mystery taking place that will affect all of humanity. Sadly, the world in which we live does not, for the most part, portray scenes of serenity, innocence and humility. For many Christians, Christ is not the primary focus in their life, but has been replaced with obstacles that keep Him far away.

When Christ is not the focus of our life, then we cannot expect to live as God wants us to. For example, in the Orthodox Church we look to the Theotokos and the saints as our primary examples of living a Christ-centered life. Our Church extols the ever-virginity of Mary, the Theotokos. She is the supreme example to all who are unmarried, of innocence, chastity and obedience to God. In today’s society, however, these are not virtues which the majority of single people seek to emulate. The basic passions for food, drink, physical pleasure, etc., take “center stage.” Today, many engaged couples live together before marriage, because there is no sense of accountability to God.

In today’s world, we don’t always have a sense of peace and serenity. Violent crimes seem to be escalating. Global conflicts continue to rage. People in general, many times treat each other with great disrespect, using foul language, hand gestures, etc. As Christians, we should obviously see how ungodly these behaviors truly are.

Humility, these days, also seems to be a disappearing virtue. Extreme materialism dominates many people’s lives. Human egos sometimes become bigger than life itself, becoming the source of many negative conflicts in human relations. A humanistic approach to life, definitely leaves God out of the picture completely.

Now, we must realize that much of what I just described is not unique to this day and age alone. Human behavior repeats itself over the ages. Knowing this, we should clearly see how Christ through His Gospel, speaks to all people at all times. It is up to each one of us to accept the message of salvation through the Gospel, and to repel the ungodly ways of the world. All the god-like virtues truly are attainable by man, as we see in the lives of the saints. Those who have lived before us and excelled in the faith, prove to us that through Christ, everything is possible.

Let us all strive this year, to place ourselves in the scene depicted in the icon of the Nativity. Let us follow the blessed star that brings us to Christ the true Light. Let us gaze upon the heavenly host in awe, which directs us to glorify Christ and rejoice in Him. Let us seek Christ the King of our lives as the wise-men from the East. Let us run to Christ as the shepherds, since we are all in need of His shepherding, in order to protect us from the wolf of souls—the Devil. In truth, we are all part of that blessed scene, because through God’s love, Christ came to save each and every one of us. It is up to us to accept and follow Him toward the promise of eternal life and salvation.

Christ is born, glorify Him!

+Fr. Anthony

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DONOR NEEDED FOR HOLY WATER BOTTLES

We are again looking for a generous donor for 400 holy water bottles from our national shrine of St. Photios in St. Augustine, Florida. The cost this year will be $275. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

During the Nativity Fast I will continue the regular schedule for confession, which is immediately after Great Vespers on Saturday evenings, and during office hours by appointment. It is both traditional and appropriate for Orthodox Christians to confess during the major fast periods of the Church—not just during Great Lent. Take advantage of what the Church offers freely in order to cleanse the manger of your soul, in preparation for the Nativity of Christ for our salvation.
FROM FATHER ANTHONY

REFLECTIONS ON THEOPHANY

(The following is taken from The Year of Grace of the Lord, by “a Monk of the Eastern Church”, SVS Press, 1992.)

Epiphany (same as “Theophany”) is the first public manifestation of Christ. At the time of His birth, our Lord was revealed to a few privileged people. Today, all those who surround John, that is to say his own disciples and the crowd that has come to the banks of the Jordan, witness a more solemn manifestation of Jesus Christ. What does the manifestation consist of? It is made up of two aspects. On the one hand, there is the aspect of humility represented by the baptism to which our Lord submits; on the other hand, there is the aspect of glory represented by the human witness that the Precursor (St. John the Forerunner) bears to Jesus, and, on an infinitely higher plane, the divine witness which the Father and the Spirit bear to the Son…Let us bear this in mind: every manifestation of Jesus Christ, both in history and in the inner life of each man, is simultaneously a manifestation of humility and of glory. Whoever tries to separate these two aspects of Christ commits an error which falsifies the whole of spiritual life…

The aspect of humility in Epiphany consists of the fact that Our Lord submits to John’s baptism of repentance…Obviously Jesus had no need to be purified by John, but this baptism conferred by the Precursor, this baptism for the remission of sins, was a preparation for the messianic kingdom; and Jesus, before proclaiming the coming of this kingdom, wished to go through all those preparatory phases which He himself was to ‘consummate’. Being Himself the fullness, He wished to take into Himself all that was still incomplete and unfinished…He who was without sin made Himself the bearer of all our sins, of the sin of the whole world; and it is in the name of all sinners that Jesus made a public act of repentance…As far as we ourselves are concerned, repentance is the aspect of humility in Epiphany. And here we must go beyond the limited horizon of the Johaninne baptism and remind ourselves that we have been baptized in Christ. Christian baptism has washed and purified us…Epiphany is, above all, the feast of baptism, not only of Jesus’ baptism, but also of our own. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to renew in spirit the baptism that we received, and to revive the grace which was conferred on us. For the sacramental graces, even if interrupted and suspended by sin, can become alive in us again, if we turn sincerely to God. At this feast of Epiphany, let us ask God to wash us again – spiritually, not actually – in the waters of baptism; let us drown the old, the sinful creature in them, for baptism is a mystical death; let us cross the Red Sea which separates captivity from freedom and let us immerse ourselves with Jesus in the Jordan to be washed not by the Precursor, but by Jesus Himself…

This feast brings us, not only the grace of purification, but also the grace of illumination (in fact, baptism itself was formerly called “illumination”). The light of Christ at Christmas was but a star in the dark night; at Epiphany it appears to us as the rising sun; it will grow and, after the eclipse of Holy Friday, burst forth yet more splendid, on the morning of Easter; and finally, at Pentecost, it will reach its full zenith…

Below are traditional and widely accepted guidelines for those who choose to follow the Church’s tradition in its fullest. They are also illustrated on your 2011 church calendar produced by our holy Archdiocese. The following guidelines apply to the second part of the Nativity fast, which many sources state begins on 12/13:

- strict fast on weekdays – no fish or animal products permitted, including eggs & dairy
- wine & olive oil are permitted on Saturdays & Sundays, and on certain saint’s days (see calendar)
- shellfish is permitted daily

(Note: Throughout any fast period, those who are infirm, expectant and nursing mothers, and growing children should follow a relaxed, minimal fast. Your spiritual father can guide you in these cases.)

May we all seek to grow spiritually through the venerable practice of fasting, as we prepare to celebrate our Lord’s birth in the flesh. Please remember that our fasting must be accompanied by increased prayer, church attendance, and charitable works, otherwise, our efforts would be in vain.
FROM THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

(The following is the continuation from last month, of a homily offered on the day of the glorification of the Holy Hierarch John Maximovitch of Shanghai and San Francisco, on 7/2/94. St. John was an archbishop of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, who fell asleep in the Lord in 1966. He was an extremely pious and prayerful hierarch who was considered a wonderworker in this life and in the next. Many Orthodox Christians here in America, of all jurisdictions, have had many miraculous interventions through their pious prayers to St. John. The following homily was taken from the book, Lantern of Grace, by Protos- presbyter Valery Lukianov, Diocese of Western America of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, 2004. The name of the homilist is not cited. Please take note of the various issues which apply to all of us within the Church today.)

…May God grant us today, through the living preaching of the holy hierarch John on this day of his canonization, to hear distinctly the genuine voice of the Holy Church, which he so zealously served: HOW LONG, O ORTHODOX PEOPLE, WILL WE ALLOW AND TOLERATE PARTICIPATION IN THE SAVING LIFE OF THE CHURCH TO BE ONLY “A PART OF OUR SCHEDULE,” AND NOT THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR BEING? Let us enkindle the fire of zeal and church consciousness in our hearts; let us once and for all establish a correct relationship both toward our parishes and toward the Holy Church as a whole.

Let us endeavor all the more frequently to do what is most important, what Vladyka accomplished every day of his righteous life – to receive communion of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Every time our soul thirsts to be freed of the burden of sin, let us go to confession and Holy Communion. Yet even in this sacred feat let us have our own definite order of priority. Let not one of the four fasting periods of the year, or the great day of Holy Pascha, or our patron saint’s day, pass without our approaching the awesome Table of Christ. And the Lord will help to augment this saving action according to our labors and our faith.

We must realize that the moral atmosphere of the entire world around us has grown infinitely worse. Not only have the limits of all decency been discarded, but the state of morals within society has degenerated to pure demonic possession. And these temptations surround us on every side and, in the first place, hold the younger generation in a satanic grip. Today we must promise our children: WE LOVE YOU, AND WILL NOT OFFER YOU AS A SACRIFICE TO THE MODERN BAAL. WE WILL FULFILL OUR SACRED DUTY TO RAISE YOU IN THE FEAR OF GOD AND IN LOVE FOR OUR MOTHER, THE CHURCH. We shall not succeed in doing this without knowing our Faith, outside a life lived within the Church. It is high time to take the Holy Gospel from the bookshelves of our home libraries, to open the prayer book so as to converse with God, to dispose our heart and mind to accept the preaching of the Church. Thus, LET US NOT ONLY ASK OF VLADYKA, BUT LET US BEGIN TO IMITATE HIM DILIGENTLY IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE, as the holy Apostle Paul calls us to do: “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ (I Cor. 11:1).” Only then will our glorification of Vladyka not be merely a rare solemnity, attracting our attention by its mere novelty, but will be a new ascent in our struggle towards God. If we do not believe in the efficacy of this struggle, we would not be here today for this great festival. Truly, brethren and sisters, let us believe and thank God for this our faith. Let us put this faith into action; let us strive to enrich it by good works, by a good Christian life.

Thus does our soul strain to cry out: “Christ is risen!,” for in our hearts we feel ineffable joy, joy over the acquisition of a new favorite of God in the Church’s listing of saints. And we hope that for the many souls here present, as also for the countless souls scattered throughout all the corners of the world, this day will truly be a day of resurrection, a day of spiritual rebirth.

Many will leave here, having wept over their sinful life, the proof of which we have seen in the penitent struggle of many hundreds of the faithful who have come to Holy Communion. What a beautiful, unforgettable and heartening sight!

Let us speak candidly – we have come here to see a miracle, to find miraculous help. And is not this unprecedented, popular enthusiasm, of which we are the fortunate eyewitnesses, indeed miraculous? This vast church, and not only the church, but the halls, the balconies, the staircases, and the entire block, are filled to overflowing with pilgrims, to the point that it is no longer possible for them to budge. O how consoling this is, how praiseworthy such a saving constraint is! Brethren and sisters, let us remember this feeling, let us lay it up in our soul, let us anoint our sick heart with it. Then the Lord will make us worthy receivers of the grace being manifestly poured forth from a new wellspring.

Today we can “with one mouth and one heart” in the hearing of all attest to our desire for spiritual renewal, to our trust in the mighty prayers of the newly-revealed holy hierarch John. And we believe that he will help us to make this, his present feast, into a turning point in our spiritual striving toward what is holy and good, toward a full-fledged life in the Church of Christ. Amen.
We live in challenging times on many fronts. A key one in December is our approach and attitude to Christmas, many Orthodox people treat it very differently than they do Easter. What do I mean? As a priest I notice great attentiveness to our Orthodox preparatory practices and disciplines during Great Lent but see modest levels of this as concerns our 40 day Christmas Lenten Season.

In our Orthodox tradition, we have a 40 day preparation season before Christmas which begins November 15 and is intensified from December 13. This season of preparation stresses fasting and almsgiving, but it also should be used as a time to shop and wrap and not wait to the last couple of days which exhaust us and make us edgy and also becomes an excuse to miss Liturgy at Christmas because "we are not ready" or we are "too tired."

We hear continually throughout December of this and that Christmas Party. In essence it is pre-celebrating Christmas. Our tradition is that you prepare for a feast, first through fasting. Fasting includes not just the foods we eat, but also our social activities. There is such a focus in early December for holding parties that it is to the extreme - very contradictory to our Orthodox approach. The traditional office Christmas parties aren't terrible in and of themselves for they are often held in the spirit of showing appreciation to people, but why must they be in early December when the demands on our time are so strained? In our tradition the "party time" is from December 25 onward for 12 days when there is no fasting, not even on Wednesday or Friday. Add to this the Christmas Eve parties during the exact time of church services. I have never heard of an Easter Eve party conflicting with church - no one would think of doing that, but why this stress on Christmas Eve parties? Again, I repeat, Christmas is a 12 Day Holiday, can't we pick one of those 12 days and not the exact time of services? If it needs be on Christmas Eve, can't it be after the service and not during the service?

We all know well that commercialism is at its highest at Christmas time. It is not bad to give gifts, for after all, Christ's Birth was a gift to us. We also have the wise men's gifts to Him. The problem comes when we only stress the gifts and in particular we only think about the gifts that we will receive. Even the concept of "exchanging gifts" is a bit weird when you think of our Lord's teachings........"it is more blessed to give than to receive." We should not give a gift expecting to receive one back. Sincerity is important in giving gifts, not quantity. Add to this thought that some people never even give a "Christmas Gift" to the Church....you would think the Church should be on our "Gift List" if we are rightly living Christmas.

Innocently we do the wrong things because of the atmosphere and environment in which we live....we are Easterners living in a Western environment and so it is that some of us have taken on the "Western style" of celebrating Christmas instead of our Eastern style; yet for Easter (PASCHA) just about all of us live it in our Eastern pattern. Why can't more of us begin to do this for Christmas as well? If you set your mind on it, you can do it. I urge each of you to prepare for and to live Christmas in the true Orthodox spirit...fast first, avoid early parties, be at Christmas Liturgy and prepare for Communion, THEN celebrate with your families and friends, in fact celebrate for 12 days!
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<td>10th Sunday of Luke</td>
<td>St. Nicholas the Wonderworker</td>
<td>Abbreviated Paraklesis 7 pm followed by adult reliq. educ.</td>
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<td>10η Κυρ. Λουκά</td>
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<td>11η Κυρ. Λουκά</td>
<td>11η Κυρ. Λουκά Family Christmas Luncheon</td>
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<td>Greek School Christmas Pageant</td>
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<td>Sunday before Nativity</td>
<td>Small Vespers 7 pm followed by adult reliq. educ.</td>
<td>The Great Hours of the Nativity 10 am Αἱ Μεγαλαὶ Μορφαὶ τῶν Χριστουγεννῶν</td>
<td>Nativity Eve</td>
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<td>Parish Council Oath of Office</td>
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<td>HOLY NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN THE FLESH</td>
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# January Calendar

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<td>Sunday of Zacchaeus</td>
<td>Vespers of St.</td>
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<td>Gregory the</td>
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<td>Mansfield 7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Sunday of the</td>
<td>Small Vespers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canaanite Woman</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
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<td>followed by adult</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- **Strict Fast:**
- **Wine/Oil Allowed:**
- **Fish Allowed:**
PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

POTLUCK SUPPER & GENERAL MEETING
Our next general meeting and Potluck Supper will be held on Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30 pm in the church lounge. Hope to see you all there!

SHUT IN VISITATIONS
Anyone who would like a visit from the Ladies of Philoptochos, or knows of someone who would like some company, please contact our chairlady Soultana Kotsiopoulos at 508-584-8338.

KOLIVA
For Koliva please call the church office at 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 Ladies Philoptochos Society.

Christmas Luncheon & Giant Toy Raffle
The 12th Annual Family Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 11th following the Divine Liturgy. Children and adults are encouraged to attend and not miss the fun this year!
Anyone wishing to donate a toy towards the raffle, or purchase tickets for the event, please contact Ethel Savas at 508-586-9409.

CHRISTMAS CARD
Don’t Forget to send in your forms for our Christmas Card!
All forms should be received by Dec. 3rd.

Annual Christmas Party
Wednesday December 7th
Thorny Lea Country Club
159 Torrey Street
Brockton
6:00 pm
$40 per person
To purchase tickets, contact:
Liz Karolemeas
508-587-5179
Or
Lori Stasiewski
774-240-2867
Please indicate Dinner preference Fish/Chicken Bring a $10 Gift for Yankee Swap Gift Exchange All gifts must be wrapped DJ will be provided for entertainment

The Ladies will be baking for the New Year!
Bring in the New Year with one of the delicious Vasilopitas prepared by our Ladies Philoptochos Society

12 inch Vasilopita $15
To place an order, contact Haido Barbas at 508-584-2560.

Annual Vasilopita
The Annual Vasilopita to benefit the children of Saint Basil Academy will be held on Sunday, January 8th, 2012 immediately following the Divine Liturgy. All are welcomed as we cut the traditional Vasilopita in celebration of the New Year.
The Philoptochos will also have a collection tray in church to benefit Saint Basil Academy. We ask that you reach deep into your hearts and donate to such a worthy cause. All donations will act to defray the cost of maintaining Saint Basil and Academy and support of the children enrolled at the Academy.
YOUTH NEWS

GOYA NEWS
During the month of December we will be looking for donors to help us provide Christmas gifts to needy children in our Brockton community. We are also looking for a family to make lunch for our January 15th meeting. If you are interested please let one of the advisors know.

YOUTH BASKETBALL
There will be no practice on the following Fridays:
   December 16th, December 23rd and December 30th
Practices will resume on January 6th.

DANCE NEWS
Following a wonderful performance at the Godparent Sunday Luncheon, the dancers will be taking a well deserved break for a few weeks over the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays! Our upcoming practice schedule is as follows:

December 4
January 15*, 22*, 29

*These dates there are also GOYA meetings/events; senior dancers should report to GOYA first on these dates, and will join practices for the second hour.

ALL CHILDREN OF OUR PARISH, AGES 5-18 ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!

H.O.P.E./J.O.Y.
Our annual Christmas Party is on Friday, December 9th. Please let us know if you will be joining us by contacting Paula at gtsitsop@comcast.net. Santa will be visiting! See our flyer in the back of the bulletin.

We are planning a trip to the Philoxenia House in January (date tbd) where we will be bringing gifts to some of the children that are staying there. We will not hold a meeting in January, but if you are interested in sponsoring a child please let us know.

Also, our annual Have-A-Heart Luncheon is right around the corner. If you are interested in donating items for the raffle please speak with one of the advisors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 9th</td>
<td>HOPE/JOY Christmas Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 11th</td>
<td>GOYA Christmas Baskets Items Due/Wrapping Gifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday December 15th</td>
<td>GOYA Christmas Retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 16th</td>
<td>Greek School Christmas Pageant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 18th</td>
<td>Sunday School Christmas Pageant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, January 15th</td>
<td>GOYA Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, January 20th</td>
<td>GOYA “Fun” Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, January 22nd</td>
<td>GOYA Hosting Coffee Hour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUNDAY SCHOOL
The deadline for our annual toy collection for local needy children is December 18. The Sunday school has collected many toys in the past. It is our hope that we surpass our numbers every year. The donated toys must be new, unwrapped and in its package.

Sunday school classes will break for the Christmas feast. There will not be classes on December 25 or January 1. Classes resume on January 8, 2012.

GREEK SCHOOL
The Christmas Pageant date has been changed to Friday, December 16th.

Thanksgiving Feast
HOPE/JOY held their Annual Thanksgiving Feast last month. With the help of Jon Buterbaugh, Steve and Nicole Inguanti, Irena Mroz and Bo Mihos, the children and their families enjoyed an early Thanksgiving dinner.

Mrs. Cariofiles’ and Mrs. Mathers’ first grade Sunday School students made thank you cards to send to our brave troops in Afghanistan. Our prayers are with them.
GOYA HARVEST FEST

CONTACTS FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

ALTAR BOYS
Father Anthony
priest@Annunciationbrockton.org

BASKETBALL
Steve Passias
passias@comcast.net

DANCE GROUP
Penny Buterbaugh
pnasios@nasiosandgalloway.com

GREEK SCHOOL
Jon Buterbaugh
jbuterbaughjr@gmail.com

JUNIOR CHOIR
Heidi Mason
heidim50@aol.com

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL
Rhoda Economos
508-587-4907

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Dina Coon
coon005@aol.com

H.O.P.E./J.O.Y
Paula Tsitsopoulos
gtsitsop@comcast.net

G.O.Y.A.
Jon Buterbaugh
jbuterbaughjr@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM
annunciationymt@yahoo.com
DONATIONS

Memorial Donations as of November 21st

James Skenas
- Mr. and Mrs. James P. Mihos $100
- Niccoli Bros Oil, Inc. $100
- Doreen and Michael Keller $100
- Mr. & Mrs. William Starnes $25
- Soultana Kostiopoulos $30
- Marlene Mihos $50
- Marie Mihos $50
- Penny Papdopoulos Family $50

Peter Hasomeris
- Marlene Mihos $50

Athanasia Makris
- Soultana Kostiopoulos $30

Dr. & Mrs. George Capernaros $100
- In Memory of our Parents
  Elizabeth, Thomas, Viola and Stanley

Other Donations
Decoration of Icon of the Entrance of the Theotokos
- Mr. & Mrs. Elias Smiliotopoulos

Decoration of Icon of the Nativity
- Mr. & Mrs. Harry Kalivas

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

November 27 Linus
Son of Philip & Stephanie La Fond
Godparent—Madison Williams

FUNERALS

November 4 Natale Agostino
May His Memory Be Eternal

CHURCH SERVICES

SATURDAYS GREAT VESPERS 6:00 PM
WEEKDAYS ORTHROS 9:00 AM
DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 AM
SUNDAYS ORTHROS 8:45 AM
DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 AM

Reminder!!
Please do not forget to submit your 2011 Stewardship Obligation
Stewardships are the greatest source of income for our Church.
Thank you!

COFFEE HOUR

If you are interested in sponsoring a coffee hour please call Bertha Weinberg at 508-586-1030 or contact the Church office.
Dear Parishioners,

We are delighted to report to you in this edition our results of the 2011 Food Festival. Our top line revenue for the year was $176,000. Our Expenses were approximately $92,000 resulting in a gross profit of $84,000. This was a record year for revenue as it showed by the lines going out to the tent on Oak Street! It was also an expensive year on costs with materials and supplies increasing. All of our parishioners can make a difference, by supporting the food festival not just during the four days, but in the planning and donations prior to the event. Please help by getting involved early. Look for February’s bulletin for a set monthly schedule on next year’s Food Festival meetings. We need your help!

On October 22nd, our church held their Harvest Ball Dance at Lantana’s in Randolph. We had music by the Olympians and special treat by Nick Palantzas playing the “clarino”! We want to thank everyone who attended the event. A special thank you to the board members, Tulla Giannaros, Georgia Petropoulos Besarick and Nick Palantzas, who helped make the event successful.

On November 13th, the youth hosted their annual God Parents Sunday Luncheon. It was a wonderful event hosted by the Youth Ministry Team with live music, fantastic food and special performances by the Youth Dance Group. As special thank you to Peggy Ciulla and Penny Nasios Buterbaugh for planning this wonderful event. We look forward to more family gatherings in the months to come.

On behalf of Fr. Anthony and The Parish Council, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year!

Sincerely,
Parish Council President
John Karolemeas

Our bookstore offers many items for our parishioners:

- Prayer books
- Incense and censers
- Children’s books (we have new items)
- Books for teens and adults
- The very popular icons of either the girl or boy with the guardian angel. (A great gift item for Baptism)
- All icons in stock or upon request.

All our items would make great Christmas gifts for young and old. We also have available Orthodox Christmas Cards to send to family and friends. Icons of a specific saint can be ordered in various sizes.

For those interested in architecture and New England history, we offer a beautiful hardback containing fantastic photos of Greek Orthodox churches throughout New England, including photos inside the churches and brief, engaging community histories.

Also available are the DVD of our Church’s Consecration Service

Please stop by the Bookstore after Divine Liturgy on Sundays

If you are interested in joining the Bookstore Committee, please call the Church Office or see one of our members on Sundays.

Upcoming Events

Parish Council Elections Sun. December 4th
Giant Toy Raffle Luncheon Sun. December 11th
Parish Council Oath of Office Sun. December 18th

Annual Vasilopita Cutting Sun. January 8th
Parish Council Meetings
December 15th
January 10th

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

On January 8th the Stewardship Committee will be holding its first annual stewardship drive immediately following church services. Several committee members will be available to show parishioners how to use the new online stewardship pledge system—a convenient new way to contribute to the life of our Parish.
The list includes 2010 Stewards and 2011 Stewards in Good Standing. The 2011 Stewardship desirable goal is $150,000 and as of November 14, 2011 we have received $97,595 with 305 pledges. To meet our 2011 desirable goal, we need pledges in the amount of $52,405 to reach our goal. On behalf of Father Anthony, the Parish Council and the Stewardship Committee, we thank all our faithful parishioners for their contributions and support.
# Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Brockton

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through October 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Jan - Oct 2011</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Jan - Oct 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candles</td>
<td>35,016</td>
<td>Candles</td>
<td>37,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Donations (A)</td>
<td>60,484</td>
<td>Directed Donations</td>
<td>33,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>37,366</td>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>24,346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Festival (B)</td>
<td>176,453</td>
<td>Food Festival</td>
<td>150,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functions/Fundraiser (C)</td>
<td>51,922</td>
<td>Functions/Fundraiser</td>
<td>41,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek School</td>
<td>4,575</td>
<td>Greek School</td>
<td>5,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Bulletin</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Line of Credit</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income*</td>
<td>46,646</td>
<td>Monthly Bulletin</td>
<td>1,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stewardship Pledges</td>
<td>92,000</td>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>4,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tray Collections</td>
<td>18,965</td>
<td>Scholarship</td>
<td>51,798</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stewardship Pledges</td>
<td>88,865</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tray Collections</td>
<td>20,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>524,458</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>485,208</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Gross Revenue                 | 524,458        | Gross Revenue                   | 485,208        |
| Expense                       |                |                                 |                |
| Archdiocese Commitment        | 46,200         | Archdiocese Commitment          | 36,000         |
| Archdiocese Pension Fund      | 5,000          | Archdiocese Pension Fund        | 5,225          |
| Clergy Laity Conference       | 200            | Clergy Laity Conference         | 1,206          |
| Directed Donation Expenses    | 53,178         | Directed Donation Expenses      | 34,874         |
| Employee Taxes and Benefits   | 26,719         | Employee Taxes and Benefits     | 32,954         |
| Food Festival Expenses        | 81,470         | Food Festival Expenses          | 73,903         |
| Functions/Fundraiser Expense  | 29,727         | Functions/Fundraiser Expense    | 16,265         |
| Greek School Expenses         | 951            | Greek School Expenses           | 1,524          |
| Gross Payroll                 | 80,688         | Gross Payroll                   | 101,987        |
| Housing Allowance             | 41,250         | Housing Allowance               | 39,160         |
| Insurance                     | 8,922          | Insurance                       | 11,904         |
| Maintenance Contracts         | 21,699         | Line of Credit Payment          | 26,254         |
| Miscellaneous Expenses        | 10,413         | Maintenance and Repairs         | 19,259         |
| Monthly Bulletin Expense      | 2,300          | Miscellaneous Expenses          | 3,297          |
| Pastor Benefits               | 19,834         | Pastor Benefits                 | 24,071         |
| Reconciliation Discrepancies  | (1)            | Reconciliation Discrepancies    | 20             |
| Sunday School                 | 1,230          | Scholarships                    | 47,350         |
| Supplies                      | 15,283         | Sunday School                   | 1,208          |
| Utilities                     | 24,531         | Supplies                        | 13,463         |
| Visiting Clergy / Cantor      | 2,250          | Utilities                       | 27,244         |
| Youth Activities Expense      | 899            | Visiting Clergy / Cantor        | 2,500          |
| **Total Expense**             | **492,142**    | **Total Expense**               | **526,448**    |
| **Net Income**                | **32,316**     | **Net Income**                  | **(41,240)**   |

*Consecration Transfer
## FOOD FESTIVAL REPORT

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Brockton  
**Profit & Loss**  
January 1 through November 15, 2011

### Food Festival - Schedule C  
**Jan 1 - Nov 15, 11**

#### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATM Surcharge</td>
<td>162.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tips</td>
<td>678.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>DVD's</td>
<td>172.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bar</td>
<td>21,992.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Corner</td>
<td>2,075.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Tours</td>
<td>349.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>8,385.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival Banners</td>
<td>2,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival Placemats (Placemats Advertisement)</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival Banners - Premium (Festival Banners Premium)</td>
<td>4,950.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Festival Raffle</td>
<td>10,786.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td>683.00</td>
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<td>Food</td>
<td>66,395.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>General, Admin. and Misc.</td>
<td>3,802.50</td>
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<td>GOYA/Kafeneo</td>
<td>514.00</td>
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<td>Gyros</td>
<td>10,501.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Icons/Holy Cross (Icons from Holy Cross)</td>
<td>465.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loukoumathes</td>
<td>5,919.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pastries</td>
<td>31,074.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vendors</td>
<td>4,650.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Food Festival</strong></td>
<td>176,753.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>176,753.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Gross Profit

<table>
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<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross Profit</strong></td>
<td>176,753.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Festival Expenses</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverages</td>
<td>1,900.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licenses &amp; Permits</td>
<td>676.00</td>
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<td>Police Detail</td>
<td>2,845.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer/Liquor/Wine</td>
<td>943.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>9,382.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Band</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Custodial</td>
<td>3,650.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Banners</td>
<td>1,737.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tent</td>
<td>15,238.28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Festival Raffle</td>
<td>3,461.17</td>
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<td>Flowers</td>
<td>495.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>27,566.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>General, Admin. and Misc.</td>
<td>16,535.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pastries</td>
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<td><strong>Total Food Festival Expenses</strong></td>
<td>92,843.48</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td>92,843.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td>83,909.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ONLINE BILL PAY
Now a convenient new way to fulfill your stewardship.
Available on our website
www.annunciationbrockton.org
THE METROPOLIS OF BOSTON FEDERATION OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS
and the
THE HELLENIC COLLEGE / HOLY CROSS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY CHORALE
Present
A Musical Celebration of CHRISTMAS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011 AT 3:00 PM
Athletics Cultural Center
On the grounds of Hellenic College, 130 Gerard Ave., Brookline, Massachusetts
Boston 02445
For tickets and information, please call (617) 581-1658
ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE HCO/MC AND MP’GCOM SCHOLARSHIPS

Ladies Philoptochos Presents...

Family Christmas Luncheon
Sunday, December 11th
immediately after church services
Menu includes Lenten Pastichio dinner with Greek Appetizers, salad, rolls, and dessert.

Santa will be coming again to host the long awaited event. Giant toy raffle with tons of prizes for everyone!
Children $10.00
Adults $15.00

J  HOPE
Y
invite you to attend our...

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011 | 6:00 P.M.
Church Function Rooms | 157 Oak St., Brockton, MA

Tell your children to prepare for Santa just might be there! Pizza and beverages will be served. Please let us know if you will be joining us by contacting Paula at gitslos@comcast.net.

COATS FOR KIDS DRIVE
Please bring your gently used coats to the JOY-HOPE party to donate to the Anton’s Cleaners “Coats for Kids” drive. We are collecting coats for all ages: children, teens, adults and babies. All coats are cleaned and distributed free of charge. Last year over 68,000 coats were collected. Let’s help exceed that number this year!

The Ladies Philoptochos Society

Presents

Annual Cutting of the Vasilopita
Sunday, January 8th, 2012
Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE COLLECTION TRAY WILL BENEFIT SAINT BASIL’S ACADEMY
**PARISH COUNCIL**

**Executive Board**
- John Karolemeas, President
- Steven Passias, 1st Vice President Administration
- John Papadopoulos, 2nd Vice President Maintenance
- Steve Lainas, Secretary
- Christine Karavites, Treasurer
- Tulla Giannaros, Assistant Treasurer

**Members of the Board**
- Arthur Adamopoulos
- George Alexis
- Ernest Anthony
- Georgia Besarick
- Jon Buterbaugh Jr.
- John Kolentsas
- Christy Mihos
- Nicholas Palantzas
- Avraam Vardaxis

**PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY**

**Executive Board**
- Despina Papadopoulos, President
- Heido Barbas, 1st Vice President
- Penny Kazis, 2nd Vice President
- Ethel Savas, Recording Secretary
- Tina Boutas, Corresponding Secretary
- Lori Stasiewski, Treasurer
- Liz Karolemeas, Assistant Treasurer

**Members of the Board**
- Peggy Cuilla
- Maria Fitopoulos
- Helen Holevas
- Ann Marie Horne
- Soultana Kotsiopoulos
- Eleni Stamboulidis
- Vasiliki Syrniotis
- Sophia Terzakis
- Tina Tsarhopoulos

**OTHER MINISTRIES**

**Sunday School**
- Tina Butas
- Dina Coon
- Rhoda Economos

**Greek School**
- Tina Butas
- Argyro Papadopoulos
- Vicky Papaioannou

**G.O.Y.A.**
- Kristen Barrows
- Jon Buterbaugh
- Chris Kolentsas

**J.O.Y. & H.O.P.E.**
- Irena Mroz
- Paula Tsitsopoulos

**Adult Greek Classes**
- Arthur Krikis
- Koliva
- Ladies Philoptochos

**Coffee Hour**
- Bertha Weinberg

**Shut-In Visitations**
- Soultana Kotsiopoulos

**Basketball**
- Steve Passias

**Dance Group**
- Jon & Penny Buterbaugh

**Junior Choir**
- Corinne & Heidi Mason

**Oratorical Festival**
- Rhoda Economos

**Bookstore**
- Linda Sakelaris
- Stephen Savas
- Joanna Stellakis

**EMAILS**

- Father Anthony: priest@annunciationbrockton.org
- Church Office: office@annunciationbrockton.org
- Youth Ministry Team: annunciationYMT@yahoo.com
We are now reserving space in our monthly bulletin for advertising purposes in order to defer from the high costs of publishing. You can now advertise your business for a small cost.

The following are the advertising costs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1/4 Year</th>
<th>1/2 Year</th>
<th>1 Full Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Page Inside Front Cover</td>
<td>$525.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Page Inside Back Cover</td>
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<td>1/2 Page Outside Back Cover</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Page</td>
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<td>$105.00</td>
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</table>

Space is limited and will be available “On a First Come, First Serve Basis.”

The deadline for including your advertisement will be on the 10th of each month.

If you have any questions and are interested in an opportunity that will support our Church, please contact the Church Office.